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Country card

Libya





HI Team and intervention areas

The HI Libya program has 12 Staff members.





General data of the country

a. General Data

Country	Libya	Tunisia	France
Population	6 958 538	11 935 764	67 499 343
IHDI		0.596	0.82
Gender-related Development Index	0.976	0.900	0.987
Maternal mortality	72	42	4
Gini Index		32.8	32.4
Population under UNHCR mandate	218929	9371	580898
INFORM Index	6.2	3.4	2.3
Fragile State Index	94.3	68.2	30.9
Public Social Protection		50.20	100
Net Official development assistance received	316.01	984.03	

b. Humanitarian law instruments ratified by the country

Humanitarian law instruments	Status
Mine Ban Treaty	Not joined
Convention on Cluster Munitions	Not joined
UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	Signed (2008), ratified (2018)

c. Geopolitical analysis

General Context

Since 2011 and until mid-2020, Libya has almost continuously been the site of civil war. In the immediate aftermath of the fall of Ghaddafi and the Arab Spring, the First Libyan Civil War started in 2011 by opposing forces. The Second Libyan Civil War took place between 2014 and 2020.



The situation stabilised in the summer of 2020, when a final offensive to secure control of the whole Libyan territory failed at the gates of Tripoli, seeing forces pushed back to Sirte with the help of Turkish armed forces. This rebalancing of forces has reopened the way for a diplomatic solution, paving the way for more fruitful UN-led peace talks and leading to a ceasefire which was signed in August 2020. A new government was designated in March 2021, with the main task of reunifying the country and organising national elections by the end of 2021.

Since March 2021, Libya continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic which was reported low cases for the period from October to December 2021. Starting from January 2022 an increase in the number of COVID-19 positive cases was observed due to circulation of Omicron variant. There were no specific restrictions put in place by National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), during this wave considering stability of the epidemic situation and progress of the vaccination campaign, which is still the case in 2022.

More than 10 years of civil war on the population

During the second Libyan Civil War, over half a million people have been displaced, and by 2018 the conflict claimed more than 4,400 civilian lives²¹. The civilian population is not only impacted by the criminalization of armed groups and the armed conflict but by the collapse of an official economy and the development of a shadow war economy. The overall number of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in Libya is estimated at 977,000²³. In 2016, revenue generated by human trafficking in Libya reached around \$978 million; a sum equivalent to 3.4% of the country's GDP in 2015.

The cost of the political conflict has taken a severe toll on the Libyan economy, which has remained in recession. Political strife, weak security conditions, and blockaded oil infrastructures continued to constrain the supply side of the economy. Production of crude oil fell to around 0.4 million barrels per day in some years during the last decade.

Therefore, there was an increasing inflation rate during past years, which had an impact on the population's capacities to purchase essential goods due to their (food and drinks, housing, electricity, water, gas and other fuels, and transportation) due to their increasing prices. In addition, due to Libya's ongoing liquidity crisis, people queue for hours outside the city's banks also creates additional difficulties for the population. Taking advantage of the security vacuum that followed the revolution in 2011, many illegal traders in the southern region and other border areas started smuggling oil products outside the country, which contributed to fuel shortages, in a general context of decreasing oil production in Libya due to the consequences of the conflict.

¹ <https://aoav.org.uk/explosiveviolence/libya/>

² IOM : <https://dtm.iom.int/libya>



Summary of HI presence in the country

HI has been operational in Libya since 2011, and up until the end of 2014 delivered a large-scale Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) programme from bases in Tripoli, Misrata and Sirte. During that period, HI teams protected countless civilians from the risk of death and injury due to explosive hazards through the clearance of over 30² km of land, including schools, agricultural land, beaches and residential areas; removing and destroying over 112,000 mines and ERW in the process. More than 1,000 people were trained to deliver mine/ERW/SALW risk education, while HI teams reached more than 110,000 civilians with life-saving risk education messaging.

With the outbreak of renewed violence in 2014 and the delocalisation of international staff to Tunisia, HI redesigned its programme in support of persons injured by mines, ERW and SALW, and persons with disabilities more widely. Over the past years and up until mid-2022, HI delivered health and protection services including physical therapy, provision of assistive devices and mobility equipment and/or psychosocial support to vulnerable persons directly impacted by the ongoing crisis. It has also targeted health and rehabilitation centres in Western and eastern Libya with technical capacity development and donations of much needed and otherwise depleted equipment.

In 2017, HI relaunched risk education activities in the Nafusa Mountain region, south of Tripoli for returning populations displaced since 2011.

The same year, HI initiated support of the LibMAC to enhance assistance for victims of explosive hazards. Through bringing together national authorities and civil society, awareness was raised regarding the collective responsibility toward persons directly affected by conflicts.

At the end of 2018, HI opened a new office in eastern Libya, in Benghazi where it developed Health and protection activities in synergy with Western Libya. HI has also developed a longer-term strategy to support Mental Health for Libyan institutions, professionals, CSOS and populations with more severe mental health disorders, in an effort to contribute to the resilience of the Libyan population.

Since mid-2020, following the stabilisation of the country, HI has reduced the volume of its direct services and has conversely increased its support of health professionals in physical rehabilitation and mental health & psychosocial support. This is done by building on stronger partnership with health actors (such as hospitals) and MoH. HI has also reinitiated its risk education activities in Tripoli and relaunched a more solid victim assistance component, aiming to enhance data collection, in the perspective of improving injury surveillance and case management for EO victims. HI also focused on strengthening inclusive humanitarian actions through capacity building of the



humanitarian actors working in Libya including government, I/NGOs, CSOs, through providing awareness raising session.



Overview on ongoing projects

Sectors of services where HI conducts projects and focus on beneficiaries and operational partnerships

Main sector of intervention	Main activities	Beneficiaries	Partners	Location	Dates of beginning and end of the project	Donors who finance the project
Protection & Risk Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the population vulnerable to mine risk including migrants, internally displaced persons & local communities • Printing of risk education materials • Awareness raising session to the identified vulnerable communities 	3,000	Ministry of Health (MoH) Libya Mine Action Center (LibMAC)	Tripoli, Benghazi	October 2022 - April 2023	HI Own Funds (prior to mid-2022: USAID's BHA, Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Donors (until 2022)

USAID / BHA 	Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs 	Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs  Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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