



FINAL REPORT

PEACE BUILDING IN LEBANON PROJECT –
PHASE 3: STRENGTHENING TRIPOLI'S SOCIAL
COHESION

ABSTRACT

Tripoli has represented a challenging environment, as violent clashes have ended very recently. The project succeeded to kick off the work on dealing with the violent past and reconciling with traumatic experiences, which is the first step to a healthy process of reconciliation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project has been able to deliver and achieve more than initially planned; given the limited period that was given for the implementation (9 months instead of 12).

Three joint platforms were established instead of one, bringing for the first time: (i) community members and injured from the civil war from conflicting sides of the city through the Harakeh Barakeh Movement; (ii) youth through the city playback theatre troupe called SADA, which has been established from Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian youth from deprived areas in Tripoli; (iii) women, through the Women Leaders platform established; from the most vulnerable backgrounds together to work for peace.

The project has achieved good results with teachers, parents and students through the Violence Free Schools, working in one of the most difficult school environments in Lebanon; where violence is a normalized tool for punishment from the educator's side, and a normal behavior between the students.

The project has also has succeeded in working with recent ex-fighters from the city, and has reached out through the work of its national partner NGO, the Fighters for Peace, to a many youth at risk.

Overall the project has kicked off the work on dealing with the past, memory and reconciling with traumatic experiences, which is the very first step to a healthy process of reconciliation.

I. Purpose

Since 2006, the UNDP Peace Building in Lebanon project, has been working on addressing the underlying causes of conflict in Lebanon, as well the intermediate and proximate ones linked to the impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanon, and on creating "safe spaces" for local identity groups to discuss their concerns openly. The project supports different actors in enhancing mutual understanding, developing relevant strategies to address tensions and transform conflicts in their own communities and spaces.

Building on the previous successes of the Peace Building in Lebanon project, UNDP Peace Building in Lebanon-Phase 3: Strengthening Tripoli's Social Cohesion aimed at supporting different local and national actors in addressing local conflicts and working on reconciliation processes in the city, where violence has recently ended. These actors included educators, NGOs leaders, media, local leaders, NGOs activists, youth groups, women, local actors and activists. The project worked on developing a local mechanism for social stability and social cohesion, covering its different aspect in a comprehensive manner, including working in schools' environments, with ex-fighters groups, with the local authorities and local actors and media. Thus, the project included the following three outputs:

1. Promoting social cohesion through developing a Mechanism for Social Stability
2. Promoting social cohesion through a Violence Free School
3. Support ex-fighters advocating for peace instead of war

The project is directly linked to:

- Outcome 1 of the UNDP Country Programme Document (2017-2020): Local Communities and institutions' ability to mitigate tensions and prevent conflict are strengthened, and the overall response on the evolution of tensions informed
- The Lebanon UN Strategic Framework (2017-2020) Outcome 1.3: Lebanon has institutionalized mechanisms to promote peace and prevent, mitigate and manage conflict at national, municipal and community levels
- UNDP Strategic Plan Outcome 5: Countries are able to reduce the likelihood of conflict, and lower the risk of natural disasters, including from climate change

The project responds to the SDG 16: “Building inclusive and peaceful societies.” The project is also in line with the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan – LCRP (2017-2020) – for the Syrian crisis adopted by the Government of Lebanon and directly linked its Outcome 1: “Social Stability is promoted by strengthening municipalities, communities, systems and institutions ability to mitigate tensions and prevent conflict, and ensuring early warning with the response”.

II. Assessment of Programme Results

i) Narrative reporting on results:

- **Outcomes**

As indicated earlier, the project Peace Building in Lebanon phase 3: Strengthening Tripoli's Social Cohesion is contributing to the CPD outcome number 1: Local communities and institutions ability to mitigate tensions and prevent conflict are strengthened and the overall response on the evolution of tensions informed. It is also linked to the UNSF outcome number 1.3: Lebanon has institutionalized mechanisms to promote peace and prevent, mitigate and manage conflict at national, municipal and community levels. Between March and December 2017, the project has successfully responded to these two outcomes. More specifically, the project delivered results against the following indicators of the CPD: 1.2.1.: No. of local peace structures operating; 1.2.2.: percentage of female representation in peace structures and 1.2.3.: Number of conflict risk analysis produced.

The project has established five different peace structures in Tripoli which actively involved women (more than 50%): 1) “Al Harakeh Barakeh” Movement (“Movement is a Blessing”) a joint committee for the disabled of Jabal Mohsen and Bab el Tebbaneh; 2) a joint youth playback theatre troupe from conflicting sides; 3) a women leaders platform; 4) a group of educators, parents and students working for nonviolence in their schools'; 5) a group of ex-fighters from the city working for nonviolence. The project has also produced a detailed and in-depth conflict analysis report for the city,¹ based on which the different interventions with the local community have been designed and implemented.

In reference to the UN Strategic Framework for Lebanon, the project has overall contributed to its Outcome number 1.3: Lebanon has institutionalized mechanisms to promote peace and prevent, mitigate and manage conflict at national, municipal and community levels. The different

¹ See Annex 1

activities in Tripoli have involved: (i) the capacity building programme for the Ministry of Social Affairs at the national and local levels; (ii) working directly with municipal actors; (iii) working with local actors from the community, including youth and women. Regarding the last group, a wide range of actors were involved: youth at risk; youth victims of the last round of violence in Tripoli; teachers; parents; students; ex-fighters; etc. The targeted groups have reported being more empowered to play a positive role in their society (mainly the group of injured from conflicting neighborhoods; the teachers and parents; as well as the women involved and the ex-fighters from the civil wars.

- **Outputs:**

Output 1: Promoting social cohesion through developing a mechanism for social stability (MSS)

Three joint platforms were developed as mechanisms for social stability in Tripoli. As a first step, and as per the methodology of the UNDP Lebanon Mechanisms for Social Stability, a conflict analysis has been conducted for the city of Tripoli. Based on its recommendations, the process of establishing MSSs took three major directions as following:

MSS1: Establishing of a joint (Sunni/Alawite) committee of the disabled from Tripoli clashes, called Al Harakeh Barakeh (“The Movement of the Disabled from Tripoli Clashes”

The injured and disabled of the clashes (that took place between 2008 and 2014) are one of the most vulnerable segments of the society and which are still living the effects of the wars and who lost their jobs because of their injuries since 2008. The formed group, which included 8 injured from both sides, attended several facilitated sessions and trainings identified their main vision, mission and objectives. The group hosted legal and communication experts to inform them about their rights and give them tools for advocacy. Thus, a communication campaign strategy was developed. A logo for the group, short documentary video as well as an infographic video were prepared documenting the cases of each of the eight members of the group. The group launched their Facebook page², and a brochure introducing the group and its objectives.³ 200 caps, 30 vests and 200 pins were printed to be distributed during their events for a better visibility.

The aim is to launch their campaign officially and advocate for their cause vis a vis the State and the society at large. The main message of the group is that though they were fighting each other's' during the war, but today they have to gather and advocate for a common cause, which is a real-life proof that violence and wars only leave wounds and destruction of lives. The group carried out a survey to map all individuals injured and disabled due to Tripoli clashes and assess their needs. Data for around 130 individuals was collected. This data strengthens the group, as it provides the basis for their work and raises the interest of other INGOs such as ICRC and others to think of ways to support them. Also, the group paid a series of visits to private businesses to advocate for their rights,⁴ based on existing laws that give a quota for people with disabilities to be hired by private and public institutions. The group has also paid a visit to a national NGO

² <https://www.facebook.com/110143023019631> /الحركة-بركة-

³ Attached in Annex II

⁴ See Picture 1

called Arc En Ciel which advocates for the rights of disabled, and which hosts a big workshop where people with disabilities are employed. Also, they met with the mayor of Tripoli.⁵ The support process for the group had been co-led by the Ministry of Social Affairs staff in Tripoli and all meetings were held at their offices. Based on a quick physical needs assessment, UNDP rehabilitated the entrance, the bathroom and the lift of Qobbe SDC building that is being used by the group for its meetings to be more disable-persons friendly.⁶

MSS2: Supporting the creation of a local playback theatre Troupe, called SADA:

The objective of this platform has been to create a safe space for the vulnerable youth of Tripoli, those coming from the frontline neighborhoods, from Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian nationalities, who are coming together to express their communities' narratives, share war and traumatic stories through physical expression, contributing thus to the process of trauma healing, dealing with the past and thus overcoming it. The project focused on training 16 actors by a national NGO that has been using playback for conflict transformation, engaging them in creative brainstorming, dialogue and collaborative work. The trainings enabled the participants to become a well-established playback theatre troupe, and the project supported them in performing four times in different neighborhoods in the city, each time attended by more than 50 people with ages ranging between 18 and 60.⁷ UNDP produced a short movie on the activity found here.⁸

MSS3: Launching of the first local Young Female Entrepreneurs Platform in Tripoli:

The third mechanism targeted the young female entrepreneurs, activists and social workers in Tripoli. A two days' workshop was organized to create a network among them. Around 50 young females from the city gathered to discuss various issues of importance for women in the city, such as education, peace building, economic development, the impact of the Syrian crisis, political participation, etc.⁹

Under this output and under the framework of a national support programme by UNDP to MoSA staff on developing their skills in conflict prevention, 21 staff from MoSA North SDCs took part in two workshops.¹⁰ The training sessions focused on identifying recently developed tools for conflict analysis, such as Reflecting on Peace Practice (RPP) matrix, visual maps for conflict analysis, systems conflict analysis and theory of change. Government staff had the chance to go through the way they conduct interviews and ask questions for the conflict analysis phase of the process. The second programme focused on introducing new concepts such as “peace writ large,” “reflecting on peace practices” and the “Do No Harm”.

“It is very essential to our work to know how to analyze and to draw the villages conflict maps, which will enable us to design the adequate intervention, and with the UNDP Capacity Building program, we are currently able to pay attention to the smallest details that might affect the impact of our social activities,” said an SDC official.

⁵ See Picture 2

⁶ See Picture 3

⁷ See Picture 4 and Picture 5

⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/UNDPLEbanon/videos/1691028174251182/>

⁹ See Picture 6 as well as the video provided in Annex 2

¹⁰ See Picture 7

MoSA staff were able to test the knowledge acquired during the training sessions on the ground, through taking active role in the conflict analysis visits to the villages.

“Attending the capacities building sessions and having the chance to implement directly what we have learned gave us a better idea of the Lebanese context and challenges. We are now seeing things from a different approach despite our beliefs and affiliations. We are being exposed to a different approach when we are dealing directly with the local communities and analyzing their challenges and problems”, said a MoSA SDC official.

Output 2: Promoting social cohesion through a Violence Free School (VFS)

UNDP launched the Violence Free Schools Initiative in 15 intermediate level public schools in Tripoli. The aim of this activity has been to integrate peace building into the educational channels, reduce tensions inside public schools hosting Syrian students and empower educators to deal with differences and solve disputes in a nonviolent manner. The schools were selected in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, based on a set of criteria (presence of Syrian students in the classrooms; intermediate level public schools; schools located in conflict prone areas; diverse schools; schools not previously targeted by similar activities). Through a competitive process, the consortium Centre for Active Citizenship (CAC) and For Development were selected to support UNDP conducting the VFS initiative in the 15 schools. As per the methodology of the Violence Free Schools (VFS), the process is divided into three phases:

- Phase I: Capacity building: interactive sensitization sessions on peace building. The different forms of violence present in the schools are identified and addressed in the later phases of the process.
- Phase II: Development of codes of conduct and elaboration of work plans by the VFS task force formed by teachers, parents and students (including list of priorities for non-physical and infrastructure projects which are closely linked to the violent environment inside the schools). (partially implemented under the scope of this agreement).
- Phase III: Implementation of activities and coaching. (not implemented under the scope of this agreement)

During phase I, 81 student sensitization sessions were organized reaching out to 2173 students from the 15 schools, covering issues of types of violence, and the tools of nonviolence.¹¹ In addition, 270 teachers were engaged in a series of awareness raising sessions and trainings on violence covering the following topics: venting space – to address burnout before starting the workshop; identification and analysis of the forms of violence observed in their schools; suggested tools and techniques for violence and tension reductions; best practices delivered interactively; anger management; class management; the educational punishment. The programme also included sessions with an expert psychologist on adolescence and violence. The session left enough space for teachers to discuss with the expert critical cases that they encounter and to ask any questions.¹² Also, 1268 parents were targeted through sessions and activities.¹³

¹¹ See Picture 8

¹² See Picture 9 and Picture 10

¹³ See Picture 11

More sessions to target parents were included based on the request of the schools' principals, wanting to mobilize the local community through its main figures to protect the school from the socio-political conflicts taking place. Principals asked for the project to help them build a network of support and thus advocacy meetings with community leaders (municipality, mayors, religious figures, NGOs, etc.) were organized outside the schools and communication efforts (messages communicated through WhatsApp groups including households from the areas neighboring the schools and printed on small flyers and handed out to mukhtars during a community meeting they also organized to reach out to them) were made.¹⁴ The municipality of Tripoli published on its website, social media platform and street billboard the messages of nonviolence of the group.

The Mufti of the North has officially issued a decision recommending for all the mosques in the area to spread those messages. One of the influential sheikhs in the Minieh area has offered to volunteer his time to meet with the parents of students in groups of 20 parents each time, under the guidance of the school, to talk about issues related to violence. The sheikh has also offered the school to do one on one visits to the households of specific students, in the presence of the principal, if the school believes that his support would help. The meetings that took place were reported on by some local news sources:

- Meeting with the head of the municipality of Tripoli¹⁵
- Meeting with the Mufti of Tripoli and the North¹⁶

During phase II, task forces were set in each school composed of representatives of students, teachers, parents and schools' administrations. These task forces have been meeting to develop the Codes of Conduct for nonviolence and suggest physical and non-physical activities. As such, 15 meetings have been held during the last three months in the 15 schools, and with the presence of more than 15 representatives of the different groups, including Syrians.

Output 3: Support ex-fighters advocating for peace instead of war

924 youth were targeted through the activities organized by the Fighters for Peace NGO in Tripoli. In addition, 18 new members from the ex-fighters in Tripoli joined the organization having been convinced of the urgency to use their experience to advocate for peace and work with the new generations on conveying messages of nonviolence. Also, 12 teachers became actively involved in FFP activities and facilitated the organization of sessions inside their classrooms.

¹⁴ See Picture 12

¹⁵ <http://tnnlb.org/?p=26877>

¹⁶ <https://madinatilb.wordpress.com/2017/05/24/%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%82-%D8%B9%D9%85%D9%84-%D9%85%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D9%86%D8%AD%D9%88-%D9%85%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%B3-%D8%AE%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9/>

47 activities were organized by the FFP: 10 sessions inside schools located in conflict zones, 28 community meetings with ex-fighters from the area, 2 meetings with the municipality, 2 youth camps for ex-fighters and 5 playback theatre performances. The sessions inside the schools were very powerful. Members of FFP were able to share their personal testimonies of the war with the new generation.¹⁷

The 25 community meetings with ex-fighters were powerful. They had to sit on a one on one basis with the Tripoli ex-fighters, several times, in order to build trust and advocate and encourage them to join them.

These community meetings were followed by two camps for the Tripoli group (attended by around 35 people), with the objectives to recruit officially the new members, expose them to some background information related to conflict resolution, transitional justice, reconciliation and nonviolence. The camps allowed to create a space for FFP and the new members to discuss future ideas and activities (see pic14). Also, FFP members have conducted interviews in order to update the material on their website and include ex-fighters from Tripoli on it.

For the oral history section of FFP's website, a total number of 12 persons were interviewed. Nine videos were uploaded on the website to date. A special page was created for this project with the testimonies from Tripoli only. One of the interviewees who played an important role during the Lebanese civil war was included in the other section, "Testimonies of Change". The videos can be seen on the website of the Fighters for Peace on this link: <http://fightersforpeace.org/Home/RoadmapTripoli>

Also, a workshop was organized in order to support FFP build their organizational skills capacities and monitoring and evaluation. It gathered 18 members.

- **Qualitative assessment:**

One of the main achievements of *the MSS* (output 1) is that it brought together people, who were fighting against each other's few years ago because of their sectarian differences, to agree on a common cause. The engagement of Al Harakeh Barakeh Movement members in this work can be considered as a reintegration step for individuals who are still living the war through their injured bodies. Some of them reported that they felt hopeful again. MSS allowed to build trust between MoSA field staff and vulnerable groups. Such groups have always been very negative vis a vis the government and were not seeing them as development actors. Also, the municipality created a small committee to follow up on the work of the Harakeh Barakeh movement.

SADA playback theatre empowered Tripoli youth and challenged pre-existing stereotypes and social constructed images they have vis a vis the Other. Some of the actors had never interacted genuinely with individuals from the other community. Also, SADA troupe members were approached by several parties to perform extra shows that the one planned with UNDP, grasping the need to create a platform of public dialogue on war issues and seeing the utility of using theatre for trauma healing. Regarding the women platform, this is the first of its kind in Tripoli and many participants stressed on its importance due to the potential impact it can have on advocating for a better role for women in the city.

¹⁷ See Picture 13

On the main achievements of the *Violence Free Schools Initiative* (output 2), a good number of students from hotspot areas are now familiar with the concept and types of violence, which is a first key step towards reducing this phenomenon: “I can now define what violence is and I can know that if someone’s right is taken away, it is also violence” said a Grade 9 student. Also for the teachers who are facing major challenges when it comes to violence but also discipline, this programme was an eye opener for a lot of tools that they can use as alternative for violent they are used to adopt.

“We need to be trained on these issues because our students come from difficult social situations”, said a teacher.

“Discipline is a challenge that we struggle with every day. This is an opportunity for us to discuss this together and with professionals”, said a principle.

“The training day has inspired me to try new things with my students. It is important to sit together as teachers working with the same communities to think of new solutions” said a teacher.

Another major achievement has to do with the engagement of parents. This group is usually known to be the least interested in such issues, and specially in Tripoli area.

“I used to always carry a gun on my belt. I grew up in Tebbaneh and guns are just normal for me. I attended the first sessions with the task force and then came to the second session without my gun. I swear, it made me think about it and I realized that it was not something good”, said one father.

The parents even went beyond the project scope by going outside the schools and organizing community sessions as described above. Also, they took part in another series of activities organized by the teachers based on their personal initiative, to discuss nonviolence issues. The sessions were a great opportunity for the parents and school personnel to interact and discuss concerns openly (which is rare in the public school’s system).

“This is extremely useful for us. I always try to avoid hitting my son, but sometimes I run out of ideas. When you give us tools like that it allows us to become more patient”, said one of the participating parents.

Another mother commented: “I was surprised when they invited us to this meeting. I am very impressed that the public school is working. It is better than the private school where my son was before”.

For the first time in the public school, students are sitting together on a same committee with teachers, parents and school administration, developing a code of conduct and identifying main activities and ideas for rehabilitation projects. This culture of a participatory, inclusive and democratic approach is not very common in these environments and usually it is the school principal who decides on such issues.

On the main achievements of the work with the *Fighters for Peace* (output 3), the members of the NGO could reach out to a much higher number of youth than the one initially planned. Thus, 924 youth were targeted instead of 200. Sessions in schools were powerful.

- A female student reacted by the following: “How can I now change my parents?”.

The sessions also showed the lack of knowledge among students and the new generation vis a vis what happened during the civil war, and thus the impact that this might have on current civil peace.

The other main achievement is that FFP members were able to recruit 18 new members from the ex-fighters from Jabal Mohsen and Tebbaneh areas. This achievement is particularly remarkable given how challenging it is to convince these groups to confess that they took part in the war and to declare this in public; especially that contrary to the Lebanese civil war, there wasn't any amnesty law for Tripoli war.

“The atrocities of the war are my motivation to be here today”, said an ex-fighter from Tripoli.

Another one commented by the following: “this camp will help us in building new skills and new beliefs that we will carry back to our communities and will change the way we live.”

It is worth mentioning as well that some of the participating ex-fighters from Tripoli are leading figures in their communities; for example, a general reputed for being a military leader from the. The camps created a space for all participants, from different parties, areas and generations to meet for the first time and work on a common cause.

ii) Indicator Based Performance Assessment:

Using the **Programme Results Framework from the Project Document / AWP**s - provide details of the achievement of indicators at both the output and outcome level in the table below. Where it has not been possible to collect data on indicators, clear explanation should be given explaining why.

	<u>Achieved</u> Indicator Targets	Reasons for Variance with Planned Target (if any)	Source of Verification
Outcome 1¹⁸: Local communities and institutions ability to mitigate tensions and prevent conflict are strengthened, and the overall response on the evolution of tensions informed Indicator: 1.2.1. number of local peace structures operating 1.2.2. percentage of female representation in peace structures 1.2.3. number of conflict risk analysis produced Baseline: limited joint platform in the city Planned Target: 1 joint platform;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 local peace structures established - 80.3% of women involved - 1 in-depth conflict analysis report produced for Tripoli 		Internal UNDP UNDP consultant Project Board members External evaluator
Output 1.1 Promoting social cohesion through developing a mechanism for social stability Indicator 1.1.1 Number of parties engaged in Tripoli's mechanism for social stability Baseline: Limited platforms for a comprehensive social cohesion strategy for Tripoli Planned Target: Create 1 common platform for social cohesion in Tripoli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 common platforms were created as part of the mechanism for social stability 	Based on the stakeholders and the pressing needs for peacebuilding initiatives in the city, it was decided to launch three parallel MSS processes each one responding to specific needs	Internal UNDP field reports UNDP consultant Project Board members External evaluator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 activities around the mechanism for social stability for Tripoli organized 	6 activities instead of 3 as per the initial target: 1 for the committee of injured; 4 for SADA playback theatre and 1 for the women platform	Internal UNDP field reports UNDP consultant Project Board members External evaluator
Indicator 1.1.2 Number of activities around the mechanism for social stability for Tripoli organized Baseline: Limited number of activities and initiatives promoting social cohesion and social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 21 MoSA staff trained on the MSS 	More staff from MoSA showed a high interest in being involved in the MSS	Internal UNDP field reports UNDP consultant Project Board members External evaluator

¹⁸ Note: Outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets should be as outlines in the Project Document so that you report on your **actual achievements against planned targets**. Add rows as required for Outcome 2, 3 etc.

<p>stability Planned Target: Organize up to 3 activities promoting social cohesion through municipalities, media, civil society, linked to the mechanism for social stability identified for Tripoli</p> <p>Indicator 1.1.3 Number of MoSA staff trained on the MSS Baseline: Limited capacities of MoSA staff in conflict sensitivity, conflict analysis, and peace building mechanisms Planned Target: Train up to 15 staff of MoSA on the MSS</p>			
<p>Output 1.2 Promoting social cohesion through a Violence Free School Indicator 1.2.1 Number of teachers, students, parents and school personnel trained on the VFS and number of Code of Conducts for nonviolence developed in selected schools Baseline: Rising tension in schools hosting Syrian refugees Planned Target: Sensitizing 270 teachers and school personnel, 1,447 students and 384 parents on nonviolence and peace building</p> <p>Indicator 1.2.2 Number of Codes of Conduct on nonviolence adopted by schools Baseline: high level of violence and discrimination in Lebanese schools Planned Target: Support task forces in 15 schools develop Codes of Conduct for nonviolence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 270 teachers, 2173 students and 1268 parents sensitized on the Violence Free Schools 	<p>The targeted number of students and parents is higher cause kids from other classes were asked to join the sessions and parents showed a greater interested than in the other regions UNDP worked in previously</p>	<p>Internal UNDP field reports UNDP consultant Project Board members External evaluator</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 15 Codes of Conduct are currently being developed by the established task forces inside each school 	<p>Some delays in the organization of the sessions inside the schools which lead towards the development of the Codes of Conducts were registered, due to the school summer break, the end of year limited time of the school personnel. Nevertheless, all schools are currently fully engaged in developing the Codes which are expected to be out very soon</p>	<p>Internal UNDP field reports UNDP consultant Project Board members External evaluator</p>
<p>Output 1.3 Support ex-fighters advocating for peace instead of war Indicator 1.3.1 Number of youth targeted by Fighters for Peace Baseline: Youth at risk of radicalization Planned Target: targeted up to 200 youth in awareness raising activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 924 youth targeted in awareness raising activities 	<p>FFP were able to reach out to a higher number of youth because of the need for these activities</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 47 activities targeting ex-fighters and potential fighters from Tripoli 	<p>Also FFP were able to organize more sessions based on the requests of several parties in the city</p>	

<p>Indicator 1.3.2 Number of activities organized by Fighters for Peace Baseline: Lack of activities targeting ex-fighters and potential fighters directly Planned Target: Organize up to 15 activities targeting ex-fighters and potential fighters from Tripoli</p>	<p>organized</p>		
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iii) Evaluation, Best Practices and Lessons Learned

A final project evaluation was conducted, by an external evaluator, recruited competitively using UNDP rules and regulations. The key findings of the evaluation are as follows:

- The project has relevant objectives since those are aligned with national strategic frameworks of the Government of Lebanon and the UN.
- The project has relevant outputs: the choice of thematic areas of intervention was based on the Roadmap to Reconciliation in Tripoli (a key document reflecting a locally drawn vision to Tripoli) as well as further consultations with key actors, including municipal board members, SDC staff and local NGO members.
- The project has relevant partners: UNDP's choice of partners was pertinent as each of them had an added value in the implementation.
- The project exceeded its quantitative targets for all outputs by a large margin, which reflects the project team's intensified efforts during a short period of time, as well as their ability to recognize and seize the opportunities that presented themselves spontaneously during the course of the project.
- Activities succeeded in bringing people from different areas and political and religious affiliations of Tripoli together.
- The project was implemented in a shorter time-span than initially planned while still exceeding targets, which shows adaptability to constraints, ability to work under pressure and efficiency in implementation.
- Palpable efforts were put in to keep all partners informed of project developments (project board meetings including local actors, local authorities, ministries' representatives, NGOs)
- Given the nature of the project, the sustainability of its activities is highly dependent upon the willingness and capacity of the individuals concerned to remain engaged, as well as the presence of resources external to UNDP
- The impact of peacebuilding activities is difficult to measure, especially in the short term. However, some trends can be extracted from beneficiaries' testimonies which seem to suggest that a positive change has occurred.

The main challenges for the implementation of the project are linked to the duration of the project. Working on peace building in a hot spot area, and with a wide range of stakeholders is already a very challenging thing, which requires minimum of two years. UNDP did though by building strong ties with the national counterpart, i.e. the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the local actors in Tripoli, mainly a local strong NGO ensured a minimum of sustainability measures. It made sure to plant the seeds of peace building processes, which respond to local people needs and ideas and find the right people to work on those, build their skills. The participatory approach adopted throughout the process gave the ownership of the activities to the people themselves who now are willing to follow up on the work on their own or advocate among other actors to get more support. Another challenge has to do with the nature of the group targeted: members of the Harakeh Barakeh movement are one of the most deprived and vulnerable people in Tripoli and still, they had to engage in a process that doesn't bring them any tangible and materialistic results, which they desperately need. UNDP team had to spend long hours with this group specifically explaining how on the medium to long term working on peacebuilding and social stability will affect directly their lives.

The main key lessons learned and best practices that could be thought of are the following:

1. Manage expectations: from the very first meeting, explain very clearly to the local stakeholders the scope of work and the boundaries of the project and what is UNDP “offering”.
2. Link any peace building process to tangible projects implemented by other UNDP colleague and show the community that they are getting both
3. Create linkages between the different activities of a project and between the project and other similar actors and similar initiatives implemented by other parties
4. Secure the buy in of local and national authorities but also give them a leading role in facilitating the processes; which makes them become more engaged and eager to achieve good results

iv) Risks

The risks and assumptions that were identified in the PD as potentially threatening the achievement of results of the project’s strategy as well as the mitigation measures were as follow:

- Security situation in Tripoli: it didn’t materialize.
- Legislative national elections expected to take place in May 2017 might be a risk for the smooth implementation of the project: the elections were postponed till May 2018.
- Ramadan, the feast month for Muslim community is taking place between May and June this year: this risk did actually materialize and UNDP had to speed up the process of implementing the activities before and after Ramadan not to be affected by the delays during that month.
- The municipality of Tripoli is one of the most polarized municipalities in Lebanon: it did not materialize.
- Bureaucratic delays: this did partially materialize whether at the level of the national counterpart, i.e. the Ministry of Social Affairs or internal UNDP. UNDP team made sure to find a good local NGO partner to implement the agreed upon activities while keeping a close eye on monitoring the delivery and quality of work. Also, the project team made sure to launch the processes of all related procurements, recruitments, etc. ahead of time.

v) A Specific Story (Optional)

I will leave my Gun Behind

“It took you 10 years to realize that you made a mistake after you’ve been through war. Why do you want to tell us to stop fighting? Why don’t you let us go through our own experiences and see for ourselves?” asked one of the young fighters from Tripoli at a training session with older ex-fighters who fought during the Lebanese civil war.

The Fighters for Peace NGO (FFP), with the support of the UNDP “Peace Building in Lebanon” project, and funded by UNDP, organized a training retreat gathering the Fighters for Peace with Tripoli’s young ex-fighters on October 29, 2017 at Lamunia Hotel in Qalamoun.

Over the course of two days, a fiery dynamic was sparked between the 12 fighters present: older fighters from the civil war versus younger fighters who had took part in the fighting between Jabal Mohsen and Bab al-Tabbaneh.

For the first time, Tripoli's ex-fighters from both firing lines sat side by side, told their stories openly and discussed their experiences.

The group got closer through sessions on conflict prevention and transitional justice. The FFP members talked to the participants about conflicts in different countries and how nations healed from them. They also presented case studies from Hiroshima in Japan and peacebuilding initiatives in Nigeria.

Additionally, the training included sessions on storytelling, exercises on exposing the turning points in their lives, how they joined armed forces and how they stopped.

The training of the ex-fighters is part of the Tripoli initiative implemented by the UNDP "Peace Building in Lebanon" project involving municipalities, schools, ex-fighters and the civil society.

Nassim, an FFP member, responding to a young fighter's question regarding his participation in the war, said: "Based on what we've been through, I want to tell you it was not only harmful for us, it burdened our communities. We will not let the generations that come after us go through the same struggles, and we will give everything we have to stand against the risk of relapse into war in this country."

At the end of the two-day training, FFP members asked: "What will you take from this training? And what will you leave behind?" One young fighter, who was hesitant the first day, said: "I am positive. I will leave my gun behind."

In addition, FFP organized three playback theater performances on the theme of war and the disappeared. This is one of the ex-fighters' ways to break the taboo of talking about war or healing from it through storytelling. In addition to that, FFP is organizing discussion sessions inside several schools in Tripoli to talk about their own experiences to youth and present their personal transformations from war fighters to fighters for peace.