The Conflict-Sensitive Assistance in Libya (CSA) forum, co-hosted by UNDP Libya and the Swiss Embassy to Libya and facilitated by the Peaceful Change Initiative (PCI), met for its 20th meeting on 27th April 2017 at the Acropole Hotel in Tunis. The meeting, held under Chatham House Rules, was attended by 29 persons from 20 different organisations.

The meeting included:

- An overview of the CSA process and its various components;
- Update of the shared conflict analysis, reflection on the interaction between the context and international programming; and generating recommendations on how to respond to the changes in the context in order to make programming more conflict-sensitive;
- Assessing the implications of social media in Libya on Conflict-Sensitive Assistance.

### Overview of the CSA process

A short presentation (attached) provided basic information on the concept of Conflict-Sensitive Assistance as well as the background to the CSA process.

### Joint Analysis and Reflection

The participants reviewed and updated many of the 30 Key Factors that constitute the framework for the joint context analysis sessions. The following analysis and recommendations (highlighted in bold) emerged from the discussions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Impact &amp; Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Currency Crisis</td>
<td>Worsening</td>
<td>The worsening cash crisis, particularly the valuation of the dinar, only increases the challenges faced by organisations in terms of cash management and delivery of assistance, including reducing efficiency (as organisations should use the official currency exchange rate) and delaying programming. The situation may differ quite dramatically by area. In particular, southern areas have less access to cash, which could contribute to growing disenchantment in a part of the country that is already historically marginalised. The situation is leading to a growing shadow economy, which in terms lends itself to unaccountable practices, such as off-the-books money transfers. Assistance providers, and the international community, led by UNSMIL, should clarify the operational approach and best-practice for cash management within Libya to ensure that cash transfers respond to the valuation issue in a conflict sensitive manner. Organisations should review whether assistance they provide has a direct impact on local markets, with a view to minimising any negative effects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Militia financing</td>
<td>Neither improving nor worsening</td>
<td>Some concerns were raised during the meeting about how actors within the currency market in Libya are linked to militias and armed groups. Despite organisations’ best efforts to check local partners and perform due diligence, it is likely that some assistance will be diverted to such groups when moving cash in Libya.</td>
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</table>
Between the end of 2016 and the beginning of 2017, the Presidency Council had proclaimed that it expected oil production to increase significantly in 2017. In a country so dependent on oil, this promise was expected to fuel confidence in the PC. When production is affected and levels deteriorate, therefore, it can be assumed that the credibility of the PC/GNA (and its international allies) suffers as a consequence.

The ongoing politics within the public financial situation creates uncertainty for projects, both those working on public finances directly and others involved in service delivery due to delays to planned ministry budgets. There is a danger that the cuts that are being made are going to further damage the reputation of the GNA for its reduced ability to meet essential needs of the population.

- International financial institutions, and the World Bank in particular, should work closely with counterparts from Libyan financial institutions across the East and the West to ensure that quality nation-wide economic analysis is available for national and international actors.

Participants in the CSA can contribute to the ongoing analysis by leaving comments on the online platform. These will be taken into account in the preparation for joint analysis for the next meeting of the CSA, planned for June 2017.

**Assessing the implications of Social Media in Libya for Conflict-Sensitive Assistance**

A complete overview of the updated analysis can be found by logging into the OPSECA online platform at: [https://opseca.humanidev.tech](https://opseca.humanidev.tech)

For a profile to make use of the platform, please contact harry.johnstone@peacefulchange.org. Only organisations participating in the forum have access to the online platform (one login profile per organisation).