Persistent insecurity and instability since Libya’s 2011 uprising have led the socioeconomic, humanitarian and protection environment to deteriorate significantly. A decade later, many households are struggling to meet their basic needs and face high unemployment rates, a severe economic downturn and struggling public services, compounded by the absence of previously elaborate social safety nets. Sudden-onset shocks, including the emergence of COVID-19, have also rendered the situation more complex. But momentum towards peace is building, with a ceasefire agreed in October 2020 and an interim Government of National Unity appointed in March 2021.

Confronted with this multi-layered and volatile crisis, WFP has maintained its ability to rapidly adapt and respond to needs. Under its Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) 2019-2021, WFP assists food-insecure and vulnerable people in Libya, including crisis-affected internally displaced persons, returnees, non-displaced populations, refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in urban settings. The ICSP encompasses general and emergency food assistance as well as complementary programmes such as school feeding and food assistance for training to build resilience and empower youth and women. WFP also engages across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and supports the review and rehabilitation of social protection systems.

WFP co-leads the Food Security Sector and leads the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Sectors. To strengthen the humanitarian community’s capacity, WFP manages the UN Humanitarian Air Service and UN Hub in Benghazi.

In May, WFP reached around 101,500 people in need through its programmes in Libya, which include general and emergency food distributions, commodity e-vouchers, food assistance for training activities and school feeding.

Close to 23,000 vulnerable individuals in urban areas redeemed commodity e-vouchers for redemption of food assistance at local stores. These SMS-based vouchers have the triple benefit of restoring dignity to beneficiaries, stimulating the economy and helping strengthen the technological capacity of local partners.

Together with local partners, UNHCR and IOM, WFP provided ready-to-eat food rations to over 7,700 vulnerable migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in Alqatroun, Bani Walid, Sebha, Tripoli, Misurata, Azawia and Zwarata, including a number of urgent cases newly released from detention.

On 26 May, WFP as the Nexus Working Group chair organized the first in-person Nexus mission to Sebha, the economic and industrial hub of the Fezzan region with its complex social fabric and incidents of periodic violence. The mission had the participation of 17 different entities including donors, INGOs, research institutes and UN agencies. This overarching working group is considered as a pilot for the entire region and has evolved to facilitate coordination between the different pillars of the Nexus, involving a broad number of stakeholders including donors. Hence, the focus is set on joint approaches and programming to address identified needs among UN partners, international and national non-governmental organisations, and peacebuilding institutes. The mission marked an important step in the engagement of the Municipality to create ownership and move forward jointly to operationalize Nexus approaches in the municipality.

Gender

In May, the Gender focal point developed a comic leaflet to raise awareness among WFP beneficiaries on intra household decision making dynamics. The leaflet is under the process of printing and will be distributed to the beneficiaries during June food distribution cycle.

Photo: The participants of the joint humanitarian Nexus mission landing in Sebha © WFP
**Strategic Result 1:** Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Crisis-affected vulnerable populations in Libya, including schoolchildren, have access to sufficient and nutritious food during and in the aftermath of crises

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activities:**
- Provide assistance to food-insecure and vulnerable people in Libya, including schoolchildren, and pilot complementary interventions that improve food security and nutrition

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Vulnerable populations across Libya have strengthened livelihoods and restored access to basic services all year

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**
- Provide skills strengthening to vulnerable communities and enhance national and local safety nets

**Strategic Outcome 3:** The humanitarian community in Libya has strengthened capacity to assist vulnerable populations during and in the aftermath of crises

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activities:**
- Provide logistics services to humanitarian partners in Libya
- Provide air services for personnel and light cargo (UN Humanitarian Air Service - UNHAS)
- Provide common ICT to humanitarian partners in Libya
- The opening of the UN Hub in Benghazi, a UN compound shared by UNSMIL and UN agencies

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**Monitoring and Assessment**

- In May, WFP’s third-party monitoring partner conducted 142 onsite visits to monitor food distributions across different sites in the West, East and South of the country. May distribution round completed successfully, with no incident report received from any location. All the preventive measures against the spread of COVID-19 have improved in comparison to prior cycles as WFP continues to follow and oversee closely with its partners. A quick needs assessment of the new vulnerable groups from Sebha was conducted in May, to assess the needs of the new target group (805). The programme plans to target the new group in the next distribution cycle.

- Also, in May, the **Migration Pulse December 2020 volume III** report was published and posted on WFP Dataviz. The highlights have shown that due to prolonged insecurity and economic crises, coupled with COVID-19 which have taken a toll on the livelihoods and levels of income, one in nearly five migrants and one in nearly six IDPs were found to be moderately or severely food insecure. It also revealed that one in two IDPs had witnessed a reduction in income or complete loss. This had also taken a toll on migrants, whom 40 percent of their population have experienced the same change. The East and West Africans have the highest proportion of food insecurity, as one in five migrants were found to be moderately or severely food insecure. Moreover, there was an apparent increase in the proportions of migrant groups who reported sending remittances back home within recent months. This may be also influenced by increased need for support of families in countries of origin during the COVID-19 period. Comparisons of top problems faced by migrants in 2020 and 2019 have demonstrated similar results, with insecurity and violence coming in first at 33 percent, followed by lack of work/unemployment (23%) and high food prices (22%).

**Sectors and Common Services**

- In May, the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) performed weekly flights connecting the East and the West of the country, going from Tunis to Tripoli and Benghazi and back, providing vital access for around 220 passengers from different organizations. Besides, UNHAS added a return flight on 26 May to carry a crucial joint humanitarian mission (NEXUS) to Sebha. Managed by WFP, UNHAS is vitally important in transporting humanitarian actors and light cargo to Libya’s main hubs. Additionally, UNHAS has transported COVID-19 vaccines from Tripoli to Benghazi and Sebha on behalf of the UN medical section. Funding is currently sufficient for the operation to maintain its services until July.

- The Emergency Telecommunications Sector’s (ETS) inter-agency community feedback mechanism (CFM) received around 1,200 calls in May from people requesting information or assistance. The majority of calls were related to humanitarian services, and were resolved. The CFM is also being used as a national COVID-19 informational hotline, and its trained operators continue to share official health guidelines and refer suspected COVID-19 cases to the National Centre for Disease Control as required. A UN to UN agreement was signed by WFP and IOM. The contribution will be dedicated to increase Inter-Agency CFM awareness by supporting the operators that speak languages of the migrant population.

- ETS internet connectivity services are also being provided at UNHCR’s Community Day Centre in Tripoli to help persons of concern communicate with their communities and loved ones; a total of 36 people used the service until mid-May. The services were stopped temporarily for relocation purposes to another site.

**Challenges**

- As a result of insecurity and the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19, humanitarian organizations, including WFP, are receiving a high number of requests for food assistance from national and local authorities across Libya. WFP urgently requires USD 10.8 million to sustain operations through November 2021, in order to respond to rising needs and ensure that this health crisis does not also become a food crisis.

**Donors** (in alphabetical order)

- Canada
- CERF, Czech Republic
- EU Humanitarian Aid, France
- Germany
- Italy
- Japan, Luxembourg
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
- USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)
- United Nations Peacebuilding Fund
- WFP Multilateral Donors
- WFP Private Sector Partners
- World Bank

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