UNODC in Libya Annual Report 2025

United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

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This publication has not been formally edited.

Foreword:

UNODC has been operational in Libya since 2007, formalizing its presence through a Host Country Agreement in 2009. Since its establishment, the Office has maintained a broad portfolio across key mandate areas, including organized crime, trafficking in persons, and counterterrorism.

Following the political unrest in 2011, operations were significantly disrupted, with UNODC's presence reduced to a minimum until the 2020 ceasefire. Since then, engagement has gradually resumed, supported by increasing cooperation with national and international partners.

In 2025, UNODC implemented seven projects under the Regional Framework for the Arab States (2023–2028), covering drug control, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, countering illicit trafficking in dual-use goods, conventional weapons and explosives, maritime safety and security, anti-corruption and anti-money laundering, and juvenile justice. These interventions combined immediate operational support with longer-term capacity development, contributing to more sustainable and nationally led responses.

These efforts were made possible through the support of key donors, including the State of Libya, the European Union, the Italian Republic, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

UNODC works closely with a wide range of national stakeholders, including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Justice, Health, Defense, Social Affairs, Education, Higher Education, and Finance, as well as the Supreme Judicial Council, the Office of the Attorney General, the Anti-Narcotics General Administration of Libya (ANGA), the Social Solidarity Fund, the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), the Central Bank of Libya, the Libyan Customs Authority, the Libya Asset Recovery and Management Office, Port Control Units, the Criminal Investigations Department, the General Administration for Coastal Security, and the Libya Coast Guard.

Within this context, UNODC provided targeted support to national authorities in 2025 across key priority areas aligned with the Regional Framework for the Arab States (2023–2028), including:

1- Balanced approaches to drug control
2- Strengthening responses to organized crime
3- Countering trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants
4- Action against corruption and financial crimes
5- Preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism
6- Crime prevention and criminal justice reform

UNODC extends its sincere appreciation to all partners whose continued support has enabled its work in Libya. Their commitment to strengthening institutional capacities and supporting the people of Libya, despite ongoing challenges, has been instrumental in advancing shared goals of peace, justice, and development.

The UNODC in Libya Annual Report 2025 captures these joint efforts, highlighting both the progress achieved and the continued partnership between UNODC and Libya.

Thematic Achievements:
Focus Area 1: A Balanced Approach to Drug Control

UNODC supported drug control efforts in Libya through a combination of targeted training, operational support, and analytical work. Officers from the Anti-narcotics General Administration (ANGA) and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) participated in specialized training in Doha on open-source intelligence (OSINT), introducing tools and approaches to support analytical and investigative work. In parallel, essential equipment was delivered to ANGA to support day-to-day operations and improve coordination in counter-narcotics efforts.

This support was complemented by the procurement of advanced IT equipment for ANGA, enabling the establishment of a dedicated IT laboratory. The laboratory is intended to serve as a hub for future capacity-building activities, including training in digital case management, data analysis, and intelligence-led investigations, and to support the continued use and development of technical skills.

Alongside these operational efforts, UNODC advanced its analytical work on drug trafficking dynamics in Libya and across North Africa. Finalized in 2025 and launched in January 2026, the report was developed through data collection and extensive consultations with national counterparts, including a roundtable and technical working groups. Seizure data was used to map trafficking routes, patterns, and emerging trends, helping to inform a set of strategic recommendations for law enforcement and public health responses in a complex operating environment.

Focus Area 2: Strengthening the Response to Organized Crimes

UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme

In 2025, the project transitioned from inception to full implementation, marking a key step in supporting Libya's maritime safety and security. A major output was the development and handover of a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to Libyan authorities. These included:

- Search and Rescue (SAR) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Operations Room Officers based on International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Vol. II
- Search and Rescue (SAR) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Mobile Units / Search and Rescue Units (SRUs) based on International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Vol. III
- Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) Boarding Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Joint Maritime Operation Chamber (JMOC)
- Media and Communications Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) / Joint Maritime Operation Chamber (JMOC)
- Monitoring and Reporting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) at strategic, operational, and tactical levels
- Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) annexes on crowd management, medical screening and first aid response, and body-worn cameras, reviewed in August

All Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were developed through a coordinated process involving the Libyan Coast Guard, the General Administration for Coastal Security, the Customs Authority, and the Attorney General's Office, supporting a unified operational approach and shared ownership. They were also translated into Arabic to ensure accessibility and facilitate consistent application and sustainability.

During 2025, more than 30 activities were delivered, reaching over 300 Libyan officers and covering operational, legal, communication, and coordination aspects related to the institutionalization of Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) / Joint Maritime Operation Chamber (JMOC).

Technical and legal capacities were enhanced through a range of specialized trainings, including Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS), Search and Rescue (SAR) exercises, certified Search and Rescue (SAR) coordination training in Italy, medical first aid, Law of the Sea courses, and a Training of Trainers programme establishing a national pool of instructors. Institutional development was supported by a Law of the Sea e-learning platform and the Arabic Maritime Crime Manual.


UNODC Passenger & Cargo Control Programme (PCCP)

In 2025, UNODC continued to support the capacity of Libyan border officials to counter illicit trafficking, with a particular focus on strategic trade and dual-use goods.

Close coordination with Libyan Customs was maintained to support and enhance the performance of the Port Control Units (PCUs) in Tripoli and Misrata, while also exploring ways to expand the Programme's scope in response to emerging threats at Libyan seaports.

PCCP carried out a monitoring mission involving PCU representatives from Tripoli and Misrata, the Director General of Customs Anti-Narcotics and Smuggling, and the EXBS National Coordinator. The mission enabled a comprehensive review of implementation progress, operational challenges, and key needs in capacity-building, equipment, and data-sharing.

This was followed by a study visit to Cyprus for 11 Libyan officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Customs Anti-Narcotics and Smuggling Unit, and the PCUs in Tripoli and Misrata. The visit strengthened ongoing capacity-building efforts by exposing participants to best practices in port security and counter-smuggling operations, while further reinforcing cooperation between Cyprus and Libya, particularly in information exchange and technical collaboration.

The visit also included high-level engagements with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cyprus and law enforcement agencies, technical meetings with Customs, the Marine Police, and port operators, field visits to the ports of Larnaca and Limassol, and a study tour at the CYCLOPS Training Centre for Security and Combating Organised Crime. Overall, the visit provided practical insight into integrated port security systems and facilitated valuable exchange of expertise between both countries.

Focus Area 3: Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants:

In 2025, UNODC advanced its technical assistance to Libya in support of national efforts to address trafficking in persons (TiP) and the smuggling of migrants (SoM). Under the Kingdom of the Netherlands-funded North Africa Project, activities focused on strengthening institutional capacities, enhancing cross-border and regional cooperation, improving legislative frameworks, and supporting protection mechanisms for migrants vulnerable to exploitation. Through a combination of training, regional engagement, and operational support, UNODC continued to assist Libya in responding to the evolving dynamics of TiP/SoM.

Advancing Regional Cooperation and Knowledge Exchange

Regional cooperation and knowledge exchange remained central to these efforts. A key milestone in 2025 was a study visit of 12 Libyan officials to Morocco, providing a platform for peer-to-peer engagement and exposure to practices in criminal justice responses, institutional coordination, and victim protection. The visit supported the identification of approaches adaptable to Libya's national context.

Libya also actively contributed to regional expert consultations aimed at strengthening legislative responses to smuggling of migrants. UNODC facilitated Libya's participation in the Regional Expert Consultation held in Egypt, which brought together government representatives from across the MENA region to review and adapt the UNODC Model Law on SoM to regional priorities. Follow-up regional consultation further advanced the development of a new legislative tool tailored to MENA context, addressing emerging trends and promoting more harmonized legal frameworks.

In parallel, Libyan counterparts participated in a regional workshop in Morocco on gender, human rights, and reporting in TiP/SoM contexts. The workshop brought together criminal justice practitioners from across the region and supported the integration of gender-sensitive approaches, women's leadership, and understanding of gender-related vulnerabilities in these crimes.

Strengthening National Frameworks and Institutional Coordination

UNODC supported Libya's efforts to enhance strategic planning and coordination for its response to TiP/SoM. A technical workshop brought together fifteen representatives from key national institutions to review and finalize the national workplan under the North Africa Project. Discussions focused on aligning priorities, clarifying roles and responsibilities, and establishing a shared framework for coordinated implementation.

UNODC also delivered a national workshop on TiP/SoM data collection and analysis for twelve prosecutors and judges. The training helped clarify data requirements, strengthen analytical skills, and promote the establishment of a unified national information system.

In addition, a mapping workshop convened twenty-two representatives from relevant ministries, national entities, and service providers to systematically identify existing migrant protection services, highlight gaps, and inform priorities for improving referral mechanisms and access to services.

Enhancing Investigative and Prosecutorial Capacities

To support Libya's efforts to detect, investigate, and prosecute TiP and SoM crimes, UNODC delivered a series of specialized trainings in 2025.

UNODC and IOM jointly trained twenty-four criminal justice practitioners on international legal frameworks, victim identification, and international cooperation. The workshop enhanced participants' familiarity with relevant UN protocols and supported coordination between judicial and law enforcement actors.

Another training introduced twenty law enforcement officers to open-source intelligence (OSINT) tools and techniques. Participants learned to monitor online platforms, extract digital evidence, and analyse information relevant to migrant smuggling networks.

Two advanced trainings on parallel financial investigations supported thirty-nine officials from financial intelligence, law enforcement, and judicial institutions. The trainings covered illicit financial flow tracing, money-laundering typologies, investigation cycles, trade-based money laundering, beneficial ownership analysis, and strategies for strengthening evidence-based prosecutions.

Focus Area 4: Action Against Corruption and Financial Crimes

UNODC continued to support Libyan national authorities in strengthening integrity and preventing corruption in the private sector. This included technical assistance for developing codes of conduct and supporting implementation mechanisms of the Libyan National Strategy for Performance Oversight, Anti-Corruption, and Prevention (2025–2030). The Programme also focused on building the capacity of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to strengthen compliance systems and promote business integrity, while facilitating knowledge exchange between Libyan stakeholders and counterparts across the MENA region.

These efforts were delivered through a series of national and regional activities:
A Regional Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme was held in Cairo with participants from Libya, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, and Sudan. The training supported participants' knowledge of anti-corruption and business integrity while equipping them with facilitation and training skills, and promoting the exchange of internal compliance practices.

This was followed by a regional meeting titled "Building the Way Forward: Enhancing Business Integrity in the MENA Region," which brought together 60 participants from 14 countries. The event fostered multi-stakeholder dialogue on strengthening public–private partnerships and resulted in a set of recommendations to advance business integrity, enhance incentives for companies, promote transparency during crises, digitalize government services, and strengthen international technical cooperation.

Furthermore, a regional public–private dialogue in Cairo gathered 50 participants from anti-corruption agencies, private sector, academia, and international organizations. The dialogue focused on sharing best practices, strengthening integrity frameworks, and shaping a regional roadmap for the development of national codes of conduct across the MENA region.

At the national level, a workshop in Tripoli, implemented with the Libyan Administrative Control Authority (ACA), brought together private sector representatives and international experts to advance the development of codes of conduct. Inputs from the workshop were integrated into the UNODC guidelines, which was subsequently shared with ACA for finalization and adoption.

UNODC delivered a two-week training for Libyan Financial Information Unit (FIU) financial analysts on the goAML system, enhancing their capacity to analyse suspicious financial transactions.

On International Anti-Corruption Day, UNODC and ACA co-organized a high-level event in Tripoli attended by senior Libyan officials. On this occasion, the second phase of the EU-funded project “Building Libya’s National Capacity to Prevent and Combat Corruption and Money Laundering” was launched, building on the achievements of the first phase to further support national authorities and stakeholders in preventing and addressing corruption.

Finally, an Expert Group Meeting supported the implementation of the Libyan National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2025–2030). The meeting gathered national ministries, ACA, and international experts to exchange best practices on implementation, coordination, and follow-up mechanisms, and to address key challenges in strategy execution.

Focus Area 5: Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violence

In 2025, with funding from the United Kingdom, the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) convened a roundtable in Tunis to enhance cross-border cooperation and information sharing in response to emerging threats from terrorism and organized crime in North Africa.

The meeting brought together representatives from Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia to exchange insights on recent security developments, including evolving tactics of terrorist groups, and to identify mechanisms to strengthen regional cooperation

The main objectives were to:

- Develop a shared understanding of terrorism-related threats and their links to organized crime;
- Promote dialogue and cooperation among judicial and security institutions;
- Identify gaps in national capacities and inform future technical assistance.

The roundtable included 29 senior representatives from criminal justice, law enforcement, and intelligence agencies across the three countries, with contributions from experts from the United Nations Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, the United Kingdom Counter-Terrorism Network for Europe, the Middle East and the Levant, and Niger.

Discussions provided a platform to exchange experiences on threat assessment and the evolving modus operandi of terrorist groups. Participants explored ways to strengthen cooperation, enhance border management, and promote systematic information exchange to build trust among neighbouring countries. A dedicated session also addressed ongoing cases and operational challenges.

Participants further emphasized the need for sustained regional collaboration and adopted recommendations to strengthen cooperation in security, intelligence, and judicial fields through the establishment of a joint regional mechanism (e.g. a centre, platform, or regional hub) to facilitate information exchange, joint threat assessments, and capacity-building, including the use of advanced technologies.

Key outcomes included improved understanding of counter-terrorism legal frameworks, enhanced awareness of current threats, updated assessments of national capacities, and the identification of challenges related to rehabilitation and reintegration strategies.

Focus Area 6: Strengthening Crime / Violence Prevention and Criminal Justice

In 2025, UNODC continued advancing the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme through sustained engagement with national counterparts, ensuring the continuity and effective implementation of activities.

Throughout the year, UNODC held regular consultations with key government institutions, including the Ministries of Education and Health and the Social Solidarity Fund, to strengthen coordination, alignment, and follow-up on ongoing initiatives. Engagement with national partners also supported the continuation of youth-focused prevention interventions, including the Line Up, Live Up programme, as part of broader efforts to enhance life skills and resilience among children and young people.

UNODC further deepened cooperation with specialised service providers, including the Misrata Drug Treatment Centre, to advance dialogue on treatment, rehabilitation, and referral pathways within the criminal justice and public health nexus. In parallel, it maintained an active presence in national initiatives, including participation in the Ministry of Interior’s launch of the Family and Child Protection Units’ media campaign, contributing to awareness-raising on child protection.

At the inter-agency level, UNODC actively contributed to United Nations youth working groups, promoting coordinated approaches to crime prevention, youth engagement, and resilience-building. In addition, UNODC formalised a new agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support Phase II of juvenile justice development. This agreement establishes the foundation for the next phase of joint implementation, with activities set to begin in early 2026, building on previous achievements and further strengthening coordinated, rights-based juvenile justice reforms in Libya.

DONORS

- The State of Libya, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Anti-Narcotics General Administration of Libya
- The European Union
- The Italian Republic
- The Kingdom of the Netherlands
- The United Kingdom
- The United States of America – Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

PARTNERS

- Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- Ministry of Education (MOE)
- Ministry of Finance (MOF)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
- Ministry of Health (MoH)
- Ministry of Interior (MoI)
- Ministry of Justice (MoJ)
- Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)
- Authority of Social Solidarity Fund (SSF)
- Supreme Judicial Council (SJC)
- Office of the Attorney General (OAG)
- Central Bank of Libya (CBL)
- Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)
- Libya Asset Recovery and Management Office (LARMO)
- Port Control Unit (PCU)
- Libyan Customs Authority (LCA)
- General Administration of Antinarcotics in Libya (ANGA)
- Criminal Investigations Department (CID)
- National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB)
- General Administration for Coastal Security (GACS)
- Libya Coast Guard (LCG)

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