



# Libyan Public Opinion Three Years On

Fact based narrative from research in Libya

Presented at Atlantic Council

Jakob Wichmann, Partner, Voluntas Advisory

# Agenda

- Background and Summary
- Methodology
- Democracy
- Rights
- Governance
- Security

# Need to Address Security Challenges and Institutional Gap in Libya

## Security

- 1 The daily life of Libyans is highly impacted by the ongoing crisis in the country
- 2 Armed groups are seen as the root cause of the conflict and disarmament is widely supported
- 3 Yet 2 out of 3 Libyans support an armed group with strong regional differences in support

### Democracy

- ✓ Democracy is perceived as the best form of government by citizens and support remains strong
- ✗ Citizens are however increasingly becoming disengaged and mistrust in the population run deep

### Rights

- ✓ Positive outlook on the constitution drafting process and supports human rights and women's rights
- ✗ Willingness to derogate from these rights leaves room for authorities and actors to violate fundamental rights

### Governance

- ✓ Strong support for local governments and their perception, with noticeable regional differences.
- ✗ Public service delivery and trust in core democratic institutions is low

Libyans have shown that democracy and human rights are core positive values in the population, but without functioning institutions to operationalize and uphold these concepts and address the core security challenges the facts on the ground will remain uncondusive.

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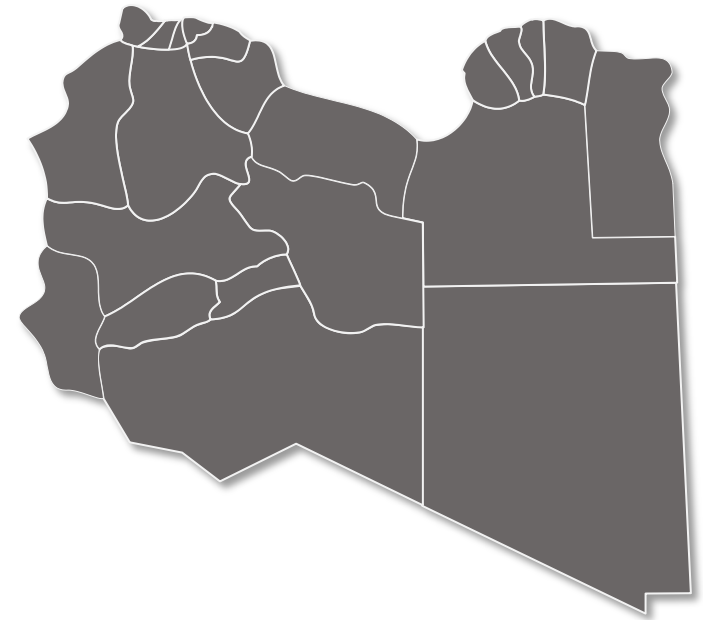
# Total of 5 surveys with +7k respondents conducted in Libya from 2013 to 2015

## USAID Survey

- Phone interviews with 2,507 Libyan respondents over the age of 18 from August – October 2015
- Respondents were randomly selected in a proportional-to-population sampling, covering all of Libya's 22 districts with oversampling of urban areas in Tripoli, Misrata and Benghazi.
- Implemented by Altai Consulting

## NDI Surveys I-VI

- 4 households surveys with 1,200 respondents in each implemented in May 2013, September 2013, December 2013 and May 2015
- Respondents were randomly selected in a proportional-to-population sampling, covering all of Libya's 22 districts
- Implemented by Diwan Market Research
- Funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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# Strong Democratic Sentiment in Libya and Liberal Understanding of Democracy

## 1 Continued strong support for democracy in Libya

- 3/4 Libyans see democracy as the best form of government
- The support has remained largely unchanged for the past two years

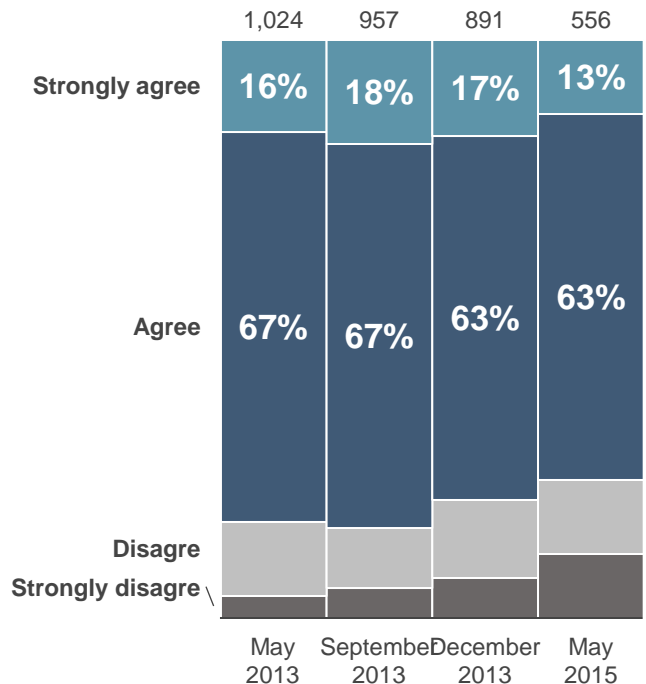
## 2 Libyans have a liberal conception of democracy

- Democracy is defined by ensuring core civil and political rights
- Neighboring countries view democracy in more social and economic terms

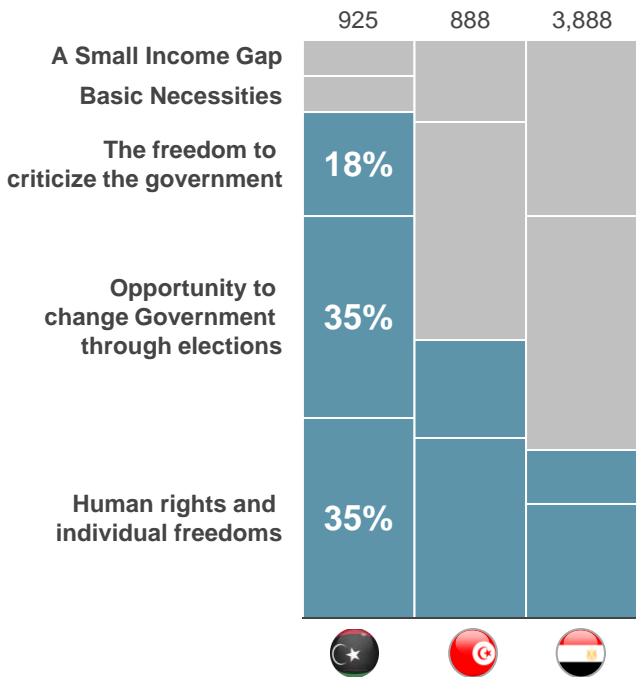
## 3 Across the country Libyans prefer a unified Libya

- Despite regional struggles Libyans are still favorable to a unified Libya
- Across regions Libyans prefer a middle ground between national and regional government power

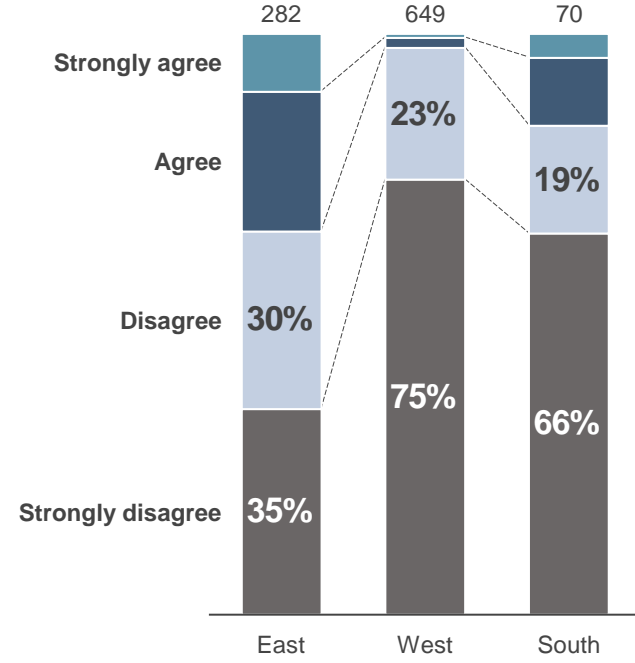
Agreement on the statement: Democracy may have its problems but it is the best form of government



If you have to choose only one thing, what would you choose as the most important characteristics



The Cyrenaica Transitional Council declared autonomous. What is your opinion of this decision?

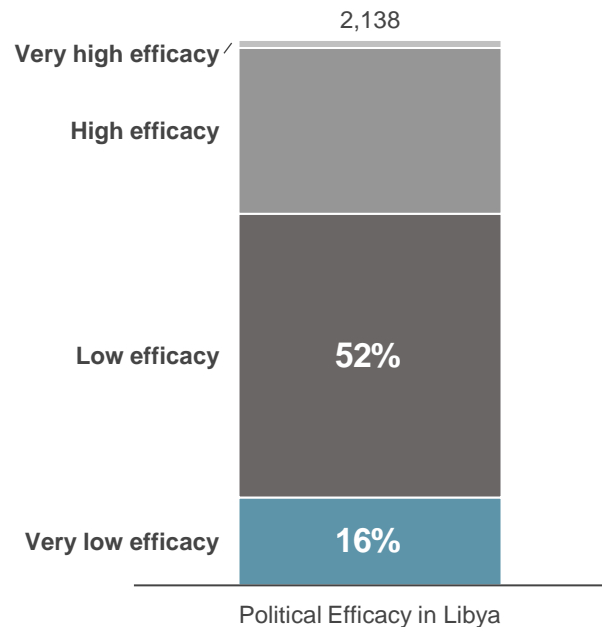


# Citizen Engagement is Limited and Trust is Low

## 1 Libyans' have a low sense of political efficacy

- Political efficacy is generally low among Libyans
- This hampers political participation and realization of democratic values in Libya's society

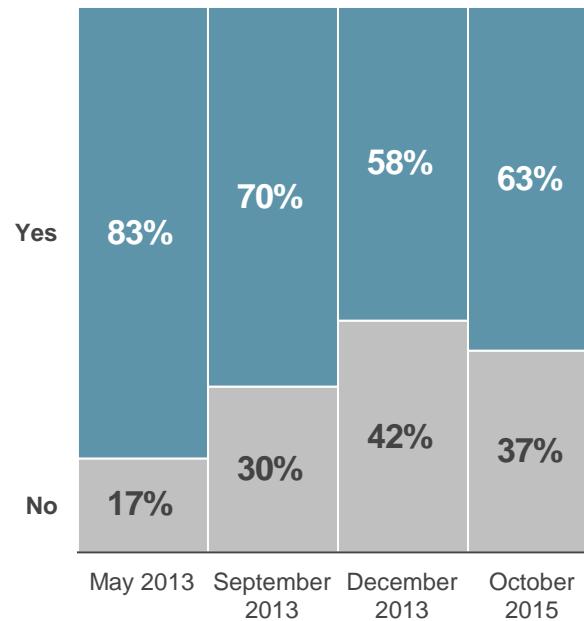
Computed measure for external and internal political efficacy



## 2 Limited intention to vote for Parliament among Libyans

- Voter turnout in Libya's parliamentary elections dropped 20 pp from 2012-14
- The majority believes that the past elections have been free and fair but less than 2 out of 3 intent to vote

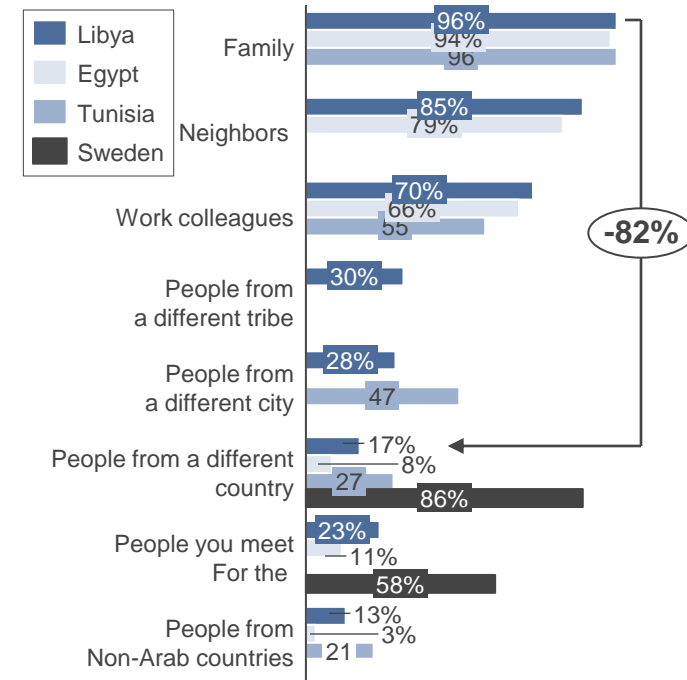
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you go and vote?



## 3 Low levels of social capital decreases support for democracy

- Authoritarian regimes actively created antagonism to legitimate their own rule
- There is a low membership in organizations, affecting social capital

Trust in different groups, disaggregated on countries





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# Libyans Show a Strong Support for Securing Basic Human Rights in Constitution

## 1 High levels of trust in the Constitutional Drafting Committee

- Libyans have a positive outlook on the future
- Majority of Libyans expect that the CDA will develop a constitution they will approve of in an election.

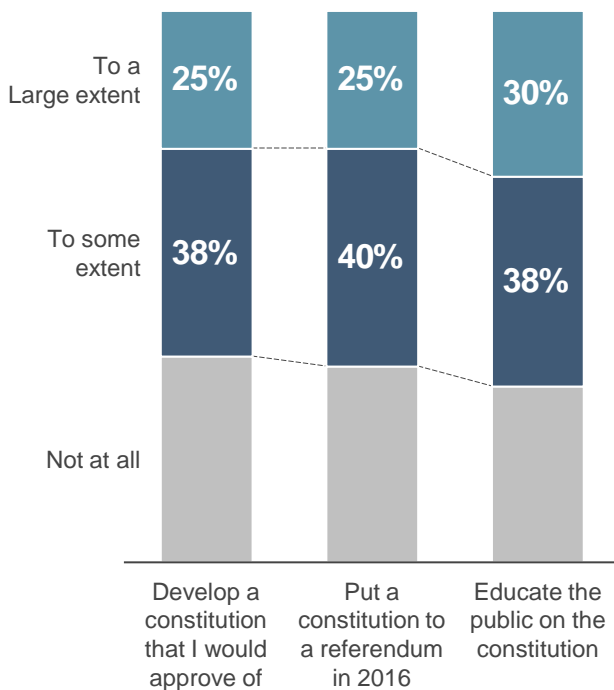
## 2 Strong support for human rights to be included in the constitution

- Libyans consistently favor basic human rights included in the constitution and show support for both positive and negative freedoms.

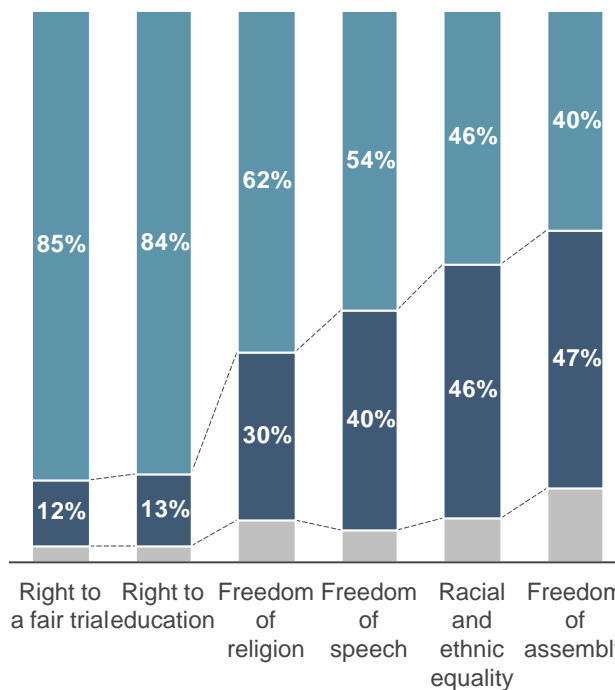
## 3 Most Libyans believe in equal basic rights for men and women

- Overall Libyans support women's rights – lesser educated Libyans are more likely to support women's rights
- Religion is not a driver of attitudes towards gender

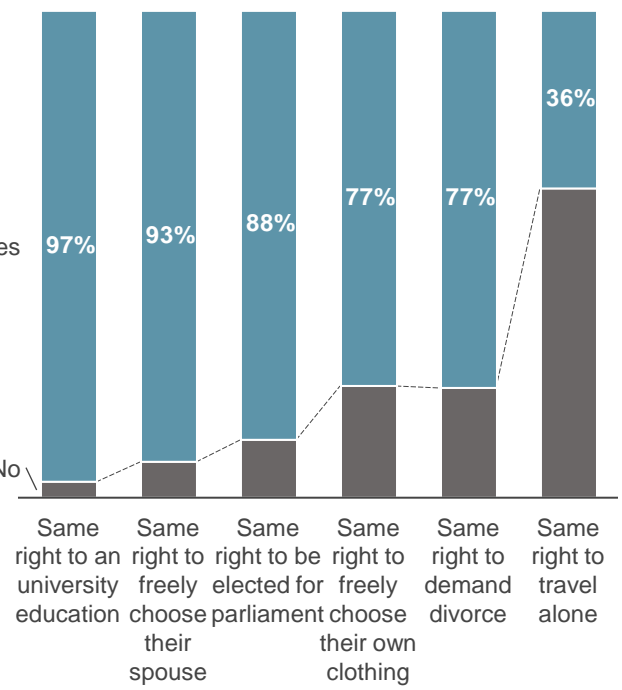
To what extent do you have confidence that the Constitutional Drafting will be able to...



Strong support for constitutional protection of most basic rights in Libya



To what extent do you believe that the following rights should be protected in the new constitution for Libya?

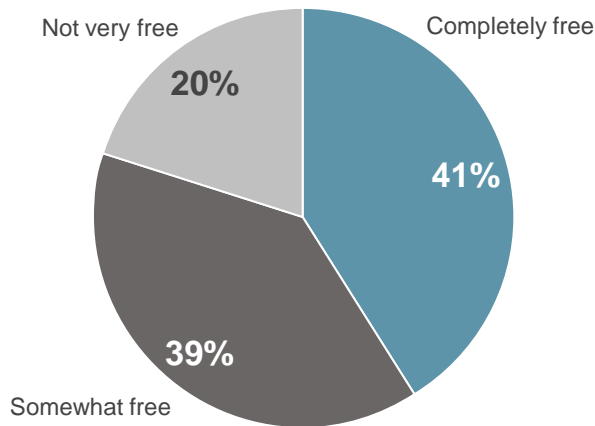


# Protection of Core Rights is Limited in the Current Situation

## 1 Libyan's feel they have only partly freedom of speech

- The majority of Libyans cannot or only partly express political views
- Most Libyans are ready to limit freedom of speech in order to protect image of Libya and public morality

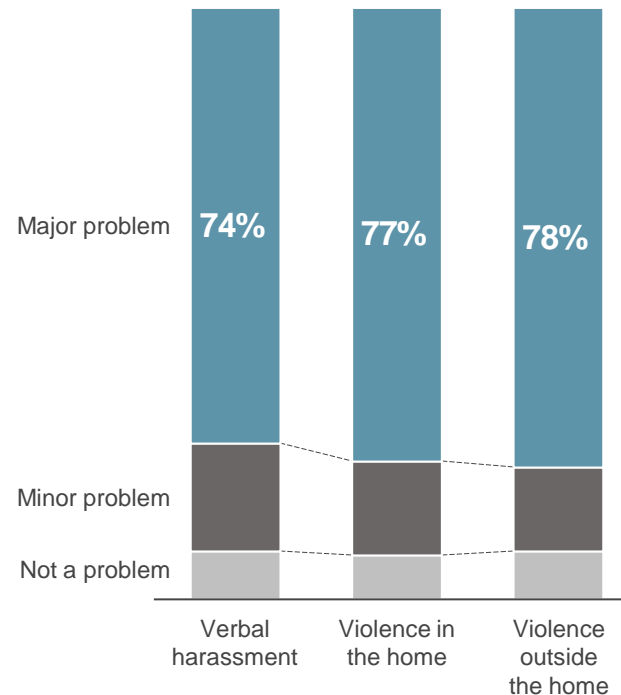
How free do you think people are to express political views, without fear of being harassed or punished?



## 2 Gender-based violence is a major problem and commonly occurring

- Libyans view verbal harassment and violence inside and outside the home as major problems in their communities
- Gender-based violence is identified equally among men and women

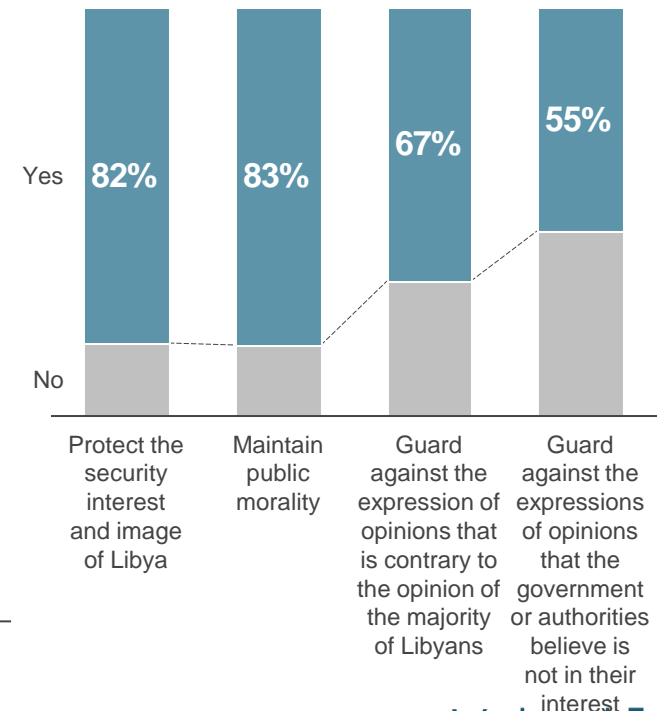
To what extent do you think that these types of crimes towards women are a problem in your community?



## 3 Strong willingness to derogate on protection of core rights

- Libyans have a high tolerance for derogating from human rights
- Both freedom of speech and assembly a majority believe can be limited in various circumstances

Do you think it is right to limit freedom of speech in order to...



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# Municipal Councils are Perceived to be Performing Well as are the Courts

## 1 Majority of Libyans think that courts in Libya are providing fair trials

- 56 % of the population agree that courts as providing fair trials
- A large majority also wants the judiciary to be responsible for checking the government

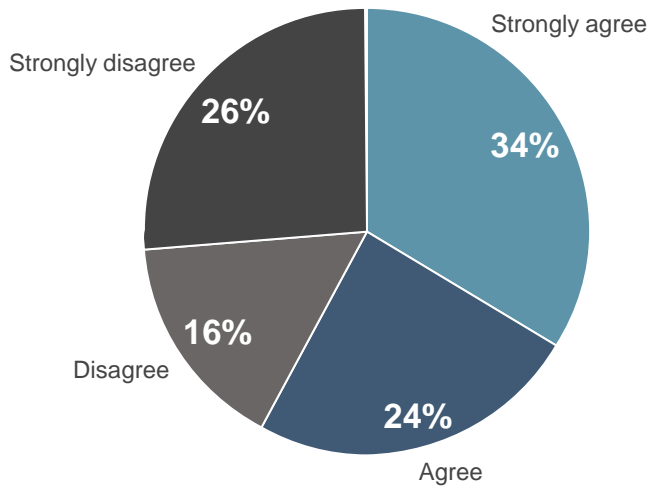
## 2 Municipal Councils as a success story for Libya's governance

- Municipal council performance is evaluated as good or very good by almost half of Libyans
- But important regional differences persist

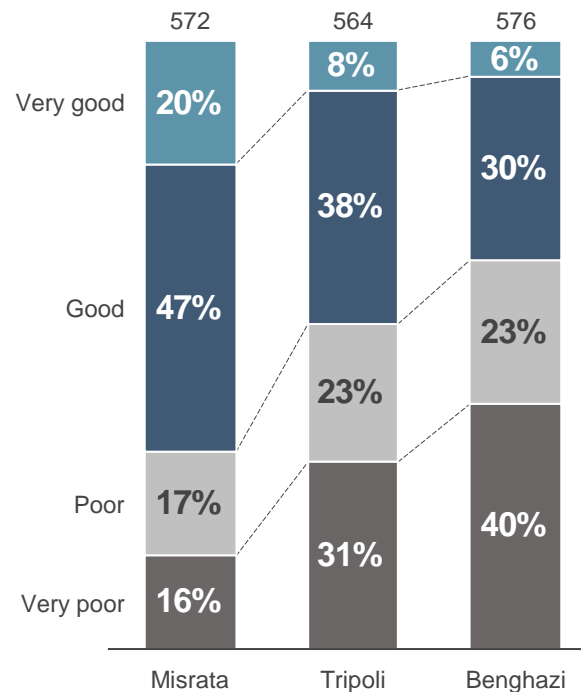
## 3 Libyans want independent oversight of political institutions

- Libyans perceive a dedicated committee as best suited to ensure officials' accountability
- Also some support for citizen and CSO oversight

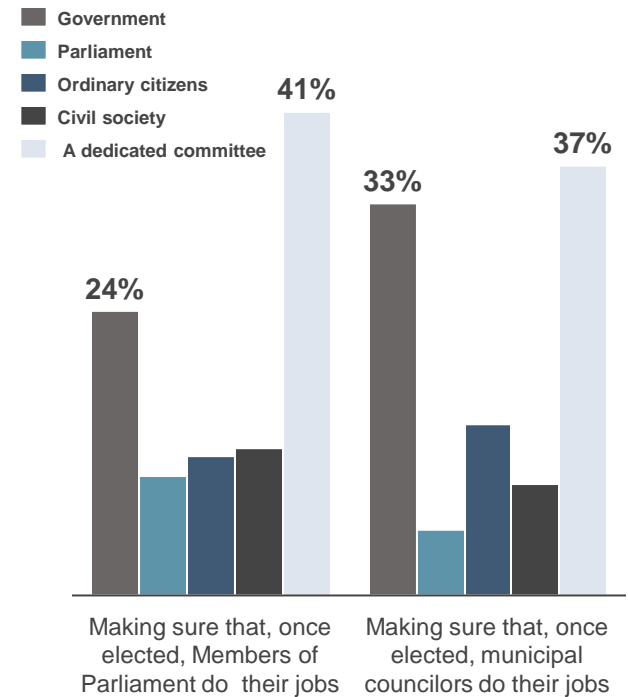
To what extent do you agree with the statement "Courts in Libya are providing fair trials to citizens"?



Municipal council performance – Major city comparison



Should the government, parliament, citizens, or civil society be responsible for:



# Trust in Institutions is Low and Quality of Services Declining

## 1 Trust in political institutions is low

- Trust in institutions is at a very low level
- Especially elected, political institutions have very limited trust in the population

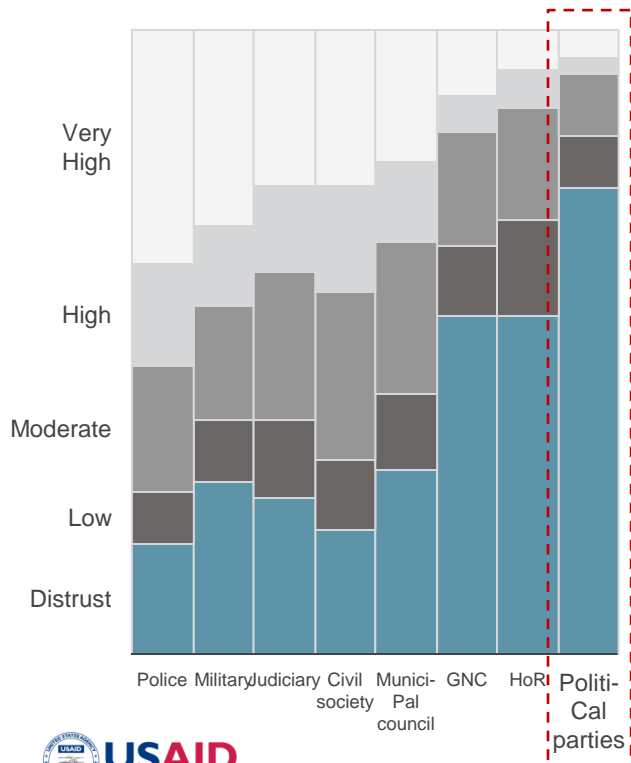
## 2 Sharp decline in quality of most basic public services

- Service delivery is a major issue due to the persistent conflicts, impacting Libyans' perception of public institutions
- Overtime Libyans indicate a sharp decline in most basic services

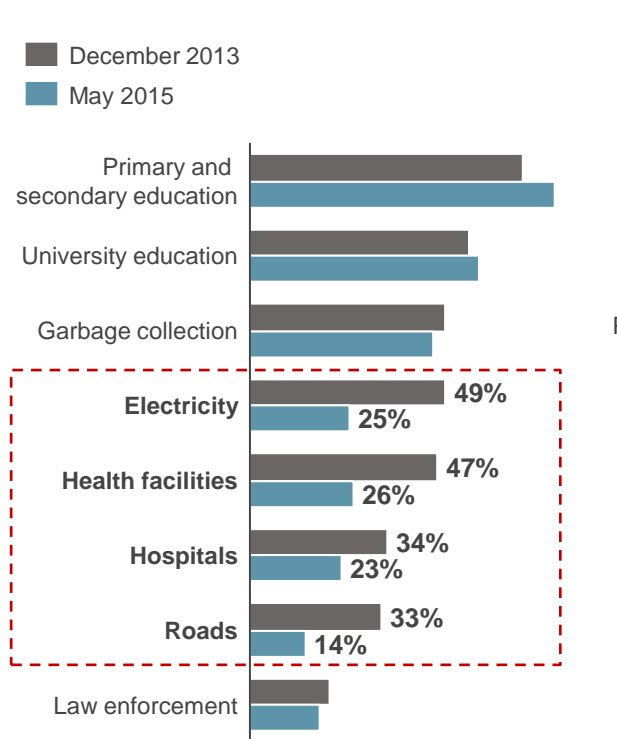
## 3 Service quality is perceived higher in Misrata than in Tripoli and Benghazi

- Service quality is perceived higher in Misrata than in Tripoli and Benghazi
- Regional differences explain similar difference in regional support for armed groups and institutions

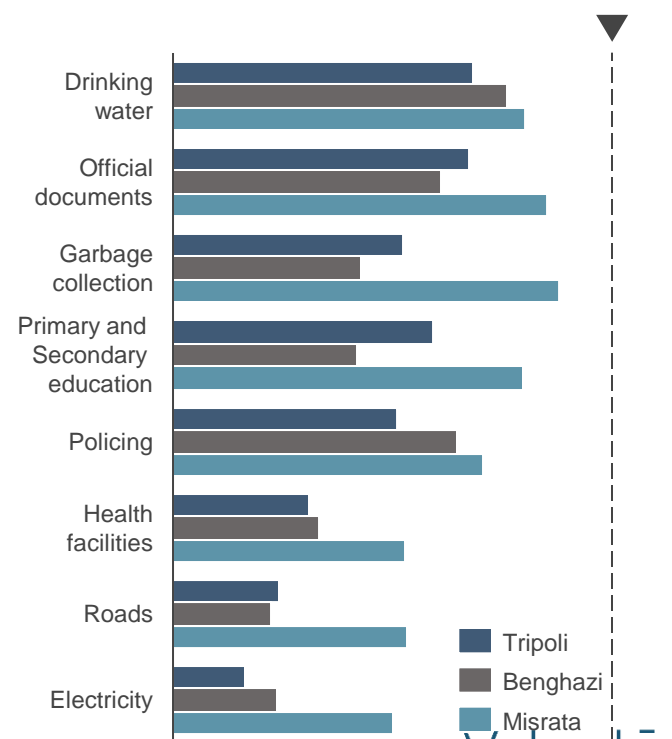
To what extent do you trust the following institutions to improve Libya's future?



How do you evaluate the quality of the following services in your area? Percentage of Good/Very good



Major city comparison of public service quality (% rating quality as either good or very good)



Source: USAID (2015); NDI (2015); USAID (2015)

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# Armed Groups Continue to Pose a Major Concern in the Country

## 1 74 % of Libyans say their lives are affected daily by the conflict

- The conflict continues to be a major problem for Libya as the vast majority is affected daily.
- 72 % of Libyans feel they are worse off than before the revolution

## 2 Armed groups seen as root cause to insecurity

- Police and local tribes are seen as positive for security – the armed groups clearly rated as negative.
- The armed groups are the biggest obstacle to Libya’s stabilization

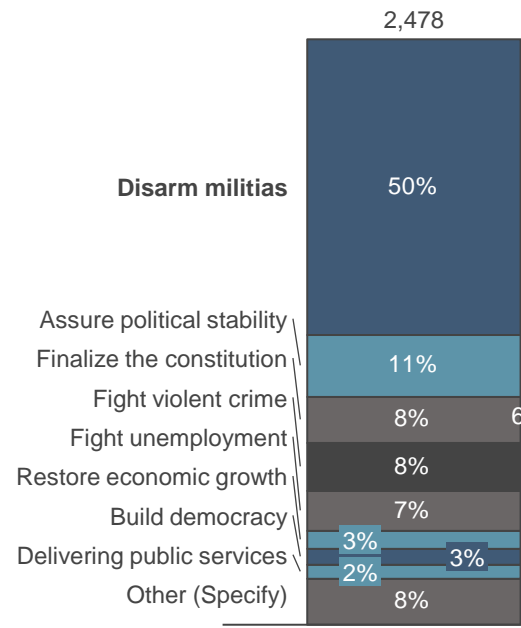
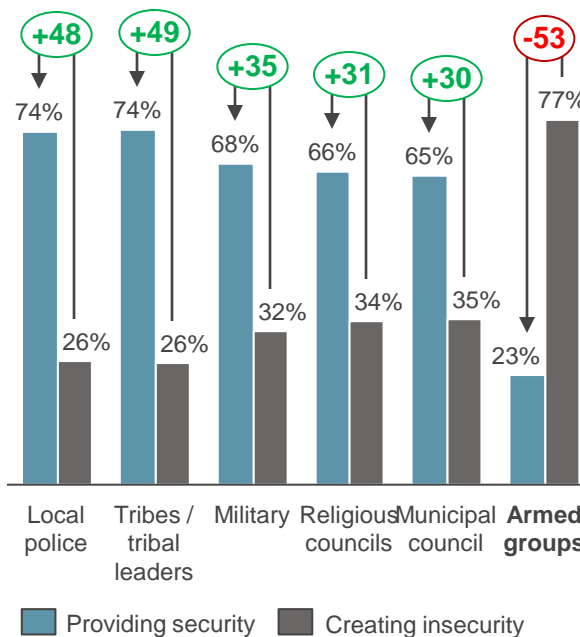
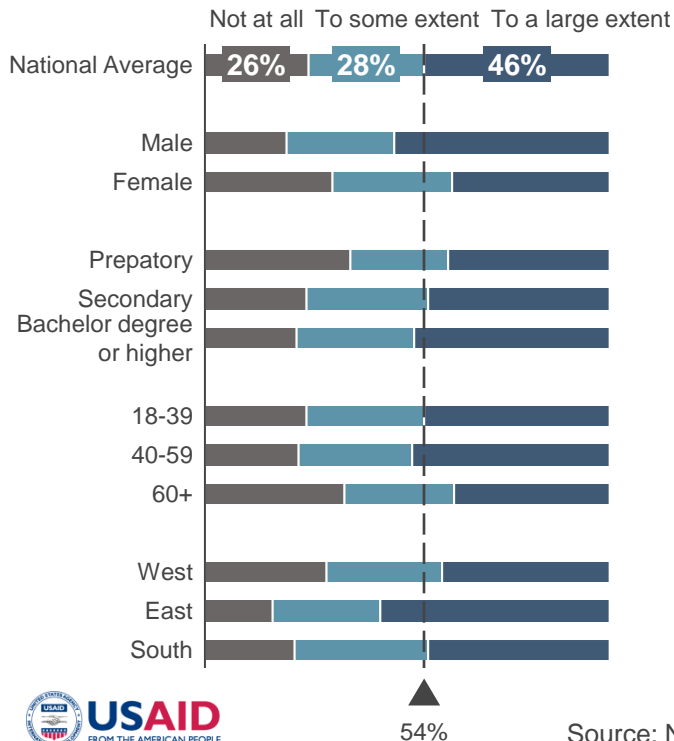
## 3 Disarmament of militias is the most important task that Libya is facing

- Overcoming the challenge of armed groups is the most important issue for Libyans.
- Majority of Libyans support monopoly of violence being returned to the state

To what extent is your daily life affected by the current conflict?

To what extent are the following actors providing security in your community?

Which of the following priorities would you say is the most important task that Libya is facing today?





# Despite being Cause of Insecurity, Specific Armed Groups are Still Supported by Libyans

## 1 Majority of Libyans still support at least one armed group

- Despite negative feelings towards armed groups in general, they still enjoy popular support
- Armed groups are causing insecurity, but there are few alternatives

## 2 Large regional differences in perception of armed groups

- Armed groups are perceived to be a key security provider in Misrata
- Regional differences makes a national disarmament strategy difficult without national trust in alternative security

## 3 Jobs and education seen as best way to integrate armed groups

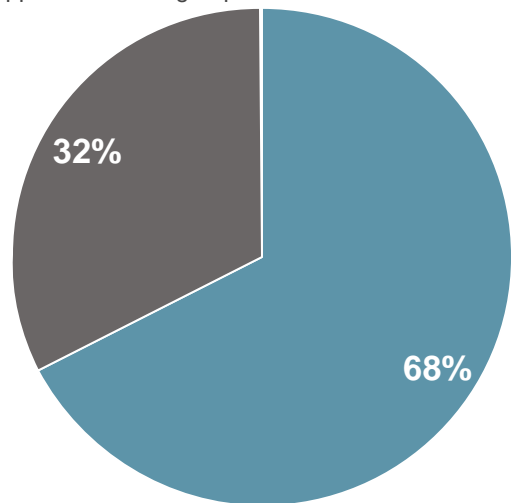
- Perceptions indicate that members of armed groups use these as a way of generating an income
- Reintegration into society seen as central to end fight among armed groups

Positive or negative feelings towards armed groups in Libya

Armed groups as security provider – comparing major cities

In the event of a peace deal, which method should be used to get the armed groups to stop fighting?

No support for armed groups



Support at least one armed group

