



# Building Peace Together

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2020 2021

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# Foreword



The Libyan people have come a long way, through a journey of conflict and political crisis, a pandemic and multiple pressures on the economy. Together with the broader UN family in Libya, UNDP has stood by them in facing these challenges. We remain fully committed to continuing to do so. From our experience in Libya and around the world, we know that peace can be built. It is possible to recover and return to a path of development, where all people can thrive and the tensions of the past subside.

**Marc-André Franche**  
Resident Representative

This report chronicles some of the recent ways in which UNDP, in close partnership with government authorities, civil society organizations, the international community and other UN organizations in Libya, to stake a claim on a better future.

Fair, free and inclusive polls are essential for Libya's transition and key for peace and inclusive development in Libya, and UNDP will continue to offer assistance, together with the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the High National Elections Commission. By realizing citizens' right to determine their own leadership and who governs the country, elections are vital in restoring a functioning social contract through legitimate executive and legislative branches. But they are not enough by themselves. People at large need to trust that they can access essential public services, find justice and gain a foothold in the economy. That is why other core components of UNDP's assistance are to improve basic services, economic opportunities, and governance for local communities.

Our work at the local level supports 65 or half the municipalities in the country, home to 75 percent of the population. These efforts are helping to ensure that municipalities can provide water and electricity and other basic services. They are improving schools and sports fields and repairing facilities damaged by past conflicts. Entrepreneurs are beginning to revitalize local economies, starting small but thinking big. Through accompaniment, they acquire skills to run better businesses and create jobs.

Looking forward, UNDP is launching its strategy through its new Country Programme for 2023- 2025. We will work closely with government partners to continue bolstering its responsiveness and accountability. Would conditions allow it, we will help develop further institutional capacities in key areas such as public administration, the rule of law and electoral management. Partnership with local administrations will assist in cultivating new skills and making continued improvements in essential services. These are all pillars of peaceful coexistence and development as well as resilience to challenges now and in the coming years.

I am grateful to all our partners, helping UNDP support possible, including in advancing resilience and recovery as a bridge between humanitarian assistance and longer- term development. Together we will continue generating peace dividends and driving recovery efforts that lead to a more peaceful, united and democratic country.



# PEACEBUILDING AND RESILIENCE



While the country grappled with instability, UNDP helped restore hope and confidence through substantial improvements in infrastructure, services and livelihoods, and a fast and innovative response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Across all of its programmes, UNDP supported systematic shifts in norms and practices so that women gain opportunities and empowerment, and Libya makes strides towards gender equality.



**65**  
Municipalities



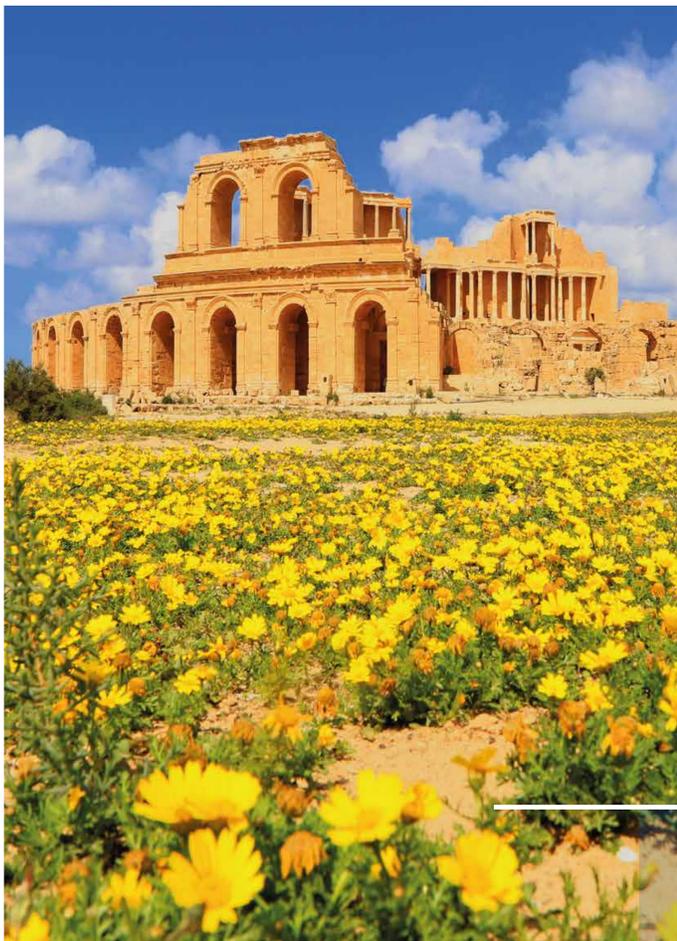
**400**  
Municipal officials  
developed managerial, technical  
and conflict sensitivity skills



**2 million**  
People with improved  
access to essential services



Grants for **11**  
Municipalities strengthened  
capacities to provide services



UNDP led the Stabilization Facility for Libya, where the Government of Libya alongside national and local institutions, and **14** international partners, worked together to restore essential services and infrastructure shattered by conflict, across different regions of the country. By the end of **2021**, a total of **339** projects had been completed in **12** municipalities, resulting in improved power grids; rehabilitated water and sewage networks; expanded educational, cultural and health-care facilities; and streets finally cleared of debris.

©UNDP Libya/Abdullah Hussein.

UNDP uses of conflict sensitivity approaches with development partners and communities to ensure interventions mitigate existing tensions. Applying conflict sensitivity principles and conducting regular community consultations helped address concerns over the fair and equal distribution of water system equipment and infrastructure, particularly since the equipment had to be shipped and installed in phases.



Access to health care for  
**3.5 million people**



Rehabilitated  
**32 Health facilities**



Delivered  
**84 sets of health equipment**  
(sterilizers, defibrillators, blankets, surgical masks, etc.)



Delivered  
**42 Ambulances**



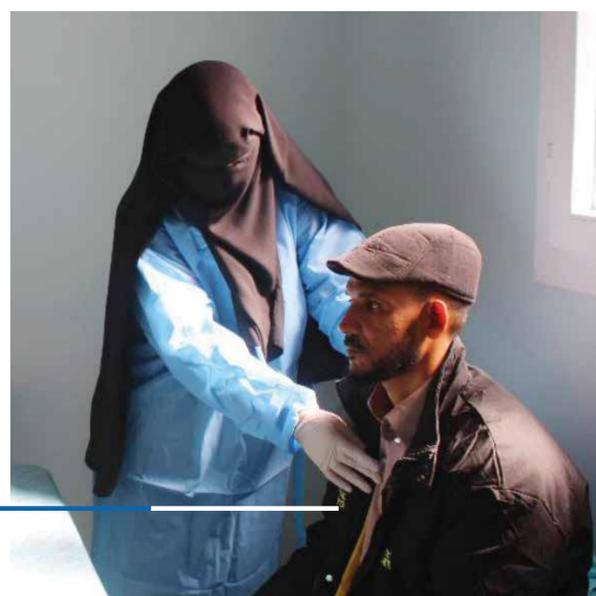
©UNDP Libya/ Abdeladeem Ajaj

In Benghazi, the rubble from the destruction of the city caused high levels of respiratory and skin-care diseases among residents. UNDP helped rehabilitate key facilities such as the Baghdadi Clinic and resume services for over 60,000 people, thereby contributing to the return of thousands of people. The Benghazi Children's Hospital is again fully operational, serving as the main medical facility for young patients aged 0 to 14. With 300 beds, an intensive care unit and an upgraded newborn ward, it can serve 400 children a day from both Benghazi and nearby municipalities.

**February, 2021 Benghazi.** Newborn ward at Benghazi Children Hospital rehabilitated by the Stabilization Facility for Libya project funded by 14 international partners

In Sebha, the rehabilitation of the Krama Health Centre, located in one of the most marginalized parts of the city allowed increased access to around 75,000 people a year. It also supported the development of the Mahdeiya Clinic to provide primary health care to more than 10,000 people, including those who are internally displaced and migrants, and come from impoverished neighbouring villages.

**December 2020, Sebha.** Dr. Sakina Khalid checking a patient at Alkarama Clinic renovated through UNDP with support from 14 international partners.



©UNDP Libya/ Ali Alsharif



Access to quality education for **750,000** students



Renovation of **118** educational facilities and procurement of equipment and supplies

Efforts to restore education for all children in Libya have included the rehabilitation of two schools serving over 1,000 boys and girls in Sirte, and four schools serving 2,300 students in the conflict-afflicted southern part of Tripoli. The latter include Al Ribat School, where a new music classroom provides an opportunity for Zahra Al Tabal to pass her love for music on to her students. "I cannot describe how happy I am to finally have this space," she said. "Everything changed for good."

In Tawergha, creating conditions that will encourage the return of displaced families included restoring two schools and a public computer lab. In Ubari, a new Legal Training Centre will extend the capacity of the Faculty of Law, accommodating more than 400 students.

The construction of Libya's first rugby field in Benghazi reached out to women from local universities to participate in the sport. The field has quickly become a safe and popular space for young people to play sports together.



©UNDP Libya/ Ali Alshareef

**June 2021, Ubari.** Group photo for students and their coach before the match at the ground of Gurdabia school on the day of the handover after rehabilitation works by UNDP as a part of Repsol project.



**“It is very important for me because I can learn practical subjects,”** said Reem Faiez Eiad, a young woman studying sports at Benghazi University. She added, **“It is important for the city of Benghazi and young people to release negative energy.”**

In the city of Sabratha, the Roman Theatre has a long and valued history. Designated a World Heritage site in 1982 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the site was badly damaged by conflict in 2016. Restoring it became a priority as a symbol of hope for the nation and a return to normalcy for the surrounding community. It also can boost the local economy by drawing up to 500,000 tourists a year.

Together with UNESCO, UNDP repaired non-historical such as the Libya Department of Antiquities and theater offices. By early 2021, the site was ready to resume operations, allowing visitors once again to marvel at a unique piece of Libyan heritage and also helped the engagement with the municipality.

Sabratha Roman theatre is expected to attract around 500,000 visitors every year, generating critical economic activity and thousands of jobs.



***“Libya’s shared cultural heritage has all the potential to become an important driver for sustainable development. Extraordinary archeological sites like the Roman Theatre in Sabratha offer immense opportunities for the communities to create jobs and boost the local economy. The EU is glad to be able to contribute to the work of Libyan authorities and our partners in preserving Libya’s the rich cultural heritage.”***

**Mr. José Antonio Sabadell,**  
Ambassador of the European  
Union to Libya

## Sabratha

February 2022



© UNDP Libya/ Aml Barghuti

A view of the Roman theatre on the handover ceremony after renovation.



Improved access to water and sanitation for over **2 million people** countrywide

©UNDP Libya/ Malek Al Moghrabi

In the municipality of Al-Maya, flooding had become a chronic problem. People could not go to work or school, and stagnant water mixed with wastewater put 80,000 people at risk of disease. With the supply of suction trucks and pumps, pools of water that once stood for days quickly disappeared.

The city of Zintan also faced a water problem—in this case, not enough of it. “We were on the verge of thirst,” says Mayor Mustafa Maohemd Al-Barouni. A partnership with UNDP and REMSA, the national oil company, installed 15 pumps. Clean water now flows to homes and businesses across the city. By benefiting all segments of the city’s growing population, water supplies help ease tensions that once simmered between those with access and those without it.



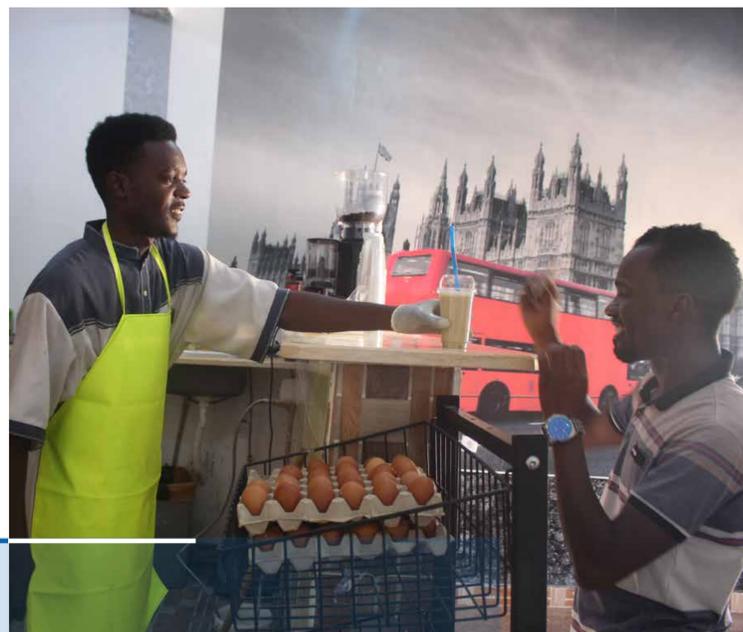
**September 2021, Tripoli. Salem Milad,** A farmer benefited from the water pump stations installed at Garabulli, Tripoli that improved the livelihood for him and his 7-members family

©UNDP Libya/ Malek Al Moghrabi

**EASING DISRUPTIONS TO POWER SUPPLIES**

To even out disruptive power cuts across 80 municipal facilities for electricity, UNDP, UNSMIL, the United Nations Environment Programme and the General Electric Company of Libya (GECOL) developed a transparent and fair load shedding schedule. This led to a significant reduction in cuts, giving hope to citizens that chronic power problems will eventually be resolved. Other support has assisted GECOL in improving its public outreach, including to communicate the value of energy conservation and give advance warning of load shedding. New consumer practices are emerging, such as turning off electric water heaters in the summer.

Increased stability in the electrical grid has been evident in fewer blackouts, from 16 in the summer of 2020, which provoked protests and several violent outbreaks, to only 1 in 2021, which passed without incident. Power plant peak availability has risen from 47 percent to 74 percent, putting GECOL in a much better position to manage periods of higher demand



Mr Abdo Mohammed Ahmad is serving a customer in his coffee shop in Ubari at night after installing solar panel street lights.

© UNDP Libya/Ali Alshaarif



**"Today, we can notice an increase of the traffic on the Jamal Abdel Nasser Street that leads to the airport until late hours at night.. It is a great evidence of the successful partnership between UNDP and Sebha Municipal Council."**

**Mr. Abdallah Lamine Saleh,**  
Member of Municipal Council of Sebha



Libya’s economy, battered by political strife and conflict, also struggles with multiple obstacles to starting a business, an outdated banking system and the pandemic-imposed downturn. Economic recovery is an imperative to reduce poverty and rally people to invest in themselves, their businesses and social stability.

**ASSESSING THE FUTURE FOR WORKERS**

To generate evidence for plans and investments to stimulate Libya’s private sector, UNDP collaborated with the International Organization for Migration to assess the labour market in the country’s most important economic regions. The exercise affirmed the private sector as the main driver of economic development and outlined ways to close skill gaps, particularly in technology, communications and vocational jobs. The assessment defined agriculture, construction, automobile and care services as among the most likely sectors to generate decent employment and underlined how COVID-19 has pushed the boundaries of digitalization.



**"We are very happy with the support received from UNDP during the last three years in terms of infrastructure renovation and delivery of equipment."**

**Mr. Sanoussi Chadko,**  
Deputy Mayor of Ubari



**"UNDP is one of the main partners of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa as we work together providing equal access to quality services, in particular for the most vulnerable people of the country."**

**Mr. José Antonio Sabadell,**  
Ambassador of the European Union to Libya



© UNDP Libya/Abdullah Hussein

**July, 2021 Tripoli.** Students attend Science and examine with the microscope on the school laboratory in Sbeaa municipality, after renovation works carried out to more than three schools in the area, as apart of Strengthening Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery project funded by the EU.

The assessment will help shape labour market policies and programmes that can accelerate economic and social development that is inclusive and aligned with the rights of workers, including those who are migrants. Minister of Labour Ali Al-Abed Al Reda Abu Azoum describes how the study brought to light stereotypes about vocational jobs that had led to unemployment, with many graduates working hard to gain skills that in the end are not needed by the labour market. He underscores that this will help the ministry seek "alternative solutions such as supporting the private sector, entrepreneurship and development.

**RESTARTING BUSINESSES**

Bushra Abdullah Al Tajouri resumed a home-nursing business in Benghazi that had been stopped by the conflict. She is recruiting unemployed nurses, including those who have been displaced by conflict, to assist elderly people and people with disabilities. In Tawergha, Amal Muftah Salah Agila plans to use the training to build a vocational centre providing carpentry, metal work and sewing training for men and women, particularly youth. Her hope is that students will take what they learn to rebuild Libya’s damaged cities.

Through an innovation challenge, 35 of the most promising entrepreneurs in Benghazi have gained grants to get their businesses off the ground. Further training and mentoring will incubate start-ups designed to close market gaps in food processing, agriculture, delivery services and e-commerce, among others. These fledgling firms are slated to create about 250 new jobs.



November 2020, Tawergha. One of the entrepreneurs from Tawergha presents her business ideas during the Re-Start-Up Marathon.

© UNDP Libya/ Malek Elmaghrebi



***“This step comes to help the municipality identifying future needs and priorities in the context of reconstruction and achieving spatial and sustainable development.”***

**Mr. Essam Garba,**  
former Director of International Cooperation at the Ministry of Planning

**INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS**

Beyond supporting individual entrepreneurs, UNDP seeks to build the entrepreneurial “ecosystem”—or the various forms of support that encourage people to create new ventures. In 2021, new insights came from mapping different supports for entrepreneurs, such as existing business incubators and co-working spaces for start-ups and social enterprises.

**Tatweer Research**, created the Tatweer Entrepreneurship Development Campus. Among 3,500 campus graduates were Aziza Al-Hassi, Tufaha Suhaim and Amine Kachroud, who had created “Panda” to link teachers and parents to follow children’s behavioral and academic performance. During the pandemic, the three entrepreneurs quickly retooled the app to host electronic academic content so that students could learn online. “Our company hopes, in the long run, to become a standard for educational technology in the country and the region,” said Tufaha.

**EMPOWERING WOMEN AND YOUTH TO SHAPE THE FUTURE**

The **“We Shape Our Future”** initiative, a collaboration between UNDP and UN Women, empowers grassroots organizations working with displaced women and youth, including migrants, in each region of Libya. Training builds organizational skills and understanding of gender analysis, or how to assess issues for different impacts on women and men.

Grants of \$15,000 have gone to 12 groups to work on economic empowerment and peacebuilding, among other issues. The Hera Organization’s Sisterhood Sport Camp, for instance, encourages girls to be proactive in conflict resolution. Through sports, it educates them on teamwork and gender equality. Another group, Almontahaa for Education Innovation, works with women and youth to hone skills as community activists and leaders. Among other aspects, they learn to assimilate different views and avoid conflict triggers.

The Athar Organization is working with young people and women to express their perspectives on social issues through short films and works of art, some of which have appeared around the city of Sebha. “I am very thrilled that we have contributed new seeds of art and beauty in our city,” says project manager Aisha Rajab.



July 2021, Sabratha. Batul, Mais and Miral Young tennis players posing for a group photo after a tennis training session at the Tennis Academy in Sabratha.

. © UNDP Libya / Abdullah Hussin



## COVID - 19 RESPONSE

A partnership with the Ministry of Health assisted it in developing a COVID-19 National Response Plan. UNDP subsequently aided in procuring essential supplies such as ventilators, solar-powered COVID-19 isolation rooms, testing machines and kits, and protective equipment, facilitating the transformation of three medical centres into COVID-19 isolation facilities. The considerable investment in developing municipality and civil society capacities paid dividends through quick and effective coordination of the response in communities, including public sensitization on hygiene and social distancing, and guidance on how to access medical advice.



**\$7.4 million**

in programme funds redirected to the health-care system



Accurate facts and health messages reached over

**100,000 people**



**35,000 patients** accessed more than

**1,500 physicians** through a telemedicine app

To combat misinformation about COVID-19, a social media campaign, #stigmaaway, provided accurate facts and health messages to over 100,000 people. Training for journalists and social media influencers built skills to counter incorrect statements related to COVID-19 as well as hate speech that could stir conflict and social stigma.

In Sebha, a website developed through a UNDP partnership with the Fezzan Libya Organization and the National Centre for Disease Control hosts a symptom assessment tool and tracks cases by location. Through a local Facebook page, 29,000 people have accessed reliable information about prevention, treatment and safety protocols. A community helpline was also established to identify people who might have the virus and connect them to doctors; thousands of families use it every day.

Quality services and well-functioning infrastructure underpin human well-being and resilience. They also serve as the glue holding cohesive societies together. Yet protracted conflict and instability and now the COVID-19 pandemic have put continued pressure on services in Libya, especially for education, health, energy, water and sanitation. Shortfalls fray the lifelines that many people depend on in a time of higher prices due to cuts in food subsidies, the loss of homes and livelihoods through conflict, and widespread insecurity.



*“Japanese people have a special feeling for Libya, as Japanese society and economy were also heavily damaged by WWII about 76 years ago. However, Japan was able to recover being one of the largest economies in the world because of the people's will and international assistance. Therefore, Japan is always ready to contribute to Libya's reconstruction and development, together with Libyan friends and UN agencies.”*

**Mr. Masaki Amadera,**

Chargé d'Affaires of Japan and Special Coordinator for Libya



**UNDP stood with the Libyan people in establishing institutions and processes that are equipped with capacities to make and sustain progress. UNDP brought different constituencies together forming consensus on the road to peace and development, and firming up the foundations of democratic governance, including across the electoral cycle. With UNSMIL, UNDP contributed plays central in talks setting the terms of governance and justice.**

UNSMIL and UNDP supported the intra-Libyan process of political, military and economic dialogue established by the 2020 Berlin Conference. It laid the ground for overcoming years of division and bifurcated governance, through a call for free, transparent and credible presidential and parliamentary elections. A major turning point came in late 2020, when the UN-convened Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, a platform for building consensus around a unified framework for governance, agreed on a roadmap for elections.

Despite continued political uncertainty compounded by conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 saw some gains in reconciliation. UNSMIL and UNDP worked closely with the African Union to support the Presidential Council to develop a national reconciliation process, with a significant step being a decree creating a High Commission for National Reconciliation. Stakeholders emphasized meaningfully addressing historical and ongoing injustices and human rights violations, including arbitrary and prolonged detention, missing and displaced persons, and sexual violence, among others. Addressing these will be key to achieving the transitional justice that leads to lasting peace.



**40 municipal elections**

**147,769 men and 55,881 women voted**

**44%**  **of whom are female**



Registered nearly **515,000 new voters, including over 25,000 internally displaced people**



Out-of-country **voter registration enfranchised** more than **10,700 Libyans abroad**



Secured ballots and other essential supplies sent to **over 8,000 polling centres**



Provided over **600** polling stations and **enhanced the security voter registration system**



**“Germany is committed in its support to the Libyan political and peace process. For us, UNDP is a key partner to implement the outcomes of the Berlin Conferences on Libya, especially with a view to preparing national and local elections.”**

**Mr. Michael Ohnmacht,**  
Ambassador of Germany to Libya

## IMPROVED ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT

Together with UNSMIL, UNDP supported the High National Elections Commission to improve its capacities to manage elections. They developed operational plans, policies and procedures for conducting elections transparently and in line with the legislative framework. UNDP aided in procuring essential polling materials, such as ballots and ballot boxes with multiple security features. A process was devised for disseminating these to over 8,000 polling centres across the country. Systems to tabulate results were put in place along with a mechanism to accredit national and international media and election observers.

The Commission also reviewed regulations and procedures, developed software and trained staff to facilitate the registration and nomination of candidates. It began hosting regular webinars for women leaders to talk about the challenges they face and work together on addressing them.

As members of the newly elected local councils office took office, UNDP helped them build capacities to serve their constituents effectively. Online training modules covered issues such as inclusive representation, communications and the importance of women’s participation. Training for communication officers from 27 Libyan municipalities stressed techniques to improve the information flow between local authorities and communities on key public services.



***“Communications and media play an important role in municipalities’ work as they serve as a bridge between local communities and municipal councils and decision-makers.”***

**Ms. Maysa Rejeibi,**  
Director of  
International  
Cooperation to the  
Ministry of Local  
Government

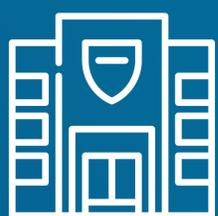


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**January 2021, Tripoli.** Woman at the Libya Alghad polling center participates and practice her right to elect the municipal council of Garahbulli municipality.

## STRENGTHENING JUSTICE AND THE RULE OF LAW

Libya's successful democratic transition depends on a State founded on the rule of law, where justice is fair, accessible and inclusive. As part of overcoming weak and fragmented security and judicial services, UNDP supported institutions across the judicial sector—including the police, judicial police, prosecution offices and courts—in strengthening capacities to deliver accountable, responsive services. It helps initiate reforms making institutions more responsive to gaps in equity and women's rights. Targeted capacity building for police and corrections officials yielded immediate and tangible improvements through empowering officials to provide services to vulnerable groups. UNDP also assisted civil society and community advocates in claiming human rights and justice.



Renovation of  
**15**  
**police stations**  
in Tripoli  
and a police technical  
training institute



Training on police  
patrolling for over  
**400** officers



Training on prison  
security and  
improved skills to  
**350**  
**judicial police**



**February 2021, Tripoli.** General Fawzia Omer participating in Gender-Based Violence workshop.

© UNDP Libya/Malek Almoghrabi

## Modeling People-Oriented Policing

In Hai al-Andalus, Tripoli, the first model police station began operating in 2021 through a UNDP collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, UNSMIL and the European Union Border Assistance Mission in Libya. UNDP rehabilitated and furnished the station, meant to showcase a new approach to policing that is oriented towards communities and people. Serving over 300,000 people, it provides all mandatory policing functions. Job descriptions for staff now emphasize people-centred services.

Nationally, UNDP helped develop training on community policing that emphasizes how law enforcement and communities can work together to improve security. Training for police on patrolling, or community policing stresses protecting civilians and outlines steps to enhance their security.



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**December 2021, Tripoli (Libya).** Lt. Colonel Somaya Jibril, Head of the Child and Family Protection Department, running daily routine at Hai Al-Andalus Model Police Station, recently rehabilitated with support from EU, to advance community security.

©UNDP Libya

## NEW VOCATIONS FOR PRISON INMATES

UNDP helped improve the management of prisons in line with human rights norms, through a new focus on rehabilitating prisoners. Inmates who gain vocational skills, for instance, have a better chance of transitioning back into society, establishing new livelihoods and avoiding a relapse into crime. In 2021, a pilot vocational training centre at Al Jadeida prison is teaching prisoners welding, tailoring, computer and cooking skills. In tandem, a training curriculum for judicial police was developed in line with national laws and the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. UNDP also assisted in devising standard operating procedures so that judicial police clearly understand, accept and implement humane treatment of prisoners in line with their rights.

# GRATEFUL TO ALL PARTNERS



European Commission  
\$49,541,336



Germany  
\$28,408,628



Japan  
\$10,779,901



Libya  
\$9,866,851



Italy  
\$5,438,013



Norway  
\$4,239,058



France  
\$4,152,127



Netherlands  
\$3,737,979



United Kingdom  
\$3,525,240



United States of America  
\$3,412,437



Republic of Korea  
\$2,863,171



UN Women and Peacebuilding Fund  
\$682,226



National Oil Company and REPSOL  
\$601,729



Switzerland  
\$302,498



Qatar  
\$294,641



Canada  
\$281,827



Denmark  
\$144,998

**2020** \$64,199,408

**2021** \$64,392,046

**\$128,591,454**



**UNDP** in Libya

2020 2021