



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## Made in Libya Stability & Food Systems

After supporting people in all parts of Libya since 2014, including 220,000 people in 2021, WFP is now starting the Made in Libya initiative. This is an integrated programme that links a school feeding system built on Libyan produce and products with livelihood support. Made in Libya means increasing the stability of communities by providing economic opportunities to people engaged in or affected by conflict, while strengthening state-citizen relations through a school feeding system that boosts the nutrition and development of children.

Made in Libya is based on WFP's experience in Libya in recent years. All components of this integrated programme have tried and tested in various parts of the country and WFP is now linking all projects from the planning stage in specific geographic areas.

Local food systems will be strengthened by addressing both supply and demand, and tailoring interventions within food production, food transformation, and food consumption to local needs and requirements. Stakeholders from both the public and private sector are included in this initiative in order to increase buy-in and sustainability, with responsibility being shared by multiple actors.

Specifically, WFP will target Tawergha, followed by Benghazi, Ubari & AlKufra, with multiple initiatives that are connected: food assistance for training, food assistance for assets, cash-based transfers, hydroponics, and school feeding. Cross-cutting issues that will also be addressed include national and local policymaking, environmental impact, and conflict sensitivity & contribution to peace dynamics.

April 2022

# Context

From the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview:

With the cessation of large-scale hostilities and the gradual easing of COVID-19 mobility restrictions, the overall humanitarian situation showed signs of improvement in 2021, highlighted by the continuing trend in the number of displaced people returning to their areas of origin. Although this is an encouraging trend, challenges remain in ensuring that returnee and vulnerable populations have proper access to essential services, especially in areas like Tawergha.

based checks showcased that 20 percent of the students are attending school without having breakfast, while some did not have access to 3 meals per day.

In terms of work, the European Training Foundation found a mismatch between the education system and labour market needs, which is reflected by high unemployment. Some challenges for the labour market are related to public sector dominance while further reporting has found that communities involved in trafficking and smuggling, at least in the South of Libya, are unlikely to halt their involvement without alternative livelihood strategies being supported. A UN Women report found that “financial motivations to join violent extremist groups work in complex ways in the context of a war economy in Libya.

## KEY FIGURES

2022 HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW	PEOPLE IN NEED OF FOOD ASSISTANCE	PEOPLE IN NEED OF EDUCATION ASSISTANCE	PEOPLE DISPLACED OR RETURNING
	511,000	171,000	247,000

Among displaced households, 87 percent lack the money needed to buy sufficient food, while over 60 percent of all Libyan households have to resort to coping strategies to meet their food needs, including spending savings, borrowing money, or taking on an extra job.

Work opportunities have become more difficult to come by for many people, and this has indirectly affected children in terms of families’ ability to purchase food, afford medication, and pay for school fees. Increased economic pressure on families due to long periods of confinement and the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 put children at increased risks of being pushed into work to help support their families.

The crisis in Libya has negatively impacted public education services, meaning less access to fully functional schools and quality education for children. Especially in conflict areas, have faced delays in the start of the academic year or closures, which have contributed to an increase in the number of children not attending schools and causing challenges for schoolchildren to enjoy safe access to quality food. The WFP conducted School Feeding Baseline Assessment in 2019 revealed that the drop out rates among children were at 2.5 percent and the top three causes of malnutrition amongst children are anemia, under-weight, and overweight. In addition, random class-

Paid work in militia and extremist groups was seen as a strong pull factor by many interviewed in field research, and violent extremist groups use the imperative of male protection of women to recruit male and female members.”

A WFP study found that despite the relatively small contribution of agriculture to Libya’s GDP - less than 3 percent in 2011 - and although 75-80 percent of food requirements are imported from outside the country, the percentage of Libyans engaged in some form of agricultural production remains large, at 22 percent, and agriculture represents an important source of income and food. However, farming households reported spending up to 75 percent of their income on food for the household.

On top of this context, much of Libya receives less than 100mm of rain each year, with 99 percent of agriculture in the south relying on non-renewable groundwater sources. Unfortunately, electricity is extremely unstable throughout the country due to conflict and weak infrastructure and so food production is heavily impacted by the electricity situation from location to location.

The first priority location will be Tawergha, which has been uniquely affected by conflict in Libya in the past ten years. The city was totally destroyed after 2011 and nearly the entire population was displaced to other parts of Libya.



## Food Production

### HYDROPONICS

Hydroponics is a soilless cultivation technique that enables plant growth in areas that are non-fertile, arid or have limited space or access to land. Hydroponics is highly resource-efficient and requires 90 percent less water compared with soil-based agriculture. In comparison to traditional agriculture hydroponics has faster growth cycles of only 7-12 days (for fodder) and 75 percent less space. Hydroponic crops are either grown in 'simple water' when the final product is the sprout (as in the case of fresh fodder) or with a nutrient solution in the case of fresh vegetable production for human consumption.



**90%** Percentage of water that can be saved through hydroponics

**150**  
households

**Supported by WFP**  
through hydroponic  
initiatives in 2021



In 2021, WFP piloted hydroponic initiatives as a viable long-term option for farmers in Libya, due to lack of rainfall, unstable supply of electricity and fuel affecting the pumping of water, and conflict-related access issues.

Farming households in Sebha, Ubari, Wadi Ettba & Ghat were provided with either fodder units, consisting of shelving, trays, buckets, barley seeds, and bleach to clean the barley seeds, or vegetable units, which were greenhouses that also included pumps and the necessary infrastructure to grow vegetables hydroponically.

In 2022, WFP is planning to scale up support to the most effective and productive participants from 2021, while focusing new initiatives on Tawergha. The aim is for locally-grown fruit and vegetables to be provided to local schools as a key component of a health school meal. It is also hoped that this will provide livelihood support to farming households returning to Tawergha after being displaced for many years. This innovation has the potential to transform food systems in Libya.

### FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR TRAINING

Between 2019 and 2022, WFP expanded a vocational training project that sought to fill available work in the private sector with young people who had the skills needed by the labour market. Thousands of people benefitted from these trainings, and over 1,500 managed to find sustainable work thanks to the trainings.

WFP's FFT project placed a heavy focus on the needs of the labour market, using data to inform and direct the planning of trainings. In addition, participants were introduced to financial services and existing businesses, while equipment was provided to the most promising

people. Follow up continued after the training to make sure the impact and employment prospects were sustainable. Indeed, WFP is still following up with some of the participants from 2019.

These market-driven trainings will continue to be a key part of the Made in Libya initiative. Initially, WFP aims to train 250 people in the Tawergha region in jobs needed in the local food system, from maintaining equipment, to improved agricultural techniques. Further funding will allow for the expansion of this project to Benghazi, Alkufra and Ubari.

## OTHER AGRICULTURE INITIATIVES

Where possible, WFP supports food producers in a variety of other ways. Since 2021, WFP has partnered with CIHEAM -Bari, an Italian Agriculture Agency, to provide technical guidance and remote trainings to farmers all over the country. The information and videos disseminated through the Agriculture Information Network that WFP facilitates, itself consisting of over 650 farmers, agricultural engineers, and other specialists working on agriculture in Libya.

In addition, WFP provides support through the provision, rehabilitation or construction of assets. WFP is providing solar-powered cold storage and water pumps to farmers in AlKufra. These assets will benefit the local communities, and the project was designed to ensure that the assets are conflict-sensitive, while also exploring ways to leverage the assets for local peace initiatives.

WFP will support farmers in and around the Tawergha region in 2022 with developing their technical capacities and providing equipment where useful and feasible. This component will be scaled-up pending additional funding, initially in Benghazi, AlKufra, and Ubari.



**55% of former vocational training participants still reachable are currently working**

**11,500 people**

**Benefitted from the food assistance provided to vocational training participants**





## Food Transformation

### FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR TRAINING

Several hundred former participants in WFP's Food Assistance for Training project were engaged in food transformation trainings. These varied from cooking trainings, to baking, to preparing and packaging dairy produce, to beekeepers preparing honey for sale.

All of these trainings involved taking raw food materials and transforming them to fit for human consumption, and appropriate for sale in the local market. WFP has been able to build capacity in this area over the past three years all over Libya: from Zwara to Alkufra, from Ghat to Tobruk. This also includes connecting people to markets and consumers, as well as providers and farmers. With this experience, WFP is well-placed to continue creating jobs and boosting economies through food transformation.

Due to the conservative nature of many communities in Libya, this is also a key target sector for boosting the economic empowerment of women. WFP has already seen this over the past three years in dozens of communities. While WFP will target communities, and particularly

women, in Tawergha in 2022, further funding will allow this to scale up to Benghazi, Alkufra, and Ubari quickly. Trainings will be linked to the foods that can be included in a local school meal.

### COMMUNITY ASSETS

In 2021 WFP equipped a modern bakery in Traghen, Murzuq. This project included training 60 young people on how to operate the facility, prepare the flour and dough, manage the bakery, and package the products. This project was very well-received by the local community.

WFP rehabilitated a market in Ubari in 2021, is currently constructing a market in Sebha in 2022. Both projects were designed and implemented alongside WFP's peacebuilding partner, the United States Institute of Peace, with the idea of leveraging the community assets for peacebuilding goals, such as bringing different tribes together for dialogues and trade.

In Tawergha WFP will look at assets that can help to bring more returnees home, while creating economic opportunity for those already there. Further funding can enable additional asset creation in other areas.

# Food Consumption

## SCHOOL FEEDING

A two-year program of cooperation was agreed upon with the Ministry of Education in January 2019. The document defined roles and responsibilities where WFP provides school feeding and provides technical support to help form the basis of national ownership of the programme.

Since then, WFP supported more than 60,000 schoolchildren in Libya with the basic objective of enhancing children's ability to learn, increasing enrolment, attendance, and retention, while reducing absenteeism and dropout rates.

WFP works on strengthening local capacities with the Government of Libya to help create a national school feeding policy. This will enable schools to secure sustainable sources of funding and increase their institutional capacities so that they can smoothly take over the responsibility of managing the national school feeding programme.

Together, WFP and the Ministry of Education also organized three summer camps in Tripoli where more than 600 children participated in educational and recreational activities, conducted a South-South cooperation opportunities for knowledge-sharing with the Government.

## CENTRAL KITCHEN

During the 2021/2022 school year, and as per the newly signed agreement with the Ministry of Education, WFP started to scale-up the school feeding programme and introduced an innovative School Feeding Central Kitchen. This aimed to support the most vulnerable children through a platform that delivers multiple social benefits while cutting across different sectors: WASH, Nutrition, Education, and Food Security. It contributes to promoting education, creating livelihood opportunities, and strengthening national resilience. Since January 2022, more than 8,000 school-age children have benefited from daily nutritious meals in 13 schools in Benghazi.

## CASH-BASED TRANSFERS

Based on beneficiary feedback in recent years, WFP began shifting towards cash-based transfers instead of in-kind food assistance. Vouchers give people more liberty in choosing what they want to eat from particular supermarkets and grocery shops. A total of USD 4.2 million was injected into the economy through vouchers in 2021.

Cash-based transfers boost food security for vulnerable households but also help to boost the local economy by pumping additional funds into the local food systems. WFP plans to introduce multi-purpose cash assistance in Tawergha in 2022.



## ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

While all of the previously mentioned projects will be integrated into the Made in Libya programme, it is important that WFP and other stakeholders also work to strengthen the enabling environment.

WFP will work with government ministries on policy development and capacity development of the ministries to enhance the performance and effectiveness of a school feeding system. WFP will also work to make this into a nationwide policy, in line with the outcomes of the 2021 Food Systems Summit.

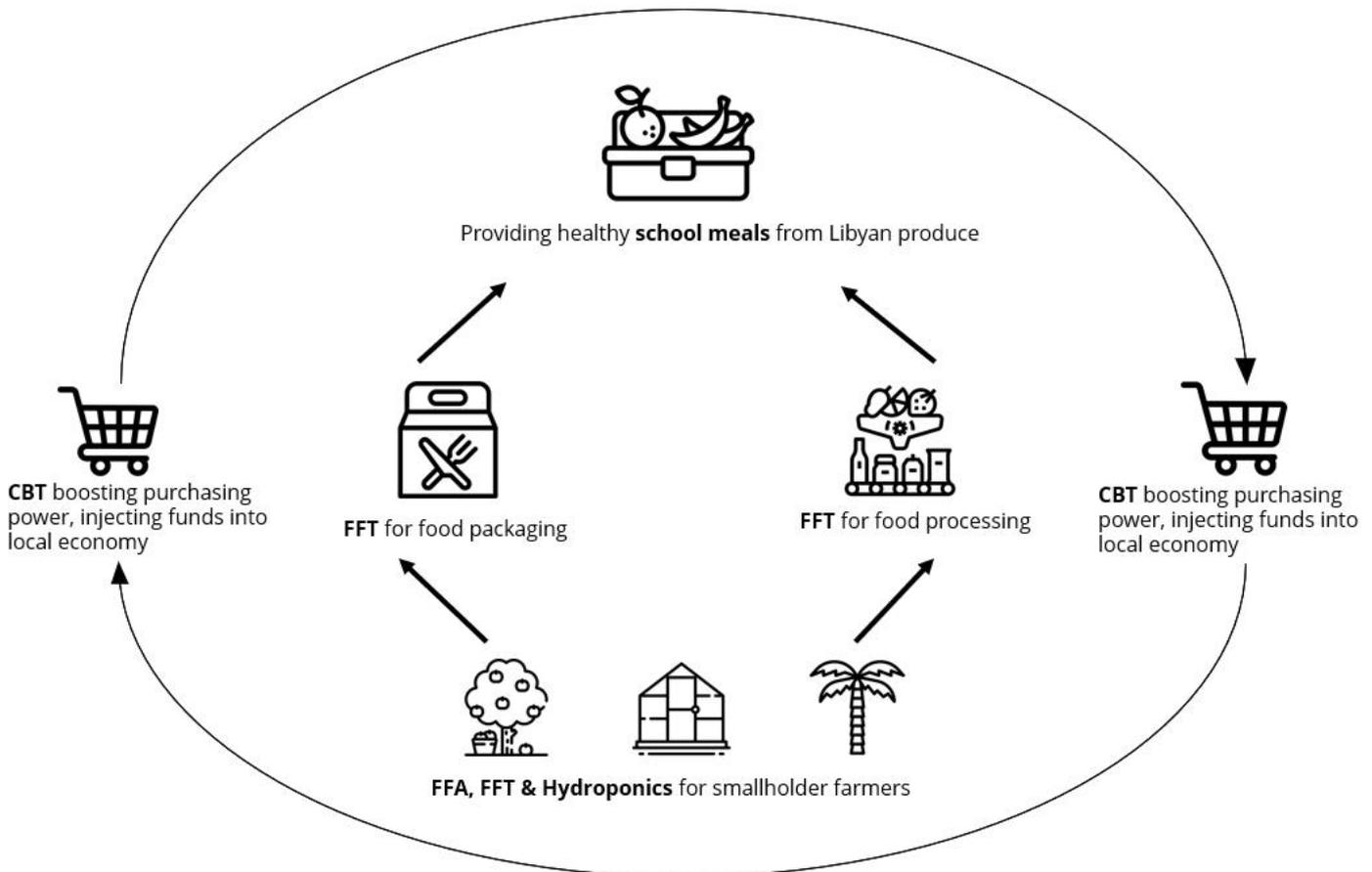
WFP will work to reduce the environmental footprint of its operations, including through promoting renewable energy sources, reducing food waste and food loss, by using

recyclable materials in the school feeding component, and by promoting the sale and consumption of local food produce.

WFP will continue to work to address the root cause of food insecurity in Libya: conflict. There have already been participants in WFP's livelihoods programme in recent years who disengaged from the conflict economy due to the opportunity provided by WFP. T

here have also been cases of people not traveling across the Mediterranean in search of a better life, because they found opportunities through WFP and its partners inside Libya.

WFP will continue to provide economic opportunities to people willing to disengage from the conflict economy, in an attempt to contribute to community stabilisation in a limited way.



### Libya Country Office

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