CURRENT SITUATION IN LIBYA

Libya currently faces political deadlock and deteriorating security situation. Trust in government institutions has fallen to an all time low, and political elites are beginning to use armed groups to force political action during sustained deadlock, creating parallel security structures that undermine the state.

USIP’S WORK

USIP’s engagement in Libya aims to build capacity of local actors and institutions to prevent, mitigate and manage conflict; address local needs and promote local ownership; and develop, implement and share holistic analysis and integrated approaches to peacebuilding. Some examples of recent work in Libya include:

**Alliance of Libyan Facilitators:** USIP has designed and launched a capacity building process to train and equip a team of nationwide Libyan community leaders in collaborative problem solving approaches and conflict transformation tools and methods.

**Justice and Security Dialogues:** Justice and Security Dialogues (JSD) help to empower justice and security actors, as well as communities, to work together to dispel mistrust and build cooperation. In Libya, USIP implements JSDs in cooperation with local partners, working with non-state actors to communicate challenges to local and national government actors to support systemic change in core security and justice institutions.

**Operational Analysis of Justice and Security:** USIP, in cooperation with local partners, is mapping the justice and security systems in Libya through public and professional perception surveys. This information produces a ‘baseline analysis’ of these systems in a number of locations, which comprehensively look overall at how justice and security are being delivered and how people are accessing justice and security at the local level.

**Strategic Organized Crime Threat Assessment:** Providing research and recommendations, USIP is helping to address growing criminal activity based on the results of a strategic organized crime threat analysis. The assessment gathered data from past and current trends contributes to the projection of future trends.

**Prison Assessment:** USIP is advising the Ministry of Justice through the results of a nationwide prison assessment of in Libya, which includes: an overview of the number and type of prisons in Libya; key legislative provisions relating to detention and prisons; prison capacity and training needs; treatment of detainees and prisoners and prison; and handling detainees and prisoners with special needs.

**Strategic Planning Session with the Ministry of Justice:** At the request of the Libyan Ministry of Justice, USIP conducted a three-day strategic planning session with the Ministry in order to create a strategic plan on a particular rule of law issue. USIP continues to work closely with the Ministry as a result of the partnership established during this strategy session.
COURSES AT USIP

Established in 2009, the Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding provides practitioner-oriented education, training and resources at facilities at USIP’s headquarters, mobile training in conflict zones abroad and distance education and trainings online. The Academy is hosting a course focused on North Africa this winter, “New Peacekeeping Strategies Following Violent Regime Change,” which will examine approaches for the international community to assist emerging governments in controlling their national borders, policing their cities and protecting their citizens.

USIP EVENTS

USIP frequently hosts events that bring together thought leaders, scholars, experts, policy makers and elected officials to discuss peacebuilding efforts around the world and analyze current affairs. Recently, USIP hosted “Fanning the Flames or Fueling the Peace?” with the Institute for War & Peace Reporting to discuss on the role of the media in both inciting and mitigating violence in countries such as Libya.

USIP PUBLICATIONS

USIP staff and experts publish in-depth reports as well as short, timely policy briefs that offer policymakers, practitioners and scholars a distillation of expert research, lessons learned and problem solving solutions from USIP’s work around the world. Recent publications on Libya include:

**Illicit Trafficking and Libya’s Transition: Profits and Losses** (2014): As Libya emerges from forty years of autocratic rule, the criminal economy is undermining government efforts at state consolidation. This report maps the flow of weapons, migrants, drugs, and smuggled goods through Libya and details the interactions between armed groups who control illicit markets and local communities. The authors warn that efforts to beef up border control policing will not be sufficient. Combating organized crime in Libya requires a broader approach that will engage marginalized groups in a political process. Failure to do so will affect not only Libya but the region as well.