

2020 MYA Risk Register - DPPA

| Areas | Risk Definition | Impact | Likelihood | Internal Controls/Risk Response | Risk Owner |
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| <p>Covid-19 pandemic</p> | <p>Covid-19 is included as a stand-alone “stressor” that could trigger or exacerbate conflict or violence. For DPPA’s work, the Covid-19 impact can cut across various risk categories:</p> <p><u>Political:</u> Further erosion of trust in government institutions, stalling peace processes, impact on upcoming elections, challenges of undertaking good offices and mediation remotely, spread of virus in camps for refugees or internally displaced persons and authoritarian takeovers under the pretext of addressing the crisis pose critical political risks.</p> <p><u>Reputational:</u> Lack of proactiveness for a unified global response, perception that UN personnel spread the virus, inability to support field missions etc. can all adversely affect the reputation of the Department and the wider UN System.</p> <p><u>Operational:</u> Failure to have contingency measures, lack of business continuity plans, failure to provide secure working environment to staff, inability to support SPMs and not making operational adjustments are few key risks.</p> | <p>Critical</p> | <p>Expected</p> | <p>The Department is undertaking several initiatives at HQ and in the field to mitigate these risks. To mitigate <i>political risks</i>, DPPA is particularly paying close attention to the implications of Covid-19 in mission settings, contexts facing high security risk and countries with fragile political transitions. Covering both mission and non-mission setting, DPPA is preparing weekly updates for the Executive Committee, chaired by the SG, on the impact of Covid-19. Together with missions and Resident Coordinators, the Department is also drawing up scenarios for the Executive Committee on how a significant outbreak could affect local and regional dynamics. Where feasible, DPPA is already adapting its set of tools (mediation, Standby Team, electoral assistance etc.) to Covid-19 challenges by shifting operational focus to provide technical advice and analysis through digital platforms and technologies. Also, DPPA is working closely with missions to follow up on the SG’s call for a global ceasefire. To mitigate <i>reputational and operational risks</i>, DPPA continuously sharing the latest information and guidance with all staff. As part of the interagency Field</p> | <p>DPPA</p> |

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| | <p>Management: While functioning on “emergency” mode to respond to Covid-19, important but not urgent functions like regular planning and oversight may get sidelined. Staff morale, challenges of telecommuting, managing remote teams, lack of communication are few additional risks.</p> <p>Financial: In the face of an impending global recession, UN budgets will face significant funding shortfalls. As countries turn inwards to address domestic crises, resource mobilization may become very challenging for the Department and UN in large. Additionally, the high level of arrears at the UN compounded by a sharp decline in the assessed payments by Member States poses significant risk of cash deficit.</p> | | | <p>Response Coordination Group, DPPA is supporting efforts to develop scenarios pertaining to the security situations of field missions and contingency plans related to the impact of COVID-19. To assess the implications of Covid-19 crisis on the delivery of MYA portfolio, the Donor Relations Team is in close contact with divisional focal points and in the field and will undertake quarterly reviews of all projects in order to make quick corrections and adjust the level of programming accordingly. With its flexibility, the MYA is an essential tool in times of crises, through its Rapid Response / Local Peace Initiative windows, it can fund projects and initiatives in support of the SG’s call for a global ceasefire. To mitigate <i>management risks</i>, DPPA divisions will produce quarterly work plans for this year. Moving away from the usual practice of annual work plans to develop plans covering a shorter time period, enables greater flexibility considering the current pandemic. In 2020, DPPA is also introducing mid-year reporting against the Results Framework, in addition to the annual review. This will also enable the Department to be more flexible and adjust to the fast-evolving circumstances. To contribute to the sense of community and support, DPPA is offering a series of initiatives such as virtual brown bags, short messages with resources and learning opportunities, along with setting</p> | |
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| | | | | <p>up a dedicated DPPA-DPO Covid-19 updates webpage for latest guidance on telecommuting, ICT etc. To mitigate financial risks, DPPA will follow the SG’s direction to temporarily suspend hiring and to further scale down non-post expenses under the Regular Budget. The Department will continue to ensure coherent engagement with field and consistent communications with donors on the 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. DPPA will also explore innovative ways to continue delivering its activities under the MYA. Similarly, it will also continue to promote understanding of gendered impact of Covid-19.</p> | |
| <p><u>Crosscutting Priority:</u> Management of financial resources</p> | <p>The Department will continue to monitor risks related to effective and efficient use of financial resources. These include risks of failing to meet the requirements and obligations specified by donors, low project implementation rate, lack of reporting etc.</p> | <p>Significant</p> | <p>Likely</p> | <p>The Donor Relations Teams and the Executive Office will continue to conduct quarterly reviews to ensure responsible management of financial resources. Quarterly reviews will be held with divisions to discuss issues affecting planned performance and to agree on budget reallocations or realignments. Covid-19 has been added as a separate risk category in all MYA project’s Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) frameworks. During the first quarterly review, all project managers are required to take a critical look at the</p> | <p>DPPA, in particular the Executive Office, the Donor Relations Team and the MYA divisional focal points</p> |

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| | | | | <p>implications of Covid-19, with particular emphasis on its gendered impact and make necessary adjustments. Support for the financial management and operations of the Department's regular budget and Special Political Missions will also be provided through regular engagement with programme managers, stakeholders and special political mission focal points.</p> <p>Implementation of donor agreements will be closely monitored to ensure that expenditures are in accordance with the signed agreement.</p> | |
| <p><u>Crosscutting priority:</u> Women Peace and Security Agenda</p> | <p>Globally, the hardening political climate characterized by a pushback against human rights, including women's rights, and increasingly complex, fractured and protracted wars, is hampering the implementation of the WPS agenda. Conflict parties not supporting women's participation in political processes is an ongoing challenge. While prioritizing humanitarian efforts during Covid-19 crisis questions maybe raised on the relevance of the WPS Agenda. Disproportionate effects of Covid-19 on women and girls, particularly those living in fragile and conflict affected context is also major risk.</p> | <p>Significant</p> | <p>Highly Likely</p> | <p>2020 marks the 20-year anniversary of the WPS agenda with the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325. 2020 is also the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the five-year anniversary of the adoption of the SDGs. These milestone events present a unique opportunity for the Department to push for further concerted, strategic commitment to address the implementation of the WPS Agenda. DPPA will advocate for gendered analysis and sex-disaggregated data of conflict but also of crisis causes and consequences, like the Covid-19. The Department is also in regular contact with the gender advisers/and gender focal points in the field and has made MYA funding available to them. Together with the wider UN system and partners, DPPA will continue to support women's participation in politics and all</p> | <p>DPPA, in particular the Gender, Peace and Security Unit.</p> |

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| | | | | matters of peace and security. The Department has also pledged to devote at least 17 per cent of the annual MYA budget to meet its gender and WPS commitments. | |
| <p>MYA Goal 1: Contribute to preventing and resolving violent conflict and building resilience</p> | <p>Increased internationalization of conflict, continuing divisions amongst major powers, greater fragmentation of conflict actors at the local level, rise of global challenges such as climate change, and new technological weaponry are some of the key risks for DPPA’s work. Also, the key political and socio-economic impact of Covid-19 outlined above are all pertinent here.</p> | Critical | Expected | <p>The department will continue to address these challenges through political analysis, preventive diplomacy and good offices, mediation, electoral assistance, peacebuilding support, capacity building, and partnerships, as well as by supporting the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. The Department will monitor the implications of the pandemic and mainstream effective responses throughout the year.</p> | DPPA |
| <p>MYA Goal 2: Strengthen partnerships for prevention and resilience</p> | <p>Decrease in political support by actors at national, regional and/or local levels; multidimensional risks such as accelerating climate change; and rapidly changing local contexts are some of the key risks. Additionally, multifaceted security risks of Covid-19 are further exacerbated in contexts already affected by conflicts.</p> | Critical | Highly Likely | <p>As mitigation measures, DPPA will produce regional analyses; strengthen the mediation capacity of regional and sub-regional organizations; support its regional offices and liaison presences; deepen its relationship with IFIs and UN actors on the ground; along with increasing international cooperation by going beyond states to include women, youth, and civil society organizations in political processes. DPPA will offer tailored support to Resident Coordinators/and UN Country Teams in their efforts to promote nationally owned peacebuilding initiatives. Special emphasis will be placed on partnerships with the World Bank and IFIs to jointly address the socio-economic impact of Covid-19. To amplify the SG’s appeal for global ceasefire, DPPA will also make MYA funding available to field missions for launching local</p> | DPPA |

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| | | | | <p>initiatives to curb the spread of Covid-19. Recognizing the complexity of climate-related risks, the DPPA-UNDP-UN Environment Climate Security Mechanism will continue to leverage existing capacities across the system and with Member States, regional organizations, civil society. With the support of its ten liaisons presences around the world, DPPA will continue to deepen partnerships with regional actors and ensure coordination of UN’s response.</p> | |
| <p>MYA Goal 3: Achieve a learning, innovative working culture that takes forward the vision of the Secretary-General</p> | <p>With a global mandate, DPPA plays a central role in UN efforts to prevent conflict and sustain peace around the world. Urgent and unforeseen circumstances can sometimes crowd out capacity for important functions such as knowledge management and innovation. Unprecedented crisis caused by the pandemic can overstretch the Department and potentially disrupt operations.</p> | <p>Significant</p> | <p>Highly Likely</p> | <p>The Department will continue to address these challenges through mobilizing and dedicating resources to ensure business continuity, support field missions and conducting contingency planning. Additionally, DPPA will continue to invest in learning, innovation, measured risk-taking and staff well-being. To promote learning and staying connected while telecommuting, the Department is initiating a series of learning opportunities for staff. These include virtual trainings on Office365, project management, and OpEd writing, along with series of brownbag events. Through its newly established Innovation Cell, DPPA will strengthen capacities for innovation, including the use of digital technologies across the peace and security pillar.</p> | <p>DPPA, in particular the Office of the USG and Policy and Mediation Division</p> |