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United Nations Development Programme

# Livelihood Assessment in Tawergha



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*UNDP supports Libya's transition towards peace, economic recovery, and sustainable development to help the country get on a more robust development path by supporting local authorities to restore essential services delivery and livelihood opportunities and promote peaceful co-existence. This initiative is part of the Strengthened Local Capacity for Resilience and Recovery Project funded by the North of Africa Window of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Stability which contributes in addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (EUTF – NOA).*



## Introduction

As part of the Local Peacebuilding and Resilience Programme, **UNDP** supports national and local institutions in encouraging the returnee population of Tawergha, who lost their assets during a decade of displacement and re-displacement, by providing tools, equipment, or livestock. This assistance aims to help affected populations recover their livelihoods and promote reconciliation. It also includes business management training to impart the soft skills necessary for small and micro-business owners to launch and operate their businesses successfully.

As part of this initiative, a Rapid Livelihoods Assessment was conducted in November 2022 through the **Norwegian Refugee Council**, in partnership with the **Ministry of Local Government** and the **Municipality of Tawergha**. The objective was to gain a better understanding of the economic sectors in Tawergha that are experiencing demand and supply shortages. This information was crucial for identifying potential economic sectors for asset recovery initiatives within the city. The assessment also revealed potential ways to reduce negative coping strategies and restore the livelihoods of Tawergha's returnee population.





## Methodology

This Rapid Livelihoods Assessment aims to guide the implementation phase by informing on existing and dominant economic sectors, labour market dynamics, skills mapping and gaps as well as labour market motivations in Tawergha.

Our approach to this assessment was to base our research on the experience and knowledge built in Tawergha by other agencies and to validate the analysis offered by partners working in Tawergha. In order to avoid duplicating efforts, and to build on the ongoing synergies, NRC firstly conducted a secondary data review from already existing sources, as various livelihoods actors have been active in Tawergha. For instance, NRC is in close coordination with World Food Program (WFP) which has collaborated with Kafa Organization to conduct and publish a labour market assessment for Tawergha in July-August 2022.<sup>1</sup> Where the secondary data review was not sufficient to guide the implementation and aiming to validate the result of the analysed secondary data; NRC conducted a primary data collection to complete the information required for a quality programming. NRC relied on Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) to complete any information missing from the market assessment publication through validation interviews and Focus Group Discussions.

NRC conducted several KIIs with community leaders in the city including the CBO leaders, and international agencies with experience working in the Livelihoods sector in Tawergha, members of the local council, and members of the Ministry of Agriculture. NRC also conducted Focus Group Discussions to collect the opinions of different population groups of Tawerghan community. A total of 37 participants joined the KIIs and FGDs.



**The first** discussion point of the primary data collection focused on the main economic sectors the returnees of Tawergha see in meeting their needs locally as well as the specific shortages in goods and services in the identified sectors.

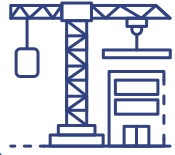
**Secondly**, NRC aimed to understand the obstacles that consumers and businesses face.

**Lastly**, NRC inquired about the skills gaps and training needs required for Tawerghans to improve their livelihoods.

All information collected matched the findings of the Labour Market assessment conducted by World Food Programme in June-august 2022.



## Identified Economic Sectors



### Construction

Across all meetings, all participants agreed that the construction constitutes the primary economic activity in demand in Tawergha since the city was heavily damaged and ransacked during the 2011 conflict. To this day, Tawergha city remains largely destroyed with many unable to return due to a lack of viable housing and income-generating opportunities. Most buildings in the city are in need of rehabilitation.

The participants unanimously agreed that any business in the construction sector would have a positive impact on the city because of the shortages in suppliers, technicians, and the high need. Businesses such as painting, plumbers, and electrician is the most job required in the city. Participants also mentioned a shortage of shops that sell construction materials and the need to rely on importing all construction materials from other cities, mainly Misrata.



### Food

Many different economic activities in the food-processing sector can be viable in Tawergha. Participants of the FGDs concurred that the traditional date syrup (Dibis) is an advantageous economic activity due to the skills and knowledge of Tawerghan populations in date syrup processing. However, proper equipment and linkages to the market in other cities are required to create viable micro- businesses.

Cooking, cake and dessert making are also agreed by the participants as one of the profitable businesses in the city and the demand is substantial mainly for traditional food consumed during occasional gatherings such as weddings, funerals etc.; and there are only a few active producer home-based businesses (HBB) in the city.

Therefore, there is still space for new businesses to cover the increasing demand. Another noteworthy occupation mentioned in the food sector is grocery markets.



## Agriculture

The most traditional and demanded economic sector is Agriculture. Agriculture creates multiple layers of labour such as planting, collecting, post-harvesting and food processing; and Tawerghan populations are experienced in different agricultural activities. One of the main traditional crops of Tawergha is palm trees that are abundant in the city even after protracted displacement. Since most of the fresh produce is imported from other cities, the participants foresee big demand for locally produced crops. Participants also mention the livestock. The shortage of fodder is a factor that prevents the Tawerghans from raising their livestock and therefore hinders the production of dairy. The agriculture sector is key for Tawergha due to its traditional presence in the city and knowledge of the Tawerghan population in the agriculture sector, but even more importantly due to its potential to revive other sectors livestock, dairy production, and cake making.



## Sale of goods and services

The most commonly mentioned shortage of economic activity in Tawergha was the presence and number of shops that sell goods and services. Most Tawerghans still travel to nearby cities to purchase items or services that are not available in the city, such as mobile maintenance, car electrician, meat, rice, baked products (only two in the city) and others.

There is a weekly outdoor market in the city that is set on Mondays. Tawerghans also travel to other outdoor weekly markets that take place in other cities to both buy and sell their products.



## Challenges

This section describes obstacles faced by the returnee population of Tawergha as well as general challenges of business owners and potential business creators.



### Electricity

The first and biggest obstacle mentioned during the data collection is the supply of electricity. The shortages in electricity affects the residents of Tawergha as a whole, in the household and while running their businesses. Most of the time the national grid is not working and there are weaknesses in the power so residents cannot use all electric devices at the same time. Generators are not largely available in the city; NRC team observed only a few families and shops that use small generators during power outages. The shortage of fuel renders the use of generators too costly. Solar systems are not commonly used in the city. Only a few solar electricity outlets are available and they are recently funded and installed by international agencies.



### Low Buying power

Tawerghans expressed low buying power as a general phenomenon among the residents due to limited income- generating activities. Most Tawerghans rely on salaries from the public sector that is not sufficient for most families and is not regularly dispatched. Hence, most Tawerghan face difficulties to cover their basic needs. Households that can spare some savings opt to rehabilitate their housing instead of starting a business or project. Low buying power directly affects

the grocery shops because Tawerghans mainly purchase goods on credit, which affects the cash liquidity of the grocery shop and therefore decreases the shop owners' ability to purchase new products. NRC will consider the buying power while selecting business ideas to receive asset recovery support.



## Equipment and Financial Support

As mentioned in the previous point that people don't have money to commence their business idea or implement any project, therefore there is required financial support for those people.

one thing we need to consider in grants distribution is people don't know where they can purchase the equipment required for their business or the raw materials mainly because these come from other big cities, and need to cross different checkpoints on the road to Tawergha.



## Equipment and Financial Support

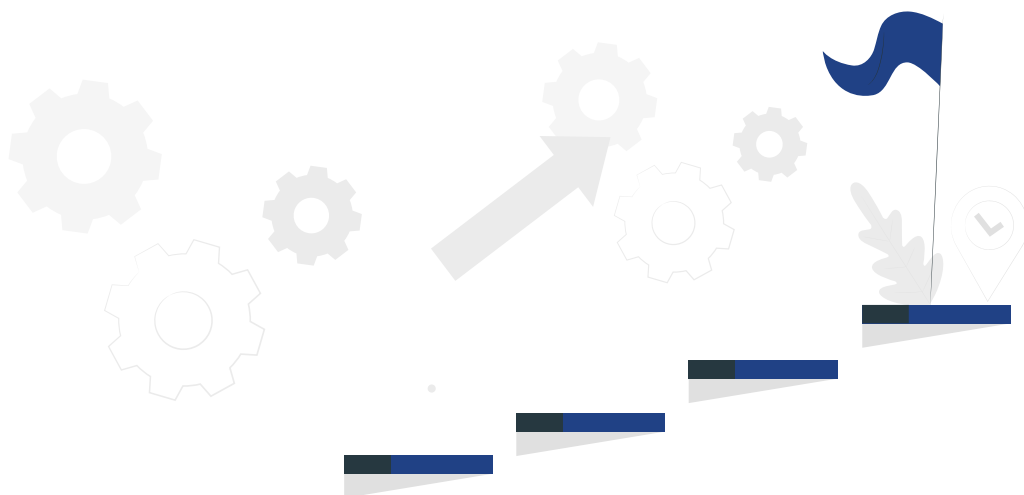
Key informants mentioned that while implementing an Asset Recovery project, the implementing partners must ensure that the project participants are equipped with skills and tools to ensure proper implementation mechanisms for their newly established businesses. Those tools include skills training, budgeting methods and tools, and implementation plans.

Other challenges that came up during the data collection are:

### Other challenges

Venues: Limited number of rehabilitated venues for training and other gathering purposes.

General infrastructure of the city: A need for rehabilitation of the roads, public infrastructure







## Skill and training needs

Participants of the Rapid Livelihoods Assessment are of the same opinion regarding their inherited skills in the agriculture sector on account that most Tawerghans owned or worked at agricultural and livestock farms before the displacement, and possess experience in producing a myriad of crops such as dates, olive, and fodder crops. Whereas, technical training in Agriculture is not seen as a need in Tawergha. On the other hand, there is a consensus on the need for other trainings to ensure Tawerghans have the capacity to sustain their livelihoods through their micro or small businesses. The different categories of trainings are listed below:



### Management training

As mentioned in KIIs, most Tawerghans were (or are still) employed in the public sector. Specifically, during the FGDs conducted with youth, it was mentioned that no new job opportunities are offered in the public sector. Most of the community leaders mentioned that small businesses are the solution for the people in Tawergha to improve their livelihoods in a sustainable manner. To achieve this goal, business management training must focus on how to start and run businesses in addition to financial management training to ensure the continuity of the business. NRC will conduct business management training for project participants and will cover all topics mentioned during the assessments.



### Marketing and customer services

Marketing is often mentioned during the data collection sessions. While some of the participants expressed a need for marketing training that transfers knowledge on more traditional marketing methods such as branding through packaging; others have mentioned digital marketing as a way to open to new markets in various cities. The sub-topics mentioned included managing social media pages, online sales, digital literacy, basic computer skills, basic language skills. Customer service training was also mentioned during FGDs for those who already run their businesses to improve their skills in the trade.

NRC will try to include the above-mentioned topics during the Business Management Training.



## Recommendations

Some business owners in Tawergha set their sales stand at the local market of Tawergha on a weekly basis. This Monday's market takes place in the new city since the traditional marketplace was destroyed.

In addition to the market in Tawergha, Tawerghans are also mentioned in proximity to the city; in Misrata, Tamina, Al Ramla. Moreover, the famous Wadi Kaam market in Zliten city is every Saturday, and the Alkhoms market is on Thursday. The sizes of these markets are much larger compared to the one in Tawergha; which is still considered temporary by the local population until the completion of the repair of the old marketplace.

Hence, the marketplaces of the surrounding cities might open the door for new businesses to expand their customer base.

Where possible, NRC will opt to create a value chain through the project to ensure the sustainability of those businesses. As an example, the fodder farm will provide the food to the animal farm, and the animal farm will provide milk to the dairy production project (s) project, which will end selling the dairy products to shops or directly to the clients. In order to do so, NRC will cluster the training participants by sector of activity and build on the synergies.





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