



# FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER

WEEKLY UPDATE ■ 8 SEPTEMBER, 2011 ■ LIBYA CRISIS

## HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

---

- Reports of **food, water, and fuel shortages** have raised concerns for the wellbeing of the population in some parts of western Libya affected by fighting or siege. Since opposition fighters entered Tripoli on 21 August, WFP has received a number of urgent **appeals for food assistance** to different areas. The main groups of concern are people who have been displaced or are affected by interrupted supply due to current fighting. More requests have also been received from newly liberated areas in Nafusa Mountains, stranded IDPs, and TCNs inside Tripoli. Food assistance needs are expected from Beni Walid and Sirte where fighting is still on-going.
- The cluster members are especially concerned with regard to TCNs **in Tripoli**, who are facing serious protection issues and are stranded in some locations with limited access to water, food, and medical assistance.
- WFP has received requests to support up to 400,000 people in **Southern Libya** and 200,000 in **Gharyan and in surrounding villages**. Further assessment information is required to establish more accurate needs of food, or livelihood's support.
- The situation in Libya remains highly fluid. Additional monitoring is essential to better understand the overall humanitarian, and more specifically, current food security and livelihoods issues. The cluster is therefore discussing the possibility to field a joint interagency assessment mission within the coming days/weeks to establish food security and livelihood needs in areas that have not been accessible in former assessments. It will also continue to monitor the FS&L situation in other parts of Libya.
- The current **shortage of cash liquidity** is expected to improve with the likely unfreezing of Libyan funds by the international community. This will increase people's ability to buy food resources. However, it remains a problem as this update is being written.
- The **commercial food sector** in the main towns and cities in Western Libya is generally found to be resilient (albeit the negative impact of the current shortage of cash)
- The lack of **agriculture** inputs for the next planting season remains a concern to FAO and the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster.
- In Southern Tunisia, more than 50 percent of the **Libyan refugees** have now returned to Libya.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

---

### ■ WESTERN LIBYA

Recent developments in and around Tripoli have posed challenges regarding access to food in terms of market and supply functionality, lack of security, and liquidity. In response, WFP has scaled up its food delivery and distribution in different locations in Western Libya. Since the last week of August, WFP has distributed more than 1,400 MT of mixed food items through its partners, covering the needs of some 84,500 beneficiaries in Gharyan, Sibrata, Sirman, Zwara and Tripoli.

WFP seeks to limit the negative effects that the recent fighting may have on the population in Tripoli and surrounding areas and those being displaced by the ongoing conflict through a rapid filling of food supply gaps. In partnership with LRC and INGOs, WFP is responding to the urgent needs of 800 TCNs in Tripoli who have no access to food, water or medical assistance. UNHCR will coordinate the response for the caseload of people with specific protection concerns, estimated to reach 35,000 IDPs inside Tripoli.

#### ■ EASTERN LIBYA

In Benghazi, the banking system is functioning and progressively improving. Salaries, including all backlogs, have been paid. According to monitoring information, food prices are going down and the private sector is capable of responding to the basic needs. The market has returned to normal, with the majority of items available in the shops, including luxury items. WFP is currently monitoring the food distribution conducted through the Zakat system, covering 7,000 of the most needy people.

#### **Ajdabya Mission**

An inter-agency mission (including WFP) visited Ajdabya on 5 September. The situation in the town is found to be returning to normalcy with almost all residents reportedly having returned to their homes. Food shops are mostly open and functioning well with a reestablished food supply chain from Egypt and local farms. Most commodities are available and in sufficient quantities. Prices in general have stabilized with periodic fluctuation for some commodities. The population is still receiving fixed allotments of 200 LD from their accounts per week. Those, who were not able to continue to work due to infrastructure damage, are receiving allowance of 500 Libyan Dinar per month to cover their HH basic needs. No further need to continue food distribution on a large scale was found though there may be food assistance needs for specific groups, which will be handled on an individual basis.

The mission was also informed that the situation in Brega and surrounding villages was alarming with most houses demolished and limited access to water, electricity and gas. Several thousands of people from Brega have moved to Ajdabya and other nearby villages.

#### ■ LIBYA ASSESSMENTS

WFP regional office has just published a **Rapid Markets Assessment of Eastern Libya, August 2011** which is available on <http://foodsecuritycluster.org/north-africa>

#### ■ SOUTHERN TUNISIA

In Southern Tunisia, more than half of the Libyan refugees have now returned to Libya. As a consequence, the final Ramadan food distributions from WFP, UNHCR, Tunisian Red Crescent and a number of NGOs and Libyan community groups reached a lower number of beneficiaries, than the previous two distributions.

#### ■ TUNISIA – MIGRANT WORKER RETURNEES

WFP, with its implementing partner the Union Tunisienne de Solidarite Sociale (UTSS), targets a total of 20,000 families (100,000 beneficiaries) of Tunisian returnees. To date, a total of 11,454 families across 24 Governorates have been reached with 815.5 MT of mixed commodities.

#### ■ EGYPT

In Egypt, WFP is continuing Food for Training programmes for returning immigrants. These activities will be completed by end of October 2011. FAO livelihood activities continue within the same region, and for same target group.

## ■ FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER PRIORITIES FOR THE COMING 30 DAYS

The cluster has prepared a 30-day plan for the HCT clarifying its strategy in light of recent developments; the Flash Appeal starting September 2011 has been put on hold with a revised Flash Appeal likely to cover the period from October to December 2011.

The cluster members have agreed to the following 30-day strategy:

### Cluster Objectives

- Food assistance to chronic and highly vulnerable groups such as orphans, elderly and single parent households, those newly affected and/or displaced within Libya, as well as assistance to migrants and third country nationals crossing the border to Tunisia before their onward travel.
- Contingency planning with strategic pre-positioning of stocks to ensure rapid dispatch capacity to newly emerging needs.
- Close monitoring through a light Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS) of the evolving situation to inform preparedness/contingency planning and rapid response.
- Emergency agricultural and livelihood support to vulnerable households and to food producers in Libya, and limited support to migrant workers in their places of origin in Egypt

### Activities to be implemented by end September 2011:

Food commodities (WFP) for 750 000 beneficiaries in the west of Libya will include wheat flour, pasta, rice, vegetable oil, pulses, sugar and tomato paste according to the requirement and to stocks available. Other commodities may be added by other organisations.

In eastern Libya, vegetable seeds and fertilizers will be distributed to 2000 farming units in Eastern Libya

### Additional information:

Above plans are based on the assumption that food stocks will remain healthy in the Eastern part of the country. Hence food assistance will be directed to those newly affected by conflict, internally displaced populations, returnees, and third country nationals remaining in Libya. Activities that were started earlier will be continued during this period. Ongoing activities supporting returnee communities in Upper Egypt and Tunisia will also continue during this period.

## GAPS & CONSTRAINTS

---

- The port in Tripoli is not functioning at full capacity as two sunken boats are obstructing access. In addition there is not sufficient diesel to operate cranes and other machinery at full capacity and there is a lack of immigrant labor to do the off loading.
- While the commercial sector has proven more resilient as anticipated, there remain criticalities such as milling capacity, food fortification, and fuel shortages.

*FS&LC – dedicated to coordination, cooperation and partnerships*

### FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER CONTACT:

Line Rindebaek – Information Management Officer  
Food Security & Livelihood Cluster (Libya Crisis) – Cairo – Egypt  
Email: [line.rindebaek@wfp.org](mailto:line.rindebaek@wfp.org)  
Mobile: +20 151 7601 349  
<http://foodsecuritycluster.org/north-africa>