Voices from Libya

Highlights from our work - Jan to Oct 2020

- 24,661 individuals including 6083 males and 18,578 females reached with SRH and GBV services
- 3,430 UNFPA-assisted safe deliveries
- 2,157 calls received on psychosocial support helpline ‘1417’
- 74 personnel trained on various aspects of GBV
- 8,977 women of reproductive age (15-49) reached with SRH services
- 10,947 individuals reached with GBV services
- 6,991 individuals reached with SRH & GBV information and awareness activities
- 1,976 young people aged 20-24 reached with SRH services
- 856 dignity kits distributed
- 464 personnel trained on various aspects of SRH
- 1,507 young Libyan trained on life skills and vocational trainings
- 1,018,451 individuals reached through UNFPA Libya Social media
- 4,640 individuals reached with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to safeguard against COVID-19

USD 9,488,000 Humanitarian funding requirement for 2020

Funded 52%  
Gap 48%
The UN is marking its 75th anniversary at a time of great disruption for the world, compounded by an unprecedented global health crisis with severe economic and social impacts. Will we emerge stronger and better equipped to work together? Or will distrust and isolation grow further? 2020 must be a year of dialogue, when we come together to discuss our priorities as a human family, and how we can build a better future for all.

In January 2020, the UN launched the global dialogue initiative, and discussions have taken place in all settings, from classrooms to boardrooms, across the world. In order to reach as many people as possible, we have built partnerships with youth, civil society, business and media organisations, and created a one-minute survey that is quick and easy to complete.

UNFPA being the co-chair of the UN Communications Group (UNCG) in Libya has been at the forefront to engage people in Libya to have their say through the UN75 survey. The youth-led component of the UN75 campaign in Libya aims to actively engage a wide-ranging spectrum of youth actors in promoting the participation of young people in the UN75 global survey and in spreading the collectively-shaped vision of “the UN we need.” In a country where young people make up more than one third of the population, ensuring youth leadership and participation in the UN75 campaign is of utmost importance. The youth-led component, implemented by UNFPA on behalf of the UN Communications Group, will engage youth networks and youth influencers across Libya.

Click here to fill the survey

OUR WORK THIS MONTH

Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response

Protecing the rights, safety and dignity of women and young people in Safe Spaces

Social workers at the UNFPA Women and Girls Safe Spaces in Tripoli, Sabha and Benghazi continued providing remote and in-person services, reaching 425 women and girls through awareness sessions on gender-related topics, 483 through livelihood and life skills training sessions and 468 through remote psychosocial support and information sessions.

“Providing multi-sectoral service along with building capacity of service providers to ensure services being provided to migrant and displaced women is one of the key objectives of GBV programme in Libya. We do it because we cannot hope to improve health and human well-being and achieve peace and prosperity until every woman and girl can live enjoying their rights, with dignity and respect.”

Ahlam Sofan, GBV Programme Specialist in Libya.
In the month of October, UNFPA’s “Psychosocial Support Hotline 1417” addressed 629 calls related to psychosocial support and legal consultations on emotional, domestic and physical abuse referring 39 individuals to receive further specialized services. A daily advertisement about the available hotline services is being broadcasted in both English and Arabic on the Libyan “Radio Nass”.

Monitoring visits to detention centres

UNFPA through its partner LibAid, conducted three monitoring visits to the detention centres of Al Seka in Tripoli and Al Ganfouda in Benghazi to assess the conditions of the centres and identify the needs of the detainees with a focus on women and girls. Psychosocial activities and consultations were conducted during the visits reaching all migrants and refugees in need of assistance, with a focus on women and girls.

Awareness raising on gender equity and equality

Through its partner Huna Libya, UNFPA conducted an online awareness-raising campaign on gender equality and gender equity. The campaign was aimed at explaining the difference between the two terms, highlighting related facts, rights, and laws in Libya with a focus on the social and economic challenges faced by both genders. The campaign reached over 1,018,451 people through social media, web articles and videos.
Scaling up provision of maternal, newborn and child health services in Libya

Through its partners International Medical Corps and Libyan Red Crescent, UNFPA continued supporting the provision of essential reproductive health services in Tripoli, Sabha and Ghat through mobile medical units. In the month of October, the teams assisted a total of 992 women, 195 children, 16 men, ensured the safe delivery of 23 newborns, and reached 1,206 individuals with awareness sessions on hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, COVID-19 and pregnancy and reproductive health. The triage of a total of 2,389 cases was supported according to MoH-NCDC guidelines.

Psychosocial Support Provided

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) consultations were also conducted in Tripoli, Sabha and Ghat. The focus was on “Coping with Stress during COVID-19 Pandemic,” reaching 125 individuals. Sessions on “Midwifery and Breastfeeding” were also conducted in two PHCs in Tripoli, reaching 8 midwives and nurses.

Trainings of the service providers in Libya

In partnership with IMC, UNFPA delivered three batches of training on the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in crisis contexts, targeting 44 health care workers, including doctors, nurses and midwives from different Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) in Tripoli and Sabha. An additional 5-day training was conducted in early October on Comprehensive Reproductive Health, with participation of 23 health care workers from 10 PHCs in Sabha.

Breast Cancer Awareness

The month of October is observed globally as the Breast Cancer awareness month. Awareness sessions were conducted in partnership with the Libyan Midwifery Association reaching 50 midwives in Tripoli.
Capacity building of journalists for peacebuilding in Libya

As part of the Peacebuilding Fund Project, UNFPA through its partner Tracks Organization for Peace and Development, organized two workshops on professional journalism for 32 young journalists in Sirte between 6-11 October. The trainings were aimed at strengthening journalists’ capacity from a vocational perspective, as well as to train them on concepts such as impartiality, which ultimately contribute to peacebuilding in Libya.

I was really pleased with the training about managing dialogue and communication with the public. Youth as agent of change can be a reckoning force to establish peace in local communities

Khalid Youssef one of the participants.

Additionally, as part of the project interventions, UNFPA awarded grants to four youth-led initiatives that aim to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Sirte.

Equipping young women with practical skills

On 20 October, through its partner Life Makers Association, UNFPA launched the new project Khouta_Forward (i.e. Step_Forward), entailing a series of virtual training packages and grants awarding schemes aimed at empowering young people in crisis response and economically, with a focus on young women. So far, 47 young women from different Libyan cities were targeted with online training sessions on CV writing, E-learning and debate skills. It is to worth mentioning that Kahouta targets 200 young people in Libya of which 80% are young women.

Youth spearheading the fight against Covid-19

After the UNFPA established Youth Against COVID-19 Fund in April this year, Libyan Red Crescent (LRC), UN Women and UNESCO joined the initiative to strengthen the efforts aimed at empowering the role of young people in minimizing and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 in Libya. Through the Fund’s support, various micro-ventures are combating the COVID-19 pandemic by increasing community awareness, promoting innovative prevention measures and supporting frontline health workers. A call for ideas is already out inviting young volunteers of the LRC to propose creative youth-led initiatives that respond to the COVID-19 crisis and its socioeconomic impact. We are currently in the process of disbursing the grants to 13 selected winners.
UNFPA Arab States Regional Office (ASRO) launched the regional digital ambassador, Mariam, on the International Day of the Girl Child. The day was fully celebrated by the UNFPA Libya on social media.

**EVENTS**

**Maryam launched**

**UN Day:**

Globally 1 out of every 8 women becomes victim of Breast Cancer. UNFPA Libya launched a comprehensive awareness campaign urging for early screening and treatment of the disease.
2020 marks 20 years since the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1325. This landmark resolution recognized for the first time the importance of women’s full, equal, and meaningful participation in conflict resolution and the need for increased women’s participation in peacemaking and decision-making at all levels in peace processes. Twenty years and ten resolutions later, it is clear that this has not been fully realized.

**UN 1325 Resolution Anniversary**

In the month of October, UNFPA Libya has been spreading Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) COVID-19 messages through the following interventions:

- Awareness-raising sessions were delivered in Tripoli, Sabha and Ghat through Community Health Workers (CHWs) on hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, and COVID-19 and pregnancy awareness-raising sessions, reaching 1,206 individuals.

- 900 Information Education Communicaton/Behavioral Change Communication (IEC/BCC) materials on COVID-19 were disseminated in Ghat.

- As part of the Youth Against COVID-19 Fund, posters on COVID-19 risk communications were developed and displayed in Sirte with a focus on social distancing.

**COVID-19 Updates**

**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.
These interventions were possible thanks to the generous contributions from:

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