

European Union support to  
gender equality in Libya



بعثة الاتحاد الأوروبي لدى ليبيا

DELEGATION OF THE  
EUROPEAN UNION TO LIBYA

# EMPOWER WOMEN, CHANGE THE WORLD





# The European Union's strategy on gender equality

FOR A MORE PROSPEROUS, FAIR AND STABLE SOCIETY

Gender equality is one of the fundamental values of the European Union, and has been enshrined in EU law for over 60 years. The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights states that equality between women and men must be ensured in all areas – political, social and economic. For this reason, the European Union is a strong advocate of women's and girls' rights, both within Europe and globally.



## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- > Worldwide, 31 million girls of primary school age have never been to school.
- > An extra year of primary schooling for girls can increase their wages by up to 20%, most of which will be reinvested in their families and communities.
- > Increasing educational opportunities for women at secondary and tertiary levels is more likely to have a greater impact on growth, especially in middle-income countries.
- > If all women had secondary education, there would be 49% fewer child deaths, 64% fewer early marriages and 59% fewer young pregnancies (OECD).
- > Increasing access to modern family planning could prevent up to 30 % of all maternal deaths and 20 % of new-born deaths.
- > Closing the labour force gender gap by 2030 could yield a potential average gain of 12% to the size of the total economy across OECD countries (OECD Study).

## Why investing in gender equality matters

In Libya, as elsewhere, investing in the potential and equal rights of women and girls is an investment in the whole society.

Increased participation and leadership of women in the labour market can strengthen the economy.

With more women in decision-making positions, political life will be more representative and more effective to address the needs of every one. Women's participation in security and justice sectors can strengthen respect for the rule of law and help build a lasting peace in Libya. Equal opportunities for women to access justice, education, employment, and healthcare can foster a Libyan society that is even more prosperous, fair and stable.

Therefore, the European Union does not only finance projects directly promoting women's rights – it goes even further, by requesting that all of its projects put an emphasis on gender equality (this is also known as 'gender mainstreaming').







# Key areas of EU engagement on gender equality in Libya

PREVENTING VIOLENCE, PROMOTING RIGHTS  
& STRENGTHENING PARTICIPATION

In order to translate its strategy into reality on the ground, the European Union has strengthened its efforts to fully mainstream the gender aspect in all of the projects it finances in Libya. In particular, the European Union's support focuses on 3 key areas:



## 1. PREVENTING AND COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

The European Union wishes to contribute to giving women and girls greater control over decisions that affect their mental and physical well-being, and to support victims of aggressions to overcome violations and prevent their re-occurrence.

In Libya, the European Union contributes to this goal by financing projects that raise awareness about gender-based violence and its prevention, but also via support to actions that strengthen access to health and mental care for women and girls and that aim to eradicate trafficking of women and girls.



## 3. STRENGTHENING THE VOICE AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SOCIETY

A final key area of the EU's approach to gender equality in Libya aims to ensure that women and girls have a voice at all levels of society, that they are able to effectively participate and have a say over decisions that affect their lives. This is the only way to



## 2. PROMOTING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS OF GIRLS AND WOMEN

To contribute to faster growing economies and job creation, the European Union finances actions that enable women and girls to access education and participate more fairly and actively in the economy. Concretely, in Libya, the European Union contributes to a number of different projects that promote equal access to technology, infrastructure and quality education for women and girls.

From 2019, the European Union also finances the "EU 4 Private Sector Development" project that includes a component dedicated to promoting female entrepreneurship.

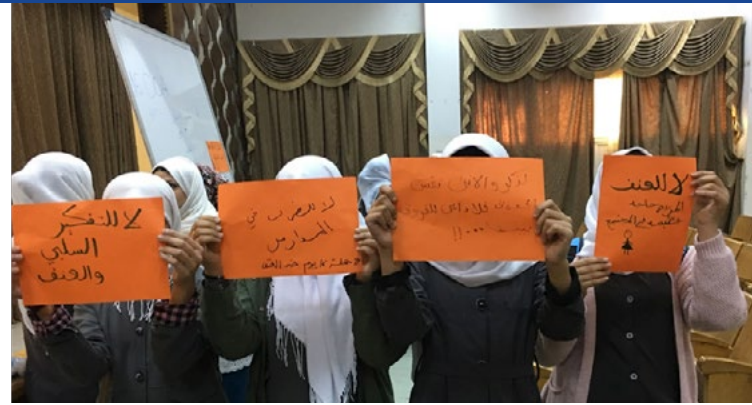
guarantee a more inclusive, balanced and representative society. EU-financed projects pay specific attention to support female members of municipal councils, strengthen female participation in local and national elections and train female journalists and bloggers to give a female input to the public debate. Finally, women and girls are specifically targeted in training courses and other activities and are consulted in the development of local stabilisation goals and community priorities.

## Supporting a Libyan campaign against gender-based violence



### CAMPAIGN IN MISRATA

The EU funded project implemented by the international NGO CESVI, brings together groups of girls and women of different ages and backgrounds in the city of Misrata. The project seeks to promote the physical, emotional and social wellbeing of the most vulnerable women. Cesvi is actively supporting local stakeholders



through organizing support groups facilitated by dedicated social workers on different subjects : health, well being and stressing the role of women in society and self confidence. The objective is to explore how women and girls can contribute to making their community more equitable and fair.



## She codes: Empowering Libyan women through technology and entrepreneurship

### SHE CODES FOUNDED IN BENGHAZI



Nejla from Benghazi has become one of the most prominent African women in the media in 2019 and her success is partly due to help she received from the European Union. Nejla's project, "She Codes", is empowering Libyan women by training them on computer programming; computer skills are in high demand by Libyan and international companies. The training allows the Benghazi

girls and women to find jobs, but it also strengthens their independence. "She codes" has been launched through the EU funded project "Support to Libya for Economic Integration, Diversification and Sustainable Employment" which is currently implemented by Expertise France.

## Empowering elected women to make a difference for the communities

### CAMPAIGN IN ZOLTON



Faiza Al Hamdi, a 28-year-old mother of three kids, was elected to Zolton City Council in 2014. Faiza's father, a public official, had encouraged her to run for the municipal elections to win the seat reserved to women.

*"My dream was to create a center dedicated to women and children. I proposed the idea to the city council that immediately agreed to make the project a reality", recalls Faiza.*

Thanks to the European Union funded project "Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Project" implemented by CILG-VNG International, Faiza was able to secure support for the creation of the center, which she named the "Zolton Center for Women and Children's Empowerment". Today, women in Zolton have a social space where they can spend time, learn about their rights and build their capacity in various areas.

# Main projects supporting girls and women rights in Libya

ARROW ICON: CLICK FOR ONLINE INFO

TITLE	BUDGET	PERIOD	PARTNER
Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) delivery and development →	6.5 M EUR	2012-2020	British Council
Support to Libya economic integration, diversification and sustainable employment →	7.6 M EUR	2014-2020	Expertise France
Libya local governance and stabilisation project →	2.6 M EUR	2016-2020	VNG
Towards resilience and social inclusion of adolescents and young people in Libya →	30 M EUR	2016-2019	UNICEF
Resilience building programme for vulnerable children in Libya, including host communities, migrant and refugee children →	11 M EUR	2017-2020	UNICEF
Supporting Media Development in Libya →	4.4 M EUR	2017-2020	Deutsche Welle
Strengthening local capacities for resilience and recovery →	18 M EUR	2017-2020	UNDP
Local governance and socio-economic development: 'municipal development in the context of mixed migration' →	10 M EUR	2017-2020	GIZ
Strengthening protection and resilience of displaced populations in Libya →	5.9 M EUR	2017-2020	Danish Refugee Council
Enhancing women's rights and gender equality in Libya →	0.5 M EUR	2018-2019	CESVI
Recovery, stability and socio-economic development in Libya →	50 M EUR	2018-2019	UNDP, UNICEF, AICS
PEPOL: Promoting elections for the people of Libya →	6.7 M EUR	2018-2020	UNDP



EU-LIBYA COOPERATION

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