



Development and Investment Opportunities in

Libya

الوكالة الوطنية للتنمية
NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



Forward

Libya stands on the threshold of a new era—an era defined not by our past challenges, but by our shared determination to shape a brighter, stronger future. With unparalleled geographic advantage, rich natural resources, and a dynamic, youthful population, Libya is ready to reassert itself as a vital economic and strategic partner on the global stage.

The National Development Agency (NDA) has been entrusted with the responsibility of translating our national ambition into tangible progress. Through the implementation of Vision 2030 Libya, we are delivering transformative projects across key sectors—including infrastructure, energy, healthcare, education, agriculture, innovation, and investment facilitation—guided by our commitment to transparency, sustainability, and international collaboration.

This document outlines the NDA’s strategic direction and highlights the vast potential Libya holds for forward-thinking partners. Whether through public-private partnerships, international trade, or knowledge exchange, we are building the framework for a stable, diversified, and inclusive economy.

I invite you to explore the opportunities within, and to consider how you or your organisation may become part of Libya’s journey of renewal.

Mahmud Elforjani

Executive Director
National Development Agency (NDA) Libya

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The National Development Agency

The National Development Agency (NDA) is a Libyan organization dedicated to executing development and investment projects to enhance the quality of life and promote sustainable development across Libya. Our mission is to implement high-quality projects that meet international standards, driving economic and social progress. The NDA's core values include transparency, efficiency, and quality, guiding its efforts in national development planning and project implementation.

Key objectives include improving infrastructure, fostering economic diversification, and enhancing social services, as outlined in its Vision 2030. For example, the NDA is advancing a 1000-kilometer strategic road network, to improve national connectivity by 2030. The agency plays a central role in coordinating with public and private sectors, as seen in its modernization of Benghazi's water networks, ensuring sustainable development aligns with Libya's national ambitions.





“Together, we are not just rebuilding a nation— we are reimagining its future.”

The National Development Agency (NDA) is tasked with leading Libya’s development efforts, coordinating strategic initiatives to foster sustainable economic and social progress.

This report outlines the NDA’s mission, achievements, and longterm vision for transforming Libya into a hub of opportunity. It explores investment potential across sectors such as energy, infrastructure, agriculture, and tourism, highlighting Libya’s strategic position and ongoing stabilization efforts. It aims to showcase actionable opportunities for economic trade and investment in Libya’s evolving landscape.

NDA's Achievements

- 1** A total of 150 development projects have been completed, including initiatives in infrastructure, public facilities, housing, and civil aviation.
- 2** Construction and modernization of airports, including ongoing work at Benghazi International Airport, as well as at Sirte and Sebha airports, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of Libya's air transportation network.
- 3** Development of over 1,000 kilometres of strategic road networks, improving regional connectivity and facilitating safer, faster transport for both citizens and goods.
- 4** Delivery of 1,000 new housing units, contributing to increased home ownership rates and addressing urban housing shortages.
- 5** Execution of 50 major projects, including roads, bridges, airports, and stadiums. An additional 30 projects are under implementation, and 10 projects remain in the planning stage.
- 6** Upgrading of water and sanitation networks, with 60 medium-scale projects completed and 40 currently ongoing to improve access to essential services in both urban and rural areas.



- 7** Maintenance and improvement of public service infrastructure, including model schools, public hospitals, and sports facilities such as the Sirte International Stadium and multiple public playgrounds.
- 8** Completion of 40 minor projects related to the maintenance of internal roads, parks, and local utility services, with 20 more projects in progress.
- 9** Establishment and expansion of the Sirte Commercial Port Free Zone, supporting investment and trade development in logistics and commercial services.
- 10** Implementation of public-private partnership mechanisms in strategic projects to mobilize investment capital and technical expertise.
- 11** Integration of modern electronic service systems within government operations to improve institutional efficiency and citizen service delivery.
- 12** Preservation and development of cultural facilities, including the Cultural Palace in Sirte, promoting cultural tourism and national heritage.
- 13** Steady progress towards achieving 30 percent reliance on renewable energy sources by 2030, incorporated into ongoing infrastructure modernization projects.





NDA's Vision for Libya's Future



The NDA has crafted a forward-looking vision for Libya's development, centered on sustainable growth, social equity, and economic diversification, with a phased strategy leading up to 2030 and beyond.

This vision defines the strategic direction for national development across multiple sectors, ensuring improved living standards and stronger regional positioning for the country.

Key aspirations of NDA's vision

Economy

Establishing a diversified economy that reduces reliance on oil by promoting the tourism, agriculture, industry, and logistics sectors, creating a balanced and resilient economic structure.

Attracting USD 50 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) through the creation of specialized economic zones designed to enhance Libya's investment environment and industrial competitiveness.

Increasing the private sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to 40 percent, encouraging entrepreneurship and private enterprise as engines of economic growth.

Expanding cooperation with international and regional development institutions, utilizing global expertise and best practices to support national projects.

Society

Raising life expectancy to 78 years by improving healthcare infrastructure, services, and preventive care initiatives.

Elevating home ownership levels to 70 percent, ensuring access to safe and adequate housing for citizens through state-led and partnership-driven residential projects

Placing Libya among the top 50 countries globally in quality-of-life indicators, focusing on public services, urban infrastructure, and essential utilities.

Preserving cultural heritage sites and promoting cultural tourism, ensuring the protection of Libya's historical identity while contributing to economic diversification.

Development

Developing modern transportation networks, including a comprehensive road and bridge system, and expanding aviation infrastructure to support economic activity and regional mobility.

Achieving 30 percent reliance on renewable energy sources by 2030, integrating sustainable practices in national infrastructure and energy production.

Improving government service delivery systems through enhanced electronic services and institutional performance frameworks.

Economic Trade Opportunities

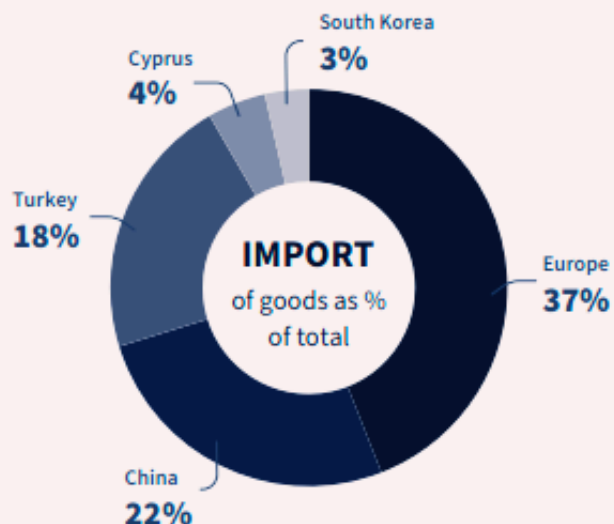
Libya's trade is currently dominated by hydrocarbon exports; however, significant opportunities exist for diversification across agriculture, manufacturing, services, and transit trade. Its strategic geographic location and membership in multiple trade agreements, coupled with the establishment of free trade zones (FTZs), present substantial potential for trade expansion. Nevertheless, political instability, infrastructure limitations, and regulatory hurdles continue to pose challenges to sustainable development.

In 2023, Libya's top exports were crude petroleum (USD 31.3 billion), petroleum gas (USD 1.31 billion), and refined petroleum (USD 879 million), with primary destinations including Italy, Germany, Spain, France, and China. Major imports consisted of refined petroleum (USD 4.57 billion), broadcasting equipment (USD 911 million), and rolled tobacco (USD 633 million), mainly sourced from China, Turkey, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, and Egypt. Overall, Libya maintains a positive trade balance, with the European Union (EU) being its largest trading partner. Non-oil exports—such as dates, olive oil, and fish—reached USD 3.1 billion, indicating emerging potential in alternative sectors.

Trade Exchanges 2025



Source: [Coface](#)



Opportunities for Trade Diversification Lie in



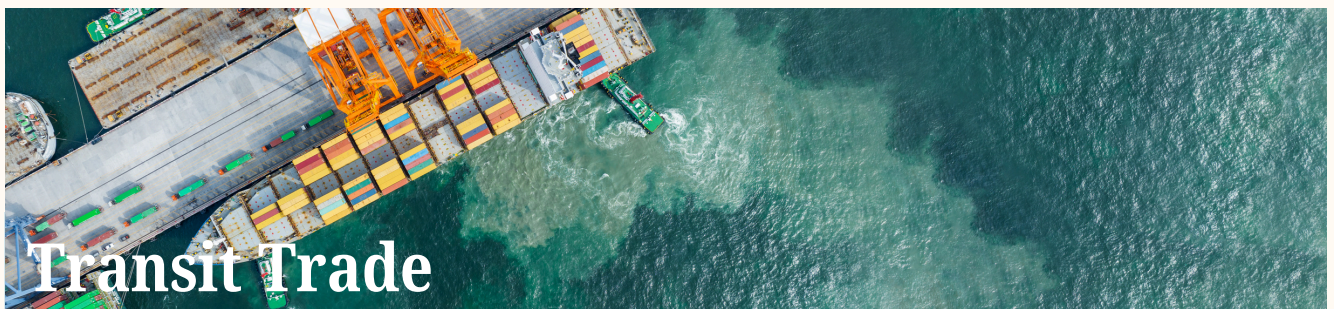
Agriculture

- Development of value chains in olive oil, date production, and fishing.



Manufacturing

- Expansion of food processing and building materials industries.



Transit Trade

- Leveraging Libya's position as a gateway between Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.



Service

- Growth in the tourism and logistics sectors.

Libya is actively exploring new markets in Africa and Asia.

Strategic partnerships are being reinforced with Türkiye and Tunisia, including plans for joint FTZs. Libya's membership in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) further enhances trade prospects across the continent. In support of these efforts, the government has launched an economic diversification strategy targeting 2025.

The EU remains a key trading partner, and negotiations for a comprehensive framework agreement began in 2008.

Additionally, Libya has a Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with the United States. These trade agreements present significant potential for increased market access and foreign investment. Despite the opportunities, Libya's trade flows remain vulnerable to political instability and security risks. Infrastructure deficits and logistical inefficiencies hinder development, while opaque regulations and policy reversals create uncertainty for investors.

Free trade zones play a pivotal role in Libya's trade expansion.

The Misrata Free Zone (MFZ) is a key commercial hub offering tax and customs exemptions. Other notable FTZs include the Julyana Free Port and Elmreisa Free Zone in Benghazi, both focused on transit trade to sub-Saharan Africa. The Wadi Al-Harir Special Economic Zone, established in 2021, further contributes to the country's trade diversification agenda. Expansion plans for MFZ are currently underway to accommodate increasing investor interest. Libya is a member of the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area (PAFTA) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and has signed the AfCFTA agreement.

To realize its full economic potential, Libya must focus on expanding non-oil exports in agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and transit trade.

This requires improving the trade and investment climate through political stabilization, regulatory reform, and the implementation of transparent and consistent policies. Strategic use of FTZs and regional trade agreements, alongside strengthened international partnerships and market diversification efforts, is essential for fostering sustainable economic growth.

LIBYA'S VISION 2030

A National Development Strategy

Libya's Vision 2030 represents a national strategy to achieve long-term peace, stability, and sustainable development by the end of this decade. At the heart of this initiative is the National Development Agency (NDA), established to lead the planning, coordination, and implementation of priority development projects. The NDA's core responsibilities span infrastructure development, economic revitalization, public sector reform, investment promotion, and human capital advancement. Its formation reflects Libya's recognition of the urgent need for structured, long-term planning and effective institutional frameworks capable of delivering tangible results.

The Vision is structured around three central strategic pillars: Building a Flourishing Society, Building a Balanced Economy, and Building a State for the People. The first pillar emphasizes promoting social development through investments in education, healthcare, sports, culture, and community well-being, with a strong focus on restoring national identity and fostering youth participation. The second pillar targets economic diversification beyond hydrocarbons by prioritizing trade, tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, and renewable energy while modernizing critical infrastructure, developing Special Economic Zones, and transforming Benghazi into a regional trade and innovation hub.

The third pillar focuses on strengthening governance, public sector efficiency, and environmental sustainability through digital services, anti-corruption measures, transparent administration, and large-scale renewable energy and water security initiatives, ensuring that Libya's development remains both inclusive and future-ready.

Libya's Vision 2030 reflects a determined and coordinated attempt to rebuild the nation through long-term planning, inclusive civic participation, and targeted investments in human capital, infrastructure, and governance reform. The NDA's oversight of priority projects, partnerships, and institutional modernization is expected to define Libya's path toward sustainable development, with a strong emphasis on transparency, accountability, and resilience. By leveraging its strategic geography, natural wealth, and youthful population, Libya seeks to reclaim its position as a regional hub for trade, innovation, and cultural exchange - replacing a legacy of instability with one of opportunity and shared prosperity.



Benghazi:

A Hub of Growth and Innovation Under Vision 2030

Benghazi, as part of Libya's Vision 2030, is undergoing a significant transformation to position itself as a key economic and logistics hub. The port of Benghazi, a critical element of this vision, is currently under construction with plans for expansion to accommodate larger vessels and increase trade capacity.

The Benghazi Port Expansion Project is expected to integrate advanced infrastructure, including state-of-the-art cranes and logistics zones, designed to streamline cargo handling and enhance regional trade. These upgrades are aimed at establishing the port as a focal point for commerce in North Africa. A new blueprint for the Benghazi International Airport is part of the city's modernization efforts, showcasing advanced design visuals and infrastructural plans



The blueprint outlines an expanded terminal, increased flight capacity, and upgraded security and passenger facilities. This modernization project aims to boost international connectivity and support tourism, trade, and investment flows into Libya. The upgraded airport will include better transportation links to surrounding logistics zones, ensuring smooth access for both passengers and goods.

The construction of new cranes at the port and the development of surrounding logistics zones are integral to Benghazi's economic vision. The logistics zones will provide ample space for warehousing, distribution, and industrial operations, supporting businesses involved in manufacturing, import-export, and energy sectors.





Sector Investment Opportunities in Libya



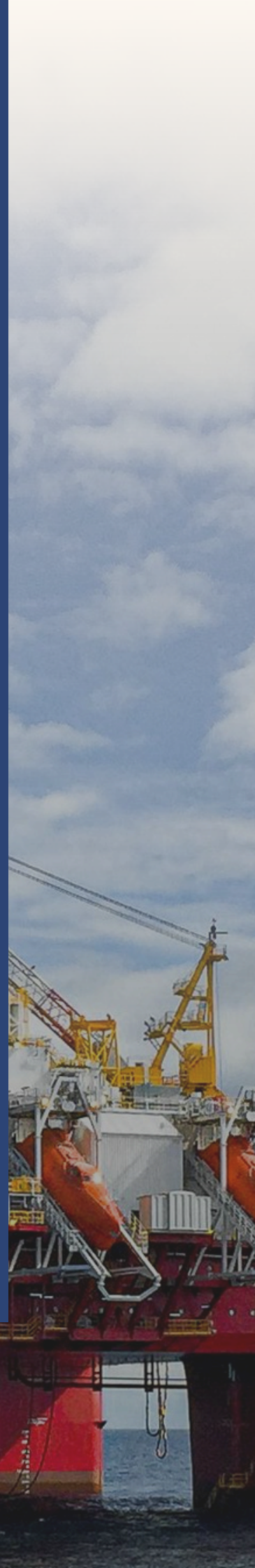
Energy Sector

Libya possesses substantial energy resources, with the energy sector remaining the primary driver of the national economy. The country holds significant proven reserves of crude oil and natural gas, making it one of the most resource-rich nations in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Fossil fuels account for over 95 percent of total energy consumption, with marginal interest in renewable projects. The hydrocarbon sector is estimated to contribute around 59–60 percent of GDP, 93–94 percent of exports, and 96–97 percent of government revenues, maintaining the country's heavy fiscal dependence on oil and gas. However, efforts to stabilize production, particularly in the Sirte and Murzuq basins, helped maintain output levels averaging around 1.2 million barrels per day.

Electricity infrastructure in Libya includes approximately 12,000 kilometres of high-voltage networks and an operating grid interconnection with Egypt at a capacity of 240 megawatts (MW). Despite this, electricity shortfalls and infrastructure deficiencies persist, creating opportunities for investment in both generation and grid modernization projects.

The renewable energy segment remains underutilized, with renewable energy accounting for less than one percent of total energy consumption. Current renewable capacity stands at 5 megawatts (MW) in the form of small photovoltaic projects. Three photovoltaic power stations — 14 MW in Houn, 40 MW in Sabha, and 15 MW in Ghat — are in the development pipeline, indicating initial sectoral interest and scope for future expansion.



Investment opportunities

Development of electricity generation infrastructure, including combined-cycle power plants and gas-fired facilities, to address growing demand and supply imbalances.

Exploration and production of oil and natural gas, particularly in underexplored basins and marginal fields

Renewable energy projects, specifically in solar and wind power generation, given Libya's favourable solar radiation levels of 7.1 kWh/m²/day in coastal areas and 8.1 kWh/m²/day in southern regions.

Energy infrastructure services, including pipeline construction, storage facilities, and equipment supply.

Modernization and expansion of national electricity grids, with potential for high-voltage transmission lines, substations, and smart grid technologies to enhance supply reliability.

In terms of policy and regulation, Libya's Renewable Energy Authority (REaOL) has set a target of 10 percent renewable energy by 2025, aiming for an installed capacity of 2,219 MW. However, current financial and legal frameworks for renewable projects are expected to be put in place, considering legislations for financial incentives, feed-in tariffs, or net-metering systems, presenting opportunities for policy engagement and advisory services.

Post-2024 developments have seen the establishment of a dedicated Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, which signals a policy shift towards diversifying energy sources. Libya's dependence on fossil fuels, coupled with infrastructure gaps and policy reforms, creates a commercially viable environment for both upstream and downstream energy sector investments.

Infrastructure Development

Libya's infrastructure sector offers substantial opportunities for investment as the country embarks on a path toward post-conflict recovery and modernization. Years of underinvestment have left critical public service infrastructure in need of comprehensive rehabilitation, while current government initiatives signal a strong commitment to development through public private partnerships (PPPs) and strategic national planning.

The NDA, through its National Transformation Program (NTP), is prioritizing infrastructure expansion across transportation, energy, water, ports, and digital connectivity. These initiatives are designed to attract foreign direct investment and improve service delivery, economic integration, and trade competitiveness.

The Libyan government is actively creating an enabling environment for infrastructure investors through structured PPP models, land access facilitation, reduced regulatory barriers, and investment incentives. These efforts are aligned with Libya's broader vision of becoming a regional trade and logistics hub, enhancing economic resilience and inclusive development. Sustainable infrastructure is also gaining policy momentum, opening avenues for green building technologies, energy-efficient public utilities, and climate-resilient infrastructure planning.

Additionally, there is untapped potential in social infrastructure development, including schools, hospitals, and housing projects—sectors that will benefit from long-term capital investment and private sector innovation.

Investment opportunities

Road transport projects involving the planning, construction, and financing of 1,000 kilometers of new road networks, enhancing intra-regional connectivity and access to economic zones.

Development of strategic bridges and interchanges along coastal and inland corridors to streamline freight and passenger movement.

Renewable energy projects, such as photovoltaic power plants in Sabha, Ghat, and Houn, with opportunities across engineering, procurement, and operational services.

Investment in power generation infrastructure, including new gas-fired and combined-cycle power plants, as well as the upgrading of transmission lines to reduce blackouts and support industrial zones.

Investment in aviation services, such as airport terminal infrastructure, ground handling operations, and modernization of air navigation and safety systems.

Participation in PPP frameworks, enabling investors to finance, build, and operate infrastructure assets under regulated and government-supported agreements.

Expansion of digital infrastructure, including fiber-optic networks, broadband coverage, and data center development to enhance Libya's digital economy and public services.

Rehabilitation of urban water and sanitation systems, with projects aimed at expanding sewage networks, modernizing water distribution, and introducing urban drainage solutions.

Construction of wastewater treatment plants and pumping stations, addressing public health and environmental challenges while supporting urban growth.

Development of distributed generation systems to ensure reliable electricity access in remote and underserved areas

Port infrastructure projects, particularly in the Sirte Commercial Port Free Zone, focused on container terminal development, customs processing facilities, and integrated logistics hubs.

Upgrades to key land transportation routes linking major urban centres, including resurfacing, widening, and installation of safety and drainage systems.

Modernization and expansion of airports, including the development of Benghazi International Airport and capacity upgrades at Sirte and Sebha airports.

Digital Governance and Civil Society

Libya is taking bold steps to modernize its governance landscape under Vision 2030, led by the NDA. The focus is on building a transparent, inclusive, and accountable government through the adoption of digital technologies and strengthened civic engagement. These efforts aim to create a responsive public sector that delivers efficient services and fosters stronger relationships between citizens and the state.

A cornerstone of this transformation is the development of a unified digital government platform, which is set to offer over 600 services across more than 30 ministries. This initiative is enhancing service delivery, streamlining public administration, and enabling more equitable access to government resources nationwide.

These initiatives are underpinned by Libya's broader commitment to governance reform, supported by regulatory improvements, donor partnerships, and institutional innovation. The NDA is actively encouraging private sector collaboration through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and innovation challenges to co-create solutions that drive forward Libya's digital governance agenda.

Investment opportunities

Deployment and scaling of digital service delivery platforms, supporting the integration of e-government services across ministries and local authorities.

Implementation of cloud-based solutions and government-wide enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems to optimize internal operations and reduce service delivery delays.

Support for the Libyan Technology Foundation's initiatives, such as the rollout of the 'Governance Guide for Digital Platforms', by providing technical expertise and platform development services.

Advisory services and capacity building for public sector digitization, including training programs for civil servants on digital governance tools and citizen engagement platforms.

Development of content creation platforms and digital media infrastructure, in partnership with initiatives like UNDP's Ebraz, to empower civil society organizations and media stakeholders in peacebuilding and development storytelling.

Development of cybersecurity and data protection infrastructure, ensuring secure digital transactions and the safeguarding of citizen information.

Investment in civic tech platforms that promote citizen participation, transparency, and feedback mechanisms in local and national decision-making processes.

Collaboration with international partners, such as the EU-funded E-NABLE project, to introduce digital economic governance tools and enhance the quality of online services for businesses.

Strengthening local governance systems through platforms like USAID's Taqarib, with opportunities to support technology solutions for community engagement and public consultation.

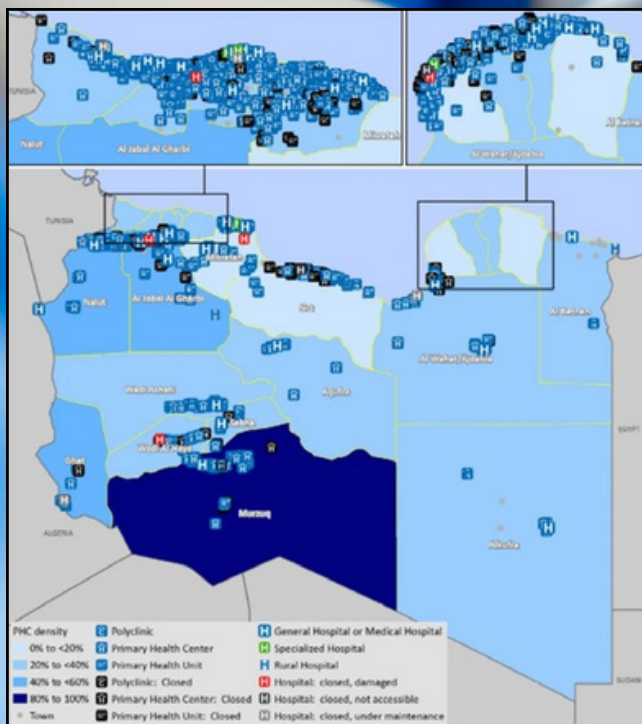
Establishment of digital innovation hubs and incubators that foster collaboration between government, civil society, and private sector players in designing solutions for public service challenges.

With civic engagement and digital transformation at the heart of Vision 2030, Libya is poised to create a governance model that is not only technologically advanced but also participatory, inclusive, and future ready

Healthcare Advancements

Libya's healthcare sector is undergoing a strategic transformation under the Vision 2030 framework, led by the NDA. The government's focus is on expanding healthcare access, modernizing medical infrastructure, and fostering skilled healthcare talent to build a resilient and inclusive health system. These reforms aim to reduce dependence on treatment abroad by providing advanced care domestically and improving the quality of healthcare across all regions.

Currently, Libya has a health facility density of 2.8 facilities per 10,000 people—above the World Health Organization (WHO) target of 2 per 10,000—indicating that overall capacity is sufficient, though unevenly distributed. Ongoing efforts aim to address this imbalance and deliver high-quality care nationwide.



Distribution of Healthcare Facilities

Source - BMC Health Services Research

Investment opportunities

Development and modernization of hospitals and specialty care centers, including new facilities in Sirte and Tobruk and the launch of a kidney transplant unit in Benghazi.

Development of medical education and training institutes to build clinical, technical, and digital health competencies among doctors, nurses, and allied health workers.

Investment in medical equipment and technology, including imaging systems, laboratory diagnostics, and hospital management software to improve operational efficiency.

Establishment of telemedicine platforms and digital health services to extend care access and enable remote consultations, diagnostics, and follow-up care.

Support for localized treatment programs, reducing the need for outbound medical travel and retaining health expenditures within the national economy.

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) to upgrade diagnostic centers, surgical wards, and outpatient facilities, ensuring quality service delivery and clinical excellence.

Pharmaceutical manufacturing and supply chain opportunities, including production of essential medicines and investment in medical supply logistics.

Expansion of primary healthcare infrastructure in underserved and remote regions, with opportunities for private sector participation in design, construction, and operations.

Rehabilitation and modernization of emergency services, including ambulance fleets, trauma care units, and emergency response coordination centers.

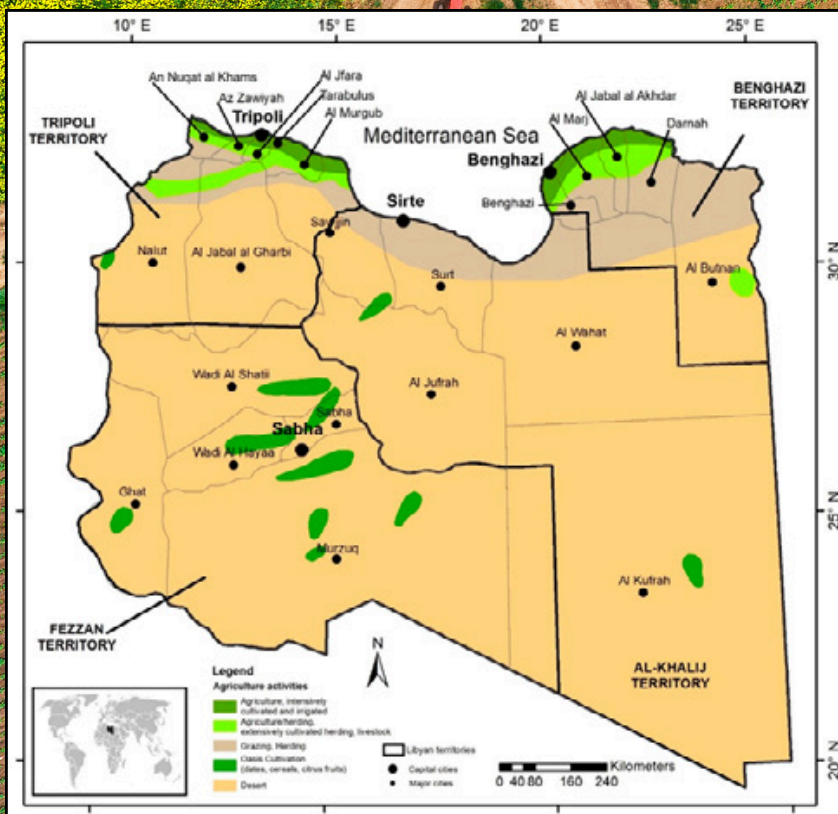
Investment in private clinics and wellness centers, catering to a growing demand for quality outpatient care and preventive health services in urban and semi-urban areas.

The NDA supports healthcare transformation through targeted reforms, streamlined regulation, and incentives for private investment. These include fast-track approvals for hospital projects, reduced import duties on medical equipment, and tax exemptions for healthcare infrastructure investments. Sustainable healthcare development is also being prioritized, with policy interest in energy-efficient hospital designs, eco-friendly medical waste disposal systems, and the integration of digital health tools to optimize care delivery and patient engagement

Agriculture and Food Processing

Libya's agriculture sector holds considerable untapped potential despite contributing a modest share to the national economy. The country relies on imports for approximately 75 percent of its food requirements, indicating a pressing need for enhanced domestic production and modernized food processing capacities.

Most of the fertile land is concentrated along the Mediterranean coastline, suitable for the cultivation of cereals, vegetables, and fruits. However, much of the agricultural landscape remains underdeveloped due to outdated practices and limited irrigation infrastructure.



Locations of agricultural activities in Libya

Source - Research Gate

Investment opportunities

Introduction of modern farming techniques, including greenhouse systems, precision farming, and climate-resilient crop varieties to improve productivity and land use efficiency.

Development of advanced irrigation systems, especially in arid and semi-arid regions, with projects involving solar-powered water pumping systems and sprinkler-based irrigation networks.

Rehabilitation and expansion of existing agricultural projects, such as the Kufra Agricultural Project, which utilizes underground aquifers for desert farming operations.

Investment in food processing facilities specializing in staples such as pasta, cereals, canned foods, and dairy products, addressing domestic demand growth and reducing dependency on imports.

Development of cold storage and logistics infrastructure to support perishable goods distribution and minimize post-harvest losses

Agro-industrial parks for integrated food processing, packaging, and export services, strategically located near production centers and trade routes.

The Libyan government has expressed interest in revitalizing the agricultural sector through policy support and investment incentives. Measures include facilitating land access, easing import regulations for modern agricultural equipment, and offering tax exemptions on agri-business investments. Sustainable agriculture practices are gaining policy attention, creating potential for investments in ecofriendly farming, organic produce, and water-efficient crop production systems.

Additionally, fishing and aquaculture development represent complementary investment areas. Libya's coastal regions support multiple fishing operations, and modernization of fishing infrastructure, canneries, and cold chain systems offers further commercial opportunities.

Tourism and Hospitality

Libya possesses potential for economic diversification through strategic investment in its largely undeveloped tourism and hospitality sector.

The nation is endowed with significant historical assets, including UNESCO World Heritage sites such as Leptis Magna and Cyrene, an extensive Mediterranean coastline offering opportunities for coastal tourism, and diverse desert landscapes that can cater to adventure tourism. These unique attributes position Libya as a potentially attractive destination for a variety of international travelers.

Investment opportunities within this sector are broad, encompassing the development of hotels and resorts to meet international standards, the establishment of essential tourism infrastructure (including transportation networks and utilities), and the growth of ancillary services such as tour operators and specialized tourism offerings like adventure and medical tourism. Notably, the North African luxury hotel market exhibits growth, with resort development being a prominent construction trend across the continent.

Investment opportunities

There is strong potential to invest in the development of new hotels, resorts, and eco-friendly lodging near major tourist sites and urban centers, as well as to upgrade existing accommodation facilities to meet international standards

Improving tourist transport infrastructure is a key investment area. This includes enhancing rural roads, providing efficient airport transfer services, and introducing specialized vehicles suitable for desert tours.

Establishing diverse tour operations presents a promising opportunity. There is also scope to improve the quality of guiding services through professional training and capacity building programs.

Investment in restaurants, cafés, and hospitality training institutes can significantly enhance service quality and broaden food and beverage options for both local and international visitors.

Libya offers high potential for cultural and heritage tourism through the restoration of historical sites, the creation of museums and visitor centers, and the organization of cultural festivals to highlight the country's rich heritage.

The country also presents unique prospects for adventure and ecotourism. This includes opportunities for desert safaris, ecotours, and marine-based tourism activities that cater to niche travel markets.

The Libyan government recognizes the strategic importance of tourism in its economic diversification strategy. This prioritization is evident in initiatives such as the “Return to Life” plan and the focus on the “blue economy,” as well as the National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP). To encourage foreign investment in this sector, the Investment Law (Law No. 9 of 2010) provides incentives, including tax exemptions and the facilitation of profit repatriation. Furthermore, the government emphasizes the importance of sustainable tourism practices in all development initiatives.

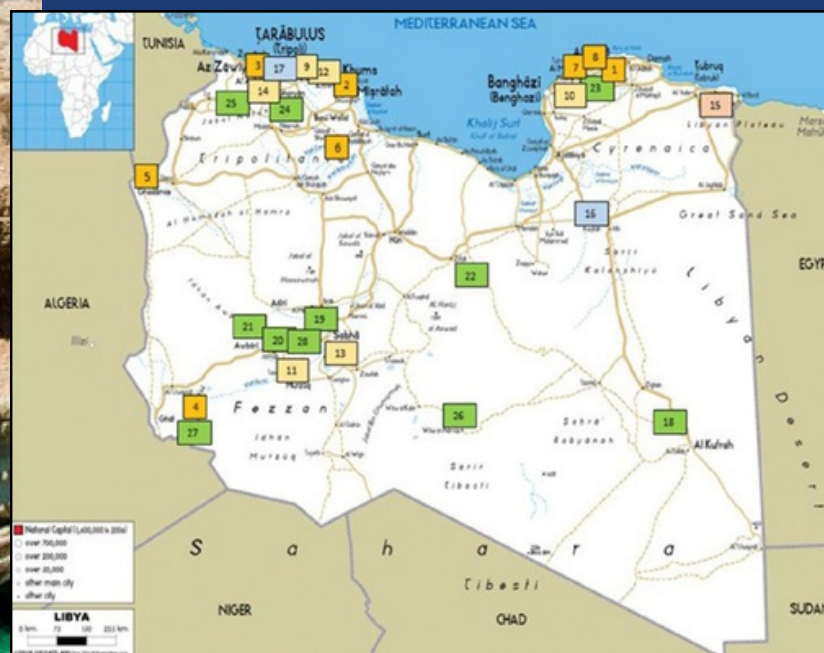
Historically, prior to the 2011 conflict, tourism contributed less than one percent to Libya's GDP—highlighting both the sector's underdevelopment and the significant untapped potential that had prompted ambitious growth plans at the time. Revitalizing tourism can serve as a crucial driver for economic diversification and job creation within the country. The inherent appeal of Libya's historical sites and coastline to international investors remains strong.



Archaeological sites of
Leptis Magna & Cyrene (Libya)
Source: Research Gate

Libya continues to navigate political and security-related complexities; however, the country still welcomes an estimated 100,000 international visitors annually, underscoring a foundation of existing interest and opportunity. At the same time, growing investor confidence across the North African hospitality sector presents a timely opening for Libya to position itself as an emerging destination. Sustaining this positive trajectory will depend on reinforcing trust through transparent contractual practices and the reliable execution of financial commitments—key steps toward fostering a stable, investment-ready environment.

Libya's tourism and hospitality sector presents substantial economic trade opportunities. By implementing strategic investments, ensuring government support, and effectively addressing existing security challenges, Libya can unlock its potential to become a prominent and economically significant tourism destination.



Place of main tourism attractions
(core tourism resources) of Libya

Other Promising Sectors

Beyond the dominant oil and gas sector, Libya presents nascent yet promising opportunities for development and investment across several other key areas. These sectors hold significant potential for contributing to economic diversification, job creation, and overall socio-economic progress.



A well-educated and skilled workforce is fundamental for Libya's future development. The education sector requires substantial investment at all levels, from primary and secondary schools to vocational training centers and universities. There is a pressing need to upgrade educational facilities, modernize curricula, and enhance teacher training programs.

Focusing on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) can equip Libyans with the skills required for emerging industries and contribute to reducing unemployment, particularly among youth. Partnerships with international educational institutions and the adoption of e-learning platforms could further enhance the quality and accessibility of education. UNESCO data prior to the intensification of conflict indicated a relatively high literacy rate, but significant disparities in access and quality across regions likely persist and may have worsened.



Libya's manufacturing sector has historically been limited, heavily reliant on imports for a wide range of goods. Developing domestic manufacturing capabilities can reduce this dependence, create jobs, and add value to local resources.

Opportunities exist in sectors such as food processing, construction materials, textiles, and light engineering. Establishing industrial zones with adequate infrastructure and providing incentives for local manufacturing can attract both domestic and foreign investment. Leveraging Libya's access to raw materials and its strategic geographic location could provide a competitive edge.



Grassroots Engagement in Libya's Development

Under the Vision 2030, grassroots engagement is central to Libya's development strategy, ensuring that all regions of the country contribute to shaping the nation's future. The Libya Community Empowerment Initiative focuses on engaging local communities in decision-making processes, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Through town halls, workshops, and participatory planning, this initiative aims to foster a culture of civic involvement and ensure that development projects reflect the diverse needs of Libyan citizens.



Smart Urban Development

Smart urban development is a key element of Vision 2030, with several projects aiming to modernize Libya's cities. The Libya Smart Cities Program includes plans for integrating digital technologies and sustainable infrastructure into urban areas across the country.

Key projects, such as the creation of smart districts in Benghazi and Misrata, aim to introduce intelligent traffic systems, green building standards, and renewable energy solutions, ensuring that future urbanization is both efficient and sustainable.



Affordable Housing Projects for a Growing Population

Housing is another critical focus, with Vision 2030 outlining initiatives to tackle Libya's housing deficit. The Libya National Housing Development Program aims to construct thousands of affordable and energy-efficient homes across the country, focusing on both urban and rural areas.

Projects like Benghazi Residential District are designed to provide high-quality living spaces for Libyan families, with an emphasis on accessibility and affordability.

Analysis - Investment in Libya

Strengths



Libya holds Africa's largest oil reserves and significant natural gas resources, with potential for increased production.

Its strategic location at the crossroads of Africa, the Middle East, and Europe offers trade and logistical advantages, positioning it as a potential transshipment hub.

Large foreign exchange reserves and sovereign wealth funds act as a safety net for the economy.

Libya's substantial reserves of oil and gas are a key strength.

The country benefits from abundant sunlight and wind resources, with government targets for renewable energy production and a focus on attracting foreign investment in this sector.

Its very low external debt and surplus accounts offer a degree of financial stability.

Libya possesses substantial foreign exchange reserves, which provide a buffer against economic shocks and support import coverage.

Extensive conflict damage creates a demand for large-scale reconstruction projects, attracting international interest.

Libya holds untapped potential for diversification in sectors like agriculture, renewables, tourism, & digital economy.

The Libyan government offers incentives through investment laws and free trade zones to attract foreign direct investment.

International organizations & partnerships provide support for economic recovery through aid, expertise, & political backing.

The National Oil Corporation has launched new licensing rounds for oil & gas exploration to boost production with FDI.

The government is working on plans to reduce dependence on oil through economic diversification.

Rising incomes contribute to increasing market demand and growth potential.

A young & growing population presents demographic advantage to drive demand.



Opportunities

Tips for Investing in Libya

01

Establishing a business in Libya often necessitates a joint venture or the inclusion of a Libyan shareholder to comply with foreign company incorporation regulations; this requirement highlights the importance of carefully selecting a trustworthy local partner, conducting proper due diligence, and ensuring mutual alignment on business goals and governance structures.

02

Cultural and social factors significantly influence business operations. Demonstrate cultural sensitivity by learning about and respecting local customs, traditions, and social norms, and adhering to appropriate business etiquette, including religious and cultural observances. Building trust is essential for establishing successful and sustainable business relationships in Libya.

03

Exercise diligence in partner selection, prioritizing those who offer substantial value beyond capital, including local market understanding, established networks, regulatory and bureaucratic expertise, and cultural and linguistic proficiency.

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Develop a robust business plan outlining clear objectives and strategies, operational plans and timelines, financial resources and funding mechanisms, and risk mitigation strategies.

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Conduct comprehensive feasibility studies to assess investment project viability, including detailed market analysis, evaluation of potential risks and challenges, and financial and return on investment projections.

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Proactively engage with key stakeholders, including the Libya Chamber of Commerce for insights into business regulations and opportunities, your country's embassy in Libya for political and economic updates, and relevant government agencies and industry associations.

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Acknowledge the potential imprecision or obsolescence of Libyan statistical data and market information, necessitating primary research and verification from multiple sources.

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Prepare to navigate a complex and evolving regulatory landscape by seeking expert legal advice to ensure compliance and staying informed about legislative and policy changes.

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Implement sound financial management practices, accounting for potential currency fluctuations and exchange rate volatility, and establishing clear payment terms and procedures.

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Anticipate that transactions and business procedures may experience delays due to bureaucratic complexities and institutional inefficiencies.

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Plan for frequent and extended market visits, particularly during initial investment phases, to facilitate relationship building, gather firsthand market intelligence, and monitor project progress. Develop flexible and adaptable business strategies to effectively address Libyan market realities.

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Prioritize the establishment of strong, long-term relationships with local partners. Invest time in comprehending local business practices, customs, and etiquette, including communication styles, negotiation approaches, decision-making processes, and the role of personal relationships.

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Acknowledge the impact of reported incidents of unrest and ongoing political instability by closely monitoring the security environment, assessing potential risks to personnel and assets, and developing comprehensive security and risk mitigation strategies.

Future Prospects

Libya is at an important stage of transition, seeking to move from a conflict-affected and oil-dependent economy toward one that is more diversified, inclusive, and resilient. This long-term vision is guided by three strategic pillars: Building a Flourishing Society, Building a Balanced Economy, and Building a State for the People. Achieving this vision will require a coordinated and integrated approach that supports sustainable development and inclusive economic growth.

Strengthening human capital is central to Libya's future. Increased investment in education and healthcare is expected to create a skilled and healthy workforce capable of driving innovation and productivity. Expanding social protection systems will support vulnerable populations and promote greater economic inclusion. Addressing regional disparities, empowering youth, and fostering entrepreneurship will be critical to reducing social tensions and unlocking Libya's demographic potential. In parallel, preserving the country's cultural heritage can foster national identity and open new avenues for tourism and creative industries.

Diversification is essential for economic resilience and long-term growth. Libya aims to develop priority sectors such as renewable energy, agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing. Achieving this will require targeted investment, a supportive regulatory environment, a skilled workforce, and improved infrastructure. A gradual transition will help mitigate disruptions for those currently employed in the oil sector.



Reforms to strengthen the business environment—including streamlined regulations, legal certainty, and reliable services—will be key to attracting foreign direct investment. Sound fiscal and monetary policies will further support economic stability, control inflation, and build investor confidence.

Rebuilding institutions is vital for peace, justice, and effective governance. Future reforms will focus on creating transparent, accountable, and inclusive institutions that ensure equitable policy implementation, uphold rights, and reduce corruption.

Strengthening the rule of law and reforming the judiciary will improve public trust and enhance business confidence. Security sector reform will also be necessary to establish a safe and stable environment for citizens and investors. National reconciliation and inclusive political dialogue remain essential to fostering unity and supporting long-term development.

Libya's economic transition brings both significant challenges and meaningful opportunities. By investing in human capital and social development, the country can build a flourishing society.

Promoting economic diversification alongside sound macroeconomic management will support a more balanced and resilient economy. Strengthening governance, upholding the rule of law, and rebuilding institutions are essential to creating a state that serves its people.

These three pillars are deeply interconnected and require a coordinated, integrated approach. Libya's future depends on sustained political will, strategic investment, and comprehensive reforms to ensure a peaceful, inclusive, and prosperous future for all its citizens.





FREE LIBYA





Organization: National Development Agency (NDA)

Purpose: National Development and Strategic Projects

Website: <https://nda.gov.ly>