



Joint Press Release

Italy and UNFPA support women in need of assistance by enhancing access to emergency obstetric and newborn care and protection services for GBV survivors.

10th of December 2022, Tripoli

Today, the world marks the Human Rights Day and the end of the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV). The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are happy to officially launch the project 'Provision of integrated emergency reproductive health and gender based violence response services to the most vulnerable population in Libya' as a contribution to ending GBV and preventable maternal deaths in Libya.

Through a financial support of 750.000 € to UNFPA in Libya, the Government of Italy commits to enhancing access to integrated life-saving emergency obstetric and newborn care and specialized protection services to 30.000 people in need and gender-based violence survivors especially in the South of Libya.

"Italy is committed towards the protection and the respect of human rights in Libya, which is one of the priority countries for the Italian cooperation. The key objectives of our projects aim at enhancing protection services for girls and women victims of violence and strengthening their role in the society." said Mr. Giuseppe Buccino, the Italian Ambassador to Libya.

Specifically, the AICS-funded project will increase access to lifesaving reproductive health services through different activities, such as the deployment of mobile medical teams and the delivery of specialized services to GBV survivors, the provision of medical supplies, capacity building for the health and social workers and awareness-raising campaigns for local communities. Amongst them, on the occasion of the international '16 days campaign', the project envisaged a series of activities aimed at spreading information, supporting local community engagement and generating conversations about gender equality and respect.

"Gender equality, considered in all its dimensions, is one of the programmatic priorities of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. In Libya, thanks to our institutional and implementing partners, we focus on the GBV prevention and response, sexual and maternal health services. We act to better ensure protection and health for girls and women to increase their empowerment and social participation," added Mr. Andrea Senatori, the Director of AICS Tunis Office.

Throughout the campaign, the Ministry of Social Affairs, AICS, UNFPA, and its partners organized various community-based activities, including social media messaging, podcasts, sport and artistic events, exhibitions, debates, open days at the different women and girls' safe spaces to raise awareness on gender-based violence and mobilize support to improve the women and girls' protection frameworks.



For the fourth consecutive year in Libya, the 16 Days of Activism campaign has advocated for and raised awareness on gender-based violence against women and girls under the global theme “UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls”.

“The 16 days of activism has been an excellent opportunity to foster the cooperation between UNFPA, AICS, the Libyan authorities and the local NGOs to institutionalize and support the effective implementation of safer and more inclusive legislations that protect women and girls in Libya. With the generous contribution of Italy, UNFPA will target women, men, girls and boys in Tripoli, Benghazi, Sabha, Ghat and Zwilla” said Samir Anouti - UNFPA Country Representative a.i. in Libya.

AICS and UNFPA call on all stakeholders and allies to join efforts in establishing and implementing safer and more inclusive legislation to protect women and girls and end gender-based violence in Libya.

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