

Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs



DPA

Preventing Conflict. Sustaining Peace

Multi-Year Appeal Quarterly Report

July — September 2021

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COVER PHOTO:
Young woman from Yemen on the war and its impact on women and youth in the country.
Credit: Hana Haza'a, Yemen.
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Introduction

During the reporting period, the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA) continued to enable the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) to advance political solutions, assist peace processes, and support sustaining peace efforts. Acute crises, such as in Afghanistan, Ethiopia or Yemen, shaped our work to a considerable extent, while critical transition and peace processes elsewhere – such as in Sudan, Libya, or Colombia also remained a major focus. In this context, the General Debate and the hybrid format of the high-level period of the General Assembly, with a return to in-person meetings, exchanges and discussions, underscored the undiminished relevance of multilateralism and the importance of personal diplomacy. DPPA's role in preparing for and supporting the Secretary-General during this most intense period of the year is a vital one, informed by and further advancing our concrete operational engagements in the field.

During the third quarter, the Secretary-General also launched his report *“Our Common Agenda”*, in response to the Declaration on the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations adopted by the General Assembly in 2020. The UN75 Declaration recognized the turbulent period that the international community is facing, with a convergence of multiple risks that are shaping global politics, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the climate emergency. Through the Declaration, Member States pledged to strengthen global governance for the sake of present and coming generations. To that end, they requested the Secretary-General to report back with recommendations to advance the common agenda and respond to current and future challenges.

The Secretary-General's report recognizes the need to prioritize and invest in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and places strong emphasis on placing women and girls at the centre of our engagement. DPPA is particularly interested in the call for more sustainable funding for prevention as a core mandate of the United Nations. We will also maintain our work in thematic areas that are at the heart of the Common Agenda, such as innovation and new technologies, climate security, women, and youth.




Thanks to its flexibility, the MYA is the ideal tool for the Department to respond to new opportunities, innovate, take risks and meet demand from the Organization and its partners for preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, mediation expertise and support.



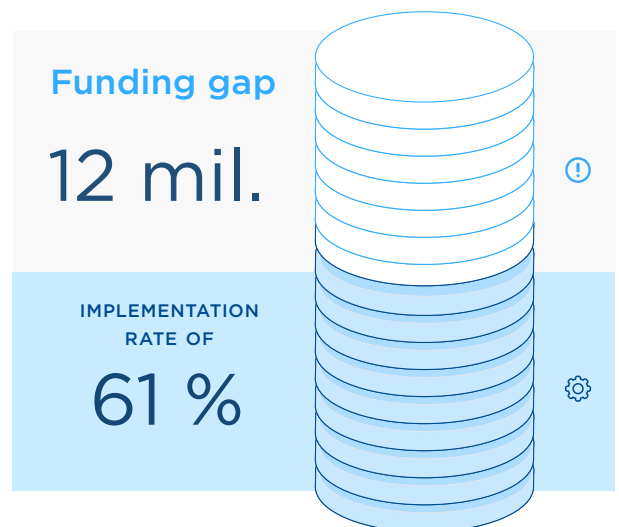
The Secretary-General briefs the General Assembly on the Our Common Agenda report. Credit: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Financial performance

Despite the volatile economic situation around the world, many donors maintained their unwavering support to the MYA. As of 30 September, the Department had received US\$ 28 million in contributions out of the US\$ 40 million requested for this year, making our current Appeal 70 per cent funded. This is 17 per cent higher than the amount we had received by the end of September last year. Half of the contributions are unearmarked, giving DPPA the critical flexibility to deploy funds where and when they are needed most.

STRATEGIC GOAL	Level of funds programmed	Funds required for the remainder of 2021
Preventing violence, resolving conflict, sustaining peace	 60 %	\$ 9 million
Strengthen partnerships for prevention and resilience	 63 %	\$ 2 million
Achieving a learning, innovative work Culture	 46 %	\$ 1 million

With a funding gap of US\$ 12 million and no funding reserve, the Department needs additional contributions in the last quarter of the year to meet its objectives under the 2020-2022 Strategic Plan and its corresponding Results Framework. This includes urgent support for activities under Goal 1, particularly to our more than [30 Special Political Missions \(SPMs\)](#), technical assistance in conflict prevention, mediation and elections to support the Special Representatives and Special Envoys of the Secretary-General, as well as advancing work under our thematic windows, including Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and technology and innovation.



GOAL 1

Contribute to preventing and resolving violent conflict and building resilience



SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE PEACE AND POLITICAL PROCESSES

Afghanistan

The situation in Afghanistan changed rapidly during the reporting period. The Taliban gradually took over most provinces and all major cities and entered Kabul on 15 August. International military forces completed their withdrawal, and the Taliban announced a “caretaker government”. Amid these major developments, calls for UN involvement and assistance to the Afghan people increased. The evolving environment, highly volatile security situation and widespread uncertainty as to the future of the country entailed numerous challenges.

With MYA funding, DPPA stepped up its support to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the senior leadership at UN Headquarters - before, during and after the Taliban takeover. DPPA provided additional staff surge capacity, which enabled its Afghanistan team to support mandate implementation, in particular regarding the peace process, regional cooperation, and human rights, including women’s protection and empowerment, and child protection.

MYA funding also enabled the provision of dedicated support to the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General (PESG) on Afghanistan and Regional Issues, Jean Arnault, in his efforts, working closely with the Mission and regional partners.

Rosemary A. DiCarlo

 @DicarloRosemary  12. 8. 2021

Deeply concerned over the situation in [#Afghanistan](#). Again, civilians are bearing the brunt of the violence. One thing is clear from the country’s recent history: durable peace and development will not be achieved militarily. We’re ready to contribute to a negotiated settlement.





A group of women from Afghanistan brief reporters in the context of the Security Council open debate on Women, Peace and Security. Credit: UN Photo/Loey Felipe

The Afghanistan team accompanied PESG Arnault to Qatar and Iran in July and August, and offered substantive and operational assistance. These trips were aimed at building further regional consensus and supporting the Afghan peace negotiations.

In the fourth quarter, additional staff capacity will help enhance DPPA's ability to provide strategic guidance, including in preparing strategic and operational recommendations for UNAMA's mandate as requested by Security Council resolution 2596 (2021).

The Horn of Africa

During the third quarter, the conflict in Northern Ethiopia continued, with serious ramifications for the humanitarian situation, human rights protection and social conditions in the affected areas. The conflict has caused displacement into Sudan and internally within Ethiopia and involved Eritrean forces. There is a potential for instability to spread beyond Ethiopia in the Horn of Africa region should the conflict worsen. Tensions also continue to simmer with respect to the dispute over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and along the Sudan-Ethiopia border.

Against this backdrop, and thanks to MYA funding, the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa (OSE-HoA), Parfait Onanga-Anyanga,

continued to provide political leadership and coordination in the implementation of the Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy for the Horn of Africa (the Strategy). UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes have enhanced their participation in the implementation of priority activities in the four respective pillars of the Strategy as well as on cross-cutting issues. This has made the Strategy, more operationally comprehensive in contributing to prevention activities in the region. Since September, the Special Envoy has also been the focal point for coordinating the UN's support to the African Union (AU) High Representative for the Horn of Africa, former President Olusegun Obasanjo.

To adapt the UN's response to the current difficult context, the Special Envoy organized, with extrabudgetary funding, a series of consultations with the SRSGs and Special Envoys in the region, senior government officials, key Ambassadors, representatives from the AU and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).



Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa, briefs the Security Council meeting on the Sudan and South Sudan. The Council hears a report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abyei. Credit: UN Photo/Manuel Elías

These consultations allowed participants to share analysis and enhance collaboration. With regard to strategic cross-border cooperation, the Special Envoy used his convening power to bring together the Resident Coordinators of Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, to work on the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) “Cross-Border Integrated Programme for Prevention of violent conflict and extremism in the Mandera Triangle”, and ensure that it is fully implemented as soon as possible. This builds on the Office’s previous inputs developing the concept note for an integrated programme for the project and shows how different funding instruments, namely MYA and the PBF, can be used in coordination to develop and deliver an initiative.

Papua New Guinea

Supporting the implementation of the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement has been a long-standing priority for the United Nations, and the MYA has been instrumental in funding necessary additional technical and staff capacities over the years. The Agreement followed several years of conflict in Bougainville and provided for the non-binding referendum held in late 2019, in which over 97 per cent of participants voted for independence. Under the Bougainville Peace Agreement, the two parties are required to consult on the result of the referendum, with final decision-making authority on the political status of Bougainville resting with the National Parliament.

Support for the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement covered a number of fronts, including UN chairing of the post-referendum joint consultation process. In July 2021, the Acting Resident Coordinator chaired a meeting, which resulted in the parties agreeing on a joint roadmap to guide the future of the consultation process. The roadmap committed the parties to put the outcome of the consultation process to the national parliament for approval in 2023, and to achieve a final political settlement for Bougainville between 2025 and 2027.

An expert from the Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers, was deployed to Papua New Guinea, funded by the MYA, to provide process design and constitutional support to the Acting Resident Coordinator during the consultation process. The parties are now preparing for a third consultation meeting, anticipated for early December.

MYA funds also supported the work of the DPPA Liaison Officer in Bougainville, whose role working with the parties in the preparations for the consultation process has been critical. The Liaison Officer has also worked with the parties to improve women’s representation and participation in the consultation process.

In addition, DPPA is supporting peacebuilding efforts in the Highlands, where protracted low-level conflict and weak security institutions are an impediment to development. MYA funds supported a four-week pilot deployment of an UNPOL Standing Police Capacity expert in August and September, to undertake an assessment with a view to improving community policing standards as a component of wider conflict-prevention and community dispute resolution efforts. This exercise complements broader support for peacebuilding efforts in the Papua New Guinea Highlands leveraging investments by the PBF in support of the UN-wide Highlands Joint Programme.



Secretary-General António Guterres (right) meets with James Marape, Prime Minister and Minister for Bougainville Affairs of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.
Credit: UN Photo/Ariana Lindquist

PROVISION OF MEDIATION SUPPORT

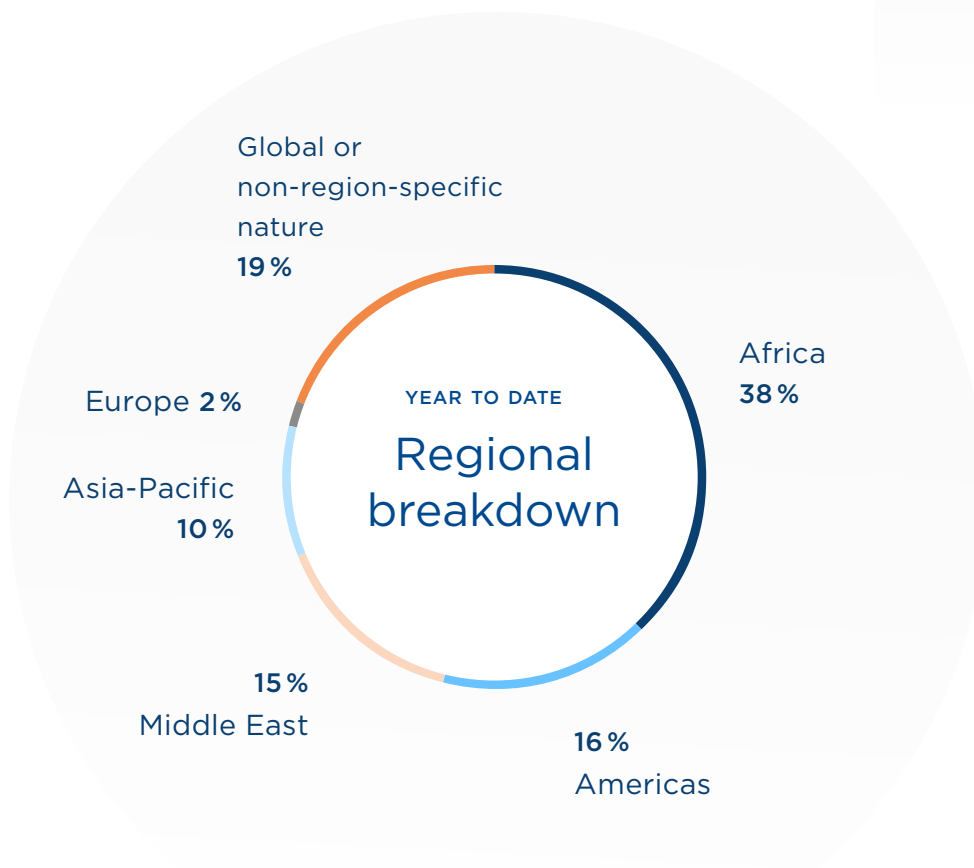
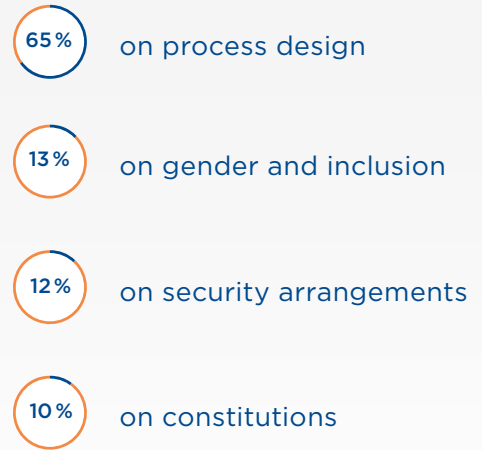
Facts and figures

In the third quarter, the Mediation Support Unit (MSU) deployed staff and Standby Team (SBT) experts on **16 occasions** to new and ongoing contexts, including:

Bolivia, Chile, Ethiopia, Kenya, Maldives, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen and Zambia.

In total, since the beginning of the year, support has been provided on nearly **90 occasions**.

Thematic breakdown:



HIGHLIGHTS OF SUPPORT IN PREVENTION AND PEACE NEGOTIATION CONTEXTS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Technical assistance to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), to reimagine

analysis of the political, economic and security drivers of violence in the South Kivu Province, highlight the interests and positions of neighbouring

states, and identify potential entry points for a comprehensive UN engagement strategy.

HAITI



Support from the MSU senior constitutions expert in the form of the assessment of multiple draft versions of the new Haitian Constitution prepared by members of the Independent Drafting Committee. The expert

developed and submitted a detailed note on the draft constitution to the SRSG for the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), assisting the mission in developing a clear understanding of the

main features of the draft with emphasis on the principal changes from the 1987 Constitution and to tailor BINUH's good offices accordingly.

HONDURAS



Provision of technical expertise on process design to the Resident Coordinator and the Peace and Development Adviser to help strengthen UN Country Team preventive analysis and strategy development in a context of heightened political tension and potentially complex electoral scenarios.

The SBT expert engaged in a series of meetings and analysis sessions, offering comparative expertise and recommendations based on examples and lessons learned from UN engagement in other contexts. This helped to inform ongoing internal strategic discussions within the Resident Coordinator's

Office and with the UN Country Team, aiming to identify entry points for UN preventive engagement at different levels and with different actors through existing programmes as well as possible new initiatives.

SOUTH SUDAN



Technical assistance to the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), regarding the design of the constitution-making process and developing written guidance for national stakeholders. In addition, MSU was requested to support preparations for a Leadership Retreat for the Council of Ministers. A former Standby expert was requested to draft background materials for this upcoming meeting.

SUDAN



Support to the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission (UNITAMS), as it works with the Transitional Government of Sudan and signatories of the Juba Peace Agreement. On ceasefire and security arrangements, MSU and SBT security arrangements experts, deployed to Sudan to support the holding of a technical consultative meeting with signatories of the Juba Peace Agreement

and civil society on 5 and 6 September, and to facilitate the establishment of the Permanent Ceasefire Committee. MSU and SBT constitutions experts also collaborated with UNDP to conduct an analysis of Sudan's draft Constitution Making Law, which was submitted by UNITAMS to the Minister of Justice.

TUNISIA



Technical assistance to the Resident Coordinator and to the Peace, and Development Adviser, in designing and implementing a dialogue with youth using the WhatsApp application. The proposed dialogue will target a group of 70-100 young Tunisians with diverse social, gender, political and geographic backgrounds in order to inform UN engagement on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and youth participation in public life.



"I urged the Transitional Government and the opposition Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North to ensure women participate in peace talks and contribute to implement the peace agreement, especially on security arrangements as it is vital to sustain peace and security."

Photo by Ola Mohsin/Copyright © UN

LIBYA



Support continued across the different tracks of the political process. To assist the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), in identifying components of an integrated strategic approach to rights-based reconciliation in Libya, and in close coordination with the Government and other international partners, transitional justice and process design expertise was provided. On the security track, work on planning and implementing UN support to operationalize the October 2020 nationwide ceasefire agreement continued.

SYRIA



Technical expertise provided to the Office of the Special Envoy for a meeting on detainees that was held on the margins of the latest round of “Astana” talks on 8 July. The meeting focused on the simultaneous detainee release operations conducted on 2 July, and proposals to strengthen the working group in the future. In September, MSU provided a process design expert to provide input into the Special Envoy’s planning for the meeting of the Syria Constitutional Committee in October.



Geir O. Pedersen, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria, addresses the Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East (Syria). Credit: UN Photo/Manuel Elías

ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

Facts and figures

19

Elections supported by the UN, including elections in Armenia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Niger, São Tomé and Príncipe and Zambia.

15

In-person electoral missions conducted, including needs assessment missions, advisory and review missions to a number of countries, including to: Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Iraq, Lesotho, Malawi, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sudan, South Sudan and Zambia.

46

Electoral processes across the globe are currently receiving long term electoral support from the UN.

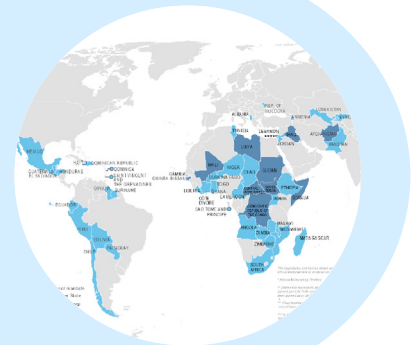
10

Virtual needs assessments conducted in cases where the deployment of missions was not possible due to pandemic related challenges, including in Armenia, Bhutan, Fiji, Mali, Mozambique and Sierra Leone.

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 @UNDPPA  13. 9. 2021

Over the last two years, the @UN has provided electoral assistance to more than 60 Member States, navigating challenges including COVID-19 to support democratization around the world. Read our latest report on elections: <https://bit.ly/2Ym6IbF>



HIGHLIGHTS OF SUPPORT IN ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

BOLIVIA



MYA funds supported activities to consolidate achievements from the last elections, including in the areas of gender equality and addressing political violence, particularly violence against women. Three national experts were hired to advise the provincial electoral tribunals on key electoral matters, including on gender as well as on how best to prevent electoral violence. These measures have assisted national authorities in their efforts to ensure the forthcoming elections are as inclusive and peaceful as possible.

THE GAMBIA



MYA funding enabled DPPA to provide support to national efforts in some key areas, including civic and voter education activities, particularly activities aimed at increasing the participation of youth and women in the voter registration process and in the coming election in December.

Additionally, to support national efforts in combatting hate speech, particularly during the electoral process, DPPA, through UNOWAS, is organizing a National Stakeholders Forum in The Gambia on 26 October. The Forum, which is being organized in partnership with the Gambian Inter-Party Committee (IPC - composed of 18 registered political parties in the country), will be followed by outreach activities to local communities as well as training for media to raise awareness and generate action against hate speech.

MALAWI



A Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) was deployed in September in response to a request from the Malawi Electoral Commission for continued UN technical support. The mission developed specific recommendations on how the UN can best support national efforts in key areas such as enhancing the transparency and integrity of the electoral process; institutional and capacity development of the electoral management body; promoting the political participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities; as well as strengthening local conflict prevention and electoral dispute resolution mechanisms.

The recommendations of the NAM will serve as the basis for a new UN electoral assistance project in Malawi to support national efforts in enhancing the transparency, inclusivity, and integrity of the electoral process ahead of the 2025 general elections.

UZBEKISTAN



Support to the UNDP-led electoral project in key electoral activities ahead of the upcoming presidential election on 25 October. The UN electoral project in the country successfully conducted several online workshops to increase women's political participation as well as a series of trainings for media representatives on the topic of media coverage of elections.

Additionally, a number of meetings were organized to promote the role of civil society and the engagement of youth in elections. These activities are expected to contribute to national efforts in promoting the participation of women and youth, as well as enhancing the inclusivity and integrity of the electoral process in preparation for the upcoming presidential election.

ZAMBIA



UN support to the August 2021 general elections included a combination of technical electoral assistance and political support to national efforts for dialogue and conflict prevention. UN electoral support to the process included key areas such as civic and voter education; participation of youth, women and persons with disabilities in the electoral process; training and capacity development of electoral officials and other key stakeholders; and elections logistics.

Additionally, DPPA, through the deployment of an expert on inclusion from the Standby Team, assisted national stakeholders in Zambia to establish an inclusive Zambian-led platform for dialogue. The expert on Inclusion provided advisory support to the RC/PDA and the civil society "*Coalition for Peaceful Elections in Zambia (the Coalition)*" in the design of a Peace Conference attended by political party representatives to publicly endorse a pledge for peaceful elections and in the development of a communication and political engagement strategy to ensure that pledge remained alive throughout the electoral process.

With the support from the UN and other international organizations such as the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Coalition contributed to de-escalation of tensions in the run-up to elections by bringing the main political leaders together to sign the peace pledge. Despite small incidents of violence, the elections were organized in an overall peaceful manner and transition of power took place smoothly.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION WINDOW



The Innovation Cell continued pursuing its work in the fields of machine-assisted data analytics, open-source earth observation, foresight and futures thinking, and behavioural insights and science, following the strategic objectives of the Technology and Innovation Window.

MACHINE-ASSISTED DATA ANALYTICS

Under this workstream, the Innovation Cell, in collaboration with the Qatar Computing Institute, finalized the prototype of “Diplomatic Pulse”, a specialized search engine that pools together official press releases from UN Member States. This digital tool lets users see which governments have issued press releases regarding a particular incident or topic, complementing timely analysis of trending themes in international affairs. The prototype is currently being tested with users in DPPA for the official launch to the public in late 2021.

SUPPORTING PEACEMAKING EFFORTS WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Innovation Cell collaborated with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to hold a large-scale digital dialogue, on 13 September, with the Iraqi public as part of the Mission’s efforts to provide technical support ahead of the elections in October.

Moderated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, the digital dialogue provided a safe and secure space for Iraqis to anonymously share their thoughts and concerns on the upcoming elections with the UN leadership in the country.

MAINSTREAMING APPLIED SCIENCE

The Peace and Security Data Hub, a joint initiative of DPPA and DPO in response to the Secretary-General’s Data Strategy, was finalized for launch on 5 October, on the margins of the UN World Data Forum. The Data Hub aims to support data exchange across the Peace and Security Pillar, enabling UN personnel to exchange and maintain data securely for operational response, as well as providing Member States and the public with access to publicly released peace and security data. In line with DPPA’s efforts to advance the uptake of empirical methods, the Innovation Cell launched the fourth E-Analytics and Innovation Course. The course takes a hybrid format, with virtual sessions continuing in October and November, and an in-person innovation lab planned to take place in Qatar in December. Over 300 applications were received, with 31 participants selected from Special Political Missions, field presences and Headquarters.

UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

 @UNDPPA  15. 9. 2021

#PeaceTech and #innovation in action: On Monday, @UNIraq Special Representative @JeanineHennis conducted the first-ever Digital Dialogue with Iraqi voters listening to their hopes and concerns. <https://bit.ly/3AevvMA> #Vote4Iraq



GOAL 2

STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS FOR PREVENTION AND RESILIENCE



Partnerships with regional organizations

In the third quarter of 2021, DPPA continued to support the [Economic Community of West African States](#) (ECOWAS) to strengthen regional capacities for inclusive peace in West Africa and the Sahel. An ongoing review of the Conflict Prevention Framework (ECPF), adopted by ECOWAS' Mediation and Security Council in 2008 as a key strategy to operationalize conflict prevention and peacebuilding, has entered its final stages.

In close collaboration with ECOWAS, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), with MYA funding, DPPA organized two consultative forums and a field mission to Guinea to take stock of lessons learnt, particularly in the context of elections, which remain a major driver of conflict in the region. ECOWAS and civil society organizations (CSOs) reflected on gaps and challenges faced when trying to prevent conflict and agreed on concrete steps to strengthen their partnership.

These include establishing an implementation committee for the ECPF Plans of Action and considering the establishment of a “regional democracy index” with the support of CSOs and think tanks from the region.

Ahead of the presidential elections in [The Gambia](#) in December 2021, DPPA is working closely with [UNOWAS](#) and the Resident Coordinator's Office to support the holding of peaceful elections, including through a National Stakeholders' Forum on 26 October for registered political parties and relevant national stakeholders to re-commit to peaceful and credible elections, and to refrain from using inciteful and hateful speech. A draft Pledge has been prepared, which political parties registered with The Gambia's Inter-Party Committee (IPC) will be encouraged to sign during the Stakeholders' Forum that will be presided over by the SRSG for West Africa and the Sahel, the ECOWAS Commission President, and the IPC Co-Chairs.

UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

 @UNDPPA  20. 7. 2021

@UNDPPA closely cooperates with **regional** and sub-regional **organizations** in its work on conflict prevention, preventive diplomacy and mediation. Learn about our partnerships: <https://bit.ly/3k409Ce>



Partnerships in the UN system

DPPA also advanced its partnership with the [World Bank](#) to promote joint risk analysis and understanding of risk and resilience factors in conflict prevention contexts. The Peacebuilding Support Office, which also serves as the Secretariat for the UN-WB Partnership Framework in Crisis-Affected Situations, has facilitated the UN's partnership to support the rollout of a joint regional Risk and Resilience Assessment with the World Bank and the United Kingdom's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office for the Afghanistan-Tajikistan/Uzbekistan border areas and the Ferghana Valley. Outcomes are expected to enable joint approaches to conflict prevention and a better coordinated and impactful regional and cross-border strategy, financing and programming. This is particularly critical in the context of the secondary impacts of COVID-19, and the likelihood of fiscal consolidation and debt defaults, which could increase the risk of conflict and crisis.

In [Lesotho](#), DPPA joined forces with the [UN Development Programme](#) (UNDP) and the Resident Coordinator's Office to support the national reform process in the run-up to the general elections in September 2022. Over the past several weeks, a range of initiatives was launched throughout the country to enhance local peace-making and mediation efforts. Peacemaking workshops and trainings in Maseru and Mafeteng district paved the

way for the creation of local peace-making committees to complement the national peace architecture while an intra/inter-party training made progress on understanding gender in the political context.

In [Northeast Asia](#), DPPA in partnership with the [UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization](#) (UNESCO), maintained its efforts for the better inclusion of young people in national and regional policy discussions, to foster regional cooperation for current and future generations. A group of young people from China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Mongolia completed the UNESCO-led "Futures Literacy" training and engaged in multiple dialogues to discuss the future of the region, focusing on the impact of climate change and evolving relations between generations.

In the context of recent developments in [Afghanistan](#), the [UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia](#) (UNRCCA) played a vital role in facilitating dialogue and engagement in the rapidly changing political environment. A meeting was convened, which brought together the Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan's six neighbouring countries to jointly stress the necessity of forming an open, inclusive government that respects the fundamental human rights, including those of ethnic groups, women and children.

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 @UNDPPA  28. 7. 2021

@UNDPPA, together with @UNESCO, @SharedStudios, convened today the first #FuturingPeace in #NortheastAsia Youth Dialogue with over 50 youth champions from to discuss the role of youth in the region looking forward to 2060. Stay tuned for the next sessions in October.



WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY WINDOW

40 %

Funding
programmed
to date

\$ 3.6 million, reflecting an increase of 40 per cent compared to 2020

50 %

Increase in
WPS projects

13 fully dedicated to WPS, showing an increase of 50 per cent compared to 2020



"It takes hope to be able to do the kind of work done by Yemeni women and youth peace advocates. We need to believe we can bring youth home from the frontlines, and that roads will one day open, and that women will one day assume leadership positions and have more influence." Photo by Heba Naji/Copyright © UN

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER THE WPS WINDOW

GLOBAL



DPPA's Gender, Peace and Security Unit (GPS) and MSU, in consultation with the Innovation Cell, delivered the second iteration of the online dialogue on digital technologies to enhance women's inclusion in mediation processes.

The online dialogue was delivered with the assistance of Build Up over a period of six weeks and benefited from the substantive support of Standby Team experts. Participants included a mix of UN staff and field-based NGO representatives.

GLOBAL



As part of the Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights, Member States have been called on to implement positive measures to increase women's equal participation in peace, political and other decision-making processes. To support the Call to Action, DPPA contributed to UN-wide key messages on the use of temporary short-term measures including quotas to fast-track women's equal participation in decision-making.

These included bold targets and incentives that can be utilized to tackle entrenched discrimination against women and advance women's direct participation, including in mediation and peace processes. So far, the key messages provided useful guidance across several SPMs, including at the Office of the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region in its efforts to support local women mediators in the sub-region.

GLOBAL



In collaboration with the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), UN Women and Photoville, DPPA launched the photo exhibit "[In Their Hands: Women Taking Ownership of Peace](#)", at Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York.

Through the lens of local women photographers, the exhibition features 14 women peacemakers from around the world, some of whom have mediated with armed groups, participated in peace talks, advanced political solutions, advocated for women's rights and participation, built social cohesion or pushed for peaceful transitions.

CHILE



DPPA is working closely with the Resident Coordinator's Office and the UN Country Team, to boost the participation of women and indigenous peoples in elections and in a broad discussion regarding the inclusion of gender equality and indigenous peoples' rights in the constitution.

Activities included the launch of the *"Vote for All of us Women"* - campaign and outreach, including through the production of a video explaining the voting parity mechanism.

TURKMENISTAN



With the support of UNRCCA, the Central Asia Women Leaders' Caucus convened a landmark forum in Turkmenistan to discuss progress in the implementation of policies aimed at promoting gender equality in Central Asia. The Forum saw the adoption of a Declaration of the Women Leaders' Caucus which expressed appreciation for the current positive dynamics of regional cooperation in Central Asia, highlighting women's role in addressing global and region-specific challenges.

GREAT LAKES



The UN Strategy for the Great Lakes region has made women's participation in governance and peace processes one of its key areas of focus. During the third quarter, additional progress was made, including through intensified linkages between the African Ombudspersons and Mediators Associations (AOMA) and FemWise-Africa to further promote women's inclusion and the creation of a roadmap to support preventative diplomacy, addressing gender-based violence and the role of women in cross-border trade.

UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

 @UNDPPA  23. 9. 2021

Happy International Day of Sign Languages! Find out more about Ola Mohsin, a hearing impaired Sudanese photographer featured in the *"#InTheirHands: Women Taking Ownership of Peace"* exhibit. See it at the @Photoville festival & online here <http://bit.ly/38L8Dsb> #WomenPeacePower



MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS) IN COLOMBIA

The United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia conducts a wide range of activities linked to its peacebuilding mandate that contribute, directly or indirectly, to alleviating mental hardship and strengthening the resilience of individuals, notably former combatants and their relatives, impacted by violence. Many activities also aim at fostering reconciliation, including by facilitating access to tools that help communities reconnect with each other, thereby rebuilding a fractured social fabric.

Considering the mounting number of killings of former combatants -- 295 since the signing of the Peace Agreement -- surviving spouses and children face significant

hardship. Their vulnerabilities were exacerbated during the pandemic.

As social safety nets including institutional support mechanisms in remote areas remain limited, the United Nations Verification Mission supports activities that alleviate mental pressures and provide psychosocial support. With MYA funding, the Mission facilitated transportation out of risk areas for family members of former combatants that were victims or survivors of violence and engaged government entities to access emergency help and protection mechanisms. At the same time, the Mission advocated for the systematic inclusion of victims in such services offered by local administrations.



"I aspire to contribute to the transformation of our country, from this war and violence that we have experienced to a different Colombia: a Colombia in peace, with social justice and equal rights for men and women."
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GOAL 3

ACHIEVE A LEARNING, INNOVATIVE WORKING CULTURE THAT TAKES FORWARD THE VISION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EVALUATION



- ▶ DPPA launched its annual call for 2022 MYA projects.
- ▶ The Office shared a list of priorities for 2022 and issued guidance to support divisions in their planning. Building on recommendations from the Value-for-Money evaluation and other assessments, the guidelines for the first time set forth requirements for each project to develop its succinct value proposition. Articulating a core 'value claim' will help project managers stay focused on the most important results.
- ▶ An independent Mid-Term Review of its 2020-22 Strategic Plan was completed. Undertaken to assess progress towards achieving the strategic goals and the extent to which the Plan has been central to the planning processes of DPPA, the evaluation yielded useful findings pertaining to strategic planning, the results framework and funding instruments associated with DPPA. Going forward, DPPA will prepare a management response to track implementation of the recommendations emanating from the evaluation.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS



- ▶ Responded to 157 media guidance requests from the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General which helped publicize important initiatives of the Department and SPMs.
- ▶ Published 13 'This Week' newsletters and 11 articles for 'Politically Speaking' magazine.
- ▶ 1.5 million impressions and 5,540 new followers on DPPA's Twitter account.

LEARNING, CAPACITY-BUILDING AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT



- ▶ Organized a pilot course on UN sanctions with Swisspeace, the UN University and the Graduate Institute in Geneva. The pilot aimed to enhance relationships between desk officers, SPM staff and sanctions experts working in country contexts where there are both UN mediation efforts and Security Council-mandated sanctions regimes.
- ▶ DPPA and Swisspeace organized an informal dialogue between representatives of social media companies and UN mediators, to better understand existing social media company policies, share peacemakers' concerns, and formulate practical suggestions on how to leverage social media for peace while mitigating risks of malicious use.
- ▶ Launched a new Community of Practice to provide a platform for exchanging knowledge among staff engaged in constitution-making processes around the world. This will help ensure that staff will apply uniform standards while providing assistance on this matter.

AFTER-ACTION REVIEWS IN DPPA

In line with the DPPA-DPO Policy on Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning, divisions conduct a range of evaluative exercises, including After-Action Reviews (AAR), which are analysis of an action, activity or project. They usually allow the Department to reflect on what went well and identify areas of improvement. DPPA prepares and disseminates a summary report of its evaluative exercises on an annual basis.



AAR ON A JOINT MISSION TO GUINEA-BISSAU



The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) closed in December 2020, in a context marked by the COVID-19 crisis and continued political upheaval. In October 2020, a joint Headquarters mission to Guinea-Bissau, composed of DPPA-DPO's Western Africa Division, DPO, and the Development Coordination Office, assessed progress and transition milestones still outstanding.

DPPA facilitated an AAR to reflect on what went well during this joint mission, identify areas of improvement, and assess whether to continue use of such an integrated model of support. During the review, participants indicated that they greatly valued the three Departments coming together, as that improved cross-pillar communication, triggered a deeper discussion on substantive questions and advanced the closure and liquidation process of UNIOGBIS.

Participants identified best practices and recommendations in the areas of human resources management, asset disposal and transfer, capacity building, coordination, and the continuation of political engagement with national authorities, regional organizations and civil society. The review highlighted the need to balance Headquarters' support in driving the transition process with an empowered UN presence on the ground that is structured and resourced to deliver on national priorities.

AAR ON UN SUPPORT TO POLITICAL AND ELECTORAL PROCESSES IN WEST AFRICA



The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs serves as the UN focal point for electoral assistance. Elections are already complex events and have been rendered even more challenging because of the COVID-19 pandemic. In West Africa, the UN was asked to support several critical and overlapping electoral processes (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Niger) in late 2020 and early 2021. In the aftermath of these high-pressure, multifaceted engagements, DPPA undertook an AAR to learn from recent experiences and to discuss ways to improve the electoral-related coordination mechanisms that were activated to support these electoral processes.

The review found that these mechanisms enabled better information exchange (across Headquarters, regional and country levels) and cross-pillar analysis of election-related challenges. During the review, participants recommended clear guidance and divisions of labour between UN Resident Coordinators and UNDP Resident Representatives in performing political and technical tasks relating to elections. They also emphasized the need to balance the longer-term conflict prevention and institution-building efforts carried out by UN Country Team (i.e. strengthening relationships with electoral authorities and improving institutional and legal structures which could be manipulated for partisan advantage) with quick and responsive shuttle diplomacy to reduce tensions and promote a free and fair electoral process.

DPPA COMMENDED FOR DEDICATION TO ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY AND PROMOTING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The UN-SWAP (UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women) constitutes the first accountability framework for gender mainstreaming in the UN system. Seventeen performance indicators spread across six strategic areas—results-based management; oversight; accountability; human and financial resources; capacity; and knowledge, communication and coherence—define commonly agreed standards and ensure progress across the UN system is measured systematically.

During the reporting period, UN Women released its 2020 UN-SWAP results and congratulated DPPA for being the first entity to meet or exceed the requirements for all applicable performance indicators. In comparison, 71 per cent of UN Secretariat and 68 per cent of the overall UN system met or exceeded requirements of all ratings. UN Women lauded DPPA's efforts to uphold its important work on gender equality and empowerment of women while facing the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. UN Women also highlighted the Department's efforts at bolstering the organizational culture and its staff-driven solutions to challenges surrounding work-life balance, inclusivity and accessibility.



**For further information on the
Multi-Year Appeal, please contact
the Donor Relations Team:**

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