



Newsletter March 2013

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This is the third newsletter covering the period August 2012 – March 2013. It highlights some of the main achievements during this period, in line with the Country Program- 2012-2014 that was agreed between the Government of Libya and UNDP, covering 2012-2014. The Country Programme focus areas are:

Democratic transition: support to the electoral process (in a joint team with UNSMIL), the support to the newly elected National Congress, the support to civil society, including civic education programs and the support to civil society participation in constitution making processes

Governance: support to capacity building of Ministries and Local administrations, as well as support to Rule of Law

Environment: sustainable environmental management and renewable energy

Economic Recovery: employment creation programs and small scale enterprise development

We hope that this newsletter will give you a snapshot of UNDP Libya's work to serve the population of Libya in support of the democratic transition.

Supporting the General National Congress

Following successful elections on July 7 2012, the elected General National Congress of Libya (GNC) has replaced the National Transitional Council as supreme national authority in the country assuming legislative powers and acting as the highest authority in the country during the transition.

As part of the regional Project "Inclusive and Participative Political Institutions" as well as the Transitional Governance Support project, UNDP's support to the GNC focused on developing an induction programme for newly elected members, exposing them to fundamental concepts and principles of parliamentary work, advice to secretariat on the set up of administrative structure as well as developing a draft Internal Regulations and providing requested input and advice to Internal Regulations Committee. Based on the experience of supporting the former NTC and building on current support to GNC, parliamentary development efforts of UNDP

Libya will continue during the period 2012-2014 to support the newly elected General National Congress (GNC).

In particular UNDP will support members of the GNC—dealing with parliamentary duties for their very first time—to effectively fulfill their mandate in undertaking legislative, budgeting, oversight and representational functions.

UNDP plans to continue to support the GNC with two pronged strategy, one supporting the secretariat to become natural and highly effective administrative body and developing its capacity in inter alia, communication, library and research, and human resources management; and the other is to support the technical capacity of GNC by providing substantive and procedural advice to elected members and committees towards effective discharge of their mandate.

In addition special focus will be devoted to women elected members in terms of enhancing their capacities and encouraging networks and exchange of experiences.

RESULTS TO DATE

SUPPORTING THE GNC SECRETARIAT

UNDP developed an organigram for the secretariat, organization of president and vice presidents' offices. A detailed document was produced and submitted to GNC

GNC INTERNAL REGULATIONS

UNDP employed its network of expertise to produce a draft document of internal regulations that was the basis of the formal internal regulations that the GNC adopted formally. During the discussions leading up to the adoption of the internal regulations, UNDP provided on the spot advice to members of the GNC committee established to prepare the final regulations.



GNC internal newsletter with procedural guidelines developed by UNDP (photo: UNDP)

SUPPORT TO THE GNC – RESULTS TO DATE (CONTINUED)

ESTABLISHING A PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTER

UNDP provided support to the establishment of a parliamentary library and research center. Over 700 key legal publications including, books, guides and dictionaries, in addition to 160 guides from the Inter-parliamentary Union, were procured as a seed core the library and research centre. A detailed organizational structure for the library was developed including specific terms of reference of key senior positions.

SUPPORTING GNC WEBSITE

UNDP provided advice to the secretariat of GNC on ways to upgrade website to international parliamentary standards as set by Internal Parliamentary Union (IPU). An international expert was brought for a short mission to assess, advise and provide practical recommendations to align GNC website with international standards.

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF GNC INDUCTION PROGRAMME

UNDP initiated an induction programme for the newly elected General National Congress. Three procedural guides were produced as background papers for the induction with the purpose of orienting newly elected members to their functions. The guides covered: 1) legislative powers in a political system, 2) the structure of parliament and 3) the rights and duties of elected members.

POLICY ADVICE

UNDP continues to provide GNC secretariat and political leadership with important advice in the form of papers and studies on important and sometimes urgent tasks that confront the General National Congress. Important draft papers included notes on Code of Conduct for members of GNC, parliamentary communication, criteria and standards for determining financial compensation based on comparative examples and recognized criteria.

Forum for Democratic Libya: “Nabi Fi Dusturi...”

In the framework of UNDP’s initiative on support to an inclusive constitution dialogue process in Libya, on 23rd of January 2013, Forum for Democratic Libya (FDL) organized a launch event of a project “An Open Dialogue for Libya’s New Constitution Towards an Inclusive and Democratic Social Contract”.

The event, held in Rixos hotel in Tripoli, launched an initiative: *“I want... in My Constitution” (“Nabi F Dusturi...”)* and brought together representatives of GNC, with its vice president Dr Juma Attiga and numerous guests representing civil society, international community and media.

The FDL-UNDP project focuses on organizing dialogue sessions in 12 selected locations in Eastern, Western and Southern Libya. The dialogue sessions will develop recommendations on the, new Libyan constitution. Therefore the underlying message of the event was to ensure that the civil society voice in the constitution-making process is heard and that decision-makers give serious consideration to the views presented by the public.

At the end of the ceremony all the Libyan participants signed jointly *“The social contract pledge”*: *“As a Libyan citizen, I declare my commitment towards making out our constitution an opportunity for an*

inclusive, participatory and democratic social contract... I commit to safeguarding the process of developing our new constitution by: engaging all citizens, valuing diversity, ensuring transparency, promoting justice and guaranteeing equality”.

The five month project combines civic education with dialogue workshops, which bring together various stakeholders including community leaders, civilian and military councils, GNC members, political and social activists and CSOs. There are two predefined core topics discussed: minorities and the role of women and new system of governance with focus on issues related to discussion on decentralization v. federalism. Participants of each dialogue session are also able to choose one subject related to the constitution.

The project has already trained 15 Ruwad, who currently carry out public workshops educating on constitution and facilitate dialogues. So far Dialogue sessions took place in the South and East of Libya. In March the west of the country will be covered, completing the field work. Following that the FDL will collate and analyze data and submissions produced and recorded during the dialogue sessions. Documenting and developing briefs on citizens’ aspirations and expectations regarding the constitution will be prepared and handed to the Constitution Drafting Assembly once it is formed.

The project is one of the first of this kind implemented in Libya in the context of the constitution-making process.

Sub-Regional Forum on Women’s Participation and Representation in Post-Revolutionary Parliamentary Elections

In 2012, Libyan women went to national polls for the first time in the country’s history. Factors such as the revolutionary fervor that gripped the country following the collapse of the old regime, combined with special modalities that obliged political entities to include women on closed candidate lists meant that rates of women’s participation as voters, candidates, supporters, observers, or members of the media were encouraging, with women making up 45% of those who registered women and 31% of those who came out to vote on 7 July 2012. A total of 33 women found themselves amongst the ranks of Libya’s General National Congress when it was sworn in on 8 August 2012.



Forum participants (photo: Annan Sorri / UNDP)

The story was much the same across the sub-region. Women in Egypt and Tunisia as well as Libya played a crucial role in sweeping away unpopular regimes. These circumstances underpinned women's strong participation in electoral processes in 2011 and 2012.

The participation of women in these processes was one of the topics discussed at a recent sub-regional forum held in Cairo on 9-10 December 2012 which addressed women's participation and representation in the first post-revolutionary parliamentary elections in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. Organized and supported by UNDP, UN Women, and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, the event saw the active participation of a 26-member strong Libyan delegation supported through UNDP's Libya Electoral Assistance Project (LEAP).

Libyan participants were drawn from four quarters: candidates from the GNC election, including two current GNC members; civil society representatives; HNEC representatives and UN advisors. Within each of these groups, efforts were made to ensure representation from the three main regions in Libya.

The UN Secretary-General clearly indicated that one of the main priorities for his second term was support to the political transition in the Arab countries and, within

that priority, specifically mentioned efforts to promote women's political participation and representation. The conference supported this goal, forming part of a strategy to increase contacts in the electoral sector from amongst the sub-region, the products of which it is hoped will enrich future elections in the three countries and the region.

Though all three countries saw very active participation of women as voters, final representation of women in the resulting parliaments varied widely. In Egypt, the representation of women in the upper and lower chambers of the dissolved parliament was 2%, whereas under the former regime it stood at 12%. In Tunisia, one of the most advanced countries in the region in terms of women's representation, women took 27% of parliamentary seats, for a total of 47 seats. In Libya, overall women's representation in the new GNC stood at 16%. Together with their Egyptian and Tunisian counterparts, the forum participants were provided an opportunity to analyze and discuss how women fared, emphasizing effective representation in parliaments across the region.

Discussion at the forum addressed women's participation at all levels, from the concrete electoral measures that each country put in place to guarantee representation of women in the new post-revolution parliaments in Egypt, Libya and

Tunisia, to measures to ensure higher female participation and representation in future parliamentary elections in the three countries. Increasing women's representation in civil society, electoral administration and political parties also featured in the meeting's agenda.

The results of the forum were to be defined through a final report, which would constitute the basis for national and sub-regional strategies that will aim to consolidate and extend gains. In Libya, LEAP defined a programme of activities as part of its 2013 work plans that focus on furthering knowledge and awareness amongst decision-makers and opinion-formers on women's participation as well as the perception of women as candidates.

Gains achieved in the wake of the revolutions are fragile, and hopes that women's role in the revolutions of 2011 would result in greater political space for their concerns could easily be left behind in the wake of urgent efforts to restore political and economic stability. Thus far, women have been active and engaged participants and drivers of change. As women's role in public life continues to evolve, it remains critical to pursue strategies designed to ensure that barriers to women's equal participation, whether as voters, candidates, supporters, observers, or members of the media, steadily continue to be removed.

From past to present: Transitional Justice in Libya and the way forward

Since 2012, UNDP has been collaborating with the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and other United Nations partners to support the Government of Libya to strategize and implement a Transitional Justice (TJ) process, including contributing to a national consensus on Transitional Justice. A law on TJ was passed in February 2012, leading to the establishment of a Fact-Finding and Reconciliation Commission (FFRC). The process has not evolved significantly since then. There has been little public discourse and consultation on the process, the FFRC has yet to be fully functional and has requested for more assistance in the implementation of its mandate.

In December 2012, the FFRC, with the support of UNDP and UNSMIL, organized a follow-up conference "Truth and Reconciliation: The Way Forward" and a training workshop for the FFRC, which sought to fulfill the need for more dialogue

on transitional justice and meet the technical needs of the FFRC. The conference brought together more than ninety (90) Government officials, members of the Fact-Finding and Reconciliation Commission, members of the General National Congress, members of the Council of Wise Men (hukama), representatives from the Ministry of Martyrs and Missing Persons, civil society and victim groups, the diplomatic community and individual experts. Participants hailed from throughout Libya. The conference was facilitated by the United Nations, local and international experts. Participants discussed the shortcomings of the TJ law and made recommendations for amendments, and highlighted the need for more dialogue and consultation between the Government, civil society and victim groups. The comparative experiences from South Africa, Tunisia and Peru allowed a more in-depth consideration of the types of truth-seeking process needed in Libya and what reforms are necessary.

Participants were requested to contribute to the drafting of the conference conclusions (see next panel), stressing the overarching objective of achieving true reconciliation at the national and local level

from all TJ activities, to pass a credible and effective law on TJ and to aim for a dynamic and inclusive truth-seeking process. The conference conclusions generated a framework of principles for government and civil society's guidance to pursue Transitional Justice strategies in Libya.



Conference participants came from different parts of Libya (photo: UNDP)

The conference was preceded by a 2-day closed-session workshop aimed at developing the capacity of the FFRC to operationalize and organize its mandate. Thirty-eight (38) participants comprising Commissioners and support staff from all relevant geographical areas of Libya participated. The participants benefitted from the exchange of experiences,

including political and institutional challenges and sharing of best practices from renowned experts from South Africa and Peru truth-seeking Commissioners, and were keen to adapt and apply those practices and standards to the Libyan context.

The workshop focused on the need for the FFRC to address the root causes of conflict in Libya and why the old regime was allowed to function in a way which violated the human rights of the people.

It was also recommended that the process be victim-centered, drawing from experiences of other countries, including the holding of public hearings or producing a comprehensive report which will constitute a historical record for Libya.

The workshop produced a set of recommendations, action-points and check-list which will form the basis of further assistance from the UN in the areas of developing capacity of support staff and experts within the Commission working on investigations, witness and victim protection, documentation, database management and other thematic elements of the FFRC operations. UNDP will also continue to support the Government on dialogue/awareness raising activities throughout Libya.

The four-day events provided a crucial forum for the sharing of lessons learned and international best practices for all of Libyan society.



Key representatives and officials during the Workshop (photo: UNDP)

CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

The following is a summary of the conference recommendations:

- 1.** Participants highlighted that Libyans want to move beyond their past and stress their social cohesion and national unity. Reconciliation is an important part of strengthening Libyan democracy and building a new Libya on a sound foundation.
- 2.** Participants agreed that reconciliation is not about revenge, nor about impunity or simple forgiveness of crimes of persons associated with the former regime or relinquishing of rights of the victims.
- 3.** Participants welcomed the current initiative from the Minister of Justice to pass the new law on transitional justice and urged that this be completed soon. The new law should contain all the components of transitional justice: unlike law no. 4 or 17 it should include criminal justice and institutional reform.
- 4.** Truth-seeking is the cornerstone of reconciliation. The Libyan government should ensure that the process is socially dynamic and broad in its approach. The Fact-Finding and Reconciliation Commission should address the root causes of conflict in Libya.
- 5.** On truth-seeking, participants commented that there were three distinct phases to consider: (1) the period of the Qadhafi regime, from 1969 until 2011; (2) violations since the Revolution, from 15 February 2011 until the Liberation on 23 October 2011; and (3) violations since the Liberation.
- 6.** Civil society is a crucial partner in the transitional justice process in general and in truth-seeking in particular. Civil society organizations give direct support to victims and play an important role in monitoring abuses. The hukama can play a direct role in supporting the work of the Fact-Finding and Reconciliation Commission.
- 7.** Participants call on the Libyan authorities to display the political will necessary to pursue transitional justice in Libya. In particular, the Libyan government, with assistance from the United Nations, should seek urgently to: **a.** Improve security and create the conditions for truth-seeking; **b.** Improve the role of the media, which has the potential for broadening social dialogue and should be encouraged to play a more positive role; **c.** Assist in developing the performance, capacity and independence of the judiciary; **d.** Immediately resolve the issue of detainees currently held outside the scope of the law, screen them and release those against whom there is no sufficient evidence, and try those who bear the greatest responsibility for crimes committed by the former regime; and **e.** Create the conditions for return of the displaced persons.
- 8.** All victims, including families of missing persons such as the Families of Abu Salim, should not be expected to reconcile without their rights being recognized. This includes their right to truth, justice, reparations, and institutional reform. The following categories of victims should be included: **a.** Missing persons; **b.** Families of those murdered or killed; **c.** Former political prisoners; **d.** Current detainees; **e.** Victims of torture; **f.** Victims of sexual violence; **g.** Those who suffered disabilities from injury; **h.** Displaced; and **i.** Victims of systematic discrimination.
- 9.** In Libya the concept of reparations for crimes of the past needs additional study and consideration. Reparations should comprise restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, victim satisfaction, and non-repetition. Victims should be consulted on reparations measures.
- 10.** Libya will also need to deal with perpetrators through measures in addition to criminal justice. Those who committed violations in the past should be excluded from the security sector or from other public institutions, but criteria for their exclusion should be based on their conduct rather than their affiliation, and in ways that respect their rights to due process. Criteria should include both corruption and human rights violations.
- 11.** The new TJ law should be put to a comprehensive dialogue and people ought to be informed of its goals and purposes. This consultation is also important for managing public expectations. The conference recognized the need for more dialogue between the different stakeholders in the reconciliation process, and participants called upon the United Nations to assist in such dialogue.

Human Rights Training Workshop for National Human Rights CSOs and Activists

has been an initiative launched by few Human Rights CSOs to synergizing the efforts of Human Rights groups and activists, & aiming at establishing a common platform to coordinate their work, and unify their efforts, some were calling for establishing a “National Coalition for Human Rights”, but this is still at its early stages.

In close collaboration with UNSMIL, UNDP through its “Support to Civic Engagement (SCELT)” & “Transitional Governance” Projects aims at educating the Libyan civil society organizations for civic engagement

and the establishment and facilitation of national human rights networks. With this background, a Human rights training workshop for national Human Rights CSOs and activists has been organized in partnership with the National Council for Human Rights and Public Liberties with the aim to Increase knowledge and understanding on challenges & opportunities in human rights issues among the CSOs, build partnerships and facilitate establishment of active human rights networks to support synergized approach, and develop capacities for Human Rights Advocacy and monitoring to undertake in the future actions such as Build a strategy for national CSOs to monitor human rights status and violation, and support scaling up and dissemination of knowledge acquired during the workshop form nucleus of trained CSOs and activists for further advocacy and capacity building processes.

The training took place at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Tripoli, from 10 to 15 of November 2012, the opening ceremony witnessed high profile participation which included the Libyan Human Rights Council, the deputy of the council, UNDP country director, & the representative of the Arab rights

organization. Speakers have emphasized the importance of increasing the basic knowledge on Human Rights among the civil society through similar events, and the need for the human rights CSOs to have a more coordinated approach to improve their capacity on monitoring and advocacy for human rights. The participants came from more than 8 different cities, and represented several Human rights CSOs, among them and the most inspiring participants were the Human Rights Activists from the Tawrgha IDP camp, who were very happy not only to participate and gain knowledge, but also to discuss and present their needs and living conditions in their internal exile.



Workshop participants (photo: UNDP)

Support to Civic Engagement in Libya’s Transition (SCELT)

The UNDP SCELT [Supporting Civic Engagement in Libya’s Transition] project provides technical assistance to the Government of Libya’s in an effort to strengthen the capacity of civil society for civic education, engagement and democratic dialogue nationally. The project outcome is that Libyans participate meaningfully in the electoral & constitutional processes of the transition with an overall project output being that Libyan citizens, and in particular youth & women, benefit from a number of initiatives carried out by civil society & public institutions, to increase their understanding of and involvement in the democratic transition process. The project has four outputs which are respectively aiming at:

Strengthening Libyan civil society in terms of capacities to nurture civic engagement In addition Libyan civil society is strengthening through support in planning of civic education campaigns by national actors, development of local capacity to produce media products for raising civic awareness, and training and better equipping of religious leaders to disseminate information on elections & civic participation.



Participants of the second BRIDGE Train the Facilitators Workshop in October 2012 (photo: UNDP)

Facilitating youth civic engagement through among others certification of civic education instructors, production of reference and dissemination material and civic education courses at university level throughout the country. In addition youth is encouraged to engage through creating online training courses, especially for women, and organizing student model parliaments and constituents assemblies, to educate and raise awareness in relevant civic functions.

Promoting increased women’s participation in the democratic transition through supporting the establishment of an

NGO working group on women’s participation, and organizing national consultations on the role of women in the transition process.

Establishment of national capacity to undertake public consultations through assisting the GNC members in conducting national consultations.

Challenges

It is essential that UNDP and the SCEL T project are able to identify and partner with national CSOs during the transition phase. This can be challenging as many of the new Libyan CSOs which have emerged since the revolution need support and capacity development to help them manage projects and activities which will benefit local people. This takes time which can be frustrating for the organizations involved and for the communities with whom they work. An additional challenge is the absence of security at local level which can

make it difficult for local organizations to host events and workshops.

Critical Enablers

Working with these challenges there are increasingly encouraging results, arising from the great enthusiasm and dynamism among the participants of the different CSO development, awareness raising and capacity development initiatives, especially among the new team of over 50 accredited civic education facilitators, who will, in 2013, together develop their own Community of Practice with support from SCEL T.

Practice with support from SCEL T.

In addition to the above, another critical enabler of the success is UNDP's access to international knowledge and practice / experience based networks, including BRIDGE. Such networks have proven their ability to share valuable experience and lessons learned, particularly from the region. In 2013, SCEL T will aim to connect this Community of Practice with other regional practitioner groups such as the Network of Democrats in the Arab World (NDAW).

SCEL T RESULTS 4TH QUARTER 2012**BRIDGE TRAINING**

The BRIDGE Training program [TCEI-2] Continued from Quarter 3 and it is built on TCEI-1 by including 6 of the previous cohort of instructors as co-trainers on TCEI-2. 28 participants completed TCEI 2 and delivered 7 workshops in various locations [including Tripoli, Zawya, Beida, Obari and Sabha] across Libya in the last quarter of 2012. This gives a total of 51 Civic Education Instructors accredited in 2012 who have now developed their own support network and Facebook page. SCEL T expects to further support their development as a Network in 2013

SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1325

UNDP together with the Libyan International women organization (LIWO) supported the global "16 days campaign on violence against women", a series of events which took place from 25th Nov. to 10th December 2012. Publicity materials were produced for this campaign and a public Survey was conducted by participating CSOs. The aim was to increase in public awareness of violence against women. It is expected that the survey results by the 10 participating CSOs will provide a report with recommendations.

SUPPORT CIVIL SOCIETY CAPACITY AND EFFORTS TO ADVANCE THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE TRANSITION PROCESS

A 3-day lessons learned conference on the role of women in elections process - lessons learned and challenges for women candidates was jointly organized by the SCEL T project in partnership with the National Democratic Institute (NDI). Additional support for the conference was provided by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the United Kingdom's Foreign and Commonwealth Office. This Workshop targeted 50 participants and in addition to facilitating discussion among women CSO reps and elected and non-elected candidates, it resulted in an agreement by participants to establish a coordination group on Women Participation in Political Processes, [WPPP] which would be responsible for implementing an action plan to promote the recommendations among various key stakeholder groups. A report on the Workshop is expected shortly.

Capacity Strengthening Initiative (CSI)

The Capacity Strengthening Initiative (CSI) was designed to avail local, regional and international expertise and technical assistance to national counterparts with the objective of strengthening the national government's capacities and institutional development for improved public service delivery at the national and local level. The program works in partnership with the Ministry of Planning (MoP), and provides support to the line ministries to develop capacities in strategic planning, policy formulation, improved inter-ministerial and international coordination as well as support the institutional development of

the relevant counterparts. Within the framework of the Initiative, the partnership between UNDP and the Libyan government focuses specifically on enhancing the capacities of the line ministries in core functions of the government. The overall goal is to ensure efficient and effective delivery of services, and to support the government's efforts to deliver sustainable economic growth, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), whilst working on establishing the foundations of sound institutions, based on good governance and responsive to the needs of the Libyans.

Future Support

- Ensuring that we institutionalize our work (i.e., all seminars will evolve into training modules in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning/ Institute of Planning.
- Supporting the Ministry of Planning in the development and monitoring of national development plans.
- Supporting the Ministry of Planning in developing a proposal for a national policy of Technical Support and formalization of relations with the international development agencies operating in Libya.

In spite of the mentioned challenges there are considerable achievements. At the heart of these lie the close collaboration with the Ministry of Planning. Their continuous engagement hard work is testament to the commitment to build the Government's human and institutional capacities so as to accelerate the government's response to people's needs. Through UNDP's regional and international knowledge networks, in particular on transitional governance and public administration reform, the Initiative is able to access and draw upon valuable experiences and lessons learned. In this regard UNDP is ready to exhaust all possibilities to enrich the process of capacity strengthening with relevant expertise.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Support** to the Ministry of Planning through the rapid deployment of international advisors
- **Advice** on preparation of National Development Plan including Sectoral planning
- **Workshop** on Strategic Planning and Monitoring & Evaluation
- **Seminar** / via Skype on the "government plans delivery unit" at the center of government targeted the technical team of (the MOP) working on the "Libya Vision 2030".
- **Support and advice** to the Technical Cooperation Department, and assessment of international cooperation documents
- **Support** to the Department of Technical Cooperation, including the mission, organizational structure and staffing requirements.
- **Training seminar** on Concepts of Strategic Planning in cooperation with the Resident Cooperation Office / UNSMIL targeting the Ministry of Planning and the line ministries staff
- **Training seminar** on "Effective Technical Cooperation" (see next story)

CSI PROJECT - UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- **Scoping mission** on Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN)
- **Follow-up on Capacity Building support** to the Technical Cooperation Department (organizational structure, job description, training, and development of national technical support strategy)
- **A series of training seminars** for national staff of the Technical Cooperation Departments and that cover critical concepts and professional competencies in the area of technical cooperation / international relations.
- **Development of a national policy** for technical cooperation and coordination with international development organizations operating in Libya
- **Enhance capacity of the Planning Institute** – at the Ministry of Planning so as to develop and institutionalize high quality training modules on areas of strategic planning, policy formulation, project management, monitoring and evaluation etc.
- **Institutionalize the forum** of "Technical Cooperation Departments" in the line ministries.



Monitoring and Evaluation workshop Mar 2012 Tripoli. (photo: UNDP)

Supporting State Building Efforts of Libya: "Effective Technical Cooperation"

In cooperation with the Ministry of Planning (MoP), UNDP Libya (Capacity Strengthening Initiative) organized a high level seminar on "Supporting State Building Efforts of Libya: Effective Technical Cooperation" on the 12 – 13 of December 2012. The seminar was inaugurated by the Minister of Planning Dr. Mehdi Mughnia and the UNDP Country Director, Mr. Eric Overvest, who both reiterated the need to focus on strengthening the capacities of high level officials in all domains in general and in the field of technical cooperation in particular. Representatives of International Development agencies including UN agencies as well as bilateral cooperation agencies attended the seminar and took part in the discussions that took place during the meeting. International

speakers and government officials from the region also presented papers and country experience in organizing effective cooperation as well as inter-ministerial coordination. The seminar is the first in a series of awareness building and training activities targeted at the staff of the Technical Departments in the Ministry of Planning and the line ministries. Almost 80 people took part in the seminar including staff ministries.

The seminar sessions were highly interactive and participants concluded the two days with an inter-ministerial round-table discussion whereby several recommendations were made by the participants and that included:

1. The need for a national strategy for Technical Cooperation;
2. The need to enhance capacities of the Technical Cooperation staff in the line ministries;



Minister of Planning Dr. Mehdi Mughnia and the UNDP Country Director, Mr. Eric Overvest (photo: UNDP)

3. The need to institutionalize a knowledge and dialogue forum for all technical cooperation staff across the government.

New Laboratories and GIS Facilities Bring High-Tech to Support Next Generation of Environmental Management

Libya has undergone a serious political change during 2011, and is currently going under intensive political and institutional reforms. The Environment General Authority is part of this development and changes, and has a new set of responsibilities and priorities to look after during the upcoming few months/years. In light of this development, the Environment General Authority (EGA) has strengthened and developed further the requested partnership with UNDP to implement several initiatives that will assist EGA in protecting environment and preserving natural resources for the welfare of present and future generations.

As part of this cooperation, a launching of two state-of-the art facilities was held on Tuesday, 26th February 2013 at Environment General Authority showing the environmental laboratories and the geographic information system facilities. The two facilities serve as an example for joining hands for environmental protection and human development in Libya.

The launching was organized by the Environment General Authority (EGA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is part of the \$ 4.43 million project "Equipping the Laboratories of the Environment General Authority" which aimed to equip the laboratories of EGA in order to qualifying them to carry out monitoring functions,

and in addition performing inspection for pollutants. Furthermore, these laboratories are expected to be used in the inspection of the Country's imported goods to assure its adherence to the Libyan environmental specifications and standards. Through equipping the laboratories with proper checking apparatus, the project aims to strengthen the foundation of the monitoring system and also to contribute to effective environmental management. It also builds on the \$2.33 million project "Establishing of an Environmental Geographic Information System" which aimed to support the EGA in planning, designing, and implementation of an environmental geographic information system to better support EGA responsibilities, e.g. monitoring, assessing and responding to various environmental conditions and emergencies that occur in Libya.

The launching is a market testing for services of EGA that were created based on sustainable management of environmental resources. The launching is a start-up phase with the aim to improve the EGA chances of long-term, technical viability. Capacity Development, in particular, is an area of work often overlooked, yet it is critical to success and relatively expensive to achieve. These projects are therefore proposing to develop the needed human and technical capacity that will help to draw in more financial and technical support.

UNDP Country Director Mr. Overvest reiterated at the launching event that "a necessary requisite for the success of these endeavors is the removal of barriers to sustainability by developing a facilitative policy and legislative climate, and the necessary national capacity building and awareness-raising tied to it". To this end,



Cutting the ribbon: launch of the new laboratories (Photo: UNDP)

last year, and as part of UNDP –EGA cooperation, a capacity building project has been re-designed to complement some other projects addressing staff training and building data-base for environmental assessment and monitoring. The project intends to develop the needed capacity to the GIS and Laboratories teams to assist in making appropriate management decisions leading to sound environment management.

A tour in the new laboratories facilities and the geographic information system offices has been undertaken by the participants with detailed presentations made by the technical teams.

These initiatives will pave the way for all the efforts towards the protection and sustainable management of environmental resources in Libya.

The event was attended by more than 80 participants from different government ministries/authorities/organizations, private companies, non-governmental organizations, and the academic sectors.

Enhancing Capabilities of the National Meteorology Centre

The National Meteorology Centre (NMC) is quite aware of the vital role of technology in advancing meteorological science, which will enable it to address climate change that threatens human activities, and will assist it in protecting climate and biological diversity for the wellbeing of present and future generations.

To ensure its high standard functioning, a UNDP, WMO and NMC Project was established (LIB/2000/003) to equip the institution with up-to-date technologies and capacities to enable it to cope with the rapid scientific and technological advances in the field of meteorology.

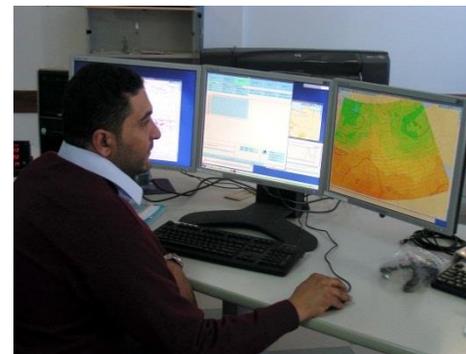
The project document (UNDP/WMO/NMC Project : LIB/2000/003) was signed in May 2000 by the three parties of the project: the Government of Libya, represented by the Communications & Transport sector, to which the NMC is affiliated; WMO and UNDP Libya. The project is entirely funded

by the Libyan Government with a total budget of USD 10,300,000. The project comprises 3 phases of which phases 1, 2 & 3/A were implemented (prior to the Revolution). The project has been restarted and phase 3/B is underway.

ENHANCING THE NMC: OUTCOMES

The main outcomes of the three phases of the project are as follows :

- Modernizing the NMC's telecommunication network
- Establishing an automatic data-processing system
- Upgrading and expanding the national network of observing stations by installing AWSs, ITWSs and DCPs in some areas in Libya.
- Enhancing weather forecasting through satellite ground receiving and imaging systems.
- Establishing a very modern and advanced system for managing climatic data.
- Establishing a NWP unit for short- and medium-range forecasts.
- Establishing a very modern and advanced system for serving end-users of meteorological data either by weather bulletins, satellite images or weather radar images.
- Building the capacity of the NMC staff in several areas such as telecommunication, data processing, automatic observation, climatology, NWP, etc.



Weather forecasting at the NMC (photo: UNDP)

Roundtable Discussion on Environment

On 13 December 2012 a round table discussion on environment and sustainable development took place with the overall aim of discussing the priorities and triggering a dialogue for better coordination and future collaboration. Participants in the round table discussion included concerned stakeholders: the Environment General Authority, the National Economic Development Board, the Ministry of Electricity and Renewable Energy, the General Electricity Company of Libya, the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Committee to Combat Desertification, and the Man Made River, and local environmental NGOs.

Challenges & Opportunities

From the roundtable discussions (and preparatory meetings held) and building on previous knowledge, it is clear that Libya is currently facing both difficult challenges and rich opportunities for sustainable development and integrated environmental management.

The environmental challenges are many: increasing desertification and deforestation, inadequate solid waste and waste water treatment, fragmented mechanisms for environmental

management and monitoring, limited water resources, and inadequate conservation of animal and plant biodiversity. Furthermore, Libya is quite vulnerable to climate change because of prevailing arid and semi-arid climate conditions, recurrent droughts, and over-dependence on rain-fed agriculture. In addition to specific environmental challenges, there remains the underlying need for security, political stability, and enforcement. Certain needs have also been also highlighted, namely: holistic water management, coordination and integration amongst governmental agencies, enabling environmental legislation, feasibility studies prior to project implementation, and technical support.

UNDP Potential Role

UNDP, with its results-oriented policies, successful experiences throughout the region and internationally, and its wealth of networks and expertise, stands ready to assist Libya in this transition towards sustainable and integrated environmental management. The Roundtable Discussion resulted to be a first step towards building an integrated environmental framework grounded in sustainable development. The meeting was very much appreciated by all the participants who considered it very useful and conducive to fruitful development and cooperation. Several

possible entry points where UNDP can offer support were identified, including:

Provision of support for the development of a Higher Council for Sustainable Development, an inter-ministerial agency, with input from academics and civil society, that would develop an integrated strategy for sustainable development encompassing environmental, social, and economic aspects of development and management; provide for facilitated discussion with decision-makers.

Provision of support for the General Electricity Company of Libya by integrating the specific issues of concern raised into a holistic plan from supply to demand. Assist the Environmental General Authority on: developing a strategy for biodiversity conservation; developing a National Communication Strategy on Climate Change; and on empowering protected areas management.

Provision of support for environmental non-governmental organizations by assisting in developing an inter coordination mechanism amongst themselves; capacity-building; and by sharing successful regional experiences; and finally **assistance in development and enforcement of environmental legislation**

In Other News

Newcomers

UNDP Libya has been joined by the following staff members:

- Mr. Noel Matthews, Chief Technical Advisor, SCLT
- Mr. Fahmi Abusahmain - Project Officer (Civic Education)
- Mr. Mohamed BenTaleb– Project Officer (Main Action)
- Ms. Intisar Elreigeg– Executive assistant to Country Director
- Ms. Kate Sullivan - chief technical advisor (Libya Electoral Assistance Project)
- Norul Rashid Project Manager (Rule of Law)
- Adam Styp-Rekowski Project Manager (Constitutional Dialog)

www.ly.undp.org

UNDP Libya has launched its revamped website.



The new UNDP Libya website: www.ly.undp.org



Hot air balloon with Libya flag during celebration of the 2nd anniversary of the Libyan revolution (Photo: UNDP)



Al-Noffieen; Near to Ben Othman School;
Abujaila Ben Taleb Str.;
Tripoli Libya P.O.Box
358 Tripoli Tel: + (218)
21 340 6493

Email:
registry.ly@undp.org
Fax: + (218) 21 340 6492

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