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PROJECT IN SUPPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS, PARLIAMENTARY DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL DIALOGUE IN TUNISIA

Final report
April 2012–December 2015



26 January 2014: A historic day for Tunisia, the adoption of its first democratic Constitution

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PROJECT BRIEF

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| Project title: | Project in Support of the Constitutional Process, Parliamentary Development and National Dialogue in Tunisia |
| Award ID: | 00064278 |
| Project duration: | January 2012-31 March 2015 |
| Extension(s) (if applicable): | 01 April 2015 – 31 December 2015 |
| Executive agency: | UNDP Tunisia |
| Implementing partner(s): | N/A |
| Total budget committed: | \$ 19,032,705 |
| Contributions received from development partners (as of 31 December 2015) (Equivalent in \$) | Belgium \$ 3,617,577.25 Denmark \$ 876,805.10 European Union \$ 1,870,686.62 Japan \$ 7,600,000.00 Norway \$ 200,000.00 Sweden \$ 3,332,238 Switzerland \$ 311,911.03 UNDP/BCPR \$ 429,270.00 |
| Related UNDAF 2015-19 outcome(s): | By 2019, the civil, political, administrative institutions are fully operational in respecting the universal principles of human rights, democracy and gender equality |
| Related UNDP CPD /CPAP outcome(s): | 1.2 Citizens expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability 1.2.2 The new Assembly of the Representatives of People is equipped with the capacities and structures enabling it to play its constitutional role. 1.2.3 The capacities of the Tunisian Parliament in the development, adoption and the implementation of the legislative and institutional framework, established in the 2014 Constitution are strengthened (main organic laws et independent institutions). |
| Date of report: | 16 February 2015 |
| National partner contact person: | President of the Assembly of the Representatives of People |
| UNDP contact person: | Jean-Raphael Giuliani, Chief Technical Advisor (ad interim) Estelle Page, Project Manager |
| Reporting officer | Ada Fishta |

ACRONYMS

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| ARP | Assembly of the Representatives of the People |
| CSO | Civil Society Organizations |
| EP | European Parliament |
| ICT | Information Communication and Technology |
| IPU | International Parliamentary Union |
| ISIE | Instance Supérieure Indépendante pour les Elections |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MP | Members of Parliament |
| NCA | National Constituent Assembly |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Tunisian revolution that began in December 2010 and culminated on January 14, 2011 set the country on a new course towards democratic and accountable governance. A National Constituent Assembly (NCA)¹ was chosen in free and fair elections held on October 23, 2011 with the responsibility of preparing a new constitution to reflect the aspirations of the Revolution in Tunisia, and also for carrying out the parliamentary functions of legislation, executive oversight, and citizen representation during the democratic transition period. A governing coalition (Troika) with a majority in the NCA was established including the Ennahda Movement², the Congress for the Republic³ and the Ettakatol party⁴. Other parties represented in the NCA chose to remain in opposition rather than join the governing coalition.

In the new post-revolutionary context, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) received from its national partners a request for assistance in the following three areas:

- Constitutional Support: To assist the Constituent Assembly in tasks associated with the preparation of the constitution, with particular emphasis on improving the Assembly's capacity to reach out to civil society.
- Parliamentary Strengthening: To assist the Constituent Assembly in acquiring essential infrastructure and in developing the capacities of its members and the Secretariat in connection with their legislative, representation and oversight roles.
- Constitutional Dialogue: To assist civil society in developing its understanding of the constitution building process and its capacity to engage in constructive constitutional dialogue with the Constituent Assembly and with other stakeholders involved in the process.

In April 2012, UNDP signed the Project in Support of the Constitutional Process, Parliamentary Development and National Dialogue in Tunisia, designed to deliver assistance in the above areas that represent the three project outputs. Despite facing diverse challenges given the political context, which have demanded significant implementation flexibility, the project has been able to deliver a wide-ranging programme that continues to support the project's national partners in carrying out their key tasks in the democratic transition.

Most of the members of the NCA had never previously served in parliament, and perceived a need for capacity strengthening in order to be as effective as possible. Further, the parliament that existed before the Revolution was not an autonomous institution. The Assembly has inherited administrative services that are not endowed with the required expertise to support a pluralist Assembly, and it is further hindered by outdated infrastructure, particularly in terms of information and communication systems.

The need to enhance processes of national dialogue has been strongly endorsed by all stakeholders, and particularly from within civil society. An approach of constructive dialogue was particularly important in broadening consensus in the Constitution-making process. Dialogue also needs to be integrated throughout the post-constitutional institutional reform process as well as in continuing governance processes.

The transition process bore fruit when the new Constitution of the Republic of Tunisia was approved by an overwhelming majority of the NCA on January 26 2014; it was signed and promulgated at a ceremony held at the Assembly the following day. This was a historic moment for Tunisia, as the country's adoption of its first democratic Constitution has opened a new chapter in the democratic transition. It also marked the beginning of a new phase in UNDP's support, which is now geared towards supporting implementation of the constitution, strengthening the current and future parliament, and institutionalizing capacities and processes for dialogue including through the strengthening of civil society.

1 Sometimes referred as "The Assembly" in this document.

2 Won 41% of seats.

3 Won 13.3% of seats.

4 Won 9.2% of seats.

To mark the importance granted by the United Nations to the transition process in Tunisia, the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon visited the country in October 2014, days ahead of the legislative elections. During his meeting with the former President of the NCA Mustapha Ben Jaafar, the Secretary General welcomed the substantial results achieved by Tunisia in its democratic transition process, commended the promulgation of a consensual constitution that guarantees freedoms and human rights and the upcoming organisation of elections. He stressed the commitment to continue supporting Tunisia and contribute to its efforts for the success of this process, which will impact on the entire region and the Arab world. The President of the NCA emphasised the commitment of all political factions and segments of the civil society in Tunisia to complete the transition process in the best conditions and work for the success of the elections, which, he said, will ensure the stability of Tunisia.

Following the adoption by the NCA of a new election law in April 2014, the country held multi-party legislative elections on 26 October 2014, as well as free and fair elections to the Presidency.

As provided by Article 57 of the Constitution, the retiring President of the NCA, Mostapha Ben Jaafar, called the elected deputies to hold the inaugural session of the new Assembly of the Representatives of the People (ARP) on 2 December 2014. "Tunisia has managed to secure a peaceful power transfer in a fluid and civilized manner that will ensure the gradual introduction of democratic traditions", he told deputies during the inaugural session. Two days later, the members of the Assembly elected the President and the two Vice-Presidents of the new ARP.

Following the discussions in 23 committee meetings and eight plenary sessions, on 2 February 2015, the ARP approved its internal regulations.

The Steering Committee approved the no-cost extension of the first phase of the parliamentary support project until 31 December 2015, for the extension of the project implementation to coincide with the longer-than-anticipated constitutional transition period, and thus allowing for the completion of the ICT infrastructure and operationalization of the media centre. In addition, the EU funded project was extended until 31 December 2015. The 2015 is considered a transition period, whereby common activities between the first and the second phase of the project were implemented.

PROJECT RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Overall project results and achievements

- a. Overall Project Goal: The project has supported the Tunisian democratic transition, by supporting the drafting and implementation of the Constitution through a participatory process, contributed to the strengthening of the capacities of the National Constituent Assembly and the Assembly of the Representatives of the People to better fulfil their legislative, oversight and representation functions. It also developed and implemented a series of mechanisms on the constitutional dialogue at the local and national level with a specific focus to the development of civil society.
- b. Project impact: During its implementation period, the project was the most important international constitutional and parliamentary support initiative being implemented to support the democratic transition in Tunisia. In collaboration with other UN agencies, the project team developed a series of recommendations to the NCA in terms of inclusion of Tunisia's international human rights commitments in the Constitution. In fact, the new Constitution is generally considered internationally as a progressive document especially in terms of its strong commitments to human rights. Through its institutional support, the project has helped establish strong collaborative relationships between the Tunisian stakeholders through structured partnerships with parliamentary development actors worldwide, while ensuring greater coordination and avoiding possible duplications. Progress has also been achieved in the democratization processes through the strengthening of civil society organizations.

2. Project results and achievements by output:

OUTPUT 1 Support to a participatory and inclusive constitutional process:

1.1 Documenting the Tunisian experience of democratic transition

1.2 Awareness raising of citizens and media on the constitutional process and institutional reforms

1.3. Support the strengthening of the Assembly's capacities in the drafting of constitutional and legislative texts

| Quality Criteria | Quality method | Results of Activities | | |
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| | | Beneficiary Perspective | Resource utilization | Compliance with deadlines |
| The compendium Scientific Committee meets twice a year for the articles' review | Meeting' minutes, emails etc. | The successful constitutional process in Tunisia is being documented with contributions from key national and international actors. A 'resource compendium' providing a comprehensive description of the Tunisian constitutional development process and the content of the Constitution is being developed, with contributions from parliamentary development experts, representatives of political parties, civil society, academia and journalists. It is the project's expectation that current and future members of the Tunisian parliament, those involved in democratic politics elsewhere in the Arab region, and people with an interest in parliamentary development and constitution making processes globally will make use of this resource. The project is working with national and international experts and UNDP experts to identify further opportunities and communication channels for learning and sharing on the constitutional process and the new Constitution. As of 31 December 2015, 42 authors have submitted their contributions to the compendium and these have been reviewed by the Scientific Committee in charge of the content. The compendium will be available in Arabic, English and French and it will be finalized during the 2nd phase of the UNDP parliamentary support project. | Resources utilized within the budget allocated | Delays due to difficult access of certain authors (high profile in the institutional and political spheres) and their difficulties in submitting their contributions due to their busy agenda. |
| Media centre responds to the ARP needs on transparency | Specific qualifications of works and equipment, Tender meetings | During 2012 and 2013, UNDP supported the dialogue process between the NCA members, citizens, and CSO across the country. The project supported significantly the NCA working group in charge of leading the dialogue process with the civil society on the Constitution, through hearings with CSO, youth and citizens across the country. - National and decentralized consultations with 5,000 citizens, 300 CSOs, 320 academics, 80 members of the Assembly, contributed to the dialogue on the Constitutional process grounded on the activities of the six constituent commissions, and extending the debate over citizens' expectations on the Constitution. A report with the main recommendations of the national dialogue on the constitutional process was presented to the NCA, in June 2013, and subsequently discussed in plenary session. A number of the proposals advanced during the national dialogue were included in the third and the fourth draft of the Constitution. In addition, a dedicated NCA website portal was set up to further collect proposals made by civil society organizations. A video has been produced sharing key elements of the dialogue process ⁵ . | | Delays late allocation of physical space from caused by the ARP. |

⁵ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG3SjWiEAfo&feature=youtu.be>

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| | <p>On 26 January 2014, Tunisia's NCA adopted a new democratic constitution for the country by an overwhelming majority (200 in favour, 12 against and 4 abstentions), demonstrating a broad consensus across political divides. The project, since its beginning, supported the NCA in ensuring an inclusive constitutional process, with extensive public consultations and engagement with civil society across the country. Integration of international human rights principles in the Constitution, including gender equality, have been key themes in the dialogue. The new Constitution has been hailed as a landmark document in the region, not only for its progressive approach to religion and the state, but also for its strong commitment to human rights and the promotion of gender equality.</p> <p>In January 2014, during the plenary debates on the draft Constitution, 600 copies of the June 2013 draft Constitution along with a document containing the agreements resulting from the work of the "Consensus Commission", were provided to NCA members which proved to be very useful in making informed decisions.</p> <p>During the Constitutional Promulgation Ceremony, the project distributed printed versions of the Constitution in Arabic, as well as translations of the same in French and English that were shared with different personalities (leaders, government officials, foreign ambassadors, presidents of partner parliamentary assemblies and civil society representatives, etc.</p> <p>The project supported the NCA in developing and conducting a public information campaign on the new Constitution across 23 governorates. The campaign raised the awareness of citizens about the content of the constitution, its meaning for the daily lives of citizens, and its implementation challenges. The campaign saw a large participation of around 3,000 citizens and the engagement of 96 NCA members and 72 members of the Assembly secretariat.</p> <p>The project team supported the group of NCA parliamentarians in charge of relations with citizens and civil society in various aspects of the campaign, including the necessary logistics arrangements. In this respect, the UNDP project has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed two information films: the first focussing on the various phases of the Constitution making process, and the second outlining the content of the preamble and the ten chapters of the new Constitution; - Printed and distributed 20,000 copies of the Constitution in pocket format; - Developed various communication/media products (television and radio spots, posters, banners, flyers, media coverage of meetings) - Ensured coordination and monitoring of all the logistical aspects of the campaign. <p>In collaboration with the African Centre for Training of Journalists and Communicators (CAPJC), the project supported the organization of two training workshops for the media on</p> | | |
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| | | <p>parliamentary coverage on 27-29 January 2014 and 24-26 February 2014. Over 25 journalists were briefed on the legal framework, and in particular the principles and the functioning of a legislative body. The workshop was also an opportunity to discuss the potential establishment of an association of parliamentary journalists.</p> <p>As part of the strengthening of the Assembly's communication strategy, the project supported the establishment of a media centre within the premises of the Assembly. As of 31/12/2015, 95% of the media centre works were completed. The inauguration of the media centre is expected to take place during the 1st quarter 2016.</p> | | |
| <p>Best comparative experience provided to the ANC on constitutional and legislative aspects.</p> | <p>Constitution in line with international standards in particular regarding the human rights aspects</p> | <p>The project enabled the Assembly to benefit from comparative experiences on constitutional and legislative procedures, including the role of committees and ways to strengthen performance. 25 elected members of the NCA and the parliamentary administration participated during a round table held in December 2012 on this topic.</p> <p>The project provided technical support to help establish the Assembly's financial and administrative autonomy. In this respect, the project supported the Questers and members of the parliamentary administration to consider ways to ensure financial and administrative independence for the Assembly as a prerequisite for the separation of powers and the institution of effective checks and balances in the light of good practices in this area.</p> <p>The project contributed as part of an inter-agency advocacy initiative, which involved the joint drafting of a letter sent to members of the Assembly with a view to enhancing support to enshrine the principles of human rights in the constitution, including individual and collective freedoms, the rights of specific groups and gender equality. The project has specifically contributed to furthering women's participation in public life, by highlighting women's representation in elected bodies while supporting reflections on measures that can further enhance women's representation in parliamentary elections. In this respect, an international conference was held in October 2012, which was opened by the President of the Republic and the Minister of Women's Affairs.</p> <p>60 NCA deputies received deeper knowledge on the implementation of Article 49 during a two-day conference organized in partnership with Democracy Reporting International (DRI) and International IDEA in November 2014. Article 49 sets out the conditions that need to be respected whenever restrictions are imposed on the exercise of human rights, an important step for a country where in the past, human rights enumerated in the Constitution were hollowed out by restricting legislation and in practical application. Article 49 is in line with international standards and outlines that limitations need to be set out in law, be proportionate, cannot void a right of its essence and includes a list of possible reasons for restrictions.</p> | | |

OUTPUT 2 Strengthening the Constituent Assembly's Legislative, Oversight and Representation capacities

- 2.1 Capacity building of the NCA members on the functions of legislation, oversight and representation
- 2.2 Strengthening the oversight capacities of the Assembly
- 2.3 Strengthening of the representation and dialogue capacities of the Assembly with the citizens
- 2.4 Capacity building of the Assembly in gender mainstreaming
- 2.5 Support the establishment of an efficient parliamentary secretariat

| Quality Criteria | Quality method | Results of Activities | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| | | Beneficiary perspective | Resource utilization (%) | Compliance with deadlines |
| High quality knowledge tools for MPs | Guidelines respond to internat. best practices | <p>In 2012, 16 representatives of the Assembly (NCA) benefitted from study tours familiarising them with the functioning of pluralist parliaments (visits to Belgian Assemblies, European Parliament, participation in the 'Climate Parliament', parliamentary conferences, etc.</p> <p>Establishment and equipping of an Information and Training Centre at the Assembly premises that serves as a venue for training courses for the MPs.</p> <p>Establishment and equipping of the Agora hub aiming at increasing access to information on parliamentary development. The Agora space provides online access to information on parliamentary issues, as well as allowing for knowledge and experience exchange between parliaments.</p> <p>Development of a series of e-learning modules specifically tailored for Tunisian MPs.</p> <p>10 NCA members led by the President of the Assembly received knowledge on constitutional issues during an exchange visit at European and Belgian Parliaments in February 2014, in Brussels.</p> <p>7 MPs from the Committee of Rights, Freedoms and External Relations carried out a fact-finding mission to the Austrian College of Mediators from 17 to 19 February, 2014 in Vienna.</p> <p>3 NCA deputies shared an overview of the dialogic aspects of the successful Tunisian process during a regional conference on parliaments and constitutional reform held at the Dead Sea, Jordan, on 21 and 22 March 2014 with parliamentarians and constitutional and parliamentary experts from Egypt, Libya, Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia.</p> <p>A long-term cooperation agreement between the Canadian and the Tunisian parliament was signed during a mission exchange to Canada in April 2014.</p> <p>6 parliamentary guides developed by the project in collaboration with McGill University in Canada on key parliamentary development themes.</p> <p>15 MPs attended the dinner debate organized in collaboration</p> | Resources utilized within the budget allocated | <p>Orientation trainings carried out as per the plan 2015</p> <p>Conference on parliamentary groups in line with the ARP plan</p> <p>Development of all ICT platforms completed by 31 December 2015</p> |

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| | | <p>with the Club of Madrid on 20 May 2014 on the effectiveness of parliamentary groups as vehicles for the institutionalization of dialogue, particularly on the most sensitive issues of institutional reforms. Jorge Sampaio, former President of the Republic of Portugal and parliamentary group leader, was invited to share the experience of the Portuguese democratic transition.</p> <p>150 participants, including 20 elected members of the NCA from different political inclinations, academics, civil society representatives, media and students attended the roundtable on "The role of the majority and opposition in democratic transitions". Organized in collaboration with the Club of Madrid, and held on 6 May 2014, the event was led by José-Luis Zapatero (former Prime Minister of Spain) and Professor Fadhel Moussa (former Dean of the Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Sciences of the University of Tunis, the President of the Constitutional Committee in the Constituent Assembly and a member of the Tunisian parliamentary opposition).</p> <p>A mission of IPU members, including Mr. Najib El Khadi, Secretary General of the Chamber of Representatives in the Kingdom of Morocco, met with NCA key actors in June 2014 to discuss draft legislation governing autonomy that had been prepared in Tunisia.</p> | | |
| <p>High-level expertise provided to Tunisian MPs on specific topics and good participation to the learning events organized by the project</p> | <p>Induction training workshop agenda, list of participants etc</p> | <p>32 MPs received knowledge on comparative cases of parliamentary oversight of the government during a workshop held in May 2013.</p> <p>3 NCA deputies and 3 advisors from the NCA Finance Committee received knowledge on budget development and oversight techniques during a workshop organized in partnership with the World Bank and McGill and Laval University, held in Marseille, from 6 to 9 April 2014.</p> <p>20 NCA committees' members attended a capacity-building workshop on the work of Parliamentary Committees, held on May 2014 in Tunis. The event was attended also by experts from the European Parliament, the Belgian House of Representatives and the Swiss Federal Assembly.</p> <p>Capacity building framework for the Assembly's committees was developed in collaboration with an expert from the administration of the Swiss Parliament. To this aim, a workshop was held in October 2014 with the Advisors of the legislative committees to discuss parliamentary internal rules and procedures. This resulted in the elaboration of a series of useful recommendations on the internal regulations of the Parliament.</p> <p>Review of bills by the Plenary through codifying the good practices developed within the NCA, especially regarding the different stages of the examination of a text (general discussion, debate on each article and vote on the whole text). In addition, a report of recommendations on the development of a guide for Committee Advisors was developed. This guide was the result of a series of consultations and a three-day workshop held in November 2014 with 11 committee Advisors.</p> | | |

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| | | <p>The objective of the guide is to spell out the scope of work and the tasks of the Advisors.</p> <p>2-day conference on “political parties during transitions”, organized in partnership with Global Partners Governance and the Arab Forum for Alternatives, in February 2015, bringing together politicians and parliamentarians from Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, Lebanon as well as speakers from South Africa and Northern Ireland.</p> <p>64 MPs trained on parliamentary functioning in 2015.</p> <p>7 Tunisian MPs and 33 MPs from Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Iraq and Jordan shared their experiences on the role of parliaments in the implementation of decentralized governance during the regional workshop organized in partnership with UNDP regional hub in June 2015. Participants were exposed to international comparative experiences shared by MPs from the French Senate, the Italian Chamber of Deputies and the British House of Commons.</p> <p>125 Tunisian MPs and Secretariat became more knowledgeable on the role of parliamentary groups.</p> <p>20 senior MPs and officials from international partner parliaments shared their experience on parliamentary groups. South-South and Triangular Cooperation efforts were made with the aim of connecting interested parliamentary development partners from the South (Algeria, Iraq, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia) with the North ones (European Parliament, several Belgian parliamentary assemblies, Quebec National Assembly, French National Assembly and Senate, German Bundestag etc.</p> | | |
| <p>Appropriate training courses, study tours to respond the current Assembly needs.</p> | <p>Tunisian experience based on international best practices</p> | <p>2 NCA deputies and 2 Secretariat staff members received training on the organization of the parliamentary bodies and departments responsible for external relations (commissions, protocol department, research unit, cooperation unit, presidential diplomatic unit, etc.) during a study mission to the French National Assembly in July 2013.</p> <p>Improved Assembly's institutional communication through a 6-week mission of an administrator from the European Parliament Directorate-General for External Policies in 2013. This mission helped building institutional communication capacities, structured dialogue between the Assembly, the media and civil society, provide training on various new tools, contribute to the implementation of a communication strategy and formulate proposals on capacity building activities for external actors including the media and civil society. In addition, the mission provided the necessary knowledge base for a number of communication strategy decisions to be taken by the Bureau of the NCA, including the nomination of an NCA spokesperson and the decision to create official pages on social networks (Facebook and Twitter), etc. To this aim, a series of training and awareness-raising workshops on parliamentary communication were held at the National Constituent Assembly on 28-31 October 2013.</p> | | |

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| | | Members of the external relations and protocol units of the NCA attended a workshop on the optimization of the functioning of the protocol and external relations units during a workshop on the improvement of the parliamentary protocol and external relations units held in December 2013. | | |
| Training on gender mainstreaming responding to needs | International guidelines and best practices provided, report from needs assessment of women MPs etc. | <p>One of the challenges Tunisia faces is to assure at the constitution and legislative level, the civil and political rights of Tunisian women. To address this challenge, the project organized a conference on the inclusion of women rights in the Constitution, bringing international comparative experiences from South Africa. Approximately 40 women deputies of the NCA participated in exchanges with prominent political figures in South Africa (as former Ministers, members of parliament and members of the constituent assembly). In addition, the project joined the initiatives of the Tunisian Ministry of Women, UNFPA and UN Women by producing a television broadcast in March 2013 on gender equality.</p> <p>The Tunisian parliament has a relatively high proportion of women members (68 out of 217), placing it in the upper range of democratic parliaments (a higher proportion of women MPs than in any G7 country except Germany). Throughout the UNDP project assistance to the NCA, special emphasis has been laid in ensuring an inclusive constitutional process, including extensive public consultation and engagement with civil society organizations across the country. Gender issues and the importance of entrenching women's equality in the constitution have been key themes in the dialogue. In addition, the project has helped enhance considerably the Tunisian parliamentarians' knowledge on international best practices on gender equality, quotas and constitutionalization of equality provisions. The end of the current legislature is a good opportunity for taking stock of the collective experience of female members of the NCA that could serve as a base for further strengthening of the role of women MPs in the future Assembly of Representatives of the People to be elected on October 26 2014.</p> <p>In this perspective, the project organised a lessons-learned event (a working breakfast) with 34 NCA female members in September 2014, to assess support provided to the current women MPs and to identify the training needs of the future female MPs.</p> <p>4 NCA women deputies received knowledge on issues related to parity laws on gender, the role of women and recent legislation in France during a seminar organized by the French National Assembly on 22-26 September 2014 with women MPs from the Arab region.</p> | | |
| Secretariat infrastructure compliant with international standards | Specifications of ICT hardware and software | The technological approach proposed by the project on the modernization of the ICT infrastructure of the Assembly is based on the standards of the "Global Centre for ICT in Parliament" (http://www.ictparliament.org) and takes into consideration possible expansions of the infrastructure in the future as needed. The work, which includes the creation of the Assembly's web platform (portal and website), provides a collaborative and communicative service for the members of the Assembly and its administration. The platform provides | | |

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| | <p>information about the Assembly legislative activities to citizens, the media and the various specialists of different nationalities. The portal will be accessible in three languages: Arabic, French and English. It will contain sections highlighting latest news, sharing of parliamentary documents, informative notes, and minutes of plenary sessions and commission meetings. A section dedicated to direct streaming of videos of plenary sessions and commission meetings, as well as videos on demand, will be included in the project. The platform will be accessible by all, including people with disabilities, and accessible via mobile devices.</p> <p>In this context, the work carried out to modernize the ICT infrastructure for the redesign of the server room, heart of the information system, to standardize it in terms of IT security and for any type of disaster (fire, risks and countermeasures), the establishment of a CCTV system and an advanced cooling system, the installation of a digital display system for the broadcasting of parliamentary agendas and schedule of committee rooms will contribute to the dissemination of information more easily with parliamentarians and journalists.</p> <p>The web platforms integrated into the intranet of the Assembly, would allow to circulate information through workflows and the approvals of the different heads of departments and will make data more accessible from open standards.</p> <p>The project supported the training of ICT personnel with an aim of further developing the human capacities, as the modernization of the ICT infrastructure advances. Some of the trainings and study tours are listed below:</p> <p>3 parliamentarian questers and the Secretary General of the Assembly acquired a better understanding of administrative autonomy and budgetary monitoring during a study mission in May 2013 to the parliaments of Canada and Quebec.</p> <p>5 civil servants from the NCA secretariat received specific knowledge on management of library archives, financial affairs and protocol during a study mission to the European Parliament in Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg.</p> <p>A Danish Parliament (Folketinget) delegation carried out a mission to appreciate the role of parliamentary groups in the operations of the NCA. Additionally, they hosted an exchange seminar for the NCA's external relations department in October 2013.</p> <p>2 team members, received knowledge on the architecture of the audio debating system of the NCA plenary hall, its maintenance, repair and configuration during a training in April 2014.</p> <p>In April 2014, 2 officials from the NCA Protocol department received training on the tasks of protocol services from exchanges with their homologues at the European Parliament.</p> <p>The Director of Protocol for the European Parliament to the NCA exchanged knowledge and experiences with the protocol</p> | | |
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| | <p>department of the Assembly. This mission was followed by a study visit of the ANC members of the protocol department to the European Parliament</p> <p>The NCA Director of Press and Information received knowledge on the issues of human resources and information technology during a study programme for senior parliamentary officials at the Canadian parliament in July 2013.</p> <p>4 NCA MPs studied practices of the legislative departments of the European Parliament during a study mission in November 2013 at the European Parliament.</p> <p>90 members of the Assembly's secretariat developed their knowledge and understanding on the neutrality of the administration of a democratic parliament during a training workshop on "Ethics in parliament".</p> <p>4 senior officials of the Tunisian NCA Secretariat received knowledge on the main functions of the parliamentary secretariat during a two-week study programme for senior francophone parliamentary officials organized by the Canadian Parliament.</p> <p>In 2013, a specialized Tunisian security auditing company, Katalystrat, drew up proposals for improvement of the overall institution security system and procedures.</p> <p>In the context of the planned restructuring of the security structure of the NCA, 6 civil servants representing the various relevant departments of the NCA secretariat undertook a study mission to the Belgian Senate in July 2013, covering the departments responsible for archives and the library, financial affairs and European Parliament protocol.</p> <p>An international security expert identified equipment needs concerning security improvements. He then produced a risk analysis report; a detailed list of the equipment to be acquired to improve the NCA security; and the terms of reference with which to approach service providers in fields complementary to the on-site installation and commissioning of the equipment. The overall concept underlying the security strengthening strategy was submitted to the NCA in September 2013, and was validated in October 2013.</p> <p>An international expert on parliamentary processes and an international expert on parliamentary ICT undertook an assessment mission to the NCA in January 2013 to establish feasible solutions for upgrading the ICT systems to contemporary best practice and to identify appropriate ICT tools to facilitate parliamentary processes.</p> <p>5 NCA civil servants were trained in March 2013 to ensure the optimal use and management of the electronic attendance system.</p> <p>An international expert in parliamentary processes undertook in April 2013, a mission to support restructuring of the debate transcription department. Emphasis was given to the need for improvement of the recording and avoiding any bottlenecks by creating a diverse multi-skilled team. Following the</p> | | |
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| | <p>recommendations of this mission, the team responsible for re-transcribing parliamentary debates will be enlarged and new transcribers recruited.</p> <p>In June 2013, a thorough assessment project took place to define work, scope, parties involved and the potential issues to upgrade the Assembly's ICT system.</p> <p>An electronic vote export module was installed in July 2013 to update and supplement the existing electronic voting system at the NCA.</p> <p>The specifications document relating to 'debate transcription' and 'e-parliament platforms' was drawn up during August 2013 as part of the technology upgrade programme of the support infrastructure for parliamentary processes.</p> <p>A study on the conformity with international standards and parliamentary best practices of the equipment and software required to the NCA was carried out in September 2013.</p> <p>A presentation was held in October 2013 at the Tunisian National Centre for Information Technology concerning the conformity of the proposed technological and software solutions with the IT requirements of the sector. This presentation resulted in CNI approval for 'Batch 3' - which comprises the software tools included within the IT upgrade strategy. An ICT international expert undertook a situation analysis mission to identify the NCA ICT needs of the different parliamentary functions and recommend best practice solutions.</p> <p>7 members of various teams in charge of the maintenance and technical management of the NCA ICT infrastructure undertook a mission the French Assembly to study best practices in management of parliamentary structures.</p> <p>Following the technical study on the modernization of the server room that took place in December 2013, the project supported the installation of the server bank, followed by an advanced training course on administration, management and operation of servers and data storage arrays to 10 members of the IT department.</p> <p>As part of support to strengthening the communication capacities of the ANC, a Tunisian delegation of 15 engineers and technicians conducted a four-day study-tour to the French National Assembly and the French Senate in October 2014. The study tour helped the Tunisian delegation acquire a better understanding of the communication techniques that would allow the new Tunisian Assembly to take the necessary measures in order to guarantee an open and efficient communication based on the new technologies.</p> <p>In September 2015, the project supplied the ARP with 230 laptops for the deputies to enhance the efficiency, communication, and research activities as MPs.</p> <p>80% of the development of 18 ICT platforms have been completed by the end of the year. The remaining 20% and their implementation will take place in 2016 in the framework of the</p> | | |
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| | | 2nd phase of the project. | | |
| OUTPUT 3 Supporting National Dialogue through a platform of consultation and consensus building | | | | |
| Achievements towards the outputs and evidence-based contributions of the project: | | | | |
| <i>3.1 Support the dialogue and strengthening of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) capacities</i> | | | | |
| <i>3.2 Conflict mitigation and capacity building of the concerned civil society actor</i> | | | | |
| Quality Criteria | Quality method | Results of Activities | | |
| | | Beneficiary Perspective | Resource utilization (%) | Compliance with deadlines |
| Development of various tools to build CSOs capacities and engage them in development plans | Manuals developed, dissemination meetings | <p>A highlight of the project's work with civil society was its support to civil society's engagement in, and contribution to, the constitutional process and national dialogue. In this respect, a needs assessment and CSO mapping for support to dialogue activities was carried out in 2012 through meetings with around 50 CSOs in target areas selected on the basis of civil unrest and potential instability.</p> <p>As part of its multifaceted support to civil society in the areas of constitutional development, national dialogue, combatting corruption and transitional justice, the project launched in 2012, several calls for proposals supporting 18 CSO initiatives. The initiatives aimed at providing financial and technical support to CSOs to broaden the scope of dialogue to include grassroots and less advantaged groups, including from interior regions in the country. Other initiatives included training on implementation modalities and report development skills aimed at fulfilling CSO project objectives.</p> <p>In January 2014, the project signed 20 partnership agreements amounting to US\$ 590,000, with civil society organisations that will disseminate the newly adopted Constitution. With a special focus on youth and women, these initiatives aim to go beyond awareness raising, and promote a dynamic of learning citizenship, through a perspective in which individuals are seen as active citizens and political subjects in their own right.</p> <p>In partnership with the NCA, the project supported the production of a documentary on the contribution of civil society in the constitutional making process, entitled "Dostour Echaâb". The documentary, adapted in Arabic, English and French (see links below), will be used as a tool during public outreach activities.</p> <p>http://youtu.be/m-RZMzsR8Gk - in Arabic http://youtu.be/FAcKqaGGxpw - in French http://youtu.be/XftITbPsvKI in English</p> <p>During 2014, the project team undertook frequent monitoring missions in the governorates of Tunis, Nabeul, Bizerte, Sousse, Kairouan, Kasserine, Sidi Bouzid, Beja, Jendouba, Sfax, Tozeur,</p> | Resources utilized within the budget allocated | Manuals developed as per the AWP timeframe |

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| | <p>Medenine, Gafsa, Le Kef, Siliana and Gabes. The purpose of these missions was to evaluate the progress of the projects implemented by the partner CSOs.</p> <p>During 2014, the project conducted reviews at the beginning, mid-term and final stage with CSOs implementing initiatives on the promotion of citizenship, security sector reform and transitional justice.</p> <p>Synergies with the UNDP Electoral support project, were further strengthened thanks to the organization of the Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop for CSO on women political participation. 33 representatives of CSOs acquired training capacities during a ToT, held in Tunis, on 19 - 25 May 2014. They in turn, trained more than 80 potential women candidates.</p> <p>The project contributed towards the enhancement of citizens' knowledge on the legislative and presidential elections, with particular emphasis on youth. In collaboration with partner organizations, an awareness campaign to encourage youth to cast an informed vote as active and responsible citizens was carried out during quarter III and IV, in 2014. The first phase of the campaign was launched on 28 September and continued until 2 October, targeting 23 governorates and 94 delegations⁶ that had experienced a turnout between 50% to 60%, in the last elections (Source: ISIE). The second phase took place from 13 to 19 October with door-to-door campaigning and awareness-raising through involvement of the 124 young volunteers. The official campaign for the first round of the presidential elections was conducted from 19 to 21 November. A spot targeting youth was produced and shared online with all partner CSOs. The awareness campaign on both legislative and presidential elections involved around 40,000 people.</p> <p>In collaboration with the Presidency of the Republic and the Tunisian Institute for Strategic Studies (ITES), the project carried out a pilot programme aiming at strengthening the capacities of CSOs through a series of thematic training courses. The training program was designed to strengthen the participation of civil society in the development of their communities and create the conditions for a strong partnership between institutional actors and those of civil society during the democratic transition. 700 participants representing 300 organizations acquired new management skills thanks to the 19 training sessions carried out with the support of the Project. Following the successful completion of the training cycle, a closing ceremony was organized on 18 September 2014, under the auspices of the President of the Republic and the presence of the project team in charge of the component III. The project supported the design and publication of a brochure in French and Arabic, which highlights the objectives of this pilot programme.</p> <p>A call for proposals on the importance of participation in the</p> | | |
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⁶ The delegations (mutamadiyah) are the second level administrative divisions in Tunisia between the governorates and the sectors (imadats)

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| | | <p>future elections was launched in 2014. Information days engaging over 350 activists from the civil society were organized by the project. Agreements with 32 CSOs were signed in the presence of the UNDP Resident Representative and donor representatives.</p> <p>Two joint monitoring missions were conducted by the members of the Finance and Project Support Unit of the UNDP Tunisia Office and the project team in charge of Output III. The M&E field missions involved 20 civil society organizations in the governorates of Tunis, Sousse, Sfax, Sidi Bouzid, Kairouan, Gafsa, Tozeur, Medenine and Gabes. Apart from the monitoring and evaluation of CSOs projects, these missions are also a means to assess their implementation capacity and further needs. Furthermore, they helped in refreshing knowledge on the financial rules, providing clarifications on the supporting documents required for financial reporting, meeting deadlines for project reports, etc.</p> <p>27 partner organizations implementing projects in political participation took part in a two day long mid-term review held on 26 and 27 December to assess the results achieved and discuss challenges encountered during project implementation. This review also enabled the partner organizations to assess and discuss their capacity building needs with the project.</p> <p>On 28 December 2014, 11 partner organizations carried out a final review of the public information projects on the new constitution. Along with the presentation of project activities and results achieved, this review allowed sharing of lessons learned and documentation of best practices.</p> <p>Both the mid-term and final reviews are part of an approach of continuous support to civil society organizations throughout the process, from the stage of project award to the implementation of activities, in order to enable these CSOs to become more professional by supporting capacity enhancement.</p> <p>The project team carried out monitoring field missions to the governorates of Kairouan, Gabes, Medenine, Tataouine, Sfax, Ariana, Ben Arous and Manouba during the period 4 to 10 December. The aim of these field visits was to meet with the partner CSOs to analyze their performance, monitor their implementation capacities, review the rules of financial implementation and assess activity progress.</p> | | |
| Monitoring mechanisms for training of civil society actors established | Minutes of meetings | <p>The project supported the development of the national capacity for consensus building and dialogue techniques through a training programme of 334 political party officials and regional leaders across the 24 governorates nationwide. The sessions, carried out in 2013, had a positive impact as they were organized during the political crisis in Tunisia, following the assassination of an opposition figure, thus helping reducing the tensions between political stakeholders at a key moment of the transition period.</p> <p>The project contributed to the development of local capacity</p> | | |

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| | <p>on conflict prevention, dialogue facilitation and consensus building through a training programme held in 2013, for civil society activists to raise awareness on dialogue and consensus building techniques, with the aim of disseminating these practices throughout Tunisian civil society. This initiative helped developing national capacities on conflict prevention, management and resolution and implements an oversight mechanism for 10 facilitators, with a view of mitigation of risks and impact of political polarization.</p> <p>In 2013, the project supported 15 consortia, representing 90 associations, on initiatives aiming at awareness raising of civil society on the negative effects of violence, the mechanisms to prevent it, risk mitigation and the factors associated with conflict at the local level, especially for youth at risk (young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, radical groups, etc.).</p> <p>The project supported 10 civil society initiatives to facilitate engagement of citizens in the drafting process of the Constitution. These initiatives made it possible to gather the aspirations of around 31,000 citizens that were documented by the project in the form of reports later submitted to the NCA.</p> <p>The project supported the National Council for Freedoms, in the implementation of a national anti-violence awareness-raising campaign, in the context of the political crisis that occurred after the assassination of two opponents, in February and July 2013.</p> <p>During 2013, the project supported the organization of 16 regional conferences across all the governorates of Tunisia on civil society contribution to the transition process. Co-organized with 11 partner associations, the conferences covered themes on employment, women and youth, security, anti-corruption, political violence, environmental issues and regional disparities. The objective was to initiate debates on the above topics and generate recommendations that were officially shared with state authorities in the form of a report, by UNDP partner associations. These conferences engaged 1,097 participants, out of which 839 representing civil society representatives and 257 delegates.</p> <p>During 2014, steps were undertaken towards building national capacity on dialogue promotion and consensus building. A two-day brainstorming meeting took place on 20 and 21 November 2014 in Hamammet, in the presence of 24 trainers who had previously undergone the cycle of training courses on this subject. The overall objective of the workshop was to promote the creation of a national capacity in facilitating dialogue and consensus building. The meeting was successful as it brought together all the trainers that had in the past received training on dialogue techniques and consensus building. The trainers had the possibility to discuss the conditions for setting up a network of facilitators for national dialogue; reflect on its mission, structure, sustainability, etc. At the end an action plan was agreed upon for the establishment of the facilitator network.</p> <p>The project team carried out a survey with the objective of</p> | | |
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| | <p>analyzing the dynamics of instability in order to better understand the phenomenon of violence in the country, in order to develop initiatives and mechanisms for preventing and reducing instability at the local and national level. A workshop was held on 17 December 2014, in the presence of six partner CSOs, to validate the results of the survey, provide information on the approach adopted for the survey and present a document that outlines the dynamics of instability in the country, causes and consequences, and identify methodologically-sound approaches that help implementation of activities on conflict prevention and management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A 2-page brochure highlighting the approach and priorities of the project for 2014-2015 in supporting civil society initiatives and their role in the reforms processes in the country. - A brochure explaining the phases of the funding process of CSOs initiatives by the project and the mechanisms in place for the monitoring and evaluation of these initiatives. - A brochure highlighting the consolidated results of the UNDP project support to initiatives of CSOs for the period 2012-2013. - A communication guide for civil society to improve CSOs' internal and external communication has been produced by the project. Designed using accessible language and illustrations, this practical tool will help the associations to strengthen their communication capacities. <p>Within the framework of the development of the CSOs management manual, around 20 CSO representatives were able to evaluate the content of the manual based on their field experiences. The discussions, which took place during two workshops held respectively on 30 April and 21 May 2015, helped the usage of an easy-to-read terminology. The manual, aims to contribute to the professionalization and empowerment of Civil Society Organizations in Tunisia.</p> <p>The findings of the draft study on the risks of instability in rural areas were presented during a workshop held on 12 March 2015 in Tunis. The aim of the workshop was to share these findings with experts to enable these in providing recommendations for the finalization of the study.</p> <p>18 CSOs presented their projects, challenges, lessons learnt during the final review of projects on political participation, which took place on 2 March 2015.</p> <p>The final review of 4 social and economic rights projects took place on 2 March 2015. During the evaluation, the need to encourage the local and regional authorities in the promotion of economic and social rights through advocacy was identified.</p> <p>8 CSOs presented their projects, lessons learned and recommendations during the final review of projects promoting gender equality, held on 24 March 2015.</p> | | |
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| | <p>During the World Social Forum, held in Tunisia from 24 to 28 March 2015 on the campus of the El Manar University, the civil society component team, in collaboration with a consortium of Tunisian NGOs organized two round-tables on the role of the local actors in the promotion of social cohesion and sustainable development at the local, national and global level.</p> <p>The final report on the regional conferences initiative on the contribution of civil society in the democratic transition presented during a ceremony organized on 31 March, 2015 in Tunis. Chaired by the UNDP Resident Representative, the ceremony was attended by the Tunisian Minister of Women's, Family and Children's Affairs, Samira Merai, and representatives from 11 partner CSO.</p> <p>Training manual on mediation and promotion of dialogue developed.</p> <p>Tunisian Network for Social Cohesion established. It aims to build local capacity in management and conflict prevention. The network sustainability was the objective of another meeting held in Tunis on 19 May 2015, with 24 network representatives. Partnership opportunities among organizations working on issues of social cohesion were discussed at large.</p> | | |
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*Tunis, 27 January 2014:
NCA deputies holding copies of
the Constitution printed by the
UNDP Project.
Source: UNDP Project in
Support of the Constitutional
Process, Parliamentary
Development and National
dialogue in Tunisia*



Tunis, October 2014 –NCA President, Mustapha Ben Jaafar, welcoming the guests, at the inauguration ceremony of the Assembly of Representatives and Training Center. Source: UNDP Project in Support of the Constitutional Process, Parliamentary Development





Gammarth, June 2015 – Regional workshop on the role of the Parliamentary Assemblies in the decentralization process. Source: UNDP Project in Support of the Constitutional Process, Parliamentary Development and National Dialogue in Tunisia



Tunis, Mars 2015 – Mounir Tabet, UNDP Resident Representative presents the report on the contribution of civil society in democratic transitions to Samira Merai, Minister of Women's, Family and Children's Affairs. Source:



Simplified guide on the techniques of dialogue and consensus building

FAST FACTS IN NUMBERS

- 5,000 citizens and civil society delegates engaged in the national consultation with 80 NCA deputies across all the country governorates
- Printing and distribution of 20,000 copies of the Constitution in pocket format;
- Implementation of public information campaign on the Constitution involved around 3,000 citizens.

- The Assembly's Information and Training Centre is operational;
- The Assembly's Agora hub is operational;
- 40,000 citizens involved in Constitutional Dialogue and popularization of the Constitution through 30 civil society initiatives supported;
- 100,000 citizens participated in 577 on Constitution awareness-raising activities. A documentary produced on the constitutional process;
- Production of manuals and guides on management, ethics, communication of CSO, including newsletters of "Civil Society in action";
- Promotion of (1) gender equality in political participation (electoral lists) and social areas through 8 consortia of CSO; (2) Citizenship through trainings on human rights, democracy education and citizenship, field surveys via 26 partner CSO; (3) national campaign against violence in collaboration with 11 consortia of 66 partner CSO.

PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In accordance with UNDP programming policies and procedures, a mid-term review was carried out in June 2014, with the overall objective of assessing the progress from the beginning of the project, draw on lessons learned and better outline future activities. The findings and recommendations of the mid-term review, were taken into consideration during the final implementation period and those on a longer-term were incorporated in the second phases of the parliamentary development and civil society strengthening projects.

The project's financial and procedural integrity was assured through compliance with the procedures of UNDP, supported in particular through the close collaboration of the project with the Project Management Support Unit (PMSU) established at the UNDP Tunisia Country Office.

The project was developed and implemented in a particular situation of transition and the demand of the Tunisian government and particularly the NCA for rapid delivery in order to accompany the intense work of the Assembly in the critical period of constitutional drafting and adoption. Support has been provided regularly through the UNDP Regional Bureau for the Arab States and UNDP headquarters (both the Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Recovery and the Bureau for Development Policy) in monitoring project implementation and in provided strategic advice and support as needed throughout the process. Continuous quality assurance has also been provided through the UNDP Tunisia Country Office management and governance team.

Throughout project implementation, the project team in charge of Component III has undertaken numerous field M&E missions with the purpose of reviewing the progress of the initiatives implemented by the partner CSOs, identify their capacity needs and train these organisations in project implementation aspects. In some cases, these M&E missions were conducted jointly with members from the PSU of the Tunisia Country Office to address CSOs challenges in reporting and avoid delays in the disbursement of instalments.

The first project Steering Committee took place on 4 April 2013 in the presence of the ANC President, Moustafa Ben Jaâfar, UN Resident Representative and funding donors of the project, including representatives of the Embassy of Japan, Belgium, EU, European Parliament and Danish cooperation. The Steering Committee agreed on the Annual Workplan 2013 and approved adjustments of the project document.

A project Steering Committee meeting took place on 30 March 2015 under the co-chairing of the President of the ARP, Mr Mohamed Ennaceur and the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Mounir Tabet. The meeting was as well attended by representatives of the development partners of the project, e.g. Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Japan, Switzerland and European Union (see minutes of the Steering Committee meeting enclosed). The Steering Committee approved the no-cost extension of the current project until 31 December 2015 due to the extension of project implementation to coincide with the longer-than-anticipated constitutional transition period.



Tunis, Mars 2015 – Project Steering Committee meeting with the representatives of the ARP, development partners and UNDP.

Source: UNDP Project in Support of the Constitutional Process, Parliamentary Development and National Dialogue in Tunisia

Project quarterly reports have been prepared and shared with the development partners and the ARP.

A liaison committee was established in 2015 to follow-up and plan UNDP project activities with the Assembly, while identifying bottlenecks and addressing challenges. This mechanism has proved to be very effective and regular meetings take place with a consistent agenda.

IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES AND RISKS MONITORING

| No | Description | Type | Probability/Impact | Status |
|----|---|----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | Instability in the political, economic and social situation in the country | Political | P=2 I=3 | The project adapts to the emerging needs of the country and the parliamentary institution given the country context. |
| 2 | Various support initiatives provided by other institutions reduce the project's effectiveness | Operational/organizational | P=2 I=3 | The project maintains good coordination with other development partners and organizations. The project has taken the leadership in organizing coordination meetings with partners working with the Assembly to avoid duplication and implement joint activities. |
| 3 | UNDP Country Office does not have adequate operational capacity, which would affect project implementation. | Operational/organizational | P=2 I=3 | The UNDP Project Support Unit is established and operational. The project is under UNDP Fast Track Procedures for 2015. In addition, the project is responding to this risk by strengthening internal procedures. |
| 4 | Slow responsiveness from the Assembly in allocating a dedicated space to the media centre | Operational/organizational | P=3 I=3 | The delay in the allocation of the physical space had an impact in the establishment of the media centre within the timeframe of the on-going project. The project team has taken all the necessary steps in order to coordinate with the Assembly to address and mitigate the problem. |
| 5 | The security situation in the country worsens | Security | P=3 I=3 | Tunisia faces multifold security challenges: over 5,800 foreign fighters from Tunisia are |

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| | | | | involved with the Islamic State abroad; extremists are creating instability near the Algerian border; the worsening of the security situation in Libya has a considerable impact in the country. The Bardo terrorist attack in March 2015, followed by the Sousse attack in June, raises further concerns. The UNDP CO has been assessing the security situation in the country and the project team strictly adhered to the UN DSS security instructions. |
| 6 | Delays in procurement process | Organizational | P=3 I=3 | The project needs to hire on a short-term basis, individual contract holders that would help speeding the implementation process. |
| 7 | Lack of national expertise in conflict prevention | Strategic | P=2 I=2 | The project hired an international expert to train national experts that would in return train other nationals (training of trainers). |
| 8 | The Tunisian Civil society is relatively new and with limited experience. | Strategic | P=2 I=3 | The project has supported the CSOs by availing the project team to accompany them in the projects implementation. |

LESSONS LEARNED

Throughout the transition process, UNDP has been Tunisia's main international partner in constitutional building and institutional capacity development. The successful organization of both legislative and presidential elections and the peaceful transfer of the presidency on December 30, 2014 to newly-elected President Essebsi demonstrated the strong foundation Tunisia has constructed for the consolidation of the democratic transition. The successful unfolding of the process demonstrated the importance of patience in support to democratic transition, particularly in a country such as Tunisia where there is no previous history of democratic institutions. Lessons learned from the successful constitutional process need to be institutionalised, particularly within parliament, so that the institution is recognised as the location for democratic debate and consensus building, as well as the formal representative link between the citizen and the state.

The experience gained during the project implementation has provided learning that can be beneficial during the implementation of the second phase, including particularly:

Building trust

The provision of strong technical capacity on the ground, a major strength of the project, has resulted in the establishment of a collaborative and productive relationship with the national stakeholders. In addition, it also contributed to the perception of the project as a reliable and impartial partner, thus increasing the trust of the national stakeholders in the project and the United Nations. In fact, during the official signing ceremony of the Constitution, the President of the NCA acknowledged the efforts of UNDP and the project technical partners for their continuous support, and discussed future perspectives for collaboration.

National sovereignty and the principle of ownership

The project has always respected the principles of national ownership despite the challenges this has occasionally created. To this end, the project continues to promote awareness and discussions on international standards and good practices as a means of increasing national ownership of parliamentary development issues.

Collaboration with other UNDP projects

Whenever possible, the project has sought to collaborate with other UNDP Projects, including those of support to electoral processes for the development and implementation of the voter information campaign, training of women candidates etc.); local development project (in the organization of capacity building activities) and other projects which has proved to be an effective approach.

Promoting the Tunisian constitutional process internationally

The Tunisian experience can serve as a model both for the anchoring of democracy in Tunisia and its development elsewhere in the region and beyond. It will be essential to build upon this learning for further support to parliamentary strengthening in Tunisia. Efforts were made to facilitate sharing of lessons learned, and generate better understanding of the constitution making process and parliamentary development in sensitive political contexts.

Establishment of coordination structures

Establishment of collaboration structures (project liaison committee) in 2015, has substantially improved the flow of communication and the timely addressing of ARP needs. The project liaison committee meets usually every two weeks, but when necessary, the meetings become more frequent. In fact, while planning for a second phase of parliamentary strengthening, intensified exchanges with the ARP were essential to better reflect the priorities and the needs of the ARP in the formulation of the project document that builds on and goes beyond the 5 year Strategic Development Plan.

CSO capacity building

The launching of call for proposals to support civil society initiatives in favour of constitutional dialogue and transitional justice demonstrated the capacity limitations of CSOs, notably those created since January 2011. In this respect, it has been important the efforts of the project team in ensuring a broad dissemination of calls for proposals, through more targeted information days for CSOs and provide them with technical training and personalised coaching for capacity building, including project implementation.

PROPOSED WAY FORWARD AND NEXT STEPS

The second phase of the parliamentary support component will centre around the support to the implementation of the Constitution and the strengthening of the capacity of the parliament.

Within this context, the project is committed to pursuing all its activities within the overall framework of its project document and to upholding its strong working relationships with ARP.

Key activities for 2016 will include but will not be limited to:

- increased capacity building of MPs and parliament officials, especially on the mandate, mechanisms and structures of parliament, gender, budget cycle, and constitutional issues;
- support to parliament strategic planning (especially of parliamentary committees in charge of the implementation of the constitution);
- support to the implementation of constitutional provisions on human rights, especially gender, freedom of expression, fight against corruption;
- continued support to the institutionalization of parliament openness, based on the infrastructures developed during the first project phase, and through the support to the development of a new and permanent organ where both parliament and civil society organizations are represented;
- support to the strengthening of the role of women MPs within parliament;
- specific support to the strengthening of parliamentary oversight;
- support to the development of a strategy of strengthening of parliamentary groups;
- support to the strengthening of parliament role in the SDGs implementation, especially SDG 16, through the support to a new parliamentary structure following the work on SDGs;
- continued activities aiming at sharing the Tunisian experience of democratic transition in the region and beyond (large regional conference on political transformation in Tunis).

The support to the Tunisian civil society to strengthen its role of mediation and neutralization of conflicts, becomes crucial during the current phase of democratic transition, in a period when the country is facing serious security challenges and a rise of social tensions. The Tamkeen project for the promotion of citizenship and strengthening of social cohesion is intended to consolidate the achievements of the first phase and empower the Tunisian civil society in its significant role in the strengthening of a sustainable democratic system that promotes citizen participation and reduces inequality and exclusion. The activities of the second phase will centre on the following specific objectives:

- Strengthen the capacity of the emerging civil society and their contribution to the dialogue on national development priorities;
- Disseminate democratic culture, especially among young people
- Strengthen the foundation of inclusive governance by promoting citizen participation in the most disadvantaged areas in order to help reduce the lack of trust in public institutions
- Promote the use of dialogue as a tool of conciliation between actors;
- Contribute to strengthening social cohesion through the development of local capacity for mediation and facilitation.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Every effort has been made to represent the actual expenditures made against the related budget in accordance with UNDP financial rules and regulations and the project's budgeting policies. The figures enclosed in this report are subject to change pending the application of GMS pertaining to the period. The project total delivery as of 31 December 2015 is \$ 17,520,916 corresponding to 96% of the funds received from the Donors, as per the following yearly breakdown:

1. Total spent in 2012: \$1,728,324
2. Total spent in 2013: \$ 8,321,423
3. Total spent in 2014: \$ 5,014,345.27
4. Total spent in 2015: \$ 2,456,824

The consolidated project expenditures against budget are reflected in the table below:

| Donors | Contributions committed | Contributions received | 2012 Expenditures | 2013 Expenditures | 2014 Expenditures | 2015 Expenditures | Total Project Expenditures as of 31/12/2015 | Total Project Expenditures as of 31/12/2015 | Remaining Balance as of 31/12/2015 |
|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| | (A) | (B) | (C) | (D) | (E) | (F) | G=(C+D+E+F) | H= (G)/(A)% | (B)- (G) |
| Japan | 7 600 000 | 7 600 000 | 996 597 | 6 323 337 | 199 082 | 15 075 | 7 534 092 | 99 | 65 908 |
| Belgium | 3 854 665 | 3 617 577 | 619 655 | 1 552 804 | 1 439 851 | 733 | 3 613 043 | 100 | 4 534 |
| EU | 2 327 400 | 1 870 687 | - | 91 201 | 687 061 | 747 247 | 1 525 509 | 82 | 345 178 |
| Sweden | 3 332 203 | 3 332 238 | - | 182 997 | 2 280 994 | 782 044 | 3 246 035 | 97 | 86 203 |
| Norway | 200 625 | 200 000 | 89 197 | 110 814 | (116) | - | 199 896 | 100 | 104 |
| Denmark | 905 901 | 876 805 | 2 874 | - | 203 891 | 546 927 | 753 691 | 86 | 123 114 |
| Switzerland | 311 911 | 311 911 | - | - | - | 214 708 | 214 708 | 69 | 97 203 |
| TRACK | 500 000 | 429 270 | 20 000 | 60 270 | 203 582 | 150 090 | 433 942 | 101 | (4 672) |
| TOTAL | 19 032 705 | 18 238 488 | 1 728 324 | 8 321 423 | 5 014 345 | 2 456 824 | 17 520 916 | 96 | 717 572 |

Overview of expenditures by project component

| DONORS | 2012/2013/2014/2015 | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| | Component 1 | Component 2 | Component3 | Component 4 | Total |
| Japan | 1 040 415,35 | 1 815 029,90 | 3 395 260,82 | 1 283 386,17 | 7 534 092,24 |
| Belgium | 817 231,79 | 1 159 810,99 | 1 286 594,64 | 349 405,83 | 3 613 043,25 |
| EU | | 1 525 508,81 | | | 1 525 508,81 |
| Sweden | 28 186,65 | 57 734,49 | 2 273 413,39 | 886 700,53 | 3 246 035,06 |
| Norway | 15 270,23 | 74 127,71 | 110 497,99 | | 199 895,93 |
| Denmark | 318 772,20 | 434 919,05 | | | 753 691,25 |
| Switzerland | 214 708,03 | | | | 214 708,03 |
| TRACK | 20 000,00 | | 244 674,90 | 169 266,83 | 433 941,73 |
| TOTAL | 2 454 584,25 | 5 067 130,95 | 7 310 441,74 | 2 688 759,36 | 17 520 916,30 |

NB: All expenditures presented in this report are provisional. As per the cost-sharing agreement, UNDP Head Quarters provides donors with an annual certified financial statement on 30 June of every year.

SIGNATURE

For the executing partner (UNDP):

Name: Jean-Raphael Giuliani

Title:

Signature:

Date: 16 February 2015