



Activity report 2019 – 2020

No Peace Without Justice Libya

Al Andalous Area, Tripoli, Libya

www.npwj.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	3
About No Peace Without Justice	4
NPWJ's Libya team	4
NPWJ's work on and in Libya	4
2019/2020 Activities and achievements	6
A – Technical assistance to CSOs	6
1 – NGO's Mapping study	6
2 – Training and capacity building workshop for CSOs	7
3 – The Libyan Network for the Protection of Children's Rights	10
4 – Civil Society House (CSH)	10
B – Technical assistance provided to state officials	14
1 – Preparation of the State report to the Committee of the Rights of the Child (CRC)	14
2 – Capacity building program on the preparation of overdue reports to the Human Rights Treaty Bodies	15
Future work of NPWJ in and on Libya	19

TABLE OF ABBREVIATIONS

CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSH	Civil Society House
MRM	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non- Governmental organisation
NPWJ	No Peace Without Justice
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
UNSC	United Nations Security Council

Preface

by Frej Fenniche,

MENA Regional Representative of No Peace Without Justice

No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ) is pleased to present the 2019 – 2020 report about our recent activities in Libya, where we have been present on the ground since 2012.



The crisis in Libya that followed the violent events of 2014 led to unprecedented political instability and insecurity. The proliferation of armed groups operating in total impunity and the threats they posed to citizens, and especially to human rights defenders, forced several NGOs and human rights defenders to suspend their activities. The attack on Tripoli in April 2019 increased the risks of insecurity and plunged the population into unprecedented socio-economic precariousness and further reduced the democratic space that had been gained after 2011. In spite of this hostile environment, NPWJ has managed once again to provide assistance to the Governmental institutions as well as to the Libyan civil society by engaging with these partners in the implementation of a program aimed at the protection of children's rights, with the financial support of UNICEF and the Italian government.

Building on the success of this experience with UNICEF and thanks to the financial support of the European Union, NPWJ launched in August 2020 an ambitious program that would allow the government to prepare and submit its various overdue reports to the different human rights treaty bodies and to initiate an inclusive national debate on many sensitive human rights issues with financial support from the European Union. The same program will also benefit civil society organisations.

In this report, you will find details of NPWJ's activities in Libya and the results achieved so far. Our approach in Libya and elsewhere is based on the principles of **national ownership** and **national leadership**. We don't replace national actors. We support them, from a human rights principled perspective, and accompany their efforts to reach their objectives. The political developments since the Berlin Summit (January 2020) and the recent political dialogue in Tunis (November 2020) give us hope that our action in Libya will bear fruit in the near future and that human rights will gain importance and priority, especially now that Libya has been elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Council and went through the Universal Periodic Review.

I would like to thank our partners in the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Civil Society Commission, the Higher Committee for Children, and the many NGOs with whom we are honoured to work. I would also like to thank our donors and NPWJ's team in the Libya office, whose dedication and courage have made it possible to achieve these goals.

Frej Fenniche

ABOUT NO PEACE WITHOUT JUSTICE

NPWJ is a non-profit organisation, founded in 1993 to promote the establishment and effective operations of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Court. For two decades, NPWJ has worked on human rights, accountability and redress in numerous conflict and post-conflict settings, including Afghanistan, Iraq, Kenya, Kosovo, Libya, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Syria, gaining extensive experience in managing large-scale projects in complex political and security environments. NPWJ is also particularly active in the fight against gender based violence, with a focus on banning Female Genital Mutilation and, in recent years, against impunity for environmental and human devastation in the Amazon.

A – NPWJ's Libya team



NPWJ's team working on Libya has diverse and relevant backgrounds (human rights, IHL, transitional justice, ICC, GBV...) and fluent linguistic abilities including written and spoken Arabic, English, French and Italian. Team members – and NPWJ as a whole – have worked with civil society on difficult issues in a variety of countries, including in the MENA region, in contexts where countries have been in conflict, emerging from conflict and grappling with past

legacies from conflict or from periods of political turmoil and/or internal strife.

B – NPWJ's work on and in Libya

NPWJ has been working on human rights, accountability and transitional justice for Libya since 2011, with a presence on the ground from 2012 onwards, together with Libyan civil society actors, local human rights defenders and institutional actors.

Through its office in Tripoli, which was shut down temporarily in 2015 due to the political instability and the deterioration of the security conditions but has formally reopened in January 2018, NPWJ has supported dozens of civil society organisations and professionals, including lawyers and judges, in documenting and analysing human rights violations committed by the former regime and during the 2011 revolution, the abuses and violence that continued thereafter and the conditions of detention, and in monitoring local trials. As a result of this support, Libyan NGOs developed the capacity for political initiatives, including conducting awareness campaigns on important legislative initiatives, such as Law 29 /2013 on Transitional Justice, and the Ministerial Decree of 19 February 2014 on Reparations for victims of SGBV.

The political crisis that began in mid-2014 blocked the implementation of these legislative initiatives and the development of a transitional justice process that could lead to national reconciliation. However, the fact that these legislative instruments were adopted in response to the political mobilisation of local advocacy organisations was, even then, a sign of the capacity and ambition of women, men and young people, organised both formally and informally, to contribute to democratic change. Until the latest crisis (2014), these actors were also able, at least at the local level, to act as a check on the power of some of the

militias that were beyond the control of the central government.

In addition to civil society campaigns, NPWJ has worked with the Ministry of Justice and its Higher Judicial Training Institute in providing training and expertise to the judges and prosecutors who were charged with the enormous task of dealing with those suspected to have committed or directed atrocities during the conflict and during the previous regime. NPWJ seconded an experienced war crimes prosecutor to the Office of the Prosecutor of Misurata to assist in clearing a large backlog of cases that had contributed to unsustainable conditions of detention. NPWJ has also worked with the legal profession to organise colloquiums about Libya's transitional justice process and judicial reform. NPWJ organised outreach campaigns on transitional justice across Libya, including various editions of “Youth Day”, organised in collaboration with the Libya Youth Union. NPWJ has organised several workshops and trainings with civil society on various aspects of transitional justice and human rights, including on the human rights of women, children, minorities and other vulnerable groups, including in Benghazi, Houn, Misurata, Sebha, Sebrata, Tobruk Tripoli, Yefren and Zawia, working with local groups and activists in each of these areas.

In 2018, No Peace Without Justice has resumed its operations in Libya with a project supported by UNICEF and the Italian government, working in particular since 2019 on the rights of the child and the promotion of an enabling legal environment for children. In that sense, some activities were developed focusing on the need for capacity building, with two major target groups: civil society organisations on the one hand, and government institutions and independent national institutions on the other hand. This is particularly important since progress related to the protection of children's rights requires coordinated action between CSOs, NGOs, institutions and national authorities, mainly through the implementation of joint programs.



2019 – 2020 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Most of the activities outlined below are part of the program to “Promote a favourable legal environment for a rights-based, fair, democratic and inclusive governance with a particular focus on children's rights and the rule of law in Libya 2019 – 2020” but the first achievements of the program “Preparation of reports and implementation of recommendations issued by UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies and other mechanisms” supported by the European Union are also reported.

The program aims to strengthen the capacity of the Libyan Government and Libyan Civil Society Organisations in the field of the protection and promotion of child rights. These activities were implemented with the collaboration of following partners:



A - Technical assistance to CSOs

1. NGO Mapping

Beginning in May 2019, NPWJ took the initiative, in collaboration with the Association of Children's Rights in Benghazi, to carry out a study aimed at identifying children's rights organisations and assessing their needs in the field of their interaction with the United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms (UNHRMs) with a focus on the rights of the child. The study intended to analyse organizations' activities and evaluate their knowledge concerning the implementation mechanisms of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and their contribution and capacity to reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The second purpose of this study was to map the capacities of these organisations and to identify their priorities in order to develop a tailored capacity building program.

One hundred and forty- one organisations were reached and 55 NGOs active in the field of human rights, children's rights, women's rights, the rights of persons with disabilities and migration effectively participated in the study. The organisations were based in the following cities: Al Baydha, Benghazi, Beni Walid, Misrata, Sabha, Subrata, Tripoli and Zawiya. The draft of the study was submitted to a group of NGOs for review and comments both in Tripoli and Benghazi and then finalised and made public on 9 September 2019.

To read the full piece please click [here](#).

The most important conclusions of the study are as follows:

- Despite the increasing number of organisations created since 2011, their sustainability and impact on the ground have

significantly decreased after 2014 crisis. Many organisations have ceased to exist due mainly to the security situation and armed conflict. Lack of financial resources was also mentioned by some NGOs as an additional reason.

- CSOs are facing a high number of challenges and obstacles (such as security, fear from prosecutions by armed groups and state authorities).
- The departure of a large number of international NGOs from Libya since 2014 had a negative impact on the Libyan NGOs.
- Libyan NGOs lack support from governmental and foreign institutions and they rely exclusively on self- financing.
- NGOs lack training programs on international human rights mechanisms, reporting on human rights, monitoring of human rights violations and in other areas.
- NGOs are in need in terms of capacity building, assistance in organising and implementing activities, building trust, internal management, fundraising and in other areas.
- There is a dangerous and unstable environment due to the absence of a law regulating the work of civil society and the absence of a unified and clear national authority.

According to the study, the most urgent needs to satisfy (with a rate of 85 %) are, in order of importance: (i) capacity building programs in the area of international human rights mechanisms, developing relevant specific skills (i.e. report writing, data collection and documentation, field monitoring and investigating human rights violations); (ii) trainings in the field of advocacy, mobilisation and human rights education; (iii) strategic planning and protection of information; and (iv) internal management of NGOs.

2. Training and capacity Building Workshops for CSOs

NPWJ organises workshops to support Libyan human rights advocates in their self- organisation, coalition-building, advocacy and campaigning. The participatory workshops are tailored to meet the specific needs of Libyan human rights advocates and directed towards achieving concrete goals, such as the development of action plans to engage with Libyan and international human rights actors, including the UN Human Rights Council and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Based on the results of the NGOs mapping study mentioned above, NPWJ adjusted its capacity building program accordingly. Three training sessions on the United Nations Security Council's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) and three other training sessions on the CRC and on advocacy and networking for the protection of the rights of the child were organised between January 2019 and February 2020 for local NGOs. These trainings benefited more than 60 Libyan activists representing more than 30 different local NGOs coming from all geographical areas in Libya.

In February 2020, NPWJ organised the seventh workshop for 22 participants selected from the previous workshops. The “Advanced course for Libyan civil society organisations on networking and advocacy for children's rights” aimed at providing the necessary knowledge and skills on lobbying, advocacy and networking in the field of children's rights.

Initially planned to be held in Libya, as all activities under the project, these training workshops were eventually held in Tunis and Hammamet (Tunisia). This decision was made in coordination with UNICEF following a security risk assessment. Indeed, since April 2019, hostilities have been concentrated around Tripoli with a declared intention on the part of the forces under Haftar's control to take control of the capital. Air attacks and rocket launches, including against Mitiga Airport, increased before the Berlin conference of January 2020.

Activity report 2019 – 2020

- *Three Workshops on International Mechanisms for Protecting Children's Rights*

1. From 24 to 28 of June 2019: 22 participants, including 5 women
2. From 25 to 27 of January 2020: 22 participants, including 6 women
3. From 31 January to 2 February 2020: 24 participants, including 13 women

refugees, migrants and children of asylum seekers).

- *Three workshops on the monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM)*

1. From 29 to 30 June 2019: 22 participants
2. From 28 to 29 January 2020: 22 participants
3. From 3 to 4 of February 2020: 24 participants



Each of these training courses lasted for four days and was designed to provide participants representing various NGOs with the skills and techniques needed to write parallel reports to the CRC and to encourage them in networking and establishing sustainable coordination mechanisms. In this regard, NPWJ's trainers addressed several themes such as the international human rights mechanisms and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, focused on the general measures, the special protection, the content and the methodology of writing alternative reports and advocacy strategies.

These workshops ended up with important and positive results, as follows:

- Participants expressed their willingness to work together in the preparation of draft shadow reports to the CRC,
- They agreed on the need to establish "the Libyan network for the protection of the child". The network would be in charge of preparing shadow reports and undertaking advocacy campaigns for the protection of children (including recruitment of children in armed groups, violence against children, protection of IDPs, unaccompanied children,

The "Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms on Grave Violations against Children in Situations of Armed Conflict workshop" was a two-day training aimed at familiarising participants with the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM)¹ as developed by the UN Security Council. The workshop was designed to encourage participants to cooperate with the MRM mechanism through the creation of voluntary focal points and coordination with the objective to prevent and protect children

¹ In 2005, with the adoption of [resolution 1612](#), the Security Council took the unprecedented step of establishing a Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations committed against children in times of armed conflict ([Killing and maiming of children; Recruitment and use of children by armed forces and armed groups; Sexual violence against children; Attacks against schools or hospitals; Abduction of children](#); Information gathered through the MRM is used in United Nations reporting, including the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict and country-specific reports of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict. These reports can trigger action by the Security Council and other actors.

from violations of their rights, in particular, the six grave violations. According to a pre-workshop survey, the participants did not have any knowledge of the MRM prior to their participation.

Throughout these training workshops, participants had the opportunity to exchange with high-level personalities such as Ms Laila Zarrougui, current Head of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who joined via video-conference from Kinshasa and shared her experience as former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict from 2012 to 2017 about the MRM background, its importance as a tool to protect children from being involved in armed conflict; Dr Hatem Kotrane, former member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; Dr Fethi Jarray, former Minister of Education and the Chairperson of the Committee on the Prevention of Torture in Tunisia; Mr Bassam Aisha, international expert on children's rights; and other experts.

- ***Advanced course for Libyan civil society organisations on networking and advocacy for children's rights (6-7 February 2020, 22 participants)***

Twenty-two participants from the six previous workshops were selected to participate in this advanced course. The selection was made on the basis of criteria that took into account the profile of the participants and the profile of their organization, an evaluation of the participant's involvement in the previous courses, the ability of their organisations to play a leading role in advocating, monitoring and

children. Geographical and gender balance were taken into account in the final selection of the participants.

The specific objectives of the training were:

- Providing participants with the skills and information necessary to develop a reference framework for establishing a network to protect children's rights;
- Providing participants with the skills and information needed to plan awareness and advocacy campaigns on children's rights;
- Enhancing the attitudes of the participants towards the importance of coordination, networking and advocacy; and
- Motivating and encouraging participants to establish a network to protect children's rights in Libya.

The workshop created a unique opportunity for a discussion between activists on the need for networking and its importance in monitoring violations against children's rights and advocacy, especially in light of the current war context that prevents the activists and organisations from meeting inside Libya. A safe and neutral space like the one created by NPWJ was necessary to discuss and debate sensitive subjects such as the scale and seriousness of the violations against children and the importance of the exchange of information and expertise.

The discussion naturally extended to training topics such as public awareness-raising, mobilising public opinion and advocacy for the development of national legislation and policies, and the establishment and strengthening of partnership and networking mechanisms.



reporting activities on violations committed against



Libyan Network for the Protection of Children's Rights founding statement

3. The Libyan Network for the Protection of Children's Rights

On 21 July 2019, NPWJ hosted the first informal meeting of the network to launch the process of the preparation of shadow reports on children's rights. This meeting was attended by eight human rights organisations, during which the tasks and responsibilities were distributed and a plan was launched for the formal establishment of the Libyan Network for the Protection of Children's Rights and for drafting shadow reports to the CRC. A preparatory committee was established to follow on the formal establishment of the Network.

After several sessions and workshops held between organisations and human rights activists, the Libyan Network for the Protection of Children's Rights was officially created in June 2020 to monitor and document violations committed against children and raise the level of awareness on children's rights in

Libya through advocacy campaigns, workshops and conferences. The Libyan Network for the Protection of Children's Rights, composed so far of 15 NGOs and individuals, is the result of the workshops and spaces created through this project to coordinate activities and improve capacity building initiatives for civil society organisations.

NPWJ will continue its efforts to support the newly established network in its advocacy program and in the preparation of shadow reports to the CRC. Civil Society House will be the space in which the network's members meet, coordinate their actions and conduct their activities. NPWJ will continue to provide technical support and expertise to support the network in achieving its goals through a dedicated expert who is accompanying the efforts of the network.

In a public press release, the founders of the Network expressed their gratitude to UNICEF- Libya and NPWJ for the support received. A similar regional network was established in Sebha. Other similar initiatives are ongoing in Benghazi, Beni Waleed and Syrte.

4. Civil Society House (CSH)

Civil Society House (CSH) is the creation and maintenance of a physical space, which is the NPWJ premises in Tripoli, where civil society and other stakeholders can physically work together and exchange ideas and knowledge about human rights and humanitarian principles; meet in a "neutral" zone; build their capacities to work effectively, including through receiving support to organise activities and to develop their project management capacities; to work with others to develop common advocacy platforms and campaigns; and to benefit from the expertise of national and international actors. CSH is intended to create a welcoming space within which joint work can be carried out, managed in close cooperation with Libyan stakeholders, to meet shared objectives. It contributes to self-organisation and coalition-building, by providing partners with opportunities for daily coaching and free space within which civil society organisations can organise activities and

Activity report 2019 – 2020

develop their organisational skills. In 2019, NPWJ opened its country office to all Libyan human rights NGOs. Training activities and coordination meetings of the Libyan Coalition for the Rights of the Child, created by a group of organisations who benefited from a series of training workshops organized by NPWJ, are taking place there.

In the context of Civil Society House, NPWJ provides pro bono experts to support Libyan human rights advocates and NGOs in their self-organisation, coalition-building, advocacy and campaigning on participatory governance and human rights. Mentors support Libyan civil society in the development and preparation of initiatives including advocacy missions and campaigns with Libyan and international human rights actors, including the UN Human Rights Council, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other mechanisms.

The following activities were conducted in Civil Society House in Tripoli in 2019-2020:

candidates to the training. One hundred and four persons (NGOs and individuals) expressed an interest in attending. Twenty-five participants from 14 NGOs were selected based on pre-established criteria (such as personal interest, field of work of the NGO and level of knowledge). Gender equality and geographical balance were also taken into consideration. Priority was given to participants coming from organisations that have no management experience while having effective work on the ground. The modules of this training were designed to enhance the capacities of these organisations on daily management, self-organisation, fundraising and digital security.

The specific objectives of this training were tailored to:

- Providing participants with the skills to create and establish a civil society organisation in Libya, including legal procedures, institutional steps and team spirit.



• ***Training on the reinforcement of CSOs work (9 - 11 November 2019), 25 participants including 12 women (Tripoli)***

In cooperation with the Libyan Youth Centre, the National Organization for the Support and Empowerment of Youth and the Consultative Centre for Human Rights, NPWJ organised and implemented a three-day training workshop on the legal status and functions of NGOs in Libya.

Prior to the workshop, a questionnaire was tailored to collect and analyse information of potential

- Providing participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to look for grants and apply for funding opportunities.
- Providing basic notions on human resources and budget management.
- Providing the necessary knowledge and skills to protect their electronic information and devices from interference.
- Providing the knowledge and skills necessary to manage and classify their organisation's archives and reports.

- ***Workshop on Theory of Change for local Libyan NGOs (19-23 of January 2020), 21 participants including 14 women (Tripoli)***

Throughout five days, 21 activists representing eight Libyan human rights organisations received training on the Theory of Change (ToC) methodology. The selection was made on the basis of the level of organisation and administrative management of the NGO and the availability of the participant. Training objectives were: (i) Understanding the process of formulating ToC; (ii) Using ToC to design a strategic plan for an organisation; (iii) Knowing how to execute and evaluate ToC; and (iv) Tips on conducting ToC workshops.



- ***Celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child:***

In the framework of the celebration of World Children's Day, NPWJ hosted and facilitated several meetings at its Civil Society House with a group of Libyan human rights organisations working on child rights. The objective was to launch an initiative to commemorate World Children's Day, which occurs on 20 November each year. The number of the organisations volunteering for this event grew from initially five to 20 organisations coming from various Libyan cities. A preparatory committee was established to ensure coordination between all actors, to agree on a series of commemorative events and to plan and implement the agreed activities. The Civil

Society Commission (a public institution) was involved as the official sponsor of this event. World Children's Day was celebrated through the following activities and events:

- ***18/11/2019 - Media campaign:***

A group of participating organisations representatives appeared on TV channels and radios to speak about the World Children's Day and the Libyan context (the situation of children in Libya (education, health, impact of the war, type of violations against children including migrants, IDPs and refugees...)).

- ***19/11/2019 – Special activities on the Rights of the Child:***

Each organization carried out a special activity for children with the aim of raising awareness of their rights and of protection mechanisms in case of violations. NPWJ, in cooperation with the Tawergha Families and Missing Organization, and the Libyan Youth Centre, implemented an activity with a group of school children inside the Tawergha camp school. Numerous boys and girls attended the training event on children's rights and protection from violation, harassment and violence.

- ***20 /11 /2019 “Celebration ceremony to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child”:***

The various events culminated on 20 November with a symposium organised in Tripoli where more than 150 people including high level officials from various government agencies and non-governmental organisations and representatives of international organizations including UNICEF attended the event.



- *Workshop on monitoring and reporting on human rights, 7 -9 July 2020 (Tripoli)*

After the official announcement of the establishment of the Libyan Network for the Protection of Children's Rights, a 3-day training workshop on monitoring, documentation and reporting on human rights violations, including the MRM, was organised for the members of the Network. The objective of the workshop was to increase the efficiency of the monitoring and documentation experience of the Libyan Network for the Protection of Child Rights constitutive members and to strengthen their skills and knowledge in this sensitive field, in particular in a war context. The workshop was facilitated by Ms Rima Abdel Salam, a former beneficiary of NPWJ's training program; Mr Frej Fenniche, Director of NPWJ in Libya and Dr Haykal Ben Mahfoudh, Professor in International Humanitarian Law at Tunis University and Director of the Research Center on Relations between Europe and the Maghreb, and candidate for membership of the International Criminal Court, with Mr Ben Mahfoud making an online presentation on international humanitarian law and the scope of its application in Libya.

B - Technical assistance provided to Libyan Government

1. Preparation of the State report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

NPWJ provides technical assistance to promote a human rights approach within Libya's legislative bodies and national authorities, including the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs; and to national human rights institutions, focusing on human rights reporting and implementation of recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms, including the CRC and the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council.



In July 2019, two Workshops on “Preparing periodic reports on children's rights in Libya” along with two workshops on “Advocacy, networking and documentation in regard of children's rights” were delivered to 51 Libyan officials. These State officials were coming from the three main regions of Libya, representing different ministries and public institutions involved in child protection such as the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in addition to the members of the Higher Committee on Children.

The main objective was to strengthen the capacities of the Libyan Government and the Higher Committee for Children to prepare and submit Libya's overdue reports to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child.

During the seven days of each training, which took place entirely in Arabic and was directed by

international experts, the 51 participants (divided in two separate groups) undertook a comprehensive self-assessment of the situation on the ground and were familiarised with successful experiences of other countries, in particular with regard to preparation of reports and the establishment of a National Mechanism on Reporting and Follow-up on the recommendations of Treaty Bodies.

As a result of these capacity building activities, the Higher Committee for Children established a drafting committee to prepare the draft report of Libya to the CRC and the two reports related to the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. By October 2020, the drafting committee was able to finalise the State report on the CRC and the two reports related to the two Optional Protocols. The drafting committee, supported by NPWJ's experts during the entire process of the preparation of the reports, followed the procedures established by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and conducted two consultative workshops, one with governmental institutions and the other one with CSOs.

Libya will submit the above-mentioned reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.



2. Capacity building program on the preparation and submission of overdue reports to the Human Rights Treaty Bodies

According to the MOU, NPWJ will support the efforts of the Libyan Government to establish a permanent inter-ministerial national mechanism for the drafting of periodic reports and follow-up of the TBs recommendations as a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow up (NMRF), according to the guidelines of the United Nations. NPWJ will assist the NMRF in the collection and analysis of all relevant information, to enable the Libyan Government to fulfil its obligations to the Human Rights Treaty Bodies, as well as to other regional and international mechanisms, and to build the capacities of the Libyan Government in this area.

In November 2019, NPWJ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Justice according to which NPWJ will develop and implement a major capacity building program that will support Libya to prepare and submit all its overdue reports before the various United Nations Treaty Bodies. Thanks to the support of the EU, the implementation of this ambitious program has started as of August 2020 for a duration of two years.

According to the MOU, NPWJ will provide consultancy, training, planning and capacity building to the government and to civil society organisations in the preparation of reports and in the implementation of recommendations issued by UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies and other mechanisms. This program is supported by the European Union for a duration of 24 months beginning in August 2020. The program, which will target at least 220 people including Libyan Government officials from, among others, the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Interior, Education, Social and Cultural Affairs, Defence and Finances; representatives of national human rights institutions (such as the Higher Committee for Children and the National Council for Human Rights); and at least 200 local CSO representatives and human rights defenders, including professionals such as lawyers and journalists, will

contribute to the achievement of the following results:

- The establishment of a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow up and the development of a realistic reporting strategy.
- The strengthening of the capacity of government officials in drafting reports to treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and to engaging with UN human rights mechanisms;
- Overdue Government reports will be drafted and validated through consultative workshops.
- The capacity of CSOs in drafting shadow reports and interacting with the UPR and other UN human rights mechanisms will be strengthened and shadow reports will be submitted as a contribution from CSOs in the national dialogue on human rights issues.
- Networking among CSOs and between NGOs and relevant stakeholders will be strengthened.
- The capacity of civil society to protect and advocate for the improvement of human rights at every level and to engage actively with the UPR and other UN human rights mechanisms will be improved.



- ***Workshop on monitoring and documentation of HR violations for MOJ's staff (October 2020)***

In connection with the Human Rights Council's decision to establish a Fact Finding Mission to investigate human rights violations allegedly committed in Libya since 2016, and at the request of the Ministry of Justice, NPWJ organised a three-day workshop for the benefit of 11 members of the Working Group on monitoring and documentation of human rights violations, established within the Ministry of Justice in 2019. The participants had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with international standards and techniques for monitoring and documentation of violations, on reporting techniques and to strengthen their knowledge of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

- ***National Workshop on the National Mechanism on Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF)/Tripoli, 24 November 2020***

This workshop, the objective of which was to advocate for the formal establishment of a NMRF as a coordinating body of the preparation of the periodic reports to the UN human rights mechanisms, was organised by the Ministry of Justice with the support of NPWJ. Best practices in establishing such bodies from Tunisia and Morocco were presented and discussed. UNSMIL- Human rights and Rule of law Division and OHCHR were involved in the workshop by presenting the expected role and functions of this body as recommended by the United Nations. The workshop was organised immediately after the review by the Human Rights Council of the report of Libya in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism on 11 November 2020, where recommendation to establish such a body was formulated by many States and accepted by Libya. The workshop, attended by 26 officials from various ministries, was a good opportunity to debate the need to establish such a body and to make recommendations for its composition, mandate and formal creation. Libya has formally established its

NMRF in December 2020 with the mandate of preparing and submitting its overdue reports to the UN human rights mechanisms.



Overview of activities 2019/2020

Technical assistance to CSO's

1

NGO's Mapping

One hundred and forty-one organisations across the country were reached and 55 NGOs active in the field of human rights, effectively participated in the study.



2

Training and capacity building workshops for CSOs

Seven intensive trainings delivered by NWPJ in children's rights and MRM that benefited to more than sixty-five Libyan activists representing more than 30 different local NGOs coming from all geographical areas in Libya.



3

Civil Society House

The creation and management of the Civil Society House. More than thirty meetings have been held in this dedicated space, including training on capacity building, the theory of change, and UN monitoring mechanisms.



4

Creation of the Libyan Network for the Protection of Children's Rights

NWPJ has motivated Libyan human rights activists to create national and regional coordination. The civil society house hosted various formal and informal meetings to address the challenges surrounding the creation of the network.



Technical assistance to Libyan officials

1

Preparation of the State report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Workshops on "Preparing periodic reports on children's rights in Libya" along with workshops on "Advocacy, networking and documentation in regard to children's rights" were delivered to 51 Libyan officials.



2

Preparation of overdue reports to the Human Rights Treaty Bodies

Supporting the Libyan Government to establish a permanent national mechanism for the drafting of periodic reports and follow-up of Human rights treaty bodies recommendations. Two workshops have been delivered in 2020.



3

Workshop on monitoring and documentation of Human Rights violations for the Ministry of Justice

NWPJ organised a three-day workshop for the benefit of 11 members of the Working Group on monitoring and documentation of human rights violations, established within the Ministry of Justice.

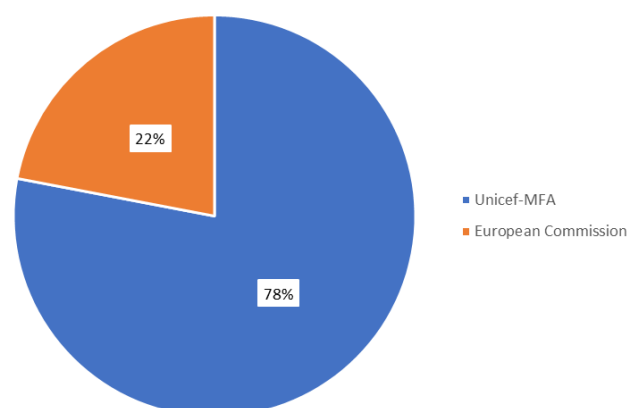


2019 – 2020, “Promotion of an Enabling Legal Environment for children in Libya, with a focus on the Rights of the Child”

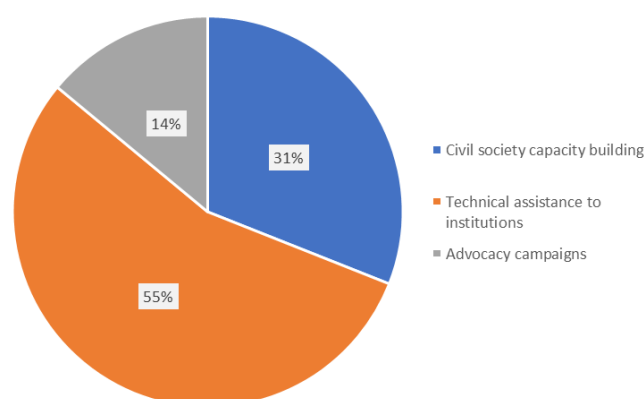
In 2019/2020, thanks largely to Italian funds received through UNICEF, we were able to deploy just over 1 million euros for the project: "Promotion of an Enabling Legal Environment for children in Libya, with a focus on the Rights of the Child".

In 2020, this commitment was reinforced thanks to the funding received from the European Commission for the project: "Improving the reporting capacity of the Libyan Government and Civil Society to United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms".

Funds 2019 - 2020



Use of funds 2019 - 2020



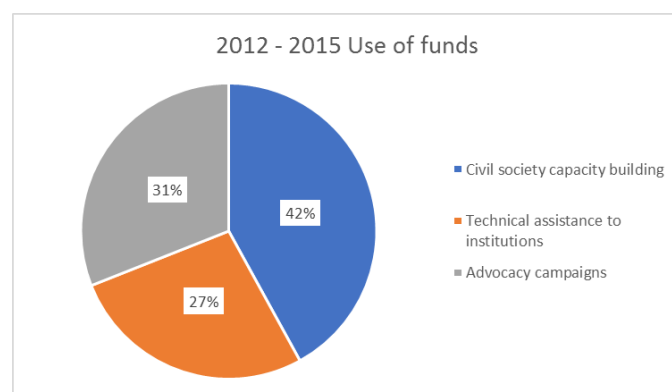
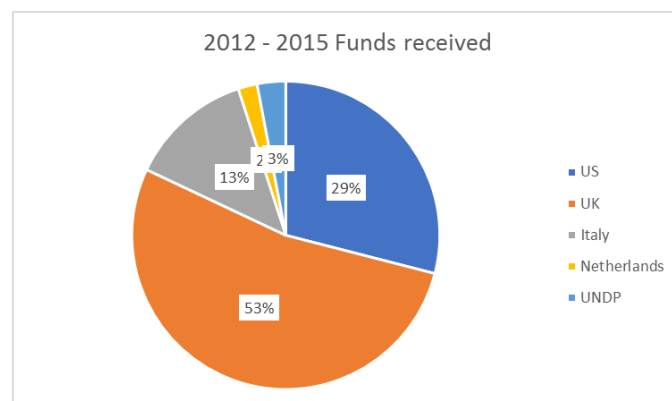
2012 - 2015, the beginning of our engagement in Libya

Our engagement and presence in Libya is not so recent, dating back some ten years.

Between 2012 and 2015, we obtained funds for a total of around 2 million euros thanks to funding received from: US Department of State (Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor "DRL"), UK (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Italy (Ministry of Foreign Affairs - DGAP), Netherlands (Embassy in Tripoli) and UNDP.

The funds were used for:

- Civil society capacity building
- Technical assistance to institutions
- Advocacy campaigns



FUTURE WORK OF NPWJ IN AND ON LIBYA

In support to the Government and CSOs, NPWJ will focus in 2021-2022 on the following:

- *Establishment of a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow up and the development of a realistic reporting strategy*
- *Strengthening the capacity of government officials in drafting reports to TBs and to engaging with UN human rights mechanisms.*
- *Support CSOs in drafting shadow reports and interacting with UPR and UN human rights mechanisms.*
- *Engaging a national dialogue on human rights issues between all national actors.*
- *Strengthening the networking among CSOs, and between NGOs and relevant stakeholders. This includes ongoing support to the Libyan Network for the Protection of Children's Rights.*
- *Support the efforts of national actors in the field of transitional justice.*

The estimated funds we need for this are 3 million euros; at the moment we only have the remainder of the funding from the European Commission and we are actively looking for funds to finance the rest.

