

Libya

Part 1: Situation update in the country

Prior to the 2011 revolution, Libya was a high-middle-income country making progress toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Since 2014, Libya has faced waves of armed conflict and political stalemate, resulting in the emergence of parallel administrations, a government in the East and the United Nations-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) in the West and marginalization of the South. Successive governments have faced difficulty in asserting control amid the proliferation of rival political parties and armed groups, fuelled by competing external political agendas. The result has been steady deterioration of basic services throughout Libya and an increasingly fragile relationship between the central state and municipalities.

The year under review witnessed several violent outbreaks, including in Sabha (February and May) and other southern cities, Derna in the East (May) and in Tripoli (August). Terrorist groups remain active throughout Libya and continue to pose a threat, as illustrated by three recent attacks against important governmental establishments in Tripoli. The United Nations, under the leadership of the Secretary-General's Special Representative, strengthened dialogue and engagement among all concerned parties to the conflict to advance towards democratic elections and human rights. Throughout the year, multiple high-level meetings took place (including the Palermo conference on Libya), during which the United Nations advocated for the rights of the most vulnerable groups, including migrants and children.

Although oil production increased during 2018, the economic situation for households declined. Inflation rose to its highest point since 2011, negatively impacting the purchasing power of families. The formal exchange rate remained stable, but fluctuated drastically on the parallel market. A liquidity and banking crisis, coupled with illicit market practices, led to an increase in the price of key commodities and made others scarce. However, by the end of 2018 economic reforms managed to bring down the exchange rate in the parallel market and improve the availability of local currency at banks.

The United Nations estimates that around 1.6 million people are affected by the conflict (roughly 24 per cent of the total population) and that 820,000 people will be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2019, including an estimated 241,000 children and 278,000 women. In October 2018, there were an estimated 187,423 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 403,978 returnees in Libya. Children represent approximately 41 per cent of displaced persons. Roughly 97,000 of these persons (including an estimated 40,000 former residents of the city of Tawergha) and 165,000 returnees require humanitarian assistance. An estimated 310,000 people who did not leave their homes were also directly affected by conflict. The majority of people in need are located in urban areas, primarily in the western and eastern regions; however, tribal violence and armed groups continue to displace families in the south.

Health and nutrition: Access to and quality of health care continues to deteriorate, and the population is experiencing an increase in communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as malnutrition. Across Libya an estimated 104,000 Libyan children (58,000 boys, 46,000 girls), an estimated 25,000 boy and 30,000 girl asylum-seekers and migrants under five years, and approximately 170,000 women are in need of health support, including access to the full package of primary and secondary health services. Conflict-affected populations and migrants face significant barriers in accessing all services, including health care, due to inadequate medical supplies, staff, discriminatory treatment, and high costs.

The National Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health Strategy adopted in 2018 reports significant data gaps after 2014. Existing sources found that the maternal mortality ratio declined by 76.9 per cent between 1990 and 2015, from 39 to nine maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, and the under-five mortality rate decreased by 69 per cent, from 42 to 12 deaths per 1,000 live births. In 2014 it was estimated that 97.7 per cent of mothers received three antenatal care visits from medical staff, 98.9 per cent of births had a skilled attendant present, and 89 per cent of new-borns were breastfed (mean breast feeding time is 8.9 months; initiation of breastfeeding within one hour was 29 per cent). In 2015 it was estimated that 21 per cent of children under five years suffer from stunting, 6.5 per cent from wasting and 22.4 per cent from overweight. Progress in maintaining a low rate of maternal mortality and high levels of child nutrition is being reversed. Antenatal care and essential newborn care have become increasingly limited due to the lack of medicines, guidelines and trained staff. Preventative and curative health services for children under five are also limited.

In 2014 immunization coverage for children aged 12-to-23 months was 96.5 per cent for BCG, 90.2 per cent for DTP3, 90.2 per cent for polio, and 73.3 per cent for measles. Significant immunization rates were maintained after 2014, inadequate information management systems, deterioration of the supply chain system and shortage of vaccines has become evident across the country. Since 1991, Libya has not reported a case of poliovirus; yet the country is considered at high risk of an epidemic due to significant migration. Notably, in July 2018 the Ministry of Health (MoH) declared a measles outbreak, and by November 869 children had contracted measles and two children had died. Health authorities requested support from UNICEF and partners for implementation of nationwide measles, rubella and polio vaccination, as well as Vitamin A supplementation. In the last quarter of 2018, UNICEF Libya and the World Health Organization (WHO) mobilized resources to support the GNA in implementation of a national vaccination campaign in December.

Water and sanitation: Libya is one of the most water scarce countries in the world. The ongoing conflict has caused a significant deterioration in water and sanitation services, and displacements and migration have added pressure on the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. In 2018 the United Nations estimated that 670,000 people (including 268,000 children) required humanitarian WASH assistance. Currently, an estimated 56 per cent of households are connected to the public water network, while 55 per cent of municipalities depend on water trucking for drinking water. Water networks in southern Libya experience particularly frequent disruptions.

Libya's water is primarily supplied by three institutions, all of which lack essential operational maintenance and financial support and face significant technical capacity gaps. Water infrastructure has been targeted by attacks; notably, the 'man-made river' was sabotaged and interrupted frequently during 2018, putting at risk access to water for millions of people. An estimated 97 per cent of Libya's water is drawn from groundwater sources. Overexploitation of

local aquifers along Libya's coastal areas has led to sharp lowering of water tables, decreased pressure in aquifers, drying of wells, seawater intrusion and land subsidence. The compounded impact has led to acute water shortages.

The sanitation and wastewater management systems are not functioning adequately; 90 per cent of wastewater is currently disposed of, untreated, into the sea. Only 10 out of 24 wastewater treatment plants are even partially functional. Forty per cent of garbage and solid waste is left on the street or buried, and there have been reports of associated diseases like leishmaniasis. The breakdown in sanitation and hygiene services disproportionately affects the health and well-being of children. Economic issues have compromised the ability of the most vulnerable population to have adequate access to essential hygiene items.

Education: Prior to 2011, Libya had one of the highest school enrolment rates in the region, with no significant gender disparity. Enrolment remains relatively high, with a gross rate of around 87 per cent for primary and secondary; school is free for everyone from elementary to university level by law. Pre-primary education is not compulsory; the latest data indicates that as few as 9 per cent of children attend. At the end of 2018 the United Nations estimated that 93,000 children were in need of education support, including an estimated 36,270 girls and 53,010 migrant and asylum-seeking children.

July 2018 reporting found that 212 schools were partially damaged, 14 were being used as shelters for internally displaced persons and 53 had been fully destroyed. Inadequate WASH in schools (particularly for girls) may be impacting attendance, bearing in mind that an estimated 33 per cent of schools do not have access to an improved water source, 30 per cent of water samples from schools contained high levels of nitrates and 10 per cent tested positive for harmful bacteria.

Despite the high gross enrolment, students are not obtaining the needed skills and opportunities to develop to their fullest potential. Even before 2011, Libya ranked low on the Global Competitiveness report on quality education: in 2010 Libya ranked 128 for primary and 138 for secondary education, out of 139 countries. Key issues include: (a) lack of professional development opportunities for teachers, a mechanism to deploy new teaching and learning methods in schools and a nationally recognized quality assurance procedure for teacher education; (b) low relevance of education outcomes, high levels of violence in schools, critical gaps in the enabling environment (particularly in conflict-affected communities) and emergency education needs; and (c) a significant evidence and information gap. Despite these challenges, education reform remains a top priority for the Libyan Government.

Libyan young people are largely unprepared for the labour market. The education system does not take into consideration the multi-dimensionality of education and lacks functioning mechanisms to analyse labour market needs and align education and training systems. According to the data collected in 2017 by Libya's education management information system, only 6.7 per cent of young people enrol in technical and vocational education training (TVET) because it is generally seen as less valuable, recalling Libya's historically heavy dependence on foreign labour. The training system itself is weak, including with regard to training equipment and the perceived low quality of training and learning outcomes. Employment in the public sector is widely believed to be preferable to all other employment.

Child protection: Protection needs were reported across Libya during 2018,, commonly linked to conflict; high rates of violence; human rights violations; contamination from explosive

hazards in urban centres; breakdown of the rule of law; and deteriorating access to/quality of basic services, including child protection services. An estimated 133,400 children (53,400 girls, 80,000 boys) are in need of child protection services and an estimated 150,000 women face acute protection issues, including gender-based violence. Libya is a situation of concern for children and armed conflict and grave violations against children, although a formal United Nations Security Council Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (SC1612) is not in place. Eleven per cent of returnees reported explosive contamination in their communities in 2018, while 6 per cent of returnees left their area due to explosive hazards and 4 per cent did not return because of the reported threat.

Due to weak child protection and family welfare services and an almost non-existent referral system, children in Libya did not benefit from formal protection services in 2018. Additionally, children are experiencing high levels of violence, including gender-based violence in schools, homes and other community spaces. Migrant children and children affected by armed conflict report experiencing particularly severe violence. In conflict-affected areas, 62 per cent of interviewed children stated that they had been subjected to emotional and/or physical violence perpetrated by teachers. Parents were the second-most common perpetrators, with around 38 per cent of children reporting that they had been treated violently by their parents in the last 12 months. Nine per cent of children reported violent treatment by the police or militia members.

Women and girls have traditionally had limited participation in the public sphere and continue to face discrimination, by law and in practice. Gender-based violence (GBV) is reportedly widespread; 40 per cent of respondents to a 2017 survey stated that it was common, and 87 per cent of women and girls reported that they needed permission from their husband or parents to seek health care.

Youth and adolescents: Adolescents and youth are among the most vulnerable populations in Libya. Young people, especially young women, have limited opportunities for social, economic, and civic engagement. Repeated displacement and insecurity disrupt the social fabric, increasing social isolation and limiting opportunities for education, mentoring and social engagement. Youth unemployment rates are high (48.7 per cent), and 63.1 per cent of youth reported that they were inactive (75.2 per cent of whom were girls). Poor quality education, limited vocational training and employment opportunities and a weak protective environment are believed to be push factors for young people's engagement in high-risk behaviours, including association with armed groups. Although accurate data are unavailable, reports of child recruitment are common.

Children on the move: Mixed migration into and through Libya, including children, remains a significant issue. During 2018 Libya remained one of the most deadly migratory routes into Europe (21,093 migrants and asylum-seekers reached Italy and Malta from Libya in 2018, but over 1,200 died at sea). But the global number of migrants crossing into Europe from Libya declined. By November 2018, there were an estimated 670,920 migrants in Libya, 10 per cent of whom were children and 12 per cent women. As of August 2018, the International Organization on Migration (IOM) estimated that there were at least 21,079 unaccompanied and separated children living in Libya, accounting for an estimated 35 per cent of all asylum-seeking and migrant children in the country.

Migrants and asylum seekers are particularly vulnerable, including to grave human rights violations and abuses, by state and non-state actors, given: their irregular status and lack of domestic support networks, the impunity for crimes committed against undocumented migrants,

racism and xenophobia and policies linked to the control of mixed migration flows to Europe. Migrants and asylum-seekers face multiple violations of their basic rights, including movement restrictions, high levels of gender-based violence, systematic and arbitrary detention with inhumane conditions, unlawful killings, disappearances, kidnapping, extortion, robbery and forced labour. Migrants and asylum-seekers (with exception of Arabic-speaking migrant children) have very limited access to, or are out of, schools. As of September 2018 an estimated 6,800 migrants and asylum-seekers were being held in detention in western Libya. An unknown number of people were held by armed groups, smugglers and traffickers in unofficial detention centres. Migrant women have special vulnerabilities as a result of the combined risk of their irregular status and high levels of racial and gender-based discrimination. Nearly half of all migrant women and children report sexual violence in transit to or while in Libya.

Part 2: Major results including in humanitarian action and gender, against the results in the country programme documents

In 2018 UNICEF mobilized a total of \$21,487,812, of which \$3,311,665 was received for humanitarian programming and \$16,876,174 for development/resilience building programmes. UNICEF's largest donors are the German Government, Italian Government, European Union, and the UN Central Emergency Relief Fund, in addition to UNICEF thematic funding and a contribution from the Italian National Committee. Reflecting the considerable programme expansion that took place during 2018, UNICEF expanded its human resources structure with 28 new positions (including 14 national posts). By the beginning of 2019, UNICEF had contracted 56 national and international staff to serve children and their families in Libya.

In May 2018 UNICEF Libya's international staff fully returned to Tripoli, after nearly four years of remote management from Tunisia. However, as a result of escalated violence in Tripoli in August 2018 and direct threats to the United Nations, UNICEF and all other United Nations agencies and diplomatic missions temporarily withdrew most of their international staff back to Tunis. International staff rotated into Tripoli on a regular basis through December 2018, working from temporary arrangements within the UNSMIL compound. UNICEF's Tripoli location was changed four times - from its original downtown office to a temporary location in the same compound (used for accommodation by the United Nations country team (UNCT)), to a temporary location inside the UNSMIL compound, and then back to the UNCT compound, after security enhancements were completed at the end of December 2018. National staff worked from home during periods of heightened insecurity.

Under leadership by the United Nations resident coordinator, the UNCT continued to work on strategic priorities with government counterparts and civil society organizations (CSOs) to implement programmes and contribute to national capacity development. In 2018, the United Nations and partners developed the United Nations Strategic Framework 2019 - 2020 (UNSF) with national leadership, thereby mobilizing the full range of mandates and expertise of the United Nations development system. Building on the humanitarian/development/peace nexus approach, the UNSF serves as a programming framework to support the delivery of basic services, economic recovery and peace by achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNICEF Libya's country programme document (CPD) for 2013–2014 was extended four times, through 2018. In September 2018, UNICEF's Executive Board approved a new country

programme for 2019–2020. UNICEF also contributed to the drafting of a new UNSF for Libya, acting as the lead agency for the basic service pillar and chair of the programme management team. UNICEF's country programme is fully in line with the UNSF and was approved by the Government. Gender was a core consideration across the programme's design, implementation and monitoring, in addition to youth, children on the move and emergency preparedness and response.

The year under review offered an important opportunity for strengthening synergies between different programmes and promote geographical convergence to achieve greater impact for children, in accordance with the lifecycle approach. This included age-specific integrated programming; namely, targeted maternal and new-born health and nutrition programmes; building education systems that include community and family outreach for a comprehensive and age-appropriate response to children's needs – including access to education, psychosocial programmes and vaccination campaigns in schools; and programmes with a specific focus on building social and economic opportunities for youth.

To contribute to SDG 5, UNICEF aligned its programme with the United Nations Gender Action Plan (2018 – 2021), focused on girls' empowerment and well-being. Gender mainstreaming was central to the design, implementation and monitoring of emergency programming, as well as to operational arrangements, external coordination and partnerships with donors and implementation partners. All sectors aimed to ensure that 50 per cent of children benefiting from services are girls. UNICEF specifically includes a gender lens in situation assessments and reports, to ensure regular impact assessment.

While continuing to provide life-saving assistance, UNICEF strengthened its comprehensive approach to partnership-building with key ministries, municipal councils, CSOs, United Nations agencies and donors to support realization of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda (SDGs). In 2018 two workshops were held, attended by over 150 members of Libyan CSOs operating across the country, as well as government ministries and mayors from various municipalities. The workshops focused on themes related to children's rights, providing actors with an opportunity to showcase and discuss their work. UNICEF Libya also worked, within the framework of its annual work plans, with the MoE, Authority of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Social Affairs and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). In addition, UNICEF had partnership agreements with 12 national organizations and three international organizations. Building the capacity of partner organizations was an important priority for UNICEF during 2018.

During 2018 UNICEF worked with partners to respond to emergencies by strengthening the provision of WASH, health, child protection and education services for asylum-seekers, migrants, IDPs and Libyans affected by humanitarian crisis, in accordance with the emergency preparedness plan. Despite the challenging operating environment and persistent insecurity, UNICEF and partners were able to reach affected populations with life-saving emergency assistance and expand access to services. The national vaccination campaign was successfully implemented, reaching 1,423,957 children. Additionally, multiple emergency responses were carried out in Tripoli, Ghat, Sabratha, Derna, Tawergha and Bani Walid. However, difficulties in accessing hard-to-reach areas in the east and south of Libya due to security constraints/arrangements continued to challenge the achievement of targets. UNICEF Libya and its national partners provided 90,682 children with psychosocial support services, 4,434 children with specialized care, 19,305 children with non-formal education and recreational activities, 46,887 people with safe water and 35,562 people with gender-

appropriate sanitation during the course of 2018.

Goal area 1: Every child survives and thrives

Contributing to the realization of SDGs 3 and 2, during 2018 the health and nutrition program sought to bridge the gaps in preventative and curative health and nutrition services in Libya. During the year, the national immunization programme was challenged by the largest and longest-duration measles outbreak in its history. The NCDC requested that UNICEF, WHO and other United Nations agencies support a nationwide outbreak vaccination response (measles, rubella, polio vaccination and vitamin A supplementation), targeting 2.75 million children between the ages of nine months and 15 years. UNICEF provided technical support to the development of micro-plans, capacity building of vaccination teams and supervisors, procurement of vaccines, injections and devices, vitamin A, monitoring and supportive supervision. The most vulnerable population (persons located in inaccessible areas and hard-to-reach areas, migrants and IDPs) were given special attention through local and context-specific approaches. As of December 2018, a total of 1,423,957 children had received the OPV vaccination (coverage rate of 97.7 per cent) and 2,654,466 children had received MR vaccination (coverage rate of 96.3 per cent).

The measles outbreak highlighted major gaps in the EPI programme. In 2018, UNICEF continued strengthening the programme through investment in the procurement of cold chain equipment, including 225 refrigerators, cold boxes, vaccine carriers and solar refrigerators, for distribution in hard-to-reach areas. Additionally, a lifesaving package of equipment was procured for 55 health facilities to provide responsive maternal, new-born and child health care, reaching an estimated 120,000 people.

To prevent malnutrition and related morbidity and mortality among the most vulnerable women and children in detention centres and prisons, UNICEF and its national partner EMDAD provided high energy biscuits between September and December 2018, reaching 3,417 children (1,889 boys, 1,528 girls) between the ages of 0-6 years. The planned SMART national nutrition survey could not be undertaken in 2018 due to unavoidable circumstances; it will be carried out during the first quarter of 2019.

A significant achievement in 2018 was the development and endorsement of a reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) strategy for 2019-23. The strategy was presented by the MoH to all partners and formally endorsed on 8 December 2018. It provides a framework of action for strengthening RMNCAH services aimed at preventing morbidity and mortality in Libya. In this context, UNICEF developed an essential package of services to strengthen responsive maternal, new-born and child health services, to be implemented in 24 municipalities in 2019.

Goal area 2: Every child learns

Contributing to the realization of SDG 4, during 2018 UNICEF Libya continued to focus on improving equal access to education and the quality of formal and non-formal education, including by strengthening the enabling environment and supporting system-strengthening for inclusive and quality education. To these ends, UNICEF enhanced evidence generation, supported capacity development of teachers, provided life skills and citizenship education materials, contributed to improving TVET, and provided education in emergency to particularly vulnerable children.

Throughout 2018 UNICEF has continued to support the Ministry of Education (MoE) in policy development, implementation and monitoring to improve the quality of education, with a special focus on teacher workforce development. To these ends, in 2018 the pilot phase was concluded for the development of the education management and information system in both primary and secondary schools as well as in the TVET system. The web-based application will allow for an expanded knowledge base of the education system and will facilitate analyses, assessments, diagnosis and opportunities for education reform at all levels. Although the MoE was only able to complete 40 per cent of its data collection during 2018, data entry for TVET was completed for 315 of approximately 371 institutes (84.9 per cent completion rate). Data collection was completed in the west, central and southern regions, but not in the east, due to access issues. A complete statistical book has been produced by the TVET team and is currently under revision by the National Board for TVET. An agreement was reached between UNICEF and the MoE to strengthen and scale-up support to the education management information system in 2019.

In partnership with UNICEF, the MoE began putting in place a programme of 'master trainers' in education-in-emergencies (EiE) and conflict resolution/tolerance, as part of its broader effort to strengthen teacher capacity nationwide. In coordination with the Ministry's General Centre for Teacher Education and Development, UNICEF led training workshops for 169 teachers from across Libya, on EiE, conflict resolution and tolerance. This training will be further rolled out to teachers and community representatives in 2019. UNICEF continues to encourage gender parity in all of its programmes, including teacher training.

In 2018 UNICEF worked with its partner, the Arab Institute for Human Rights, to develop a pilot curricular module and programme to introduce lifeskills and citizenship education into the teaching and learning process for both formal and non-formal education. This initiative will conclude in 2019, with the aim of enhancing the quality of education across 11 municipalities in Libya to support both Libyan and non-Libyan children. Using the Middle East and North Africa Life Skills and Citizenship Education Framework, this initiative will include curriculum development and teacher training and ensure equal access for girls and boys at different levels.

Space for youth participation and opportunities for skills development in Libya remain low. At the request of the MoE, UNICEF mapped the Libya's TVET system in 2018 and drafted a strategy for transition. The mapping will serve as a baseline for UNICEF's continued work regarding TVET and enable UNICEF and the MoE to develop evidence-based intervention strategies. Reform of the TVET programme will help youth to build employability skills relevant to opportunities in the modern economy. The study recommended promoting access to TVET for all groups, strengthening good governance and enhancing the quality of TVET.

In line with the 'leave no child behind' agenda, in 2018 UNICEF focused on reaching the most vulnerable school-age children and adolescents— including children on the move and children with disabilities in Libyan and non-Libyan communities across the country – through EiE activities: 82,612 children (37,995 boys, 44,617 girls) benefitted from the provision of essential teaching and learning materials; 19,305 (9,978 boys, 9,327 girls) children benefitted from non-formal education (remedial and catch-up classes), recreational activities and psychosocial support; and 2,000 children in conflict-affected areas in Benghazi and Sirte accessed education following the installation of 61 prefabricated classrooms. In Sirte, 31 teachers (five females) received capacity building on EiE, mine risk education and psychosocial support through

UNICEF partners, Quduratty and Ekraa. The training was timely for teachers in Sirte as the area was destroyed during armed conflict and because most of the students were returnees. The training strengthened teachers' skills regarding active learning, to ensure the continuation of children's right to education in emergencies and post-crisis reconstruction. The partnership also strengthened the engagement of education offices in the two municipalities. Finally, 60 teachers and social workers were trained in Derna on psychosocial support for children.

The education programme was carried out in partnership with international and national NGOs operating across Libya (including hard-to-reach/underserved areas) – CESVI in Tripoli, Afaq for Rights and Development in Sabratha, Organization Breezes for Libya Sustainable Development, Ekraa Assembly for Development and Education in Benghazi and the Libyan Association for Youth and Development in the south. Throughout the implementation process, school communities (teachers and other education personnel) benefitted from increased awareness of the importance of education during emergencies or protracted crisis to ensure the well-being of children, adolescents and youth.

Goal area 3: Every child is protected from violence and exploitation

To realizing SDG 16, during 2018 UNICEF strengthened its child protection strategy focused on scaling-up programmes to meet the urgent needs of conflict-affected children (e.g., children who are displaced or were associated with armed groups) and children on the move. The approach involved increasing children's access to quality, community-based protection services (including a referral system) to ensure that they receive specialized care, as needed. UNICEF targeted all children in need, including those with disabilities, as part of efforts to expand access to and inclusivity of services.

The child protection programme developed integrated modalities of work with other sectors and national and international stakeholders, with the objective of maximizing impact for boys and girls in Libya. In 2018, some 90,682 children (45,383 boys, 45,299 girls) received psychosocial support in schools or child-friendly spaces. UNICEF focused on strengthening referral mechanisms to ensure that children in distress could be identified and referred for specialized psychosocial services. During the year 4,434 children (2,308 boys, 2,126 girls) who had experienced violence or abuse (including gender-based violence) were identified and referred to specialized services provided by the Al Safaa Centre for Mental Health. UNICEF and Al Safaa supported eight social mobilization campaigns addressing violence against children, including the recruitment of children by armed groups. The campaigns, undertaken by a national partner Al Tadamon, reached a total of 7,696 children and adolescents (3,420 girls, 4,276 boys).

Actions to end gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE) were mainstreamed across sectors; plans for scale-up were central to 2019–2020 planning. Attention was focused on support to institutional capacity development for preventing sexual exploitation and abuse and GBViE, including through survivor-centred complaint mechanisms, response services and greater accountability. At the inter-agency level, UNICEF and UNFPA took the lead for supporting the humanitarian country team and the establishment, harmonization and streamlining of approaches to child sexual exploitation and abuse –to include putting in place clear policies and procedures, accessible and adequate community-based complaint mechanisms, and gender-based services for survivors.

In support of the release and integration of children associated with armed groups, UNICEF

partnered with its national partner and the Zintan municipality to support the Centre in Zintan to ensure that age-appropriate protection services were accessible to adolescents and youth. To empower and engage adolescents, 1,390 children (715 boys, 675 girls) were provided with specialized psychosocial support, recreational activities, education and life skills and material assistance, as well as economic opportunities through vocational skills training and other socio-economic strengthening activities.

UNICEF supported capacity development for 1,166 child protection actors and stakeholders (273 men, 893 women), and 30 commanders of armed groups were engaged and oriented on the risks and dangers of child recruitment and other child protection concerns. Youth and adolescents were provided with socio-economic reintegration and support through the provision of life skills and vocational skills training and small business grants/economic opportunities. A total of 164 children/adolescents (70 girls, 94 boys) received reintegration assistance (life and coping skills as well as socio-economic strengthening).

In the context of its integrated approach to supporting the most vulnerable children in Libya, UNICEF worked during 2018 involved establishing three multi-sectoral child centres ('Bayti', meaning 'my house' in Arabic), which will provide children with integrated child protection, education and health services in their communities, particularly targeting conflict-affected children and mixed-migrant children. Among other steps, UNICEF signed a partnership agreement with one national NGO to train and support the other centres. UNICEF Libya is developing plans to scale-up this initiative during 2019, establishing an additional nine centres by the end of the year.

In line with UNICEF Libya's advocacy over the last few years, several notable developments took place with regard to child rights in law and praxis. First, the Presidential Council issued a decree in April 2018 establishing a high-level child welfare committee. The decree mandated that the new structure (jointly with others) lead legislative reform on child rights and well-being, coordinate Government efforts to promote child rights and respond to state reporting obligations to the Committee of the Rights of the Child. This decree followed a UNICEF-supported review of legislation in Libya and subsequent UNICEF-facilitated workshop with key Government stakeholders, which culminated in a recommendation to establish the committee. This represents a substantive breakthrough, as it could result in a massive reform of Libya's legislation, and consequently its child protection system. Second, the Minister of Interior issued a decree in October 2018 establishing a national department of family and child protection units (FCPU) within the Ministry, with a mandate to provide technical guidance to FCPU across Libya. Third, in February 2018 UNICEF and United State Institute for Peace (USIP) conducted a workshop for Libyan counterparts to discuss and validate the USIP report on "Rehabilitating Justice: Juvenile detention in Post-revolution Libya". The report was validated by the authorities and led to a plan of action, developed and approved by the Government. Fourth, at the request of the Government, UNICEF explored strategies and developed plans to enhance evidence development and support for a desk review on justice for children. The review is to involve data-gathering and a scoping exercise in relation to national coordination mechanisms for child justice. This contributes to UNICEF's ongoing work with its partner, the CORAM Children's Legal Centre, and the Government to put in place a five-year plan to eliminate violence against children.

In addition to ongoing high-level national, regional and international advocacy to end detention as per the Global Compact for Migration, UNICEF took proactive steps to: develop alternatives to detention, provide lifesaving assistance to detained children, and ensure that best-interest

mechanisms are in place to allow for the identification of long-term solutions for the most vulnerable children. During 2018 UNICEF worked with the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR), IOM, local authorities and other key child protection service providers to develop common action plans to support children on the move with protection services. During 2018 UNICEF took steps (to be expanded and scaled-up in 2019) toward ending child detention by establishing alternatives to detention and developing national capacity to implement child protect case management services, in cooperation with Libyan counterparts and with the support of relevant authorities and CSOs. To facilitate durable long-term solutions, UNICEF worked with UNHCR and IOM to put in place a 'best interest determination' panel for unaccompanied and separated children. UNICEF is working with Libyan authorities and partners to establish three temporary centres (one was established in 2018) to support alternatives to detention through the provision of services to vulnerable children. UNICEF has also taken steps to scale-up child protection programmes at the Gathering and Departure Centre established by UNHCR during the last quarter of 2018.

As part of the UNCT in Libya, UNICEF provides input into the Secretary-General's global annual report and, under the leadership of UNSMIL, voluntarily submits quarterly *Global Horizontal Notes*. In addition to its close cooperation with UNSMIL, UNICEF put in place an action plan to strengthen the monitoring and reporting capacity of its staff and national and international partners in various sectors (child protection, education, health) as well as key entities that could contribute to documenting grave child rights violations and respond to children who have experienced grave violations.

UNICEF focused on strengthening evidence-generation and knowledge management on child protection issues in Libya. It also worked in partnership with REACH to conduct an assessment entitled "Solitary journeys of unaccompanied and separated children in Libya: Mobility, protection risks and support mechanisms". The assessment sought to raise awareness and improve understanding of the daily challenges faced by unaccompanied and separated children in Libya. The report was finalized and will be published in early 2019. Additionally, during 2018 UNICEF and the NCDC published the study on violence against children compiled by Coram Children's Legal Centre.

Goal area 4: Every child lives in a safe and clean environment

Contributing to the realization of SDG 6, during 2018 UNICEF worked to ensure that conflict-affected children and their families were provided with adequate and safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities (in Derna, Sebha, Graret Elgtaf/Tawergah, Tripoli IDPs, Zintan and Benghazi). During 2018 UNICEF Libya provided humanitarian WASH assistance to 95,314 of the most vulnerable people, including 28,000 children and 45,249 women and girls. This included: (a) providing 46,887 people (including 25,169 male and 21,718 female migrants and IDPs, returnees and non-displaced) with access to safe water through water trucking, the rehabilitation of water networks at camps for internally displaced persons and three detention centres, and providing water chemicals to desalination service providers; (b) providing 35,562 people (18,274 males, 17,288 females) with access to life-saving basic sanitation facilities through the installation of emergency latrines, rehabilitation of sanitary and drainage networks and provision of wastewater pumps to service providers of Libya's General Company of Water and Wastewater; (c) improving learning environments through the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities at 24 schools, benefiting 12,352 children (5,644 boys, 6,708 girls); and (d) providing 13,027 adults and children (6,784 males, 6,243 females) with basic hygiene items and WASH-related information. Additionally, on an *ad hoc* basis, UNICEF provided migrants

and asylum-seekers in detention with emergency WASH assistance.

UNICEF Libya prioritized evidence-generation and supported the Government with evidence-based planning. To these ends, UNICEF conducted an assessment of water systems, in partnership with Alqasap Engineering Company and the man-made river project (MMRP), across Libya – the system provides water for an estimated 60 per cent of the population. The report is being finalized and will be published in 2019. It will serve as a baseline for UNICEF and national stakeholders to identify bottlenecks, priority actions and put together a WASH investment plan. The findings of the assessment highlighted the importance of supporting the MMRP with a power back-up system, rehabilitation of wells, improvement of water quality, maintenance and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure, removal of remnants of war, capacity building and development of emergency and strategic plans. UNICEF advocacy throughout 2018 stressed the importance of keeping the MMRP safe and preventing attacks against it and its staff. The increasing acts of vandalism and attacks on the system (at least 80 registered in 2018) have put in danger access to safe drinking water for hundreds of thousands of children and families.

During 2018 UNICEF strengthened the technical capacity of Government WASH institutions in four key areas: capacity strengthening of two service providers (GCWW and MMRP) by training key staff on WASH bottleneck analysis and water safety planning; (b) supporting service delivery through the procurement of equipment, including pumps and generators, to ensure continued operation and maintenance of both water and waste-water systems; (c) facilitating discussion on the review and updating of the national water strategy, as a step toward developing an integrated water resource management plan.

Goal area 5: Every child has an equitable chance in life

Contributing to SDGs 10, 8, 4, 5 and 16, UNICEF's youth and adolescent programme aims to increase the resilience and social inclusion of young people in Libya, allowing them to play an active and positive role in their society. During 2018 UNICEF sought to design and pilot integrated, gender-sensitive adolescent and youth programmes in selected areas as potential models for scale-up in 2019. Successful programme components will be implemented in additional municipalities in 2019, and existing programmes will be expanded in the four pilot municipalities.

During 2018 UNICEF worked with its local partners (Al Mobader at the national level, coordinating locally with Future of our Children in Zuwara, Alala Khair Gamaatna in Al Bayda, Vision in Zintan and Al Nour Association in Sebha) to develop an action plan for each of the pilot municipalities to identify training priorities, establish youth centres and support youth initiatives. Some 1,013 adolescents and young people were trained and later engaged in youth-led initiatives in the four municipalities, including members of student unions. The training promoted children's rights, youth participation and engagement in social cohesion, social enterprises and the development of youth projects. UNICEF worked with local partners to develop the capacity of student unions at Zintan and Sabha universities; a total of 111 young people were trained on social entrepreneurship. Additionally, UNICEF and its local partners supported youth-led initiatives in each of the pilot municipalities, including initiatives to: encourage volunteerism in Sebha, protect marine life and the environment from plastic in Zuwara, establish an open space for young people in Zintan and a race for peace in Al Baida.

A youth centre was established in each of the four municipalities, providing youth with space to

convene and launch new initiatives. In 2019 they will house (a) youth activities in the neighbourhood; (b) launching events for youth-led initiatives; (c) activities that build the capacity of young people and local CSOs; (d) participatory action research on specific issues related to young people's life; (e) life-skills training, sports and cultural activities; (f) community development projects; and (g) child-friendly municipality initiatives. All youth centres have both male and female members, with times allocated for each gender group. Half of the initiatives that began in 2018 were co-led by boys and girls. Discussions with local partners to support the scale-up of youth-led initiatives are ongoing.

Contributing to the development of local capacity, youth development committees were set up in the four target municipalities to follow-up on programme activities, support youth-led initiatives and participate in public activities. These committees have significantly increased municipal councils' support for youth-led initiatives. This was reflected during events celebrating International Youth Day and International Children's Day in the four municipalities, which were attended by thousands of young people and their families. In addition, the child-friendly municipality programme was successfully launched for the year, with full ownership by the Ministry of Local Governance and adoption by municipal councils.

To contribute to the prevention of violent extremism, UNICEF adopted a positive approach focused on developing adolescents' and young people's agency for building and sustaining peace in communities. The approach included strengthening the links between young people and their communities to enable them to become positive agents for peace and reconciliation and to contribute to the prevention and reduction of violent ideas and ideologies. During 2018, UNICEF engaged young people in the peace-building processes in Libya through several complementary activities: (a) a multi-sectoral project focused on young people's resilience and social inclusion; (b) training 178 young people (137 young men, 41 young women) on peace-building and supporting their development of 53 social enterprises (13 of which came to fruition in 2018); and (c) supporting local governance in municipalities most affected by migratory flows by enhancing access to basic and social services, particularly health, education, child protection and WASH.

UNICEF Libya finalized its multiple overlapping deprivation analysis in 2018. The results will be further developed and validated in 2019, with the launch of UNICEF's social protection programme. UNICEF engaged in discussions with the Government during 2018 about conducting a multiple-indicator cluster survey, which culminated in a government commitment to fund this study.

Social media continued to serve as a dialogue platform for UNICEF and as a credible means of disseminating information about the situation of children in Libya. UNICEF was frequently quoted by media during 2018. During the year, followers of UNICEF Libya's Facebook page doubled, reaching more than 26,000. The Twitter account almost tripled, with 4,600 followers. An Instagram account was launched on the first day of 2018 and had 1,430 followers by the end of the year. With the aim of raising awareness about essential child rights issues and to encourage dialogue and partnership building across all sectors of society and government, UNICEF Libya participated in the global celebration of Youth Day and Children's Day, some of which were attended by thousands of families.

Part 3: Lessons learned and constraints

The year under review was important for UNICEF Libya, with significant programme scale-up underpinned by the return of the international staff from Tunisia to Tripoli, after operating remotely for close to four years. Due to security constraints, UNICEF has moved its office from downtown Tripoli to a private compound in the outskirts of Tripoli where the UNCT had established temporary offices and accommodation for international staff. Opening an office in the east was an important planning consideration during 2018; in line with the principle of neutrality, UNICEF and other members of the UNCT have sought regular presence in the east. Currently, the United Nations plans to open a hub in Benghazi at the beginning of 2019. Access to the south was restricted throughout the year as a result of security concerns for United Nations missions.

Operating in Libya remains challenging; numerous security, logistical and administrative constraints impact the effective delivery of programmes to the most vulnerable children and their families. Some of the challenges included poor Internet connectivity, limited availability of armoured vehicles, movement restrictions due to insufficient security personnel and limited support for the expanded human resource structure.

The Libyan context and geography also constrained programme delivery. Most people in need are in urban areas, mainly in the western and eastern regions of Libya, where tribal violence and armed groups continue to displace families as well as hindering access in the south. The security, administrative constraints and arrangements pose a challenge for rapid emergency response in different areas, especially with regard to access to children on the move. The limited number of local and international CSOs operating in Libya is a further limitation. In 2018 UNICEF started to use the services of third-party monitors to gain greater presence throughout the country. UNICEF's third-party monitors operated from Zintan, Zuara, Albeida, Benghazi and Sabha. Given Libya's insecurity and changing operational environment, it has been essential to maintain flexible human resources and office structures that can operate from both Libya and Tunisia as an important component of the business continuity plan.

The 2013–2014 Country Programme Document was designed for a stable, high-middle-income country with a strong central government. Political events in 2011 and 2014 radically altered Libya's landscape. As a result, UNICEF's previous strategy and its modest budget, characterized by limited upstream support and humanitarian action, were insufficient to respond to the new context and provide the Government with requested support. Reflecting the critical importance of a humanitarian/development/peace nexus approach in Libya, lessons learned demonstrate that: (a) upstream work is essential to strengthening the resilience and shock-resistance of national systems, including advocacy for child-friendly budgets; (b) increasing the scale of emergency preparedness and humanitarian response, in partnership with local actors, continues to be a critical priority; (c) strengthening equity-focused basic service delivery, both upstream and downstream (including evidence-based, risk-informed programming) is essential for preventing and responding to emerging needs, with a particular focus on increasing accountability to affected population; and (d) UNICEF's full presence in Libya (as of mid-2018) has improved the quality of programming and monitoring.

The Country Programme 2019–2020 will finally provide UNICEF with a comprehensive roadmap for the coming two years. Significant shifts in programming include: (a) a focus on system-strengthening and multi-sectoral service delivery to support the humanitarian-development-peace nexus; (b) programme delivery through modelling/piloting for scale-up, supported by evidence-generation; (c) expansion into new programme areas, namely social policy and child survival and development; and (d) a strategic focus on pertinent cross-cutting

themes – children on the move, gender, youth and adolescents and emergency preparedness and response.

Protection challenges for some Libyans – particularly irregular foreign nationals in the country – are of grave concern, primarily driven by exposure, vulnerability and the inability to cope with conflict and violence, human rights violations and abuses, contamination from explosive hazards in urban centres, breakdown of rule of law and major impediments to accessing critical services. In 2018 UNICEF began programming to address the needs of children on the move in urban settings, and has undertaken emergency response in detention centres, while maintaining and clearly articulating its opposition to the detention of children and advocating for alternatives. UNICEF has built on memoranda of understanding signed with the UNHCR and IOM to ensure coordinated response and advocacy.

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