

# Annex A: Methodology and Considerations

## Scope and Design

The first phase of the project was a web-based survey translated and adapted for the Libyan context from the survey used in previous lexicon projects. The survey was disseminated by two local partner organizations, Development Transformations (DT) and the Elbiro Foundation, and more than 250 completed surveys were collected. DT staff then went on to host workshops in late March and early April 2019 in the four quadrants of Libya—one in Tripoli, one in Benghazi, one in Kufra, and one in Sabha—to validate the findings of the surveys. It was essential to gather information from as broad a geographic area as possible, as this allowed the project team to develop a contextual and nuanced understanding of the terms used as hate speech. As one project participant noted, “It is worth mentioning that Libya is...vast in size. There might be terms which are considered as ‘labeling and hate speech’ in one city in the east, but do not have the same meaning or context in the north and south of the country. And vice versa.” From the results of these geographically diverse workshops, PeaceTech Lab drafted a refined lexicon which was then passed to a panel of Libya experts for review and feedback.

## Surveys

The online surveys were translated into Arabic from the English version of the survey previously used for the lexicon development process in Cameroon. The translation was done by a PeaceTech Lab consultant, with adjustments made by the local partners collecting the data. These adjustments were necessary given differences in Arabic dialects and regional and country-specific contexts that could affect understanding of the concepts and questions presented.

PeaceTech Lab partnered with two organizations, DT and Elbiro, working locally in Libya for the distribution of the online surveys and the translation and organization of the data. Both organizations presented the surveys through Google Forms and disseminated the links to the surveys through Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms, as well as to their wider networks. The partner organizations each collected between 100 and 150 completed surveys during the initial data collection period. Given the amount of information collected, it took both organizations several weeks to sort, translate, and submit their results to the Lab. From this data, PeaceTech Lab staff were able to create an initial list of the most prevalent hate speech terms with some basic contextual background.

## Validation Workshops

The activities on the ground for the second phase of the lexicon development were led by DT. Through local consultants and facilitators, DT organized and hosted validation workshops in four locations spread geographically throughout Libya—Benghazi, Tripoli, Kufra, and Sabha—broadly covering the northeast, northwest, southeast, and southwest, respectively. The location and number of workshops brought out diverse viewpoints and provided an abundance of valuable insights.