



**UNICEF Libya Country
Programme
2023-2025**

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Foreword



UNICEF Libya Representative

Michele Servadei

Launching the UNICEF Country Programme (2023– 2025) for Libya has come at an opportune time when the country seems to be heading to a crucial transition; and with a potential for political dialogue, the economy is projected to substantially grow. Fundamental challenges remain, however, in terms of development and the realization of children’s rights.

Despite some achievements toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Libya has been affected by political fragmentation, the recurrence of security incidents and hence a slow reforms path, gaps in sectoral policies, the absence of a comprehensive national development plan and significant data gaps for child-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators . Interrelated economic shocks have also severely affected households and are slowing the progress towards the SDGs. Approximately 271,000 children in Libya need humanitarian child protection¹, the youth unemployment rate remains high at 50% for young people aged 15–24 years² and 36% of children (aged 0–17 years) are living in poverty in all its dimensions³.

UNICEF remains resolute in supporting the Government and the civil society to advance the rights and well-being of all children and women, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable and ensuring that policies and Government investments are aimed at social cohesion and inclusion of the most vulnerable. In light of this vision, UNICEF will contribute to building equitable and quality social services including: (a) healthcare and nutrition services, (b) education and skills development, (c) protection from violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation, (d) sustainable and climate-resilient water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services, and (e) inclusive social policies.

1. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Humanitarian Response Plan Libya 2021–2022, OCHA, New York, 2021.
2. International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT, 2022.
3. UNICEF Libya, Libya Ministry of Planning, NESB and National Bureau of Statistics and Census, 2020

UNICEF remains resolute in supporting the Government and the civil society to advance the rights and well-being of all children and women, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable and ensuring that policies and Government investments are aimed at social cohesion and inclusion of the most vulnerable.

A key implementation strategy of Libya's country programme will be to promote intersectoral approaches that emphasize stronger integrated programming to improve the quality and relevance of education, primary health care and nutrition services, protection from violence, exploitation, and abuse, and social protection. UNICEF will support this intersectoral approach through evidence-based social and behaviour change communication; increased adolescent participation in programming, particularly on climate action; and focusing on the rights of children on the move.

The treasure of the lessons from the previous country programme and the continued challenges faced by children and youth, have shown the importance of the humanitarian–development–peace nexus to ensure a conflict-sensitive response to the protracted crisis in Libya. UNICEF's system-strengthening efforts will be enhanced to (a) build capacities for risk-informed and inclusive essential social services; (b) support the development of a shock-responsive social protection system; and (c) support legislative and policy change, as well as influence public spending for children. Strengthening partnerships and synergies in programming, with the public system as well as civil society, in particular youth groups, is also essential to reforms and social cohesion efforts.

UNICEF's new country programme is ambitious but necessary to ensure adequate attention to vulnerable children and women. Some of UNICEF's key actions in health include increasing access and quality of the primary health care services, and strengthening national health systems, with a focus on preparedness and response planning. Support in this area includes the development of a national nutrition strategy for the first 1,000 days of a child's life, enhancing the effectiveness of the routine immunization system, including prevention of vaccines stock outs and improved outreach, enhancing human resource capacity and improving coordination.

In education, UNICEF aims to support the lack of data out of school children (through surveys, studies and EMIS enhancement) to ultimately increase access to quality learning opportunities for children, with a focus on children on the move and children with disabilities. Integrated non-formal education, protection and skills services platforms such as Baity centres will be expanded, especially with the public system.

Education-focused cash assistance programmes will be implemented to increase non-formal and formal schooling enrolment. A broad platform for sector coordination will encompass humanitarian and development actors.

In water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), UNICEF will focus on climate resilient water strategies, in particular Government support on a nation-wide water strategy; rehabilitation and solarization of existing systems, long term innovative pilot solutions (such as desalination and satellite imagery for wells drilling). UNICEF will also complete a Climate Landscape Analysis for Children and engage adolescents and youth as key agents of social and behavioural change.

In terms of child protection UNICEF will review with Government entities the use of the social service work force and explore opportunities for alternatives to detention, integrated education/protective services, combating violence at home and in schools and monitoring threats to children related to armed groups.

On social policy, UNICEF will support the Government in reforming its comprehensive social protection system, in particular its child grant; and conduct informed evidence-based advocacy to improve public finance towards essential social services.

In this country kit, you can view a snapshot of the current situation of children in Libya, learn about UNICEF-supported programmes and understand UNICEF's vision for the next three years that will set the course for Libya's path to realizing the SDGs by 2030. We strongly believe that all children, no matter where they live or what challenges they are born into, have the right to survive, thrive and obtain the opportunity to develop to their full potential and that, with further investments in children's and women's rights and quality inclusive services, supported by donors' and partners' expertise, Libya can shift toward setting an example of a social pact for the entire region.



UNICEF Libya Representative
Michele Servadei

PART I: UNICEF in Libya



Libya- a country with persisting challenges but incredible development potential

Libya is an upper-middle-income country that has experienced a series of political and economic shocks since the revolution in 2011. Following a period of prolonged political fragmentation and almost two years of armed conflict, a ceasefire agreement was reached in October 2020, resulting in the Government of National Unity (GNU) in March 2021. National elections planned for December 2021 were postponed. The combined impact of political instability, armed conflict, the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the oil blockade, resulted in economic deterioration; gross domestic product per capita declined from \$12,065 in 2010 to \$3,699 in 2020⁴. Along with this, high unemployment rates, particularly for youth and women, and a heavy reliance on hydrocarbons for economic growth pose significant challenges.

Libya has not adopted a unified national budget since 2014, resulting in low public investment in essential services and delays in civil servant salary payments. A steady decline in the quality and access to basic services compounds household vulnerability, resulting in increased reliance on negative coping strategies.

Despite the protracted governance crisis, the insecurity, and legacy of armed conflict, oil production continues and reached 1.2 million barrels per day in August 2022. Oil production showed signs of recovery in 2021, with a GDP growth rate of 31.4 per cent⁵.

The population of Libya is growing and was estimated in 2021 at almost 7 million people, of whom 52 per cent are under 25 years of age, 31 per cent are under 15 years of age, and 11 per cent are under 5 years of age⁶. In this arid country located in the Sahara Desert, approximately 81 per cent of the population lived in urban environments in 2020⁷. The most vulnerable include 199,949 internally displaced persons, 87 per cent of whom were displaced due to deterioration of security conditions⁸.

In 2019, the gender inequality rank was 41 out of 162 countries, reflecting inequality in reproductive health, and empowerment⁹.

4. Values obtained on the Macrotrends website, <www.macrotrends.net>, accessed 9 December 2021.

5. World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG?locations=LY>, accessed 31 August 2022.

6. Bureau of Statistics, Population Estimation by Region for 2021, 2021.

7. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Percentage of population at mid-year residing in urban areas by region, 2050–1950.

8. International Organization for Migration, DTM IDP and Returnee Report, Round 38, July–September 2021, IOM, Geneva, 2021.

9. United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Reports, gender inequality index, <<https://www.hdr.undp.org/en/content/gender-inequality-index-gii>>, accessed 25 May 2022.

Due to its proximity to Europe as well as internal employment opportunities, Libya has historically been a transit and destination country for migrants. In 2021, there were an estimated 610,128 migrants in Libya, approximately 9% of which were children¹⁰. Also, roughly 10% of the population living in Libya is migratory, including children. There are concerns that children on the move, often suffer from rights violations (that include trafficking and smuggling, exploitation and abuse, and detention) and limited access to healthcare, education, WASH, and protection services.

The Government submitted a national report of the universal periodic review in 2020; the third and fourth combined State Party report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2021 (pending review); and its first voluntary national review to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2020. A report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has been overdue since 2014.

10. UNICEF COAR 2021 <https://www.unicef.org/media/117151/file/Libya-2021-COAR.pdf>



UNICEF's role in Libya

UNICEF opened an office in Libya in 1994 and signed a Basic Cooperation Agreement with the Government in 2005. Since 2011, Libya has been faced with conflict and a political deadlock creating a challenge for adoption of a national plan and budget, often preventing the Government from allocating the necessary financial resources into the struggling basic social services. The development of the country is also challenged by the socio-economic crisis arising from the impact of COVID-19, climate change and the increasing water scarcity.

The proposed 2023-2025 country programme will contribute to the achievement of national outcomes in five areas. **1) Health and Nutrition, 2) Education, 3) Child protection, 4) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and 5) Social Policy.** The 2023-2025 UNICEF/Government of Libya country programme builds on the achievements of the previous country programmes and supports the country's progress towards the SDGs, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was developed in close cooperation with Government and is informed by the 2020 UN Strategic Framework Evaluation; the 2020 UNICEF Country Programme Evaluation; the recommendations from the 2020 universal periodic review of Libya; the 2021 UN Common Country Analysis; the 2021 Gender Programme Review; the 2021 report Libya Humanitarian Needs Overview; the 2022 Situation Analysis for Children, Adolescents and Women in Libya; and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), 2023–2025.

Building on UNICEF's unique position to enhance and leverage integrated, humanitarian-development-peace nexus programmes, the 2023-2025 Country Programme uses seven change strategies:

- (1) systems-strengthening to build inclusive, shock-resilient and accountable basic social services and social protection through the humanitarian–development–peace nexus to leave no child behind;
- (2) addressing structural barriers that contribute to gender inequality;
- (3) leveraging partnerships with international Governments and institutions, civil society, academia, youth, private sector, the media and United Nations agencies to support innovative solutions, achieve goals and advocacy;

- (4) building national evidence-generation capacity and evidence-based decision-making;
- (5) mainstreaming climate-resilient programming;
- (6) communicating with and engaging communities (including adolescents) to shape development and humanitarian actions; and
- (7) advancing evidence-based social and behavioural interventions to facilitate positive changes in social and gender norms and practices.

The programme rationale and areas of focus were based on four principles: (1) consultation with national stakeholders¹¹ and identification of common priorities; (2) support for Sustainable Development Goal realization and child rights obligations; (3) ensuring no one is left behind and reducing equity gaps, with a specific focus on gender equality, children on the move and children with disabilities; and (4) building synergies and ensuring harmonized programming with other United Nations agencies.

11. Government consultations (February 2022) and consultations with UN agencies (April 2022)



Intersectoral Approach

UNICEF will continue promoting intersectoral approaches to programming within the new country programme fostering integrated and multi-sector approaches in the planning and implementation of its programmes and partnerships. Programmes will be encouraged to operate in the same geographic locations; coordinate the planning, financing and implementation of programmes jointly; contribute to each programme's results to deliver more sustainable, cost-effective and at-scale outcomes. In particular, UNICEF will focus on:

- Ensuring the sustainability of the community centres “Baity” to continue to provide quality integrated services on child protection, education and health services to vulnerable Libyan and non-Libyan families.
- Enhance the integration of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and violence prevention and response in schools to allow for improved management of MHPSS services in and around schools and contribute to a reduction of violence.
- Implementing Social Behaviour Change (SBC) strategy, including promoting parenting packages for early childhood development to ensure safe, responsive and nurturing caregiving through parenting support, using health, protection and early learning platforms. For the second decade, stronger emphasis will be placed on more integrated programming towards strengthening the quality and relevance of education, adolescent girls' health and nutrition, protection from violence, exploitation, and mental health.
- Scaling up cash transfers and grants linked to education, health, and nutrition services.

Each programme takes a multisectoral and child-rights approach, guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The programmes are based on evidence, integrative strategies and innovations. Importantly, each programme abides by four key principles:

- (i) Equity – reaching every child including the hardest to reach, and the most disadvantaged, such as children with disabilities and those living in humanitarian situations, including children who are displaced, child refugees and returning migrants.
- (ii) Gender equality and transformation – ensuring that the empowerment of girls and women is central to programmes. This is especially pertinent as Libya's ranking in the global Gender Inequality Index is low at 41 out of 162 countries.

- (iii) Inclusion – ensuring that no child is left behind; for example, ensuring that children with disabilities have their specific needs catered for in schools.
- (iv) Sustainability – ensuring the programmes can continue for future generations when and if UNICEF support is no longer available.

UNICEF will focus on the following across programme components (health and nutrition, education, child protection, WASH and social policy):

- Rights of children on the move: UNICEF will continue to support children on the move by providing access to non-formal education, child protection services, including prevention of violence and exploitation, alternatives to detention, cash assistance, and assistance in accessing health and nutrition services under the new country programme.
- Evidence generation: UNICEF will have a special focus on building national evidence-generation capacity, including the implementation of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), and supporting national information management system roll-out for education (EMIS) and health (DHIS2) sectors, including the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey, and an out-of-school study to improve the monitoring of the situation of children and the Sustainable Development Goals.



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Humanitarian Interventions

The UNICEF Libya Country Office will continue to support and deliver immediate humanitarian aid in response to emergencies or critical need for assistance under the new country program. While providing assistance, the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action will guide efforts to ensure that children's rights are protected.

UNICEF will respond to humanitarian needs through an approach that contributes to systems strengthening, risk reduction and national ownership guided by the humanitarian–development–peace nexus. The country programme will also ensure: (a) delivering timely humanitarian assistance; (b) reaching the most deprived and vulnerable children and women; (c) strengthening government and community capacities to respond to crises and reduce vulnerability, and (d) applying the principles of accountability to affected populations.

Building on lessons learned from the previous country programme lessons learned, UNICEF will focus on the capacity enhancement of government and key humanitarian partners to effectively analyse, prepare and coordinate emergency response to children, adolescents and families in humanitarian situations. Child-centred, risk-informed programme planning, and emergency preparedness will be prioritized through collaboration with the Government, sector lead agencies along with key United Nations agencies, and civil society organizations.

UNICEF Humanitarian Action for Children at least in 2023 will focus on: 1. Preparedness for new IDPs (Rapid Response Mechanism plus cash) and response for current IDPs (with a durable solutions lens); 2. Children on the move (life-saving interventions in detention centers; alternatives to detention; essential integrated services); 3. COVID and outbreaks preparedness and response; 4. focus on humanitarian services most vulnerable groups with attention to climate resilience (e.g. repairs of water wells in arid and drought-affected areas).

PART II: Main areas of Libya's country program



Health and Nutrition

01



In 2020, the under - 5 mortality rate was estimated at **11.1 per 1,000 live births**¹².

05



For children under the age of 5 years, the rate of stunting is **38.1%** (252,867 children), wasting is **10.2%** (67,728 children), and **29.6%** (196,453 children) are overweight¹⁶.

02



In 2020, the infant mortality rate was estimated at **9.5 per 1000 live births**¹³.

03



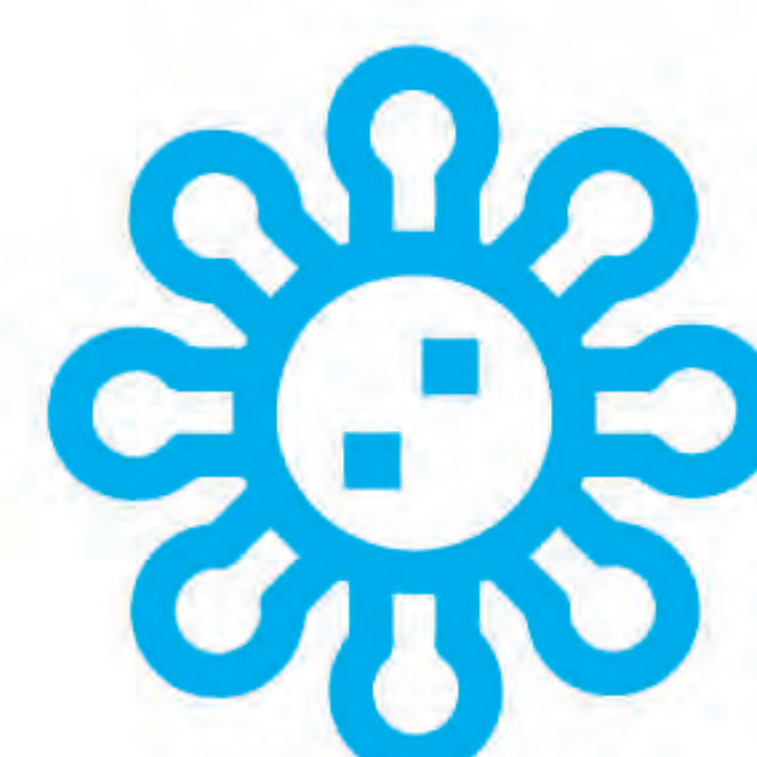
By August 2022, **17.8%** of the population had received **two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine**¹⁴.

06



Global estimates for 2020 indicate measles vaccination coverage at **72%**¹⁷.

04



Global estimates for 2020 indicate measles vaccination coverage at **72%**¹⁵.

12. UNICEF 2020 <https://data.unicef.org/country/lby/>

13. UNICEF2020 https://data.unicef.org/resources/data_explorer/unicef_f/?ag=UNICEF&df=GLOBAL_DATAFLOW&ver=1.0&dq=LBY.CME_MRYO.&startPeriod=1970&endPeriod=2022

14. WHO 2022, <https://covid19.who.int/region/emro/country/ly>

15. WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage, 2020.

16. UNICEF–WHO–WB Joint Child Malnutrition Estimates (JME), 2021; United Nations Children's Fund, Fed to Fail? The crisis of children's diets in early life, UNICEF, New York, 2021.

17. 2021 MSNA



Progress and challenges

Libya has made limited progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing). Over the past decade, there has been a deterioration in the availability, accessibility and quality of primary health and nutrition services affecting the health of children, adolescents and pregnant women. Policy gaps, limited data availability and weak disease surveillance systems affect effective service delivery. Poor infrastructure, limited medicines and supplies and critical gaps in human resources are apparent across the system¹⁸. In particular, the primary health care system receives limited financial support and vaccines stock outs remain a big challenge.

{ Over the past decade, there has been a deterioration in the availability, accessibility and quality of primary health and nutrition services affecting the health of children, adolescents and pregnant women. }

¹⁸. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Libya Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, New York, 2021.

UNICEF in Action

Libya's country programme aims to ensure that girls and boys, adolescents and women have increased access and utilization of quality primary health and nutrition services and adopt healthy practices by 2025. UNICEF will support the Government in its implementation of the national Reproductive Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health Strategy 2023–2019 and the National Deployment and Vaccine Plan for COVID-19.

During 2023-2025, UNICEF support includes:

1 . Improving health system capacity at the national and subnational levels for equitable and gender-responsive policies for healthcare and nutrition services.

- a. UNICEF will implement this by supporting the development, implementation and monitoring of maternal, new-born, child and adolescent gender-responsive health and nutrition policies, including the development of a national nutrition strategy for the first 1,000 days of a child's life.
- b. UNICEF will enhance human resource capacity and improve coordination and partnerships.
- c. It will advocate for improved financing, planning and delivery of inclusive health and nutrition services, particularly at the primary care level.

2 . Improving capacity of health systems to ensure that children under 5 years of age and

adolescent girls are vaccinated against preventable diseases and that the eligible population is vaccinated against COVID-19.

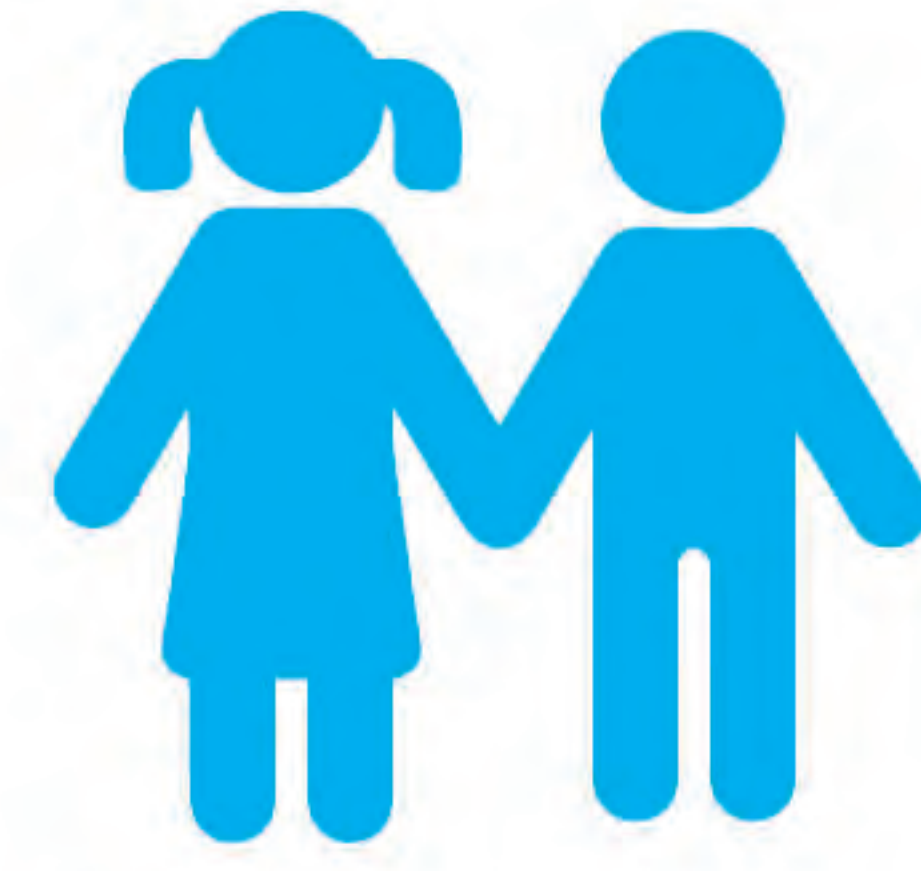
- a. Improved national data management will be a primary focus to facilitate evidence-based, equitable and uninterrupted service provision of essential vaccines for under 5 children, and the identification of children left behind.
- b. UNICEF will build human and institutional capacity to support national immunization services and will continue to strengthen national capacity to promote vaccine acceptance and uptake, particularly for COVID 19.

3 . Increasing the primary health-care system capacity to provide access to quality and resilient services to children under 5 years of age, adolescents and pregnant and lactating women.

- a. UNICEF will support the Government to expand its provision of the primary health and nutrition package, including (a) equipment, medicines and nutrition supplements; (b) facility-based data management through the District Health Information Management System; (c) promotion of optimal practices, especially during the first 1,000 days and second decade of life; and (d) mental and school health.
- b. UNICEF will work with national partners to ensure that primary health-care standards are implemented and that health-care workers have the knowledge and skills to provide standard quality care.
- c. UNICEF will undertake a national nutrition assessment. Social and behavioural change approaches and community engagement will be supported to create demand for health and nutrition services and promote positive norms and practices.

Education

01



Before 2011, Libya had a gross enrolment ratio of 110 for primary education and 93 for secondary. In 2021, approximately **18%** of families had at least one child not enrolled in school¹⁹, **despite primary and lower secondary education is free and compulsory.**

02



The youth unemployment rate remains high at **50%** for young people **aged 15–24 years**²⁰.

03



Even before 2011, Libya ranked low on quality education: 128 (primary) and 138 (secondary) out of 139 countries²¹. **The quality of education is assumed to have further deteriorated.**

19. REACH, Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), 2021.

20. International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT, 2022.

21. World Economic Forum, Global Competitiveness Report 2011–2010, WEF, Geneva, 2010.



Progress and challenges

Particularly vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities, internally displaced persons and non-nationals, report higher out-of-school rates, exacerbated by closures during the COVID-19 pandemic

Progress towards Sustainable Development Goals 4 (Quality education), 5 (Gender equality) and 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) has stalled in recent years: the most vulnerable children are deprived of quality primary education; many adolescents and youth are deprived of learning and skills-building opportunities, and most children aged 3–5 years are deprived of early learning opportunities. Along with this, National education statistics are unavailable owing to the absence of an Education Management Information System.

Particularly vulnerable groups, including children with disabilities, internally displaced persons and non-nationals, report higher out-of-school rates, exacerbated by closures during the COVID-19 pandemic.[2] Even before 2011, Libya ranked low on quality education: 128 (primary) and 138 (secondary) out of 139 countries.[3] The quality of education has further deteriorated owing to inadequate policies, low public investment and human resources capacity, and a lack of school infrastructure and supplies. The youth unemployment rate remains high (50.4 per cent for young people aged 15–24 years),[4] partly due to a misalignment of the curriculum with labour market needs. Enrolment in the national technical and vocational education and training programme remains limited.

1. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Humanitarian Response Plan Libya 2021–2022, OCHA, New York, 2021.
2. International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT, 2022.
3. UNICEF Libya, Libya Ministry of Planning, NESB and National Bureau of Statistics and Census, 2020

UNICEF in Action

Libya's country programme envisages that girls, boys and adolescents have increased access to uninterrupted quality, relevant, and safe learning opportunities, including skills, by 2025. This programme component will be implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth, the civil society, the private sector, international stakeholders and United Nations partners, including UNESCO, ILO, IOM and UNFPA.

During 2023-2025, UNICEF support includes:

- 1 . Increasing the education system's capacity to ensure uninterrupted, gender-responsive, quality learning opportunities for girls and boys.
 - a. To facilitate evidence-based decision-making and budgeting, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education will work together to roll out an Education Management Information System and conduct an out-of-school children study.
 - b. UNICEF will support sector-wide policy development, including national distance education and safe schools.
 - c. It will support and advocate for the development of a certified non-formal education curriculum and the roll-out of life-skills education within the national curriculum.
 - d. UNICEF will contribute to increasing the professional development of teachers and school personnel, including social workers in schools.
- 2 . Increasing capacity of education providers to deliver inclusive, gender-responsive and quality education and skills development to children and young people.
 - a. UNICEF will improve the learning environment in targeted schools, including rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure to ensure accessible and gender-responsive WASH facilities, and will ensure that essential learning materials are available.
 - b. UNICEF will provide vulnerable children with cash assistance and support school enrolment for out-of-school children, including children on the move.
 - c. UNICEF will work with partner organizations to provide the most vulnerable children with certified non-formal education (with equivalence to the formal system), including in humanitarian situations.
 - d. Vulnerable youth and adolescents will be supported to access gender-responsive vocational training and skills development programmes, aligned to the national labour market.

Child Protection

01



Approximately **271,000** children in Libya need humanitarian child protection²².

03



78% of children reported experiences of emotional violence²⁴, and boys were more likely to **experience physical and psychological violence**²⁵.

02



In 2018, **73%** of children interviewed (aged 11–17 years) reported having **experienced physical violence** in the year preceding the survey, with teachers identified as the most frequent perpetrators²³.

04



An estimated **7%** of women have **experienced physical intimate partner violence**²⁶.

²² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Humanitarian Response Plan Libya 2022–2021, OCHA, New York, 2021.

²³ National Centre for Disease Control/UNICEF/Coram, Study on Violence against Children in Libya, 2018.

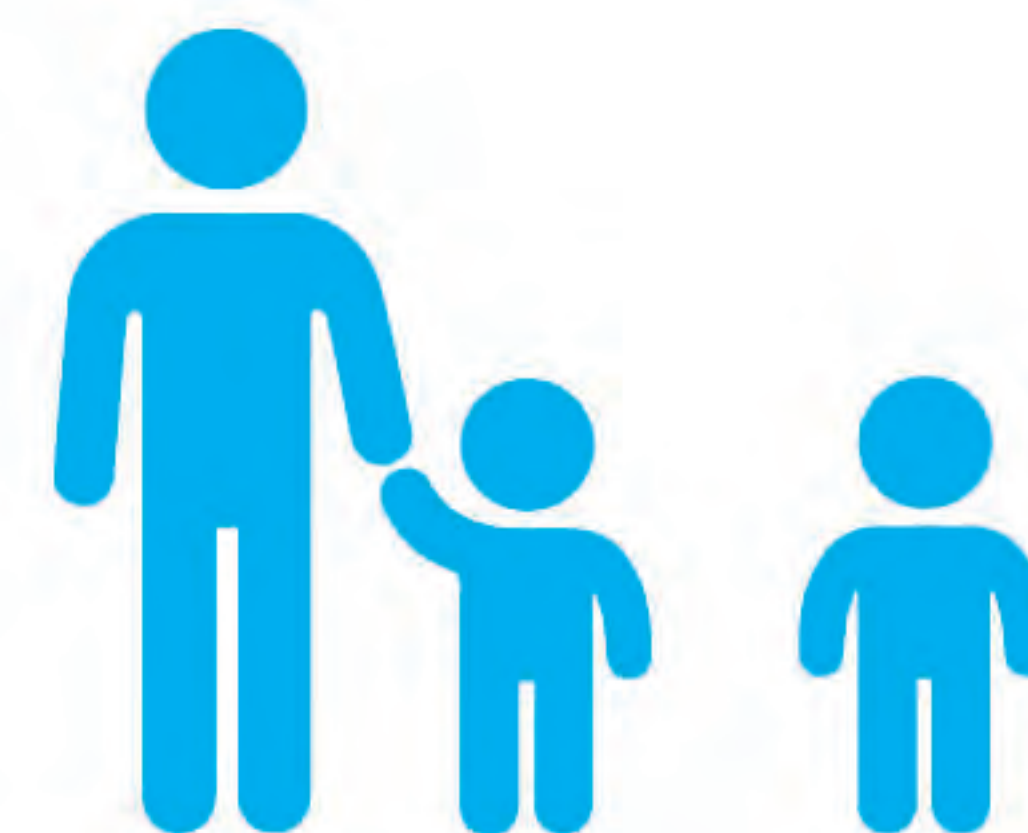
²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ The League of Arab States, Pan-Arab Project for Family Health (PAPFAM) Libya Report, 2014.

Child Protection

05



In 2021, there were an estimated **621,007** migrants, of whom **14%** were children, and **6%** were unaccompanied²⁷.

06



Percentage of children aged 5-17 engaged in child labour: **Total: 10%, Non-displaced: 10%, Returnees: 13% IDPs: 8%**²⁹.

07



In 2021, roughly **6,300** migrants and asylum seekers were being **held in detention centres**, of whom **25%** were children²⁸.

27. International Organization for Migration, DTM Libya Migrant Report, Round 39, October–November 2021.

28. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Libya Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, New York, 2021.

29. 2021 MSNA

Progress and challenges

Progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) is limited, with many boys and girls deprived of protection against violence, abuse and exploitation, including gender-based violence, in schools, homes and communities. Children have limited access to the continuum of governmental child protection services. Years of armed conflict, displacement and COVID-19 have taken a psychological toll on children, with both children and women susceptible to physical violence. As a result of armed conflict, Libya is considered a situation of concern by the United Nations Security Council for grave child rights violations perpetrated by parties to the conflict.

Along with this, Libya has long been a migratory route towards Europe. In 2021, there were an estimated 621,007 migrants, of whom 14 per cent were children and 6 per cent were unaccompanied³⁰. Migrant and asylum-seeking children, especially unaccompanied and separated children, face exceptional protection risks³¹, including arbitrary detention, barriers to accessing basic services and high levels of violence, abuse and exploitation. In 2021, roughly 6,300 migrants and asylum seekers were being held in detention centres, of whom 25 per cent were children³². Women and children are disproportionately affected by abuse, exploitation and substandard living conditions in detention settings³³.

³⁰. International Organization for Migration, DTM Libya Migrant Report, Round 39, October–November 2021.

³¹. REACH, Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), 2021.

³². United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Libya Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, New York, 2021.

³³. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Abuse Behind Bars: Arbitrary and unlawful detention in Libya, OCHA, New York, 2018.

Children have limited access to the continuum of governmental child protection services.

Women and children are disproportionately affected by abuse, exploitation and substandard living conditions in detention settings.



UNICEF in Action

Libya's country programme envisages that, by 2025, girls, boys and adolescents are better protected from violence, abuse and exploitation and benefit from strengthened child protection systems and improved practices. This programme component will be implemented in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Justice and with other national and United Nations stakeholders, including the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, the UNODC, UNDP and UNFPA.

During 2023-2025, UNICEF support includes:

1 . Improving the government's financial and institutional capacity to plan, coordinate and manage child protection systems.

- a. UNICEF will support the Government in building inclusive and gender-responsive child protection services and human resource capacity (particularly the social service workforce); to develop a child protection case management system, continuing support to Family and Child Protection units; to establish release procedures for children in

conflict with the law and promote alternatives to detention, particularly for children on the move.

- b. To facilitate evidence-based decision-making, UNICEF will support the Government in operationalizing policies and develop a child protection information management system. UNICEF and partners will continue monitoring and reporting on grave child rights violations.

2 . Ensuring that targeted communities and service providers have improved knowledge and skills to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation.

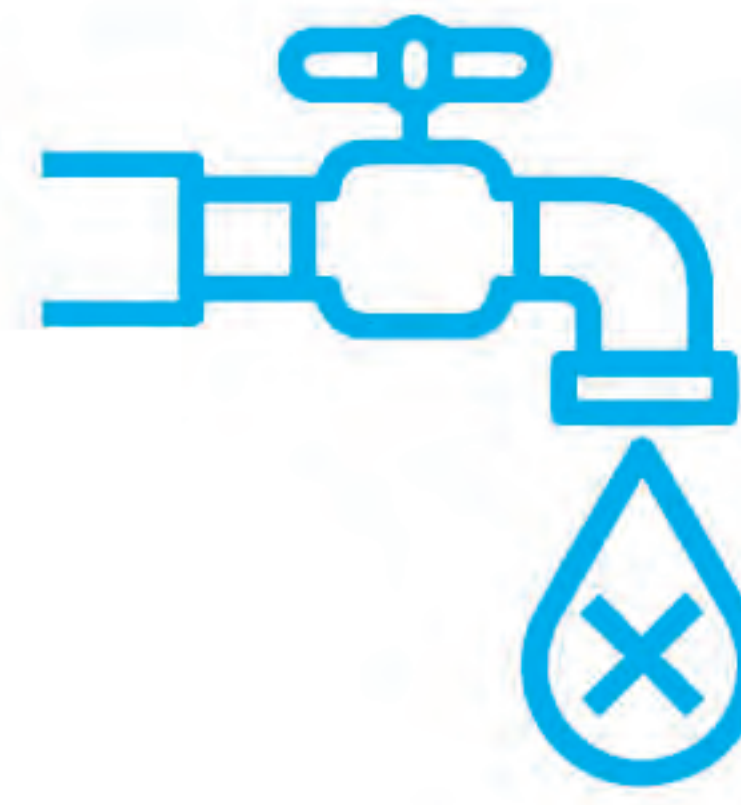
- a. UNICEF and partners will ensure that children, adolescents and their parents recognize the signs of violence, know how to report cases and seek help and services. UNICEF will mobilize child protection service providers to better prevent and respond to violence and harmful practices.

3 . Increasing the capacity of child protection services to provide multi-sector and inclusive services for girls and boys that prevent, detect, refer and respond to violence.

- a. UNICEF will implement this through community centres, case management and referrals to specialized child protection services and child-friendly justice services at the municipal level, including for the most vulnerable children, children on the move and in humanitarian situations, with alternatives to detention and support to service integration and improved access to basic social services.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

01



Libya is the **sixth most water-scarce country** in the world, with a water stress level of **817%**³⁴.

03



90% of Libya's water is derived from non-renewable sources and there is a risk that Libya's primary water source will decrease more rapidly than expected, with **depletion of underground water** within the next 15 to 25 years³⁶.

02



In 2020, **50%** of households relied on bottled water³⁵.

04

Libya's amount of renewable water is **only 103 m³ per person per year**, compared to the international standard of a minimum of 1000 m³ per person per year³⁷.

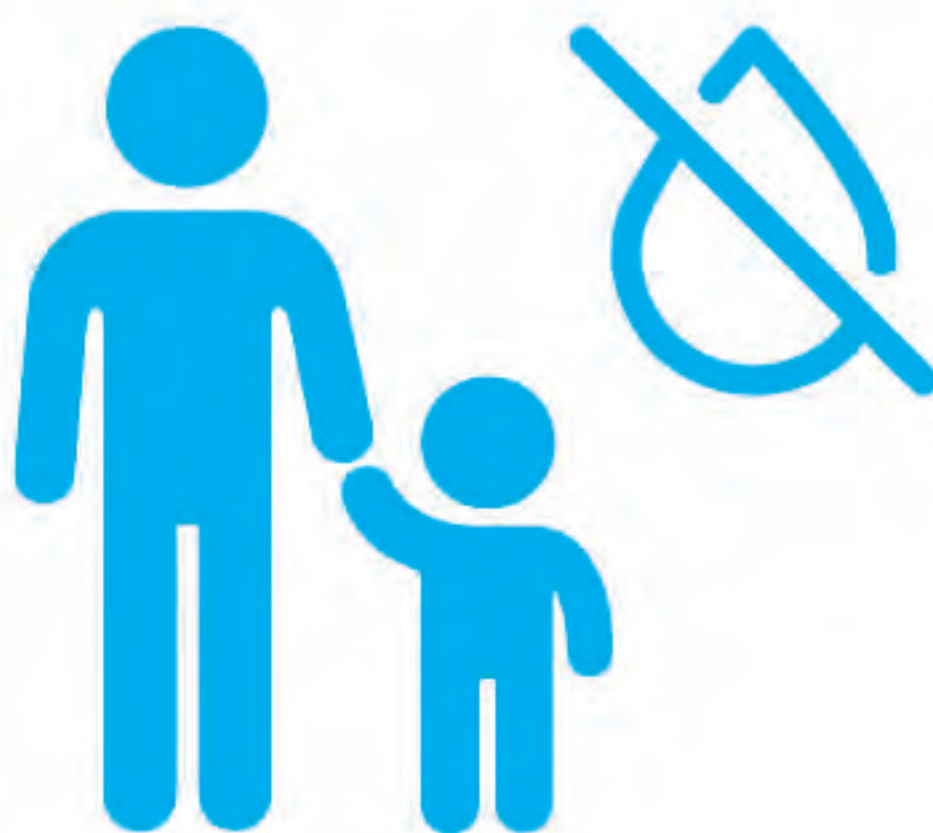


05



7% of Libyan households have emergency WASH needs³⁸.

06



16% of migrant and refugee households have emergency WASH needs³⁹.

34. FAO 2019: https://www.sdg6data.org/country-or-area/libya#anchor_6.4.2

35. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Libya Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, New York, 2021.

36. Defining a Water Strategy in Libya: Issues and Options

37. Libya National Voluntary Review 2020: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/libya>

38. 2021 MSNA

39. 2021 MSNA



Progress and challenges

Libya is the sixth most water-scarce country in the world. Water usage is unmonitored and free of charge, resulting in gross misuse.

The right to water and sanitation is core to Sustainable Development Goal 6. Insufficient policies, budget allocation and capacity limit progress towards developing sustainable, equitable climate-resilient water and sanitation systems. Libya is the sixth most water-scarce country in the world. Water usage is unmonitored and free of charge, resulting in gross misuse. Climate change poses an additional significant risk, compounding water scarcity and affecting national development and sustainability. In 2020, 50 per cent of households relied on bottled water⁴⁰. Weak water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems have hindered efforts to reduce COVID-19 transmission. Continued sabotage of the Man-Made River (a primary water source) by armed groups and power cuts are critical concerns. Poor management of solid and medical waste poses a health risk, as does the disposal of untreated wastewater into the sea⁴¹.

40. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Libya Humanitarian Needs Overview, OCHA, New York, 2021.

41. WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, 2021.

UNICEF in Action

Libya's country programme envisages that girls, boys and adolescents have improved access to and use of equitable, sustainable, climate-resilient and gender-responsive WASH services and live in a safe and healthy environment by 2025. Partners include the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of the Environment, as well as key national and United Nations partners, including FAO, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, the World Bank, UNDP and WFP.

During 2023-2025, UNICEF support includes:

1 . Increasing capacity of WASH systems to legislate, finance, plan, and coordinate climate-resilient initiatives for equitable, safe and sustainable WASH services.

a. UNICEF will support improved coordination between national and international partners to build a common approach and support financing of innovative WASH solutions.

Awareness-generation, social and behavioural change on responsible water usage, climate change and hygiene, including mobilization of youth and communities, will be a key strategy.

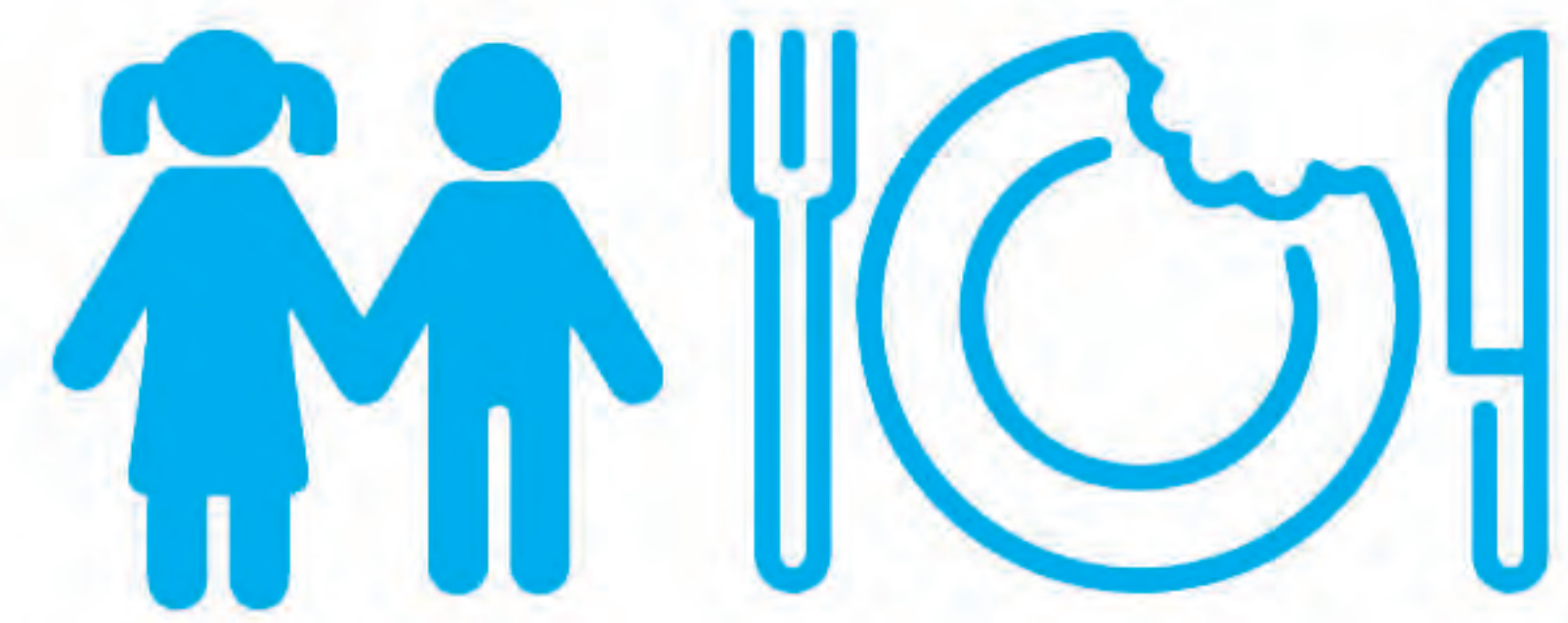
b. UNICEF will provide WASH authorities with technical support to build capacity and awareness around climate change, water scarcity and issues related to environmental sustainability and resilience and will support Government counterparts to develop national, gender-responsive WASH strategy, standards and climate-related policies.

2 . Increasing capacity of WASH services providers to provide equitable, gender-transformative and climate-resilient services in targeted areas to girls, boys and adolescents.

a. To support access to essential life-saving WASH services, UNICEF will work with the Government and civil society to support critical and urgent, climate-resilient, emergency repair of WASH infrastructure at the municipal level, including rehabilitation of WASH facilities in schools and health centres, and provide humanitarian assistance, as necessary. Special attention will be given to long-term solutions (such as desalination and solar power).

Social policy

01



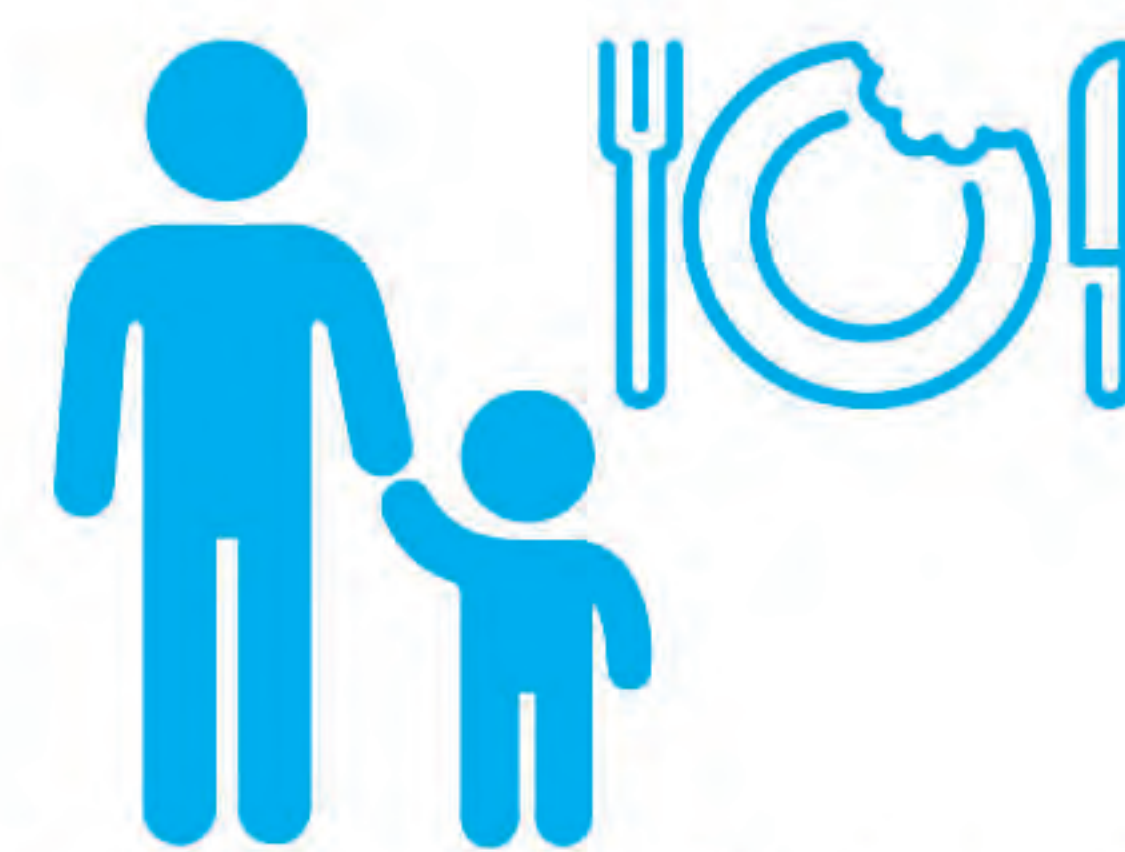
Proportion of children aged 17–0 years living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions: **36%**⁴².

03



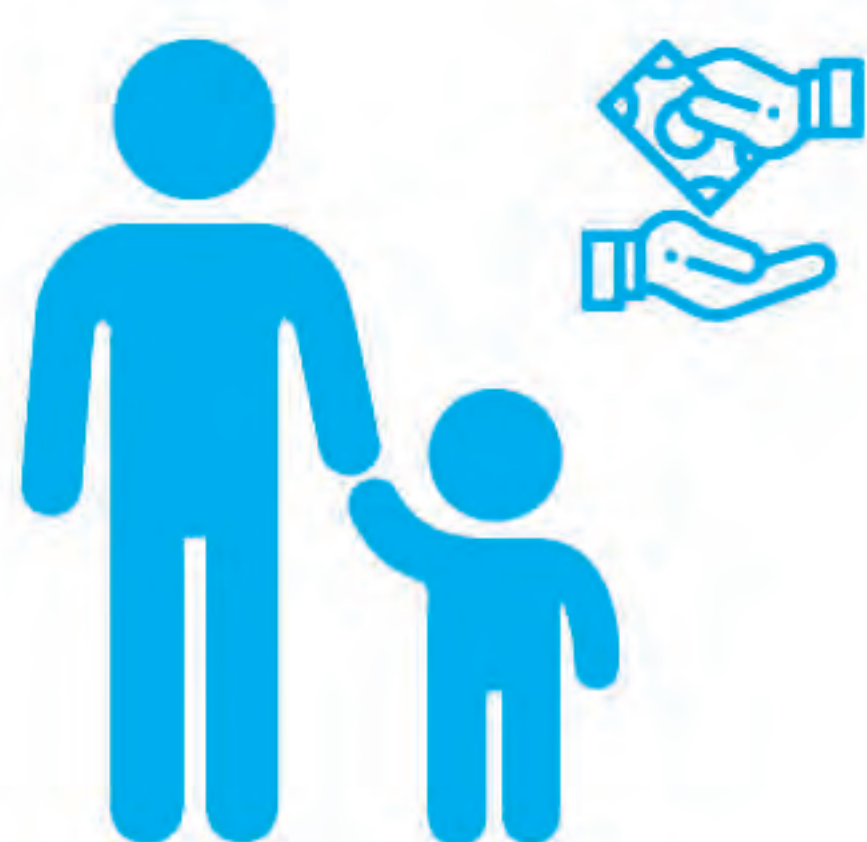
Percentage of all assessed households reporting that access to cash was a priority need: **42%**⁴⁴.

02



Proportion of refugees living below national poverty line: **16%**⁴³.

04



Among refugees and migrants, **71%** cited an acute need for cash, followed by employment, food and shelter⁴⁵.

05



Among Libyan households, **82%** rely on household members' work as the main source of income, followed by **Government subsidies (21%)**, **savings (8%)** and **humanitarian assistance (1%)**⁴⁶.

⁴² UNICEF Libya, Libya Ministry of Planning, NESB and National Bureau of Statistics and Census, 2020

⁴³ 2021 MSNA

⁴⁴ 2021 MSNA

⁴⁵ REACH. 2021. Libya Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNA) 2021: Key Preliminary Findings (PowerPoint Presentation, August 2021).

⁴⁶ World Bank Group and WFP. 2021. An Assessment of the Social Assistance Programs and Delivery in Libya based on the IPSA Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI): Joint Diagnostics Report and Key Findings (Draft, October 2021), p. 7.

Progress and challenges

Prior to the 2011 regime change, Libya had a fully functional social protection system. Spending on social protection was estimated at 4.4% of GDP in 2010, and the formal social security system reached coverage rates of up to 87 percent⁴⁷. However, spending on public services has since been negatively affected by the instability of oil revenue and the inflation resulting from the security and political situation⁴⁸.

Libya's social protection system's main challenge is fragmentation, duplication of programmes and lack of a sustainable financing mechanism within the fiscal budget.

With the exception of the Convention on the Rights of Refugees and the ILO's convention No. 157 on Social Security Rights, No. 143 on Migrant Workers, and No. 183 on Maternity Protection, Libya has ratified and acceded to most international treaties that create several obligations related to social protection⁴⁹. There is a robust legal framework for protection of households along the life cycle. However, Libya's social protection system's main challenge is fragmentation, duplication of programmes and lack of a sustainable financing mechanism within the fiscal budget. The overall system continues to be characterised by ad-hoc entitlement measures, with several legacy beneficiary rolls and

long waiting lists for programs that lack funding and the ability to reprioritize beneficiaries based on their vulnerabilities and/or needs. In its original design, the country's social protection system was inclusive and consisted of both Social Insurance (contributory) and Social Assistance (non-contributory) programmes. Libya's social protection sector has not, however, introduced any special measures to mitigate the impacts of the conflict and/or COVID-19 which has further exacerbated the fiscal and monetary situation and has severely impacted the livelihoods, caused loss of savings and assets, and constrained social services delivery⁵⁰.

Economic vulnerability is a reality for a large proportion of households in Libya. Access to cash is the most commonly reported need by both Libyans and non-Libyans. Among Libyans, 42 percent of assessed HHs, particularly the South and East, had an acute need for cash⁵¹. Among refugees and migrants, 71 percent cited an acute need for cash, followed by employment, food and shelter⁵². There are some noteworthy differences by location. For example, 96% of refugees and migrants in Ejdabia cite access to cash as their main need. In contrast, employment is the most frequently cited need in Ejdabia (82 per cent), Sebha (60 percent), and Murzuq (56 per cent). For was the priority need in Murzuq (77 per cent) and shelter support was the most reported need in Al Kufra (56 percent).

47. NEDB, UNICEF, UNDP. 2021. Roadmap for the Development of a National Social Protection Policy in Libya, final December 2021.

48. African Development Bank, 2018. <https://www.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/rights-based-socioeconomic-vision-road-map-foundational-development-libya-policy-brief-2-english.pdf>

49. Ibid.

50. World Bank Group and WFP. 2021. An Assessment of the Social Assistance Programs and Delivery in Libya based on the IPSA Core Diagnostic Instrument (CODI): Joint Diagnostics Report and Key Findings (Draft, October 2021)

51. REACH. 2021. Libya Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNA) 2021: Key Preliminary Findings (PowerPoint Presentation, August 2021).

52. REACH. 2021. Libya Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessments (MSNA) 2021: Key Preliminary Findings (PowerPoint Presentation, August 2021).

UNICEF in Action

Libya's country programme envisages that girls, boys and adolescents have improved access to inclusive social protection services to reduce child deprivations by 2025.

Partners include the Ministry of Planning, the Bureau of Statistics and the National Economic Development Board, UNDP and WFP.

2 . ncreasing capacity of national social protection systems to prevent and protect boys and girls from deprivations and vulnerabilities before, during and after shocks and stresses.

- a. UNICEF will support the implementation of the National Social Protection Policy Roadmap and the registration of vulnerable children in national programmes, including child grants programmes.
- b. UNICEF will provide humanitarian cash assistance and facilitate access to the national system, as necessary.

During 2023-2025, UNICEF support includes:

1 . Increasing national capacity to generate and use child-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators and child deprivations to inform evidence-based policy dialogue and budget decisions.

- a. UNICEF will support Government counterparts with capacity development and essential evidence generation to better understand gender disparities and children's vulnerabilities in Libya.
- b. UNICEF will conduct informed evidence-based advocacy to improve public finance for children towards essential social services and will work with national partners and civil society organizations to increase their capacity to plan and implement programmes that are equitable and decrease poverty and vulnerability to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal progress.



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Program effectiveness

UNICEF will strengthen quality evidence-based planning, coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation, external relations, and other cross-sectoral support to drive UNICEF country programme excellence. It will also ensure appropriate human and financial resources to manage and monitor the country programme effectively in line with results-based management.

During 2025-2023, UNICEF support includes:

- 1 . Technical guidance and quality assurance will be provided on programme planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.
 - a. Cross-cutting priorities will be strengthened through enhanced and expanded partnerships with United Nations agencies, the private sector and international institutions, including accountability to affected populations, social and behavioural change, advocacy and communication and emergency preparedness and response.
 - b. UNICEF will chair UNSDCF outcome 3 to ensure interagency coordination regarding support to basic service delivery.

- 2 . UNICEF will continue to work with the Government and municipalities on sustainable funding for the social sectors and will follow a risk-informed approach.
 - a. The country programme is risk-informed, with internal controls, governance and mitigation measures. Risks identified for this programme include the economic situation, the political and security environment, the deterioration of essential services, climate-related issues, public health issues (including COVID-19) and a significant increase in the number of children on the move.
 - b. UNICEF will continue to maintain governance and management systems, including stewardship of financial resources and management of human resources, including through the field office. Cash transfers to civil society partners will be implemented according to the United Nations Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers policy.



3 . Strengthening and modernizing national systems for data collection, analysis, dissemination, monitoring and evaluation.

- a. UNICEF will utilize evidence to improve the monitoring of the situation of children and the Sustainable Development Goals. The results and resources framework will form the basis for outcome and output monitoring and reporting.
- b. UNICEF will prepare joint work plans with members of the United Nations country team and participate in annual reviews with the Government. Partners and rights holders will contribute to output results monitoring and learning, informed through expanded field presence, and third-party monitoring in hard-to-reach areas, including measures to ensure feedback and input from vulnerable and at-risk groups.
- c. UNICEF will monitor outcome indicators through national surveys and administrative data, as available, and changes in the programme context and the situation of children by collaborating with national systems to address data gaps and improve the generation and use of disaggregated data.
- d. In coordination with the Government and United Nations agencies, UNICEF will evaluate specific interventions and undertake targeted research in line with the costed evaluation plan and the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.
- e. As data gaps affect gender-responsive programming and policymaking, UNICEF will prioritize gender in evidence generation, including through MICS and Multidimensional Overlapping Deprivation Analysis, and will support a national information management system roll-out.