Welcome!

Our third newsletter brings with it the updates of the work we have achieved recently.

Like previous editions, this newsletter shares the latest news about the project activities carried out and progress registered in the last period. In addition, it sheds light on the anticipated events that are expected to take place. As usual, it is our pleasure to keep you updated on the project progress and upcoming future activities.

The highlights of this edition concentrate on two main components: the intensive coaching process and the second training that focused on the basics of proposal writing. Our partners from the Libyan CSOs have tremendously benefitted from these two components of the existing support. Like previous activities, the coaching sessions and training workshops were attended by CSOs which came from various sectoral and regional backgrounds in Libya. It is always our pleasure to provide you with interesting news and updates to make your reading throughout this newsletter a pleasant journey.

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Coaching and Support Process

UNITAR trainers and coaches have developed and implemented a coaching and support process. This one-to-one capacity building engagement is an effective platform where each CSO has been able to highlight its needs and receive the necessary support.

Coaching and Support on Conflict Analysis

With respect to conflict analysis, an intensive coaching process has been implemented and each CSO had the chance to have individual consultations and coaching sessions to enhance its capacity in conflict analysis. About 40 sessions were held with the CSOs. The coaching provided an in-depth learning opportunity about essential conflict analysis tools and how to use them in the local Libyan context. Such tools included: timeline, connectors and dividers, conflict tree, position interest and need, and conflict map among others. The coaching also covered conflict dynamics and relations among conflict stakeholders to acquire solid understanding of the conflict at hand and identify entry points and priorities for intervention.

Coaching and Support on Stakeholder Mapping

In addition to the conflict analysis that covered almost all participating CSOs, 9 of them had parallel coaching sessions on stakeholder mapping and on how to strategically engage with stakeholders to maximize collaboration and cooperation. They also had the chance to reflect on their own organizational development including vision, mission statements and how to strengthen their organizations in these areas.

Our Second Training - Proposal Writing: Introduction to Basic Project Concepts

Like the first workshop, the proposal writing training took place online. However, it adopted a more engaging and interactive methodology. In this regard, new online tools such as the interactive Whiteboard mural have been utilized for training purposes. Moreover, role plays, storytelling and case studies had been added to the previously adopted training techniques such as: small group work, brainstorming and poll questions.

To overcome internet and electricity cuts, UNITAR used Moodle to provide the content online after each training session was conducted. In addition, it aimed at making the content readily available and accessible for participants who did not attend the course hence it facilitated knowledge sharing within organizations. Finally, this platform has served as a reminder for participants to review and refer back to the training content when they need it.

This training was held from December 1st to December 3rd whereby two training sessions were conducted on daily basis. The training content covered mission, vision, SWOT analysis and other attributes of strategic planning. Furthermore, it invested significantly on...
data collection methodology and how to undertake key-informed interviews and focus group discussions. The training helped in identifying and distinguishing among outcomes, outputs, activities, and indicators. The training also paid attention to conflict sensitivity and do no harm. Moreover, the training allocated considerable time for monitoring and evaluation elements and highlighted essential budgeting principles with regards to UNDP Libya’s first SFL grant proposal. All of these learning are intended to be used by participating organizations in their anticipated proposal writing for the upcoming UNDP grant on conflict analysis.

The Workshop in Numbers:

- 3 Trainers
- 3 Days
- 6 Training sessions

were held during December 1st to 3rd with the participation of 27 CSOs coming from 13 cities across Libya.

Workshop Dynamics

As mentioned earlier, the training was designed to be more interactive; consequently, participants were highly engaged throughout the workshop. The time allocated was compatible to most participants however the internet connection and electricity cuts were the major obstacle.

Recommendations

Based on the participants’ feedback during the training and in the post training evaluation, the following recommendations have been formulated:

- It would be great if the proposal writing training can be conducted again face-to-face since it was stressful to take it online with the electricity and internet cuts and because it didn’t cover all of the proposal writing aspects.

- There has been also a recommendation to address the challenges resulting from the weak internet connectivity and electricity cuts by making adjustments for at least some participants within Libya to enable them to attend the training and support in a compatible environment.
**Testimonials**

**Malak Al Hanoushi - Pulse Organization Derna**

“Think positively, learn how we can replace our negative thoughts with positive ones. When we change the way we think and our perception of things, we can change the current reality. We become more distinguished and excel in our jobs. The benefits we reaped from the trainers and the diverse training approaches adopted made it exceptional in both the way it was delivered and presented.”

**Aimen Abdelwanis - Mizan Development Organization**

“Despite the current pandemic and short hours for training online, the private coaching and support sessions come as a life saver for NGOs. As each NGO has unique characteristics that differs from the other, this requires a deeper understanding from the trainers to give a suitable advice and guidance to make the best practical outcome from the training program.”

**Maryam Amghar - Azjar Organization**

“Your support to us has contributed in developing our skills and build our capacities. We reached positive results in analyzing conflicts, building peace and how to better implement projects.”

**Dr. Akram Al Fakhal - National Organisation of the Libyan Youth Voice**

“Our experience is very fruitful where we benefitted from the support process provided by UNITAR. The main learning we acquired is that before proceeding to resolve any local conflict we should analyze it, and clearly identify the root-causes of this conflict, conflicting parties, and all structural factors and their impacts. This will make the research and analysis more effective to help resolve any local conflict at hand in accordance with the available resources that take into account the political, social, economic, and security circumstances.”

**Where are we now?**

The project is pursuing its activities and carrying out the needed follow up. Activities include the following.

**First Funding Opportunity**

The first funding opportunity has been announced by SFL. The relevant documents including the Terms of Reference (TOR) and grant application were shared with our partners from the Libyan CSOs. UNITAR team has been also following on the subject by providing group and individual consultations for the targeted CSOs. These meetings have served as a vehicle to provide clarity regarding the TOR and grant applications as well as feedback to enhance the proposals submitted by Libyan CSOs.

**Reflecting on Previous Training and Preparing for the Upcoming Ones**

Based on the previous training and lessons learnt, the training and coaching team have been reflecting on the existing obstacles and developing more useful mechanisms to address the challenges which have been faced and devising more useful approaches to fit with the Libyan context in an online platform.
Accordingly, the preparation for the next training is exploring new options to overcome the existing difficulties and provide Libyan CSOs with a more effective training environment.

**Coaching and Support**

In parallel with these activities, the UNITAR team is still providing coaching and support on different subjects including conflict analysis and stakeholders’ mapping. It is also expected to provide other types of coaching associated with the new training as well as the implementation of the conflict analysis grant.

**Upcoming activities**

The upcoming training will take place in February and will be focusing on Monitoring and Evaluation. Due to the new development in the COVID-19 pandemic, this training might also take place online. Yet, some adjustments are explored to make the training more effective.

**FEBRUARY 2021:**
- Training - Monitoring and Evaluation Framework – Logical Framework
- Coaching Conflict Analysis Implementation and its Associate Support (February-April)

**MARCH 2021:**
- Training - Project Implementation and Financial Management
- Financial and Technical Reporting on Project 1

Stay tuned, you will be receiving more news from us!