Welcome!

We are pleased to share with you the first edition of this monthly newsletter. With it, we intend to keep all the different stakeholders - all fundamental to this project - informed about the progress of the project we are building together.

We will use this newsletter to share updates on the implementation of the different activities, monitor the impact of the project in the daily work of our committed partners and participants, and to spread information about project news and upcoming events. Our main goal is to keep you informed in an easy, accessible, and digital way. This first edition of our newsletter is all about the Kick-Off event – the first event that brought together virtually the civil society organization partners of Output 3.

We hope this newsletter is useful to you.
Main goal of the project and outputs 1, 2 & 3
The project Stabilization Facility for Libya - Stronger For Libya, SFL2 seeks to support the efforts of Libya to bridge the critical period of transition from initial period of humanitarian relief towards mid- and long-term structural and sector-specific support. The interventions have been designed to strengthen national unity and reinforce state authorities for all Libyans through the support of three activities sets, each with a dedicated output:

OUTPUT 1: Basic services and light infrastructure restored.
OUTPUT 2: Immediate capacity support for municipalities and local partners.
OUTPUT 3: Local conflict analysis, dialogue and mediation capacity strengthened

The Project is led by a local peace structure, which forms the forum in which the local stabilisation goal is agreed and provides validation of an action plan to attain it.

Where are we now?
Output 3
The Project starts with Output 3. To sustain this local peace structure, the SFL needs capable local Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) partners which can provide and update the conflict analysis, conflict mapping, conflict monitoring, conflict management and conflict reduction expertise to support the local peace structure.

UNITAR is supporting UNDP in the delivery of the activities under Output 3 on Local Peace Structures and Conflict Management Capacity. The activities under this output will define and contribute to the initial stabilisation efforts at the community level by bringing together formalised local authorities and civil society. The priorities identified at this local level will define all project activities, which includes the gender-sensitive conflict analysis to better understand the causes of tension.

The kick-off event
A key aspect of the work of UNITAR and UNDP in supporting the stabilization process is the locally led approach. To ensure that partners voices are heard and that the programme meets the indentified needs of CSOs local partners, the Kick-Off event was designed to help UNITAR and UNDP get to know the local CSOs partners, analyse their needs in terms of capacity building, and gather their inputs and views. This is key to formulate the strategic vision and action plan for Output 3.

THE EVENT IN NUMBERS: 11 online sessions were held during July 2nd to 15th with the participation of 32 CSOs coming from 13 cities of Libya gathered to reflect and discuss about key topics:

■ Humanitarian Assistance ■ Community Cohesion ■ Peacebuilding / Dialogue ■ Human Development ■ Women and Youth ■ Regional groups
Results and comments

During the different sessions and drawing from their own experiences, participants shared their views on the opportunities, challenges and obstacles faced by Libyan CSOs in their daily work. In addition, by working together, participants were able to identify learning opportunities and training needs to deepen their knowledge and enhance their skills on technical areas, more specifically, on conflict analysis and project management.

Here are some of the insights collected by our facilitators:

Currently it is challenging to …

■ “Write a grant for international donors, specifically, to develop a budget estimation and to track budget expenses”.
■ “Lack of technical skills pose difficulties in converting a project idea into a convincing project proposal”.
■ “Understand donor’s grant process, especially UNDP grant format and procedures”.
■ “Work with difficulties including electricity, internet, mobility and transportation, cash liquidity and increase in prices”.
■ “Perform in times of crises and during war”.

We need training on …

■ “Strategic communication skills”.
■ “Project implementation, financial management and writing narrative and financial reports, also reports capturing the outcomes”.
■ “Monitoring and evaluation”.
■ “Training in human resources management, especially managing volunteers and individuals: recruiting, motivating, training, building capabilities and distributing tasks and roles”.
■ “Conflict analysis and tools”.
■ “Stakeholders mapping”.
■ “Conflict management: conflict prevention, conflict mitigation, conflict resolution and conflict transformation”.
■ “How to design and facilitate community dialogue process”.
■ “How to manage the negative impact of the social media and learn skills on how to combat hate speech and spread of rumours”.

List of Organizations

1. Azjar
2. Interpeace
3. Better Africa
4. Tanmia 360
5. Social Peace Partnership Derna
6. Community Partnership Obari
7. Jusoor Center for Studies and Development
8. Libya Peace Organization
9. Libya Society for National Reconciliation and Charity Works
10. Libyan Association for English Teachers
11. I am Libyan, My son is a Foreigner
12. Rugby Project
14. Libyan Foundation for Sustainable Development
15. Humat Al-Dyar
16. Ather for Development and empowerment
17. South Peace Organization for Development
18. Erth Aljebal
19. Women Tadhamon Organization for Advocacy (Solidarity)
20. National Organization for Libyan Youth
21. Dihia Civil Society Organization
22. Fezzan Libya Organization
23. Maggas Organization for Sustainable Development
24. Pulse Organization Derna
25. Horizons Association for Dialogue (AFEK)
26. Dialogue & Debate Association
27. Noktat Intilaka Organization for Development
28. Mizan Development Organization
29. Nana Marin
30. Debater Club
31. Libyan Red Crescent Derna
32. Libyan Red Crescent Ajdabiya
Summary
The topics and methodologies used during the Kick-Off event were very well received by the participants, who engaged with the different discussions in-depth. The engaging and interactive nature of the workshop allowed participants to manifest their ideas, thoughts and desires which opened the path to learning and creation of new possibilities as professionals, individuals and as a society.
At the current moment in Libya’s history, when more leaders and organizations are needed to work towards peace and reconciliation, participating Libyan CSOs efforts and insights are crucial.

What is coming next?
Starting from September 2020 UNITAR will deliver thematic training workshops designed in partnership with UNDP Libya for local CSO partners. The training offer is designed based on inputs given in this initial phase by the participating CSOs. Each workshop will cover a period between 3 to 5 working days. For this year, due to Covid-19 restrictions imposed worldwide, to date, the initial workshops are planned to be conducted online through distance learning activities.

Here the upcoming events in 2020:

SEPTEMBER 2020:
■ Online Training on Conflict Analysis and Stakeholder Mapping

OCTOBER 2020:
■ Online Training on Proposal Writing: Introduction to basic project concepts

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2020:
■ First Funding Opportunity

Meet the coaches

Hello! I am Yasmine Refaat, I am a dual Italian-Egyptian national and I have 12 years of project management experience with the United Nations, Red Cross Movement and International NGOs in the Middle East and North Africa, including Libya. I look forward to working together with you and supporting your important work as coach in Project Cycle Management.

Hello! My name is Mohammad “Omar” Metwally, I have 8+ years of experience designing, implementing, and managing community dialogue design and conflict prevention programmes. My areas of expertise are conflict analysis, conflict transformation, and community dialogue design. I will be working with you as coach on Project Cycle Management and Conflict Analysis.

Hello, My name is Fadi El Hajjar. In the past 25 years, I have been involved in conflict prone countries including Afghanistan, Haiti, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Egypt, Iraq and Libya among others. I will be supporting you as coach you in Conflict Analysis and Conflict Reduction strategies. I look forward to working with you.

You will be receiving more news from us soon!