

European Union support
to the Libyan health sector



بعثة الاتحاد الأوروبي لدى ليبيا

DELEGATION OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION TO LIBYA

HEALTH SERVICES THE WELL-BEING OF A NATION



Why does the European Union support the health sector in Libya?




Libya's health care system faces a multitude of challenges. After the Libyan revolution in 2011, access to quality health services deteriorated. In 2014, renewed violence triggered the departure of foreign health workers, who had made up the majority of the country's health staff. At the same time, the conflict increased demand for health services, which further exacerbated the challenges for an already overstretched health sector. Today, the Libyan health care system continues to struggle with limited capacities, lack of investment, and shortages of staff, medicine, supplies and equipment. In addition, the health sector is paying a high price as a result of the conflict, with health facilities, equipment and personnel having repeatedly been targets of attacks.

To move towards universal health coverage with quality health services accessible and affordable for all, strengthening of all areas of the health system is of key concern, including the availability of qualified health workers, the provision of affordable medicine and the adequate financing of the sector. The European Union is committed to the right of all people to access better healthcare. In addition to being a basic universal right, we view the availability of quality health services in Libya as a major contributor to peace and stability and in the longer term, as a central element of building the Libyan state.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- Goal 3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations – “ensuring healthy lives and wellbeing at all ages” – highlights the importance of health for sustainable development.
- As a result of changing lifestyles and since the 2014 conflict, the prevalence and incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Libya have increased dramatically.
- In the first ten months of 2019 alone, there were 58 attacks on health care facilities, including shelling, looting of medical equipment, assaults on medical professionals and interference in medical work.

- In Libya, health is the sector receiving the most EU funding. The European Union is contributing to the rehabilitation of essential healthcare facilities and is supporting access to life-saving healthcare services, psychosocial support, provision of essential medicine, and care for survivors of gender-based violence. The services are provided indiscriminately to Libyans as well as migrants and asylum seekers.
- Under its current financial framework (2014-2020), the EU spends €2.6 billion on health programmes worldwide. Through EU funds, more than 13 million children have been fully immunised, more than 57 million women have been able to access contraception, 11 million people have gotten access to life-saving treatment for HIV, and 600 million insecticide-treated bed nets have been distributed.



What are the axes of EU support to the health sector in Libya?

In order to translate its principals and objectives into reality on the ground, the European Union's support to the Libyan health sector focuses on three key areas:



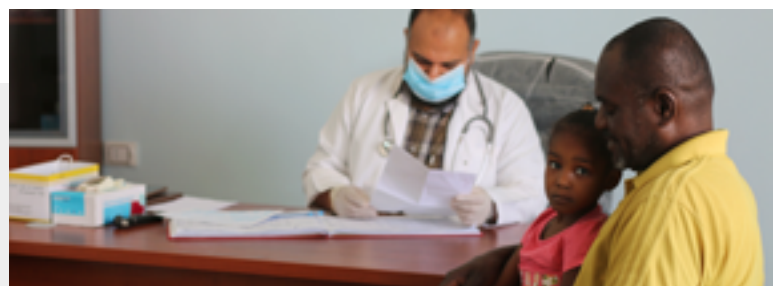
1. PROVIDING DIRECT HEALTH ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE IN NEED

While conflict and protracted instability have significantly limited the access of Libyans to quality health care, the need for such services has been amplified. The European Union supports delivery of direct health assistance to people in need, such as IDPs, migrants, refugees and host communities in more than 30 municipalities throughout Libya. The assistance includes basic services such as health check-ups, psycho-social support, as well as specialized protection services such as integrated sexual and reproductive health (SRH), treatment for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), and prevention and response services for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). The EU also supports the 'Rapid Response Mechanism' set up by humanitarian organizations to facilitate quick provision of basic humanitarian assistance in case of new forced displacement or another shock.



2. REHABILITATING AND EQUIPPING LIBYAN HEALTH FACILITIES

Health facilities in Libya have been severely affected by past and ongoing conflict. Attacks and collateral damage from fighting have had a direct impact on the quality and safety of medical infrastructure, and instability has prevented badly needed investment and maintenance. To enable medical professionals to provide quality health services to all Libyans, the European Union funds rehabilitation, maintenance and upgrading of health care facilities throughout the country. In this area, the EU has already done a lot, including through support to rehabilitation and maintenance work in Al-Shweref, Benghazi, Brack Chatti, Ghat, Murzuq, Sebha, Sirte, Tripoli, Zintan, and Zouara. In addition to support for rehabilitation, the EU is also providing a wide range of equipment such as ambulances, medicine, and generators.



3. BUILDING CAPACITY TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE PROVISION OF QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES

Libya needs a health care system capable of sustainably providing quality health services to all Libyans. To contribute to the long-term strengthening of the health sector in Libya, the European Union is enhancing the technical competence of medical personnel and quality of services through training, new curricula, guidelines and policy advice. In the area of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), which represents one of the key causes of mortality and morbidity in Libya, the EU aims to improve access, availability and quality of primary health care. Activities supported by the EU also

put emphasis on awareness-raising to promote changes in health-seeking behaviour by improving knowledge of risk factors. In addition, current support focuses on strengthening the blood transfusion system in Libya. The EU also supports improvement of mental health care services including treatment of substance abuse, particularly through the provision of pre-service training of selected staff. Finally, by supporting the development of a national strategy, the EU prioritises improving access to quality midwifery and nursing care services.



Rehabilitation of the Golden Clinic improves medical services

SEBHA



In October 2018, the Golden Clinic in Sebha was handed over to the Municipal Council following rehabilitation work carried out by the UNDP with funding from the European Union. The clinic is the sec-

ond biggest health facility in the city, but was severely damaged by heavy artillery during the 2014 conflict. For several years, the clinic could not operate on a regular basis and had limited capacity to admit patients. Many people in need of medical services had to go to expensive private clinics or travel to unsafe areas to receive assistance. Thanks to the renovation carried out within the EU-funded project “Strengthening Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery”, working conditions in the facility have been improved, enabling the medical staff to receive and attend to more patients. After its rehabilitation, the clinic is the only public health facility delivering vaccination services in Sebha.

Atia Kaseh General Hospital in alKufra resumes operations after full renovation

AL KUFRA



At a ceremony in January 2019, the fully renovated Atia Kaseh general hospital in alKufra was handed over to the municipality after five months of rehabilitation work. The hospital is considered the largest and oldest medical center in the southeast region and serves more than 80,000 people in alKufra and its surroundings, but was damaged during the various conflicts that the city has witnessed in recent years. The renovation was carried out by the UNDP with funding from the European Union. This effort represented the first maintenance of the facility since 2005 and allows the center to operate 24 hours per day. Through the same project, the European Union also funded the provision of two intensive care unit ambulances in December 2018, which are already transporting 20 patients per month.





Delivery of ambulance enables life-saving assistance in Tawergha



During an event in Tripoli in August 2019, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Libya, Mr. Gerardo Noto, handed over an ambulance to the Chairman of the Local Council of Tawergha, Mr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Shakshak. The provision of such essential medical equipment forms part of the efforts of the Stabilization Facility for Libya (SFL), partially funded by the European Union and other donors, to support rehabilitation of critical infrastructure and to encourage and facilitate local authorities in taking a more active role in peacebuilding. The Facility has committed \$3 million to support the city of Tawergha, which has been severely affected by conflict. In expressing his gratitude, Mr. Al-Shakshak underlined that “with this ambulance we will be able to save lives”.

Supply of medical items and emergency teams addresses urgent needs in southern Libya

Conflict as well as lack of financing, maintenance and reform of the health sector has weakened the health infrastructure in southern Libya. At the same time, there is pressing need for medical services in this area of the country. In response to violence and displacement in the city of Murzuq in August 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) immediately assessed the needs of hospitals and clinics in the area and dispatched emergency medical supplies to fill depleted hospital stocks. WHO's contingency stocks are available to respond to urgent needs in emergencies and are funded by several donors, including the European Union's Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). Through its support to WHO, the European Union has also funded the deployment of emergency teams to Ubari, Ghat and Sebha, which examined and treated nearly 6000 people in one month.

SOUTHERN REGION





48.4 MILLION EUR

This is the amount of EU funding supporting the Libyan health sector. In Libya, health is the sector receiving most EU funding.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Please see the following page for an Overview of EU projects contributing to supporting the Libyan health sector



Projects fully dedicated to supporting the Libyan Health sector

TITLE	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	PERIOD	PARTNER
Advancing Midwifery, Nursing and Specialized Nursing in Libya ➔	2.2 M EUR	2018-2020	UNFPA, IRC
Evidence Based Care for Non-Communicable Diseases: a Model for Primary Health Care in Libya ➔	3.9 M EUR	2018-2020	IRC
Strengthening resilience of mixed migrants, displaced populations and host communities in Libya through improved access to quality health services ➔	3 M EUR	2018-2020	IRC
Strengthening the Blood Transfusion System in Libya ➔	1.6 M EUR	2018-2020	Expertise France
Mutual Accountability Project (MAP)	0.1 M EUR	2018-2020	Voluntas Advisory APS
Action for Mental Health Assistance in Libya (AMAL) ➔	2,2 M EUR	2018-2021	Handicap Int., NEBRAS

Projects with components supporting the Libyan Health sector

TITLE	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	PERIOD	PARTNER
Strengthening Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery ➔	18 M EUR	2017-2020	UNDP
Strengthening protection and resilience of displaced populations in Libya ➔	5.9 M EUR	2017-2020	DRC, IMC, CESVI, IRC
Recovery, stability and socio-economic development in Libya ➔	50 M EUR	2018-2021	AICS, UNDP, UNICEF
Protection and sustainable solutions for migrants and refugees along the central mediteranean route	5 M EUR	2020-2022	CESVI/IMC
Protection and sustainable solutions for migrants and refugees along the central mediteranean route	5 M EUR	2019-2021	UNFPA
Protection and sustainable solutions for migrants and refugees along the central mediteranean route	13 M EUR	2020	UNHCR
Supporting protection and humanitarian repatriation and reintegration of vulnerable migrants in Libya ➔	70.8 M EUR	2017-2020	IOM



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