



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Libya's ongoing protracted crisis is mainly driven by political instability and economic volatility. Spikes in conflict and ongoing insecurity have led to significant social and economic consequences and high levels of displacement that continue to disrupt markets, diminish purchasing power, and undermine resilience and food security.

Objectives

FAO is working with partners in the Food Security Cluster to:

- Protect the agricultural and livestock-related livelihoods of crisis-affected populations.
- Build resilience against current and future shocks.
- Strengthen the capacity of government and national partners to address food and livelihood security and improve coordination in key functions in the food security sector.
- Increase cash-based transfers where local markets are functional and food available.

Activities



Increase agricultural production

agricultural kits (improved wheat, sorghum and vegetable seeds, farming tools) | training on climate-smart and conflict-resistant good agricultural practices



Support animal health

veterinary services | livestock vaccinations and treatment to control and reduce zoonotic disease outbreaks and spread | training in good practices for livestock production



Strengthen food security coordinaton

rapid needs assessments | data collection and surveys | plant pest outbreak response | emergency preparedness and response plans

Libya

Humanitarian Response Plan 2020



to assist

12 000 people



FAO requires

USD 2 million

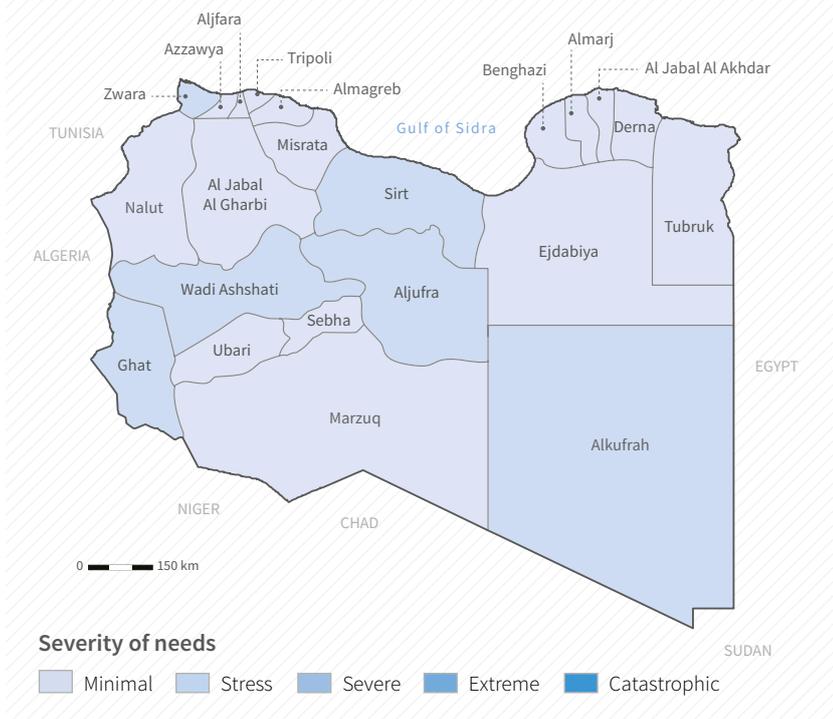


period

January–December 2020

Continued investment in the agricultural sector is crucial to enable households in Libya to reduce crisis coping strategies and better adapt to current and future shocks.

Prevalence of household food insecurity (2019)



Source: FAO, 2019. Conforms to UN Libya map, November 2015.

Situation analysis



325 000 people in need of food security assistance



53% increase in the number of people in need of food security assistance in 2019 compared to 2018



20% of households are engaged in the agriculture sector



47% of Libyan household expenditure is on food



301 000 internally displaced people



447 000 returnees

Impact on food security

The food security situation in Libya is undermined by economic turbulence, political instability and high levels of displacement. While economic reforms led to a decrease in food prices in 2019, the number of displaced people and returnees both increased in 2019, which will likely have serious implications for food security and agriculture in 2020. Of these, around 60 percent are Libyans – whether displaced people, returnees, or those in host communities – while almost 40 percent are migrants and refugees.

Rising food prices are a serious challenge for vulnerable households, as the majority depend on local markets to meet their daily needs. While food is generally reported as available, one-third of households reported it as being too expensive to afford. Spikes in conflict are leading to further price rises as staples diminish, as well as disrupting access to markets and hampering agricultural production. Of the households still engaged in agricultural production, 75 percent reported ongoing conflict as negatively impacting their activities.

An estimated 15 400 Libyan households abandoned agricultural activities in 2019 because of the crisis. Challenges for crop producers include insecurity, inability to access or afford land or fertilizers and pesticides while for livestock-keepers a lack of animal feed, veterinary care, pasture and labour means they are resorting to selling or slaughtering animals for household consumption.

While people may currently have an acceptable level of food consumption, they are doing so by sacrificing their future productivity or capacity to cope. Increasing investment in the agricultural sector is crucial to enable the most vulnerable populations to decrease crisis coping strategies and improve their food security, nutrition and resilience. Continuing to invest in the agriculture sector remains critical to increasing food security and nutrition in Libya, with quality farming inputs, animal health campaigns and training in good agricultural practices priority means to achieve this.

Contact

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