

Promoting Women and Young People for Peaceful Development in Libya

Strengthening Inclusive Youth Work & Creating Opportunities for Socio-Economic Participation

The challenge

More than half of Libya's population is under the age of 30. Yet the ongoing violent conflict and political fragility make it difficult for young people, especially women, to participate socially and economically, and to develop stable prospects for their future.

On the one hand, there is a lack of safe spaces for young people to spend time with others, develop their own personalities and engage in community activities. On the other hand, employment opportunities are limited, with youth unemployment at over 50%, making it difficult for young people to lead independent and self-determined lives.

Government structures for youth development in Libya are rudimentary, while state institutions and local authorities lack the knowledge or concern to better support young people.

At the same time, conservative and patriarchal structures have become even more dominant and accepted as a result of the conflicts and disputes in recent years, making young women in particular vulnerable, as they often face social exclusion and limited opportunities for equal participation.

Despite these challenges, young women and men are motivated to rebuild Libyan society and show great interest in becoming more economically integrated and socially engaged.

Our approach

The project empowers young people, especially young women, to lead more self-determined lives, both economically and socially, and to shape their communities for peaceful development by focusing on three areas of intervention: Economic Participation, Inclusive Youth Work, and Social Participation and Peace Building.

It builds on the impact of the previous project phase 'Promoting Youth for Peaceful Development' (August 2019 - June 2023), which established a total of seven youth centres in different municipalities and a training centre at the Ministry of Youth, and supported youth social and political participation.

Project name	Promoting Women and Young People for Peaceful Development in Libya (EYWA)
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Political partner	Ministry of Youth
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Project Manager	Morteza Emami
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The current project continues to work with the established centres and supports them in their commitment to youth development in Libya.

1. Economic Participation: To support the integration of young people into the labour market the project conducts employment promotion measures such as career counselling, entrepreneurship trainings and internship programs. These measures are designed to support particularly young women in dealing with barriers, they face on the Libyan labour market.

Small-scale community-based initiatives aimed at empowering young women for economic participation and for building self-confidence complement the training measures. To ensure sustainability, the activities are closely linked to the youth centres, whose members are trained to promote economic participation in their centres.

2. Inclusive Youth Work: Through in-depth training, the project strengthens the institutional capacity of youth centres and government institutions for inclusive youth work that promotes the equal participation of women and men, as well as vulnerable groups. It also supports youth centres and its team members in developing strategies and related initiatives to promote the socio-economic participation of youth in their communities.



Left to right: Training of Trainers for Career Guidance courses in Youth Centres (Tripoli, Oct 2024), "Youth Camps" for training in inclusive youth work (Tunis, Oct 2023)

In addition, the project identifies and trains Women Contact Persons in each of the centres, who will act as counsellors for young women and ensure equality and inclusion in the work of the centres.

3. Social Participation & Peacebuilding: Youth centres are also supported to develop and implement community activities for peacebuilding and social participation that respond to local needs. To this end, youth centre teams are trained in peace-building methods and project management and will be eligible to apply for project funding.

Building on the experience of the first phase, the project is also supporting the establishment of new youth centres in close coordination with the Ministry of Youth.

Achievements and impact

Economic empowerment of young people

The project's measures to promote the economic participation of young people have met with great interest, especially among young women.

Inclusive entrepreneurship courses are being delivered to students and graduates in 16 public education institutions by lecturers trained in entrepreneurship courses that also address barriers faced by women entrepreneurs in Libya. These comprehensive courses aim to motivate young people, especially women, to develop and implement their own business ideas. Of the 400 participants already enrolled in the courses, almost 70% are women, demonstrating their strong interest in economic empowerment. The project will extend this approach to youth centres, where women-only entrepreneurship courses will be held.

Following the entrepreneurship courses, all successful participants can benefit from a business idea competition organised by the project, where they can submit their business plans for a chance to receive support and funding.

In order to support youth centres in their role of promoting young people's economic empowerment, youth centre staff are being trained to offer career guidance courses to young people from the community. To increase the impact of these courses, the youth centres are establishing contacts with local companies to which young people can be referred for job applications. This commitment is supported by the project through an additional internship programme, which funds internships in local companies.

Measures to promote inclusive youth work

With regard to inclusive youth work, a series of workshops, called "Youth Camps", were held in Tunis to train staff from youth centres

and the Ministry of Youth, with the aim of increasing women's participation, ensuring a safe environment and equal access for all in the different centres. Based on the training, the centres are currently developing strategies and related activities for inclusive youth work, with a focus on supporting the socio-economic participation of youth.

Women Contact Persons in the youth centres have been identified and trained in their role. They are providing counselling to young women and integrating perspectives of inclusivity into the centres' approaches. The Women Contact Persons have already developed and implemented various initiatives to strengthen the economic participation and self-confidence of young women in the centre and the community, such as inclusion campaigns, digital skills training or mental health courses for women, to name a few.

Youth-led initiatives for peacebuilding and social participation

An important goal of the centres is to have a positive and peace-building impact on their community. To support this commitment, the project funds small-scale initiatives to promote peace and social participation. The initiatives are developed and implemented by the youth themselves and are linked to the centres' new strategies for inclusive youth work and socio-economic participation.



9 youth centres & one training centre in Tripoli

Establishment of new youth centres

Building on the success of the first phase, the current project is also working with the Ministry of Youth to open two new youth centres in Libya, one in Abu Slim, a district of Tripoli, and one in Murzuq in the south. The designated buildings have been renovated, and a management team for each centre has been established and trained in inclusive youth work. Additionally, they received support in developing a usage and management concept for their respective centres. The Ministry's strong interest in new youth centres and the motivation of the young people involved are essential for their success, but also show the great need for youth work and youth participation in Libya.

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		E-mail	morteza.emami@giz.de
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