2021 Libyan population
Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA)

Food Security Qualitative Findings Presentation

February 2022 – monthly Food Security sector meeting
Funded by:
Supporting partners:
2021 Libyan population MSNA

1. Introduction
2. Quantitative phase
   - Methodology overview
   - Summary of key findings
3. Qualitative phase
   - Methodology overview
   - Findings
Food Security - Libyan population MSNA

MSNA Overall objectives

• Update humanitarian actors’ understanding of the current needs that exist in the country.

• Inform the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

• Contribute to a more targeted and evidence-based humanitarian response.

Presentation objectives

• Present the 2021 MSNA qualitative findings for food security.

• Identify key messages from these qualitative findings.
**Timeline for data collection**

**Quantitative phase**
- 14 June – 2 August
- Telephone interviews
  - ‘What’ – Establishing what the humanitarian needs are, where they are, and who is most affected

**Qualitative phase**
- October - November
- Key informant interviews & focus groups discussions
  - With municipality council employees, farmers, government employees or representatives, food importers, etc.
  - ‘Why’ – Follow-up data collection to answer any further questions that came up during analysis of the quantitative data

**Analysis**
- December – February 2022
  - Produce data saturation grids illustrating the findings per topic and summarize these

**Training**
- September
  - Qualitative phase training

**Qualitative phase**
- September
  - Qualitative phase training
Quantitative phase: Libyan population MSNA

June, July & August 2021

8,871 household interviews

45 baladiyas covered

Non-representative sampling, all surveys conducted over phone (1010 using Random Digit Dialing) > findings indicative only

3 population groups
- Non-displaced: 3,967 – 45%
- IDP: 2,731 – 31%
- Returnee: 2,173 – 24%

8 sectors/thematic areas covered:
- Food Security, Cash & Markets and Livelihoods,
- Health, SNFI, WASH,
- Education, Protection, AAP
13% of HHs have a food security LSG: 8% severe, 5% extreme

% of HHs with a food security LSG, by displacement status:

- **Returnee**: 9% severe, 13% extreme
- **Non-displaced**: 8% severe, 4% extreme
- **IDP**: 12% severe, 11% extreme

% of HHs with a food security LSG, by region:

- **West**: 6% severe, 3% extreme
- **South**: 18% severe, 8% extreme
- **East**: 9% severe, 9% extreme

Top 5 baladiyas by % of HHs with a food security LSG:

- **Gemienis**: 30% severe, 30% extreme
- **Suloug**: 33% severe, 30% extreme
- **Toukra**: 25% severe, 31% extreme
- **Alghrayfa**: 13% severe, 35% extreme
- **Ubari**: 12% severe, 42% extreme

Identifies an unmet sectoral need, where the LSG severity score is 3 or higher.
Food Security LSG – calculation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Indicator</th>
<th>% of HHs having Food Consumption Score (FCS)</th>
<th>Severity rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acceptable FCS &gt;42</td>
<td>Borderline FCS &gt;28 and &lt;=42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Calculation of FCS:** “How often you have eaten in the last 7 days?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food groups</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Weighted score = weight * frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cereals, grains, and tubers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>[household answer]</td>
<td>2 * [household answer]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legumes and nuts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>[household answer]</td>
<td>3 * [household answer]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk and dairy products</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>[household answer]</td>
<td>4 * [household answer]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs, meat, fish</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>[household answer]</td>
<td>4 * [household answer]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables and leaves</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>[household answer]</td>
<td>1 * [household answer]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>[household answer]</td>
<td>1 * [household answer]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil and fat</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>[household answer]</td>
<td>0.5 * [household answer]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar and sweets</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>[household answer]</td>
<td>0.5 * [household answer]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (sum)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total (sum) weighted scores</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Non-critical indicator**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of HHs having a Reduced Coping Strategies index of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of HHs having a Food expenditure share of</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of HHs that had to reduce (totally or partially) agricultural activities in 12 months prior to data collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of HHs able to access a market or grocery store within 30 minutes of travel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LSG = max. of critical or non-critical indicator score
Food Consumption Score (FCS)

12% of HHs were found to have a poor or borderline FCS

22% of IDP and returnee HHs were found to have a poor or borderline FCS, compared to 11% of non-displaced HHs

% of HHs per FCS category, by region:

- South:
  - Acceptable: 74%
  - Borderline: 18%
  - Poor: 8%
- East:
  - Acceptable: 83%
  - Borderline: 9%
  - Poor: 8%
- West:
  - Acceptable: 92%
  - Borderline: 6.3%
  - Poor: 3%

Access to the marketplace

7% of HHs reported not having access to a marketplace within 30 minutes of travel

% of HHs reporting not having access to a marketplace within 30 minutes of their dwelling, by displacement status and region:

- East:
  - Total: 10%
  - IDP: 8%
  - Non-displaced: 9%
  - Returnee: 9%
- South:
  - Total: 16%
  - IDP: 18%
  - Non-displaced: 8%
  - Returnee: 74%
- West:
  - Total: 2%
  - IDP: 4%
  - Non-displaced: 8%
  - Returnee: 74%
Food Expenditure Share

23% of HHs have a food expenditure share over 65%, (monthly food related expenditures constituting over 65% of their total monthly expenditure)

% of HHs with food expenditure share of over 65% of total HH expenditure in 30 days prior to data collection:

- West: 28
- East: 13
- South: 13

Agriculture

10% of HHs reported having engaged in agricultural activities in the 12 months prior to data collection.

38% of those reported having reduced or abandoned those activities in the 12 months prior to data collection (4% overall),

For who the most commonly reported reasons were:
- Loss of productive assets (46%)
- Movement restrictions (26%)

Top 5 baladiyas with reduced or abandoned agricultural activities in 12 months prior to data collection:

- Ghat
- Alshargulya
- Murzouq
- Bint Bayya
- Ubari
- Gharbi

West

South
Key Informant Interviews (KII) and Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were conducted by REACH and its partner CSOs, either in-person or over the phone (remotely).

**Topics covered**

- **Protection**
  - 18 KII in 3 baladiyas: Alghrayfa, Ubari, Wadi Etba

- **Health**
  - 18 KII in 3 baladiyas: Al-Sharguiya, Ghiryan, Algurdha Ashshi

- **Food Security**
  - 18 KII in 3 baladiyas: Gemienis, Suloug, Toukra

- **Gender and access to services & GBV**
  - 12 KII in 5 baladiyas: Alghrayfa, Brak, Ejdabia, Sebha, Ubari
  - 21 FGD in 7 baladiyas: Alghrayfa, Brak, Ejdebia, Misrata, Sebha, Tripoli, Ubari

- **Mental Health and social support networks (MHPSS)**
  - 22 KII in 11 baladiyas: Alkufra, Azzawya, Benghazi, Ghiray, Ghiryan, Misrata, Sirt, Tarhuna, Tawergha, Tripoli, Ubari
  - 13 FGDs in 7 baladiyas: Alkufra, Azzawya, Ghiryan, Misrata, Sirt, Tarhuna, Tripoli
Key Informants & Baladiyas covered

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of KI interviews</th>
<th>18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**KI’s gender**
- Female KIs: 1
- Male KIs: 17

**Baladiyas covered**
- Gemienis: 6
- Suloug: 6
- Toukra: 6

Profiles of key informants
- Municipality council employees (4)
- Farmers (4)
- Government employees or representatives (4)
- Food importers (2)
- Employee at or representative for Ministry of Agriculture (2)
- Local party member (1)
- CSO worker (1)

Profiles of baladiyas covered
- Active agricultural activities
- Food importers & vendors
- Possibilities for agricultural expansion
- Accessibility
- Discussions with partners & field staff

Conducted through LIBAID
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research question</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Question from questionnaire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Driving forces</strong></td>
<td>Main causes</td>
<td>What are the main causes of HHs struggling to obtain enough food?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seasonality</td>
<td>Do FS needs differ from season to season. If so, how?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Change</td>
<td>Did FS needs change significantly from September 2020 until now?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reasons for change</td>
<td>In case the food situation has changed, for what reasons?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Impact on humanitarian needs, living standards, mental well-being</strong></td>
<td>Interrelation with other needs</td>
<td>Do you think that needs related to food are related to other needs? If so, how?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Interrelation with MHPSS</td>
<td>What needs are most affected/related to food needs?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Most affected/vulnerable population groups</strong></td>
<td>Vulnerable population groups</td>
<td>Are any population groups more likely to struggle in accessing food? If so, why?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vulnerable types of employments</td>
<td>Are there hazardous coping strategies? If yes, who is most likely to be forced to rely on them?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Role of agriculture</strong></td>
<td>Dependence on local agriculture</td>
<td>How many people in this area rely on local agriculture for their consumption?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Local agriculture &amp; imported production</td>
<td>What proportion of the population would you estimate that to be?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Barriers/challenges of farmers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>How do local agriculture produce compared to imported produce?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resources present, lost, and needed to expand agriculture &amp; food security</strong></td>
<td>Present key resources</td>
<td>What challenges are farmers in this area currently facing in their work, if any?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lost resources</td>
<td>What is the most significant challenge, if any?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resources needed</td>
<td>Demand for food security needs. How many people in this area depend on local agriculture for their consumption?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Relation with expansion of agriculture</td>
<td>How many people in this area rely on local agriculture for their consumption?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>What proportion of the population would you estimate that to be?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>How do local agriculture produce compared to imported produce?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Limitations of the qualitative analysis

Sample not perfectly inclusive
Gender balance not met, due to nature of topic

Interviews conducted in Arabic
Subtle and specific details may get lost during the translation process

Geographical coverage
Data collection focused on 3 baladiyas located in the Eastern region. Therefore, no comparison can be done countrywide.
Qualitative phase

Findings

Driving forces of food security needs

Most commonly reported causes, per number of KIs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High prices of food</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low incomes</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquidity issues</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delayed salaries</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of or unpredictable livelihoods</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of governmental control on prices</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of KIs (14/18) reported that high food prices and low incomes are the main drivers of food insecurity.
Driving forces of food security needs

“[...] the rise in prices is due to the coronavirus pandemic and wars, as the lack of some goods and scarcity makes prices high.”
– Municipal council employee, Gemienis

“ [...] the low value of salaries and the high standard of living, the high price of goods, the lack of liquidity in banks, and the delayed salaries of citizens, makes most people fight for a living.”
– Municipal council employee, Gemienis

11 KIs reported that there are seasonal differences in food security needs (of whom 5 KIs are from Gemienis)

7 KIs reported that food insecurity increases in winter due to price increases as most vegetables are out of season and therefore not widely available, together with a higher demand for food (driven by school attendance and colder weather)

7 KIs reported that food insecurity might increase during religious holidays such as Ramadan, due to higher demand

“For public sector employees, there is irregularity in the payment of salaries, which may be delayed by 3 to 4 months [...]”
– Government employee, Toukra
Driving forces of food security needs

The majority of KIs (16/18) reported that food security needs have deteriorated significantly in the year prior to the interview, especially among HHs relying on daily wages whose livelihoods were affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

“[…] there has been a great and unequal change […] This is due to the rise in prices, the worsening economic and political conditions, and the lack of price control by taxation. The merchant has become in control of the market without the state controlling prices, which makes it difficult to meet basic food needs.”

– Government representative & professor, Suloug

Reasons for change in food security situation, per number of KIs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Price increases for imported food</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 restrictions</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political, conflict or security issues</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic situation</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollar exchange rates</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access issues (infrastructure &amp; import lines)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banking issues</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Because of the coronavirus, some citizens lost their income and how to get adequate food security. […] in urban and rural areas as a result of border closures and the disruption of commercial activities that generate income, the problem of deteriorating food security exacerbated […].”

– Farmer, Toukra
Most KIs (14/18) reported that food insecurity impacts the family's mental health and well-being, especially of the head of household who can experience depression (reported by 6/18 KIs) and anxiety (reported by 8/16 KIs), due to debts and their inability to provide for their family members.

Top 3 most reported other related needs, by number of KIs (out of 18 KIs):

16 Livelihoods “especially among poor or displaced HHs”
11 Shelter “mainly displaced HHs - more likely to rent”
7 Nutrition “especially after changes due to COVID-19”

“[…] it has a negative impact on the physical and psychological health of humans, resulting in anxiety, depression, and major health problems. [...] which leads to corruption and a deviation of morals, resulting in stealing and selling drugs and other negative aspects.”
– Municipal council employee, Gemienis

“[…] a very big influence: anxiety, psychological instability, anger, and lack of control over the self and behaviours towards work, study, and health [...]”
– Employee at Ministry of Agriculture, Suloug
Population groups most affected by food security needs

Population groups mentioned to be more likely to struggle in accessing food, by number of KIs (out of 18 KIs):

- Female headed HHs: 17 KIs
- IDP HHs: 14 KIs
- Poor HHs: 11 KIs
- HHs relying on gov. support: 8 KIs
- People with disabilities: 7 KIs
- People without documentation: 5 KIs
- Large HHs: 3 KIs
- Remote HHs: 2 KIs
- Returnee HHs: 2 KIs

Most KIs (10/18) mentioned: “all depends on income”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employment types more likely to be food insecure:</th>
<th>Reasons:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Public sector workers (6 KIs)</td>
<td>- Low incomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Private sector workers (5 KIs)</td>
<td>- Delayed salaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Temporary or daily labour workers (3 KIs)</td>
<td>- Instability of jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Agricultural workers (3 KIs)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“[…] there are many displaced people from areas outside of Barqa, who are unable to get their salaries as they are unable to go to the areas they are from.”

– Government representative agriculture, Suloug

“[…] widows and divorcées. The family does not have enough to eat due to the low income and lack of jobs. Women are uneducated and unable to fight life, and some of them resort to unethical jobs to earn a living for food.”

– Farmer, Gemienis
Role of agriculture for the community

The majority of KIs (13/18) reported that only a few HHs rely on local agriculture for their consumption.

Characteristics of local supply mentioned:

- Less diverse (11 KIs)
- Less reliable (7 KIs)
- Worse price (5 KIs)
- For personal use only (3 KIs)
- Better quality (6 KIs)
- Better price (2 KIs)

The smaller diversity of local supply is reportedly explained by local agriculture production being restricted to barley & wheat, while vegetables & fruits are mainly imported.

“The local products are excellent in quality, but their availability in the municipality is small [...].”
- Municipal council employee, Gemienis

“Local production is considered weak due to the lack of state support for these projects, lack of diversification of crops as a result of not repairing soil, droughts and lack of water, fertilizers and seeds due to their high prices as these are mainly dependent on import.”
- CSO worker, Gemienis

“[...] The variety, I think, is very limited and simple. Most people depend on growing barley and wheat to sell to livestock owners. But the external production in terms of vegetables like onions, tomatoes, etc... is much better than locally grown.”
- Food importer, Suloug
Challenges of farmers

Often reported as challenges farmers in this area are facing: **high prices of assets** (10/18) & **high prices of supplies** (7/18)

Mentioned as challenges of farmers (out of 18 KIs), the non-availability of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seeds &amp; pesticides</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital &amp; loans</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Also mentioned as challenges to farmers:

- Water shortages (8 KIs)
- Movement restrictions (3 KIs)
- Market price production (quantity) (3 KIs)
- Electricity issues and power outages (2 KIs)
- Drought (1 KIs)

“First and foremost, there are the challenges of having **tribal conflicts** on their land unresolved, also the lack of water and irrigation makes farmers more dependent on rainfall as it’s more difficult for them to cultivate out of season. Also the shortage of agricultural materials and machinery. [...] Then there is also the lack of support and interest of the state in agriculture.”

– Municipal council employee, Toukra

“Most farmers complain that their **farms**, which can be located in the countryside and areas far from major cities, **lack electricity and water**.”

– Government representative/employee, Toukra

“**The lack of fodder** had a negative impact on livestock [...] due to the high cost of good fodder, [...] the lack of available land within the region due to urban sprawl on the land, and the high cost of agricultural machinery, if it is found, as rents are excessive.”

– Municipal council employee, Gemienis
Resources present, lost, and needed to expand agriculture & food security

“[…]

the amount of **production was reduced in the past**, which caused a shortage of agricultural food resources. This is due to high prices of seeds and agricultural materials, the rise in the price of a dollar, and the lack of liquidity in banks. This makes it **difficult for most groups to invest in their land in an optimal manner** [...].”

– Government representative & professor, Suloug

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have</th>
<th>Lost</th>
<th>Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livestock (16 KIs)</td>
<td>Tractors (7 KIs)</td>
<td>Pesticides &amp; fertilizers (14 KIs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land (14 KIs)</td>
<td>Pesticides &amp; fertilizers (5 KIs)</td>
<td>Water (14 KIs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tractors (14 KIs)</td>
<td>Land (4 KIs)</td>
<td>Seeds (6 KIs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ploughs (6 KIs)</td>
<td>Crops (4 KIs)</td>
<td>Other machinery (8 KIs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seeds (6 KIs)</td>
<td>Labour (3 KIs)</td>
<td>Capital (6 KIs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“[…] improve **land quality and give agricultural loans to farmers** to expand farming and to dig wells to save water in the area, as informal construction crawling over farmland has only left a third of groundwater due to household water usage.”

– Municipal council employee, Gemienis

“[…] the Al-Abiar area […] due to the lack of **water resources**, has become dependent only on rain [...].”

– Local party member, Toukra

“Provision of fertilizers, pesticides and equipment at affordable prices […] **are needed.**”

– Employee at Ministry of Agriculture, Suloug
Resources present, lost, and needed to expand agriculture & food security

The majority of KIs (15/18) reported that an expansion of agriculture would result in more food security in the area. Some explained that improvements in the food security situation are dependent on:

- Increased local agricultural production and supply (9/18 KIs)
- Lowering prices (5/18 KIs)

"[...] All that has increased interest in agriculture has increased the expansion of food resources and prices declined in the market in that region. [...] Indeed, the expansion of agriculture has a huge impact on food security in a region in terms of food availability, growth and investment, and is also a solution for most unemployed young people."

– Municipal council employee, Gemienis

"If it expands the cultivation of trees with fruit-bearing fruits such as olives and palm trees, and establishes and supports projects such as local olive presses and the production of local oils in an optimal manner, and also includes fruit and other fruits, the city will become self-sufficient and more dependent on local products, if the state takes care of and supports these projects."

– Government representative & professor, Suloug
2021 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA)

Qualitative Findings Presentation:
Food Security, Cash & Markets, Livelihoods

Thursday
24/02/2022
10h – 12h

Meeting link
Contact

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+216 55 781 610

Thank you for your attention