# ANNUAL AN

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING AFFAIRS

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## **Foreword**

We are living in an age of complex and overlapping crises. Geopolitical fragmentation, economic shocks, climate change, and the proliferation of hate speech and mis- and disinformation are putting people and institutions under extraordinary pressure. Today, one quarter of the world's population lives in countries affected by violent conflict. As the United Nations prepares to mark 80 years since it was created to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war", it is indisputable that our work has never been more critical, or difficult.

It is also clear that our organization needs to adapt to meet the challenges of these exceedingly difficult times. That is the impetus behind the Secretary-General's UN80 initiative and it is what drives the Pact for the Future, which Member States adopted last September to revitalize the multilateral system. The Pact contains clear undertakings in matters of peace and security, including a strong commitment to the Secretary-General's good offices and to United Nations leadership on peacemaking and prevention. Member States urged the Secretary-General to make active use of his good offices, and to ensure that the United Nations is "adequately equipped to lead and support mediation and preventive diplomacy".

We are heartened by the distinct focus in the Pact on peace and security and specifically conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. And we look forward with great anticipation to contributing to the renewal of the Organization. Demand for the expertise, tools and support of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) continues to grow, but resources do not always keep up. DPPA depends on voluntary funding to accomplish much of its work. This support, channelled via the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA), allows us to act quickly and with flexibility in responding to requests from Member States.

This report highlights the extraordinary work made possible by your support in 2024. For example, in Ukraine, as the conflict entered its third year, our analysis remained essential for informing United Nations leadership - in realtime - on political, diplomatic, and securityrelated developments. Also thanks to MYA financing, we were able to deploy experts on short notice to Venezuela in response to an electoral assistance request, while in Sudan, our senior mediators increased their engagement to bring opposing parties to the negotiating table. In Haiti, our special political mission used MYA funding to lend critical support to the launch of the body tasked with producing a new political roadmap and constitution for the country. Lastly, our support to the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria was instrumental in the pursuit of political solutions in a region witnessing devastating conflict and historic transformations.

But this report also details the difficulties we faced last year. A significant funding gap of 31 per cent, falling short of our \$42 million goal, obliged us to scale back our efforts at a time when we needed to accelerate them.

In these turbulent and uncertain times, the steadfast support of our partners is even more vital. We are deeply grateful to our partners who

contributed to the MYA in 2024, and we hope this collaboration continues as we strive to do our part in building a more peaceful world.



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

## Relevance: the strategic coherence of the MYA



Aligned with DPPA's Strategic Plan and the Pact for the Future to facilitate its implementation



Strengthens the United Nations' peacemaking role by supporting DPPA's capacity at Headquarters and in the field, linking peace-supporting initiatives across organizational and operational boundaries



Allows DPPA to be operational, to deliver rapid and responsive interventions to prevent and reduce violent conflict, and to foster peace



Creates and expands partnerships with Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations and civil society organizations



Complements the regular programme budget allocation, which has remained largely stagnant over the years, irrespective of growing demand

## Effectiveness: the results of the MYA portfolio



Allows Special Representatives and Special Envoys of the Secretary-General to provide operational support at a speed that is impossible under the regular programme budget



Allows DPPA to be innovative and take risks



Advocates for more gender and youth inclusion



Strengthens ties within the United Nations system and beyond

## Efficiency: the stewardship of funds within the MYA portfolio



Invests in the SDGs



Reduces humanitarian costs overall



Supports high-value rapid interventions of staff and senior envoys to prevent the escalation of conflict and tackle global crises and conflicts



Reduces administrative costs thanks to streamlined and centralized processes

## Introduction

This report covers the second year of the Department's Strategic Plan for 2023-2026 and outlines how partner support in a difficult funding environment helped DPPA respond to crises around the globe and requests for its assistance and expertise.

Thirty-five partners contributed to the Multi-Year Appeal in the amount of \$28.9 million. This represented an 8 per cent decrease compared to 2023 and was well below the target level requested of \$42 million. This was the second consecutive decrease in annual contributions. The shortfall affected multiple areas of our work and required difficult trade-offs that undermined our capacity to deliver on critical parts of our mandate. Details on the impacts of the funding shortfall are presented on page 66.

The decline in donations was in fact met with an increase in demand for our support given the unprecedented number of violent conflicts and crises that we had to help alleviate. We were obliged to tap into our cash reserves and scale down activities and engagements. Nevertheless, careful management and stewardship of MYA resources enabled us to have a timely and targeted impact in critical situations aimed at contributing to long-term de-escalation, conflict prevention and sustainable development,

including in contexts such as Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Lebanon, Myanmar, Sudan and Ukraine.

As we continue to build our partner base, we will emphasize that it is critical that at least two-thirds of voluntary contributions be in the form of unearmarked resources. This helps realize the value proposition of the MYA: boosting DPPA's ability to make available the best-prepared staff to assist Member States in areas from mediation to electoral support, climate security and Women, Peace and Security (WPS).

For 2025, we are calling for \$43 million to fund our prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding work. This funding would help address the current shortfall and to respond to future needs.

A recent International Monetary Fund study projected that, for every \$1 spent on conflict prevention, between \$26 and \$103 could be saved on humanitarian aid and post-conflict reconstruction. The benefits to those who are spared the disasters of war is incalculable.

Source: H Mueller, C Rauh, B R Seimon,R Espinoza, 2024, "The Urgency of Conflict Prevention – A Macroeconomic Perspective", IMF Working Paper 24/256

## The MYA contributes to the implementation of the SDGs

Conflicts and instability have a detrimental effect on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Investing in prevention is one of the most cost-effective ways to secure development gains and achieve the SDGs.

Prevention and sustainable development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Full achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is critical, both in their own right and because sustainable development is ultimately the only way to comprehensively address the interlinked, multidimensional drivers of violence and insecurity. However, the speed of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is falling short of the pace required to meet its ambition, in particular in countries affected by conflict. By investing in prevention, combatting violent conflict, and fostering inclusive peace processes, MYA-funded activities also advance the achievement of the SDGs.

People must be at the centre of our efforts to attain development, overcome poverty andreducetherisksofconflictandviolence arising from inequality, marginalization and exclusion. MYA-funded projects underscore the importance of holistic and people-centred approaches. They



contribute directly to the achievement of SDG 5 (gender equality and women's empowerment), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and 17 (partnerships). MYA funding requirements are modest when compared to the annual overall financing required for the SDGs. Yet when seen in terms of its influence on the achievement of the SDGs, the impact of MYA funding can be exponential.



## The Pact for the Future: A call for DPPA to be adequately resourced at a time of growing conflict and crises

The adoption of the Pact for the Future demonstrates that Member States want to revitalize the multilateral system. This vision for a more just, representative and effective multilateralism represents an important commitment to international cooperation.

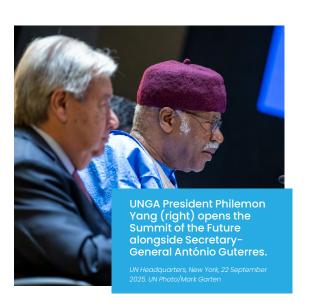
However, the Pact acknowledges that cooperation only works if the Member States commit to resolving any differences through peaceful means. This is the essence of multilateralism – advancing shared interests through dialogue and diplomacy.

The Pact also recognizes the important role played by the Secretary-General's good offices in this regard and calls for ensuring adequate United Nations capacities to support preventive diplomacy and mediation.

The approval of additional resources by the General Assembly for DPPA's preventive diplomacy and mediation capacities in 2025 marks an important recognition of the Department's track record. It is an acknowledgment of the countless hours of quiet diplomatic work behind the scenes and the many discreet engagements that enable the good offices of the Secretary-General and the work of his senior representatives in the field.

Notwithstanding this modest increase in regular budget resources, DPPA will still require MYA funding to carry out most of its core operational work. This is because the United Nations' regular budget covers mostly staffing costs: 92 per cent is dedicated to posts. DPPA seeks to be adequately resourced and equipped to address the increasing and diverse threats identified in the Pact, including by taking account of the views of a more diverse set of countries and regions on both the causes of these threats and their potential solutions.

In 2024, MYA funding maintained a small surge capacity to support the organization of the Summit of the Future as well as the implementation of the Pact.



## Several other actions in the Pact for the Future have important implications for DPPA



**Prevention:** The Pact underscores that prevention efforts should be nationally-owned and led, and recognizes that each State is responsible for addressing the drivers of violence and conflict in its country. DPPA will work with the wider United Nations system to translate the new prevention paradigm into action. The tools that the United Nations has developed for mediation support, enabled by MYA funding, can also be adapted to assist national prevention initiatives before conflict takes root.



Women, Peace and Security: In the Pact, Member States committed to ensuring that women can "fully, equally and meaningfully participate in all United Nations-led mediation and peace processes". This closely aligns with the Secretary-General's Common Pledge initiative, which encourages States engaged in mediation to commit to specific actions to increase women's participation in peace processes. The comprehensive work to promote women's political participation carried out by DPPA, made possible by MYA funding, remains crucial in this regard.



Peace operations: The Pact requested the Secretary-General to conduct a review of the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations, including Special Political Missions and peacekeeping operations, so that they can meet existing challenges. DPPA, together with the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), is working on implementing this recommendation, which will include a comprehensive analysis as well as a dedicated focus on the challenges and needs of each type of mission.

## Goal 1

## Preventing and resolving violent conflicts and sustaining peace

In 2024, MYA investment allowed DPPA to conduct timely, multidimensional and inclusive analysis to inform and guide conflict prevention or resolution. DPPA provided United Nations leadership and entities with real-time analysis on political, diplomatic, and security-related developments across the world, including in relation to the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. MYA-funded analytical capacity at Headquarters and in the field is vital for integrated United Nations political responses.

The MYA also provided essential resources for DPPA's conflict prevention and resolution activities, multiplying the impact of Special Political Missions (SPMs) and the Special Representatives and Special Envoys of the Secretary General in critical contexts such as Afghanistan, Colombia, Cyprus, Haiti, Libya, Sudan and across the Middle East. While SPMs are primarily funded through assessed contributions, MYA funding bolstered their capacity to advance political solutions in the field and connected them with essential support from Headquarters.

Thanks to MYA resources, we were able to mobilize and deploy mediation expertise through our Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers (SBT) 138 times, assisting United Nations entities, Member States, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other partners in 27 contexts. The MYA also enabled DPPA to provide electoral assistance, supporting one-third of elections held across the world in 2024, continuing long-term electoral projects in 50 countries, and conducting Needs Assessment Missions at the request of Member States.

## Key Performance Indicators under Goal 1

52% of departmental analytical products contained gender sensitive analysis

332 staff/advisors were deployed (upon request) for assistance in mediation and conflict prevention

158
SPM leadership briefings to the Security Council and the General Assembly were supported by DPPA

92% of cases in which a coordinated response was communicated to Member States within four weeks of receiving their requests for electoral assistance

country settings/sub-regions where DPPA engaged on prevention and peacebuilding issues on a regular basis and in a structured manner with RCOs/UNCTs

A voter education session on women's participation during a campaign in Mali.

Mali, 2023. UN Photo

## Support to DPPA field engagements

## Enhancing monitoring and analysis in Ukraine

As the war in Ukraine enters its fourth year, millions of Ukrainians face the worsening impact of systematic Russian aerial attacks on energy and other critical civilian infrastructure, amidst a continued risk of further escalation or spillover of the conflict. In this evolving context, growing attention to potential ceasefire and peace negotiations in the coming year has heightened the need for DPPA's timely and accurate monitoring, reporting and analysis. This has only been made possible by continued MYA support.

Our analysis remains essential for informing United Nations leadership and entities in real-time on political, diplomatic, and security-related

developments in Ukraine. Staff capacity funded through the MYA is critical, allowing the Department to respond to these demands as the war continues to evolve. Our daily reporting is used in public statements and briefings to the Security Council on Ukraine - now numbering more than 160 briefings - delivered by the Secretary-General and senior United Nations officials. Supported by the MYA, we also provided substantive advice to leadership on key issues such as support for just and sustainable peace in Ukraine, chaired internal coordination structures on the UN's crisis and humanitarian response, engaged with civil society, and advocated for inclusive peace efforts.

The liaison office in Kyiv, which operates entirely on MYA funding, remains indispensable for monitoring and reporting political and security developments in Ukraine. This sustained presence on the ground facilitates engagement with the Government and local stakeholders, including women and youth civil society representatives, and with international partners, as well as ongoing support and advice to the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator and United Nations Country Team (UNCT).





## Leading the United Nations' response in the Middle East

The conflict in Gaza following the horrific attacks on 7 October 2023 by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups has devastated the Strip and led to the killing, injury, and displacement of tens of thousands of civilians. The spillover of the conflict has reverberated across the region, leading to unprecedented tensions, violence, and instability. This has in turn required intensified attention and support from the United Nations' peace and security actors thus dramatically increasing the workload of DPPA staff at Headquarters and in our missions. Tensions and conflicts in the region have

a direct impact on the rising demand for DPPA's expertise and attention at a time when resources are becoming scarcer.

DPPA leads United Nations diplomatic and mediation efforts in Gaza, Syria, and Yemen, oversees SPMs in the occupied Palestinian territory, Lebanon, and Iraq, and supports and coordinates good offices and advocacy at the highest level as well as public and discreet diplomatic efforts in coordination with all partners. Without MYA support on which DPPA relies, much of this work would be impossible.

Throughout the year, the MYA was the lifeline that allowed the Department to support diplomacy and political solutions and deploy capacities (including surge staff and technical support) in the Middle East, as illustrated by the following examples.

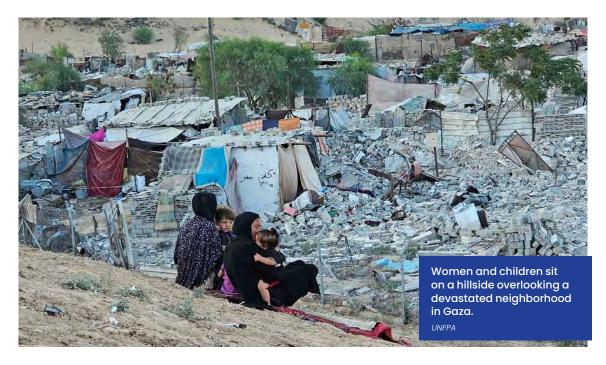
### Gaza

In the wake of the horrific acts of terror perpetrated by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups on 7 October 2023 and the ensuring devastating escalation of conflict in Gaza, an already precarious political and humanitarian situation in the occupied territory significantly deteriorated. The violence has dramatically destabilized the region, destroyed lives and livelihoods with thousands killed, injured and displaced, and made substantive progress toward a two-State solution an enormous challenge. The fundamental principles guiding the international community's engagement in the Israeli Palestinian conflict are under immense pressure.

Against this backdrop, DPPA and the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) redoubled their diplomatic engagement

with all relevant actors, including those engaged in mediation toward a ceasefire in Gaza and the unconditional release of all hostages.

Throughout 2024, DPPA's priorities were to restore calm, support efforts toward a ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages, and rebuild the political pathways necessary for a just and lasting peace, in line with UN resolutions and international law. MYA contributions were crucial in working toward these goals, enabling DPPA and UNSCO to maintain and scale up critical staffing, deliver timely, evidence-based analysis and reporting on the evolving situation to senior United Nations officials to enable diplomatic and advocacy efforts at the highest level, and support conflict mitigation measures and guide United Nations engagement on the ground, in coordination with all partners.





Since the start of the conflict in Gaza in October 2023, MYA-funded teams supported essential and flexible diplomatic initiatives in a highly volatile context. For example, they directly supported United Nations Special Coordinator Tor Wennesland in Jerusalem, who led the United Nations diplomatic engagement in support of a ceasefire and the release of all hostages and intensified efforts with regional and international partners to support the Palestinian Authority. This included a fourmonth surge deployment to the Special Coordinator's office to support his good offices work as well as funding for multiple visits to the Gaza Strip. MYA funding was also instrumental in DPPA's support to the efforts of Sigrid Kaag both in her previous capacity as the Senior Humanitarian and Construction Coordinator for Gaza as well as in her current role as the Special Coordinator ad-interim where she has mobilized international support for an end to conflict in Gaza and reconstruction and recovery efforts in the Strip.

voluntary contributions Moreover, enhanced collaboration between DPPA, the Special Coordinator's office, and humanitarian and development partners. This integrated approach ensured that political strategies were informed by humanitarian realities and urgencies and encompassed early recovery planning, addressed the root causes of conflict, and offered tangible improvements for people affected by the conflict. Continued MYA funding is indispensable to ensure coherent United Nations programming in response to the overlapping political, security, humanitarian and development crises in the occupied territory.

The path ahead is undeniably challenging. Going forward, MYA funding will be critical for DPPA and the Special Coordinator's office to move beyond reactive crisis management toward early recovery, reconstruction, and efforts to achieve just and lasting peace for both Palestinians and Israelis.

### Lebanon

A fragile cessation of hostilities offers an opportunity for more permanent stability and security between Lebanon and Israel, including the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). However, over a year of fighting between Israel, Hizbullah and other non-state armed groups has had a significant impact in Lebanon. Thousands have been killed and injured and even more have been displaced. The hostilities compounded an already devastating economic and humanitarian situation that had festered while the position of President of the Republic remained vacant for two years.

Against this backdrop, DPPA and the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL) intensified their diplomatic engagement with all relevant actors in Israel, Lebanon, the region and New York. Throughout 2024, DPPA's

priority was to help restore a cessation of hostilities and support its implementation. Through UNSCOL's good offices, DPPA led United Nations advocacy for the election of a President and ending the political impasse, and it coordinated the United Nations response to the multiple crises facing Lebanon, including with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Voluntary funding was indispensable as DPPA and UNSCOL responded to the multifaceted challenges, supported advocacy and engagement at the highest levels, and worked toward lasting instability on both sides of the Blue Line.

Looking ahead, the MYA will continue to play a critical role in ensuring fully coordinated United Nations operations in Lebanon and with the parties in the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006).



### **Syria**

Throughout 2024, the Special Envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, deployed his good offices to move forward the political track and bring the Syrian parties closer to a negotiated political solution, guided by Security Council resolution 2254 (2015). Hopes about the prospects for a peaceful and stable Syria blossomed in December following the fall of the Assad regime.

Against this complex and rapidly evolving backdrop, with MYA funding, DPPA continued to provide backstopping to the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria (OSES) and support to United Nations leadership for Syria-related engagements, reporting, policy formulation and advocacy. This included conflict analysis and advice on the broader political process and implementation of resolution 2254 (2015), regional dynamics, the release of detainees, humanitarian affairs, human rights, protection and accountability. DPPA's continuous analysis of the evolving positions on Syria, even at times of a seemingly static political process, helped towards preparedness in the face of the cataclysmic changes at the end of the year. It also augmented OSES's view of the relevant dynamics and helped contextualize developments and guide United Nations engagement accordingly.

DPPA continued to advocate strongly, before Member States in and outside the Security Council, on key issues including the political process, accountability, detainees and humanitarian access.

These lead roles allowed DPPA to protect the Envoy's mediation space and maintain a more informed perspective on political, humanitarian and human rights issues and provided us with a strong comparative advantage at the strategic level to better assess risks and propose action across the United Nations system. Drawing from comparative global examples and good practices, the technical expertise provided by DPPA's Standby Team of Mediation Experts helped to develop analysis and response strategies for the Mission on political transitions, national dialogues, and constitutional processes. Going forward, it is anticipated that technical support on these and other topics from DPPA will continue to be needed to complement existing capacities in Damascus.

DPPA also supported the Secretary-General in establishing the Independent Institution for Missing Persons in Syria (IIMP) through support to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), human rights organizations, and survivor and family associations to enhance their advocacy efforts vis-à-vis the Member States. DPPA conducted close consultations with the start-up team of the IIMP and with family associations on issues relevant to the respective mandates of the Mechanism and OSES, all the way up to the Secretary-General's announcement of a head of the IIMP on 19 December. Going forward, MYA support will be critical as we enhance our support to accountability and transitional justice efforts in Syria.

### Yemen

Persistent Houthi attacks against vessels in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden throughout 2024 dramatically increased tensions in the Red Sea and hampered the efforts of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, and regional actors to restart the political process to end the conflict in Yemen. Moreover, the arbitrary detention by the Houthis of more than 50 personnel from the United Nations, international and national NGOs, civil society and diplomatic missions, in addition to four other United Nations personnel detained since 2021 and 2023, was an extremely concerning development.

With the support of the MYA, DPPA continued to provide backstopping to the mediation efforts led by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OSESGY), as well as to the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA).

At Headquarters, following the adoption of resolution 2722 in January 2024, DPPA coordinated with the International Maritime Organization and relevant partners to ensure the provision of reliable monthly reporting of relevant incidents to the Security Council. As the United Nations systemwide lead on Yemen, the Department ensured coordination and coherence in the United Nations response to the Houthis' arbitrary detention of the United Nations and other personnel and led advocacy and engagement towards securing the release of all detained personnel.

At the country level, MYA contributions supported OSESGY's mediation efforts by identifying key priorities for an inclusive and bottom-up approach to the peace process in Yemen. Through multiple meetings and exchanges, OSESGY built confidence among segments of Yemeni society, including women and youth. Furthermore, those activities set in place a more substantive dialogue, ensuring that the United Nations continues to be well-informed on developments and analysis in the Yemeni media landscape with a continued focus on the Office's interlocutors throughout all three tracks of the peace process (political, security and economic).

Without MYA support, our diplomatic and advocacy role would have been curtailed, and coordination and cooperation with both internal and external partners would have been affected. The Department would have also faced challenges in ensuring the continued provision of backstopping to colleagues in the Office of the Special Envoy on a wide range of issues — from political analysis to contingency planning and security arrangements to public communications and gender mainstreaming.



## Advancing the Doha Process on Afghanistan and international consensus

Maintaining an international consensus on Afghanistan is of utmost importance. Despite the end of the high-intensity years conflict over three ago, Afghanistan's economy remains fragile, and the country is experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, with 22.9 million people requiring assistance. The de facto authorities' restrictive policies and practices, affecting women, in particular, have further constrained people's economic activities and livelihoods across the country, and hindered the delivery of assistance to those in need. These policies violate international human rights law and Afghanistan's international obligations, risking the country's isolation from the international community, including from partners at a time when humanitarian assistance is critically needed by the Afghan people.

The Doha Process was initiated to develop a common international approach to Afghanistan, with DPPA in the lead on its preparations, organization, and continued follow-through thanks to MYA funding. At Doha I (May 2023), the participants agreed on the need for continued engagement. At Doha II (February 2024), participants set the key issues to be

discussed between the international community and the de facto authorities, who declined to attend the meeting. At Doha III (June-July 2024), the participants agreed to continue the process.

The meetings organized in 2024 by DPPA in Doha, Qatar, allowed Special Envoys on Afghanistan from 25 countries and three international organizations to meet with members of Afghan civil society and, in June/July, representatives of the de facto authorities. This was the first time that such a broad cross-section of the international community met with the de facto authorities. In November 2024, working groups on counternarcotics and the private sector, established under the Doha process, started their work.



## Good offices in West Africa and the Sahel

The Central Sahel continued to be impacted by internal political tensions as well as security, human rights, socioeconomic and humanitarian crises. MYA funding allowed UNOWAS to scale up its engagement with countries undergoing political transitions, as well its facilitation of dialogue between Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger (the Alliance des États du Sahel countries) and other ECOWAS states.

In 2024, MYA funding was essential in enabling the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) to implement its political engagement strategy in Sahel countries. As part of its broader good offices strategy to promote inclusive political transitions, UNOWAS was able to conduct missions to Côte d'Ivoire and Paris to consult with key national, regional and international stakeholders, including political and civil society actors in exile, and religious leaders from Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. We also supported UNOWAS missions to Mauritania to engage with members of the signatory movements of the Algiers Peace agreement for Mali.

Nevertheless, reduced MYA funding in 2024 impacted UNOWAS efforts to foster dialogue between national stakeholders in those three Sahel transition countries.



The shortfall limited the ability of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) to engage face-to-face with authorities in Mauritania, Algeria and Chad regarding Mali, for example, and hindered the establishment of platforms for continuous dialogue between the Alliance des États du Sahel countries and ECOWAS. The United Nations is recognized across the region as an effective facilitator and trusted partner. Continued MYA funding would expand our ability to engage proactively with key actors.

## Strengthening regional mediation efforts in the Great Lakes

The Great Lakes region is marked by prolonged and interconnected conflicts, primarily fuelled by governance challenges, ethnic tensions, and competition for the illegal exploitation of natural resources in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Local and foreign armed groups in eastern DRC further fuel the insecurity. In 2024, the Mouvement du 23 mars armed group expanded its offensive exacerbating the security crisis.

Efforts to resolve these conflicts involve international collaboration to support regional mediation efforts. The Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC and the region, signed in February 2013, promotes stability and development in the region, supported by the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes (OSESG-GL). A key initiative is the Contact and Coordination Group (CCG) Operational Cell, focusing on non-military measures to encourage foreign armed groups to voluntarily return home through dialogue, community reintegration programmes, and addressing some of the root causes of conflict.

MYA funding actively supports political and security initiatives of OSESG-GL, including by enhancing the operational capacity of the CCG Operational Cell. In 2024, the Operational Cell conducted assessment missions to Uvira, South Kivu,

DRC, verifying the presence of Burundian armed group Forces nationales de liberation (FNL) elements wishing to lay down their arms and return home. It systematically engaged with women and youth organizations during its missions, to ensure that efforts are gender-sensitive. In Uvira, the Operational Cell recovered 17 combatants out of 161 pre-registered, temporarily accommodating them at the Disarmament, Demobilisation, Community Rehabilitation Stabilization Programme transit site, pending repatriation. Additionally, a national workshop in Bujumbura supported Burundian authorities in the development of a legal and operational framework to facilitate the repatriation and sustainable reintegration of members of Burundian armed groups operating in eastern DRC.

In response to the threat posed by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), the MYA facilitated the purchase of mobile radios to enhance sensitization efforts at the Kasese ADF reception centre in Uganda, crucial for direct outreach and informing ADF elements about repatriation options. This investment in communication infrastructure is essential for cross-border coordination, and continuous engagement with foreign armed groups.

In 2025, the Office will pursue efforts to repatriate repatriation of FNL elements and support the establishment of more functional infrastructure in the transit and host countries of former members of foreign armed groups as well as reintegration and resettlement programmes in the host countries. MYA funding is critical in accomplishing this work.



## Supporting United Nations political efforts in Sudan

The conflict in Sudan continued unabated in 2024, marked by fighting in heavily in populated areas, widespread human rights violations, including mass-scale sexual violence, and a devastating humanitarian crisis and catastrophic food insecurity. The risk of Sudan fragmenting grew, and the conflict continued to threaten regional stability.

Against this background, the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General (PESG), Ramtane Lamamra, worked to de-escalate the conflict, leading good offices and political engagement with Sudanese, regional and international stakeholders to end the fighting and relaunch a credible political process. The PESG and the United Nations more broadly worked to ensure greater

coherence, coordination and integration of the various mediation initiatives. The establishment of the Sudan Consultative Group - which held three meetings in 2024 - convening leading multilateral organizations and Member States involved in mediation initiatives on Sudan is a key achievement. Pursuant to the adoption of resolution 2736 (2024), PESG Lamamra organized proximity talks between the warring parties in Switzerland in July 2024 aimed at improving humanitarian access and strengthening the protection of civilians. And while limited progress was achieved, the United Nations-convened talks remained one of the only formats that was acceptable to the parties, providing a basis for possible further engagements in 2025.

MYA funding served as an indispensable enabler for the Office of the PESG for Sudan (OPESG)'s activities in 2024. Following the appointment of the PESG in late 2023, no assessed contributions were available to establish a supporting team around the Envoy commensurate with the scale of

the task and following the sudden closure of the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS). Over the course of 2024, voluntary contributions, channelled through the MYA, enabled the gradual deployment of dedicated staff to establish and reinforce OPESG's field-based capacities. MYA-funded staff provided strategic leadership and political analysis, and also helped close a critical capacity gap in the area of Women, Peace, and Security. The recruitment of a Senior Gender Advisor paved the way for augmented outreach by the PESG to women civil society leaders and strengthening the role of women in all relevant peace and political processes in Sudan, as well as ensuring gendersensitive analysis and advisory capacity in OPESG more broadly.

The MYA also enabled OPESG to provide necessary resources for extensive mission deployments for the Envoy and his team, and covered support costs associated with the convening of talks, including translation and interpretation services.

Building on the close collaboration with UNITAMS in previous years, support from DPPA's Mediation Support Unit (MSU) including numerous deployments of the Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers (SBT) was indispensable in implementing the OPESG mandate in 2024. The organization of proximity talks as well as the mediators' planning retreat depended directly on SBT support. MSU advisory support also enabled OPESG strategic thinking throughout the year.

These voluntarily funded activities in 2024 were a 'proof of concept', showcasing the need for and effectiveness of the OPESG's intervention. MYA funding therefore served as a catalyst for the creation, in early 2025, of OPESG as an SPM through the approval of a modest budget from assessed contributions by the General Assembly. Given the modest size of the General Assembly-approved budget, there will continue to be strong complementarity between voluntary and assessed contributions in funding the work of OPESG.



## Facilitating a political solution in Libya

In 2024, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) continued to facilitate a political solution to the protracted impasse holding up national elections and contributed to resolving emerging crises that threatened the fragile stability in the country. UNSMIL engaged stakeholders from all parts of the country, including women, youth, and civil society representatives, to seek their views on an inclusive dialogue to shape the future of Libya.

Utilizing MYA funding, a member of the Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers was deployed from October to December 2024 to advise UNSMIL on designing the next steps in the political process. Drawing upon options developed by the Standby Team expert, UNSMIL launched the next stage of the inclusive multi-track intra-Libyan political process. In May and November 2024, a member of the Standby Team on ceasefires and security arrangements and an MSU expert on ceasefires supported UNSMIL in convening Libyan military and other security actors to agree on a common code of conduct for security coordination and cooperation, as part of efforts to strengthen implementation of the 2020 Libyan ceasefire agreement.

DPPA was also able to improve UNSMIL's situational awareness and enhance the Mission's efforts to address political and security challenges, filling gaps in the analysis of the context. Building on a 2023 study on the conflict and security dynamics in southern Libya, an often overlooked but complex region bordering Chad, Niger and Sudan, DPPA used MYA funds to arrange and facilitate a workshop for UNSMIL and the UNCT in Tripoli in June, which helped consider likely future scenarios for southern Libya, and explored entry points and strategies for United Nations interventions and expanded engagement in the region. A separate briefing on the findings of the study to representatives of Member States and regional organizations in Libya contributed to building a shared understanding amongst the international community of challenges and opportunities in southern Libya.

In late 2024, MYA funds supported the commission of an in-depth study into the political economy of Libya's hydrocarbon sector, an area at the centre of the dynamics perpetuating the lack of political progress in the country. The study will boost UNSMIL's knowledge and expertise on the subject and inform UNSMIL leadership on potential avenues and actions for United Nations and international actors in support of the political process, economic reform and reunifying and strengthening Libyan institutions. These are just some examples of how the MYA can add value and increase existing Mission capacities.

## Rapid Response window:

## Making DPPA more responsive as conflict multiplies

The Rapid Response window under the MYA is designed to meet short-term needs in crisis situations. Pre-positioned funding for this window supports high-value interventions and deployment of staff and envoys more than a hundred times a year. In the current climate of increasing conflicts worldwide, rapid and efficient funding mechanisms allow us to gain access to conflict-affected areas, conduct fact-finding, and provide early support and surge capacity at Headquarters and on the ground.

In connection with the Independent Assessment mandated by Security Council Resolution 2679 (2023) to provide recommendations on addressing current challenges faced by Afghanistan, Rapid Response funding supported the Special Coordinator's engagement with international and Afghan stakeholders.

The mandate was extended to the end of February 2024 to enable further consultations with regional and international stakeholders, relevant Afghan authorities, women and civil society and participation at the second Meeting of Special Envoys on Afghanistan in Doha in February.



In 2024, the MYA enabled DPPA to demonstrate a high degree of responsiveness to the risk of violent conflict and helped us react to crises. The availability of Rapid Response funding accelerated DPPA's action. It is critical that unearmarked resources comprise at least 70 per cent of received contributions to provide DPPA with agility and space to maneuver and respond.



During the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, Rapid Response funding enabled DPPA to meet critical monitoring and analysis demands, as well as supporting UN strategic planning on the "day after" (see p.12-13). For instance, MYA funding enabled the critical deployment of surge capacity to the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) in the immediate aftermath of 7 October, thus reinforcing UNSCO's crisis response and planning at a critical moment.

With elections approaching in January 2025, Comoros faced a volatile preelectoral environment marked by deep mistrust in electoral bodies, ongoing tensions between the Government and opposition, and threats of an election boycott. The risk of violence was high, following post-electoral unrest after the

2024 elections. Similarly, in Namibia, the 27 November presidential and legislative elections required timely political support to navigate a sensitive electoral landscape. In both cases, DPPA swiftly deployed surge capacity at the request of the UN Resident Coordinators (RCs), providing essential political support and analysis to help defuse tensions, rebuild trust, and ensure inclusive elections. These timely interventions were crucial, particularly given the reduced Peace and Development Advisor (PDA) capacity in the region, which left RCs without the required political support in a highly volatile political environment. MYA funding made this urgent and muchneeded assistance possible, helping resolve the underlying issues leading to electoral violence, longstanding political tensions, and polarization.

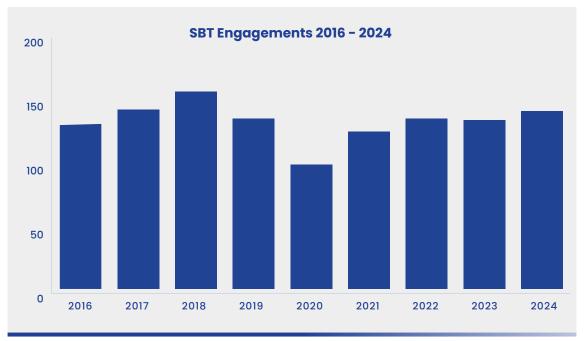
## **Mediation support**

United Nations envoys and mediators sometimes encounter difficulties in mobilizing the right technical expertise to the negotiating table. The SBT, a tool managed by MSU, is designed to enhance the quality of support available to United Nations and non-United Nations mediation efforts. Since its establishment in 2008, the demand for services of the SBT has grown significantly.

In 2024, the SBT engaged in 138 mediation support assignments, in approximately 27 different contexts. <sup>1</sup> Aside from a decline during the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for SBT advice has risen steadily since the SBT mechanism's creation in 2009.

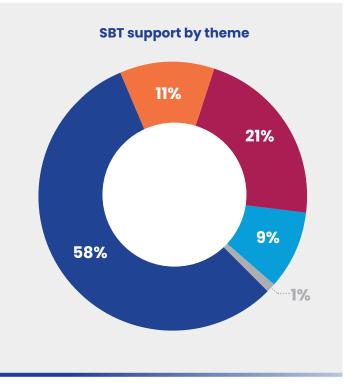
1. Afghanistan, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, DRC, Guatemala, Haiti, Lesotho, Libya, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, Sudan, and Vanuatu.

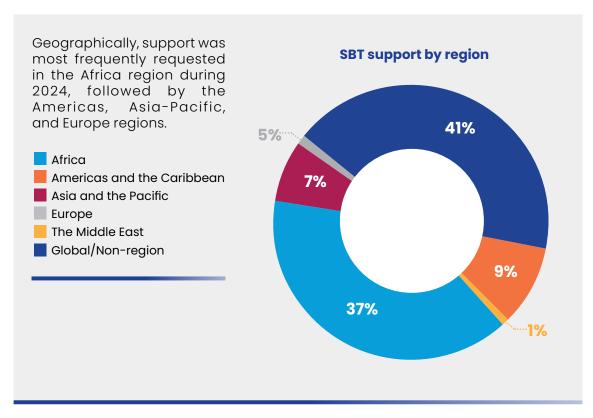




Requests for SBT support on the design of mediation and dialogue processes has consistently been the most frequent type of advice requested by clients. Gender and inclusion related support has increased in the last six years (from 7 per cent to 21 per cent) and is now the second-most requested type of support:

Process design
Gender and inclusion
Security Arrangements
Constitution-making
Natural Resources/Other







## Key Standby Team engagements in 2024

## In support of external partners

Sudan: DPPA provided operational support to the African Union (AU) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) through the deployment of the SBT Gender and Inclusion expert, who helped to facilitate a Sudanese Women's Dialogue in July, with 70 women in attendance. Separately, an SBT expert supported capacity building on ceasefires and security arrangements for Sudanese women at two workshops convened by CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation and the Berghof Foundation in fall 2024, in line with the Office of the Personal Envoy's broader framework of promoting civilian engagement and ensuring that Sudanese women are prepared to participate in any talks on ceasefires and critical security arrangements.

### In SPM contexts



**Libya:** In October 2024, UNSMIL requested the deployment of an SBT process design expert to support the development of an inclusive, intra-Libyan political initiative to overcome the current political deadlock and

move towards national elections. Based on extensive consultations within the Mission, the expert drafted option papers to help UNSMIL's leadership develop concepts for this proposed initiative. During remarks to the Security Council in December, the Officer-in-Charge Stephanie Koury outlined UNSMIL's intention to establish an advisory committee to develop politically viable proposals for resolving outstanding issues with the electoral framework. She also said that UNSMIL intends to convene with Libyan partners in a structured dialogue to consolidate consensus around a national vision for the future of the country. Following the Security Council session, the SBT expert has continued to provide remote advice on implementation of the initiative, including the launch of the Advisory Committee in January 2025.



**Sudan**: In 2024, MSU and the SBT worked extensively with OPESG Sudan to provide support to United Nations good offices. In July, pursuant to resolution 2736 (2024), PESG Lamamra invited the Sudanese parties to United Nations-convened proximity talks in Geneva. SBT experts were part

of a United Nations team that provided expertise on ceasefires, process design and gender and inclusion during 20 technical sessions with the parties' delegations. An SBT process design expert assisted with the design of a subsequent Mediators Planning Retreat and advised the Personal Envoy on strategies for harmonizing mediation efforts to enhance regional and international coordination on Sudan.



**Syria:** Following the ouster of former President Assad in Syria in December 2024, MSU and OSE-Syria maintained close contact to respond to rapidly evolving mediation support needs and several SBT members have held substantive discussions with OSE-Syria staff on issues being contemplated

by the caretaker authorities and Syrians more broadly. Drawing from comparative global examples and good practices, SBT members have developed background papers for internal use by the OSE-Syria on political transitions and national dialogues, constitutional processes, and security transitions.

## In peacekeeping contexts



**DRC:** In the context of the planned withdrawal of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) as set out in resolution 2717 (2023), the Mission requested process design support to strengthen subnational mediation and dialogue

structures in the east of the country. An SBT process design expert was deployed to facilitate consultations with local government and stakeholders in order to establish a permanent dialogue mechanism to address structural drivers of conflict in Ituri province. In coordination with MONUSCO, the expert also facilitated three inter-faith dialogue workshops, with each bringing together about 40 Congolese participants (at least 20 per cent were women) with the aim of enhancing the dialogue and facilitation skills of faith-based actors and community leaders and developing a dialogue engagement strategy for faith-based leaders in each of the provinces.

**South Sudan:** DPPA continued to support the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in implementing its mandated activities, including peacemaking efforts as envisaged under the Revitalized Agreement on

the Resolution of the Conflict. At the request of SRSG Nicholas Haysom, an SBT process design expert was deployed to South Sudan in November 2024 to review extensive efforts by the Mission's Civil Affairs Division. to facilitate local peace agreements and gather insights from those directly involved in these mediation processes. The overall aim of the review was to deepen understanding of the factors influencing the success or failure of local peace agreements in South Sudan. The expert visited multiple field offices and consulted a range of United Nations officials, NGOs and South Sudanese stakeholders. The findings and recommendations from this study will help the Mission enhance its capacity to facilitate and implement sustainable local peace agreements.

### In RCO contexts and non-mission settings

Chile: DPPA provided remote and on-site assistance to the Presidential Commission for Peace and Understanding, in close coordination with the Resident Coordinator's Office. The primary mandate of the Commission is to develop proposals on how to address the long-standing conflict between the Chilean State and the Indigenous Mapuche People. DPPA's support entailed the provision of remote technical advice throughout the conceptualization phase of the Commission, as well as two on-site deployments by an SBT process design expert. Drawing on comparative expertise and international best practice, the SBT expert was able to share key lessons on consensus-building, forms of institutionalized dialogue, and implementation and follow-up mechanisms, offering valuable insights to strengthen the Commission's ongoing work ahead of the expected presentation of its recommendations to the Chilean Presidency in 2025.



**Lesotho:** The Kingdom of Lesotho, with the support of the Resident Coordinator's Office, initiated a dialogue programme aimed at fostering political stability, long-term peace, and social integration. This dialogue and prevention initiative involved three deployments of an SBT process

design expert and one deployment of an SBT gender and inclusion expert to foster exchanges among and between the College of Chiefs, a traditional legislative body, and the executive branch of government as well as strengthening the Chiefs' capacities to conduct dispute resolution at the local level and deepening focus on the gender dimension of the chieftainship. The primary outcome was the declaration signed by all participating Chiefs, signifying a commitment to ongoing dialogue and addressing challenges faced by traditional institutions. The programme helped to foster a culture of cooperation and exemplifies how, upon request, DPPA can support national prevention initiatives with a focus on their gender dimension.

### **Electoral assistance**

The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, as the United Nations system-wide Focal Point for electoral assistance, continued to provide leadership on electoral assistance within the United Nations system and ensured coordination and coherence in responding to Member State requests with support from the Electoral Assistance Division.

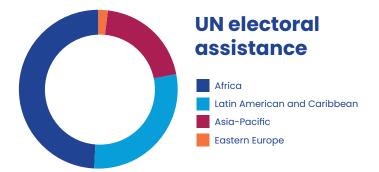
Around sixty Member States, with nearly 2 billion eligible voters, held elections in 2024. The United Nations provided technical support to one-third (19) of them, a record high. DPPA also continued to support long-term electoral projects in over 50 Member States.

In 2024, 43 electoral missions were conducted, including the deployment of electoral Needs Assessment Missions (NAMs) to the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Pakistan, The Philippines, and South Sudan; and advisory or follow-up missions to New Caledonia (France), Chad, South Africa, Mali, and Mozambique. The objective of these electoral missions was to assess the needs of requesting Member States, provide advisory and technical support to electoral officials and processes, or ensure timely and effective support to Special Envoys and electoral officials, as well as to UNCTs. Other electoral missions were deployed aiming at engaging in discussions on key thematic topics, supporting regional efforts for peaceful and credible elections and strengthening our partnerships with regional and sub-regional governmental and non-governmental organizations.

## Support to the municipal elections in Libya

On 16 November, the Libyan High National Election Commission, with support from UNSMIL and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), successfully organized municipal council elections in 58 municipalities across Libya. These elections, conducted peacefully and transparently, marked a significant democratic achievement, with over 77 per cent of registered voters participating. Although women made up only 30 per cent of registered voters, 73 per cent of these turned out to vote on election day. Preliminary results showed that 487 women contested the elections, with 69 anticipated to win seats in municipal councils. These elections serve as a critical opportunity for Libyans to choose their representatives and strengthen accountable and inclusive local governance. With MYA funding, DPPA provided backstopping support to the United Nations teams on the ground including policy guidance and efforts aimed at upstream prevention of electoral violence and the conduct of credible elections.

The greatest focus for DPPA's electoral support continued to be in Africa with around 49 per cent of the assistance provided, followed by Asia-Pacific (29 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (20 per cent), and Eastern Europe (2 per cent).



## Requests and nature of support provided

During 2024, DPPA received 28 new requests from Member States for technical electoral assistance, a 75 per cent increase compared to 2023, which shows the continued trust placed in the United Nations for technical electoral assistance. In a context marked by shrinking funding resources, DPPA made continuous efforts to ensure timely and effective responses are provided to this growing demand for United Nations electoral support.

DPPA supports national efforts in the following areas

Institutional development of election management bodies, training and capacity development for electoral officials

Voter education, voter registration, promoting the participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups

Electoral frameworks and systems, IT and elections, strategic planning, logistics and operations, procurement, electoral dispute resolution mechanisms

Outreach and communications, and countering misdisinformation and hate speech in electoral contexts

## **Electoral assistance highlights**

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**Iraq** In line with Security Council resolution 2732 (2024) and in response to a request from the electoral management body for the 2025 Council of Representatives elections, DPPA deployed a NAM to Iraq in September 2024

to assess capacities and define parameters for the assistance to be provided. The NAM identified several areas for support and recommended that the Mission retain sufficient electoral and other relevant substantive staff throughout its transition and drawdown to ensure it is well-equipped to implement its electoral assistance mandate, which is expected to reach its peak with the Council of Representatives elections.

Mali An electoral follow-up mission deployed in January 2024 reassessed the political and security situation following the drawdown of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission. The mission advised continuing United Nations electoral assistance, focusing on political and legal reforms, supporting the Ministry of Women Empowerment's 2024 roadmap on gender, elections, and reforms, and combatting mis-disinformation by enhancing media skills and fact-checking initiatives.

**Guinea** In response to the Prime Minister's request for United Nations electoral assistance for a constitutional referendum and general elections, a NAM in November 2024 recommended a dual approach to support the transition: political engagement through strengthening United Nations good offices and preventive diplomacy to promote dialogue and to foster a peaceful and inclusive environment for the referendum and elections, and technical assistance to support the drafting of the new constitution and relevant legislation. The NAM also recommended enhancing conflict prevention efforts at the national level with support from the UNCT, aligning these efforts with those of regional and international partners.

Cameroon Following a request from the President of the Electoral Board - Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) for United Nations electoral assistance for the 2025-2026 presidential, legislative, local, and regional elections, DPPA deployed a NAM in July 2024. The mission identified several needs, including institutional capacity development of ELECAM, capacity development of the

electoral Mixed Commissions and key electoral stakeholders, promoting inclusive citizen participation (with specific actions targeting women) through civic education, and fostering stakeholder engagement through support to Consultation Platforms. In view of the sensitive environment, the NAM also recommended close political engagement led by the Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) with support from senior officials at Headquarters, to encourage a peaceful electoral process, continuous dialogue among stakeholders and measures to enhance the inclusivity of the elections.

Central African Republic In response to a letter from the Prime Minister of the Central African Republic (CAR) seeking United Nations technical support for local and general elections (2025-2026), a NAM deployed in June 2024 concluded that the United Nations should continue providing electoral support to CAR for the completion of ongoing local elections and for timely preparations and holding of 2025-2026 presidential and legislative elections. In line with these recommendations, in November 2024, the Security Council renewed the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA), extending the mission's mandate for electoral support.

Chad Ahead of the December 2024 elections and at the request of the RC, DPPA deployed an advisory mission to Chad in November 2024 to review the existing electoral support, advise on areas for improvement, and explore the scope for good offices. The mission recommended an improved coordination and information flow among different United Nations entities engaged around elections to enhance situational awareness and good offices.

**Gabon** In response to a request for United Nations electoral assistance from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, DPPA deployed a NAM in December 2024. The NAM met with various stakeholders and has put forward recommendations on how the United Nations can best respond to the request for technical assistance.

Guyana In response to a request from the Guyana Elections Commission for United Nations electoral assistance for the 2025 elections, a NAM was deployed in December 2024. The mission engaged with a broad range of stakeholders and has put forward recommendations on how best the United Nations can support the electoral process.

South Sudan In February 2024, DPPA deployed an electoral NAM to South Sudan, responding to requests from the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity and UNMISS, in line with resolution 2677 (2023). The NAM evaluated the electoral framework and political and technical challenges for holding credible and peaceful national elections, recommending continued United Nations electoral assistance through 2025 to strengthen the National Elections Commission, promote inclusivity, and ensure the participation of women and marginalized groups. Emphasizing the importance of conflict-sensitive approaches, the NAM further encouraged the initiation of national preparations for elections, adequate funding, and collaboration with regional partners like the AU and IGAD.

## Goal 2

# A more effective multilateral architecture for international peace and security

In 2024, MYA funding enabled DPPA to act as a bridge between different components of the multilateral system for peace and security. Funding for liaison offices in nine key locations strengthened our understanding of regional dynamics and facilitated coordination with relevant actors on the ground including United Nations Resident Coordinators and Country Teams, regional and sub-regional organizations. Thanks to the MYA, the Department was able to further consolidate partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs), including the World Bank and regional development banks.

The MYA also provided resources for policy development, advice and technical assistance on climate, peace and security, as well as for grassroots peace initiatives. Using MYA funds, our Special Political Missions were able to deepen their relationships with local actors including civil society, women's groups and youth representatives and promote bottom-up approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding which complemented our work at the national, regional and multilateral levels.

MYA funding has been crucial in DPPA's support to United Nations bodies including the Security Council. Our work helped empower stakeholders to better engage with Security Council processes, improve sanctions monitoring, and promote gender equality, including through a comprehensive technology needs assessment to enhance data management and gendersensitive analysis and streamline information dissemination.

## Key Performance Indicators under Goal 2

45 initiatives were undertaken with regional and sub-regional organizations

94 inter-agency mechanisms were led or co-led by DPPA

28 projects funded by PBF and MYA incorporated climate, peace and security-related considerations

A wide view of the Security Council meeting on the situation in the Middle East. UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

#### Building partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations

Thanks to MYA funding, DPPA continued to strengthen its partnership with AU to advance the Silencing the Guns initiative. The MYA-supported embedded capacity in the AU Commission helped develop a Knowledge Management and Institutional Learning Strategy for the AU Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, ensuring that lessons learned translate into action. Thanks to the MYA, DPPA supported the AU's Continental Early Warning System by developing a policy paper that highlights the crucial role of women's platforms in early warning reporting. This has already informed discussions at the AU Peace and Security Council, making it an important step toward more proactive conflict prevention.

With MYA support, DPPA deepened strategic cooperation on peace and security with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), League of Arab States (LAS), and Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC). In the first half of 2024, MYA funds enabled key initiatives such as the United Nations-GCC highlevel political consultations in Riyadh, the Arab Regional Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Strategy, and Artificial Intelligence (AI)-supported digital dialogues. Building

on this momentum, MYA funding was crucial for the United Nations-LAS and United Nations-OIC General Cooperation Meetings, which are mandated by the General Assembly but rely on extrabudgetary funding. Held in Geneva and Astana, these meetings strengthened multilateral dialogue, fostered strategic cooperation, and paved the way for the 2025 United Nations-LAS Sectoral Meeting on women's rights and child protection in armed conflict.



## Preventive diplomacy and promoting regional approaches in the Horn of Africa

In 2024, the Horn of Africa region continued to experience ongoing complex and interlinked peace and security challenges, including the conflict in Sudan, consolidation of peacebuilding efforts in Ethiopia, tensions between Ethiopia and Somalia, the political transition process in South Sudan, and border disputes. The region is also significantly affected by the climate crisis and subsequent cycle of droughts and floods.

With MYA funding, DPPA and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa (OSE-HoA) led high-level diplomatic engagements and strategic coordination efforts, reinforcing the implementation of the United Nations Regional Prevention and Integration Strategy for the Horn of Africa. These efforts resulted in an updated implementation matrix that defines priority actions, including regional peace and security analysis, cross-border conflict prevention, human rights promotion, governance support, and gender mainstreaming in peacebuilding efforts. DPPA also advanced the implementation of the WPS agenda through strengthened regional partnerships and collaboration.

MYA resources were critical for our work to foster regional cooperation and dialogue. The first regional Community of Practice on Hate Speech and a high-level regional dialogue on Governance and Political Transitions were established, providing platforms for strengthening collaboration among key stakeholders.





By facilitating political engagement, institutional coordination, and joint strategic planning, MYA funding reinforced our capacity to drive sustainable peacebuilding efforts across the Horn of Africa. It also facilitated the mediation and conflict prevention efforts by fostering United Nations-wide coordination by OSE-HoA on crises in Sudan, South Sudan, Abyei, Somalia, Ethiopia, and the Ethiopia-Somalia tensions over the Ethiopia-Somaliand Memorandum of Understanding.

OSE-HoA played a crucial role in supporting IGAD in the implementation of the cooperation matrix, notably on issues pertaining to peacebuilding, climate security, and women's participation. In March 2024, MYA resources enabled the third annual United Nations-IGAD Secretariat-to-Secretariat meeting, strengthening institutional collaboration in the region. This was followed by a joint high-level consultation on peace and security developments in the Horn of Africa, further enhancing regional coordination and crisis response strategies.

In Eritrea, MYA funding enabled high-level political consultations, ensuring DPPA's direct engagement on regional peace and security matters. This support allowed us to coordinate with United Nations missions and country teams, contributing to the development of long-term prevention and peacebuilding strategies.

# Advancing a sustainable and inclusive political solution in Myanmar

The political, humanitarian and security situation in Myanmar has continued to deteriorate following the military takeover in February 2021 and has serious regional implications, including large-scale displacement and the proliferation of illicit activities. Over one-third of Myanmar's population now requires humanitarian aid, with increasing poverty and food insecurity. The military authorities have extended the state of emergency and are preparing for elections in late 2025, while members of the elected Government remain in detention.

The United Nations continues to stand in solidarity with the people of Myanmar and to support their democratic aspirations for an inclusive, peaceful and just society and the protection of all communities, including the Rohingya. In cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the United Nations aims to de-escalate violence and advance a sustainable political solution, as outlined in General Assembly and Security Council resolutions.

Since assuming her role in May 2024, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Julie Bishop, has closely consulted with Myanmar stakeholders, ASEAN and regional partners to respond to the crisis. Her work has focused on fostering regional unity, international coherence, and a Myanmar-led inclusive process. She visited Myanmar and several countries in the region and briefed the



Security Council and General Assembly on her efforts. The Special Envoy's Office advanced YPS and WPS efforts, including by launching a joint initiative with UN Women aimed at strengthening capacities of Myanmar women leaders and helping them articulate an inclusive vision with concrete asks of the international community. As part of the initiative, a WPS delegation from Myanmar visited Headquarters in fall 2024.

In 2024, MYA funding helped address the growing need for analytical and early warning capacities on Myanmar, along with Member State liaison at Headquarters and field level. Additional capacity resourced by the MYA was instrumental in preparing visits and engagements of the Special Envoy, including regular briefings of the General Assembly and Security Council. MYA funding also allowed the

Special Envoy's Office to dedicate more time to the implementation of the WPS and YPS agendas. The funding has helped strengthen inter-agency coordination between the Office of the Special Envoy and other United Nations entities, including by coordinating the annual report of the Secretary-General on the Rohingya/Myanmar. The funding ensured timely backstopping for the Office of the Special Envoy, including on budgetary and administrative matters. DPPA will continue supporting the Special Envoy's efforts to respond to the crisis, such as strengthening cooperation with ASEAN and promoting durable solutions for the Rohingya, including by facilitating seniorlevel United Nations engagement in the General Assembly mandated high-level conference on the situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, to take place in 2025.





# Building coherence with United Nations Country Teams on the ground

In 2024, we provided critical support to the United Nations Resident Coordinator (RC) in Bangladesh during a sensitive political transition following the ouster of a government that had been in power for over 15 years. Through close monitoring and strategic analysis, DPPA guided the RC in navigating the political landscape and coordinating requests for United Nations support. This proactive engagement

ensured a unified and effective United Nations response, strengthening diplomatic engagement and strategic decision-making during a volatile period. Without MYA funding, such dedicated capacity and timely interventions would not have been possible.

In Peru, at the request of the RC, DPPA helped the UNCT counter political backlash and misinformation campaigns targeting the 2030 Agenda by providing strategic messaging support and deepening risk analysis on institutional weakening, organized crime, corruption, and shrinking civic space. This intervention safeguarded the United Nations credibility and strengthened the UNCT's capacity to navigate a complex political environment.

# Supporting United Nations efforts in Venezuela

In 2024, MYA support helped ensure UN strategic engagement and coordination of efforts in relation to Venezuela. Dedicated capacity funded by the MYA facilitated effective coordination with the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) and United Nations agencies in Venezuela, enabling swift responses to developments around the 28 July presidential election. Following a request from the Venezuelan electoral authorities in March 2024, DPPA conducted a needs assessment mission and provided technical support to the United Nations Panel of Electoral Experts and the RCO during the electoral period.

MYA funding also played a pivotal role in dialogue and trust-building initiatives,

which were particularly important amid the heightened tensions surrounding the elections. Throughout 2024, DPPA worked closely with the Peace and Development Advisor team in Caracas to implement a series of initiatives, partially funded by the MYA, to strengthen and enhance national capacities for social cohesion and dialogue with national institutions and stakeholders across the socio-political spectrum. This included an Academic Network of Government officials and academics, a 'Seed Group' bringing together representatives of different political affiliations to advocate against hate speech, and a group of women from across the political spectrum working to prevent gender-based violence and increase women's participation in politics and civic education for women and girls. These initiatives were instrumental in enhancing trust among the parties and will be even more crucial in 2025 as parties rebuild bridges and negotiate a way forward.



## Providing coordination and analytical support through our liaison offices

At the start of 2024, MYA funded nine liaison offices globally—in Bangkok, Beijing, Brussels, Buka, Gaborone, Jakarta, Kyiv, Nairobi, and Vienna. Unfortunately, due to funding constraints, DPPA suspended its liaison offices in Jakarta and Bangkok in the second half of 2024, disrupting the partnership with ASEAN and halting regional initiatives, including the ASEAN–UN Regional Dialogue workshop series. Despite such challenges, significant results were achieved by all liaison presences, including those that had to discontinue operations later in the year.

The MYA-funded liaison office in Beijing enabled strategic dialogue with key regional actors, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, as well as facilitated consultations in Beijing and Seoul, expert meetings on the Korean Peninsula, and a roundtable on regional peace and security. This was especially critical in Northeast Asia, a region facing nuclear tensions, historical disputes, and territorial conflicts that threaten regional stability. The absence of a regional security mechanism further underscored the importance of these dialogues, highlighting the vital role of MYA in facilitating proactive engagement.

With MYA support, DPPA played a critical role in advancing peace and security in the Pacific, enabling the Buka-based liaison officer to engage directly with the Autonomous Bougainville Government,

the National Government of Papua New Guinea, civil society, including women's and youth groups, and international partners during a critical juncture in the Bougainville Peace Process. This strategic engagementhelpedsecure initial financial and political backing for the appointment of an independent moderator, ensuring a cohesive approach among all parties. The moderator has welcomed DPPA's impartial advice and facilitation in support of his mandate in 2025.

MYA also enhanced engagement with Pacific Island Forum (PIF) members through the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States, promoting climate security and showcasing the 'Sea of Islands' virtual reality experience. This innovative approach raised awareness of Pacific priorities and deepened partnerships on climate, governance, and social cohesion.

With MYA support, DPPA's Liaison Team to the Southern African Development Community (SADC), based in Gaborone, played a critical role in conflict prevention and political stability in Southern Africa, a region without a United Nations political or peace mission. The team convened workshops on international legal standards and policy frameworks on countering hate speech, misinformation, and xenophobia, fostering collaboration among United Nations entities to protect vulnerable communities. Ahead of Botswana's October 2024 general elections, the team facilitated high-level



discussions on political credibility and women's representation, and provided real-time political analysis to the Resident Coordinator, ensuring informed decision-making and stability during a politically sensitive period. MYA funding was essential for maintaining this strategic presence and supporting peace and security in a complex political landscape.

The Nairobi liaison office also provided analysis of regional political developments, including elections in Tanzania, Mauritius and Madagascar, as well as anti-government protests in Kenya. However, funding constraints led to its downsizing at the end of 2024, impacting ongoing initiatives. Throughout 2024, MYA funding enabled the office to

play a key role in advancing the WPS agenda in the East African Community (EAC) by supporting the validation of the EAC Regional Action Plan on WPS in Bujumbura in November 2024. This milestone event brought together regional experts, governments, and civil society, contributing to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). Together with the Indian Ocean Commission, the office also facilitated a regional conference on youth in peacebuilding in the Western Indian Ocean, promoting youth inclusion through proposals for a regional youth parliament and political training for youth leaders.

#### Local Peace Initiatives window

Through the Local Peace Initiatives funding window, the MYA prioritizes the inclusion of civil society, women, youth,

and minorities. The examples below demonstrate how MYA support was crucial in enabling SPMs to promote local ownership of peacemaking efforts and empower local peacebuilding actors.

In 2024, DPPA faced significant funding challenges, leading to reduced allocation for this window compared to previous years. Despite these limitations, the Department helped achieve concrete results, underscoring its continued relevance. However, the potential to amplify DPPA's reach was significantly hindered by the funding shortfall. If this downward trend persists, DPPA will be confronted with the difficult decision of discontinuing this window, despite our strong commitment to local peace initiatives. Sustained investment is crucial to fully realizing the potential under this window and maintaining momentum in DPPA's peace and security efforts.

# Women-led social community dialogues and local conflict prevention initiatives in Haiti

In 2024, the crisis in Haiti following the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse entered its fourth year. Against a backdrop of escalating criminal violence, institutional weaknesses and a polarized political environment continue to hamper efforts to restore democratic institutions.

MYA investment enabled the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) to implement a pilot initiative that aimed at empowering women to foster peace within their communities and heal from trauma. Working in partnership with UNDP and Quisqueya University, BINUH provided training on peace mediation to

women leaders as well as psychological support for victims of violence in the gang-controlled communities of Bel-Air and Carrefour-Feuille in Port-au-Prince. Other activities included school-based interventions, where participants engaged students in discussions on violence and peace, and dialogues on justice and accountability to build trust between police and communities.

This project reinforced DPPA's role in the design and coordination of the United Nations political and peacebuilding responses in Haiti, bringing together BINUH, the UNCT, national counterparts, civil society organizations and community members across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Grassroots initiatives like these are a critical part of DPPA's risk reduction model of conflict prevention and resolution. However, our ability to implement such activities is entirely dependent on MYA funding, without which we are not able to invest in this crucial work on the ground.

# Staying the course for peace in Colombia

Since its establishment in 2016, the Verification Mission in Colombia has contributed to building trust between peace signatories and conflict parties and maintaining forward momentum in Colombia's peace process. These efforts are greatly aided by the Mission's agile application of MYA resources, which fill critical gaps in the former FARC-EP's reintegration process, provide impetus to the WPS agenda, and facilitate peace dialogues. Those resources are vital in the absence of programmatic resources under the Mission's regular budget.

The Mission's MYA-funded initiatives have adapted to the evolving, dynamic nature of the peace process. Initially, the Mission supported the "laying down of arms" phase of the former FARC-EP and helped launch economic reintegration projects for former combattants. Today, the scope of MYA support has become more varied, in keeping with the Mission's broader role and mandate, but these resources remain a fundamental tool to strengthen trust in the peace process and with local communities.

In Colombia, MYA resources enabled various initiatives to foster reconciliation and promote inclusive participation in the peace process. Efforts during the year also helped build momentum for the implementation of the Peace Agreement's "ethnic chapter" which faces considerable delays. MYA funds helped facilitate stronger coordination

of Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities with local and national authorities to prioritize their needs, in keeping with the provisions of the Peace Agreement. One result of this coordination was the Government's commitment to launch a pilot programme to reduce landmine-related risks in an area heavily affected by the conflict, as well as another initiative to provide alternative agricultural products in an area currently used for illicit crops.

With MYA support, in August, the Mission also made possible the participation of 40 women leaders in discussions on the secondaction planfor the Comprehensive Programme for Safeguards for Women Leaders and Human Rights Defenders in the Meta region. It provided capacity building for young women from Meta and Bolívar, enhancing their advocacy skills and understanding of the WPS and YPS agendas.





# Women, Peace and Security window

Advancing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is a core priority for DPPA, ensuring that gender equality and women's participation and rights are integrated into conflict prevention, peacemaking, and peacebuilding. The MYA is essential to these efforts, funding key capacities like the Gender, Peace and Security unit in DPPA and supporting WPS initiatives.

Through a dedicated WPS funding window, MYA supports both gender mainstreaming across DPPA's work and targeted initiatives that promote women's direct participation in peace processes, engagement with women-led civil society, and address the gendered impacts of evolving issues like climate, peace, and security, and digital technologies.

Since 2020, DPPA has consistently exceeded its 17 per cent MYA funding target for WPS initiatives. However, in 2024, only 14 per cent of the \$42.5 million MYA budget-\$6 million-was allocated to WPS, reflecting the increasingly challenging funding environment in DPPA and across the United Nations. Maintaining DPPA's commitment to gender equality and WPS is becoming more challenging, and continued pressure on partner budgets could reduce the funding available for this crucial area. Without urgent financial support, we may need to reduce programmatic allocations, putting at risk the progress made in key areas such as those listed below.



## Advancing women's participation to ensure inclusive peace processes

Afghanistan The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) implemented a project using MYA funds to build the capacity of Afghan women to enable them to become competitive candidates for professional positions and job opportunities, including at United Nations and non-UN international and national organizations. This initiative has aided UNAMA in addressing the gender balance among its national staff and strengthening the integration of voices of women and youth into the delivery of UNAMA's mandate, at a time when this is more important than ever. In 2024, 16 Afghan women benefited from this MYA support.

Haiti In 2024, MYA funding enabled BINUH to advance women's participation in security, political transition, and governance discussions. BINUH hosted a youth forum on constitutional reform and regional consultations to highlight women's role in electoral reform and government, as well as discussions on education, political participation and reforms during Inclusion Week. Women formed the majority of participants in all these events.

In partnership with UNDP and UN Women, BINUH also launched a model jurisdiction project on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) to expand legal support for survivors. A 15-member monitoring committee was established in Cap-Haïtien, which held its first session in May, to strengthen oversight and legal accountability on SGBV cases.



Yemen In 2024, MYA funding allowed the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OSESGY) to implement a media monitoring tool to track cyberbullying against women and civil society members, a critical barrier to women's participation in public life. Developed in response

to consultations with women's civil society groups, the tool monitors online harassment, identifies trends in cyber violence, and advocates for protective measures to create a safer space for women's engagement in public discourse. At Headquarters, MYA also funds a gender focal point, providing essential backstopping support to OSESGY.



ECCAS Women Mediators Network in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The gathering brought together 34 women mediators from 11 Central African countries and UN Women's regional office to discuss the network's operationalization and women's leadership in conflict prevention and mediation. MYA funds also enabled UNOCA-led workshops in Cameroon, strengthening women and girls' engagement in peacebuilding across six regions and reinforcing their role in shaping sustainable peace efforts.

# Strengthening gender-responsive peacemaking

DPPA spearheaded the development and launch of the Secretary-General's <u>Common Pledge initiative</u> during the Security Council's Open Debate on WPS on 24 October 2024. This initiative calls on mediation actors to commit to concrete actions to ensure women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in all peace processes they engage in. By December

2024, over 20 mediating entities, including Member States, regional organizations, and other actors, had signed on to the Pledge.

DPPA also contributed actively to the development and launch of the UN Gender Equality Acceleration Plan, articulating a revitalized approach by the United Nations system to accelerate progress toward gender equality, including the WPS agenda. Since its launch by the Secretary-General on International Women's Day in March 2024, DPPA has been socializing the plan and taking concrete steps to drive its implementation.





# Peace and security in a changing climate: from analysis to action

DPPA, as a founding member of the interagency Climate Security Mechanism (CSM), drove concrete action on climate, peace and security linkages in priority contexts in 2024. MYA resources are critical, providing the necessary expertise and resources to carry out impactful on-the-ground activities that would not have been feasible otherwise.

Climate, Peace, and Security (CPS) advisors were pivotal to this effort. In 2024, two new CPS advisors were deployed to UNAMA in Afghanistan and our office to the African Union. They join advisors in SPMs covering West Africa and the Sahel, Central Africa, the Horn of Africa, Somalia, and Iraq. The advisors work on climate-sensitive analysis, mainstream climate considerations into policies, and bring partners together to design innovative and practical solutions.

Key achievements included launching Platform Afghanistan Water co-chaired by UNAMA and the World Bank; supporting the development of the African Union's Common African Position on CPS by contributing to extensive AU consultations on the Africa Climate Security Risk Assessment and the Report of the Chairperson of the AU on CPS; and collaborating with IGAD on climaterelated challenges in the Horn of Africa through the new United Nations CPS Hub in OSE-HoA. In Iraq, DPPA supported the first public Kirkuk Climate Forum, fostering local dialogue on climate impacts. In Central Africa, a CPS Community of Practice was established, while in West Africa, the CPS advisor helped design a risk assessment methodology linking climate security and violent extremism, emphasizing youth and gender perspectives.

Globally, DPPA used MYA funds to co-organize events at all three Rio Convention COPs, advancing CPS integration into global environmental agendas. At COP29, DPPA facilitated new pledges and partnerships, driving momentum for peace and security in a changing climate.

## Goal 3

# A stronger, more diverse and more effective department

In 2024, MYA funding allowed DPPA to fulfil its role as a United Nations system-wide thought leader on conflict prevention, mediation and sustaining peace by facilitating learning and capacity building amongst staff, United Nations entities and external partners. However, progress remained limited by resource constraints. Efforts to strengthen the Department's own diversity and inclusion practices also benefitted from MYA support, though some initiatives were scaled back due to funding restrictions.

Thanks to the MYA, in 2024, we continued to explore the potential benefits and risks of technology for our work and piloted innovative approaches to conflict prevention and mediation activities.

The MYA made possible essential activities not funded through regular budget allocations, including monitoring and evaluation, risk management, and strategic communications. However, limited resources meant that some activities could not be pursued as comprehensively as intended. Further details are provided on page 66.

#### Key Performance Indicators under Goal 3

self-evaluation

13 lessons learned studies conducted

30 policy materials and guidance developed or updated

70 innovative initiatives undertaken

12.5 million audience reached with departmental communication outputs

Interactive display in use at the UNHQ Innovation Space.

DPPA



Organizational effectiveness through staff engagement, communication, risk preparedness and knowledge management

In 2024, MYA funding enabled DPPA to enhance leadership development, promote diversity, and improve workplace well-being, strengthening its effectiveness in sustaining peace and conflict resolution. Through career mentoring, skills-building workshops, and coaching, staff benefitted from critical development opportunities, improving engagement and retention. Investments in diversity and inclusion, including managerial training, recruitment guidance and gender and racial equity initiatives, fostered a more inclusive and transparent work environment. DPPA also advanced mental health and well-being efforts, equipping staff and managers with resources to create a supportive workplace.

Throughout the year, MYA funding enabled the Department to enhance its communications and outreach efforts, ensuring timely and effective messaging on conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. Our communications team, fully funded by MYA, also played a pivotal role in crisis communications for Afghanistan, Haiti, the situation across the Middle East, Sudan and Ukraine, providing critical support to senior United Nations leadership and shaping key political messaging for the Secretary-General. Through social media management, newsletters and publications, DPPA expanded its audience and strengthened engagement with Member States, experts, and the United Nations system. The team also led high-impact campaigns, including the Summit of the Future's "A Peaceful Future for All" initiative, a photo exhibit on the Great Lakes region, and support for the Secretary-General's Common Pledge for Women's Participation in Peace Processes.

DPPA strengthened its risk management by launching its annual review to align the joint DPPA-DPO risk registry with Secretariat-wide priorities. Crisis management training, focused on field operations, enhanced preparedness, while DPPA co-led key risk treatment reviews on political climate and mission mandates. The Department continued to require MYA project managers to integrate risk mitigation strategies using the joint DPPA-DPO risk registry, ensuring project resilience and preparedness.

In 2024, MYA funding played a critical role in ensuring smooth United Nations mission transitions and effective mandate implementation through expert guidance, knowledge sharing and gender-sensitive planning. Following UNITAMS expedited closure, DPPA offered lessons and comparative models for consideration as the Office of the Personal Envoy for Sudan was being established. As the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) was being negotiated, MYA enabled DPPA to provide best practices and transition models, helping shape a strategy tailored to Iraq. For the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), MYA-funded risk assessments on expedited withdrawals contributed to discussions at the Joint Technical Committee. Alongside effective senior United Nations engagement, these insights helped inform Somali stakeholders' decision to adopt a twoyear transition timeline, beginning with the rebranding of UNSOM into the United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTMIS) under Security Council resolution 2753 (2024).

DPPA relied on MYA funding to facilitate the Office of Internal Oversight Services and United Nations Board of Auditors evaluations and audits, ensuring accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement. Given the high volume and complexity of compliance exercises across the Department and SPMs—and the lack of regular budget for these functions—MYA support is essential for coordinating evaluations, tracking follow-up actions, and implementing audit recommendations.

## Key training and knowledge management initiatives



DPPA significantly expanded its learning, capacity building, and knowledge management efforts, using MYA funding to strengthen mediation, gender-responsive leadership, electoral processes, climate security, and innovation. Throughout the year, these initiatives deepened expertise among United Nations staff, regional partners, and peace practitioners, reinforcing DPPA's commitment to inclusive and evidence-based peacebuilding.



During the first half of 2024, as outlined in the Mid-Year Report, DPPA undertook continued efforts in gender-responsive mediation, ceasefire negotiations, conflict analysis training, electoral support, climate, peace and security, and innovation. These efforts included high-level seminars, online trainings, expert workshops, and the publication of practical guidance, enhancing the capacities of United Nations personnel and external stakeholders.



In July, DPPA and DPO organized a United Nations-EU Joint Webinar on Gender-Responsive Leadership, bringing together 150 United Nations and EU Gender/WPS experts and officials to exchange good practices for advancing gender equality in crisis management, peacekeeping and institutional reform. DPPA also organized its fourth Women in Ceasefire Negotiations training, benefitting 30 women selected from a record 1,000+ applicants from over 100 countries, including Mali, Colombia, South Sudan, and the Middle East. Since its launch, the programme has equipped 100 women with mediation and negotiation skills to enhance their role in peace processes.



In August, DPPA supported UNAMA to expand its digital capacity by training 180 UNAMA colleagues in generative AI, prompt engineering, data analysis and responsible AI for political analysis and strategic communications. This initiative strengthened UNAMA's ability to navigate the increasingly complex digital landscape. Similar capacity building initiatives are planned across other field presences.



In September, as a follow-up to last year's successful workshop, MYA funding enabled DPPA, in partnership with UN Women, to convene an expanded regional dialogue in Chişinău of women's grassroots organizations and human rights defenders from across Ukraine, Moldova and the South Caucasus region. Around 80 women participants assessed progress made at the community level, particularly in the implementation of National Action Plans on WPS, highlighted challenges in Ukraine's conflict environment, including backlash against their work and exclusion from formal decision-making processes, and shared experiences related to ongoing dialogue initiatives with a focus on prospects for peace in Ukraine.



In October, DPPA co-organized the United Nations Religion and Mediation Course in Bogotá, Colombia, in collaboration with Finland, Switzerland, ETH Zurich University, and the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers. The course convened 28 United Nations staff and mediation experts from the Americas, focusing on how religious, indigenous and Afro-descendant perspectives can shape United Nations supported peace efforts in Colombia, Ecuador and Bolivia. Participants recommended practical steps to integrate these worldviews into ongoing and future mediation initiatives.



Significant strides in knowledge management and digital accessibility were made. MYA funding enabled the redesign and relaunch of the <u>United Nations Peacemaker</u> website, providing up-to-date mediation resources in a more accessible format. Work is also underway to translate the site into all United Nations official languages—Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish versions will be available by 2025, expanding its reach to a broader audience.

In 2024, DPPA undertook an evaluation examining the impact, effectiveness, and efficiency of its Innovation Cell, which itself is entirely supported by the MYA. The evaluation highlighted key dilemmas stemming from the Innovation Cell's success, including managing growing demand, prioritizing support between Headquarters and field presences amid resource constraints, and assessing the cost-effectiveness of its technology focus. While the Innovation Cell has thrived by engaging with willing collaborators, this organic approach has become increasingly difficult to sustain. To navigate these challenges effectively, the evaluation found that DPPA must refine its innovation strategy, ensuring a more structured and sustainable approach to the Innovation Cell's priorities, scope, and engagement model.

# Technology and Innovation window

Fully funded by the MYA, DPPA's Technology and Innovation window enables the Department and the SPMs to adapt and innovate in addressing emerging peace and security challenges. In 2024, the Innovation Cell delivered practical solutions, strengthened fieldbased innovation and data analytics, and helped foster inclusion in political and peace processes. Without voluntary contributions, the innovative solutions outlined below would not have been possible. From Artificial Intelligencedriven conflict prevention to climate security and digital inclusion, voluntary contributions have strengthened our ability to enhance mediation and amplify underrepresented voices. By supporting innovation at scale, MYA ensures that new ideas translate into real impactful, field-tested solutions, reinforcing DPPA's commitment to modernizing peace efforts in today's evolving conflict landscape.

# Strengthening 'UN 2.0' capabilities for conflict prevention

With MYA funding, DPPA advanced UN 2.0 efforts by equipping field presences with cutting-edge tools, data-driven insights, and foresight capabilities to enhance conflict prevention and strategic planning. UN 2.0, the United Nations vision for a more modern, data-powered, and digitally savvy organization, leverages innovation, behavioural science, and strategic communications to tackle evolving peace and security challenges.

In Haiti (BINUH), Western Sahara (Office of the Personal Envoy), and Ghana (RC's Office), DPPA enhanced social media monitoring to track misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech, helping the missions and RCO to respond proactively to digital threats that undermine stability. The Department also facilitated foresight exercises in the Republic of Congo. Without MYA support, these innovative tools and strategic capabilities would not be available to field presences, limiting the United Nations' ability to anticipate risks, counter online threats, and strengthen regional stability in alignment with the UN 2.0 agenda.



#### Leveraging technology for climate, peace and security

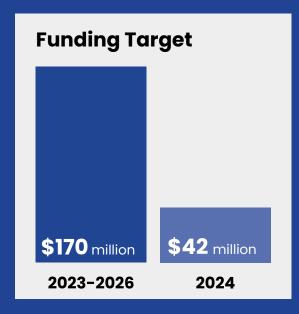
In October 2024, DPPA launched Geoguard, an innovative platform that leverages open-source satellite data to help policymakers and researchers address climate, peace, and security challenges. Conceptualized with MYA funding and scaled through the Complex Risk Analytics Fund (CRAF'd), Geoguard provides decades climate and environmental trends including precipitation, vegetation, and groundwater across countries in the Middle East, West Africa, and Central Africa. Accessible via app.geoguard.org, it empowers evidence-based decision-making for United Nations staff, Member States, and researchers, enhancing climateresponsive conflict prevention efforts.

# Amplifying underrepresented voices in peace processes

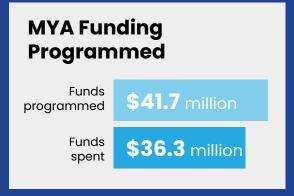
DPPA expanded the use of its Al-enabled digital dialogue platform to engage underrepresented groups, particularly women and youth, in peace and political processes. The platform's scalable, multilingual, and moderated text-based consultations are proving essential in overcoming physical and linguistic barriers and expanding youth engagement in decision-making. Collaborating with the League of Arab States, DPPA facilitated consultations with 115 young peacebuilders (44 per cent women) from 14 Arab nations, contributing directly to the Arab Strategy for Youth, Peace, and Security. In Guatemala, DPPA supported the RCO and Fundación Esquipulas to engage over 300 youth (64 per cent women and 40 per cent Indigenous participants), to amplify youth perspectives on electoral reform, development, and anti-corruption efforts.



#### **MYA Funding Overview**



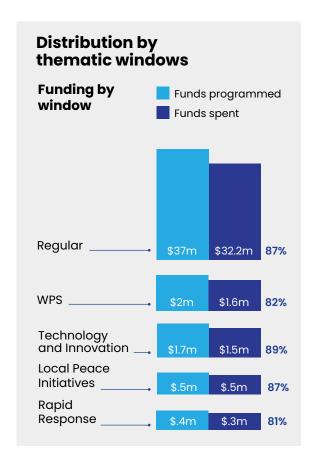


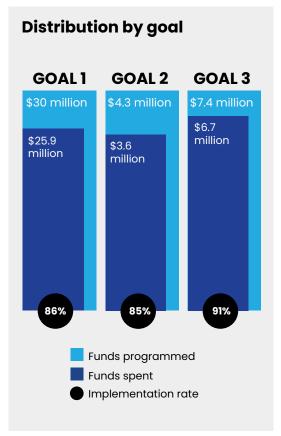


### Overall implementation rate

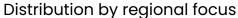
Due to continued monitoring and review of the MYA projects, DPPA was able to implement 87 per cent of the total programmed funding in 2024.

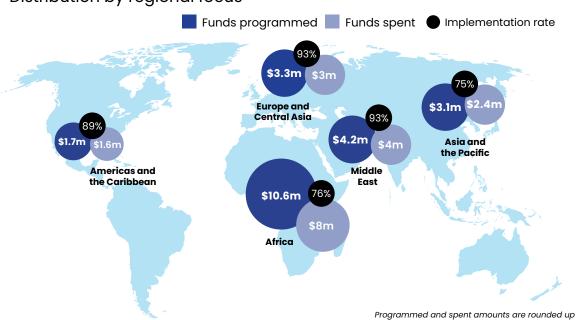






Programmed and spent amounts are rounded up





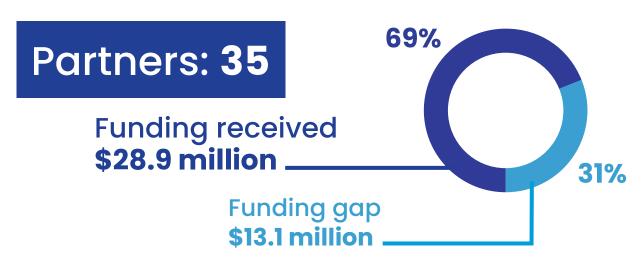


## Flexibility of funding

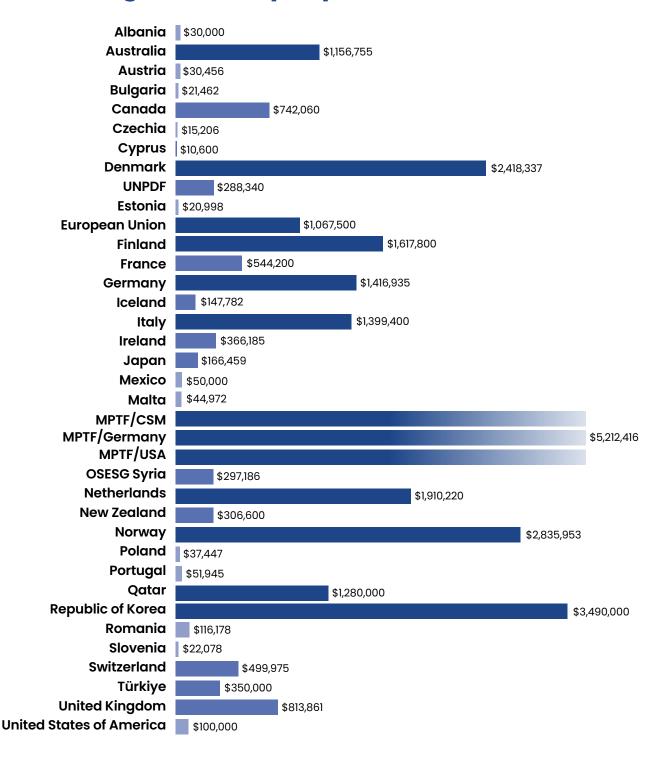
Unearmarked funding is a prerequisite to the success of the MYA and the target for 2023-2026 is to receive two-thirds of the funds unearmarked, providing the required flexibility and autonomy in allocating resources. In 2024, the Department received significantly lower (54 per cent) unearmarked funding, containing DPPA to invest more flexibly to the requests from Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, and UN partners.







#### Funding received per partner in 2024



#### Impact of funding shortfall in 2024

Since 2010, over 60 Member States and other partners have contributed nearly \$390 million to the MYA, underscoring strong confidence in the work of the DPPA. While partner support has been substantial and remains critical, 2024 presented a more challenging financial landscape, marked by a significant reduction in funding for both DPPA and the MYA.

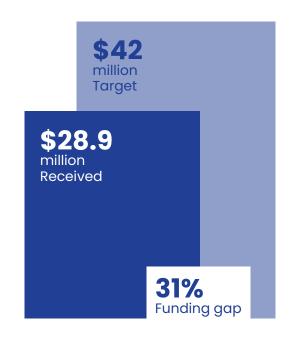
In 2024, the MYA continued to supplement the Department's regular budget, enabling DPPA to carry out a large portion of its operational work and maintain core capacities. However, available resources were considerably lower than in previous years. A funding gap of 31 per cent, falling short of the \$42 million target, forced the Department to scale back its efforts at a time when greater momentum was needed.

As of December 31, 2024, the Department had received \$28.9 million (69 per cent) of the \$42 million target, contributed by 35 partners. This marks a \$2.3 million (8 per cent) decrease compared to 2023, marking the second consecutive year of declining contributions.

In addition to receiving fewer resources overall, the share of unearmarked funding dropped sharply—from 77 per cent in 2023 to just 54 per cent in 2024.

With less flexible resources, DPPA had to make difficult decisions about where to focus its efforts. Concurrently, the Department was called on to respond to a growing number of crises. As a result, DPPA was forced to prioritize short-term crisis response over longer-term conflict prevention.

Despite implementing stringent contingency measures—such as prioritizing only essential expenditures, suspending less critical work, restricting official travel, and postponing events, it is clear that we cannot continue to do more with less.





#### Reduced operational reach and electoral support



We could not support all planned electoral needs assessments and missions in 2024.



We were forced to close two liaison presences (Bangkok and Jakarta), and scale down the remaining seven, reducing our regional presence and engagement capacity.

#### Training and capacity-building setbacks



We were was forced to cancel or scale back at least four flagship capacity-building initiatives, including Actionable Conflict Analysis Training, two Political Economy Analysis courses, and the DPPA-UN System Staff College course on Electoral Violence Prevention. This meant that staff had reduced opportunities to strengthen their analytical and operational skills critical to DPPA's mandate.

#### Cancelled regional conflict prevention initiatives



We had to withdraw support from three major regional initiatives due to funding shortfalls: the UNRCCA exchange visit for the Women Leaders' Caucus in Central Asia, the BRIDGE training on elections requested by the CARICOM Secretariat ahead of a critical electoral year in the Caribbean, and the annual WPS seminar in Northeast Asia. Together, these represent a significant missed opportunity to promote women's leadership, strengthen electoral preparedness, and foster regional dialogue—core elements of DPPA's mandate that could not be delivered due to lack of resources.

#### **Fewer innovative initiatives**



The number of innovative initiatives—majority of which were supported by the MYA—fell from 89 in 2023 to 70 in 2024—a 21 per cent decrease. This limited our ability to test and apply forward-leaning, data—driven approaches to conflict prevention.

#### **Fewer self-evaluations conducted**



DPPA could only carry out 1 self-evaluation in 2024, instead of the 2 planned annually, due to budget constraints.

#### Sharp decline in rapid response funding



DPPA could dedicate only \$350,000 for rapid response—down from \$900,000 in 2023—marking a 60 per cent drop that constrained our ability to react to emerging crises.

#### Reduced support to WPS agenda



We allocated \$6 million, representing only 14 per cent of the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA) budget to advance the WPS agenda. This falls short of the 17 per cent target set for WPS initiatives and has constrained DPPA's ability to effectively promote gender equality and support women's participation in political processes.

#### Reduced support to Local Peace Initiatives (LPI)



Funding for the Local Peace Initiatives window—which prioritizes engagement with civil society, women, youth, and minorities— was reduced to \$0.5 million, down from \$0.8 million in 2023. This 38 per cent decrease limited our ability to support locally driven peacebuilding efforts.

#### Junior Professional Officers (JPOs)

The JPO Programme provides young professionals with the opportunity to gain substantive experience in DPPA across a range of teams. In 2024, partners sponsored 42 positions across the Department (24 women and 18 men).

PARTNER	JPOs	DUTY STATION(S)
Australia	1 •	New York
China	2 •••	New York/ Nairobi
Denmark	2 •••	New York
Finland	1 •	New York
France	6 • • • • •	New York / Dakar / Nairobi /Addis Ababa
Germany	7 • • • • •	New York
Italy	1 •	New York
Japan	2 •••	New York
Kazakhstan	1 •	New York
Netherlands	1 •	New York
Norway	2 •••	New York / Beijing
Qatar	1 •	New York
Republic of Korea	4 • • •	New York
Russia	1 •	Vienna
Spain	1 •	New York
Sweden	1 •	New York
Switzerland	6 • • • • •	New York
United Kingdom	1 •	New York
United States of America	1 •	New York

#### **MYA REQUIREMENTS IN 2025**

Looking ahead, in 2025, DPPA will rely heavily on contributions from its partners. The MYA is calling for \$43 million to fund global prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding work, to address both the current shortfall and to respond to future needs. With MYA support, DPPA will be able to carry out its operational work and sustain core capacities, while at the same time complementing its regular budget.

To adapt to the evolving financial landscape and ensure effective resource management, DPPA is taking proactive steps to enhance its planning and oversight mechanisms. Given the rapidly changing circumstances and the shortfall of funds, the MYA is moving from annual to quarterly planning to track progress and spending. This shift allows us to adjust priorities and reassess the risks and mitigation strategies of all MYA projects, particularly in light of an increased funding gap and higher level of earmarking.

With no funding reserve, the MYA is urgently calling for \$43 million in 2025.

Funding Target 2023-2026

\$170

million

Funding Target in 2025

\$43

million

#### **List of Acronyms**

ADF	Allied Democratic Forces (DRC)	OPT	Occupied Palestinian Territory
Al	Artificial Intelligence	OSE-HoA	Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa
ALPS	Advancing Lifesaving and Peace in Sudan	OSES	Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	OSESC-CI	United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes
AU	African Union	OSESG-GL	
BINUH	United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti	OSESGY	Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary- General for Yemen
CAR	Central African Republic	PDA	Peace and Development Advisor
cso	Civil Society Organization	PESG	Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General
DPO	Department of Peace Operations	RC	Resident Coordinator
DPPA	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	SBT	Standby Team of Senior Mediation Experts
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
EAC	East African Community	SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States	SPM	Special Political Missions
<b>ECOWAS</b>	Economic Community of West African States	SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary General
EU	European Union	UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanista
FDLR	Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
FNL	Forces nationales de liberation (Burundi)	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council	UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
HTS	Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham	UNITAMS	United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission
IFI	International Financial Institution	UNMHA	United Nations Mission to support
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development		the Hudaydah Agreement
IIMP	Independent Institution for Missing Persons in Syria	UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant	UNOCA	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa
LAS	League of Arab States	UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
MENA	Middle East and North Africa	UNSCO	United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR	UNSCOL	United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon
MSU	Mediation Support Unit	UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
MYA	Multi-Year Appeal	UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
NAM	Needs Assessment Missions	UNTMIS	United Nations Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	WPS	Women, Peace and Security
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	YPS	Youth, Peace and Security
OIS	Organization for Islamic Cooperation		



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

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