

Advancing resilience and sustainability in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

GCCED Fragile States Portfolio 2026

Libya — Environmental Governance in Transition

Snapshot: Population ~7 million | GDP per capita ~US\$6,800 | Fragility context: Institutional fragmentation | Region: North Africa

Integrated Context

Libya's environmental challenges are deeply shaped by prolonged political fragmentation and the weakening of state institutions. In this context, environmental systems—particularly water infrastructure—have become both critical assets and points of vulnerability. The country's heavy reliance on the Great Man-Made River system underscores the central role of water in sustaining urban populations and agricultural production. However, limited rainfall and ongoing groundwater depletion are placing increasing pressure on this system, raising concerns about long-term sustainability.

At the same time, gaps in governance and service delivery have contributed to a gradual deterioration of environmental conditions. Oil-related pollution, unmanaged waste, and declining urban infrastructure are affecting ecosystems as well as public health, particularly in densely populated areas. Climate change is expected to intensify these pressures, with rising temperatures and increasing water scarcity further constraining already fragile systems.

In this setting, strengthening environmental governance is not only a technical priority, but also a foundational requirement for stabilizing essential services and supporting recovery efforts. This includes restoring institutional capacity, improving regulatory oversight, and investing in resilient infrastructure systems—particularly in water and energy.

Key Climate and Environmental Challenges

- Chronic water scarcity and groundwater depletion
- Oil pollution and broader environmental contamination
- Gaps in urban waste management and service delivery
- Weak and fragmented environmental governance capacity

GCCED Engagement Priorities

- Strengthening water system resilience and long-term planning
- Enhancing environmental monitoring, regulation, and enforcement
- Expanding renewable energy and reducing reliance on fossil systems
- Supporting municipal-level climate resilience and service delivery

Strategic Note

Libya's path toward climate resilience will depend on rebuilding environmental governance alongside targeted investments in infrastructure and resource management. Strengthening institutions, improving coordination, and modernizing water and energy systems will be essential to reducing vulnerability and supporting sustainable recovery.

SDG Alignment: 6 • 7 • 13 • 16