



IOM Builds the Capacity of Libyan Civil Society Organizations to Provide Comprehensive Psychosocial Support

24 March Libya - IOM hosted a final capacity building and mentoring workshop on psychosocial support for 35 community-based organizations from Tripoli, as part of a ceremony to celebrate the successful culmination of IOM's Libyan Civil Society Organization (CSO) STEP Project. The IOM project aimed to better network and foster cooperation between Libyan CSOs and ensure sustainability in their work to meet the pressing needs of mental health care that continue to plague the country three years on from the revolution.

Activities carried out under the STEP project included (i) a mapping and analysis of civil society organizations relevant to psychosocial support; (ii) the selection of organizations based on criteria tailored to the needs of such programming, to whom 18 training sessions were delivered; and, (iii) on the job mentoring to ensure that the tools acquired through training would be appropriately applied.

The training topics covered inter alia psychosocial support, community conflict mediation, individual and group counseling. Additional trainings were also provided on capabilities and human development community-based recreational and social activities, and program identity and project cycle planning. Over 90 participants benefited from the trainings. The project received full support and great acclaim from the Ministry of Culture and Civil Society in Libya, a key partner on the ground.

The intensive project was carried out in a short three month period with generous support from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). In his remarks at the closing ceremony, the British Ambassador to Libya, H. E. Michael Aron, acknowledged the urgent need to address mental health care in Libya and applauded the CSOs for taking a united step forward to meet these important



needs in the communities that they work in. He emphasized that the momentum built through the project must continue, with additional steps to be taken by the organizations now that they had been equipped with the know-how and support to move forward.

Marcio Gagliato, IOM Libya Psychosocial Programme Manager, also highlighted the lasting impact of the program and the need for additional projects aimed at building the capacity of CSOs to support all Libyans in overcoming the "psychosocial burdens they have carried for so long".

Since the conflict, a drive for volunteerism coupled with the emergence of CSOs has been on the increase. Active community participation is essential in breaking the cycle

of violence and in rebuilding a social fabric that has been hampered by the recent conflict in Libya. The project builds on two years of previous work carried out in three community-based centers in Tripoli, Benghazi and Misurata, which served as IOM hubs on the ground for direct support to communities. IOM is committed to providing psychosocial assistance to conflict and disaster affected populations through a holistic approach within IOM's core programmes and activities.

It was then followed by a colorful and scenic bazaar in which the Libyan Civil Society Organizations proudly displayed their posters, photographs and creative projects.

To view the project YouTube video please click [here](#)

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