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OVERVIEW OF THE CULTURE SECTOR IN

LIBYA



18th
largest country
in the world

1,759,540 SQ KM
towards the Mediterranean coast of North Africa

6,653,000
approximate population

97%
Arabs and Amazigh
(Berbers)



3%
Tuareg and Tabou ethnic groups
concentrated in the South

CONSTITUTION

1951

Creation

1969

suspended by the
Qaddafi regime

PRESENT

A draft Libyan constitution, that is yet to be ratified in a referendum, guarantees freedom for cultural and civil society actors

CIVIL SOCIETY

The uprising of **February 2011** stimulated an outpouring of cultural expressions across Libya and a thriving civil society that developed organically.



4,031 CSOs
registered at the Commission
by January 2016

No updated statistics
are provided for after 2016

39%
based in
TRIPOLI

21%
based in
BENGHAZI

3%
based in
SABHA

8% CSOs [total of 341]
worked within the scope of culture



Since the **2011 uprising** and the subsequent suspension of the Associations Law No. (19) of (2001), there has been **no law regulating civil society** in Libya. **Draft law was submitted in 2017 to the legislature for approval.**

GOVERNANCE

Since 2011, governance in Libya has been a highly complicated and rapidly changing setting. Currently, **governance lies with two rivaling governments:**

1

THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT (IG)

formed
2014

The House of Representatives (HoR)'s associated executive authority based in the east of Libya.

2

THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL ACCORD (GNA)

formed
2016

An interim government under a United Nations-led initiative for a Libyan Political Agreement, based in the west of Libya.

Cultural affairs are governed through the following Authorities:



There are some variations in procedures and regulations amongst governmental organisations depending on their governmental affiliations.



The IG formed the General Authority for Media, Culture and Civil Society (GAMCC); and, The GNA formed the General Authority for Culture (GAC) and transferred the affiliation of the General Authority for Cinema, Theatre and Arts (GACT) to its Council of Ministers.



There is a critical gap between authorities and non-governmental cultural actors.



There is a smaller focus on culture and cultural development in comparison to crisis response, human rights and immigration.



There are proposals requesting to update the Intellectual property law of 1968.



There is no law regarding the status of the artist in Libya.

AUDIENCE VS INFRASTRUCTURE



Museums

For security measures, the majority of museums are closed to the public.



Audience

There is no research surveying the number, function, and audience of culture infrastructures.



Performing Arts

Performing arts theatres are in weak conditions.



Cinema Theatre

There is **only one remaining cinema theatre in Libya** located in Tripoli.

FUNDING



SINCE

2016

national funding has lessened amid current financial decline



For the organisations that have not consequently suspended their work, this increased commercial activities as an additional source to ensure sustainability, while others now completely rely on foreign funding.



FOREIGN PARTNERS AND DONORS

A civil war that erupted in Tripoli in late 2014 caused all foreign actors to leave the country, thus suspending their programmes. Many of these have recommenced work on Libya while based in Tunis.