2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention



JOINT UNDP-DPPA PROGRAMME

on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

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Foreword



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Advances in peace and sustainable development over the past few decades remain fragile in many places around the world. In 2019, inequalities in human development between and within societies continued to grow, weakening social cohesion, and threatening an increase in violence. Hate speech proliferated, and mass social protests multiplied with increased intensity around the world. Rising tensions were fueled by interlocking risks of fragility multiplied by challenges, including the accelerating effects of climate change.

With 2020 ushering in the Decade of Action for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the COVID-19 pandemic revealed existing and new fractures. The socio-economic impacts of the pandemic will likely unfold for the years to come, with human development on the decline for the first time in decades, and women and minorities being disproportionately affected. It may also derail fragile peace processes.

However, the crisis may provide a renewed opportunity to build more sustainable, inclusive and gender-equal societies and economies. We need joint, holistic approaches which prioritize prevention and address root causes of conflict, that are people-centered, that integrate peace, sustainable development, and human rights. And, most importantly, we must support and empower national partners, local communities, and civil society that are already at the forefront of such efforts.

The Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention, managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), has been operationalizing an ambitious cross-pillar approach to prevention and peacebuilding. Since 2004, this unique initiative brings together key UN system resources and expertise to more systematically and coherently support nationally led efforts to sustain peace. Today, UNDP and DPPA are working more closely with the Development Coordination Office (DCO), to bring together the peace and security, and the development pillars of the UN. Furthermore, the long-standing partnership with the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) has allowed Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs) to support the development of projects funded by the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

PDAs, accompanied in an increasing number of contexts by national PDAs, UN Volunteers and secondees, play a catalytic role in these efforts. Deployed in the Offices of Resident Coordinators (RC) in 54 countries, they provide expertise and support to UN Country Teams (UNCT) and national partners on conflict prevention efforts, and assist countries in advancing sustainable development and peace.

In 2019, and as the report will detail, PDAs strengthened national peace architectures in Côte d'Ivoire and The Gambia and supported national stakeholders to build capacities for sustaining peace in Cambodia. Dialogue efforts, including around elections, were facilitated by the PDAs in Guatemala and Malawi, while reconciliation and social cohesion efforts were led in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and the Republic of the Congo. In the Caribbean, the Pacific, and Tunisia, PDAs supported a better understanding of climate-related security risks. PDAs worked on strengthening peace efforts across borders in Benin, and in Bangladesh, and ensured that UNCT Programmes are conflict-sensitive and informed by high-quality analysis in Honduras and Sudan. More than 80 per cent of PDAs actively supported the participation of women or youth in peacebuilding activities, while strengthening the engagement of the Programme in support of the Women and Youth Peace and Security agendas remains a priority.

The continued and unwavering support from donor partners of the Programme, and their commitment to the sustaining peace and the 2030 agenda, have been, and will continue to be, critical to the success of these efforts. We would like to thank the European Union, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom for their generous contributions and substantive support. We are also very grateful for the collaboration and in-kind contributions from the Governments of Australia, Finland, the Republic of Korea, and the Folke Bernadotte Academy.

Asako Okai

Miroslav Jenča

The Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention is a centrepiece of the system's support, with an expanded cadre of 56 Peace and Development Advisors and regional specialists in six locations."

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General (Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace Report of the Secretary-General 2020)





Over the last 15 years, UNDP and DPPA have worked in partnership to establish, manage, and continuously develop the Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention. This collaboration draws on their complementary mandates, expertise and resources to offer the necessary support to establish sustainable and nationally owned capacities for peace. Peace and Development Advisors are at the forefront of these efforts pushing for the prioritization of the prevention agenda."

Amina Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General
(Joint Programme High-level Partner Event, July 2019)

Through our presence in 170 countries, as members of UN Country Teams, integrated missions and alongside national stakeholders, we are committed to accompanying the global community to achieve Goal 16 through enabler and accelerator programmes for prevention and peacebuilding. Simply put, and in support of national aspirations toward the 2030 Agenda, UNDP is committed to this Joint Programme and its essential role in this process. In a world of interconnected challenges that are not limited by borders, we need to constantly innovate and think of integrated solutions to problems facing us."



Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator

(Joint Programme High-level Partner Event, July 2019)



National ownership is key to building sustainable peace and hence supporting and investing in national capacities is a priority. In close partnership with national stakeholders the Joint Programme has contributed to innovative approaches to conflict prevention. [...] Peace and Development Advisors work closely with national counterparts and some of our best joint assets to encourage collaboration and coherence of action."

Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
(Joint Programme High-level Partner Event, July 2019)



OVERVIEW OF THE JOINT UNDP-DPA PROGRAMME

OVERVIEW OF THE JOINT UNDP-DPPA PROGRAMME

Addressing the underlying drivers of conflict is ever more critical today as violent conflict continues to cause widespread human suffering. Many societies are faced with rising inequalities, political and social unrest, persistent gender discrimination, and lack of social cohesion, in addition to being affected by climate change. The COVID-19 pandemic has further laid bare existing vulnerabilities, and may lead to a steep decline in human development unprecedented in the last 30 years. These multidimensional challenges, that know no border, require a collaborative approach, and integrated cross-pillar solutions. A focus on conflict prevention is critical for creating the necessary conditions conducive to sustainable peace and development.

Since its establishment in 2004, the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention has been engaged in supporting national stakeholders and bridging the gap between political engagement and development assistance in pursuit of sustainable peace. In 2019, the Joint Programme started a new phase (2019-2023) of its engagement that seeks to further support Member States to deepen their capacities and strengthen their systems and processes for conflict prevention.

The overall change that the Joint Programme seeks to contribute to is articulated around the following theory of change:

When efforts to prevent conflict and sustain peace are analysis-based, robust, inclusive, and nationally-led, and when these are supported to an appropriate extent by coherent international strategies and programmes, Member States are better equipped to mitigate the risks of conflict and fragility, and to pursue their development priorities.

The Joint Programme's engagement is guided by two mutually supportive objectives:

At the centre of the Programme's efforts to achieve these goals is a cadre of international and national experts known as Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs). PDAs are at the forefront of UN efforts to empower national stakeholders and strengthen mechanisms and capacities for inclusive dialogue, social cohesion, reconciliation and national peace architectures. PDAs support the UN system to effectively identify entry points for the prevention of conflicts, and to respond to complex political situations appropriately.



OUTCOME 1:

Targeted initiatives and national capacities are more effectively contributing to conflict prevention and sustaining peace.



OUTCOME 2:

UN Country Teams have strategies and programmes that are increasingly conflict sensitive, and are leading partnerships on sustaining peace.

Financial overview 2019

(In US dollars)

Donor		Income 2019	Expenditures 2019
	Germany	6,601,000	3,676,000
#	Norway	780,000	480,000
+	Sweden	3,625,000	2,735,000
+	Switzerland	1,006,000	724,000
	The Netherlands	4,400,000	3,679,000
	The UK	2,191,000	1,520,000
DPA 	Extra-budgetary (XB) DPPA	424,000	424,000
	Total	19,027,000	13,238,000

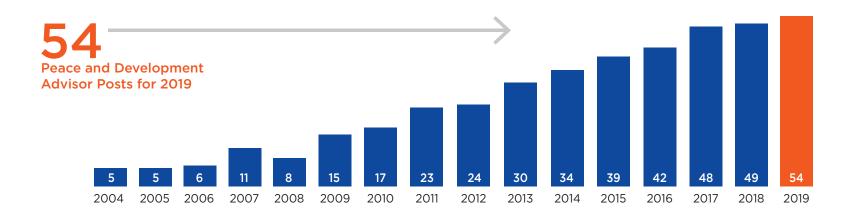
In support of our national desire to put conflict prevention at the forefront, the Joint Programme has deployed a Peace and Development Advisor in the country. The Programme also supported representatives of the Government and civil society to jointly conduct the country's Conflict and Development Analysis for 2018 and 2019, which informed our peacebuilding priorities."

Lamin Fatti, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission to the United Nations of The Gambia, (Joint Programme High-level Partner Event, July 2019)

The Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme has been particularly helpful as it demonstrated that the UN genuinely believes that national stakeholders are the most capable actors of preventing conflict in their countries."

Khemaies Jhinaoui, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia (Joint Programme High-level Partner Event, July 2019)

Expansion of PDAs globally



49PDAs in post



15 Newly deployed PDAs



of new recruitments (from classification to offer) completed within 3 months





Expansion of teams:

specialists and national PDAs deployed alongside PDAs

2017 8

2018

2019 20

National PDAs



5 Secondees



work in teams alongside the international PDAs.

35% of PDAs are female

44% of national PDAs are female



Deployment of peace & development capacities

Since the start of the Joint Programme in 2004, the cadre of PDAs has grown significantly, reaching 54 positions in 2019, reflecting the value of embedding capacities for conflict analysis, conflict-sensitive programming, and strategic leadership on prevention within UN Country Teams (UNCT).

In 2019, there were 54 PDA positions globally, with 49 PDAs deployed throughout the course of the year.

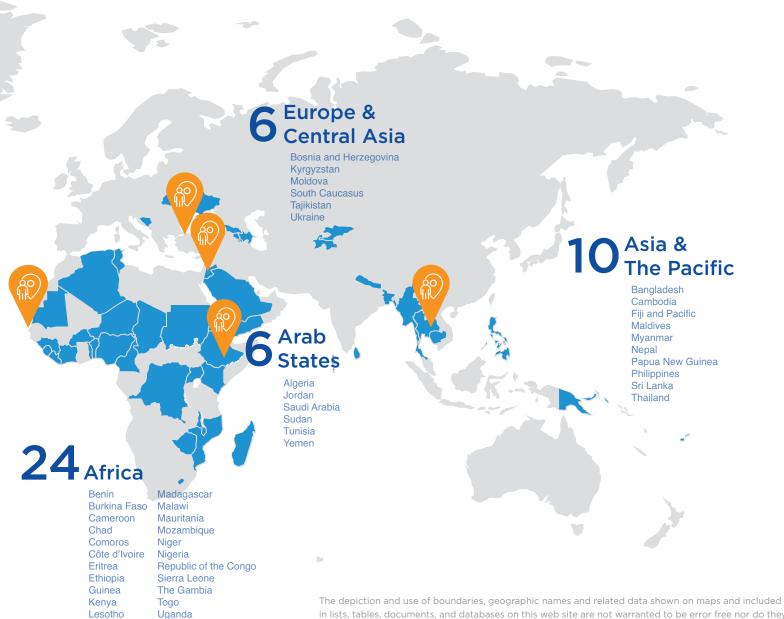
In 2019, the annual PDA criticality assessment exercise endorsed the continuation of all the PDA positions that existed in 2018. In addition, new PDA positions were established in Benin, Haiti, Nepal, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, whilst the Programme decided not to deploy PDAs to eight other countries that requested PDAs. In an effort to fill vacant posts, new PDAs were deployed to Algeria, Comoros, Cameroon, Honduras, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Venezuela, Yemen and Zimbabwe. The Joint Programme continues to work towards gender parity in the PDA cadre and strives for the inclusion of qualified female candidates at each stage of the recruitment processes.



Cadre of Advisors in 2019 54 PDA positions globally and 20 PDA teams, 49 Advisors in post

Liberia

Zimbabwe



in lists, tables, documents, and databases on this web site are not warranted to be error free nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Peace and development teams

A growing cadre of national Peace and Development Officers are being recruited to work alongside international PDAs, bringing in crucial local knowledge and expertise. Twenty such PDA

teams have been established so far, which also benefit from specialized capacities from partners such as UN Volunteers and the Folke Bernadotte Academy.

SUDAN

In Sudan, the PDA team is composed of an international PDA and a national PDA. The position of the national PDA was pivotal in supporting the outreach efforts of the Resident Coordinator (RC) to a wide range of national stakeholders throughout the revolution, in close collaboration with the PDA. The national PDA also prepared the daily Sudan Crisis Update for the UN Operations and Crisis Centre. These reports provided an in-depth understanding of the country's context and dynamics to the UN system including to the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Sudan and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa. Working as a team, the national advisor and the PDA were instrumental in facilitating stakeholder consultations on peacebuilding priorities for Darfur and supporting the process of Sudan's request for eligibility to the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

ALGERIA

Deployment of short-term and surge capacities

To respond to emerging needs and rapidly changing contexts, the Joint Programme provides short-term support based on demand through the deployment of different types of conflict prevention experts in crisis contexts, including staff and experts available within UNDP and DPPA, as well as existing PDAs on short-term assignments to other countries, to ensure there are no capacity gaps within the Resident Coordinators Offices (RCOs).

Interim PDAs were deployed to Algeria, Comoros, Cameroon, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, and Yemen to support the Resident Coordinator until a full-time advisor was put in place. In Benin and Ecuador, the Joint Programme facilitated a temporary deployment of PDA-type capacity to strategically reinforce the RCO and support UNCT initiatives at a critical time.

An Advisor based in Tunisia was deployed to Algeria for a short-term support mission in April-May 2019 and continued to remotely provide ad hoc support to the Country Team for the remainder of the year. The support was requested by the Resident Coordinator at the outset of nationwide protests in February 2019. The Advisor provided valuable support to the UN system in Algeria by carrying out multidimensional analysis of the political and civic space. This included coordinating a political economy analysis and preparing three complementary papers on the economic situation and the evolving political landscape. The analysis resulted in a set of recommendations to the UNCT and informed the development of the new Common Country Analysis. Finally, a forum on political transitions was carried out with the UNCT, where the Advisor presented on the Tunisian experience focusing on lessons learned and possible entry points for the Algerian context.

Strengthening of the Joint Programme Secretariat team and the deployment of Regional Programme Specialists

The Secretariat of the Joint Programme that manages and oversees the Programme was expanded in line with the objectives of the new Programme document. This included the deployment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, a Communication and Events Analyst, as well as a PDA Staff Roster Specialist.¹ In addition, a UNV serving as a Peace and Development Analyst joined the Secretariat.

In an effort to ensure that PDAs are better equipped and empowered to deliver on their mandates, the Joint Programme commenced the recruitment of six Regional Programme Specialists in Addis Ababa, Amman, Bangkok, Dakar, Istanbul and Panama. The goal is to provide back-up support to PDAs and UNCTs in the areas of conflict analysis, conflict-sensitive programming, the strengthening of local capacities for dialogue as well as conflict prevention.

¹The roster specialist was deployed in January 2020.



2019 Key Areas of Engagement



Targeted initiatives and national capacities that are more effectively contributing to conflict prevention and sustaining peace (Outcome 1 of the results framework)

PDA focused on efforts to strengthen national capacities for peace



62% supported national **peace** architecture or structures that can be built up to such architectures



67% supported national policies and conflict prevention



69% supported national governments **strategies** for to reinforce their own capacities through training and capacity development

They also engaged in dialogue and mediation efforts



79% of PDAs supported preventive diplomacy, good offices, mediation or dialogue efforts

PDAs work to promote wider involvement of national stakeholders in national conflict prevention and peacebuilding work.



50% PDAs made a focused effort to enhance the participation of women, including 12 PDAs that focused specifically on supporting female mediators/facilitators in dialogue and mediation



69% of PDAs made a focused effort to enhance the participation of youth

The support provided by PDAs is defined by the country context and national priorities. In 2019, PDAs engaged in the following trending areas (# of PDAs engaged):





UN Country Teams strategies and programmes that are increasingly conflict sensitive, and are leading partnerships on sustaining peace (Outcome 2 of the results framework)

PDAs are critical assets to the UN Country Teams in the provision high-quality context-specific and conflict sensitive advice.

PDAs provide analysis...



of PDAs supported the Common Country Analysis (CCA) in countries where such a process was underway

of PDAs designed or facilitated a conflict analysis in the last 3 years

of countries with a PDA discuss changes in conflict context as a regular standing item at UNCT senior leadership meetings

...which is then used to inform strategic engagement

and programming

of PDAs supported conflict sensitivity in UN programmes

of PDAs supported UN programming for conflict prevention

of PDAs supported early warning and action mechanisms



EMPOWERING NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION AND SUSTAINING PEACE

2 EMPOWERING NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION AND SUSTAINING PEACE

The guiding principle of the Joint Programme is that strengthening national capacities for conflict prevention is essential to sustaining peace. As such, the Programme emphasizes national ownership and inclusivity, to ensure that peace is sustained over time. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the major impact of violence and instability on development and vice versa, stating, "There can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development." In working to prevent conflict, the Joint Programme is geared not only at making a direct contribution to the realization of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on the promotion of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, but also at advancing cross-cutting issues to create an enabling and supportive environment for the fulfillment of a host of national and international development objectives. Deployed in complex political situations, PDAs work with national stakeholders, at all levels and parts of society, to strengthen architectures, policies and strategies for peace, engage in mediation and dialogue efforts ensuring they are inclusive and sustainable, and accompany, connect, and empower national actors to lead peace efforts. The specific nature of engagement of PDAs varies from context to context and is informed by priorities and needs of national and local stakeholders.



Engaging on government strategies and policies

67%

of PDAs supported national policies and strategies for conflict prevention²



PDAs are contributing to the following theory of change, identified as an objective of the Programme: "If a country/ Government has clear national policies that explicitly address conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and the underlying drivers of conflict, then national resources are more likely to be effectively directed towards sustaining peace."

In **Uganda**, the PDA played an advisory and accompaniment role in efforts to strengthen the national peace architecture and facilitate the establishment of a related legal and policy environment for sustaining peace. To complement the efforts of the RC, the PDA supported the drafting and advocacy processes for the Transitional Justice Policy, which was signed in July 2019. In addition, the PDA engaged with national counterparts in the revision of the draft National Peace Policy. In an effort to promote south-south learning, and to catalyze support for the adoption of the draft National Peace Policy, visits to other countries with functioning national peace architecture were organized. with the support of UNDP. Representatives of the Ugandan national peace architecture visited Ghana, and a delegation of the Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs met with Angolan counterparts. This helped model benchmarks for the role of veterans in the promotion of peaceful coexistence within their respective communities. As an effort to support peace and dialogue, the PDA in partnership with UNDP helped strengthen the capacities of the constitutionally mandated forum for political dialogue, the National Consultative Forum, through tailored training on collaborative leadership. Deliberate efforts were also made by the PDA to promote the inclusion of youth and women in the nationally led peace efforts. Two women from the Women Situation Room and three youths benefited from international training courses on dialogue and mediation, and alongside former trainees, replicated these trainings in different parts of the country. To strengthen inclusion in the national peace architecture, the PDA, in collaboration with UNDP, helped design a project, now funded by the PBSO Peacebuilding Fund, specifically focused on harnessing the capacities of youth and women for sustaining peace. As a result, young people and women actively participated in regional level dialogues on electoral reforms and are more represented in the national peace architecture. The Interreligious Council of Uganda established a 'Women of Faith' network, while the Nabbagereka Development Foundation is organizing youth bootcamps that promote the positive cultural values of Obuntubulamu: one's humanity is inextricably linked with the other's.

² The data highlighted across the report, including infographics, was collected as part of the annual survey sent to all PDAs (and for some specific questions to RCs, UNDP and DPPA) and is aligned with the indicators in the Joint Programme monitoring framework.

Strengthening national

peace architectures

26

PDAs (62%) supported the development/improvement of a peace architecture or structures that can be built up to a peace architecture.



PDAs are contributing to the following theory of change, identified as an objective of the Programme: "If a country has a national architecture (institutions, structures and organizations) with clear mandates around sustaining peace that are properly resourced then it is more likely to be effective in preventing and managing conflict."

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Tense electoral processes in **Côte d'Ivoire** led to the establishment of national mechanisms to promote and facilitate political and intercommunal dialogue, as well as victims' reparations policies through the Ministry of Solidarity and Social Cohesion. The PDA, with the guidance of the RC, helped bolster the country's national peace infrastructure by strengthening the capacity of civil society actors to contribute and substantively engage in the country's sustaining peace and peacebuilding efforts. In 2019, in support of UNDP led initiatives, the PDA facilitated the establishment of additional civil society networks engaged in local prevention and mediation efforts, and strengthened linkages between those actors and the Ministry of Solidarity. The country's peace committees are also part of this overall peace architecture at the local level, and include traditional chiefs. representatives of the local administration, women and youth groups, religious leaders and civil society. Working in collaboration with the Gender Advisor of the President, the PDA facilitated opportunities for women leaders in rural areas to benefit from training on mediation and conflict prevention. Several women leaders have reported an increased engagement with local authorities and traditional leaders, and are now more confident to offer support to resolve ongoing or emerging conflicts. The PDA also played a key role organizing and accompanying good offices visits of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for West Africa and the Sahel and Head of United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) to the country.



THE GAMBIA

The Gambia, which is undergoing a democratic transition, has embarked on a reform process that seeks to address the polarized state and society. In this context, the UN has been working with the national counterparts to set up a formal infrastructure for peace. The PDA team has been playing a key role in helping lay its foundation in close collaboration with the UNCT and the RC. The National Development Plan for 2018-2021 was informed by a compact signed by Cabinet Ministers following a collaborative Leadership and Dialogue retreat co-designed and facilitated by the PDA. The plan aspires towards "social cohesion and harmony prevailing among communities" and has been able to mobilize all actors around a common vision. The PDA team also helped organize a trip for representatives of the Government, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to study and draw lessons from Ghana's well-established infrastructure for peace. This study tour led to an expressed commitment to establish a country-specific and nationally led infrastructure for peace. The PDA also supported the establishment of a Women in Peacebuilding Network, comprised of women representatives from different sectors. As part of these efforts, the PDA facilitated discussions on the review of Gambia's National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and helped advocacy efforts for the

passage of a constitutional provision that would secure 30% of women's representation in political leadership and parliaments. A capacity-building training on peacebuilding and conflict resolution was also offered to the members of the Village Development Committees, as well as traditional, religious and women leaders. Through the training, participants enhanced their skills on conflict prevention and management. This activity was also a meaningful platform for participants to identify emerging issues in their respective regions and consider their contribution to conflict resolution. Through this support, the PDA team contributed to building a solid foundation for national ownership and sustainability of the peace infrastructure.

In **Nigeria**, a National Peace Policy and a broader peace infrastructure was developed over the years with the support of the PDA team. The Peace Policy encourages the development of institutional structures for conflict prevention and resolution, including the establishment of early warning and early response platforms and peace structures at the Federal and State levels. With the persistent Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province insurgency, coupled with new emerging challenges such as herder-farmer conflicts, sexual and gender-based violence and widespread banditry, such structures have proven critical to sustaining peace. These mechanisms were also critical in the context of the 2019 elections. At the State level, the Kaduna State Peace Commission and Plateau State Peace Agency have been operational since 2017 and 2018, respectively. The PDA team contributed to UN-led efforts, in partnership with the international development agencies of Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States of America to initiate a campaign for the establishment of similar structures in the volatile northern region. Securing the buy-in of the Northern Governors Forum, an important actor for stability in the region, was a key accomplishment which opened the door for consultations to establish formal peace structures in Adamawa, Benue, and Taraba States. In the context of the 2019 electoral process, the National Peace Committee, in partnership with the Independent National Election Commission, with UN support, played an instrumental role in contributing to peaceful elections. A landmark contribution was the facilitation of the signing of the 2019 Peace Accord by the leading Presidential Elections contenders, who pledged to ensure peaceful conduct of their supporters. As part of the UN support, the PDA provided technical support to the National Peace Committee Secretariat in the coordination of workshops and engagements on peaceful general elections in five flashpoint states, in partnership with United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and UNDP Country Office. The PDA also engaged civil society platforms for violence free elections contributing to the overall peaceful conduct of the elections. Furthermore, the established structures and networks as well as lessons learnt will serve as basis and strengthen the UN's support for the 2019-2023 electoral cycle.

Strengthening capacities and skills for sustaining peace

69%

of PDAs strengthened national capacities and skills for sustaining peace



PDAs are contributing to the following theory of change, identified as an objective of the Programme: "If national leaders and officials from both Government and civil society have improved skills in preventing and managing conflict, then the institutions and processes in which they participate are likely to be more effective in sustaining peace."

CAMBODIA

Under the leadership of the RC, the PDA in Cambodia has been supporting efforts to build national capacities, of both Government and civil society, for dialogue, mediation, and civil engagement. In 2019, the PDA played a critical role in facilitating an agreement between the UN and the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to strengthen the skillset and expertise of the Ministry's officials on conflict analysis, negotiation and dialogue approaches. Diplomats were targeted as they perform a critical role in shaping the country's international standing and engage in complex political and human rights processes in UN and other multilateral institutions. The initiative included a series of trainings and lectures designed and delivered by the PDA, such as a course on conflict analysis and reporting skills for 58 newly recruited diplomats, and capacity development for mid-level diplomats covering negotiation and dialogue skills. Finally, the PDA a facilitated session on negotiation practice for ten Cambodian Ambassadors. This engagement is strategic as it improves the ability of national counterparts to use evidencebased and analytical approaches for decision-making in the area of foreign policy. The courses managed by the PDA gained wide appreciation from the direct beneficiaries as well as the Ministry's senior officials. To promote a broader understanding of sustaining peace and promote more inclusive approaches to peacebuilding, the PDA also organized the first UN-civil society dialogue on sustaining peace. The event involved over 25 CSOs and 15 UN Agencies and contributed to a momentum for a deeper and structured engagement with civil society on issues such as peaceful dialogue and sustainable development. The dialogue was instrumental in initiating a new UNDP four-year project to promote CSO-Government dialogue also developed by the PDA.

ERITREA

For the past three years, the PDA team in **Eritrea** has been working closely with DPPA on a capacity-building initiative for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, focusing on young diplomats. The programme consists of intensive training courses on peace and security, conflict and situation analysis, multilateralism and on the role the UN. The courses also have a strong focus on international human rights instruments, diplomatic correspondence, communication, negotiation and mediation. By the end of 2019, 90 young diplomats were trained. It was also agreed to conduct iterative follow-up clinics to enable course participants to continue to deepen their understanding of the areas

covered through an action-reflection process, and to build knowledge in new areas. The capacity-building of diplomats has gained increased relevance as Eritrea entered a new phase of development and international engagement following the July 2018 peace agreement with Ethiopia. Besides enhancing the capacity of Eritrea's upcoming diplomats, the programme contributed to trust-building between the Ministry and the UN and serves as a reference for other areas of capacity-building support to Eritrea. This capacity-building process, resulting from a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DPPA and the RCO in Eritrea, also inspired a similar initiative led by the UN in Cambodia with the support of the PDA based in Phnom Penh.

Following elections in November 2017, the situation in Honduras remained fragile in 2018 and 2019, with continued social and political tensions. In this context, developing local capacities for conflict prevention and mediation was prioritized as means to create a favourable environment for dialogue and to reduce polarization in society. The PDA based in Guatemala worked with the UNCT in Honduras, in collaboration with the PDA in the country, to provide advisory and technical support in these efforts. This included, in particular, support to the capacitybuilding of the "mesas técnicas" of the Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH). Members of these forums, which include government officials and civil society representatives, received a diploma on conflict prevention and resolution. This was made possible by a partnership with the UN University for Peace in Costa Rica and a local university. In addition, 16 workshops on conflict prevention were carried out for 36 municipalities prioritized by CONADEH's for "Bienestar Solidario" programme with the participation of 434 beneficiaries, 53 per cent of which were women. Thanks to the support provided through the Peacebuilding Fund, the National Human Rights Commission and the Ministry on Human Rights, also strengthened their programmes on conflict prevention.

THAILAND

In **Thailand**, under the leadership of the RC, the PDA supported the strengthening of mediation capacities of national and sub-national stakeholders. For instance, a visit to the Philippines was organized for a cross-section of government representatives to study the Bangsamoro Peace Process and its architecture. The initiative was supported by both UNDP Country Offices in Thailand and the Philippines. In parallel, the PDA nurtured a group of 15 community leaders from the Southern Border Provinces (or Deep South) as insider mediators. This included organizing a parallel study trip to the Philippines which aimed to highlight the impact that an empowered and unified civil society can have in peace efforts. Both trips enhanced national capacities for conflict prevention in Thailand. By facilitating learning from another country in the region, it enhanced the confidence of the participants and their understanding of the more practical aspects of conflict prevention. As a result, several entry points were identified for further engagement with the Parliament community, religious and business leaders, as well as outreach at the community level, laying the ground for concrete prevention initiatives in the future.



Increasing inclusion of national stakeholders in peace efforts

of PDAs made an effort to enhance of PDAs made an the participation of women

69% of PDAs made an effort to enhance the participation of youth

GUYANA

In preparation for the general elections in Guyana, scheduled for March 2020, the PDA in Guyana engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, women and youth groups, to ensure their participation during the electoral period. The PDA also focused specifically on identifying avenues to mitigate the potential increase of gender-based violence during the electoral period. The multi-year Spotlight Initiative on Gender Based Violence was launched in 2019 and was identified as a springboard for bipartisan cooperation on an apolitical issue, with the potential to develop longer-term partnerships. The PDA collaborated with the Women and Gender Equality Commission of Guyana, helping to organize discussions on a wide variety of topics including the impact of the oil reserves on the elections. Additionally, the PDA also carried out a training on conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity for members of the Women and Gender Equality Commission and the Ethnic Relations Commission and a capacity-building exercise on consensus building for the Civil Society Forum. The PDA also advocated for a more proactive role for rights commissions in the electoral process, particularly the Ethnic Relations Commission. These efforts which benefitted from the support of DPPA culminated in early 2020, with the Commission successfully engaging all political parties to sign a code of conduct to counteract hate speech during campaigns. Identifying entry points with youth groups, the PDA helped to organize discussions with youth-led CSOs around the elections with the broader UNCT. This opened an opportunity for UNDP to initiate efforts to establish a forum for broader youth engagement.



PDAs are contributing to the following theory of change, that was identified as an objective of the Programme: "If a wide variety of people (based on the principle of inclusion), of all genders and from all groups and segments of society, are able to participate in and influence policy, processes and architectures around sustaining peace, these are more likely to address the diverse needs and interests of society and thus be more effective in sustaining peace."

LESOTHO

Lesotho has a long history of political instability and security concerns, which continued in 2019. In this context, the UN focused its efforts on enhancing local peace and mediation capacities, as well as supporting consensus building among political parties, and between the political and security elites. Faith leaders have traditionally played an important role in conflict prevention and management efforts in the country, particularly in times of escalating tensions. The PDA worked to further strengthen the capacities of religious leaders and principal chiefs in the areas of conflict prevention and transformation through various means, which in 2019 included two three-day training for the Heads of Churches, staff members of the Christian Council of Lesotho (CCL), members of parliament and senior traditional chiefs of whom 22 are members of the Senate. In partnership with

Youth unemployment and marginalization was identified as one of the root causes of the civil war in Sierra Leone. The post-war reconstruction paid little attention to youth, which became a concern due to the limited capacity of the State to respond to the needs of young women and men. Following a request of support from the Minister of Youth Affairs and under the overall leadership of the RC, the PDA, in collaboration with the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, led an UN-Government joint assessment of young people at risk to be engaged in cliques and gangs. The assessment analysed the potential threats to peace and stability and provided a series of recommendations for prevention and measures to improve trust in state institutions. The PDA worked with the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO) to provide technical support for the design of tools used in the assessment and with political guidance from DPPA. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) U-report, an SMS-based innovative tool that helped efficiently capture the views of about 9,000 young people, was used to gather additional information. Results of the field assessment and the U-Report were triangulated with previous research undertaken, as well as focus groups' discussions with key informants. The analysis helped the Government and the UNCT to better understand the patterns of recruitment and mobilization of young people into cliques and gangs, and identify opportunities for youth to contribute to peace and development in their communities. It also informed the design of a Joint Programme on Youth Empowerment and Participation, which is under review by the PBF. Results of the analysis were also shared with the European Union leading to discussions on ways to integrate youth at risk into the youth employment projects. The findings were presented by the Minister of Youth Affairs to the President, who increased the national budget dedicated to youth employment. The Minister of Youth also committed to champion the review of the Public Order Act 1965 which criminalises defamation and sedition, to propose alternative measures for the detention of young people for minor offences. This, frequently, brings youth into the cycle of violence of prisons that have become centres of recruitment of young people into gangs. The assessment has been a novel approach to jointly address specific peace and development questions in the country.

UNDP, an organizational profile assessment of CCL was conducted to identify the types of support the CCL requires to further carry out its conflict prevention and mediation work, particularly with political parties, as part of the national reforms process. The PDA collaborated with a number of organizations to support CCL in developing its strategic plan. This resulted in a plan with increased focus on mediation and dialogue in the national reforms process. The organizational profile assessment also informed a DPPA and UNDP project, developed and supported by the PDA, aimed at strengthening conflict prevention, party democracy and consensus building in Lesotho. This initiative, to be implemented in the next years (2020-2021), will provide capacity-building support to national stakeholders ahead of the 2022 national elections, including support to women electoral candidates.



MAURITANIA

Ahead of the June 2019 presidential election, the PDA in Mauritania, in support of the RC and the UNCT and in close collaboration with DPPA and UNOWAS, led sensitization efforts with women and youth representatives from different political parties on peaceful engagement in the electoral campaign. In partnership with the Network of Women Parliamentarians, the PDA and the RCO held a three-day workshop to discuss and develop an advocacy plan for women's rights and political participation which was hosted at the National Assembly. This initiative provided a platform for the network to reflect on their own engagement and explore ways to play a positive role in conflict prevention and national cohesion. In addition, the PDA provided advice and accompaniment to the network of young female ambassadors for peace which has been supporting social cohesion efforts within their communities during the presidential election. The group worked to sensitize communities on the risks of campaigning along ethnic lines, called for violence-free elections, and liaised with other civil society actors to promote national unity. Women's groups organized outreach activities in Nouakchott and other regions and established a watch room to monitor the process on election day. The June 2019 elections were peaceful, and the post-electoral contestations were contained due partly to the positive involvement of civil society groups including youth and women. Since then, youth and women groups increased their engagement in political and civic spaces, contributing to more civil society-led activities promoting inclusion and consensus building.

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Following the disputed 2016 presidential election, and its violent aftermath, a ceasefire agreement was signed in December 2017 between the Government and Ninja rebels in the Pool region of the **Republic of the Congo**. The agreement provided an entry point for the UN to support dialogue initiatives at the national and local level to help reduce tensions. This comprised support to the constitutionally mandated National Council for Dialogue, and local dialogue in the restive Pool region. These efforts are primarily supported through a PBF project implemented by UNDP, UNFPA and UNHCR which benefited from the technical advice of the PDA, in its design phase and implementation. By mid-2019, local dialogue and reconciliation committees were established in 15 territorial entities in the Pool region as well as the provincial capital of the Pool department. Efforts led

by the PDA ensured that at least 40% of participants in the dialogue platforms were women, and that at least one woman was included at the leadership level of each committee. The inclusion of women in these committees amplified women's voices at community and regional levels and contributed to more gender sensitive conflict resolution at the community level. In addition, the PDA provided technical support to the mapping of local actors in the Pool region, which helped prioritize youth beneficiaries for the limited resources of the PBF project. The local level dialogues have played an important role towards the sustainable stabilization of the Pool region and represents a milestone for the development of a national peace architecture.



Reinforcing collaboration with civil society

ETHIOPIA

The civil society proclamation of 2019 abolished severe legal restrictions for Ethiopian CSOs working on human rights and peacebuilding. Following the proclamation, civic space opened and the number of registered CSOs increased exponentially. However, capacities and coordination mechanisms within the civil society groups are still lacking. The operating context for Ethiopian civil society is challenging and increased coordination between national organizations and the UN remains critical in order to ensure greater inclusivity in policy-making and peacebuilding programming. In this context, UNDP has been actively promoting

partnership with civil society and the media, working within the framework of the Civic Engagement Policy, and supported Gender Analysis work involving women-focused CSO networks. The PDA, along with an international NGO, the Catholic Relief Service, and a national human rights network, the Consortium of Ethiopian Human Rights Organizations, formed a cross-sectoral working group on peacebuilding with the aim of improving informationsharing and collaboration between the UN and civil society. The group initiated a mapping of key UN and CSO peacebuilding engagements in Ethiopia, establishing a comprehensive overview of the engagement at the federal and regional levels. This further bolstered local level coordination, with workshops on best practices and capacity-building targeting those actors and geographical areas most in need of preventive action. The coordination initiative supports Ethiopian civil society at large by strengthening their capacity to support local communities through funding schemes and training.

In **Cameroon**, the interim PDA was able to rapidly support the UNCT on three distinct complex humanitarian crises in the country, which were fueled by violence and insecurity affecting the North West, South-West, East and Far North regions, and led to significant displacement of populations across the country. The PDA worked closely with the DPPA Peacebuilding Expert deployed in the country to support the eligibility process of the country to the Fund, which was approved by the Secretary-General in August. The PDA focused particularly on the articulation of a project aiming to strengthen community and political dialogues. In this context, the PDA also helped establish a civil society platform for local leaders to engage in peacebuilding efforts, including youth, women, traditional and religious leaders. The platform also aimed to provide a space for constructive and meaningful participation of civil society in peacebuilding initiatives. It was found to have helped strengthen the advocacy potential of its members while ensuring synergies around tangible collective outcomes.





SOUTH CAUCASUS

The PDA team in the **South Caucasus**, composed of an international PDA and the three national PDAs based in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, continued to work on an initiative for creating space for civil society to meet and discuss common challenges and objectives. Three regional roundtable discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals were organized in 2019, involving over 100 participants, and served as a platform for trust building and knowledge exchange. Participants covered topics related to women, smart solutions in agriculture, the media, and SDGs. In parallel, the PDA Team also developed working relations with key civil society partners and effectively engaged them in advancing the United Nations normative framework on youth and women, peace and security.

Supporting initiatives for mediation and peaceful society

Supporting mediation and dialogue

79%

of PDAs supported preventive diplomacy, good offices, mediation and dialogue efforts



PDAs are contributing to the following theory of change, that was identified as an objective of the programme: "If countrylevel, regional, or internationally supported initiatives in support of conflict prevention are well designed and well managed, and if they are able to draw on robust analysis, comparative expertise and best practices, they are likely to yield more effective results for sustaining peace."

Through the Lesotho National Dialogue and Stabilization Project, the UN in Lesotho with the financial support of the PBF, supported a series of dialogues that included broad district level, sectoral and diaspora consultations. The national dialogue was intended to provide space where the citizens of Lesotho could discuss the various challenges faced by the country, including peace and security, and propose recommendations for the national reform process. The dialogue phase of this process was supported by the UN and completed in November 2019, with close involvement of the PDA. The dialogue provided a space for inclusive consultations involving all sectors of society, including the Government and its various institutions, political parties, civil society, women and youth, as well as farmers, people with disability, and the Basotho diaspora in South Africa. The PDA advocated for stronger engagement of women and youth in the reform process, and organized specific for for these groups during district, sectoral and diaspora consultations. The dialogue process led to the establishment of a National Reforms Authority which is composed of diverse segments of society and has the mandate to implement the reform recommendations issued from the dialogue. The PDA contributed to the formulation of the regulations governing the operationalization of this body. This inclusive dialogue and reforms processes have provided a critical platform for ensuring peace and stability in Lesotho.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The successful holding of the referendum on the political future of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea (PNG) in 2019, marked a significant milestone in the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement. Given the non-binding nature of the Bougainville referendum, the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Governments are required to undertake a process of consultation with final decision-making authority resting with the National Parliament. In this context, the two Governments requested the UN's continued support to the peace process, including to the post-referendum consultations which are expected to begin following the 2020 Bougainville general elections. The PDA collaborated with the UN Liaison Officer for Bougainville, UNDP and DPPA in the preparations of the post-referendum discussions between the two Governments, including the establishment of an interim joint secretariat. In addition to Bougainville, the UN is engaged in peacebuilding efforts in the PNG Highlands where violence has been impeding development progress and humanitarian activities. The PDA helped organize, with seed funding from the Joint Programme, and in partnership with UNDP, the Komo Peace Conference in the Highlands Region. The Komo Peace Conference was the first conference of its kind to bring together local leaders and community representatives from Komo Rural area, as well as representatives from the private sector, development partners, civil society groups, and faith-based organizations. Over the two-day dialogue, participants

articulated the causes and effects of local conflicts in Komo and identified ways for communities to contribute to peace and development. As a result, local leaders and community representatives signed the Komo Commitment and will act as advocates for peace in their communities. This is a milestone for community ownership of the peace process, which will help create a more conducive environment for further development interventions by the PNG Government, the UN and other partners under the Highlands Joint Programme. Women and youth were represented in the Komo Peace Conference and will play key roles in the Programme to create peaceful and enabling conditions to support the achievement of the SDGs in the Highlands Region.



UKRAINE

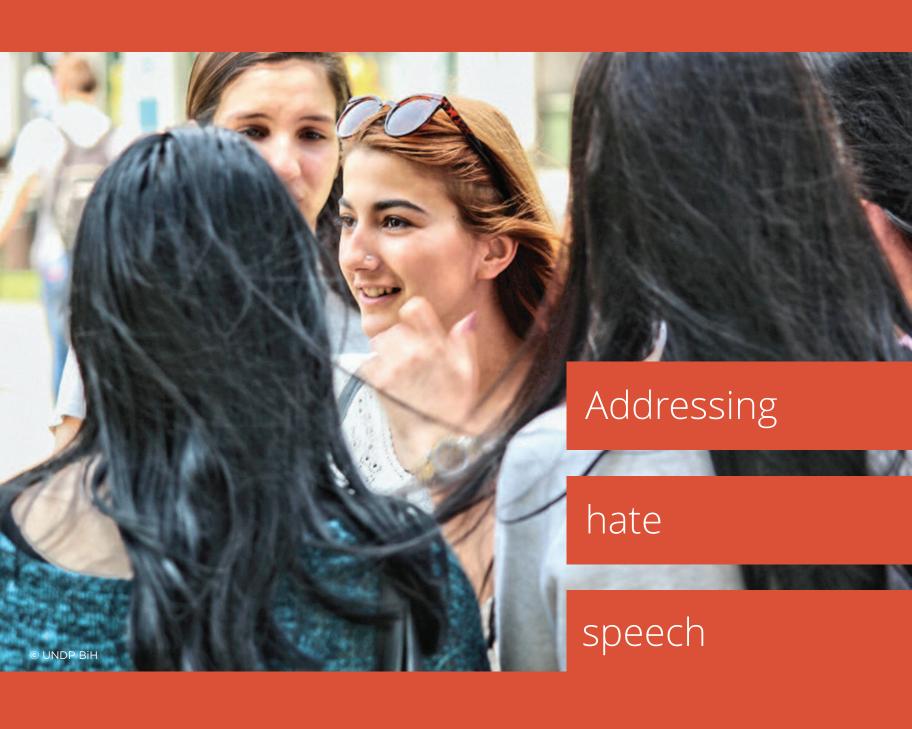
In support of the RC and the UNCT in Ukraine, the PDA team continued to support the Donbas Dialogue, which remains a unique channel of dialogue between communities living on different sides of the conflict divide. Since the beginning of the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine in 2014, the Donbass Dialogue Platform has gradually expanded and engaged more communities in both the Donetsk and Lugansk regions. Eight Dialogue Marathons have been organized in the past five years, including two in 2019. Importantly, the number of women participating in the dialogue events has increased from 40% in 2015 to 50% in 2019. The innovative Donbas Dialogue crowdsourcing methodology engages hundreds of people on both sides of the conflict in identifying and discussing issues at the heart of the conflict and how these can be overcome to build sustainable peace. This initiative, focused on people-to-people connectivity, provides a critical foundation for reconciliation and a lasting peace once there is a political solution. They also provide the UN system with bottom-up evidence-based insights that complement other

qualitative data, such as the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE). The third SCORE wave was also conducted in 2019, capturing the views of over 10,000 people living in eastern Ukraine. The SCORE data provides solid evidence for developing policies and programmes that strengthen national unity and social cohesion, particularly in eastern Ukraine, as well as for monitoring progress of their implementation. The SCORE findings informed and guided a range of evidence-based development interventions under the joint UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme, formulated and led by UNDP in the conflict-affected regions of Ukraine. The Programme promoted trust and social cohesion through targeted local governance, economic recovery and community security projects.

SRI LANKA

Under the leadership of the RC, the UN Country Team in **Sri Lanka**, with the support of the Peace and Development team, worked with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce to set up an innovative initiative to build the capacities of business leaders in mediation and conflict resolution. Ethnographic and religious tensions in the country have evolved towards trade tensions and often escalated in community riots and the targeting of ethnic businesses. The risk analysis carried out by the team in 2018 identified the potential role of the private sector as a peace champion in localized conflicts. The private sector, represented by the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, is a new actor in conflict prevention and in peacebuilding processes in Sri Lanka. Special efforts were made to facilitate the engagement of women business leaders which resulted in 40% women's participation in the trainings. The pilot intervention has led to more sustained engagement with the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce and resulted to the first attendance of private sector representatives at the UN Peacebuilding Commission session on Sri Lanka. It also led to increased use of proactive measures by the private sector to ease ethno-religious tensions, including through private sector-led community dialogues.





In 2019, the Secretary-General launched the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech which aims to coordinate efforts across the UN system to get at the root causes of hate speech and effectively respond to its impact on societies. While hate speech is not a new phenomenon, the increased use of digital communications and social media to incite hatred, discrimination, and violence, has brought the issue to the forefront of prevention efforts. PDAs are playing an increasingly important role supporting UNCT to develop effective responses to the root causes and drivers of hate speech.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the PDA team provided advice to the Resident Coordinator and participating UN entities on the regional PBF initiative entitled Dialogue for the Future. The project was implemented in BiH, Montenegro and Serbia by UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF. The initiative involves a wide cross-section of national actors and seeks to provide a formal space for interaction between civil society, citizens and government partners to jointly identify, promote and implement dialogue and trust-building activities with the goal of limiting the use of hate speech. In collaboration with DPPA, the PDA team provided the needed political analysis and advice to help key stakeholders navigate the sensitive political environments, and reach a joint commitment around the initiatives' objectives. The team organized a media and outreach campaign called "Choose Your Words." The campaign involved BiH's most popular hip-hop band, who, through compelling lyrics and an accompanying video, urged both the country's and the region's youth to adopt constructive and empathetic ways of interacting with others. The PDA worked closely with various stakeholders to identify and provide more support to local champions engaged in efforts to bring divided communities closer together. In 2019, these efforts included a joint high-level field visit by the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the local Head of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission in BiH. The visits helped put the spotlight on positive efforts led by citizens, collaborating across nationality lines, supporting the Dayton Peace Agreement and calling on the country's leaders and media organizations to promote mutual respect, dignity and empathy for all citizens and residents.

MYANMAR

In **Myanmar**, social media has been used to spread hate messages denigrating the Rohingya community, fueling tensions amid widespread violence in Rakhine State and contributing to many members of the Rohingya Muslim minority fleeing to Bangladesh. Ahead of the 2020 general elections, concerns were raised that social media could be utilized to stoke identity-based tensions and tilt voters towards certain parties and candidates. The PDA team in Myanmar worked UNESCO and UNDP to develop initiatives aimed at mitigating the risk of hate speech during the electoral campaign. This initiative, which will formally get underway in 2020, carried out important preparatory groundwork, including engagement with the Ministry of Information and the Union Electoral Commission. The PDA also established a collaboration with Facebook and set up an in-house UN network, involving the Office of the Resident Coordinator, DSS and UNDP, to monitor social media for hate speech and related political trends.

SRI LANKA

In support of the work of the RC and the UNCT, the PDA team in **Sri Lanka** established a mechanism to monitor and analyze online hate speech in the country. The system, which is applicable in local languages, enables monitoring trends in real time and tracking the volume and intensity of discussions around issues that can lead to increased online hate speech. The approach proved to be particularly valuable in the aftermath of the Easter Sunday terrorist attacks. The analysis of the PDA team was regularly shared with the UNCT, broadening the sources of information for risk analysis, and contributing to conflict-sensitive programming and strategies. The analysis informed the UN engagement with social media platforms to discuss strategies for curbing the spread of hate speech online. The UN, with the support of the PDA team, also provided technical advice and seed funding for enhancing CSOs engagement in this area. Mainstreaming this approach through CSOs helped to improve national capacities for hate speech monitoring and reporting, and informed more systemic CSO advocacy with social media platforms.

THE GAMBIA

In the fragile transitional context of **The Gambia**, the PDA team played a key role in supporting an inclusive Conflict and Development Analysis which was conducted by the Gambian Government, the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) and the UN in 2018, and updated in 2019. The extensive analysis, complemented by regular PDA analytical reports, flagged hate speech, divisive political rhetoric, and abuse of social media, as carrying the potential to destabilize the country, if unaddressed. With funding from the DPPA/PBSO PBF, the UNCT established projects on transitional justice and social cohesion that, among other things, aimed at addressing tensions and drivers of conflict, including hate speech. In addition, the PDA team supported conflict-sensitive reporting training for the national media in collaboration with The Gambia Press Union, allowing them to begin to operationalize the Media Council of The Gambia. The PDA, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), facilitated UNCT efforts to develop a country action plan on preventing and countering hate speech. Awareness-raising activities were organized, targeting communities through media and public outreach, to promote inter-communal harmony and highlight the negative impacts of inflammatory language, stigma and hate speech. This was complemented by preventive diplomacy efforts and good offices by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for West Africa and the Sahel and Head of UNOWAS, and the Resident Coordinator, engaging national and political leaders in an effort to reduce tensions and encourage dialogue.



MALDIVES

Following the 2018 Presidential elections, the newly elected Government of Maldives identified as a priority the creation of a safe, secure and inclusive society and the need to engage on the prevention of violent extremism, as highlighted in the national Strategic Action Plan for 2019 - 2023. The PDA team in Maldives played a central role in the efforts led by the UNCT and the Government in the prevention of violent extremism (PVE). The team established a UN Reference Group sharing strategic information across UN entities and contributing to a more coordinated and informed engagement of the UN system in Maldives. For instance, the analysis of the implication of the legislative changes introduced in Counter Terrorism Act helped inform the programmatic engagements of the UNCT. Conversations between the UN and the Government, embassies, civil society, as well as the families of returning fighters were also facilitated with the support of the PDA team. This helped build greater awareness of the root causes of violent extremism in the country and initiate a discussion on entry points to address them. The team also supported research efforts, including related to vouth vulnerabilities to radicalization, and advised on the development of the National Action Plan for countering violent extremism led by the National Counter Terrorism Centre. The PDA team collaborated with the UN Counter-Terrorism Office to facilitate the training of vocational education institutes' members to identify early warning signs of radicalization and youth recruitment, thus helping young people to acquire entrepreneurial skills, improving their access to jobs and building their resilience against violent extremist propaganda.

TAJIKISTAN

In **Tajikistan** the PDA took on the role of supporting the national and UN efforts to prevent and address cross-border conflicts. The in-depth analysis and regular monitoring carried out by the PDA contributed to the increased conflict-sensitivity of an existing PBF cross-border initiative, and led to refocusing the project activities to better promote peaceful cooperation of communities in border areas. Moreover, the PDA spearheaded a peacebuilding programme on PVE in collaboration with three agencies - UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women. The PBF initiative was designed to increase the resilience of young people to radical narratives by building their confidence, skills and competencies, to help enable

them to participate in decision-making and enhance their chances with socio-economic opportunities. The PDA promoted greater civil society engagement in UN peacebuilding initiatives by, including by organizing a forum to build CSO capacities to analyse and discuss development risks in the country. The PDA advised on gender mainstreaming in the cross-border and PVE programmes, including by designing activities tailored for women's empowerment, and promoted innovative development solutions. This focused particularly on volunteerism and youth-led programming, to give young people agency to speak and carry out activities at the local level. The PDA also acted as UN liaison with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan, providing support and accompaniment to government partners in the organization of a high-level conference aimed to strengthen the efforts of the international community to promote regional cooperation and identify effective practices to prevent and disrupt terrorist financing.

Supporting peaceful elections

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Ahead of the October 2020 presidential election in **Côte d'Ivoire**, and following a request from the Government, a DPPA electoral Needs Assessment Mission took place in November 2019. The mission recommended political support, including through good offices and preventive diplomacy, to be undertaken by the SRSG for West Africa and the Sahel and the Resident Coordinator's Office, as well as technical and operational support through UNDP and other UNCT members. In this context, the PDA supported the operationalization of two key coordination mechanisms aimed at increasing confidence between stakeholders and promoting a peaceful, credible and inclusive election. First, an informal coordination mechanism was established among the members of the international community to align messages on key issues to the Government, opposition, civil society and other relevant actors. Second, an Electoral

Assistance Project was established with a view to provide technical support to the Independent Electoral Commission and address contentious issues in the pre-electoral context. The PDA actively supported the extended steering committee of the project consisting of government representatives, the Electoral Commission, RC, international community; and contributed to efforts aiming at fostering dialogue among a multitude of stakeholders. The PDA supported youth engagement in the dialogue and the electoral process. The support included facilitating funding provisions to select youth organizations for prevention activities ahead of the elections. The PDA partnered with the regional civil society organization, "Forum de la Société Civile de l'Afrique de l'Ouest" which received seed funding from the UN Democracy Fund to support youth political participation and their inclusion among political parties. In addition, the PDA established a platform with a group of civil society partners focusing on youth issues. This engagement led to an increased percentage of youth enrolled in the 2020 electoral list from initially 2-3% to 6-7%. Youth groups and associations also became more involved in electoral observation activities.

In **Ethiopia**, the PDA team worked with UNDP to support the UNCT in developing scenarios and political responses ahead of the Sidama statehood referendum. The PDA team supported a consultative process with key UN agencies to produce a joint conflict analysis which included possible scenarios and identified triggers for violence, during the referendum, and ahead of the general elections. The PDA also closely engaged with national stakeholders, holding discussions with the Prime Minister's Office, political parties, opinion makers, think tanks, academics among others. Several missions were also undertaken to Sidama and Wolitya to meet with youth groups, political parties, and traditional leaders, to inform the development of a preparedness plan and a UN strategy for conflict prevention, in close collaboration with DPPA. These consultations ensured more solid political analysis as well as the integration of a broader set of perspectives. The PDA team has also been closely engaging with OCHA on election preparedness, ensuring inter-agency collaboration along the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus to better plan for disruptions and preventing violence. This led to a development of a series of scenarios and preparedness plans at the national level, hotspot mapping of areas most at risk, and increased anticipatory actions and coordination in the field. The Sidama referendum ultimately passed peacefully with the zone voting for regional statehood.

GUATEMALA

In the context of the 2019 general elections in **Guatemala**, an increase in the polarization and the politization of national development priorities was expected, entailing risks of political and social tensions in the country. In preparation for the elections, the PDA, in collaboration with UNDP and DPPA, worked with the Electoral Violence Prevention and Mitigation Working Group of the Guatemalan Supreme Electoral Tribunal to elaborate prospective electoral scenarios, identify mitigation measures and develop a system for monitoring the evolution of the scenarios. These efforts were informed by cross-cutting sources which included members of the Working Group itself, senior electoral experts of Mirador Electoral (a civil society electoral observation platform), public opinion polls and youth electoral observers deployed in different parts of the country by Mirador Electoral. The monitoring system established a basis for a possible future early warning

MALAWI

Ahead of the 2019 general elections in Malawi, under the leadership of the RC, the PDA supported the engagement of various national stakeholders in conflict prevention and mediation efforts, including the Government, political parties, civil society, women, and youth. The PDA provided technical advice to the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) for the training of 30 insider mediators and 28 'women in faith' mediators. Six of the trained mediators led the post-election dialogue and mediation processes. The PDA also developed and coordinated a project that supported the PAC in training and deploying 140 youth volunteers as part of the early warning and early response mechanism for election-related violence. The project established a mobile-based data collection and reporting system that enabled the volunteers to report violence and conflict incidences in real-time. The data and reports generated from the system informed conflict prevention and mediation efforts by the PAC, the Malawi Electoral Commission and, other electoral stakeholders such as the Center for Multiparty Democracy. The analysis generated from the volunteers also informed local-level conflict and dispute resolution work led by the District Peace Committees, the Multiparty Liaison Committees and, the constituency level political party dialogue facilitated by the Centre for Multiparty Democracy. The reports and analysis also fed into the prevention platform of the UNCT, which was established to support UN engagements with the Government, political actors, and civil society. The implementation of these initiatives ensured that election-related and other social tensions and disputes could be mediated and resolved by the PAC, the Malawi Electoral Commission, the Centre for Multiparty Democracy, and the District Peace Committee before they deteriorated. This work greatly contributed to reducing the number and level of violent incidences recorded.

system for the prevention of electoral violence. The work of the Working Group contributed to a significant reduction in local electoral conflict. At the national level, several popular candidates were disqualified from running, which affected voter turnout, while a narrative around electoral fraud also fed into a tense political climate during the second electoral round. In this context, the PDA was part of a team that provided strategic advice to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, which helped strengthen the credibility of the results of the second-round of the presidential election.

NIGER

Ahead of the 2020 general elections in **Niger**, which were expected to lead to the first transfer of power from an elected president to another elected President, the PDA provided technical and political analysis including on electoral violence prevention. The PDA supported good offices efforts led by the UN, the European Union, the United States and France towards a broader political dialogue in Niger. In addition, the PDA through a PBF-funded project, also helped revive a network of civil society actors engaged on governance and peace issues, involving women and youth, in an effort for elections-related violence prevention.



In 2019, the PDA in Togo supported efforts to strengthen national reconciliation and dialogue in the country, particularly by promoting more inclusive and peacebuilding-oriented approaches in the context of elections. Past electoral cycles in the country have been marred by violence. Ahead of the local and municipal elections in June 2019, the PDA contributed to the design and the facilitation of pre-electoral training for women candidates, an initiative led by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry in charge of gender and women. Of the 219 women that benefited from the training in electoral campaign technique, 189 were elected councillors, twelve elected mayors, and 13 were elected deputy-mayors. Through the PBF funded programme for conflict prevention, the PDA made substantive contribution to the training of over 1.500 members of the security forces (including 183 women) in nonviolent crowd management techniques which adhere to human rights principles. This contributed to reducing the

risks for violent clashes during the local elections. In addition, the PDA provided technical support to the development of a UNDP-led initiative to establish community dialogue platforms in three municipalities. These platforms include government and civil society representatives, as well as the international NGO, Catholic Relief Services, which was tasked with the provision of training modules for the communities. These spaces for dialogue have mobilized local authorities and citizens, in particular women and young people, in an inclusive dialogue on living together, and strengthened collaboration on local development projects. The training empowered youth leaders to identify and address their grievances in an open and peaceful manner as well as find ways to resolve conflict in a sustainable way.

Supporting conflict prevention through preventive diplomacy

LIBERIA

The PDA in Liberia supported both the Resident Coordinator in UN-led political facilitation efforts, and SRSG for West Africa and the Sahel in good offices to mitigate potential conflicts in the country. Such assistance was provided in diverse ways, including when the Resident Coordinator facilitated a meeting between Government security actors and protest organizers, which ultimately led to an agreement on the practical details needed for protests to be peaceful. On the day of the protest, the arrangements were carried out as agreed and no single violent incident was reported. In addition, following reports that the President and the Vice President were having a disagreement, the PDA supported the Resident Coordinator and UNOWAS to work with ECOWAS and African Union Ambassadors to utilize good offices to mitigate the situation. The disagreement between the two offices was not only impacting the good functioning of Government institutions, but also support to several activities. The President and Vice President were engaged to settle the rift, and through constructive dialogue and bridge-building efforts, the estrangement was reduced. Concerted efforts were also deployed to engage and counsel their supporters to also secure their buy-in for peaceful resolution. The PDA was entrusted with shuttle diplomacy between the President and Vice President which produced an unofficial agreement on delegated areas of responsibilities.

SIERRA LEONE

Under the leadership of the RC, the PDA in **Sierra Leone** provided critical support to efforts for political dialogue. The PDA maintained an extensive network of contacts among civil society, religious leaders, representatives of political parties and independent institutions, which proved to be useful in support of the good offices led by the SRSG for West Africa and the Sahel, and supported by the Resident Coordinator, together with UNOWAS and the ECOWAS. The efforts of the good offices were successful and contributed to the de-escalation of frictions between political parties and the re-establishment of the relationships between the current and previous Presidents. The PDA continued to provide support to the Resident Coordinator for the coordination of consultations with political parties, the Chair of the Political Parties Registration Commission, development partners and ECOWAS Ambassadors. This included maintaining constant liaison with political leaders, preparing analysis on

specific issues and organizing agenda for dialogue sessions with political parties. Behavior changes of political leaders were observed several occasions. on The representatives of the political parties acknowledged that the dialogue with the international community helped them analyse issues from a different perspective and decrease the confrontational rhetoric. An important result achieved, which benefited from the PDA's accompaniment, was the reconstitution of the All Political Parties Association, that managed to hold their convention and to elect a new leadership, which now represents both governing and opposition parties. In December 2019, the parties also signed a political declaration and committed to sustain peace in the country.

As the conflict continued in **Yemen**, the PDA supported the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator and the UNCT through regular political and conflict analysis, situational updates, as well as strategic briefings. These focused particularly on the South of the country where the information gap was the strongest and where the conflict dynamics and key actors differ from the North. The PDA set up a conflict analysis group comprised of UN and non-UN experts, including political and security experts, to facilitate information-sharing and analysis of key developments. The group met monthly and on an ad hoc basis. The analysis informed UNCT positioning on critical issues and decision-making, enhanced conflict sensitivity of UN programming, and highlighted the need for development-oriented programmes with a focus on peacebuilding. To ensure the gender-sensitivity and responsiveness of the analyses, the PDA regularly engaged UN Women representatives and women leaders on key developments. The PDA worked closely with the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen, serving as a bridge between the political pillar and the rest of the UN system in country. The PDA also fostered greater engagement with diverse Yemeni political and community leaders, opinion formers, representatives of diverse groups and interests, and those traditionally excluded from political processes, to seek to promote a more inclusive peace process and foster multi-stakeholder dialogue and analysis. Moving forward, emphasis is on engaging more women in the peace process with the 'Yemeni Women's Pact' aimed at supporting female leaders with advocacy, mediation and negotiation skills and developing a platform for the voices of these women to be heard and to support North-South dialogue.



BANGLADESH AND MYANMAR

Working in a challenging humanitarian, peace and development context, the PDA teams in Bangladesh and in Myanmar took a leading role in strengthening UN cross-pillar collaboration and cross-border engagement between the two UNCTs. The PDA teams in Myanmar and Bangladesh led efforts to maintain a dynamic and constructive collaboration on the Rohingya crisis - with frequent information exchanges and joint UNCT meetings in Thailand. The UNCT Bangladesh and in Myanmar, with the support of their respective PDA teams, conducted the second joint scenario building (conflict analysis) exercise. Using a shared framework, the teams assessed likely and possible developments over the upcoming 6 to 18 months. The shared analysis was used as the basis of a joint meeting of both UNCTs convened in Bangkok in October 2019 by the two Resident Coordinators. Regional Directors and the Office of the Special Envoy for Myanmar also participated. Following the meeting, several video conferences were organized over a period of ten months between Yangon and Dhaka, and the first ever faceto-face meeting between the two UNCTs in Bangkok in December 2018. It is expected that the third round of this initiative will occur in 2020. This cross-border collaboration contributes to a mutually informed and coordinated UN response. and has allowed the leadership of both UNCTs to anticipate with greater precision how the crisis will evolve on both sides of the border. It also contributed to enhancing early warning capacities to identify situations which could lead to cross-border population flows in either direction. Heightened border tensions between security forces or other potentially destabilizing situations were quickly identified and analyzed by the PDAs and shared with respective leadership. The PDA team in Myanmar also contributed to broader efforts by the UN in strengthening support to regional efforts, including by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), on Rakhine State related issues.

BENIN, BURKINA FASO, AND TOGO

In 2019, a collaboration between the PDAs in **Benin**, **Burkina Faso** and **Togo** led to the design and coordination of a cross-border initiative, financed by the PBF, aiming to improve the resilience of the populations in the cross-border areas. An innovative and integrated approach was adopted to develop the first joint cross-border initiative in the subregion to respond to a common threat to the countries concerned, namely the rise of inter-community conflicts, including those linked to violent extremism. The PDAs in the three countries played a central role during the joint field assessment mission in the target areas of intervention. Based on the findings, the PDAs were able to identify key recommendations and priorities which informed the design of the initiative. The cross-border Programme was subsequently submitted and approved by the Peacebuilding Fund and set for implementation in 2020. The project aims to contribute, through a cross-border approach, to the creation of an environment where women and youth are better protected and sufficiently involved in local dialogue mechanisms while enjoying viable economic opportunities. Finally, the Programme aims to promote endogenous solutions to the peacebuilding challenges in the area.

CAMEROON, CHAD, NIGER AND NIGERIA



The Peace and Development teams in **Cameroon**, **Chad**, **Niger** and **Nigeria** supported the African Union and the Lake Chad Basin Commission in developing the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of Boko Haram-affected Areas in the Lake Chad Basin Region. With the strategy in place, the four countries have a strategic framework for tackling the regional dimensions of the Lake Chad Basin crisis. It also establishes a platform that promotes closer collaboration and coordination among the

PDAs, UN Office to the African Union (UNOAU), UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), UNOWAS and UN Country Teams in the four countries, especially in organizing the Lake Chad Governors' Forums. Governors of the eight regions of the Lake Chad Basin are now committed to cross-border cooperation and implementing concrete action for stabilization, recovery and resilience of the region. Their regular exchanges, including through platforms such as the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Boko Haram, have immensely contributed to enhancing the analysis on the trajectory of the crisis and to the advancement of peace and development in the sub-region.

KENYA AND UGANDA

In 2019, both the Governments of **Kenya** and **Uganda** signed a Memorandum of Understanding to promote cross-border peace and socio-economic transformation in the Karamoja Cluster. The Karamoja border area is shared by the two countries and has been a major arena for a variety of



conflicts, mainly due to natural resource scarcity exacerbated by climate change. The ease of availability of illicit small arms and light weapons and the accompanying bandit economy has contributed to the conflicts taking an extremely deadly form. At times, these conflicts have been linked to wider crossborder and regional conflicts. UNDP seed funding enabled the Country Teams in Uganda and Kenya to kick-start the formulation of a cross-border programme to support the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, and also facilitated consultations on the memorandum both at the national and subnational levels. The PDA in Uganda worked with UNDP and Government counterparts to develop the programme document, supported coordination between the two UNCTs and Governments, and engaged in outreach and resource mobilization efforts with various development partners. As part of this process, the PDA worked very closely with the UNDP Team Leader for Peace Security and Systems' Resilience, who acted as the technical lead providing technical and advisory support to both the Government of Uganda and the UNCT. The Joint Karamoja Cross-border Peace and Development Programme signing was witnessed by the Presidents of Kenya and Uganda in September 2019. When implemented, the initiative will respond to the infrastructural needs such as construction of dams, common social services such as bridges and roads, and establishing early warning and response capacities to enable the communities to deal with grievances without resorting to violence.



CAMBODIA

The PDA in Cambodia worked with UNDP to set up an initiative promoting new and alternative media experiences to improve the relationship between the media and national authorities, as well as enhancing civil engagement in this process. This project aims to strengthen resilience of media and expand freedom of expression. Five media start-ups working on issues of public interest, all led by women, were selected through a competitive process. They received seed funding and have undergone a six-month acceleration and mentoring programme implemented by a Cambodian incubator and a regional media firm. The PDA and UNDP also mobilized the start-ups to work with social media influencers to address mis/disinformation. By early 2020, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, a series of social media campaigns, targeting young Cambodians, were rapidly implemented to promote social cohesion and solidarity. With UNDP, the PDA also supported the organization of a series of public events called "Cambodia Media Lab" that have so far gathered more than 200 media entrepreneurs, experts and press freedom champions from the region. With the aim to motivate and empower new voices in media, these events provided a space for open dialogue on media entrepreneurship, digital security, civic engagement and institutional resilience within the media. As a result of these engagements, the project has managed to contribute to an active media community of young Cambodian women and men. "I gained additional knowledge on how to do business and build innovative products that will help my media company run effectively and productively" noted a representative of one of the winning start-ups.



SERVING THE
UN SYSTEM TO
LEVERAGE ENTRY
POINTS AND
PARTNERSHIPS FOR
SUSTAINING PEACE

3 SERVING THE UN SYSTEM TO LEVERAGE ENTRY POINTS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINING PEACE

Peace and Development Advisors support UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators to collectively identify entry points for conflict prevention and offer strategic guidance to the implementation of peacebuilding initiatives with national counterparts. The role of PDAs is to ensure UNCTs have strategies and programmes that are increasingly conflict-sensitive and are engaged in wider partnerships on sustaining peace. Working with a broad range of UN entities at the country level. this engagement often takes different forms depending on the context of deployment, ranging from developing early warning and early response mechanisms, to mainstreaming conflict sensitivity into programming, promoting the SDGs, and providing trainings in these key areas to UNCT staff and national partners. The analysis and technical advice provided by PDAs contributes to joint analysis and planning processes. PDAs support the UN system in connecting analysis to innovative conflict prevention strategies and programmes that contribute to strengthening national prevention capacities. In multiple countries, these efforts led to the development of much larger interventions, and in some cases, to initiatives involving several UNCT members on collaborative action on conflict prevention in consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders.

In 2019, 100%

of PDAs supported the developement or update of the Common Country Analysis when it was ongoing in their country of deployment

Informing UN engagements by high-quality analysis

Informing UN engagement by quality political and joint conflict analysis

74%

of DPPA-DPO desk officers rated the quality of PDA reporting good or very good in 2019

JORDAN

In Jordan, the PDA helped increase the understanding of socio-economic trends in the country, and contributed to a number of key analytical, planning and coordination mechanisms. Building on the UN's Regional Monthly Review and Inter-Agency Task Force processes which began early 2019, the PDA provided regular analysis and monitoring of issues relevant to Jordan to help inform the UN's support to the country. In this context, small consultations with think tanks and CSOs were organized to assess the country's resilience to absorb shocks. The

Throughout 2019, **Honduras** faced massive protests related to Government proposals to reform the public health and education sectors, which required a coordinated UN response. The PDA proved to be a critical asset to the Resident Coordinator's Office and UN Country Team through the provision of regular political and conflict analysis, particularly in moments of heightened political tensions. The PDA analytical products also contributed to UN Headquarters and Regional Offices' inter-agency discussions at the most senior level, including the Secretary-General's Executive Committee and Regional Monthly Reviews chaired by DPPA and UNDP, and also informed the eligibility request of Honduras to the PBF. At the country level, the PDA engaged in existing coordination mechanisms. providing analytical support to the Humanitarian Group led by UNHCR, as well as to the National Reference Group of the Spotlight Initiative on the Prevention of Violence against Women. The analyses provided by the PDA served as an input to these mechanisms to help tailor programmatic responses to the context.

findings were presented to the UNCT, and integrated into a series of discussions on programming. The various processes resulted in set of recommendations and priorities for the following year in line with the UN's Cooperation Framework. The PDA also worked with the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) and provided analysis relevant to Jordan. The PDA provided continuous accompaniment of UNCT members to integrate conflict sensitivity elements in programming and led a conflict development analysis methodology training. The PDA's support on analysis had a strong gender focus and outlined issues level of education and mobility, access to labor market, disaggregated by gender, age, groups, and geographical locations.

VENEZUELA

Throughout 2019, the crisis in Venezuela was marked by deepened political polarization and had significant impact on humanitarian conditions and human rights. The scenario analysis and stakeholder mapping developed by the PDA provided the conceptual and methodological framework to inform the UNCT action in the country. The PDA's analysis drew on innovative applications of social media analytics and other datadriven research tools, and included a gender-based lens. The support provided by the PDA contributed to more evidence-based and risk-informed strategic and programmatic decisions, in the context of an expanding UN presence; and in particular with regard to the humanitarian response and the human rights agenda. The support of UNDP's Crisis Risk Dashboard - a global innovative data aggregation and visualization tool to assess contextual risks in a multidimensional fashion was a key tool to support these efforts. In 2019, the PDA contributed to the broadening of UN engagement with national stakeholders from across the political spectrum, civil society organizations, as well as with international stakeholders.

94%

of the Joint Programme countries conducted or updated a peace and conflict analysis between 2017 and either at UNCT-wide, UNCT member, or Programme level.

SUDAN

Sudan experienced a profound transformation in 2019, including the downfall of President Omar al-Bashir following a revolution that commenced in December 2018. During that critical time, the Transitional Military Council and the Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC) were negotiating a political compromise for power sharing during a 39-month transitional period and the formation of a new Transitional Government. In this context, the

support provided by the PDA team was instrumental in informing the engagement of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, and the wider UN system with the key national stakeholders, as well as in keeping the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Sudan and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, informed of the rapidly changing developments. Their engagement took the form of political updates, advice on conflict-sensitive approaches, as well as development of policy options for programming in collaboration with the UNCT. The PDA also supported the Resident Coordinator in outreach efforts with both the Transitional Military Council and Forces for Freedom and Change, other political actors, as well as with the diplomatic and international community in Khartoum. In early 2019, the PDA team initiated the review of the country context analysis. This entailed meetings with national counterparts, including political activists, many of whom were thrust into the international limelight after the start of the revolution. This initial exercise was important to better understand the context of rapidly evolving developments during the early part of the revolution. The team led the formulation of a comprehensive peacebuilding programme, also aimed at supporting the newly formed Peace Commission, in response to a request of the Prime Minister, that resulted in the country's eligibility to the Peacebuilding Fund. Finally, the PDA team played a pivotal role in working with the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Sudan in the design and planning of a strategic visioning exercise aimed at articulating a UN system-wide vision and roadmap of engagement in support of the transition in Sudan and adjust existing programmes to the new political realities.

Supporting the Common Country Analysis and the Cooperation Framework

BANGLADESH

The PDA team in **Bangladesh** ensured that conflict prevention was a core part of the Common Country Analysis (CCA) conducted in late 2019. The interagency conflict prevention task team, coordinated by the PDA team, led an exercise to map and assess different sources of insecurity across the

country. The exercise identified three priority areas of concern, namely, the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Rohingya crisis and the prevention of violent extremism. Specific efforts were also made to explore climate-related security risks in Bangladesh. A number of issue papers were then jointly developed by the UNCT and formed the basis for the substantive conflict prevention analysis incorporated in the CCA. The findings of the CCA will inform the UN Cooperation Framework, and provide an evidence base for policy advocacy efforts led by the UN in support of the development planning processes of the Government, such as the country's second long-term perspective plan for 2021-2041.

In Tunisia, the PDA team played a key role supporting the UNCT to develop a risk informed and prevention-oriented CCA. As part of this effort, the PDA supported the design of a series of discussion with 250 Tunisian experts and UN agencies. A local think tank was recruited to lead these discussions based on twelve thematic notes prepared by UN agencies according to the SDG-based Risk Framework. Using the lens of Leave No One Behind, and the thematic notes sought to identify what are risks and resilience capacities, key stakeholders, peoples left behind and factors that may aggravate their exclusion, trends and forecasts. The CCA was a collaborative process by the UNCT and benefited from engagements with the UN Regional Economic Commission for Africa and UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, two local Think Tanks and the Institute of Security Studies. This last partnership contributed to developing a model of Tunisia's development trajectory until 2040 using the International Futures assessment methodology developed by the Pardee Centre. The CCA process identified five main multidimensional risks, which guided the elaboration of the country's UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework as an integrated response to prevent or mitigate those risks. With inputs from the PDA team and the UNCT, the CCA was revised to include the impacts of the pandemic. The PDA team contributed within the framework of the PBF-funded joint project "Sustaining peace in Tunisia through youth inclusion at the local level" to promote the implementation of the 2016 UN-World Bank Pathways for Peace report recommendations.



There is an emerging global consensus that climate change can stress economic, social, and political systems. Climate change is a "risk multiplier" aggravating already fragile situations and potentially contributing to further social tensions. A number of PDAs have initiated work in their respective contexts to address this issue, and also participated in a Fellowship programme to better understand the links between climate risks and conflict, as well as the related implications for improved analysis and programming on the ground for peacebuilding. The one-week Fellowship was organized in partnership with the Oslo Governance Centre of UNDP and the Folke Bernadotte Academy, and enabled participating PDAs to develop issue briefs which integrated climate-sensitive analysis of conflicts and tensions faced in the various contexts. The PDA in the Caribbean identified climate security risks as factors that serve as aggravators of existing security threats in the region which include trafficking in people, drugs and weapons; gang-related homicides; and sexual and gender-based violence.

FIJI AND THE PACIFIC

In 2018, leaders in the Pacific region united around the Boe Declaration to identify climate change as the greatest threat to the security and livelihoods of the people in the region. In this context, the regional Pacific PDA supported efforts to establish a partnership between the UN and regional and Government partners on the specific issue of climate security. The PDA used the vehicle of a PBF project proposal on climate security to convene key influencers and decision-makers to think through and agree on operational responses to assess, address, and respond to climate security challenges. In 2019, Pacific leaders renewed their call for urgent global climate change action through the Kainaki II Declaration and endorsed the Boe Implementation Action Plan, which covers issues of maritime boundaries, migration, climate security research and advocacy, and working towards a regional dialogue in 2020. In September 2019, the PDA worked with DPPA-DPO Asia Pacific Division to organize a regional consultation meeting in Fiji for representatives of the three Pacific atoll states, regional organizations and experts. With the involvement of the UN Climate Security Mechanism, the workshop helped develop and validate the PBF project proposal and finalize the results framework before submission. In 2020, the PBF climate security project was launched by the leaders of the three atoll states and is the first climate security

initiative in the Pacific. The implementation of the project will increase the capacity of the three atoll countries and the Pacific Island Forum in coordinating work on climate security in the region.

TUNISIA

In **Tunisia**, given the recent increase in conflicts related to the use of natural resources, primarily water; the PDA team, in collaboration with UNDP and FAO, developed an initiative which received Joint Programme seed funding. The project promotes the conflict prevention agenda in the country and seeks to raise awareness of key policymakers, as well as peacebuilding and environment practitioners on climate-related (human) security risks. The initiative was run in parallel, and further informed, by the participation of the PDA to the climate-related security risks Fellowship. The PDA also collaborated with DPPA on a regional analysis of these issues. In addition, the PDA team worked with the UNCT to launch the first of a series of "Earth Hacks" hackathon where hundreds of young Tunisians were invited to develop technological solutions to respond to current environmental challenges.

Advising and designing context-specific

conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives

Advisory support to peacebuilding and prevention programming

PDAs are critical assets to UN Country Teams supporting them design, implement and review peacebuilding and conflict prevention programming. The advisory support provided by the PDAs is based on an analysis of the context, and informs the development of UN initiatives

that directly or indirectly address the identified root causes and/or underlying drivers of conflict. With the advisory support of PDAs, the UN programming on conflict prevention is expected to be increasingly effective, relevant and coherent. In 2019, 95% of PDAs supported UNCT programmes for conflict prevention. In many of these cases, the peacebuilding and prevention projects and programmes were funded by the Peacebuilding Fund.

BURKINA FASO

The PDA in Burkina Faso contributed to the World Bank (WB), European Union (EU), African Development Bank (AfDB) and UN prevention and peacebuilding assessment fielded on the Government request. On the UN side, this work was led by the Head of the RCO and the PPBA Coordinator. This led to the Matrix of priority actions focused on four pillars: Security and rule of law, basic social infrastructures; Strengthening the presence of the state/local governance and Consolidation of the bases of social cohesion, and the resilience of populations and territories. The Matrix of priority action is providing a framework for joint development and peace programmes financing. This assessment provided a solid basis for the development of initiatives intended to support the peaceful management of local conflicts which contributed to the prevention of violent extremism and radicalization in the zones affected by insecurity. In addition, the PDA, in collaboration with UNDP's team, supported the government and stakeholders reflecting on the social cohesion. The PBF initiatives were launched in early 2019, following the eligibility of the country to the fund in late 2018, and the PDA worked together with the UN Agencies on drafting proposals. Activities implemented through these projects, by several agencies, had encouraging preliminary results in strengthening trust between communities and institutions, reinforcing social cohesion, promoting conflict prevention at the local level and increasing the participation of youth, women, refugees and internally displaced persons in peacebuilding.

THE PHILIPPINES

In **Philippines**, the PDA contributed to the coordination of peacebuilding interventions of the UN Country Team which are anchored in the UN's Development Assistance Framework for the country. Informed by the recommendations of the PDA, and conflict analysis carried out by UNCT members, priorities were established to support the Bangsamoro Transitional Authority and the peace process in the

southern Philippines. The completion of the decommissioning process and exit agreement scheduled for 2022, together with the election of the first Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao government, are expected to mark the end of the transition phase of the peace agreement. In this context, the PDA designed a matrix to map all UN interventions in the Bangsamoro and helped identify peacebuilding gaps, duplication, and opportunities for joint inter-agency initiatives to support the Transitional Authority. As a result, coordinated inter-agency support was provided to key ministries, thus enhancing the impact of this assistance. A database of all UNCT interventions in the region was established, with infographics that capture the UN's interventions, partnerships and funding flows which led to new partnerships with donors who are better informed of UN activities. At the national level, the PDA coordinated the technical support of the UNCT and non-resident UN agencies to the country's counterterrorism initiatives. Building on the technical and convening support provided by UNDP for the formulation of the National Action Plan on Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism, the first in South East Asia, the PDA assisted in its adoption by the Anti-Terrorism Council.

The PDA in **Chad** focused on catalysing peacebuilding efforts by working with nine UN agencies and several government ministries to advise on the development and implementation of eight joint peacebuilding projects that have attracted almost \$20 million in investment from the PBF. The programmes, in alignment with the Government's priorities, are focused on preventing violent extremism and armed group recruitment, promoting climate-change adaptation and supporting women and youth civic engagement. In the Lake Chad area, a region particularly hard hit by the effects of climate change, such projects helped make communities less susceptible to recruitment by Boko Haram. They further supported the creation of mixed groups for dialogue and conflict prevention between refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities. They also contributed to greater freedom of movement of communities in secure areas and increased resilience through alternative livelihood support. Successful negotiations between village chiefs and authorities led to an agreement on the management of fishing areas and regular exchanges on resource management between the communities. Moreover, local authorities have started to better address needs of remote island communities after women and young people had the chance to voice their grievances in radio roundtable discussions. The PDA also worked on the preparation of a range of new prevention projects in collaboration with other UN agencies, including a cross-border initiative with Sudan to lay the foundations for the peaceful and voluntary return of Sudanese refugees in Chad in light of the recently signed Sudan peace agreement.

Seed funding for innovative prevention initiatives

The Joint Programme provides PDAs with seed funding of around \$50,000 per year to support catalytic conflict prevention efforts. These initiatives are intended to enable the PDAs to create entry points and facilitate analytical exercises and dialogue processes. The funding can serve as a catalyst, generating entry points for larger scale programmatic interventions or other longer-term engagements that the UN Country Team members will then take forward. The number of approved initiatives doubled from 2018 to 2019 with the increased demand by the PDAs, as a result of the Joint Programme's outreach efforts and support in the request process. DPPA also contributed to the provision of seed funding to PDAs through the 2019 multi-year appeal funding allocated to the Joint Programme.



Initiatives led by the PDAs in 2019 benefitting from seed funding:

Bangladesh Guatemala Dialogue & advocacy around the SDGs Strengthening capacities for resilience and conflict-sensitive practice in Cox's Bazar **Bosnia & Herzegovina Honduras** Supporting Peacebuilding Fund eligibility Promoting constructive dialogue & & the spotlight initiative on WPS positive narratives Cameroon Malawi Creating a common understanding & Strengthening UN analysis for prevention coherence of peacebuilding efforts & early warming Cambodia **Mauritania** Context analysis & advice on strategic UN Understanding dynamics & enabling engagement informal consensus building Caribbean **Pacific** Facilitating a regional approach to Facilitating inclusive community mediation climate-related security risks in Trinidad & Tobago Côte d'Ivoire **Thailand** Strengthening inclusivity of the political Building insider mediation capacities for dialogue & national peace architecture Government and civil society **Eritrea** Ukraine Training for young Eritrean diplomats Strengthening local dialogue capacities for future coexistence

Mainstreaming conflict sensitivity

While some UN entities have adopted different approaches and entity specific frameworks for conflict sensitivity, their structures and incentives do not always support a fully conflict-sensitive approach and their staff often require support to implement and mainstream these in practice. In order to contribute to enhanced conflict-sensitive approaches and programmes, PDAs support improving UNCT skillsets and system coherence through the provision of guidance and technical assistance on conflict-sensitive approaches. In 2019, all PDAs reported supporting UNCT and/or its members on conflict sensitivity.

100%

of PDAs reported that they had supported UNCT or its member in relation to conflict sensitivity

MOLDOVA

In Moldova, the PDA has continued efforts to strengthen the capacity of the UNCT on conflict-sensitivity, conflict prevention and social cohesion. This is particularly critical, since Moldova, similar to other countries in the region, continues to face challenges related to social cohesion and national unity. The PDA supported three trainings throughout the year, including during the UNCT retreat, where management and staff learned how to apply conflict-sensitive approaches across their engagements and adapt UN programming to address the underlying causes of fragile social cohesion. To ensure that the Country Team has access to solid gender-sensitive conflict and political analysis, and an evidence base for programme design, the PDA continued to expand the SCORE that was initially launched in 2018. The index is an innovative tool designed to measure sustainable peace in societies by defining and measuring the underlying factors of social cohesion. In 2018, a SCORE Advisory Board (SAB) was formed with key leaders from civil society. Government, academia, and business with the purpose of strengthening integration of the SCORE results into key policies at the national level. The analysis of the Adult SCORE, undertaken in partnership with UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA, offers a critical understanding of relationships within, between, and among groups, including on gender aspects of social cohesion. The PDA also worked with UNICEF to develop a specific youth and adolescent focused index, with findings published in a 2019 report. To date, the SCORE results have been used by various entities and partners. It informed the impact indicators of a major UNFPA and Council of Europe Youth Programme, helped define programmatic efforts led by UN Women to address the role of minorities in civic and political processes as well as OHCHR's work on social tolerance. The results were also used in the integrated poverty analysis of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Enhancing cross-pillar collaboration

Cross-pillar approaches and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

MYANMAR

The strategic advice and analysis provided by the PDA team in Myanmar were fundamental in successfully positioning the UN as a partner in an emerging initiative between the Government, the armed groups and civil society to resettle internally displaced persons living in areas affected by the ongoing armed conflict. The PDA team also assisted the Resident Coordinator's office to be the leading source of information in relation to the most intense conflict situation in the country – the Rakhine State – including by connecting the various data management systems to produce detailed maps of conflict trends. The resulting analysis was critical in informing

country's third cycle Universal Periodic Review session at the end of 2019. The Review is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, which provides the opportunity for each State to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations. At the country level, the UN engages in this process to support national human rights commitments, including by preparing a specific report which compiles information from UN entities, including UN human rights bodies, prepared by OHCHR. The PDA led the UNCT process for drafting of the 'Compilation of UN information' for the Universal Periodic Review and helped provide training on the Periodic Review process for relevant

national actors. In tandem, the PDA supported the Resident Coordinator

to secure human rights capacity for the RCO from OHCHR so that the

UNCT has the needed support to help national efforts to address the

scores of rights-based challenges in the country.

The PDA in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) continued to support the UN

stakeholders in the area of human rights, specifically in the context of the

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Country Team as well as the relevant national and international

discussions and strategic engagement with cooperation partners which meet at the ambassadorial and heads of cooperation level on a monthly basis. Liaising closely with the Office of the Special Envoy and DPPA, the team also helped further calibrate system-wide coherence based upon this shared analysis, especially on early warning and prevention issues, in line with key recommendations of the report of the independent inquiry into the involvement of the UN in Myanmar (2010-2018). The PDA helped set up two regional UN Sub-offices in Kachin and Shan States promoting a humanitarian-development-peace approach in these conflict areas where the majority of IDP camps exist.

At the country level, PDAs play a key role in ensuring linkages between the UN's political and development work, and better coordination among the diplomatic community in support of the national efforts. In Nigeria, the Resident Coordinator with the support of the PDA, established a coordination platform consisting of partners and national stakeholders working to minimize conflicts between farmers and herders in the Middle Belt and North-Central regions of Nigeria. At the UN House, the platform brings together bilateral partners, various Government agencies at the federal and state levels, national and international NGOs, civil society groups and UN agencies to support the implementation of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus (HDPN). A dashboard maps out stakeholders and their initiatives to avoid duplication, enhance coordination and synergy building when implementing the ten-year National Livestock Transformation Plan, championed by the Office of the Vice President in partnership with State Governors in the conflict affected states. The UN's convening role, the close engagement with the international partners, and the funds provided by the Trust Fund on Human Security and the Peacebuilding Fund, instead contributed to reducing the number of attacks in the protracted and politically sensitive farmers and herders conflict regions.



Encouraging collaboration between UN agencies

PDAs engage with, and foster collaboration with, different UN entities to promote a cross-pillar approach to conflict prevention and sustaining peace. At the country level, this includes bringing together stakeholders not only from DPPA and UNDP but also from UNICEF, UN Women and others, contributing to overall UN system coherence on conflict prevention. In addition to the close working relationship with DPPA and UNDP, 57% of PDAs supported UNICEF, 55% for UN Women and IOM respectively and 45% for UNCHR. The Joint Programme is also collaborating with multiple UN agencies at the global level.

Top 10 UN entities supported in 2019 % of PDAs supporting



^{*} outside of UNDP & DPPA-DPO

Supporting UN mission transitions

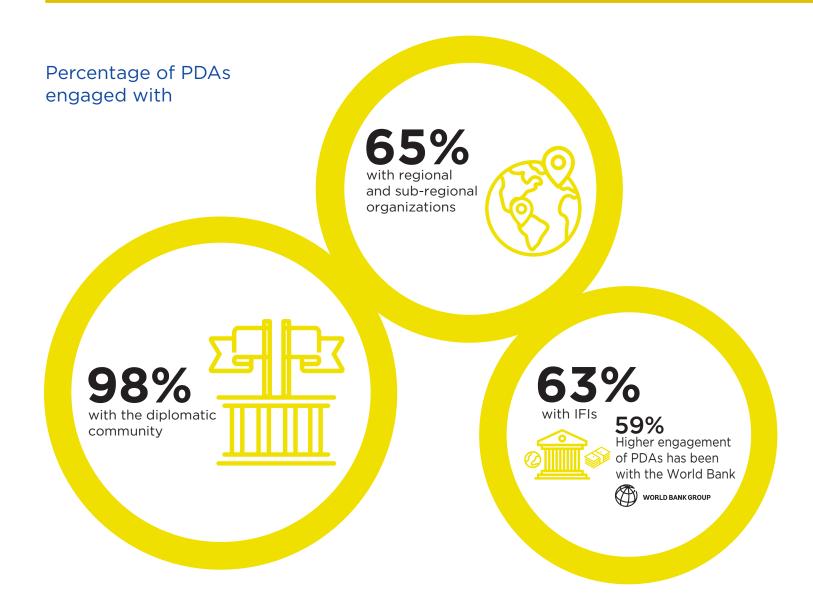
To ensure that peacebuilding gains achieved during the presence of a UN Peacekeeping or Special Political Mission are maintained after the mission's' withdrawal, the Joint Programme provides support to Resident Coordinator and UNCTs in UN mission transition settings. This is often done in cooperation with the UN Transitions Project jointly managed by UNDP, DPPA, DCO and

DPO. In 2018, PDAs were deployed following the end of the mandates of the UN missions in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. In late 2019, the JP approved a PDA position in Haiti as a new special political mission, the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), was deployed on 16 October 2019, with the UNCT assuming the programmatic and technical assistance role of the UN system to Haiti.

The UN Country Team in **Sudan** and the African Union - United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) have been working together since mid-2018 to ensure a seamless transition from a peacekeeping mission to a special political mission. In the absence of the Transition Advisor, during the first part of 2019, the PDA team was instrumental in providing the needed analysis, coordination, and guidance to the UNCT on its engagement in UNAMID's reconfiguration. In early 2019, the PDA team worked together with UNAMID to update a context analysis for Darfur which aimed to inform the whole-of-system transition as envisaged by the UN Security Council Resolution 2429, on the renewal of the mandate of the UNAMID. The PDA team was central to the conceptualization of a whole-of-system transition concept, known as the State Liaison Function (SLF) which operationalizes the transition in Darfur in a way that keeps addressing the critical drivers of conflict. This included working with UNCT members to ensure that project proposals were conflict-sensitive and in line with the mission's mandate. To ensure national ownership of these efforts, a coordination mechanism was established with the Government for the SLF mechanism, with the PDA remaining as alternate member of the coordination committee. The PDA's engagement with the UNCT in both the development of the SLF programmes and the PBF was a key element in ensuring complementarity between the two initiatives. In addition, in Abyei, the PDA led efforts to establish a joint programme to strengthen coordination of humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding responses for Abyei. This area is subject of several complex and multi-layered disputes, one of which is a contentious final status arrangement between Sudan and South Sudan. In addition to leading efforts to develop the joint programme, in close collaboration with UN Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA), the PDA was instrumental in mobilising resources with funding now secured for 2021-2023.

Engagement with partners

for conflict prevention



Collaborating with Regional Organizations

PDAs have worked closely with a broad range of regional and subregional organizations in their respective contexts, contributing to the goal of strengthening relations between the UN and the regional organizations in an effort to maintain international peace and security, and to promote sustainable development. PDAs supported joint missions and assessments, particularly around elections, contributed to the design and/or implementation of the organizations' regional strategies, facilitated spaces for dialogue and exchange on specific issues, and also sustained more informal information-sharing and collaboration mechanisms. For instance, the PDA in Nigeria supported meetings between ECOWAS. UNOWAS and the UNCT for the joint mission on elections, and facilitated collaboration in the area of early warning conflict prevention. In **Moldova**, the PDA had regular meetings with political and technical staff of the OSCE on issues related to the Transnistrian Region Settlement Process. to discuss how the work of the UN could support the broader enabling environment around the process. In the Philippines, the PDA engaged indirectly with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by providing support to their Plan of Action on preventing violent extremism. In Honduras, the PDA maintained regular contact with the Organization of American States representative in the country, particularly given the organizations' involvement on electoral reform and its mandate which established the Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras.

THE CARIBBEAN

Based in Trinidad and Tobago, the PDA for the Caribbean has focused on addressing the complex nature of insecurity in the region. While most Caribbean nations have stable democracies and fall in the category of middle-income countries, global phenomena such as climate change, organized crime, risk of violent extremism and citizen insecurity are among the biggest challenges to sustainable development in the region and threaten to erode development gains. These challenges require concerted and coordinated regional efforts. For the past three years, the PDA has been providing continued expert advice to regional institutions such as the CARICOM to help strengthen regional strategies and initiatives. In 2019, the PDA worked closely with the CARICOM Implementing Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) to finalize the review of the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy (CCSS). The CCSS outlines changing dynamics and manifestations of security threats in the Caribbean, and thus serves as early-warning tool for security institutions in the region. The CCSS also serves to highlight the importance of preventive approaches for sustaining peace, underscores the gender dimension of conflict-prevention efforts and identifies opportunities to fast-track implementation. The PDA also facilitated UN Office of Counter-Terrorism support to the CARICOM Advance Passenger Information System and Passenger Name Record, to enhance detection of movements by persons of interest within the region. The presence of the PDA in Port of Spain, where IMPACS is based, has allowed to joint exploration of new opportunities to lift the UN-CARICOM partnership to a new level, particularly in areas of violence prevention among youth and women. The PDA also provided a regional conflict analysis for the mid-term review of the Multi Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF), which enriched the understanding of the Resident Coordinators and UN Agencies of the evolving conflict dynamics in the Caribbean region. The PDA provided conflict analysis and made technical inputs to the series of formulation workshops of the Trinidad and Tobago Spotlight Project to eliminate violence against women and girls.

Strengthening collaboration with International Financial Institutions

PDAs worked in partnership with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in different contexts, with the World Bank being one of the key partners. In 2019, 59% of PDAs reported engaging with the World Bank, an increase of 13% (46% of PDAs) in the previous year. The collaboration with IFIs is particularly centred around briefings and exchange of information, and in certain contexts extends to joint programming and joint analytical efforts. PDAs engaged with the World Bank to discuss the operationalization of the Pathways for Peace approach in Jordan, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe, and supported joint analysis efforts in Sri Lanka.

The PDA in Mauritania worked with international actors present in Nouakchott including the Group of Five (G5) Sahel, the EU, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on issues related to the prevention of violent extremism which is a major challenge in the country and the region. The collaboration included the provision of technical advice and the sharing of information, as well as facilitating more coherent engagement between the UN, bilateral and regional partners in the country. In addition, the PDA, working with the Special Advisor provided by UNDP to G5 Sahel Executive

TOGO

In **Togo**, the PDA worked closely with the diplomatic community as part of efforts led by the Resident Coordinator, as a member of the Group of Five, with the EU, France, Germany and the United States, to promote and strengthen the conflict prevention mandate of the UN in the region. The engagement of the Group of Five was complemented by the good offices of the SRSG for West Africa and the Sahel, who engaged with the political leaders to reduce tensions around elections and encourage dialogue. In this context, the PDA provided key analytical and strategic advice to UN senior leadership, and facilitated collaboration and information-sharing with the Group of Five at the technical level. When required, the PDA represented the Resident Coordinator in interactions with bilateral partners. particularly around electoral issues, and shared analysis on thematic issues, such as social cohesion and decentralization, in meetings with partners. This regular engagement contributed to a better understanding of the role of local authorities in addressing conflict among other issues.

Secretariat, provided technical advisory support on stabilization to ensure a more integrated approach towards stabilization in the region. The PDA also liaised with the African Union's (AU) electoral observation mission in Mauritania, the EU and the Carter Center to follow-up the situation before, during and after the elections which led to more contextsensitive recommendations for the Government and other electoral stakeholders. The PDA's engagement with the diplomatic community and other international actors contributed to a common understanding of political and security challenges. Through the analysis provided, the PDA helped international partners revitalize their strategies, and tailor their programmatic engagement, including the G5 Sahel action plan to fight radicalization and prevent violent extremism.

Engaging with the diplomatic community

Good collaboration between the United Nations and the diplomatic community present in a country is critical to ensuring coordinated support to national stakeholders. In 2019, PDAs reported good collaboration with the diplomatic community in their countries and held regular meetings with members of the diplomatic community in country, including with Joint Programme partners. While entry points for collaboration between the UN and the broader international community vary based on the country context, they are often structured around existing coordination andengagement platforms where the PDAs play a critical role in sharing analysis and supporting technical consultations around peacebuilding programmes. Ad hoc or more informal exchanges also take place regularly as PDAs facilitate information-sharing and a more cohesive engagement of the international community in country.



STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS, FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND LEARNING

4 STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS, FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND LEARNING

The Joint Programme assists the UN system in making conflict prevention efforts more effective, coherent and complementary. At the global level, the Joint Programme encourages and facilitates information-sharing and collaboration among its partners and promotes peer-to-peer learning and exchanges. Recognizing the importance of leveraging the capacities and comparative advantage across and outside the UN system, the Joint Programme continues to develop and pursue strategic partnerships. Boosting collaboration within the PDA community is also a focus of the Programme, as collaboration among PDAs encourages peer-to-peer support, sharing of good practices across different contexts, and enhances motivation. In 2019, 66% of PDAs reported working together with PDAs in other countries. The engagement also extends to non-PDA countries where PDAs have provided support to enhance capacities of various country offices.



Facilitating peer-exchange and collaboration at the regional and global level

Operationalizing Pathways for Peace and UN-World Bank collaboration: the first UN-World Bank Senior Country Leadership Dialogue (Dakar)

5-6 February

As part of efforts to strengthen UN-WB collaboration at the country level, UN Resident Coordinators and WB Country Directors/Managers for Guinea, Nepal, Niger, Tajikistan, and Tunisia, met in Dakar in February 2019. The purpose of this country leadership dialogue was to discuss and advance partnership on prevention and sustaining peace, and more specifically to identify avenues to jointly operationalize the recommendations of the Pathways for Peace joint report. The dialogue allowed participants to share risk analyses of key prevention challenges in their respective countries; youth employment, social protection, investment in extractive industries and governance emerged as common threads. In each of the five cases, priority areas of joint UN-WB collaboration were identified.





Accelerating global collaboration and experience-sharing among PDAs: the PDA global workshop (Istanbul)

20-24 May

Held biennially, PDA global retreats are a unique forum aimed at strengthening the peace and development community by promoting peer-to-peer exchange, sharing of ideas, and collaboration at the global level. The sixth iteration of the retreat, the largest so far, brought together over 50 PDAs and PDA-types, as well as UN colleagues and partners. Focused on experience-sharing, the retreat was an opportunity for PDAs to highlight some of the innovative approaches used in their context, such as the use of social media tools in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, but also seek feedback on some of the challenges they face. Notably, discussions highlighted the diversity of approaches used in building national and UN capacities for prevention, but also identifying common entry points based on the 'context of engagement', ranging from situations of shrinking political and civic space, to sudden opportunities for engagement, and escalating crisis. The importance of further engagement with regional organizations and IFIs, particularly the World Bank, was clear. The PDAs were also keen to enhance their ability to demonstrate results and the impact of their work. The retreat further reinforced connections within the PDA cadre and partners gained a better understanding of the PDA function and support needs.

Strengthening cross-border collaboration and regional approaches: the PDA regional workshop for Europe and Central Asia (Istanbul)

29 May

The Regional Retreat for Europe and Central Asia allowed substantive discussions between the six PDA teams in the region, UNDP and DPPA regional colleagues, as well as other PDA-type experts. The meeting was centred on identifying common challenges and discussing issues which have impacts across borders. The sub-regional updates focused on ongoing and planned activities for the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia. The identification of common trends and opportunities allowed PDAs to adopt an effective way of working together and to identify programmatic gaps and opportunities. This exercise increased collaboration between PDAs at the regional level, and it contributed to strengthening information-sharing and cooperation between UNDP and DPPA.





Supporting regional approaches and collaboration in Africa: the PDA regional workshop for Africa (Dakar)

13-15 November

For the first time, PDA teams deployed across 25 countries in Africa had the opportunity to come together in Dakar for the first regional Africa retreat organized by the Joint Programme. The retreat was organized in partnership with the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) and provided space for peer-to-peer exchange around regional approaches and collaboration in Africa as well as reflecting on peace and security dynamics at the sub-regional level. Notable interest was around the topics of hate speech, links between climate change, peace, security and development, local and national infrastructures for peace, and the HDPN. In response to the existing and emerging challenges impacting the region, PDAs agreed to more systematically explore opportunities for cross-border projects and initiatives; broaden the engagement with civil society actors and with regional and sub-regional organizations and economic communities. Earlier and stronger partnership and involvement of IFIs for conflict prevention was also recommended. Participants advised systematizing spaces for information-sharing and coordination among PDAs, DPPA and UNDP, as well as countryleadership. During the week, PDAs based in Western Africa also attended the UNOWAS Regional Forum organized back-to-back with the Retreat, from 11 to 13 November.

Capturing and disseminating experiences from PDAs

Facilitating PDAs collaboration on the Peace Infrastructures Portal

Peaceinfrastructures.org is a knowledge portal for practitioners, policymakers, academics, and institutions engaged in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In 2019, the Joint Programme had dedicated spaces within the portal providing opportunities for peer-to-peer exchanges within the PDA cadre.



Accelerating experience sharing with brownbag discussions

Brownbag discussions provide an opportunity for colleagues at UNHQ to hear from, and engage with PDAs, when they are in New York. During these informal discussions, PDAs highlight their innovative work, share lessons learned and engage in a discussion on some of the challenges and opportunities they face. In 2019, brownbag meetings were held with the PDAs from Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria and the South Caucasus.



Expanding commitment to

continuous learning

Creating a better understanding of the PDA role and conflict prevention work: the annual PDA induction (New York)

22-30 August

Every year, the Joint Programme, in partnership with the Folke Bernadotte Academy, organizes an induction programme for recently deployed Peace and Development Advisors, Peace and Development Specialists and National PDAs. In August 2019, twelve advisors and specialists were invited to New York. The week-long programme is designed as a capacity-building and peer-exchange exercise aimed at creating a better understanding of the PDA role and key aspects of conflict prevention and peacebuilding work supported by the UN. For each induction, an existing PDA is invited to cofacilitate the programme as a way to bring in the practical experience and know-how from peers working in this capacity. For this iteration, the PDA deployed in Uganda, brought in hands-on expertise on supporting national peace architectures.





Creating a better understanding of the links between climate and conflict: the PDA fellowship on climate related security risks and sustaining peace (Stockholm)

2-6 December

The fourth fellowship programme for PDAs was organized in Stockholm and brought together eleven Fellows, including nine PDAs, to engage in facilitated reflections with their peers on climate change, peace and security. The Fellowship allowed a better understanding of the links between climate risks and conflict and the related implications for improved analysis and programming on the ground for peacebuilding. The output from the Fellowship included thematic papers aimed at building up the evidence base on the linkages between climate change, prevention and sustaining peace from the practitioner's perspective. This cohort was organized by the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre (OGC) and the Joint Programme, in partnership with the Folke Bernadotte Academy, also engaging the UN Climate Security Mechanism team, the Joint Programme on Women, Natural Resources, and Peace, a partnership between UNEP, UN Women, UNDP, and Peace Building Support Office, and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Training opportunities

The Joint Programme supported PDA participation in an increasing number of training courses to strengthen the cadre's knowledge and expertise on relevant areas, such as women, peace and security, political economy analysis, preventing and responding to election-related violence, and E-analytics. In 2019, 49 PDAs, PDA types, national PDAs and others participated in professional development opportunities including fellowships and inductions. The PDA Cambodia supported the development of the PDA learning strategy 2019-2023. The findings from consultations with PDAs indicated that additional guidance on political engagement and outreach would be valuable whilst programming skills and policy advice should be strengthened. This will inform a systematic approach to PDA learning which will strengthen the skillsets of PDAs in these two critical areas of their work.

91%

of PDAs expressed that they were satisfied or very satisfied with professional development support offered by the Joint Programme.

In 2019, 49 PDAs, national PDAs and others participated in professional development opportunities including fellowships and inductions.

Implementing strategic partnerships

In 2019, the Joint Programme organized PDA and management visits to capitals of the Programme's partners, as an opportunity for national constituencies supporting this initiative to gain a better understanding of the important contribution of PDAs in conflict prevention efforts at the country level. Roundtable discussions with foreign and development ministries were held in Brussels with the PDAs for Côte d'Ivoire and Myanmar, in Oslo and Stockholm with the PDAs for Liberia and Myanmar, and in Berlin, London and The Hague with the PDAs for Burkina Faso, The Gambia and Venezuela.

Words from partners of the Joint Programme

"Negotiation and dialogue can resolve conflicts and build inclusive societies. Partnership with the UN and other international stakeholders play an important role. Our experience is also a testimony that strong political will and constitutional guarantee can be instrumental in empowering women, youth, indigenous people and other marginalized communities. I would like to reaffirm Nepal's support to the joint UNDP-DPPA initiative aimed at conflict prevention."

Representative of Nepal (Joint Programme High-level Partner Event, July 2019)

"As one of the initial supporters of this Joint Programme, it actually started in 2004, and the way we see it is that ever since its start it had a very unique character and therefore we're also happy to see how it has grown over the years. Now it is a very important vehicle for the sustaining peace agenda at country level, but also it is key to the UN reform and system wide approach. From our perspective it will be very interesting, not only to continue to support you, but also to continue following this important Programme, which has been very successful when it comes to working in the nexus of peace and development."

Representative of Sweden at the High-Level Partner Event, July 2019

"I wanted to start by saying how pleased we are to be one of the top contributors to this Joint Programme. It is incredibly important work and [...] indeed the reviews of the Programme repeatedly show that Peace and Development Advisors are one of the most important assets for conflict prevention in UN Country Teams and they play a key role in providing critical technical expertise to UN leadership, and as we heard today, beyond into the deeper UN system."

Representative of the United Kingdom at the High-Level Partner Event, July 2019

"We are grateful for the important work that UNDP and DPPA do under the Joint Programme. We are very proud to be one of the five top donors. We have met Peace and Development Advisors worldwide and we are very much impressed with their expertise and commitment. Their role is absolutely crucial in different ways. Firstly, the PDAs and the Joint Programme generally are a connecting force within the UN. The PDAs have an important role in bringing together UN agencies to work on a jointly drafted common conflict analysis, which should lead to collective planning exercise in the context of the cooperation framework. The central position of PDAs in this respect could be even stronger and the cooperation should go beyond the UN."

Representative of the Netherlands at the High-Level Partner Event, July 2019

"On behalf of Germany, I would like to thank UNDP and DPPA for bringing us together today to celebrate the many success stories that have proven beyond doubt that the Joint Programme has found the right tools to build and consolidate national capacities for conflict prevention, stabilization and sustaining peace. It also shows the synergies that can be achieved when the peace and security and development pillars of the UN successfully work together."

Stronger collaboration and partnerships



From left to right: Asako Okai, ASG and Director of Crisis Bureau, UNDP; Achim Steiner, Administrator, UNDP; and Amina Mohammed Deputy Secretary-General. ©UNDP /Carolina Gasiorowski



From left to right: Khemaies Jhinaoui, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia; Rosemary DiCarlo, USG for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, DPPA; and Miroslav Jen a, ASG for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, DPPA ©BJ Rubin

Engaging Member States in a discussion on building national capacities for conflict prevention: the Joint Programme high-level partner event (New York)

15 July

The second iteration of the Joint Programme High-Level Partner Event brought together more than 100 participants, including 40 Member States, to discuss the importance of building national capacities for conflict prevention. The dialogue, held in the ECOSOC Chamber, was moderated by the DPPA Under-Secretary-General, Rosemary DiCarlo. and featured remarks by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia, Khemaies Jhinaoui, the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, and the UNDP Administrator, Achim Steiner. Interventions stressed the ways the Programme, and work of PDAs, is advancing the Secretary-General's prevention agenda, as well as the importance of empowering local and national actors as agents for peace. The Foreign Minister of Tunisia expressed appreciation for the support of the UN to its democratic transition, and particularly commended that the Joint Programme "has been particularly helpful as it demonstrated that the UN genuinely believes that national stakeholders are the most capable actors of preventing conflict in their countries." The Representative of Liberia praised the support of the UN and the Joint Programme in "sustaining our hard-won peace and advancing our development priorities," and the Representative of Sudan highlighted the importance of addressing the linkages between climate change and sustaining peace.

Working in partnership with the Folke Bernadotte Academy

Since 2015, the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), the Swedish Government Agency for Peace, Security and Development, and the Joint Programme have been deploying FBA secondees to work alongside PDAs. The objective of the collaboration is to provide reinforced capacity to RCOs and UNCTs through the establishment of Peace and Development Advisor teams. In 2019, five secondees were deployed to Liberia, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Ukraine. FBA also provides the Joint Programme with expertise in capacity-building and facilitation on mediation and

dialogue, and supports the annual PDA induction programme and other peer-exchange events. In 2019, this included the co-organization of the first PDA regional workshop for Africa, the annual PDA induction, and the PDA Fellowship Programme on climate-related security risks and sustaining peace.

Strengthening collaboration with civil society

The Joint Programme continues to build and strengthen partnerships with civil society actors, academia and research institutes to promote knowledge sharing and insights that can inform the formulation of effective global policies and strategies for conflict prevention. While PDAs engage closely with civil society organizations at the country level, at the global level the Joint Programme maintains a close partnership with the Civil Society-UN Prevention Platform.



Recognizing the importance of promoting volunteerism in the field of peace and development, the Joint Programme and UN Volunteers (UNV) have established a strong partnership over the past years. An increasing number of UNVs are deployed to provide critical support to the PDAs, while also promoting volunteerism through their action and conduct, and expanding their understanding of different local and social realities. UNVs have a particular focus on strengthening collaboration with civil society partners on issues related to conflict prevention and sustaining peace. In 2019, nine UNVs were deployed through the Programme to Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, The Gambia, Malawi, Republic of the Congo, Suriname and Tunisia.

BANGLADESH

The UNV in **Bangladesh** is a critical asset to the PDA team, providing research, analytical, proposal drafting, and coordination support on a wide range of issues affecting the country including violent extremism, the Rohingya refugee crisis, climate-related security risks, and the situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Throughout 2019 the UNV also played a vital role in embedding the principles of conflict sensitivity into UN Bangladesh's Common Country Analysis with a view to ensuring that conflict prevention and sustaining peace considerations are central to the next UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

THE GAMBIA

In **The Gambia**, the UNV worked as a member of the research team for the Conflict and Development Analysis, conducted by the Government, WANEP and the UN. The UNV accompanied interviews with key stakeholders and focus group discussions, including with civil society organizations, to collect data and provide technical inputs to the analysis. The UNV provided key support to efforts led by the PDA and the UN in strengthening the country's peace architecture, including in the engagement with women and youth.

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AND KNOWLEDGE OF
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GAVE ME ACCESS TO AN
INCREDIBLY
KNOWLEDGEABLE
GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF
PEACE AND
DEVELOPMENT
PRACTITIONERS."

Martine Jahre, Peace and Development Specialist in Ethiopia and UN Volunteer

ETHIOPIA

In **Ethiopia**, the UNV was extensively engaged in the UN-led efforts for building national capacities for peace and supported the establishment a platform for UN and civil society collaboration. The UN-CSO working group undertook an extensive mapping of all peacebuilding interventions in the country and facilitated coordination of local level peacebuilding efforts. This initiative seeks to ensure that peacebuilding programming in Ethiopia is strategic and needs-based, while enabling conditions conducive for local civil society organizations to build and sustain their engagement on peace. Together with representatives from national and international civil society the UNV continued on as the co-chair of the group, supporting efforts to also improve coordination mechanisms with the Government of Ethiopia.

ERITREA

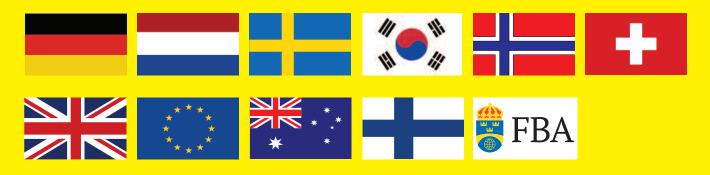
The UNV in **Eritrea** supported analytical efforts which contributed to increasing the understanding of the UNCT of the development context. As part of this work, the UNV engaged with the Resident Coordinator's Office in Ethiopia to design and organize a dialogue between the Eritrean and Ethiopian Country Teams. The UNV was also the lead person in the coordination of the Eritrea Development Partners Forum, a key platform for the coordination of international support to Eritrea which is chaired by the Resident Coordinator. The UNV played a key role in the delivery of a training course for young Eritrean diplomats in collaboration with DPPA and the Eritrean Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A panel discussion on "Volunteerism and Youth" was also organized in partnership with the National Union of Eritrea Youth and Students which was attended by over 100 youths from Zoba Maekel Region on the International Volunteer Day.

TUNISIA

In **Tunisia**, the UNV was involved in closely monitoring the risks of electoral violence during the 2019 presidential and legislative elections. Working alongside the PDA, the team maintained regular contact with colleagues supporting electoral and legislative bodies, national experts and members of civil society, and developed a matrix identifying risks of electoral violence. On that basis, the PDA team prepared political analyses, developed scenarios, and accompanied the implementation of mitigation and prevention measures. The UNV's work contributed to a more coordinated and risk-informed UNCT response. The UNV also contributed to efforts led by the team and the Resident Coordinator to strengthen collaboration between the UN and the World Bank on sustaining peace.

Thank You

The Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme appreciates the continued support and generous financial contributions from its partners, in particular the Governments of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, as well as the European Union in preventing conflicts and sustaining peace. The Programme appreciates the continued collaboration and in-kind contributions from the Governments of Australia, Finland, the Republic of Korea, and the Folke Bernadotte Academy. The Joint Programme team would also like to thank all Peace and Development Advisors and teams for their inspiring and innovative work in the field, and their contributions to supporting countries prevent conflict and sustain peace.

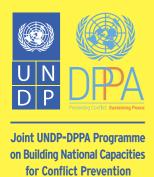


For more information on the work of the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme, please visit http://peaceinfrastructures.org

For the online version of the 2019 annual report, please visit https://www.joint-undp-dppa-programme-annual-report-2019.com

List of Acronyms

AfDB	African Development Bank	PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office
AU	African Union	P-CVE	Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	PDAs	Peace and Development Advisors
BINUH	United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti	PNG	Papua New Guinea
CAF	Development Bank of Latin America	PVE	Prevention of violent extremism
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	RCOs	Resident Coordinators Offices
CCA	Common Country Analysis	RCs	Resident Coordinators
CCL	Christian Council of Lesotho	SAB	SCORE Advisory Board
CCSS	CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy	SADC	Southern African Development Community
CHT	Chittagong Hill Tracts	SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index
CONADEH	Office of the National Commissioner for Human Rights	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
CRD	Crisis Risk Dashboard	SEF	Socio-Economic Framework
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
СТ	Counter Terrorism	SLF	State Liaison Function
DCO	Development Coordination Office	SRSG	United Nations Special Representative of the
DPO	UN Department of Peace Operations		Secretary-General
DPPA	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	TMC	Transitional Military Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	UN	United Nations
EU	European Union	UNAMID	African Union United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
FBA	Folke Bernadotte Academy	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
FFC	Forces for Freedom and Change	UNDAF	Development Assistance Framework
G5	Group of Five	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
HDPN	Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IDPs	Internally displaced persons	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IFIs	International Financial Institutions	UNISFA	United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei
IMPACS	Implementing Agency for Crime and Security	UNOAU	United Nations Office to the African Union
KPC	Komo Peace Conference	UNOCA	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa
LNDSP	Lesotho National Dialogue and Stabilization Project	UNOCT	United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office
MEC	Malawi Electoral Commission	UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
MSDF	Multi Country Sustainable Development Framework	UNSCO	United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle
NPC	National Peace Committee	014300	East Peace Process
NPD	National Development Plan	UNV	UN Volunteers
OGC	Oslo Governance Centre	UPR	Universal Period Review
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe	WB	World Bank
PAC	Public Affairs Committee		





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