



Libya Country Profile

Urban Context

After nearly a decade of hostilities and civil war, a Ceasefire Agreement between the Government of National Accord (GNA) and the Libyan National Army of the General Command of the Armed Forces was signed in October 2020. Although there has been an end to large-scale hostilities, the situation remains precarious. The conflict, the impact of the blockade of the oil sector for much of 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic have further debilitated the already weak economic situation in the country. Today 81% of the total population live in urban areas in major cities including Tripoli, the capital of Libya, Benghazi, Misrata and Bayda.

The projected increase in urban population, combined with the damage that has resulted from the conflict, have resulted in several major challenges in the country including the provision of adequate housing, food, clean drinking water, job opportunities, health care, education, and transportation.

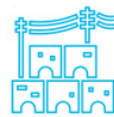
Urban management and legislation are one of the key pillars of sustainable urban development in Libya. Over the past four decades, the issue of housing represented one of the most complex problems facing the Libyan state aggravated by conflict and political instability. One of the key priorities is the formulation of a clear and specific housing policy that takes into consideration the social, economic, and environmental dimensions to meet the requirements of citizens of different living conditions.



Total population is 7.1 million



19.4% Urbanization rate



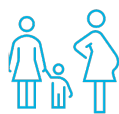
nearly 306 million live in extreme poverty



49.5% of youth are unemployed



1.3 million are in need of humanitarian assistance



143,000 are internally displaced



30% of Internally displaced people identified shelter as a priority



381,000 lack access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene

UN-Habitat in Libya



UN-Habitat established a strong and strategic partnership in Libya with the Urban Planning Authority since 1979 that aims to strengthen the national and local technical capacities in urban planning and development. The government of Libya, through its Ministry of Housing and Utilities and Urban Planning Authority (UPA), in collaboration with UN-Habitat Libya Office concurred on expanding the programme on “Institutional Development and Capacity Building of the Urban Planning Agency” until 2016. This programme supported setting the vision to revive the spatial planning process in Libya and exploring the most fitting urban planning approaches under the transitional period in Libya.

The success of UN-Habitat’s work in Libya is also dependent on successful partnerships established in the framework of the Rapid City Profiling initiative, particularly with the Municipalities, the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of planning as well as the Bureau of Statistics and census. Key projects include:

- **Institutional Development and Capacity Building with the Urban Planning Authority**

Funded by the Libyan government, the project aims to support the process of the implementation of the third urban planning phase (Third Generation) and the implementation of the National Physical Perspective Plan (NPP) 2000-2025; develop and build the institutional capacity of the Urban Planning Authority (UPA) and its branches; Train and build the capacity of the UPA staff in improved urban development and management and GIS technologies.

- **Rapid City Profiling and Monitoring System**

City Profiles provide spatial analysis of cities and neighborhoods that take into consideration demographic changes because of forced displacement, and reviews the functionality of urban infrastructure and services, including water, sanitation, health, and education that may be strained through rapid population influx, damaged due to conflict or neglected. Through spatial, multi-sectoral and inter-sectoral analysis using GIS mapping, a dynamic overview of cities is provided that identify neighborhoods that are in critical need, and key priorities for action in each sector. Ultimately, the project will increase the level of understanding from the international, national, and local stakeholders with regards to the impact of the crisis in urban areas and provide evidence-based planning information to support the response from the humanitarian and development community.

LAND ADMINISTRATION AND LAND RIGHTS TO PAVE THE GROUND FOR PEACE AND STABILITY



60 months



US\$ 6,000,000



National Level



Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in close cooperation with governmental and non-governmental bodies working on Land sector.



The project will benefit Libyan citizens across the country



Purpose

The conclusion derived from in-depth discussions between land and HLP experts and practitioners in Libya and UN-Habitat highlighted the urgency and importance for the Libyan institutions and international community to join forces to improve land administration. Despite the long process from both technical and political aspects, there is scope to start working on the building blocks that will create the foundation for rebuilding a good land management system in Libya and address some of the most pressing challenges. An urgent priority is restarting land registration.

Project Description

A programme in support of land administration, resuming of land registration, and protection of land rights in Libya will be developed in collaboration with key partners. The programme will tackle different challenges including land registration system, management of public assets, land-based taxation, land market, and land expropriation and compensation, protection of housing, land, and property (HLP) rights, resolution of land disputes, fragmentation of the formal legal system, new technologies, planning processes. It will involve local NGOs & private sector, human resources, and coordination mechanisms.

Project Strategy

UN-Habitat will work with the key Libyan land sector stakeholders to finalize the assessment of land administration and land rights, which will provide a solid base for a second and more targeted consultation on specific interventions to be implemented. The needed support from the Government of National Unity and of development partners must be mobilized.

Main Expected Accomplishments

- Legal and regulatory framework is updated.
- Land registration process is streamlined and reformed.
- Land registration projects are piloted.
- Land registration freeze is lifted.
- Property taxation is implemented.
- Disputes resolution is maintained.
- Technical capacity of the employees of the Ministry and its affiliated bodies in the field of Land administration is increased. Coherence between working bodies on land issues is enhanced.
- Housing, land, and property (HLP) rights, especially for vulnerable groups are enhanced.

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TO THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION



60 months



US\$ 5,000,000



National Level



Ministry of Housing and Construction



The project will benefit Libyan citizens across the country

Purpose

The new approach implies changing policies, legal and regulatory frameworks, and the ways of approaching and responding to the housing and urban demand. Within the new vision of “enabling the housing sector” and moving towards more sustainable housing and urban sectors, the Libyan Ministry of Housing and Utilities will have to enhance its institutional capacity to study and monitor housing and urban development trends in the country and be able to quickly respond with improved norms, regulatory frameworks, laws, and adequate planning that can quickly respond to the demanding housing and urban development constraints.

Project Description

The project will provide technical assistance to the Ministry on three priorities with the following objectives:

- Supporting the Ministry in further developing the housing policy and preparing an implementation plan.
- Elaborating a capacity development plan for the successful development of the housing sector. Establishing a programme to address key land administration and land rights issues.

Project Strategy

The activities of the project will be implemented with the Libyan Ministry of Housing and Construction including policy advice, general coordination, project funds. Adequate premises will be provided by the Ministry of Housing and Construction, and UN-Habitat will operate as the implementing partner responsible for providing technical support as well as project implementation and administration.

Main Expected Accomplishments

- Housing policy with an implementation plan is developed.
- Capacity development plan for the housing sector is established.
- Programme to address key land administration and land rights issues is developed.
- Technical capacity of the employees of the Ministry and its affiliated bodies in the field of Land administration is increased.
- Coherence between working bodies on Land issues is enhanced.
- Housing, land, and property (HLP) rights, especially for vulnerable groups are enhanced.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE URBAN PLANNING AUTHORITY



120 months



US\$ 10,000,000



National Level



Urban Planning Agency (UPA)



The project will benefit Libyan citizens across the country

Purpose

UN-Habitat and the Urban Planning Authority of Libya have been on the Institutional Development and Capacity Building of the Urban Planning Authority since 2002. However, due to the instability of the political situation since 2011, the activities have been suspended. Both entities now are ready to resume work in light of the recent changes within the urban environment in Libya, in addition to the new approaches adopted towards a sustainable urban development.

Project Description

The project will provide technical assistance to the Authority on different components, including decision-making and monitoring mechanism that track urban changes, in addition to urban reparation and rehabilitation, minimizing informal growth, and institutional development and capacity building.

Project Strategy

The activities of the project will be implemented with the Urban Planning Agency. They consist of policy advice, general coordination, project funds, and reopening for the UN-Habitat office at their premises. UN-Habitat will operate as the implementing partner responsible for providing technical support, project implementation, and administration.

Main Expected Accomplishments:

- Urban observatory is established to support decision-making and monitor progress.
- Urban reparation and rehabilitation plans are established.
- National Plan to minimize informal growth is developed.
- Urgent Plan that addresses the urban situation is supported.
- Preparation of the national urban policy is supported.
- Institutional development and capacity building is provided.
- Capacity of the employees of the Ministry and its affiliated bodies in the innovative tools that are currently used in the urban planning and development field is increased.
- Coherence between working bodies on urbanism is enhanced.

UPGRADING OF LIBYA PORTAL



36 months



US\$ 10,000,000



National Level



Ministry of Housing and Utilities in close cooperation with all its affiliated authorities as well as other concerned governmental entities, each in its mandate.



The project will benefit Libyan citizens across the country

Purpose

While the overall content in the portal is rich and varied, the latest datasets available are of 2012 and 2014. Thus, almost all datasets are outdated and therefore not indicative of real-time and current situation in Libya.

All data sources need to be re-visited to check for updates and re-link all topics and datasets covered to the most recent datasets available. This step requires extensive background research into the sources of updated data and a technical update of the Portal's database.

Project Description

The project will provide technical assistance to the Libyan Ministry of Housing and Utilities, with its affiliated bodies, as well as the other governmental entities related to urbanization development, with the aim of collectively sharing data that contributes to the urban development process.

Project Strategy

The activities of the project will be implemented with the Libyan Ministry of Housing and Utilities including general coordination and project funds. UN-Habitat will operate as the implementing partner responsible for providing technical support, project implementation, and administration.

Main Expected Accomplishments:

- Needs assessment for the concerned Governmental and non-governmental bodies is conducted.
- Upgraded version of Libya portal is launched.
- Capacity building for the governmental bodies that will be authorized to frequently update the portal with the agreed-on data is implemented.
- Transparency and avoidance of duplication of effort and money on similar work are enhanced.
- Coherence between working bodies on Land issues is enhanced.
- Capacity of the employees of the Ministry and its affiliated bodies in the innovative tools that facilitate spatial decision making is increased.

LIBYA NATIONAL URBAN OBSERVATORY



48 months



US\$ 3,000,000



National Level



Ministry of Local Government
Urban Planning Authority (UPA)



The project will benefit Libyan citizens across the country

Purpose

In January 2019, there was an agreement between the Urban Planning Authority in Libya and UN-Habitat regarding providing the required technical support for the establishment of an urban observatory. Due to the political unrest Libyan government has been experiencing, which affected the administrative and financial work on this project, it has been put on hold. Recently, the government has re-approached UN-Habitat to revive the intentions toward establishing Urban Observatory.

Project Description

The project will provide technical assistance to the Libyan Urban Planning authority, in collaboration with Ministry of Local Government, with the aim of designing an agreed set of indicators, aligned with the UN-Habitat Urban Monitoring Framework, while building capacity in the field of urban indicator development, data collection and analysis, besides the development of geospatial tools and techniques that could be adapted to local urban settings.

Project Strategy

The activities of the project will be implemented with the Libyan Urban Planning Authority including general coordination and project funds. UN-Habitat will operate as the implementing partner responsible for providing technical support, project implementation, and administration.

Main Expected Accomplishments:

- Integration of global indicators into local monitoring structure and decision-making processes.
- Training programs to the employees of the Urban Planning authority and Ministry of Local Government on the innovative technical and managerial tools that are currently used within Urban observatories globally.
- Institutional and capacity building sustainable development strategy.
- Coherence between working bodies on exchanging data and knowledge.