



Launch of IOM and UNDP Labour Market Assessment for Libya / Photo: @Moayad Zaghdani

In Libya, IOM strives to establish a comprehensive, evidence-based and people-centred, national migration governance system. In addition to the life-saving assistance delivered daily to populations in need, IOM Libya applies a vast array of activities to support the transition towards longer term solutions for migration management and development in Libya. This quarterly newsletter provides an overview of progress made to improve the resilience of migrants and host communities, to strengthen the country’s migration governance capacity and to promote mobility and human development. This issue also underlines how each pillar of the [IOM Libya strategy 2021-24](#) contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**IMPROVING RESILIENCE OF MIGRANT POPULATIONS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY STABILIZATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**



IOM supports local communities in Libya to strengthen their resilience to shocks. It addresses drivers of instability and vulnerability, engages communities in preventing and responding to health crises and contributes to the restoration of normal social and economic life.

**Restoring the community theatre in Sabha to promote social cohesion**



The People’s Municipal Theatre of Sabha once held film festivals and community events that would bring together more than 600 people. Through years of conflict, however it suffered damage beyond use and was forced to close. Aware of the importance of culture in fostering the social life of communities and in shaping hopes and aspirations of youth, IOM collaborated with the Sabha municipality to fully restore and equip the theatre, that re-opened on Sunday 26 September with an inauguration ceremony. The broken parts of the theatre were fixed or replaced, the walls repainted, new furniture and a new generator were installed, along with a decorative iron facade on the exterior of the

building. The renovated theatre opened with a celebration of music, traditional dance and poetry attended by members of Sabha’s municipality, theatre staff, tribal and muhalla leaders, local and migrant community members.

The theatre can now reclaim its vital role as a space for creativity and cultural interaction for local communities and migrants alike.

**Rehabilitating public primary schools in Benghazi**



Elementary public schools equip children with the necessary knowledge and skills to forge their path in life and contribute to society. Given their vital role, schools must be adequately outfitted to host children and stimulate students to learn and grow. Due to years of conflict and its consequences on infrastructures and services, many public schools in Libya are overcrowded and poorly maintained.

IOM rehabilitated Ibn Khaldoun public primary school located in the Tabalino area, west of Benghazi and the Alnoujayla Martyrs School, located in the Al Faakat area to give children the appropriate space to

learn and grow into well-rounded individuals and improve the overall learning experience in public schools in Benghazi.

With more than 700 local and migrant children enrolled, the Ibn Khaldoun school suffered from an inadequate hygienic environment at a time when the pandemic was spreading in Benghazi. IOM constructed eight additional sanitary facilities, rehabilitated the electrical system and restored the school theatre.

In 2020, IOM expanded the Alnoujayla Martyrs school’s capacity and constructed two additional classrooms to accommodate a higher number of students (estimated to be more than 400) including migrants from Syria, Sudan, Egypt and Palestine and 90 teachers and administrative staff. In September, the remaining equipment was handed over, in time for the start of the new school year.

## PROMOTE MIGRATION GOVERNANCE THROUGH CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR LIBYAN AUTHORITIES



IOM strengthens the capacity of Libyan authorities across several thematic areas and fields of expertise to provide knowledge and tools to foster effective migration management to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### Improving migrants' access to health care

The latest IOM Libya DTM Migrant Report (July-September 2021) has determined that migrants' most critical and pressing need in Libya is health care; 83 per cent of migrants reported that health care is their primary concern, while 77 per cent of migrants reported lacking access to basic health care, including emergency services. The main issues hindering migrants' access to health services were related to affordability (80%) and safety of access, such as being denied health care.

IOM held two workshops to initiate discussions with migrant community leaders, health care providers and officials from Suq Aljumaa and Janzour municipalities on how to improve safety of access to health care facilities by addressing language barriers, lack of familiarity with the enrolment process and discriminatory treatment. Six migrant community leaders from different countries participated in the workshops. IOM believes that health is a fundamental human right for every migrant, irrespective of their legal status and endeavours to improve migrants' access to health care by any means possible.

### Enhancing the capacity of Libyan national authorities to address the needs of migrants in the event of a crisis

When caught in countries experiencing conflict or natural disasters, migrants face additional challenges and protection concerns linked to their status in the country and the vulnerable situations many find themselves in, including higher risk of violence, exploitation, hazardous living conditions and abuse at the hands of smugglers and traffickers. Learning from relevant past experiences globally, IOM conducted a training for 22 Libyan officials and 13 consular representatives from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, the Philippines, Somalia and Sudan to better prepare for and address the needs of migrants in the event of a crisis. Officials were acquainted with the applicable protocols to support migrants in distress in a crisis setting, as well as the specificities of the post-crisis phase with regards to transition and recovery.

### Combatting human trafficking and enhancing the protection of Victims of Trafficking (VOTs)

#### Multidisciplinary counter trafficking training session for Libyan frontline officers in Tripoli

Limited institutional capacities, as well as inadequate anti-trafficking legal provisions, lengthy and porous land borders, lack of viable economic opportunities and a consistent flow of vulnerable migrants are elements that impact the capacity and efforts of Libyan authorities to counter human trafficking. In light of these challenges, organized transnational criminal networks continue to systematically prey on vulnerable migrants by subjecting them to extortion, torture, sex-trafficking and coercive labour. Addressing this intricate phenomenon requires a multidimensional overarching approach that tackles issues pertaining to economic development, borders management, legal reforms and international cooperation.

During the reporting period, IOM sought to strengthen the state's capacity in combatting human trafficking by conducting a workshop in Benghazi with members of the Libyan House of Representatives to thoroughly review the national legislation on human trafficking and provide recommendations. IOM considers these debates and exchange opportunities as necessary steps towards aligning national legal provisions with international legal standards.

#### Training session on humanitarian coordination and protection

A multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism is integral in identifying and ensuring adequate protection to victims of trafficking. To enhance effective coordination between national stakeholders, IOM in collaboration with OCHA, conducted training sessions on Humanitarian Coordination and Protection for key national officials based in East, West and South Libya, as well UN staff. 13 Participants from the House of Representatives' parliamentary committees, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Labour, Health, Internally Displaced Persons and Human Rights, among others, as well as 28 UN staff from IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR and WHO, focused on strengthening humanitarian coordination, protection mainstreaming, counter-trafficking and child protection, enabling them to better assess humanitarian needs and respond in a swift, and efficient manner.

## Art as catharsis for victims of trafficking



On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, IOM organized a two-day event in Tripoli to highlight the plight of migrants that have fallen prey to trafficking networks. As part of the healing process, IOM organized art-based sessions to help survivors channel their feelings and embrace an optimistic outlook on life.

Participants summoned the power of art as a subtle and abstract instrument of expression to continue their curative journey with the support of IOM's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support unit that has long been a devoted companion to victims of maltreatment and abuse.

## Migration governance

### Labour migration governance: assessments, policies and prospective change

Libya has traditionally been a destination country for migrants from neighbouring countries owing to its economic opportunities and the need for skilled foreign labour to fuel economic development. In the wake of the Libyan revolution in 2011 and the subsequent political instability and economic decline, many migrants, especially newcomers, found themselves in the margins of society, unable to subsist nor fulfil their basic needs. Administrative hurdles, a severely hit private sector and the absence of a clearly defined national migration policy continued to adversely impact the foreign work force in the country. Nonetheless, taking into account the increased demand for labour in many economic sectors and the number of migrants unable to obtain employment, it is safe to assume that a mismatch between labour demand and offer is at play. In order to get more data on the topic, IOM partnered with UNDP and launched the Libya [Labour Market Assessment](#) to try to determine the reason behind this apparent mismatch.

Findings revealed most jobs in Libya are in public administration (70%), sectors with the highest potential to create direct and indirect jobs are construction, followed by agriculture, manufacturing and social services. The large majority (78%) of businesses surveyed hire migrant workers, and migrants make up 48 per cent of the total workforce. Still migrants are generally low-skilled with less than five years of professional experience before arriving in Libya and they tend to learn on the job; only 7 per cent of migrants surveyed had received informal training, while only 1 per cent received any formal training. On the other hand, a number of skill sets in demand are hard to find in several Libyan cities.

To better integrate migrants in the Libyan labour market and particularly in sectors where skills are lacking in Libya, the study provides key recommendations, such as establishing capacity development programmes to enhance migrants' cognitive skills, providing basic training opportunities pertaining to the skills in demand, linking trained migrants with employers willing to provide decent work conditions through specialized agencies, as well as supporting the private sector to invest in the skills training needed for the workforce.

### Fostering migration governance in Libya

In line with the findings of this study, IOM organized Labour Migration Governance training sessions to enhance the capacity of national stakeholders with regard to migration governance and to pave the ground for a prospective overarching labour migration strategy. During the reporting period, IOM provided a training session specially adapted to meet the needs of officials from Libya's Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation based in the southern region of the country, including Sabha, Ubari, Brack Ashati and Ghat. The training session was delivered by five Libyan women who are expert trainers, certified to conduct the course through a 'training of trainers' conducted earlier in the year. Participants broadened their perspectives and accumulated significant knowledge on trends in labour migration, protection of migrant workers and migration and labour market data.

As for vocational training, an IOM priority domain, IOM continued to strengthen the capacities of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) centres; an overview of IOM's activities during the reporting period with regard to TVETs can be found below under the mobility pillar.

During the reporting period, IOM in collaboration with the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Committee of the House of Representatives (HoR), organized a workshop in Benghazi on Enhancing the Oversight Role of the Libyan House of Representatives on Migration Governance. The workshop aimed at strengthening the oversight role of parliamentary bodies in the area of migration governance, through identifying concrete parliamentary oversight mechanisms and modalities in accordance with international standards. The workshop included interactive lectures, group discussions and exercises moderated by thematic specialists. Furthermore, through the expert guidance of an international senior specialist on migration law and counter trafficking law, IOM organized two events to provide guidance for a comprehensive review of selected national legislation and make written recommendations to address the most important challenges of combating the smuggling of migrants in Libya.

The first three-day workshop on the Legal Framework for Combating Irregular Migration and Smuggling of Migrants in Libya was organized on 9, 11 and 12 September in Benghazi in cooperation with the Libyan Parliament. Seven members (four men and three women) from the Libyan House of Representatives, including legal advisers, researchers and specialists from the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Parliamentary Policy and Research Support Office, as well as the Public Prosecution Office participated in the workshop. One of the main recommendations that came out of the workshop was the identified need for a comprehensive and unified legislation to prevent and combat irregular migration and smuggling of migrants, in accordance with the highest international standards.

### Strengthening border management cooperation between Libya and its neighbours through improved protection of vulnerable migrants

IOM, the Libyan Government of National Unity and the African Union co-chaired a regional workshop titled 'An integrated approach to rights-based border management in crisis situations in Libya and its neighbouring countries,' to enhance the capacity of Libya and its neighbouring countries in North and Sub-Saharan Africa in dealing with the challenges related to managing borders in crisis and emergency situations. The main topics discussed during the workshop were promoting cross-border cooperation and community engagement, improving search and rescue in the desert aimed at protecting vulnerable migrants, and strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms to disrupt the criminal activities of migrant smugglers. During the three-day workshop, officials from Libya, delegations from Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Mali, Niger, Sudan and Tunisia, as well as experts from UNODC, UNOCT, Frontex and the Italian Ministry of Interior provided presentations on issues related to border management and adherence to international standards.

IOM provided insights on best international practices based on the Organization's rights-based approach to programming with human rights considerations mainstreamed throughout the programme. IOM maintains that while borders management falls under states sovereign prerogatives, it must be in line with the international law, and it must ensure the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations.



MOBILITY AND DEVELOPMENT: HARNESS THE FULL POTENTIAL OF LIBYA'S HUMAN CAPITAL, INCLUDING CONTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBYA'S ECONOMY



To foster the development of efficient, right-based and safe pathways for migrants and other vulnerable mobile populations, such as internally displaced persons, IOM supports the Government of Libya through strategic policy engagement to strengthen channels for regular migration and create an enabling environment where migrants can contribute to the development of the Libyan economy and society.

Supporting the institutional capacity of vocational training centres: Supporting the TVET centre in Zawiya

In line with the recommendations of the Labour Market Assessment conducted by IOM, the organization is supporting the institutional capacity of vocational training centres across Libya to equip learners with the skills needed in the labour market. During the reporting period, IOM collaborated with the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation to support a TVET centre in Zawiya.

The centre received classroom furniture, a digital conference system, smartboards, workshop tools and a large generator to support the teachers and trainees. Additionally, new training modules were developed in key economic sectors, such as agriculture, automotive and construction, including solar panel maintenance, Libyan agrobusiness and electric car maintenance to enhance TVET's system curricula and support its capacity in delivering practical skills in accordance with international standards.



Handover of the TVET system curricula and equipment in Zawiya / Photo: @Moayad Zaghdani

CONTACTS

Claudia Natali, Head - Programme Development Support Unit  
[cnatali@iom.int](mailto:cnatali@iom.int)

Nima Tamaddon, Public Information Officer  
[ntamaddon@iom.int](mailto:ntamaddon@iom.int)

