



Empowering Libyan Civil Society Organizations to Address the Needs of Migrants and Displaced Persons in Ongoing Crisis: IOM carried out two training workshops for emergency workers engaged in the response to the Libya crisis.

16 October 2014 — IOM Libya organized two capacity-building training workshops on protection, psychosocial support, and Emergency Response for 48 Libyan and Tunisian operators engaged in supporting migrants, refugees, internally displaced families, including women, children and unaccompanied minors. Both trainings were organized successively in Zarzis, Tunisia from September 15 to 20 and from 24 to 28 respectively, with the support of the Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa.

Libya has witnessed relentless civil unrest since July 2014 when heavy fighting between rival militias erupted in the city of Tripoli. At the same time, on-going clashes continue in the eastern city of Benghazi where pro-government forces are contrasting Islamist militias. The prolonged fighting and the use of heavy weaponry in densely populated areas have created urgent humanitarian needs and caused the displacement of over 140,000 people. In addition, IOM estimated that of more than 200,000 migrant workers in Libya, 7,000 are vulnerable and in need of evacuation assistance, transit or border reception, health services and psychosocial support.

Civil society organizations face challenges strengthening their capacities in the context of a divided society, competing agendas, limited mobility and scarce resources. The workshops aimed not only at empowering the participating organizations but also at creating a pool of trained emergency workers who can subsequently extend psychosocial support, protection and emergency response to a broader network of local associations based throughout Libya, including the east and the south.

Additional topics covered included a series of interactive sessions introducing the IOM Migration Crisis Operational Framework ([MCOF](#)), vulnerability assessment, conflict



Participants holding signs saying they have been “MCOF-ed”! © IOM 2014

mediation, project development and financial management as well as displacement tracking, mapping and reporting. Participants were given the opportunity to engage with the material through discussions and group exercises in order to boost their confidence, teamwork and maximize their learning process according to tailored adult learning techniques.

“Under the current circumstances we found the training very beneficial as it turned out that the work we have been doing with internally displaced persons and migrants is called ‘Psychosocial Support’. We did not know that this support could have been done in a more organized and systematic way. We were determined as a group to learn from the training, to exchange ideas and experiences in spite of the hardship of the journey,” one of the trainees commented on one of the workshop sessions.

Participants felt that the workshop and the issues discussed were important and relevant to the current situation. They hoped that more advanced and additional workshops will be held in the future and urged IOM and the Libyan Higher Emergency Committee - also participating in the workshop - to strengthen their partnership in order to better support those who have been severely affected by the conflict. IOM has been supporting Civil Society Organizations since 2012, establishing Psychosocial Centers in Benghazi, Misrata and Tripoli as well as the Psychosocial Network in Tripoli. Since mid-July a Psychosocial Team has been providing first aid and psychosocial support in Tripoli and nearby communities. The present initiative is part of a wider capacity building project implemented by IOM in Libya since October 2013, and funded by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund.

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