



المجلس الوطني للتطوير الاقتصادي و الاجتماعي

National Economic & Social Development Board

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Executive Summary

project of the National survey of youth situation

Executive summary

National Survey on the Status of Youth Project

1) General overview

This report is part of the Youth Platforms Project implemented by the National Economic and Social Development Board. The project targets the largest and most influential segment, namely young people aged 15-34 years, in order to hear the voice of young people, get closer to them, learn about their fears, hopes and aspirations, identify their problems and sufferings, their perceptions and opinions on development and change, and study and evaluate the conditions of Libyan youth to set development policies taking advantage of their unlimited capabilities. This report assesses the status of youth and extent of their vulnerability in the post-conflict transitional phase, which is, to say the least, a difficult phase faced by young people currently. During the conflict and transition process, Libyan society witnessed a movement of change that forces us to reconsider the methods of caring for youth, and then develop a national strategy for the integration of youth and their development. The societal conditions represented by the changing labor market and the unstable security and political environment put many young people in a long waiting period and put them outside the circle of education, training and work. The situation of young people today is worrying, as many of them have ended up in the informal economy and its risks, which are characterized by unstable conditions, low wages, lack of training opportunities, and lack of social protection. As we find many young people working in jobs away from their field of study and that are below their academic qualifications, which leads to frustration and dissatisfaction, or joining armed formations, also posing risks, or engage in prohibited activities such as irregular migration or smuggling. The report also focuses on participation and hearing the voice of young people, and on the health of young people and their economic and social conditions. Youth issues are many, and they are real development issues. Youth are the real wealth of society, and are the challenge and hope in Libya. This report came to express their concerns, problems and aspirations.

A multiple methodology was followed to approach the youth and hear their voice through the National Youth Survey and through discussion groups and youth dialogue platforms, so that we can identify, describe and analyze the challenges and opportunities of the situation of youth today and be able to draw effective policies that make youth the target and the means.

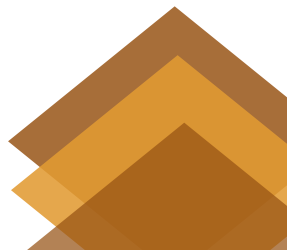
Many experts, technicians, researchers, assistants, data collectors, and statistical analysts contributed to writing this report, the first of its kind in Libya, which justifies it being called the first national report on the situation of youth in Libya.

Work on this report began in February 2022 and continued until the beginning of January 2023. It is divided into six parts that include most of the main issues, while the last part contains the most important features of the proposed national policy for youth development. We extend all thanks to the administration of the National Economic and Social Development Board, which sponsored and supported this national work, and to the members of the work team, including experts, technicians, and researchers.

2) Project objectives:

1. Work to formulate and adopt a national policy for youth development, and to achieve this:
2. Study the conditions of youth and determine their priorities and participation in achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
3. Work to create a database for youth development that represents their needs, interests, and priorities, which will be fed by studies and researchs on the youth segment, integrating and involving them in it.
4. Enhancing awareness of the importance of adopting youth policies, by activating the role of media and communication technology in promoting positive participation in public and political affairs.
5. Conducting a national dialogue to gain support for the implementation of the national policy programs for youth development by politicians, clergy, and all active forces in society.
6. Developing sectoral implementation plans for youth policies.

3) Project partners:



- The National Economic and Social Development Board.
- Ministry of Youth.
- National experts.

4) Project outputs:

A report outlining the most important points completed by the youth survey:

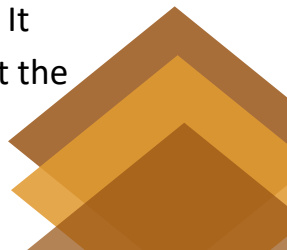
1. The political, security and social environment in Libya is not considered a conducive environment for youth participation, despite the educational qualifications that Libyan youth possess. It is no secret that there is a youth thirst for political and civil participation, and this was reflected in the percentage the young people represented in registration in election records.
2. There is a lack of civil society culture and volunteer work among young people, and a reluctance to participate in civil society organizations, as well as weak confidence in these organizations achieving the interests of young people. Moreover, the state's legislative and executive authorities and its institutions do not often enjoy the trust of Libyan youth.
3. A feeling of frustration prevails among most Libyan youth because they do not receive attention from the state.
4. Young people have free time and do not find the capabilities or infrastructure to help them fill it in a way that achieves their ambitions and hobbies.
5. Feeling marginalized and excluded with regard to participation in national reconciliation

5) Most important data/statistics:

- **Basic indicators of the National Survey of Libyan Youth 2022**

- **Sample data:**

Youth between the ages of 15 and 34 years represent about 38% of the Libyan population. The percentage in 1984 was about 30%, in 1995 it reached 40%. It rose slightly in 2015 and then decreased in 2020. We expect it to continue at the



same percentage until 2030, according to Population estimates. The number of participants in the national survey for Libyan youth reached 2,684 young men and women. At the regional level, the western region sample represented more than 44.1% of the total sample, while the eastern region represented about 25.8%, the southern region 12.1%, and the central region 18% of the total survey sample. 1,638 young males participated in the survey, representing 61%, while the female group constituted 39%, with 1,046 females out of the total number. The percentage of representation of the age groups of young people, between 15-34 years, who participated in the survey was as follows:

T A B L E

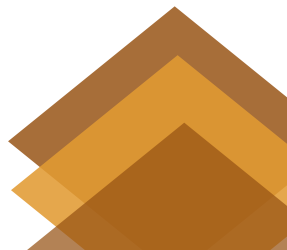
The highest age group participating in the survey was the 20-24 year old group, which represented 29.2% of the total groups, followed by the 30-34 year old group with 27%, then the 25-29 and 15-19 year old categories with 26.3%, and 17.5%, respectively, of the total age groups.

- **Educational level:**

Data analysis indicate that young people holding a university degree represent the highest percentage, reaching 48.2%, while the category of those holding an institute or secondary certificate represented 36.9%, followed by the post-university category between a master's and a doctorate at about 7.1%, while the category of Primary and middle school graduates and below amounted to more than 7.7% of the total male and female participants in the survey. Thus, the percentage of young people with basic education and above was about 99% of the total number of young people of both sexes. Looking at the educational level of the survey participants by region, we note that the group most participating in the survey in the Western and Central regions are those with a university degree (52.2%), while the percentage of holders of a university degree in the Eastern region was about 46%, while those with Institute certificates and high school diplomas represented the most participants in the survey, at 50.6%.

- **Youth and the labor market:**

Youth unemployment:



The actual youth unemployment rate, according to survey data, was 15%, and total unemployment was about 38.4%. The unemployment rate varied between regions, as it was highest in the southern region at 27.5% and lowest in the eastern region. As for total unemployment, the southern and central regions were the highest at 48% and the lowest in the eastern region at about 27.6%.

- **Youth and social problems:**

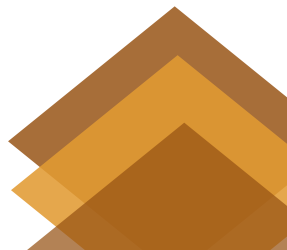
Young people suffer from some problems in the family environment, perhaps the most prominent of which are economic conditions, which represented about 54%, while the problem of the small size of the house came in second place, at 33.2%, then family disputes, bad treatment of siblings, and mistreatment of parents, at rates of 21.4% and 11.8%, and 9.8%, respectively. In contrast, young people resort to solving their problems to a large extent and permanently to the mother, at a rate of 65%, followed by the father, at a rate of 53.7%, then brothers, at a rate of 40.2%, followed by sisters, at a rate of 36.7%, then friends, whether real or in the virtual world.

- **Youth health:**

- Factors that affect the health of young people:**

Regarding the health of young people, it is noted, according to the results of the survey, that one of the most important factors that affect the health of young people is drugs, which 91.8% of young people, both males and females, saw as one of the most important factors that affect their health. Next comes carrying weapons, at a rate of 86.8%, and drinking alcohol, at a rate of 83.4%, then smoking at 72.3%, followed by violence in dealings, car accidents, and poor food at rates ranging from 46 to 63%.

Since drugs and drinking alcohol are among the most important factors that affect the health of young people from their point of view, we decided to find out the reasons that pushed young people towards this, as it is noted from the attached data that the most important reasons that push young people towards taking drugs and drinking alcohol is to forget the problems they face, as they represent 69%, followed by the motivation to imitate and keep up with friends at 65.7%, while many of them linked this to spending leisure time, reaching 61.5%, and the media had an influence that did not exceed 36.2%.



When asking young people whether they are smokers or not:

TABLE

Health status of young people:

Most young people describe their health condition as being between good and average. The percentage of youth who expressed their health as good was about 58%, and those who said their health condition was average was about 30.9%. As for those who described their health as bad, the percentage was 4.6%.

Data regarding youth health conditions indicate that 11.5% of youth in the southern region suffer from poor health conditions, and the percentage of youth in the central and eastern regions who suffer from poor health conditions ranges between 6.3 - 6.5%, while the percentage of youth who suffer from poor health conditions in the western region is 4.5% of the total youth who participated in the survey.

As for those who believed that their health condition was good, their percentage reached 63.2% of the youth of the Western Region, and 62.3% of the youth of the Eastern Region, while this percentage reached 57.1% in the Central Region and about 35% in the Southern Region of the total youth participating in the survey.

The psychological state of young people:

As for the psychological state of young people, it is affected by many issues and linked to many ideas. Thinking about the future is what excites and worries young people the most, at a rate of 81.2%. This is followed by wars, conflicts, and political instability, at a rate of more than 70%, while the percentage of young people thinking about Financial need, getting a job, getting married, and failing to study was 69% of the total youth participating in the survey.

Health problems that young people suffer from:

The health problems experienced by young people were as follows:

- 52.5% of them suffer from feeling exhausted and tired.



- 44.5% have excessive nervousness.
- 43.2% suffer from too much sleep.
- 41.5% suffer from lack of concentration.
- 30.5% suffer from having a lot of free time.
- 22% suffer from introversion and do not like to mingle with others.

- **Civil and political participation:**

Political participation:

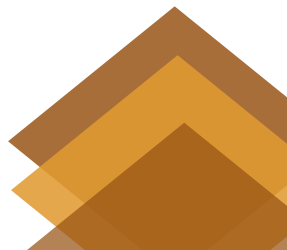
The general index shows that 37.3% of young people participated in the previous elections, while the percentage of those who had not previously participated in the elections was 62.7%. It was also found that males are more involved than females.

Youth confidence in institutions:

Youth confidence in governmental and legislative executive institutions and municipal councils:

We note from the data received from the survey that the confidence of young people in the legislative, executive and local bodies varies, as the percentage of young people who do not trust the legislative bodies reached 49.1%, while their distrust in the executive bodies did not exceed 46%, and the percentage of their distrust in the municipal council in which they live was 45.2%. In contrast, the percentage of those who have high confidence in the legislative and executive authorities and municipal councils did not exceed 12% in general.

The previous figures indicate that there is no significant discrepancy in the level of youth opinions by gender regarding trust in legislative bodies, as 49.8% of males and 48% of females do not trust legislative bodies.



As for youth confidence in the executive authorities, the percentage was weak and close at the level of the four regions. The highest percentage of youth mistrust in the executive authorities in all regions was 48.1% and the lowest was 44.7%, meaning a general average of approximately 46%.

- **Family and marriage:**

The appropriate age for marriage:

Young people believe that the appropriate age for marriage, from their point of view, is 22 years for females and 28 years for males. When analyzing the data by region, we notice that the appropriate age for females in the four regions was not below 21 years and did not exceed 22 years, while the appropriate age for males for marriage in the four regions was not below 26 years and did not exceed 28 years.

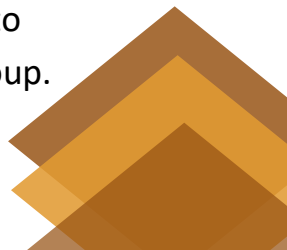
- **Youth attitudes towards women's issues:**

woman's work:

The majority of young people, 74%, support women working. The percentage of supporters among the youth of the Western Region reached 78.2%, while the percentage reached 76.4% in the Eastern Region, followed by youth from the Southern and Central Regions with percentages of 72% and 68.8%, respectively. The percentage of those who do not support women working did not exceed a maximum of 14.3% among the four regions.

By gender, the percentage of females who supported women's work amounted to about 91% of the total number of 1,046 females who participated in the survey, while the percentage of males who supported their work amounted to 65.2% of the total number of 1,638 males participating in the survey.

As for the opinions of young people by age group, young people in the age group of 30-34 years support women's work at a rate of 77%, while the approval rate of the age group of 25-29 years on the same issue was 74.8%, and it did not differ much from the approval of the age group. 20-24 years, which reached 74.9%, while the approval rate of youth in the 15-19 year group decreased slightly to reach about 73% of the total youth participating in the survey in this age group.



Youth opinions on women's empowerment:

About 70.6% believe that a woman must obtain the approval of her guardian in everything, and those who believe that men enjoy better rights than women are about 53.6%, while about 22% believe that men and women enjoy equal rights, and 42.1% of them believe that women have the right to hold Sovereignty positions, while 37.4% of them believe that political work is limited to men only and not women, and more than 28% expressed their opinion that women cannot work in the same place with men, and 21.7% believe that women are unable to assume leadership in family or work.

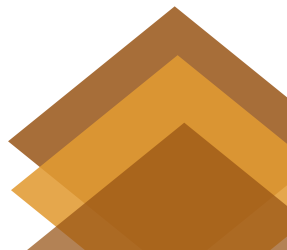
- **Possible migration and future vision:**

Constant thinking about migration (possible migration) among young people in Libya:

It is clear that 21.5% of Libyan youth are always thinking about immigration and that 22.5% of males are always thinking about immigration, while 20% of females are always thinking about that. The percentage of those who sometimes think about emigrating abroad was 40% for males and 38.4% for females, while 37.5% of males and about 42% of females do not think about it at all.

At the regional level, the highest percentage of people constantly thinking about immigration was in the eastern region, at about 28.7%, while in the central region, it was 21.3%, followed by the southern region with 19.7%, and the western region was the least in terms of always thinking about immigration with a percentage that did not exceed 18%. almost.

As for the percentage of young people who do not think about emigrating outside Libya, the largest percentage was for young people in the central region at a rate of 47.2%, followed by the western region at a rate of 43.7%, then the southern region at a rate of only 40%, and the lowest percentage was 25.4% in the eastern region, which explains the high percentage of young people who are always thinking about immigration in the Eastern Region.



As for young people who are thinking about migrating outside Libya, according to age group, we note that the most young people thinking about migrating abroad permanently are young people in the 15-19 year olds group, with a rate of 25.3%, followed by young people in the 20-24 years old, with a rate of 23.9. %, then the 25-29 year old category at a rate of 20.3%, and the 30-34 year old group at a rate of 17.6%, which shows that the older the age, the less thinking always about migrating outside Libya. Despite this, young people in all age groups often do not think about Immigration, as we have found.

Reasons for thinking about immigration:

Regarding the reasons why young people think about migrating outside Libya, the following was revealed through the survey:

- The economic situation ranked first on the list of reasons driving immigration, at a rate of more than 87%.
- Corruption comes in second place as one of the reasons that push young people to emigrate, with a percentage 81.1%.
- Lack of security was one of the most important reasons driving young people to emigrate, at a rate of 78.9%.
- Young people's search for a better life came in the fourth place, at 78.7%.
- Weak educational opportunities in Libya is one of the very important reasons that push young people to seek immigration outside Libya (68.8%).
-

Future vision:

The future vision of Libyan youth:

About 67% of Libyan youth believe that the future in Libya is unclear. This percentage reaches 66% among males, while among females it reached about 68% of the total females participants in the survey.

Self contentence:

Young people's main goals in life:

The results were as follows:



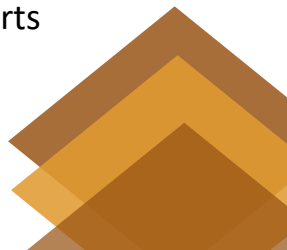
1. More than 90% of the 2,684 young men and women participating in the survey said that one of their main goals in life was to obtain suitable housing, as well as success at work.
2. 85.2% of them see that their main goal in life is to create and own their own business.
3. While the percentage of young people who aim to start a family and have children reached 81.7%.
4. 81.6% of them believe that their main goal is to obtain a job and a career.
5. Between 67.4% and 78.4% have a main goal in life as owning a car, obtaining an academic degree, and sent to study outside Libya.
6. The lowest percentage is the goal related to immigration to a developed country at only 47%.

6) Conclusion:

At the conclusion of this study, we can present some recommendations, most of which were extracted from the opinions of youth discussion groups. These recommendations may help in developing policies aimed at enhancing youth participation, as follows:

✿ Recommendations for youth political participation:

- Opening the doors of participation to young people in all political fields.
- Modernizing legislation in Libya to achieve the involvement of young people in all political and civil fields and in development programmes.
- Strengthening youth's confidence in state authorities and institutions by having decision-makers listen to their opinions and perceptions and take them into account.
- Intensifying projects that serve the interests of young people and achieve their ambitions.
- Meeting and communicating directly with young people and listening to their demands.
- Paying attention to infrastructure projects in the fields of sports and arts through which young people exercise their hobbies and creativity.



- Promoting the values of citizenship and identity among young people.
- Strengthening and amending the national legislative system to emphasize the political and civic participation of young people.
- Creating an entity (a higher youth body or council) affiliated with the Ministry of Youth and including representatives of youth, relevant ministries, researchers, and academics to contribute to drawing, implementing, and evaluating policies and programs for youth.
- Establishing a special observatory concerned with youth, conducting field studies and continuous evaluation of youth issues.

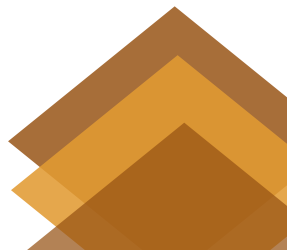
☀ **Recommendations for youth civic participation:**

- Spreading awareness of the culture of civil society and volunteer work among young people through social media, television and the Internet, which are popular among young people.
- Integrating youth into national reconciliation programs.
- establishing policies and programs to fill young people’s leisure time in a way that helps developing their skills and abilities, especially in the fields of sports, culture and entertainment.

☀ **Recommendations for participation from the youth’s point of view:**

To overcome the marginalization of youth and their lack of participation in sustainable development programs, there are several ways and methods, according to the point of view of youth discussion groups, including:

- Providing financial support and job opportunities, training courses and missions, establishing sustainable projects, providing loans and state support for small projects.
- Sustainable development, which can be through environmental projects, such as renewable energies, instead of heavy reliance on oil, as well as waste management and waste recycling, as they create job opportunities for young people, and at the same time preserve the environment from pollution.
- Preventing foreigners from taking jobs and leaving them to young Libyans, by legalizing foreign workers and deporting excess numbers.



- Focusing on the creative industries, which include the publishing and book industries, audio-visual and print media, including cinema, music, and video, in addition to artistic and cultural artifacts, cultural heritage museums, historical sites, archives, major cultural events, and libraries, as well as the software industry and games. Video and design of all kinds, whether related to fashion, game design, software, or designing buildings and investment in them. These provide salvation in the short term and success in the long term.
- Horizontal distribution of projects, rather than concentrating them only in the capital and large cities.

