

## Libya

### Update on the context and situation of children

In 2022, Libya continued to face a multi-layered political, economic, and social crisis characterized by low-intensity protracted conflict, socio-economic fallout from the Coronavirus pandemic and the Ukraine war[1]. Despite signs of economic recovery, significant challenges remain, including high unemployment rates (particularly for youth and women[2]) and heavy reliance on hydrocarbons for economic growth.

In 2022, the magnitude of humanitarian needs is lower than it has been over the past decade. Yet, the 2023 Humanitarian Overview (HO) for Libya indicate that 300,000 people are in need of humanitarian assistance with an estimated number of 134,787 internally displaced people[3].

Based on UNICEF's Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis (MODA) [4], 71 per cent of children aged 0–17 years are deprived in two or more dimensions of poverty[5]. More than one-third of children are deprived in three or more dimensions; and rural children (41.8 per cent) are more likely than urban children (35.6 per cent) to be deprived in three or more dimensions. About 10 per cent of households engage in child labour as a livelihood coping mechanism[6].

The universal child grant that was suspended in 2014, was reactivated in 2021. In 2022, the Government included children of non-Libyan fathers, supported by the advocacy by UNICEF. The universal child grant coverage still excludes marginalized groups such as migrants, refugees, and asylum-seeking children.

In Libya, COVID-19 vaccination rates remain low, with a total of 2.3 million people have received one dose (32%), 1.23 million people have received two doses (18%) and 177,468 people have received a booster dose by the end of 2022 (out of a population of 7 million people[7]). According to UNICEF Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices survey on COVID-19 vaccinations, 42.5 per cent of respondents indicated a lack of trust in the healthcare system as the reason for not getting vaccinated[8]. The pandemic had negative impacts on essential service delivery, with the country recording low measles vaccination coverage at 88.9% in 2022 [9]. The secondary impact of COVID-19 on children included loss of education and limited access to health and nutrition services.

However, Libya has made progress in some of the health and nutrition indicators in 2022. At the national level, over two-thirds of children received three doses of the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTP) vaccine (73%). In 2022, UNICEF conducted the first national SMART Nutrition survey with preliminary results of the prevalence of global and severe acute malnutrition were GAM: 3.8%, SAM: 1.2 %. stunting 8.2% and overweight 5.2% [10].

Children in Libya continued to be at risk of or victims/survivors of violence, abuse and exploitation, including grave child rights violations in 2022. The proportion of children-in-need for protection services, increased from 70 per cent to 72 per cent in 2022 compared to 2021[11]. At least 679,974 migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers[12] are residing in Libya with nine per cent considered to be children and two per cent are estimated to be unaccompanied and separated children. By December 2022, at least 2,791 persons are under immigration detention of 14 Detention Centers across Libya of which 178 are children, including 149 boys and 29 girls.[13]

In the last year, Libya has seen a severe decline in access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services and facilities, with institutions needing essential operational maintenance, financial support, and technical capacity. According to the Libya Humanitarian Overview 2023, 300,000 people are in

need of humanitarian WASH assistance. The Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) 2022 revealed that 58% of households relied on bottled water and only 65% were connected to the public water supply network. The Joint Monitoring Programme for 2021 estimates that while 92% of the population had access to basic sanitation services, only 22% had access to the higher standard of safely managed sanitation facilities[14]. Additionally, the poor management of solid and medical waste, compounded with the continued disposal of untreated wastewater into the sea, with only 44.5% of households connected to the sewage network, poses a serious health risk[15].

Climate change poses a real threat to access to water in Libya, which is the sixth most water scarce country in the world. As per the findings of the water analysis paper produced by UNICEF, the water sector faces several challenges including extremely limited available water resources; deteriorating groundwater quality due to over-abstraction; inefficient use of irrigation; highly subsidized water tariffs; underperforming governance and institutional capacity[16].

Education access, both school enrollment and attendance, remains high in Libya, especially for migrant and refugee children. The MSNA for 2022 showed that more than 90% of the families surveyed had children who were enrolled in school. This percentage is 94% for female adolescents and male children up to 14 year old and 92% for male adolescents aged 15 to 17 year old. Enrollment is lower for IDP families, especially in relation to adolescents (84% for adolescent boys and 85% for girls). School attendance showed a similar trend, with the lowest rate at 91% for non-displaced male adolescents and 87% for IDP male adolescents. Among the reasons stated for lack of attendance, families cited school closure not related to COVID-19, as schools are damaged after the conflict or used for different purposes.

Existing data gaps, especially on social indicators, have challenged the country's ability to ensure commitment to leaving no one behind. Additionally, there is limited accurate data on the number of children and youth living with disabilities in Libya. Children on the move are a highly vulnerable subset of the child population, especially unaccompanied and separated children. However, routine data on migrants entering, living in, and leaving Libya (e.g., migrants intercepted or rescued at sea) are not always age and sex-disaggregated.

[1] WFP 2022: <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000138268/download/>

[2]UNICEF 2022: <https://www.unicef.org/mena/media/19911/file>

[3]OCHA 2022 <https://bit.ly/3GLUv2i>

[4]Using PAPFAM 2014 data

[5]UNICEF, MODA 2020.

[6]Libyan Population (MSNA), REACH, August 2021

[7]National center for disease control - libya (ncdc.org.ly)

[8] UNICEF, KAP RCCE COVID-19, 2021

[9] UNICEF, 2022 <https://bit.ly/3GK5sBo>

[10] ibid

[11] HNO 2022

[12] DTM June 30 2022

[13] DTM (December 2022), [www.dtm.iom.int/Libya](http://www.dtm.iom.int/Libya)

[14] <https://bit.ly/3GJlWtD>

[15] OCHA 2022 <https://bit.ly/3QEXluG>

[16] Libya Water Scarcity Analysis Paper -UNICEF/SIWI-2022.

## Major contributions and drivers of results

In 2022, UNICEF contributed to the national efforts to improve access and equity to quality social

services in Libya. The focus remained on risk-informed humanitarian and development nexus programming and on strengthening systems to provide responsive and resilient quality social services in all situations without disruption, while engaging in service delivery for neglected groups. In addition, UNICEF combined several strategies across the various programmes, such as community engagement and social and behaviour change, leveraging partnerships with Governments and institutions, civil society, the private sector and the United Nations agencies. Also, UNICEF invested in building national evidence-generation capacity and evidence-based decision-making.

The following are the major Libya CO results under each of the UNICEF Strategic Plan Goals (2022-2025):

#### Goal Area 1 (Survive and Thrive):

On health and nutrition, UNICEF focused on promoting Primary Health Care (PHC) to achieve Universal Health Coverage and health-related Sustainable Development Goals. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) in providing reproductive, maternal, newborn, child health and adolescent (RMNCHA) services to about 106,000 people, including vulnerable women and children.

Throughout 2022, UNICEF supported enhancing the routine immunization and response to the COVID-19 pandemic in line with the National Vaccine Deployment Plan. UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the Government in building and expanding the cold chain capacity through the installation of solar-powered refrigerators and cold boxes/tools in 700 vaccination sites. In addition, UNICEF initiated Effective Vaccine Management (EVM) assessment in the country and three NCDC branches (Benghazi, Sabha, Tripoli) were equipped. Additionally, UNICEF collaborated with NCDC to scale up the community engagement and awareness creation on the importance of vaccination and promotion of healthy practices. UNICEF provided support to the development of a national Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) strategy, which resulted in RCCE activities, that reached 1,110,00 people, contributing to the uptake of vaccines. In order to address continuous vaccines stock outs, UNICEF advocated at high level with the Government on rationalizing the list of procured vaccines and proposed procurement efficiency options.

During the year, UNICEF advocacy with the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NITAG), the NCDC, and the Ministry of Health (MoH) had successfully resulted in Vitamin A supplementation to be integrated into routine immunization twice a year starting from 2023. This will significantly contribute to reducing all-cause mortality and morbidity among children under five years old.

The SMART Nutrition survey conducted by UNICEF helped identify geographical disparities, with southern areas beyond alert thresholds. UNICEF is using the results for high profile evidence-based advocacy and communication for resource allocation and policy making, in order to capacitate the PHC system to screen and treat malnutrition.

UNICEF invested in risk reduction in the health/nutrition sector to foster resilience and preparedness. UNICEF prepositioned essential emergency medical and nutritional supplies in three main warehouses which are also for use in the event of displacement, conflict, epidemics and floods.

#### Goal Area 2 (Education and Learning for the Future):

Years of armed conflict and the COVID-19 impact have resulted in decreased access and quality of education and learning in Libya. In 2022, UNICEF worked on shifting the partnership with the Ministry of Education (MoE) from emergency response and service delivery to system strengthening, with the long-term goal of improving access and quality of teaching and learning outcomes in Libya. Pedagogy, skills development, including digital skills, and effective coordination have been the focus areas for the successful transition to a system-strengthening approach.

Throughout the year, UNICEF continued to be the MoE's main partner in upgrading teachers' skills as a key strategy to learning, continuity of education and faster learning recovery. UNICEF supported a pool of 350 MoE trainers over six months in an online pedagogy training of trainers on child-centered, inclusive teaching skills and the ability to support students through catch-up learning after school closure. The online modality of the training enhanced both pedagogy and digital literacy skills. Post-training assessments showed improvement in teachers' core skills, particularly classroom management practices.

In 2022, UNICEF also launched a partnership with the curriculum department to assess life skills in the Libyan curriculum. This is the first step in developing a life skills framework for Libyan children. Digitalization across the MoE represents a priority in the skills development work for UNICEF in Libya. In 2022, with UNICEF support, the MoE carried out the first Education Management Information System (EMIS) pilot across over 200 schools and produced a statistical report on the results. UNICEF and MoE will continue EMIS scale-up in 2023. Additionally, in 2022, UNICEF supported the MoE in developing a roadmap for distance education and digital learning.

As Education Sector lead, UNICEF successfully strengthened the role of the Ministry of Education (MoE) to lead the Education Sector. Partners supported a remedial education programme, which is a catch-up learning programme, during the school vacation to address learning losses from COVID-19 in both formal and non-formal education settings. The MoE remedial classes reached 20,000 children in 16 municipalities, paving the way for stronger NGO-led service delivery and crisis response coordination. Recognizing that there are children in Libya who are not currently part of the national education system, UNICEF continued to deliver non-formal education and life skills classes, to refugee and IDPs children as well as out-of-school children (OOSC), including a digital learning modality, through eight community centers (Baity centres). A total of 8,278 children attended non-formal education and remedial classes, and more than 142 refugee children (51 girls and 91 boys) were enrolled in school in 2022. This was achieved through improved coordination on the identification and referral of refugees and IDPs from IOM and UNHCR to UNICEF and through Baity centres' dedicated teams trained by UNICEF on the different pathways to enrollment for foreign children. In ensuring conflict sensitive programming, five locations were identified for new centres or children and families in municipalities in the South. Significant consideration for the locations was given to ensure that adolescents and youth from host communities, refugees and IDP communities could access these centres for life-skills programmes.

#### Goal Area 3 (Protection):

The Child Protection programme continued to accelerate its support towards strengthening the national child protection system in Libya, that is inclusive for all children including displaced, migrants, asylum seeking and refugee children, in line with the deactivation of the humanitarian sector coordination mechanism by December 2022 and the acceleration of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus programming. In 2022, UNICEF continued to advocate for reforming and harmonizing child rights law, improving child protection coordination and inter-ministerial governance. Also, UNICEF advocated for enhanced accountability to end immigration detention for child migrants, asylum seeking and refugee children, engaging with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and the Social Security Fund (SSF) and proposing an operational plan for alternatives to detention. An initial success was the partial separation of children and women from adults, however release remains a challenge.

As part of the shift in its programming, UNICEF supported a multi-disciplinary and inter-ministerial approach to strengthening the child protection system. This included working with partners and ensuring that key child protection agencies have the necessary skills and resources to deal with children affected by violence, abuse, and exploitation. It has also included enhancing coordination between various social sectors such as the social welfare, justice, security, health, and education

sectors.

UNICEF work has resulted in the completion of the social workforce assessment within the Child Protection system and the endorsement of the harmonized Case Management Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) by the Case Management Taskforce of the Child Protection Sub-sector in November 2022. This SOP acts as a building block towards a contextualized and Government-led case management SOP. UNICEF also supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) in creating a safe school environment against violence. UNICEF supported 59 trainers of MoE who in turn trained 973 social workers and school counselors, enabling at least 48,650 children (24,325 girls and 24,325 boys) in 349 schools to better prevent and respond to violence.

UNICEF continued to provide support to the Family Child Protection Units (FCPU) of Ministry of Interior (MOI) which as of December 2022 at least 62 Units exists across Libya. UNICEF conducted a joint study tour to Jordan to observe the Juvenile Protection Units where at least 13 FCPU officers participated. UNICEF also is supporting MOI in conducting a resource (supplies, finance and training) needs assessment of the FCPUs that would serve as a baseline for the planned capacity strengthening initiatives for FCPU officers as well as to provide technical assistance on how to ensure further child friendly and gender sensitive police units. Further, the draft case management SOP for children in conflict with the law, and victim and witnesses of crime is ready for review, validation and adoption in early 2023. The EU funded UN Joint programme with UNODC and UNDP to ‘Strengthen the Juvenile Justice System in Libya’ entered its second year with a mutually agreed upon document/work plan between the UN and the relevant line ministries. This would further help in accelerating UNICEF’s support to the FCPUs with enhance collaboration with other justice professionals, such as judges and prosecutors.

UNICEF and its Civil Society Organizations (CSO) partners also continued to strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms using multi-sectoral service delivery mechanisms through eight Baity centers (and two non-Baity centres) where at least 40,277 children and parents were sensitized on child protection risks, vulnerabilities and available services. In addition, 17,325 children and parents benefited from community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services, of which 1,506 children at-risk and survivors of violence received case management and referrals and provisions of specialized services. The functional Baity centres have generated support and interest from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) which has committed to gradually adopting the centres and their child protection services.

Goal Area 4 (WASH, Climate and Environment):

Contributing to the realization of SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and through a humanitarian-development nexus approach, UNICEF worked with national stakeholders to provide and ensure access to safe WASH services to prevent and mitigate the impact of disease outbreaks (including COVID-19 infection). In 2022, UNICEF prioritized building the capacity development of national and sub-national authorities with 327 technicians receiving training and skills to implement WASH services effectively.

UNICEF supported the General Desalination Company in rehabilitating three affected desalination plants serving approximately 213,000 people. Also, in coordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH), UNICEF installed three autoclave equipment to treat and safely dispose the medical waste, which use clean technology and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

UNICEF continued advocacy through press releases, high-level meetings with Government partners and donors also focused on the allocation of resources towards the operation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure. Additionally, UNICEF worked with national partners on evidence-based advocacy regarding WASH and climate change and built the capacity of governmental partners for

policy development which was pivotal in updating the Libya water management plan for 2020 that was extended to 2022-2024. UNICEF also advocated for the protection of water and sanitation infrastructure during conflict.

As the WASH Sector Lead, UNICEF worked with national partners to improve national and sub-national coordination with the principle of shifting from service delivery to system strengthening. In 2022, UNICEF interventions provided approximately 351,000 people with sustainable WASH services. Humanitarian and durable assistance was provided to migrants and refugees in detention centres and displaced families (including those living in collective shelters). UNICEF also provided emergency assistance and support to governmental institutions to respond to the heavy rains and floods through provision of six dewatering pumps. The support contributed to safe management of sanitation and drainage systems which benefitted around 60,000 persons living in the flood-affected areas. UNICEF continued community engagement on climate, water scarcity, COVID-19 issues. During 2022, UNICEF held various communication and awareness campaigns engaging 62,108 people including youth involvement and supported a young climate change activist to participate in COP27.

Goal Area 5 (Child Poverty Reduction and Social Protection):

Contributing to SDG 1, in partnership with the World Bank (WB), UNHCR, UNDP and WFP, UNICEF continued to play a critical convening role and facilitated the policy dialogue with national social protection stakeholders and the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) for the second phase of the development of the national social protection strategy. UNICEF, WB and WFP, provided a harmonized training to 12 government officials to support the strategy drafting process, focusing on policy formulation, child-sensitive and inclusive, social assistance and social care services. This was followed by a second workshop delivered by UNICEF and International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPG-IG) which analyzed the strengths and weaknesses of the current national social protection system and supported 19 technical staff from the NESDB as well as other ministries and institutions in formulating recommendations for reforms.

Moreover, UNICEF together with UNDP, IPC-IG, and NESDB supported the finalization and dissemination of “A mapping of Libya’s Social Protection Sector” which provided a comprehensive overview of all social protection laws, relevant institutions that play a role in the implementation and coordination, as well as the status of the different programmes. The mapping will be used to inform the development of the social protection strategy which is currently under development by the NESDB. In addition, UNICEF led the finalization of the UN Joint Policy Note on the “Future of Social Protection in Libya”. The policy note, was finalized and disseminated together with WFP, UNDP and ILO, built on recent national evidence to foster the implementation of the Arab Ministerial Forum Declaration in Libya.

UNICEF and UNHCR commissioned the “Social Protection Systems for Children in Libya” assessment, which is part of the Blueprint Initiative, which highlighted the gaps of the social assistance referral and registration processes. The assessment has been used by Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) to amend a decree for the registration in the Wives and Children Grant which was reactivated in 2021; and since 2022 includes children from non-Libyan fathers following advocacy of UNICEF.

Finally, as part of the humanitarian-development nexus, UNICEF supported the finalization of the Cash and Market Working Group (CMWG) strategy, “Linkages Between Cash Assistance and Social Protection” and successfully advocated for the alignment of CMWG cash assistance strategy with the national social protection system. Furthermore, UNICEF finalized the design and started the implementation of a Cash for Education pilot, which will provide humanitarian cash transfers and linked to education service and case management support to households that are economically vulnerable and that have protection and/or education concerns.

To address one of the main challenges in Libya, UNICEF continued in 2022 to promote evidence generation, dissemination and advocacy. Several studies were conducted in 2022 using primary and secondary analyses, including COVID-19 impact on Social Service Delivery in Libya, SMART Nutrition Survey, Climate Landscape Assessment for Children, Beneficiary Assessment of Baity Centres, and the Assessment of wastewater. Furthermore, UNICEF with the Bureau of Statistics and Census in Libya launched the first-ever Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) in Libya, which is going to be implemented in 2023. UNICEF also continued to support administrative data systems including piloting the Education Management Information System (EMIS) and the District Health Information System-2 (DHIS-2).

## UN Collaboration and Other Partnerships

UNICEF continued to leverage partnerships, coordinate and foster collaboration with the Government, the UN, civil society and private sector in 2022. The office increased its working relationship with the Government in all programmatic areas and cross-sectoral components. In late 2022, UNICEF engaged with the Government of Libya's Prime Minister's Office to advocate for public funding to support immunization, nutrition, and evidence generation.

Throughout 2022, UNICEF actively engaged in developing the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023 – 2025 of the United Nations and the Government of Libya. UNICEF also continued to lead the Social Services Pillar of the United Nations Strategic Framework, working closely with UN agencies on coordinating and improving UN programming on health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation and hygiene and social protection services.

UNICEF continued to intensify engagement with public sector donors in Libya as part of the new country programme for 2023-2025 development. A donor round table was arranged to familiarize donors with the new CPD and advocacy priorities. Donors engaged with include Canada, China, Denmark, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Poland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and the United Kingdom. In 2022, the country office mobilized US\$ 13 million, with an additional US\$ 11 million in the firm pipeline for 2023. Engagement with new donors from 2021 to 2022 further enabled the office to receive funding from donors who have not supported UNICEF in Libya previously, namely, China, Norway, and Switzerland.

In 2022, UNICEF engaged with the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and the World Bank to identify and leverage synergies in various sectors, with a focus on water, social protection, and youth engagement.

Additionally, UNICEF collaborated with UNDP and UNODC, on the EU-funded joint programme, Strengthening the Juvenile Justice System in Libya. The Peacebuilding Fund also approved the joint project, Peacebuilding through Community Stabilization in the Southern Libyan Municipalities developed by UNICEF, UNDP, IOM, and WFP with focus on the South. In 2022, UNICEF and WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding, identifying areas and modalities of collaboration in the sectors of social protection, education, nutrition, and cash. UNICEF also signed an MoU with the Bureau of Statistics and Census to implement the first-ever Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). Further, UNICEF has a strong collaboration with UNHCR, UNDP/IPC-IG, WFP, and World Bank related to supporting the Government in the social protection system reform.

UNICEF continued to play a critical role as the Education, WASH Sectors and Child Protection Sub-sector Lead Agency in Libya. UNICEF leadership enhanced coordination among partners and improved the delivery of humanitarian needs.

Also, the communication teams of UNICEF and UNHCR collaborated on the "Blueprint" for Joint Action to support a global strategy by both organizations to coordinate and improve efforts to provide expanded assistance, and delivery of essential services. The 'One Communication Team' in partnership between UNICEF, UNDP, the EU and AICS also continued to successfully highlight the accomplishments of the "Recovery, Stability, and Socio-Economic Development Programme in Libya".

## Lessons Learned and Innovations

One of the main lessons of 2022 for UNICEF Libya, was the importance of strengthening integrated



service delivery and promoting linkages between health, education, child protection and social protection services. A key reason why the most vulnerable children are being left behind is that they often face compounding drivers of poverty, experiencing multiple deprivations that further exacerbate poverty and cannot be addressed by a single programme. And from the viewpoint of the population, the delivery of social services is often disjointed and uncoordinated at a local level. To tackle this, UNICEF further advanced the Baity centres to provide a range of integrated and efficient services to children and families. Through the Baity centres, UNICEF continued to provide education opportunities, psychosocial support/protection and skills to vulnerable Libyans and non-Libyans, including children on the move, advocating to enroll the latter ones in the formal education system. Next steps will be: the determination of a minimum service package of Baity centres and setting harmonized standards of care for all partners; scaling up services with Government; strengthening the monitoring and outreach.

Also, UNICEF collaborated with the Primary Health Care Institute (PHCI) to increase inclusive and equitable access to basic services for Libyan and non-Libyans, by scaling up mobile health/nutrition teams in Baity centres for the provision of micronutrient supplementation, immunization services and optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) promotion.

Over the last year, programmes have highlighted the benefits of data-driven approaches for decision making and advocacy. UNICEF strengthened its health information system for evidence-based advocacy and promotion of Primary Health Care for Universal Health Coverage, contributing to national and global maternal, neonatal and child health targets. With national stakeholders, UNICEF continued to support the operationalization of the District Health Information System (DHIS2) in 700 health facilities, putting emphasis on health facility-based reporting after training of staff and provision of data collection tools. Review of DHIS revealed Benghazi as the model for successful implementation of DHIS and started reporting on key indicators. In addition, UNICEF conducted the first-ever Nutrition Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) Nutrition survey to ascertain the nutrition status of Children, Pregnant and lactating Women to design evidence-based nutrition interventions. Also, as part of efforts to strengthen administrative data in the education sector for enhanced decision making at the national and sub-national levels, UNICEF supported the roll-out of the Education Management Information System (EMIS), which will be scaled in 2023. In 2022, UNICEF in partnership with the BSC also launched the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) which will collect internationally comparable estimates of key indicators that to assess the situation of children and women. Further, to plan data-based activities that address looming data gaps, UNICEF developed a Data Action Plan which maps data activities proposed for 2023. All these efforts around data enhancement will also be key to improve targeting to the most neglected municipalities and groups. UNICEF is also developing its advocacy action plan based on new data and the Committee of the Rights of the Child latest recommendations.

Increasing programme focus and fundraising to southern areas also emerged as a key priority for the new country programme. Leveraging data from municipalities and increasing field missions will be crucial factors to develop an area-based programme with a social cohesion lens.

This year also saw the effective integration of Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) across UNICEF various programmes. In 2022, UNICEF Libya has built its capacity to enhance community participation recognizing the importance of empowering communities, while engaging fully and holistically with them. Mainstreaming AAP activities in Libya included developing the first country office AAP strategy and associated action plan. Also, as part of the AAP activities in 2022, UNICEF Libya joined the common UN Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) which effectively allowed affected populations to obtain information on UNICEF programmes, provide feedback and address complaints, including sexual exploitation and abuse. UNICEF also prioritized beneficiary participation through studies such as the 'Beneficiary Assessment of Baity Centres' which used direct interactions with beneficiaries to obtain feedback and inform programmatic changes. In collaboration with the

National Center for Disease Control, UNICEF worked on developing a national strategy for Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) to ensure integrated communication across Health, WASH and Education sectors.

Last year highlighted the importance of leveraging partnerships to support the bridge from service delivery to systems strengthening. Programme teams developed strong relationships with Government counterparts in preparation for the transition from humanitarian focus to system strengthening approach within the new Country Programme (2023-2025). In this regard, UNICEF made substantial progress this year in building the foundations of system strengthening with the Ministry of Education (MoE). Key relationships have now been built, enabling UNICEF to scale up support to the system-strengthening interventions including improving the education sector enabling environment, teacher professional learning, curriculum development and child-friendly learning environments. Internal coordination remains a challenge within the MoE and much time and effort are needed with the line Ministries for interventions to succeed.

Concerning funding, as in previous years, the Country Office continues to rely heavily on the European Union and Germany, the top two donors of the office. This highlights the critical need to maintain and sustain these relationships, but also the need to diversify the office's donor base through engaging with new donors and the private sector. In 2023, the office will also continue its advocacy efforts for the Libyan Government to increase domestic resources for essential social services, with particular focus on nutrition, primary health care, water, education infrastructure and social protection.