



Thematic brief

Water

Last update: *September 2025*

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Context

In Libya, the **Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)** implements initiatives aimed at protecting the environment, preserving resources and strengthening the sustainable use of water for human and agricultural use. Through a robust network of International and Civil Society organizations, AICS supports investment in the efficient use of water, particularly in arid contexts characterized by water stress such as the Fezzan. Special attention is given to rehabilitating and modernizing community water infrastructure, monitoring the use of water for irrigation, and transitioning agricultural production systems toward agroecology.

Improving access and use of sustainable climate-resilient water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services by communities in Libya

Total Budget: 3 M EUR
Start of activities: 2024
Implementing partner: UNICEF
Overall objective: to improve the resilience to shocks of children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable including children on the move, in an inclusive and protective environment.

The overall objective of this Programme is to increase the resilience to shocks of children and adolescents, especially the most vulnerable including children on the move, in an inclusive and protective environment. With a focus on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), the specific objective is to improve access to and use of equitable, sustainable, climate-resilient, and gender-responsive WASH services for girls, boys, and

adolescents across the country, with a particular emphasis on the southern regions. To achieve these objectives, the project aims to i) increase the capacity to provide equitable, sustainable, safe, gender-responsive, and climate resilient WASH services; ii) strengthen climate resilience of girls, boys and adolescents, including the most disadvantaged and those living in humanitarian situations through access to safe, equitable and gender responsive WASH services and, finally, iii) to improve awareness and youth engagement on climate change and water scarcity.

Improving the use of water resources in Libya

The overall objective of this initiative is to improve the living conditions of the Libyan population, through a more efficient and sustainable use of water resources. On the one hand, the project intends to improve equitable access to safe drinking water supplies and adequate sanitation at community level, also through technical assistance and capacity building activities; on the other hand, it aims at increasing water efficiency in the agricultural sector and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity and food insecurity. The project will be carried out by

Italian CSOs, their local and/or international partners, selected through a specific Call for Proposals currently ongoing, and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Local Governance and local Municipalities.

Total Budget: 1.825 M EUR
Start of activities: January 2026
Implementing partner: Italian CSOs to be selected

Overall objective: to improve the living conditions of the population, through a more efficient and sustainable use of water resources move, in an inclusive and protective environment.

Decision Support Platform Towards Enhanced Irrigation Water Productivity in Libya

Total Budget: 2 M EUR
Start of activities: February 2025
Implementing partner: FAO
Overall objective: To contribute to improving food security indicators and the well-being of the population, especially for small-scale Libyan farmers.

The initiative aims to improve food security in Libya, focusing on the Fezzan region, by enhancing institutional and technical capacities for integrated management of natural resources in the agricultural sector. This will be achieved through several strategic actions. Firstly, updating the digital platform MerWat-Libya for data collection and management will enable efficient monitoring of water resource usage, providing crucial information to optimize irrigation and reduce waste.

Strengthening the technical and managerial capacities of local institutions is another fundamental pillar of the initiative. Specific training programs will be organized for the staff of the involved institutions, aiming to improve skills in sustainable management of natural resources. This training will cover technical aspects, such as the use of new irrigation technologies, as well as managerial aspects, such as planning and managing agricultural projects. A key element of the project is the implementation of pilot activities in Ghadwa. These activities aim to develop a model of sustainable agricultural development based on the Water-Energy-Food-Ecosystems Nexus approach. This integrated approach considers the interdependence between water resources, energy, food production, and ecosystems to promote agricultural practices that are environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable.

Municipal Upgrading of Water Systems for Local Impact – MUWALI

The “*Municipal Upgrading of Water Systems for Local Impact – MUWALI*” project is funded by the European Union under the 2023 Special Measures for Libya and is implemented by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) with technical assistance from the Autonomous Province of Trento. The project aims to strengthen the institutional capacity of local authorities in managing water resources and improving data collection and analysis, while promoting innovative and sustainable practices in 12 Libyan municipalities. The project started on February 1, 2025, and will run for a total duration of 36 months. During this period, it will deliver a series of interconnected results. It will enhance the capacities of local and central authorities through targeted training activities and the development of an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) Plan, incorporating innovative solutions to be tested in selected municipalities. It will also improve the collection and management of water-related data by providing tools and methodologies that enable local administrations to make more informed decisions. Pilot projects will be implemented to test new technologies and reinforce long-term monitoring capabilities.

In addition, MUWALI will promote the use of non-conventional and sustainable water resources, such as the reuse of treated wastewater, through awareness campaigns, training, and pilot initiatives. The project will actively involve local communities, encouraging participatory water resource management and the creation of Communities of Practice to share experiences and good practices among Libyan municipalities and with Italian counterparts.

Project governance includes coordination with the Ministry of Local Governance (MoLG) and the Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) to ensure effective integration with national strategies.

Total Budget: 5 M EUR
Start of activities: February 2025
Implementing partner: AICS and Trento Autonomous Province
Overall objective: Libya improves water resource management and water sector governance at national and local levels.