



PEACEBUILDING FUND

[Libya]

PROJECT HALF YEARLY PROGRESS UPDATE

AS OF JANUARY – JUNE 2013

Project No & Title:	PBF/IRF-47 - Support To Civic Engagement in Libya's Transition (00081770)		
Recipient Organization(s)¹:	UNDP		
Implementing Partners (Government, UN agencies, NGOs etc)	Government of Libya-Ministry of Culture & Civil Society/recently renamed into "Ministry of Culture" (MoC) , Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) and Ministry of Planning (MoP), Civil Society Support Center (CSSC), GNC Committee on Civil Society, Responsible Parties: UNDP, UNSMIL, Women's NGOs, Libyan Universities, CSOs		
Location:	Libya.		
Total Approved Budget²	1,923,860		
Funds Committed³	165,513.2	% of funds committed / total approved budget:	
Expenditure⁴:	278,726.7	% of expenditure / total budget: (Delivery rate)	
Project Approval Date:	January 2012	Possible delay in operational closure date (Number of months)	
Project Start Date:	May 2012 (upon receipt of funds)		
Expected Operational Project Closure Date:	March 2013		
PBF Outcome and Priority Area	Priority Area 2: Support to national efforts and build and strengthen capacities that promote peaceful coexistence, good governance and national reconciliation. PBF Outcome: Libyans participate meaningfully in electoral and constitution-		

¹ Please note that where there are multiple agencies, only one consolidated project report should be submitted.

² Approved budget should be the amount transferred to Recipient Organisations

³ Funds committed are defined as the commitments made through legal contracts for services and works according to the financial regulations and procedures of the Recipient Organisations.

⁴ Actual payments (contracts, services, works) made on commitments.

	building processes with evidence of increased trust in the transition towards democracy.
Qualitative assessment of achievements and challenges	<p>Outcome evaluation:</p> <p>As mentioned in the Annual Report 2012 the Libyan General Elections on 7 July 2012 were held successfully with a meaningful voter participation of 60%. A small number of security incidents did not derail the process as a whole and the elections results were considered as representative of the people’s will. The project contributed to raising citizen’s awareness on the voting process by facilitating access to electoral information and materials for nearly 85,000 voters. In the current reporting period, the project has been concentrating on citizens’ participation in the constitution-building process, thereby enhancing citizen’s awareness on the ongoing political process and strengthening the social contract between the citizens and the state in Libya contributing thereof as well to the overall project outcome.</p> <p>While substantive quantitative indicators are not available, some proxy indicators, however, do provide some indication of the general effect of projects such as SCELТ and the efforts of the international community to foster civic engagement in the transition. These range from the number of women candidates standing and elected in the national poll to the significant rise in the number of women’s CSOs and their development into local, regional and national women CSO unions, although this is anecdotal evidence based on observations made by the project team – there are no official figures available on the number of women’s CSOs. The sheer scale and reach of the civic education initiatives undertaken by BRIDGE facilitators and the Scouts (please see 2012 Annual Report) can be regarded as a significant contributory factor to a voter turnout above 60% and the general acceptance of the result afterwards. The number of CSOs (for which data was available) in November 2012 was approximately 900, (although it should be noted that many of these consisted of 2-3 persons coordinating local relief efforts around the country). By mid-2013 the number of CSOs registering their information with the CSSC was approximately 2,800 [although there was an irregular and informal registration process] with anecdotally a further 1,000 CSOs not yet registered. While the project did not set this as an indicator, nor should CSO existence be necessarily conflated with civic engagement, there has been a very significant rise in the number of citizens with an active stake in the transition process and that augurs well for the future, despite the challenges outlined in the Challenges and Risks Section of this report.</p> <p>At the output level, progress achieved so far can be summarized as follows:</p> <p>Output 1: CSOs are able to mobilize citizens in participating actively in the new democratic processes</p> <p><i>Civic Education Grant Fund:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the first half of 2013 SCELТ, in partnership with UNDP’s “Assistance to Building a Constitution (ABC)” project developed a Grant Fund model to support CSOs civic education activities, for which a Request for Proposals

was advertised and a contract awarded to a contractor. The Grant Fund Facility (GFF) contracted by UNDP will support the CSO grant recipients in project development and proposal writing, implementing civic education/constitutional activities, managing their funds and measuring and reporting on the effectiveness of their results. Contracts will be signed and implementation will begin in the second half of 2013. It should be noted that this development took extensive time and considerable effort to finalize. Significant effort was needed to assure UNDP procurement at both national and regional level that the modality and the contractor selected were suitable to the challenge of scaling-up delivery to and through national CSOs and within standard UNDP Democratic Governance Programme modalities. Nevertheless this pioneering initiative has now been agreed and implementation is expected to begin in the second half of 2013.

To increase CSO's civic education planning and delivery capacity, a workshop for 12 CSO was delivered. The aim of this workshop was to prepare CSOs to be able to submit concept notes and proposals under the CE Grant Fund [above] for the delivery of Civic Education activities at local level in the second half of 2013.

Civic education and CS dialogue across Libya:

- In the reporting period, this project, together with the International Center for Non-Profit Law (ILNL) and the Network of Democrats in the Arab World (NDAW), developed a structured dialogue process to help consolidate civil society's comments on the draft NGO law and build support for the adoption of a respective enabling law. The initiative was launched on the occasion of the opening day of a capacity building workshop dedicated to the enhancement of local dialogue facilitation and civic education capacities. The workshop took place from 19 - 23 June in Tripoli, with 22 participants from different cities across Libya, and the MoP and MoC as well as the CSSC. As a result of the "Training of Facilitators Workshop", 22 CSO participants have an enhanced understanding of the role of Civil Society and have been enabled to provide recommendations on key aspects of CS legislation. Furthermore, they have gained an enhanced understanding of inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue processes and have developed dialogue planning and facilitation skills through reflective practice and expert mentoring throughout the workshops.
- Subsequently to the workshop the CSO participants prepared a draft plan for local civic education sessions and dialogue processes on the draft NGO Law in Libya in the period following the workshop between October and November 2013. Local dialogue workshops are planned to take place in over 15 different cities targeting 500 CSO representatives.
- These dialogue workshops will be led by the abovementioned trained Libyan Facilitators, with support and mentoring from Facilitators recruited by

UNDP and NDAW Representatives. The objective of the workshops is to reach an agreement on a set of recommendations on the draft NGO law and to nominate CSO representatives from each local session to take part in a National Dialogue Forum on the draft NGO Law. A Round Table will be organized subsequently, gathering the CSO representatives and all relevant official parties (MoC, CSSC and the GNC Committee on Civil Society), to discuss the conciliated report on the local sessions findings and to build a position of the different recommendations and arguments presented in local dialogues. Subsequently, a National Dialogue Forum for CSOs will be held to develop a joint civil society position on the draft NGO law. The Forum will be organized in Tripoli in the first quarter of 2014 and will include CSO representatives from each of the dialogue workshops as well as lead Libyan facilitators. UNDP will also invite representatives from the MoC and the GNC to participate in this Forum. In the consecutive a Validation Process across Libya, the civil society representatives from the local sessions will report and present the final draft and recommendations back to her/his city.

- Based on the success of the TCEI (Training for Civic Education Instructors) and BRIDGE initiatives in 2012 and the demand on the ground for Civic Education and Facilitation, SCELТ is supporting these Civic Education & BRIDGE Facilitators in Libya to develop their own online and face-to-face Community of Practice (CoP) in 2013 with a view to develop Civic Education practice in Libya and also to support a wide range of dialogue and democratic learning initiatives in Libya by a wide range of agencies. In order to initiate this, a Lessons Learned Workshop for TCEI on 19 March 2013 (39 participants) was organized, that resulted in the launch of the Democratic Dialogue & Civic Education Community of Practice. As a follow-up a web site is currently being developed by the workshop participants to support the community, with a further CoP meeting planned for the second half of 2013.

Capacity building of CS institutions:

- In the first Quarter of 2013, the project developed the capacities of the Government of Libya's Civil Society Support Centers (CSSC) to support CSOs, through working closely with the Board Members and Executive Director of the CSSC and its staff to conduct a scoping of CSOs in Libya jointly with UNDP and UNICEF and a report on the implications for the CSSC as currently set up. This was followed by an assessment of the institutional and IT needs of the CSSC, and a report was developed and sent to the MoC and the CSSC, with specific recommendations to develop the information management and IT capacity of the CSSC.

Increasing civic awareness of CSOs:

- Furthermore, the project also provided capacity building support to CSOs on the use of media products for Civic Engagement and Outreach. From 11-12 June a respective workshop was organized in Tripoli in partnership with two local CSOs. The workshop enhanced the participants' knowledge of the role

of media in promoting civic knowledge and familiarized them with application of a variety of media products in the Libyan context to promote civic awareness on themes of key importance in the transitional process. The 35 attending CSOs and Media NGOs are now able to use media as a means of engagement in the months to come throughout the constitution-building process.

Output 2: Youth is fully engaged through a peaceful participation in the transition process

Youth observatory and student unions:

- Two concept notes on the establishment of a youth observatory and student unions at universities have been developed by the project and were presented to the MoHE. The activities, envisaged to take place in the fourth quarter 2013, are aiming to increase youth engagement in the democratic processes.

Output 1.3: Increased women’s participation in the political transition process

Training of women facilitators and (local) dialogue workshops across Libya:

- UNDP SCELТ in partnership with the UNDP project “Assistance to Building a Constitution (ABC)” and the United Nations Electoral Support Team (UNEST), conducted a training workshop from 24-30 June 2013 for facilitators on women’s political participation. The workshop was opened by Dr. Hana Jbril Al Orfi, Chair of the GNC’s Women’s Caucus. As a result 26 participants were trained as facilitators on electoral systems, temporary special measures and substantive elements of the constitutional process as well as in dialogue facilitation skills with specific focus on women’s political participation. The required skills will enable participants to run civic education and structured two-day dialogue workshops in 20 different locations throughout Libya during October and November 2013. Approximately 500 women from CSOs, media, academia, political party members as well as housewives will be reached through these workshops.
- In addition, the project supported women’s participation in the transition through a number of initiatives such as the organization of Women’s day Launch Conference on 9 March. UNDP-SCELТ, in collaboration with UNSMIL’s Women’s Empowerment focal point, supported this event in partnership with two Libyan women CSOs (Free Communications and The Libyan Women’s Union – Tripoli).

Project Highlights

In the reporting period, the main highlights in results achieved are:

- The establishment of the Grant Fund Facility is a major milestone achieved as it will substantially enhance CSO capacities in the second half of 2013 and thereby contributing to a strengthened civil society in in Libya.
- Structured CS dialogue across Libya launched: One of the key results achieved in this reporting period was the launch of the structured dialogue process around the NGO Law together with NDAW/ICNL. This process will enable NGOs and the GNC to engage into a dialogue and negotiation process towards a final draft NGO Law as well as on key matters around the constitution-building process.
- Training of Facilitators Workshops & Local Dialogue process initiated: Through the above mentioned workshop the participants have been enabled to provide recommendations on key aspects of NGO legislation. With their enhanced dialogue facilitation skills the CSO participants will now move on to organize local civic education and dialogue sessions on the NGO Law of Associations and the constitutional process in Libya in the period following the workshop between October and November 2013 in over 15 different cities targeting 500 CSO representatives.
- Women’s political participation workshop: The workshop for workshop for facilitators on women’s political participation organized in June partnership with the UNDP’s “Assistance to Building a Constitution (ABC)” project and the United Nations Electoral Support Team (UNEST), created substantive tractions among women political activists. The 26 participants trained facilitators will go on and run civic education and structured two-day dialogue workshops on electoral systems, temporary special measures and substantive elements of constitution and constitution-making in 20 different locations throughout Libya organized during October and November 2013 targeting approximately 500 women from CSOs, media, academia, political party members as well as housewives.
- Women’s Day Conference: The project closely coordinated with UNSMIL through its Women’s Empowerment focal point, and supported the Women’s day launch conference, which was conducted by two Libyan women CSOs (Free Communication and Libyan Women union –Tripoli). Also together with the UNDP project “Assistance to Building a Constitution (ABC)”, this project held several working group meetings with The Free Communications Organization & Women’s Union of Tripoli and later with the UNSMIL Women’s Empowerment Focal Point and the UNEST team in order to develop a joint initiative, to be coordinated by the project in partnership with these national CSO partners and -a lead international expert with experience and expertise in developing training of facilitators programmes on dialogue.

Catalytic effects

The SCFLT project has been funded from different donors, including PBF, but since these allocations were made approximately at the same time, one cannot conclude that PBF funding had a catalytic effect on other donors' contributions.

In terms of peace relevant processes, the project contributed to a better understanding by Libyan citizens of the democratic transition, in particular for electoral processes as well as the constitution building process. Greater support of Libyans to the transition processes reinforces chances of lasting peace and stability in the country. The structured dialogue process is substantially contributing to fostering a culture of dialogue between citizens and the state and to building the Libyan Civil Society's capacities to demand state accountability. Furthermore the structured dialogue process will also substantially contribute to enhancing social cohesion among different regions urgently needed to allow for a successful reconciliation process in Libya.

Addressing drivers of conflict

While the project has been quite effective in supporting 'Libyans to participate meaningfully in electoral and constitution-building processes with evidence of increased trust', the greatest challenge on peace & security in Libya currently is the lack of government control on various armed groups subsisting after the 2011 Revolution. At the core of a conflict sensitive approach to democratic governance capacity in Libya lies a strategic and institutional approach to civic education for effective dialogue and engagement, which moves social partners away from the all too familiar territory of violence, 'zero sum' or 'winner takes all' approaches to resolving social and political tensions in Libya. Such a zero-sum approach has again been increasingly evident in the first half of 2013, with militias occupying several ministries and laying siege to the GNC resulting in the adoption of the Political Isolation Law. This legislation seeks to exclude from the GNC and government functions anyone considered to have had a key role under the previous regime. Capacities for structuring and facilitating inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue around each of the key transitional challenges must be therefore the key focus of the project at this critical time.

To increase its control, the government needs increased legitimacy. This will come in part from citizen's participation in democratic processes, such as elections and constitution-building. The project participates directly in increasing channels for civic engagement and hence contributes, ultimately, to increased government legitimacy.

Also, tensions between regional & tribal identity groups pose a definite threat to Libya's unity and successful transition. To increase its control, the government needs

increased legitimacy and this will come in part from citizen's participation in democratic processes, such as elections and constitution-making. The project participates directly in increasing channels for civic engagement and therefore contributes, ultimately, to increased government legitimacy. Given the lack of clear dividing lines between civil society, political parties and armed militias, the project also plays a key role in facilitating dialogue and helping resolve disputes between civil society and the authorities for example, which otherwise might escalate as UNDP is working on developing local capacities on leading a national dialogue on the recommendations for an enabling CSO Law.

The project pays also strong attention to securing participation in its activities of Libyans from all regions and from previously excluded minority groups. This way, project activities also become a space for dialogues between regional identities and help build consensus on a common vision for Libya's democratic future.

Finally, by deploying efforts to increase the participation of women in the political process in Libya, the project responds to recommendations of UNSCR 1325 regarding the rights and roles of women in post-conflict situations. Libyan women played an essential role, though less visible than men, in the Revolution, and they are now eager to be part of bringing back stability and prosperity to the country. The project provides them with capacities needed to achieve this goal.

Risks & Challenges

1. There is significant regional, as well as urban-rural divergence within Libya in terms of both civil society and citizen perspectives on the transition. This also reflects a wide range of actual and perceived differences in ownership of the transition process between different cities, areas and groups. A 'one size fits all' approach will therefore not deliver the necessary social consensus and tailored contextualised approaches are therefore necessary within each region as well as specific targeted interventions to address the previous exclusion of specific groups. While the political situation remains volatile, particularly in the East and South, there is also growing concern on the disruption of Libyan energy exports during the covered reporting period and the deteriorating security situation, both factors significantly hampering the urgently needed reconciliation process in Libya.
2. The level of capacity of CSOs varies widely and significant time is needed to develop capacities both prior to and during delivery. This affects the reach and effectiveness of broader civic education initiatives.
3. While a small section of educated women have entered the political

mainstream, the level of political knowledge amongst a majority of women is still very limited and there is little evidence of concrete commitment among policy makers to change the status quo.

4. There is a significant need for an effective representative organisation for CSOs and efforts should be mobilised to help CSOs develop mechanisms and structures which would enhance their own networking, which would enhance advocacy, and dialogue processes with the GNC. Currently there are a wide range of CS unions and associations occasionally competing with each other and sometimes not accepting one another's legitimacy. This makes CS advocacy and policy development work extremely challenging and means that ministries and the GNC with limited resources and capacity are often unable to cope with the wide range of groups, which demand their attention and response.
5. There is still very limited understanding of the role of civil society among CSOs, and CSO organisational governance and management need a huge investment in the coming 3-5 years. Having said that, CSO absorption capacity also remains very limited and donors and development partners need to be careful of over-investment and over-expectation and focus on the long-term development of organisational capacities in addition to providing financial resources. This is becoming more significant considering the severe ministries' limitations to implement, their low capacities and changes in personnel and the fact that the very small number of CSOs which would satisfy UNDP assessment requirements for partnership and implementation, are already inundated with work from many international partners. There is a significant risk therefore that CSOs may not be able to deliver the SCELТ Civic Education program due to lack of organizational capacity. The Grant Fund is the key SCELТ intervention to address this challenge in the second half of 2013.
6. The first and second cohort of BRIDGE trainees was a great success, and BRIDGE-trained persons provided great support for the election commission and in subsequent civic education activities. However there is now a need to focus on CS (rather than individual) capacities, for civic education moving forward; the project seeks to do so through its Micro Capital Grant Facility that will provide support to CSOs on the organizational level, through training on proposal development and project management.
7. The Project has faced difficulties engaging with Libyan universities. Indeed, this engagement should happen through the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) but the Ministry itself is facing challenges with its own capacities and resources and also with securing cooperation of universities in programs that are centrally-designed. There has been a lingering leadership issue with many universities in Libya following the Revolution, as the students & teacher community at many universities wanted to elect their own leadership while the transitional government wished to retain control over the nomination of university presidents. Due to the aforementioned constraints within the MoHE it has been challenging to get the final feedback from MoHE on the planned 2013 Q1 and Q2 activities for youth (the Student

Union and the Youth Observatory). The activities will therefore likely take place in Q4 of 2013.

8. In this reporting period, Tripoli moved from Security Phase 4 to Phase 5 and a dust to dawn curfew was imposed by UN security. In April, the French Embassy was closed after a car bomb and a number of bi-lateral delegations began to repatriate some of their non-essential staff. As a result of the tense security situation, the project had to move their national UNDP project staff from the Eastern part of the country to Tripoli. Furthermore, the number of approved hotels for UN staff and contractors was reduced to three in Tripoli and there was significant difficulty in conducting regional workshops in some areas due to security issues.
9. Another challenge the project has faced in the reporting period and will remain to be faced with during this reporting period, especially for Output 1, has been the weakness of the project's main Libyan institutional counterpart (Ministry of Culture/MoC). It has been difficult to move forward with certain activities that need the full involvement of the Ministry as it lacked internal cohesion (between Tripoli & Benghazi branches) and suffered from an unclear mandate in its support to civil society organizations. Since August 2012, the Cabinet has established an independent Civil Society Support Centre (CSSC), to provide various capacity-building services to Libyan CSOs. While the project had intended to work with this new partner to implement activities forecast under Output 1 in support of Libyan CSOs, the cooperation proved challenging. Throughout this reporting period, the governance structure of the CSSC still remained unclear and CSOs still resist to collaborate with the CSSC as the latter feel controlled by that body. The lack of coordination and clear communication between the board of CSSC and the Tripoli branch, and also the unavailability of qualified staff within CSSC to professionally handle the operation of a planned CSO database & continues to be an implementation challenge for this project. Against this background, SCELТ is considering to contract an NGO in the second half of 2013 to establish and manage a CSO database & web portal for one year initially, which was originally planned to be run by the CSSC. Furthermore, it will be important to put more focus on getting full clarity on the role and mandate of the CSSC from the MoC, as well as putting more emphasis on human resources capacity development, so the CSSC becomes capable of undertaking CS support as a result of its own structural functional development. A roundtable with the MoC and the new Board of the CSSC (there have been a number of personnel changes in recent months) will be convened in the second half of 2013, to agree on a development plan for the CSSC.
10. A key cross-cutting issue has been limited donor coordination on civic education/civil society activities. There was a coordination platform running until March 2012 and it has now been revived again in March 2013 by UNDP-SCELТ, UNICEF and the European Union Delegation. However meetings have been restricted as the EU has now vacated its offices due to security concerns.

Expected future achievements

By the end of 2013, the project aims at achieving the following additional results:

Output 1.1: CSOs are able to mobilize citizens in participating actively in the new democratic processes

- Through the newly established Grant Fund Facility (GFF), UNDP Libya will support in a timely and effective manner Libyan CSOs in their efforts to educate the public on democracy and good governance, to foster civic engagement, human rights, rule of law and to ensure a participatory constitutional process. The CLIC Company has won the bid to manage the GFF. The GFF coordinates its work with the Civil Society Support Centre (CSSC) established by the Libyan Cabinet. The Grant Fund Facility will distribute and manage two rounds of Micro Capital Grants [between \$15,00 and \$40,000 USD] to approximately 30 Libyan Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) while developing their capacity in project development and proposal writing, implementing civic education/constitutional activities, managing their funds and measuring and reporting on the effectiveness of their results.
- For the second half of 2013 the project will work with UNICEF and a research organization to develop a Regional Survey & Scoping of CSOs, which will inform CSSC's collaboration with CSOs.

Output 1.2: Youth is fully engaged through a peaceful participation in the transition process

- Moving forward, a) the development of student unions in partnership with the MoHE, b) youth engagement in governance assessments, and c) the development of the project's partnership with the MoHE will be vital. Most importantly, in order to promote sustainable capacities the project will place significant emphasis on institutional capacity development, through the establishment of the abovementioned youth observatory and university student unions; after reaching an agreement with MoHE, an implementation plan will be developed to be implemented in the fourth quarter 2013.

Output 1.3: Increased women's participation in the political transition process

- Developing partnerships with Women's CSOs for the inclusion of women in dialogue processes and ensuring that gender is mainstreamed across all activities is considered paramount for the forthcoming implementation period. Furthermore, developing national level capacity for facilitating dialogues and consultations will be essential for the wide range of consensus

seeking and multi-stakeholder dialogue processes which will be required over the next few years in order to build a lasting peace in Libya. Against this background, the arrival of SCEL T's Women's Empowerment Specialist in 2nd Half 2013 is considered vital.

- The project will continue supporting the development of women leadership in Libya by working with national and international gender organizations in training Libyan CSO activists on leadership, advocacy and campaigning skills. A total of 200 women will be targeted.
- The project will also initiate a capacity-building program aiming at elected women and aspiring candidates for the Constitution Drafting Assembly. Therefore the project will work closely with the UNSMIL Women Empowerment Team to prepare for a Women Platform workshop, as a first step to help towards building a national women platform as well as to develop an action plan focusing on women peace & security, elections, national reconciliation and constitution building.
- Focusing project supported civic engagement efforts on the development of democratic governance at local level and connecting this with critical issues such as service delivery, local government accountability, resource transparency and budget tracking all of which can be addressed through civic education, engagement and CSO capacity development of Social Accountability. In order to develop a conflict sensitive social accountability model at local level, SCEL T will develop through DG Dialogue (in Q4 2013), at the local level, a pilot Social Accountability initiative that will seek to develop the capacity of CSOs and local government to interact around these issues. We believe that this groundwork will contribute to providing the essential foundation for vibrant and effective citizenship in a peaceful Libya.