## 2023 FACTSHEET INNOVATION

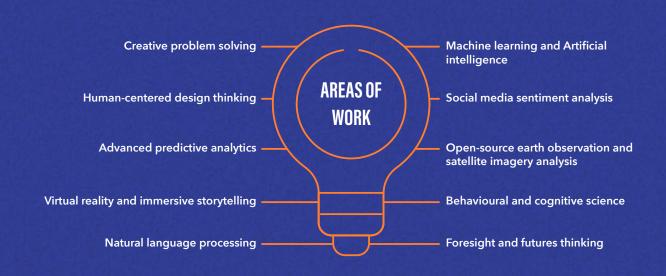
As the nature of conflict evolves, so do our approaches to understand, prevent and address it. The Secretary-General's report on *Our Common Agenda* and the wider systemic transformation effort per the "Quintet of Change" guide our efforts in this regard. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) increased the development of initiatives using new technologies by 150 per cent last year – investing seven per cent of the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA) into new ideas and approaches.

To support our work, the 2023-2026 MYA calls for \$170 million for the next four years, including \$12 million specifically to support DPPA's dedicated Technology and Innovation funding window. Funding will support the Innovation Cell, which leads DPPA's innovation work, and is entirely reliant on MYA support, as well as relevant programmatic initiatives in the field.



### What we do

The Innovation Cell supports DPPA's Headquarters and field presences to understand, explore, pilot and scale new technologies, tools and practices in conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. Examples include:



In addition to collaborating with Headquarters staff to enhance their working practices, the Innovation Cell also provided targeted support to field missions. This includes initiatives in connection with key DPPA thematic priorities such as Women, Peace and Security (WPS), Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), climate security, and mediation. The Cell is also a member of the United Nations Innovation Network (UNIN).

# For more innovation on DPPA's innovation work, please visit our dedicated website.

### Sustainability as a focus

A priority in 2022 was to scale innovation practices and widen the innovation community to transform our work more sustainably. Results included:

- 100+ UN staff in Lebanon, Colombia, and West Africa and the Sahel trained in innovation approaches
- 40 staff trained through the regular E-Analytics Training (innovation practices, data analytics, futures thinking)
- Continuous engagement with Headquarters and field staff to promote innovation, through targeted communications and innovation labs



#### Supporting peacemaking with "digital dialogues"

- The Cell supported **Al-enabled dialogues** with thousands of individuals in local languages and dialects to inform peacemaking efforts in contexts ranging from Haiti and Bolivia to Lebanon, Libya, and the broader Arab region.
- Such Al-powered public consultations in local languages and dialects helped field missions build support among
  under-consulted communities for ongoing political and peace processes. They also allowed us to talk directly to key
  constituencies, such as women, youth, and minorities, including those living in remote areas.

#### Supporting innovation to tackle climate security

- The Innovation Cell and UNAMI continued to continued to advance the digital application, GeoGuard, which helps monitor and predict water-related issues. This will support the mission and Government to take early action to combat displacement and instability which could arise from water diminishment. Plans are underway to expand the dashboard capability to other country contexts with transboundary water-sharing challenges.
- Together with UNOWAS, the Cell launched a dashboard that enables study the **impact of climate change on regional** security and transhumance in 11 countries in the Central Africa sub-region. Using Al and Machine Learning, a tool is being developed to offer early warning forecasts of transhumance-related conflict events up to six months in advance.

#### Strengthening foresight for inclusive and participatory policymaking

- New approaches for participatory foresight were piloted, helping UN Country Teams in Cambodia, Guinea, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia identify their programmatic priorities for the next few years through a more rigorous future-oriented process.
- A similar initiative in Northeast Asia brings together youth peacebuilders and empowers them to engage meaningfully with policymakers.

#### Analyzing political signals in social media, radio, and TV data

- **Sparrow** continued to help the Department analyze Twitter conversations, while **Warbler** helped us transcribe and translate content in 19 Arabic dialects from TV and radio.
- With academic partners, DPPA also released **Natural Language Processing (NLP)** models in Yemeni, Sudanese, Iraqi and Libyan dialects to advance public sentiment analysis.

#### Using Virtual Reality (VR) to help tell the story

 A series of immersive VR briefings were developed to enhance the situational awareness of Security Council Members on Colombia and Yemen. In January 2022, the first-ever VR screening in the Security Council chamber took place (on Colombia). Separately, the VR Experience "Sea of Islands" - focused on the climate crisis in the South Pacific - was shown in the Peacebuilding Commission, the UN Ocean Conference and at COP27.



#### How we track results

Senior Leadership Compacts

2023-2026 Results Framework

Mid-Year and Annual MYA reports

#### Global



We fund political work across the world

#### **Flexible**



70% of our funding is unearmarked

#### **Fast**



We can allocate funding within 72 hours of a crisis

#### **Innovative and Inclusive**



We use innovative approaches to peace and security with emerging technologies

## PEACE IS PRICELESS AND POSSIBLE.



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

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