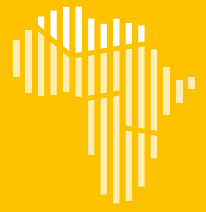


SUCCESS STORY

How medical services are changing the lives of children in conflict areas



EU Trust Fund for Africa - North of Africa

T05.437 - Recovery, Stability and socio-economic development in Libya - Baladiyati



EUTF PARTNER:

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)



COUNTRY:

LIBYA



BUDGET:

EUR 22M



From **10/2018**
to **12/2022**

Objective of the project

Stability and recovery of local communities, including migrant populations and returnees, is progressively enhanced, most notably in conflict or post-conflict areas.

Key successes

- > 88,940 people from Libyan and migrant communities are now aware of inclusive access to basic public services.
- > 2,340 health workers have been trained in providing better health services and managing stocks of essential medicines.
- > 54 health facilities in 24 municipalities receive a regular supply of medical equipment, materials and medicines.

The story of transforming lives

Thirteen-year-old Amal¹ can finally look forward to a stable childhood. Amal suffers from type diabetes and has long depended on regular insulin injections to manage her condition. However, the health centres are meant to serve a large number of people and their inability to do so has been a real disaster for the people living there. In the past, erratic insulin supplies and improper storage at the Attia Alkasah Hospital in the Al Kufra region led to frequent health crises, including dehydration and weight loss. This uncertainty cast a shadow over Amal's life, preventing her from enjoying the carefree days of her childhood. *"We were always worried about Amal's next insulin shot, wondering if it would be available"*, said her father, Omar. *"Now, with the pharmacy's rehabilitation, Attia Alkasah Hospital will have a steady supply of insulin, ensuring Amal and other patients receive the care they need"*.

Thanks to the support from the EUTF, not only Amal but also many other individuals, including migrant children in Al Kufra, now have a reason to hope. One such example is Ifrah, a Somali girl whose name means happiness. Like Amal, Ifrah suffers from diabetes, and was unable to get a constant supply of insulin. *"My family was constantly worried about my health. Now the hospital can provide me with the necessary medicine, and I can play with my friends"*, she says.



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For Amal's and Ifrah's families, the EUTF support is life-changing. The Baladiyati project has not only contributed to stabilising the healthcare system in Al Kufra but has also restored hope for a better life to Libyans and migrants in their communities. By addressing critical healthcare shortages, it has ensured that children like Amal and Ifrah and their families can enjoy healthier and more stable lives, free from the constant fear of medical disruptions.



How did the EUTF help?

Awareness raising. Among the many support measures aimed at enhancing stability and fostering recovery in local communities in Libyan communities for many like Amal and Ifrah, awareness raising was an essential component in improving health and quality of life. Efforts were made to raise awareness about inclusive access to basic health services for vulnerable people from both Libya and non-Libyan communities. Numerous migrants from Sudan, Niger, Syria, Morocco, Ghana, Chad, Bangladesh, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Mali, Guinea-Bissau, Palestine, Tunisia, Egypt and Nigeria were reached through community mobilisers. Awareness sessions were held on communicable and non-communicable diseases: symptoms, prevention and the importance of early treatment and medication.

Health workers training. Health workers in multiple health facilities received training. Comprehensive needs assessments identified skill gaps of key medical staff and facility management and addressed these gaps effectively. High-priority topics were addressed and validated by the facility management.

Medicine supply. A regular supply of medicine was established for health facilities. For example, Attia Alkasah in Al Kufra region serves surrounding villages as far as 600 km away. These healthcare facilities, which previously experienced shortages of medical supplies and equipment, assure a steady stock of essential medicines thanks to supply management training for the staff.

Keys to Success

Libyan municipalities involvement. The municipalities in Libya, particularly those outside the largest cities, are valuable interlocutors in the effort to restart local development. The reliance on municipalities, as the principal link to the populations, has led to remarkable successes in providing high-quality assistance to communities. This was facilitated by the solid partnerships that the INGOs selected by AICS had with local CSOs.

Community mobilisers. Community mobilisers (115 in total) proved to be the most effective means to engage with all communities in an inclusive way. It was also important to have an appropriate gender balance and representation from various migrant communities

in the selection of community mobilisers who were able to raise awareness among their own communities.

Utilisation of local resources. Local procurement of supplies has proven to be more effective than importing goods. Facility staff and managers preferred local goods and equipment because ensuring supply and maintenance is more effective when the vendors are local.

Building on Success

Investing in local partner. CSOs played a crucial role in successfully implementing activities across target municipalities, particularly in promoting active citizenship. These organisations were key in increasing public acceptance of INGOs' efforts, enhancing the effectiveness of health messaging, and building trust within the community. Their deep understanding of local dynamics and close connections with the community made them invaluable in fostering positive outcomes.

Involving strong EUTF partners. The project benefited from AICS's thorough understanding of local contexts and dynamics, which supported effective implementation. The project management unit set up by AICS in Tripoli facilitated access to remote and conflict-sensitive areas, ensuring a continuous presence and consistent delivery of project activities. This approach will remain crucial for promoting stability and recovery in the region.

Open dialogue platform. To further enhance municipal and societal resilience, the contract laid the groundwork for an open dialogue platform on local governance. This platform encourages communication between the local population and municipalities on critical issues such as needs, resource allocation, and accountability. By involving civil society groups, local Mukhtar (leaders), and youth groups, this approach fosters a culture of local engagement and advocacy, ensuring continued responsiveness and community-driven change.



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1. Real names have been replaced with pseudonyms to protect privacy.

Disclaimer

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