

Voices from Libya



29,326 people reached with SRH and GBV services (male and female)



10,227 women of reproductive age (15-49) reached with SRH services



13,543 people reached with SRH services



89 UNFPA-supported safe deliveries



13,967 individuals reached with GBV services



1,013 dignity kits distributed



7,133 beneficiaries assisted through psychosocial support helpline '1417'



73,753 individuals reached with SRH & GBV information and awareness activities



821 personnel trained on various aspects of SRH



309 personnel trained on various aspects of GBV



2,021 young Libyan trained on life skills and vocational trainings



6,547,689 individuals reached through UNFPA Libya social media

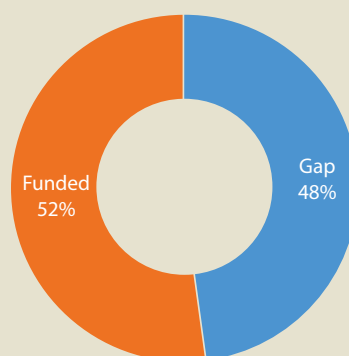


71 reproductive health kits benefiting **6,875** beneficiaries



4,640 individuals reached with personal protective equipment (PPE) to safeguard against COVID-19

USD 9,911,000
Humanitarian funding requirement for 2021



2020 at a glance

“Lockdowns”, “social distancing” and “facemasks” are the terms the year 2020 introduced to us all. The world grappled with fear has been exploring new ways to overcome or to co-exist. Unfortunately, the unprecedented spread of the epidemic has put a major dent on already marginalized segments the world over. Libya, a country marred by war and insecurities has also been adversely affected and the migrants, refugees and host communities especially girls and women are the major victims of deepening socio-economic challenges. In this year, despite challenges, UNFPA Libya, with its relentless efforts and with the support of donors’ community, government and implementing partners was able to achieve astounding results.

In 2020, we worked with our partners in Libya to provide quality health services to all women of reproductive age, newborns, children and adolescents, including migrants and refugees. We worked on building the capacities of health care providers through training and learning sessions. Health is the primary right of the migrants and displaced people and for that we have quipped and rehabilitated the facilities by providing much needed support to primary health care structures in Libya.

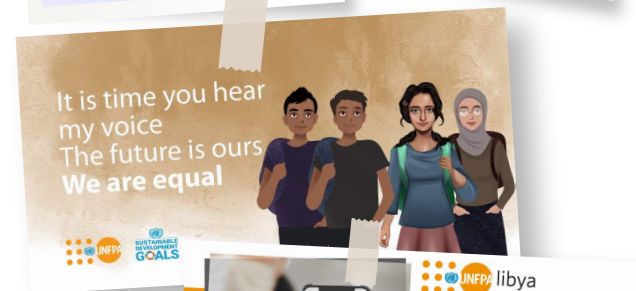
In the year, UNFPA Libya was able to establish a solid basis of intervention to address gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response involving main governmental institutions and actors, including the Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Interior. In multiple locations, including Tripoli, Sabha and Benghazi, thanks to the support of our local and international partners, women and girls safe spaces (WGSS) are providing livelihood, life skills training and awareness sessions on gender-related topics to women and girls. In parallel, we provided remote and in-person services for GBV survivors, including psychosocial support, case management and referral to the nearest health facilities and other needed services.

With our sister agencies, UNFPA continued to respond to the humanitarian emergencies in Libya through rapid response mechanism. We provided dignity kits in urban areas as well as in IDP camps containing items for women hygiene to facilitate their movements and access to life saving services.

We worked on strengthening the organizational capacity and outreach of youth networks in Libya along with building the capacity of young activists and journalists.

In 2020, the migrants, refugees, IDPs, PWDs, women, girls and youth have been at the forefront of our support.

In 2021, we call out for the support from the donors’ community, local partners and government organs to join hands with us for serving the Libyan people and communities in need.



Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

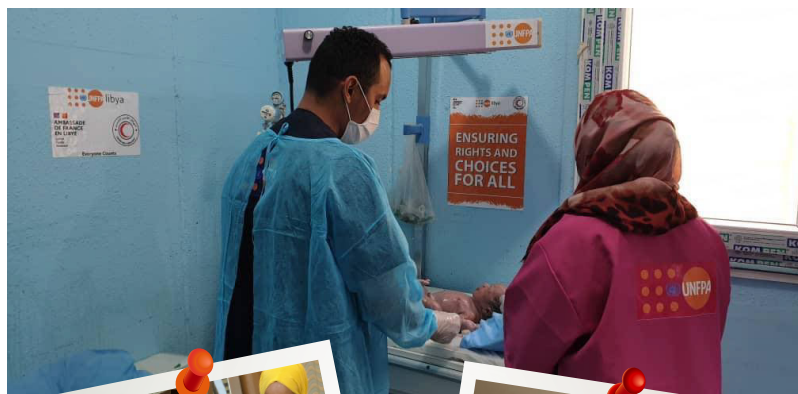
In 2020, UNFPA increased access for women and girls to high quality SRH services, with a focus on people affected by the humanitarian context in Libya. It served 6,412 people through mobile medical teams deployed in Tripoli, Sabha and Ghat. UNFPA also provided direct consultations, counselling and awareness sessions on SRH issues to another 4,398 women and girls.

To strengthen the resilience of healthcare facilities in the face of conflict and COVID-19 restrictions, UNFPA supplemented the service of 23 Health facilities with the provision of essential reproductive health (RH) kits throughout Libya benefitting over 7,500 individuals.

To achieve increased demand for SRH services, awareness raising activities reached out to 10,308 persons, whereas, 10,086 consultations were provided to different population groups at the community level, including migrants and IDPs. In the year, over 100,000 Libyans received SRH awareness through social and electronic media.

UNFPA improved the capacity and resilience of health systems with the provision of integrated SRH services, including most vulnerable populations by building the capacity of 821 frontline health care providers on SRH service provision.

UNFPA helped establishment of technical guidelines for midwifery, SRH, clinical management of rape and protocols on referral pathways. With the support of mother and child health (MCH) and other trainings, over 200 nurses and midwives were capacitated on communication and community engagement through GBV sensitive messages in combating COVID-19 and provision of SRH services to women and girls. An additional 45 frontline healthcare providers were trained on provision of Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) to sustain essential SRH services amid conflict and COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.



Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

In the year 2020, UNFPA Libya has initiated various projects to eliminate violence against women in Libya especially focusing on migrants, refugees and host communities. It has launched a helpline "1417" to provide psychosocial support, legal counseling and referral to the immediate health services for the people in need. So far, by virtue of the helpline, over 5,000 women have been provided needed support with the above mentioned services. Similarly, UNFPA WGSS in Tripoli, Sabha and Benghazi provided remote and in-person services to women and girls through awareness sessions on gender-related topics along with livelihood and life skills trainings.

To date, more than 13,000 women and girls have benefitted from services in WGSS and more than 14,000 have received kits containing items for female hygiene and wellbeing distributed in the centres and in several IDP camps.

UNFPA has also supported in building the capacities of the service providers in collaboration with line ministries involved to ensure GBV multi-sectoral services provided to the survivors. UNFPA has been helping to structure a solid basis of intervention involving main governmental institutions and actors, including the Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Health.

UNFPA has conducted the first-ever GBV situation analysis in Libya and is working with partners to support the establishment of a GBV Information Management System.

Under the EUTF-funded project, UNFPA has scaled up its interventions to protect migrants and refugees, in detention centres (DCs) especially women and girls who are at high risk of GBV. Along with the regular monitoring visits to assess the situation of the detainees, psychosocial support services are also provided.

During the year, UNFPA provided a set of services and activities in different regions throughout Libya, including GBV services, psychosocial support, livelihood activities, awareness raising, social media campaigns and dignity/hygiene kits reaching thousands of people.



Youth

As part of its ongoing efforts to support young people in becoming agents of behavioral change within their communities and actively engage in the COVID-19 response, UNFPA launched its Youth Against COVID-19 Fund, in partnership with Tracks Organization for Peace and Development (TOPD). The Fund strives to expand and deepen the role of young people in minimizing and mitigating the devastating health and socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Libya. In practice, the Fund aims at supporting youth-led initiatives that respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in all possible ways such as awareness raising, risk communication, and innovation. Through working with TOPD, Libyan Red Crescent, and Life Makers Association, UNFPA has awarded 29 micro grants to 29 different youth initiatives in 26 different cities across Libya, covering the entirety of Libya.

Focusing on young women, together with UN Women and Life Maker Association, UNFPA has developed its Khouta Forward programme. The programme targeted young women from remote locations with practical trainings such as CV writing, debate skills, and e-learning as well as with a package of socio-economic seed funds. UNFPA has awarded five young women from Tawergha, Derna, Ubari, Traghan, and Alkufra with five seed funds, to start up social enterprises in their own communities.

Together with TOPD, UNFPA has supported five media initiatives led by youth in Sirte that aimed at combating hate speech and shed light on local issues in the city. Additionally, UNFPA and TOPD have trained over 40 young journalists in Sirte on reporting and dialogue.

In partnership with UN Women, UNFPA also published a policy briefing paper on the challenges faced by young Libyan women for their participation in peacebuilding in the society, titled "Deepening Stabilization in Libya: Overcoming Challenges to Young Women's Participation in Peace Building". The challenges and recommendations outlined in the paper were drawn directly from a series of conferences held with and by young Libyan women, and were developed through further research and consultation.



Migrants and Refugees

Under the European Union Trust Fund (EUTF), UNFPA is implementing a two year programme focusing on strengthening protection and resilience of vulnerable migrants and migrants at risk, refugees and host communities in Libya. The programme is focusing on the emergency assistance and protection for migrants and refugees in urban areas, shelters and DCs and includes the provision of basic services such as health and psychosocial support as well as specialized protection services, including integrated SRH and GBV prevention and response.

In 2020, UNFPA contributed in improving access to protection services for women and girls from migrant and refugee communities as well the host community, both through assistance provided in DCs and in the WGSSs, through which 9,464 women and girls were provided with GBV prevention and response services in the three targeted locations of Tripoli, Sabha and Benghazi.

UNFPA has ensured availability of essential reproductive, maternal and newborn health services for migrant and refugees as well as host communities during conflict and the COVID-19 outbreak, by deploying specialized mobile medical units. Thanks to their support, three health facilities located along the migration route and in COVID-19 affected areas could continue to provide lifesaving SRH services, while the majority of the primary health centers (PHCs) and maternity hospitals closed. The teams reached 6,702 women with essential reproductive health services.

UNFPA has moreover provided training to healthcare providers that are working in health facilities along the migration routes, in order to maintain and scale up the provision of basic SRH services among migrant and host communities. They have acquired the capacity to identify, diagnose and refer SRH and GBV cases. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in Libya, as part of the EUTF-funded project, UNFPA has trained a total of 537 health service providers on SRH and COVID-19, district health information system (DHIS), HIV test services (HTS) and breast cancer prevention and awareness.



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Population Dynamics

Due to COVID-19, several primary data collection activities have been postponed to 2021. However, UNFPA Libya was able to contribute to the Humanitarian Programme Cycle for 2021 with the Common Operational Dataset for Population Statistics (COD-PS). CODs are authoritative reference datasets needed to support operations and decision-making for all actors in a humanitarian response. For Libya, the COD-PS is based on 'best available' datasets validated with the Bureau of Statistics and Census (BSC) that ensures consistency and simplifies the discovery and exchange of key data.

UNFPA Libya and BSC have initiated the preparatory work for a national demographic survey that should take place in 2021. The demographic survey will include a population estimation survey and should allow for updating the 2006 Census demographic data at municipality and national levels.

BSC in collaboration with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and UNFPA have initiated an in-depth trend analysis of previous household surveys conducted in Libya between 2014 and 2018. The trend analysis should help determine key social, health and demographic changes that affected the Libyan population during the years of conflicts and political instability.

COVID-19 Response

UNFPA's COVID-19 response has focused on ensuring continuity of SRH services, addressing GBV and engaging youth. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Libya, UNFPA has ensured the availability of essential reproductive health services by deploying specialized mobile medical units, which assisted over 8,963 women and 1,970 children in Tripoli, Sabha and Ghat. Over 11,300 women and men were reached through community-based health awareness sessions and behavior change communications for COVID-19 prevention. UNFPA has built the capacity of over 800 health workers to provide integrated SRH-GBV amidst COVID-19, out of which 388 have been provided with specific training on how to respond to COVID-19. Over 78,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies were donated by UNFPA to frontline health facilities and workers, including face masks, disposable coveralls and gloves. Young people have been actively engaged in the COVID-19 response through UNFPA Youth Against COVID-19 Fund. Through its national hotline and WGSS, UNFPA also provided psychosocial support to over 11,000 individuals in need of assistance amidst COVID-19.

Coordination and Partnership

UNFPA maintains close coordination with different stakeholders, including the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the MoH, international and local NGOs and UN agencies on preparedness, prevention and response to COVID-19.

UNFPA leads the coordination and facilitation of the essential health services group. The working group aims to strategically plan and coordinate the maintenance of Essential Health Services (EHS) in Libya amidst the humanitarian context and COVID-19 pandemic. EHS plan was developed, presented and endorsed by the MoH to provide generic coordination and operational guidance to Libya in preparing and maintaining good quality and equitable access to essential health services, including sexual, reproductive, maternal newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNFPA continues to lead the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (GBV AoR), which works to ensure that minimum standards are in place to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in emergencies. In light of the ongoing health emergency and under UNFPA's lead, the GBV sub-sector working group is working to ensure that the GBV referral pathways are updated to reflect services provided through primary and secondary health care facilities.

UNFPA also leads the Youth Working Group and co-leads the Gender Working Group and the UN Communications Group.



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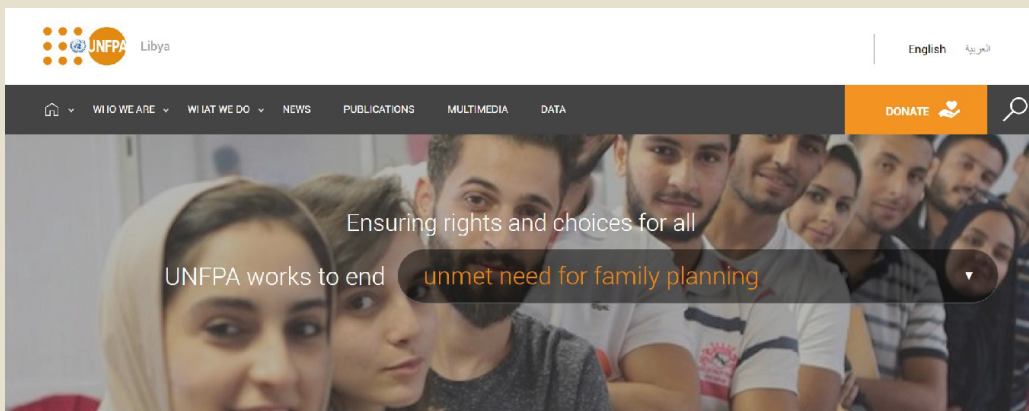
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