

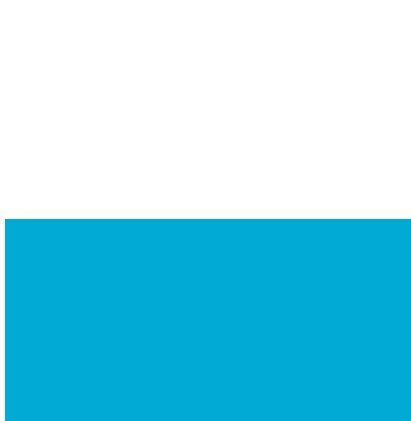
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

JOINT UNDP-DPPA PROGRAMME ON BUILDING NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION

United Nations Development Programme | Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs



Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme
on Building National Capacities
for Conflict Prevention



Photos on the cover

© UNDP/Grey Díaz

© UNDP Cambodia

© UNDP

© UNDP Djibouti/Aurélia Rusek

© UNDP Sudan/Ala Eldin Abdalla Mohamed

© UNDP Colombia/Oscar Bermeo

© UNDP/Danil Usmanov

© UNDP Mauritania

© UNDP Malawi

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme
on Building National Capacities
for Conflict Prevention

**JOINT UNDP-DPPA PROGRAMME
ON BUILDING NATIONAL CAPACITIES
FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION**

TABLE OF CONTENT

Foreword	6
----------------	---

OVERVIEW OF THE JOINT UNDP-DPPA PROGRAMME

Cadre of Advisors 2020	12
------------------------------	----

Financial overview 2020.....	14
------------------------------	----

Expansion of the PDA cadre globally	15
---	----

2020 Highlights	16
-----------------------	----

Contributing to COVID-19 responses	18
MOLDOVA, CAMBODIA, TUNISIA, UGANDA, BANGLADESH	

EMPOWERING NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS TO LEAD CONFLICT PREVENTION EFFORTS

Enhancing government strategies and policies for prevention ..	24
LESOTHO, BURKINA FASO, KENYA	

Strengthening national peace architectures	26
CHAD, The GAMBIA, NIGERIA, MALAWI	

Strengthening capacities and skills for sustaining peace	28
CAMBODIA, THAILAND, The GAMBIA	

Reinforcing collaboration with civil society	30
CAMEROON, GEORGIA, GUYANA, MALDIVES	

Supporting dialogue and preventive diplomacy.....	32
Supporting dialogue	33
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, UKRAINE, SIERRA LEONE	
Supporting conflict prevention through preventive diplomacy ..	35
LIBERIA	

Supporting peaceful elections.....	36
COTE D'IVOIRE, CONGO, MALAWI, BURKINA FASO, BENIN	

Increasing inclusion of national stakeholders in peace efforts	40
Promoting women's participation	41
COTE D'IVOIRE, MAURITANIA	
Promoting youth participation	42
TOGO, VENEZUELA	
Promoting community participation and engagement	43
CARIBBEAN	
Promoting inclusion of indigenous people	43
GUATEMALA	

Countering hate speech	44
CAMEROON, ETHIOPIA, SRI LANKA	

Preventing violent extremism	46
TAJIKISTAN, TOGO	

SUPPORTING THE UN SYSTEM TO LEVERAGE ENTRY POINTS FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION

Informing UN engagements through high-quality analysis50
ETHIOPIA, KYRGYZSTAN, ERITREA

Monitoring and analysing conflict risks for early warning and action.....52
TUNISIA, SOUTH CAUCASUS, THAILAND

Supporting the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and the Common Country Analysis processes54
JORDAN, MADAGASCAR, ALGERIA

Mainstreaming conflict sensitivity.....56
MOLDOVA, MAURITANIA

Supporting UN programming58
SUDAN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, HONDURAS, SRI LANKA

Seed funding for innovative prevention initiatives61

Operationalizing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus...62
MYANMAR, GUATEMALA

Human rights64
SIERRA LEONE

Encouraging collaboration among UN agencies66
Integrated analysis and assessments of climate-related security risks67
Regional Programme Specialists68

Engagement with partners for conflict prevention70
Regional and Subregional Organizations.....72
COMOROS
International Financial Institutions.....73
KENYA, CHAD, TAJIKISTAN
Diplomatic Community.....74
LIBERIA

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS, FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND LEARNING

Strengthening partnerships, fostering collaboration and learning76

List of Acronyms78

FOREWORD



Asako OKAI

Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Crisis Bureau, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



Miroslav JENČA

Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations, UNITED NATIONS

2020 was a year of global crisis. For the first time in 30 years, human development was on course to decline. Economies deteriorated and extreme poverty rose to its highest levels in a generation, with women and minorities affected disproportionately. The COVID-19 pandemic is predicted to push 150 million people into extreme poverty by the end of 2021.

The global pandemic posed unprecedented challenges to peace and security as well as human development, affecting individuals, communities, institutions and countries at large. It exposed critical fissures in societies, led to shrinking civic space, compromised social contracts and weakened social cohesion. Deepening inequality worsened situations that had been fragile before the pandemic.

In the face of these challenges, the *Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention*, managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), working closely with the United Nations

Development Coordination Office (DCO), accelerated its support to prevent conflict and sustain peace.

As this report will detail, an expanding cadre of 106 peace and development experts based in 64 countries, comprised of international and national Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs), UN Volunteers (UNVs) and secondees, as well as six Regional Programme Specialists, provide expertise to United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and national partners in reinforcing local capacities for conflict prevention, dialogue and sustaining peace.

As in every year, activities were broad and varied. They ranged from supporting preventive diplomacy engagements in Liberia, to facilitating dialogue in Bosnia and Herzegovina, advocating for the meaningful participation of women in political and peace processes in Cote d'Ivoire, and opening doors for the engagement of youth in Venezuela. In many contexts, PDAs supported the design and accompanied implementation of programmes funded by the Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

Specific to 2020 was the focus on helping to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on peace. Over 40 of our PDAs supported national stakeholders and the United Nations (UN) System in local COVID-19 responses. This included bolstering advocacy efforts, particularly in addressing pandemic-related misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, and providing support in accordance with the Secretary-General's call for a global ceasefire.

Departing from the standard modus operandi, and with an orientation toward deeper impact, PDAs adopted new and innovative approaches to address emerging, multidimensional risks, including establishing virtual spaces for multi-stakeholder consultations in Madagascar; establishing an early warning mechanism to monitor popular protests in Tunisia; and leveraging women-led media start-ups and digital social enterprises in Cambodia to prevent the spread of misinformation during the pandemic.

In the face of continued complexity and uncertainty, we must redouble our efforts to more systematically and effectively support national partners to sustain peace and mitigate the stresses and shocks that can lead to conflict. In 2021, we are focusing on assessing our progress towards reinforcing national capacities to this end. We are conducting a midterm review of the Joint Programme, which will provide us valuable feedback, both on our achievements and on areas in which we need to do more or further adapt our way of working.

The unwavering support from the donor partners of the Joint Programme has been, and will remain, critical to the success of our joint efforts. We thank the European Union (EU), Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom for their generous contributions and substantive engagement. We are also very grateful for the collaboration and human resource capacity contributions from the Governments of Australia, Finland and the Republic of Korea, as well as the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sweden.

Asako Okai**Miroslav Jenca**




The UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention is a centrepiece of the system's support, with an expanded cadre of 56¹ peace and development advisers and regional specialists in six locations. Peace and development advisers have assisted national stakeholders by supporting inclusive dialogue processes, preventive diplomacy and social cohesion efforts in Cambodia, Guatemala, the Republic of Moldova and Sierra Leone. In Chad, Tunisia and countries in the Caribbean and the Pacific, the advisers ensured increased understanding of climate-related security risks. They also worked on strengthening peace efforts across borders in Bangladesh, Ecuador, Myanmar and Uganda. More than 80 percent² have supported the participation of women or youth in conflict prevention."

António Guterres

Report of the Secretary-General on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace 2020

1 The number of international PDAs as of July 2020

2 2019 data

A photograph of three women in colorful headscarves. The woman in the center, wearing a light blue headscarf and a red top, is smiling broadly and waving her right hand. To her left, a woman in a red and yellow patterned headscarf is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. To her right, a woman in a multi-colored patterned headscarf has a more serious expression. The background is a bright, open field under a clear sky.

1. OVERVIEW OF THE JOINT UNDP-DPPA PROGRAMME

OVERVIEW OF THE JOINT UNDP-DPPA PROGRAMME

The multidimensional challenges facing the world have no borders. Many societies confront rising inequalities, political and social unrest, persistent gender discrimination and lack of social cohesion. Climate change is increasingly impacting peace. In the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic further laid bare existing vulnerabilities. Conflict-affected countries are often more vulnerable to shocks from crises and less able to address their impact. The pandemic led to some of the toughest setbacks to peace and development in decades, affecting economies and the social, human, political, security and environmental dimensions of fragility. A focus on conflict prevention is critical to create the conditions necessary and conducive to sustainable peace and development.

Since it was established in 2004, the *Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention* has been engaged in supporting national stakeholders to strengthen their systems and capacities to mitigate risk, lead conflict prevention efforts and pursue their development priorities. It also supports UN efforts to bridge the gap between political engagement and development assistance in pursuit of sustainable peace.

The Joint Programme seeks to contribute to overall change as articulated in this theory of change:

When efforts to prevent conflict and sustain peace are analysis-based, robust, inclusive and nationally-led and when these are supported to an appropriate extent by coherent international strategies and programmes, Member States are better equipped to mitigate the risks of conflict and fragility and to pursue their development priorities.

Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs) are central to the Programme's efforts to achieve these goals. This cadre of international and national experts drive the efforts of the UN to empower national stakeholders and strengthen mechanisms and capacities for inclusive dialogue, social cohesion, reconciliation and national peace architectures. PDAs support the UN system to effectively identify entry points for conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and to respond to complex political situations.

Since the Joint Programme began in 2004, its cadre of PDAs has grown significantly. By year-end 2020, it reached a total of 106 advisors, national officers and international specialists, based in 64 countries, supporting more than 80 Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) globally. In 2020, 37 Peace and Development teams were in place, with a growing pool of national PDAs, UNVs and secondees working together with international PDAs. In addition, six Regional Programme Specialists provided back-up support to PDAs and UNCTs and supported regional conflict analysis and sustaining peace efforts.

**THE JOINT PROGRAMME'S ENGAGEMENT IS GUIDED
BY TWO MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE OUTCOMES:**



OUTCOME 1

**Targeted initiatives and national capacities
contribute more effectively to conflict prevention
and sustaining peace.**



OUTCOME 2

**UN Country Teams lead partnerships on sustaining
peace and their strategies and programmes are
increasingly conflict sensitive.**



CADRE OF ADVISORS IN 2020





106

PDA POSITIONS
GLOBALLY

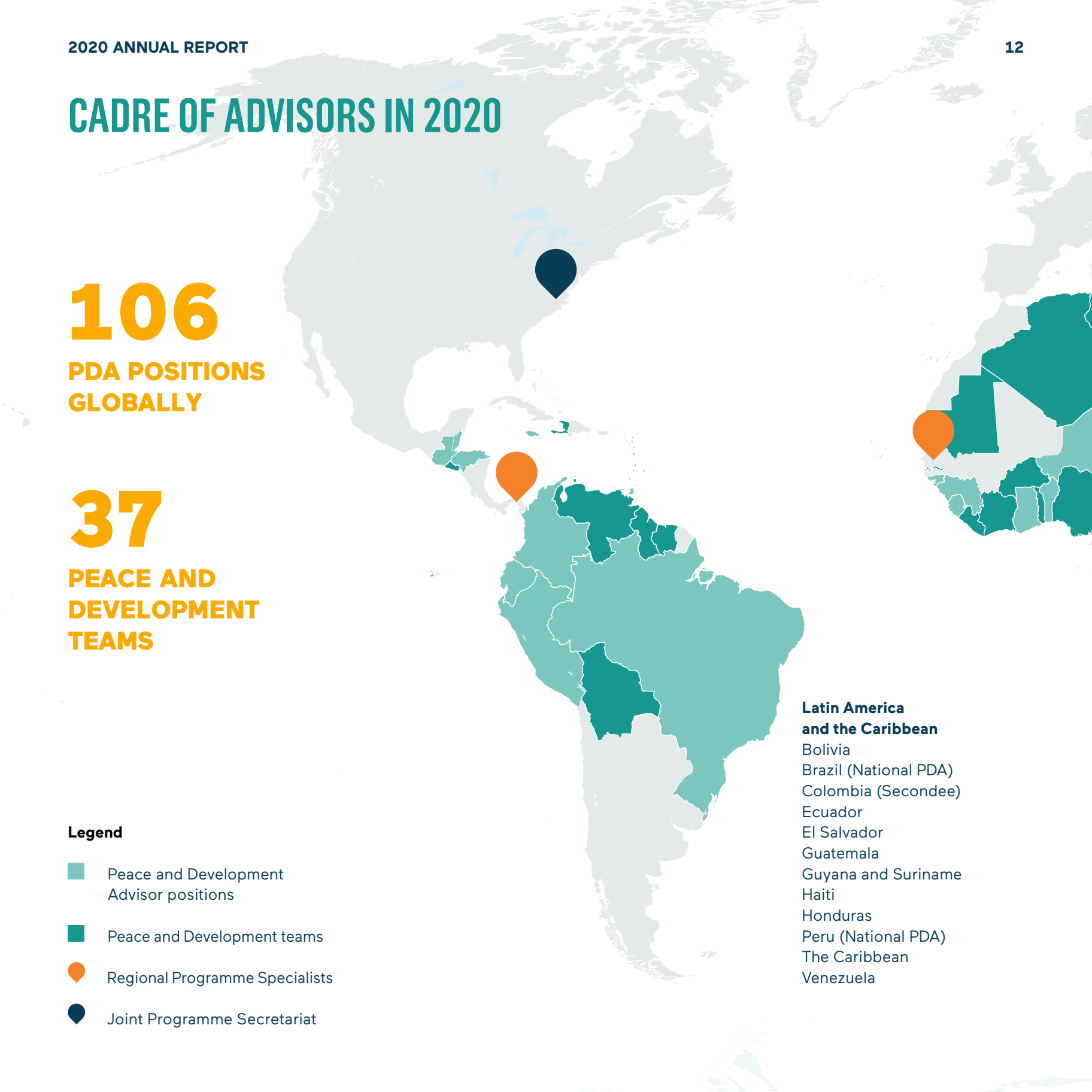
37

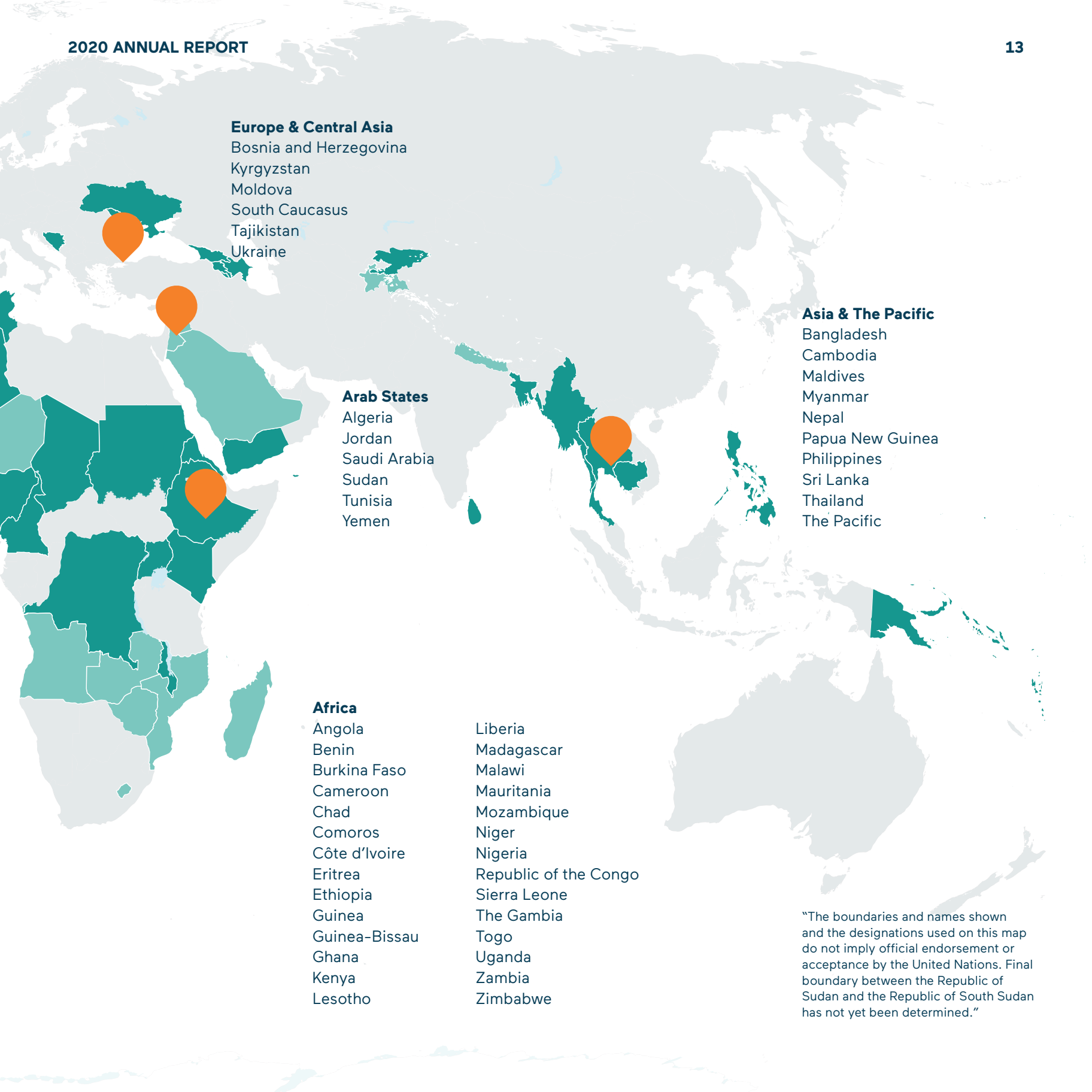
PEACE AND
DEVELOPMENT
TEAMS

Legend

-  Peace and Development Advisor positions
-  Peace and Development teams
-  Regional Programme Specialists
-  Joint Programme Secretariat

- Latin America
and the Caribbean**
- Bolivia
 - Brazil (National PDA)
 - Colombia (Secondee)
 - Ecuador
 - El Salvador
 - Guatemala
 - Guyana and Suriname
 - Haiti
 - Honduras
 - Peru (National PDA)
 - The Caribbean
 - Venezuela





Europe & Central Asia

- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Kyrgyzstan
- Moldova
- South Caucasus
- Tajikistan
- Ukraine

Arab States

- Algeria
- Jordan
- Saudi Arabia
- Sudan
- Tunisia
- Yemen

Africa

- Angola
- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Chad
- Comoros
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritania
- Mozambique
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Republic of the Congo
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Togo
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe








Asia & The Pacific

- Bangladesh
- Cambodia
- Maldives
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Papua New Guinea
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Thailand
- The Pacific

"The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined."

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2020

(IN US\$)

	DONOR	Income	Expenditure
	European Union	816,000*	816,000
	Germany	5,974,000	4,017,000
	Norway	792,000*	1,075,000
	Sweden	4,634,000	3,996,000
	Switzerland	1,087,000	882,000
	The Netherlands	4,779,000	4,442,000
	United Kingdom	1,149,000*	1,149,000
	TOTAL	19,231,000	16,377,000

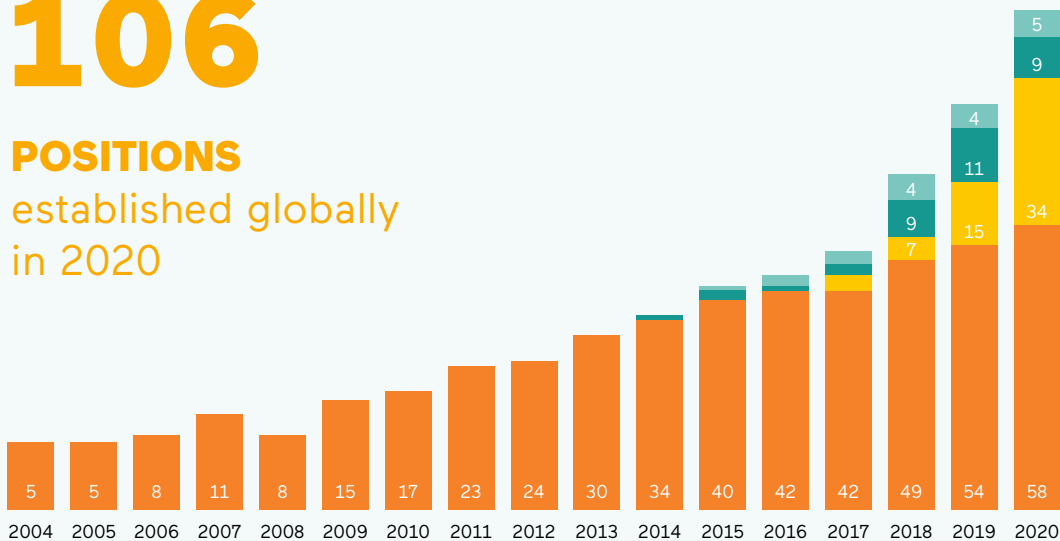
* Includes funds received in 2019

EXPANSION OF THE PDA CADRE GLOBALLY

106

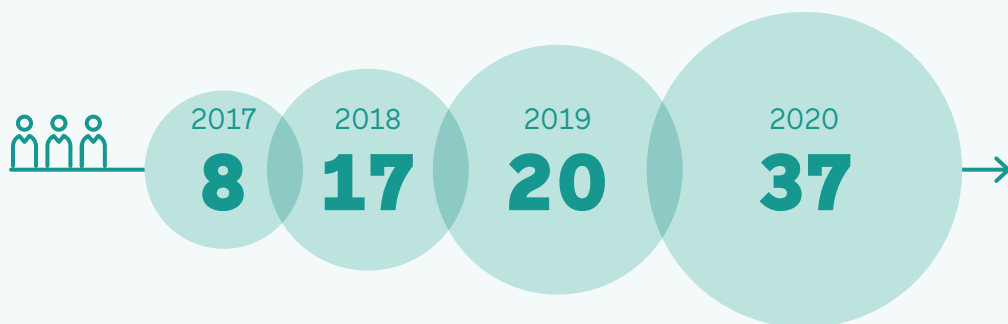
POSITIONS

established globally in 2020



● International PDAs
 ● National PDAs
 ● UNVs
 ● Secondees

EXPANSION OF PDA TEAMS



82

PDA_s IN POST

including international PDAs, national PDAs, UNVs and secondees

32%

OF INTERNATIONAL PDA_s ARE WOMEN

39%

OF NATIONAL PDA_s ARE WOMEN

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

KEY AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT*



Outcome 1: Targeted initiatives and national capacities contribute more effectively to conflict prevention and sustaining peace

PDAs focused on efforts to strengthen national capacities for peace



64%

supported national **peace architectures**



62%

supported national **policies and strategies** for conflict prevention



62%

supported national governments to **reinforce** their **capacities**



70%

supported **preventive diplomacy, good offices, mediation** or **dialogue** efforts

PDAs promoted wider involvement of national stakeholders in dialogue and mediation



55%

worked towards enhancing the **participation of women**



62%

worked towards enhancing the **participation of youth**

* The figures in this report related to PDA engagement are based on the annual survey conducted by the Joint Programme at the end of 2020 as part of its monitoring and evaluation responsibility. A total of 47 responses were received from individual Peace and Development Advisers and Peace and Development teams.



Outcome 2: UN Country Teams lead partnerships on sustaining peace and their strategies and programmes are increasingly conflict sensitive

PDA's are critical assets to the UN Country Teams in providing high-quality, context-specific and conflict sensitive advice.

PDA's provided analysis...

In countries where a Common Country Analysis process was underway,



100%

provided support

74%

designed or facilitated peace and conflict analysis in the last three years

...which was then used to inform strategic engagement and programming



100%

supported conflict sensitivity in UN programmes

94%

supported UN programming for conflict prevention

In 2020, PDA's engaged in the following areas:



53%

addressing hate speech



45%

supporting efforts to prevent electoral violence



43%

supporting reconciliation and transitional justice



38%

working in the context of popular protests



36%

supporting prevention of violent extremism



34%

working on climate-related security risks

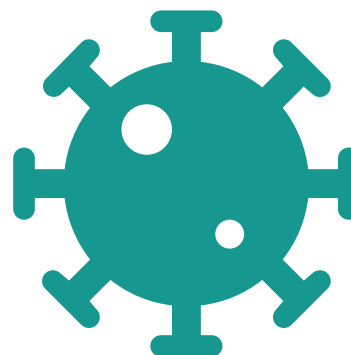
CONTRIBUTING TO COVID-19 RESPONSES

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, PDAs promoted collaborative approaches to bridging the peace, development and humanitarian spheres and enhanced the understanding of the crisis from a multidimensional perspective. PDAs supported RCs, UNDP, DPPA and the wider UNCTs in analysing the implications of the pandemic, particularly on human rights, and contributed to socio-economic impact assessments and recovery plans.

They identified opportunities to strengthen conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts and supported coordinated programmatic responses by UNCTs. PDAs further supported RCs in engaging with national governments, local stakeholders, bilateral and multilateral partners and international financial institutions (IFIs). Examples of this work are highlighted below.

85%

of PDAs
contributed
to COVID-19
responses



Including:

74%

Impact assessments
and analyses

67%

Development of UN
response plans

53%

Common Country Analyses and/or UN
Sustainable Development Cooperation
Frameworks to reflect emerging risks

49%

Programmatic
adjustments

38%

Human rights-related
advice and support

36%

Advocacy and addressing
misinformation

23%

Support to the Secretary-
General's call for a global
ceasefire

MOLDOVA

In **Moldova**, the COVID-19 pandemic was expected to negatively affect social cohesion, which was already fragile. Advised by the Peace and Development team, the UN in Moldova developed and conducted a survey based on some of the key indicators from the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) index, originally established by the PDA in 2018, to understand the potential impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. The survey found low levels of contact between the many groups in the society, continued low levels of social tolerance among both political and social groups, high levels of repressive attitudes toward women, and somewhat negative attitudes towards returning migrants. The analysis of the survey results informed the CCA, the UNDP-led Socio-economic Impact Assessment and the UN's COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Plan. The results were shared with the government and CSOs for use in their development work.

CAMBODIA

In the early stages of the COVID-19 outbreak, stigmatization and discrimination towards Muslim minorities, migrant workers, foreigners and other people suspected of being infected escalated in **Cambodia**, fuelled by misinformation on social media channels. In addition to engaging the Ministry of Interior to protect the rights of Cambodian migrants returning from Thailand, the Peace and Development team worked to repurpose the UNDP Media Alternatives project, originally designed by the PDA in 2019, to leverage women-led media start-ups and digital social enterprises to develop campaigns to prevent the spread of COVID-related misinformation. The campaigns mobilized social media influencers and youth celebrities, reaching 1.7 million Cambodians through social media, national television and community radio, and disseminating and promoting messages of social cohesion and tolerance.



TUNISIA

The Peace and Development team in **Tunisia** engaged at various levels to support the UN's COVID-19 responses, providing analysis and advice on COVID-related policy issues, and supporting the establishment of a coordination mechanism for information-sharing and response planning with key partners, including IFIs. This coordination structure created an enabling environment for the International Monetary Fund to provide financing for the initial COVID-19 response, which prompted additional donor contributions. The team also helped revise the Common Country Analysis (CCA) to ensure that emerging risks to social cohesion and governance were addressed within the 2021–2025 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). It worked with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to conduct human rights assessments with a focus on the impact of COVID-19-related emergency legislation on vulnerable groups. Informed by this analysis, the RC advocated with national authorities for the release of vulnerable detainees. The analysis also strengthened the UNCT's advocacy efforts for government measures to mitigate the pandemic's impact on the informal sector.

UGANDA

The PDA in **Uganda** conducted a political assessment of the preventive measures taken to halt the spread of COVID-19 and provided advice on the reprogramming and repurposing of existing projects to respond to emerging risks of political mobilization along identity lines, hate speech and stigmatization observed in some communities. As a result, the UNCT prioritized conflict-sensitive communication through social and traditional media to build and repair trust and enhance social cohesion. The PDA also supported the RC's high-level interaction with the government to advocate for proportionate and humane enforcement of presidential directives on COVID-19 prevention by the security agencies.



© UNDP Bangladesh

BANGLADESH

The Peace and Development Specialist in **Bangladesh** contributed to integrating conflict prevention principles into the UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, co-leading a subgroup on peace and stability and supporting the coordination and development of programmatic responses to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on peace. The specialist further helped enhance the inclusivity of responses by facilitating multi-stakeholder consultations with civil society and development partners.



2. EMPOWERING NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS TO LEAD CONFLICT PREVENTION EFFORTS

EMPOWERING NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS TO LEAD CONFLICT PREVENTION EFFORTS

The Joint Programme is guided by the principle of national ownership and the conviction that national stakeholders are best placed to advance sustainable peace in their countries. PDAs work with local partners at all levels and in all segments of society to strengthen architectures, policies and strategies for peace. They engage in mediation and dialogue efforts, advocate for inclusive approaches, and accompany, connect and empower national actors to lead peace efforts.





ENHANCING GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES AND POLICIES FOR PREVENTION

62%

of PDAs
supported national
policies and strategies
for conflict prevention



LESOTHO

In 2020, the PDA in **Lesotho** provided extensive technical support to implement the national dialogue recommendations, which sought to spearhead reforms aimed at promoting national consensus, stability, unity and reconciliation in the country. The PDA's support involved engaging with the government, political parties, civil society, women and youth, as well as farmers and people with disabilities. The PDA provided substantive input to reports and reviewed feedback provided by national and international stakeholders on the project documents in support of the reforms process and its implementation to ensure a peace dividend. Funding in the amount of US\$4.5 million was mobilized, including from the PBF and the EU for projects supporting the national dialogue process. This was further complemented by the "Conflict Prevention, Party Democracy, Consensus Building" initiative, developed by the PDA and funded by DPPA and the Joint Programme.

BURKINA FASO

Burkina Faso continued to be affected by protracted crises in 2020. The PDA's contribution to formulating the country's National Development Plan for 2021-2025 focused on addressing fragilities and drivers of conflict. After participating in a study to identify conflict drivers as part of the Prevention and Peacebuilding Assessment supported jointly by the UN, the World Bank, the EU and the African Development Bank, the PDA advocated for the findings to be reflected in the social cohesion and sustaining peace pillars of the National Development Plan. While the 2020 November election process revealed the extent of the grievances that need to be addressed, the new plan is expected to help meet these challenges and include a focus on national reconciliation and social cohesion.

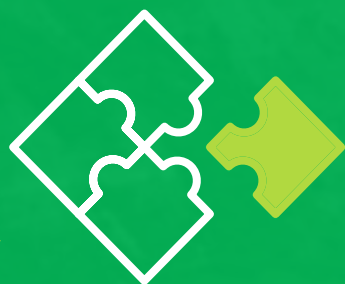
KENYA

At the onset of the COVID-19 crisis in **Kenya**, the Peace and Development team held consultations with governmental and non-governmental peace actors across the country on their possible role in responding to the crisis. These discussions led to the development of the National Prevention and Peacebuilding Strategy on COVID-19 Response and Recovery, which was endorsed and launched by the Government of Kenya, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the UNCT on International Peace Day. The document sets out an inclusive and integrated framework for the governance, peace and security sectors to respond to the pandemic's impacts, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups. This multi-stakeholder strategy is implemented through the UNDP-led Uwiano Platform for Peace, which brings together leading civil society and government actors to enhance prevention and peacebuilding in Kenya. The discussions on the strategy itself were catalytic and served as a call for action to all participants to address the threats to peacebuilding and cohesion and the risks associated with COVID-19. The Peace and Development team facilitated discussions to identify potential risks and opportunities for dialogue among national peace actors, engaged with key government actors to convey the inputs from CSOs, and ensured that these discussions fed into the design of the strategy. Building on this work, the team launched new rounds of consultations with national and international peace actors in Kenya aimed at building a vision for peace to complement the strategy.

Theory of change:

"If a country/government has clear national policies that explicitly address conflict prevention, peacebuilding and the underlying drivers of conflict, then national resources are more likely to be effectively directed towards sustaining peace."

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL PEACE ARCHITECTURES



64%

of PDAs
supported national
peace architectures



CHAD

The Peace and Development team in **Chad** contributed to the development of a national infrastructure for peace. As part of this effort, the team supported the Government of Chad in establishing a National Peacebuilding Steering Committee. In 2020, at the government's request, the PDA drafted the terms of reference for the committee, which the Ministry of Development Planning used to draft the decree which establishes the committee. It is an inclusive body - led by the government and supported by the UN - that will engage civil society, financial and technical partners, including the World Bank, regional organizations such as the African Union (AU) and the EU. Once operationalized, the committee will be a significant addition to Chad's peacebuilding architecture.

The GAMBIA

Following the historic change of government in January 2017, **The Gambia** has been on a path toward redefining state-society relations and developing the country's structures for sustaining peace. However, complex challenges related to the political transition remain, such as the unfinished constitutional reform, transitional justice and security sector reform. In 2020, building on previous efforts, the Peace and Development team, together with partners, coordinated and facilitated discussions on harmonizing efforts to establish an infrastructure for peace. As a result, an inclusive technical working group on a national infrastructure for peace was created. It has launched national consultations on articulating the nature and structure of a Gambia-specific infrastructure for peace, which would strengthen the country's ability to proactively address conflict in a constructive, whole-of-society and sustained manner.

Theory of change:

“If a country has a national architecture (institutions, structures and organizations) with clear mandates around sustaining peace that are properly resourced then it is more likely to be effective in preventing and managing conflict.”

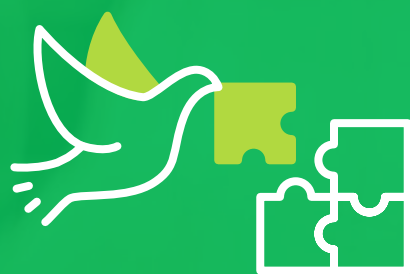
NIGERIA

In **Nigeria**, the Peace and Development team together with UN partners supported the development of a National Peace Policy and a broader peace infrastructure initiative. Efforts to improve infrastructures for peace and advocacy at the community, state and federal levels were a core focus for the team throughout 2020. Work to establish formal state peace infrastructures made significant progress. As of December 2020, Adamawa State had set up a State Peace Agency; and Taraba, Nasarawa and Benue finalized the review of the State Peace Commissions and Agencies, which will be sent to the state legislatures for hearings and eventual passage into law. In addition, platforms for sustained dialogue and consensus building on herder-farmer issues in Benue, Nasarawa and Taraba have been established through projects supported by the Human Security Trust Fund and PBF. By bringing grassroots perspectives to the fore, these community-based structures will complement the state peace agencies' efforts. Once operational, these mechanisms will play a critical role in strengthening capacities for timely response to disputes before they escalate to violence.

MALAWI

In **Malawi**, the successful holding of 2020 re-run of the presidential election, following annulment of the 2019 election results, created space to further promote the work on a national architecture for peace, with the new government committing to operationalize the National Peace Commission and its local subsidiaries. Working with UNDP, the PDA and the RC helped obtain a commitment to establish the Malawi Peace Commission. The PDA coordinated input and comments from the Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), UNDP, the broader UNCT and other partners on the draft Malawi Peace and Unity Commission Bill and provided technical advice on ensuring that women and people with disabilities were included in the consultations process. The draft bill was submitted to the Ministry of Justice and is expected to be tabled, debated and passed by the parliament by the end of 2021.

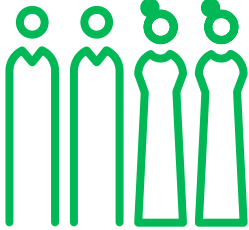
STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES AND SKILLS FOR SUSTAINING PEACE




62%

of PDAs
supported strengthening
prevention capacities of
national governments




77% 

of PDAs supported strengthening prevention capacities of civil society

53% 

of PDAs supported strengthening prevention capacities of women

57% 

of PDAs supported strengthening prevention capacities of youth

Theory of change:

“If national leaders and officials from both government and civil society have improved skills in preventing and managing conflict, then the institutions and processes in which they participate are likely to be more effective in sustaining peace.”

CAMBODIA

In **Cambodia**, the Peace and Development team focused on building the capacity of national stakeholders in conflict sensitivity and peaceful dialogue. The team provided capacity development support to the senior staff of the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training on the potential negative effect of certain interventions on the labour market, especially concerning the livelihood of vulnerable groups including 1 million garment workers, 85% of which are women. The team also helped strengthen the capacities of 40 parliamentary staff from across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region on the sustaining peace agenda as well as dialogue and negotiation.

THAILAND

In **Thailand**, the Peace and Development team worked with leading Buddhist and Muslim civil society activists in the southern border provinces to develop capacities to support positive changes in attitude and behaviour, and to create spaces for dialogue. Building on the 2019 experience exchange with the Philippines, the team co-facilitated a workshop for 16 activists (five women and 11 men), which mapped the latest developments, including COVID-19 and its impact on social cohesion and prospects for peace, and identified obstacles to peace and development. These activities helped to consolidate a civic empowerment platform.

The GAMBIA

The PDA in **The Gambia** provided technical support to a training of trainers programme on early warning, peacebuilding and mechanisms for effective dispute resolution, implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding. The country now has a pool of 25 trainers who have engaged in a wide range of conflict prevention activities. Trainers also served as resource persons for the nationwide consultation for the Conflict and Development Analysis, which received guidance and technical support from the Peace and Development team. Some of the trainers trained key members of the country's local governance structures, such as the Multi-Disciplinary Facilitation Teams.

REINFORCING COLLABORATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

98%

of PDAs
engaged with
civil society



CAMEROON

Four years into the conflict in the Northwest and Southwest regions, civil society in **Cameroon** has become increasingly fragmented, with limited opportunities to find a common voice on critical issues for conflict prevention and mitigation. In this context, the PDA engaged with peace champions working to advance the peace agenda at both local and national levels. The PDA helped solve the challenge of finding a shared venue where CSOs could meet by providing space at the UN Information Centre. Using the peace café concept, the PDA facilitated the meetings while ensuring that the CSOs were in charge of the agenda and outcomes. The café has enabled deeper interactions and collaboration among CSOs, who used the space to exchange expertise, draft common statements and partner on funding opportunities. The initiative will be expanded further in 2021.

GEORGIA

In **Georgia**, the Peace and Development team continued to support the Borjomi conference series, a platform for CSOs, including women, youth, experts, media and government representatives to discuss conflict transformation and peacebuilding issues, with a view to shaping long-term policy options. The dialogue among stakeholders included the non-use of force, a policy on internally displaced persons (IDPs) and dealing with the past. The conferences showed the need among, and readiness of, Georgian civil society representatives to advance the discussion on these sensitive topics. These efforts are planned to continue in 2021.

GUYANA

The PDA worked with the RC in **Guyana** to bring together 12 civil society groups, including key Afro- and Indo-Guyanese advocacy groups, religious organizations and human rights groups, for an exploratory dialogue to identify solutions to build political and social consensus focusing on improving ethnic relations and advancing systemic reforms. The four consultation meetings, which took place in 2020, opened a space for dialogue among the CSOs. The CSOs were able to provide input to the Ethnic Relations Commission on a planned national-level dialogue on the issue of race in the country. With UN support, the commission played an active role and organized a dialogue with 80 influencers, marking an important first step to address the multidimensional challenges affecting the country.

MALDIVES

With requests by civil society to address the shrinking civic space and growing polarization in the **Maldives**, the Peace and Development team and the UN Human Rights Adviser brought together civil society actors and the UNCT to identify how the UN could support the expansion of civic space. These consultations resulted in a virtual monthly CSO-UNCT platform, which has strengthened networks and enhanced solidarity among CSOs and led to the design of concrete actions to address challenges linked to shrinking civic space. In total, six virtual forums were held on hate speech, civic space, migrants' rights, the 2030 Agenda, the impact of COVID-19 and gender. A wide range of UN agencies and CSOs from across the islands attended the forums. The outcomes of the discussions informed the review and update of the CCA and provided context for the new UNSDCF.

SUPPORTING DIALOGUE AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY



70%

of PDAs
supported preventive
diplomacy, good offices,
mediation or dialogue efforts



Working with UN and non-UN partners, the Joint Programme supports initiatives to sustain peace, with a particular focus on preventive diplomacy, good offices, mediation and dialogue, integrating gender-responsive approaches and the participation of women and youth. In 2020, 70 percent of PDAs supported preventive diplomacy, good offices, mediation or dialogue efforts.

SUPPORTING DIALOGUE

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

As **Bosnia and Herzegovina** approached the 25th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Agreement at the end of 2020, many viewed the country's overall political climate as worsening significantly. Beyond local efforts to strengthen peace, rebuild trust and support constructive dialogue, it became evident that more high-level engagement was needed to help move the country and its communities toward an environment conducive to genuine reconciliation. In coordination with the RC, the UNCT and UN system partners, the PDA led the UN's work with the EU, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe to engage and advocate with key political figures on the importance of constructive messages from and actions by the country's highest-level elected leaders. By working closely with national and international stakeholders, the PDA played a direct role in a collective process that contributed to the issuance of a joint statement by the BiH Presidency in November 2020 confirming "the commitment [of the members of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina] to create a society tailored to all its peoples and citizens, especially young people whom we want to enable to stay and [build a] future in their homeland."



UKRAINE

The Peace and Development team in **Ukraine** continued to support local and national actors working on social cohesion, dialogue and peacebuilding, including through the National Platform for Dialogue on Safe and Secure Reintegration. In 2020, the PDA was invited to join the platform's project board, providing guidance and coordinating with other local partners. The Peace and Development team contributed to an analysis identifying the major strengths and weaknesses of various aspects of social cohesion and helped determine strategic entry points. The results of the analysis were published as a series of analytical reports, including 'Toward a Common Future' and 'Social Cohesion Along

the Contact Line'. These reports informed dialogue initiatives designed to help bridge the divide resulting from the conflict and prepare a sustainable foundation for the peaceful reintegration of people living in non-government-controlled areas. The outcomes of these dialogue initiatives helped to create a foundation to develop the government's strategy and policy for peaceful reintegration and provided insights into ways to improve service delivery for conflict-affected communities on both sides of the contact line.



SIERRA LEONE

While sporadic episodes of violence occurred in different parts of **Sierra Leone** throughout 2020, the PDA provided critical support to political dialogue to de-escalate tensions. The PDA assisted the RC in facilitating discussions with political parties, the Political Parties Registration Commission and the international community, and engaged with political parties to lay the groundwork for political dialogue by analysing the causes and triggers of the conflict and hearing the grievances of different parties. The dialogue created entry points to mitigate inter-party tensions. The PDA further supported the efforts of the RC and the international community to promote a dialogue among the government, CSOs and other stakeholders, as an additional measure to decrease socio-political tensions that had been exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19 mitigation measures. The government held the first such dialogue with CSOs in November 2020. While engaging with the government on possible proposals for sustaining and expanding that dialogue, the PDA consulted regularly with the CSOs and supported capacity-building on peaceful conflict resolution and non-confrontational advocacy. As a result, the CSOs became more effective in advocating for the de-escalation of political tensions and increased their calls for improved accountability of the government and opposition figures. UNDP also provided additional funding to enhance the collaboration between the government and CSOs.

SUPPORTING CONFLICT PREVENTION THROUGH PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

LIBERIA

The Peace and Development team in **Liberia** continued to forge strong working relationships with government officials. The PDA regularly convened consultations with senior government officials to exchange information, think through strategies for conflict prevention and peacebuilding, and find commonalities between their approaches and those of the opposition. Through these engagements, the team was able to contribute to the peaceful resolution of contentious national political concerns. In recognition of the PDA's contributions, the President wrote to the acting RC to request direct and regular interaction between the Ministry of State in his office and the PDA on matters of peace and development, particularly early prevention of conflicts and enhancing peacebuilding processes. A one-year cooperation arrangement will take effect in early 2021 to reinforce the existing collaboration and support provided by the Peace and Development team to the government.

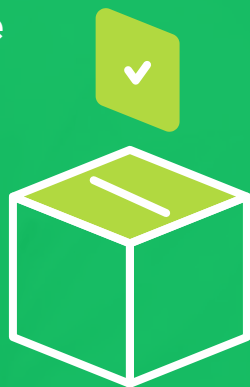
Theory of change:

“If country-level, regional, or internationally-supported initiatives in support of conflict prevention are well designed and well managed and if they are able to draw on robust analysis, comparative expertise and best practices, they are likely to yield more effective results for sustaining peace.”

SUPPORTING PEACEFUL ELECTIONS

45%

of PDAs
supported
electoral violence
prevention





COTE D'IVOIRE

As **Côte d'Ivoire** faced pre-electoral tension and polarization in 2020, the Peace and Development team supported the UN's electoral assistance and the good offices missions of the SRSG for West Africa and the Sahel. The PDA played a key role in conceptualizing and organizing a 'mediation dinner', bringing together high-level representatives of the three main political parties and the SRSG. This provided a platform for dialogue on inclusion in the electoral management body and helped to make the UN's potential role more prominent, leading the main political parties to ask the UN to facilitate a broad-based national political dialogue. In addition, the PDA supported a series of political dialogues among the government, opposition parties and civil society before and after the elections, implementing recommendations from several good offices missions of the SRSG and regional organizations. These dialogues contributed to a considerable de-escalation of the political climate ahead of the legislative elections in March 2021, the release of several political opponents arrested in the context of the 2020 presidential elections, the inclusion of additional opposition members in the electoral management body, and the participation of all major political parties in legislative elections for the first time since the 2010-2011 crisis. Additionally, in response to widespread hate speech during the electoral period, the Peace and Development team worked with the UN system and other partners to coordinate initiatives to address this issue. The team, supported by DPPA, also facilitated a programme team working on hate speech to connect with Facebook. This resulted in a Facebook training for Ivoirian women online activists, bloggers and influencers on countering hate speech.

CONGO

In the **Republic of the Congo**, the PDA engaged in a set of strategic activities ahead of the March 2021 presidential elections. In addition to leading election-related conflict risk analysis, the PDA supported the deployment of a UN standby team mediation expert, who identified entry points for UN assistance to pre-election national political consultations and recommendations for an inclusive and meaningful dialogue. The PDA supported the good offices mission of the SRSG and Head of the United Nations Office for Central Africa to the country, which sought to encourage political actors to maintain dialogue ahead of the elections. These efforts provided the PDA with a basis for further engagement in early 2021, which include establishing a platform on elections for the diplomatic community, allowing for an exchange of updates and the coordination of messaging and activities, establishing an early warning network to address risks of violence during the electoral period, and launching an initiative to promote conflict-sensitive reporting on the elections.

MALAWI

Between the May 2019 tripartite elections, when voters chose the president, members of parliament and local councillors and the June 2020 re-run of the presidential election, **Malawi** experienced political tensions and social turbulence as citizens expressed their displeasure at the conduct and outcome of the 2019 elections and awaited rulings from the courts. During this period, the PDA, the RC and UNDP worked with political parties, the Electoral Commission, the Public Affairs Committee and the Centre for Multi-Party Democracy to promote indigenous efforts for dialogue and consensus building in support of peaceful elections. The PDA's political analyses and advice were critical in informing the good offices efforts of the RC, engaging key local and regional stakeholders to encourage and often directly support discreet dialogue to reduce tensions.

BURKINA FASO

The PDA in **Burkina Faso**, together with the Political Adviser hosted in the RC's office and UNDP colleagues in the country, contributed substantively to the UN's positioning during the November presidential and parliamentary elections. The SRSG for West Africa and the Sahel visited the country several times to encourage the government to create a space for political dialogue. Working with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, the PDA supported the organization of the first all-inclusive dialogue forum for electoral actors ahead of the elections. The forum was chaired by the SRSG and provided all parties with a platform to air their grievances and fears ahead of the polling process. The dialogue fostered trust-building in the electoral process, giving all stakeholders a space to agree on ethical and peaceful campaigning and the use of legal mechanisms to address any challenges to the election results. Furthermore, the PDA supported the establishment of the UN early warning working group led by the RC and the UNDP Resident Representative. This built on the early warning and early action system for election monitoring supported by UNDP and other partners and hosted by the National Commission for Human Rights. The mechanism allowed cases of election-related irregularities and human rights violations on election day to be reported. The incidents were addressed promptly, helping to ensure a generally peaceful polling process.

BENIN

Following **Benin's** legislative elections in April 2019, tensions mounted between opposition parties and the government. Violent demonstrations by youth supporters of the opposition led to detentions, injuries and the deaths of at least four people, according to the Benin Human Rights Commission. Several opposition leaders were exiled, and former President Boni Yayi was under de facto house arrest. The PDA engaged with government officials, opposition figures and civil society leaders, provided UN

leadership with regular analytical and operational updates and offered advice to the RC in support of his efforts to advocate and encourage both the government and the opposition to engage in dialogue. The PDA also supported the good offices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for West Africa and the Sahel, facilitating meetings with national stakeholders in Benin to support dialogue.



INCREASING INCLUSION OF NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS IN PEACE EFFORTS

55%



of PDAs

made a focused effort to enhance
the participation of women
in dialogue and mediation

62%



of PDAs

made a focused effort to
enhance the participation
of youth in dialogue and
mediation



The Joint Programme supports inclusive participation of those traditionally excluded, such as minority groups, people with disabilities, young people and marginalized men and women, in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. In 2020, 55 percent of PDAs focused on enhancing the participation of women in dialogue and mediation, while 62 percent made a focused effort to enhance the participation of youth in dialogue and mediation.

Theory of change:

“If a wide variety of people (based on the principle of inclusion), of all genders and from all groups and segments of society, are able to participate in and influence policy, processes and architectures around sustaining peace, these are more likely to address the diverse needs and interests of society and thus be more effective in sustaining peace. “

PROMOTING WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION

COTE D'IVOIRE

While women’s representation in the government and elected bodies remains limited in **Côte d’Ivoire**, political will to address the issue appears to be stronger. The PDA supported the facilitation of a dialogue among women leaders of political parties as part of a good offices mission of the UN SRSG for West Africa and the Sahel and in coordination with the AU. These women leaders had not engaged in such a format in decades. The Gender Adviser to the President has now adopted the practice and format of this dialogue. The promotion of women’s participation was also broadly addressed during informal inter-agency mechanism meetings, chaired by the Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations (DPPA-DPO) Western Africa Division, at which the PDA provided briefings. These were convened to support the SRSG’s advocacy efforts to strengthen women’s participation in electoral and political processes. Nevertheless, only four of the 44 candidates in the presidential elections were women and none competed in the elections. The ongoing efforts are expected to lead to improvement in the coming years.

MAURITANIA

In **Mauritania**, the Peace and Development team engaged with a variety of actors to advocate for the endorsement of the Law on Gender and its implementation. Consultations were held with women leaders, civil society, the government’s High Commission for Human Rights and the Network of Mauritanian Women Parliamentarians (a group composed of former and current members of the government and parliament). The government adopted the draft law on 6 May 2020 and is awaiting parliamentary approval. The Network engaged with the Ministry of Women and Family Affairs to adopt a National Action Plan on UN Security Council resolution 1325. Working closely with UNDP, the UNCT and key partners of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, the Peace and Development team advised on and supported the Plan’s adoption. This is the first time that Mauritanian stakeholders, including the government and CSOs, have agreed on a significant national document aiming to tackle gender-related issues. It represents a step forward for Mauritania, where building consensus around gender issues has been challenging. The Ministry of Women and Family Affairs continued to coordinate efforts to validate the National Action Plan.

PROMOTING YOUTH PARTICIPATION

TOGO

The Peace and Development team in **Togo** has been promoting youth engagement and participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts. In 2020, the team engaged with a wide range of youth organizations on issues of peace, social cohesion and development. The team facilitated and administered an online survey as part of a study on young people's perceptions of their participation in decision-making at the local level. Informed by the survey findings, and in collaboration with UNDP, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) and DPPA, an initial concept note and a conflict analysis were developed for a youth-centred peacebuilding project, approved by the PBF in December 2020. The project, led by UNDP, aims at strengthening community decision-making structures and dialogue at the local level, integrating the participation of youth groups as an essential element for enhancing social cohesion. It also aims at supporting the programme's young beneficiaries to become catalysts for peace and social cohesion through social and civic initiatives.

VENEZUELA

In 2020, as part of the UN's 75th Anniversary initiative, the PDA in **Venezuela**, with support from DPPA, designed and facilitated three online conversations, convening 20 high-profile young Venezuelan political leaders. This dialogue sought to promote understanding among young political leaders in support of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions. The 12 women and eight men leaders from 11 political parties, representing the entire political spectrum, discussed long-term global development issues, including from a gender perspective. A fourth online conversation was held with the participation of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth to discuss the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and its relevance in the Venezuelan context. As a result, the young leaders, recognizing the importance of the group in promoting a space for mutual recognition and in positioning themselves as agents of change, agreed to consolidate this unique multi-party space for dialogue and expand the conversation looking forward over the next 25 years, in what they defined as the UN100 Youth Agenda.

"The Joint Programme helps RCs and UNCTs to navigate very complex situations with a focus on dialogue with all parties and the objective to reach common ground in crisis situations that leads to concrete improvements for the lives of the people. The situational analysis provided by the PDA is highly appreciated by all members of the UNCT."

– Peter Grohmann, UN Resident Coordinator in Venezuela

PROMOTING COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT

CARIBBEAN

Since 2019, the PDA in the **Caribbean** has been providing technical support to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago on conceptualizing and implementing a pilot project on community inclusive mediation, which focuses on developing conflict prevention and mediation capacities at the community level. In 2020, the initiative focused on three communities in Trinidad, enhancing community ownership of mediation efforts. This project contributed to the establishment of a citizen-driven, cost-effective approach for inclusive community-level mediation.

PROMOTING INCLUSION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

GUATEMALA

Throughout 2020, the PDA in **Guatemala** supported the inclusion of indigenous peoples in consultation processes with both the UNCT and state institutions. Under the UNSDCF development process, a Task Force on Indigenous Peoples was set up, coordinated by the RCO through the PDA. The task force seeks to facilitate high-level, continuous and systematic dialogue between indigenous peoples' authorities, and the RC and UNCT. This led to meetings that brought the stakeholders together and where the indigenous peoples' authorities could express their concerns about the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on indigenous peoples and share their proposal to support the resilience of the local economy with the UNCT. This proposal helped inform the UN's Socio-Economic Response Plan and the CCA update. Importantly, these meetings created a space for the indigenous peoples' authorities to interact with the Health Cluster, a platform gathering specialized UN agencies, state institutions and CSOs, and ultimately resulting in an informal dialogue between the indigenous peoples' authorities and the Ministry of Health addressing care for indigenous communities during the pandemic.

COUNTERING HATE SPEECH

Hate speech has become prevalent in a variety of contexts and could undermine social cohesion and peace. Addressing hate speech is crucial to prevent conflict, atrocity crimes and violent extremism and to promote peaceful, inclusive and just societies. In 2020, 25 PDAs monitored hate speech, both to address its drivers and to facilitate effective responses to its impact on societies.



of PDAs addressed
hate speech

CAMEROON

During the 2018 presidential elections, **Cameroon** experienced a spike in hate speech. In 2019, the UNCT established a task force to develop a strategy for an integrated UN response. In January 2020, the PDA coordinated a visit by the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide (OSAPG) team, ensuring productive exchanges with counterparts and CSOs to better understand the context. The PDA also supported the task force in designing and drafting the Action Plan on Hate Speech. Following the plan's adoption in May 2020, the PDA worked with OSAPG to support monitoring of hate speech on social media. With OSAPG's support, the UNCT now has a roadmap to foster an integrated analysis of the phenomenon. A dedicated software will be used in 2021, paving the way for more targeted response to triggers of violence in Cameroon.

ETHIOPIA

As part of broader conflict prevention efforts, the Peace and Development team in **Ethiopia** drafted a strategy and action plan on countering hate speech for the country. In close collaboration with OHCHR, the team hosted consultations with civil society and media organizations, and collaborated with Facebook, the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa and OSAPG to ensure that the UN strategy reflected best practices. The UNCT endorsed the final draft of the strategy and action plan in November 2020. The team facilitated implementation of the strategy in coordination with OHCHR through the UN-CSO Peacebuilding working group and the work stream on conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

SRI LANKA

While anti-Muslim riots in 2018 and 2019 highlighted frictions between majority and minority communities in **Sri Lanka**, the large-scale suicide bombings in April 2019 put the issue of community relations in the spotlight. Facebook's analysis suggested that social media narratives both cause and exacerbate communal tensions in Sri Lanka. To contribute to the prevention agenda in Sri Lanka, during 2020 the Peace and Development team, supported by UN headquarters and development partners, initiated a hate speech monitoring programme with a national CSO partner. This experimental effort yielded an important partnership and a robust data set that quantifies and describes the online

hate speech narratives in Sri Lanka. This monitoring initiative was further strengthened through UNDP Crisis Bureau and Country Office engagement in developing a risk dashboard and through the UNDP-led community risk assessments conducted in collaboration with an independent research think tank. The exercise was paired with a mapping of UN programming on hate speech in the Asia-Pacific region. The comparative experiences illustrated in this mapping helped kick-start a regional programme under the general direction of the DCO Bangkok office and with support from the Joint Programme's Regional Programme Specialist.



PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

In 2020, 17 PDAs in different contexts worked closely with national stakeholders, as well as with UN and non-UN partners, to address violent extremism, looking beyond strict security concerns to tackle deep-rooted causes and drivers, including development-related ones.

36%



of PDAs supported prevention of violent extremism

TAJIKISTAN

The Government of **Tajikistan** has identified radicalization and violent extremism as important security risks. In support of the government's prevention efforts, the PDA led the development of a joint UN peacebuilding initiative that focuses on building young people's resilience to extremist narratives, spearheading innovative approaches to the prevention of violent extremism (PVE). UNDP, the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and UN Women in Tajikistan received funding from the PBF for the joint project, which will benefit at least 3,500 young people and build the capacities of authorities to implement preventive policies in the country. The PDA also provided additional trainings and facilitated workshops for the UN team on PVE programming.

TOGO

The Peace and Development team in **Togo** supported UNDP to work with the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection to establish local PVE committees in all prefectures of the central region, which is considered one of the most at-risk regions and the prefectures of Keran and Assoli in the Kara Region. The team facilitated a sensitization exercise, gathering 1,146 members of PVE committees, composed primarily of religious groups, community leaders, civil society, youth, women and local authorities. Participants deepened their understanding of the impact of violent extremism on diverse groups and ways to support PVE efforts at the local level. Establishing and developing the capacity of local PVE committees also served as a foundation for the design of an early warning mechanism, which can address local challenges.



**3.
SUPPORTING
THE UN SYSTEM
TO LEVERAGE
ENTRY POINTS
FOR CONFLICT
PREVENTION**

SUPPORTING THE UN SYSTEM TO LEVERAGE ENTRY POINTS FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION

PDA support UNCTs and RCs to collectively identify entry points for conflict prevention and offer strategic advice on implementing conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives with national counterparts. The role of PDAs is to ensure that UNCTs have conflict-sensitive strategies and programmes. Working with a broad range of UN entities, the form of this engagement depends on the deployment context, ranging from providing political and conflict analysis, to mainstreaming conflict sensitivity into programming and providing training to UNCT staff and national partners. The analysis and technical advice that PDAs provide contributes to joint analysis and planning processes, such as the CCAs, UNSDCF and agency Country Programme Documents where required. PDAs support the UN system in connecting analysis to innovative conflict prevention strategies and programmes that contribute to strengthening national prevention capacities. These efforts have led to the development of at-scale interventions in many countries and, in some cases, to initiatives involving several UNCT members in joint programming on conflict prevention, in consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders.





INFORMING UN ENGAGEMENTS THROUGH HIGH- QUALITY ANALYSIS

79%

of PDAs
supported a peace
and conflict analysis
in the last three years



78%

of those supported
strengthening the
gender sensitivity
of the analysis



Under the overall leadership and direction of the RCs, PDAs convene, facilitate and lead conflict analysis processes in conjunction with the UNCT, ensuring consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders. PDAs generate robust and gender-sensitive conflict analysis and engage proactively in planning and peacebuilding processes to influence UN strategy and programme development at the country level. They also work to ensure consistent and mutually reinforcing approaches by UN entities.

ETHIOPIA

Consulting regularly with DPPA, the Peace and Development team in **Ethiopia** led several rounds of risk assessments, foresight and preparedness planning, in anticipation of the election. It also assessed the political impacts of election delays. In line with the UN's prevention strategy, planning and scenario-building exercises were carried out in the aftermath of the Sidama referendum in late 2019. These were held after it was announced that the August 2020 general elections would be postponed, in the months preceding the Tigray conflict in November 2020 and as it developed. The process was designed to enhance common understanding of risks among UN system entities at the country, regional and headquarters levels, informing the preparedness plans and providing information to support agencies in contingency planning.

Theory of change:

“If ‘in-house’ analytical capacities are placed more systematically at the disposal of UN Country Teams and the UN leadership, UN entities are incentivized to engage in joint analysis and planning processes, and staff are supported in developing skills in sustaining peace, then the UN and its partners will be better placed to ensure that the analysis effectively informs UN strategy and programming in support of national efforts on sustaining peace and advancing development.”

KYRGYZSTAN

Following allegations of fraud in the 4 October 2020 parliamentary elections in **Kyrgyzstan**, popular protests led to the annulment of election results, the President's resignation, reappointment of the government, constitutional reform and new presidential and parliamentary elections. The PDA provided in-depth analytical and advisory support to the UNCT and other UN entities on the ongoing political crisis and supported the design of scenario and contingency planning. Based on the analysis, the PDA also provided technical advice to ensure a conflict sensitive approach and helped to strengthen the impact of UN programming to address the ramifications of the political crisis.

ERITREA

When conflict erupted in Ethiopia's Tigray region in early November 2020, including rocket attacks on Eritrea's capital, the PDA in **Eritrea** led the analysis of the evolving situation and provided the RC and UNCT with regular scenario-based analysis. The PDA was part of several regional meetings on the issue and worked with United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to develop the country's preparedness plan, which examined a range of potential implications, including refugee flows and other humanitarian consequences of the crisis.

MONITORING AND ANALYSING CONFLICT RISKS FOR EARLY WARNING AND ACTION



77%

of PDAs
supported early warning
and action mechanisms



PDA support developing and strengthening mechanisms to identify, monitor and analyse conflict risks to enable timely actions to prevent escalation and transform conflict. Depending on each country's characteristics, the mandate and specific objectives, PDAs provide support in developing early warning and action systems. Some PDAs created mechanisms involving local committees, women's or youth groups to provide input on conflict risks for early warning. Others leveraged digital technologies to identify and analyse trends on social media, including monitoring hate speech, misinformation and social protest movements. In 2020, 77 percent of PDAs reported developing, strengthening or sustaining national or UN early warning and action mechanisms, a 15 percent increase from 2019.

TUNISIA

Amid expectations of widespread protests around the 10th anniversary of the revolution, the Peace and Development team in **Tunisia** set up a UNCT-wide early warning group to monitor violent incidents and make recommendations to UN leadership, both at country and headquarters levels, on assessing and addressing risks. The team and UNDP's Crisis Bureau collaborated to create a data dashboard documenting and visualizing the geographic prevalence of popular protests. In addition, a partnership was formalized with a local think tank to conduct joint monitoring, field visits and analysis of potential hotspots. A system of regional focal points ("regional antennas") was established, covering the majority of the governorates, to track violent incidents and protests, vet information and improve the accuracy of reports. These efforts contributed to timely UN action for preventive action. For example, on 17 December 2020, the anniversary of the revolution, the UNCT issued a statement reiterating the commitment of the UN to support the country on the path to realize a peaceful, prosperous, equitable and inclusive society. This initiative was appreciated by national counterparts, including by the Office of the President of the Republic.

SOUTH CAUCASUS

During the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, the Peace and Development team in **Armenia** and **Azerbaijan** used early warning and contingency planning for evidence-based decision-making. The team's daily reporting, forecasts and scenario planning helped to inform UN positioning in a rapidly changing environment and contributed to the planning and coordination of UN humanitarian responses to the crises. In both countries, the team continued to work with civil society, including women and youth, to explore potential opportunities for advancing the peacebuilding agenda. In **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan** and **Georgia**, the Peace and Development team also initiated monitoring, data collection and analysis of information on public protests. The analysis, produced with a tool that enables data visualization, was presented to the respective UNCTs. It included potential human rights issues raised by the public, providing a basis for discussions with UN agencies to inform their programming with a view to address socio-economic grievances.

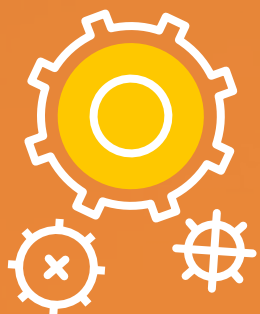
THAILAND

With the overall aim of strengthening evidence-based advocacy and interventions, the Peace and Development team in **Thailand** initiated big data analysis to track social media narratives driving political developments to better understand online hate speech and incitement. The regular analytical work produced by the team around pro-democracy protests and counter-protests underpinned an integrated monitoring and advocacy by the UNCT. The team also collaborated with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to track possible negative sentiments online as well as stigmatization of migrants in the context of localized COVID-19 outbreaks. This contributed to coordinated efforts to promote communication on embracing diversity and enabled the World Health Organization (WHO) to monitor COVID-19 vaccine acceptance to better inform its communication strategies.

"The Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme is the perfect instrument to support RCs and UNCTs in connecting the dots of the fundamental conflict prevention agenda. It helps us understand better the complex evolving context and shape timely response and action. In my view, the return on investment in the programme is enormous as it helps ensure a more efficient UN system in preventing escalation of conflicts and crisis."

–Arnaud Peral, UN Resident Coordinator in Tunisia

SUPPORTING THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK AND THE COMMON COUNTRY ANALYSIS PROCESSES



40

PDAs

supported the Common
Country Analysis



One of the key areas of PDAs' work is to contribute to the drafting and updating of the CCA, which forms the basis for the development of the UNSDCF. PDAs focus on closer, cross-pillar work between peace and security and development, including leading a joint conflict analysis and identifying emerging and existing multi-dimensional risks that impact development and peace. In 2020, 100% of PDAs in countries where a CCA was being developed or updated supported the process.

JORDAN

The PDA in **Jordan** involved a wide range of stakeholders in the CCA process and led a workshop with national partners to assess the country's progress against the SDG targets. The PDA, together with the UN Senior Human Rights Adviser, also conducted an analysis to identify population groups facing forms of marginalization. Simultaneously, the PDA provided training for CSOs and the ministries on operationalizing the commitment to leaving no one behind. These exercises facilitated a cross-cutting Leave No One Behind (LNOB) analysis to identify key policy and institutional drivers of marginalization. This analysis informed both the CCA and other key UN strategies, such as the UN Socio-Economic Response Plan to COVID-19.

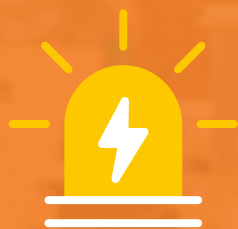
MADAGASCAR

The PDA in **Madagascar** supported the conceptualization of the UNSDCF, including the development of the CCA. As the facilitator and lead expert on peace and governance, the PDA supported a series of multi-stakeholder virtual consultations on challenges and solutions to attain the goals established by the 2030 Agenda. Over 700 participants representing the Government of Madagascar, civil society, the international community and the UN agencies attended the consultations. Based on the CCA and the outcome of the virtual consultations, the PDA supported the UNCT to formulate the theory of change and a results framework for the UNSDCF.

ALGERIA

In 2020, the PDA in **Algeria** led the progress analysis of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and facilitated the LNOB analysis, which identified causes of vulnerability, inequality and discrimination, as well as the population groups most at risk. The PDA also supported a multidimensional risk analysis based on a series of consultations with representatives of civil society, academia, the private sector, trade unions and employer organizations, which helped to develop a common understanding of the challenges facing Algeria. The consultations also contributed to establishing a network of civil society partners, which the PDA continues to support. The PDA also participated in drafting the CCA to ensure its prevention orientation.

MAINSTREAMING CONFLICT SENSITIVITY



100%

of PDAs
supported conflict sensitivity
in UN programming





PDA's play a key role in ensuring that the UN's engagement is informed by high quality analysis and is conflict sensitive. In 2020, all the PDA's supported UNCT or its members on conflict sensitivity.

MAURITANIA

The Peace and Development team in **Mauritania** trained more than 30 World Food Programme (WFP) staff on context-sensitive approaches and programming, which helped them implement programmes in a context where the social fabric is complex and interactions with national stakeholders require a high level of political sensitivity. The post-training follow-up showed that staff integrated conflict sensitivity in their daily work and that the programmes were increasingly context sensitive. The PDA also facilitated WFP's strategic planning session, which enabled the programme to plan its activities in a conflict-sensitive manner, relying on an integrated context analysis. Moreover, WFP in Mauritania is implementing with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) the first joint PBF project on pastoral conflict prevention. The staff members who attended the training play a key role in project implementation.

MOLDOVA

The Peace and Development team in **Moldova** conducted an online training on conflict analysis and conflict sensitivity for 20 staff members from various UN agencies, where the participants applied the theoretical foundations into practical exercises. The team also continued to advise the UNCT on conflict-sensitive programming related to its ongoing confidence-building engagement across the Nistru River, in support of the OSCE-led 5+2 Transnistria Settlement Process. This initiative seeks to facilitate a comprehensive and lasting political settlement of all aspects of the Transnistrian conflict, strengthening the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders, with a special status for Transnistria.

Theory of change:

“If UN Country Teams and their staff are supported to become more knowledgeable and skilled in conflict prevention and sustaining peace, conflict-sensitive approaches to programming will become more common, dedicated conflict prevention programming will become more sophisticated, and the collective efforts of the UNCT towards outcomes one and two will be more likely to yield results.”

SUPPORTING UN PROGRAMMING



94%

of PDAs
supported UN programming
for conflict prevention



Where PDAs are deployed, they are considered critical assets to UNCTs, supporting them in designing, implementing and reviewing peacebuilding and conflict prevention programming. The advisory support that the PDAs provide is based on a context analysis and informs the development of UN initiatives that directly or indirectly address the root causes identified and the underlying drivers of conflict. In 2020, 94 percent of PDAs supported UNCT conflict prevention programmes, including PBF-funded projects. In 2020, 42 of the 43 PDAs deployed in countries with ongoing PBF engagement supported various PBF processes, including deliberations about possible funding, eligibility requests and approval, design, implementation and quality assurance of programmes and projects.

SUDAN

With the passage of UN Security Council resolution 2524, the PDA in **Sudan** was seconded to the planning team and then to the start-up team for the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS). In late 2020, the PDA, in close collaboration with UNDP, established a new Multi-Partner Trust Fund window for peacebuilding and stabilization. With technical input from UNDP, the PDA drafted the Sudan Peacemaking, Peacebuilding and Stabilization Programme, the programmatic framework for the window. The programme established a framework for UNITAMS and the UNCT to jointly analyse, coordinate and plan the mission's shared strategic priorities, ensuring a coherent approach supporting the new political and peacebuilding mandate in Sudan throughout the transition period. As the PBF focal point, the Peace and Development team organized a series of consultations in early 2020 on the situation in East Sudan, an area with significant inter-community violence but where the UNCT had not yet had a notable presence. The team also led efforts with the National Peace Commission and the Office of the Prime Minister to develop a new PBF programme to support the peace process after the Juba Peace Agreement was signed in October 2020. In the context of the drawdown of the AU-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), the team worked with UNAMID to implement the Secretary-General's planning directive on transitions, moving to oversee the completion of all peacebuilding programmes.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The PDA in **Papua New Guinea** (PNG) provided technical advice on peacebuilding, which contributed to strategies for conflict prevention and sustaining peace. Under the leadership of the RC and in regular coordination with DPPA and UN entities, the PDA drafted, coordinated and facilitated the submission of the re-eligibility request to the PBF. Based on PNG's peacebuilding strategies, the country was declared eligible for the next five years, with US\$5 million in funding to support the Highlands Joint Programme and the Sustaining Peace in Bougainville project. The PDA supported updating the conflict analyses for the Highlands Region and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and the preparation and submission of the Highlands Joint Programme, which will be implemented by UNDP, IOM, UN Women and UNFPA. The national and provincial governments strongly support the programme. The Governor of Hela Province has contributed US\$3 million to the Programme, which highlights national ownership.

SRI LANKA

In **Sri Lanka**, the Peace and Development team successfully engaged in coordination and quality assurance in support of the PBF-funded Peacebuilding Priority Plan 2016–2020, which was succeeded by the Joint Programme for Peace 2019–2022. The plan and the programme were established to support national efforts towards peacebuilding, reconciliation and dealing with the past, including establishing and operationalizing the Office for Reparations and the Office on Missing Persons, as well as a wide range of peace initiatives. In 2020, the Joint Programme for Peace expanded its partnership, with the US and Canada joining the United Kingdom and Australia. The programme's support for dealing with the past led to a historic national achievement: in December 2020, the Office on Missing Persons published the verified names of 9,000 missing civilians and over 3,000 cases of missing military personnel, all associated with internal conflict since the 1980s. This was a significant development and has created space for continued work, which would have been inconceivable in the past.

HONDURAS

The PDA in **Honduras** successfully supported the country's eligibility to receive PBF funds, while contributing substantially to UNCT discussions and programming processes. The PDA liaised with the DPPA–DPO Americas Division and Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) for the design and approval of a package of PBF projects totalling US\$7 million. These PBF projects, involving eight UN agencies, focus on transparency in Honduran institutions, gender, youth and cross-border issues. The PDA also provided technical support for continued implementation of two PBF projects on dialogue and conflict prevention and on addressing migration-related challenges in the countries of northern Central America. The PDA's conflict analysis informed the development of these projects and underpinned the efforts to strengthen conflict prevention capacities in Honduras.



© UNDP Honduras

SEED FUNDING FOR INNOVATIVE PREVENTION INITIATIVES

The Joint Programme provides PDAs with seed funding to support catalytic conflict prevention efforts. These initiatives enable PDAs to create entry points and facilitate analytical exercises and dialogue processes. The funding can generate entry points for larger-scale

programmatic interventions or other longer-term engagements that the UNCT members will then carry forward. The Joint Programme approved 11 initiatives in 2020.

PDA-LED 2020 INITIATIVES BENEFITTING FROM SEED FUNDING

Congo

Conflict analysis for community violence reduction in Pool region

Ecuador

DreamLAB in Tulcán for youth and local prevention capacity development

Kenya

Collaborative analysis for enhancing UNCT's understanding of conflict dynamics

Kyrgyzstan

Needs assessment for cross-border cooperation in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan

Lesotho

Support for conflict prevention, party democracy and consensus building

Maldives

"Aadhakaadha" - historical accounts for cohesion and conflict prevention

South Caucasus

Social media monitoring and youth capacity development

Sri Lanka

Conflict analysis to inform UN system priorities

Thailand

Youth engagement, insider mediation and the use of big data for tracking social media

Tunisia

Climate-related security risks analysis for policy and programming

Venezuela

Empowerment and capacity development of youth and women for sustaining peace



OPERATIONALIZING THE HUMANITARIAN- DEVELOPMENT- PEACE NEXUS



77%

of PDAs
supported strengthening
the humanitarian-
development-peace nexus



Crises are complex and multi-dimensional, caused by a mix of root causes such as increasing economic inequality, marginalization, subregional tensions, climate change, natural hazards, poor governance, rapid urbanization and health crises. A coordinated and coherent response around the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus is critical to address such root causes in support of both development and conflict prevention. In 2020, 77 percent of PDAs reported working on strengthening the HDP nexus in different contexts.

MYANMAR

The Peace and Development team in **Myanmar** responded to the Rohingya crisis by supporting the HDP nexus through the launch of a Durable Solutions Initiative involving the UNCT, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Recovery and Resettlement and various national CSOs and non-governmental organizations. Modelled on an initiative implemented in Ethiopia, Myanmar's initiative was designed to support the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return and resettlement of IDPs in multiple conflict-affected areas of the country and involved opening two RCO field offices, overseen by the Peace and Development team. The team also led a joint UN-government effort to assess the needs of IDPs and host communities. As all the IDP return and resettlement processes are expected to be implemented in conflict-affected areas, the PDA provided an analytical overview of the armed conflict and peace processes dynamics, with a view to assessing the intended results and potential unintended consequences of UN interventions on conflict actors and conflict-affected communities.

GUATEMALA

The PDA in **Guatemala** contributed to the conceptualization and adoption of the HDP nexus approach in the work of the UNCT and in the 2020-2025 UNSDCF. The PDA drafted the framework's sections on the triple nexus and designed a series of three webinars on that topic, which were presented to the UNCT, technical staff from UN agencies and public officials from national partners. The webinars focused on the concept, application, experiences and climate-related security risks to enhance participants' understanding of the nexus.

HUMAN RIGHTS



70%

of PDAs reported including human rights considerations in conflict analyses in the last three years

IN 27 COUNTRIES where a Human Rights Adviser is deployed

100%

of the PDAs worked closely with the Adviser



As PDAs work across the UN's peace and security and development pillars, they are also critically enhancing collaboration with the human rights pillar, seeking to prevent violent conflict that is rooted in injustice, human rights violations and disenfranchisement, and to sustain peace. 70 percent of PDAs included human rights considerations in conflict analyses between 2018 and 2020. In 2020, the PDAs and Human Rights Advisers worked together closely in the 27 countries where both are present.

SIERRA LEONE

During the escalation of the political conflict in **Sierra Leone** in 2020, the PDA coordinated with OHCHR and DPPA on human rights issues and discussed strategies for OHCHR's engagement and support. As a result of this joint action, which included the SRSG for West Africa and the Sahel and other international partners, critical human rights issues were raised and addressed with national partners. The PDA led the planning and development phase of the UNCT report to the Human Rights Council for the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review of the country's performance in protecting human rights. The PDA also coordinated with development partners, the National Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Defender networks on advocacy efforts seeking to abolish the criminal libel law and death penalty and the decriminalization of minor offences. The parliament did repeal the criminal libel law in November 2020, marking a historic achievement in support of freedom of speech. Journalists and opposition members who had been detained under the law were released by the courts, reducing political tensions significantly.



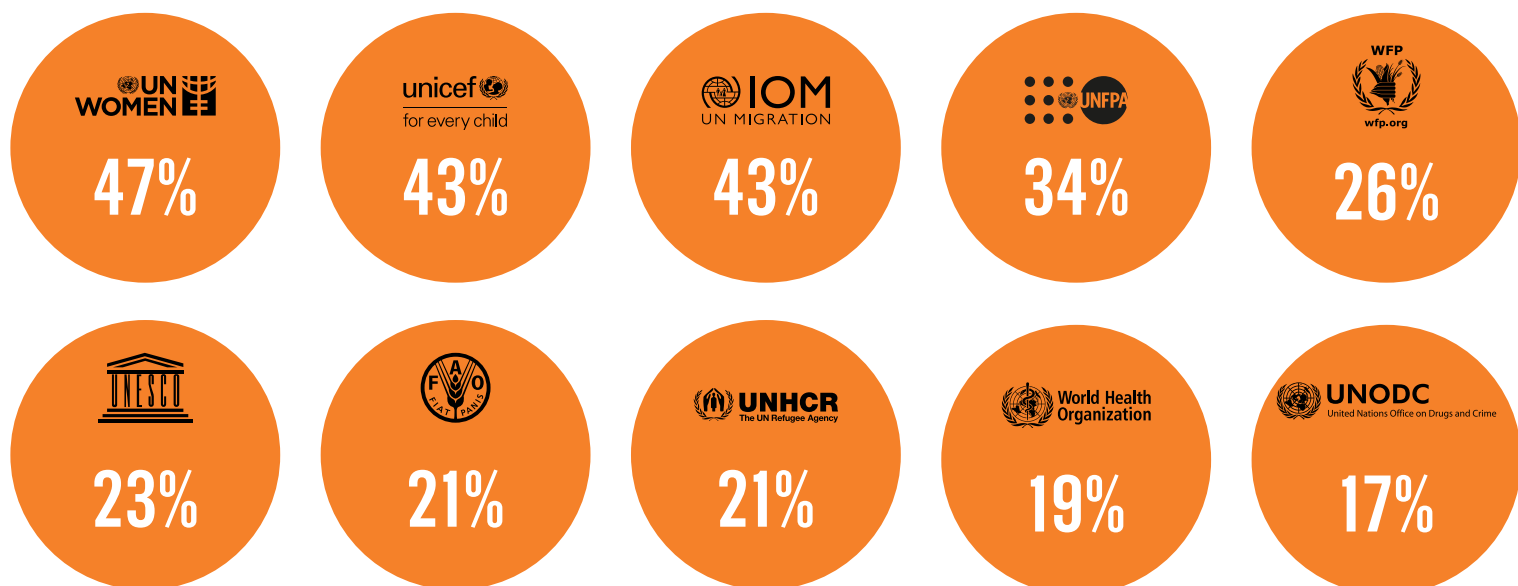
ENCOURAGING COLLABORATION AMONG UN AGENCIES

PDA's promote collaboration with UN entities to promote a cross-pillar approach to conflict prevention and sustaining peace. At the country level, this includes bringing together stakeholders from DPPA and UNDP as well as UNICEF, UN Women and others, contributing to overall UN system coherence on

conflict prevention. In addition to the close working relationship with DPPA and UNDP, 47 percent of PDAs supported UN Women, 43 percent supported UNICEF and 43 percent supported IOM. The Joint Programme also collaborates with multiple UN agencies at the global level.

Top 10 UN entities supported in 2020

% of PDAs supporting



INTEGRATED ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENTS OF CLIMATE-RELATED SECURITY RISKS

There is an emerging global consensus that climate change can increase stress on economic, social and political systems. It is a risk multiplier, that can aggravate already fragile situations and increase social tensions with implications for peace, stability and security. A group of PDAs, who participated in the Cohort IV: Climate-related security risks and sustaining peace in 2019 organized in partnership with the UNDP's Oslo Governance Centre and the Folke Bernadotte Academy on the links between climate risks and conflict prevention, developed issue briefs in 2020. In addition, a number of PDAs have initiated work in their respective contexts to address this issue. The Peace and Development team in **the Pacific**, for example, contributed to building a successful partnership to bring much-needed support and visibility for the climate security agenda. In support of the Boe Declaration on

Regional Security, a sub-regional PBF project on climate security was launched in 2020 in partnership with the Governments of Kiribati, Tuvalu and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. As a catalytic investment to highlight analysis and action addressing climate-related security risks in the Pacific, the project is pioneering an approach to climate security based on evidence-based research, inclusive and consultative national processes and joint regional and national advocacy to highlight Pacific nations' priorities. In 2020, the Peace and Development team supported the coordination and technical review of the project and facilitated its launch by the presidents of the three countries. The project offered an important avenue to elevate the climate action and peacebuilding priorities of the Pacific countries.



REGIONAL PROGRAMME SPECIALISTS

In 2020, the Joint Programme deployed a total of six Regional Programme Specialists in Addis Ababa, Amman, Bangkok, Dakar, Istanbul and Panama, to provide expanded and back-stopping support to PDAs and UNCTs on conflict analysis, conflict-sensitive programming and strengthening local capacities for conflict prevention. The specialists also provide surge expertise or short-term technical support to RCs in contexts where there are no PDAs, when urgent needs arise or when there is a gap between PDA deployments.

In 2020, the Regional Programme Specialists:

- Provided regional analysis and updates, as well as strategic advice, for UN leadership;
- Provided technical backstopping to PDAs, including on UNSDCF and CCA;
- Extended technical advisory services to UNCTs in countries without a PDA to mainstream conflict prevention; and conflict sensitivity in their work;
- Supported UNCTs in developing early warning systems, such as the Crisis Risk Dashboard;
- Provided technical support on subregional and cross-border programming; and,
- Established and facilitated opportunities for PDA peer-learning and regional collaboration.



Panama

PANAMA

Latin America and the Caribbean

The Regional Programme Specialist based in **Panama** supported inter-agency development of a prevention action plan to strengthen UN system cross-pillar collaboration in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. The regional action plan includes strengthening the UNCT's analytical capacities, leveraging UN system mechanisms for cross-pillar and subregional collaboration, and strengthening engagement with traditional and non-traditional stakeholders. The specialist also supported the Climate Security Mechanism at the UN to identify and address climate security risks, including initiating the subregional Climate Security Mechanism projects for the northern Central American and Andean countries.



Dakar

DAKAR

Africa

The Regional Programme Specialist based in **Dakar** facilitated the exchange of experiences on election-related issues among countries in Western and Central Africa. In addition, the specialist was deployed temporarily to Niger to assist the RC and the UNDP Resident Representative during the presidential elections. The specialist led the ongoing Africa Development Bank-UN Fragility and Resilience Assessment of the Mano River Union countries and contributed to the regional conflict prevention framework for West Africa in the Mali+5 project and Chad.



Istanbul

Amman

Addis Ababa

Bangkok

ADDIS ABABA

Africa

Within the framework of the Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy for the Horn of Africa, the Regional Programme Specialist based in **Addis Ababa** established a UNDP internal coordination mechanism to ensure that the strategy was implemented coherently and supported UNDP's lead role on inclusive and responsive governance. Acting under the auspices of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa, the specialist also brought together the UN in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia to initiate the development of an integrated cross-border conflict prevention programme in the Mendera Triangle between the three countries.

AMMAN

Arab States

In the immediate aftermath of the 4 August 2020 explosion at the Beirut port, the Regional Programme Specialist based in **Amman** was deployed to Lebanon to assist the UN's immediate and medium-term response under the UN Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework. The specialist co-led a series of assessments that prioritized a people-centred recovery approach, including a conflict analysis. With the RC's guidance, the specialist initiated an immediate area-based recovery response in the Quarantina area, the geographic location most impacted by the blast and home to the most vulnerable.

ISTANBUL

Europe and Central Asia

The Regional Programme Specialist based in **Istanbul** supported efforts to improve subregional analysis and cross-border programming at the subregional level in the Western Balkans, South Caucasus and Central Asia. Working with UNDP and DCO, the specialist also co-led a Regional RRA in the Fergana Valley and Afghan border areas, together with the World Bank and the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. This led to recommendations for better programming and partnerships in these areas.

BANGKOK

Asia Pacific

The Regional Programme Specialist based in **Bangkok** led the annual retreat for PDAs in the region, which brought together senior leadership from DPPA, UNDP, DCO and 80 personnel from across the UN system, to exchange experiences and learn about the role of PDAs, UN reforms, climate security and hate speech. The specialist was also instrumental in organizing UNDP's Prevention in Action Dialogue for Asia-Pacific which highlighted the context specificities of conflict prevention and peacebuilding and UNDP's unique experiences in the region, and informed UNDP's global prevention offer.

ENGAGEMENT WITH PARTNERS FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION

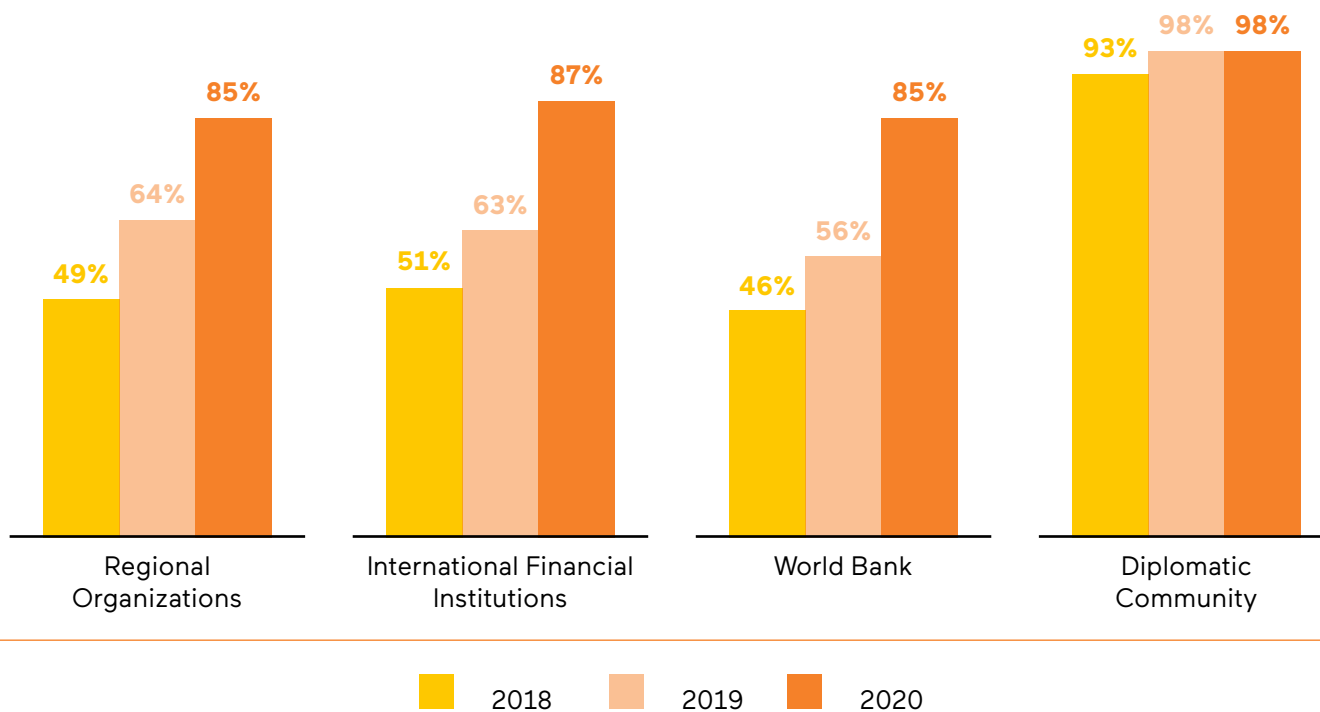


The Joint Programme assists partners and the broader multilateral system in making conflict prevention efforts more effective, coherent and complementary. PDAs support RCs to convene regional organizations, IFIs, diplomatic delegations and civil society and engage them in exploring better joint approaches to conflict prevention. In this respect, the Joint Programme’s approach is based on the theory-of-change hypothesis that:

Theory of change:

If the Joint Programme – through partnerships, knowledge generation, experience sharing and the development of a community of practice on conflict prevention and sustaining peace – enables UNDP, DPPA and the broader UN system to continue to engage proactively in experience-based policy formulation and partnerships, then UN and wider international engagement and support in this area will be further refined and advanced.

PDAs engaged with:



REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

PDA worked closely with a broad range of **regional and sub-regional organizations** in their respective contexts, including the AU, the Caribbean Community, ECOWAS, the League of Arab States, OSCE and the Southern African Development Community, contributing to the goal of strengthening partnerships for maintaining international peace and security and promoting sustainable development. PDAs supported joint missions and assessments, particularly around elections, contributed to the design and implementation of the organizations' regional strategies, facilitated spaces for dialogue and exchange on specific issues, and sustained more informal information-sharing and collaboration mechanisms.

COMOROS

Since 2018, **Comoros** has faced a post-electoral political crisis triggered by a controversial national dialogue, as well as a referendum in July 2018 and a presidential election in March 2019, with the opposition parties boycotting both. Given a political situation marked by tensions among political actors in a context aggravated by COVID-19, the PDA supported the good offices and preventive diplomacy efforts of the AU. To this end, the PDA initiated consultations between the AU Representative for Comoros and the RC to identify opportunities to support Comoros in its efforts to initiate political dialogue and consensus building. The UN continues to consult with the AU on how to support an easing of tensions and an inclusive dialogue.



INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

PDA's worked in partnership with IFIs, including the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. In 2020, 89 percent of PDA's engaged with IFIs, a significant increase over previous years. The collaboration with IFIs focuses on information exchange and, in some contexts, extends to joint analytical, planning and programming efforts. 85 percent of PDA's engaged with the World Bank, including on operationalizing the Pathways for Peace approach in Chad, Tajikistan and Tunisia; joint analyses such as the Risk and Resilience Assessments (RRA) in Chad, Madagascar, Solomon Islands and Tajikistan; and coordinating COVID-19 responses.

KENYA

In **Kenya**, the UN, through the Peace and Development team and the World Bank, launched a collaboration around joint risk monitoring and shared analysis for the North and North Eastern regions, which are historically prone to conflict, vulnerable to instability and strongly affected by regional and cross-border dynamics. The government and development partners have also increased their investments in past years, including through the World Bank's North and North Eastern Development Initiative. In 2020, the UN and the World Bank, in cooperation with the International Crisis Group and regional government partners (represented by the Frontier Counties Development Council) came together to develop the organizations' shared understanding of subnational, national and regional challenges and opportunities. They jointly produce monthly risk analysis notes, ad hoc snapshots and policy briefings. Going forward, the collaboration enables joint planning of conflict-sensitive activities and implementation of a shared human rights-based prevention agenda, in recognition of LNOB and other core UN principles.

CHAD

Given **Chad's** key role in contributing to the stability of the Central African region, collaborating with the World Bank was a UN priority to align the conflict prevention approach. Operationalizing the Pathways for Peace report, the Peace and Development team in Chad collaborated with the World Bank on three related initiatives. First, the PDA facilitated a cross-fertilization exercise between the UN's CCA with the World Bank's RRA. The team also led a joint UN-World Bank political economy analysis of Chad with support from the PBF's Humanitarian, Development, Peacebuilding and Partnership Facility. This collaboration contributed further to the alignment of the CCA and RRA around key conflict prevention and peacebuilding challenges. Finally, the team also provided advice and support on the strategic approach of the World Bank's Prevention and Resilience Allocation for Chad, an additional investment of US\$320 million to address fragility and resilience in the country.

TAJIKISTAN

Building on the Pathways for Peace joint UN and World Bank study, the PDA in **Tajikistan** continued to work closely with the World Bank. The PDA was instrumental in launching the Regional Risk and Resilience Assessment for Fergana Valley and the Afghan border, providing analytical and substantive support to the initiative, which was co-led by UNDP's Istanbul Regional Hub and the Regional Programme Specialist for Europe and Central Asia. In a joint effort by the UN, the World Bank and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the UK, the PDA served as a member of the core team for the Regional RRA, supporting the process of designing and reaching the agreement with partners on key parameters of the initiative. These efforts are a good example of operationalizing Pathways for Peace in support of sustaining peace and strengthened resilience.

DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY

Strong collaboration between the UN and the diplomatic community present in a country is critical to ensuring coordinated support to national stakeholders. In 2020, PDAs reported that they were collaborating well with the diplomatic community, including Joint Programme partners. While entry points for collaboration between the UN and the broader international community depend on the country context, they are often structured around existing coordination and engagement platforms where the PDAs play a critical role in sharing analysis and supporting technical consultations around peacebuilding programmes. Operating within the functions of the PDA role and in support of UN efforts, ad hoc or more informal exchanges also take place regularly as PDAs facilitate information-sharing and a more cohesive engagement of the international community in a country.

LIBERIA

The Peace and Development team in **Liberia** facilitated a high-level meeting between the President and development partners. With the support of the team, the RC continued to convene and facilitate informal weekly ambassadorial-level consultations, where a wide variety of issues on politics, peace consolidation, development and stability are discussed. The partnership led to the development of common analyses and joint messaging, including on matters affecting national peace and security. The informal consultations also served as a forum to discuss the implementation strategy for Liberia's COVID-19 National Response Plan, contributing to the country's relative success in containing the spread of the virus.





4. STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS, FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND LEARNING

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS, FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND LEARNING

At the global level, the Joint Programme encourages and facilitates information-sharing and collaboration among its partners and promotes peer-to-peer learning and exchanges.

Recognizing the importance of leveraging the capacities and comparative advantage across and outside the UN system, the Joint Programme continues to develop and pursue strategic partnerships.

2020 Milestones: Continuous learning, peer exchange, strategic partnership and collaboration at the regional and global level

FEB

PDA induction in New York

MAR

First PDA town hall on COVID-19

APR

Second PDA town hall on COVID-19

JUN

Virtual forum with RCs, RRs and PDAs

JUL

Regional forum for Latin America and the Caribbean

AUG

Discussion with the civil society-UN prevention platform

SEP

Virtual briefing for national PDAs

NOV

Regional forum for Asia and the Pacific

DEC

Discussion with civil society-UN prevention platform

First PDA virtual induction

In 2020, **peer-to-peer exchanges** and collaboration took place online as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded around the world and travel restrictions were implemented. The Joint Programme co-organized a virtual forum with DCO to provide an opportunity for RCs, UNDP Resident Representatives, PDAs, senior UN officials from across the system (particularly UNDP and DPPA) and partners to exchange and share good practices in addressing the impact of COVID-19 across the peace and security, human rights and development pillars. The importance of integrating conflict analysis, prevention and conflict sensitivity in the socio-economic impact assessments and response plans was highlighted, as was the centrality of partnerships within the UN and with the IFIs. The Secretary-General's March 2020 call for a global ceasefire and approaches to support inclusive dialogue were also discussed. At the regional level, the first Regional Forum for PDAs in Latin American and the Caribbean was held in July 2020 and the Regional Forum for Asia Pacific in November. Participants discussed opportunities and challenges to strengthening national prevention capacities as well as regional and subregional collaboration, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 response.

In an effort to strengthen **partnerships** with civil society, the Joint Programme organized two virtual discussions with the Civil Society-UN Prevention Platform in August and December 2020. Fifty CSO representatives and PDAs joined the virtual discussions held to promote joint learning and collaboration in addressing the consequences of COVID-19 for conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In the discussions, PDAs were identified as key interlocutors to help broaden the space for CSO engagement through joint efforts to increase community resilience and support citizen-led advocacy and community mobilization. In addition, the Joint Programme organized two online meetings with donor partners to provide an update on the pandemic's impact on the programme and the PDAs' engagement in the context of the crisis. The meetings were also an opportunity to discuss and review the revised results and monitoring framework of the Joint Programme.

The Joint Programme continued to deliver on the commitment to **continuous learning**. In February, the Programme organized an in-person induction in New York and another virtual induction in November. For the first-ever virtual induction, video training materials were developed to allow PDAs to learn asynchronously and focus on exchanging with their peers during the sessions. With the significant increase in the number of national PDAs, the Programme also held a pre-induction session for national PDAs in September. In addition to the online knowledge portal on conflict prevention, www.peaceinfrastructures.org, the Joint Programme developed a Microsoft Teams space to strengthen collaboration and sharing of best practices among the PDA cadre. To support the PDA cadre during the pandemic, the Joint Programme organized two global town hall meetings in March and April to address their concerns.

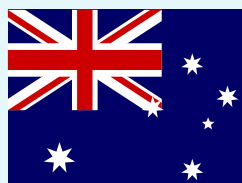
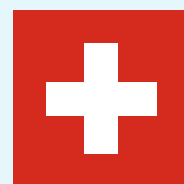
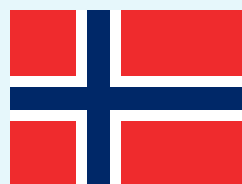


LIST OF ACRONYMS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	UN	United Nations
AU	African Union	OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	UNAMID	African Union–United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
CCA	Common Country Analysis	OSAPG	Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
CSO	Civil society organization	OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
DCO	Development Coordination Office	PBF	Peacebuilding Fund	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
DPPA	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
DPPA-DPO	Departments of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and Peace Operations	PDA	Peace and Development Advisor	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	PNG	Papua New Guinea	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
EU	European Union	PVE	Prevention of violent extremism	UNODC	United Nations on Drugs and Crime
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	RC	Resident Coordinator	UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
HDP	Humanitarian–Development–Peace (Nexus)	RCO	Resident Coordinator Office	UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
IDP	Internally Displaced Person	RRA	Risk and Resilience Assessment	UNV	United Nations Volunteer
IFI	International Financial Institution	SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index	WFP	World Food Programme
IOM	International Organization for Migration	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal	WHO	World Health Organization
LNOB	Leave No One Behind	SRSO	Special Representative of the Secretary-General		

THANK YOU

The Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme would like to thank its partners – particularly the Governments of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, as well as the European Union – for their continued support and generous financial contributions. The Joint Programme also appreciates the continued collaboration and human capacity contributions from the Governments of Australia, Finland and the Republic of Korea, as well as the Folke Bernadotte Academy, Sweden. The work highlighted in this report would not have been possible without the inspiring and innovative work led by the Peace and Development teams and Regional Programme Specialists in the field. The Joint Programme team would like to express its appreciation to all Peace and Development experts for their efforts in supporting countries in sustaining peace.





**Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme
on Building National Capacities
for Conflict Prevention**

© UNDP DPPA 2021

For more information on the work of
the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme,
please visit <http://peaceinfrastructures.org>

