

2019

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW

PEOPLE IN NEED

0.82M

OCT 2018



LIBYA

Photo: WFP/Abeer Etefa

TOTAL POPULATION OF LIBYA

6.6M + 0.67M

Libyans

Migrants/Refugees

PEOPLE AFFECTED

1.6M

(22% of population)

PEOPLE IN NEED

0.82M

(11% of population)

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS & KEY FIGURES

An estimated 823,000 people, including around 248,000 children, are in-need of humanitarian assistance in Libya as a result of persisting political instability, conflict and insecurity, the breakdown of the rule of law, a deteriorating public sector and a dysfunctional economy. These include internally displaced persons, returnees, non-displaced conflict-affected people and host communities, refugees¹ and migrants.

The reduced number of people identified as in need of humanitarian assistance in 2019, compared to 2018, should certainly not be interpreted as an improvement in the humanitarian situation in Libya. The decrease in the number of people identified as in need of humanitarian assistance is rather a direct result of methodologically improved needs analysis, focused on the most severe humanitarian needs across the country, enabled by an increased availability of information and more refined data collected through needs assessments and monitoring.

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED BY SECTOR



KEY HUMANITARIAN PRIORITY NEEDS

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1 Protection

Protection challenges for Libyans and foreign nationals in Libya are a grave concern, primarily driven by exposure, vulnerability and inability to cope with conflict and violence, human violations and rights abuses, contamination from explosive hazards in urban centres, breakdown of rule of law, and major challenges related to impediments to access critical services and



2 Access to critical services

Public healthcare services, schools and WASH facilities in Libya have been heavily impacted by the crisis due to ongoing hostilities, insecurity, and governance failures. As a result, both Libyans and foreign nationals in Libya do not have access to critical primary and secondary healthcare, children are missing out on essential education, and people suffering due to limited access to



3 Access to basic household goods and commodities

The crisis in Libya has resulted in major economic challenges for both Libyans and non-Libyans in Libya, to access basic households goods and commodities is a major problem in Libya. Limited access to employment, low incomes, limited savings, inflation and the liquidity crisis are the main drivers behind

¹ For the purpose of this document, the term “refugee” shall be used to include both refugees as well as asylum-seekers.

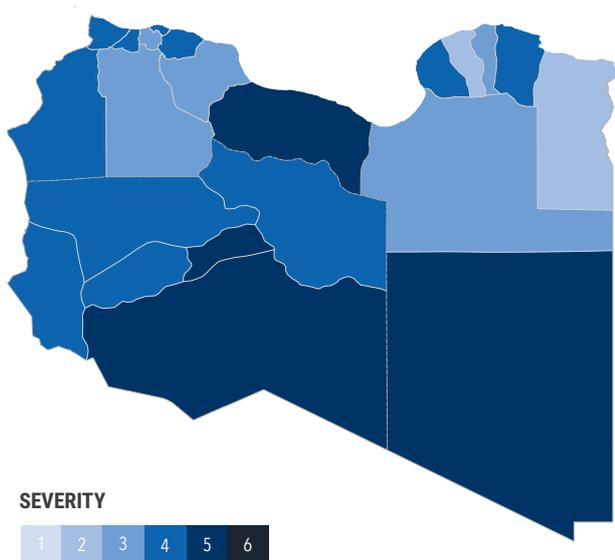
SCALE AND SEVERITY OF NEEDS

The protracted crisis in Libya continues to be of grave concern with both Libyans and non-Libyans paying a high price for seven years of instability and insecurity. Approximately half of the people in need of humanitarian assistance are Libyans. Conflict affected refugees and migrants in or transiting through the country make up the other half. The majority of people in need are found in highly populated urban areas in the Western and Eastern regions of Libya. However, people with the most critical and severe needs are located in the southern mantikas¹ of Murzuq, Sebha and Alkufra, and the coastal mantika of Sirt.

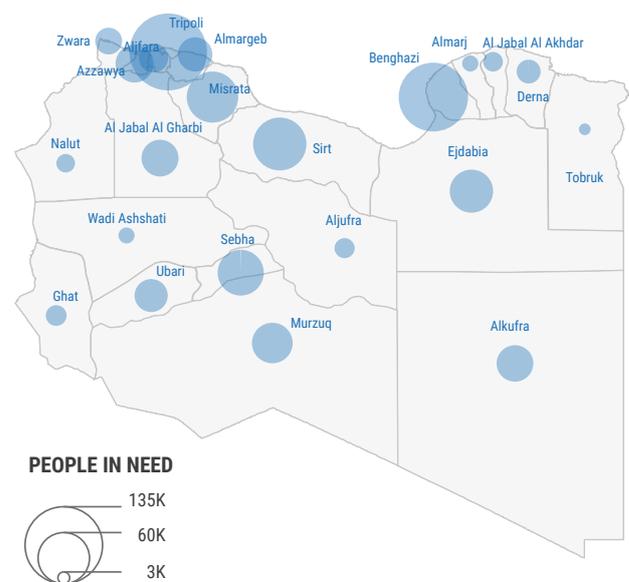
Key humanitarian needs in Libya are linked to 1) protection, 2) access to critical services such as healthcare and education services, and 3) access to basic household goods and commodities including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, and essential non-food items. These humanitarian needs reflect life-threatening risks from exposure to, vulnerability from, and the inability to cope with human rights violations and abuses, conflict and violence, and deprivation of essential services and commodities.

The Health Sector has identified the highest number of people in need, 554,000 people, however the needs of people are not stand-alone sector issues, rather interlinked across all sectors and compounded by multiple factors driving deteriorating living conditions and increasing risks. While the impacts of the crisis has been severe on a range of people and communities, needs vary according to the characteristics and contextual situation of different populations in Libya. For example, refugees and migrants affected by the crisis, face specific protection issues including grave human rights violations and abuses by State and non-State actors due to their irregular status, lack of domestic support networks, impunity for crimes committed against foreign nationals, racism and xenophobia, and policies linked to the control of mixed migrations flows to Europe.²

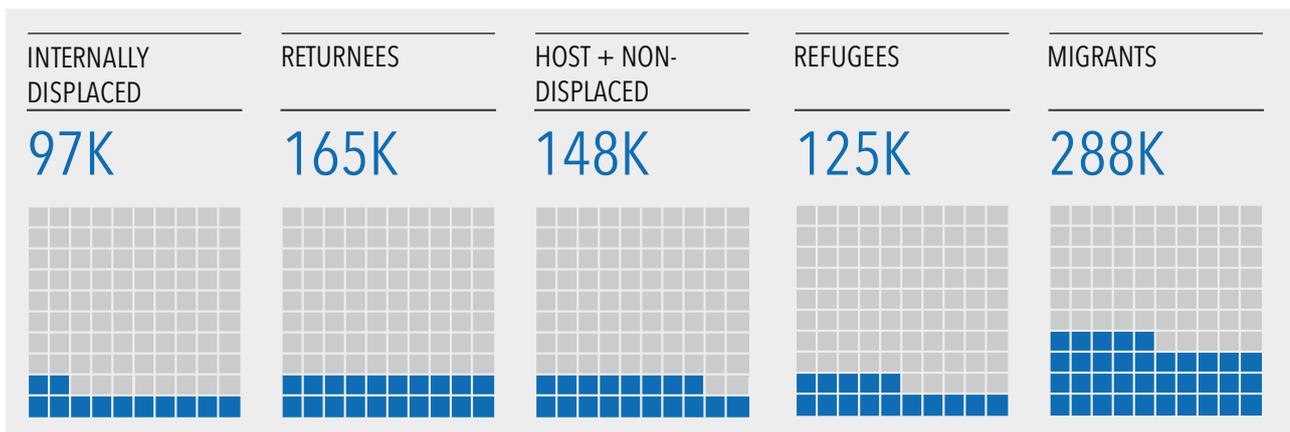
SEVERITY OF NEEDS



SCALE OF NEEDS



NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN NEED BY POPULATION GROUP



¹ The term 'mantika' describes a major administrative and geographic area of Libya. There are twenty-two mantikas in Libya.
² Amnesty International, 'Libya's Dark Web of Collusion: abuses against Europe-bound refugees and migrants', December 2017

MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS

People identified as vulnerable are individuals or families who have specific circumstances that undermine or limit their resilience to withstand the impacts of the crisis. Vulnerabilities are mainly related to gender, age, disabilities, illhealth, nationality, and legal status in Libya. People who have been forced to adopt emergency level negative coping mechanisms due to socio-economic challenges are also considered vulnerable.



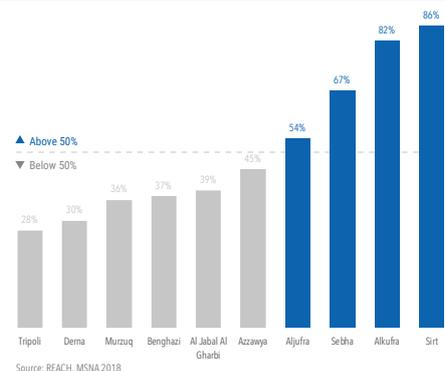
COPING MECHANISMS

Many Libyans have thus far managed to withstand many of the varied impacts of the crisis in Libya as they have sufficient coping mechanisms in place. However, ongoing conflict and economic decline have steadily eroded people's resilience to the crisis, leaving large parts of the population at risk. Many Libyans have already had to adopt one or more negative coping mechanism, leading to multiple adverse effects. Coping mechanisms include relying on savings (52 per cent), borrowing money (35 per cent), reducing expenses on household items (28 per cent), purchasing on credit (35 per cent), and selling non-productive assets such as jewelry (23 per cent).¹ The impacts of the crisis on the most vulnerable have also led to the use of emergency level negative coping mechanisms² including begging (5 per cent) and socially degrading, exploitative, high risk or illegal work (3 per cent), including prostitution.

People in Libya are also adapting how they access food and their food consumption, including relying on less expensive or less preferred food (72 per cent), borrowing food (22 per cent), limiting portion sizes (38 per cent), reducing the number of meals per day (31 per cent), and restricting adult food consumption so children can eat (21 per cent).³

Overall, refugees and migrants are more likely to resort to crisis or emergency level negative coping strategies than Libyans, mainly due to multiple specific vulnerabilities, poverty, and limited options and opportunities to overcome challenges in Libya. Common coping mechanisms include reducing the quality and quantity of their food intake, borrowing money from friends or employers, buying food on credit, relying on their families to wire money, and/or seeking jobs that include accommodation and food, thereby reducing expenditures on basic needs, even though this often increases the risks of exploitation. In general, refugees and migrants are looking to save money at the expense of covering their basic needs.⁴

PERCENTAGE OF LIBYANS RESORTING TO NEGATIVE CASH COPING MECHANISMS



¹ REACH, MSNA 2018

² There are three levels of coping mechanism identified, 'crisis', 'emergency' and 'stress'. 'Emergency' refers to people begging and engaging in degrading illegal work. 'Crisis' refers to selling productive assets and reducing expenses on health and NFIs, and delaying/skipping rent. 'Stress' refers to selling non-productive assets, borrowing money, getting additional jobs, purchase on credit, and spending savings.

³ REACH, MSNA 2018

⁴ REACH 'Access to cash and the impact of the liquidity crisis on refugees and migrants in Libya' 2018