

# Emergency Food Security Assessment

## Eastern Libya



June 2011



## List of Abbreviations

CSI	Coping Strategy Index
EFSA	Emergency Food Security Assessment
EMMA	Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FIS	Food Insecurity
GoL	Government of Libya
HH	Household
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IRC	International Rescue Committee
MC	Mercy Corps
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NASCO	National Supply Company/Corporation
OCHA	Office for Coordinator of Humanitarian Assistance
PSF	Price Stabilisation Fund
SCF	Save the Children
TNC	Transitional National Council
UN	United Nations
USD	United States Dollar
WFP	World Food Programme

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## 1 Executive Summary

Libya is amongst the wealthier nations with a high ranking on the Human Development Index on account of its investments in public health and education. It is classified as an Upper Middle Income Country. Even the poor are relatively much better off than poor in least developed countries.

Events are unfolding rapidly. There is a wider recognition of the Transitional National Council and its role in administering Benghazi and its environs. Conflict at the foot of the Nafusa Mountains is escalating and the naval blockade and sanctions against the Tripoli government continue. Government has traditionally played a central role in delivering household food security. It is estimated most households depend directly or indirectly on a government salary to sustain their food security. In addition to being a major income source, the government also is the provider of huge food subsidies whereby some food items are subsidized by 90% of their market value.

This Emergency Food Security Assessment covers Eastern Libya and is a first exercise to study food security and socio-economic aspects. A subsequent study of Western Libya, particularly the Nafusa Mountains and Misrata is planned as soon as access is secured. The recent political events have impacted public services. Banks could not dispense large amounts of cash and salary payments were intermittent at times. Foreign workers, the main source of labour in factories and farms, fled. Nevertheless, basic food availability in markets remains intact, although time- and location-specific shocks to food prices and availability have occurred. IDPs from Ajdabiya are collecting their salaries in Benghazi due to a common bank system. The food consumption of even the poorest is much higher than the average in least developed countries.

There is no wide spread food insecurity, as the threats identified in previous assessments have not materialized. Food is available and people generally have access. Presently food insecurity is not at crisis levels, though a very small section of the population struggles to meet basic needs and adequate diet. Based on the WFP standard 7 day recall methodology, about 95% of the studied population has adequate food consumption. Of course the poorest households have low incomes and depend to some degree on assistance. The Benghazi *Zakat* distribution authorities reported 16,000 families (estimate 112,000 persons) are on their list to receive assistance and the local authorities somehow maintain the social assistance schemes. A sizable number of the IDPs consist of medium to rich families though there are some poor. In contrast, the pre-crisis urban poor are the most vulnerable. Considering the urban environment and functioning markets, assistance in the form of cash or vouchers may be considered. Malnutrition is not widely evident, but few amongst the poorest can afford fruits. Nevertheless, even this group consumes meat at least twice a week.

Adequate food is present in the markets and availability is not an issue. However, the situation requires constant monitoring of food prices as well as food consumption through a periodic monitoring system covering towns accessible for market and household surveys. Most IDPs have returned to their homes and only a few remain in Benghazi. A monitoring system is required to capture any significant changes in these numbers should the situation deteriorate. Although there are food insecure amongst the Urban Poor, this food insecurity is of a chronic nature and requires strengthening of government support systems. A thorough study of these systems is required to support capacity building for improved targeting and contingency planning/risk management. Presently malnutrition is not a serious problem though a subsequent survey of women and children using anthropometric measures is recommended.

Despite all the allowances and subsidies the general conclusion is that income levels have hardly changed in the past years. 2004 seems to be the high-water mark for subsidies and the *al jemiah*. Debt is being incurred by most IDPs, urban poor and returnees to cover food costs. Very few IDP hosts use debt for food but instead use it to invest in income generation, home improvements, schooling and ceremonies. Thirty four percent of the poor and vulnerable households studied, reported incurring debt as a consequence of the crisis.

Most poor are coping with the changed situation by economizing. The poorest are relying on more assistance, and eating less. Eating poor quality foods is more common in the other categories as a way to cope with reduced incomes.

About a quarter of the poor and vulnerable households interviewed had reported reducing the number of meals. Others are reducing consumption of milk. Oil is used more sparingly. Those who can afford vegetables are buying less. Reliance on assistance to meet basic needs has increased. Drastic measures, such as selling of productive assets are not yet widespread. Among the poor, reliance on *Zakat* and borrowing from friends/relatives are the main strategies. For IDPs, living in a new environment, reliance is more on local and international organizations.

Some of the poorest pre-crisis families are relying on local assistance to meet their basic food needs. The rising food prices have been off-set to a degree by additional assistance provided as a result of the conflict. However, for 11% of IDPs the main food source is external i.e. through assistance. Therefore, such families would be considered food insecure as they are unable to sustain their need without external assistance. The lack of sufficient livelihoods is the larger longer term problem facing Libya. Subsidized bread and rice are the primary reason there is not destitution for many households.

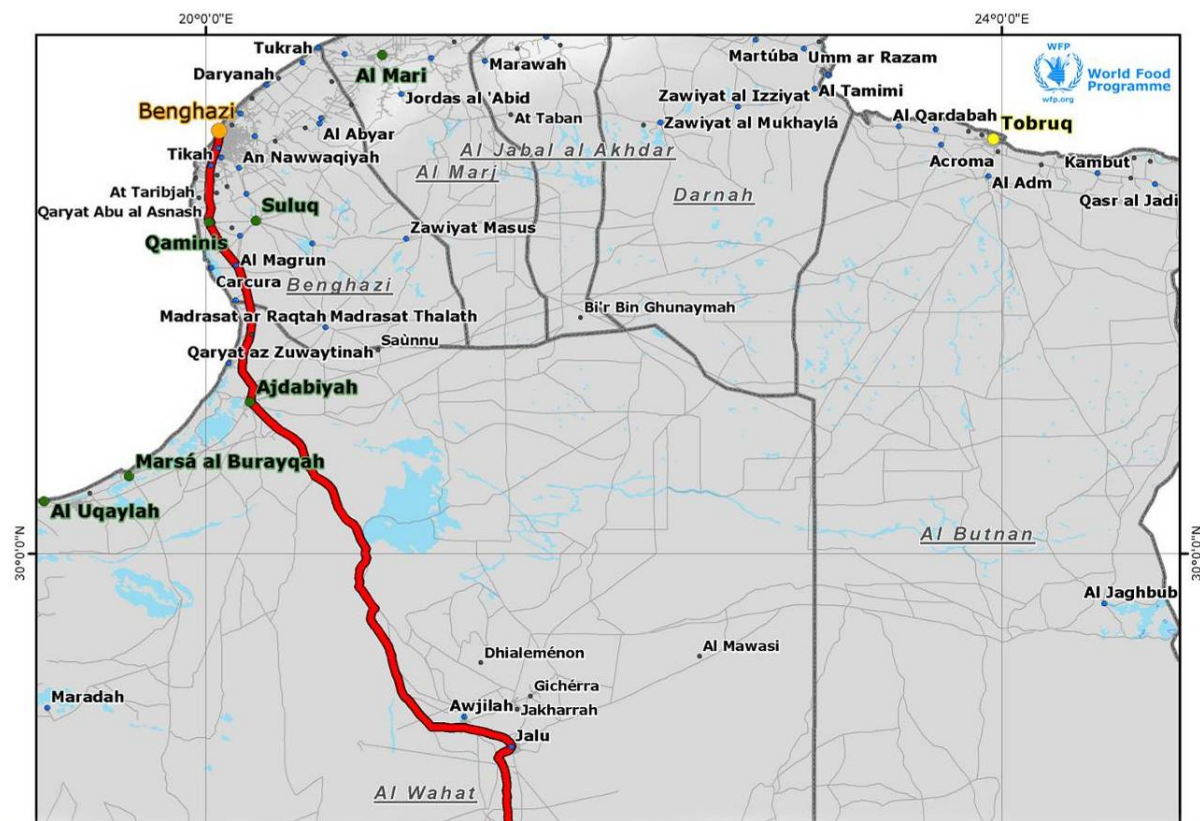
Despite there being no large scale food security risk in the East, many of the poorest do not have adequate incomes to afford balanced diets. Most get by on bread and pasta with a tomato-paste sauce and tea and sugar. Overall, the Urban Poor have a poorer dietary diversity than the other groups. The poorest IDPs are managing to meet their food needs through assistance and ongoing access to low government salary checks. The pre-crisis poor, whether IDP and or returnee, is depending on very low incomes that are further eroded by the slowed down economy. Most manage with increased assistance and further economizing. The longer the crisis goes on the higher the potential assistance requirement which, if not available, means families will have to find other ways to cope.

In addition to a food security monitoring system and further studies of the existing food delivery mechanism, short-term food assistance using cash or vouchers for the urban poor and poor IDP/returnees is recommended.

## 2 Background

The first quarter of 2011 witnessed significant political and social change in the MENA region. These had broad repercussions. The initial revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt were followed by protests in Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Syria, Iran, Algeria and Morocco, among others. The MENA region is the most food import-dependent region in the world. Net food imports are projected to rise even further as a result of the current events. Food Security in the MENA region is subject to threats from higher international food prices, political and social unrest and the fastest population growth rates in the world.

Map 1: Eastern Libya



Civil protests in Libya quickly escalated to low intensity civil conflict. Unrest in Libya has led to disruptions in economic activity and agricultural value chains. This has negatively affected food security among those in Libya and those migrants fleeing the violence to neighboring countries. Foreign labour plays a vital role in Libyan industry and agriculture.

WFP and FAO jointly lead the Food Security and Livelihoods Coordination Cluster for the North Africa Crisis. For the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) of Eastern Libya partnerships were agreed upon with Save the Children and Mercy Corps. SCF focused on the qualitative study while Mercy Corps supervised the household survey. An additional agreement was undertaken with International Rescue Committee to conduct a markets analysis.

Just weeks after the conflict started two rapid assessments conducted by WFP/FAO and Save the Children found little evidence of household food insecurity, identifying liquidity and access to credit for the Transitional National Council (TNC) as the key potential problem to assuring uninterrupted consumer subsidies, social allowances and food supply to Libya. Reportedly the

TNC has accessed sufficient funds to import sufficient amounts of wheat grain to assure a wheat flour supply for at least the next couple months.

This report is one of a series of assessment reports compiled to better understand the food security situation arising from the North Africa crisis. Secondary Data Analyses (SDAs) for Tunisia, Libya and Egypt have been compiled. An EFSA for Rural Tunisia, a Rapid Assessment of Libyan Refugees in Tunisia, Rapid Assessment of Returnees to Tunisia and Egypt, and an Assessment of Markets in Eastern Libya are reports compiled under the WFP//FAO Joint Regional Food Security Assessments partnership. These documents are available at the OCHA website: <http://northafrica.humanitarianresponse.info/Sectors/FoodSecurity.aspx>



### 3 Methodology

The EFSA for Eastern Libya was compiled in three stages. An initial rapid mission to Benghazi was conducted to discuss with partners the scope and methodology of this assessment. This was followed by a qualitative assessment consisting of focus group discussions and key informant interviews using semi-structured checklists. The interviews were conducted between 28 May and 9 June amongst populations living within Benghazi, as well as to the east and west of Benghazi. Key informants consisted of teachers, religious leaders, labor sector informants, as well as general available persons. As the local governance structures are not fully operational it was not easy to access general overview information of target populations. Focus groups were organized within camps and or poor communities. In instances where Focus Groups of hosts or IDP living with hosts could not be organized because they were scattered about in different neighborhoods, household interviews were conducted. While visiting camps, the organizers expressed their frustration over the number of data collection processes with none or limited assistance received as a result of these many assessments. A household survey using a questionnaire was conducted 1-8 June to generate empirical data on incomes, expenditures, food consumption and coping strategies. As this was a rapid assessment, a purposive sampling methodology was adopted so that groups of interest could be studied. This involved a structured survey instrument with trained enumerators visiting randomly selected households within each study group. Four main groups were studied: IDPs, IDP Hosts, Returnees and urban poor. One hundred households per group were interviewed. Within these broad categories, special attention was given to women and youth. Considering the large number of third country nationals, this group was also included in the qualitative assessment though a household survey was not conducted on this particular group.

The questionnaire was discussed and field-tested so that enumerators understood the questions and how to administer them in an unbiased manner. The teams' feedback from the field testing was integrated into the final version of the questionnaire. Finally, team leaders attended an additional session of training to discuss their roles and responsibilities. The team leaders were responsible for ensuring that teams adhered to strict household selection protocols. They also worked closely with teams in the field during and after each day's work to ensure all questionnaires were completed appropriately and consistently.

A Microsoft ACCESS database was created to capture the data from the main food security questionnaire and perform data cleaning. Electronic entries were double checked by the encoders by referring to the hard copy questionnaires. Data entry commenced after the receipt of the first batch of questionnaires from the field. Thereafter, data entry progressed concurrently with field work. Quality control procedures were in place. Field supervisors signed off on questionnaires which were then checked by the encoders before entry to the database. Data were then cleaned and analysed.

#### 3.1 Food Security Classification

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a data collection method applied by WFP in rapid assessments. The process records the food groups consumed over a 7 day recall period. A standard weight based on the nutrition levels of each food group has been derived (Table 1). Applied at the household level, the FCS is indicative of the household's dietary diversity.

**Table 1: Food Consumption Score**

Food Group	Food Items	Weight
Cereals and Tubers	Wheat, maize, pasta, rice	2
Pulses	Beans, peas, nuts	3
Vegetables	Vegetables and leaves	1
Fruits	Fruits and fruit products	1
Meat and Fish	Beef, goat, sheep, pig, poultry, eggs, fish	4
Milk	Dairy and dairy products	4
Sugar	Sugar, honey	0.5
Oil	Oil, butter	0.5

$$FCS = a_{cereal}x_{cereal} + a_{pulse}x_{pulse} + a_{veg}x_{veg} + a_{fruit}x_{fruit} + a_{animal}x_{animal} + a_{milk}x_{milk} + a_{sugar}x_{sugar} + a_{oil}x_{oil}$$

$a_i$  = weight of food group

$x_i$  = number of days per week

Household food consumption and food sources provide important measures of food security. In this case household heads and interviewees were asked to recall the kinds and frequency of food that were consumed during the previous seven (7) days. This entailed recording how many days they consumed each of the different food groups and what the main sources of these foods were. Food Consumption Score (FCS) was calculated for each household. In the FCS calculation food groups are weighted according to their nutritional density. Based on empirical evidence in different regions, WFP has defined cut-off points for the calculated food consumption score that allow for differentiation of households into “poor”, “borderline” and “acceptable” food consumption categories. Households with a food consumption score less than 21 are regarded to have “poor” food consumption, and this reflects the fact that they do not eat a balanced diet on a daily basis. Households with a food consumption score between 21 and 35 are considered to have “borderline” food consumption. Households with a food consumption score greater than 35 are considered to have “acceptable” food consumption.

For Eastern Libya, food security classification was derived considering two indicators at the household level; food consumption score and poverty (based on household expenditure). The food consumption was calculated using a recall period of seven day for all food groups consumed at least once during this period and weighting it according the nutrient content. Adopting the standard procedure, households with a total score less than 21 were considered to have poor food consumption, those between 21- 35 as borderline food consumption while those above 35 were considered to have acceptable food consumption. Poverty was categorized based on monthly expenditure. Households spending less than 50 LD per week are classified as “Low” expenditure while those spending between 50 and 100 LD per week are classified as “Medium”. Households spending more than 100 LD per week are classified as “Rich”. These two indicators of food consumption and expenditure were then cross tabulated to provide percent of food insecure households.

### 3.2 Limitations

1. This was a rapid assessment. The sampling adopted for the household survey was purposive though within each group, selection of households was random.
2. Nutrition analysis through anthropometric data was beyond the scope of this assessment. If the current situation prolongs, at a later stage, a nutrition survey should be conducted. Presently, there are no signs of malnutrition in the studied populations.
3. The current situation is fluid and rapidly changing. The validity of results from this assessment is subject to change should there be significant deterioration of factors affecting food security, for example, an escalation of conflict, mass movement of people, severance of supply chain or large scale depreciation of the Libyan Dinar etc.
4. This EFSA covers the areas of Eastern Libya accessible to the humanitarian community, essentially the north-east of the country. It does not cover the south-east around Kufrah. A subsequent study of Western Libya, particularly the Nafusa Mountains and Misrata is planned as soon as access is secured.

## 4 Demography

About a third of IDP households have pregnant or lactating women (Table 2). Of the surveyed population, every second family had a chronically sick member. Female headed households were highest in the Urban Poor group.

**Table 2: Household Composition**

Group	Percentage of Households				
	Female Decision making	With Children (<5 years old)	With Elderly (>60 years old)	Member(s) Chronically Sick	Pregnant or Lactating women
<b>IDP</b>	10	56	24	50	34
<b>IDP Host</b>	12	53	28	50	30
<b>Returnees</b>	8	40	28	50	23
<b>Urban Poor</b>	16	54	21	57	29

Most IDPs live in collective centers and about a quarter live with hosts (Table 3). Half of the Urban Poor live in flats or semi-permanent structured housing.

**Table 3: Type of Dwelling**

Dwelling	Percentage of Households			
	IDP	IDP Host	Returnees	Urban Poor
<b>Private house of durable material (brick, cement)</b>	28	52	89	43
<b>Private house (non-durable material)</b>	7	3	8	21
<b>Flat</b>	4	27	2	29
<b>Room(s) in a shared house or flat</b>	5	8	1	5
<b>Collective Centre</b>	57	-	-	-

## 5 Vulnerable Target Groups

The primary vulnerable groups targeted by the assessment were the IDPs, IDP Hosts, Returnees and pre-crisis Urban Poor. In most cases, the IDPs who were not housed in camp or collective housing were those who had means to rent flats or rooms or accessed accommodation as a result of efforts of local mosques to house IDP families in empty flats. This is not to say that there was not wide spread generosity by host communities, but to say culturally hosting other families, even relatives within the same flat or house was not appropriate in that gender separation is essential. Within the immediate weeks there was some hosting in flats, but this was only a short term solution till other housing was identified.

Returnee households in Ajdabiya were interviewed. The situation with return for Ajdabiya is more a matter of security and not one of going back to a destroyed community. Observation shows that there is minor damage to houses in the area. The Libyan Red Crescent estimates that 50 houses will need significant repair before families can return. A representative of the council had a list of 900 sites that were damaged - many were rocket holes of varying sizes, but many did not cause structural damage.

Information on migrants and third country nationals is offered as background but this group was not a target for the household survey as many had already left the country by the time of the assessment.

### 5.1 IDPs

The majority of internally displaced from east of Libya are from three areas - Brega, Ras Lanuf and Ajdabiya. As of the 18 May, Libyan Committee for Humanitarian Aid and Relief has registered 110,488 IDPs. These persons are spread throughout the towns of eastern Libya with the largest portion in Benghazi. By the time of the report and the movement of the front line west, IDPs from Ajdabiya had begun to trickle back.

There is a significant number of IDPs who are middle class and or better off – with a significant salary. Many families from Brega and Ras Lanuf that moved to Benghazi had jobs in the government oil industry. All of the IDPs interviewed, continue to receive their salaries. There are also Brega IDPs who are from old town Brega considered ‘poorer’. Ras Lanuf is a new town with no population prior to the arrival of the oil industry.

The vulnerable IDPs include poor Libyans and third country nationals with families and who could not flee the country but moved to a safer city. The total number of persons fitting this category is not known as few live within the IDP camps and the others will not access the local assistance networks that require a Libyan family book.

#### Pre-Crisis very poor or poor

The fact that many have an ‘income’ can distract from the reality of low fixed incomes and rising costs and inadequate livelihoods. The poorest are most often families with fewer income options. A good example is a divorcee or a widow with a large family depending on a government allowance as a sole income. Medical expenses and paying associated school costs are unaffordable without outside public assistance.

According to the *Aukaaf*<sup>1</sup> Authorities, responsible for the distribution of *zakat* monies, in 2011, 4 million Dinars were distributed to 16,000 households within the greater Benghazi area. To get on this list the total monthly income per member of the house must be less than 50 Dinars. This may be used as criteria for the poverty line calculation. The poorest within the 16,000 receive a monthly stipend of 30 Dinars per person – meaning a family of 6 will need to feed itself on 180 Dinars. Even with subsidized bread, such a family will find it difficult to afford a balanced diversified diet.

The poor and poorest (see wealth ranking) are maintaining a certain level of subsistence, as they continue to receive their salaries/wages. There is a chance that some may lose ground if the economy remains slow, adversely impacting livelihoods and incomes. Some families without the protection of government salaries may fall into lower wealth groups. Even those in the middle group may fall into the poor group as they are losing significant incomes. The poorest families with 6-10 members are managing on 6-7 Dinars per day. Fruits and vegetables are missing from these diets. Bread, rice, kidney beans and tomato paste and oil, plus tea and sugar are common. A nutrition analysis was beyond the scope of the current assessment, but it is important that this be included in any future assessment.

## 5.2 Third Country Nationals and/or Migrants

According to various reports, the estimated number of third country national and or migrant labor working in Libya was as high as 2.5 million people, many living in Libya illegally. Across Libya, a wide range of foreign owned companies - Turkish, Chinese and Korean held contracts with the Libyan government to build housing units, hotels, stadiums, as well as airport and port renovations to name a few. These firms employed large numbers of foreign workers as skilled and unskilled labor, mostly from Egypt. Libyans also worked in these firms but more often in security or as drivers, technical and administrative positions.

The vast pool of migrants came to Libya from all over Africa looking for economic opportunities – many from Egypt, Sudan, Chad and Niger. Others were looking for passage to Europe, particularly for many sub-Saharan Africans. It is uncertain how many were in the country at the time of the uprising, but estimates are close to 2.5 million. Many were here illegally with no papers. Many had also made homes, marrying and starting a family.

Foreigners are not eligible for social services and the subsidized support systems throughout the country, but they did find jobs and gained incomes with a number establishing small business catering to the large African populations. One informant claimed that Libya was cheap place to live – as rent, food and fuel were all comparatively cheaper than his home country. In the center of the Benghazi, notably in the old town areas like Al Fondok, African tailor shops and food shops were common.

With the outbreak of the conflict the vast majority of migrants left. The reports of the Government of Libya arming African mercenaries further intensified the levels of fear and spurred exit – and with it the loss of a key segment of the labor force. This was not the first time many had to run away, as on a number of other occasions Libyans weary of unemployment targeted the many foreigners. Still it is not a secret that many of the workers from sub-Saharan Africa have generally a more positive view of the Government largely because it opened Libyan

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<sup>1</sup> Government charity authority

jobs to them and due to GoL spending throughout Africa. By one estimate, the GoL had 90 billion earmarked for parts of Africa this year<sup>2</sup>.

### 5.3 Youth

In Libya, youth can include anyone from 15 on up to 25, or even 30 years of age. In the local context, youth becomes an adult when he or she marries and takes on the responsibilities of family and marriage.

One reason for youth unemployment is that the current civil servant pool is already bloated and this group is not yet ready to retire. The educated youth, 10-12% of the population, are more able to gain employment particularly with the expanding private sector or for example in the foreign construction firms looking for Libyans who can speak English.

For the majority of poorer youth, incomes are temporary and involve unskilled labour. It is even the case, as one informant said, that the majority of youth are not looking for work and are spurred to look only when they want a new phone. Whether or not they are seeking, the need for work is readily apparent and not having many options a cause for frustration. According to one informant, drug use (mainly hashish which is readily available and cheap) is a direct result of the lack of work options.

The poorer are currently gaining 'employment' with the new army of recruits who have joined the fighting. Loading and unloading at the port or warehouses, at least here in Benghazi is still an option, more so now that the majority of the Sub-Saharan Africans and Egyptians have left. Still the Egyptians are beginning to make their way back. No numbers are available; though one indicator is the return of the very visible foreign hawkers selling goods at traffic intersections.

According to informants there are limited technical schools for mechanics or other technical trades. Most who know about auto mechanics or plumbing learned from their father or another family member. There is potential for young Libyan men to access some of these jobs, but the transition will not be an easy one – as one informant told us, the Libyans are only interested in driving their cars and drinking coffee. Libyans admit that 42 years of government subsidies and government salaries have not encouraged the sturdiest of work habits.

Throughout the assessment process, it was the young and 'new generation' that voiced their discontent about the Gaddafi government and what they see as neglect on the part of Tripoli to address their needs. For the young men interviewed, the cost of marriage, dowry and the flat are prohibit getting married and starting a family. The perception is that the government is responsible to build houses or flats for the public. The run of new apartment blocks on the west side of Benghazi – 200,000 new units, was Tripoli's effort to address the housing issue facing the young without flats of their own. Started in 2000, it is still many years from completion.

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<sup>2</sup> Robert P. Baird Qaddafi's Dream, Boston Review, May/June 2011

## 5.4 Women and Children

A question of concern while planning the assessment was the displacement of children from parents due to the crisis. Of the 400 household interviews, the data suggests this is not a valid concern and that families, though displaced, have remained together. There is however, a significant number (9%) of families having a member abroad for either work, studies or medical reasons. A small percentage of households are female headed: IDP (10), IDP Host (12), Urban Poor (16) and Returnees (8%). Food insecurity amongst female headed households is higher than average. Similarly, reliance on food assistance as a major source of food is higher amongst female headed households.

Women are employed by the government mostly as teachers, nurses and secretaries. Women without government salaries may be involved in home-based businesses making sweets, pastries and cakes. It is common practice for shopkeepers to buy directly from such home-based producers. Catering for weddings and funerals is also income for women, and to lesser degree needle work or sewing. Most of the sewing work was done by Sudanese tailors. The notion of women working outside the home is still an uncommon practice for most Libyan families.

## 5.5 Location and Movements

Most families have been displaced for 3 months. According to the TNC list there are 8,383 IDP households (53,455 persons) living in Benghazi and its environs. The majority of the displaced families are from Ajdabiya, as well as the two oil towns of Brega and Ras Lanuf. In addition there are some IDPs from Misurata and Tripoli.

The family network helped with many displaced families, but generally for short periods, as shared housing is not an option for long given the religious and cultural restrictions on women of different households mixing with men of other households. It is not entirely clear how many households are living with host families. It was found more often that a host was a person with an extra apartment or flat that was let to an IDP family. Or if the person was of sufficient wealth floors could house different families. What is clear is that host families and IDPs were not living in the same flats save immediate family.

IDPs have begun returning to Ajdabiya. Estimates from the Libyan Red Crescent are that 40-50% of the population is back. There has also been some back and forth as renewed fighting springs up in the area between Ajdabiya and Brega.

## 6 Main Sources of Income

According to IMF data<sup>3</sup>, 27% of the Libyan labor force is employed in the education sector, another 16% in administration and 11% in health, 7% in agriculture and only 2% in the oil sector. Migrant labor is mostly employed in the construction and agriculture sectors. A large portion of the population receives government salaries. The migrant labor force was officially 10%, but estimated to be twice that considering the pool of illegal labor. Unemployment is hard to gauge, the report estimates that it is comparable to unemployment across the region near 14% but possible as high as the 30% with many youth unemployed. Data from the household survey (Table 4) verify an obvious shift in the source of income for IDPs. About 10% have lost their government incomes and there is an increase of the same magnitude in incomes from small businesses. Returnees seem to have resumed their pre-crisis sources of income.

**Table 4: Main Source of Income**

Income	Percentage of Households							
	IDP		IDP host		Returnee		Urban Poor	
	Pre-crisis	Now	Pre-crisis	Now	Pre-crisis	Now	Pre-crisis	Now
Civil Service	50	39	48	44	46	45	41	37
Pension, allowance	21	21	28	31	29	31	26	28
Independent workers	10	6	11	10	10	9	15	14
Small business	3	13	3	4	4	4	3	7
Regular wage labour	10	8	3	3	8	7	8	6
Charity (relatives, friends, neighbours)	0	11	1	2	1	1	3	3
Irregular wage labour	2	0	1	1	2	2	3	3

Of course livelihoods for most involve more than one income source, most often a government salary supported by a secondary income from irregular, and or regular labor. Other incomes are derived from self-employment work in the trades as plumbers, electricians and or work as taxi drivers. Women access incomes from cakes and pastry production. The majority of Libyans do not seek menial labor jobs, for example, trash pickup, cleaning and or shovel work. Most of the menial general labor was done by foreign migrants.

**Table 5: Wealth Ranking – Income Sources**

Wealth Rank	Income Source
<b>Very poor</b>	Primary is generally government allowances (widows, divorced, retirement, handicap) Secondary is often temp unskilled labor jobs – most often cleaners, loaders-unloaders Second or third may be public assistance ( <i>Zakat</i> )
<b>Poor</b>	Primary is government salary or allowances –low paying – teachers, policeman, security Secondary is independent jobs/ self-employed – taxi or skilled trades Other secondary incomes is often unskilled labor – shop clerks, cleaners, security Oil wealth could also be considered as second or third income Access to assistance for some
<b>Low Middle</b>	Primary is government salary – but higher paying, nurse, head-teacher, secretary etc. Primary could also be an income from private company, but less common Secondary is independent jobs/ self-employed – taxi or skilled trades Secondary incomes can also be unskilled labor – shop clerks, cleaners, security Oil wealth is also accessed by a number in this group
<b>High Middle</b>	Business person - May own shop Incomes from work with private companies Might own agricultural land or animals - May own rental properties: shops and flats

<sup>3</sup> Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment of the EU-Libya Free Trade Agreement, Draft Report, May 2009



The majority of families in the poor and middle income brackets rely on some form of government salaried position. Generally incomes are low with many salaries unadjusted for inflation. The official per capita incomes for Libyans (14,000 USD - 16,000 USD) is high and does not reflect the incomes of the poorest families. About a quarter of households surveyed had incomes from a second job. The majority of government salaries are 300-500 Dinars per month (roughly 200 to 350 USD). Outside of food costs, paying rent is the most burdensome, notably for the young, unemployed and married. The poorest families need to share flats – often with double and triple occupancy. The poorest rely on the various government allowances to survive.

Other income options are a variety of skilled labor positions, but it is unclear to what extent this contributes to the total family income or what percent the population, notably the poor, engage in these activities. For those with government salaries these incomes are secondary. This could be plumber, electrician and the sort. Apparently Libyans did not work in skilled labor positions within the foreign sector, but started private home repair businesses. Egyptians did most of the skilled trade labor with the larger construction sector. Few if any Libyans work in cement or other masonry trades. The unskilled labor most often mentioned is loader and unloader. These are positions that youth or younger men access at the port and or at warehouses or shops.

Shop keepers are common, but this is for middle and or better off wealth groups. There are few low level entry points for trading for the poor. Migrants are the common table traders on the street sides. Many people find work though as sales clerks, waitresses or waiters. Most of these shops are owned by Libyans and rented to another, who may hire others; many Egyptians managed and worked in shops before the conflict.

The monthly payment of government allowances for retirees, unemployed, handicapped, widows and divorcees is in the range of 90-130 dinars per month. A surprising number of families rely on this income and most often those in the poorest group. It is a second or third income in the other wealth groups.

Other government support payments include ‘oil wealth’, a Government scheme to distribute wealth among the poorest. It is not entirely clear who was allowed to register, but it was intended to target non-government salaried families. Under the scheme, a family receives between 300 and 500 Dinars a month.

Private sector incomes have been lost with the shut-down of the economy. Those most dependent on various labor incomes or on self employment are most affected by the slowed economy. Those with cars have been able to generate some incomes using their car as a taxi. According to those interviewed, government salaries and allowances continue to be paid, though with some delay. Even IDPs manage to collect their salaries through bank branches. Liquidity is slowly becoming less of a problem than at the outset.

Few Libyans take agricultural labor jobs as shepherds and / or farm labor for harvesting. The majority of this work was done by Egyptian, Sudanese and Chadian migrants. The loss of migrant labor has not impacted overall food security to a significant degree – any lost production has been made up by imports from Egypt. The number of Libyans involved in agriculture labor incomes obviously increases in more rural-focused locations. For example, in Labyar, Libyans work in the local chicken factory farms. Also small scale agriculture activities can be found within the Green Mountain area.

Agriculture is most often a commercial enterprise with many factory-style schemes. Wheat and barley are produced, as are various vegetable crops. A separate study of the wheat chain and the

tomato market has been commissioned and published under the Regional Food Security Assessment. Most land owners are considered to be well off and not subsistence or small producers.

There exists some small scale sheep production, but this is rarely a significant livelihood for the poorest or general poor. In smaller rural communities, with access to grazing lands, many families have sheep, but it is more common for the larger income generating flocks to be owned by middle to better off families, with the wealthiest having flocks in excess of 2000. For the poorer, they may work as shepherds or truckers moving sheep to and from pastures. The poorer families may own a sheep or two, but this is more often for Ramadan celebration.

The cost of sheep production is prohibitive and no longer affordable for the small farmer. The cost of the inputs such as feed supplements, fodder and veterinary medicines make it unprofitable except for those who can sustain it at scale<sup>4</sup>. Many sheep owners save on the cost of feed by buying bread flour directly from the bakeries. Mixed with water and a small amount of grain it is a very inexpensive food. A bag of supplement costs 50 Dinars.

**Table 6: Estimated Incomes per Wealth Group**

<b>Wealth group</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>
<b>Very poor</b>	Before -- 130 to 200 dinar. Rely on government allowances. Average survives on 3-5 dinar per day Considered below the poverty line. Now – 90-130 dinar not including other assistance. IDPs: those in camps are benefiting from assistance, but not all equally. Still receiving allowances, though delayed.
<b>Poor</b>	Before 250 to 400 dinar Very high majority rely on government salaries. Average survives on 8- 10 dinar per day. Considered below the poverty line. Now – 200-300 dinar, with some assistance. The lost incomes – trades work and general labor jobs in shops IDPs : getting additional assistance, where as the poor who are not displaced may be receiving some assistance but not much
<b>Low Middle</b>	Before: 500 to 1200 dinar. Majority rely on government salaries. Now: 400 – 800 with other assistance. Those without government salaries are working with taxis, or small trade jobs. Also general labor largely not available. Oil wealth is a supplement for number in this group. IDPs : surviving on government salaries and or oil wealth.
<b>High Middle</b>	Before 1300 to 3000 dinar. Few rely on government salaries. Now – hard to estimate, dependent on their business. More than one significant income.

The primary change in terms of lost income sources has been the impact of the slowed economy on the self employed, particularly those families dependent to a significant degree on self employment as a primary income. The poorest are also significantly impacted but are getting more assistance to help them fill the food gap. The closure of most businesses, except food shops, has meant that lots of low level labor work is not available.

<sup>4</sup> Many sheep farmers buy bread flour direct from the bakeries. One farmer bought 100 bags at 7 Dinars a bag. The bakeries buy the flour from the bread flour distribution system at the subsidized price of 1 Dinar per 50 kg bag. The farmer claimed that this is not a new practice, but has increased with the reduced rain levels over the last ten years.

## 7 Main Expenditures

Food is a major component of family expenditure. For an upper-middle income country this seemed at odds with the notion that in better-off areas food comprises a smaller percentage of the family income.

**Table 7: Estimated Expenditures**

<b>Wealth Group</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>
<b>Very poor</b>	Food – 27% never eat meat while only 31 % eat once a week. Health – 20%; HH – 10%; Transport – 10%. This group is not paying rent as they more often live illegally. IDPs: Benefiting from assistance bringing the food expenditure down but spending more on transport.
<b>Poor</b>	Food – 43% (eat meat 1-2 per week). Health – 10%; HH – 10%; Transport – 10%; Rent – 25%. Rent is the big factor in this group – many saying this is why they are poor. IDP: Benefiting from free accommodation so are able to save some of this, off setting some lost incomes. More income is spent on food, though assistance is still provided.
<b>Low Middle</b>	Food – 58% (eat meat more than 2 times per week). Health – 10%; HH – 10%; Transport – 10%; Clothes – 10%. Rent is less an issue here as most are living in their own flat or house. High level of cost on food is due to expenditure on higher quality of food. IDP: Assistance means less expenditure on food, saving some money for return.
<b>High Middle</b>	Food – 50% (eat meat every day per week). Health – 05%; HH – 10%; Transport – 05%; Clothes – 10%; Savings – 20%. Reason for high level of expenditure on food is that across Libya there is wide variety of expenses. IDP: Assistance has reduced some food costs, but higher expenditure on rent as number here are renting flats.

Across the wealth groups, roughly similar and high proportions of household income were devoted to food. The poorest, with modest incomes, were spending most of their incomes on food. What was surprising was that food expenditure was high even at middle income levels. One explanation for the high expenditure of estimated incomes is because of the availability of variable qualities of food stuffs. For example the middle high might buy a box of Corn Flakes for 10.50 dinar, while the lower poor obviously cannot afford this. Meat is also the other factor as those with better incomes are eating bigger cuts of meat more often, whereas the poor are eating smaller cuts less often.

According to the interview, canned milk, sugar and cooking oil were the commodities most often mentioned as affected by higher prices. Some vegetable prices as well had also increased, but no one mentioned this. As well bananas are higher, but again the poorest and poor do not eat many fruits throughout the year.

For IDPs, expenditure on food has been reduced, but not by much as incomes have also reduced. Many still indicate high percentages of income spent on food. These households also indicated that they had benefitted from assistance, but it was hard to determine what percent of the total was assistance as levels of assistance was so varied across the area. As evident from the table, health is another key expense for the poorest; the presence of a member of the family with a significant medical condition is one of the factors for keeping them poor. On visiting camps or poor locations and asking to speak with the poor, we are often directed to a family with high medical costs. Access to medical consultation and a stay in the hospital is free of charge, but medicines are not free. The poorest reported that they often needed help to buy medicines; one family with 3 asthmatic children was in constant need of assistance to afford the medicines.

Most wealth groups indicate some level of cost for transport. These costs cover fuel but more often it is for those who do not have a car and need to pay a taxi to travel. At the higher levels families are indicating expenditure on fuel costs and maintenance, but this would be minimal as the cost of fuel is very low.

Clothes do not get mentioned across the two poor wealth groups. This would be an indication that school is not in session and the need to clothe children for school is not needed. IDPs who left their homes with winter clothes only did mention buying summer clothes. The upper incomes indicate some spending on clothes. Finding this odd, in light of the economic crunch we were told that there is a wide range of quality and some people are in fact still shopping, but buying cheaper clothes. This is another indication that families are managing to access their salaries.

The only group to mention rent repeatedly was the poor group. The poorest are often not paying rent as they are mostly living ‘illegally’ meaning they have squatted in an abandoned company compound such as the Korean and the Dao in Benghazi. In most locations, poorer areas are easily identified by the tin roofs, as supposedly these families have built illegally on the outskirts of the town. Ajdabiya has three such areas of unplanned urban housing, where families build a wall around a plot of land then start building a house.

The poorest reported that they often needed help to buy medicines. The poor indicated the rent is the onerous payment that they have difficulty paying with such low salaries. Before, school fees showed up as a significant part of expenditure, this owing to the cost of books, transport and clothes for the children. Now that school is closed for summer, these monies are used for food.

There was no significant difference on expenses between the four study groups: IDPs, IDP Hosts, Returnees and Urban Poor. On average, about 25% of expenditures were devoted to food; about 17% to transportation, telephone (13), utilities (20) and less than 1% for health and education due to highly subsidized government services. Most people own their houses and average rental expenses for the overall population are low (Table 8) though high for the poor living in rented flats.

**Table 8: Expenditure Types**

Largest Expenditure	Percentage of Monthly Expense	
	Pre-crisis	Now
<b>Food</b>	25	25
<b>Transportation, diesel for car or truck</b>	15	17
<b>Telephone communications</b>	11	13
<b>Gas, electricity, other cooking fuel</b>	9	13
<b>Soap, hygiene products</b>	9	7
<b>Water</b>	9	9
<b>Ceremonies (including funerals)</b>	7	3
<b>Health care, drugs</b>	6	1
<b>Clothing</b>	3	2
<b>Rental of housing</b>	1	0.2
<b>Debt or credit repayment</b>	0.5	0.3
<b>Material to remove rubbles</b>	0.3	0.1
<b>Schooling</b>	0.1	0.1

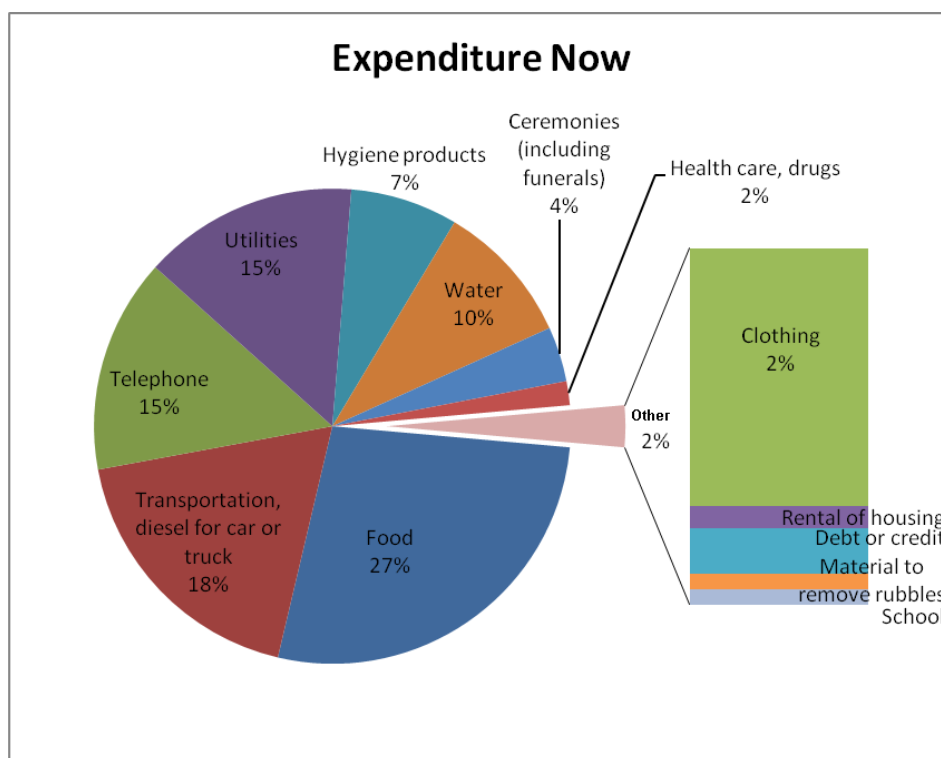


Figure 1: Expenditure

Debt is being incurred by most IDPs, Urban Poor and Returnees to cover food costs. Very few IDP hosts use debt for food but instead use it to invest in income generation, home improvements, schooling and ceremonies.

Table 9: Types of Expenses Covered through Debt

Type of expense covered by debt	Target Group			
	IDP	IDP host	Urban poor	Returnees
Food	83	5	93	100
transportation	64	14	64	86
water	58	24	49	57
health care	69	29	71	77
fuel for cooking	42	40	49	63
schooling	0	98	2	3
hygiene products	53	43	60	71
Ceremonies	3	95	7	3
Clothing	31	76	29	31
Agri. Inputs	0	98	0	0
house rental	3	98	9	17
land rental	0	100	0	0
stock for work	0	100	2	0
payment for labor	0	100	0	0
removing rubbles	0	100	0	0
house repair	0	100	0	0

Some IDPs and Returnees have reported loss of assets (Table 10), particularly household items such as fridges and televisions.

**Table 10: Loss of Assets as a Result of the Crisis**

Group	Percentage of households that Lost Assets						
	Car	Motorcycle	Stove	Fridge	TV	Radio	Cell Phone
IDP	12	2	8	38	23	19	13
Returnees	4	0	1	2	4	3	3

Considering expenses devoted to food, most families fall in the higher bracket i.e. more than 60% of their monthly expense is devoted to food (Table 11).

**Table 11: Share of Monthly Expenditure Devoted to Food**

Monthly Expenditure on Food	Percentage of Households			
	IDPs	IDP Hosts	Returnees	Urban poor
>60%	16	23	16	15
40-60%	5	7	4	7
<40%	2	1	1	2

## 8 Social Protection

The social protection system of subsidies has some merit in guaranteeing basic levels of subsistence. However, as this assessment focused on the urban poor and poor IDPs, it found a surprisingly high level of families below the poverty-line. The assessment scope did not allow a comprehensive study of poverty in the country though it is captured in other studies. One report states that “The social security system provides a wide range of protection equal to that of some developed countries, with provisions for old age, disability, sickness, unemployment, accident or occupational disease, funeral expenses, pregnancy and childbirth. This is supplemented by subsidised food, education and health treatment, housing facilities, utility services, water transportation and fuel.”<sup>5</sup>

Bread flour, rice, semolina and locally produced pasta are all subsidized. Education and health care are ‘free’, though poor families cannot afford the costs for books, clothes and transport fees or pay for the medicines the doctors prescribe. Housing is now less affordable, even rental fees are heavy for those with low salaries. The poorest are vulnerable to shock and more often need to look for help from neighbors or family. Despite all the allowances and subsidies the general conclusion is that income levels have hardly changed in the past years. 2004 seems to be the high-water mark for subsidies and the *al jemiah*.

## 9 Main Sources of Food

Families buy their food through local markets and food stores throughout the area. Bread is rarely baked at home, mainly bought at bakeries. Fresh vegetables are bought at general stores and the larger wholesale/retail outlets such as the Al’Fondok market in Benghazi. Fresh meat is purchased at local butcher shops. Besides markets, people mention accessing rice and flour at the *jemiah* stores.

The *jemiah* outlet stores are one of the distribution arms for subsidized food products. The others in the *jemiah* system are the bakeries that receive the bulk of the flour, as well as the main distribution center that was important for local organizations in accessing rice and flour to assist with IDPs. Originally the *jemiah* stores had a much broader base and were accessed by most families -- it was considered entitlement for all, not just a way for the poor to access cheap food. There was a large quantity of subsidized products - even tobacco, and on occasion truck loads of appliances were received. One informant said her father bought the family bikes at the *jemiah* store. Now the stores are less important, as only a few products are available in the stores – namely rice, wheat flour with little savings compared to prices in the main markets. A few said they access the *jemiah* if they want a bag of bulk wheat flour to make bread in *Ramadan* or they want a bulk bag of rice for a wedding. Still some of the poor access these shops, though many are only open once a week.

Very little local food production occurs at the household level with the commercial production in wheat, barley and a number of vegetable crops common. Water is the limiting factor in increasing production. In the east sheep and goats are produced in significant number to meet demand. Meat production is also more of a commercial enterprise with small production at the household level.

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<sup>5</sup> Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment of the EU-Libya Free Trade Agreement, Draft Report, May 2009

**Table 12: Source of Food**

Source of Food	Percentage of Households				
	Overall	IDP	IDP host	Urban Poor	Returnees
Own production/kitchen garden	1	1	1	0	0
Subsidized food (NASCO/PSF)	2	3	0	2	0
Market purchase with cash	87	64	70	68	71
Market purchase on credit	0	0	0	0	0
Received against work	0	0	0	0	0
Received as gift (family/friend)	1	0	1	1	1
Humanitarian food aid	9	11	7	5	7

For IDPs the main sources of food are: food purchased with own income and food assistance. Many of the camps continue to provide cooked meals, while others simply distribute whatever contributions they get. In Ajdabiya, the returnees are accessing food through the few food shops that are open. The large vegetable market has yet to open. Traders are setting up stalls at the bus depot to sell vegetables and dry goods, mostly for security as the larger market venue is on the outskirts of the city and more vulnerable to attack.

An analysis of the dietary diversity indicates that cereals, sugar and oils are consumed on a daily basis across the groups (Table 13). Urban poor and returnees can not afford fruits. Considering meat, the urban poor consume even less than those directly affected by the crisis (IDPs and Returnees). Overall, the Urban Poor have a poorer dietary diversity than the other groups.

**Table 13: Weekly Consumption by Food Type**

Food Type	Consumption by Number of Days in a Week			
	IDP	IDP host	Poor Household	Returnees
<b>Average consumption of:</b>				
Bread	7	7	7	7
Potatoes	3	3	2	3
Pasta	4	4	3	4
Lentils	3	3	2	3
Vegetables	3	4	3	4
Fruit	1	1	0	0
Meat	3	4	2	3
Eggs	3	3	3	3
Fish	0	0	0	0
Dairy products	6	6	6	6
Sugar	7	7	6	7
Fats	7	7	6	7



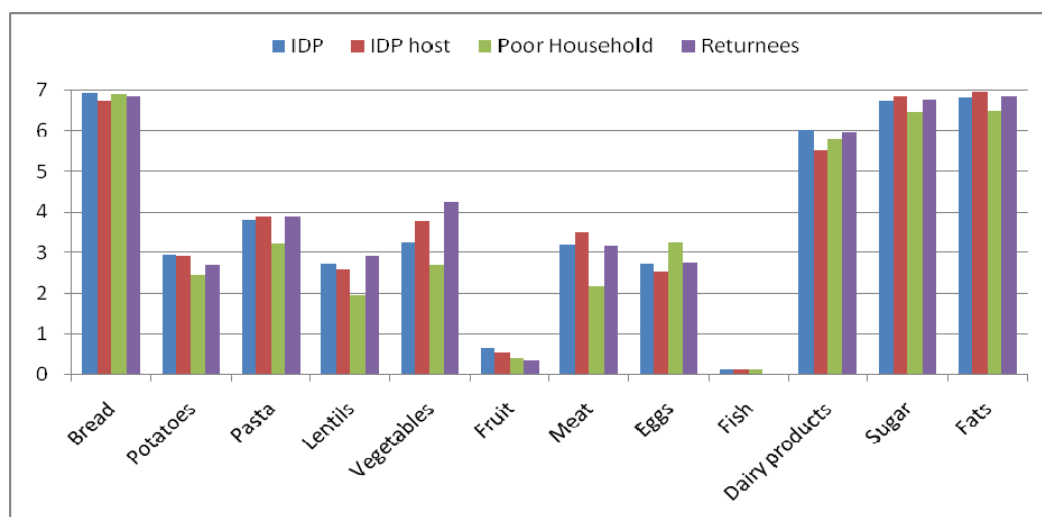


Figure 2: Weekly Consumption by Food Type

Most families have about two weeks of wheat flour stocks and rice to last 11 days (Table 14). Unlike rural settings, the volume of stock in an urban household is more a representative of bulk purchasing power and storage facilities at home. Urban households have easy access to retail and wholesale markets throughout the year and large seasonal stocks are not the norm. It is notable that the IDPs seem to stock more than the urban poor.

Table 14: Food Stocks

Food Type	Average number of days the stock will last				
	Overall	IDP	IDP host	Urban Poor	Returnees
Wheat	13	14	11	13	15
Potatoes	2	2	2	2	1
Rice	11	10	11	9	13
Oil	5	6	5	5	6
Lentils	5	8	4	3	4
Sugar	6	7	5	4	6

Most rich and middle income houses in Benghazi have piped water. Some sections of the city have a constant supply while others receive only a few hours per day. Almost half of the urban poor have regular supply. Water quality was not tested but discussions with locals indicate the water is potable with no contamination concerns.

Table 15: Access to Clean Drinking Water

Daily supply of tap water	Period	Percentage of Households			
		IDPs	IDP Hosts	Returnees	Urban Poor
Regular	Pre crisis	94	85	91	53
	Now (June 2011)	67	49	89	62
Irregular (less than 8 hours)	Pre crisis	6	15	9	47
	Now (June 2011)	33	51	11	38

Gas has been the predominant fuel for cooking. Only 1% of houses have adopted the use of wood as a result of current crisis.

## 10 Food Consumption

Families have reported 3 regular meals for adults and 2 for children. This was consistent across the groups though 53% of adults and 37% of children have lesser meals per day than normal. The Food Consumption Score has been calculated using the standard 21 threshold. Using the standard threshold of 21, only 0.55% households have poor consumption and adding borderline cases, the total is less than 5%. That means about 95% of households have adequate consumption. This is better than the US and several European countries.

**Table 16: Food Consumption Score Classification**

<b>FCS (21) Classification</b>	<b>Overall</b>	<b>IDP</b>	<b>IDP host</b>	<b>Urban Poor</b>	<b>Returnees</b>
Poor Consumption (<21)	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
Border line Consumption (21-35)	4.0	0.2	1.5	1.5	0.5
Adequate Consumption (>35)	95.5	23.0	30.0	22.0	21.0

## 11 Priorities and Assistance

The TNC is managing to arrange for credit lines to assure wheat imports and an uninterrupted supply of bread flour. Fresh vegetables are available throughout the area, with Egyptian suppliers returning and new Libyan retailers taking up some of the slack. Still some of the poorest pre-crisis families are relying on local assistance to meet their basic food needs. The rising food prices have been off-set to a degree by additional assistance provided as a result of the conflict. The causes of food insecurity for the poorest are poor livelihood options. The poorest are also those families who have a critical expense, covering medical needs or supporting a handicapped family member. They are more often headed by single women, divorced or widowed; and tend to have larger families with fewer income earners.

In the short term, cash or commodity vouchers for the poorest is recommended – notably for those who were displaced because of the conflict and returning to their place of origin. Commodity vouchers for food and other basic needs will allow these families to recover earlier and assure that their food consumption is not further eroded because of the costs of return. Nutrition and hygiene awareness for mothers, particularly those with young children from vulnerable households will improve diets and food budget management.

In the short and longer term – engaging youth will be crucial to helping vulnerable families increase incomes enabling them to better feed their families and children. Engaging target vulnerable youth from the poorest families in skill and trades development will attribute to new capacities to gain employment. Likewise, as many trades persons lost incomes with the shutdown in the economy finding ways to engage this sector will assist not only with meeting their own family recovery but spur small scale recovery efforts that will benefit the labor markets for Libyan youth, both men and women.

Families in the poorest groups are indicating living conditions and low incomes, highlighting the longer term problem of adequate housing. Low income was an issue for most of those dependent on government salaries and or allowances. Though we spent less time with returnees owing to the fact that Ajdabiya was the only returnee site visited, there was little difference in responses.

**Table 17: Priority Problems**

<b>Wealth Group</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>
<b>Very poor</b>	Poor living conditions. Low incomes; High health costs; Water and Sanitation IDP: Health problems, paying medical bills, Accessing food – milk for children, diapers.
<b>Poor</b>	Paying rent (this is very heavy for this group). Living in overcrowded units. IDP: Accessing food – milk for children, diapers, Affording transport.
<b>Low Middle</b>	Most are meeting their basic needs. IDP: Safety issues.
<b>High Middle</b>	Most are meeting their basic needs. IDP: Safety issues.

The needs for IDPs across the wealth groups were more or less the same as for the non-displaced, though for the poorest, paying medical bills is the heaviest unmet need. Food access is limited by poor salaries, but the public assistance from the *Zakat* and others enables these families the most basic of diets, but medicines are harder to get.

Most are coping with the changed situation by economizing. The poorest are relying on more assistance, and eating less. We heard often that these families eat one meal per day with bread and tea for breakfast and dinner. Eating poor quality foods is more common in the other categories as a way to cope with reduced incomes; this means in many cases eating less meat, and more pasta.

Thirty four percent of the poor and vulnerable households studied, reported incurring debt as a consequence of the crisis. The main reasons for this debt vary by group.

**Table 18: Use of Debt Money**

<b>Type of expense by debt</b>	<b>Percentage</b>				
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>IDP</b>	<b>IDP host</b>	<b>Urban Poor</b>	<b>Returnees</b>
<b>Food</b>	93	83	95	93	100
<b>transportation</b>	75	64	86	64	86
<b>health care</b>	72	69	71	71	77
<b>Water</b>	60	58	76	49	57
<b>hygiene products</b>	60	53	57	60	71
<b>fuel for cooking</b>	53	42	60	49	63
<b>clothing</b>	28	31	24	29	31
<b>house rental</b>	8	3	2	9	17
<b>ceremonies</b>	4	3	5	7	3
<b>schooling</b>	2	0	2	2	3
<b>Agri. inputs</b>	1	0	2	0	0
<b>stock for work</b>	1	0	0	2	0
<b>land rental</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b>payment for labor</b>	0	0	0	0	0

## 12 Coping Strategies

The poorest are coping through external assistance and further economizing. They are replacing meat with beans and or consuming little or no meat, or smaller cuts, using pieces of animal fat or oil to flavor pasta. About a quarter of the households interviewed had reported reducing the number of meals. Others are reducing consumption of milk, especially the sweetened canned milk which is the breakfast favorite. Oil is used more sparingly. Those who can afford vegetables are buying less. The poorest usually buy only tomatoes.

The IDPs have moved from cities, such as Ajdabiya, where fighting is occurring, to safer areas such as Benghazi. Reliance on assistance to meet basic needs has increased. Drastic measures, such as selling of productive assets are not yet widespread. Among the poor, reliance on *Zakat* and borrowing from friends/relatives are the main strategies. For IDPs, living in a new environment, reliance is more on local and international organizations.

**Table 19: Coping Strategies**

<b>Wealth Group</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>
<b>Very poor</b>	More often relying on <i>Zakat</i> for a portion of basic need. Borrowing from friends and relatives; Eating less and poorer quality of food. IDPs: Depending more on assistance from local organizations; Borrowing.
<b>Poor</b>	A few receive assistance but mostly during Ramadan. Borrowing from friends and relatives; Eating less quality of foods. IDPs: Depending on more assistance from local organizations and NGOs; Borrowing.
<b>Low Middle</b>	If needed sell assets – gold, sheep, car. IDPs: Receive some assistance; Also use some savings; Some selling of assets.
<b>High Middle</b>	In some cases economizing. IDPs: Using savings.

## 13 Food Security

There is no wide spread food insecurity. Food is available and people generally have access. Presently food insecurity is not at crisis levels, though a section of the population struggles to meet basic needs. The poorest households have very low incomes (3-5 Dinars a day) and depend to some degree on assistance. The poor (30%<sup>6</sup>) survive on more or less 9-10 Dinars per day. There was not found to be significant differences in food insecurity between the displaced population and the pre-crisis poor, though the displaced in some cases are in better living conditions than in place of origin. The pre-crisis poor, displaced or not, are the most vulnerable. Malnutrition is not widely evident, but for the poorest feeding their children a well balanced meal is very problematic. Few among the poor can afford fruits and or varied selection of vegetables. In this group, milk consumption is low, as is meats and or proteins. Bread of course is the mainstay of the diet, though rice and pasta are staples for main meal.

In order to classify households by their food security, a cross-tabulation between monthly expenditure and the dietary diversity was generated. Less than one half of one percent of the households have poor food consumption while 96% have adequate food consumption. Considering expense, only about 11% spend less than 50 LD per week. Only 2% overall and only 4% amongst urban poor and returnee families are food insecure. However, for 11% of IDPs the food source is external i.e. through assistance. Therefore, such families would be considered food insecure as they are unable to sustain their need without external assistance.

**Table 20: Food Security**

Food Consumption Score (21)		Expenditure Categories Libyan Dinars per Week		
		Low ≤ 50	Medium 51 - 100	High > 100
	Poor	0%	0.5%	0%
	Borderline	1.5%	2%	0.5%
	Adequate	9%	35%	52%

**Table 21: Food Security by Study Group**

Food Security Category	IDP	IDP host	Urban Poor	Returnees	Overall
Food Insecure	1%	1%	4%	4%	2%
Borderline	15% <sup>7</sup>	8%	19%	1%	11%
Food Secure	84%	92%	78%	95%	88%

<sup>6</sup> This is based on numbers provided by the head of the Benghazi *zakat* distribution who reported 16,000 families (estimate 112,000 persons) are on their list to receive assistance. TNC estimated population for Benghazi is 917,847 persons.

<sup>7</sup> Includes IDPs receiving food assistance.

## 14 Conclusions

Despite there being no large scale food security risk in the East, many of the poorest do not have adequate incomes to afford balanced diets. Most get by on bread and pasta with a tomato-paste sauce and tea and sugar. The poorest IDPs are managing to meet their food needs through assistance and ongoing access to low government salary checks. The pre-crisis poor, whether IDP and or returnee, is depending on very low incomes that are further eroded by the slowed down economy. Most manage with increased assistance and further economizing. The longer the crisis goes on the higher the potential assistance requirement which, if not available, means families will have to find other ways to cope.

The lack of sufficient livelihoods is the larger longer term problem facing Libya. Subsidized bread and rice are the primary reason there is not destitution for many households. Though some prices for food commodities are rising, most Libyans are to a large extent protected from these and will continue to be protected in the coming months.

Although the crisis has resulted in displaced people, the most vulnerable are the urban poor suffering from chronic poverty. Even this group manages to consume meat twice a week, eggs thrice a week and a daily consumption of cereals. Most Returnees seem to have recovered from the crisis and have managed to return to their normal pre-crisis situation though there is a small group in need of assistance.

The present crisis is on-going and could escalate with direct implications on food security. A monitoring system is required to monitor changes in household food consumption as well as basic food prices. The two groups needing assistance are the IDPs and the Urban Poor.

## 15 Recommendations

### Short Term

- Short term food assistance (cash/vouchers) for the poor Returnees – vulnerable groups (elderly, female headed households, those with young children, low incomes and few assets). This could be in kind, cash grant or a voucher to buy Essential food items.
- Short-term food assistance for urban poor – those with young children, low incomes and few assets. This could be one-off cash grant or a voucher to buy cooking oil and vegetables. Support to government authorities in improving their assistance programmes including a study of the assistance types, mechanism and targeting criteria.
- Engage youth in short-term skills development in the trades, while also engaging trades persons who lost incomes to instruct through an apprentice scheme.
- Conduct an assessment of the various government support mechanisms, their effectiveness and estimation of their exclusion/inclusion error.
- Initiate cash-for-work public works program, through which conditional cash transfers can be made to the urban poor, returnees and conflict affected households to repair and improve/develop infrastructure and public spaces.
- Setup a food security monitoring system that captures food consumption and basic commodity prices on a periodic basis. The system should capture wholesale and retail prices of basic food commodities from 15 urban centres. The monitoring system should also capture significant population movements.

### Medium to Long Term

- Technical Assistance to TNC on Social Safety Nets to improve governance around food policy and government food subsidy system components and targeting.
- Support skills development amongst the youth would be a sound investment towards a sustainable economy
- Assess nutrition among urban poor, returnees and conflict affected areas to determine depth and breadth of malnutrition in the population
- Conduct an EMMA (markets) assessment on key labor markets for Libyan youth.

## 16 Annexes

### 16.1 Annex 1: Focus Group Discussion Guide

Code Region:  _	Code Municipality:  _	Code location:  _
Name of the location: _____		
Focus Group number:  _ _ _	Date :  _ _ / 0 _  2011 <i>day / month</i>	
Code enumeration team:  _ _		
Name of enumerators : _____ / _____		

**The discussions should preferably take place with:**

- (i) **no more than 10 persons representing the average households of interest** (e.g. conflict IDPs, host families, pre-conflict poor residents, TCNS/migrants) and
- (ii) **men and women separately** (one Focus Group sheet to fill in for each discussion separately)

#### **I – IDENTIFICATION**

<b>Main type of participants in the discussion:</b> 1= Conflict-displaced persons (IDPs) 2= Residents hosting IDPs 3= Poor residents (pre-conflict poor or vulnerable) 4= Migrants displaced in this location 5= Migrants normally living in this location		1.1	_
<b>Number of participants in the discussion:</b>		1.2	_  Men  _  Women
	<b>First name</b> <i>(optional – to facilitate identification during the discussion itself)</i>	<b>M</b> = man <b>W</b> = woman	<b>Main role in the household</b> <i>(e.g. head of household, house wife, elder son etc..)</i>
1.3			
1.4			
1.5			
1.6			
1.7			
1.8			
1.9			
1.10			
1.11			
1.12			



## II – LOCATION AND MOVEMENTS

2.1	<b>Since when are you living in this location?</b>	_____   months (IDPs, migrants)   _____   years (residents, migrants)
2.2	<b>For IDPs (excluding displaced migrants):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you intend to go back to your location of origin?</li> <li>What will make you decide to go back or to remain where you are?</li> </ul>	
2.3	<b>For residents (including host families):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you intend to move to another location?</li> <li>What will make you decide to move or to stay?</li> </ul>	
2.4	<b>For migrants:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you intend to leave Libya?</li> <li>What will make you decide to stay or to leave?</li> </ul>	

## III – MAIN SOURCES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

<b>How do you get some money now, and how did you do before the conflict?</b>		
<p><b>Instructions to enumerators:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Try to capture the combination of income sources that people may have now and before the conflict.</li> <li>Help participants to estimate the rough % of total income provided by each source of income</li> <li>If there is too much heterogeneity among the participants, try to identify the reasons for the differences, and help participants reach an agreement on the sources of income which the largest share of total income “in general” for households in the same situation as theirs.</li> </ol> <p>Example of sources of income are given below, but do not suggest, leave participants answer in their own way:          Sale of crops, vegetables or fruit trees          Sale of animals or animal products          Petty trade, small shop          Large business          Independent work (e.g. taxi driver, carpenter etc.)          Government employment (police, administration, health agent, teacher etc.)          Unskilled regular wage labour (e.g. in construction, guard)          Unskilled irregular or seasonal labor (e.g. agricultural worker, temporary construction)          Government pension or government allowances          Remittances from family in Libya or abroad          Humanitarian assistance</p>		
3.1	<b>Main sources of income now and % of total:</b>	3.2
3.3	<b>Are those who are (<i>residents</i>) or were (<i>IDPs</i>) government employees still receiving their salary normally?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If no, what are the main changes (e.g. amount, frequency)?</li> </ul>	

3.4- 3.5	<p>Have you <b>lost other sources of income</b> since the conflict started?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If yes, which ones and why?</li> <li>• What do you do to compensate for this loss of income?</li> </ul>		
3.6- 3.7- 3.8	<p><b>Can you access savings from the bank or other personal savings mechanism?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If no, why?</li> <li>• If yes, are there limits on the amount of savings you can access, or frequency of withdrawal?</li> <li>• How long will these savings last for your current needs?</li> </ul>		
<p><b>What do you use your income or savings mainly for now, and what were you using them for before the conflict?</b></p> <p><b>Instructions to enumerators:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ask participants to rank the expenditures by order of priority</li> <li>2) Help participants estimate for each expenditure mentioned, the rough % of total expenditures</li> <li>3) If there is too much heterogeneity between participants, try to identify what are the reasons for these differences, and help participants reach an agreement “in general” on the main expenditures of households who are in a similar situation as theirs</li> </ol>			
3.9	Main expenditures now (type and % of total):	3.10	Main expenditures before conflict (type and % of total):

#### **IV – MAIN SOURCES OF FOOD**

<p><b>Where do you get most of your food now, and where did you get it before the conflict?</b></p> <p><b>Instructions to enumerators:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Distinguish between subsidized food (NASCO shops) and other food</i></li> <li>2) <i>Specify the type of food items for each source of food mentioned</i></li> </ol>			
4.1	Main sources of food now (by type of food):	4.2	Main sources of food before conflict (by type of food):
4.3- 4.4	<p><b>Since the conflict, have there been changes in the type, amount and prices of food you get from these sources?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If yes, which changes specifically (type of food, amounts, prices)?</li> <li>• What do you do to compensate for these changes and feed yourself and the family?</li> </ul>		

## V – PRIORITIES AND ASSISTANCE

5.1	<b>What are your priority problems at the moment?</b>
5.2	<b>What are you doing now to solve these problems?</b>
5.3- 5.4	<b>Since the conflict started, have you received any assistance that has helped you with these problems or other difficulties?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If yes, which assistance specifically have you received, and from whom?</li><li>• Which other assistance would you require now and in the next 3-6 months to meet your needs?</li></ul>

## 16.2 Annex 2: Household Questionnaire

Code region :   _	Code municipality:   _	Code location :   _
Name of the location _____		
Questionnaire number:   _     _     _	Date :   _     _   /   0     _   2011 day / month	
Code enumeration team:   _     _		
Name of enumerators : _____ / _____		

### Consent:

We are assessing the situation of families following the events of the past few months. As it is not possible to meet everybody, we have selected only some localities and families in order to have an idea of the situation. None of the localities or families visited will be privileged to receive particular assistance, and we do not register names. However, this information will be used to take decisions on assistance in the various locations where people have been affected.

The interview should not last more than 20 minutes. The answers you will give will remain strictly confidential and will not be given to others. You can refuse to participate or to answer to some of the questions. But we hope that you will accept to participate, as your answers are very important to take the best decisions possible. Do you have questions for us ? Can we start ?

**Instruction to enumerators: if there are 2 families sharing the dwelling (e.g. one IDP and one host family), interview separately each household (2 questionnaires to fill in)**

### I – STATUS AND DISPLACEMENT SITUATION

1.1	<b>Are the household members:</b> 1= Libyan nationals 2= Permanent migrants from another country (more than 1 year in Libya without returning to home country) 3= Temporary migrants from another country (spending less than 1 year in Libya without returning to home country, at irregular periods) 4= Seasonal migrants from another country (migrating to Libya during specific periods of the year only)	_
1.2	<b>Where is your family living NOW? (at the time of the interview)</b>  1= in own house (not displaced at the time of the interview) 2= in an empty or abandoned house or collective centre in the original town or village, with no other family (displaced in original location, non-hosted) 3= in an empty or abandoned house in another town or village, with no other family (displaced in another location, non-hosted) 4= hosted by a relative, friend or neighbour in the original town or village (displaced in original location, hosted) 5= hosted by a relative, friend or neighbour in another town or village (displaced in another location, hosted)	_

### II – HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Ask for now and for before the events

	Now		Before conflict	
Who is making the decisions for the household? 1= Man/ 2 = Woman	2.1	_	2.2	_
How old is the person deciding for household matters now?	2.3	_     _   years		
How many children and adults live in your family?	Now		Before conflict	
Children below 5 years	2.4	_     _	2.5	_     _
Primary school-age children 5-11 years	2.6	_     _	2.7	_     _
Secondary school-age children 12-18 years	2.8	_     _	2.9	_     _

Adult men 19-60 years	2.10	__	2.11	__	
Adult women 19-60 years	2.12	__	2.13	__	
Adults above 60 years of age	2.14	__	2.15	__	
<i>If there are no changes in the family members, go to question 2.18</i>					
<i>If some family members are missing, ask question 2.17</i>					
2.16	What happened to the family members who lived with you before the conflict?			<b>Children</b>	<b>Adults</b>
	1= Hosted in another family (relatives, friends, neighbours)			__	__
	Joined the Anti Government Forces				
	2= In hospital or health centre for wound treatment				
	3= Have moved outside Libya				
4= Have died					
5= Does not know					
<b>In the family NOW:</b> <i>Write total number of persons, or 0 if there are none</i>					
2.17	Are there persons who have <b>long-duration sickness</b> (e.g. diabetes)?	__	chronic sick		
2.18	Are there <b>pregnant or lactating women</b> ?	__	pregnant or lactating		

### III – HOUSING CONDITIONS, WATER, SANITATION AND COOKING FACILITIES

3.1	<b>How are your current housing conditions?</b> 1= undamaged house/apartment/collective centre 2= partly destroyed house/apartment but can live in it	__			
<i>Ask for now and for before the conflicts</i>		<b>Now</b>		<b>Before conflict</b>	
	Were do you get your <b>water for drinking and cooking</b> ? 1= <b>Safe source</b> (private tap, public tap, tank, bottle, rain water, protected well) 2= <b>Unsafe source</b> (non protected well, canal, river, swamp)	3.2	__	3.3	__
	What are you using mainly for <b>cooking food</b> ? 1= gas 2= electricity 3= wood 4= animal dung 5= other (specify) _____	3.4	__	3.5	__
	Do you have <b>containers to store water</b> if you need to? 1=Yes / 2= No	3.6	__	3.7	__

### IV – CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

*Ask for now and for before the conflict*

		<b>Now</b>		<b>Before conflict</b>	
Can you <b>cultivate a land or a garden</b> ? 1= Yes/ 2= No <i>If No before conflict, go to Question 4.21 on animals</i>		4.1	__	4.2	__
How many <b>labourers</b> outside family members do you have to assist with cultivation, harvest or animal tending?		4.3	__	4.4	__
	<b>Which crops will you harvest this season?</b> 1= Yes / 2= No <i>If No, go to next crop</i>	<b>Which proportion of the harvest do you sell generally?</b>		<b>How long approximately will the harvest this year last for family consumption?</b> (assuming normal weather) <i>Note number of months.</i> <i>Write « 0 » if less than 1 month</i>	
Wheat	4.5  __	4.6	__	4.7	__  months
Barley	4.8  __	4.9	__	4.10	__  months
Potatoes	4.11  __	4.12	__	4.13	__  months
Tomatoes	4.14  __	4.15	__	4.16	__  months
Onions	4.17  __	4.18	__	4.19	__  months
Fruit trees	4.20  __	4.21	__	4.20	__  months
<b>What are your main constraints at the moment with crop cultivation?</b>		1= Yes/ 2= No			
Cost of seed		4.21	__		__
Quality of seed		4.22	__		__

Cost of fertilizer	4.23			
Lack of irrigation water or spare parts for the equipment	4.24			
Security to access fields	4.25			
Security to irrigate fields	4.26			
Lack of agricultural machinery or spare parts	4.27			
Cost of machinery services	4.28			
Lack of manpower to cultivate	4.29			
Varying, unstable prices of crops that are sold	4.30			
Other (specify):	4.31			
	<b>Now</b>	<b>Before conflict</b>		
Do you have <b>animals</b> ? <i>If No before the conflict, go to Section VI</i> 1= Yes/ 2= No	4.32		4.33	
How many <b>poultry</b> do you have?	4.34		4.35	
How many <b>sheep and goats</b> do you have?	4.36		4.37	
How many <b>cows and bulls</b> do you have?	4.38		4.39	
<b>What are your main constraints at the moment with animal raising?</b>		<b>1= Yes/ 2= No</b>		
Lack of adequate good quality fodder	4.40			
Cost of animal feed	4.41			
Lack of adequate pasture land	4.42			
Lack of security to access pastures	4.43			
Animal pests and diseases	4.44			
Cost of veterinary services	4.45			
Lack of security to access markets to sell animal products or live animals	4.46			
Low price obtained when selling animal products or live animals or lack of marketing channels	4.47		_	
Theft of animals	4.48			
Lack of shelter to keep animals	4.49			
Lack of manpower to keep animals	4.50			
Other (specify):	4.51			

## V – EXPENDITURES

### Ask for now and for before the conflict

What are your <b>4 largest expenditures</b> for your living?	<b>Now</b>		<b>Before conflict</b>	
1= Food 3= Water 4= Gas, electricity, other cooking fuel 5= Soap, hygiene products 6= Clothing 7= Rental of housing 8= Telephone communications 9= Transportation, diesel for car or truck 10= Health care, drugs 11= Schooling 12= Ceremonies (including funerals) 13= Debt or credit repayment 14= Agricultural inputs, animal feed, irrigation 15= Rental of land 16= Material to remove rubbles 17= Material to repair or reconstruct housing 18= Other (specify)	5.1	_   Largest expenditure	5.2	_   Largest expenditure
	5.3	_   2 <sup>nd</sup> expenditure	5.4	_   2 <sup>nd</sup> expenditure
	5.5	_   3 <sup>rd</sup> expenditure	5.6	_   3 <sup>rd</sup> expenditure
	5.7	_   4 <sup>th</sup> expenditure	5.8	_   4 <sup>th</sup> expenditure
At the moment, how much do you <b>spend for your family for one week</b> :				
		<b>For food?</b>	5.9	_   Dinars
		<b>For other expenditures than food?</b>	5.10	_   Dinars
Did you have to <b>borrow money since the conflict?</b> 1= Yes / 2= No	5.11	_	→ <i>If No, go to Section VI</i>	
<b>What are the main expenditures that you have covered with this money?</b>	<b>1= Yes / 2= No</b>			
Food	5.12	_	Transportation, diesel for car/trucks	5.13  _
Water	5.14	_	Health care, drugs	5.15  _
Gas, electricity, other cooking fuel	5.16	_	Schooling	5.17  _
Soap, hygiene products	5.18	_	Ceremonies (including funerals)	5.19  _
Clothing	5.20	_	Agricultural inputs, animal feed, irrigation	5.21  _
Rental of housing	5.22	_	Rental of land	5.23  _

Equipment or stock for work and sale (e.g. petty trade or other income-generating activity)	5.24	__	Payment of hired labourers	5.25	__
Material to remove rubbles	5.26	__	Material to repair of reconstruct housing	5.27	__

## VI – INCOME SOURCES AND ASSETS

*Ask for now and for before the conflict*

	Now		Before conflict	
<b>How many persons in the family can earn some cash?</b>	6.1	__	6.2	__
<b>What are the 3 main sources of cash for the family?</b>	<b>Now</b>		<b>Before conflict</b>	
1= Sale of harvest of wheat, maize, potatoes, cotton etc. 2= Sale of vegetables or fruits 3= Sale of animal products 4= Sale of animals 5= Irregular wage labour (e.g. seasonal, temporary) 6= Regular, wage labour (e.g. employee in factory) 7= Independent worker (e.g. carpenter, taxi driver) 8= Civil servant (e.g. police, administration, teacher...) 9= Employment in UN agency or NGO 10= Sale of handicraft 11= Petty trade (street vendor) 12= Small business (shop) 13= Large business 14= Rent of property 15= Rent of land 16= Pension, allowances 17= Remittances 18= Sale of humanitarian assistance 19= Charity from relatives, friends, neighbours  98 = No 2 <sup>nd</sup> source of income (only one source) 99= No 3rd source of income (only 2 sources)	6.3	__  1st source	6.4	__  1st source
	6.5	__  2nd source	6.6	__  2nd source
	6.7	__  3rd source	6.8	__  3rd source
<b>Do you have family members or person you know who live outside Libya?</b> 1= Yes / 2= No			6.9	__  If No, go to Question 6.11
<b>If yes, have they helped you with money or goods since the conflict started?</b> 1= Yes/ 2= No			6.10	__
<b>Have relatives in Libya or neighbours helped you with money or goods since the conflict started?</b> 1= Yes/ 2= No			6.11	__
<b>Do you have a bank account in Libya?</b> 1= Yes/ 2= No			6.12	__  If No, go to Question 6.14
<b>How much cash can you access from the bank each week?</b>			6.13	__
<b>How long approximately do you think the money at the bank or your savings can last to cover your expenses at the moment?</b>			6.14	__  weeks

*Ask for now and for before the conflict*

<b>Do you have....</b>	<b>1= Yes / 2= No</b>	Now		Before conflict	
Stove	6.14	__	6.15	__	
Fridge	6.16	__	6.17	__	
Television	6.18	__	6.19	__	
Radio	6.20	__	6.21	__	
Cell phone	6.22	__	6.23	__	
Bicycle, motorcycle	6.24	__	6.25	__	
Car, truck	6.26	__	6.27	__	

## VII- FOOD CONSUMPTION

<i>Ask for now and for before the conflict</i>		Now		Before conflict			
		7.1	__	7.2	__		
How many meals do you eat each day?		7.1	__	7.2	__		
<p><b>Consider only meals consumed at home or in public kitchen</b></p> <p><b>Do NOT count food consumed in very small amount (less than a teaspoon per person)</b></p>	<p><b>How many days for the last 7 days did your family consume these food items?</b></p> <p>0 = Not eaten 1= 1 day 2= 2 days 3= 3 days 4= 4 days 5= 5 days 6= 6 days 7= 7 days</p>		<p><b>What was the main source of this food?</b></p> <p>1= Own production/garden 2= Subsidized food (NASCO, PSF) 3= Purchase in other shops, markets, petty traders 4= Purchase at credit, borrowed to be returned 5= Received against work (in-kind payment) 6= Bartered against other goods 7= Received as gift from family or neighbours, begged 8= Humanitarian food aid 99= Not eaten during the 7 past days</p>				
	Bread	7.3	__	7.4	__		
Wheat (grain, flour), rice, maize, pasta	7.5	__	7.6	__			
Biscuits, High Energy Biscuits	7.7	__	7.8	__			
Potatoes, sweet potatoes	7.9	__	7.10	__			
Beans, chickpeas, lentils, peas	7.11	__	7.12	__			
Vegetables	7.13	__	7.14	__			
Fruits	7.15	__	7.16	__			
Nuts, walnuts, hazelnuts	7.17	__	7.18	__			
Meat (red, poultry)	7.19	__	7.20	__			
Eggs	7.21	__	7.22	__			
Fish	7.23	__	7.24	__			
Dairy products (yogurt, cheese, milk)	7.25	__	7.26	__			
Vegetable oil, butter, grease	7.27	__	7.28	__			
Sugar, honey, jam	7.29	__	7.30	__			
		<b>Now</b>					
Do you have <b>stocks of food</b> ?		1= Yes / 2= No		7.31	__		
		<b>If no stocks, go to Section VIII</b>					
<b>How long will your stocks last for the family consumption?</b>		<i>Write number of days</i>					
Wheat (grain, flour)	7.33	__	days	Potatoes	7.34	__	days
Rice	7.35	__	days	Oil, butter, grease	7.36	__	days
Beans, peas, chickpeas, lentils	7.37	__	days	Sugar	7.38	__	days



## VIII – COPING STRATEGIES, ASSISTANCE AND PRIORITIES

In the past 7 days, if there have been times when you did not have enough food or money to buy food? 1= Yes / 2= No		8.1	__
If yes, during the past 7 days, how often has your family had to:		Number of days	
8.2	Rely on less preferred and less expensive foods?	__	
8.3	Borrow food, or rely on help from a friend or relative?	__	
8.4	Limit portion size at meal times?	__	
8.5	Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat?	__	
8.6	Reduce number of meals eaten in a day?	__	
Since the conflict started, have there been times when your family had to do the following in order to get money or food?		1= Never 2= Rarely or once in a while (no more than twice a week) 3= Often (3-6 days/week) 4= All the time	
8.7	Send family members elsewhere to eat?	__	
8.8	Spend whole days without eating?	__	
8.9	Consume seed stocks ?	__	
8.10	Decrease expenditures for agricultural inputs or animal feed?	__	
8.11	Sell household assets (e.g. radio, TV, furniture etc.)?	__	
8.12	Sell productive assets (e.g. work equipment etc.)?	__	
8.13	Sell animals more than usual?	__	
8.14	Gather wild food, hunt or harvest immature crops?	__	
8.15	Decrease health expenditures?	__	
8.16	Lay off workers or reduce salaries or working time?	__	
8.17	Migrate more than usual to look for work or food?	__	

Since the conflict, have you received any of the following:	1= Yes / 2= No	
Food	8.18	__
Hygiene kits (soap etc.)	8.19	__
Household items (blankets, clothing)	8.20	__
Medicines, health treatment	8.21	__
Other _____	8.22	__

<b>What are your 3 main priorities?</b>			
1= Food	2= Housing	8.20	__  1 <sup>st</sup> priority
3= Employment, job	4= Cash		
5= Health	6= Schooling	8.22	__  2 <sup>nd</sup> priority
7= Water	8= Sanitation	8.24	__  3 <sup>rd</sup> priority
9= Cooking utensils	10= Bedding, furniture		
11= Agricultural inputs	12= Security		
13= Other (specify) _____			

## 16.3 Annex 3: Concept Note

WFP/FAO Regional Food Security Assessment, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Prepared by WFP Regional Bureau Cairo and the Food Security Analysis Service (VAM) in Rome in collaboration with FAO.

### Background

The first quarter of 2011 witnessed significant political and social change in the MENA region. These had broad repercussions. The initial revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt were followed by protests in Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Syria, Iran, Algeria and Morocco, among others. Civil protests in Libya quickly escalated to low intensity civil conflict.

The MENA region is the most food import-dependent region in the world. Net food imports are projected to rise even further as a result of the current events. Food Security in the MENA region is subject to threats from higher international food prices, political and social unrest and the fastest population growth rates in the world.

Unrest in Libya has led to serious disruptions to economic activity and agricultural value chains. This has negatively affected food security among those in Libya and those migrants fleeing the violence to neighboring countries. Major factories in Egypt have been out of production rendering workers without incomes. The tourism industry in Tunisia and Egypt has led to significantly reduced incomes of those supplying this important sector. The contraction in the tourism sector, and associated declines in Government revenue, has also reduced the fiscal space necessary to sustain state subsidies and social safety nets.

A joint rapid assessment in Benghazi in eastern Libya was conducted by UN agencies in late February 2011. The team recommended immediate relief and an in-depth assessment subject to security clearances. The WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo and FAO will work in coordination with OCHA and other agencies, on In-Country Assessments and a Regional Assessment of Food Security. These will focus on the humanitarian crisis resulting from events in Tunisia, Libya and Egypt. The Regional Assessment, which will be staffed with specialists from WFP, FAO and other UN agencies and potential participation from the EU and the World Bank, is currently scheduled to take place in March, April and May 2011.

### Objective

There is a need to assess food security in light of the threats to food security in the MENA region. The objective of the Regional Assessment is to determine the impact of recent events on: the prevalence of food insecurity; the risks to food security; and capacities to ensure food security. This will include:

- To assess the prevalence of food insecurity and specifically to:
  - assess the current status of livelihood opportunities
  - determine food consumption at the household level
  - estimate the percentage of food insecure
  - assess specific needs of most vulnerable groups especially women and children
  - assess the impact of migration on food security status

- Markets
  - to understand current food price trends (retail and wholesale) and short term projections
  - to assess the functioning of domestically produced and imported staple food markets and cash crop markets, including how commodity flows (public/humanitarian or commercial) between countries have been affected
  - to assess the availability of food stocks (import, export, local production and domestic distribution), in-country storage capacities and capacities in surrounding countries
  - to assess tradeable and non-tradeable livestock markets and their vulnerabilities
  - to examine the functioning of labour markets, including the flow of labour (migration) across countries
  - to examine the functioning of financial markets
  - to assess the food value chain, particularly for locally produced/processed foods
- To define appropriate interventions to address food insecurity:
  - to examine the role of food relief, if any, in addressing food insecurity
  - to identify the need, if any, of cash/voucher assistance and cash/food for work
  - to identify the need of agricultural sector relief, if any, in addressing food security including inputs, equipment and services.
  - to assess the status of government food subsidies and safety nets and who benefits from them

Such Regional Assessment is intended to inform participating agencies and other stakeholders and contribute to developing response plans tailored to address country-specific challenges and opportunities.

### **Geographic Coverage**

The major geographical focus areas are:

- Tunisia
  - Urban areas in Tunisia hosting affected populations
  - Tunisia-Libya border camp(s)
  - Rural areas vulnerable to food insecurity
- Libya
  - Urban area and environs of Tripoli<sup>8</sup> and Benghazi<sup>9</sup>
  - Libya-Tunisia border
  - Libya-Egypt border
  - Rural areas vulnerable to food insecurity
- Egypt
  - Urban areas and environs of Cairo, Alexandria, Suez
  - Upper Egypt from where substantial Libya labour force originates
  - Egypt-Libya border
  - Rural areas vulnerable to food insecurity

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<sup>8</sup> Subject to security clearance

<sup>9</sup> Subject to security clearance

The analysis will also cover these issues in other countries, as demand requires and resources allow:

- A desk review and price analyses of other affected Middle Eastern countries (Yemen, Jordan, Bahrain)
- Identify geographical areas of intervention

### **Focus Group**

The study would cover the groups most affected by recent events. These include::

- Displaced persons concentrated at borders;
- Households with loss of livelihood in sectors affected by turmoil (e.g. tourism in Egypt and Tunisia and those effected by violence in Libya);
- Households relying on remittances from Libya; and
- Households in rural areas vulnerable to food insecurity

The regional assessment will also consult key informants in the area of (urban and rural) poverty alleviation, food trade / distribution and agriculture development.

### **Partnership**

WFP will coordinate the assessment in close collaboration with other agencies. Partners will be convened to agree upon the objectives, scope and methodology for the Assessment<sup>10</sup>. In addition to the governments, key partners would be FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, IOM, Care International, SCF and ACTED.

### **Methodology**

The Regional Assessment will employ several research approaches. These will include a literature review, interviews with key informants and a rapid rural/urban assessment using focus group discussions and household surveys. Results will consist of a qualitative and quantitative analysis by location, age,, livelihood, gender, and country. Final results will be presented to Partners and Governments, with participation from other stakeholders (EU, World Bank), and a final report disseminated. Methodology details will be defined with partners (questions to be answered, sampling, survey instrument design, analytical framework, quality control etc).

### **Team Composition**

The WFP Regional Assessment Officer in ODC will lead the Joint Assessment with strong support from VAM experts in WFP HQ and Country Offices as well as experts from FAO. A food security specialist from HQ will be stationed in Cairo to support implementation of the Assessment. Team members, numbers and training needs will be defined precisely in collaboration with partners.

### **Schedule**

Week 2&3 March:	Partner consultation, finalisation of research design
Week 3 March:	Border Areas
1 April-May 15:	Field work in urban areas: Tunisia, Libya, Egypt
15 May -30 May	Data processing, analysis, generation of preliminary results
Week 4 May	Mission main findings presentation

<sup>10</sup> A Working Group may be convened for this purpose

## **Budget**

IR Regional North Africa Preparedness Activities EP 200254 will be the fund source.

## **Abbreviations**

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
EP	Emergency Programme
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HQ	Headquarters
IOM	International Organization Migration
IR	Immediate Response
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
SCF	Save the Children
UN	United Nations
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
WFP	World Food Programme