

UNODC in Libya 2024
Annual Report



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UNODC IN LIBYA: ADVANCING JUSTICE, SECURITY, AND DEVELOPMENT

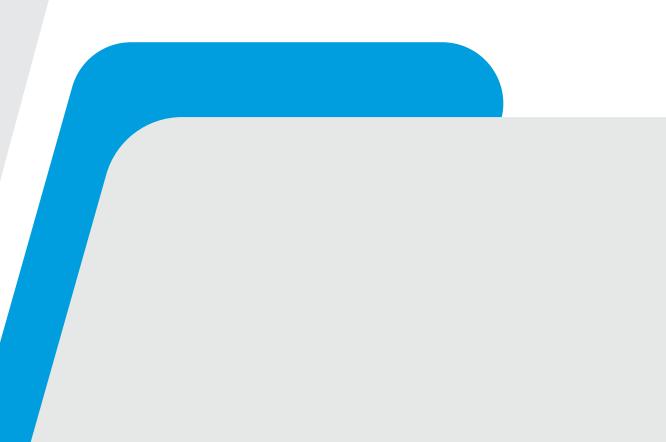
KEY MILESTONES - 2024

DRIVING IMPACT THROUGH THEMATIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- ► A Balanced Approach to Drug Control
- ► Strengthening the Response to Organized Crime
- Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants
- Action Against Corruption and Financial Crime
- ► Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violence
- ► Strengthening Crime/Violence Prevention and Criminal Justice

DONORS

PARTNERS



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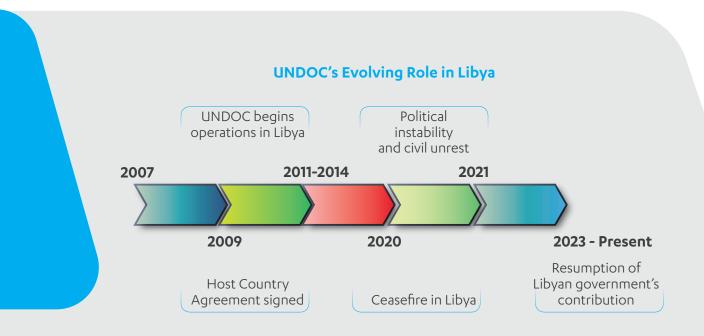
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UNODC in Libya:

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

Political unrest following 2011 severely disrupted operations, reducing UNODC's presence to a minimum until the 2020

ceasefire. Since then, activities have gradually resumed, driven by growing engagement from national counterparts. In 2023, the Libyan government renewed its financial support to the Programme Office, signaling a strengthened commitment to UNODC's mandate.



Operational Capacity and Stakeholder Engagement in Libya

The UNODC Programme Office in Libya a team of 15 personnels. UNODC works closely with various national stakeholders, including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Justice, Health, Defense, Social Affairs, Education, Higher Education, and Finance, as well as the Office of the Attorney General, Social Solidarity Fund, High Committee of Childhood, Libyan Central Bank, Libyan Customs Authority, Libyan Asset Recovery and Management Office, and the Administrative Control Authority.

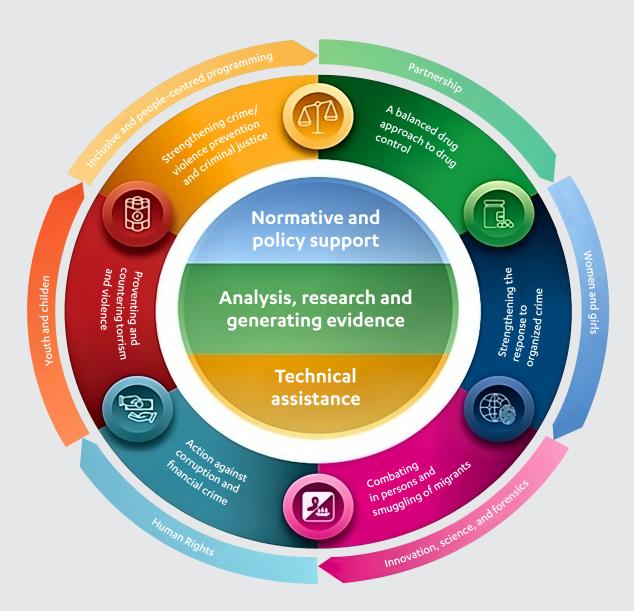
In 2024, with a budget of approximately USD 3.37 million, key

donors included the Government of Libya, the European Union, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Italian Republic, the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United States of America, and the Siemens Integrity Initiative.

Under the umbrella of the Regional Framework for the Arab States (2023–2028), UNODC operates in Libya across six focus areas to to contribute to peace and security, human rights, and development by making the region safer from drugs, crime, corruption, and terrorism, including by reducing violence and inequalities within society.

In 2024, UNODC provided targeted support to national authorities across several focus areas:

- ▶ 1. A Balanced Approach to Drug Control
- ≥ 2. Strengthening the Response to Organized Crime
- ≥ 3. Combatting Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SoM).
- ▶ 4. Action against corruption and financial crime
- ► 5. Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violence
- ► 6. Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme



The UNODC in Libya Annual Report 2024 captures these joint efforts in detail, highlighting the progress achieved and the enduring partnership between UNODC and Libya.

Committed to lasting impact, UNODC continues to work toward a safer, healthier, and more prosperous future for all in Libya, ensuring no one is left behind.



891 personnel trained across key thematic areas

Through targeted training sessions, vocational programs, and life skills development, capacity-building initiatives were delivered to law enforcement officers, judges, prosecutors, public lawyers, social workers, and other professionals across key ministries.



2 juvenile facilities rehabilitated and equipped:

- Male Juvenile Facility in Tajura: upgraded infrastructure, including the establishment of a soccer field.
- Female Juvenile Facility (Social House, Gurgi): equipped with educational and vocational tools to support gender-responsive care.



854 Equipment, Furniture, and recreational and educational materials

- 60 IT equipment
- 57 furniture items
- 19 support equipment
- 718 recreational and educational material



8 Policy and Technical Guidance Documents developed

UNODC supported national efforts in developing key policy and technical documents, including tools on anti-corruption, financial investigations, juvenile justice, legal aid, and standard operating procedures for juvenile facilities to strengthen institutional frameworks.

Focus Area 1:

A Balanced Approach to Drug Control

Libya has emerged as a key link in transit routes, evolving into a hub for the movement of cannabis resin, cocaine, synthetic drugs, and pharmaceuticals across North Africa, the Sahel, Europe, and the Middle East. Trafficking networks have become increasingly active and independent, linking suppliers from Latin America, West Africa, and the Levant to global markets. Changes in local drug use patterns, particularly among young people, mirror broader regional trends driven by availability, affordability, conflict, and evolving social and economic challenges, contributing to significant public health and social risks.

UNODC supports Libya in strengthening its drug control system through the development of a national drug strategy, capacity-buildingforlawenforcementandjudiciarypersonnel, and enhanced intelligence-sharing and coordination. Efforts also include improved border control, particularly across maritime and land routes, and the facilitation of regional cooperation with Tunisia, Algeria, and European partners. In parallel, UNODC promotes comprehensive public health responses to substance use, working to integrate drug treatment into the broader healthcare system and advancing prevention, rehabilitation, and support initiatives, especially for youth and other vulnerable groups.

In a significant step toward enhancing Libya's drug control framework, the National Social and Economic Bureau, in collaboration with the UNODC and the National Technical Committee, has led the development of the National Strategy for Drug Response, officially endorsed by the Prime Minister. The strategy adopts a comprehensive approach encompassing demand reduction and harm reduction.

UNODC enhanced strategic engagement with national stakeholders, particularly the Ministry of Interior, through the Criminal Investigation Department and the Anti-Narcotics General Administration, to strengthen forensic services and data analysis capacities related to drug control.



Coordination with Tunisia was initiated through bilateral roundtables focused on cross-border trafficking trends, creating a foundation for enhanced regional cooperation.

To strengthen national capacity, UNODC conducted training sessions on the Data eXchange Platform (DXP) and the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) to enhance Libya's ability to report drug seizures and analyse drug-related trends more effectively.

Tailored Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) training was also delivered to the Anti-Narcotics General Administration, significantly enhancing investigative capabilities. In addition, forensic equipment was provided to strengthen the quality and reliability of evidence presented in court.

In 2024, a comprehensive assessment of drug trafficking trends and threats in Libya was initiated, with data collection running from September 2024 to April 2025. The resulting report will clarify Libya's evolving role in regional and global drug markets and support evidence-based policymaking and coordinated responses.

UNODC also participated in World AIDS Day events in Tripoli,

promoting a human rights-based, gender-

sensitive approach to HIV prevention for vulnerable groups, in line with the 2024 theme, Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right!



Focus Area 2:

Strengthening the Response to Organized Crime UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme

Search and Rescue (SAR) operations in Libya's designated Search and Rescue Region (SRR) are primarily under the responsibility of Libyan authorities. Embedding SAR activities within an accountable, transparent, and rights-respecting framework is crucial to protect lives. This includes robust control structures, operational oversight, and independent monitoring mechanisms led by Libyan authorities and supported by international partners.

UNODC, through its Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) and its Regional Office, is currently engaged in supporting Libyan counterparts on these issues and on tackling organized criminal networks operating at sea.

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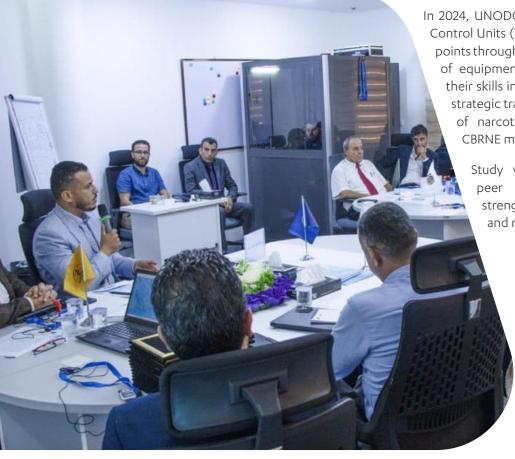
Passenger and Cargo Control Programme

In 2024, UNODC implemented key activities aimed at strengthening institutional capacities for integrated border management, aimed at preventing transnational organized crime and terrorism, while also facilitating the smooth flow of legitimate trade.

Several UNODC interventions supported national efforts to counter increasingly sophisticated transnational organized crime. These initiatives strengthened safety and security at Libya's borders while promoting the lawful and efficient movement of goods and passengers, in full adherence to international human rights standards.

In 2024, UNODC continued to support the two Port Control Units (Tripoli and Misrata Ports) at key entry points through specialized training and the provision of equipment. Customs officers have enhanced their skills in risk analysis, container profiling, and strategic trade controls to counter the trafficking of narcotics, firearms, dual-use goods, and CBRNE materials.

Study visits to Malta facilitated peer-topeer exchange with Maltese Customs, strengthening risk assessment procedures and regional cooperation.





Focus Area 3:

Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (TiP/SoM)

Porous desert borders place Libya at the crossroads of key migration and trade routes between the Sahel, North Africa, and Europe.

UNODC aims to strengthen legal and institutional capacities in North Africa to address TiP and SoM within irregular migration flows.

In 2024, UNODC facilitated Libya and Bangladesh's third bilateral meeting to enhance cooperation on combating TiP/SoM.

The meeting's key outcomes included increased capacity and willingness of participants to engage in bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the detection, investigation, and prosecution of TIP and SOM, as well as the designation of focal points of both countries for regular real time exchange of information/intelligence and judicial cooperation

Additionally, Libyan delegations took part in various international events, including the 12th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNTOC, TiPSoM Working Groups in Vienna, the "Fourth Regional Conference of Directors General and Senior Commanders of Internal Security Forces and Senior Justice Officials on the fight against Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons" under the Niamey Declaration, and regional forums in the Middle East and North Africa.





Focus Area 4:

Action against corruption and financial crime

Corruption presents a serious obstacle to peacebuilding, governance, and sustainable development, fueling organized crime, political instability, and socioeconomic inequalities.

In post-2011 Libya, the lack of unified governance structures and institutional fragmentation has exacerbated vulnerabilities to corruption and financial crime. Strengthening accountability and the role of civil society is key to rebuilding trust in public institutions and fostering long-term political and economic stability.

The deployment of the UNODC anti-money laundering system (goAML) at the Financial Information Unit (FIU) has significantly strengthened the detection, tracking, and analysis of suspicious transactions. It enhances cross-border data exchange and fosters closer cooperation with national law enforcement agencies, enabling more timely sharing of financial intelligence to support investigations. Additionally, the system improves oversight of reporting entities' compliance with Libya's AML/CFT laws.

Libya's engagement in international cooperation has been further reinforced through its accession to the GlobE Network and active participation in global anticorruption forums, such as the UNCAC Conference of the States Parties, fostering stronger partnerships and shared best practices.

Capacity-building activities reached 591 stakeholders, including prosecutors, enforcement investigators, law officials, judges, financial analysts, academics. and youth. tools, such as a corruption risk assessment, guidelines on ML/ TF risks in the non-profit sector, and a financial investigations user manual, were developed to support financial sector risk mitigation. These initiatives informed the adoption of major strategic frameworks, such as the

National Strategy for Performance Control, Anti-corruption and Prevention (2025–2030), the National Strategy for Combating Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing, and Proliferation Financing, and the establishment of the Libyan Academy for Governance.

UNODC participated in the Second International Conference on Combating Corruption in Tripoli, emphasizing youth engagement, asset recovery, and strengthening accountability. Additionally, UNODC held discussions with Attorney General to reinforce strategic collaboration and



In 2024, UNODC's efforts aimed to strengthen Libya's capacity to prevent and counter corruption, address money laundering, and promote transparency and ethical governance. UNODC's intiatives focused on enhancing legal, institutional, and operational frameworks to prevent corruption, investigate and prosecute and money laundering (ML) crimes, and support the recovery of assets linked to corrupt practices.

UNODC developed an anti-corruption curriculum specifically designed for Libya, which will be integrated into schools and universities, paving the way for long-term awareness and anti-corruption efforts.

Furthermore, UNODC conducted a series of "Training of Trainers" (ToTs) workshops on anti-corruption education as part of the Global Resource for Anti-Corruption Education and Youth Empowerment (GRACE). Over eight months, a total of 167 teachers and professors—129 males and 38 females— were trained across 7 public universities, which together have an average student population of 100,000 and are part of the broader Libyan university system with an average of 150,000 students.



Focus Area 5:

Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violence

Security challenges, including porous borders, and arms proliferation have facilitated terrorist activity and the movement of foreign terrorist fighters. While major territorial control by terrorist groups has diminished, the threat of terrorism remains a pressing concern. Strengthening Libya's counterterrorism capacity in line with international legal and human rights standards are critical to promoting national and regional stability.

In 2024, UNODC's initiatives focused on enhancing national capacities to address terrorism and its links to organized crime, while promoting regional and cross-border cooperation with Algeria and Tunisia. Emphasis was placed on human rights—compliant investigations, inter-agency coordination, and specialized training for justice and law enforcement officials.

Over 130 Libyan officials received training in advanced investigative techniques, digital evidence handling, and terrorism-related prosecutions, in line with international human rights standards. The programme also supported the operationalization of the new Libya Counter-Terrorism Centre under the Criminal Investigation Department and helped strengthen the implementation of sanctions under relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

At the regional level, cross-border cooperation with Algeria, Tunisia, and the Sahel countries was enhanced through targeted training and technical assistance, improving detection of illicit financial flows and disrupting terrorist-linked smuggling networks.



Additionally, UNODC organized a regional roundtable to advance cross-border collaboration against terrorism and organized crime. The roundtable brought together Libyan experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Central Bank of Libya, Financial Investigation Unit, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior (CID), Office of the Attorney General, Libyan Intelligence Service, Libyan Counterterrorism Centre, and other relevant national institutions. Participants explored legal frameworks, identified legislative gaps, examined the growing nexus between terrorism and organized crime, and assessed capacity needs in Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia.



Focus Area 6:

Strengthening Crime/Violence Prevention and Criminal Justice

Juvenile Justice:

Libya's criminal justice system continues to face significant challenges due to institutional fragmentation and ongoing instability, which hinder effective rule of law and crime prevention. Young people, in particular, are highly vulnerable to violence, exploitation, and recruitment into criminal activities as a result of limited access to education, employment, and essential support services.

To address these challenges, UNODC has focused on reforming the juvenile justice system in line with international standards. This includes promoting alternatives to detention and expanding access to legal aid for children in conflict with the law. Strategic assessments and policy recommendations have helped lay the groundwork for institutional reforms, supported by the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs), legal booklets, and rehabilitation programmes. Targeted training for judges, social workers, and detention staff has been delivered, with a pool of national trainers established to ensure sustainability.





Infrastructure improvements were also made, including the refurbishment of two juvenile centres in Tripoli, benefiting over 120 juvenile detainees, including 20 girls. Public Lawyers' Departments under the Ministry of Justice in Tripoli, Benghazi, and Sabha were equipped with essential IT and office supplies

to enhance the provision of legal aid. Reintegration efforts were strengthened through awareness campaigns targeting juveniles and caregivers, as well as life skills and vocational training programmes developed in close coordination with









Youth Programme:

UNODC has also made notable strides in empowering youth and strengthening their resilience against drugs, crime, and violence. In 2024, the organization expanded its evidence-based prevention efforts across the country to promote community cohesion and positive engagement.

Key initiatives included the expansion of the 'Line Up! Live Up!' crime prevention through sports programme and the 'Strong Families' family skills programme. These initiatives aimed to strengthen protective factors among young people and build safer, healthier communities. To support programme sustainability and national ownership, UNODC trained master trainers and facilitated their participation in regional training events.

Youth engagement was further enhanced through Libya's active participation in the UNODC MENA Youth Network, launched in April 2024 to promote youth empowerment and meaningful participation. Six youth representatives from Libya played a leading role in promoting anti-drug and anti-violence initiatives. Notably, one youth representative won first place in the Participate4Impact Regional Competition for an initiative that used creative expression through music, art, and theatre to raise awareness and foster prevention in Benghazi.



Donors

Libya's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)

The European Union

The Federal Republic of Germany

The General Administration for Drug Control (Anti-Narcotics General Administration - ANGA), Libya

The Italian Republic

The Kingdom of the Netherlands

Siemens Integrity Initiative

The United Kingdom

The United States of America

Partners

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)

Ministry of Interior (MoI)

Ministry of Justice (MoJ)

Office of Attorney General (OAG)

National Economic and Social Development Board

Central Bank of Libya (CBL)

Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)

General Administration of Anti-Narcotics in Libya (ANGA)

High Authority of Social Solidarity Fund (SSF)

Libya Asset Recovery and Management Office (LARMO)

Libyan Customs Authority (LCA)

Ministry of Defense (MoD)

Ministry of Education (MOE)

Ministry of Finance (MOF)

Ministry of Health (MoH)

Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)

Ministry of Youth (MOY)

Port Control Unit (PCU)

Supreme Judicial Council (SJC)

