The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) made further progress in the delivery of its mandate in the period between July and September 2019, thanks to funding under the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA). As of 30 September, the MYA was 59 per cent funded, with $17.7 million in contributions received out of the $30 million requested for 2019.

During this quarter, DPPA embarked on a consultative process to develop its first Strategic Plan following the restructuring of the peace and security pillar and other reforms in the wider UN system. The new Strategic Plan will be a functional document that reflects the Department’s priorities and that can be used to evaluate DPPA’s performance in the coming three years. The Strategic Plan for 2020-2022 and its accompanying results framework should be finalized by December 2019, alongside other planning documents, including the next Appeal document.
Ahead of the referendum on the political future of Bougainville scheduled for November 2019, the DPPA Liaison Officer in Papua New Guinea, funded under the MYA, continued to support various dialogue activities between the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government. Such dialogue has been essential to develop a shared understanding regarding the referendum process and the format of the post-referendum consultations.

Thanks to MYA funding, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa continued his outreach in the region to help consolidate recent gains in peace and security. The Special Envoy represented the Secretary-General at the signing of the documents on the transition to civilian authority in Sudan and met with the country’s new Prime Minister. The agreement in Sudan is an opportunity for the international community to support peace at a delicate time. The Special Envoy also took part in consultations on South Sudan organized by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to resolve challenges related to the outstanding critical pre-transitional tasks and build trust among the parties to the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict. Finally, the Office of the Special Envoy organized an implementation workshop on the Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy for the Horn of Africa for UN presences in Nairobi in July. The Strategy, approved in May 2019, is an internal UN document aligned with existing regional and continental frameworks to ensure coordination of action in support of regional solutions.

DPPA and its Standby Team of Senior Mediator Advisers continued to support the Post-Referendum Planning Taskforce – responsible for ensuring that the period after the referendum is peaceful and that the two Governments are adequately prepared for the consultation process after the announcement of the outcome. The Standby Team’s constitutional expert deployed several times to help facilitate the work of the Taskforce and hold consultations with the Governments.

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa Parfait Onanga-Anyanga briefing the Security Council. UN Photo
of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, and with the UN Country Team (UNCT). DPPA will continue to work with the two Governments to support a peaceful and credible referendum and an inclusive post-referendum consultation process, with meaningful participation of women and youth.

In Afghanistan, MYA funding facilitated effective backstopping of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) at a critical juncture before, during and after the elections on 28 September. As the demand for support increased in anticipation of a possible agreement between the United States and the Taliban and the initiation of intra-Afghan negotiations, DPPA was able to quickly deploy a Senior Political Affairs Officer to UNAMA’s Peace and Reconciliation Office. This additional capacity provided expertise in the areas of mediation, good offices, trust building, process design, and inclusivity. While next steps toward a peace process have become less clear with the cancellation of the aforementioned talks, UNAMA continued its engagement, including by developing and implementing local peace initiatives. UNAMA seeks to promote the use of dialogue to resolve disputes and to strengthen local participation in decision-making through engaging civil society actors, including women and youth representatives, on local issues relating to peace.

In Syria, MYA funding continued to support the UN’s political efforts on Syria, providing the resources and capacity necessary to respond operationally and transform windows of political opportunity into diplomatic action. On 23 September, the Secretary-General announced the UN-facilitated agreement between the Syrian Government and the opposition Syrian Negotiations Commission to establish a credible, balanced and inclusive Constitutional Committee. This is the first concrete Syrian-Syrian political agreement to begin implementation of an element of Security Council resolution 2254. It commits the Government and opposition to sit face-to-face for the first time — with civil society and women at the table. The UN was committed to achieving gender parity among the civil society nominees to the Committee. That posture contributed to reaching almost 30 per cent women’s representation in the 150-member body. The UN expects that facilitating agreement between the parties regarding the Committee, as well as supporting the establishment of a secretariat for the Committee, will serve as confidence-building measures that will
open the door to broader progress on the political process. This includes reforming the electoral law to facilitate UN-supervised elections in which all Syrians can participate, including the diaspora. DPPA and the Office of the Special Envoy will require additional resources to provide the increased operational support needed to move forward on all these lines of effort.

Also with MYA funding, DPPA continued to engage with key donors on the assistance to Syria and neighbouring refugee-hosting countries. DPPA along with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) convened the Working Group on the Principles and Parameters for UN assistance in Syria on 18 September to discuss progress on implementing the policy considering recent reports critical of UN assistance in Syria. The goal of this undertaking is to ensure that UN humanitarian assistance beyond emergency life-saving is prioritized based on need and the principles of independence, neutrality and impartiality.

In Yemen, funding under the MYA enabled the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OSESGY) to continue supporting the Yemeni Women’s Technical Advisory Group (TAG). This inclusion mechanism, comprised of eight Yemeni professionals and developed by OSESGY in mid-2018, aims to bring women to the negotiations table. It also helps the Special Envoy identify – through the advice of women – spaces for negotiation and elements of compromise that the parties may agree to. The TAG convened a second in-person meeting in Tunisia on 3 August, preceded by a capacity-building programme organized by International IDEA with support from the OSESGY. TAG members improved their understanding of political power-sharing arrangements and how they relate to negotiations, peace agreements and transitional periods; and of communication tools. This ensures TAG members will have the necessary skills to provide substantive and meaningful advice to the peace-making effort in Yemen.

The Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers – entirely funded under the MYA – deployed more than 25 times during the third quarter (96 times since the beginning of 2019) as operational advisers, trainers or resource persons for a range of partners, including peacekeeping missions, envoys, Resident Coordinators (RCs), regional organizations, governments and NGOs. Mediation Advisers provided expertise on security arrangements, gender and inclusion, process design and constitutions in contexts as varied as Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Horn of Africa, Papua New Guinea, Sudan, South East Asia, Yemen, and Zambia.

**Examples of Deployments of the Standby Team**

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a Standby Team (SBT) process design expert was deployed to support MONUSCO in designing a mediation strategy to guide the Government in conducting direct talks with the Front for Patriotic Resistance in Ituri. The expert developed a draft mediation strategy outlining ground rules for the dialogue, identifying parties to the talks and setting out options for a secretariat.

A SBT process design expert assisted the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) in designing and carrying out its mandate from the AU to develop and promote a holistic regional and multilateral approach to addressing the challenges of peace, security and development in the Horn of Africa. The expert continues to be involved in the collation and analysis of the national responses and in the process of completing the Panel’s exercise, expected to conclude with detailed recommendations for the African Union, Members States and other key stakeholders.

At the request of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), a SBT expert was deployed to Libreville, Gabon, from 16 September to 1 October 2019, to support efforts in reforming the organization’s security and conflict prevention mechanism, including the setting up of its mediation support unit. The SBT expert held consultations with ECCAS, the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and the Gabonese Government. The expert provided substantive comments on the draft Protocol on peace and security and provided options for their creation of a Panel of the Wise.
On 9 July, the Secretary-General named Ambassador Mirko Manzoni as his Personal Envoy for Mozambique to provide good offices and facilitate dialogue between the Government of Mozambique and the opposition RENAMO towards a successful implementation of the peace agreement. During the months leading up to the signature of the peace and reconciliation agreement in early August, MYA funding facilitated discrete support and technical advice. It also facilitated several deployments of senior DPPA staff to Angola, Botswana, Malawi and Mozambique to discuss potential support with the RCs and UNCTs and engage with national and regional partners. The Personal Envoy will advocate for the meaningful participation of women and youth in the peace process, as well as that of vulnerable groups such as the dependents of the armed combatants. He will seek to facilitate cohesive and strategic engagements of the international community and marshal the necessary technical and financial resources for the full implementation of the agreements.

In El Salvador, following a formal Government request, MYA funds allowed DPPA to lead a multidisciplinary technical assessment mission to discuss the relevance and scope of potential UN support to an International Commission Against Impunity in El Salvador (CICIES) with the Government and national stakeholders. This request allowed El Salvador to benefit from experiences and lessons learned in the work against impunity and corruption of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), whose mandate came to an end on 3 September 2019 and whose activities contributed to strengthening national investigative and prosecutorial capacities. DPPA will provide an outline of possible UN support to fight against impunity and corruption to the Government of El Salvador.

In Burkina Faso, MYA funding facilitated the deployment of a dedicated senior political expert to provide systematic and coordinated political analysis on the ground and inform the UN decision-making process for the implementation of the revamped sustaining peace approach. The senior adviser, in close collaboration with the RC and the Peace and Development Adviser (PDA), is supporting the establishment of an infrastructure for peace (I4P) in Burkina Faso. The I4P will help defuse inter-communal tensions in the short term and sustain peace in the long-term by linking up and enhancing local capacities to prevent and address conflicts across the country.
ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

Since the beginning of 2019, DPPA has coordinated the provision of electoral support by the UN to over 50 Member States in different parts of the world and provided technical support and advice to Member States in developing their capacities to conduct inclusive, peaceful and transparent elections.

A few examples of Electoral Needs Assessment Missions made possible with MYA funding:

- **The Gambia**: To support ongoing electoral reform initiatives to consolidate democratic gains in The Gambia.
- **Honduras**: UN assistance for a digital voter registry ahead of the 2021 General Elections.
- **Liberia**: To support the run-up to the 2020 special senatorial and 2023 general elections, and the development of the national voter registry, assistance with future electoral legislation and promotion of the inclusion of underrepresented or marginalized groups, including women, persons with disability and youth.
- **Uzbekistan**: First ever request for UN electoral assistance ahead of parliamentary and local elections scheduled in December 2019.

DPPA continued its support to the African Union initiative “Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020”. On 10 July, on the margins of the Africa Regional High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, held in Nairobi, DPPA organized an event in partnership with the Government of Kenya, the AU Commission, the AU Youth Advisory Council and the UNCT, on the role of African youth in peace and stability. The event brought together 41 youth representatives (16 men, 25 women) and helped increase the voice of youth to Silence the Guns in Africa. Furthermore, DPPA continued to support the operationalization of the AU Mediation Support Unit and hosted the statutory meeting of the UN-AU Joint Task Force on 21 September in New York between the Under-Secretaries-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, for Peace Operations, and for Operational Support, and the AU Commissioners of Peace and Security and of Political Affairs. The meeting allowed for the discussion of ways to work closely together to support conflict prevention and resolution efforts across the African continent.
From 26 to 28 September, DPPA organized a series of annual high-level engagements under the ASEAN-UN partnership on the sidelines of the General Assembly in New York. The week culminated in the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting on 28 September, in which the Secretary-General engaged directly with foreign ministers from the region on issues of peace and security, sustainable development, and disaster management and climate change. The meetings enabled an in-depth review of progress under the ASEAN-UN Plan of Action (2016-2020), with participants noting that 93 per cent of agreed action items had been successfully implemented. The discussions also provided an opportunity for looking ahead towards defining priority areas for future collaboration under the next Plan of Action (2021-2025), including advancing the Youth, Peace and Security and the Women, Peace and Security agendas.

The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region, together with the DRC National Oversight Mechanism for the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, conducted consultations in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi on ways to enhance confidence and strengthen security cooperation against illegal armed groups. These consultations helped define cross-border responses to peace and security challenges in the eastern DRC and paved the way for a future model of regional security cooperation that includes military and non-military measures to neutralize negative forces. MYA funding also facilitated the organization of a consultative meeting from 8 to 9 September in Nairobi that gathered 45 representatives (12 men and 33 women) from civil society organizations from eight countries. This initiative highlighted the contribution of civil society to regional peace and stability and was an opportunity to expand its role in the region. Finally, the Special Envoy continued supporting the region’s efforts to promote economic development and enhance peace, security and cooperation. On 12 and 13 September,
the Office convened – together with the **International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)** – the second meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the Great Lakes Investment and Trade Conference in Nairobi. The Preparatory Committee – one-third of whose members are women – is tasked with ensuring regional partners and the private sector lead the way towards economic development in the region.

The **G5 Sahel Centre for Early Warning and Threat Analysis (CSAMAP)** has been effectively transferred from Nouakchott to Ouagadougou following an executive decision of the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat. CSAMAP is mandated to provide regional analysis and strategic direction to the G5 Sahel and its Member States. MYA funding continued to facilitate the deployment of dedicated capacity to ensure a swift transition. On 16 to 18 July, the Centre – with support from the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel – convened relevant partners to assess its work and contribution so far and develop a new action plan and a roadmap of activities.

DPPA continued to organize **electoral training for regional and sub-regional organizations**. For example, a training for the ICGLR on election observation and a roundtable on gender, media and elections was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 16 to 19 July. The workshop gathered 39 participants – half of them women – from 11 ICGLR Member States and representatives from several regional and sub-regional organizations. In addition, DPPA coordinated a training with ECOWAS on “sharing experiences and good practices on the prevention and mitigation of election-related violence”, in Accra, Ghana, from 10 to 12 September 2019. The workshop provided a forum for exchange and to enhance regional capacities in addressing election-related violence, as some of these countries prepare for elections in 2020. Around 60 participants, including 22 women from Election Management Bodies, civil society and representatives from 14 ECOWAS Member States participated.

**WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

DPPA continued to implement and operationalize its new Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Policy to further advance the implementation of the WPS agenda and its gender mainstreaming efforts. In the margins of the high-level segment of the General Assembly in New York in September, DPPA supported the launch of the **Global Alliance of Women Mediators’ Networks**. The Alliance was launched by the Deputy Secretary-General at a high-level event featuring a number of foreign ministers, senior representatives of regional and sub-regional organizations, and UN Special Envoyos and SRSGs. DPPA facilitated the participation of two members of the **Secretary-General’s High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation**. This offered an opportunity to discuss the potential role of the networks in facilitating women’s participation and
In Afghanistan, a SBT expert has deployed on multiple occasions to advise UNAMA on various dimensions of an Afghan peace process, such as inclusion (of women in particular) and preserving human rights gains, as well as to help build the mediation and conflict resolution capacities of the Mission’s international and national staff. SBT experts also supported an Afghan Women High-Level Negotiations Workshop organized by the United States Institute of Peace, training and advising Afghan women from different political traditions on negotiation and mediation, to help them prepare in anticipation of their potential role in an intra-Afghan Peace Process.

For Afghanistan’s 2019 presidential elections, Afghans vote at polling stations in the capital city of Bamyan province in the central highlands region of Afghanistan. UNAMA Photo / Jaffar Rahim.

In Iraq, MYA funding enabled UN actors to support the Government of Iraq’s efforts to advance the WPS agenda. From 24 to 27 August, the UNAMI Gender Unit co-organized with UN Women, the Government of the Netherlands and other partners, the ‘Regional Forum on Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women in the Arab Region’, held in Baghdad under the auspices of the federal and Kurdistan Regional Governments. Attendees included Government and civil society representatives from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen as well as regional and international organizations. They exchanged experiences on the role and impact of national institutions in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, reducing violence against women and empowering women in politics. The forum facilitated discussions among Iraq’s senior leadership and civil society on the establishment of a national machinery for the advancement of women in Iraq. MYA funds will continue to support UNAMI’s efforts at advocacy, capacity-building and facilitating consultative meetings across Iraq with both governmental and civil society representatives.

MYA funding also facilitated a familiarization visit of the newly appointed coordinator of the AU’s Mediation Support Unit, a senior staff member of the AU Commission and the coordinator of FemWise, the AU’s women mediator network. The delegation met with a wide range of stakeholders in New York and was part of thematic exchanges on WPS, digital technologies, constitutional issues, knowledge management and climate security. The visit helped identify concrete avenues for cooperation between the AU and the UN, including on knowledge management, promoting women’s participation through further operationalizing FemWise, and support to the AU Mediation Support Unit’s strategic plan.

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The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA) piloted the first UNRCCA Preventive Diplomacy Academy, which seeks to strengthen a culture of prevention among young people in the region (including Afghanistan), who form more than 50 per cent of the population in Central Asia. In collaboration with UNFPA, UNRCCA organized the first workshop in Taraz, Kazakhstan, bringing together 15 young people from Taraz and 15 from Talas, Kyrgyzstan, just across the border. Throughout the workshop, participants developed a number of projects to generate people-to-people contacts across borders and agree on conflict prevention strategies for their daily lives and in their communities. There are two more workshops planned to gather Tajik and Afghan young people; as well as Turkmen and Uzbek young people. UNRCCA plans to invite some of the participants to join the annual meeting of Deputy Foreign Ministers, which will be held in Tashkent at the end of November, and to initiate the first regional consultation between young people and political leaders in Central Asia. This initiative has generated significant interest among UN entities and other regional organizations in Central Asia.

Pacific Islands countries are on the frontline of climate change and are increasingly highlighting the security dimensions of climate-related risks. The three low-lying Pacific atoll nations – Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Tuvalu – are particularly at risk. Making use of MYA funding, DPPA supported a workshop to develop a shared understanding of climate security risks and potential programmatic responses to mitigate conflict drivers in Fiji from 9 to 11 September. The workshop brought together policy makers from these three Governments, experts and
regional organizations, including the Pacific Islands Forum. DPPA facilitated coordination between experts from the UN Climate Security Mechanism and regional stakeholders to help the region develop a framework that considers the impact of climate-security risks. The workshop led to the development of a draft Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) project for 2020-2021 targeted at supporting these Governments, as well as the Pacific Islands Forum, with their climate-security challenges through increased capacity, improved analysis and better international advocacy. The project is expected to launch by the end of the year subject to final approvals from the Governments and PBF.

The peacekeeping operation in Haiti, MINUJUSTH, closed on 15 October. DPPA and the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) worked in an integrated manner to prepare for a new Special Political Mission (SPM), the United Nations Integrated Office for Haiti (BINUH), which began operations on 16 October. MYA funding provided surge support for a seamless transition. Integrated planning efforts, which commenced early on, including through a strategic assessment mission held in January, continued following the adoption of Security Council

HAITI – FIRST UN MISSION TRANSITION SINCE THE LAUNCH OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S REFORMS

A new way of working has yielded tangible benefits in supporting UN mission transitions:

- Integrated leadership structures and increased availability of expertise from across the peace and security pillar allowed for faster delivery on key planning objectives;
- Decreased transaction costs and increased unity of purpose facilitated information-sharing and coordination;

Family in Tuvalu, at the frontline of the effects of climate change. The water is only 10 metres from their house at high tide. UN Photo/Mark Garten
Seamless cooperation with PBSO on the development of the PBF eligibility package anchored on priorities and objectives agreed across the pillar, UN presence in Haiti and the Government;
- Explored cooperation with the World Bank reflecting the PBF initiative as seed funding to complement BINUH’s Community Violence Reduction advisory role through programmatic and technical assistance;
- Strengthened triangular cooperation between DPPA, DPO and DCO facilitated the development of coordinated and coherent guidance to the field.

The Department continued to enhance organizational effectiveness by focusing on areas such as knowledge management, communication and capacity-building of staff at Headquarters and in the field. In the spirit of transparency, and for the first time ever, in August, DPPA published a report summarizing the evaluations and lessons learned studies related to the work of the Department carried out in 2017 and 2018. Additionally, the Department disseminated the report of the end-of-cycle evaluation of the DPA 2016-19 Strategic Plan. The findings and recommendations of that evaluation are being taken into account in the development of DPPA’s new 2020-22 Strategic Plan. Finally, the Department also completed an evaluation assessing UN preventive diplomacy engagements during the electoral crises in Gabon (2016) and The Gambia (2016/17) and is preparing a report for dissemination.

DPPA is working to deepen awareness and understanding of the use of ICT and other recent advances in technology in modern conflict. With MYA funding, and in consultation with other stakeholders, the Department convened a workshop on digital technologies and conflict prevention in New York on 11 and 12 July. The workshop brought together UN staff as well as
experts from academia, the private sector and civil society organizations. Participants discussed the implications of digital technologies for the evolving landscape of conflict; conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy, protection issues, and electoral assistance. The workshop also offered an opportunity to follow up on the work of the High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation and other multilateral processes and pilot the application of existing tools in a fictitious serious cyber incident that risked exacerbating existing tensions between conflict parties in a sensitive region.

In an effort to enhance the deployment readiness of its personnel to areas in the field that are subject to heightened security risks, DPPA has supported the delivery of the Safe and Secure Approaches in the Field (SSAFE) training module in New York, in coordination with other Departments, Agencies, Funds and Programmes. Until September 2019, MYA has enabled the training of 31 DPPA personnel which may deploy now without having to make special arrangements each time they travel to the field in areas where SSAFE is mandatory.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE MULTI-YEAR APPEAL, PLEASE CONTACT THE DONOR RELATIONS TEAM:

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