DPA Theory of Change

MISSION / GOAL

Promote the search for, and assist countries to reach inclusive political solutions as the key to preventing or resolving violent conflicts and reducing acts of political violence, while ensuring long lasting solutions that reduce human suffering and sustain peace around the world

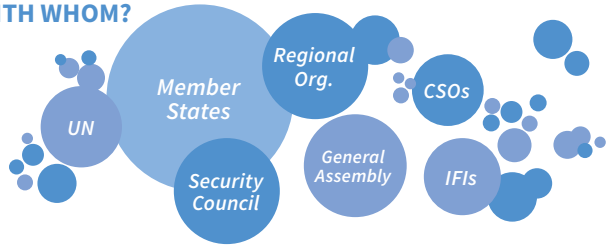
- *Setting the agenda for conflict prevention*
- *Reinforcing conflict response and resolution*
- *Investment in sustaining peace*

MULTIPLE PATHWAYS OF CONTRIBUTION

HOW?

Access, Advice, Analysis, Convening Power, Early Warning, Influence, Investing Resources, Mediation, Messaging, Networking

WITH WHOM?



WITH WHAT? ORGANIZATIONAL ASSETS

- Network of UN Special Envoys
- Field Offices / SPMs
- Policy Guidance
- Standby Teams
- Surge Support
- Network of Country Desks
- Secretariat Services to Security Council, Palestine Rights, Decolonization Committee
- Rapid Response System
- New Idea / Innovation
- Peace and Development Advisers
  UNDP-DPA Joint Programme

DPA

- *Enhancing strategic planning & evaluation*
- *Improving knowledge management & strategic communication*
- *Investing in human resources*
- *Flexible & predictable financial resources*

FOUNDATION FOR ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

DPA Theory of Change

- DPA's mission is to help prevent and reduce violent conflicts and sustain peace through inclusive political solutions.
- DPA's Theory of Change recognizes that a multitude of actors and variables affect achievement of the Department's mandate.
- Therefore, deep and effective partnerships, within the United Nations system and outside it, are required to address root or immediate causes that lead to violent conflict. As conflict is complex and its dynamics are embedded in societal, economic, legal and political systems, conflict prevention and management require a non-linear and cyclical approach.
- DPA applies this approach with its partners within the international crisis prevention and response architecture of the Security Council, General Assembly, and the "good offices" of the Secretary-General through: preventive diplomacy and mediation, convening power, influence/trust/relationships, network/access, advice/messaging, analysis/early warning/studies, and investing resources to sustain peace.
- Underpinning our Theory of Change is the importance of ensuring organizational effectiveness through increased capacity and a better resourced DPA for conflict prevention, conflict management and sustaining peace.

Assumptions

- The demand for the UN and DPA to play a "good offices" role is sustained or increased.
- Political willingness of partners to engage in joint activities or in good faith with DPA exists.
- Sufficient financial and human resources are available to support DPA's mandate.
- Effective international response will bring about the desired positive change.

Guiding Principles

(i) the centrality of conflict prevention and mediation; (ii) the primacy of political solutions to existing and potential conflicts; (iii) the need to foster partnerships and build anticipatory relationships for prevention, conflict resolution and sustaining peace; (iv) a call for flexibility in using the different tools at the disposal of the UN; and (v) the promotion of women's empowerment and inclusive participation across all priority areas of work

Pathways of Contribution

As the primary source of political advice to the Secretary-General and the operational arm of his good offices role, DPA employs a range of tools and assets to support Member States, Regional Organizations and civil society in preventing, managing or resolving conflict, while ensuring long lasting solutions that reduce human suffering and make peace sustainable. Depending on the context, multiple pathways may contribute to positive change. Positive change may result from a single, or multiple strategies; it can occur simultaneously, sequentially, or as mixture of the two. The resources, tools and strategies to deploy depend on the context.

Limitations

Preventive diplomacy, crisis management, and sustaining peace are often difficult to measure through linear logic models or causal relationships. For example, if a conflict does not break out it may be difficult to attribute that outcome to the work of the Department, which frequently works discreetly and with many partners in highly volatile and complex environments. At other times, despite the effective engagement of all the tools and approaches at its disposal, the United Nations may not be able to prevent a conflict.