

Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs



DPA

Preventing Conflict. Sustaining Peace

Multi-Year Appeal Quarterly Report

April – June 2021

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Achieve a learning, innovative working culture that takes forward the vision of the Secretary-General

Learning and knowledge management

Introduction

In the second quarter of 2021, the pandemic continued to exacerbate tensions and disparities, while violence flared up in a number of contexts, such as in the Israeli-Palestinian arena, and Gaza especially. While COVID-19 restrictions eased in some parts of the world, border closures and travel restrictions continued to impact the work of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), obliging us to maintain adaptation and provide remote support where required. Thanks to flexible funding under the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA), DPPA was able to respond to opportunities, take risks and meet demand for preventive diplomacy, mediation, conflict resolution and peacebuilding – our core work. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, we have managed to stay the course, delivering results and implementing MYA projects as planned.

Performance under the Results Framework

MYA projects continue to be guided by the 2020–2022 Strategic Plan while the Results Framework associated with the Strategic Plan facilitated the monitoring of the Department’s performance. Mid-year reporting against the Results Framework shows that DPPA is on track to deliver against the goals and objectives of the Plan for this year. Performance against our metrics has been encouraging, as **64 per cent of indicators** are already at halfway or more towards meeting the annual targets.

Goal 1 accounts for 66 per cent of the MYA budget, and encompasses DPPA’s core areas of work: political analysis; preventive diplomacy and good offices; mediation; electoral assistance; and peacebuilding support. Most of the key metrics under this Goal are showing positive signs of progress. Among the highlights, more than half (54 per cent) of all departmental analyses incorporated inputs from other UN entities from the development or human rights pillars, humanitarian actors, and/or the World Bank. This offers a glimpse into the Department’s commitment, in practice, to undertake integrated, multi-dimensional analysis.

Goal 2 accounts for 15 per cent of the MYA budget, and speaks to DPPA’s support to UN bodies and organs, as well as its partnerships at the regional, national and local levels.

Civil society members attend the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Federal Member States (FMS) Summit on elections in Mogadishu, Somalia on 27 May 2021.

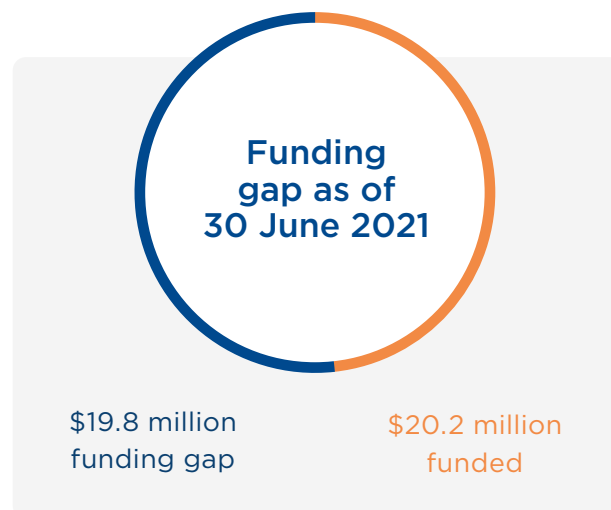
Credit: UN Photo / Mokhtar Mohamed

For many of the indicators under this Goal, quantitative data will only be available towards the end of the year. However, qualitative reporting presented in this report shows that DPPA has been able to deliver important partnership-related results during the second quarter.

Similarly, [Goal 3](#) accounts for 19 per cent of the MYA budget, and includes investments in the following focus areas: strategic planning, risk management, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, and strategic communications. One of the areas where DPPA remains keen to improve its performance is related to appointments from un-/underrepresented Member States, or Member States at risk of becoming underrepresented. For most of the other performance metrics under this Goal, we are seeing encouraging progress. For instance, 205 staff have already completed DPPA-led or supported trainings, against an annual target of 207. Similarly, DPPA has already implemented 40 innovative initiatives, close to the annual target of 47.

Financial performance

As of 30 June, the Department has received US\$20.2 million in pledges and contributions from 28 donors – 51 per cent of the US\$40 million for 2021 called for in the Update to the MYA. DPPA also welcomed two new donors, Burundi and Slovakia. With a [funding gap of 49 per cent](#), the Department needs additional contributions in the second half of the year to be able to sustain its efforts in contributing to conflict prevention, peacemaking, and peacebuilding around the world. As the MYA has no funding reserve, DPPA relies on contributions flowing in throughout the year.



As of 30 June, the Department has reached an implementation rate of [39 per cent](#), which must be considered satisfactory under the present circumstances.

Strategic Goal	Level of funds programmed
Goal 1: Preventing violence, resolving conflict, sustaining peace	 31 %
Goal 2: Strengthening partnerships for prevention and resilience	 41 %
Goal 3: Achieving a learning, innovative work culture	 46 %
Total	 39 %

The Department continues to closely monitor the evolution of the pandemic and its impact on activities on the ground. Two quarterly review meetings have been convened with project managers to take stock of ongoing efforts, adjust priorities, and re-assess the risk management and mitigation strategies of all MYA projects.

GOAL 1

Contribute to preventing and resolving violent conflict and building resilience



Results at mid-point

1,296

political and conflict analyses considered regional dimensions

25

Common Country Analyses (CCAs) were informed by departmental analyses

34

DPPA-supported processes were reinforced by financing from the Peacebuilding Fund

SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE PEACE AND POLITICAL PROCESSES

In the second quarter of 2021, tensions escalated in [Israel](#) and [the Occupied Palestinian Territory](#), which presented a challenging scenario for UN mediation and crisis management efforts. MYA funding supported UN leadership, mediation and good offices at Headquarters, as well as the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) in his conflict analysis, prevention and crisis management efforts through enhanced monitoring and mediation support. This included the mapping of potential regional ramifications of the escalation of tensions, a comprehensive analysis of key stakeholder responses to the crisis and identification of possible policy changes aimed at reviving the Middle East peace process.

UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

 @UNDPPA  21. 5. 2021

Secretary-General [@antonioguterres](#) welcomes the ceasefire between [#Gaza](#) and [#Israel](#) after 11 days of deadly hostilities and commends Egypt and Qatar for their efforts, in close coordination with the United Nations, to help restore calm. Secretary-General's press stakeout <https://bit.ly/3mfpueB>

MYA-funded teams – including those working on regional issues – identified potential risks, enhanced time-sensitive and operationally-focused crisis response, and collaborated on regional analysis related to the crisis, including with regard to neighbouring Lebanon.

DPPA and UNSCO worked closely with civil society organizations (CSOs) in support of de-escalation efforts, including those engaged in backchannel talks. An important communication channel was established between the UN and organizations working with Palestinian, Israeli, and regional religious leaders to defuse tension, especially in Jerusalem. With MYA funding, UNSCO supported consultations with Israeli and Palestinian women peacebuilders and contributed to an agreement on a joint statement signed by some 200 women – the first such initiative in over a decade – calling for peace negotiations in the spirit of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000). The statement is expected to form the basis of a series of discussions on the topic.

Extrabudgetary funding will continue to support DPPA’s monitoring of developments on the ground. It will also contribute to conflict analysis, conflict prevention and management efforts, and to presenting proposals on how best to support the conflict parties to move forward in the political process. Planned MYA-funded activities on the ground will include workshops with Israeli and Palestinian CSOs on ways to break the political impasse, including with women and youth representatives.

Extrabudgetary funding was also used in the context of [Colombia](#). During a period of heightened social and political tensions linked to mass protests, the UN Verification Mission continued to support the implementation of the 2016 Peace Agreement, which includes instruments to facilitate peaceful political participation that is relevant in

the national strike context and beyond – including safeguards for political and citizen participation.

The Mission made continued use of MYA funding to help fill key gaps in the peace process, aiming to strengthen former combatants’ access to security guarantees mechanisms, ensuring the sustainability of a community-based reintegration approach, and promoting local-level dialogue and reconciliation initiatives. This included providing support to a team of liaison focal points tasked with monitoring additional security and human rights risks faced by former combatants in the context of protests. MYA funds were also used to support several local-level reconciliation activities, bringing together former combatants, local authorities and communities to address issues such as demining and transitional justice efforts.

PROVISION OF MEDIATION SUPPORT

RESULTS AT MID-POINT:

Standby Team (SBT) Deployments¹

68

Mediation support engagements since the beginning of 2021

THEMATIC BREAKDOWN:

63%

Process design and management

15%

Gender and inclusion

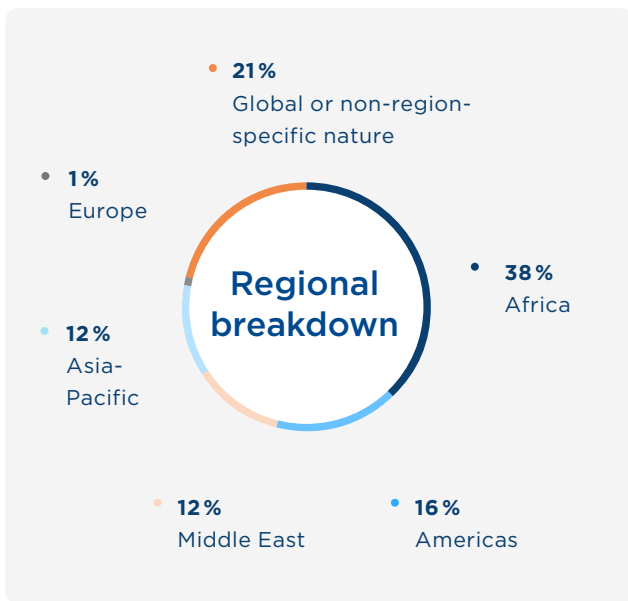
12%

Constitution-making process

10%

Security arrangements

¹ These figures are tentative and will be aggregated at the end of the year.



Guinea-Bougainville. COVID-19-related travel restrictions and border closures otherwise continued to limit MSU’s capacity to conduct on-site mediation support deployments. Consequently, SBT and MSU’s operational engagements took place mostly through virtual remote support. Remote engagements also included assistance to, and participation in, a series of online events, such as webinars, online consultations and dialogues, as well as training and capacity-building efforts.

Overall, during the second quarter, support was provided both in person and remotely on approximately forty occasions, in relation to new and ongoing contexts, including **Bolivia, the Geneva International Discussions, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria** and **Yemen**.

In the second quarter, the Mediation Support Unit (MSU) deployed staff and SBT experts to provide in-person operational support and advice in connection with four contexts - **Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan** and **Papua New**



Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary A. DiCarlo, Federal Foreign Minister of Germany, Heiko Maas, and Foreign Minister of Libya, Najla Mangoush, on the way to a press conference after the 2nd Berlin Conference on Libya held on 23 June 2021. Credit: Thomas Imo/photothek.de

HIGHLIGHTS OF SUPPORT IN PREVENTION AND PEACE NEGOTIATION CONTEXTS

BOLIVIA



Technical assistance to the Resident Coordinator in developing the contours of UN support to national reconciliation efforts and to hold consultations with various stakeholders.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Technical assistance to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to analyze the current political, economic and security dynamics in South Kivu Province and prepare an integrated conflict management strategy.

KOREAN PENINSULA



Technical support to the annual meeting of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC) in Geneva on 29 June, which has monitored the armistice between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea since 1953. The meeting provided an opportunity for representatives of the three Member States of the NNSC (Switzerland, Poland and Sweden) to meet experts and hold a thematic discussion on military confidence-building measures on the Korean Peninsula.

CENTRAL ASIA



MSU's Senior Constitutions Advisor provided advice to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Asia and to the Resident Coordinators in the region throughout the second quarter of 2021, to support their engagement with government counterparts and other stakeholders.

LIBYA



Support to the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) across different tracks (political, security, economic) of the peace process continued. Expertise on security arrangements was provided to facilitate planning of UN support to implement the October 2020 nationwide ceasefire agreement.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)



Technical support to the Resident Coordinator before and during the first round of the formal post-referendum consultation process, held in May, between the PNG national government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government. A Constitutions Expert was deployed to PNG to provide direct support to the second round of consultations at the end of June, which aimed at agreement on a joint roadmap for future progress.

SYRIA



Support to the Office of the Special Envoy and its political efforts, including attempts to convene a sixth sitting of the Syrian Constitutional Committee. In addition, on 17 June, MSU and the Office of the Special Envoy jointly convened an online workshop to discuss the use of digital technologies to support mediation efforts by strengthening inclusion (especially in respect of activities of the Civil Society Support Room).

YEMEN



Technical support to the Special Envoy continued on his proposed Four-Point Plan. The plan aimed to establish a ceasefire, address the country's urgent humanitarian needs and resume political negotiations for a final settlement to the Yemen crisis.

SUDAN



Support to the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission (UNITAMS) as it works with the Transitional Government of Sudan (TGoS) and signatories of the Juba Peace Agreement. During May and June, MSU and SBT security arrangements experts were deployed to provide technical assistance on the establishment of key mechanisms and bodies envisioned in the Peace Agreement that are expected to be supported by the UN. In addition, the SBT gender expert provided remote advice on different roles of women as observers in peace processes in relation to the ongoing talks between the TGoS and SPLM-N Al-Hilu.

TUNISIA



MSU extended the virtual deployment of a SBT process design expert to support the Resident Coordinator in identifying politically viable entry points to strengthen the design of a proposed national dialogue process and develop options for technical support. MSU, together with an external NGO partner, is currently advising the Resident Coordinator in Tunisia on the preparation of a proposal for a possible dialogue with selected youth representatives to be run on WhatsApp.



The Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Libya, Ján Kubiš, arrives in Tripoli to hold a series of meetings with Libyan officials and actors from different backgrounds and affiliation. Credit: UNSMIL

Results at mid-point

50+

supported electoral processes in over **50** Member States, **9** of which are under a Security Council mandate

11

technical electoral missions conducted

17

electoral events (parliamentary, presidential and local elections) supported

100 %

of electoral needs assessment reports included gender-specific analysis and recommendations

ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

During the second quarter of 2021, MYA funds continued to be vital in enabling DPPA to coordinate UN electoral assistance to requesting Member States through the implementation of electoral support projects worldwide. The UN supported electoral events in [Albania](#), [Armenia](#), [Chad](#), [Chile](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#), [Mexico](#) and [Peru](#). DPPA conducted technical electoral missions to various Member States that had requested UN assistance, including Needs Assessment Missions (NAMs) in [Bolivia](#), [Lesotho](#) and [Sudan](#), and a technical advisory mission to [Ecuador](#).

The goal of these missions was to conduct needs assessments, provide advisory support or ensure timely and effective support to electoral officials as well as to UN electoral teams on the ground.

In [Bolivia](#), at the request of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and endorsed by the government, a NAM was deployed by DPPA in April 2021 to evaluate needs on the ground and to make recommendations on the parameters for continued UN assistance. The NAM found agreement among all national and international stakeholders that the UN is best placed to provide continued electoral assistance. The recommendations of the NAM included supporting efforts to increase the political participation of women and combatting gender-based political/electoral violence, promoting the political participation of other traditionally marginalized minorities and groups including persons with disabilities, strengthening electoral authorities' capacities both at national and regional levels, and support on issues related to electoral justice. Following the approval of the NAM recommendations, a third phase of the project is being developed and will include longer-term UN assistance.

In June, DPPA's Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) held its recurring training course for UN system staff on the prevention of electoral violence, for the first time in a virtual format. The sessions and learning materials were adapted to the virtual training delivery mode. 22 women and 17 men attended the training, from 26 different duty stations and from across the UN system. As part of our partnership with regional organizations, there were also a participant each from the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The course aims to deepen insight into the connection between elections and violence, and to build capacity for the development of prevention strategies. Participants provided positive feedback on the training and believed their learning objectives were met.

In [Ecuador](#), DPPA accompanied efforts to support the electoral process, which culminated in the February general elections and the 11 April run-off. Before and during the first and second round, DPPA deployed surge capacity to support the UN Country Team with political and electoral analysis and public messaging. On 18 April, the National Electoral Council published the official results of the elections, which the parties accepted. Building on advice from the UN electoral team following the first round of elections, the Electoral Council revised processes and procedures and delivered a more streamlined results transmission process, leading to improved public perception. The project continues to deliver assistance, particularly in strengthening capacities in the electoral management bodies and promoting increased political participation, with a particular emphasis on women and disadvantaged/marginalized groups.

In [Sudan](#), following the adoption of the UNITAMS mandate through Security Council resolution 2524 (2020), EAD undertook a NAM in April 2021. This helped UNITAMS to frame short and long-term priorities in the implementation of its electoral assistance mandate and in further defining the division of labor between UNITAMS, UNDP and other UN entities in an integrated mission context. The NAM recommended for the UN:

- ① to provide electoral assistance to Sudan in a gradual and sequenced manner through an integrated electoral assistance programme;
- ② to focus on capacity building, operational planning, and provide inputs into discussions on the legal framework and constitutional process



Volker Perthes, Special Representative for Sudan and Head of UNITAMS, met with a coalition of diverse women from various political parties and civil society organizations in Sudan to discuss the then upcoming peace talks in Juba. Credit: UNITAMS

③ to advocate for an inclusive electoral process that would take into account the specific needs of youth, women, Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and refugees, as well as other marginalized populations;

④ to continue advocating and encouraging all political actors to engage in the implementation of the Juba Peace Agreement and other elements of the transitional process, to strengthen social cohesion and help the country consolidate its institutional stability.

The immediate priorities for UNITAMS are now to support the Ministry of Justice in drafting the legal instruments governing the electoral management body, the electoral law, and the Political Parties Registration Act.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION WINDOW

DPPA's Innovation Cell supports projects to leverage emerging technologies and the use of innovative approaches to peace and security.

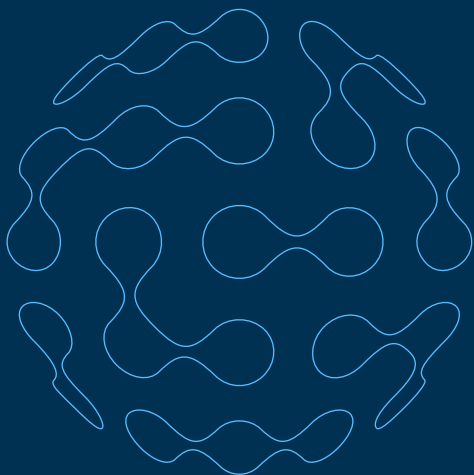
STRENGTHENING FORESIGHT AND ANTICIPATORY DECISION-MAKING

Foresight uses a range of methods, such as scanning the horizon for emerging changes, analyzing megatrends and developing multiple scenarios, to reveal and discuss useful ideas about the future. In times of rapid change, foresight improves anticipatory planning and decision-making in our work. DPPA continued to expand its foresight capabilities and capacities both at UN Headquarters and in the field. The Innovation Cell helped incorporate foresight in strategic planning processes for Guinea, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan and Sudan. The Cell has also partnered with the Design Futures Initiative, a foresight network, and other organizations to advance methods and practice of applying speculative design and foresight tools to peace and security decision-making.

GUYANA

In Guyana, the Innovation Cell and the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) provided design, facilitation and analytical support to the Resident Coordinator's Office in the development of its Common Country Analysis and for the programming of the regional Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework for the Caribbean. Foresight exercises helped identify critical trends and drivers with potential implications for social cohesion, stability and the Sustainable Development Goals.





ADVANCING HATE SPEECH MONITORING AND SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICAL CAPABILITIES

The new social media reporting tool “Sparrow” (<https://mysparrowreport.org/>) was rolled out across the UN. Sparrow allows UN desk officers at Headquarters and in the field to rapidly analyze Twitter data and to separate ‘noise’ created by bots on social media from authentic political rhetoric. Sparrow aims to strengthen internal capacities on early warning and live monitoring of unfolding crises.

SOUTH CAUCASUS

The Innovation Cell is running a pilot project with Peace and Development Advisers in the South Caucasus to help automate social media monitoring of confrontational and conciliatory rhetoric and hate speech on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This project identifies critical narratives and discourses on social media, and in turn helps guide the UN’s conflict prevention and peacebuilding engagements. The project has produced a set of applied computational methods and Natural Language Processing techniques to advance analysis across different

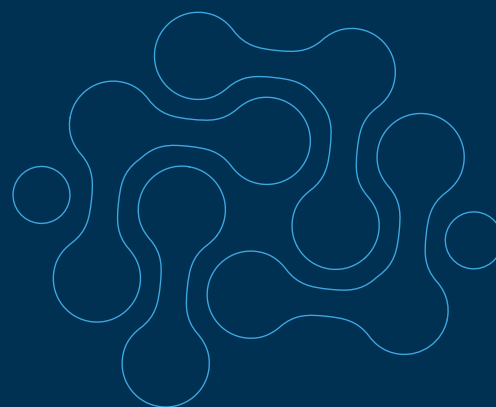
social media platforms (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, VK, etc.) in multiple local languages (Armenian, Azerbaijani, Georgian and Russian).

IN SUPPORT OF UNSMIL

The Innovation Cell provided rapid assistance on social media analysis in under 24 hours following the conclusion of the Geneva meeting of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF). This helped UNSMIL take stock of the different political stances and perspectives of key shapers of public opinion on Facebook and Twitter regarding the LPDF political process and the outcomes of the Geneva meeting.

INVESTING IN SPEECH RECOGNITION AND TEXT MINING

Together with external technology partners, DPPA has been developing an initial prototype of an AI-powered advanced media monitoring platform for television and radio content. This tool automatically transcribes and translates spoken content on radio and television. The platform could allow major cost savings in the long run, given the resource-intensive manual work required for mainstream media monitoring.





IN SUPPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY FOR YEMEN (OESGY), UNSMIL, AND OTHER SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS (SPMs)

The Innovation Cell has been testing Natural Language Processing (NLP) methods in the contexts of Yemen, Libya, Lebanon and Iraq. The overall aim is to detect the emotional tone of voice, political stance, and levels of agreement and discord between different social actors, in order to advance political analysis.

EXPANDING GEOSPATIAL OPEN-SOURCE EARTH OBSERVATION FOR PEACE

Together with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and relevant Country Teams, the Innovation Cell is applying techniques of open-source earth observations related to agricultural and food security with the objective of improving disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.

IRAQ

Earlier, DPPA built a tool for the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to evaluate water diminishment across Iraq at a subdistrict level. The tool allows users to co-relate levels of water diminishment to incidents of conflict and social unrest in Iraq over a period of 40 years. The tool draws on open-source climate security data from 25 earth orbiting satellites. DPPA is now applying this pioneering geospatial conflict prediction method to other country contexts.

UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

 @UNDPPA  3. 5. 2021

"Using a digital platform, as the @UN discovered in Libya and Yemen, is relatively simple. Broad participation in 'digital dialogues' can ... lend greater legitimacy to any agreement reached, giving it a better chance of working."

<https://bit.ly/37WXC6A>



CLIMATE SECURITY

During the reporting period, MYA funding enabled DPPA to expand its work on climate-related security risks and strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders to catalyze action in priority areas. Below are examples of our work in support of some of our Special Political Missions:

With MYA funding, the United Nations Office for [West Africa and the Sahel](#) (UNOWAS) launched a regional working group on the linkages between climate change, environmental degradation, peace and security. The working group brings together UN entities to enhance information-sharing and cross-pillar coordination on climate security and to facilitate collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). UNOWAS, jointly with UN Country Teams in the sub-region, completed field research for a climate security risk assessment, which will provide recommendations for the UN system in West Africa and the Sahel on how to mitigate and manage such risks.

In [Central Africa](#), voluntary funding enabled the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) to recruit dedicated capacity to lead an in-depth assessment of climate-related security risks in the sub-region, focusing on the impact of climate change on transhumance-related violence, maritime

The Vice President of Jubaland State, Mohamed Sayid Adan, welcomes the Special Representative for Somalia, James Swan, on arrival at Sayid Mohamed Abdulle Hassan Airport in Kismayo, the capital of Somalia's Federal Member State of Jubaland. Credit: UN Photo/Fardowsa Hussein

insecurity, and the rise in armed group activities. The assessment is conducted in partnership with the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and will inform the political and prevention work of UNOCA.

Climate security work is also gaining traction in [Somalia](#), where the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), with support from DPPA, is developing an environmental mediation pilot project in Hirshabelle.

The project aims to combine environmental awareness-raising with community outreach to increase the participation of youth, women and traditional leaders and ensure peaceful, negotiated outcomes that are both politically and environmentally durable. Lessons learned from this work will feed into DPPA's broader workstream on climate-sensitive mediation.



GOAL 2

Strengthen partnerships for prevention and resilience



Results at mid-point

35

joint strategies and interventions with regional organizations

483

civil society organizations with which DPPA engaged

10

liaison presences across the globe to deepen regional partnerships

75

countries with UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme initiatives to build national capacities for conflict prevention

PARTNERSHIPS WITH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Through its [Southern Africa Development Community \(SADC\)](#) liaison team in Gaborone, Botswana, DPPA remained focused on consolidating its partnership and coordination with SADC on peace and security issues, while providing direct support to UN Country Teams in the region. Following a request from the Resident Coordinator, the Department deployed a high-level mission to [Zambia](#) to take stock of the political situation and engaged with the Zambian leadership, opposition parties and other relevant actors to encourage political dialogue. The mission, led by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the African Union, Hannah Tetteh, was prompted by rising political tensions ahead of the 12 August elections. As a direct result of the mission, it was agreed that the UN will assist national stakeholders in establishing a platform for dialogue with the aim of de-escalating tensions prior to the elections and laying the foundations for longer-term peace and stability in Zambia. In the short term, the platform will serve also as an election-related violence prevention tool.

As violence continued to increase following the military takeover in [Myanmar](#) in early February, the Security Council has highlighted the important role of the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#) in contributing to solve the crisis and stressed the need for UN-ASEAN complementarity. The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, continued to engage with all relevant stakeholders, including ASEAN Member States and other regional partners, to press for timely, robust and coherent action to end the violence.



Christine Schraner Burgener, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Myanmar, briefs reporters after the closed Security Council meeting on the situation in Myanmar. Credit: UN Photo/Manuel Elías

MYA funding also allowed the Office of the Special Envoy to prepare and hold consultations with women from Myanmar who have expertise on peace process and national reconciliation issues, in the context of the nascent inter-communal solidarity and ASEAN efforts to facilitate an end to the violence. Women have been key drivers of the Civil Disobedience Movement and other contemporary anti-military movements since the military takeover and historically, women have proven to be forces of peace and reconciliation throughout the country. These consultations thus provided the Special Envoy with critical context on the conflict and helped start a discussion on the future involvement of women in peacebuilding efforts.

Follow-up consultations with women experts will be held regularly as the Special Envoy will continue to raise the issue of women's meaningful involvement in political processes, including with ASEAN.

Partnerships in the UN system

In [Mozambique](#), the Department continues to support the UN Country Team's participation in the Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment (RPBA) conducted jointly with the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the European Union. The RPBA intends to support the government's preparation of a development and resilience strategy for Mozambique's northern provinces to address the drivers of the insurgency in Cabo Delgado province. DPPA also held meetings with SADC to extend the UN's support to regional efforts to address the situation in Northern Mozambique, in line with the UN's comprehensive strategy for Cabo Delgado.

YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY



Youth in Afghanistan striving for a better life with optimism and hope. Credit: UNAMA Photo / Mohammad Fahim Mayar.

The recognition of young people as a positive force in preventing and resolving conflict and building sustainable peace has gained significant momentum since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). Since then, DPPA has been a strong advocate for

the YPS agenda and invests in young peacebuilders. Through its Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the Department has played a crucial role in engaging with and building on the unique contribution of youth to advance conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

 @UNDPPA  2. 5. 2021

Disproportionately affected by conflict, #youth are building strong peacebuilding networks together. Learn more about their work with the @UN in Politically Speaking: <https://bit.ly/37ZY83M>



Most recently, DPPA partnered with the Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for **Central Asia** (UNRCCA) to work with young people from Central Asia and Afghanistan within the framework of the "Academy of Preventive Diplomacy" initiative. 36 students of the Academy participated in four training seminars with a focus on peacebuilding, security and the UN Youth Strategy and how to build conflict settlement skills by understanding the content of a conflict situation and optimizing personal behavior.

A selected number of participants will be joining UNRCCA's annual meeting of Deputy Foreign Ministers of the region towards the end of the year. At the meeting, they will be able to communicate their views in a "youth-government dialogue", a format that will be in its third iteration this year.

In **Bolivia**, DPPA supported the design of a youth engagement component, aiming to provide a space for exchange among students from public, private, and indigenous universities. An SBT expert offered methodological assistance and led on exploring entry points for collaboration with different university representatives.

DPPA has also worked closely with UNESCO to prepare a foresight dialogue series for youth peacebuilders in **Northeast Asia**.

Youth champions from China, Japan, Mongolia, and the Republic of Korea are being trained in digital facilitation and futures literacy to collectively imagine the future of the region.



Archana Soreng, a young indigenous climate activist and member of the UN SG's Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.
Credit: UNDP



UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

 @UNDPPA  29. 5. 2021

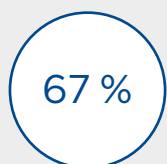
Voluntary contributions are vital to our work. From electoral assistance in Bolivia to UNITAMS in Sudan, find out how these funds help galvanize peacemaking and peacebuilding around the globe, in our new Politically Speaking story: <https://bit.ly/3AZQ3bE>

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY WINDOW

Results at mid-point



UN mediation support teams had women members



12 out of 18 delegations (67%) of conflict parties had senior women members in mediation processes where the UN was a (co)lead



53% of departmental analyses were gender-sensitive

In 2021, DPPA has committed to dedicate a minimum of 17 per cent of its annual MYA budget to gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives, as well as programmes that recognize and help advance the crucial role of women in conflict prevention and sustaining peace. With the creation of a funding window devoted to Women, Peace and Security (WPS), the MYA has taken additional steps to further strengthen DPPA's commitment by supporting targeted activities to operationalize the WPS agenda. Eligible projects must promote gender equality and women's empowerment as their principal objective and remain entirely dedicated to operationalizing the WPS agenda.

The creation of a specific funding window has paid off, with a total of US\$3.5 million programmed for 12 projects to date. This is an increase of 40 per cent in funding (US\$1.1 million more) and a doubling in the number of projects fully dedicated to WPS (only 6 in 2020).

In addition, the overall gender marker scoring of the entire MYA portfolio saw a further increase in projects contributing to the WPS agenda. The overall number of projects that make a significant contribution to the WPS agenda increased from 24 in 2020 to 32 in 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE WPS WINDOW

ECUADOR



Enhanced women's political participation through a project between DPPA and UN Women looking at eliminating gender-based political violence, media engagement to eradicate hate speech and discrimination against women and strengthening capacity-building opportunities for women in politics. Efforts to raise awareness of opinion leaders on existing regulations on gender parity, and on women's political participation and gender-based political violence have also started.

IRAQ



Supported the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the Free Iraq Foundation in their engagement with civil society representatives and members of the Women's Advisory Group to discuss the pre-elections environment for women candidates. Provided a legal expert to analyze hate speech and electoral violence and discussed findings with Independent High Electoral Commission officials and the Higher Committee on Women's Political Participation.

YEMEN



Assisted the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen (OESGY) and its Gender Unit in consulting with influential Yemeni women to explore ways of bolstering their roles with political parties and ensuring that the political process and future transition in Yemen are gender-sensitive, gender-inclusive, and that women can contribute substantively and formally in Yemen's political process.

LOCAL PEACE INITIATIVES WINDOW

The Department continued to provide critical funding to several Special Political Missions and their local peace and mediation activities, aimed at complementing national peace processes through dedicated grassroots initiatives.

In Central Africa, pastoralism is an essential socio-economic activity for communities, particularly in Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Rwanda. However, pastoralism and cross-border transhumance have remained poorly organized and are often associated with the insecurity prevailing in the sub-region, constituting a major concern for peace, security and stability of States, compounded due to the possible expansion of violent extremism.

A collapse of traditional transhumance corridors, climate change, expansion of arable lands as well as a sharp increase in livestock have fuelled tensions between rural communities, particularly between farmers and herders.

MYA funding is supporting a project to promote community-based approaches and mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflict between herders and farmers in Central Africa. This includes a regional workshop aimed at promoting a draft regional framework as well as existing

mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts for both official and community-based mechanisms.

Additionally, a study on the Uélé basin in North-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo was conducted, analyzing farmer-herder dynamics and existing conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms as well as existing local, provincial and regional legal frameworks governing pastoralism and transhumance there. The study specifically addressed the impact of farmer-herder conflicts on women and provided UNOCA and its partner, ECCAS, with a better understanding of the phenomenon as well as the challenges and opportunities for peaceful transhumance, including through the draft regional framework on pastoralism and transhumance. A sensitization workshop served as a platform to build support for the regional regulatory framework, thus facilitating its adoption by ECCAS member States. The workshop also served to facilitate the sharing of information, experience and practices between various stakeholders on how to promote peaceful pastoralism, prevent and peacefully resolve intercommunal conflicts, especially between farmers and herders.

GOAL 3

Achieve a learning, innovative working culture that takes forward the vision of the Secretary-General



Results at mid-point

3

1 self-evaluation and 2 lessons learned studies undertaken

10

policy materials and guidance developed, updated or digitized

349,048

followers of DPPA Twitter account, an increase of 11.42 per cent from the same reporting period last year

Learning and knowledge management

- ▶ Together with Build Up, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, and Tandemic, DPPA released a publicly available [online course](#) on [Digital Process Design and Facilitation for Mediation](#).
- ▶ DPPA and Swisspeace issued a [paper](#) focusing on four issues related to the [use of social media in peacemaking](#): ① analysis; ② communication; ③ engagement with the parties; and ④ countering mis- and dis-information.
- ▶ DPPA continued updating its [online peace agreement data base Language of Peace \(LoP\)](#), which serves as a critical resource for mediation practitioners and scholars. The database is an innovative tool to search provisions of peace agreements, providing easy access to compare and collate language on key issues across 75,000+ provisions of around 1,000 peace agreements.

- ▶ As part of the DPPA-UNDP-UNEP [Climate Security Mechanism](#), the Department helped train more than 60 UN staff members to build capacity for analysis, prevention and management of climate-related security risks. Additionally, it convened a meeting of the UN Community of Practice on Climate Security, bringing together 80 colleagues from across the UN System to focus on emerging results from climate security field projects in the Karamoja region of East Africa.
- ▶ A good indication of DPPA's institutional progress in the area of [self-evaluations](#) came from the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), the internal oversight body of the UN. After reviewing DPPA's self-evaluation practices and reports as part of their 2018-2019 biennial study, the evaluators concluded that the Department has a strong evaluation system and is among the very few entities that have a dedicated evaluation function.

IMPACT OF QUOTA MECHANISMS APPLIED IN RECENT ELECTIONS: LESSONS LEARNED

As part of efforts to improve knowledge of strategies and opportunities to promote the use of temporary special measures for women in elections, DPPA analyzed the impact of quota mechanisms that were applied in recent elections in [Samoa](#) (April 2021, legislative), [Cabo Verde](#) (April 2021, legislative), and [Chile](#) (May 2021, constituent assembly). It identified effective new design features such as placing women at the top of each party list in Closed List Proportional Representation systems; as well as challenges such as legal ambiguities in calculating the value of a prescribed percentage of an elected body's seats. The analysis reconfirmed that the impact of a quota depends – aside from a genuine commitment to women's participation – on the underlying electoral system and the details of the quota mechanism itself. For example, the effectiveness of a quota is typically

greater in proportional representation systems with closed candidate lists than in majoritarian systems with single-member districts. Moreover, quotas on candidates in proportional representation systems have more impact when combined with clear ranking requirements.

The Department shared its findings with the Task Team on the use of Temporary Special Measures including Quotas – one of the task teams on gender equality and equal rights for women established to implement the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights – to help develop longer-term advocacy efforts. It also presented them for discussion at the regular meeting of global DPPA gender advisers and focal points, held in June 2021, part of ongoing efforts to raise staff awareness around temporary special measures in elections.

MID-TERM REVIEW OF DPPA'S 2020-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

DPPA initiated a Mid-Term Review to take stock of its key achievements and gaps over the 1.5-year period from 1 January 2020 to 31 May 2021, the mid-point of the three-year DPPA Strategic Plan. The review is focused on: 1) the relevance of the Plan to our overall planning approach; and 2) our progress towards achieving the goals outlined in the Plan. The Review provides recommendations to strengthen strategic planning tools and mechanisms, while also reviewing how the Department captures and reports on results.

While the report is yet to be finalized, key points emerging from the consultations include:

- ▶ Evidence reviewed for this Mid-Term Review indicates that the Department's 2020-2022 Strategic Plan is useful in aligning effort, clarifying strategic logic through the Department's 'Theory of Change', and communicating the value of DPPA's work to outside audiences.
- ▶ The Department's rapid and flexible risk-response model provided a valuable means to manage the threat posed by COVID-19. DPPA rapidly adapted its working methods, and its annual planning and reporting cycle was accelerated during 2020, requiring Divisions to plan and report on a quarterly rather than annual basis to promote rapid adaptation and re-allocation of resources.
- ▶ The Mid-Term Review acknowledges the difficulty of identifying and obtaining suitable evidence for DPPA's conflict prevention objectives. The Review commends the Department for embracing the challenge and creating a robust and functioning results reporting system to track the implementation of the 2020-2022 Strategic Plan. 18 months into the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the Review has provided DPPA with an opportunity to test what is feasible to measure, and to identify the metrics that are most meaningful in practice. Going forward, DPPA may wish to consider consolidating some indicators (and/or introducing a simplified 'traffic light' or dashboard format) to reduce reporting burden and data overload for readers, while maintaining the utility of the Results Framework for strategic purposes.



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