



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO'S ROLE IN THE REGIONAL FLASH APPEAL FOR THE LIBYAN CRISIS 2011 - REVISION

Launch date:
18 May 2011

Background

Since the start of anti-Government protests and civil conflict in February 2011, more than 800 000 people have fled Libya, mostly to Tunisia and Egypt. The number of people reported to have been killed or wounded could be as high as several thousand.

The Interim Transitional National Council was established on 5 March 2011 in opposition to the Government. On 17 March 2011 the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1973, authorizing the use of force in order to protect civilians. In the following weeks, the international community responded with airstrikes and the imposition of a no-fly zone over Libya, while Government and opposition forces continued to fight.

Although the United Nations was able to establish a humanitarian presence in areas affected by the conflict, the situation remains precarious as the conflict ensues. Following its initial launch on 7 March 2011, the Regional Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis 2011 was revised on 18 May to reflect an updated account of needs based on assessments. The revised appeal seeks USD 407.8 million over a six-month timeframe to respond to the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected people in eastern Libya, western Libya (as access permits), the borders areas with Tunisia and Egypt and limited parts of neighbouring countries that have received returning migrants.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) are co-leading the Food Security Cluster. The Cluster's objectives are to: (i) safeguard the food security of conflict-affected populations; (ii) support the national food supply system; (iii) improve local capacity to target, assist and monitor vulnerable groups; and (iv) provide emergency agriculture and livelihood support.

Challenges facing food security

Libya imports 75-90 percent of its food and fodder requirements, which renders its poor populations particularly vulnerable to market volatility. However, local production of fresh and nutritious foods (poultry, meat, dairy, vegetables) covers a large proportion of domestic consumption. Sanctions against the Government, lack of commercial shipping and deteriorating currency exchange rates have disrupted almost all bulk food and fodder supply into the country. Existing food stocks are sufficient for no more than eight weeks. The poultry and sheep/goat subsectors are expected to run out of feed stock during the same period.

Although community solidarity mechanisms have, thus far, staved off a large-scale national food crisis, they are a short-term solution. As prices for fresh foods and private commercial imports rise, households are encountering difficulty in meeting their basic food requirements, especially in light of widespread non-payment of salaries and limited financial liquidity. Continued violence and political instability are expected to severely affect food production, imports and distribution. Priority interventions include food system stabilization and governance, including the capacity building of state and non-state actors and the expansion of local food production.

Disruptions to the agricultural inputs supply chain is impairing local food production and deepening the economic crisis. Maintaining full productive capacity is essential to prevent a rapid decline in national food and nutrition security.

More than 80 percent of those who have recently fled Libya went to Egypt and Tunisia. It is important to ensure that the presence of refugees and the reintegration of returning migrants do not place excess burden on the host communities. This is particularly the case among the pastoralist communities that live along the Libyan border with Tunisia and Egypt that traditionally rely on

crossing the border regularly with their herds.



UN Photo/OCHA/David Ohana
Refugees stranded in an Egyptian border town after fleeing Libya.



FAO response

Within the framework of the revised Regional Flash Appeal for the Libyan Crisis 2011, FAO, as part of the Food Security Cluster, has received support in the amount of USD 450 000. FAO is currently requesting **USD 14.6 million** to increase food and nutrition security in Libya and crisis-affected areas of Egypt and Tunisia that are hosting returnees/refugees.

FAO's emergency response activities aim to:

- **support local production** of fresh and nutritious foods through the distribution of emergency inputs and technical support;
- **assist host communities in Tunisia and Egypt** who are receiving/hosting refugees and returnees;
- **empower state and civil society actors** to identify food system criticalities and related solutions; and
- **provide effective coordination and leadership** in needs assessment and analysis, programme design, strategy development, information management, advocacy and monitoring in the Food Security Cluster.

FAO'S COMPONENT OF THE REGIONAL FLASH APPEAL FOR THE LIBYAN CRISIS 2011 - REVISION

Current funding requirements: USD 14.6 million

Project title: Emergency support to local production of fresh and nutritious foods in eastern Libya – in particular in Benghazi and surrounding areas including the “Green Mountains”	
<p>Objective: to increase food and nutrition security, reduce local prices of fresh and nutritious foods, boost the local economy and protect and restore agriculture-based livelihoods by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing basic input kits, essential equipment and supplies to enhance local food production; and • providing vocational/technical training to disseminate good agricultural practices. 	<p>Beneficiaries 1 500 commercial and family-run agriculture production units.</p> <p>Implementing partners: international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local institutions/authorities.</p> <p>Funds requested: USD 8 000 000</p>
Project title: Emergency support to host communities and returnees in Upper Egypt and communities along the Egyptian border with Libya, affected by refugees	
<p>Objective: to support Egyptian communities affected by/hosting returnees and refugees from Libya, enhance local food production and sustain agriculture-based livelihoods by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing support to poultry and rabbit production, sheep, goat and camel feeding and health, fisheries, honeybee production and horticulture; and • providing vocational and technical training to disseminate good agricultural practices. 	<p>Beneficiaries 5 000 households in vulnerable communities with special focus on youth and returnees from Libya.</p> <p>Implementing partners: international and national NGOs and local authorities.</p> <p>Funds requested: USD 5 000 000</p>
Project title: Emergency support to households with returnees and hosting Libyan refugees in Tunisia, in particular the southeastern areas	
<p>Objective: to support Tunisian communities affected by/hosting returnees and refugees from Libya, enhance local food production and sustain agriculture-based livelihoods by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing basic input kits, essential equipment and supplies to enhance local food production; and • supporting demand-driven training to enhance local agricultural production as well as longer-term employment and income-generating schemes. 	<p>Beneficiaries: 2 500 families in Tunisia.</p> <p>Implementing partners: United Nations (UN) agencies and international and national NGOs.</p> <p>Funds requested: USD 1 250 000</p>
Project title: Food system monitoring and institutional capacity building, advocacy and evidence-based coordination in eastern Libya	
<p>Objective: to empower state and civil society actors to timely identify food system criticalities and related solutions, and coordinate appropriate action by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring food systems, including local production, commercial supply, distribution and access to food; • informing preparedness against food chain crises and providing evidence for coordinated response; and • providing early warning on critical shortages, advocacy and resource mobilization. 	<p>Beneficiaries: Government agencies, UN agencies and international and national NGOs involved in food production and food security.</p> <p>Funds requested: USD 180 000</p>
Project title: Effective coordination and leadership of the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster	
<p>Objective: to ensure strong and effective cluster leadership and coordination of humanitarian food response by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organizing joint field missions, needs assessments and analysis among cluster partners and participating in joint inter-cluster needs assessment exercises; • ensuring the implementation of capacity mapping and gap identification exercises; and • undertaking contingency planning and emergency preparedness activities. 	<p>Beneficiaries: all food security partners and beneficiaries of food security response.</p> <p>Implementing partners: NGOs, Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, UN partners and relevant ministry staff (local and national).</p> <p>Funds requested: USD 398 196*</p> <p><small>*FAO component: USD 199 098. WFP component: USD 199 098.</small></p>

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