LIBYA Food Security Sector Bulletin

**SO1**
Ensure continued and regular access to food for the most vulnerable population

**PEOPLE REACHED**

98,647 People reached in July 2019

Includes beneficiaries from non-HRP activities

- **General Food Distributions**: 94,164
- **Rapid Response Mechanism**: 1,440
- **Distributions in Detention Centres**: 48
- **School Feeding**: 2,960
- **Nutrition**: 35

**Activities**

Based on the 4Ws information provided by FSS members for July 2019

**PARTNERSHIPS**

3 (HRP 2019) +10 UN agencies, Local and International NGOs participating in Food Security activities

**FUNDING REQUIREMENTS**

HRP 2019

- **$24.4M** Required
- **$2.8M** Received

11.4% The high number of people reached compared to the low funding levels is due to the fact that FSS Partner WFP is using its own internal strategic funding mechanisms to fill the funding gap

General Food Distributions throughout Libya
Overview of the Crisis

Civil war since 2014 has generated shortages of food, fuel, water, medical supplies and electricity, and reduced access to healthcare and public services. Multiple parties are fighting for control of the country. Libya is divided among two governments: the House of Representatives (HOR) based in eastern Libya and a UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) based in Tripoli. Both governments rely on the support of militias, and alliances are subject to local territorial, political and economic interests. The Libyan National Army (LNA), a mix of tribal or regional-based armed groups allied with the HOR, is another major stakeholder to the conflict.

Insecurity has greatly limited humanitarian access and hindered the planning and delivery of humanitarian assistance. Healthcare is limited by lack of medical staff, structural damage, and shortages of medicines. Attacks on medical personnel and facilities are frequently reported, often leading to suspension of services. Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, including attacks against civilians, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearance, and torture, are widespread and committed by all parties to the conflict. As of May 2019, Libya counts over 666,700 migrants and refugees, who are particularly vulnerable to the violence.

The onset of armed conflict in the southern areas of Tripoli on 04 April 2019, led to the displacement of almost 100,000 IDPs who were forced to leave their homes during the reporting period. This upsurge in the armed conflict included heavy airstrikes which impacted localities in conflict areas substantially, leading to large-scale displacement of civilians due to the deteriorating security situation.

Latest Development – Murzuq Airstrike

An airstrike on a townhall in Murzuq, southwestern Libya, on 05 August killed at least 42 people and wounded 60 more, 30 of whom are in critical condition. Following renewed intensification of clashes in Murzuq on 17-18 August 2019, new displacements were reported from Murzuq City to surrounding areas. The total number of internally displaced persons from Murzuq to at least 1,890 families (approximately 9,450 individuals) since the beginning of August. Reportedly, most families previously displaced within neighborhoods of Murzuq City have also left the town to nearby communities. Reported displacements include around 300 migrants from Niger, Chad and Nigeria.

People in the region are in need of food, WASH and health assistance. The attack was carried out by forces allied to the Libyan National Army (LNA) who claim they had targeted Chadian opposition fighters; a term often used to refer to the Tubu tribesmen opposing the LNA. LNA forces took control of Murzuq early this year during a military campaign in the southern region of Libya.

However, since the offensive on Tripoli that started in April, most LNA forces have moved to the northwest of Libya. This created a power vacuum which has seemingly led to an increase in insecurity and instability in the region. Tribal clashes between groups supporting and opposing LNA-commander Khalifa Haftar have caused several casualties in the last couple of weeks. The attack in Murzuq indicates that the conflict in Tripoli may be expanding to other regions in Libya. At the end of July, attacks were carried out on airbases in Misrata and Jufra by LNA and Government of National Accord (GNA) forces respectively causing material damage only.

Food security partners are looking to respond to the urgent food needs reported within Murzuq and the neighbouring municipalities hosting the displaced families. Food distribution will be based on the latest DTM assessment under the inter-agency Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). WFP has food parcels for more than three thousand families for two weeks in Murzuq, Wadi Etbah and Sebha, and is planning an emergency food distribution in Murzuq and Wadi Etbah while working on prepositioning food in Sebha as a contingency stock.

WFP has dispatched dry food rations sufficient for 18,700 new and existing beneficiaries in Murzuq governorate and its municipalities in Southern Libya. Under RRM, WFP and its local partner coordinated the food assistance, and assisted the first group of about 2,000 newly displaced individuals in Wadi Etabe in Murzuq on 19 August 2019.
FSS has agreed to continue coordinating and advocating the direct emergency food assistance in the detention centres (DC) recognized by the sectors to be in dire conditions exacerbated by the current ongoing hostilities. The sector considers emergency food assistance in detention centres as a stop-gap measure in order not to sustain the perpetuation of inhumane living conditions in detention centres.

In response to the violent clashes in the South of Tripoli, FSS Partner WFP provided UNHCR’s Gathering and Departure Facility with food rations as a contingency in the event for the interruption of catering services.

Additionally, upon request from the Sudan Embassy in Libya, WFP supported non-detained Sudanese migrants affected by the clashes in Tripoli. Other ongoing efforts such as those mentioned are under consideration by several FSS partners.

During the third quarter of 2019, FSS partner WFP will begin implementing food assistance to migrants outside of detention centres in close partnership with IOM in Community Development Centres. The most food insecure non-detained migrants will be identified in close partnership with the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Unit and Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) Unit. WFP will provide food assistance for approximately 20,000 migrants for a period of 3 months, taking into consideration protection concerns when collecting their entitlements.
On 11th of April, 4 UN agencies (WFP, UNFPA, UNICEF and IOM) came together to deliver as one a minimum integrated package of assistance to the affected populations inside and in the outskirts of Tripoli. The project is planned to go beyond that region.

Since the conflict erupted in April, 2019, the Rapid Response Mechanism has reached (26,245) newly displaced people (5,249 families) including (10,498 children) and (6,927 women).

**26,245 People reached**
11 April – 06 August

- **6,927 Women**
- **10,498 Children**
- **5,249 Families**

**Challenges**

- Difficulty to reach areas on the front lines and cross lines.
- Difficulty to access vulnerable groups such as women and girls or people with disabilities due to cultural restrictions and the deteriorating security situation.
- Safety and Security of the field staff engaged in the registration or distribution of services.
- No specific funding was provided for RRM, agencies used their own resources which are depleted or running out.
- Package remained an in-Kind package with limited flexibility to cover the wider needs of populations due to funding restrictions and difficulties of integrating cash assistance at this moment.
KEY FINDINGS

In the south and cities in the west (Msallata and Janzour) prices are beginning to recover from the conflict related economic shocks, indicating that the markets for most MEB items are beginning to adapt and build resilience against the barriers created from the ongoing clashes in Tripoli.

The food items that were most affected by the conflict, such as tomatoes, peppers and potatoes are now in season, adding to the rapid reduction in price compared to previous months.

Nonetheless, the conflict still has an effect on certain cities in Libya. After two months of limited data collection access in Ghiryan and Al Aziziya, the MEB cost has risen to its highest level since September 2018 with both cities experiencing a 15% increase in the cost of the median MEB within two months. The conflict in Ghiryan and Al Aziziya has driven up the prices for mostly imported goods, due to disrupted port supply routes.

The cities with the highest median MEB cost and the largest price spikes (Ghiryan, Al Azizya and Azzintan) have multiple interrupted supply routes that lead to the location. This indicates that the cost of living is not necessarily influenced by the proximity to the clashes but the logistical isolation due to the conflict.

Despite the cost of the median MEB in the west of Libya having only increased by 2.8%, the overall figure has been balanced by strong negative and positive price fluctuations differing by city.

The cost of eggs has decreased by 33.9% within the past two months. Egg prices drop in the summer, due to chicken feed becoming less expensive and imported eggs flooding the Libyan market at competitive prices.

The National Oil Company (NOC) has released a statement that in June oil production was negatively impacted by an electricity crisis, resulting in a loss of 70 thousand barrels per day. This provides an explanation for the 17.4% increase in the cost of cooking fuel.
While most Libyans have been able to maintain relatively high levels of food consumption levels, other food security indicators suggest that the situation will deteriorate. High rates of crisis or emergency coping strategies (60%), and high levels of expenditure on food make the current situation untenable. Households spend 53% of their expenditure on food and 31% of households spend more than 65%. Currently, vulnerable households are increasingly unable to access food because they cannot afford it, and food prices have continued to rise as households’ resources and coping capacities have declined.

The damage to water infrastructure, ongoing instability, a substantial illicit economy, limited liquidity, and a lack of available livelihood opportunities all pose significant long-term challenges to building Libya. These issues come at a time when climate change and environmental degradation are affecting the broader region.

FSS partner **WFP** will provide livelihood support to vulnerable communities and enhance national and local safety nets where possible. The vulnerable communities will benefit from conditional food assistance, whether in kind or cash based transfers, with the aim of increasing community resilience and self-reliance.

FSS partner **WFP** will also support community-based asset creation programmes, through the Food Assistance for Assets programme, whereby beneficiaries receive food assistance while building or rehabilitating assets such as irrigation systems. WFP also has the capacity to support Food Assistance for Training programmes, linking the needs of vulnerable communities to the needs of the local labour market. WFP’s experience with boosting childhood nutrition and school attendance through School Feeding is also well established.

FSS partner **FAO** supports households that are already engaged in agriculture, but there is ample scope to expand engagement. Returnees are as likely to be engaged in agriculture as populations that are still displaced, reflecting the difficulties some households face in resuming production. Moreover, on a national level, there is a need to promote conflict-resilient and climate-sensitive agricultural production while facilitating farmers’ access to high-quality inputs and support, such as agricultural extension services, vaccines, capacity building and financial support.
Events Calendar – August & September 2019

Training of Trainers for National School Feeding Programme
22-25 August 2019 - Tunis

FSS Monthly meeting
29 August 2019 – Tunis

HPC Kick-off meeting
13 September 2019 – Tunis

HPC Workshop: Inter-Sector Joint Analysis, response priorities, Strategic Objectives
25 September 2019 - Tunis

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CEFA, an FSS partner, distributing High Energy Biscuits to children and Pregnant and Breastfeeding mothers in Tariq El-Sikka Detention Centre in Tripoli