

# QUARTERLY REPORT

MULTI-YEAR APPEAL - 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING AFFAIRS

# INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 continues to pose considerable challenges to conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding while it exacerbates the conditions that can lead to violence. But we are also witnessing resilience, innovation and inclusive political action in response to the pandemic. The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) is closely monitoring the implications of the pandemic in mission settings and countries with fragile political transitions. This report provides an update of DPPA's key milestones and achievements during the third quarter of 2020.

In these difficult times, the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA) has proven essential in allowing DPPA to carry out its mandate. Thanks to flexible funding from donors, the MYA has allowed the Department to adapt to the extraordinary circumstances and sustain efforts even in the

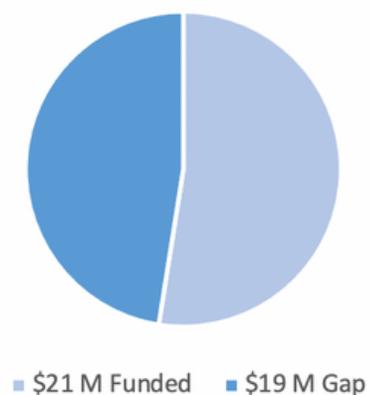
face of global lockdowns and travel restrictions. Notably, the MYA has helped DPPA to fully support the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire, funding innovative initiatives that would otherwise not be feasible with the regular budget alone.

In the context of the ongoing liquidity crisis facing the Organization, the MYA is more important than ever if DPPA is to meet increased demand and sustain its activities. Drafted prior to the onset of COVID-19, the MYA for 2020-22 is the most ambitious appeal for funding the Department has ever issued, seeking to mobilize \$40 million for this year. By 30 September, the Department had received \$21 million (\$5.6 million in earmarked funding) in contributions and pledges from 29 Member States, leaving a funding gap of \$19 million (appeal 52.5 percent funded).

MYA 2020 Budget allocation between MYA windows as of 30 September 2020



Funding status as of 30 September 2020



17 percent of the annual MYA budget is programmed to help advance Gender and Women, Peace and Security (WPS) commitments.

A vital complement to the regular budget, MYA supports DPPA capacities as well as its partners at Headquarters and in the field. Mediation support and electoral assistance, for example, are nearly entirely funded from extrabudgetary resources. With no funding reserve, DPPA relies on contributions throughout the year to sustain many of its activities. The MYA thus allows the Department to be operationally active.

Should the MYA not reach its \$40 million target for 2020, key areas of work such as those listed below will be affected significantly:

- Support to over thirty Special Political Missions (SPMs);
- Good offices of the Secretary-General, including the efforts of Special Envoys and Special Representatives, mediation processes including "Track 1" diplomatic initiatives;
- Provision of technical support for peaceful elections;
- DPPA's strategic partnerships with regional organizations, through its liaison presences, and support to Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs);
- Innovative work on new technologies and climate security;
- Support in the delivery of the Women, Peace and Security agenda (WPS);

- Essential Headquarters functions that enable operational deployments to the field, including to generate analysis for the Security Council and Secretary-General, along with DPPA capacity building, planning, evaluation, communication and training functions.

With the pandemic continuing to hamper its services and operations, the Department re-prioritized and reduced its portfolio of projects by \$4 million as it continued to review implementation of MYA projects, risks and their mitigation strategies. These adjustments also reflected prioritizing funds towards new opportunities, especially in the context of the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire.

The MYA is indispensable for DPPA, which is committed to maximizing the impact of donor contributions. Because there had not been an independent evaluation of the appeal's performance since 2015, in order to take stock of what is and what is not working, DPPA recently commissioned an external assessment to examine the relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency of the MYA. Modelled on the preliminary assessment phase of a public-sector Value-for-Money exercise, this study examines the MYA projects at a whole-portfolio level, while identifying areas for future evaluations. DPPA will disseminate the findings of the assessment, once it is completed, to partners and develop a tracker to implement its recommendations.

# DONORS TO THE MYA UP TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

DPPA

United Kingdom	\$5,043,000		
Sweden	\$2,848,000		
Canada	\$1,962,000		
Netherlands	\$1,400,000		
Republic of Korea	\$1,389,421		
Denmark	\$1,330,000		
Switzerland	\$1,049,125		
Australia	\$855,000		
European Union	\$708,784		
Finland	\$660,000		
Qatar	\$500,000		
France	\$402,580		
Ireland	\$383,928		
EOSG	\$359,000		
New Zealand	\$318,500		
Germany	\$301,281		
Multi Partner Trust Fund	\$300,000		
Japan	\$224,996		
Turkey	\$180,802		
China	\$180,000		
Spain	\$173,676		
Morocco	\$150,000		
Iceland	\$72,569		
Ukraine	\$50,000		
Belgium	\$35,000		
Poland	\$26,472		
Viet Nam	\$5,000		
Jamaica	\$1,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,910,134</b>		

# GOAL 1: CONTRIBUTE TO PREVENTING AND RESOLVING VIOLENT CONFLICT AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

## **Adapting Action-Oriented Analysis to COVID-19**

DPPA continued to contribute to effective decision-making and COVID-19 response of key stakeholders. Further to the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2532 on 1 July 2020, DPPA, together with the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), briefed the Security Council on 9 September on the impact of COVID-19 on conflict-affected settings and humanitarian crises. DPPA continues to prepare weekly updates on the political and peace and security impact of the pandemic, which inform the Secretary-General's Executive Committee meetings. Together with DPO and the Department of Operational Support (DOS), DPPA produced fortnightly updates on the impact of COVID-19 on the work of our field missions and their support to host countries in addressing the impact of the pandemic.

## **DPPA's response to the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire**

At the opening of the 75th General Assembly in September, the Secretary-General appealed for a new push by the international community to make the global ceasefire a reality by the end of this year.

This appeal followed the Secretary-General's initial call for a global ceasefire on 23 March,

which his Envoys and Special Representatives in the field sought to advocate for and amplify. DPPA tried to find new ways for UN Special Envoys and Representatives to engage with conflict parties to encourage them to move towards ceasefires. By relying on innovative tools/methods such as digital focus groups, DPPA has been able to engage with diverse groups of peace-making stakeholders, even during lockdowns and other restrictions that have characterized the operational environment during the pandemic. While coronavirus-related travel restrictions have limited the opportunities for direct contact between conflict parties, DPPA staff have used UN-provided technological platforms to link opposing sides, allowing technical and process-oriented discussions to continue at critical junctures in political dialogues.

DPPA also assisted six Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions to develop a tracking tool for monitoring key ceasefire-related developments during the COVID-19 period. This tool has helped generate discussions among Member States and civil society on how to support the Secretary-General's appeal for a global ceasefire.

For more information, please visit:

<https://pax.peaceagreements.org/static/COVID19ceasefires>

While fighting intensified in some conflict theatres – most dramatically between Armenia and Azerbaijan – there have been some promising developments in others. Peace negotiations have commenced in Afghanistan; fighting has subsided in Libya, and the sides have agreed on a ceasefire; a prisoner exchange was agreed in Yemen; the Syrian Constitutional Committee met again in Switzerland; and the parties in Sudan signed a comprehensive peace agreement. In some of these instances, DPPA was the lead mediation actor, in others it supported partners. But in all these cases, MYA funding allowed the Department to be innovative, quickly seize opportunities and tailor responses to each context.

### **Supporting inclusive peace and political processes**

**Côte d'Ivoire:** In the run-up to a sensitive presidential election in October 2020, DPPA, with MYA funding, engaged with the authorities and a wide range of national and regional stakeholders, including electoral bodies, political parties and civil society, through the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). These engagements were critical to assess developments on the ground and to inform the good offices and high-level engagements of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for West Africa and the Sahel, Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas.

Several pre-electoral missions, including in collaboration with the African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), contributed to appeasing mounting tensions and generated notable achievements, including:

- Facilitation of high-level discussions between representatives of the main political parties at this level for the first time in years;
- Notable Government commitments, such as those related to the Independent Electoral Commission;
- Willingness from both sides to participate in an externally facilitated, meaningful dialogue;
- Facilitation of the release of detained opposition members close to opposition leader Guillaume Soro.

UNOWAS, assisted by DPPA, is continuing to actively support efforts of Ivorian stakeholders to overcome their differences in a peaceful manner, to avert an acute crisis in the context of the elections or their aftermath. Within the framework of the informal inter-agency mechanism on Côte d'Ivoire, DPPA will further continue to support ongoing efforts by the UNCT and other UN entities to combat hate speech and intercommunal violence with a view to establishing a lasting peace infrastructure in the country.

## Provision of mediation support

The Mediation Support Unit (MSU) provided remote operational assistance on mediation and dialogue initiatives as well as to the Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers (SBT). Remote support was provided in various contexts, including to assist RCs and UNCTs in Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Papua New Guinea; as well as special political missions and peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Geneva International Discussions context, Libya, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. Both MSU and the SBT are principally funded by the MYA. Overall, assistance was provided to UN counterparts and partners through remote online engagements and comparative analytical and options papers, offering technical advice and support on mediation and dialogue-related issues, including process design, ceasefire and security arrangements, transitional justice, gender and inclusion, as well as constitutional reform.

**Libya:** The Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Stephanie Williams, has continued to engage, thanks in part to digital technologies, with all national, regional and international stakeholders to advance the UN-facilitated intra-Libyan political, security and economic dialogue in the framework of the Berlin process. The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) convened the third round of the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) online in August and September.

Five senior officers appointed by the Government of National Accord (GNA) and five senior officers appointed by the Libyan National Army (LNA) participated in separate virtual talks. This resumption of the 5+5 JMC allowed for negotiations between the Libyan parties to continue towards a comprehensive ceasefire agreement and to create the space for constructive political discussions.

Following four rounds of negotiations since February 2020, on 23 October, the 5+5 JMC signed a country-wide, complete ceasefire agreement in Geneva under the auspices of UNSMIL. MSU staff helped with the facilitation of the meeting in Geneva and provided expertise on process design. Based on Security Council resolutions 2510 (2020) and 2542 (2020), the ceasefire follows a ministerial meeting on the margins of the high-level week of the 75th General Assembly, co-chaired by the Secretary-General and the Foreign Minister of Germany, which helped galvanize the efforts of the international community.



Acting Special Representative Stephanie Williams on 14 September met with Luigi Di Maio, Foreign Minister of Italy, to discuss the latest developments in Libya. Photo: UNSMIL

**Yemen:** During the reporting period, MSU staff and SBT experts provided drafting advice to the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OESG-Y) on a Joint Declaration between the Government of Yemen and the Houthis that the Special Envoy, Mr. Martin Griffiths, is seeking to facilitate following the conflict parties' initial positive response to the Secretary General's call for a global ceasefire. More specifically, they were asked to examine issues around executive powers and models for constitution-drafting processes. MSU also provided some technical assistance on security arrangements and disarmament and demobilization of fighters during a potential transitional period. The MSU liaison officer in Geneva, funded by the MYA, provided technical assistance to OESG-Y in the organization of the fourth meeting of the Supervisory Committee on the Implementation of the Prisoners' Exchange Agreement in September. The talks held by the Committee led to an agreement between the Yemeni parties on the exchange and release of over 1,000 prisoners. This represents the first concrete outcome under the Prisoners' Exchange Agreement, which is one component of the Security Council-endorsed Stockholm Agreement of 2018.



A woman in An-Nassiri village in Yemen. Photo: UNOCHA/Giles Clarke

## Support to the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Mozambique

MYA has been funding the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Mozambique, Mr. Mirko Manzoni, in his role since early 2020<sup>1</sup>, along with his team and operations. Extrabudgetary resources enabled DPPA to respond to opportunities related to the demobilization of combatants, which required discreet engagement on issues that fell outside the scope of the UN Country Team. Such engagement would have been impossible without the flexibility and risk-responsiveness of MYA funding.

The Personal Envoy has continued to facilitate the deepening dialogue between the Government and the armed opposition, the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO), and the subsequent implementation of the August 2019 Maputo peace accords. Consequently, the peace process has made important progress in consolidating early gains through advancing disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) activities in particular, as the other two pillars (decentralization and reconciliation) have not advanced further during this period.

At the time of writing, within the context of implementation of the peace accord, the spotlight remains on ongoing DDR efforts in the field. With COVID-19 prevention measures in place, DDR in Mozambique has gathered substantial momentum in recent months. Thanks to MYA funding, out of 5,221 combatants, the number of those demobilized has increased from 303 (6 percent) in the first quarter of 2020 to 1,000 (20 percent) in the third quarter. Two of 16 military bases have been fully closed. The closure of a third base, the largest maintained by RENAMO, is to be completed by mid-November. Former combatants have returned home to peacefully transition to civilian life and begin the reintegration process into their communities, with the help of local religious, civil society and community leaders.

APOPO, a local civil society organization, has been tasked by the Mozambique Peace Secretariat to oversee the disarmament process, including to ensure the closing of the bases.

*"The Mozambique Peace Secretariat-DPPA has been instrumental in supporting APOPO to establish necessary relationships with the peace process management bodies, namely the Joint Technical Groups for DDR and Monitoring and Verification, to ensure field tasks are completed in a safe, transparent, and technically sound manner."*

Lordes Zavale, Head of Operations, APOPO.

MYA funds were also used to advance understanding of the plight of female combatants in Mozambique and their unique reintegration needs. Most notably, on 5 September 2020, with the active support of the Personal Envoy, Mr. President Filipe Nyusi and RENAMO leader Mr. Ossufo Momade, visited a DDR centre in central Mozambique where 140 former female combatants (of an estimated total of 247) were disarmed and demobilized in a safe and inclusive manner. RENAMO's decision to demobilize its largest main base at such an early stage of the process is also a testament to the credibility of DDR activities.

<sup>1</sup> From July to December 2019, the Personal Envoy was funded out of the Secretary-General's Unforeseen and Extraordinary Expenses account.



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

## Electoral assistance

DPPA was quick to adjust its electoral support to Member States in response to the conditions created by the pandemic. Technical electoral support continued to be provided to around 60 Member States during the reporting period and included advising electoral officials in various parts of the world on the measures they could take to mitigate the risks posed by COVID-19. Supporting conducive environments for elections, as well as assisting national efforts in conducting transparent, safe, inclusive and peaceful elections, were among the parameters guiding UN support in this key area and at this critical juncture. MYA funding continued to enable DPPA to implement the USG's General Assembly-mandated role as the UN system-wide focal point for all UN electoral assistance activities.

**Malawi:** Following a February 2020 order from the Constitutional Court, new presidential elections were organized on 23 June 2020. The elections were conducted in an overall peaceful manner and the new President was inaugurated on 6 July. Upon the request of national authorities, the UN provided technical and logistical support to the electoral process, including measures to promote national dialogue and mitigate the potential for electoral violence. The UN also backed national efforts to reduce the risks posed by COVID-19 during the electoral process, particularly on election day. With MYA funding, DPPA provided technical advice to the UN team on the ground and deployed surge capacity, including a senior electoral officer to assist the RC and the UN team in Malawi with respect to the electoral process. In this regard, DPPA played an important role in maximizing impact and supporting national efforts to ensure an overall peaceful electoral process.

**Iraq:** In December 2019, the Parliament approved a new Electoral Commission Law that overhauled the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC), affecting no less than 40 percent of its staffing capacity. A MYA-funded project provided surge capacity through the deployment of three electoral experts to rebuild capacities and attain a level of readiness required for holding elections. MYA funds also supported the efforts of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) to quickly increase its electoral assistance to the IHEC at a moment of deep reconfiguration. DPPA's assistance allowed the IHEC to maintain critical functions while inducting new staff with trainings. Additionally, support on public information and communications had a positive impact in increasing the visibility of the IHEC, its credibility, and its readiness during a challenging time in preparing for early elections next year. DPPA's support on electoral reform has maintained a gender perspective, particularly in the design of a new electoral system that will need to respect the 25 percent quota for female candidates.

**New Caledonia:** Since 2016, the UN has been supporting the annual update of the special electoral rolls for the provincial election, and the self-determination referendum in New Caledonia as provided for by the 1998 Noumea Accord. Earlier this year, DPPA coordinated the deployment of a UN team of experts to New Caledonia. The experts provided support to the electoral authorities throughout the registration process and the referendum period. Using MYA funds, DPPA also deployed a senior electoral expert to New Caledonia in February 2020 to further support the process. UN assistance contributed to ensuring inclusive voter registration and a transparent referendum process. Most of the newly registered voters were youth and women. The overall referendum process was peaceful, and its outcome was welcomed by parties and all stakeholders, who commended the work of the electoral authorities and acknowledged the support of the UN.



UNAMI PIO / Sarmad Al-Safy  
Special Representative Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert on 19 September addressed the international conference "Islamic Day to Counter the Violence against Women" in Baghdad, Iraq. Photo: UNAMI/Samad Al-Safy

# GOAL 2 – STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS FOR PREVENTION AND RESILIENCE

## Partnership with regional and sub-regional organizations

DPPA continued to further strengthen the United Nations-African Union (UN-AU) partnership. With MYA funding, the Department enabled an assessment of the UN-AU partnership and the UN Office to the African Union (UNOAU), in accordance with Security Council resolution 2320 (2016). Led by former UN Special Envoy and AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Mr. Said Djinnit, the assessment team traveled to New York, Addis Ababa and Brussels to carry out over 170 consultations on the partnership and the work of UNOAU. In his letter to the Security Council on the outcome of the assessment (S/2020/1020), the Secretary-General noted that the assessment team reported a significant improvement in the working relations between African Union and United Nations envoys, including in missions and non-mission settings. He noted the need to further institutionalize the collaboration at all levels, including the possibility of expanding the knowledge and expertise exchange programme. He concurred that fully fledged UN regional offices would be valuable in order to facilitate prevention and mediation efforts in coordination with the broader UN System, the AU and regional economic communities. He emphasized the need to support predictable financing

for AU peace support operations and advocated for the expansion of UN operational support role to the AU from a partner to both a partner and a service provider.

Other recommendations of the independent assessment included: the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council to align and sequence their programmes of work; UN and AU to develop a joint report on the status of prevention in Africa, including enhancement of local, national and regional prevention capacities in Africa; UN and AU to explore ways through which they can jointly strengthen the capacities of national electoral management bodies and constitutional councils; UN and AU to consider options to support and advise States on how to develop frameworks that facilitate democratic transitions from one elected Government to the next, and; UN and AU to strengthen continental cohesion through the inclusion of the heads of regional economic communities/regional mechanisms in UN-AU high-level meetings held on a biannual basis. The assessment found widespread appreciation for UNOAU and its role as the primary daily interface with the African Union and recommended to strengthen its coordination role in peace and security.

DPPA also lent technical assistance to the AU Peace and Security Department in its engagement with support to the Peace and Security Council, including through horizon scanning briefings. With MYA funding, DPPA provided dedicated capacity to assist the Department in its early warning analysis and to develop the strategic plan of the AU Mediation Support Unit. It also supported Ghana as an AU member State in the conduct of a structural vulnerability and resilience assessment.

In Southeast Asia, DPPA's regional presences in Jakarta and Bangkok further strengthened their partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), particularly in the context of joint activities to advance the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agenda in concrete ways. Thanks to MYA funding, DPPA partnered with the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to convene a #Youth4Peace virtual forum, bringing together over 100 youth to share experiences in peacebuilding work and discuss the relevance of the YPS agenda. Working with groups including the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY Peacebuilders) and the Asian Youth for Peace Network (AYPN), practitioners from regional and global networks helped to build participants' knowledge of YPS good practices and challenges and successfully put forward recommendations for young peacebuilders to connect with decision-makers at the national and regional levels.

In parallel, select Southeast Asian Government officials working with youth participated in an e-learning course to familiarize themselves with the YPS agenda. These engagements are laying the foundation for achieving meaningful outcomes at a physical event next year, which will bring young peacebuilders together with ASEAN policymakers to further advance the YPS agenda in concrete terms in the ASEAN region.



Participants at the regional workshop on Youth, Peace and Security: Perspectives for Dialogues in Northeast Asia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Photo: UN Photo

## Women, Peace and Security

Twenty years after Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) formally recognized the importance of women's participation and involvement in achieving durable peace and security, DPPA is engaged in multi-track efforts to increase the leadership of women everywhere, integrate gender equality into peacemaking, peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts, and shape strategies based on the priorities of women's rights constituencies. These efforts rely to a great extent on MYA funding, which has been particularly important during the ongoing pandemic as the Department reoriented its activities to ensure that they responded to the gender-specific implications of COVID-19.

DPPA supported a six-week pilot online dialogue in June and July to explore how digital technologies can enhance women's inclusion in peace processes, looking at concrete cases of digital inclusion. The dialogue equipped participants with tools to better engage stakeholders in online platforms, including increasing the inclusion of diverse perspectives from women and

civil society in peace-making. This provides useful alternative engagement strategies at a time when in-person interactions and travel are particularly difficult due to the pandemic. It can, however, also be used to supplement in-person engagements.

**Syria:** Virtual meetings with the Women's Advisory Board (WAB), as well as other Syrian women political figures and civil society representatives, continue in order to incorporate their views and enhance their participation in the political discourse regarding Syria. Members of the WAB provided the Special Envoy with substantive suggestions on how to further the political process and safeguard Syrian women's rights in the context of Constitutional Committee discussions. In August, in the margins of the Constitutional Committee meeting in Geneva, DPPA developed an internal action plan to enhance direct engagement – at both the working and leadership levels – with Syrian women political and civil society representatives in and outside the country.



Participants at a peace forum in Juba, South Sudan. Photo: UN Photo/Isaac Billy

DPPA aims to use these interactions to better integrate the views and perspectives of Syrian women in its analysis and overall work on the Syrian conflict. It is also worth recalling that the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General had facilitated agreements between the parties securing close to 30 percent membership of women in the Constitutional Committee.

**Somalia:** In light of the limitations of a military-centred strategy, a more comprehensive approach is required to address the threat posed by Al Shabaab. Defector programming is a central element to counter violent extremism but has mainly focused on male disengaged combatants. A joint project by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), targeting female defectors, addresses this gap. MYA funding was used as a stop-gap measure while additional support from donors was pending. The project assists disengaged female combatants in Somalia in their re-integration into society by providing counseling, health services for gender-based violence victims, and livelihood support. A total of 50 women formerly associated with Al Shabaab are being provided with rehabilitation and reintegration services in Mogadishu.

**Central Asia:** DPPA and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) brought together women parliamentarians from all five Central Asian countries and Afghanistan to

promote inter-parliamentary cooperation in late September. Funded by the MYA, discussions revolved around effective gender equality policies and parliamentary oversight of gender obligations. By the end of the training, participants collectively agreed to promote women's representation in decision-making processes at the international level to ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) based on national plans and strategies. Several women Members of Parliament (MPs) expressed interest in establishing and managing a Women MP caucus in their respective national parliaments.

### **Opening the Doors for Women's Meaningful Participation**

In recognition of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), on 28 October, DPPA launched the campaign "Open the doors for women's meaningful participation". The initiative highlights what DPPA is doing to increase women's leadership, promote gender-responsive peace-making, and engage grassroots civil society for inclusive and sustainable peace. It aims to increase ambition and delivery of the WPS agenda across DPPA's work. For more information on the campaign, please follow DPPA on Twitter - @UNDPPA - or go to [www.peacemaker.un.org/wps](http://www.peacemaker.un.org/wps), and stay tuned for the launch of a digital storytelling platform at [www.WPS1325.org](http://www.WPS1325.org).

## **Sudan: UNITAMS planning process and support to the Special Adviser funded by the MYA**

Throughout 2020, DPPA has relied on MYA funding to provide political support to Sudan's ongoing transition as well as for the planning process related to the newly established United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS).

The Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Sudan, Mr. Nicholas Haysom, was deployed in early 2019 in response to the need for increased UN engagement to help overcome political turmoil in the country. MYA funding enabled DPPA to move quickly and seize opportunities to prevent violence and foster dialogue. The Special Adviser subsequently led the UN's political engagement with the country and coordinated international support efforts through his work with the Group of Friends of Sudan. He also guided the work of the planning team for the future UN presence in Sudan, created in April 2020, in response to the stated intention of the Security Council in its resolutions 2495 (2019) and 2517 (2020) to establish a follow-on presence to the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

With MYA funding, the planning team, coordinated by a small Secretariat, advanced an inclusive and consultative process bringing together 85 staff members representing 25 UN system entities, including the UNCT and UNAMID, as well as the World Bank. The process also involved external partners, most importantly the AU, but also the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the European Union (EU). The planning process prioritized gender and WPS concerns and ensured adequate gender staffing in UNITAMS.

The work of the planning team, led by a Team Leader recruited with MYA funds, resulted in the development of crucial Mission planning documents required to set up UNITAMS: the internal Mission concept, the proposed structure and geographical footprint, and the necessary budgetary submissions for 2020 and 2021. All of these planning outputs, in turn, were informed by a MYA-funded mission of the planning team to Sudan (to Khartoum and field locations across Sudan) from 26 July to 11 August. The visit enabled the team to gather first-hand impressions and directly consult with Sudanese leaders and people. Given that UNITAMS is set up as an integrated Mission that will partner with, rely on, and catalyze the work of the UNCT, the field visit also allowed for critical exchanges with resident UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes in Sudan.

### **Juba Peace agreement signed on 3 October**

The Transitional Government and various rebel groups signed a peace agreement a year after the beginning of peace talks on 3 October. Special Adviser, Mr. Nicholas Haysom, engaged the South Sudanese mediation team, including Presidential Adviser Tut Gatluak who headed the team, on several occasions and received a request for the UN to support the peace process through the provision of Secretariat services. This resulted in the deployment of a team by UNAMID to assist the process through the provision of logistical and technical assistance. The Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers provided substantive support, including on process design and security arrangements, all funded by the MYA.

# GOAL 3 – ACHIEVE A LEARNING, INNOVATIVE WORKING CULTURE THAT TAKES FORWARD THE VISION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

## Strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation

In 2020, the Department's divisions have continuously been adapting their work plans, generally used as an annual management tool, on a quarterly basis to address the uncertainties posed by the pandemic. Divisions identified their priorities for the third quarter and adopted new collaborative approaches. Quicker and more frequent planning helped the Department remain flexible and grounded in reality to deliver results.

Adapted planning measures were accompanied by a systematic approach to identification and monitoring of risks. Within the framework of a new UN-wide approach to Enterprise Risk Management (ERM), DPPA and DPO commenced work to develop a joint risk register. Having selected risks applicable to DPPA and DPO from a Secretariat-wide risk catalogue, ERM focal points are currently working with divisions to validate this risk register. As a next step, DPPA and DPO will develop their risk treatment and response plan.

COVID-19 has underscored that there are clear benefits to managing risks from an organization-wide perspective. Taking a proactive approach to develop a risk register and a mitigation plan will position the Department to deal with challenges more effectively as they arise.

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

During the reporting period, UN Women released its UN System-wide Action Plan on gender equality and empowerment of women (UN-SWAP) results for 2019. Clustered around six strategic areas – results-based management; oversight; accountability; human and financial resources; capacity; and knowledge, communication and coherence – DPPA met or exceeded 16 out of 17 performance indicators. In comparison, DPPA's performance was significantly higher than the aggregate performance of the UN Secretariat and the overall UN System. UN Women commended DPPA for its exemplary commitment to gender equality and recommended to continue building on its achievements.

## Knowledge Management

With a view to providing an overarching framework to guiding staff following the peace and security reform, the Under-Secretaries-General for DPPA and DPO developed a joint vision statement in November 2019. Underpinning this vision is a commitment to enable a shared work culture and mutual learning. During the reporting period, the two Departments developed the first-ever DPPA-DPO Policy on Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning. This represents a milestone towards building a culture of mutual learning in both Departments and the DPPA-DPO shared pillar. As a result, there is a clear understanding of departmental expectation of what needs to be done to manage knowledge, and by whom. As per the policy, focal points have been nominated at Headquarters and in the field to further advance the knowledge management in the two Departments.

## The Work of Peace

As the UN commemorates its 75th anniversary in 2020, DPPA has sought to showcase inclusive and novel approaches in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacemaking. The Department launched a dedicated website/virtual exhibit - The Work of Peace - featuring video, photographic and interactive content to illustrate the essential work of the UN in preventive diplomacy, good offices, mediation and elections over the past 75 years and look ahead at what the future may hold for this work. The exhibit - which highlights the collaborative and integrated nature of our work and enjoys the collaboration of the UN75 office - has attracted considerable audience engagement, reaching some 250,000 people on social media and the web.

[www.workofpeace.org](http://www.workofpeace.org)





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