SUMMARY REPORT

LIBYANS AT RISK
MEASURING THE DAILY SAFETY FOR EFFECTIVE PEACEBUILDING IN LIBYA

KEY FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON STORIES ON EVERYDAY THREATS AND CHALLENGES IN LIBYA

Photo Ahmed Jadallah

"Twenty years ago, the architects of Resolution 1325 created history, not only by recognizing the brutal and disproportionate reality of conflict for women and girls around the world, but also by recognizing the importance of their equal participation in all aspects of peace and security"[1]. Several years later, on 9 December 2015, another ground-breaking resolution, UNSCR 2250, was adopted by the United Nations Security Council recognizing that "young people play an important and positive role in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security."[2] Both resolutions lay the framework for the "Women and Youth as Bridge Builders" program in Libya and the present report "Libyans at Risk."

human security collective

Together We Build it organization
منظمة معا نبنيها

Cordaid BUILDING FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES

1. INTRODUCTION

The collection of reliable data in a conflict area is always challenging, but even more meaningful when achieved. While there has been an increased level of documentation and evidence coming from Libya, these reports do not always consider the situation at the grass roots level. Libyan local partners were able to collect in-depth narratives in different (remote) communities throughout Libya, despite the ongoing insecurity, limited travel options, restricted access to remote communities and fear to share sensitive information. These unique stories are presented in this report, making it extremely valuable as it not only includes data, but also the interpretations, analyses and perspectives of Libyan women and men on issues related to peace and security.

This report is part of the four-year project "Women and Youth as Bridge Builders," which supports strong, resourceful women and men in Libya, who often risk their lives to create more peaceful communities. It is a partnership between two Dutch partners and eight local Libyan NGOs to promote human security in Libya with a special attention on women's safety (the list of partner organizations is included at the end of the summary). This document is a summary of the full report, which is available at Cordaid's website. An executive summary in Arabic is also available upon request.

In line with a human-security approach, we bring the lived experiences of Libyans through their own personal stories. The "Libyans at Risk" report is not intended as a comprehensive analysis of the geo-political situation in Libya since Muhammar Gaddafi's government was toppled in 2011. Instead, this report exhibits a unique account of the impact of the conflict on the ground and what it meant for the people experiencing it: the insecurities, the deterioration of services and infrastructure, the increase of weapons and armed groups, and the decrease in jobs. In addition to a people-centered perspective, this report is also unique as it elevates the voices of marginalized groups.
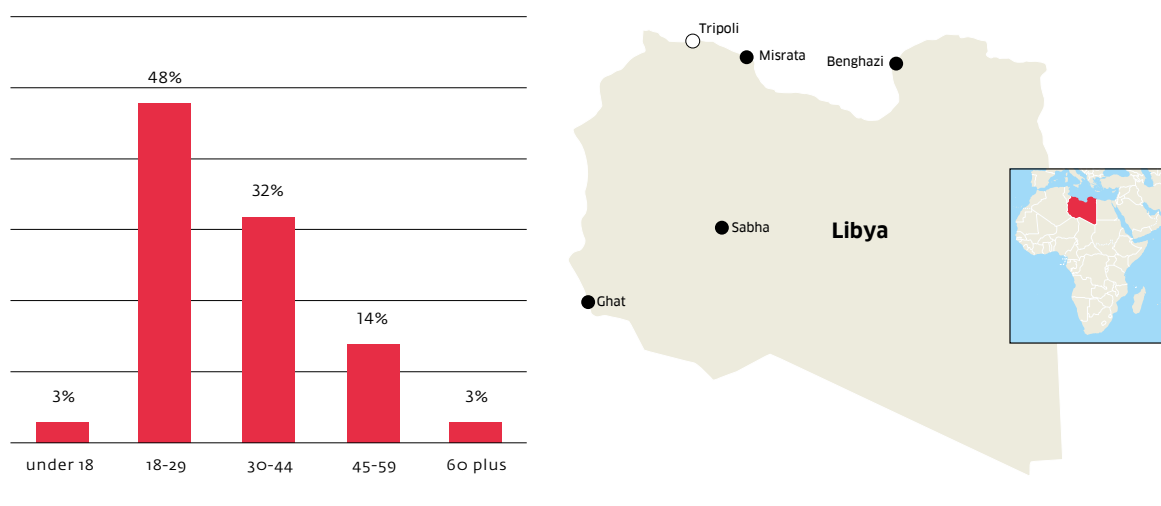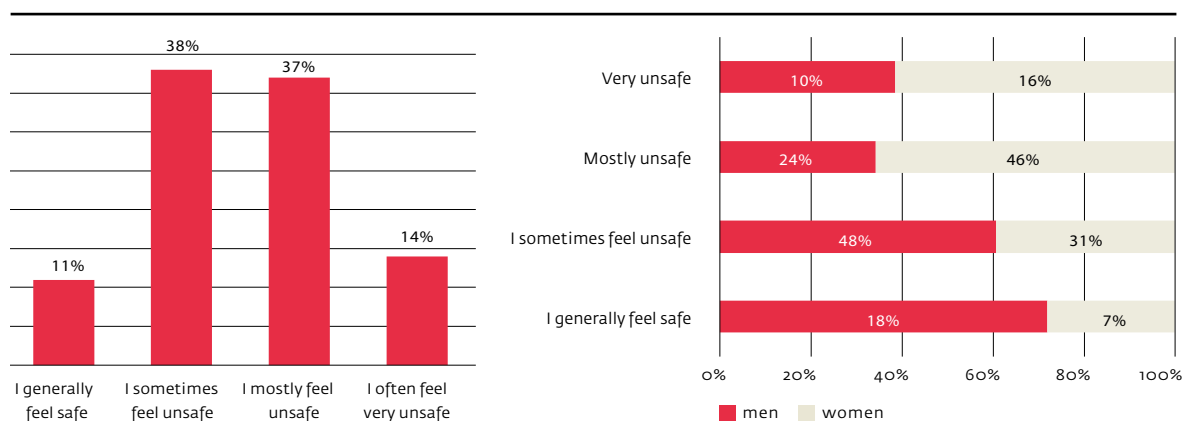
FIGURE 1: INTERVIEWEE AGE AND LOCATION

FIGURE 2: THE GENERAL PERCEIVED FEELING OF INSECURITY (LEFT) AND THE PERCEIVED FEELING OF SAFETY SEGREGATED BY GENDER (RIGHT)

STORY COLLECTION

The purpose of the story collection and the resulting report is to inform all those who are interested in the needs of the communities in Libya and to inform the development of tailor-made initiatives. The stories provide us with valuable information, which we have used to formulate recommendations directed to different stakeholders. The stories may complement other research conducted on Libya and we hope that it will inspire additional research. Furthermore, the report provides a unique and comprehensive insight into the everyday lived experience of Libyans at the grassroots level. These valuable insights on the expressed needs and concerns of local communities have informed the tailor-made programs implemented by local Libyan partners through the "Women and Youth as Bridge Builders" project from 2018-2020.

124 stories were collected between October 2017 and May 2018: 74 stories were narrated by women and 50 stories by men. Respondents were sampled across three geographical regions (north, south, and west) and five cities (Tripoli, Benghazi, Misrata, Sabha, and Ghat). Respondents' ages ranged between 18 and 65 years old. Most respondents (48%) were between 18 and 29 years old at the time they were interviewed. This corresponds to Libya's demographics, where the population is predominantly young.

These stories were collected by 32 activists, representing eight women- and youth-organizations based in the west, east and south of Libya. The stories were collected via tablets and a virtual data collection tool (Commcare) which allows users to document and upload the stories (offline as well as online) while applying data protection principles. The stories highlight experiences of displacement; the constant and real fear that something may happen to you – or worse, to your loved ones; the loss of property, jobs, and access to education; and the widespread presence of weapons and small arms that have an incredible impact on the life of civilians in Libya. **While the stories refer to events that took place before 2018, the issues that affect the day-to-day safety in the community are not only still relevant but have even worsened.**

> *"The general feeling of insecurity and hopelessness is a common thread throughout the stories collected. Regardless of the time in which the story takes place, the stories vividly illustrate the dire consequences of the increasingly deteriorating situation in Libya on civilians"*

Participant during the story analyzing workshop.

The stories not only express the loss of dreams and future perspectives, but also hope, resilience, and the will to overcome and to live a normal and peaceful life. Despite the continuous armed conflicts and insecurities, Libyans are very resilient, they celebrate the beauty of everyday life in the simplest yet most profound forms. We also came across an increasing number of women who have become successful entrepreneurs, thus setting an example and contributing to society in many ways by making a positive difference. Libyan women have clearly shown their heartening resilience and capacity to cope with the daily stress and the psychological effects of the ongoing war through their stories. Despite uplifting examples of positive narratives, most of the stories reflect how the war has negatively impacted the daily life of Libyans.

2. SUMMARIZED FINDINGS

Libya has undergone tremendous political, economic, and social changes. Since Muhammar Gaddafi's government was toppled in 2011, different parties are still fighting for control over the country. So far none has managed to form a stable or a broadly recognized government. The absence of a functioning and unified government in Libya continues to challenge the country's security, humanitarian, and economic situation. These circumstances have enhanced the role of local governance structures to provide services and protection to residents. Nevertheless, an inadequate legal framework and small budgets constantly put the effectiveness of municipalities in question. In addition, the stories have shed light on the different experiences in towns and cities, indicating multilayered small-scale conflicts within the overall conflict. Revealing these complexities is essential to monitoring developments in Libya as they change and often shape the conflict. The different accounts tell a story from a personal perspective. Piecing these stories together provides a greater insight at the dynamics in play.

In general, respondents feel often or mostly unsafe. Only 11% of respondents mentioned that they generally feel safe. Women reported a higher perception of feeling insecure than men with 62% of women feeling very unsafe or mostly unsafe, compared with 34% of men. Some of the factors significantly affecting the daily safety in the community include:

- Armed conflict (mentioned by 21% of respondents).
- Lack of a functioning government (20%).
- Societal oppression of freedoms, including discrimination and disrupted mobility (18%).
- Domestic violence and sexual harassment (15%).
- Poverty, economic violence & lack of access to income (9%).
- Other topics, including internal displacement, lack of infrastructure, tribal conflict and/or extremism (17%).

FIGURE 3: THE TOPICS OF THE STORIES AS INDICATED BY THE RESPONDENTS
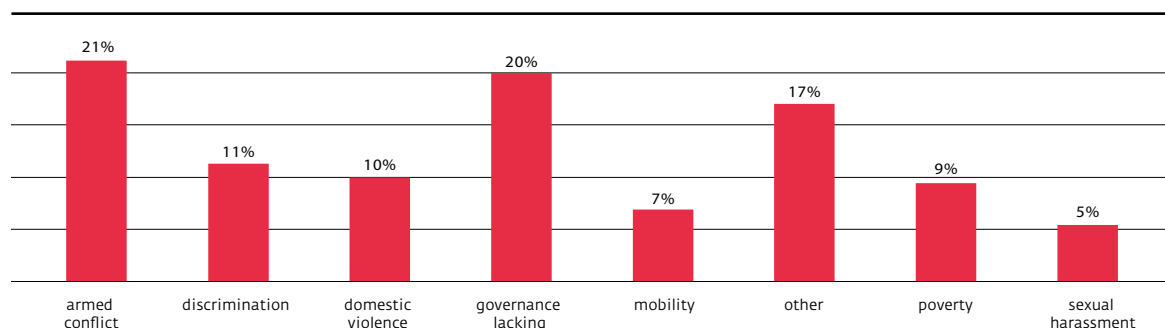
"The different themes are inextricably connected with each other. Capturing this complexity is essential to understand on-the-ground realities."

Participant in the story analysing workshop

The presence and activities of **armed groups** is affecting people's daily lives: from restrictions of movement through frequent checkpoints to kidnappings and forced illegal arrests, as well as torture and forced disappearances. The story collection confirmed this situation.

One recurring theme mentioned in the stories is the presence of arbitrary checkpoints controlled by armed groups. Formal check points – meaning that it belongs to an armed group identified with the government, and random checkpoints are not just an obstruction of movement but also a threat to people's safety. Many stories shared experiences of abduction and kidnapping happening at these checkpoints. It is no longer safe to travel between cities in cars or even within certain neighborhoods. Violent armed conflicts or confrontations happen on main roads or near schools and airports. This continues to affect people's access to vital locations such as hospitals, schools, workplaces, and sometimes their own homes. The stories of Hamed and Nouri illustrate this situation as they were both imprisoned for 96 days by an armed group without charge or trial.

"[...] They started insulting and hitting us with the grips of their guns, then they handcuffed us, put us in their car and took us to a farm, where their militia was based. There were empty underground water tanks where they put their prisoners.

When we arrived, they started again insulting, beating, and threatening to kill us because we were from [a neighbouring city]. We were accused of false accusations, that we destroyed their homes in the 2011 revolution. We were not alone, there were 16 other people who were arrested at the same time and for the same reason. [...]".

Sandy roads in Libya – Insecurity on the road is impacting people's access to vital locations.

As Libyan youth (ages 15-24) struggle with high **unemployment** rates (42% in 2019 compared with the world's average of 16% for the same year), we heard several stories of young Libyans trying to deal with the situation. The remarkably high unemployment rates of youth in Libya play into the recruitment process of armed groups, with young men especially vulnerable. In addition, the economic crisis is a crucial factor driving criminal activities such as kidnapping, smuggling and human trafficking. This is especially the case in rural settings where there are no alternatives to earn a living. Salem, 28 years old shared his story:

"I do here and there some jobs to cover my personal expenses, as most companies require impossible conditions before hiring someone, such as ten-years of experience."

Migrants wait for medical attention at Abosetta base in Tripoli, Libya (May 2017).

Another important issue raised is **displacement**. Due to the ongoing civil war and the state of lawlessness caused by the conflict, the Libyan population has gone through many waves of displacement. It is estimated that at least 6-7% of the population of Libya has suffered from displacement throughout the civil war[3]. Displacement is a significant issue which causes fragmentation and polarization of society, leading to the worsening of the political and security situation. This has negatively impacted local and national reconciliation efforts. Furthermore, the Internally Displaced Population (IDP) experiences serious difficulties accessing basic services, such as healthcare and education. The unfolding humanitarian crisis has caused psychological trauma and severe post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), affecting the wellbeing of displaced people and undermining their willingness to reintegrate.

The stories convey the experiences of displacement and of being uprooted. The stories also illustrate the difficult journey of starting again in a different location, away from home. Nadia tells her story as she had to leave her home in Sebha when the conflict escalated in 2016. After several weeks living in dire conditions, she decided to flee her war-torn city. After five weeks the situation slightly improved, and she returned home for a short period of time.

"[...] The area was completely deserted and restricted. There was no life there. All the buildings and neighborhoods were empty. Only a few managed to keep their property and objects from being robbed or tampered with by mean-spirited people who use these wars to trade in anything.

There were no sounds but the sound of the wind and some gunshots from time to time just to remind you that you are in a war zone. I was extremely shocked when I entered our neighborhood which looked like being abandoned for a thousand years. When I entered the house and removed the dust from some of its corners, my cat which lost 3/4 of its weight after being left alone in the area without anything to eat or to drink rushed happily towards me. Having to leave your own house remains the bitterest thing a person could experience, and worlds can never describe this feeling [...]".

Stories of people displaced because of ISIS and other extremist groups are especially daunting. IDPs had to leave their homes for their safety as they would often disagree with the views held by these groups. These IDPs have expressed a continuing feeling of fear and pain of separation from their loved ones.

Unfortunately, we were not able to collect stories from victims and survivors of **human trafficking and smuggling**, and their voices are missing in this report. Migrants and refugees are held in illegal detention centres, where abhorrent conditions make reaching them incredibly difficult. Many are exploited for slavery or sold to smugglers to be trafficked elsewhere. As outlined by the report, Libya is embroiled in civil war and collapsing state structures. It is not safe for anyone but even less so for the most vulnerable, who, without connections or knowledge, cannot access any form of justice.

The conflict, lack of central governance, and the ongoing violence have damaged **Libyan infrastructure and disrupted access to public services**. The impact on the health sector has been immense. The Libyan health sector is based on a socialist system, which means that most treatments are free in public hospitals. Nevertheless, most health facilities do not function and struggle with corruption, while also suffering from shortages of medicine and equipment[4]. Since the Covid-19 pandemic reached Libya in March 2020, the situation has been aggravated. Years of violence have left the healthcare system vulnerable. Equipment for testing is limited, there is very little protective gear and there is a shortage of medical workers, particularly in rural areas.

In the wake of the ongoing conflict, women became particularly vulnerable to **sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)**. A combination of patriarchal norms, the presence of armed groups, and the wide availability of weapons are the central cause of anxiety and lack of security for women. The incidents described range from physical violence, verbal abuse, sexual harassment, and domestic violence, to abductions and rape. Mundane activities, such as going to university, shopping for groceries, or meeting friends have become an ordeal, placing women at risk of verbal and physical abuse. Hadia and Salwa told their stories of harassment on the street. Both were also confronted with a weapon:

"[...] a man in a car was following me, he started saying unpleasant things, such as "what are you doing here alone sweet girl?" I ignored him, but then he left his car with a knife threatening to stab me if I would not get into his car. I started to scream and told him to leave me alone. Eventually, he decided to leave"

"He opened the window of his car and said things I did not understand. At first, I did not pay attention and acted as nothing happened, as this happens quite often. What was different this time, was that the guy left his car and followed me on foot. He got ahead of me and pulled out a gun from his back pocket"

A woman walks in Libya's capital Tripoli, controlled by the UN-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) (2020).

The alternative governing bodies, such as the Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli with its affiliated armed groups, the House of Representatives, and the Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF) contribute strongly to the prevalence of SGBV. These are patriarchal institutions themselves, who often govern based on hybrid traditional tribal laws. Consequently, some women expressed distrust in so-called "security enforcers".

However, the public sphere is not the only space where the threat of violence exists. Violence in the private space also harms women's safety. In Libya, as in many parts of the world, domestic violence is a significant problem, although reliable statistics on its prevalence are lacking. The culture of silence around the issue of domestic violence withholds women from speaking up about domestic violence, as it is perceived to be a "private" matter that brings "shame and dishonor" to the family. Women also fear retaliation and rejection. Maram tells her story of violence at her brother's hands:

"[...] My brother kept giving us orders to clean the house and his room and to prepare food. When we refused to do so, he threatened us with a gun and said that he would kick us out of the house.

We got through confrontations with my brother on a daily basis, which made my sister leave the house, and due to the absence of authorities and any action on the part of my relatives, I'm living in permanent instability and insecurity in my own house."

Women that are married to a foreign man face specific challenges and violations to their rights as the nationality of children in Libya is linked to the father and not the mother. This means that Libyan women are unable to confer their nationality to their children. This in contrast to Libyan men, who can easily transfer their nationality to their children. The ambiguity in Libyan law on this matter causes **discrimination and marginalization** to women who are married to non-Libyan men, and their children. These children face great disadvantages as they lose their citizenship number, are unable to attend public schools, and are deprived of certain state benefits.

Poverty is also an important issue mentioned through the stories. After NATO's intervention in 2011, some institutions were debilitated and poverty rates in Libya soared: currently 1/3 of Libyan citizens live in poverty[5]. According to the UNHCR[6], 1.3 million people in Libya need humanitarian assistance. Necessities such as fuel, gas, safe drinking water, medication, cooking oil and food are scarce and very expensive in some areas. Oil fields are often a target of attacks, with bombardments and blockades pushing oil production to a stop. Many Libyans relied on salaries from oil revenues and many have lost their jobs. In addition, the banking system has struggled with cash flow and security threats.

Hammad, a farmer from the south of Libya, used to produce seasonal fruits and vegetables which provided him a modest revenue to take care of his entire family. Due to the armed conflict and deliberate electricity cuts his livelihood is threatened and he faces many problems:

"The volatility of the electricity supply situation caused so much damage to the underground well pump which used to water the farm."

The civil war and widespread prevalence of weapons, coupled with near total impunity, has created an environment where Libyans have to be very careful in voicing opposite views or opinions. Peacebuilders, Human Rights' Defenders (HRD), journalists, and media professionals face increased risks and are often intimidated, threatened, and physically attacked by armed groups[7]. Despite threats, civil society organizations continue raising their voices, organizing events and promoting a vibrant cultural scene.

3. CLOSING REMARKS

The story collection process has provided important insights and understanding of the security issues that Libyans face in their daily lives. The unique aspect of storytelling not only lies in the connection to lived experiences, but also in the exposure to issues relevant to people that are often marginalized and excluded from the dominant narrative. The topics discussed in the report are drawn from the stories collected and tackle many aspects of the Libyan conflict. Furthermore, they give concrete examples of what needs to be addressed most urgently.

To recap, the armed conflict and the lack of a functioning government are two of the main threats to the daily safety of local communities and need to be addressed by all stakeholders immediately. Violence and the presence of an estimated 1,600 active armed groups[8] deeply affect the daily lives of men, women, and children throughout the country. Domestic violence and sexual harassment are also complex issues that need to be dealt with. A combination of patriarchal norms, the presence of armed groups, and the wide availability of weapons are a central cause of anxiety and lack of security for women and girls.

In addition, severe limitations in mobility as well as restrictions to access health, social, cultural, and economic services have significantly affected people's daily lives. Another factor affecting the human security of Libyans is related to poverty and unemployment with 1/3 of Libyan citizens living in poverty. Other issues raised through the stories include internal displacement, lack of infrastructure, tribal conflicts, and extremism.

To address the threats and issues raised, a people-centred, comprehensive, multi-sectoral, human security approach is required. Our call to action underlines the importance of a broad approach addressing multiple stakeholders. Human security requires systematic, comprehensive, and preventive protection. States have a primary responsibility to provide such protection, while other actors such as international bodies, civil society and NGOs play a pivotal role. Strategies of action also need to enable people to develop their resilience as well as their capacity as individuals and communities. Such empowerment not only enables people to develop their full potential but also permits them to participate in the design and implementation of solutions to ensure human security for themselves and others.

4. CALL TO ACTION – RECOMMENDATIONS

Photo Piet den Blanken

The Libyan flag at the port of Tripoli.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- An immediate and sustained ceasefire by all fighting parties in Libya and de-escalation of all hostilities. A sustainable and comprehensive peace and future vision that is people-centered and includes a human rights and human security approach.
- All local, national, and international actors involved in Libya must commit and work towards a peaceful solution to the Libyan armed conflict. They must abstain from any political or military action that can escalate the armed conflict.
- Place local actors - especially women and youth, at the heart of conflict prevention and peace building processes, as well as any local, national, and international effort towards achieving peace and security in Libya.
- Encourage and support local initiatives that raise awareness and promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women peace and security and UNSCR 2250 on youth peace and security.
- Mainstream gender equality in all programs and interventions carried out by local, national, and international actors.
- Establish a funding mechanism that provides long-term, structural, and flexible funding to CSOs working primarily to promote women and youth peace and security, prioritizing funding to local women and youth organizations.
- Human Rights Defenders must be part of the peace building process. Their safety and security must always be ensured by all parties and must include a gendered perspective.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO:

1. The International Community[9]:

- **Gender:**
  a. Ensure equal representation of women in all international efforts to contribute to peace and security, including conferences, national plans, peace-building delegations, etc.
  b. Allocate a specific budget for programs addressing gender-based violence and advance a women peace and security agenda.
  c. Support and advocate for the full implementation of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 2250 in Libya.

- **Security:**
  a. Consistently enforce the UNSC arms embargo on Libya, and publicly hold accountable member states and third parties who breach the arms embargo – without exceptions.
  b. Advocate for and promote a nation-wide disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) program and support local and national actors to implement such a program.
  c. Stop funding militias and armed groups for the protection of private interests and to control local Libyan populations, migrant populations, local leaders, and authorities, as well as law enforcement bodies.
  d. Do not instrumentalize the Women, Peace and Security agenda to promote Counter Terrorism and Migration policies.

- **Public services and citizens well-being:**
  a. Provide adequate technical and financial support to local municipalities to increase and improve the provision of public services in their local communities

- **Peacebuilding:**
  a. We encourage the United Nations Special Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to establish a consultative body that engages with Libyan women and youth-led organizations and consult with them on peace and security matters.
  b. Include civil society organizations in the design and implementation of formal peacebuilding processes, including monitoring peace agreements.
  c. Adopt a quota and allocate a reserved seat for women and youth in formal peace negotiations (track I).[10]
  d. Encourage national and local authorities in Libya to establish democratic means for representation and avoid the use of tribal and biased regional quota systems.

- **Humanitarian work:**
  a. All migrants need to be protected by human rights and international humanitarian law.
  b. Provide assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) in Libya, including psychosocial and economic support.
  c. Close all migrant detention centers and provide adequate assistance and safe passage to migrants.
  d. We urge the European Union to stop sending migrants back to libya; to have a comprehensive and unified policy that is based on humanitarian law; to promote international cooperation on migration issues; and to protect the safety, dignity, human rights, and fundamental freedoms of all migrants.

- **International Civil Society Organizations and Donor Agencies:**
  a. Provide adequate, long-term, structural, easily accessible, flexible core-funding for Libyan Civil Society Organizations working on women's rights and human rights.
  b. Prioritize the needs of Libyan people by ensuring that funding strategies are determined by local voices.
  c. Invest in Civil Society Organization to strengthen their capacity.
  d. Prioritize the funding of Libyan organizations and follow their lead in terms of analyses of the situation.
  e. Facilitate the participation of local civil society activists in international fora.

2. National and Local Libyan authorities[11]:

■ **Gender:**

  a. Develop a multi-sectoral national plan and strategy for the protection of women against all forms of violence, in line with obligations under national and international law.

  b. Adopt policies to prevent and criminalize all forms of sexual-based violence, as well as conflict related sexual based violence, including repealing Articles 37512 and 42413 of the Penal Code.

  c. Ensure that law enforcement agencies (e.g., judges, police) are trained on SGBV related issues, women's rights, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law and that security officers are trained to identify threats and gender-based abuses and know how to respond to them.

  d. Ensure that all allegations of (Sexual) Gender Based violence are fully investigated and prosecuted and that survivors are provided with gender-responsive protection, reparations, and psychosocial health services.

  e. Initiate programs dedicated to women's economic empowerment, while promoting gender equality in the workplace and the participation of women in decision making and senior positions.

  f. Immediately provide the National Electronic Identification Number (and other legal documents) to Libyan women married to non-Libyan men in compliance with national and international laws.

■ **Security:**

  a. We urge all national actors to initiate and collaborate in a nation-wide security sector reform (SSR) that builds a democratically accountable and unified national security force without bias to any region. Moreover, the SSR processes must include civil society organizations, especially women-led groups to ensure gender mainstreaming in design, implementation, and monitoring of the SSR process.

  b. Establish a nation-wide and comprehensive disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) program, and include Libyan civil society in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the process. The DDR program should not only target disarmament of non-state armed groups, but also private ownership of weapons and arms by individual citizens.

■ **Public services and citizens well-being:**

  a. We encourage national authorities and local municipalities to increase coordination and partnerships between them to enhance the delivery of public services.

  b. Collaborate and partner with Libyan civil society on matters related to improving the delivery of public services.

  c. Improve educational and health services by providing adequate resources and promoting international cooperation.

■ **Peacebuilding:**

  a. We demand all Libyan actors involved in the armed conflict to end the conflict, abstain from engaging in any armed escalation and engage in a peaceful solution.

  b. We demand that local and national authorities initiate and facilitate a Libyan nation-wide reconciliation process that includes Libyan civil society and women-led groups in its design and implementation.

  c. Establish formal channels of communication with Libyan civil society to facilitate direct communication and partnership.

  d. Support Libyan civil society in their peacebuilding projects and efforts.

  e. Include women and youth in official delegations when attending formal peace and political talks, while ensuring that women and youth representatives engage in all thematic debates including security issues.

  f. Adopt a national action plan to implement UNSCR 1325 on women peace and security, and national action on UNSCR 2250 in close collaboration with Libyan civil society, especially women and youth-led groups.

■ **Humanitarian work:**
   a. Provide immediate support to internally displaced people (IDPs) and adopt a strategy to enable their safe return to their homes.
   b. Provide humane treatment as well as psychosocial and economic support to IDPs in all regions of Libya.
   c. Close migrants' detention centers and ensure that human rights are respected and hold those who committed human rights violations towards detainees accountable.

3. Libyan civil society[14]:

■ **Gender:**
   a. We encourage Libyan civil society in general to promote gender equality and women's rights.
   b. We encourage Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) working in Libya to seek the expertise and support of Libyan women organizations that have experience in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) through their work. This is to make sure that CSOs gain a nuanced understanding of GBV and are able to adequately address these issues at work and in society.
   c. We encourage Civil Society Organizations, networks, and coalitions to adopt a gender-sensitive approach.
   d. Engage in reporting and monitoring the implementation of Libya's obligations towards international law and policies on gender equality.
   e. Include women-led groups in partnerships and collaborations with national and local authorities to promote and enhance gender equality in Libya.

■ **Security:**
   a. Play an active role in promoting and advocating for a nation-wide SSR and DDR program, that includes a comprehensive gender-sensitive and inclusive approach.
   b. Take an interest in promoting human security in Libya and prioritize the need for soft security measures in national and local efforts related to security in Libya.

■ **Public services and citizens well-being:**
   a. Conduct community-based need's assessments, to assist municipalities to better understand the needs of their local communities.
   b. Serve as a bridge between members of local communities and their municipalities to improve access to public services.

■ **Peacebuilding:**
   a. Prioritize the creation and strengthening of local networks and coalitions across the country to foster community dialogues around reconciliation.
   b. Promote and advocate for a national action plan on UNSCR1325 on women peace and security and UNSCR2250 on youth peace and security. Moreover, support the national authorities in the implementation of the national action plans.
   c. Promote and advocate the need for a nation-wide reconciliation process, that would include women and youth-led groups as key actors.
   d. Promote the recognition of the important role of civil society, particularly women and youth groups, and advocate for their full inclusion and participation in formal peace processes led by international, national, and local actors.

■ **Humanitarian work:**
   a. Implement a comprehensive assessment on IDPs in Libya and provide broad support, including humanitarian support as well as access to education, healthcare, and psychosocial services and opportunities.
   b. Monitor and evaluate the work of international humanitarian organizations in Libya, to ensure that the support provided is designed according to the Libyan context and needs.
   c. Play an active role in documenting and reporting human rights violations taking place in migrant detention centers and advocating for their closure.

ENDNOTES

1   2020 Open Letter to Permanent Representatives to the United Nations on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Resolution 1325 (2000), signed by 558 organizations, including Cordaid and Human Security Collective.

2   https://www.youth4peace.info/UNSCR2250/Introduction

3   https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/LBY_Protection_situation%20 overview%20_Jan-Feb%202018.pdf

4   https://www.who.int/hac/crises/lby/libya-health-situation-report-june-july2017.pdf?ua=1

5   https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ly.html

6   https://www.unhcr.org/libya.html

7   https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/libya

8   https://www.landinfo.no/asset/3025/1/3025_1.pdf

9   Especially: United Nations Special Mission in Libya, members states and international organisations who have played crucial roles in the country since 2011.

10   "Track I" Diplomacy is part of the 4-track UN diplomacy efforts, which focusses on formal negotiations between nations conducted by diplomats.

11   Local authorities are defined here as both legislative and executive bodies in the west, east and south of Libya, as well as municipalities and local councils:

12   Article 375 of the Libyan penal code states reduced sentence for men who kill their wives for adultery and sex-related offences.

13   Article 424 of the Libyan penal code states that if the offender marries the woman against whom the offense is committed, the offense and penalty shall be extinguished, and the penal effects thereof shall cease.

14   Libyan civil society includes non-profit, non-governmental organizations and associations, networks, and coalitions.

This report is based on collected stories. These stories have provided us a profound insight on the lived realities by Libyans in their communities. The stories themselves do not necessarily represent the opinion of the network or individual organizations. The stories guided the partners in selecting priorities and contributed to the development and implementation of the project initiatives under this program.

Al Nour was founded in 2012 in the city of Sabha and focusses on raising awareness on human and women rights among Libyan legislative authorities. They organize workshops on women's political participation and awareness raising on Violence Against Women and the CEDAW convention. In 2013, Al Nour played a significant role in the political movement at the onset of the new political process during which they organized the Libyan Women's Conference.

Fezzan Libya Organization is an organization based in Sebha, the South of Libya. They consist of a network of activists who work together with the local community to launch initiatives to support community development. They also support women, youth, minorities and local activists to become more active in regional politics and local institutions. In addition, since 2012, Fezzan Libya Organization advocates for the protection of Libyan activists on social media and offers a connection between the South and the rest of Libya.

Goodness has Brought us Together was founded in 2014 in Al Bayda City. The organization is active in many fields but focuses primarily on humanitarian interventions and community development. By cooperating with local organizations and authorities they organize activities to build capacities of youth and women and strengthen their role in project development. Currently they have more than 50 members, both male and female.

Makers of Hope are a regional youth-led organization founded in 2013. The members of the organization are young male and female community leaders from various backgrounds, who are active in the field of human rights, environmental issues, minority rights and women's rights. The work of Makers of Hope focuses on empowering youth and increasing their role in decision-making processes at the international level in relation to UNSCR 2250.

I am Libyan, but my Child is Not is a civil rights and charity organization based in Ghat, South-Western Libya. Its goal is to defend the rights of children of Libyan women who are married to non-Libyan citizens as well as to consolidate and enforce their citizenship rights. By working side by side with NGO's, governments, and (inter)national human rights organizations, they provide support, charity, humanitarian aid and civil assistance to this group of citizens. They conduct studies and research on problems that Libyan women who are married to non-Libyans and their children face. Based on their findings they develop and implement workable and suitable solutions to eliminate all forms of discrimination within society. Currently, they have more than 400 women in their network, who also receive training to help them earn a living.

Tamazight Women's Movement (**TWM**) is an indigenous women's civil society organization that focuses on gender equality, youth, women, peace and security issues. These core areas are addressed through an intersectional approach in conducting research, capacity building and advocacy at the local, national and international levels. The organization has an extensive experience in engaging on the international level and in mobilizing for (intersectional) gender-inclusive peace process and implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent resolutions.

Together We Build It (**TWBI**) is an intergenerational non-profit organization that was founded to support a peaceful democratic transition in Libya, through empowering women and youth to participate in political life. TWBI believes in the important role of an inter-generational gender approach to formal and non-formal peace building. Since it was founded in 2011, TWBI has been working on women and youth peace and security agenda. TWBI is working on a national level through founding the 1325 Network in Libya. The organization implemented many projects relevant to different topics including: advocating women's meaningful political participation at national and international levels; preventing and raising awareness on harmful gender norms and GBV; also it contributed to studies and reports on human rights conditions as well as monitoring the implementation of women and youth, peace and security agendas in Libya.

Cordaid is an international organization for relief and development with its Global Office based in The Hague. Cordaid has been fighting poverty and exclusion in the world's most fragile societies and conflict-stricken areas for a century. Cordaid supports people in vulnerable regions and areas of conflict to build flourishing communities by creating opportunities and delivering innovative solutions to complex problems. Cordaid positions to include women and youth not just as beneficiaries, but as partners and leaders in the process of building peace, development and enhancing security within their community.

Human Security Collective (**HSC**) works to improve human security, human rights and human dignity. Its work specifically focuses on disadvantaged communities and people in contexts that are characterized by complex systemic conflicts, social exclusion of minority groups, and/or potential crises that may erupt as a consequence of violent extremism and lack of governance and leadership to deal with those.