



QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE

MULTI-YEAR APPEAL

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2020



DPPA
Preventing Conflict. Sustaining Peace



INTRODUCTION

In the first quarter of 2020, the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA) was instrumental in translating the vision and priorities set out in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) Strategic Plan for 2020-2022 into action. The new MYA is the most ambitious appeal for funding the Department has ever issued, seeking to mobilize \$45 million for 2020 to meet increased demand and sustain our operations. By 31 March, the Department had received \$12.4 million in contributions and hard pledges, leaving a funding gap of \$32.6 million (Appeal 27% funded). In light of the impact of Covid-19 on the MYA and its operations, DPPA will communicate its new funding target in July 2020.

The Covid-19 pandemic has naturally affected DPPA's ability to implement the MYA portfolio. The Department is in the middle of a re-programming exercise to

adjust its priorities and re-assess the risk management and mitigation strategies of all its projects. Demand for our services might take a different form but is nonetheless likely to remain high in 2020. New requests for MYA support are expected to arise out of the pandemic. The MYA's agility and flexibility make it an ideal tool in times of crisis. For example, thanks to its Rapid Response and Local Peace Initiative windows, it can fund projects in support of the Secretary-General's recent call for a global ceasefire to allow warring parties to focus on fighting the pandemic or advance local reconciliation efforts against the backdrop of Covid-19. The following report shows how extra-budgetary resources help fund prevention and Good Offices initiatives by Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Special Envoys in record time. DPPA has adapted

its tools - mediation, electoral assistance, inclusive political analysis, support for peacebuilding and sustaining peace - to the new contingencies created by the pandemic.

Covid-19 has a disproportionate effect on women and girls, particularly those living in fragile and conflict-affected areas. With MYA funding, and together with the wider UN system and our partners, DPPA remains committed to supporting women's participation in political processes and all matters of peace and security. With competition for resources continuing to intensify, the MYA is more important than ever for DPPA's work. The Department will strive to keep partners regularly informed through the Donor Group and other forums, including the newly launched Talking Prevention series.



GOAL 1

CONTRIBUTE TO PREVENTING AND RESOLVING VIOLENT CONFLICT AND BUILDING RESILIENCE



Action-oriented multi-dimensional analysis

The Department has been quick to expand its analytical lens to include Covid-19 along other “stressors” that can trigger conflict or violence. The Department is undertaking several initiatives at Headquarters and in the field to mitigate political risks (see page 14 for more information on risks). MYA funding is helping senior UN leadership (including through the Executive Committee chaired by the Secretary-General) to analyze, together with Special Political Missions (SPMs) and Resident Coordinators (RCs) in non-mission settings, how a significant outbreak could affect local and regional dynamics. DPPA consistently advocates for gendered analysis and sex-disaggregated data of conflict and crisis, causes and consequences, including phenomena such as Covid-19. DPPA’s political analysis is widely shared and contributes to shaping system-wide UN responses.

Supporting inclusive peace and political processes

In **Bolivia**, DPPA continued supporting the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Jean Arnault, as he oversees the implementation of the agreement for the UN system to provide urgent support to national efforts to overcome the crisis. With MYA funding, DPPA provided substantial political support to the Good Offices and analysis undertaken by the Personal Envoy, to the UN Country Team (UNCT), and to the planning and implementation of the UN System's Peace Consolidation Initiative, specifically through the deployment of a Senior Political Affairs Officer to Bolivia. Thanks to these efforts, the UN initiative began implementing some activities, such as the organization of three "citizen consultations" in La Paz and El Alto with women and youth. Elections originally scheduled for 3 May have been postponed due to Covid-19, and discussions are ongoing to set a new date. DPPA will continue to support the implementation of the Personal Envoy's mandate.

In **Sudan**, DPPA continued its work in support of the political transition process and assisted Special Adviser Nicholas Haysom in leading the UN's political engagement with the country and in coordinating international backing through the Friends of Sudan Group. Furthermore, MYA funding is enabling the work of the team conducting the substantive preparations for a future UN presence in Sudan. Owing to the restrictions imposed in the context of the

Covid-19 crisis, the team is working virtually, with a core group of full-time staffers and a wider group of part-time focal points on all key issues.

Extra-budgetary funding was also used to bring the UN system together in developing activities in support of **Ethiopia** ahead of the elections that had been scheduled for August 2020. Additionally, during the first quarter of 2020, MYA resources were mobilized for a planned UN system review of support to **Eritrea**. Due to the pandemic, the meeting was postponed and will be re-scheduled for later in the year.

In January 2020, MYA funding allowed DPPA's **Somalia** team at Headquarters to assist and inform the Sanctions Committee with regard to the political and security situation in the country and progress on sanction implementation, notably during a visit of the Committee Chair and other members to Somalia. It further assisted in improving cooperation between the Federal Government and the Panel of Experts on the sanctions regime and its monitoring.

Examples of deployments of the Standby Team in the first quarter

Where feasible, DPPA is adapting its set of tools (e.g. Standby Team, electoral support) to Covid-19 challenges by shifting operational focus to provide technical advice and analysis through digital platforms and technologies. For example, senior mediation experts from the Standby Team were deployed 23 times in

the first quarter to support initiatives in ten contexts ranging from Afghanistan to Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Papua New Guinea, Sudan, and Syria.

Several experts were deployed to support **Sudan** talks at the request of the South Sudanese Secretariat and the United Nations-African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), as follows: (i) Two security experts advised the parties on options for transitional security arrangements and potential implementation modalities following an agreement; (ii) A power-sharing expert focused on governance issues identified in the Transitional Constitutional Charter, including constitutional questions related to the sub-regions, as well as aspects related to their reconstruction, distribution of power and wealth, and the administrative status of provinces; and (iii) A process design expert contributed to the harmonization of the separate agreements and protocols of the different tracks of the peace process between representatives of various Sudanese regions.

In **Afghanistan**, a process design and transitional justice expert was deployed to Kabul to assist the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission develop strategies on the treatment of human rights within Intra-Afghan negotiations while at the same time maintaining its statutory independence. Support to Afghanistan continues after the Covid-19 outbreak, with the Mediation Support

Unit (MSU) and the Standby Team preparing analytical papers and comparative research on topics that could feature prominently in Intra-Afghan negotiations to help generate options for future consideration.

As Covid-19 hit, MSU mobilized quickly to shift the primary operational focus of the Standby Team mechanism to the provision of remote support through virtual means and drafting. Experts and staff are now actively engaged in a series of exercises, providing remote technical advice, analysis and coaching to clients. For example, a constitutional expert was deployed to Amman, Jordan, to support the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OSESGY) on a workshop exploring possible political, security and transition arrangements that could be the subject of negotiation in future Yemeni peace talks. This support is now being maintained through remote assistance by MSU and the Standby Team, including a comparative paper on inclusion mechanisms for independents and civil society.



Elections in Moldova. UN Photo/Steven Candia

Examples of electoral assistance support

Despite the current challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic, the overall activities of the Department in coordinating UN electoral assistance to Member States has continued through flexible arrangements, as necessary and where possible. The Department continued to coordinate UN electoral assistance to 50 Member States and conducted five electoral missions during the reporting period.

For instance, in the case of a request for UN electoral assistance from **Moldova**, the decision was taken by the Department and

in coordination with UNDP to undertake a comprehensive desk review instead of deploying a Needs Assessment Missions (NAMs).

In **Iraq**, MYA funding supported the electoral team in the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) with the deployment of several electoral experts to support the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) in anticipation of early elections. Due to Covid-19, the UNAMI Office of Electoral Assistance adopted innovative methods to ensure continuity in mandate delivery and alternative means of remote communication in supporting IHEC. The IT consultant also provided remote training to IHEC

commissioners and other personnel to expand teleconferencing/telecommuting, which helped the Commission maintain a level of activity during the emergency.

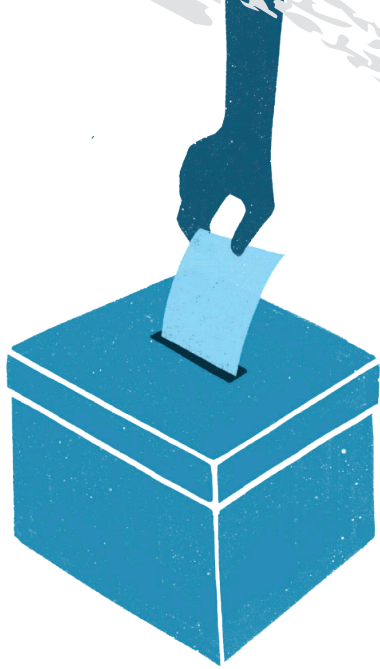
In **Uzbekistan**, support was provided to the second round of legislative elections in January 2020 and to prepare follow-up activities such as an International Conference on Lessons Learned from the electoral process. Assistance was provided through technical advice on electoral procedures, as well as through training, and voter education activities specifically targeting women, youth, persons with disabilities and other under-represented groups. The Covid-19 outbreak led the Central Election Commission (CEC) to postpone the International Conference initially scheduled to take place at the end of March. Instead, the CEC in collaboration with the UNCT, plans to organize online discussions with electoral practitioners and election observer groups to evaluate the 2019 parliamentary elections and determine further measures to improve the electoral legislation.

In **Ukraine**, two Electoral Affairs Officers from Headquarters were deployed in February 2020 to brief national and international interlocutors, including the Central Election Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the UN electoral assistance framework, as a follow-up to the DPPA Under-Secretary-General's meeting

with Ukraine's Foreign Minister in December 2019. All interlocutors expressed appreciation for the briefing on the principles and types of UN electoral assistance and the procedures for requesting possible support.

In **Bolivia**, MYA funding was instrumental to the start-up activities of the electoral assistance pillar of the UN System's Peace Consolidation Initiative for Bolivia. Electoral assistance is one of the three pillars of the Initiative. MYA support was essential in funding the timely deployment of key electoral advisors, starting in January, to support the electoral assistance process in Bolivia. Bolivia is good example of where a combination of Good Offices efforts and technical electoral support has been offered to support the requesting Member State to overcome political/electoral crisis. Following the report of the first Covid-19 case in the country, on 12 March, the government declared a state of emergency, which also led to suspending the electoral calendar and postponing elections to a date yet undefined. The UN electoral team has been working with national officials providing the technical advice they need in preparation for the elections.

In **Malawi**, the Constitutional Court's ruling of 3 February annulled the May 2019 presidential election results and ordered changes in the electoral laws and the conduct of fresh elections in 150 days. A Senior Electoral Expert



was deployed to lead a joint DPPA-UNDP electoral advisory mission to Malawi in support of the RC in early March. The mission met with various stakeholders as well as with the UN team on the ground and provided key advice to UN senior officials on possible ways in which the Organization can re-orient its support to the conduct of fresh elections upon the request of national authorities, taking into account the tense political environment and its implications for reputational risks.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on several planned activities since early March, including shortening an ongoing electoral NAM in Pakistan in March as well as the postponement of NAMs to Kenya and Timor-Leste. Where possible, EAD will utilize desk reviews in place of NAMs to minimize staff travel and exposure. DPPA will continue to provide remote support to electoral projects in the field. Other planned activities in support of regional organizations and their Member States have all been scheduled for the second half of the year, as the Department continues to monitor developments around the world.

SUPPORTING UNITED NATIONS POLITICAL EFFORTS ON SYRIA

The Syrian conflict, which has just entered its tenth year, continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. Hostilities in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic increased alarmingly throughout 2019, causing the displacement of civilians at an unprecedented scale in early 2020—almost one million civilians over the course of three months, 80 per cent of whom are women and children. The situation in the north-east has a high potential for continued volatility. The south also remains unstable. The risk of further direct conflict between international actors in Syria cannot be discounted. MYA funding supports political, technical and operational support to the Office of the Special Envoy (OSE) on Syria and supports the activities described below.

Conflict analysis/ceasefire options: The Syria Team continues to work with the OSE on defining an appeal for and pursuit of a “complete, immediate nationwide ceasefire throughout Syria to enable an all-out-effort to suppress COVID-19 in Syria”, as announced by Special Envoy Geir O. Pedersen on 24 March.

Regular Situation Reports for UN leadership on Idlib offensive: Throughout the 2019-2020 Idlib offensive and continuing since the 6 March ceasefire agreed between Russia and Turkey, the Syria Team has continued to produce Situation Reports by including

analysis on recent developments and up-to-date maps depicting airstrikes and shifts in control. These reports and maps have enabled UN leadership to remain fully briefed on rapidly shifting battlefield and political dynamics, informing their briefings and day-to-day engagement with Member States and other key interlocutors.

UN Strategic Framework/Common Country Analysis: The UNCT in Syria launched a process of reviewing a UN Common Country Analysis (CCA) to inform the development of a new Strategic Framework (SF) for UN operations in Syria. Under the new development reform, political input into this process has been identified as a priority and the Syria Team provided extensive and substantive political input to the draft CCA in order to inform the ongoing UN inter-agency efforts regarding a new SF to be agreed with the Syrian government. The Syria Team will lead on discussions with the RC Office in Damascus on inputs into the SF/CCA process.



INNOVATION CELL PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE MYA

In the context of Covid-19, innovative and digital approaches to prevention, mediation and peacebuilding are increasingly relevant. The situation has made direct interaction, including shuttle diplomacy, with conflict parties and peace constituencies difficult. This puts new technologies for safe and comprehensive dialogues at the forefront. DPPA's Innovation Cell has been working on tools for remote sensing and online mediation processes, including digital focus groups, social media mining, and satellite imagery analysis that are now even more critically needed. DPPA's work on science-based and data-based methodologies for conflict analysis and prevention modeling is an important contribution. Below are some ongoing projects funded by the MYA:

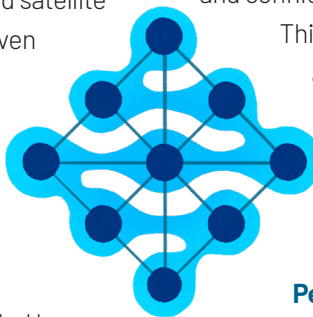
Social Media Analysis: The development of the social media reporting tool "Sparrow" is moving to its second phase. The Innovation Cell finalized the first prototype and conducted user-testing with several DPPA/DPO staff. The second phase is to mobilize programming capacity, refine the backend of the prototype, and improve user experience/user interface, so that Sparrow can be launched for broader users. Meanwhile, in response to increasing requests from desk officers, the Innovation

Cell developed a "Social Media Analysis Checklist" that includes guiding questions and datasets on how to better use social media for DPPA/DPO's political analysis work and mandate implementation. In partnership with relevant interdisciplinary experts, the team continues to support regional desks and DPPA field presences, including Peace and Development Advisers (PDAs) on UN-targeted hate speech analysis, network analysis and conflict-related issue mappings.

This project fosters remote analysis and no Covid-19 related delays or changes to the implementation are expected.

Expanding Inclusivity in Peace Processes through Digital Focus Groups and Artificial

Intelligence: In 2019, DPPA and the Innovation Cell helped develop and test a tool to run real-time digital focus groups with the aim of systematically collecting and synthesizing the views of peace constituencies, at scale, in the context of peace and mediation processes. The tool currently works in 20 languages, including all six official UN languages. In 2020, in order to make such large-scale digital focus groups even more inclusive, the Innovation Cell is enhancing the tool to function in various dialects of the



Arab region. To this end, in the first quarter, the project focused on 1) identifying and consulting with linguistic and computational science partners to train the relevant algorithms; and 2) collaborating with the main technology partner responsible for the focus group tool on better recruitment methods for participants, thereby ensuring gender, socio-economic and geographic diversity and representation. The Covid-19 outbreak further highlights the need for online platforms that are safe and accessible, and provide real-time, large-scale insights for decision-makers in sensitive conflict contexts. One potential risk is the business sustainability of the main technology partner in a climate of increasing

economic uncertainty. Mitigation measures include keeping close contact with the current partner and scoping other potential partners.

Creating Immersive Political Briefing

Materials Using Virtual Reality 360: The Covid-19 outbreak, with its attendant travel restrictions, underlines the potential of objective immersive 360 presentations of on-the-ground realities of situations. The Innovation Cell has established a partnership with the Johns Hopkins University's Immersive Storytelling and Emerging Technologies Programme and is about to finalize additional Virtual Reality pieces (e.g. Lebanon and Yemen).



WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

DPPA continues to prioritize Gender/ Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

concerns. The Department, which adopted a comprehensive WPS Policy in June 2019, continues to advocate for gendered analysis and sex-disaggregated data to enhance the scope and quality of reporting including in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on women.

MYA funding supported the implementation of the WPS Policy at UN Headquarters

and in the field. Gender advisers in each SPM continued to strengthen gender-sensitive analysis, promote women's full and equal participation in peacemaking and governance, engage with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and women's groups, and address conflict-related sexual violence where relevant. To strengthen the work of the field-based gender advisers and gender focal points, the Department has made MYA funding available to them.

Together with the wider UN system and partners, DPPA will continue to support women's full and equal participation in

peace processes and push for greater participation of women in peacemaking. The Department has also pledged to devote at least 17 per cent of the annual MYA budget to meet its gender and WPS commitments.

In February, DPPA held its third gender adviser workshop in New York for 15 gender advisers and gender focal points from SPMs. Part of the workshop was convened jointly by UN Women, DPPA and DPO to enhance cooperation and synergies between the three entities and identify joint priorities in the lead up to the 20th Anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325(2000) in October 2020. The retreat also included a meeting with the Group of Friends on WPS, giving Member States representatives an opportunity to hear directly from the gender advisers on their work in various SPM settings. To ensure continuing active contact and support following the workshop, the Gender, Peace and Security Unit has initiated bi-weekly online meetings with the field-based gender advisers and focal points.

In Yemen, due to the impact of Covid-19, the Mission is exploring alternative engagement modalities to continue its WPS work under the current circumstances. In this connection, on 31 March, OSESGY organized a virtual consultation between the Yemeni women's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and the Special Envoy to consult on how to move forward with the Secretary-General's Appeal for a Global Ceasefire. This virtual meeting was instrumental in gathering Yemeni

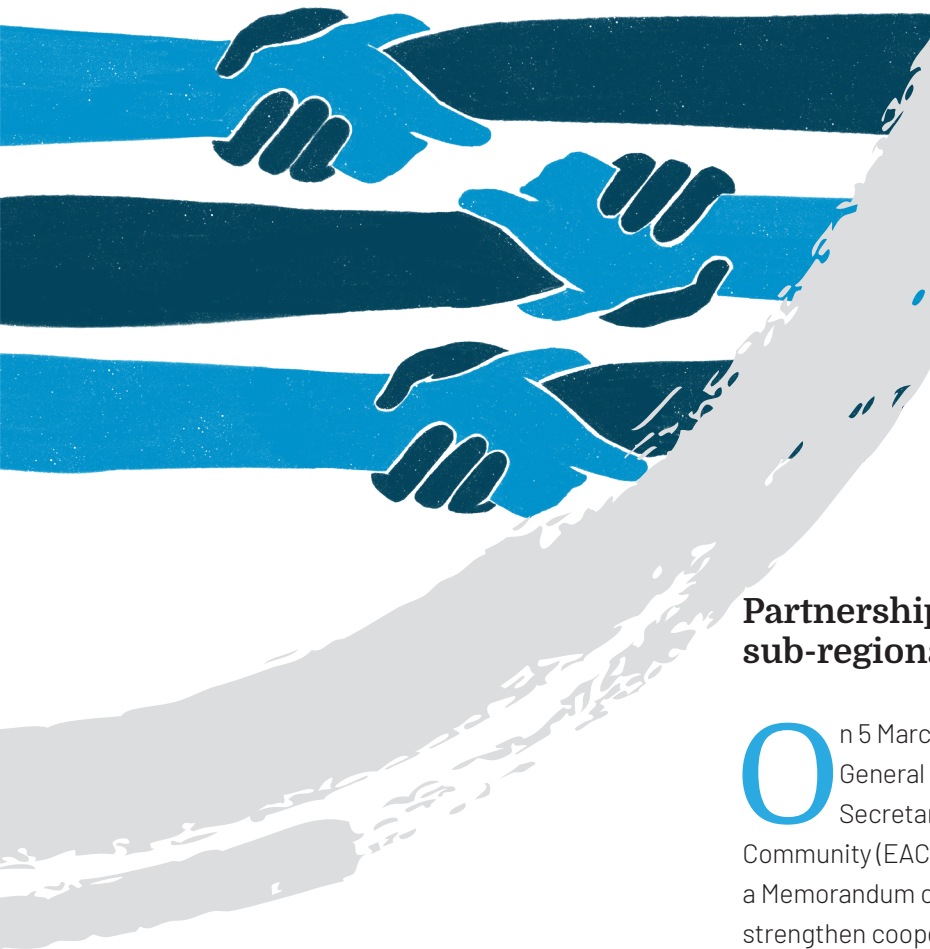
women's perspectives on the current opportunities and challenges.

In addition, to ensure that women and their views are adequately represented in future political discussions, OSESGY deepened its preparatory work by commissioning a mapping to expand its contacts with influential Yemeni women. When conditions related to the pandemic allow, the Mission plans to meet with 25 influential Yemeni women coming predominantly from political parties; in the meantime, it will continue to revisit the list of invitees, together with the above-mentioned mapping, to ensure the participants list is as inclusive and representative as possible. Smaller separate sessions with a few women in each political party are also being considered to learn more about their situation in their parties, the challenges and opportunities ahead. OSESGY's gender adviser has also commissioned a consultant to produce political advocacy training materials which will be used to bolster Yemeni women's political advocacy skills and knowledge.

DPPA has also initiated the organization of context-specific high-level strategy sessions for UN-led peace talks in response to Security Council resolution 2493(2019) and the commitment by the Secretary General in his 2019 Report on WPS. The session for Yemen took place virtually, due to the outbreak of Covid-19, on 7 April in collaboration with OSESGY. Other strategy sessions are in the early planning.

STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS FOR PREVENTION AND RESILIENCE

GOAL 2



Partnership with regional and sub-regional organizations

On 5 March 2020, Under-Secretary-General Rosemary DiCarlo and the Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC), Libérat Mfumukeko, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation and promote conflict management in the **East Africa region**. The accompanying implementation plan spells out activities to be carried out jointly around six areas: (1) Conflict prevention, management and resolution; (2) Electoral assistance; (3) Women, peace and security; (4) Youth; (5) Peacebuilding; and (6) Countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. MYA funding will help bring

this MoU into action with joint capacity building initiatives to support the EAC Forum of Electoral Management Bodies as well as to gather lessons learned on EAC's experience in mediation.

The Office of the Special Envoy for the **Horn of Africa** (OSE-HoA) continued to work closely with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and convened two meetings with IGAD Ambassadors and representatives from the international community to discuss common priorities. The OSE-HoA and IGAD organized a Conference on Peace and Security Issues in Nairobi, Kenya, in early March, to facilitate exchanges between IGAD Member States and civil society and highlight the role that women and youth organizations can play in promoting stability in the region. The Special Envoy also conducted joint consultations in Somalia to emphasize the importance of dialogue, peacebuilding and stabilization efforts. In South Sudan, the Special Envoy met with President Salva Kiir, among others, to discuss the implementation of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) signed in September 2018.

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, the OSE-HoA postponed the second meeting on the implementation of the Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy for the Horn of Africa, which was to take place in Djibouti in mid-March. The OSE-HoA is holding regular virtual briefings with Rapporteurs of the four thematic Pillars, IGAD, the African Union (AU) and the Economic Commission for Africa to support coordinated responses to mitigate the negative economic impacts of the pandemic.

The Office of the Special Envoy for the **Great Lakes Region** (O/SESG-GL) focused on preparing the 10th Summit of the Regional Oversight Mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region and the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference that had to be postponed due to Covid-19. The O/SESG-GL has activated contingency plans and continues to facilitate virtual exchanges among regional stakeholders. The development of the regional strategy for the Great Lakes is expected to be completed by the fall of 2020. MYA funding supported the recruitment of a senior consultant to lead the development of the strategy and travel to the region for consultations. The regional strategy will help streamline and re-prioritize the UN's conflict prevention and resolution efforts in the region, taking into account the impact of Covid-19.

In **Southeast Asia**, DPPA's Liaison Officer to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), based in Jakarta, spearheaded the compilation of UN system-wide inputs to the next ASEAN-UN Plan of Action. The Plan, which underpins the ASEAN-UN Comprehensive Partnership, will be adopted at the end of 2020 to guide the next five years of cooperation between the two organizations. While the Covid-19 pandemic has constrained the ability of ASEAN to carry out its regular calendar of events, DPPA has continued its engagement with ASEAN Member States and with the Secretariat remotely through virtual consultations and videoconferencing.

Partnerships with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams

In **Burkina Faso**, MYA funding enabled the deployment of a Senior Political Adviser to the Resident Coordinator's Office as well as the continued assignment of a Senior Adviser on National Security to the presidency. The senior advisers are working on launching a series of activities related to the establishment of the Infrastructure for Peace (I4P) and the enactment in law of the National Security Policy, amid the challenges created by the Covid-19 outbreak. Support to the RC also included the facilitation of a study on gender mainstreaming on security sector governance to identify entry points for ensuring full participation of women in the design of the national security policy and the integration of women parliamentarians into the relevant drafting committees. A study visit was organized to Ghana for the Burkina Faso social cohesion working group, to learn from its National Peace Council. The Burkinabe delegation included civil society organizations, women and youth, and was led by the country's Minister for Social Cohesion. A process design expert from the Standby Team was also deployed to facilitate the organization of the study tour.

In **Papua New Guinea**, following the referendum on the political future of Bougainville in late 2019, DPPA's Liaison Officer in Buka, working with the RC and UNCT,

continued to support the Governments of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville on post-referendum consultations. The UN helped facilitate dialogue, leading to a successful meeting between Prime Minister Marape and President Momis in March 2020, at which they agreed on the architecture for the future consultations and the aspiration to reach an agreement within twelve months of commencement. While PNG has not yet experienced a significant outbreak of Covid-19, the declaration of states of emergency by both governments will delay the holding of elections in Bougainville and increases the uncertainty over the timetable for consultations. The UN has been adapting its support to these new realities by replacing facilitation of face-to-face meetings with regular teleconferences.

In **Guyana**, a joint mission was deployed with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) during the 2 March general elections. The objective of the joint mission was to increase the capacity of the RC's Office to monitor the political, security and human rights situation related to the elections. The team, in coordination with the RC and the temporary PDA funded by the Joint Programme, provided daily situational reports, political and human rights analysis that increased the capacity of the RC and the UNCT to take preventive actions and evaluate the UN's positioning in the aftermath of the elections. With the difficulties that arose during the counting of the vote and thereafter, the mission was positively evaluated by the RC and the UNCT.

Partnership with civil society organizations

In the **Israel-Palestine** context, unprecedented decreases in funding and mounting delegitimization campaigns have had a negative effect on CSOs. MYA funding is helping the UN Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East process (UNSCO) develop a support network to expand local CSO roles and cooperation among them and with the UN. Meetings with 22 organizations have been conducted so far to discuss financial, social, and political challenges and ways in which the UN could help - including on advancing women's empowerment. The Covid-19 pandemic has also created new opportunities for increased Israeli-Palestinian cooperation and coordination in the area of health and emergency preparedness. UNSCO has already incorporated this positive development in its work, with the hope it will serve as a building block for cooperation in other areas.

The **South Caucasus** sub-region presents a complex environment with several protracted conflicts that are a source of regional tensions. MYA funding, alongside with the PDAs in the region, enabled facilitation of a series of events on SDGs with the participation of civil society representatives and other actors to help build constituencies for peace. In **Azerbaijan**, a workshop (21-22 January) brought together over thirty representatives of women organizations and other civil society

actors, peacebuilders, media, academia and governmental agencies. Participants discussed perceptions of the UN normative framework on peace and security and identified domestic steps to support conflict prevention agenda. In **Armenia**, a workshop (27 February-2 March) gathered around fifty participants to discuss issues of peace and security and the role of Armenia in the context of the UN's 75th anniversary. In **Georgia**, a conference (1-16 January) brought together civil society and the expert community to discuss an overall strategy of conflict transformation, with a focus on Non-Use of Force and internally displaced persons. Due to the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, similar events planned for the second quarter have been postponed, while DPPA and the PDAs explore ways to continue these platforms through alternative arrangements.

Following the DPPA Under-Secretary-General's visit to **Ukraine** in December 2019, MYA funding supported a series of consultations in February 2020 with civil society and OSCE representatives on UN efforts to advance the WPS agenda and to support to local peace initiatives. This helped identify potential areas of future dedicated engagement in support of local peace initiatives as part of the UN's overall peacebuilding efforts in the country, including through a possible Peacebuilding Fund project.

CLIMATE SECURITY

MYA funding is key to ensure DPPA is able to respond to new and emerging risks and expand its work on the linkages between climate change, peace and security. Under the umbrella of the Climate Security Mechanism – a joint DPPA, UNDP and UNEP initiative – DPPA played a lead role in completing a Climate Security Toolbox, a set of guidance documents to support concrete action on climate security in the field, which will be rolled out across the UN system. The toolbox was requested by the Secretary-General and consists of (i) a briefing note, (ii) a conceptual approach to advance a common understanding of the interlinkages between climate change, peace and security in the UN system, (iii) a quick checklist for Political Affairs Officers to help make political analysis climate-informed, and (iv) a list of relevant data sources. MYA funding further helped DPPA co-lead a light-touch exercise to map ongoing activities of 24 UN entities in the area of climate and security, the first time this has been done for the UN system.

The resulting analytical report outlines concrete areas for collaboration that could bring the UN system closer together in addressing climate related security risks. Going forward, DPPA, with UNDP and UNEP, will coordinate the implementation of these recommendations.

DPPA continued efforts to integrate climate security considerations across analytical and planning processes in the field and is in the process of developing concrete projects in the field, including in West and Central Africa. In the Middle East and North Africa, meanwhile, DPPA is conducting a multidimensional study to better understand the interactions between climate change and social, political, economic and demographic factors, with an emphasis on the impact on women in particular. The study aims both to increase awareness of the impact of climate change in MENA but also to better equip our offices in the region to help countries address the challenges that climate change will undoubtedly present. MYA funding facilitated consultations with UNCTs, SPMs and academic institutions in the region (inter alia in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia) during the month of January 2020. Covid-19 has forced the postponement of the next expert meeting but contingency plans are being developed to engage with key partners in the region virtually.

The Regional Liaison Officer based in Bangkok has established inter-agency working groups across the UN system to articulate regional peace and security risks and emerging threats, with a focus on transboundary and cross-cutting issues. One example is the newly created inter-agency group on climate-related security risks (with UNEP, IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, etc.).



LOCAL PEACE INITIATIVES

This dedicated funding window facilitates initiatives implemented by SPMs at local and sub-national levels to help build peace from the ground up. The Local Peace Initiatives (LPIs) target mediation/dialogue activities implemented at the local level that contribute to building trust in larger strategic engagements on peace and reconciliation. LPIs place a strong emphasis on inclusion (e.g. women, youth and/or minorities) and on the participation of civil society.

For example, the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia has established a network of territorial focal points to contribute to the work of tripartite follow-up mechanisms that include national authorities responsible for conducting criminal investigations. This responds to the urgent need on the ground to strengthen access of former combatants of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) to security guarantees. In addition, the Mission continued to support the work of territorial focal points in regional tripartite mechanisms for security and protection of former combatants. Both networks of territorial focal points will continue to be supported as Colombia grapples with the Covid-19 pandemic. The efforts to strengthen security guarantees will remain of critical importance. Furthermore, in the context of the pandemic, former Territorial Areas for Training and Reintegration with tailoring workshops have begun producing protective masks for healthcare workers. The Mission will seek to support these efforts by acquiring materials to produce masks with limited MYA funds, in the framework of its support to sustain and expand reintegration opportunities for former combatants.



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

GOAL 3



Strategic Planning

During the first quarter of 2020, the Department devoted considerable effort to laying the foundation for implementing DPPA's new Strategic Plan for the next three years. In line with its roll-out strategy, DPPA presented its new Plan, and the accompanying MYA, both internally, including to SPMs, and to Member States and partners at large.

Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

Following the endorsement of the new Strategic Plan, the different DPPA divisions set their targets for 2020-2022 against the indicators in the Results Framework.

With the support of its Planning Group, DPPA developed annotated notes for several of the indicators in the matrix to ensure a common understanding of what is being measured. As an added initiative to improve monitoring, DPPA will collect data against its Results Framework on a six-monthly basis. DPPA will focus on making any necessary adjustments to the Results Framework to ensure that it continues to be an effective monitoring tool. During the planned mid-year review, divisions will consider revising their performance targets, taking into account the constraints imposed by the pandemic.

Supporting the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) in ensuring that the peace and security reform benefits are properly tracked and reported is important to DPPA. During the first quarter, the Department worked closely with the DPPA-DPO Peace and Security Reform team to ensure alignment between the EOSG reform benefits tracker and DPPA's Results Framework. As custodian of half of the indicators in the peace and security benefits tracker, DPPA will collect and monitor progress against these reform initiatives.

Quarterly reviews of MYA projects are an important mechanism to monitor risks, finances and results. During its first quarterly

review, the Department focused on the impact of Covid-19 on its project implementation, risk mitigation measures and emerging opportunities for DPPA's work. Covid-19 was therefore added as a separate risk category in all MYA projects' Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) frameworks.

To meet its reporting commitment, DPPA also produced and disseminated its MYA 2019 Annual Report. The Department will continue to ensure coherent engagement with the field and consistent communications with partners on Covid-19. For instance, using the new 'Talking Prevention' forum, DPPA will organize a series of virtual meetings to informally engage with Member States on the work of the Department. DPPA will also continue to hold its regular Donor Group meetings

The first quarter marked a significant milestone for DPPA in terms of using evaluation recommendations to strengthen its work. The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) completed its triennial review on the implementation of recommendations stemming from its evaluation of DPA in 2016. OIOS is mandated by the Committee for Programme and Coordination to undertake such reviews, which are follow-up exercises undertaken three years after every General Assembly-mandated evaluation report.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

DPPA has developed a 2020 risk register for the MYA. Covid-19 is included as a stand-alone “stressor” that could trigger or exacerbate conflict or violence. For DPPA’s work, the impact of the pandemic cuts across several political, reputational, operational and financial risk categories. These relate to the need for DPPA to manage risks such as stalling political processes; impact on upcoming elections; challenges of undertaking Good Offices engagement remotely; perception that the UN is not doing enough to combat the Covid-19 pandemic; failure to have contingency measures; lack of support to SPMs; urgent functions overshadowing important planning and oversight functions; and significant funding shortfalls.

The Department is closely monitoring the implications of the pandemic for peace and security and is undertaking several initiatives at UN Headquarters and in the field to respond to these risks. For instance, DPPA is paying particularly close attention to the ramifications of Covid-19 in mission settings, contexts facing high security risk and countries with fragile political transitions. DPPA is working closely with missions to follow up on the Secretary General’s call for a global ceasefire. Where feasible, DPPA is already adapting its set of tools (mediation, Standby Team, electoral assistance etc.) to Covid-19 challenges by shifting the operational focus to provide technical advice and analysis through digital platforms and technologies. The Department is regularly sharing the latest information and guidance with all staff. The Department will also continue to ensure coherent engagement with the field and consistent communication with donors on the impact of Covid-19. Similarly, it will also continue to promote an understanding of the gendered impact of the pandemic.

To mitigate management risks, the Department is also adapting its planning tools. For example, DPPA divisions will produce quarterly workplans for this year. Moving away from the usual practice of annual workplans to develop plans covering a shorter time period enables greater flexibility in the current circumstances.



Under-Secretary-General Rosemary DiCarlo during a Gender Advisers Workshop. UN Photo/Eivind Oskarson

During this review, OIOS concluded that the Department had successfully implemented its evaluation recommendations over the past three years. OIOS' triennial review attests to the importance placed at multiple levels within DPPA on using evaluations to optimize the performance of the Department.

Guidance development, learning and staff training

DPPA convened a pillar-wide meeting to continue discussions on the development of a toolkit on conflict analysis and its dissemination through the roll-out of a revised training course on conflict analysis.

The "Female Youth National United Nations Volunteers (UNV)" pilot project of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) continued to provide 30 Afghan

females with opportunities for professional skills development. The female national UNVs are gaining insights into the United Nations' work and developing capacities on a variety of tasks, e.g. planning, implementation, coordination and reporting, as well as capacities to engage with peers and supervisors in a constructive work environment.

Covid-19 has significantly impacted the implementation of DPPA training programmes. In some cases, courses are on hold, while in others, innovative ways of integrating online platforms for course delivery are being explored. A refresher/workshop on drafting for political analysis will soon be held virtually, as will the first online induction course for new DPPA, DPO and DOS staff. DPPA is also supporting peace and security pillar entities to compile online resources aimed at helping staff cope with telecommuting and supporting

overall wellbeing. To contribute to the sense of community and support, DPPA is offering a series of initiatives such as virtual brownbags, sharing resources and learning opportunities for staff.

In January, DPPA convened its second International Training Course on UN Sanctions. Designed in partnership with the Graduate Institute in Geneva, and with funding from the Government of Switzerland, the one-week course provided both practitioner and academic insights into when, how, why, and by whom UN sanctions are implemented. Convening a diverse group of Member States, DPPA staff, Security Council Panels of Experts, and private sector representatives, participants spoke positively about the opportunity to candidly exchange perspectives. The training led to a greater understanding among participants on their respective challenges in engaging with the others to collect information on sanctions violations. For the first time, the course included a module on WPS, which explored the Security Council's WPS agenda and its relevance to the work of sanctions committees. Women comprised 57 per cent of training participants and 37 per cent of the presenters. Following initial project support through MYA in 2019, and in line with the exit strategy, the English language sanctions

training in Geneva in 2021 and 2022 will be fully funded by the Government of Switzerland. Recognizing the global impact of sanctions, and with the support of MYA funding, DPPA hopes to conduct similar trainings in other official UN languages.

Strategic communication

In the first quarter, DPPA's communications team continued to work with the EOSG and the Secretary-General's Spokesperson in the preparation of political messaging aimed at the media and the general public regarding situations and developments around the world. It also conducted a social media campaign in the run-up to International Women's Day, featuring audiovisual and graphics materials. To cover the emerging global Covid-19 pandemic, DPPA's communications team maintained close contact with counterparts in all SPMs and uses its weekly newsletter - "This Week in DPPA" - to highlight their work to fight the spread of the virus. The Department is also using social media and its monthly publication, "Politically Speaking", to communicate on how the pandemic is affecting prevention, mediation and peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts. Internal communications with staff from DPPA and DPO remained another priority, particularly while telecommuting.

UN DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING AFFAIRS STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2022

Goal 1

Contribute to preventing and resolving violent conflict and build resilience

1



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1
Action-oriented analysis



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2
Inclusive peacemaking



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3
Sustained peace

Goal 2

Strengthen partnerships for prevention and resilience

2



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4
Support to UN bodies and organs



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5
Strengthened partnerships at the regional, national, and local level

Goal 3

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

3



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 6
DPPA is a learning, innovative and flexible department



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 7
A collaborative work culture and enabling work environment



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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE MULTI-YEAR APPEAL,
PLEASE CONTACT THE DONOR RELATIONS TEAM:**

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