



Peaceful
Change
initiative



Tripoli Centre Social
Peace Partnership

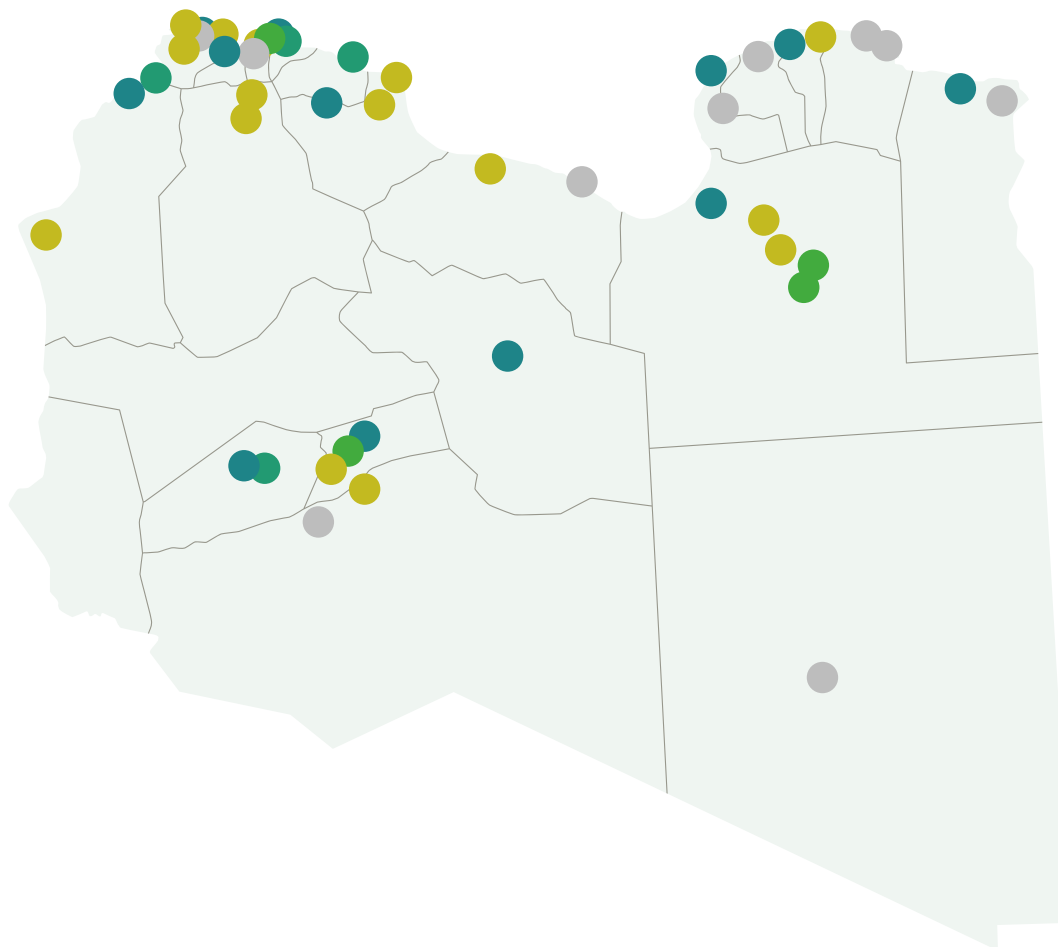
Social Peace and Local Development in Libya

Social Peace and Local Development (SPLD) is a method for building social cohesion and preventing community conflict, developed specifically for Libya, following the changes the country underwent in 2011. The methodology was developed by PCi in partnership with Libyan civil society and government actors between 2012-2014, and it was widely tested in Libyan communities in all three regions of the country. Since 2014 SPLD has been used in forty communities across Libya, where Social Peace Partnerships have been established. The Social Peace Partnerships bring together a diverse group of local people, with a common goal: to develop and foster good relations, through preventing and managing community conflict.

What is Social Peace and Local Development?

Social Peace and Local Development seeks to build 'horizontal' and 'vertical' relationships, strengthening relationships and trust between different community groups (horizontal) and between these community groups and institutions, especially Municipalities (vertical). SPLD encourages people to change the way they live alongside each other by building their relationships through collaboration on projects that require them to work together. In doing so, people are encouraged to negotiate different interests and needs, and to agree on a shared vision for their common future. These projects often focus on the delivery of key local services to improve people's day-to-day lives and contribute to communities feeling safer.

PCi's presence in Libya at a glance



500+

Partnership members actively supported by PCi across

20

Municipalities

6

East

9

West

4

South

1

Central

The Social Peace Partnerships have had a measurable, sustainable impact on vertical and horizontal relationships through:



Social Peace Partnerships have been active in COVID-19 Public Awareness Campaigns

Institutionalising inclusive and participatory approaches to decision-making at the municipality level, which enable different community stakeholder groups (including marginalised ones) to participate in consultations and decision-making processes.

Greater responsiveness to community needs from Municipalities (reinforcing vertical trust).

Reduced perceptions of discrimination/preference in the distribution of opportunities and services (reducing narratives around exclusion and unfairness).

Institutionalising robust conflict management mechanisms that reduce tensions and violence within communities, by leveraging trust and relationships enabled by the Social Peace Partnerships.

Creating pathways for women to participate in and play a leadership role in decision-making and conflict prevention/management processes locally.

37%

Women

63%

Men

43%

Youth

SPLD introduced in

40+

Municipalities



The SPLD approach is:

Structured, based around a clear six-stage process that has been captured in a handbook and accompanying materials, which provides a logical structure and set of incentives for communities to develop and implement their vision for development.

Recognisable, with branded materials and widely adopted, recognisable terminology that provide a common reference point for communities across the country, who cut across the fragmentation that Libya is experiencing.

Locally owned, enabling communities to establish their own visions for social peace and development, based on an approach that was developed in partnership with Libyan stakeholders from civil society and government.

Embedded, with relationships of trust that have been built between PCi and target communities, allowing programming to look beyond surface needs for development and to treat the most sensitive drivers of conflict.

Conflict-sensitive and based on international best-practice in conflict sensitivity, designing activities that are informed on a detailed analysis of the local context in each target community, mapping stakeholders, identifying where exclusion may take place, and informing interventions.

Demand-driven, with almost 50 per cent of Social Peace Partnerships presently active having been “self-generated” and built up at the demand of local leadership with the investment of their own resources.

Separate from political dynamics, with authorities on both sides of the political divide informed of SPLD activities and an agenda for development that is independent of the competition for power at the national level.

Reflective, the SPLD process includes practices to gather feedback on community response to the work of Social Peace Partnerships, review the impact of their work, and adopt their strategies and approaches on a regular basis.

Integrated into the strategies of the international community, with a number of international actors, including the internationally supported Stabilisation Facility for Libya, making use of the Social Peace Partnerships and the Trainer Mentors to support their development work.

PCi's operational capacity in Libya

Despite the challenges of operating in an environment characterised by the ongoing political deadlock, lack of an inclusive political leadership and limited governance apparatus at the national level, and recurring armed conflict, PCi has been able to secure legal status in Libya and is operationally able to deliver programming throughout the country. This is a result of consistently working neutrally across the political and conflict divides, and of constant engagement with Ministerial representatives in the East and West. PCi has established strong operations in Tripoli and Benghazi, and a presence in the south (Sabha), with a dedicated Libyan project team led by a Country manager and a Deputy Country Manager, as well as with remote and face-to-face support from PCi's headquarters.

SPLD growth and capacity to respond to a fast-changing context

Increased demand for the SPLD methodology from Libyan communities shows that the local conflict management mechanisms established through the Social Peace Partnerships are seen by Libyan stakeholders as an effective way to mitigate tensions and strengthen community relations. The Social Peace Partnerships have also proven to be critical peace capital and infrastructure that other international partners regularly utilise to engage communities and implement their programmes in more conflict sensitive and gender responsive ways.

SPLD has been able to adapt and respond to the emerging challenges faced by communities throughout the conflict and, lately, due to COVID-19. The Social Peace Partnerships have been at the forefront of delivering local responses to conflict, displacement, and COVID-19. As economic uncertainty places increasing pressure on social cohesion, SPLD supports livelihood interventions that strengthen communities' economic resilience while also promoting peace.

SPLD Vision 2022-25

As the next stage of the Libyan political transition is negotiated, SPLD will continue to represent an evidence-based and effective methodology through which to achieve local and regional stability, with a view to supporting long-term national peace. The programme will be adapted on an ongoing basis to respond - and remain relevant - to different possible post-election scenarios. Over the next three years, SPLD will focus on 4 main pillars, with **Gender and Youth Inclusion as cross-cutting themes, fully integrated into the programme: (1) Tension Monitoring and Conflict Management; (2) Governance, Unification and Civic Participation; (3) Social Cohesion, Twinning and Reconciliation; (4) Livelihoods and Economic Development.**

In the past year, the Social Peace Partnerships have been active in promoting political participation in view of the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections, particularly through encouraging greater participation by women and youth.

We support women's inclusion by working on four inter-dependent areas, integrated across all SPLD activities:

Representation: the involvement of women in key decision-making processes.

Participation: a more active and meaningful contribution by women to decision-making.

Leadership: the ability and opportunity for women to lead on designing and implementing initiatives.

Visibility: wider public awareness of women's leadership and contributions to peace efforts.

A member of the Ajdabiya Social Peace Partnership participates at the Youth Forum in Zwara



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