

Executive Summary:

National Social Protection Strategy Project

➤ Overview

Social protection is considered a tributary of development and a mechanism for building and preserving human capital. Its programs work to consecrate the values of solidarity, cooperation and communication between different groups and generations, improve the standard of living of individuals and families, and support the bonds of stability and social cohesion, so as to make the individual feel reassured and satisfied, and to achieve social well-being and security.

Social protection remained undeclared in Libya during the period 1955-2022 AD, due to the issuance of legislation and laws regulating work in the field of social protection.

With the establishment of the National Unity Government, a set of changes were implemented at the level of the social protection sector, namely reactivating the wife and children's grant and increasing the level of benefits provided within the framework of the largest cash assistance program in the country, known as ((The Basic Pension Program)), and forming a committee to study the issue of revocating Fuel subsidies.

Based on the recognition of the importance of social protection systems and the need for them, the National Economic and Social Development Board has adopted a draft national strategy for social protection, which requires joint national efforts from all ministries and institutions concerned with social protection, as well as civil society institutions. During the year 2020, the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the International Policy Center for Inclusive Growth (IG-IPC), developed a vision to guide the process of preparing a national strategy for social protection in Libya, with the aim of developing a shared, framed vision for policies related to the national social protection sector, and planning a roadmap that organizes consultative processes; through which a methodology will be planned to develop the national social protection strategy policy, and the map was announced by the end of 2021.

At the beginning of 2022, His Excellency the Prime Minister, in his capacity as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Council, issued Resolution No. 01 of 2022 naming the project one of the government's strategic priorities.

Accordingly, a government team was formed to develop a national strategy for social protection in Libya, representing all parties concerned with the project, and with the support of all United Nations organizations. It consists of the Supreme Management Committee, headed by Her Excellency the Minister of Social Affairs, with membership of the Board, the relevant ministries, an advisory team, and government support teams from various governmental institutions and bodies related to social protection in Libya. The team's work consisted of studying the current situation, collecting and analyzing data, and designing the structure of the national social protection strategy. Training workshops were implemented for the national team from various international institutions supporting the project. Work continued during the year 2023 AD to finalize the national strategy for social protection in Libya and announce it officially.

➤ Project objectives:

• General goal:

Developing a national social protection strategy that contributes to providing services to all target groups in Libyan society, stemming from the legislations and laws issued and in force in the country, and integrating the parties concerned with implementation into one crucible in order to provide the best services and fill the deficit.

• Sub-objectives:



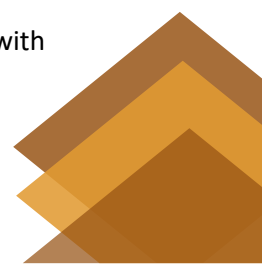
1. Providing comprehensive and sustainable social protection.
2. Developing programs to protect individuals from risks in the form of assistance and services to confront shocks and crises.
3. Establishing a unified social registry for Libyan and non-Libyan residents residing inside Libya in accordance with specific standards and controls.
4. Creating a guide of indicators for social protection.

➤ **Project partners:**

Cabinet	Ministries	bodies and institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up Department in the Council of Ministers • Decision Support Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Affairs • Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation • Economy and trade • Finance • Planning • Work and rehabilitation • Health • Education • Local government. • Housing and Construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Authority for the Care of Families of Martyrs, Missing Persons, and Amputees • The General Information Authority • Department of Statistics and Census • The Supreme Committee for Childhood • Social Security Fund • Social Solidarity Fund • Center for Social Studies • Health Insurance Fund • Zakat Fund
<p>❖ A group of experts, consultants and faculty members interested in the field of social protection</p>		

➤ **Project outputs:**

- Developing a national strategy for social protection in Libya.
- Implementing a promotional media plan to introduce the strategy, and carrying out several interviews, whether on the air on the radio as interventions or hosting in the studio on radio and television.
- Develop special matrices to assess the current situation and fill the data gap for social protection components such as Health, Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, etc.
- Implementing workshops to present the project to stakeholders and workers in the field of social protection.
- Work was done on the institutional framework of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, and the Martyrs' Families Authority in the social protection project.
- Resolution No. 1500 of 2021 AD was studied regarding the administrative units that accommodate social protection services at the municipal level.
- A matrix was designed for the technical support programs provided by international organizations working in the field of social protection.
- A study was performed and proposals were drawn up on the general framework of the unified social registration and cash transfers.
- Preparing a statistical report on social protection programs.
- Preparing a financial report on social protection programs.
- Developing a draft proposal for the institutional framework for an independent body concerned with social protection in Libya.



➤ **Most important data/statistics:**

The most important data and statistics in the strategy were linked with surveying the legislations and laws regulating work in the field of social protection:

As for the institutional framework, it was found that it includes (32) entities concerned with social protection, whether they set protection policies, participate in developing them or implement programs of or related to social protection.

Social protection programs were also surveyed, which focused on: insurance, social security, and social assistance programs - with their cash and in-kind services, care and rehabilitation - and labor market programmes, as a basic basis for establishing a network to communicate with protection programs and those targeted by them, due to the necessity of reaching comprehensive and diverse coverage to combat poverty, non-Equality and exclusion, through integration between these components and legislations. Each component of social protection contains many programs that achieve individual social security and social justice.

➤ **Conclusion:**

The implementation of the project faced several challenges and obstacles, some of which can be summarized in the following points:

1. Failure to liquidate the project budget to cover the implementation stages.
2. Scarcity of data related to social protection programs.
3. Delay in administrative procedures and correspondence between partners in implementing the work, which hinders the work assignments and causes confusion in follow-up.
4. Intertwining and overlapping competencies of agencies providing services in the field of social protection.
5. Overlapping of existing laws and legislation.
6. The lack of seriousness of some members assigned to the project, which led to their exclusion and the renaming of replacements to implement the project.

The work resulted in the following recommendations:

1. The need of a body concerned with social protection with a clear institutional framework, which operates according to a mechanism that regulates social protection programs in Libya.
2. The necessity of reviewing and updating existing legislations and developing them to confront shocks and crises.
3. Developing the work mechanism of existing institutions.
4. Creating a private unified social record.
5. Developing new protection programs that address vulnerable groups that emerge as a result of crises and disasters.
6. Working to ensure the sustainability and continuity of social protection programs.
7. Work on preparing an indicator guide for social protection programs.
8. Training and building of capabilities of workers on social protection programs
9. Providing vocational guidance and career guidance services to job seekers in a way that matches the requirements of the labor market.
10. Emphasis on training and qualifying vulnerable capable groups and integrating them into the labor market.