Social Peace and Local Development programme

Since its inception in 2013, the Social Peace and Local Development programme has reached 60,000 people* as direct beneficiaries across Libya. This publication focuses on the reach and impact of the programme since 2022.

* PCi has arrived at this number through calculating the total number of people the programme has reached as a result of all activities since 2013, including memberships of all SPPs, trainings/workshops delivered, recipients and beneficiaries of Social Peace Grants, and the aggregate of all service users that have benefitted from improved service delivery as a result of an intervention delivered through this programme.

Peaceful Change initiative: our work in Libya

Peaceful Change initiative (PCi) has been working in Libya since 2013 with a Libyan team based in Tripoli, Benghazi and Sebha. We are the only international peacebuilding NGO to have maintained a significant and continuous presence across the country during this time, demonstrating our ability to respond with agility to changes in the political context and in the security and operating environment. Over ten years, we have built unparalleled knowledge, expertise and networks, largely through our flagship Social Peace and Local Development (SPLD) programme. PCi has introduced the Social Peace & Local Development methodology in 45 municipalities out of 143 across the country. This means our programming has positively impacted on the lives of approximately 3.5 million people who live in these areas.

The Social Peace and Local Development programme

The SPLD programme is rooted in community level peacebuilding. **Social Peace Partnerships** (SPPs) function as community-led local conflict management mechanisms, bringing together municipal authorities with community leaders, civil society representatives and business leaders to establish inclusive, participatory local decision-making processes that support relationship-building between citizens and the local municipality, helping to build trust and legitimacy, while also strengthening social cohesion.

SPPs engage with different community groups, helping strengthen the social fabric of the community and ensuring that marginalised voices are heard. PCi supports SPPs to consult on, articulate and implement local social cohesion and peacebuilding plans and provides ongoing accompaniment to the implementation of those plans, through the provision of **Social Peace grants.** SPPs have demonstrated an impact on conflict prevention and strengthening local governance.

Women, peace and security

All of PCi's programmes seek to increase women's influence over peacebuilding processes. The SPLD Programme works along four inter-dependent pillars: **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 contributions to peace efforts. While promoting women's ownership, PCi also works with men to encourage them to be 'allies' and to advocate for women's inclusion.
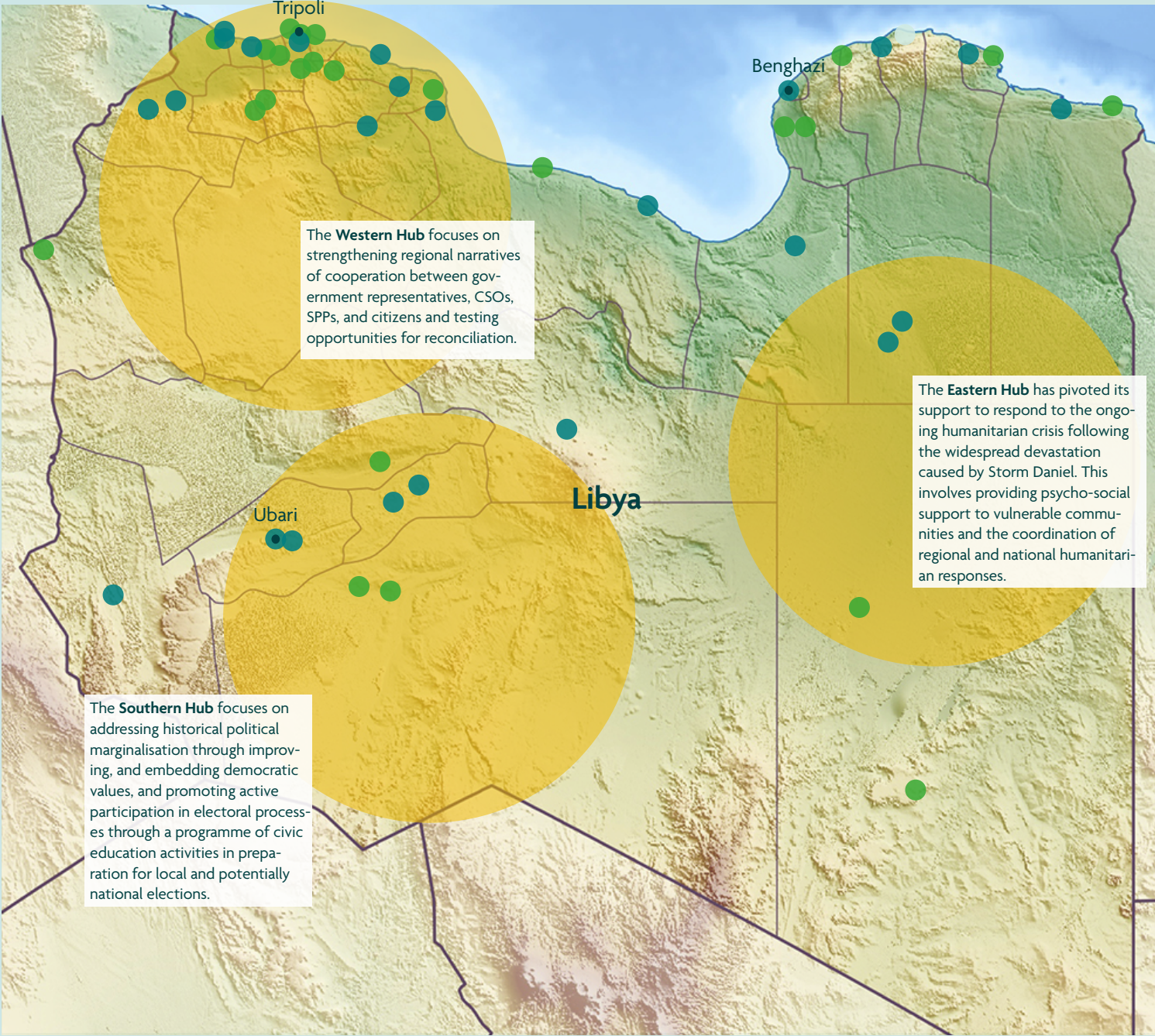
Bridging divides through Regional Social Peace Hubs

PCi convenes Social Peace Partnerships to operate as Regional Social Peace Hubs. This enables leaders from different towns in Libya to think and act beyond the narrative of "city states" isolated from a share of the Libyan national identity. Through the Hubs, leaders think regionally and nationally about how to solve problems faced by multiple communities and build much needed networks between towns. The Hubs have demonstrated capacity to solve shared problems through regional approaches that build relationships between towns and between the towns and national authorities.

Looking forward, the programme will support developments in the Libyan political dialogue process and advocate for Civil Society expansion through mobilising the existing peacebuilding infrastructure across the country.
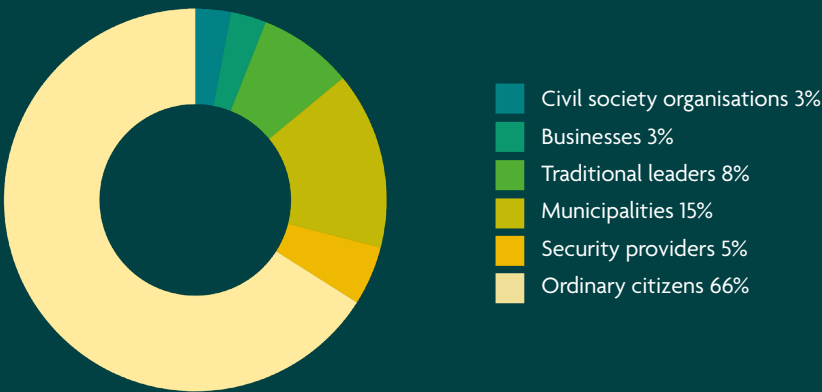
Social Peace Partnerships and Hubs

The blue points on the map of Libya below represent the 25 Social Peace Partnerships which currently receive direct support from PCi. The green dots represent the 20 Social Peace Partnerships which are self-generated and receive ad-hoc support from PCi. The larger yellow circles on the map represent the regional Social Peace Hubs in the East, West and South of the country.

The **Western Hub** focuses on strengthening regional narratives of cooperation between government representatives, CSOs, SPPs, and citizens and testing opportunities for reconciliation.

The **Eastern Hub** has pivoted its support to respond to the ongoing humanitarian crisis following the widespread devastation caused by Storm Daniel. This involves providing psycho-social support to vulnerable communities and the coordination of regional and national humanitarian responses.

The **Southern Hub** focuses on addressing historical political marginalisation through improving, and embedding democratic values, and promoting active participation in electoral processes through a programme of civic education activities in preparation for local and potentially national elections.

Tripoli

Benghazi

Ubari

Libya

Breakdown of Social Peace Partnership members

Social Peace Partnerships bring together municipal authorities with community leaders, civil society representatives and business leaders to work together to solve local conflict issues.. The graph to the right represents the average membership breakdown across Social Peace Partnerships since 2022.

- ■ Civil society organisations 3%
- ■ Businesses 3%
- ■ Traditional leaders 8%
- ■ Municipalities 15%
- ■ Security providers 5%
- ■ Ordinary citizens 66%

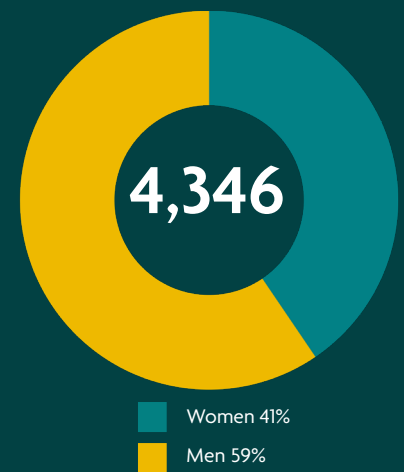Image: participants at a workshop in al-Gharaifa.

4,346 Libyan peacebuilders trained

A total of 4,346 Libyan peacebuilders have received technical skills training in conflict analysis, mediation, and gender analysis. As a result, they have been able to mediate local conflicts, ensure initatives are inclusive of women's perspectives, and establish locally rooted tension monitoring protocols. The graph represents the breakdown of women and men who attended trainings.

4,346

Women 41%
Men 59%

"Investing in youth and women's civic engagement through the Western Hub grant initiative is good for fostering stability, peace, and reconciliation in our region. By empowering these key demographic groups to actively participate in governance processes, we believe that in time, this will lead to a profound shift in the dynamics of our communities. Their voices are not only heard but valued, leading to more inclusive decision-making and sustainable peacebuilding efforts. This hub initiative has not only catalysed positive change at the grassroots level but has also contributed significantly to strengthening regional cooperation and trust among government representatives, civil society organisations, and citizens alike."
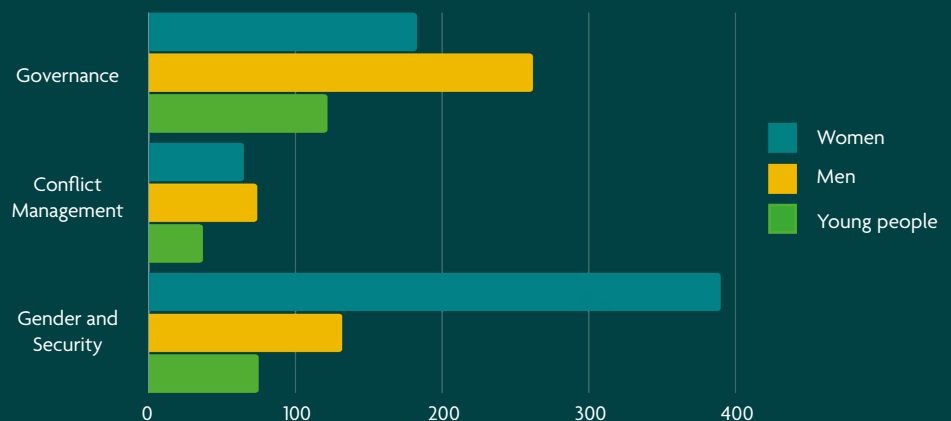
- Omar Al-Abeidi, Deputy Head of the High Council of State.

Social Peace Partnerships have a reach of 48,607 people on social media

Together, the 45 Social Peace Partnerships have a total of 48,607 followers on their Facebook pages. The Social Peace and Local Development programme's key messages and impact are amplified through the reach of SPPs across Libya through various social media platforms.
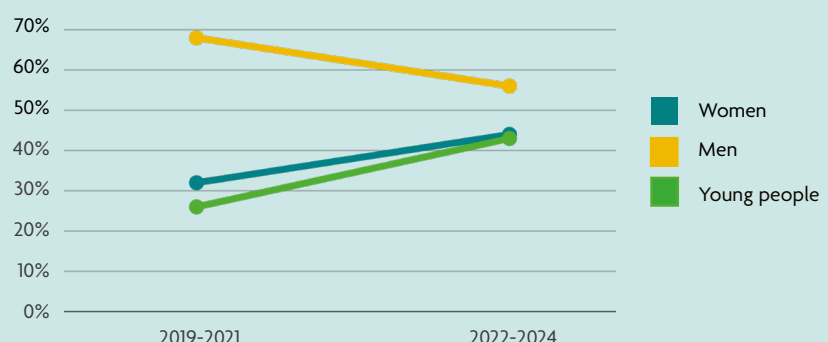
SPLD grant schemes

In the current programme cycle, PCi has dispersed LYD 1,645,495 through 47 grants to SPPs and regional Social Peace hubs. They are encouraged to match fund the grants that are distributed, so the investment provided by local stakeholders ensures local ownership of initatives and their sustainability. The graph to the right represents the number of women, young people, and men who have benefitted from each type of grant.

Governance
Conflict Management
Gender and Security

Women
Men
Young people

Women and youth membership across Social Peace Partnerships

On average, across Social Peace Partnerships, women's memberships rose by 12% and youth memberships by 14% in the current project cycle compared to the previous project cycle which ran from 2018-2021. The graph to the right represents the average percentage of women and young people across SPPs in the current project cycle.

2019-2021
2022-2024

Women
Men
Young people

"Under the auspices of PCi's grant, the women-led team at Zliten SPP took the bold step of establishing the Zliten Women's Union. This pioneering endeavour has been transformative, not only in providing a physical space for women to gather and participate in civic, social, and educational activities but also in catalysing long-term societal change. By challenging traditional norms and fostering gender equality, the Union represents a beacon of progress in our traditionally conservative community. Moreover, the grant's support has not only ensured the Union's immediate establishment but has also laid the groundwork for sustained impact, attracting further support from the state. The Zliten Women's Union is a testament to the power of grassroots initiatives in driving lasting social change."

- Kholoud Abu-Sneina is a Municipal Council Member in Zliten, she is also the head of the women-led team at the Zliten Social Peace Partnership.
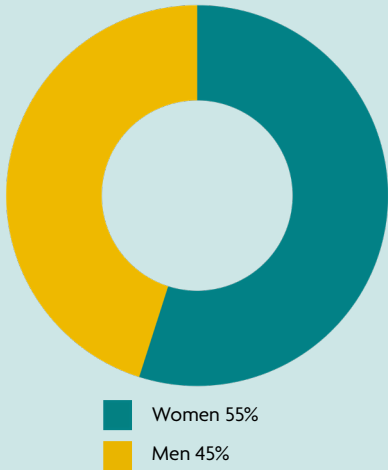
Image: Kholoud Abu-Sneina

103% increase in the number of women in leadership positions

The increase in the number of women in leadership positions within Social Peace Partnerships between 2021 to 2024 is 103%. The number of women across leadership positions increased from 28 women in 16 SPPs to 57 women across 25 SPPs. All SPPs directly supported by the programme now have women in leadership positions

Building alliances to advocate for gender security

Gender & Security workshops facilitate dialogue between men and women participants on their respective security needs and experiences. A total of 346 people have participated in the workshops, including 190 women and 156 men. As a result of the workshops, participants have designed initiatives that seek to address specific security challenges faced by women, with men working as allies.
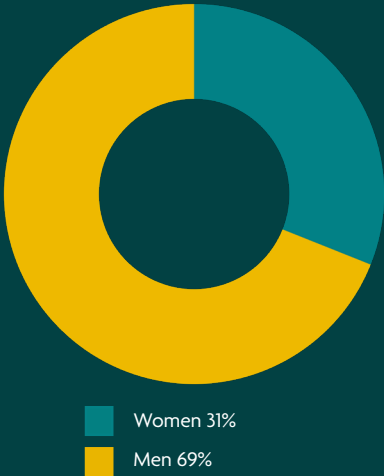
Women 55%
Men 45%

"At the [Ubari] Social Peace Partnership, I learned so much about benefiting our society and widening the focus of my work. I've seen how women in Libya generally and specifically in the South have emerged as leaders in response to the changes and problems we were seeing in the country. Women are continuing to excel in all fields and pushing back against a conservative society that sees women's role as limited. But I also still see the suffering that women go through to provide for themselves and their families, and for this reason I decided to nominate myself for the elections. I see that my role as a woman in politics is to support those who are most vulnerable. I aspire to work not just in my city but to reach national ministries and even to rise globally."

- Halima Yousef was a municipal council candidate from the town of Gharifa in the Ubari municipality. She joined the Ubari Social Peace Partnership in 2019 after initially taking part in peacebuilding training sessions there and was appointed as the SPP Public Relations and Partnership Director. In Ubari, Halima's goal is to provide human development training in 300 schools in the region to support women displaced by conflict. She also plans to contribute to the continuity of a radio station that she helped set up through the Social Peace Partnership.

Supporting women's inclusion in the civic space

Our work on gender and peacebuilding has also focused on supporting women's inclusion in the civic space by delivering training on the topic to targeted civil society organisations. To date, this work has directly impacted 262 people, 118 of whom are women. The graph to the right represents the breakdown of men and women who have attended these training sessions.
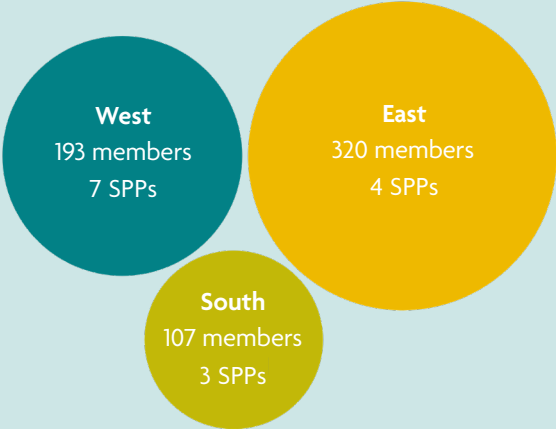
Women 31%
Men 69%

44% of Social Peace Partnership members are women

On average, 44% of SPP members are women, while the number of SPPs reaching a minimum of 35% of women members is 21 out of 25, with the minimum being 30%. The SPP with the highest proportion of women is Benghazi, where 34 out of 55 members are women.

Regional Social Peace hub membership

The Western Social Peace Hub is made up of SPPs from Tripoli Centre, Souq Al Jum'aa, Bani Walid, Batin aljabal, Sebratah, Nalut, and Zliten. The Eastern Social Peace Hub is made up of SPPs from Benghazi, Assahel, Ajdabiya, and Tobruk. The Southern Social Peace hub is made up of SPPs from al-Jufra, Ubari, and Wadi al-Bawanees.
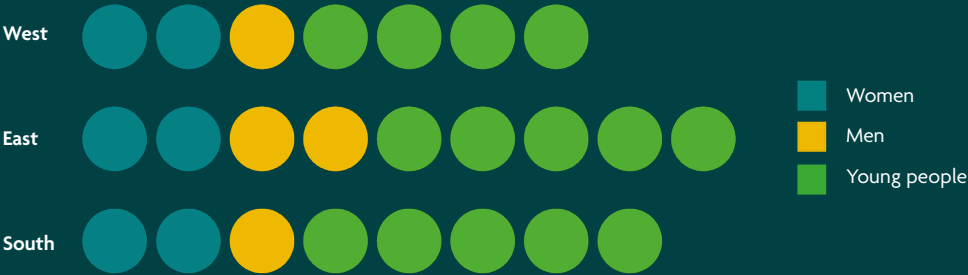
West
193 members
7 SPPs

East
320 members
4 SPPs

South
107 members
3 SPPs

38% of all Social Peace Partnerships are members of a regional Social Peace Hub

A total of 17 Social Peace Partnerhips across Libya are members of a regional hub. This represents 38% of all Social Peace Partnerships across the country.
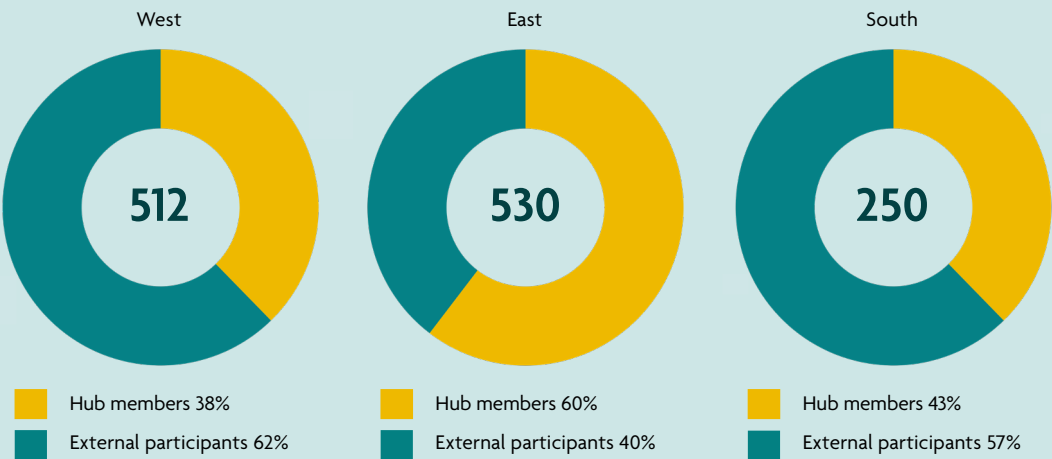
Inclusive representation of SPPs within regional Social Peace Hubs

In each regional Social Peace Hub, representatives are selected from each Social Peace Partnership. Women, men and young people are selected to contribute to a diverse and inclusive representation across the region. The graph to the right represents the number of women, young people and men selected to represent each SPP in the regional hub.

West

East

South

- Women
- Men
- Young people

1,292 people have been directly impacted by regional Social Peace Hubs

The three regional Social Peace Hubs have reached a total of 1,292 people. This number includes 620 Social Peace Partnership members and 672 participants in funded initiatives in each region. The graph to the right represents the number of people reached by each regional Social Peace Hub in the West, East, and South of Libya.

West

512

- Hub members 38%
- External participants 62%

East

530

- Hub members 60%
- External participants 40%

South

250

- Hub members 43%
- External participants 57%

"We have never been part of a project that worked on this scale of cooperation and with such a deeply participatory nature, so it was a new experience for us. We were happy to work to unify our efforts and move forward in one direction with the other Social Peace Partnerships, and I think we can consider it a success. We managed to break down barriers that impeded trust and learn more about the perceived challenges to peace in East Libya generally and in Derna especially. Having the participation of many influencers and actors in the dialogue sessions showed the confidence that people had in the project."

- Ashraf Qatani is the head of the Ajdabiya Social Peace Partnerships which is part of the Eastern Social Peace Hub.

Image: Local dialogue sessions, 'The political salons' organised by the Eastern hub in Benghazi.

Peaceful Change initiative

Peaceful Change initiative is a peacebuilding organisation striving for a world free from violent conflict. To achieve this, we work with communities and their leaders to confront the drivers of violent conflict. Together, we build the conditions that make sustainable peace possible. We establish deep knowledge and strong partnerships where we work. This allows us to do both the long-term work of building sustainable peace and to respond rapidly and effectively to crises. We work only where we know we can make a real difference to people's lives. Many communities we work with have successfully managed high-risk conflicts and avoided violence, even when formal peace processes have failed.

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