

Highlights

- Libya's transitional government declared national liberation on Sunday, 23 October.
- Following a shift in power to the Libyan National Transitional Council (NTC) and the death of former Libyan leader Moammar Ghaddafi, WFP expects to see immediate needs in areas recently affected by heavy fighting. Inter-agency rapid assessment missions, with representation from WFP, are being completed this week in Bani Walid and Sirte. Full reports will soon be available.
- WFP has over 7,500 MT of food in stock to respond swiftly as needs arise and to support displaced people and host communities until their return.
- For the first time since operations began, a commercial liner has transported WFP food, a shipment of 775 metric tons of pasta, directly to the port of Tripoli on Sunday, 23 October. WFP is among the first commercial and humanitarian users to start sending cargo directly into Tripoli on commercial vessels. The UN agency hopes this shipment will contribute to boosting confidence in the reopening of Tripoli port and direct trade with Libya.
- Due to a lack of funding, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) is now implementing a cost recovery mechanism to continue flights into and within Libya. Cost recovery will begin on 1 November, 2011.
- A contribution from Russia has been confirmed for US\$ 2 million in support of Libyan activities under the regional emergency operation.

Situation Update

- WFP took part in an interagency mission to Harawa (Sirte area) on 12-13 October to assess the needs of IDPs and other vulnerabilities. Food was found to be available on the market, though in limited quantity and variety, with high prices for pasta and no bread available. IDPs interviewed who have received food assistance state that now they are concerned about non-food items, security issues and a lack of available liquidity.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya, Georg Charpentier, was in Sirte on 24 October. Mr. Charpentier said that immediate priorities for response include the restoration of electricity and water services, the rapid clean-up of explosive remnants of war and the rehabilitation of housing for returning residents. He also expressed his concern for the safe return of civilians to Sirte and the importance of national reconciliation following the end of hostilities.
- In Bani Walid, the interagency mission on 25 October met with the local council and the military council to discuss the urgent priorities, including electricity, the water and sewage systems, and education. The council is hopeful that more people will begin to return to Bani Walid in another week, if services are restored. Basic food items are currently available in the warehouses, although there is a need for complementary food items. The council also added that more needs are likely to emerge after distribution of the current stock to the returnees.
- As segments of the population have become vulnerable during the conflict, access to food and other essential supplies remains vital at this point to help promote confidence and establish peace and democracy during the coming period of recovery and rebuilding in Libya.

WFP Response

- Since late August, following the NTC changeover in Tripoli, WFP has assisted nearly 650,000 people in Libya, with over 6,550 metric tons of food. The total number of people assisted by WFP in Libya since the conflict started in February has surpassed 1.1 million.
- In October, 555 metric tons of food have been distributed in areas around Sirte through ACTED and LRC. The assistance is reaching over 40,000 displaced, host communities and other conflict-affected populations. More food remains prepositioned for direct assistance to those affected by the recent fighting in Sirte, and WFP is already preparing a second round of distributions to begin soon.
- IDPs from Tewargha continue to arrive at camps in Benghazi, however total numbers are difficult to assess as some leave to be with host families, relatives or find other accommodation. Due to the limited capacity of Halis camp, a second camp, Gariunis, has been identified. At the request of LibAID, on 19-20 October, WFP provided a two-week ration of food assistance for 5,000 individuals (3,500 located in the Halis camp and 1,500 in the newly identified Gariunis camp).

- Between 10 – 16 October, WFP dispatched 945 metric tons of mixed food commodities for distribution throughout other conflict affected areas in Libya, including the Nafusa Mountains, around Bani Walid, and throughout the south. The quantity is enough for over 95,000 individuals.
- The Logistics Cluster, led by WFP, continues to provide transport by sea, road, and air throughout Libya. The WFP chartered vessel *MV Fehim Bey* will provide sea transport for passengers and cargo between Benghazi, Malta and Misrata through the end of October. Commercial shipping lines are resuming services to Libyan ports and WFP is working on establishing viable options by road between Benghazi Tripoli. Overall, 17,900 m³ of goods have been transported to date on available/chartered ships, including the *MV Fehim Bey*, at no cost to users. WFP, through the Logistics Cluster, continues to offer road transport services on a cost recovery basis from Egypt and Tunisia into and within Libya; to date 2,900 m³ has been transported for 12 organizations.
- UNHAS has operated throughout Libya when no commercial options were available, but **has been forced to implement a cost recovery mechanism due to a lack of funding**. Cost recovery will begin on 1 November, 2011. In addition, UNHAS will also be downsizing from its current 50 seats aircraft capacity to 35 seats. From 1 May – 20 October this year, UNHAS has transported 4,590 passengers on 92 flights into and within Libya. Details to access UNHAS services and the flight schedule are available at: www.logcluster.org/ops/lby11a/unhas-flight-schedule.
- The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), led by WFP in Libya, continues to provide support to UN and NGO agencies for voice and data connectivity in Benghazi and Tripoli. In Tripoli, additional telecommunications and IT equipment, including wireless internet access, is being installed in the temporary inter-agency communications centre (COMCEN). Also, ETC in Tripoli is in the process of identifying an additional site to install a third repeater to expand the VHF radio coverage area.
- WFP has enough food in stock for the Libyan urban refugees in southern Tunisia through the end of the year. In parallel with WFP food distributions planned next week, UNHCR will conduct an urban rapid needs assessment.
- WFP, with its partner in Tunisia the *Union Tunisienne de Solidarité Sociale* (UTSS), has distributed over 1,894 metric tons of locally-procured food to 15,465 Tunisian returnees and their families (77,325 beneficiaries) throughout the country. A new phase of distributions will begin soon, to assist those vulnerable populations originally planned to be covered by Tunisia's Ministry of Social Affairs.
- WFP continues food for training (FFT) activities for returning migrant workers from Libya in Upper Egypt. To date, the activity has provided 4,810 metric tons of food for 306,995 beneficiaries. Once distributions are finalized in the governorates of Beni Suef, Assiut, and Sohag, the Egypt portion of the regional EMOP will close.

Resource Update

- In response to the crisis in Libya, WFP launched a **regional emergency operation** (EMOP 200257) for Libya, Tunisia, and Egypt in March. **Needs for the regional EMOP are around US\$ 10 million per month.**
- A **Special Operation for Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications** (SO 200261) will continue to augment the logistics and telecommunications capacity of the humanitarian community. **(The needs for the SO are around US\$ 1.8 million per month)**
- The **Special Operation for United Nations Humanitarian Air Service** (SO 200276) will begin activities at cost recovery beginning 1 November. Out of US\$12.6 million required for this service from May-December 2011, only US\$5.9 million has been resourced.

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