

Country Brief on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Libya

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Results Group 4

CONTEXT



Libya has been in a protracted crisis since 2011. Years of war

and instability have led to the collapse of public services, loss of livelihoods and displacement. In 2020, Libya's ranking in the Human Development Index deteriorated to 105, from 67 in 2010, and its economy performed the worst since 2014. However, 2020 was a year of hope for peace in Libya.

The peace process facilitated by the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) led to a cease-fire agreement in October 2020 and the installment of a new interim executive authority in February 2021. The newly established Government of National Unity (GNU) will guide the country to national presidential and parliamentary elections, scheduled for 24 December 2021.

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IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee

THE NEXUS APPROACH

The complex crisis in Libya requires a coordinated approach across the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding (HDP) nexus. In 2018, the UN Programme Management Team developed a Joint Country Assessment (JCA) with UNSMIL and the World Bank, under the leadership of the then Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General/UN Resident

Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) and the UN Country Team (UNCT). Furthermore, a desk review in preparation for a full Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (RPBA) has taken place, and discussions to resume the RPBA are ongoing. Based on the findings of the JCA, the UNCT developed a Strategic Framework (2019-2022). A dedicated Nexus

Working Group was created in 2019. The group initially identified Sebha as a priority area for the nexus approach, but progress has been challenged by limited staff presence. The Nexus Working Group is currently focusing on strengthening joined-up programming in the Tawergha area to support the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to the area.

OPERATIONALIZING THE NEXUS

KEY STEPS



1. Leadership and capacity

Under the guidance of the RC/HC, the Nexus Working Group is leading on the implementation of the HDP nexus approach. The group is chaired by WFP and includes representation from the UN, NGOs, bilateral donors, the World Bank and local actors. With the support of Switzerland, a dedicated nexus adviser facilitates regular meetings and exchanges among the group.



2. Joint analysis and sharing of analyses

The JSC and the desk review for the RPBA provided the basis for a common understanding of needs and vulnerabilities in areas such as peace and reconciliation, migration, governance, economy, infrastructure, social services and social protection. The new Common Country Analysis (CCA) process, scheduled for August 2021, will further build on this analysis and will be informed by the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO).



3. 'Collective outcomes' or HDP priority areas

The Strategic Framework contains three outcome areas (Governance, Economy and Basic Services), which were intended to provide a focus for collaboration across the nexus by the UNCT, HCT and UNSMIL. The new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework will be developed in 2021/22. Preparatory discussions are ongoing, including a planned workshop to agree on collective outcomes to guide the new Cooperation Framework's strategic outcome areas. Two collective outcomes were identified for the nexus pilot in Sebha.

Two Collective Outcomes for Sebha:



Basic Social Services

Number of vulnerable people with equitable and safe access to functional basic services and sustainable livelihood opportunities increased by 2023.



Population displacement

Vulnerability reduced and self-reliance increased for migrants and refugees in order to achieve durable solutions by 2023.



4. Joined-up planning and programming

Implementation of the Strategic Framework has been delayed by the unexpected outbreak of armed conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic. The process for the new Cooperation Framework will be coordinated with the HRP process to encourage humanitarian and development actors to work towards common goals, seizing an emerging opportunity for longer-term stability in Libya. The Cooperation Framework will succeed the Strategic Framework from January 2023.



5. Financing

The Nexus Working Group is still limited to information sharing and analysis around the pilot in Sebha, and it has yet to develop a common strategy, including on financing. The Nexus Working Group might expand its work to financing issues depending on how the financial landscape evolves, and building on consultations with donors, International Financial Institutions and others for the upcoming planning processes.



Photo: OCHA/Giles Clarke

LESSONS LEARNT

GOOD PRACTICES



Joint analysis and sharing of analysis: The collaboration between UN agencies and UNSMIL on the JCA led to the drafting of the Strategic Framework and helped align priorities and programming across the HDP nexus. This should be further solidified during the upcoming HRP and Cooperation Framework planning processes.



Area-based planning for results: Focusing on geographical priority areas, such as Sebha and Tawergha, has helped focus initial analysis and planning efforts, even if programme implementation has not yet taken place.

CHALLENGES



Armed conflict: The biggest challenge in operationalizing the nexus was the sudden outbreak of armed conflict between April 2019 and June 2020. All UN resources and capacities had to be redirected to cover the most imminent needs arising from the conflict, as well as the response to COVID-19.



Lack of staff presence in field locations: Despite a clear need to strengthen joined-up programming in Sebha, implementation of such activities has been hampered by the lack of sufficient UN and NGO presence in the area.



SPOTLIGHT ON **PEACE**

As no dedicated conflict analysis has been produced thus far, UNSMIL provides the UNCT with a regular update on the operational context and the political process. This year, the UN will strive to develop a holistic peacebuilding approach, based on the new CCA, as well as in the nexus effort relating to the return of IDPs in Tawergha.



SPOTLIGHT ON **GENDER**

The JCA included a dedicated gender analysis, and the Strategic Framework included gender as a cross-cutting issue. However, as the yearly planning process of the Strategic Framework did not take place as originally planned due to the armed conflict, ensuring a gender angle in programmes/projects was left to respective agencies, with advice and support from the UNCT's Gender Working Group.



SPOTLIGHT ON **LOCAL ACTORS**

Engagement with local actors has been limited. Prior to 2011, Libya had no recognizable civil-society organizations. It is expected that with the GNU in place, more substantive Government engagement at

central and municipal levels will be possible. The HCT's engagement with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Peer-to-Peer Group in late 2020 highlighted the need to expand engagement with local actors, and recommendations are now being implemented. Enhanced information sharing and a common database of local NGOs would enable this work.



This summary is part of the initiative Mapping good practice in the implementation of humanitarian-development-peace nexus approaches carried out by the IASC Results Group 4 in 2021.

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