

MULTI-YEAR APPEAL ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

A KEY TOOL FOR SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC
PROCESSES AND PREVENTING CONFLICT



9 October 2024. Polling staff apply indelible ink to a voter's finger after she casts her ballot in the 2024 General Elections. Photograph by Rochan Kadariya, UNDP Mozambique.

Context and Our Role

United Nations electoral assistance is adapting to a rapidly evolving global electoral landscape marked by shrinking civic space, the growing influence of digital technologies and artificial intelligence, and persistent barriers to equal participation and representation, particularly for women. In response, UN electoral assistance continues to evolve with increased focus on these emerging challenges.

The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) coordinates UN electoral assistance to Member States through its Electoral Assistance Division (EAD). Led by the Under-Secretary-General as the UN system-wide Focal Point, DPPA provides impartial electoral support to promote peace and prevent conflict.

Electoral assistance is a core DPPA good-offices tool, supported by extra-budgetary (Multi-Year Appeal) resources.

What We Do

Tailored UN electoral support is grounded in impartiality and guided by national ownership and respect for sovereignty.



Technical advice: Strengthening laws, institutions, and processes.



Conducive electoral environments: Building confidence among political stakeholders and preventing disputes.



Expert assessment missions: Expert teams deployed to support Member States.



Inclusion: Advancing the participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups.



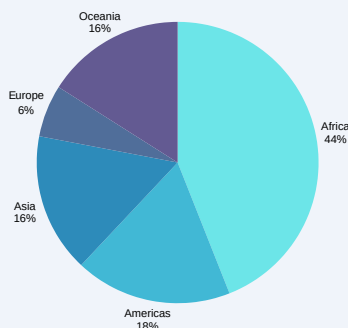
Coordination: Ensuring UN system-wide coherence and coordination on electoral assistance.



Capacity development: Strengthening the capacities of electoral management bodies and regional organizations.

Results in 2025

- ✓ 28 new requests from Member States addressed
- ✓ UN electoral assistance coordinated in 50+ countries
- ✓ 20 elections supported worldwide
- ✓ 24 technical electoral missions to support Member States



Number of UN Electoral Assistance Projects in 2025 (per region)

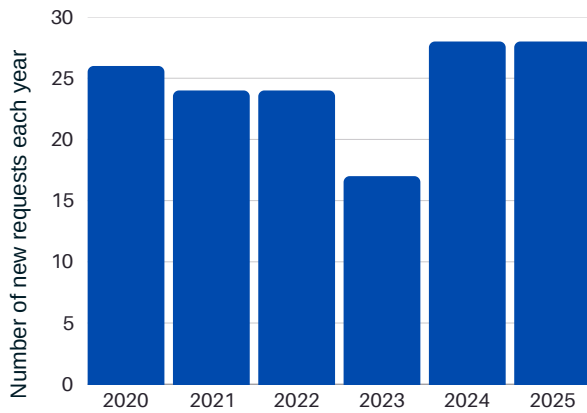
Impact of Our Interventions

Member States and regional partners consistently request DPPA's impartial and technical electoral support. Experts deploy worldwide to support Member States in organizing transparent, credible and peaceful elections.

With MYA funding, DPPA's support helped build resilience and trust in democratic processes by:

- **Preventing violence:** Early engagement and good offices reduced tensions ahead of key polls.
- **Enhancing electoral integrity:** Expert advice strengthened voter registration and dispute-resolution systems.
- **Promoting inclusion:** Support to national partners increased the participation of women and youth.
- **Coordinating UN action:** Ensured coherent and timely electoral assistance across UN entities and missions.

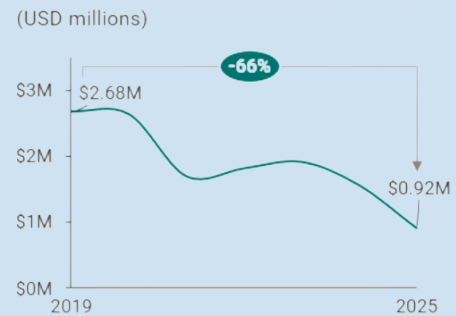
Rising Demand for Electoral Support



Operating in a Strained Financial Environment

DPPA's electoral assistance relies largely on extra-budgetary funding through the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA). While demand continues to rise, funding and staffing are shrinking, leaving activities only 50 percent funded in 2025 and creating uncertainty for 2026.

MYA Funding for Electoral Assistance



In 2026, 50 or more States and territories are expected to hold elections, with the United Nations supporting at least 20 of these.

Key Priorities in 2026

- **Supporting inclusive, transparent, and credible elections in Member States** through impartial, demand-driven assistance aligned with national priorities to promote peace and prevent conflict.
- **Advancing the participation and representation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities** to help ensure electoral processes are credible, inclusive, and trusted.
- **Deploying technical experts and assessment missions** to provide timely advice, identify risks, and support Member States before and during key electoral moments.
- **Strengthening the capacity of electoral management bodies, national institutions and regional organizations** through targeted training and long-term technical support.

Required MYA Resources

MYA requires **\$1.5 million** in 2026 to sustain our core electoral assistance work:

- Institutional strengthening of electoral bodies and capacity development for electoral officials and stakeholders (\$500,000)
- Deploying technical electoral expertise and missions where requested (\$400,000)
- Promoting inclusion (\$300,000)
- Training and capacity development support for regional organizations and their Member States (\$300,000)



Electoral Assistance Division
Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
United Nations

PEACE IS PRICELESS
and possible

For further information on the Multi-Year Appeal, please contact the Partnerships Unit.



15 April 2025. The Somalia National Electoral and Boundaries Commission (NIEBC) conducting a pilot voter registration exercise in Shangani District, Mogadishu, as the first phase of the voter registration process for the local council elections