

European Union support to local authorities in Libya



بعثة الاتحاد الأوروبي لدى ليبيا

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO LIBYA



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Pathway for the future





Why does the European Union support local authorities in Libya?

The European Union considers that local authorities have a key role to play in enhancing the capacities of municipalities and regions to deliver basic services, fight inequality, create wealth and jobs and tackle other pressing development challenges. As elected representatives of their communities, local authorities translate

local concerns to the state authorities and are best placed to identify the key priorities for local development. Empowering local authorities can contribute to stabilisation within municipalities and the country by promoting inclusive local development, ensuring that all communities within the municipality benefit from better service delivery.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- › More than 80% of the Libyan population lives in cities or urban settlements.
- › Goal 11 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations is 'make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable', stressing the importance of urban planning and management.
- › The Nicosia Initiative, a European-Libyan twinning programme for regions and cities, was established in 2015 to improve the lives of ordinary Libyans, by helping municipalities provide better services in areas ranging from primary health care to waste management.
- › The European Union has been one of the key supporters of local development worldwide since 1980.



What are the axes of EU support to local authorities in Libya?

In order to translate its principals and objectives into reality on the ground, the European Union's action in Libya is focusing on 3 key areas:



1. PROMOTING INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Libya has launched an ambitious decentralisation process with the adoption of Law 59 in 2012. The EU is supporting this effort through programs contributing to building the capacities of elected councilors as well as civil servants to ensure they benefit from international best practice in urban planning and management.



3. IMPROVING LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Service delivery in health, education, water, electricity and waste management are essential elements to creating stable and safe cities in Libya. To support the local authorities in their role to provide these services to the population, the EU supports the rehabilitation of key infrastructure through a number of community stabilisation programmes.



2. SUPPORTING LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The EU is committed to promote local economic development and job creation for young people within their communities. For this reason, the EU is financing specific programmes to create new opportunities in the Libyan fishery sector, invest in local farming or establish small businesses.

Installation of solar streets lights in Benghazi





Boosting local economic development

With the support of the European Union, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) launched the programme “Support to Municipalities in Libya” which supports Local Economic Development (LED) committees in 15 municipalities across Libya. The committees are assisted in developing local development strategies by identifying the most important economic sectors to develop locally. In all municipalities, different agricultural sectors (especially dates and olives) have emerged as the most important sectors to develop, in view of their potential for creating growth and jobs. The programme helps to deve-



lop strategies to improve the local business environment and support entrepreneurs and startups, particularly among women and other disadvantaged groups. The final objective is to increase employment and income opportunities, which in turn contributes to reduce regional disparities and facilitate sustainable growth in Libya.



BENGHAZI



Improving service delivery for returnees

Beyond the widespread displacement of civilians seeking refuge in safer areas in Benghazi, the hostilities have destroyed essential infrastructure such as water facilities, hospitals and schools. Therefore, the European Union has financed ACTED, who has worked with the Municipality of Benghazi since 2011 to improve the delivery of services and better manage reconstruction efforts.

EU-supported rehabilitation efforts include the Eastern branch of the General Water Authority, now working at full capacity with 50 employees carrying out crucial assessment and monitoring of the city’s water resources. Many damaged educational facilities were also restored and allowed over 800 children to return to their full-time education. Finally, thanks to EU support, the psychiatric hospital section C for women was able to reopen to insure health services to women in need.

Capacity building for municipal members



NALUT CITY



Ahmed Omar Mataoua, a 57 year-old father, was elected as member of Nalut City Council in 2014. He has been devoting himself entirely to civil society since 2011. “I have always been convinced that Libya needs skills and leaders who support the demands of society. After the revolution, the absence of the state forced us to take charge of the situation ourselves,” explains Ahmed. Since 2015, he participated in numerous trainings

and workshops organized by the EU-funded “Libya Local Governance and Stabilisation Project”, implemented by CILG-VNG International to strengthen local governance in Libya. In particular, the project aims at improving management of selected municipal councils, improve local service delivery and enhance cooperation between municipal councils and civil society.

“At my personal level I have learned a lot from working with experts and participating in trainings”. Ahmed is now contributing to organizing and facilitating training courses. Capacity building of youth is a key issue for him.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Overview of EU-funded projects with components supporting Local Authorities. → Arrow icon: Click for online info

Projects fully dedicated to supporting local authorities

TITLE	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	PERIOD	PARTNER
Municipal development in the context of mixed migration →	10 M EUR	2017-2020	GIZ
Libya Local Pilot Projects: strengthening local governance by supporting selected municipalities →	0.6 M EUR	2018-2020	VNG International
Recovery, Stability and Socio-Economic Development in Libya →	50 M EUR	2018-2021	AICS, UNDP, UNICEF
Improved Social Accountability at Local Level →	3 M EUR	2019-2022	VNG International, DRI

Projects with components supporting local authorities

TITLE	TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET	PERIOD	PARTNER
Strengthening Local Capacities for Resilience and Recovery (Phase I) →	18 M EUR	2017-2020	UNDP



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