

MULTI-YEAR APPEAL MIDDLE EAST

DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL AND
PEACEBUILDING AFFAIRS
2026



Introduction

The Middle East continues to be profoundly impacted by shifting geopolitical dynamics. Dramatic developments in the last few years have reshaped the region, bringing both serious risks and new opportunities for peace.

As the political arm of the United Nations, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) leads the Organization's efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and peacemaking. It shapes the UN's response to political crises and supports over 30 special political missions worldwide.

The United Nations also plays a vital role in accompanying countries through political transitions, fostering inclusive national and community dialogues, and supporting credible elections that lay the foundations for peace and legitimate governance.

DPPA provides expert technical advice on conflict prevention and mediation to Special Representatives and Envoys of the Secretary-General, and promotes the inclusion of women, youth, and marginalized groups in peace processes – offering critical assistance to people in need around the world.

Through its efforts to reduce human suffering, strengthen the foundations for development, and promote lasting peace, the Department contributes cost-effectively to lowering the global costs of humanitarian assistance and post-conflict recovery.

As conflict and crisis spread in the Middle East, this work has never been more essential.

Our work is especially critical amid renewed calls for stronger UN-led mediation and preventive diplomacy under the Pact for the Future. Currently, DPPA faces a dire financial situation under both assessed and voluntary contributions. To deliver on this vision, the Department increasingly relies on the steadfast partnership of its donors through the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA) – its primary fund for preventive diplomacy, crisis management and peacebuilding. The MYA enables the United Nations to act quickly, deploy expertise, and sustain engagement where it matters most.

\$3 million to sustain DPPA's diplomatic engagement in the Middle East—supporting mediation, good offices, and electoral preparedness for support to the implementation and sustainability of the ceasefire in Gaza.

Such agility has proven crucial in the Middle East and provided swift, targeted support to defuse tensions, as demonstrated in the response to the conflict in Gaza and its regional spillover, as it impacted Lebanon, Syria, and beyond.

The ceasefire offers a critical window to intensify UN action – expanding humanitarian assistance, driving recovery and reconstruction, reinforcing Palestinian institutions, and advancing mediation toward sustainable peace and regional integration.

In this fragile moment, the UN's ability to act decisively depends on the continued confidence and generosity of its partners. Enhanced contributions to the MYA will ensure DPPA remains equipped to deliver impactful support in the Middle East—turning opportunities for peace into lasting results.

Leading the UN's response to crises

Occupied Palestinian Territory/Gaza

The horrific acts of terror perpetrated by Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups on 7 October 2023 and the subsequent war in Gaza represent the most severe escalation in conflict in decades, significantly worsening an already precarious political and humanitarian situation.

The US President Trump's 20-point plan has created unprecedented momentum, and renewed hope for a permanent end to the war in Gaza and a credible political process to prevent further bloodshed and pave the way for sustainable peace. With the current ceasefire in effect, DPPA, primarily through the Office of the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), is using its good offices to support the implementation of the ceasefire, including by ensuring a surge in humanitarian aid, which remains critical to saving lives in Gaza.

DPPA will continue to work closely with the Palestinian Authority and regional and international partners to advance a viable path toward recovery and reconstruction in Gaza and towards a long-term political solution that realizes two States living side by side in peace and harmony. The Egypt-hosted International Reconstruction Conference, which the UN is supporting, will be a fundamental step in that direction. UNSCO's continued work with the Palestinian Authority to strengthen its capacities in a "whole of Palestine" approach is also fundamental for security and governance arrangements to be in place and for substantive progress toward the two-State solution.



People wait for food at a community kitchen in western Gaza City. ©UNICEF

Key activities

- Coordination, donor mobilization and good offices support:** In addition to its ongoing humanitarian, deconfliction, and protection mainstreaming roles, UNSCO, will continue to offer its political, diplomatic and coordination experience for supporting early recovery, transitional governance, and security mechanisms for Gaza within a "whole of Palestine" approach. With sustained funding, the UN serves as a strategic integrator, bridging political, humanitarian, development, and security perspectives under one unified framework.
- Strengthen governance through targeted technical advice:** The UN will continue working closely with the Palestinian Authority (PA), to support administrative and governance arrangements, along with reforms. UNSCO and the UN Country Team will continue working closely with Palestinian governance structures, through capacity building and technical advisory roles, to promote relevant PA reforms. The UN can also provide, if requested and resourced, electoral assistance in line with UN practice, as well as support in constitution drafting.

- **Promoting dialogue and advancing peace:** As mandated, and in coordination with regional actors, the UN will support dialogue and mediation efforts through its good offices role. Activities may include local conflict-mitigation and intra-Palestinian dialogue, as well as, resources allowing, mobilizing partners to strengthen community-building through the UN's network of interfaith, youth, and civil society actors in Gaza and the West Bank. We will also continue building on our regional and international networks, facilitating engagement towards advancing the Middle East Peace Process.
- **Enhance analysis and reporting for informed action:** The complexities of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Israel and the region, demand a nuanced understanding and timely reporting to inform actions by the UN and its partners. DPPA plays a crucial role in this respect, producing consistent and quality analysis in enhancing the UN's crisis response and planning, and the Secretary-General's advocacy, reporting and diplomatic efforts while duly backstopping UNSCO and collaborating with counterparts at Headquarters, particularly in the Security Council.
- **Support sustained diplomatic efforts:** Continued political engagement through travel and consultations with representatives from the parties and relevant stakeholders, regional partners, and member states will support ongoing peace efforts. Additional funding will also support consultations and engagement with Member States and key international and national think tanks, focusing on support to ceasefire implementation as well as planning and implementation of member state agreements and Security Council mandates to help inform efforts toward building a real and lasting peace.

Expected outcome and impact

- Strategic, coordinated and expanded UN engagement with the parties, regional actors, and the broader international community in aligning governance and recovery efforts with transitional security arrangements in Gaza in a "whole of Palestine" approach that supports progress toward a sustainable ceasefire in Gaza, improved livelihoods and ultimately a two-State solution.
- Well-established parameters and principles are preserved and promoted, in line with international law and UN resolutions (i.e., realizing a two-State solution – Israel and Palestine, of which Gaza is an integral part – live side-by-side in peace and security within secure and recognized borders on the basis of pre-1967 lines, with Jerusalem as the capital of both states).



UNSCO is currently led by Deputy Special Coordinator Ramiz Alakbarov.
©UN Photo/Eric Kanalstein

Lebanon

A fragile, internationally brokered cessation of hostilities presents an opportunity for more lasting stability and security between Lebanon and Israel, including the full implementation of resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1559 (2004).

However, over a year of hostilities between Israel, Hizbullah, and other non-state armed groups in Lebanon has severely impacted the country, particularly in the south. Thousands were killed, large numbers were displaced on both sides of the Blue Line, and widespread damage and destruction occurred, including to critical civilian infrastructure, residential areas, agriculture, and culturally significant sites. These hostilities compounded an already devastating economic and humanitarian situation in Lebanon.

Yet, the election of a President and the formation of a government under a new Prime Minister offer an unprecedented opportunity to address the root causes of the conflict with Israel, including the maintenance of weapons outside of state authority and also the advancement of key reforms. DPPA, through the Office of the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL), plays a key role in de-escalating tensions, liaising with leaders in both Lebanon and Israel to work towards an end to violence and consolidation of peace and stability.



Special Coordinator for Lebanon Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert (right) meets with President of Lebanon Joseph Aoun.
©Office of the President of the Lebanese Republic

Key activities

- **Provide planning and coordination support to UNSCOL:** To advance diplomatic efforts aimed at preventing conflict and addressing outstanding issues related to Security Council resolution 1701, including border delineation between the parties.
- **Co-lead, together with DPO, an assessment requested under Security Council resolution 2790 (2025):** To identify the Secretary-General's options for the future implementation of resolution 1701, the assessment team from Headquarters will conduct a desk review and visit Lebanon and Israel to consult the parties, key Member States, and UN entities.
- **Support, in coordination with UNSCOL and UNDP, preparations for Lebanon's parliamentary elections:** The elections are scheduled for May 2026, including liaising with the Government, advocacy, and convening of international partners.
- **Assist the Government of Lebanon in implementing reforms:** These are necessary for the full implementation of resolution 1701, and in addressing outstanding issues with Syria, including border agreements.

Expected outcome and impact

- Strategic and coordinated UN diplomatic engagement to support efforts towards the full implementation of resolution 1701.
- Assessment of the situation on the ground and the Secretary-General's options for the future of the implementation of resolution 1701, including UN engagement.
- Coordinated and coherent international support to conducting Lebanon's parliamentary elections.

Syria

Syria stands at a historic crossroads, emerging from 14 years of devastating conflict. The decisions made today will shape the country's trajectory for generations to come. Crucially, these choices will also resonate across the region, influencing prospects for stability, security, reconstruction, cooperation, and the broader path toward peace in the region.

With its ability to integrate political, humanitarian, development, and security efforts, the UN is uniquely positioned to support Syria's transition. Political progress cannot be sustained without institutional resilience, reconstruction must be informed by security realities, and justice and inclusion must underpin governance and recovery. The UN's convening power in support of national authorities can help bring together diverse stakeholders, including civil society and donors, making it a strategic actor capable of fostering inclusive dialogue.

By deploying rapid surge capacity in 2025, DPPA has strengthened the UN's political presence in Damascus and begun providing strategic advice to the interim authorities on key aspects of the transition, ranging from constitution-drafting, national dialogue, electoral issues, and the inclusion of women and civil society as key stakeholders in the transition.

DPPA will build on this early engagement and intensify its activities in support of the transition now underway. The modus operandi of the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria (OSE) is accordingly shifting from shuttle diplomacy toward more direct support to the authorities and closer engagement with Syrian stakeholders, reflecting the post-Assad political landscape.

Key activities

- **Intensify engagement on the ground:** Active presence and engagement will help rebuild trust with Syrian stakeholders, enhance the UN's situational awareness, and facilitate continuous direct support and dialogue, laying the groundwork for renewed political momentum. The UN will seek to work with the Syrian authorities to offer advice and operational support as necessary to advance the transition in an inclusive manner, in accordance with United Nations mandates.
- **Support and inform international discussions:** DPPA remains well-positioned to play a key role in informing Security Council members and international stakeholders as to the situation on the ground and opportunities for support and further engagement, including with a view to a possible revised political mandate for the UN, reflecting the evolving context while remaining anchored in resolution 2254.



Special Envoy for Syria Geir O. Pedersen (center, left) and Deputy Special Envoy Najat Rochdi (left) meets with Interim President Ahmed Al Sharaa (center, right) and Foreign Minister Asaad Shaibani (right). ©OSE-Syria

- **Strengthen support to governance through targeted technical advice:** The UN will continue providing targeted, discreet advice to the authorities in support of institutional reform. These efforts aim to promote accountable governance, the rule of law, and community resilience. For example, the UN has quietly supported the new authorities with advice on international standards and best practices for

constitutional and electoral processes. These efforts, led by DPPA, will continue and can be expanded and more structured through OSE's presence and enhanced engagement on the ground.

- **Promote transitional justice and reconciliation to move the country's path toward sustainable peace:** Transitional justice is central to Syria's long-term stability. The UN will support legal reform, documentation of violations, and civil society engagement – ensuring justice efforts are victim-centered, coordinated, and linked to broader peacebuilding, in coordination with the authorities and other actors involved in these efforts.
- **Operationalize a coherent and integrated approach:** The UN will be empowered to serve as a strategic integrator, bridging political, humanitarian, development, and security perspectives under one unified framework. This will ensure coherence across UN efforts and allow for more agile, informed responses to emerging opportunities and risks. With adequate resourcing, DPPA can convene diverse stakeholders, align messaging across the UN system, and supporting a shared vision for Syria's future—one that is inclusive, sustainable, and nationally owned.

- Reconciliation and transitional justice efforts are advanced and strengthened in close coordination with national authorities ensuring accountability, fostering healing, and restoring social cohesion.
- Diverse communities are empowered to engage meaningfully in political and peace processes throughout the transition.
- Coordination between humanitarian and development actors is enhanced to restore essential services and accelerate early recovery and reconstruction.



Najat Rochdi (center) with Syrian civic activists during consultations of the Civil Society Support Room (CSSR), a platform facilitating dialogue between Syrian civil society and the UN. ©OSE-Syria

Expected outcome and impact

- Technical assistance and training to national and local authorities are provided to strengthen administrative and service delivery capacities.
- Enhanced support to political transition, constitutional and governance reform, security sector transformation, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration is provided.

Yemen

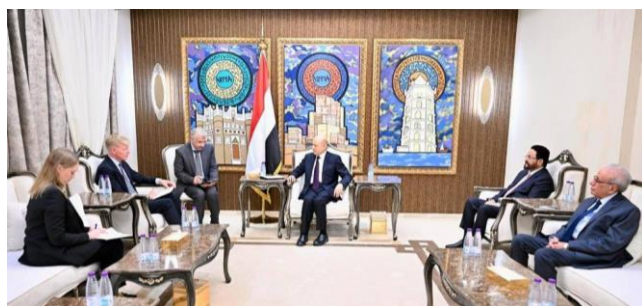
The situation in Yemen has remained particularly tense since late 2023 amidst Houthi drone and missile attacks against vessels in the Red Sea and on Israel, in addition to airstrikes conducted by the United States, United Kingdom and Israel against targets in Houthi-controlled areas. While hostilities between the Yemeni parties have not resumed since the UN brokered a six-month truce in April 2022, the security situation on the ground remains very fragile.

This challenging environment has hampered the efforts of the Special Envoy for Yemen and regional actors to restart an intra-Yemeni political process aimed at ending the conflict.

This, coupled with the continued public accusations made by the Houthis, including their leadership, against the UN in Yemen jeopardizes the safety of UN personnel and humanitarian workers and seriously undermines UN operations.

Moreover, the continued arbitrary detention of UN personnel by the Houthis some since 2021—together with staff from NGOs, civil society, and diplomatic missions, has raised deep concern, hindered our work, and become a priority for the Organization and the international community.

Against this backdrop, concerted international efforts and continued political engagement by the Special Envoy and DPPA continue in order to de-escalate the situation and create space for mediation.



Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg meets with Presidential Leadership Council President Rashad Al-Alimi. ©OSE-Yemen.

Key activities

- **Support the operational activities of the Special Envoy:** Enable critical mission travel and consultations to advance ongoing good offices and mediation efforts with key stakeholders in Yemen, the region, and beyond. Headquarters will provide political analysis; strategic and operational guidance; and expertise on mediation, national dialogue, and ceasefire arrangements, while ensuring continued engagement with the Security Council and partners.
- **Foster a coordinated and coherent response to arbitrary detentions of UN personnel:** The continued arbitrary detention of scores of UN personnel by the Houthis, in addition to staff from international and national NGOs, civil society, and diplomatic missions, requires a fully coordinated and coherent approach by both the UN system and the international community. DPPA is co-leading the coordination of system-wide efforts to secure their immediate and unconditional release. Furthermore, the Department leads the coordination and policy-setting functions on Yemen in the UN system.
- **Promote inclusivity in the political process:** DPPA continues to advocate for the resumption of inclusive negotiations that can pave towards a lasting political settlement in Yemen. By providing technical and substantive support to the Senior Gender Advisor in the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OESGY), in shaping a bottom-up vision for peace that amplifies women's priorities and prepares the ground for an inclusive political process once conditions permit.



The Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen convenes a consultation in Aden, bringing together 200 women leaders and civil society actors from across Yemen to discuss their vision for an inclusive peace. ©OSE-Yemen

Expected outcome and impact

- Effective and timely backstopping to OSESGY provided, including by advancing intra-Yemeni dialogue through technical substantive advice to the Office on the design and negotiation of a comprehensive political settlement.
- Improved coordination and unified engagement among UN and international partners to advance a collective response to Yemen's complex challenges, including the arbitrary detention of UN and other personnel by the Houthis.
- Increased engagement of the Special Envoy and his team with Yemeni women and civil society, alongside stronger advocacy for the full and meaningful participation of women in all stages of the peace process.

Priority activities

DPPA seeks \$3 million in 2026 to promote peace and stability across the Middle East — supporting mediation, elections, political transitions, and dialogue, and ensuring UN field presences can adapt rapidly as situations evolve.

Working closely with UN partners, the World Bank, IMF, and regional organizations, the Department ensures coherent, coordinated action across peace, humanitarian, and development efforts. In an era of growing pushback against women’s rights, MYA funding enables us to keep inclusion at the heart of peace efforts—ensuring women, youth, and civil society have a real voice in shaping political transitions.

Your contribution helps the UN stay ready, responsive, and inclusive in its peacemaking work.

Advancing good offices and mediation support on the ground

Leveraging the authority of the Secretary-General and his envoys, DPPA supports mediation and political engagement across the Middle East. Through high-level advocacy, discreet diplomacy, and regional partnerships, the Department works to de-escalate tensions, end violence, and open space for peaceful solutions.

MYA funding is vital to these efforts and helps fund the work of our technical experts through the Mediation Support Unit and Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisors, who provide on-demand support to UN political missions and Special Envoys. The rapid deployment of mediation experts is made possible as well as scenario planning, and political analysis to support UN missions and Special Envoys.

In Gaza, DPPA and UNSCO facilitate humanitarian access, recovery, and governance, while supporting a path toward a negotiated two-State solution. In Lebanon, DPPA backs dialogue and reform through UNSCOL, and in Syria, it assists the Special Envoy on political transition, constitutional reform, and reconciliation.

Flexible MYA funding enables rapid deployment of experts, political advocacy, and coordination on the ground, ensuring the UN can respond quickly, sustain inclusive processes, and lay the foundation for lasting peace.



Under-Secretary-General Rosemary DiCarlo meets with Prime Minister and President of the Council of Ministers Nawaf Salam during her visit to Lebanon. ©UNSCOL

Electoral assistance

With MYA funding, DPPA can deploy staff and expertise to conduct needs assessments and offer multifaceted electoral support. Our electoral experts have provided assistance and advice to countries including Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq. Electoral assistance is provided to national election management bodies based on member state requests or the electoral mandate of a special political mission.

In Syria, the Department intends to intensify its engagement to meet potential requests for electoral support within the country's ongoing political transition – whether under Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) or a new mandate. Our focus will be to ensure that any future UN electoral assistance is coordinated, inclusive, and integrated as part of a Syrian-led process. MYA funding allows us to remain ready to deploy expertise in support of dialogue, legal and constitutional reform, and future electoral preparations.

In Lebanon, our electoral experts will assist UNSCOL in establishing and leading an electoral coordination mechanism to prepare for the May 2026 parliamentary elections. The Special Coordinator continues to use her good offices to promote women's participation, accessibility for persons with disabilities, and youth engagement.

In Palestine, governance reform and credible elections remain central to future stability and any lasting peace. UNSCO continues to provide technical support to sustain institutional readiness and strengthen the capacity of the election management bodies should elections be scheduled or mandated. DPPA continues to work with the Palestinian authorities to advance governance reforms and lay the groundwork for a credible and lasting two-State solution.



An election official hands a ballot to a voter during Lebanon's 2025 Municipal Council elections, supported by the Lebanese Electoral Assistance and Parliamentary Support Project (LEAP). ©UNDP Lebanon

Global



We fund political work across the world

Flexible



60% of our funding is unearmarked

Fast



We can allocate funding within 72 hours of a crisis

Innovative & Inclusive



We use innovative approaches to peace and security with emerging technologies

Funding needs

The MYA requests **\$44 million for 2026, including \$3 million in earmarked funding for the Middle East**. Our work directly supports post-war recovery and reconstruction, strengthens governance and security arrangements, and responds to evolving political and security dynamics in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Yemen. Enhanced funding for surge capacity will allow DPPA to rapidly respond to crises, provide timely political analysis, and engage in strategic planning to prevent conflict escalation.

Sustained donor support ensures that DPPA can remain agile, proactive, and results-driven – turning opportunities for peace into concrete, lasting outcomes on the ground.

2026 BUDGET REQUIREMENTS (contributions to DPPA are ODA-eligible)	
Surge Capacity (staffing/consultants)	\$1,000,000
Travel	\$400,000
Operational Costs (for workshops, meetings, capacity buildings and other activities)	\$1,210,000
13% Programme Support Costs (PSC)	\$390,000
Total	\$3,000,000

These activities contribute to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goals 5, 16, and 17.

PEACE IS PRICELESS and possible

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

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