



Press Release

19 schools handed over to Libyan municipalities after substantial rehabilitation.

Tripoli, 18 November 2021

With funding from the European Union, 19 schools in Misurata (12 schools), Bani Walid (four schools), Al Maya (one school) and Surman (two schools) underwent substantial rehabilitation works and were handed over to their municipalities. With this successful intervention, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation – AICS contributes to a better school environment for boys and girls in Libya. The rehabilitation of the education facilities is part of the EU's Baladiyati ("My Municipality") programme, that works with Libyan municipalities across the country to improve access to public services.

Rehabilitation works included new windows and doors, renovation of bathrooms and sanitary systems (including water heaters, toilets and wash basins) and the installation of a safe electric plants. All nineteen schools now provide a safer and more comfortable educational environment for both students and teaching staff.

"Investing in schools is an essential investment in the future of this country. The European Union is supporting municipalities across Libya to modernise schools and learning facilities and thus create safe learning spaces for Libyan children." Said European Union Ambassador to Libya José Sabadell. "The EU's Baladiyati programme has just been expanded to reach more municipalities in all Libyan regions. We are stepping up our cooperation with Libyan municipalities to help improve public services and in particular access to education for all."

The Italian Ambassador in Libya, H.E. Giuseppe Buccino, said: "We celebrate another remarkable achievement in the pursuance of improved access to basic services for the population in Libya. I am glad that we contribute to improved quality of the learning experience for thousands of pupils: education empowers children to dream of a better future, brings hope to the most vulnerable, and it's key to economic growth and prosperity in a society."

"Damage to educational infrastructure and schools in Libya act as a barrier to enrolment and participation of school boys and girls in primary education," stated the AICS Head of Regional Office, Mr. Andrea Senatori. "We are grateful to the European Union for their generous contribution that enabled the Italian Cooperation to provide healthier and dignifying learning environment for over 9,500 children. This important result was possible thanks to our solid collaboration with the local and central authorities and our partner INGOs."

AICS partnered with the International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) International Rescue Committee and its affiliated INGO WeWorld/GVC to carry out the rehabilitation and maintenance works in the target schools.

Thomas Garofalo, International Rescue Committee's Libya Director, commented: "After more than a decade of protracted crisis, there are now many schools across Libya that are either damaged or in a state of disrepair. Thanks to the successful cooperation with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation - AICS, as part of the EU's Baladiyati Programme, we could ensure that these schools are



equipped with new windows, doors, bathrooms, and safe electric power. As we go into the winter season, these works will prove absolutely crucial. With kids able to now learn in a safe and conducive environment as they look to realise their full potential.”

The successful rehabilitation of the 19 schools falls under the Baladiyati’s wider mandate of strengthening the capacity of Libyan municipalities to provide more efficient and inclusive public services in the sectors of education, health and water and sanitation (WASH).

Link to photos: <http://shorturl.at/duADK>

About the programme Baladiyati - Phase 1

The EU’s Baladiyati “Recovery, Stability and Socio-economic Development Programme” (50 million euros) is the largest programme ever financed by the European Union in direct support of Libyan municipalities and of some of the most vulnerable communities in the country. It currently works with 27 municipalities across Libya with the aim to improve people’s access to quality public services, such as education, health, water and sanitation. The programme also aims at improving living conditions and building resilience among vulnerable populations, including host communities and migrants, refugees, returnees and internally displaced people (IDPs). The “Recovery, Stability and Socio-economic Development in Libya” programme is financed by the European Union through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) and is implemented by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation - AICS, UNDP and UNICEF.

For more information:

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