Operational Context

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) 2019-2022, 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 also manages the UN Humanitarian Air Service and UN Hub in Benghazi.

In Numbers

- **46,451 people assisted** in January 2022
- **67 mt of food assistance** in January 2022
- **USD 18 million** six-month funding requirements (February – July 2022)

Operational Updates

- WFP Libya reached 46,451 beneficiaries in January. 4,193 refugees & migrants were reached through in-kind ready-to-eat (RTE) food distributions, 41,658 schoolchildren through school feeding, and 25 fire-affected individuals through an emergency one-off food assistance. January unconditional food assistance was postponed due to delay in Food and Drug Control Centre’s clearance of new consignments and in contracting with the B2B Wholesalers resulting from disagreement of prices.
- WFP chaired the Nexus Working Group meeting. The Nexus Coordinator and REACH presented the interactive Nexus 4W dashboard to map humanitarian/development/peace-oriented interventions against the municipality-identified needs in Sabha. WFP and its local partner presented the market rehabilitation projects in Sabha and Ubari as examples of the humanitarian-development-peace initiatives.
- On 19 January, WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNICEF Libya focusing on strategic collaboration for 2022-2025. Some areas of the joint partnerships will focus on integrating social protection policies in the national agenda, capacity strengthening, sharing knowledge on best practices, nutrition-sensitive programming, and generating evidence as well as monitoring and evaluation.
- WFP also signed the MoU Amendment with the United States Institute of Peace that will focus on implementing peacebuilding activities in Libya until 31 December 2022.
- On 26 January, WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Education launched the “Central Kitchen” programme. 6,410 schoolchildren across 12 schools in Benghazi received school meals composed of fresh sandwiches, dairy products, fruits, water, and mineral/vitamin-fortified date bars. The Central Kitchen also provides decent jobs to 50 youth and women, including Tawergha internally displaced persons who cook or deliver school meals. WFP also assisted over 35,000 schoolchildren in Ejdabiya with daily distributions of mineral/vitamin-fortified date bars in January 2022.
- On 26 January, WFP joined a visit to Sabha with the Acting Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Libya, the Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator and other UN representatives. In meetings with municipal officials, women, youth and civil society organizations, UN agencies and its Sabha partners agreed to collaborate in an escalated effort to tackle the region’s long-standing humanitarian needs and development challenges.
Sectors and Common Services

- The report and recommendations from the Telecommunications Security Standards (TESS) mission that took place in November 2021 has been shared with the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) and UNDSS for endorsement. The ETS will work with UNDSS to implement the necessary changes to ensure the safety of humanitarian personnel in Libya.
- Due to persistent security concerns, the UNHCR Community Day Centre where the ETS has been providing free internet services to persons of concern has been permanently closed. The ETS is engaging with UNHCR to identify new opportunities to support the communications needs of the affected population.
- The ETS inter-agency Common Feedback Mechanism (CFM) registered 5,531 cases of people requesting information or assistance in January. More than 99 percent of the calls received were related to humanitarian services, while the remainder were related to COVID-19. The most frequently raised concerns related to protection, cash, shelter and non-food items. The ETS is working to promote the use of the new chatbot that was developed to complement the Tawasul CFM hotline.
- In January, UNHAS provided vital access to over 187 passengers from 32 different organizations via 16 scheduled flights connecting the east, west, and south of the country - flying from Tunis to Tripoli, Sebha, Benghazi, and Alkufrah and back. Around 0.24 mt of cargo was transported. During the same month, four scheduled flights (two to Sebha and two to Misratah) were canceled due to lack of passengers.
- WFP facilitated the Food Security Sector meeting with the participation of 10 partners. WFP presented its analysis on food security in Libya and proposed raising a joint statement on food security in Libya from the Sector.

Challenges

- WFP operations in Libya urgently require USD 18 million from February to July 2022. The biggest requirements are for the unconditional food assistance, which requires USD 13.3 million. WFP was obliged to reduce the in-kind general food assistance rations by 50 percent for some 90,000 people since December 2021 to avoid the complete suspension of life-saving interventions. WFP has informed beneficiaries, partners, and donors accordingly.
- On 23 January, the interim Prime Minister Abdulhamid Dbeibah called for a constitution to be established before holding the delayed presidential and parliamentary elections. The overall security situation remains fragile especially in the southern region after the recent attack by Islamic State (IS) on Libyan National Army (LNA) checkpoints in UM Alaraneb town and the military operation by LNA troops against IS hideout within the southern region.

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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