

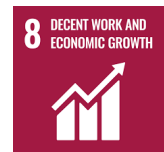


## Thematic sheet

### Economic Development and Education

Last update: *December 2025*

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



#### Context

AICS Libya operates in adherence to the Three-Year Programming and Guidance Document 2024 – 2026 (Documento Triennale di Programmazione e Indirizzo-DTPI) strategic orientations, which classifies Libya among the priority countries within the Mediterranean Africa region. In the context of this strategic document, and in line with European and UN strategic frameworks, priorities identified by the strategy are:

- **“Education, training, and decent work”**: training aimed at employment and technical-vocational training, with a focus on youth, women, and vulnerable groups with the aim of creating opportunities for decent employment, strengthen qualification prospects, facilitate the employment of young people and women, and promote innovation in strategic sectors and value chains such as textiles, agri-food, tourism, mechanics in its various applications, and renewable energy.
- **“Industry, innovation, sustainable infrastructures”**: initiatives are expected to position Italy’s system as a key actor in the country’s development plan by focusing on “sectors in which Italy has long-standing and recognized experience: manufacturing value chains, agri-food, construction, tourism, textiles, and energy”. This will be achieved through **territorial partnership**, involvement of Italian local authorities, universities, research bodies, businesses, civil society, and local authorities and transfer of knowledge and expertise.

Strengthening the education and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sectors is essential to addressing skills gaps in the Libyan labour market and, ultimately, to fostering the country’s economic development. AICS promotes initiatives aimed at improving the country’s economic landscape by providing capacity-building and technical expertise in professional training, labour-market matching, the creation of opportunities for decent employment, and the promotion of innovation in strategic sectors.

These efforts include enhancing the delivery of services that support professional training and job creation or placement—particularly for women and youth; promoting partnerships and synergies between local and international private-sector actors,

especially in the green economy, digitalisation, and handicraft sectors; and supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises, including women- and youth-led businesses.

AICS intervenes in this sector through bilateral, multi-bilateral, and EU-funded initiatives, in collaboration with international organizations and local institutions. It also coordinates with both local and international stakeholders to create synergies, maximise impact, and ensure sustainable management in the fields of economic development and education.

### **“Boosting youth employment in the South and East of Libya through skills enhancement and livelihood opportunities”**

Implemented by IOM with a grant of 2.500.000 EUR, this project began in August 2023 and is expected to finish in August 2026. The overall objective of this project is to contribute to increased income of youth in Libya, through the enhancement of their professional skills and their access to livelihood opportunities by supporting and upgrading Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Youth Employment One Stop Shop (YESS) centre facilities, courses implementation and linking training activities with livelihood programs to fuel local economy while strengthening household resilience. The project will have a specific impact by involving and training direct beneficiaries

**Total Budget:** EUR 2,5M

**Beginning of activities:** 2023

**Partner:** IOM

**Overall Objective:** The overall objective of this project is to contribute to increased income of youth in Libya, through the enhancement of their professional skills and their access to livelihood opportunities by supporting and upgrading Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Youth Employment One Stop Shop (YESS) center facilities, courses implementation and linking training activities with livelihood programs to fuel local economy while strengthening household resilience.

and will promote self-employment and entrepreneurship by providing young people with additional business and life skills courses and customized toolkits for start-ups. The project, which initially planned to intervene in TVET and YESS centres in Benghazi and Sebha, was later expanded in geographical scope by including the areas of Tarhuna and Tamina (Tripolitania) and Hun (Fezzan). Support to the Sudanese migrant centres in Tripoli and the African Migrant School in Sabha was added, to participate to the government’s response to the Sudanese crisis. The project will also provide some rehabilitation and equipment to a portion of the TVET centre in Zwara.

## “Strengthening Plastic Waste Recycling Capacity in Greater Tripoli”

**Total Budget:** EUR 3 M

**Beginning of activities:** 2023

**Partner:** UNOPS

**Overall Objective:** The overall objective of this project is to contribute to improved environmental conditions and community resilience in the ‘Greater Tripoli’ area by paving the way for a decreased generation of plastic waste, reduced abandonment of waste in urban and natural environments and increased economic valorisation of waste.

Implemented by UNOPS with a grant of 3.000.000 EUR, this project began in 2023 and is expected to end in June 2026. The overall objective is to contribute to improved environmental conditions and community resilience in the ‘Greater Tripoli’ area by paving the way for a decreased generation of plastic waste, reduced abandonment of waste in urban and natural environments and increased economic valorisation of waste. The

specific objective is to pilot an inclusive and circular business model engaging communities, private businesses, and local authorities to promote collection, recycling and re-introduction of high-quality plastic that will be recycled into new products. To achieve these objectives, UNOPS will launch a first need assessment phase. Four components are then programmed, aiming to raise awareness of the communities on the topic of plastic waste differentiation, strengthening the technical capacities of selected local MSMEs, increasing the production capacities of the MSMEs and strengthening the governance capabilities of relevant institutions.

## “WAZIF - Vocational Training and Dignified Employment for Youth and Women in Libya”

**Total Budget:** EUR 2 M

**Beginning of activities:** 2025

**Partner:** CSOs

**Overall Objective:** The overall objective of this project is to Promote the professional development of youth, particularly fostering the inclusion of women and groups at risk of marginalization in Libya, in line with SDGs 4 and 8.

Implemented by a consortium of Civil Society Organisations (WeWorld, Super Novae, BINA, ènostra) in Tripoli with a grant of 2.000.000 EUR, the project started in July 2025 and is expected to end in June 2028. Among the main gaps identified in the economic development sector are high youth unemployment, low youth access to TVET in Tripoli and absence of courses dedicated to the green

economy, very low private sector employment and high reliance on public/informal employment, weak institutional coordination between training providers, labour market actors and authorities. This initiative aims at addressing these gaps by improving training opportunities and fostering entrepreneurship and strengthening institutional coordination. Its Overall Objective is to promote professional development of youth, particularly supporting women and vulnerable groups. Its Specific Objective is to generate decent employment opportunities by strengthening youth skills and employability in Tripoli’s private sector. Specifically, this project will invest in promoting sectors such as Green Economy (photovoltaics, sustainable fashion).

## “Strengthening of economic activities related to Cultural Heritage”

**Total Budget:** EUR 2.6 M

**Beginning of activities:** 2026

**Partner:** CSOs

**Overall Objective:** The overall objective of this project is to increase the protection of cultural heritage for socioeconomic development.

This initiative, expected to launch in 2026, will be implemented by Civil Society Organisations selected through a Call for Proposals through a grant of 2.600.000 EUR. The initiative aims to enhance Libya’s archaeological and cultural heritage by promoting sustainable economic development grounded in culture, social inclusion, and community participation.

Through the strengthening of the Department of Antiquities, municipalities, and civil society, the programme seeks to improve the management, conservation, and accessibility of heritage sites, with targeted actions for preventive maintenance, inclusive access, and the training of local operators. In parallel, it supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the sectors of cultural tourism, crafts, and services, with particular attention to youth and women’s entrepreneurship. The initiative also promotes the capacity building of Libyan civil society organizations through technical and managerial training, advocacy tools, and micro-grants for local cultural activities (festivals, events, exhibitions). By fostering inclusive partnerships among institutions, citizens, and cultural actors, the programme contributes to social cohesion, the creation of decent employment, community resilience, and the recognition of cultural heritage as a public good and a driver of sustainable human development.

## “Recovery, Stability and Socio-Economic Development in Libya”, renamed “Baladiyati II”

**Budget:** EUR 26M

**Start of activities:** 2021

**Implementing partner:** AICS, UNDP, UNICEF

**Overall objective:** Contribute to stabilisation, post conflicts and natural disasters recovery, and long-term resilience.

Baladiyati II is an initiative funded by the European Union through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) and implemented by AICS in partnership with UNICEF and UNDP

Baladiyati II aims to strengthen the capacity of Libyan public administrations in delivering basic services, in order to improve living conditions for the population, with a specific focus on the most vulnerable groups, including migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and

host communities.

**Phase I** of the programme was launched in 2018 with a total budget of €50 million, and the geographical coverage was divided as follows: AICS €22 million for 27 municipalities, UNDP €18 million for 19 municipalities, and UNICEF €10 million for 24 municipalities. In this initial phase, AICS contributed to the strengthening of basic services by implementing over 100 interventions, mainly in the health sector, with additional interventions in the education and WASH sectors. The activities on the ground were carried out by Italian, international, and Libyan NGOs, organised in consortia selected through dedicated calls for proposals.

Phase II of the programme was launched in 2021 with a total budget of €26 million, with the following geographical distribution: AICS €16 million for 21 municipalities, UNDP €6 million for 5 municipalities, and UNICEF €4 million for 8 municipalities. This phase focuses on Southern Libya—an area characterised by particularly complex socio-economic, institutional, and public security dynamics—and includes several components:

- (i) strengthening basic services in the sectors of education, water and sanitation, renewable energy, and community services/infrastructure;
- (ii) improving income-generating activities in the agri-food value chain;
- (iii) enhancing the capacities of Libyan institutions.

The Phase II of the programme ended in September 2025 but remains relevant as a number of initiatives are currently being formulated based on Baladiyati II's achievements.