

Conflict-Sensitive Assistance in Libya

Summary of discussions 03 August 2017
Acropole Hotel, Tunis

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 21st meeting on 3rd August 2017 at the Acropole Hotel in Tunis. The meeting was attended by 29 persons from 20 different organisations. The meeting included:

- An overview of the CSA process and its various components;
- A joint update of the shared conflict analysis;
- A plenary discussion of the way the international community works with local CSOs and supports their ability to be accountable;
- Introduction to the Events Module on the OPSECA platform

Overview of the CSA process

A short presentation (slide show attached) gave an overview of the concept of conflict sensitivity and the different components of the CSA process.

Summary update of analysis and recommendations

The participants reviewed and updated the joint context analysis, based on the 28 factors of a context analysis conducted by UNDP Libya: [Instability and insecurity in Libya](#) (December 2015).

- Three areas of the analysis saw improvement:
 - Libya's [hydrocarbon sector](#) saw increases to production.
 - There were a number of notable successes in the fight against [smuggling and illicit trade](#).
 - [Attitudes towards violence](#) saw a shift. A number of communities banned the participation of children in armed groups and militias.
- Such improvements notwithstanding, violent conflict on the ground escalated, including a number of high-profile incidents:
 - The [capture of Benghazi by LNA forces](#), which led to announcements of a campaign to take western Libya.
 - An attack by the Misrata-led 13th Battalion and Benghazi Defence Brigades on the Brak Alshatti airbase.
 - Ongoing fighting between militias inside Tripoli.
 - Outbreak of violence in Garabuli.
 - [LNA attacks on Jufra](#).
- The period saw a large amount of [funding being made available to control migration](#) from or through Libya. Measures taken by these projects include increasing control on the country's southern borders, posing serious challenges to the way of life of some groups. The measures do not always seem to take account of the fact that many sectors of the Libyan economy are still dependent on labour migrants, who, under present conditions have no possibility of protecting themselves and formalising their labour status in the country. It was recommended that the [projects working in the migration sector should take steps to conflict-sensitise their work](#).
- [Power cuts were a constant feature of life in Libya](#). Municipalities in Libya had been urged to impose energy-saving plans (rationed power), but in practice this often being implemented in a conflict-generating way, with municipal representatives making populist announcements that they will not cut power to their citizens. What is more, the lack of coordination on these energy-saving measures are leading to power surges that damage the infrastructure and cause further disruption. It was recommended that [international organisations working at the municipal level could help municipalities coordinate](#) with one another in the interest of maintaining fair and

Facilitated by

effective distribution of electricity. In addition, [assistance should be given on revenue collection](#) to the national energy supplier – GECOL.

- [The latest draft of the constitution was released](#). While showing improvements on earlier drafts, it still received a negative reaction from minorities in Libya, and it failed to deal with questions affected by women and youth. The draft has been forwarded to the HoR to draw up the legislation to hold a referendum. Several days earlier Khalifa Haftar and Fayez al-Sarraj held a [meeting in Paris](#) at which it was agreed that new elections were to be held. It was recommended that [international actors should coordinate support for these two upcoming votes](#).
- It was noted that the [international community could be contributing to the Libyan black market](#) in the way that it is funding projects. A lot of rehabilitation work on the ground is conducted by companies that have bank accounts in Tunisia. International organisations are not able to monitor how money deposited in Tunisia then makes its way into Libya. A preference for partnering such organisations may be at the expense of smaller Libyan CSOs, who do not have the same financial capacity, but whom the international community should be supporting in order to achieve the social change that is necessary in Libya to support the transition. It was recommended that more be done to [bring Libyan CSOs into different types of programming](#), including on political dialogue.

A complete overview of the updated analysis can be found by logging into the OPSECA online platform at:

<https://opseca.humanidev.tech>

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

Working with local Libyan partners

Previous rounds of the CSA brought attention to challenges faced by the international community in working effectively with Libyan civil society organisations. In particular, the last CSA meeting, on 27 April 2017, [recommended](#):

'international actors should review the way they engage with civil society organisations. In particular, they should review formal registration requirements, which may be giving preference to a small number of established and well-connected organisations and reducing opportunities to promote broader civil society activity.'

The Principles of Conflict-Sensitive Assistance developed through the CSA process emphasise the importance of delivering assistance in an inclusive way (Principle One) and ensuring that local partners are helped to build their own capacity to be accountable to the constituencies with which they work (Principle Two). Success in these two areas depends on successful selection and vetting of organisations, as well as strong partnership practices.

International organisations have employed a range of local mechanisms to strengthen their ties with the communities in which their projects are taking place, for example by establishing groups with the responsibility of reaching out to communities and ensuring that they are able to contribute to the formulation of priorities.

Discussions suggested that many of the problems being caused by the way international organisations partner with Libyans could be dealt with if more events could be held inside Libya. They proposed that work could be done to develop a code of ethics on working with partners, which in turn would help to create a constructive yet competitive environment for NGOs to work in.

The Events Module in the OPSECA platform

The OPSECA platform, which hosts the CSA analysis has activated a new module, which allows the platform to register events that are significant to the context in which the international community is providing its assistance in Libya. Users of OPSECA are encouraged to contribute to the ongoing analysis by logging such events in the system as '[Discussions](#)'. This is done by selecting 'Discussions' >> 'Post New Discussion' >> and filling in the title and content fields. These entries can be related to the conflict factors by filling in the 'Relates to' field. These updates will be reviewed by PCi staff on a regular basis, entered as 'Events' in the platform, and included in the preparation of the next joint analysis, which is planned for October 2017.