

UNDP Results

Libya



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Approach

After 42 years of authoritarian rule and the Declaration of Liberation by the new authorities on 23 October 2011, the situation in Libya continues to be dynamic as the country transforms itself into a functioning democracy. The main challenges facing Libya include issues related to security, weapons proliferation and the need to modernize public administration. As a key partner to Libya during its period of transition, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) quickly reopened its office when the civil war ended, and refocused its programming on elections, early recovery, civil society support, rule of law and governance. UNDP is also positioning itself to play a critical role in economic recovery, small arms control and mine action.

R E S U L T S

Support to elections

UNDP — in partnership with the Government, the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and other UN agencies — provided crucial support to Libya's first free, multi-party parliamentary elections in six decades, held on 7 July 2012. On that day, approximately 1.77 million Libyans, 39 percent of them women, cast their vote for the General National Congress, tasked with the preparation of the new Constitution. Going forward, UNDP will continue to work with Libyan authorities to prepare for and conduct well-administered, transparent and credible elections that represent the will of the Libyan people and meet international standards and best practices. Some key results achieved thus far:

- Under an extremely tight deadline, UNDP provided timely delivery of essential election materials including voter registration cards, ballots, ballot boxes, polling kits and indelible ink; it also assisted in designing ballots and establishing a coordinated election security plan.
- UNDP worked with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to administer out-of-country voting, enabling 8,000 Libyans from the diaspora to cast ballots.
- UNDP provided training to members of the judiciary that enabled them to plan for, develop and deliver an effective and transparent mechanism for electoral disputes.
- UNDP provided equipment, salaries and expert support to a media monitoring effort dedicated to identifying campaign violations in the media.
- UNDP and UNSMIL provided electoral expertise to the Elections Commission and ensured on-the-job training for Commission staff, as part of a joint UN elections team.
- More than 21,000 domestic observers and members of the media were registered to help observe polls and guard against irregularities, representing a substantial achievement in a country where civil society and political organizations had, until recently, been suppressed.

UNDP Projects in Libya



UNDP Libya Resources Mobilized: 2011-2012

Theme	Funders	Total Amount (US\$)
Civic Education	Norway, Peace Building Fund, UNDP	\$3,089,500
Elections	Australia, Denmark, Libya, The Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency	\$14,900,000
Justice	Denmark	\$1,700,000
Mine Action	UNDP	\$500,000
Rule of Law	UNDP	\$400,000
Transitional Governance	Japan	\$5,050,000
UNDP's support to UNSMIL	Belgium	\$1,000,000
Total		\$26,639,500

Source: UNDP Libya

Support to women candidates and civic education

With almost no history of organizing and participating in elections and Constitution-drafting, the Libyan public had limited knowledge and understanding of such processes. After the revolution that freed the country from 42 years of oppressive rule, UNDP began a programme of civic education in the lead-up to the July elections and which continues today. UNDP also provided critical support to women candidates. The percentage of women elected to the Assembly — 16 percent — is greater than the average for the Arab region as a whole, at 15 percent. Some key results:

- UNDP hosted intensive workshops on political campaigns and media management for 170 women candidates in Benghazi, Sabha and Tripoli; eight of these women are currently elected members to the National Congress.
- On 25 June 2012, a UNDP-supported campaign called “My Voice for Her” was launched to support women candidates for the July National Congress elections; the launch event hosted around 300 women candidates, top government officials and local and international media outlets.

- UNDP produced voter education material and trained 300 Libyan non-governmental organizations (NGOs) across the country on how to bring about greater voter awareness and civic engagement.
- UNDP initiated a three-month training and international certification course on civic education, with topics including governance, elections and democracy. By April of 2012 the course had produced 23 certified instructors who were immediately employed by the country’s Elections Commission as well as national and international organizations administering civic outreach programmes; an additional 30 trainers are currently completing the course, resulting in Libya’s first cadre of certified civic and electoral educators.

Support to the Parliament

UNDP helped Libya’s transitional government establish and strengthen both the General National Congress and a neutral, permanent and effective Parliamentary Secretariat. Some key results:

- The inaugural session of the General National Congress in August 2012 received draft by-laws created with UNDP’s help; UNDP also provided the Congress tailor-made procedural guides on legislative powers, the Parliament’s structure and the rights and duties of elected members.
- UNDP trained 70 legal staff from the interim Government on how to draft laws, with a special focus on laws that help bring about social and democratic change.
- UNDP provided over 700 books, guides and dictionaries on parliamentary work to help establish a parliamentary library and research centre.
- UNDP provided comparative experience and lessons learned papers as requested by the Congress, including on parliamentary communications and parliamentary remuneration.

For more information:

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