

Country – capital	State of Libya - Tripoli
Population	7.2 million (2022 est.) incl. 12% immigrants. Ethnic groups: Berber and Arab 97%, other 3% (incl. Greek, Indian, Italian, Maltese, Tunisian, Turkish) ¹
Geography	Northern Africa, Mediterranean sea, between Egypt, Tunisia, and Algeria ²
Languages – official / lingua franca	Arabic (official), Italian, English (esp. in the major cities); Berber ³
Writing system	Arabic (from right to left)
Education and literacy	(91% of the population >15 yrs can read/write; male 96.7%, female 85.6% ⁴ The first 9 years of school education in Libya are compulsory and free (6 at primary and 3 at middle school). The basic education program includes lessons in Arabic, Islamic languages, Jamahiriyyi society, mathematics, natural sciences, history, geography, art, music, and technical and physical education. After the compulsory 9 years, pupils can go to work or go on to secondary school (grades 10 to 12) and higher, to university. Vocational education programs are available to pupils who do not complete their 9 years of basic education. ⁵
Religions	Muslim (official; virtually all Sunni) 96.6%, Christian 2.7%, other ⁶
Conflict history and overview	Libya has been in chaos since Ghaddafi was toppled in 2011. Attempts to build a democratic state disintegrated into a civil war between rival governments in 2014. Armed groups, including extremists such as Islamic State, have proliferated and the lawless country has also become a principal transit point for people from across Africa who want to reach Europe. Since 2014, fighting between rival centres of political power in west and east Libya (each supported by foreign countries): the Tripoli Government of National Accord (GNA), and the Tobruk administration with warlord Haftar in the east. ⁷ A ceasefire in October 2020 led to a government of national unity and decreasing hostilities. ⁸ However, local militias are challenging peace process and many violent incidents occur. ⁹
Humanitarian situation	In 2022, 803,000 people need humanitarian assistance (36% less than 2021). Cost of living are sky-high, and water, electricity and medicine cuts occur. ¹⁰
Human rights situation	Severe human rights violations include: arbitrary and unlawful killings by various armed groups, including some aligned with the GNA and the Libyan National Army; forced disappearances; torture perpetrated by armed groups on all sides; harsh and life-threatening conditions in prison and detention facilities; arbitrary arrest and detention; political prisoners or detainees; violence against journalists; refoulement of refugees and asylum seekers; trafficking in persons. ¹¹ There were 610,128 migrants in Libya in October 2021. Between January and September 2021, at least 46,626 people arrived in Italy and Malta via the Central Mediterranean Route, most of whom had departed from Libya. 1,118 deaths were recorded off the shores of Libya. Libyan Coast Guard forces, supported by EU, intercept and return thousands of people to Libya. Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees were arbitrarily detained by the GNA's Interior Ministry and in "warehouses" run by smugglers and traffickers, experiencing forced labour, torture and other ill-treatment, extortion, and sexual assault. At least 5,000 were held in official detention centres in Libya as of August 2021. ¹²
Situation of women FGM – early marriages	Child marriage has increased in 2021 (after a downward trend before). ¹³ Maternal mortality rate has increased from 52 in 2008 to 72 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2017. ¹⁴ There is no evidence of FGM practice in Libya. Migrant women and girls are particularly vulnerable to rape and sexual violence, forced prostitution and sexual exploitation. ¹⁵
Situation of LGBTI	Consensual same-sex activities punishable with 5 yrs prison. Armed groups arrested people because of their sexual orientation. ¹⁶
Asylum / migration	Malta Libyan sea arrivals in 2020 and 2021: unknown. Libyan asylum applicants in Malta: 2020 unknown, 2021: 60 (5% of total) ¹⁷

- ¹ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/libya/#people-and-society>
- ² <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/libya/#geography>
- ³ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/libya/#people-and-society>
- ⁴ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/libya/#people-and-society>
- ⁵ <https://www.scholaro.com/pro/Countries/Libya/Education-System>
- ⁶ <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/libya/#people-and-society>
- ⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/18/war-in-libya-how-did-it-start-what-happens-next>; <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-libya>
- ⁸ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3938174?ln=en>; <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/libya>
- ⁹ <https://www.trtworld.com/africa/fears-of-violence-in-libya-as-pro-bashagha-militia-gathers-near-tripoli-55430>
- ¹⁰ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/libya>
- ¹¹ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/libya/>
- ¹² <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/libya#a66840>
- ¹³ <https://www.ndi.org/our-stories/program-spotlight-combatting-child-marriage-libya-not-18-campaign>
- ¹⁴ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT?locations=LY>
- ¹⁵ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/libya/>
- ¹⁶ <https://ilga.org/state-sponsored-homophobia-report>
- ¹⁷ <https://www.unhcr.org/mt/figures-at-a-glance>

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