



UN  
DP

# THE FUTURE IS FEMALE IN LIBYA





# PREFACE

The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires transformative shifts, integrated approaches, and new solutions, particularly when it comes to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Efforts to address inequalities and their impact in different groups are key to accomplish the Agenda 2030, and all of them have very important gender implications.

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Libya. Gender inequalities can impede progress towards achieving sustainable development. Hence, the response that we provide to help Libya achieve peace and stability must include women empowerment and gender equality at the center.

The United Nations Development Programme in Libya is committed to providing the necessary tools to the national and local stakeholders in the country to ensure that legal, social, and economic barriers to women and girls empowerment are removed to pave the way for inclusive development, reduce poverty, build resilience, and achieve peace.

## **GERARDO NOTO**

*United Nations Development Programme  
Resident Representative for Libya*



# Women in Libya



**1954**

the first women's association was established.

**1963**

women gained the right to vote.



**2012**

**33** women won a seat in the election, representing 17% in the General National Congress (GNC).

**2014**

**16%** of people elected to the Libyan parliament were women. Even with this promising percentage, woman representation in successive governments remained low, and no women were appointed to decision-making ministerial roles.



**2015**

the Women's Empowerment Unit (WEU) was created as a major element of the Libyan Political Agreement (LPA) signed in Skhirat, Morocco.



# 2020

**6%** women in the Government of National Accord (GNA).

Each city council has one woman representative out of its six members with few exceptions.



Currently

# 51%

of Libyan internally displaced persons (IDPs) are women.



# 2021

the Government of National Unity (GNU) elected by the 75 members of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) and approved by the House of Representatives appointed five women to head the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Culture, and Ministry of Women's Affairs. Although the GNU committed to a 30% quota for women in the government, they represent 15% of the ministers.

The Libyan Women Business Leaders 2020 Index Score is

**50** out of **100**



# We Shape Our Future

All activities focused on:



1. Women's Empowerment



2. Economic Recovery



3. Gender Based Violence



**19,000+**  
people reached  
online



**70**  
proposals



12 organizations received  
a grant of up to  
**\$US15,000**

**20**  
organisations  
trained



*"I am very thrilled that we have contributed new seeds of art and beauty in our city Sebha."*

Photo: © Athar Org

**425**  
people's lives  
changed, including  
332 women and  
93 men.



# #WeShapeOurFuture



**“We shape our Future”** is an initiative launched by UNDP and UNWomen which aim is to empower grassroots organizations working to support women internal displaced persons (IDPs) and youth including migrants all around Libya. The selected initiatives came from Greater Tripoli, Wadi Alrabiea, Alzawiah, Zintan, Sabratha, Aljumail and Zoltin in the West Region; Sebha, Traghen in the South and Derna and Ajdabiya in the East. For two weeks, the 20 organizations selected participated in an online Master Class to strengthen their institutional and organizational skills toward running successful activities to reduce inequalities across Libya. The training covered COVID-19 response management, gender mainstreaming, communication

and advocacy, project proposal writing and management. After the training, 12 organizations received a grant of up to \$US15,000 to implement their activities.

In the long term, the project is looking forward to building new partnerships to continue supporting women and youth civil society organizations working for women and youth, including IDPs and migrants.



# Women and Rule of Law



9 March 2020, Tripoli (Libya). UNDP representatives with their counterparts from the High Judicial Council, Ministry of Justice and Civil Society organizations in a Panel Discussion organized by UNDP's Policing and Security Joint Project on "Women's access to justice in Libya".  
Photo: ©UNDP Libya/ Malek Elmaghrebi

*"Domestic violence has many forms. Strict laws that put an end to impunity for all perpetrators of violence will speed up response to such cases. Training sessions like this one will contribute to creating a legal environment that protects members of the society, including women."*

General Fawzia Omer Ramdan.



1 February 2021, Tripoli (Libya). General Fawzia Omer Ramdan at a workshop for law enforcement officers on investigation of GBV cases.

Photo: ©UNDP Libya/ Malek Elmaghrebi



## Enhancing the role of women in Libyan law enforcement institutions

For three days, 80 Ministry of Interior staff, including 60 women, evaluated the role of women in law enforcement institutions. At the end of the workshop, they recommended actions that the Libyan Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice took on board to implement with support from UNDP.

## Enhancing the institutional responsiveness to the gender-based violence (GBV)

With the aim of assessing the response of the rule of law institutions to violence against women cases, 80 Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice and Supreme Judicial Council staff, including 50 women, participated in a workshop organized by UNDP. The participants came out with a series of recommended actions for the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, public prosecutors and judges to implement.

## Media campaign to combat GBV

Together with Libyan Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice, UNDP lead a campaign with posters published on the official webpage of the Ministry of Justice, social media, and in the official newspaper of the Ministry of Justice to combat violence against women in accordance with Libyan laws and international standards.

## Women's access to justice in Libya

UNDP organized panel discussions with the Ministry of Justice, the High Judiciary Court and several civil society organizations for judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and Woman police officers from Judicial police to work on recommendation to overcome the challenges that women face to access justice in the country.

## Rehabilitate women Inmates in El Jadida prison

Endorsed by the Technical Committee of the Ministry of Justice and by the Head of the Judicial Police Authority, UNDP developed a programme by which 70 women inmates received vocational training to prevent them from committing crime again and guarantee their ability to support themselves and their families economically outside the prison walls.

UNDP reformed and equipped El Jadida prison where this programme is taking place.



Partners



# Towards women employment Re-Start-Up



**25** entrepreneurs, who participated in the Re-Start-Up marathon in Tripoli and Benghazi received grants of up to US\$40,000 from a total of \$656,000 (LYD 852,800) to develop their businesses and on the way, they will create about 200 jobs in Benghazi and Southern Tripoli.



**6** entrepreneurs from Sebha received grants to develop their businesses and create 45 jobs.



**10** entrepreneurs are working with support from UNDP to restart their businesses, creating 69 jobs in Tawergha.



*"I was very happy when I got accepted in the Re-Start-Up marathon. I felt that, finally, someone understood and considered my business idea, as it will contribute to the stabilization of Tawergha and support others as well as secure a better future for me and my children."*

1 December 2020, Tawergha (Libya). Ms. Khadija Abu Araba - participated in the Re-Start-Up Marathon and won a grant to develop her business.

Photo: ©UNDP Libya/ Malek Almoghrabi

UNDP launched Re-Start-Up Marathon to support entrepreneurs to re-establish businesses, increase employment, and promote peace, stability and sustainable economic recovery in Libya. As a result of the competition, many women were selected as entrepreneurs, such as:

➤ A woman in Tripoli, who became an IDP during the conflict and lost her construction company. She is now providing services and positively impacting the community through creating at least 10 new job opportunities.

➤ A woman in Benghazi, whose home-nursing project was stopped due to the war and recently restarted. She is now recruiting 12 nurses (6 women and 6 men), including IDPs, to visit the elders, people with disabilities, and pregnant women, who are unable to go to the hospitals.

➤ A woman in Tawergha, who plans to build a vocational training center to provide carpentry, metal work and sewing skills for men and women, particularly youth. The people trained will contribute to rebuild the war-torn city of Tawergha.

2 November 2020, Benghazi (Libya). Young entrepreneur, Ms. Ghofran Almoadab, won a grant in the Re-Start-Up marathon to rebuild her business idea, which is an Archiving System for governmental and private sectors

Photo: ©UNDP Libya/ Abduladhim Ajaj



Partners



# Entrepreneurial ecosystem

## TEC Incubator

**85** 

start-ups from Benghazi, Tripoli and Sebha have a place to work, and access to business and technical training programmes and to tailor-made business coaching and mentoring.

## TEC Business Crash

  
**388**


A two-week intensive business course for entrepreneurs organized in Benghazi, Sabha and Tripoli for 388 youth (men and women).

## Impact Fund

**12** 

start-ups from across the country received grants to develop their innovative business ideas.

## TEC Camps

  
**234**

An 8-week programming boot-camp for young university students and recent graduates in apps and website development – took place in Tripoli, Sebha and Benghazi for 234 young developers.

## TEC Talks

**2,104**



people (men and women), participated in this community event designed to engage the entrepreneurs, tech-savvy Libyans and technology enthusiasts in an informative and interactive way took place in Benghazi, Tripoli, Sebha, and Derna - on a variety of innovative topics such as Artificial Intelligence, Urban Computing, Machine Learning, Cloud Computing etc.



March 2019, Benghazi (Libya). Aziza, Tufahah, and Amine brainstorm on online educational solutions at Tatweer Entrepreneurship Campus (TEC) created by UNDP and Tatweer Research with funds from the European Union  
Photo: ©Tatweer Research

### Tatweer Entrepreneurship Campus (TEC)

achieved significant strides towards its overall objective of fostering a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem to encourage sustainable job-creation in the private sector, for both men and women. In 2018, during one of the TEC activities, Aziza, Tufahah and Amine met, shared their ideas and interests in the field of education, and eventually created their startup, “School Connect,” which aimed at connecting teachers and parents to follow up on the children’s education. The App “School Connect” became “Panda” and nowadays counts nearly 10,000 students and parents of 30 schools registered. As the COVID-19 epidemic spread globally, in Libya, several educational institutions resumed teaching their curricula through electronic platforms, websites and social networks, Panda continues working to provide students with a greater number of lessons to avoid the interruption of their learning process. *“Our company hopes, in the long run, to become a standard for educational technology in the country and the region,”* says Tufaha. Since its launch with support from the European Union and UNDP partnership, TEC has inspired many young men and women across the country to establish their own business projects, adopting innovative technologies, and keeping pace with global developments in all sectors, with the overall objective of raising the efficiency and ability of the private sector in Libya.



August 2019, Tripoli (Libya). Woman awarded with a certificate after participating in the TEC Camp programming boot-camp for young university students (men and women).  
Photo: ©Tatweer Research



Partners



# Youth Leadership Programme 6 in Libya



The **YLP#6 Libya** focused on increasing youth awareness and knowledge by conducting a series of webinars on behavioral insights, design thinking and social innovation methods, gender, SDG's 5, 17, 3 and 16. The young Libyan participants discussed their challenges and opportunities on the topics of community resilience, young women and youth political participation, and local economic after COVID-19. In addition, 18 young women participated in a final innovation competition where the best five innovative ideas won a monetary prize to be implemented.

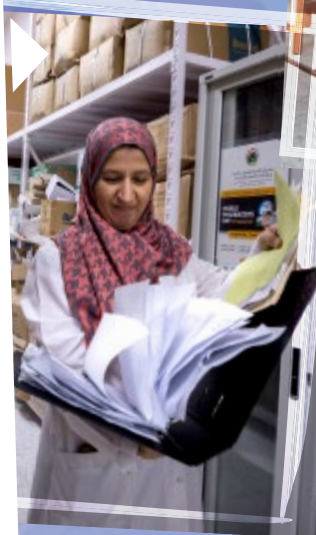
# Women leaders in Libya

In Tripoli's Jalaa Maternity Hospital, Dr. Asma Ali Elghoudi is the Head of the Medical Supplies and Equipment Department.

*"I am part of the team and I lead by example," she says. "I don't see any difference between women and men to do my job. You just need to have the knowledge, the will and the courage to be a role model for the team."*

As the pandemic spread across the globe and reached Tripoli, Jalaa Maternity Hospital which was renovated by UNDP's Stabilization Facility for Libya (SFL), was designated to testing COVID-19 patients and providing them with critical healthcare.

Despite the strains inflicted on the hospital due to a significant demand for healthcare services, Dr. Elghoudi led her team effectively and was able to provide up to standards services.



In Tripoli's Al Ribat School, Ms. Zahra Al Tabal has been teaching music for 34 years.

*"During all those years, my great wish was to train my students in a proper music classroom at the school,"* said the teacher.

UNDP's SFL completed the construction of a space for extra-curricular activities which has provided the space for Ms. Al-Tabal to continue teaching.

*"I cannot describe how happy I am to finally have this space. Everything changed for good."*



*"The games that we provide to children are not only for entertainment, but also to cover other dimensions. For example, we can understand and analyze the personality of a child and act when one is going through psychological disturbance,"* said Ms. Salima Khamis teacher in Tawargha.

*"At the beginning, I used to offer these programs to children in the camp in which we previously resided, and when the schools were renovated, we provided our programs there,"* she explained.

Led by national and local institutions and implemented by UNDP with support from 13 international partners and the Government of Libya through the Ministry of Planning, the Stabilization Facility for Libya (SFL) completed renovation of three educational institutions.

In times of Covid-19 pandemic, schools were closed as a preventive measure, but Salima and her team took advantage of the newly renovated buildings to conduct activities aimed at providing psycho-social support to the returnee's children.



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION





UNDP has been active in private-sector development issues throughout its 50-year history. UNDP's widespread country presence, strong relationships with governments and convening role in the United Nations system make it a strong implementing partner for private sector and foundations initiatives. UNDP has a clear comparative advantage and can be a partner of choice for the private sector and foundations through advocacy, supporting an enabling environment, accelerating results, brokering partnerships, promoting research and new knowledge in areas related to the SDGs and inclusive business, and convening multi-stakeholder partnerships.



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