



FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER

WEEKLY UPDATE ■ 11 AUGUST, 2011 ■ LIBYA CRISIS

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- **Access and secure supply routes** to the Nafusa (Western) Mountain and Misrata continue to be top priorities for WFP and the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster in Libya.
- Many Libyan refugees residing in Southern Tunisia have started returning to their homes in the Nafusa Mountains (Libya) for the **month of Ramadan**. More returnees are expected to follow, thereby increasing the local food requirements for the month – especially considering the special food rations traditionally needed during Ramadan.
- The financial situation caused by **international sanctions** has had a negative impact on the ability of the authorities in the eastern and western areas of Libya to buy food. While sanctions have almost entirely turned Libya into a cash-oriented and cash-dependent economy, lack of liquidity at both the macro and household levels continues to be a concern. WFP and cluster partners also remain concerned about the inconsistent replenishment of the stock supplies of Libya's **public food distribution system (PDS)**. With the holy **month of Ramadan**, and the increased needs for this time period, these unreliable and inconsistent replenishments of food stocks continues to be a particular worry.
- The significant reduction of available **agriculture** inputs for the next planting season remains a concern to FAO and the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster in Libya.
- In Upper Egypt, a **FAO** assessment mission has found that returnees from Libya face challenges with very little or no economic ways to resume their livelihoods.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

■ LIBYA:

WFP continues to distribute food in collaboration with the **Libyan Red Crescent (LRC)** in Libya. Despite serious challenges due to insecurity and a lack of fuel, WFP and LRC are paying particular attention to areas that have been affected by heavy fighting, such as Misrata and the Nafusa Mountains region.

During **Ramadan**, WFP, with LRC, is distributing around 830 metric tons of food throughout the **Nafusa Mountains** over the next two weeks to meet the needs of some 160,000 beneficiaries. All 830 metric tons have now been transported into Nafusa for distributions. In addition to basic commodities from **WFP**, other organizations operating in the area will be providing complementary food items culturally specific to the holy month. **Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW)** is also planning on providing food baskets to some areas in Nafusa Mountains.

Across **eastern areas of Libya and in Misrata**, **WFP** is targeting 332,500 beneficiaries for **Ramadan** food assistance under the partnership with **LRC**. The basic food basket includes sufficient commodities to cover 5 weeks. So far, a total of 745.5 metric tons of oil, pasta, wheat flour and pulses have been dispatched to Misrata, Al Kufra, Jalu and parts of Benghazi (to cover beneficiaries under the Zakat system) with the balance of tomato paste and rice arriving as soon as the commodities are cleared from Benghazi port.

In addition to WFP's food assistance, around 24,000 Ramadan food packages will be distributed by various organizations, local and international NGOs. The majority of cluster and non-cluster members have initiated distributions of food assistance for Ramadan – **LAHA** (a coalition of local NGOs consisting of around 60 active local NGOs across East Libya with approximately 30 of these based in Benghazi), with **Muassasit Tawasul** and **Sanabel Alhadaya** have started distributing food packages in Benghazi. They plan to distribute 12,000 food packages altogether for Ramadan. Other agencies have commenced procurement – including **ACF** (milk for 3,000 families in Misrata and 1,500 families in Ajdabiya), **UNHCR** (meals through one Iftaar tent in coordination with the **Boy Scouts** as well as a month's supply of dates for 6000 families in Benghazi, Misrata and Ajdabiya), **Mercy Corps** (meals through Iftaar tents) and **Islamic Relief Worldwide** (food packages in East and West Libya)

■ AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS IN LIBYA

FAO and the Agricultural Affairs Committee have agreed on a procurement plan for agricultural inputs to support farmers' vegetable production in greenhouses in eastern Libya between October – December 2011. The comprehensive input package will include seeds for five types of vegetables, a combination of fertilizers and greenhouse sheeting; FAO is now working on the exact technical specifications for the required inputs and will launch the international tender in due course.

To boost open-field production of tomatoes in Jalu, FAO is also in the process of procuring several hundred metric tons of urea. The consignment will arrive in Benghazi in early September and the subsequent distribution to farmers in Jalu will be handled by CESVI under the supervision of FAO and in collaboration with the Agricultural Sector Committee.

Beneficiaries for both the Jalu tomato cultivation and the project supporting greenhouse production of vegetables will be identified through a mapping exercise undertaken by FAO and CESVI in coordination with the Committee for the Agricultural Sector and Animal and Marine Wealth in Benghazi.

■ TUNISIA – RAMADAN ASSISTANCE

During the first four days of August, **WFP**, **UNHCR** and **Tunisian Red Crescent**, in close coordination with cluster partners Islamic Relief Worldwide, Secours Islamique France, Libyan Charity, WAFA Relief, UAE Red Crescent, Attaween, ASDI, Secours Populaire France & other Libyan community groups and associations completed the first round of Ramadan food distributions to Libyan refugees residing with host communities across Tataouine, Medenine, Gabes, Kébili and Sfax. The food basket consists of basic commodities (pasta, couscous, beans, tomato paste and oil) from WFP and UNHCR and fresh and traditional Ramadan commodities (chorba, rice, sugar, tuna, cheese, tea, harrisa, dates and vouchers for vegetables, fruit, meat and eggs) from the cluster partners. Freshly baked bread will continue to be distributed throughout the month of Ramadan. Each family will receive one box of basic food items and one box of complementary food items each week during Ramadan. Vouchers covering vegetables, fruits, meat and eggs will be provided shortly.



Young beneficiary collecting a box of food for Ramadan in southern Tunisia.
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Originally, the planned beneficiary figure was about 50,000 people (around 10,000 Libyan refugee families) but a reconciliation following the first round, revealed nearly 40 percent of registered refugees have either returned to Libya or do not require Ramadan assistance.

Further meetings with all organizations involved in the Ramadan distributions for Southern Tunisia have taken place, to streamline distribution procedures and ensure that remaining refugees receive Ramadan food distributions.

■ **TUNISIA – MIGRANT WORKER RETURNEES**

WFP, with implementing partner the Union Tunisienne de Solidarite Sociale (**UTSS**), are targeting a total of 20,000 families (100,000 beneficiaries) of **Tunisian migrant worker returnees** that fled the conflict in Libya. Since distributions of family food packages started on 5 July, a total of 7,722 families (38,610 beneficiaries) in 20 out of the planned 24 Governorates, were reached so far with close to 600 MT of mixed commodities.

■ **EGYPT:**

In Salloum camp, **WFP** continues the provision of date bars to complement **UNHCR's** food assistance to **Third Country Nationals** and **People of Concern** to UNHCR.

In partnership with Community Development Association for Women and Child Improvement in Sohag governorate, Terre Des Homme (TDH) in Assiut governorate and Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services - (CEOSS) in Meinia and Beni Suef governorates and in coordination with Ministry of Manpower, WFP continues FFT activities for returning migrant workers from Libya in Upper Egypt.

WFP food for training (FFT) activities for **returning migrant workers** in Upper Egypt continue in cooperation with the Ministry of Manpower, local governorates and local NGOs. To date, 46,440 participants (232,210 beneficiaries) received a total of 1,490 metric tons of mixed food commodities through WFP's FFT programme in the four governorates.

■ **AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS IN EGYPT**

During the reporting period, a **FAO** assessment mission visited Beni Suef, in Upper Egypt focusing on returnees from Libya. Based on meetings with farmers and the farmers association as well as field visits to households and farms, it was found that returnees face challenges with very little or no economic means to start up some means of livelihood. There is a clear need to support the returnees to secure livelihoods through agriculture, which is a widely a practiced activity in the area, and a key part of the local economy. Many returnees were working as farmers in Libya and FAO is looking into assisting them to return to local production of fresh food through provision of agriculture inputs such as quality seeds, fertilizers , tools and animals (for breeding). Generally, the Farmers Association was found to be well organized though it requires support in terms of skills development.

■ **REGIONAL:** WFP has so far mobilized for the regional emergency close to 36,200 metric tons of food for the three countries covered by the North Africa EMOP. Approximately 26,000 metric tons of this food is for Libya operations alone, with most of the commodities prepositioned either in Libya or on the border in Tunisia, ready for immediate dispatch. In total, over 16,000 metric tons of mixed food commodities have been released to our counterparts in Libya, Tunisia, and Egypt for distributions and 9,132 metric tons are already confirmed as distributed to more than 800,000 beneficiaries.

GAPS & CONSTRAINTS

- Access and insecure supply routes remain the main constraints for both assessments and distributions.
- Access to fuel inside Libya, for both humanitarian operations and civilian uses, particularly in western parts of the country and the resulting disruption of public services that depend on fuel, continues to be a major concern. Bulk fuel purchases are currently difficult in Benghazi due to a lack of large supplies of diesel. A significant amount needs to be saved to run power stations in the area.
- The cost of WFP food assistance operations under the regional EMOP is US\$ 16.8 million per month. For the operation's remaining period, through the end of August, WFP is operating against a funding shortfall of US\$ 15.6 million.

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