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UNDP Libya Newsletter March 2014



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This is the first newsletter of UNDP for the year covering January-March 2014.

It highlights some of the main activities and achievements during the last three months, in line with the Country Program- 2012-2014 that was agreed between the Government of Libya and UNDP. The Country Programme focus areas are:

Democratic transition: Under this focus area UNDP supports all electoral process including the constitution Drafting Assembly and municipal elections.

UNDP also supports the constitution making process, the General National Congress, civil society through civic education and the new initiative in human rights programme.

Governance: UNDP supports the capacity building of Ministries and Local administrations as well as Rule of Law and Justice.

We hope this newsletter will give you a snapshot of the activities of UNDP during the first quarter of 2014, in serving the population of Libya by supporting the democratic

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UNDP provides training to Candidates of Constitutional Drafting Assembly in Libya

On 1 February 2014, UNDP launched a series of one-day substantive briefings on Constitution Making for candidates who are registered for the elections for the Constitutional Drafting Assembly (CDA). The invitation was extended to all 650 candidates and after 7 intensive days of briefings, 60% of all candidates for the Constitutional Drafting Assembly attended the one-day briefing during the period 1-9 February. UNDP partnered with a number of constitutional experts from the Arab region as well as with the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). The workshop provided the CDA candidates with basic information on constitutional concepts

and on constitution-making processes. The four constitutional experts from the Arab region and the senior UNSMIL constitutional advisor facilitated the workshops and provided theoretical concepts on constitution, human rights and gender equality as well as examples and case studies from other countries of the region.

In the opening ceremony, Mr. Eric Overvest, UNDP Libya Country Director stated that this workshop is designed with a focus to provide the candidates with the principles of constitution making process. He further stated that the constitution is the framework of the social contract between Libya and its people, with the ultimate aim of providing political stability and social justice. The Country Director assured the continuous support of UNDP to Libya in its efforts towards democracy and stability.



CDA candidates in discussions



A CDA candidate in a discussion

The overall objective of organizing these workshops was to increase the knowledge of candidates of constitution making process and prepare them for their active role in the constitutional process, either as elected members or as civil society actors. In Libya, the political transition roadmap includes the setting up of a Constitution Drafting Assembly (CDA) with the task to present a draft constitution to referendum for approval.

Globally, the United Nations support to constitution-making processes is one component of support in many transition countries. The constitution-making covers both the process and topics that are addressed in a constitution itself as both the process and substance are critical for the success of constitution development and plays major role in peaceful power transformations.

In recent years, UNDP has been involved in a number of constitution-making processes in countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq. The United Nations supports various forms of assistance to constitution-making through advisory provisions on the process and expertise. The UNDP in cooperation with UN support mission in Libya also provides international best practices and promotes the basic principles of public participation, inclusiveness, representation, transparency and national ownership.

In Libya, UNDP specifically supports public outreach through by nurturing dialogue and civil society capacity

building initiatives. Most of the support is technical and advisory drawn from a wide range of expertise both within and outside the UN system to ensure access to international and comparative best practice and contextualize the best practices to the national situation.

With different motivations and various degrees of personal sacrifices, many Libyans are ready to contribute first hand to the constitution-making process. And the “Inclusive Constitution” training organized by UNDP is expected to have an impact beyond the circles of the Constitutional Drafting Assembly in the country.

Dr Ibtisam Ahmad is an academician from Benghazi University in faculty of law. She is also an activist in a civil society organization which works to build a platform and trust between a state and citizens. Her motivation to run for the 60-member was



Dr Ibtisam during the workshop

that she considers constitution drafting as one of the post-revolution national

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UNDP supports the nationwide election in Libya

UNDP supported nationwide election for constitution drafting assembly that was conducted on February 20, 2014. The United Nation’s support to elections in Libya is provided in accordance with the mandate contained in UN Security Council Resolution 2095/2013. The UN electoral assistance in Libya is also a collective effort comprising of the UN Support Mission in Libya and UNDP. Under this mandate, resources and expertise are combined in cooperation with international community and partners to support the electoral processes.

UNDP Libya’s support focuses on strengthening the state institutions both at legal and institutional capacities to conduct credible elections through the transitional period.



Former UNDP RR, Mr Charpentier visiting one of the poll station in Tripoli , UNSMIL/Abass

The Constitution Drafting Assembly elections were organized pursuant to the Interim Constitutional Declaration as amended by the General National Congress on election law 17/2013 declared on April 9, 2013 and UNDP’s support in elections is providing operational support to the High National Elections Commission through the procurement of electoral materials and day to day advisory support, capacity development and assisting the commission to consolidate and extend its capacity to conduct successive electoral events trough out the country.



UNDP procured electoral materials , photo by UNSMIL/Noor Tawil

Elections have been a vital part of democratic transitions and the implementation of peace agreements around the world. In this case, the United Nations has been playing a major role in providing international assistance through these important processes. The UN through its different entities including UNDP has assisted elections worldwide and increasingly focuses its electoral efforts today on providing technical assistance to help Member States build credible and sustainable national electoral systems. Reports indicate that since 1991, more than 100 countries have received UN election assistance. To date elections are being seen an integral part of democratization and contributes in the economic and political stability of coun-



Ballots waiting to be counted, Photo by UNSMIL/Abass

Civic education in support of building democracy

History and experience in democracy tells us that citizen participation in a democratic society must be based on critical reflection and on the understanding and acceptance of the rights and responsibilities. Civil society are part and parcel of the process and should be informed and be involved as an essential pillar of democratic society.

Democratic Government means that citizens are actively involved and empowered to play their role in the governance of their country. They do not just passively accept the dictums of others or acquiesce to the demands of others. In other words, the ideals of democracy are most completely realized when every member of the political community shares in its governance. In order to increase the knowledge of democracy and governance, UNDP launched the “Support to Civic Engagement in Libya’s Transition” (SCELT) project in January 2012. The project works in coordination with its various partner Line Ministries– Ministry of Planning, Culture & Civil Society, Higher Education and Al Awqaf, (religious affairs). UNDP aims to facilitate and support Libyans in particular youth, women and marginalized sects of the society to become active participants in the transition to democracy.

Internally, UNDP Libya has been coordinating its various projects to effectively reach the civil society and citizens in providing civic education programmes. UNDP also partners with United Nations Electoral Support Team to organize several trainings for facilitators on women’s political participation. The training and skills building training workshops are still ongoing in 2014. These programmes have enabled the beneficiaries to run civic education and structured dialogue workshops during the constitution development process in several locations throughout the country.

Following the Civil Society assessment funded by the European Union in Sabha, UNDP and UNICEF expanded the scoping and assessment of civil society actors in different other cities such as Benghazi, Tripoli and Misrata. The assessment was completed in the first quarter of 2014, and has provided a more detailed overview of active civil society in various sectors, their activities so far, their internal organization and current management. In short, Since 2012 UNDP has been working in four areas of civic education targeting four outputs The first area is



strengthening the capacity of civil society for civic education so that they play a role in facilitating civic engagement and voice, preparing citizens for transitional constitution building processes. Secondly, it works to enable the young people to participate in the transformation process as many of them may have expectations of rapid transformation of the country and expect immediate improvements in political and economic inclusion. Thus, the participation of the youth is important to the transition process. Another area of support that UNDP provides is advocating for women’s equal participation in the transition period. This is essential to build on the active role that women played as activists in the revolution, and now as peace-builders, politicians and activists. Finally, UNDP also works to develop a culture of dialogue among the Libyans. Developing and modelling participatory dialogue processes is a path to reach to a national consensus.

Moreover, media is also targeted in UNDP’s support to civic education. UNDP has provided capacity building support to CSOs on the use of media products for Civic Engagement. This aimed at developing knowledge and skills on the role of media in promoting civic knowledge. So far, 35 Civil Society Organizations and Media were trained through the civic education programme and are now able to use a wide variety of media as a means of civic information and engagement.

UNDP supports local municipalities in building capacities



UNDP has been providing several training to local municipalities during the first quarter of 2014. The skills building training targeted six municipalities and was carried out at National Institute of Management in Libya. Currently, six cities namely Sebha, Tripoli (two areas), Benghazi and Zwara are among those cities taking part in this first batch of the training. The training covers eight topics including human resources management, archiving, communication skills, accounting in public sector, functional legislation and local governance policy and reporting. During the training 100 staff of the six municipalities are participating in the training. This training is part of the 6 months work plan that UNDP and the Ministry of Local Government have agreed upon to capacitate municipalities with the required skills with an objective of providing better services to citizens.

Moreover, to deepen the concepts and understanding of decentralization and local governance issues in a



democratic state, UNDP provided technical support to the Decentralization workshops organized by UNSMIL in Tripoli and Benghazi from 29 January to 2 February, 2014. The workshop was organized in partnership with the local councils of Benghazi and Tripoli. Constitutional experts from South Africa, Tunisia, and United States of America shared various relevant themes on concepts of decentralization in constitution. The workshop was attended by members of the Local Councils, candidates of the Constitutional Drafting Assembly, Human rights activists and Civil Society Or-



Participants of the training

ganizations.

How is good governance achieved in states that are in transition? Researches indicate that although elections are an essential component in a democratic transition, a successful strategy for effective governance must also include a central government that is seen as legitimate in the eyes of the people a written constitution, a strengthened justice system and an engaged civil society. In this regard, UNDP Libya's intervention responds to the aspiration of Libyans in the establishment of democratic governance. It supports initiatives that improve efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, accountability and equity in delivering public services to Libyans.

UNDP helps in building the capacity of justice systems



Partial view of the round table discussion participants

As part of its continuous support to strengthen the justice sector in Libya, UNDP in cooperation with the High Judicial Institute of Libya organizes a two-day roundtable discussion (from March 29 -30/2014) on judicial capacity building. The discussion focuses on identifying the challenges and the needs of the Institute related to judicial capacity building. The roundtable discussion, which brought together experts from Libya, Czech Republic, Italy, UNDP and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) aimed at contributing to the larger goal of a Libyan judiciary to more efficiently serve the public. Participants have discussed best practices in judicial capacity building and has concluded that capacitating the high judiciary institution is a crucial process of developing justice system in Libya.

During the opening of the meeting, Mr Ali Bakar, Director of the High Judicial Institute of Libya, stated that Libya is at cross roads towards establishing a democratic state that all Libyans have been dreaming for decades to realize it and this discussion is important for justice sector of Libya and it occurs in a very important point of time. Members from High Judicial Institute and High Judicial Council of Libya have participated in the discussions. Moreover, experts from Italy, Check republic and Tunisia shared substantive experiences from their respective countries.

Representing the UN Development Programme in Libya, Mr. Aly Saad Almukhtar UNDP's rule of law project

specialist said during the opening ceremony that post-revolution Libya is experiencing unprecedented reforms in its justice system towards the independence of the judiciary at all levels of institutions. To build independent and impartial judiciary, it is imperative to establish and strengthen the independence of the justice system, added Mr. Aly.

In Libya the conflict had a weakening effect on the rule of law architecture and justice system of the country. Following the end of the conflict, the United Nations in Libya have been closely collaborating with the Government of Libya and civil society, in order to develop a strong partnership in support of capacity building for strengthened rule of law. One of the UNDP's intervention is to ensure that progress is achieved in strengthening rule of law institutions in Libya during the transition period by providing training and organizing study tours to different countries.

One of the major support that is being provided to justice sector is building the capacities of institutions such as courts, justice ministry, the institutions of the judiciary and the police to become more transparent, accountable and respectful of human rights, so the government can re-establish state authority.

In this regard, UNDP organized a study tour for High Judicial Council from 16- 26 March 2014. The tour



Participants of the study tour organized by UNDP

created an opportunity for Libyans to gain more experience from international expertise and experiences. It also provided an opportunity for the participants to become

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Strengthening the role of civil societies in Human Rights

more

The United Nations Development programme in Libya (UNDP) in partnership with United Nations Support mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and in cooperation with the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human Rights (NCCLHR) organized a four-day human rights training workshop from 16-20th of March 2014 for Civil Society organizations working in human rights areas.

Civil society is a complex arena. It spans from low-key community activities (sports clubs, groups) to large NGOs that provide key services to high-profile advocacy organizations that speak out on certain issues such as human rights. In post revolution Libya, a number of civil society organizations have flourished, however, many of them need to be



Representatives of CSOs in human rights workshop organized by UNDP

supported in capacity at all levels.

The workshop objective was to strengthen and develop the capacity of Civil society organization in order to enable the CSOs to promote human rights advocacy and monitoring role for future in Libya. The workshop which is being held in Haroon Hotel in Tripoli provided the participants with substantive knowledge and understanding of human rights. The participants identified the challenges related to human rights that Libya is currently experiencing in its transition period.

During the opening ceremony, Mr Waleed Kaawan, General Secretary of the NCCLHR announced the full support of capacity development initiatives for civil society organizations. He further underlined that the civil society should be



fully equipped to promote human rights in the efforts to build rule of law and democratic state.

Representing UNDP, Mr Ali Almontasser, said that the participation of the civil society organizations in drafting constitution is crucial for a legitimate process entailing inclusiveness, genuine public participation and national ownership. " Today, it is an important occasion which we take stock of the progress, we are making in our efforts to promote, develop and protect human rights in Libya since the dawn of democracy in 2011", highlighted Mr Ali.

On March 31, 2014, as a follow up to the ongoing activities to promote human rights and come up with strategic plan of action on human rights, UNDP and the NCCLHR organized a seminar followed by a round table discussion. During the round table discussions, members of the human rights committee of the General National Congress , NCCLHR and Civil society organizations have participated.

On the foundational foundations of the Paris Principles, the participants discussed the role of national human rights institutions with international bodies including the International Coordinating Committee, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the accreditation process by the International Coordinating Committee. Moreover, to insure the sustainability of the process, the participants emphasized the importance of coordination amongst national and international stakeholders.

Continued from page 6 Building the capacity of justice...

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acquainted with the organization, management and functions of the court systems in Italy and Netherlands.

Rule of law and justice are major contributing factors for peace and stability in a transition country. When countries fail to establish the rule of law, justice and security after a crisis, stability can disappear while the delivery of basic social services suffer. A breakdown in the rule of law may exacerbate or cause conflict and fuel criminality, impunity and insecurity. A recent United Nations report on crises indicates that about 1.5 billion people around the world live in places affected by conflict or crisis. Re-establishing justice and security in those affected areas are critical for building confidence between individuals, between communities, and between the State and society. In crisis affected countries, UNDP's role is to support the restoration of the rule of law, promoting dialogue and helping communities to deal with the legacy of conflict; giving people, especially vulnerable groups, women, access to justice.



Partial view of the participants of the round table discussions

achievement towards democratic process. "I am motivated by the transition processes in the country and it is an achievement in post revolution Libya" she says in an interview conducted via telephone from Bangazi hoping that the future constitution of Libya will be inclusive and accommodates the aspirations of women in particular and all Libyans in general.

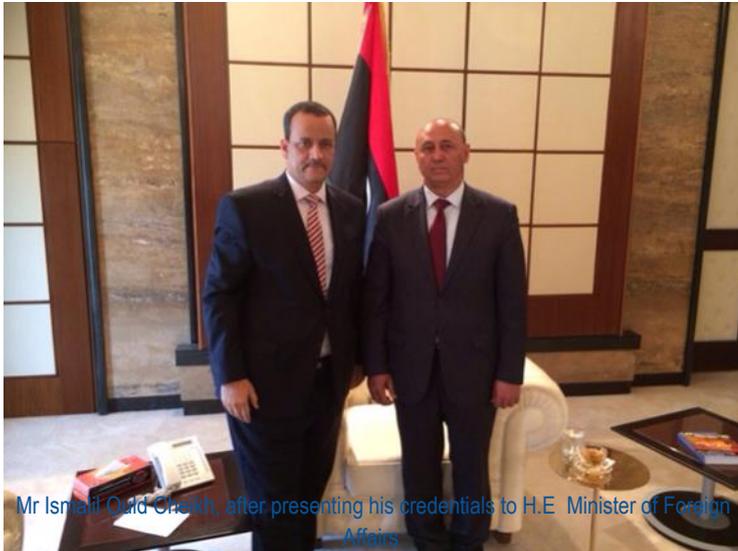
She participated in the constitution making processes training to expand her knowledge on constitution making and she is now one of the successful candidates who secured the votes for CDA seats. Dr Ibtisam was joined in Tripoli by 365 other candidates for a series of "Inclusive Constitution" training workshops organized by the UNDP in Libya in partnership with the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) from February 1-9, 2014. These workshops were part of the UN's continued efforts to support Libya and provide technical support in the country's democratic transition. Already the country has conducted nationwide elec-



tion on February 20, 2014 to elect 60 members of the constitution drafting assembly. As part of its interventions in the transition to democracy in constitution making processes in Libya, UNDP also initiated support through various activities- awareness raising, dialogues, round table discussions with civil society and academic community.

News from the Country Office

The UN Secretary General’s Deputy Special Representative presents his credentials to Libyan Government



Mr Ismail Ould Cheikh, after presenting his credentials to H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs

The newly appointed Deputy Special Representative (DSRSG) and Deputy Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the UN Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Development Programme’s Resident Representative Mr Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed presents his credentials to Libyan Government. The copy figuré of the letter sent from the UN Secretary General Mr. Ban-Ki Moon was presented March 18, 2014 by Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed to His Excellency Mr Mohammed Abdul-Aziz, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International cooperation of Libya.

Up on arrival to UNDP Country Office, Mr Ould Cheikh Ahmed accompanied by the Country Director, Eric Overvest and Amin Al Sharkawi, Deputy Country Director met staff to get first-hand information on the ongoing activities of UNDP. In his meeting, he briefed the staff on the new UNDP’s strategic planning 2014-2017 and discussed in detail the ongoing UNDP Libya programmes. Mr, Ould Chiek Ahmed stated that in addition to the current UNDP’s focus areas, the new strategic planning of UNDP will focus on youth and women who are the drive of change in the region. “UNDP Libya CO will work to realign its programmes to the new strategy according to the context of the country” further underlined the Mr Ould Check Ahmed.



UNDP staff in a meeting with management



From right Mr. Eric Overvest, Mr Ismail Ould Cheikh, Amin Sharkawi, the Resident Rep of UNDP, Country Director and Deputy Country Director respectively

Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed brings with him more than 27 years of experience with the United Nations in development and humanitarian assistance in Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Most recently, he served as the United Nations Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in Syria (2008-2012) and Yemen (2012-2014).

He also served in several positions with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) including as Director of Change Management in New York, Deputy Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa in Nairobi and Representative in Georgia.

Commemoration of International Day for Women in Libya



The United Nations Development programme in cooperation with United Nations Support Mission in Libya and the Libyan Women Forum marked the International Day for Women on March 8, 2014. This year's International Women's Day theme "Equality for Women is Progress for all. No country will reach its full potential if its female citizens do not enjoy full equality" said this year's UNDP's administrator's message.

contribute in building their nations by making their voices heard. "We honour in this day, all Libyan women who participated in the revolution that made them stronger and more determined to lead Libya through a path of prosperity, security, and peace" further highlighted the message of the SRSG.

In Libya, the Day was marked at Corinthia hotel in Tripoli. Representatives of women CSOs and women activists presented papers related to gender equality and rights of women. The role and history of women in Islam, status of women between legislation and implementation of law and their political participation and demands of women in the upcoming constitution of Libya were discussed by the participants.

The International Women's Day is a time to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in revolutions, and continue to



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