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“Recovery, Stability and Socio-economic Development in Libya”

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes N.5

Date	20 th October 2022
Time	11:00 – 13:00
Venue	Four Points – Sheraton Hotel (Al Andalus), Tripoli, Libya <i>Videoconference via zoom</i>
Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Local Government • Presidential Council • Ministry of Planning • EU Delegation to Libya • Embassy of Italy • AICS 
Agenda	<p>Opening session: Welcome and remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Local Government:  -  Supreme Council of Local Administration - Presidential Council:  - Ministry of Planning:    -  - European Union Delegation to Libya:   -  - European Commission – DG NEAR:     -  - Embassy of Italy to Libya:  - AICS:  -  - 

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EU Delegation to
Libya

EU - DG NEAR

- This Steering Committee meeting was held at a time when an increased coordination is needed in order to help solving all the issues and obstacles faced while promoting stabilization and recovery in the country. It is part of the duties of this Steering Committee to ensure continued collaboration with the Libyan government at the national and local level, compatibility with other coordination structures as well as exchange of information among the members of the relevant ministries, especially in case of distribution of the activities in the target areas, in order to support and maximize the impact of the Programme.
- He highlighted the importance of adopting a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the interventions throughout their implementation period, to draw lessons, consolidate the best practices and fulfill the shortcomings.
- [REDACTED] (DEU): Stressed that the support for democratic development is a key foreign policy objective for the EU and a high priority in its international and development cooperation policy. Local governance and local development, connected to the decentralization process, play an important role.
- The EU support to Libya aims to address the most pressing issues faced by the country. This includes the provision of basic services, peace consolidation, and the stabilization process. Local authorities and the decentralization process are essential for greater stability and resilience in Libya, and the EU supports the progress that has been made with the National Road Map for Decentralization and the recent cabinet decision (856) on the transfer of competencies.
- The Programme "Recovery, Stability, and Socio-economic Development in Libya" has made great progress in supporting the provision of basic services and the EU is looking forward to continued results during phase 2.
- She concluded her speech thanking everyone for the successful cooperation and for the continuous efforts to improve local development in Libya.
- [REDACTED] (EU DG NEAR): Said that this Programme with EUR 50 M + 26.1 M EU Trust Fund contribution is proof of a spirit of solidarity, shared responsibility, and unity when it comes to addressing the challenges in Libya.



<p>Italian Embassy to Libya</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is a large program that the EU has financed in direct support to improve the delivery of key public services by Libyan municipalities. It targets 37 municipalities - including in the Southern part of Libya - to improve the living conditions and resilience of vulnerable population and support local governance, in particular by enhancing access to basic and social services in health, primary education, water and sanitation. It also focuses on sustainable energy, agriculture, economic development, and social cohesion. - For the EU, local authorities are the key for the stabilization, recovery and state-building process in Libya because they are the closest legitimate governmental bodies to the Libyan population; therefore, strengthening municipalities is one of the key tasks that the government should give great attention to and invest lots of effort and resources. - EU efforts are directed at supporting Libyan local authorities in addressing the challenges caused by the influx of migrants. It is important that the local and central authorities cooperate to identify the needs inside the local communities, including vulnerable categories such as migrants, IDPs and asylum seekers. - The EU stands by Libya to provide the necessary support. The EUTF support provided to local authorities in Libya amounts to EUR 162 M and covers activities in more than 60 municipalities. - Finally, he stressed the good and intense collaborative work that has already taken place between all the parties for the implementation of the first phase of this Programme and for the commitment demonstrated so far for the proper implementation of the second phase, in order to ensure the needed support to Libyan people and local authorities. - He concluded thanking the Libyan counterparts/partners for the support they are demonstrating. - (Italian Embassy): Expressed his pleasure for attending this fifth Steering Committee meeting of the Baladiyati Programme and for having the opportunity to renovate the Italian support to the Libya government in key areas such as the local governance and the decentralization process.
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- Italy remains firmly engaged in Libya. The cooperation pillar is very important to reach out to local communities, with a broad set of ongoing interventions.
- Indeed, the two phases of the Programme capitalize on the trust built over time with Libyan institutional partners through several concurrent initiatives, including the Italian development cooperation Programmes managed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (over EUR 70 M from 2016), the 'Bridge of Solidarity' bilateral stabilization Programme, whose second phase is budgeted at EUR 9 M, and the Programme 'Support to Integrated border and migration management in Libya', with a EUR 45 M budget allocated by the Ministry of Interior to contribute fighting human trafficking in the Mediterranean.
- Cooperation with the Libyan authorities at the central level, in particular with the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Planning and the line ministries was crucial to align interventions with the priority needs of the population and with national frameworks and standards.
- Accordingly, Italy renews its support and commitment to work to strengthen the role and capacities of Libyan municipalities and improve the resilience of local institutions as primary service providers and interface with local communities.
- It is worth highlighting the inclusive approach adopted by the Programme in supporting the municipalities across the country: Baladiyati Phase 1 covered 27 municipalities across Libya, while Phase 2 is targeting 14 municipalities of the South, mostly in the Fezzan Region, a marginalized area of the country where the needs of the population are considerable, an area often neglected by cooperation Programmes.
- Supporting the Southern region and its people is a priority for the Italian Government and Italian Cooperation. Italy is committed in promoting peace and stability in Fezzan, supporting the reconciliation efforts of the Libya government and financing concrete interventions in different fields such as health, renewable energy, agriculture and water.



AICS	<p>Equitable and inclusive services help reinforce the social contract between the State and the population, including the most marginalized and vulnerable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [REDACTED] (AICS): Stressed that since the last Steering Committee meeting, held on 15 June 2021, most of the interventions from phase 1 have been successfully completed and that the Programme has proven resilient to the external shocks caused by insecurity and instability in Libya, allowing to achieve very good results. - The cooperation and coordination among MoLG, EU and the three implementing partners, AICS, UNDP and UNICEF, through the governance structure of the Programme have been critical to achieve these important results and ensure the effective delivery on the field, optimizing the resources available and creating synergies. - For AICS component, the INGOs in collaboration with the Libyan civil society and local authorities have played a key role in successfully implementing interventions in the target municipalities, thanks to their ability to operate in complex contexts, but also to their strong expertise and commitment. - The experience gained in these last four years has allowed to draw on valuable lessons learned and best practices, such as the importance of ensuring a continued engagement and clear communication with the target municipalities, public facilities and communities; to monitor the correct handover of the equipment delivered and the use of the rehabilitated facilities by the local staff through an impact assessment 2/3 months after project completion; the strategic role of the Joint Communication Initiative as a tool to be potentiated in phase 2 for an effective and integrated communication strategy; the key function of the Technical Secretariat led by AICS to ensure a participatory approach in the decision-making process as well as a strengthened coordination among Implementing Partners and with the Libyan counterparts. - Concerning Baladiyati Phase 2, the Inception phase is now concluded, and the Programme has moved on to the implementation stage. Compared to phase 1, the Programme focuses on the South of Libya and goes beyond the service delivery scope by placing emphasis on the
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<p>UNDP</p>	<p>local economic development while fostering social cohesion at the communal level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - He then gave a general overview of AICS activities in Libya: from 2016 the Italian Cooperation has allocated approximately EUR 72 M. AICS intervenes in Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and in the South, with a particular focus on the Fezzan Region. The main sectors are health and protection, WASH, agriculture/food security, renewable energy and solid waste management. For 2022, an additional EUR 15 M have been approved, of which EUR 4 M for humanitarian initiatives and EUR 11 M to promote stabilization and local development, while for the 2023 programming it is expected to allocate at least the same annual budget to guarantee the continuity of AICS action in Libya. - He concluded its intervention mentioning that the main expected deliverable from this Steering Committee is to confirm its agreement on the progress and results achieved by the two phases of the Programme and to reaffirm its commitment towards the successful continuation of this partnership. <div data-bbox="527 976 1421 1270"> <p>- [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> </div> <div data-bbox="527 1312 1421 1480"> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> </div> <div data-bbox="527 1522 1421 1753"> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> </div>
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UNICEF		



	The Steering Committee members confirmed the adoption of the meeting agenda and of the 4 th Steering Committee Meeting minutes held on the 15 th of June 2021.
Agenda item 3	Review of the progress with the Phase 1 interventions in the 24 Municipalities: [REDACTED]
	<p>The three implementing partners showed a PowerPoint presentation sharing the progress of Baladiyati Phase 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [REDACTED] (AICS): Started the presentation by sharing an overview of Baladiyati Phase 1 and the overall results achieved to date. She gave a brief explanation about the implementation delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the armed conflict. - She then provided an update on the progress of AICS component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AICS completed 100% of its interventions by August 2022 • 54 health facilities provided with equipment and supplies (106%) • 31 health facilities rehabilitated/maintained (100%) • 19 schools rehabilitated (100%) • 5 WASH interventions completed (100%) • 2,370 health staff reached through 166 capacity building trainings (556%) • 104,857 Libyans and Non-Libyans reached through awareness campaigns on inclusive access to basic services and health education (188%) • Lead on Programme coordination <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

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<p>Agenda item 4</p>	<p>Baladiyati Phase 2 - State of play in the 14 municipalities: [REDACTED]</p> <p>The three implementing partners showed a PowerPoint presentation sharing the progress of Baladiyati Phase 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [REDACTED] AICS): Started the presentation by sharing an overview of Baladiyati Phase 2 and then provided an update on the AICS component: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception Phase completed with the identification of a list of priority interventions by municipality • First Call for Proposals on Basic Services launched (11/07) and selection of INGOs ongoing • Second Call for Proposals on Agricultural Livelihood launched (16/09) – Deadline on 16/11 • CIHEAM Inception phase completed and implementation on the field started in September • Lead on Programme coordination <p>[REDACTED]</p>

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<p>Agenda item 5</p>	<p>Conclusion and Closing session</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (MoLG): Thanked all the partners for their support and expressed his wish that phase 1 is finalized as soon as possible to have all focused on the implementation of phase 2. - He expressed his appreciation to the partners for following MoLG's request to specify in the documents shared for phase 2 the new departments/offices established by MoLG with which they are going to collaborate in each target municipality. This will ensure a better coordination and communication among all parties involved, at central and local level. 11 new departments/offices will be established in the South, 4 of which are 90% ready for the transfer of competencies. - He highlighted the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance for the partners to commit to follow an integrated approach and to coordinate on a joint work plan for a better understanding of each organization's workflow.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local counterparts' role is to maintain all outputs that the municipalities receive from the Programme. • Based on Act No.1500/2022, the new local departments/offices will receive a budget to implement their tasks in the municipalities, keeping the previous budget and the same employees' salaries. • Stated that Murzuq Management Council establishment has been approved by MoLG (according to Act no. 30073). <p>- [REDACTED] (MoLG): Closed the session by thanking all the participants for their contribution in the Steering Committee meeting.</p> <p>The Steering Committee members discussed and agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - all the documents that were shared on Baladiyati Phase 1 and Phase 2 have been adopted; - the next Steering Committee meeting will be held tentatively next year after Ramadan (May 2023).
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