

Giving peace a chance

Multi-Year Appeal
Annual Report 2020

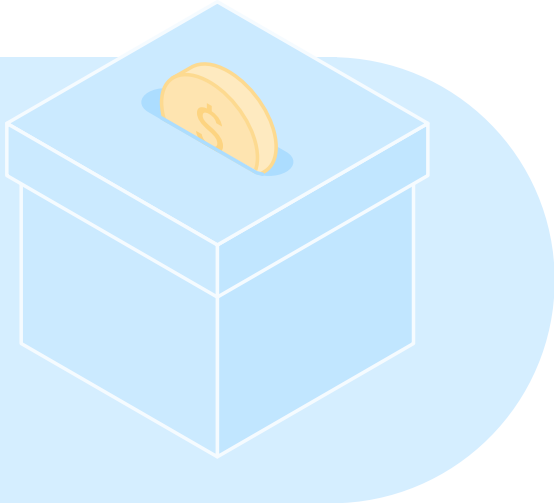


Department of Political
and Peacebuilding Affairs

Value for Money of the Multi-Year Appeal

DPPA leads on good offices, political analysis, mediation, electoral assistance, peacebuilding support and political guidance. The Multi-Year Appeal (MYA) is DPPA’s primary extra-budgetary instrument to fund its work on strengthening peace and

security worldwide. As a uniquely flexible tool, the MYA is ideally suited to seize opportunities and enable rapid responses that are often urgently needed to prevent conflict and sustain peace.



In 2020, DPPA carried out an analysis of the strategic and operational value of the Appeal, the [Value-for-Money Assessment](#).

The assessment provides a clear central “value claim” of the MYA for the first time: “In pursuit of DPPA’s objectives to prevent conflict and sustain peace, the MYA portfolio demonstrates distinctive value through projects that respond rapidly and adapt flexibly to the risk of violent conflict, and by filling gaps in DPPA’s operational reach under the regular budget allocation”.

RELEVANCE	EFFECTIVENESS	EFFICIENCY
The strategic coherence of the MYA	The results of the MYA portfolio	The stewardship of funds within the MYA portfolio
Aligns with DPPA’s Strategic Plan and helps implement its strategic objectives	Allows the Secretary-General’s Special Representatives and Envoys to deploy and act with a speed that is impossible under the regular programme budget	Promotes efficiency by prioritizing results and resources
Strengthens our capacity at Headquarters and in the field	Supports innovative initiatives, which were particularly crucial during COVID-19	Supports high-value rapid intervention to prevent the escalation of conflict
Allows DPPA to be operational to promote conflict prevention and sustain peace	Promotes leveraging suitable risk responsive opportunities	Provides agile and efficient responses due to largely unearmarked funding
Complements the regular programme budget allocation, which has been gradually eroded by inflation over the years	Positions DPPA well to operationalize its commitment to the WPS agenda	Reduces administrative costs thanks to streamlined and centralized processes

From the desk of the Under-Secretary-General: Delivering in a difficult year

We will remember 2020 as a very difficult year. Our carefully laid plans soon swerved into an unprecedented global situation that demanded we deliver on our mandate despite very challenging circumstances, while simultaneously changing our way of working. I am very proud of the fact that despite COVID-19, we managed to deliver on our mandate, adapt our tools, maintain our strategic direction, and mobilize more funding than ever before. We took on the challenge of helping to realize the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire, his initiative to press warring parties to stop fighting and focus on the struggle against the pandemic. Our Special Representatives, Envoys and mediators worked to make the ceasefire a reality in every region.

Throughout the year, we continued to advance political solutions and assist peace processes, mediation efforts, and elections, as well as build and sustain peace. With our political engagement, analysis and technical advice, DPPA made a difference. Much of this work would have been impossible without the extrabudgetary funds mobilized through the MYA, which is ideally suited to seize opportunities, whether it be to prevent incipient violence, spur negotiations between adversaries when tensions are brewing, or to encourage peaceful electoral outcomes. These relatively modest, nimble and cost-effective investments have demonstrated their effectiveness especially during the pandemic.



Under-Secretary-General, Rosemary A. DiCarlo. Credit: DPPA/Oskarson

The year 2020 also marked the twentieth anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. DPPA remained engaged in multi-track efforts to increase the leadership of women everywhere, integrate gender equality into peacemaking, peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts and shape strategies based on the priorities of women's rights constituencies. Last year, we dedicated 17 per cent of our budget to empower women and work through their networks and communities to build more inclusive and durable peace.

In these difficult times, people continue to turn to the United Nations for answers. And, thanks in large part to

our donors, we can put the authority, experience and expertise of an increasingly effective Organization to work for peace. This report is a sampling of the impact the contributions of our donors have made possible.

Rosemary A. DiCarlo

Under-Secretary-General
for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
Rosemary A. DiCarlo

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DPPA IN 2020: RESPONDING TO A CHANGED REALITY

In the beginning of 2020, DPPA launched the MYA to put its new three-year Strategic Plan for 2020–2022 into action. But with the onset of COVID-19, the Department had to quickly shift gears. Unearmarked MYA funding, and the rapid response window, enabled it to adapt to the new reality, seize opportunities and innovate, as the examples below demonstrate:

- In Colombia, MYA funds provided training and materials so that former combatants in 11 tailoring workshops could switch over to mass mask production. Around 140,000 masks generated income for the tailors and considerable goodwill.
- In Bolivia, Guatemala, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Northeast Asia, online platforms and processes were re-designed to support greater inclusion and participation and pave the way for reconciliation.
- In Malawi, Moldova, Jordan and elsewhere, COVID-19 mitigation efforts were implemented to support safe elections.

The pandemic substantially affected the way DPPA delivered its services and expertise, as many of the examples in this report show. So did the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire, which opened new avenues for discussion and spurred steps toward peace.

Supporting the ceasefire remained a priority throughout the year, as it continues to be today. In 2020, we paid particular attention to the disproportionate effect of the pandemic on women and girls, especially in conflict-affected areas. DPPA extended its commitment to the more meaningful participation of women in all political processes and matters of peace and security by earmarking 17 per cent of our extra-budgetary funds toward this end.

Despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 and the pressure on aid budgets, DPPA mobilized more voluntary contributions than ever before – US\$35.9 million out of \$40 million requested. It represents an increase of \$600,000 from the previous year and a vote of confidence in the work of the Department. This includes \$2.2 million received towards our Supplementary Funding Appeal on New Technologies and Innovation for Peace. Having welcomed four new donors in 2020, the Department remains committed to continue expanding its donor base to broaden the support and secure additional funding for its work.

The fact that only a quarter of the extrabudgetary funding was earmarked gave considerable flexibility. With the pandemic continuing to hamper services and operations, DPPA re-prioritized and reduced allocations to its portfolio of projects by \$4 million. These adjustments



Special Envoy for Syria, Geir O. Pedersen, attends the Syrian Constitutional Committee in Geneva, Switzerland.
Credit UN Photo/Violaine Martin

also reflected a re-direction of funds towards new opportunities, especially in the context of the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire. Even with the many adjustments to our plans, we managed to utilize 86 per cent of project funds. The largest amount – \$23.6 million (63 per cent) – was allocated to prevent violence, resolve conflict and sustain peace as described in Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan. This includes \$1.8 million of urgent funding, provided through the Department's Rapid Response window.

We were able to deliver against (and even surpass) 38 out of its 48 performance measures set out in the Results Framework that accompanies the 2020–2022 Strategic Plan. We moved from annual to quarterly workplans to plan more flexibly, track progress and re-assess the risks and mitigation

strategies of all MYA projects, considering the COVID-19 threat. Funding for travel and in person visits was reduced and re-allocated to other areas. All these adjustments led to a reduction of the annual funding target from \$45 million to \$40 million, until the end of the Strategic Plan cycle in 2022.

The ongoing liquidity crisis facing the United Nations has also underlined the central importance of the MYA, if DPPA is to meet increased demand and sustain its activities. The Department is especially grateful to its donors this year because of the additional demands on aid budgets the pandemic has created. The World Bank has calculated, for each \$1 dollar invested in prevention, about \$16 is saved in return over the long term¹. The benefits to those who are spared the disasters of war are incalculable.

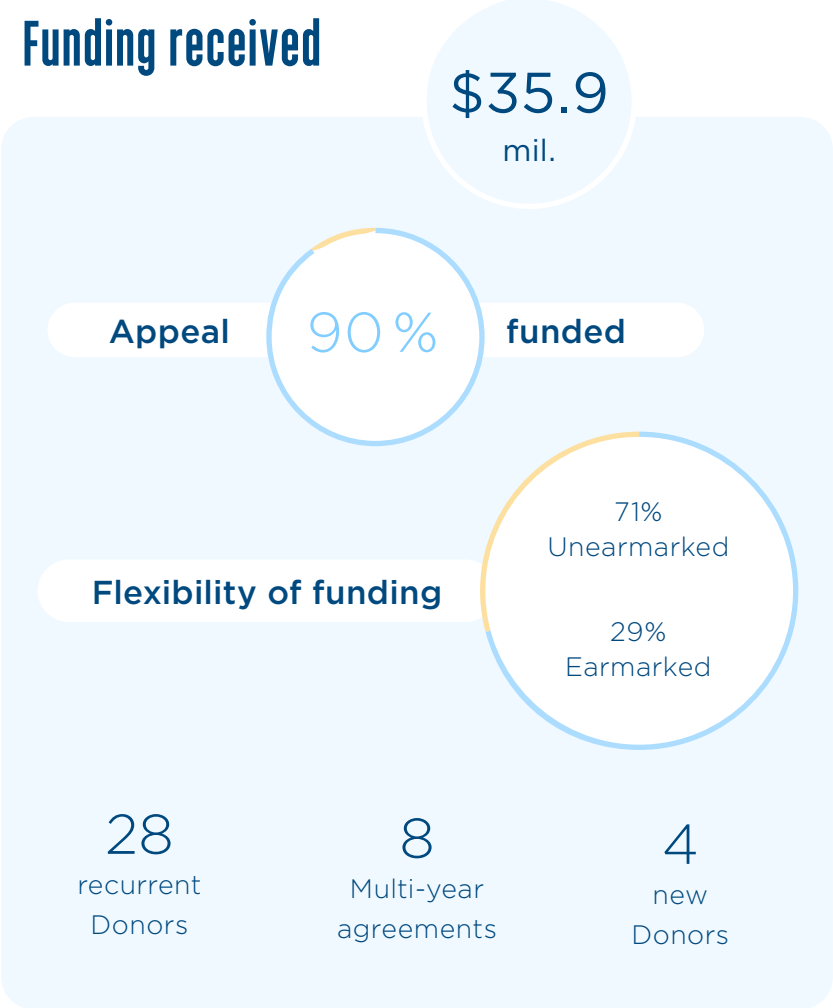
¹) UN-World Bank Group, Pathways for Peace, 2018.

Overview of MYA Funding and Expenditure

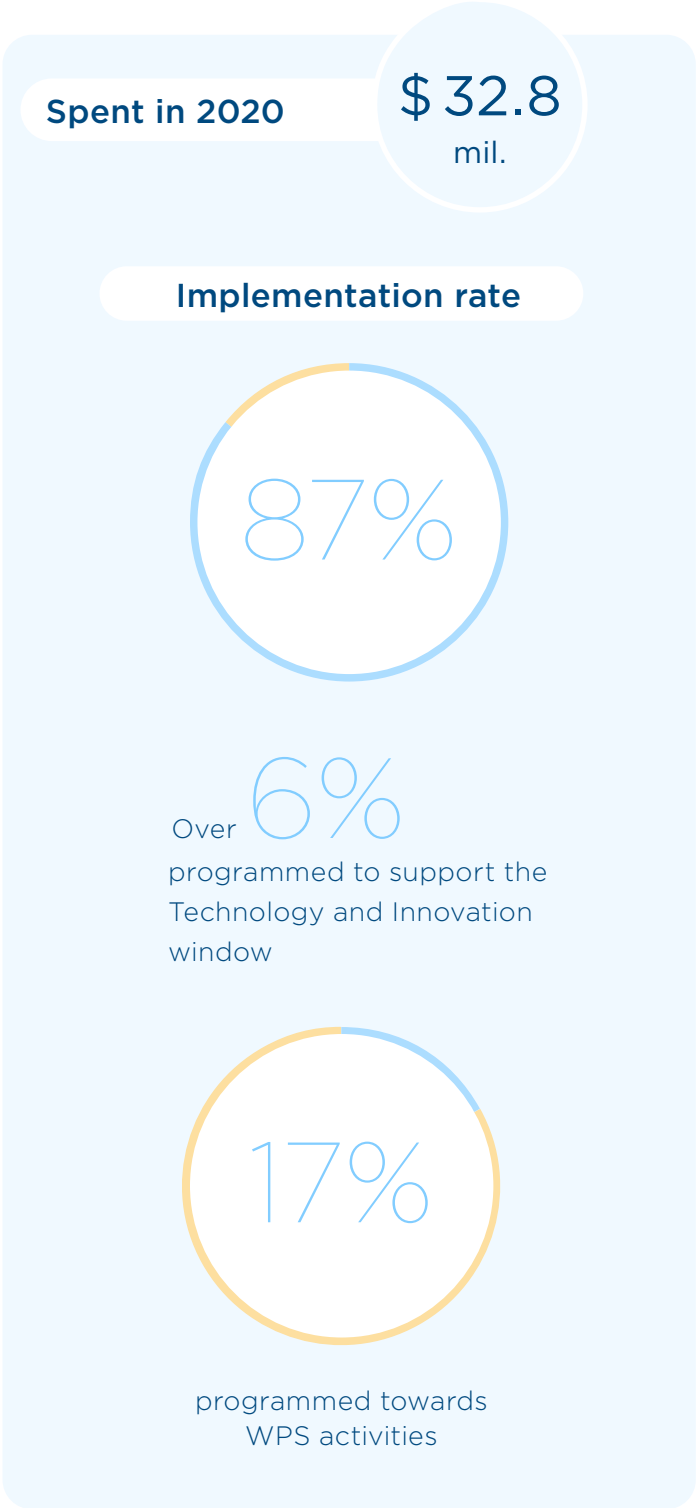
Funding target



Funding received



Implementation



Funding windows

Regular projects		Rapid Response	
Local Peace Initiatives		Technology and Innovation	
Goals	Programmed	Spent	Percentage
Preventing violence, resolving conflicts, sustaining peace	\$23.6 mil.	\$20.7 mil.	<div><div></div>63%</div>
Strengthen partnerships for prevention and resilience	\$7.5 mil.	\$6.3 mil.	<div><div></div>19%</div>
Achieving a learning, innovative work culture	\$6.7 mil.	\$5.8 mil.	<div><div></div>18%</div>
Total	\$37.8 mil.	\$32.8 mil.	

GOAL 1

PREVENTING AND RESOLVING VIOLENT CONFLICT AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

Action-oriented analysis

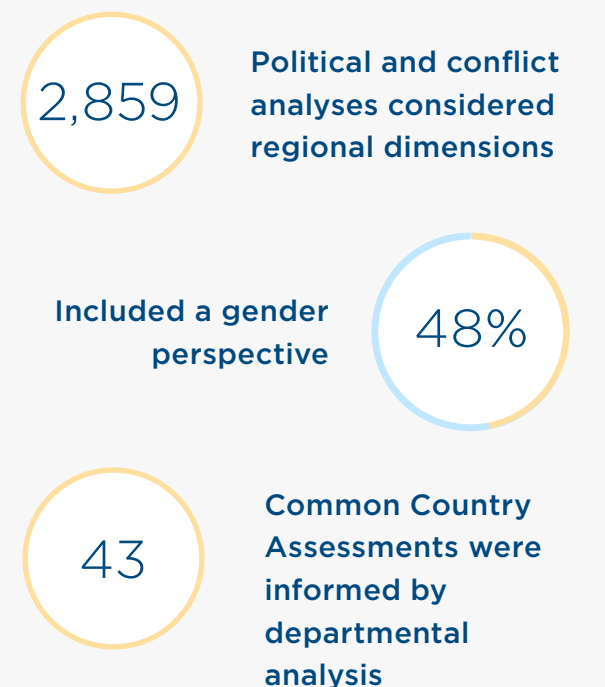
COVID-19 demonstrates just how quickly things can shift. The very nature of war itself is changing rapidly and climate change is the defining issue of the times. All these factors are part of the calculus that goes into the analysis that DPPA carries out to inform system-wide responses. The idea is to present decision-makers with early warnings of potential threats so that they can determine early action and lessen tensions on the ground. The Department marshals a vast network of expertise from the field as well as assets in Headquarters to provide valuable analysis that informs the work of the entire UN system.

In 2020, as part of the interagency Field Response Coordination Group, we helped develop scenarios pertaining to the political and security situations of field missions, as well as contingency plans related to the spread of COVID-19. DPPA regularly briefed the Security Council, the Secretary-General's Executive Committee and senior UN leadership, on the pandemic's actual and potential political implications.

MYA funds have also helped the Department understand threats such as terrorism, violent extremism and corruption. It was able to contribute to several UN system-wide efforts in this area, including co-chairing the Global Task Force on

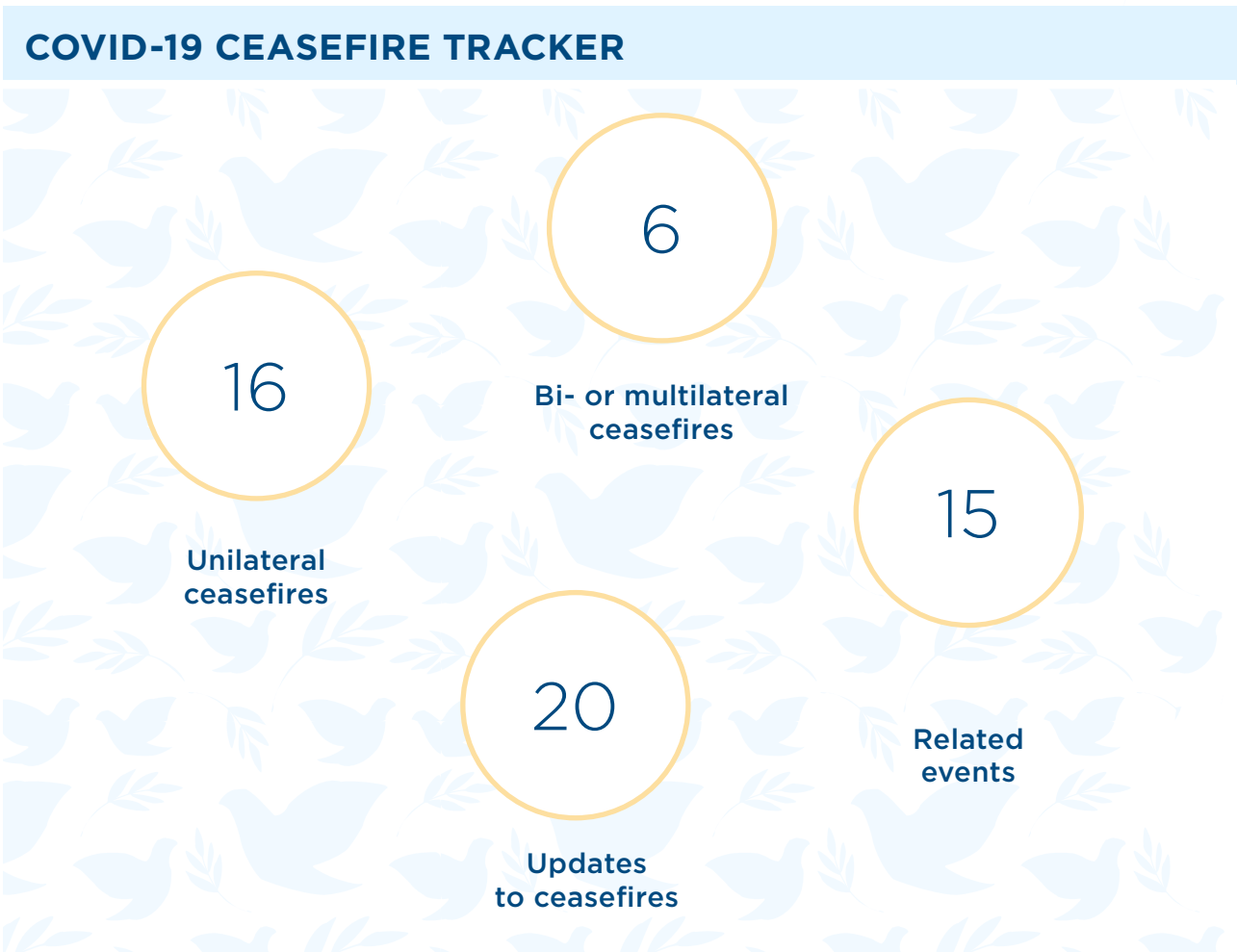
corruption, producing a paper with the Department of Peace Operations to examine the linkages between corruption and conflict, and conducting gender-sensitive analysis to understand the differentiated impacts of non-traditional threats on women and men. DPPA also continued to refine its analytical tools to address new threats such as the ones posed by the malicious use of digital technologies, an issue that gained new prominence in the context of the pandemic.

2020 RESULTS



Turning the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity for peace

On 23 March 2020, Secretary-General António Guterres called for an immediate ceasefire “to help create conditions for the delivery of lifesaving aid, reinforce diplomatic action and bring hope to places that are among the most vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic.” By the end of the year, 180 Member States and one non-member observer State, as well as regional organizations, religious leaders, a broad coalition of international and local NGOs and more than 800 civil society platforms had signed on to support the Secretary-General’s call.



Source: <https://pax.peaceagreements.org/static/covid19ceasefires/>

DPPA provided technical support and guidance to UN operations working toward the ceasefire in a number of complex contexts, including Afghanistan, Libya, Sudan and Yemen. The Mediation Support Unit, with MYA funds, documented emerging developments on the ground, including steps to stop fighting, initial gestures of support and unilateral ceasefires announced by conflict parties. This documentation also had an update for the Secretary-General on initial responses, a Policy Note and a joint Policy Note with UN Women that focused on women’s participation in ceasefires and peace processes.

Women proved to be a vital constituency in achieving progress: 91 women’s organizations from [Iraq](#), [Libya](#), [Palestine](#), [Syria](#) and [Yemen](#) issued a joint statement, joining the Secretary-General’s call. Initially the idea resonated with conflict parties in many contexts, including in [Cameroon](#), [Colombia](#), [Libya](#), [the Middle East](#), [the Philippines](#), [South Sudan](#) and [Ukraine](#). While statements of support did not always translate into actions, there were some major breakthroughs.

In [Libya](#) (see page 16), DPPA was a lead mediator in the ceasefire agreement process. In other situations, it played a supportive role, but in all cases, it was MYA funding that enabled Special Envoys and Representatives of the Secretary-General to seize opportunities and tailor responses, including support to the launch of historic peace negotiations in [Afghanistan](#), a unilateral ceasefire in [Mozambique](#) and the signing of a landmark peace agreement in [Sudan](#). Other advances have taken the form of partial declarations or temporary truces, but nevertheless represent significant expressions of the desire for peace, such as in [Nigeria](#) and [the Central African Republic](#).

Following the Secretary-General’s 23 March call for a global ceasefire, DPPA assisted six NGOs and academic institutions in an initiative to develop a ceasefire tracking tool. The mechanism monitored key developments during the COVID-19 period. The tracking tool can be accessed at: pax.peaceagreements.org/static/covid19ceasefires.



Rosemary A. DiCarlo

 @DicarloRosemary  13. 5. 2020

110 countries and 24 armed groups have backed @antonioguterres’ global ceasefire call. But this hasn’t always led to results. To help silence the guns, countries with influence on warring parties, or supplying them with weapons, must do their part too.

<https://bit.ly/3gFvkmx>

CEASEFIRE AND INCLUSIVE DIALOGUES IN LIBYA

Following years of civil war in Libya, political engagement resulted in an agreement, facilitated by the UN, on a countrywide ceasefire on 23 October 2020, and a national roadmap calling for elections by the end of 2021. This historic agreement provides for the withdrawal of all military units and armed groups from the frontlines and the departure of all mercenaries and foreign fighters from the entire Libyan territory.

Throughout 2020, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) facilitated inclusive, virtual and in-person dialogue among the Libyan parties with the aim of restoring peace, and promoting stability, security and national unity. Despite pandemic restrictions, UNSMIL leadership was able to sustain dialogue among all national, regional and international stakeholders under



Girls wave at a passing helicopter in the western city of Zawiya, Libya. Credit: UN Photo/Iason



UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

@UNDPPA 19. 11. 2020

#Libya: "Libyans deserve, if not the support, then at least the non-interference of the main international actors as they seek to forge a sovereign political path forward for future Libyan generations," Stephanie Williams said today. Full remarks: <https://bit.ly/2QzxVnp>

the framework of the Berlin process, thanks in part to the use of digital technologies.

The ceasefire was followed by subsequent rounds of discussions by the 5+5 Joint Military Commission to expedite implementation of the ceasefire agreement. UN mediation experts worked alongside UNSMIL to help facilitate these meetings and provide expertise on process design. A ministerial meeting on the margins of the high-level week of the 75th General Assembly helped galvanize the international community, as did the adoption of Security Council resolutions 2510 (2020) and 2542 (2020). Progress on the security track generated momentum for the resumption of the UNSMIL-facilitated intra-Libyan political talks.

From 9 to 15 November, UNSMIL convened the first in-person meeting of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum in Tunis, with the support of UNDP.

The Forum brought together 75 Libyan participants, including 17 women, representing all regions as well as the main political and social constituencies in the country, including the House of Representatives and High State Council.

On 15 November, the forum adopted a political roadmap, which will conclude with the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections on 24 December 2021. The agreement on a ceasefire and subsequent resumption of inclusive dialogue on the political, security and economic tracks have significantly contributed to the relative stabilization of the situation in Libya. MYA funding helped enhance UNSMIL's capacity to support the working groups established following the Berlin International Conference on Libya in January 2020, as well as its ability to access high-quality satellite imagery to map the positions of the various actors on the ground.



CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCED, FORMER COMBATANTS RETURN HOME IN MOZAMBIQUE

2020 RESULTS

1,490

combatants (29%) demobilized

including

140

female combatants (more than 50%)

6

RENAMO bases fully closed

In 2020, Mozambique saw substantial progress in the implementation of the Maputo Peace Accords. Voluntary funding supported the good offices of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mirko Manzoni, to facilitate the dialogue between the Government and the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO).

These funds also allowed him to respond to opportunities related to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of combatants. He supported dialogues between the Government and RENAMO and engaged with a breakaway dissident group, the RENAMO Military Junta. Talks between the parties led to the announcement of a unilateral ceasefire in late December 2020, paving the way for negotiations to



UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

@UNDPPA 24. 10. 2020

Our presence in [#Mozambique](#), under Secretary-General Personal Envoy Mirko Manzoni, is among the most recent. This year, despite [#COVID19](#) disruptions, the country's peace process adapted to ensure continued progress, with almost 20% of combatants disarmed and reintegrated. [#UNDay](#)

<https://bit.ly/32Pfkq3>

take place without the threat of violence. A full re-design of DDR activities to comply with COVID-19 preventive measures began in early 2020. MYA funding contributed to the demobilization of 1,490 combatants out of a total of 5,221 in seven out of 16 RENAMO bases located throughout the country (six bases have been fully closed). Former combatants have returned home to transition to civilian life in their communities, with the help of local leaders.

MYA funds were also used to address the plight of female combatants and their specific reintegration needs. To date, 140 female combatants (of an estimated total of 247) have been disarmed and demobilized in a safe and inclusive manner. The Personal Envoy continued to support decentralization and reconciliation efforts to help advance the long-term gains of peace, including more engagement at the grassroots level.



Personal Envoy, Mirko Manzoni, during a visit to Gorongosa, Mozambique. Credit: UN Photo/Office of the PESG/PPS

“ At the end of 2020, I am proud that, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, Mozambique has made commendable progress towards realizing definitive peace. In 2021, some 3,700 remaining former combatants are expected to go through the DDR process. This is no small task, and our work ahead is immense. I would like to see the full social and economic reintegration of all to the long-term sustainability of the process. It will help embed peace and support national reconciliation. ”

Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Mozambique, Mirko Manzoni.

Supporting inclusive peace and political processes

MYA funds a range of context-specific activities carried out under the auspices of the Secretary-General and his Special Representatives and Envoys, including extending his good offices, in support of mediation, dialogue processes and arbitration. Much of this work aims at the wider participation of women, young people, civil society generally, and marginalized groups. In general, the more inclusive the process, the more sustainable the results.



SRSg Mohamed Ibn Chambas and Jean-Claude Kassi Brou, President of the ECOWAS commission discussing with a candidate of the Guinea presidential election during an ECOWAS-AU-UNOWAS solidarity mission to Guinea. Credit: UN Photo/UNOWAS

UNOWAS: IDENTIFYING ENTRY POINTS FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH NATIONAL ACTORS IN WEST AFRICA AND THE SAHEL

DPPA's three Regional Offices (located in West Africa, Central Africa and Central Asia), serve as hubs for preventive diplomacy, helping to defuse tensions and support national actors.

For example, in [Côte d'Ivoire](#) in the run-up to the October 2020 presidential election, DPPA, with MYA funding, engaged with the authorities and a wide range of national stakeholders through the [United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel \(UNOWAS\)](#). These engagements were critical to assess developments and to inform the good offices and high-level engagements of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSg) and then Head of UNOWAS, Mohamed Ibn Chambas.

Several pre-electoral missions, including in collaboration with the [African Union \(AU\)](#) and the [Economic Community of West African States \(ECOWAS\)](#), contributed to appeasing mounting tensions and generated notable achievements, including high-level discussions between representatives of the main political parties. They also resulted in increased stakeholder commitments, such as those related to the composition of the Independent Electoral Commission, a willingness to participate in facilitated, meaningful dialogue, and the release of detained opposition members.

UNOWAS, assisted by DPPA, supports the efforts of Ivorian stakeholders to overcome their differences in a peaceful manner and strengthen national reconciliation efforts.

Within the framework of the informal Inter-Agency Mechanism on Côte d'Ivoire, DPPA continued to support efforts towards continued inclusive legislative elections in 2021, as well as to combat hate speech and intercommunal violence, including through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

In [Ghana](#), a UNOWAS mission funded by the MYA helped defuse pre-election tension ahead of the December general elections, when vigilante groups posed a major challenge to stability. In close coordination with the Resident Coordinator's office, UNDP and other partners, the mission supported SRSg Chambas' good offices efforts to promote peaceful elections in the country. This was made possible through the organization of two stakeholder workshops, in collaboration with Ghana's National Peace Council (NPC) and the ECOWAS Commission. The workshops brought together youth and women's groups, civil society activists, religious and traditional leaders, political actors and eminent Ghanaians, to take a stand against election-related violence and vigilante groups. The activities were closely aligned with SRSg Chambas' good offices engagement and presented an opportunity for the SRSg to engage regional and local actors.

These activities contributed to a general climate of peace by amplifying the importance of addressing elections-related grievances with respect for the rule of law and also complemented the NPC's programme to promote peace and stability.



Seng Hkawn, 15, cooks rice and vegetables for her two younger siblings and herself, in their family's shelter-room when their parents who work in the farms 3 hours away by motorbike are unable to return home, at Pa La Na IDP camp, on the outskirts of Kachin, Myanmar. Credit: UNICEF/ Minzayar Oo

MYANMAR: SUSTAINING CONSISTENT ENGAGEMENT WITH ALL PARTIES THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC

Ahead of the 8 November elections, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on [Myanmar](#), Christine Schraner Burgener, remained active through virtual engagements. She amplified the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire even as conflict intensified in Rakhine State.

One of the major objectives of her Office was to support a multitude of diverse governmental decision makers, civil society organizations, political parties, and influencers in policy-making on national reconciliation issues. Additional expertise made available through the MYA helped generate solid analysis, strategies

and recommendations for action on combatting hate speech and disinformation in the context of the elections. The Special Envoy also facilitated the government's approval of a PBF-funded project to counter hate speech.

With MYA support, the Special Envoy's Office could sustain continued engagement with local authorities as well as religious, community and women leaders, including from the Rohingya community. Following such consultations, the Envoy channeled concerns from non-government stakeholders to the authorities, in many areas, including:

- ▶ [Refugee repatriation](#)
- ▶ [The release of Rohingyas imprisoned on travel documentation charges](#)
- ▶ [Social cohesion and hate speech](#)
- ▶ [Accountability issues](#)
- ▶ [Fundamental freedoms, including release of detained journalists and activists](#)
- ▶ [Disenfranchisement of minorities in the 2020 elections](#)

The Office also established an informal Women's Advisory Group, which, at its first meeting, in October 2020, similarly helped the Office capture the perspectives of non-governmental actors. The Government, led by the National League for Democracy, took the Office's recommendations related to the detention of Rohingya imprisoned on charges of missing travel documentation and implementing local initiatives to build trust between communities in Rakhine on board.

Retooling mediation support during the pandemic

DPPA’s crisis-response system, entirely funded by the MYA, provides urgent support and expertise to a wide range of partners. Experts of the Standby Team of Mediation Advisers can be deployed anywhere in the world within 72 hours to deal with a wide range of issues related to peace negotiations, including process design, constitution-making, power-sharing, gender issues, transitional justice and natural resources. The Standby Team, supported by our Mediation Support Unit, enhances the quality of support available to Special Representatives and Envoys, political and peacekeeping missions as well as UN Country Teams and regional and sub-regional organizations.

With 95 in-person and virtual deployments in 2020, the Standby Team provided support at a pace similar to previous years. The pandemic and related restrictions had a significant impact on the work of mediators. This forced an acceleration in the digital adaptation of peacemaking practices as mediators moved engagements online, without the stakeholders necessarily possessing required digital skills.

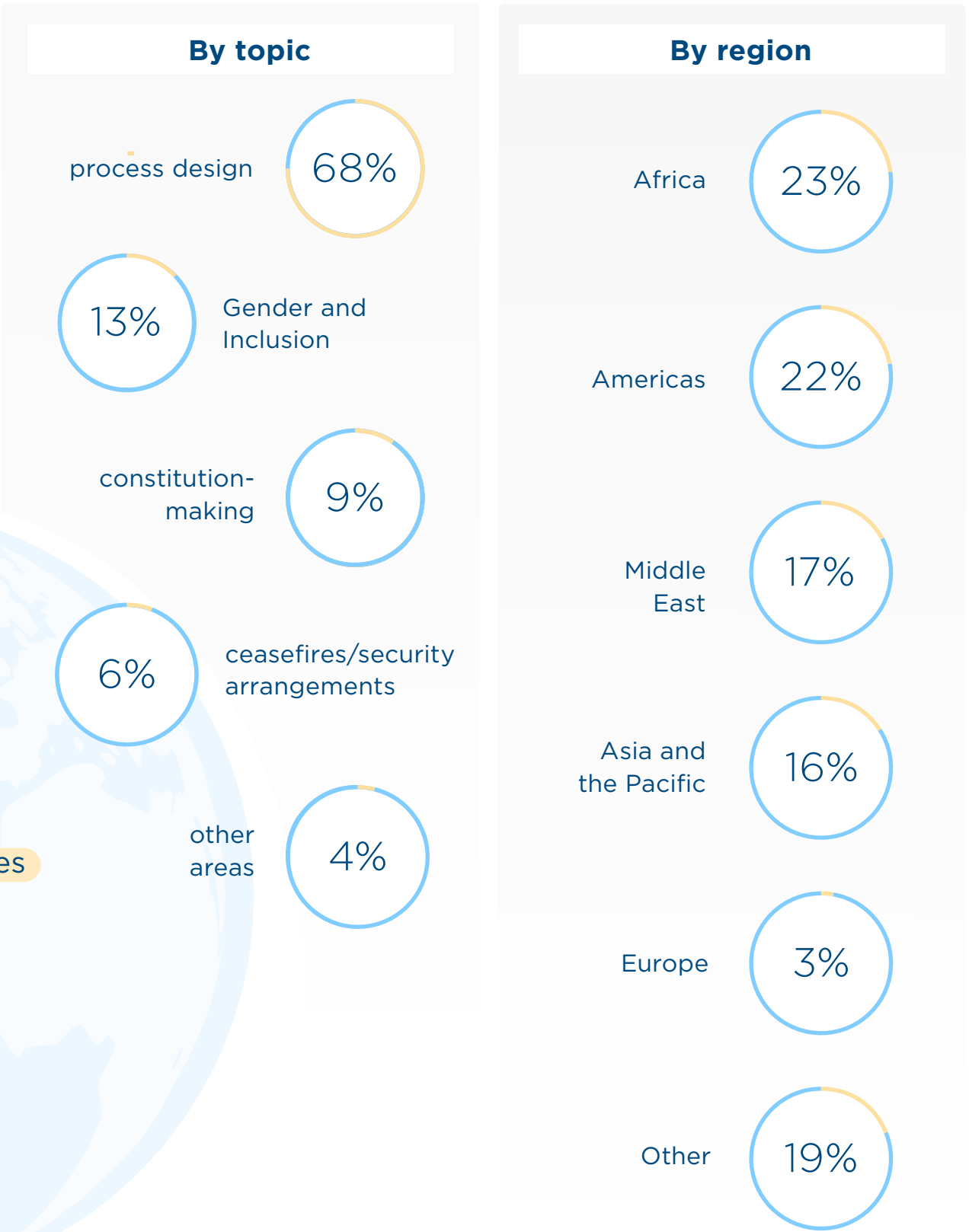
In response, the Mediation Support Unit created an online pilot course on “Digital Process Design and Facilitation” for staff and missions. Increased digital literacy was instrumental in enabling UNSMIL to design and support the Libya Political Dialogue Forum that combined in-person and virtual interactions (see page 38).

SBT/MSU areas of expertise



Operational support from the Standby Team in over **95** occasions, in approximately **two dozen contexts**.

2020 SBT deployments



The Standby Team in 2020

ENGAGEMENT IN PREVENTION CONTEXTS

- ✓ Providing remote advice to UN electoral crisis response in Guyana and Bolivia
- ✓ Supporting the Country Team in Guinea-Bissau on complex constitution-making issues, such as the inclusion of women, and by providing a gender-sensitive analysis of constitutional texts
- ✓ Supporting conflict analysis and scenario-building exercises in Ecuador and El Salvador, with a view towards identifying entry points for prevention and sustaining peace

MEDIATION / PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

- ✓ Technical assistance to the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria on the Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process
- ✓ Technical support on questions of inclusion and drafting to the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen
- ✓ Providing remote technical advice to UNSMIL in connection with the 5+5 military commission and the reconvening of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum, including on options for in-person and virtual meeting formats
- ✓ Assisting the political missions in the Middle East and Afghanistan, the Mediation Support Unit advised on highly specific topics, such as: international guarantee mechanisms for peace processes, deadlock breaking, civil society selection, implementation planning, international peace process support forums, comparative approaches to agenda setting, and the possible inclusion of clerical bodies in power-sharing negotiations
- ✓ Support to the Sudan talks on process design, security arrangements and governance issues, through the South Sudanese mediation and in cooperation with the United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) technical secretariat

Refining the roadmap toward peace in Afghanistan

In 2020, DPPA supported the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to prepare for peace negotiations by deploying Standby Team experts to share experiences on inclusion and process design, including advice on constructing inclusive delegations (particularly with respect to women).

An expert provided remote support to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and UNAMA on human rights issues that could arise in the Afghanistan Peace Negotiations. One tangible result is a proposal to include victims of the conflict in the peace process. If adopted, the proposal could give victims of conflict a voice in its resolution. Substantial assistance to the Commission is expected to continue.



UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

🐦 @UNDPPA 📅 3. 9. 2020

"After four decades of war, the people of **#Afghanistan** have more reason than ever to hope that this devastating conflict, which has brought so much suffering, may finally come to an end," @DeborahLyonsUN said in a **@UN Security Council briefing today:**

<https://bit.ly/2QwLjJf>



Credit: AIHRC

Excerpts from interview
with Shahrzad Akbar,
Chair of the Afghan
Independent Human Rights
Commission (AIHRC)

What were the main challenges that the AIHRC faced in 2020 in connection to the peace process in Afghanistan?

We had done some internal thinking about the peace process and the commission's role, but there was really no blueprint we could follow in terms of positioning the Commission as an independent human rights institution in a very complex peace process. While we know about human rights and the laws of Afghanistan, our knowledge of peace processes was lacking. We needed help to better understand how peace processes work, what sensitivities we needed to consider, what openings we needed to pay attention to and what forms of advocacy were possible.

What support was provided by the Mediation Support Unit and the Standby Team working in conjunction with UNAMA?

We received essential guidance through one of the senior members of the Standby team to help the work of the Commission regarding the peace process and human rights in 2020. The support has helped us refine the roadmap for our engagement in the peace process and has informed some of our current advocacy activities. We will continue pushing for victims' inclusion in the process and we will be launching a series of papers to shape the debate around various human rights and peace issues, as the peace process unfolds in Doha. This engagement has had a lasting impact in terms of positioning the commission in the peace process and refining our messaging and means of intervention.

HOLDING POST-REFERENDUM CONSULTATIONS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Throughout 2020, the Mediation Support Unit continued to support the governments of [Papua New Guinea](#) and [the Autonomous Region of Bougainville](#) as they prepared to initiate consultations following the referendum on independence held in 2019. The Standby Team Constitutions Advisor worked with the parties to develop documents covering the timeline and principles for the consultation process.

A Standby Team process design expert also joined to undertake a Post-Referendum Consultation Process Assessment and Scenario Building Exercise. The exercise has provided a roadmap for the Resident Coordinator and UN Country Team, as well as staff at Headquarters, to use in calibrating future UN support as the consultations are anticipated to get underway in 2021.



Little Wilnisha Lau waiting with her Mom, Cissy for the announcement of referendum polling results.
Credit: UN/Serahphina Aupong



In South Darfur, Volker Perthes, Special Representative for Sudan and Head of UNITAMS, visited Kalma Camp for internally displaced persons. In their discussions with the Special Representative, the camp residence mentioned that security is their number one priority. Credit: Mohamed Nouredin

CASE STUDY:

SUPPORTING THE POLITICAL TRANSITION IN SUDAN

TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION IN SUDAN

Throughout 2020, MYA funds supported the political transition in Sudan and enabled close coordination during the drawdown of UNAMID and the establishment of the UN Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS). Voluntary funding enhanced the UN’s ability to move quickly to prepare for the next phase of the transition. Every detail of the transition had to be handled

carefully to ensure the protection of civilians and the consolidation of progress toward peace.

In 2020, the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Sudan, Nicholas Haysom, led the UN’s political engagement and coordinated international political and economic support through his work with the Friends of Sudan group. He also guided the work of the team in establishing the new mission. With MYA funding, the planning team, coordinated by a small secretariat, included 85 staff members representing 25 UN system entities. The process also involved external partners, including the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the European Union.

With help from UN Women, DPPA also ensured that Women, Peace and Security concerns were incorporated into the mission planning process and that women were well-represented in UNITAMS.

MEDIATION SUPPORT

At the request of the Secretariat of the South Sudanese mediation team, several members of the Standby Team were deployed to support mediation in various thematic areas. In doing so, the Department recognized the need for deepened strategic engagement in support of the mediation team, as well as the need to work with Sudanese stakeholders to narrow divergent expectations for the peace negotiations.

TRANSITIONAL SECURITY ELEMENTS

Standby Team experts conducted workshops and briefings for the participating representatives of armed movements, focusing on areas with the greatest prospects for an immediate impact on the ground, such as the scope of potential ceasefires and related monitoring and verification aspects. Issues related to disengagement, redeployment and cantonment were also discussed and comparative experiences shared. For example, participants benefited from lessons learned from the peace process between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), including on the composition of the delegations and the prominence placed on the inclusion of women, civil society and victims. Other key considerations were also

raised, such as the importance of a gender-sensitive approach as well as compliance with international humanitarian law standards, security sector reform SSR and its practices. The Security Arrangements chapter in the Juba Peace Agreement, signed in October 2020, reflected these key issues to a considerable extent.

POWER-SHARING ADVISORY SUPPORT

Experts focused on governance issues identified in the Constitutional Document. In supporting the parties, the experts highlighted matters related to the allocation of powers during the transitional period. Consideration of these issues resulted in a much more comprehensive final agreement.

PROCESS DESIGN

Support from experts served to bring an increased level of coherence to the overall peace agreement. The agreements reached in the negotiation tracks included some region-specific issues, as well as aspects that were ‘national’ in nature. The Standby Team also assisted in developing a methodology and overall framework to assist in harmonization. This model was adopted as part of the final Juba Peace Agreement.



Rosemary A. DiCarlo

@DicarloRosemary 13. 6. 2020

The Security Council today approved a new special political mission for #Sudan, UNITAMS. We’re committed to helping make the country’s democratic transition and development a success. Our planning to deploy the new mission continues, in consultation with authorities and partners.

<https://bit.ly/2Pq61TR>

NEW REPORT ON UN SUPPORT TO LOCAL MEDIATION: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The changing nature of violent conflict is increasingly characterized by the involvement of non-state actors, complicated, shifting alliances and protracted fighting.

In response, the Mediation Support Unit has studied local mediation processes. Its 2020 report, *UN Support to Local Mediation: Challenges and Opportunities*, draws lessons from a series of dedicated deployments, reflection exercises² and case studies on five local conflict contexts: a land conflict between two communities in the Surobi district in [Afghanistan](#); a religious conflict in Bangassou in [Central African Republic](#); local-level

implementation of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in [Myanmar](#); conflicts between herders and farmers in South Sudan; and tribal conflict resolution practices in the Cordillera region of the [Philippines](#).

At one of the polling centers in Bimbo, Central African Republic, a woman casts her vote.
Credit: MINUSCA/ Leonel Grothe



NEGOTIATING A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AND PRISONER EXCHANGE IN YEMEN

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Martin Griffiths, continued to advocate for the resumption of inclusive, intra-Yemeni negotiations to end the conflict.



Special Envoy Martin Griffiths visits Marib in Yemen. Credit: UN Photo: Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen

In the second half of the year, these efforts focused on an agreement between the Government of Yemen and the Houthis on a proposed Joint Declaration, comprising a permanent nationwide ceasefire, humanitarian and economic measures, and the resumption of the political process.

Early in the year, the Mediation Support Unit and the Standby Team provided drafting advice on a Joint Declaration between the parties that Special Envoy Griffiths sought to facilitate. The experts were asked to examine issues around executive powers and models for constitution-drafting processes.

DPPA also provided technical assistance on security arrangements and the disarmament and demobilization of fighters during a potential transitional period.

Our liaison officer in Geneva, funded by the MYA, provided technical assistance to the Office of the Special Envoy in the organization of the fourth meeting of the Supervisory Committee on the Implementation of the Prisoners Exchange agreement in September.

These talks led to an agreement between the Yemeni parties on the exchange and release of over 1,000 prisoners. This represents the first concrete outcome under the Prisoners Exchange Agreement, which is one component of the Security Council-endorsed Stockholm Agreement of 2018.

2) www.peacemaker.un.org

Assisting with elections

Elections, when conducted in a fair and inclusive manner, can encourage conciliation, give voice to citizens and support peaceful transitions. The UN assists Member States – at their request or as mandated by the Security Council or General Assembly – to hold elections that legitimately express the people’s will and are deemed credible by national stakeholders. DPPA’s electoral assistance work is primarily funded by the MYA. Each year some 50 Member States benefit from this support. The Department also provides technical electoral capacity to regional organizations. In 2020, for instance, our Electoral Assistance Division provided technical support to the League of Arab States to strengthen its electoral database and also supported the AU develop a framework to provide technical electoral assistance to its member states.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we kept critical staff on the ground to support the electoral management bodies in countries where elections were postponed (such as [Bolivia](#) and [Ethiopia](#)); and where they are projected to be held later in the year ([Afghanistan](#)).

Supported over **50** Member States’ efforts to conduct credible and peaceful elections.

21 National elections & **1** referendum supported.

The UN continued to provide technical electoral support to over **50** electoral processes with **8** of them under a Security Council Mandate.

20 electoral missions conducted by staff and consultants, despite the pandemic, to provide technical support to Member States.

13 comprehensive needs assessments conducted in response to new requests for UN assistance.

Examples of electoral support in 2020

In [Uzbekistan](#), the MYA supported the second round of legislative elections in January 2020, including with technical assistance, training, and voter education targeting women, youth, persons with disabilities and other underrepresented groups.

In [Moldova](#), presidential elections took place in November 2020, which resulted in the first female presidency. The United Nations, upon the request of the Moldovan Government, has been providing technical assistance to the electoral process in the past several years. The UN support during the 2020 elections included voter education (with emphasis on inclusion and safety), IT and elections, women’s participation, safe conduct of elections during the pandemic, as well as developing the capacity of the electoral officials.

Low election turnouts in [Jordan](#) – especially among women, persons with disabilities and youth – have been an issue during past elections. An MYA project focused on educating potential voters and supported the deployment and training of 3,500 youth election volunteers (50 per cent female) to strengthen COVID-19 related mitigation measures on election day. They also promoted the participation of youth, particularly young women, in the electoral process. The project supported the production of two videos on COVID-19 mitigation and safeguarding the health of voters and polling staff.

ASSISTING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE REFERENDUM IN NEW CALEDONIA

A referendum on [New Caledonia’s](#) access to full sovereignty was conducted in 2020, in which the UN provided technical support through the deployment of a team of electoral experts. Using MYA resources, DPPA deployed a senior electoral expert in February, to provide advice on how the UN could best support the process. This assistance helped ensure inclusive voter registration and a transparent referendum process.

The updating of the voters’ list was key to the credibility of the process. The referendum process was peaceful, and all stakeholders acknowledged the positive contributions of the UN team.

BACKSTOPPING THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION IN IRAQ

A change in government and a call for early elections followed widespread public protests in [Iraq](#). The Iraqi Parliament overhauled the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), which affected 40 per cent of its staffing capacity. Through its rapid response window, the MYA quickly provided surge capacity – three electoral experts – to help the Commission prepare for early parliamentary elections initially scheduled for the first half of 2021 (currently postponed tentatively for October 2021).

MYA funds also supported the efforts of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to quickly bolster its backing of the Commission. An MYA funded IT consultant provided remote training to expand conferencing capabilities during the pandemic. DPPA's support on electoral reform included a strong gender perspective, particularly in the design of a new electoral system, reinforcing a 25 per cent quota for female candidates. It also ensured that preparations for early elections continued and that the new electoral legislation included provisions



to increase women's and youth representation. The main impact of UN support has been to increase confidence in IHEC among an often skeptical public.

QUICK RESPONSE TO SUPPORT A PEACEFUL ELECTION IN MALAWI

Following a February 2020 order from the [Malawi](#) Constitutional Court, new presidential elections were organized on 23 June 2020. They were conducted in a largely peaceful manner and the new President was inaugurated on 6 July. Ahead of the elections, at the request of national authorities, DPPA provided advice and logistical support, including measures to promote national dialogue and mitigate the potential for election related violence.

With MYA funding, we also provided continuous technical advice and support to the UN team on the ground and deployed surge capacity, including a senior electoral officer to assist the Resident Coordinator and the Country Team. The UN also backed national efforts to reduce the risks posed by COVID-19, particularly on election day, and many stakeholders saw these measures as having contributed to conducting peaceful and safe elections.

UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

 @UNDPPA  26. 8. 2020

"Restoring public trust is hard work. And within that context, free and fair elections will prove crucial. An electoral 'reset' could open a new and important chapter for [#Iraq](#)," [@JeanineHennis](#) said in a [@UN Security Council briefing today](#):

<https://bit.ly/2QqFoFC>



UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

 @UNDPPA  19. 10. 2020

[#Bolivia](#): [@antonioguterres](#) congratulates the Bolivian people on the holding of general elections. He encourages all political and social leaders to work together with the same commitment to democracy, respect for human rights and national reconciliation.

<https://cutt.ly/2bMmJjs>

INCLUSIVE PROCESSES DIFFUSE TENSIONS AROUND ELECTIONS IN BOLIVIA

In Bolivia, with MYA funding, DPPA supported the electoral and political process ahead of the country's general elections on 18 October 2020.

Stakeholders deemed the process inclusive, participatory and credible. The UN electoral project, led by the then Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General on Bolivia, Jean Arnault, in collaboration with national electoral authorities, conducted more than 200 electoral dialogues that fostered greater understanding of the process, deescalating tensions and dissipating doubts that may have existed regarding the process. More than 6,000 people participated in the dialogues, including representatives of political parties/organizations, civil society organizations, traditional media,

organizations of indigenous peoples, women, youth, marginalized groups, activists and influencers (social media), as well as members of the public in general. Social and traditional media broadcasted the dialogues, reaching thousands of beneficiaries. Multi-party dialogues have continued with the participation of women's groups, civil society organizations and indigenous peoples even after the election.

Another milestone of the election result was the full compliance with gender parity in the legislature and a majority of women legislators in the Senate. The UN Electoral Pillar, supported by the MYA, had a strong gender component and had gender advisors supporting the electoral organ.

ADVANCING THE WORK OF DPPA THROUGH NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATION

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for new approaches to conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding that draw on cutting-edge empirical research, new technologies, and path-shifting creativity. Our newly established Innovation Cell has been a force multiplier for innovation by delivering tangible support to ongoing peace processes, expertise on applied innovation practice, new digital tools, training, and other pioneering efforts. Some of the highlights of “first-ever” innovations that have enhanced DPPA’s core work include:

SUPPORTING PEACEMAKING EFFORTS WITH ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Innovation Cell and its partners developed an artificial intelligence-assisted system for mediators to hold real-time consultations on peace processes with thousands of individuals in local dialects and languages. This new method was applied for the first time in live large-scale digital dialogues convened by the UN missions in [Yemen](#) and [Libya](#).

To ensure the inclusivity of the peace process in Libya, UNSMIL and the Innovation Cell also developed an interactive platform

(Al-Hiwar) to interact with Libyans throughout the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum process.

ENHANCING DECISION-MAKING WITH VIRTUAL REALITY

DPPA, with MYA funding, made progress on developing a series of immersive virtual reality experiences to advance situational awareness and supplement briefing materials available to Security Council members, UN principals, and other Member State representatives, including on conflict situations in [Yemen](#), [Colombia](#), and [Sudan](#). DPPA also developed the first-ever storified virtual reality experience of a UN report, namely the Report of the Secretary-General on the State of Global Peace and Security, as an innovative way to strengthen advocacy and outreach.

PREDICTING FUTURE CONFLICT

The Innovation Cell and its technical partners completed work on a pilot project applying earth observation analysis to advance water security-related forecasting. The team collaborated with counterparts of the relevant Special Political Mission, the UN Country Team, the Climate Security



Mechanism, the UN Geospatial Information Section and other partners. By examining supply-and demand-side water changes throughout history and creating a model to estimate future trends against conflict risk indicators, the methodology bolsters water-related conflict prediction with geospatial analysis. In collaboration with relevant Special Political Missions, the Cell also developed an all-purpose social media mining tool to enhance “social listening” capabilities in order to generate actionable insights, especially in conflict contexts where social media rumors can feed violence.

MAINSTREAMING APPLIED SCIENCE

In parallel, DPPA expanded trainings, ideation sessions, and projects across the Department and its field presences to encourage the use of data science and visualization, strategic foresight, and brain and behavioural science. As an active member of the UN Innovation Network, the Cell also contributed to the Secretary-General’s Data Strategy, and engages in numerous cross-pillar efforts to foster innovation across the UN system.

AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF THE YEMENI PEOPLE: THE DIGITAL FOCUS GROUP PROJECT

“It’s very important that we feel that we are all participating, that our views are reflected,” said Muna Luqman, one of some 500 participants in an artificial intelligence-powered, real-time large-scale virtual dialogue in Yemen on 8-9 June. Ms. Luqman is the founder of Food4Humanity and a co-founder of the Women Solidarity Network, the largest women’s network in Yemen.

The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen had worked with the government and international NGOs to identify representatives from diverse political parties, women’s networks, youth groups, media, and civil society organizations. The fact that the dialogue was conducted in Yemeni Arabic helped ensure no one was left out of the dialogue. The technology used enables a single person to hold a real-time conversation with a group of up to 1,000 individuals. During three hours of live, interactive online discussion, participants expressed their concern about the spread of COVID-19 and voiced support for the resumption of peace talks.

“As a Yemeni, you feel that you are participating in something very important, in shaping the way decisions are made. We especially need the women involved, because they reflect the real essence of what’s going on in Yemen. They’re bringing to the table issues that are never discussed by the warring parties — they’re bringing a lot of roadmaps for peace in Yemen.” Muna Luqman concludes.

Rosemary A. DiCarlo

 @DicarloRosemary  24. 9. 2020

About 1 in 4 young people globally is affected by violence or armed conflict. Yet youth are too often excluded from peace processes. Young women & men are the foundations of peace & stability long-term. They must have a say in the policies & decisions affecting them. [#YouthLead](#)

<https://bit.ly/3dQX8T9>



ENVISIONING A PEACEFUL FUTURE FOR NORTHEAST ASIA

Beginning in April 2020, DPPA and the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs worked with eight youth leaders in [Northeast Asia](#) to strengthen their ability to advocate on disarmament, non-proliferation, gender equity, new technologies and civil society action. Throughout the year, the young people were connected with senior policy-makers in a series of virtual discussions.

On 2 December, a representative of the project, Moe Sasaki of Japan, spoke at a special session on youth, convened for the first time as part of the annual

Republic of Korea-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Issues:

“Youth have the potential to play a central role in advancing regional cooperation and identity-building, which are essential to build security that is not just national but regional and global,” she said. “I joined the project to form my own ideas about how disarmament could speak in the language of everyday people in Northeast Asia – on how security and armament decisions impact the social aspects of citizens.”

ENCOURAGING SOCIAL COHESION IN COLOMBIA AFTER DECADES OF VIOLENCE

Four years after the signing of the 2016 peace accords in Colombia, more than 13,000 former combatants had laid down their weapons, and their successful reintegration is considered critical to sustaining peace. The majority has been involved in reintegration programmes run by national authorities, but many still face security risks. In response, the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, with MYA funds, established a dedicated liaison capacity in areas with pressing security challenges to help the government identify and address specific risks. The Mission has also proposed gender-differentiated prevention and protection strategies as a way to enhance trust between former combatants and state institutions.

That trust is also being built through projects to improve life and livelihoods for former combatants and communities in areas where reintegration is taking place.

In 2020, the Mission funded six initiatives, including health and community centres benefitting former combatants and former combatants alike with a view to promote reconciliation.

One such project improved internet access for 3,000 families in four indigenous and one farming community in southwestern Colombia. Internet access increased access to social services and the ability of communities to engage among themselves and

with neighbouring communities in a complex multicultural environment. A cooperative formed to manage and maintain the new network, which further strengthened relationships.

Five other community-based initiatives increased access to healthcare in the remote municipalities of Mutapa (Antioquia) and Terra Grata (Cesar); connectivity (Nariño), and community

centres in Roncesvalles (Tolima) and Puerto Asis (Putumayo). Project beneficiaries were former combatants as well as neighbouring communities with historically limited access to basic public services due to a limited state presence. Such community-based initiatives represent an important contribution in the context of broader efforts to extend the benefits of the reintegration process also to non-former-combatant communities.



Carlos Ruiz Massieu

 @CGRuizMassieu  16. 9. 2020

The country's experience in peace processes reaffirms its vocation to resolve conflicts through negotiation and peaceful solutions. [@UN](#) always privileges dialogue and I take this opportunity to recognize, once again, this path which has made Colombia an example for the world.

<https://cutt.ly/MbMQwi6>

BOOSTING THE POTENTIAL OF WOMEN TO PROMOTE PEACE AND SECURITY

2020 RESULTS

Electoral needs assessment reports included gender-specific analysis and recommendations

100%

100%

UN mediation support teams had women

Departmental analyses are gender sensitive

48%

66%

10 (out of 15) delegations of conflict parties had senior women members in mediation processes where the UN was a (co) lead

Twenty years ago, the Security Council, with the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000), acknowledged for the first time the importance of women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in all prevention and peacemaking efforts.

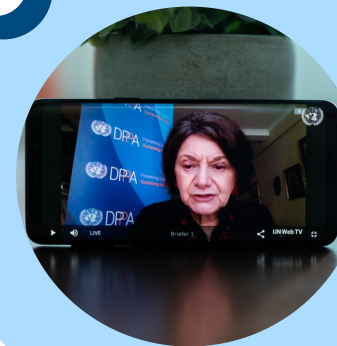
The UN has made significant progress in strengthening women's leadership in these areas, women peacemakers today face historic challenges. Nevertheless, deep-rooted social inequalities continue to limit the participation of women in peace and political processes. The pandemic further exacerbated these inequalities, spotlighting pre-existing fissures in social, political and economic systems in a global context that was already characterized by a hardening political climate, increasingly complex wars and a backlash on women's rights.

Yet, like any crisis, the pandemic also offered potential for change. As Under-Secretary-General Rosemary DiCarlo pointed out in September on the occasion of the 20-year anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000): *"The pandemic is a reminder that we cannot have security in the world without security for all. Women's meaningful participation is vital to building people-centered security and sustaining peace and justice."*

Together, we can open the doors to women's meaningful participation in all of our conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding work. Together, we can build peace by and for all."

In 2020, DPPA programmed 17 per cent (\$7.6 million) of the entire MYA budget to advance women's crucial role in conflict prevention and sustaining peace. Through our Gender Marker, we integrate gender and women, peace and security considerations into all projects at every stage, from analysis, design, and implementation to reporting and evaluation. In addition, the Gender Marker allows the Department to perform gender budgeting and track resource allocations as well as investment to advance commitments related to the agenda.

Throughout the year, DPPA made further progress on the commitments and priorities laid out in the Department's Women, Peace and Security Policy, launched in 2019. The Policy seeks to ensure that gender issues and perspectives are integrated into all activities to promote inclusive conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding in alignment with the Secretary-General's 'five forward-looking goals':



Rosemary A. DiCarlo

@UNDPPA 2. 10. 2020

"Women's contributions to #peace & security are still often outside the mainstream of formal efforts, and too frequently undervalued," @DicarloRosemary said at a Peacebuilding Commission meeting on women, peace and security today. Full remarks: <https://dppa.un.org/>

<https://bit.ly/32Qn8rO>

UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

@UNDPPA 31. 3. 2020

Women Belong at the Peace Table. In Central Asia, too. Promoting the inclusion of women in conflict prevention and peacebuilding in #Tajikistan, #Kyrgyzstan, #Kazakhstan, #Uzbekistan and #Turkmenistan.

<https://bit.ly/3sOWVnL>



Enhancing gender-sensitive political and conflict analysis

We continued to build inclusion into every aspect of our work and sharpened our gender focus. This was accomplished through training on gender conflict analysis that was made available to all regional divisions of the DPPA-DPO shared structure, as well as through a joint policy brief with UN Women that outlined the impact of the pandemic on women

and on their ability to participate in ceasefires and peace processes.

This work also contributed to an analysis of misinformation and hate speech in the context of COVID-19 and yielded valuable insights to inform analysis at Headquarters and strategic planning in the field.

Promoting the inclusion of women's meaningful participation in all peacemaking, peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts

In **Afghanistan**, as a way of addressing gender imbalances at UNAMA, an MYA-funded programme helped 30 young female professionals obtain relevant and requisite experience and mentorship. At least seven of them secured jobs in the Mission, elsewhere in the UN system, or with international NGOs.

LISTENING TO THE VOICES OF SYRIAN WOMEN

In **Syria**, DPPA maintained its urgent call for an inclusive political solution. Special Envoy, Geir O. Pedersen, has emphasized the importance of inclusivity to the peace process and reiterated: *"There will be no sustainable peace in Syria unless all Syrians are included in shaping the future of their country."*

The Women's Advisory Board, a diverse body of 17 civil society leaders and experts established by the UN in 2016, has served as a springboard for the inclusion of women's input in ongoing political negotiations. The Board consults regularly with the Special Envoy when the Constitutional Committee is in session, including on concerns that disproportionately affect women.

Several members of the Advisory Board also serve as delegates to the Constitutional Committee, in which women achieved 28 per cent representation. The Civil Society Support Room – a diverse consultative platform with over 700 members, 40 per cent of them women – also gives the UN direct access to the voices of Syrian women from different geographic areas and professional backgrounds (many of them operating at the forefront of humanitarian efforts to meet the needs of Syrians).

Women interlocutors have emphasized to the Special Envoy the plight of the detained, abducted and missing, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and harsh winter conditions on the internally displaced, as well as the economic crisis experienced by Syrian women across the country. They have also reported on the scale of conflict-related sexual violence, as well as the rise of early and forced marriage throughout the country.



UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

@UNDPPA 16. 6. 2020

@GeirOPedersen calls for nationwide ceasefire in **#Syria**, reiterates appeal for government and all other Syrian parties to carry out large-scale and unilateral releases of detainees and abductees – especially of women, children, the elderly and the sick –

<https://bit.ly/3tVCLKm>

<https://bit.ly/3sVSXKd>

Maryam Ahmadi, one of the former UN Volunteers, said, *"After serving as a UNV with UNAMA for 11 months, I joined the Human Rights Services in Kandahar as a national staff member. It was my dream to serve my country and work for*

women's rights. I now understand what role can be played to engage Afghan women voices in decisionmaking processes and I feel that I am making a difference through my contributions."

Promoting women's participation in electoral and political processes

In 2020 DPPA utilized the MYA to support efforts to increase women's electoral participation in [Bolivia](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Jordan](#), [Kyrgyzstan](#) and [Moldova](#). UN support to Member States included voter education and sensitization activities, mitigating the potential for political violence against women, and informational campaigns on temporary special measures and quotas. Meaningful inclusion of women was promoted in the recruitment, training and

deployment of election volunteers, while women leaders and groups from civil society were targeted through campaigns and outreach activities. DPPA also worked closely with several regional bodies, for example the Network for Arab Women in Elections, and, in collaboration with UNDP, created the Arab Electoral Dictionary. The Dictionary provides a unified description of key electoral concepts with specific country examples from the region.

Preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence

With MYA support, DPPA advocated for comprehensive responses to the pandemic-related spike in gender-based violence. We also joined other partner entities of UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict in calling on parties to cease acts of sexual violence as part of the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire.

In [Colombia](#), the United Nations Verification Mission advocated for prompt security and protection measures for women leaders and human rights defenders, and for a gender sensitive reintegration process for former female

combatants. The Mission strongly promoted the inclusion of these women within the National Protection Unit bodyguard scheme, and by early 2020, women comprised some 12 per cent of the total bodyguard cadre. In parallel, the Mission worked to raise the level of understanding of the important roles that women play within the military and police and to encourage security forces to deploy women into field operations in strategic functions.

In [Myanmar](#), an MYA project enabled the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to work with women

influencers in Rakhine State to engage with local stakeholders, using women's voices to defuse tensions. Due to the ongoing fighting in Rakhine between the Arakan Army and Tatmadaw and related internet bans in various Rakhine townships, the Office organized a group consultation with women leaders in October 2020.

Meanwhile, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Myanmar, Christine Schraner Burgener, and her team continued individual engagements with female IDPs, civil society leaders and politicians, including women from the Rohingya community, throughout 2020. These consultations helped capture the perspectives of women in relation

to conflict and reconciliation issues in Myanmar. Requests and recommendations made by women, for example on issues related to electoral disenfranchisement, were formally raised by the Special Envoy in her high-level engagements with government officials.

In [Somalia](#), MYA funds were used to assist female defectors in their reintegration into society as a stopgap measure while additional support from donors was pending. Counseling, health services for survivors of gender-based violence, and livelihood support were provided to some 50 women formerly associated with Al-Shabaab.

Mainstreaming gender through all programmatic work

2020 demonstrated that online platforms can offer possibilities for wider engagement of women and increase the legitimacy of peace processes by amplifying their voices.

In June, DPPA piloted a six-week online dialogue on ways to enhance the inclusion of women in peace processes via digital technologies. It identified potential entry points in specific mediation processes; shared experiences of women's inclusion through the use of digital technologies and developed tailored proposals to address challenges related to peace operations.

In August, DPPA launched a new web page (peacemaker.un.org/wps), dedicated to inclusive and gender-responsive mediation on the UN Peacemaker website, DPPA's online mediation support tool. It offers resources and guidance on gender and inclusive mediation and includes examples of the Department's work to promote the Women, Peace and Security agenda. It also provides a comprehensive list of information on the background of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

GOAL 2

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR PREVENTION AND RESILIENCE

2020 RESULTS

44

Joint strategies and interventions with regional organizations

10

Liaison presences across the globe to deepen regional partnerships

16

Cases where South-South and Triangular cooperation was promoted through joint initiatives with regional organizations

58

Countries with UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme initiatives to build national capacities

631

Civil society organizations with which DPPA engaged

Partnership enables the Department to have an impact that goes far beyond its size. As the repercussions of conflicts and crises often spill over borders, we focus on both country-specific interventions and regional approaches, placing great emphasis on partnering with regional and sub-regional organizations.

We also promote coordination of action with other UN entities and civil society organizations. In rapidly evolving and complex political situations, development assistance and conflict prevention efforts must be coordinated and should

complement each other. DPPA has been working more closely with the reformed Resident Coordinator system in the field, Peace and Development Advisers and other UN agencies, to prioritize nationally owned political solutions.

MYA funding, with its flexibility and timeliness, is able to help solidify all the partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, and with an increasing number of civil society groups that are so crucial to maintaining peace and security.

Gaining leverage through regional approaches

As the repercussions of conflicts and crises are often felt beyond national borders, we focus not only on country-specific interventions but also on regional approaches, including by emphasizing partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations. These entities are often better placed to respond to emerging crises.

DPPA organized the MYA-funded Secretary-General’s High-Level Dialogue on the role of regional organizations in conflict prevention, mediation, peacebuilding and peacekeeping with 24 heads of regional and other organizations. The Dialogue, funded by the MYA and held in virtual format on 23 November, demonstrated the UN’s convening role as well as DPPA’s flexibility in response to the pandemic and the importance that the UN and its regional partners attach to the idea of “networked multilateralism”. The discussion revealed a convergence of views on the importance of multilateral responses to the pandemic, the climate crisis, the Secretary-General’s call for a global ceasefire and other matters.

The Department has been at the forefront of the UN efforts to provide early warnings of potential threats and prevent conflicts in the [Horn of Africa](#). Following a request from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in April to support

its Regional Response Strategy to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa mobilized 18 experts from across the UN to provide inputs on emergency health response, the strengthening and coordination of health systems, social and economic issues, and peace and security. A series of virtual meetings addressed both substantive issues and the adjustment of working modalities. UN expertise enhanced the region’s capacity to provide an effective response to COVID-19 and helped strengthen the institutional partnership between the UN and IGAD.



DPPA and the East Africa Community (EAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 5 March 2020 to cooperate on conflict prevention, electoral assistance, women, peace and security and gender equality, youth, peacebuilding, countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. Credit: UN Photo/Eivind Oskarson



UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

@UNDPPA 18. 8. 2020

In [#NortheastAsia](#) we mark [#YouthDay2020](#) by convening our amazing youth leaders to talk about [#peace](#), security & disarmament. We follow up w/ projects involving research, surveys, arts, innovation & cyber security, as identified by UNGA res. on youth & disarmament. [#Youth4Peace](#)



<https://bit.ly/3xlXMQB>

In 2020, DPPA strengthened its partnership with the [African Union \(AU\)](#). With MYA funding, the Department commissioned an assessment of UN-AU cooperation and the structure and capacity. The assessment, led by former UN Special Envoy and African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Said Djinnit, was informed by over 170 consultations. In his letter to the Security Council on its outcomes, the Secretary-General reported a significant improvement in the working relations between African Union and United Nations envoys, including in mission and non-mission settings, and noted the need to further institutionalize the collaboration at all levels. The MYA also supported horizon-scanning briefings and sustained advocacy and engagement with the AU Member States to assist them in conflict prevention.

DPPA also scaled up MYA-funded support to the AU Initiative on [Silencing the Guns in Africa](#), in line with resolution 2457 (2019). In early 2020, 40 youth leaders from ministries, armed forces and civil society from Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan participated in a two-month online course on field-based methods for building peace, protecting civilians in violent conflict without the use of guns, and reducing gender-based violence.

The course, led by the group Nonviolent Peaceforce, helped empower youth leaders with unarmed approaches to protection of civilians. Building on the success of the course, UNAMID replicated the training for 46 Darfuri peacebuilders. *“I liked learning key methods to contain the violence. That knowledge doesn’t exist here in Somalia or people may not have heard it before,”* said one of the participants in the Peaceforce course. *“I was very touched by these methods.”*

With two major regional meetings postponed due to COVID-19, the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the [Great Lakes Region](#), Huang Xia, hosted virtual exchanges among regional stakeholders that informed the development of a regional strategy. The strategy identifies 10 priorities for UN intervention and is guided by overarching principles such as early warning and rapid response, regional ownership and respect for sovereignty, and inclusiveness and human rights.

MYA funding was used to organize key consultations with stakeholders in the region to ascertain priorities for the signatory countries of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework. The outcome of these consultations resulted in the development of a further strategy that recommended streamlining the conflict prevention and resolution efforts in the region, taking into account the impact of COVID-19.

In [Southeast Asia](#), DPPA’s regional presences in Jakarta and Bangkok facilitated a partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), specifically to advance the Youth, Peace and Security agenda. With MYA funding, the department helped convene a #Youth4Peace virtual forum, bringing together over 100 youth to share experiences in peacebuilding work, while Southeast Asian officials who work with youth participated in an e-learning course on the agenda. These engagements lay the foundation for a planned 2021 event that will bring young peacebuilders together with ASEAN policymakers to turn ideas into action.

Maintaining liaison presences to coordinate coherent responses

In 2020, MYA funds allowed DPPA to maintain [ten liaison presences](#) in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Beijing, Brussels, Buka, Cairo, Gaborone, Jakarta, Nairobi and Vienna. These regional hubs are critical to forging working relationships with regional and sub-regional organizations, and also help ensure coordinated and coherent United Nations responses.

For example, the MYA-funded UN Liaison Office in Vienna worked closely with the [Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe](#) (OSCE) in 2020 to resolve hostilities in and around the disputed [Nagorno-Karabakh](#) region in the Caucasus. The coordinated UN response in the post-conflict phase cut across interconnected tracks of engagement in the political, humanitarian, human rights and peacebuilding areas. DPPA focused on engaging women, youth and conflict-affected communities in support of a peace and reform agenda. Civil society representatives from Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as from neighboring [Georgia](#), came together in May to discuss the Sustainable Development Goals and other issues of common concern, including the impact of COVID-19 on women in the sub-region.

MYA funds continued to support the liaison presence in Beijing to strengthen cooperation with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and promote regional cooperation after trust building in relation to the Korean Peninsula.

In 2020, the liaison presence also supported Resident Coordinators and UN Country teams, including in [China](#) and the [Democratic People’s Republic of Korea](#), through arranging the departure of United Nations staff through China, and assisting in analysis related to elections and the Common Country Analysis in [Mongolia](#). MYA funds continued to support the liaison presence in Beijing to strengthen cooperation with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and promote regional cooperation in relation to the Korean Peninsula. In 2020, the liaison presence also supported Resident Coordinators and UN Country teams, including in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, through arranging the departure of United Nations staff through China, and assisting with the Common Country Analysis in Mongolia.



Backstopping the United Nations teams in every region

Promoting coordination and developing instruments to support integrated responses remained a priority in 2020. This included building partnerships with UN agencies, civil society organizations and the World Bank. The Department has been working closely across the United Nations system to prioritize nationally owned political solutions. Specific examples of support at the country-level include:

DPPA's efforts were instrumental to the development of the first-ever national security vision for [Burkina Faso](#), which identified national interests and ways to preserve and promote these interests through democratic practices. Our support helped build the capacity of the parliament and other institutional organs to enhance oversight and civilian control over the security sector. More

specifically, MYA funds were used to retain a Senior Adviser on National Security to the Presidency and deploy a Senior Political Adviser to the Resident Coordinator's Office. The Senior Advisers are assisting in the establishment of an "Infrastructure for Peace" and the enactment in law of a national security policy.

In [Guyana](#), a joint mission with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights assisted the Resident Coordinator's Office in monitoring political, security and human rights issues around the March general elections. Together, they provided daily situation reports and political and human rights analysis to assess possible preventive actions. The team also helped evaluate the UN's positioning in the fraught period during and after the vote count.

Empowering partnerships with civil society

Civil society groups can be influential and effective actors in peace process negotiations and implementation, including of ceasefires. DPPA mediators are trying to better understand how best to harness their activism and networks. In 2020, we researched the roles and capacities of stakeholders in peace processes, considering women's groups, youth and religious actors, other mediation support entities, and Member States.

In the [Israel-Palestine](#) context, drops in funding and mounting delegitimization campaigns have had a negative effect on civil society organizations. MYA funding helped the UN Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East process (UNSCO) develop a support network to expand cooperation between organizations and with the UN. Meetings with more than 20 organizations have been conducted to discuss financial, social, and political challenges.

The 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 into its work, with the hope that it will serve as a building block for cooperation in other areas.

The Member States of the [Southern Africa](#) region continue to face numerous common challenges that would be best addressed through regional cooperation with strengthened UN support. Southern Africa, unlike other regions, does not have well-established political missions, regional offices or peacekeeping operations. DPPA, through the Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Southern Africa, Nicholas Haysom, and the [Southern Africa Development Community \(SADC\)](#) Liaison Team, continued to strengthen coordination on peace and security, cross-cutting and women's issues and capacity building for preventive diplomacy, facilitation and mediation. In 2020, the Special Advisor and Liaison Team also supported the work of UN Country Teams dealing with sensitive political situations during the year, including in [Lesotho](#), [Malawi](#), [Mozambique](#), [South Africa](#), [Zambia](#) and [Zimbabwe](#).



UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

@UNDPPA 29. 7. 2020

[#Palestinian](#) & [#Israeli](#) civil society groups play a crucial role in engaging with communities to transform perceptions & policies towards a peaceful resolution of conflict.

<https://bit.ly/32QZifu>



Leveraging partnership with International Financial Institutions

Last year, the MYA helped the Department expand and deepen partnerships with the World Bank and other International Financial Institutions, assisting DPPA in identifying the risks of violent conflict.

The partnership has also yielded Risk and Resilience Assessments for [Central Asia](#), for the [Mano River Union countries](#), and [Burkina Faso](#).

STRENGTHENING ANALYSIS AND PREVENTION OF CLIMATE-RELATED SECURITY RISKS

In 2020, the Department expanded its efforts to analyze and address the adverse impacts of climate change on conflict prevention and sustaining peace. At Headquarters, in the field, and as part of our joint DPPA-UNDP-UNEP Climate Security Mechanism (CSM), it has been able to deepen its understanding of climate-related security risks in different settings. In April, Under-Secretary-General Rosemary DiCarlo briefed Security Council members during an Arria formula meeting on climate security, and Assistant-Secretary-General Miroslav Jenča briefed the Council during a ministerial-level debate on the topic in July. The CSM also provided briefings to the Group of Friends on Climate and Security.

Throughout the year, awareness-raising and capacity building initiatives co-organized by the CSM reached nearly 1,000 practitioners and researchers globally. The first UN guidance package on climate-related security risk analysis was also rolled out in 2020. DPPA began new research on the implications of climate change for core

mandate areas, such as mediation and gender, peace and security. Meanwhile, the expansion of the informal UN Community of Practice on Climate Security helped establish a common understanding of the challenge across the UN system.

DPPA is committed to expand its support to countries and regions at the frontlines of the climate security nexus, guided by a gender-sensitive approach. Over the course of the year, together with the CSM, the Department worked with field missions and Peace and Development Advisers on risk analysis and prevention strategies and provided technical support to the design and implementation of Peacebuilding Fund projects. Several Special Political Missions (e.g. United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), UNOWAS, United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa) increased their efforts to analyze and prevent climate-related security risks. Projects are also underway in other regions, including in the Middle East and the Pacific.

EXAMPLES OF WORK IN 2020

In **CENTRAL AFRICA**, UNOCA completed a scoping study that mapped key actors and existing initiatives related to climate security in Central Africa and identified a set of priority risks for further analysis. The study provides a common narrative on climate security in the sub-region and lays the foundation for the first comprehensive climate security risk assessment in Central Africa. UNOCA, with support from the CSM, will examine issues and areas highlighted by the scoping study and develop a strategy for risk prevention and management, to be implemented in partnership with UN Country Teams, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and other sub-regional organizations, civil society, and researchers.

In the **PACIFIC**, DPPA and the CSM provided technical advice to the Office of the Resident Coordinator, Member States, regional organizations and other stakeholders on the first Peacebuilding Fund project dedicated to addressing climate-related security risks. The project, launched in the summer of 2020, seeks to strengthen regional understanding of the linkages between climate change and security and build capacity to prevent and manage associated risks. Preparations are underway for community consultations in the three focus countries of Kiribati, the Republic of Marshall Islands and Vanuatu to ensure analysis and response are rooted in the lived experience of the people directly affected by climate-related security risks.

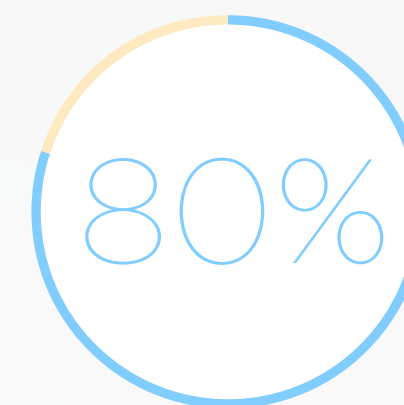
Following the visit of the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to **Ukraine** in December 2019, voluntary funding supported a series of consultations in February 2020, with civil society and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) on UN-led efforts on local peace initiatives and advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda. The consultations helped identify potential areas of future engagement as part of the overall UN efforts to sustain peace, including through two Peacebuilding Fund projects in the region.

GOAL 3

BUILDING AN INNOVATIVE, LEARNING WORK CULTURE

In 2020, MYA funding contributed to the delivery of the Department's overall mandate to prevent, manage and resolve armed conflict and sustain peace.

2020 RESULTS



Targets under the
Results Framework met
or exceeded despite
COVID-19

How DPPA performed under its Results Framework

UNDER GOAL 1,

the Department had notable success related to its analysis-related performance

Departmental analysis informed **43** Common Country Analyses – the basis for UN Country Team responses to national priorities

Similarly, **100** per cent of UN mediation support teams included women

However, border closures, travel restrictions, and social distancing measures led to cancellation of events and planned field visits. For instance, only **188** staff/advisers could be deployed for assistance in mediation and conflict prevention, against the initial target of 344

UNDER GOAL 2,

DPPA strengthened its partnerships for prevention and resilience

DPPA undertook **43** joint initiatives with regional organizations, exceeding the target of 34

During the reporting period, DPPA engaged with **631** civil society organizations, more than double its initial target of 299

UNDER GOAL 3,

DPPA exceeded its targets on organizational effectiveness

Twice as many staff completed DPPA-led or supported trainings (420 compared to 218)

DPPA digitized, led or contributed to **79** policy and guidance materials, exceeding the initial target of 55

Completed 2 evaluations and **9** lessons learned studies

Strategic Planning

At the beginning of the year, we devoted considerable effort to laying the foundation for the implementation of our new Strategic Plan. In accordance with its roll-out strategy, DPPA presented its new Plan and accompanying MYA to internal audiences, including special political missions, and externally to Member States and partners at large. In response to the pandemic, the Department continued to adjust its strategic planning and monitoring tools. Recognizing the uncertainties and the need for greater flexibility during the pandemic, divisions shifted from annual to quarterly work plans. Along with identifying quarterly priorities, divisions also identified risks and mitigation measures. These management tools helped inform team discussions and identify areas for cross-collaboration and resource allocations.

Assessing and preparing for risks

The pandemic underscored the benefits of managing risks from an organization-wide perspective. Following the approval of the UN Secretariat-wide risk register in July 2020, DPPA and the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) commenced work to develop a joint risk register, along with a joint risk treatment plan for the two Departments. Our investment in the tools and processes to identify and mitigate risks has proven useful in dealing with the pandemic. Using the UN Secretariat risk register, every MYA project identified risks and related mitigation measures. In 2020, we included COVID-19 as a stand-alone ‘stressor’ that could trigger or heighten conflict and violence, with risks cutting across several categories – from stalled political processes and uncertainties around elections to funding shortfalls and the challenges of providing good offices support remotely. Systematically identifying the COVID-19-related risks helped both Departments to adjust to the new realities and deliver results.

Strategic communications

Through the Talking Prevention forum, DPPA organized a series of virtual meetings to informally engage with Member States on the work of the Department. It also continued to hold its regular Donor Group meetings.

The DPPA communications team and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General continued to prepare political messaging aimed at the media and general public regarding relevant developments around the world. All of the capacity of the communications team is funded under the MYA. Products from the communications team – including the weekly newsletter ‘This Week in DPPA’, the monthly ‘Politically Speaking’ online magazine and social media – helped keep staff, Special Political Missions and the general public informed of how the pandemic was affecting the work of DPPA.



In October 2020, DPPA launched the virtual exhibit ‘The Work of Peace’, highlighting the work of the UN in preventive diplomacy, good offices, mediation and elections in the past 75 years and looking ahead at what the future may hold. The exhibit is available at workofpeace.org. Credit: DPPA

UN Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

@UNDPPA 14. 11. 2020

THE WORK OF PEACE
The @UN was created 75 years ago to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.” A new DPPA exhibit/website explores the history of the UN’s conflict prevention and mediation, looks ahead at the future of **#peacemaking**. **#UN75**
workofpeace.org

<https://bit.ly/3gAQySK>



Given the changes in work modalities and the many new policies issued, maintaining strong communications was an important area of focus. In addition to providing communication and media liaison advice to the Department and its missions, the Communication team also supported the start-up of UNITAMS, the newly established mission in Sudan, by creating social media accounts and developing its website and intranet platforms.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the UN, DPPA highlighted groundbreaking approaches to conflict prevention,

peacebuilding and peacemaking through a virtual exhibit – ‘The Work of Peace’ (www.workofpeace.org). The exhibit used text, video, photography and interactive content, to illustrate the essential work of the UN over more than seven decades, including in preventive diplomacy, good offices, mediation and elections. It also looked ahead at what the future may hold for this work. The exhibit was a collaboration with the UN 75 office and has attracted considerable audience engagement.

Learning, guidance development and knowledge management

The Department manages and supports over **30 Special Political Missions (SPMs) and issues policies and guidance** on a regular basis. Although SPMs are diverse in size, mandates and complexity, they share common policy issues that

require discussion and coordination. MYA funds enabled us to maintain a coordination platform for discussing cross-cutting policy issues, proposing policy recommendations, and sharing comments on guidance documents. The funds also supported the much-

needed revision of the Start-up Guide for the missions, incorporating best practices from past and ongoing start-ups, including on gender mainstreaming.



High marks for DPPA for its progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women

Early in the year, UN Women released its assessments under the UN System-wide Action Plan on gender equality and the empowerment of women (SWAP).

Considering six strategic areas: Results-based management; oversight; accountability; human and financial resources; capacity; and knowledge, communication and coherence; DPPA met or exceeded 16 out of 17 performance indicators.

In comparison, DPPA's performance was significantly higher than the aggregate performance of the UN Secretariat and the overall UN system.



The Toolkit on Digital Technologies and Mediation in Armed Conflict assesses the opportunities and risks of using digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, in mediation. An online interactive briefing in July considered how parties in armed conflicts might use such technologies for political and military purposes, and the implication of such use for peace processes.



UN sanction regimes have increased in both number and complexity as the Security Council continues to rely on this key policy instrument. To build greater understanding of the complex issues involved and support the successful implementation of UN sanctions, we

supported another **in-depth training on sanctions** for key stakeholders. For the first time, the 2020 course included a dedicated module that explored the Security Council's WPS agenda and its relevance to the work of the sanction committees.

In 2020, DPPA and DPO developed their first-ever joint Policy on Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning, a new **cross-pillar initiative**. The Policy clarifies what actions are required to manage valuable knowledge assets and who

is responsible for each area. Focal points at Headquarters and in the field were nominated to advance knowledge management.

Monitoring and evaluation

Following the endorsement of the new Strategic Plan, DPPA divisions set their targets for 2020-2022 against the indicators in the Results Framework. As an added monitoring measure, the

Department introduced six monthly reporting against the Results Framework. During the mid-year review, divisions took the opportunity to adjust their performance targets, taking into account the constraints imposed by the pandemic. MYA funds also allowed for regular populating of the peace and security benefits management tracker and enabled the deployment of dedicated capacity on reform issues in the Office of the Director of Coordination and Shared Services.

This capacity helps monitor reform implementation and continuous improvement. DPPA finalized and disseminated its second annual report on evaluative exercises undertaken in 2019. The systematic dissemination of summaries for all self-evaluations and lessons learned studies marks a major step forward.

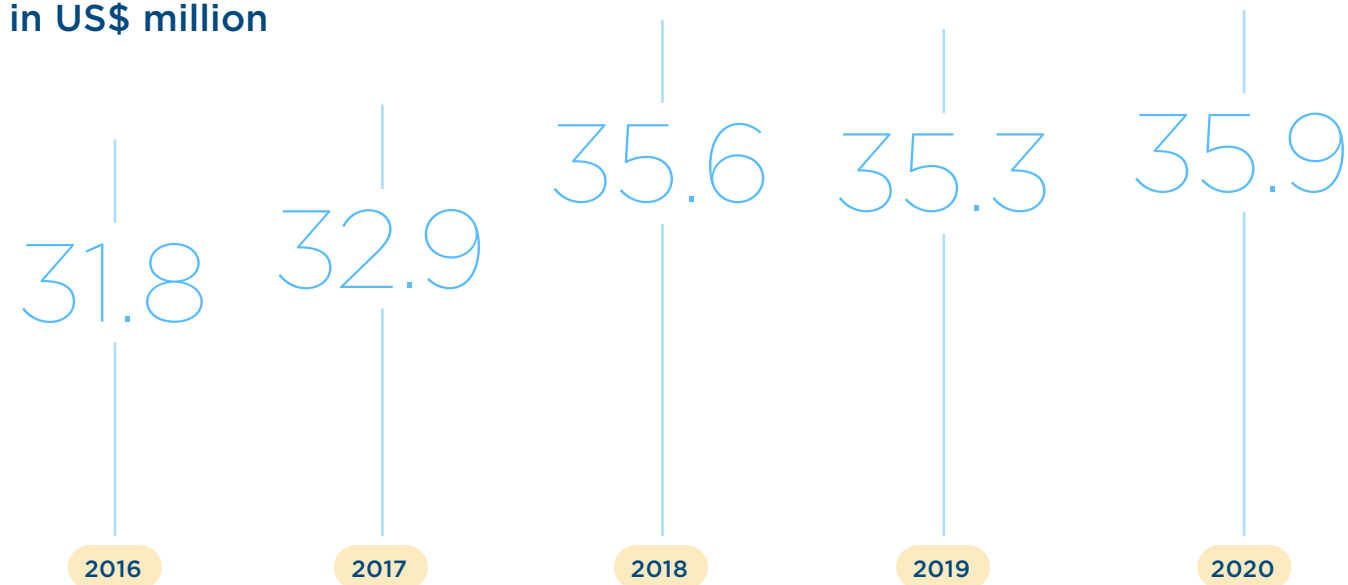
In 2020, the Office of Internal Oversight Services completed its triennial review of its 2016 evaluation and concluded that the

Department had successfully implemented all recommendations over the past three years. This positive third-party review is an important recognition of all the work done by DPPA to utilize the evaluation findings and implement recommendations.

Resources

DPPA relies on support from its donors to carry out its mandate. Since 2016, 45 Member States and other partners have contributed more than \$170 million to the MYA, demonstrating solidarity and confidence in the Department’s efforts.

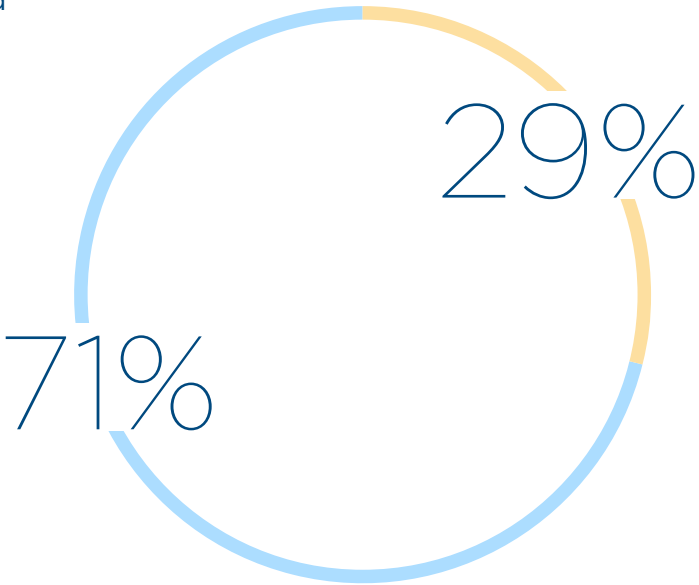
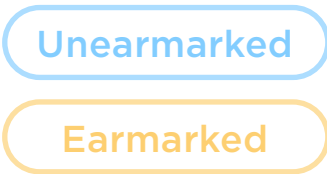
Funding from 2016 to 2020
in US\$ million



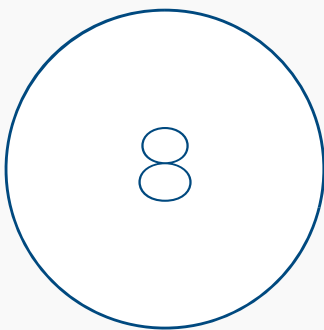
Flexibility funding

Unearmarked funding allows DPPA to invest when and where it is most needed and to provide timely responses to requests from Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations and other UN partners.

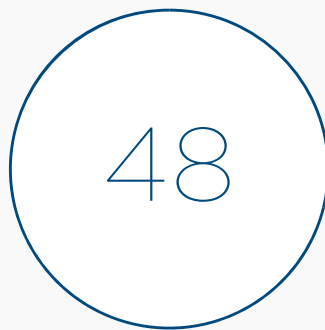
On average, approximately two-thirds of the funds received are unearmarked, providing flexibility and autonomy in allocating resources. DPPA is primarily seeking unearmarked funds from donors for 2020-2022 and is committed to ensuring the most efficient and transparent management, monitoring and reporting of voluntary contributions to sustain donors’ trust.



In 2020, thanks to staunch support from its donors, DPPA received record-high contributions totaling \$35.9 million.



Multi-Year Agreements
Predictable funding is essential to plan and implement activities with greater flexibility and efficiency. In 2020, DPPA had 8 multi-year agreements for more than half of its income, a positive trend that it hopes to sustain.

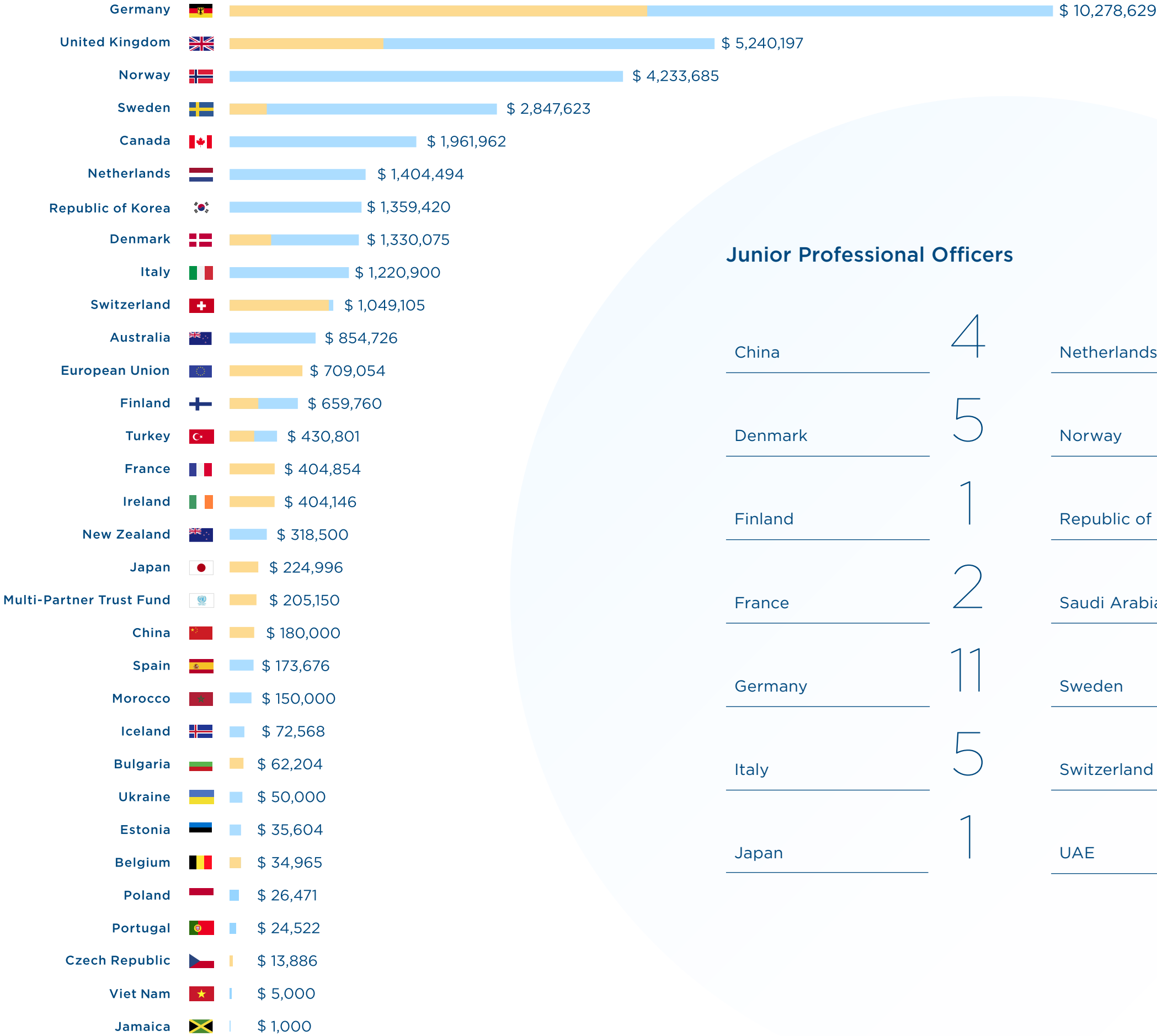


Junior Professionals (JPOs)
The JPO programme provides young professionals with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in DPPA.

Funding received
per donor in 2020

Unearmarked

Earmarked



Junior Professional Officers

China	4	Netherlands	6
Denmark	5	Norway	1
Finland	1	Republic of Korea	1
France	2	Saudi Arabia	1
Germany	11	Sweden	4
Italy	5	Switzerland	5
Japan	1	UAE	1



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

dppa-donorrelations@un.org