

UNDP Libya

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UNDP's Focus area in Libya

This is the second quarter of UNDP newsletter covering April-June, 2014.

It highlights some of the main activities and achievements during the last three months, in line with the Country Program Document (CPD) 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 Organizations through civic education and the new initiative in human rights programme.

Governance:

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

Environment:

UNDP works closely with Environment General Authority (EGA) of Libya with environment and climate change related programmes.

We hope this newsletter will give you a snapshot of the activities of UNDP during the second quarter of 2014, in serving the people of Libya by supporting the democratic transition.

UNDP's Electoral Support: Council of Representatives Election



Mr. Ismail Ould Chaik Ahamed, delivering speech

With their expectations for bright future of the country, Libyans headed to the polls on Wednesday 25 June 2014 to elect members of a new Parliament, in a vote seen as a critical step in a democratic transition, despite intensifying conflict and political instability throughout the country. Since the revolution in 2011, Libya has conducted three national elections, the General National Congress in 2012, the Constitution Drafting Assembly in February 2014 and the recent election on Council of Representatives that took place on June 25, 2014.

The High National Election Commission (HNEC) launched officially the polling phase for electing new members of the Council of Representatives on June 16, 2014. With the presence of Senior Government Officials, Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and UNDP Resident Representative, Diplomatic Community and invited guests, the Chairman of the HNEC announced the official polling phase which began outside of the country by Libyans in diaspora.

Message from the Country Director



The new UNDP Country Director, Selva Ramachandran

This newsletter is a periodic publication of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Libya. It provides the readers with up-to-date information on UNDP assisted programmes in Libya.

UNDP in Libya hopes that the newsletter will be a useful tool for sharing knowledge, promoting wider public access, stimulating debate about development issues in Libya. Libya is at cross roads in transition to state building and democracy. I congratulate the People and Government of Libya on the election of the House of Representatives. The election marks an important step in moving the transition process forward.

I want to reiterate the commitment of the United Nations Development Programme to work closely with the Government and people of Libya in furthering the aspirations of the Libyan people to build a state based on democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

The goal of the UNDP in Libya is to provide quality advisory services, share best practices and support government efforts to build capacity to address development challenges related to Constitutional development processes, elections, civic engagement, rule of law, capacity, human rights, environment and gender in the context of the UNDP and Government of Libya's Country Programme Document (CPD) that was endorsed in September 2012.

We very much looking forward to receiving your feedback and encourage you to contribute to the newsletter regularly as we work to expand and improve this publication from time to time.

Selva Ramachandran, Country Director

In his opening remarks Dr. Imad Asayeh, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the HNEC said that we should respect ballot results as it is the only option for all at this critical time of transition. " We waited long to reach to this important day, thanks to the efforts of those who seek peace and stability of Libya and this will form peaceful transfer of power and enhances democratic institutions of the state" underlined the Chairman.

Representing the United Nations in Libya, the Deputy Special Representative of the UN secretary General and UNDP Resident Representative Mr Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said, "going to the polls is always an important endeavor requiring substantial work, but in the view of the UN this election is particularly important as it comes at a pivotal time for Libya. It was over three years ago that the revolution started and the transition has taken longer than expected", he underlined. Mr Ismail announced the UN's continuous support in accordance with the mandate set out by the UN Security Council.

Comparing the current number of voters with the election for Constitutional Drafting Assembly that took place in February 2014, number has increased by 400 thousand individuals. According to HNEC, about 1714 candidates, of which 152 of women had run 200 seats with 30 seats allocated for women. Nationwide about 1.5 million Libyans were registered to vote for Council of Representatives election.

During the elections on June 25, 2014, Mr Selva Ramachandran, UNDP Country Director and Mr Amin Sharkawi, Deputy Country Director visited two polling



Country Director and Deputy Country Director visiting a polling station

ject and Support to Civic Engagement in Libya's Transition which involves working with various counterparts, donor community and civil society organizations among areas of support that UNDP in Libya has been providing since 2011 revolution.

stations-Nofien and Bu-Selim areas in the capital, Tripoli.

At the technical level, the UN Electoral support team comprising of UNDP and UN support mission in Libya provides a day-to-day advice on electoral issues. Through the UN Development Programme, the UN assists in the procurement of electoral materials such as ballots and indelible inks.

UNDP is supporting the transitions in general and the election process in particular through its various interventions. Electoral Assistance Pro-

Facts:

Women parliament seats in (%) in Libya

- 1. *Constitutional Drafting Assembly:* 10%
- 2. *General National Congress:* 16%
- 3. *Council of Representatives:* 16%

Elections:

Since revolution in 2011, Libya has conducted three national elections :

<i>General National Congress</i>	<i>Year 2012</i>
<i>Constitutional Drafting Assembly</i>	<i>Year 2014</i>
<i>Council of Representatives</i>	<i>Year 2014</i>



A Libyan citizen casting his vote for Council of Representatives



For further information please visit us at
www.ly.undp.org, www.facebook.com/undp.ly

Women and Elections in Libya



Mr Sharkawi, Deputy Country Director, making remarks during women candidates workshop, June 21, 2014

To provide Women leaders with capacities and tools to participate in political processes, UNDP conducted a 3-day training workshop from 21 to 23 June, 2014 for women electoral candidates running for election to the Council of Representatives. The training equipped the candidates with knowledge and skills around parliamentary processes, civil society and campaigning strategies. About 57 women candidates attended the workshop over 3 days who came to Tripoli from all over Libya including cities such as Murzuq, Sebha, Ajdabiya, Benghazi, Misrata and Gharyan.

During the opening ceremony of the workshop, UNDP Deputy Country Director, Mr. Amin Sharkawi stated that UNDP supports women in Libya

in general and candidates in particular as the role they play is crucial for state building efforts. The prospective women parliamentarians are expected to play major role in Libya's transition. "Women's role is not only to guarantee the rights of women but also to work for the rights of all citizens including children, women and the rights of all citizens in education, health and equal citizen participation", further highlighted Mr Sharkawi.

The candidates had the opportunity to learn and discuss about different aspects of parliamentary work and the relationship of the parliament with Civil Society. In addition, the workshop provided civic education on basic principles of parliamentary processes and structure as well as discussion around the role of quotas for women in parliament. Moreover, the training provided the candidates with a space to network and exchange experiences on their campaigns and experiences in the run up to the elections. During the campaigning skills session they had the chance to assess and evaluate the quality of their own campaigns from the participants and the campaigning experts.

Trainers and experts from the Arab region facilitated the workshop. The programme was supported by Government of Sweden.



Women candidates in a training workshop organized by UNDP

On time arrival of electoral material

Almost 10 days before the elections, UNDP delivered ballot papers, registration books and other electoral materials which arrived at Tripoli International Airport on 14th of June 2014. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) Country Director, Selva Ramachandran, and Abubaker Mohammed Marda, member of Libya's High National Elections Commission were on hand at the airport to receive the shipment.



UNDP Country Director delivering electoral materials to HNEC

UNDP has facilitated the procurement process using funds provided by the Government of Libya, as part of UN's support for Libya's transition period. "We are very proud to support the electoral processes," Mr. Ramachandran said during the airport handing over ceremony. "Our support to Libya in its efforts to build state institutions will continue not only in elections but in many areas," he added.

Electoral assistance provided by the United Nations is supported by Libya, Australia, Denmark, the European Union, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.



Arrival of electoral materials at Tripoli Airport

United Nations electoral assistance is undertaken in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2144/ (2014), delivered by an integrated team that brings together resources from the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and UNDP. Assistance is provided in several areas, including operational support to electoral processes, technical assistance to electoral authorities through provision of expert advisors and efforts to promote knowledge and awareness of electoral issues amongst a variety of Libyan stakeholders.



UNDP staff casting his vote

Empowerment of women



Supporting women's participation in transitions to democracy

In the context of advocating for women's aspirations and rights in post revolution Libya, UNDP remains engaged in supporting women through various interventions during the transition. To make sure that the voice of women are heard and accommodated in the new constitution, UNDP organized round table discussions on "Women's Demands in the Constitution" The round table discussion is expected to continue and come up with a draft on the demands of women for further discussions through a number of local consultation workshops. The final draft will be presented at a national consultative conference involving a broad spectrum of national women's representatives as well as members of the Constitution Drafting Assembly.

Moreover, to identify women's perception on peace and security in the transition period of the country, UNDP

sponsored a second phase baseline study on women, peace and security which has been completed recently. The research was done to build on phase one of the baseline study which gave an insight on women's perceptions, Peace and Security in Libya. The second phase which focuses on men's perception of women on peace and security has been conducted during March to June 2014 and the draft report was presented to a validation group on 26, June 2014. After validating the report, a comparative analysis of the two studies (phase one and two) will be developed to make it ready for publication and dissemination to relevant partners and stakeholders, Civil Society Organizations and development agencies to tackle the main issues identified and improve future programming in this area.

Civic engagement in democratic transition

Working on the development of Libyan civil society capacities to nurture civic engagement, UNDP has supported the creation of an enabling environment for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) through the development of research & technical papers on the 5th draft of the Law on Associations in order to support CSOs to understand the law and its implications. UNDP also completed a national mapping of CSOs in Libya in partnership with UNICEF, aiming to provide all development partners with a better profile and understanding of the capacities and different needs of civil society across the country.

In order to increase civic knowledge across the country, UNDP between March to June 2014 through its Civic Education Grant Fund has developed the capacity and funded Libyan CSOs to deliver civic education on the constitutional development process and to increase civic knowledge across the country, in advance of the June 25th parliamentary elections. Grants have been provided to 18 CSOs. In addition, and in advance of the Council of Representatives election that took place on June 25, 2014, UNDP provided a learning programme for 55 women Parliamentary candidates on campaigning and the role of parliament in working with civil society in order to increase understanding of democratic participation & accountability.



Representatives of Civil Society organizations in a discussion on constitution making processes

Supporting wider participation in constitution making process

In an effort to help the Libyan people to participate in the constitution-making process, UNDP is actively engaged in supporting civic education and public outreach on constitutional issues.

Further to the establishment of the Constitution Drafting Assembly and to help the people participate in the constitution-making process, UNDP convened a new Constitutional Public Participation Coordination sub-group. This coordination mechanism provides a coordination platform for donors, diplomatic communities, international organizations as well as national and international NGOs working in various areas of support to public participation including: outreach, awareness, civic education, media and monitoring of the process. The sub-group reports to United Nations Support Mission in Libya constitutional international coordination meeting that serves as the primary coordination and information-sharing mechanism for international partners on the constitution-process.

Furthermore, UNDP is working with BBC Media Action on preparations for launching in August 2014 a multi-media constitution campaign. The campaign's key message will be "participation makes a difference" and to this end the UNDP-BBC Media Action project seeks to build media capacity to facilitate an open dialogue between the Constitution Drafting Assembly and the people in addressing key issues related to the new constitution. In the course of the campaign TV and radio debates, documentaries, interviews and print material will be produced. In addition to that the project will train Libyan journalist on reporting on constitution-making.

To further support the capacity development of the civil society active in the constitution-making process, UNDP Libya, through Civic Education Grant Fund, supports 19 Libyan CSOs in their efforts to educate the public on constitution, democracy and good governance, foster civic engagement, human rights, rule of law and ensure a participatory constitutional process. The CSO projects will develop civil society recommendations, which will inform the Constitution Drafting Assembly.

Lastly, jointly with UNSMIL, UNDP has provided constitutional resource materials to the CDA members and Secretariat to support the CDA with concepts on constitution-drafting process.