



Thematic brief

Health

Ultimo aggiornamento: *Settembre 2025*

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Context

Since 2016, Italian cooperation has allocated a total of approximately EUR 34,5 to the health sector in Libya, carrying out interventions both through bilateral channels, mainly in collaboration with Italian CSOs active in Libya (CEFA, CESVI, WWGVC, HELPCODE, TdH Italia, ICU, COSPE, Emergenza Sorrisi) and Italian institutes of excellence (Italian Pediatric Hospital Bambino Gesù, Italian National Institute of Health, Global Health Center in Florence), and through multilateral channels, via international organizations and United Nations agencies (ICRC, WHO, UNFPA).

Emergency initiative in favor of Libyan children suffering from leukemia

Total Budget: EUR 4M
Start of activities: 2019
Implementing partner: Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital in Rome
Overall objective: to treat Libyan children with leukemia by facilitating access to healthcare facilities capable of providing the necessary healthcare that cannot currently be provided in Libya.

Total Budget: EUR 2,4M
Start of activities: 2022
Implementing partner: Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital in Rome
Overall objective: To improve the living conditions of Libyan

The partnership with the Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital in Rome revolves around two main initiatives, both designed to respond to the urgent needs of Libyan child patients. The first, the “Emergency Initiative in favor of Libyan minors affected by leukemia”, provides medical treatment to Libyan children suffering from severe hematological diseases. The second, also titled “Emergency Initiative in favor of Libyan minors affected by leukemia”, aims to deliver healthcare assistance to Libyan patients affected by serious illnesses during childhood or adolescence. In both initiatives, Bambino Gesù is responsible for the care of selected patients in coordination with local authorities, in collaboration with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) offices in Tunis and Rome, and with the active support of the Italian Embassy in Tripoli and the Consulate General of Italy

in Benghazi. Beyond medical treatment, educational activities are organized for the children, while psychosocial support is offered to accompanying family members.

Arabic-speaking cultural mediators are involved to facilitate effective communication with hospital staff. The initiatives are scheduled to conclude respectively in July 2026 and April 2026.

Emergency program in Libya to support pediatric services

The initiative involves interventions in the health and protection sectors to be carried out with the support of CSOs aimed at promoting access to pediatric services at the Tripoli Children's Hospital, Benghazi Children's Hospital, Sebha Medical Center, and Martyr Attiah Al-Kasih Hospital in Kufra, as well as in peripheral health facilities. Following a Call for Proposals, AICS Tunis selected two projects:

- *"AL SAHA: Improving health services and psychosocial support for children in Libya"*, implemented by a consortium of ICU and CESVI.
- *"OPLA - Accessible Pediatric Hospitals in Libya"*, implemented by a consortium of TdH and WWGVC.

The interventions consist of training activities, structural rehabilitation, the supply of diagnostic equipment and instruments, and reception facilities for children staying in hospitals. The programme also includes a component managed by the Global Health Center (CSG), aimed at improving the technical capacities of health personnel in the aforementioned facilities. While the two consortia completed their projects, CSG is expected to conclude activities by end of 2025.

Total Budget: EUR 3,5M

Start of activities: 2023

Implementing partner: CSO

Overall objective: to improve access to quality pediatric health, protection, and psychosocial support services for children in Libya, including children with disabilities.

Enhancing Access and Sustainability of Primary Health Care Services (PASSP)

The initiative provides a contribution to the Global Health Center in Florence (CSG) for an intervention to strengthen the technical capacities of healthcare personnel employed in primary health centers in Libya. The program, which continues the activities already carried out by CSG as part of the *"Emergency Program in Libya to Support Pediatric Services"*, provides support to approximately 30 primary health centers in Libya, in close coordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Primary Healthcare Institute (PHCI). The initiative is scheduled to end on September 2027.

Total Budget: EUR 3M

Start of activities: 2025

Implementing partner: Global Health Center in Florence (CSG)

Overall objective: To contribute to improving the sustainability and accessibility of primary health care (PHC) services for the Libyan population (including internally displaced persons), migrants, and refugees.

Joint WHO-ISS program with a One Health approach for the mitigation of arbovirus and zoonosis risks in Libya

Total Budget: EUR 0,7M

Start of activities: 2023

Implementing partner: WHO-Italian National Institute of Health

Overall objective: To strengthen Libya's national response to zoonotic infections, with a particular focus on priority arbovirus-related diseases that are endemic and have epidemic or pandemic potential.

The initiative, designed as a pilot phase, involves a contribution to the WHO made jointly with the Istituto Superiore di Sanità, aimed at promoting the One Health approach to mitigating the risks of arbovirosis and zoonoses in Libya. The program is being implemented in close coordination with the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), the Ministry of Environment (MoE), the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), the Food and Drug Control Center (FaDCC), Environmental Sanitation Affairs (ESA), and the National Center for Animal Health (NCAH). The

initiative is scheduled to end on May 2026.