

Tunisian-Libyan Border FactSheet

The Danish Refugee Council/Danish Demining Group (DRC/DDG) entered Tunisia in 2011 in response to the Libyan refugee crisis in southeast Tunisia. In 2014, DDG expanded to focus on the local border communities of Ben Guerdane and Dehiba, where we have supported violence prevention programming aimed at addressing the root causes of structural violence that leads to recurrent civic unrest, unsafe migration of youth, and cross-border disputes.

With support from the European Union and Canadian Government throughout 2017, DDG conducted conflict management and youth resilience activities that have aimed to enhance community conflict analysis, promote spaces and skills for dialogue, and develop youth resilience.

DDG's past work

Conflict Management

- Developed a Conflict Incident Tracker tool to monitor border conflict incidents, analyze dynamics, and inform responsive local programming
- Convened community-based mechanisms to address local conflict drivers, including two local Dialogue Forum Steering Committees and two Conflict Management Committees, which received specialized training and ongoing mentorship in dialogue facilitation, conflict analysis, and communication skills
- Created a safe space for community members to discuss local concerns during six community-led dialogue forums, including key topics such as traffic safety, risks in the school environment, and civic engagement

Youth Resilience

- Improved the capacity of nine civil society organisations working with local youth by providing ongoing mentorship on project design and grants management
- Funded small grant projects, including the establishment of school cinema clubs, training for young women and traders to start fruit farms, design of local business proposals by young traders, and partnerships with local municipalities and Youth Centers to regenerate recreational spaces by and for youth
- Supported youth to build their self-confidence and recognition in the community through the design and implementation of civic engagement initiatives, including the first street art festival in Ben Guerdane, journalism trainings in Dehiba, as well as sports competitions, and coffee talks

2018: A Cross-Border Approach

In February 2018, DDG launched a new project, supported by the Canadian government, which seeks to build on past successes in Ben Guerdane and Dehiba by reaching across the border to Libyan sister cities of Zuwara and Nalut/Wazin. As such, this project seeks to:

1. Strengthen analysis and intervention by local communities in their own conflicts
2. Enhance empowerment of local communities to advocate on their own behalf with respect to border management policy

Activities will include:

Conflict Management



Advocacy



To date, DDG has recruited new Libyan staff and established new offices in Zuwara and Wazin. DDG has provided extensive training to staff and local mobilizers on community mapping techniques, and conflict management and border management mapping processes are underway. DDG looks forward to publishing reports of the results later this year.

DDG will continue supporting local communities to foster positive cross-border relations through monitoring of conflict and design of violence prevention initiatives, as well as through advocacy to help communities take the lead in developing their own local strategies to manage border tensions.



Get in Touch

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