

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



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

2023 Annual Report

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME | DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING AFFAIRS



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

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Foreword



Shoko Noda

Assistant Secretary-General
and Director of the Crisis
Bureau

United Nations Development
Programme

While Member States are preparing the *Pact for the Future* to commit to safeguarding the future for present and coming generations, prevention efforts remain chronically underprioritized and underfunded, necessitating greater political and financial commitment from Member States if this vision is to be realized.

In 2023, the world continued to grapple with prolonged conflicts, increased geopolitical tensions, humanitarian crises, and the dire impacts of climate change. The resulting costs are staggering, not only in terms of lives lost but also in the lasting damage to economies, institutions, and social cohesion. Conflict-affected countries—home to an estimated two billion people in 2023—face the greatest challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

While today's challenges are formidable, they are not insurmountable. In 2023, the Secretary-General, through his Policy Brief on A New Agenda for Peace, called for enhanced multilateral action for peace, grounded in trust, solidarity, and universality. At the heart of this lies a renewed commitment to prevention. The Secretary-General stressed the need for an urgent shift in approach, by which all States agree to recognize prevention and sustaining peace as goals that all commit to achieve, in line with the 2030 Agenda. A core recommendation is for States to develop national prevention



Miroslav Jenča

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

United Nations

strategies to address the different drivers and enablers of violence and conflict in societies and strengthen national infrastructures and mechanisms for peace. While prevention efforts must be nationally owned and led to be successful, the UN can provide essential support when requested.

The *Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention* is a flagship UN initiative. Since 2004, it has been at the forefront of the UN's support to nationally-led conflict prevention. Present in over 70 countries around the world, it delivers tailored assistance to national stakeholders and UN Country Teams to help tackle underlying conflict drivers, anticipate and mitigate risks, and strengthen infrastructures for peace.

The 2023 Annual Report of the Joint Programme illustrates how investing in conflict prevention can contribute to securing enduring peace and development. It showcases the work of the cadre of 133 Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs) supporting national stakeholders in developing and strengthening their own strategies and initiatives to sustain peace. As 2023 marks the end of the Programme's latest five-year phase (2018-2023), we also take the time to reflect on the longer-term engagement and impact of PDAs in various contexts. For instance, as The Gambia, Kenya, and Malawi reached landmark peacebuilding achievements in 2023, the report highlights how longer-term PDA accompaniment and

support contributed to these efforts. In other contexts, such as Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Moldova, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, PDAs facilitated initiatives aimed at dialogue and inclusion. PDAs supported national policies and strategies for conflict prevention in 43 countries in 2023. They helped advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda through strengthening capacities and opportunities for women's political engagement in 51 countries, including Brazil, Eswatini and Tunisia. In 45 countries, such as Equatorial Guinea and Venezuela, they helped promote young people's participation and inclusion in peacebuilding efforts.

PDAs provided essential analysis and advice for UNCTs to ensure that UN engagements and programming were risk-informed, conflict-sensitive, and responsive to national conflict prevention priorities. In war-affected settings like Ukraine or those with unconstitutional changes of government such as Myanmar and Burkina Faso, the ongoing analysis and strategic advisory support of PDAs were vital in helping the UN navigate challenging contexts and adjusting programmatic approaches. In the Pacific region, PDA analysis and guidance strengthened UN programming for tackling climate-related conflict risks. PDAs continue to play a key role in supporting UN peacebuilding efforts globally, including PBF-funded initiatives such as a cross-border dialogue project for Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

The Joint Programme embarks on a new five-year programme phase in 2024, focused on deepening its support for inclusive conflict prevention efforts, effective national infrastructures for peace, and scaling up its efforts to advance the meaningful participation of women and of young people in peacebuilding. Building on its two decades of experience working on prevention around the world, the Joint Programme remains in a key position to advance the paradigm shift in prevention envisaged in A New Agenda for Peace. We are dedicated to ensuring that the Joint Programme remains robust, adaptable, and fit for purpose

to address the challenges in peace and development of our era, supported by our committed cadre of PDAs.

The demand for PDA support is higher than ever, but it is a demand that we are currently unable to meet. Investing in prevention today will help us avoid the significant costs of responding to and rebuilding from violent conflict, ultimately paving the way for a future that is better and more sustainable for everyone.

The results captured in the following pages are illustrations of what was possible in 2023 with the generous partners of the Joint Programme. We wish to thank Canada, the European Union, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, both for their generous financial contributions and for their substantive accompaniment. We also wish to thank the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) of Sweden, the Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding, Germany's Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF), and the Government of Japan for their invaluable in-kind support and contributions. We express our gratitude to the Development Coordination Office, Resident Coordinators, and all participating UN agencies, funds and programmes, for their support and collaboration.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering commitment and hard work of our dedicated PDAs, and UN staff around the world.

Shoko Noda



Miroslav Jenča





United Nations Secretary General,
António Guterres UN
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From my first day in office, I have called on Member States to prioritize prevention. The evidence is staggering: prevention saves lives and safeguards development gains. It is cost effective. However, it remains chronically underprioritized.”

António Guterres

The United Nations Secretary-General
in his Policy Brief on *A New Agenda for Peace*





Overview

Since it was established in 2004, the *Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention* has become a cornerstone of the UN's commitment to supporting nationally-led efforts to prevent conflict and sustain peace.

In a world where crises are becoming more frequent, the Joint Programme serves as an essential resource for addressing risks before they escalate into violent conflict. Guided by two mutually reinforcing objectives—enhancing national capacities for conflict prevention and ensuring more impactful and cohesive UN system engagement on sustaining peace—the Programme delivers these goals primarily through the deployment of Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs).

PDAs provide wide-ranging support for national stakeholders leading prevention initiatives, including by providing technical advice, accompaniment and capacity-building, and by facilitating partnerships for peacebuilding. Informed by context-specific needs, PDAs support national efforts to develop prevention policies and strategies, strengthen infrastructures for peace, and promote social cohesion and reconciliation efforts, ensuring the engagement of women and youth. Based in the offices of UN Resident Coordinators (RCOs), PDAs strengthen cross-pillar coordination and alignment within the UN at country, regional and Headquarters level. Their analysis and programming advice help ensure that UN engagements are conflict-sensitive and responsive to each country's specific priorities. Their facilitation skills, advice and technical expertise are often critical in driving peacebuilding programming, including through UNDP and the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

In 2023, the Programme's cadre comprised 133 PDA posts, with 65 international PDAs, 46 national Peace and Development Officers (PDOs), eight secondees, eight UN Volunteers (UNVs), and six Regional Programme Specialists (RPS). These positions served at total of 69 countries across five regions. On 31 December 2023, the Joint Programme concluded its 2018-2023 programmatic phase. As it embarks on a new five-year programme (2024-2028), the Programme will continue to build on its two decades of experience and impact in over 80 countries to support national stakeholders in meeting increasingly complex peace and development challenges.

2018-2023 Phase in review

In its previous phase, which began on 1 December 2018, the Joint Programme focused on providing tailor-made expertise to national stakeholders to establish and strengthen strategies, mechanisms and infrastructures for conflict prevention and sustaining peace (Outcome 1). It also made significant contributions to enhancing the capacities of UN Country Teams for sustaining peace (Outcome 2), as identified in its

independent Mid-Term Review undertaken in 2021. The Programme was also reconfigured to maximize its contribution in the context of the reforms of the UN peace and security pillar and the UN Development System. It implemented a more rigorous monitoring framework and fostered more consistent, interactive engagement with donors and development partners.



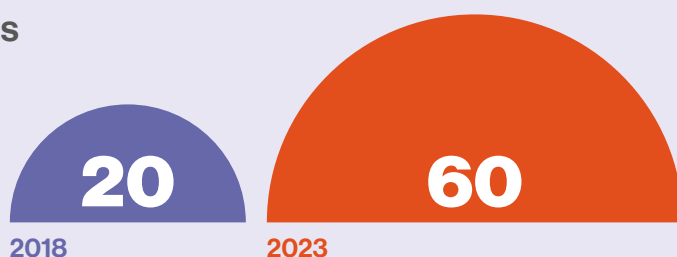
There is “simply no other UN capacity currently positioned and capable to do the cross-pillar and integrated analytical, advisory and capacity support necessary for advancing sustaining peace and prevention agendas.”

Independent Mid-Term Review of the Joint Programme, May 2021

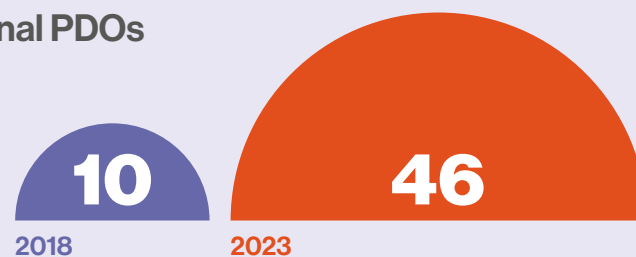
Key developments

- ① **Expansion of PDA teams and number of national PDOs:**
from 20 Teams to 60 in 2023, and from 10 national positions to 46 in 2023.

Teams



National PDOs



- ② **Increased seed funding for PDA catalytic prevention activities:**
funding for activities more than doubled between 2019-2023 with 83 initiatives approved for a total amount of USD 6,149,373.

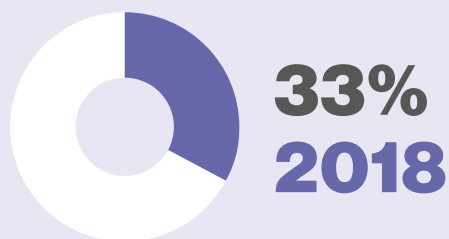


83 Initiatives

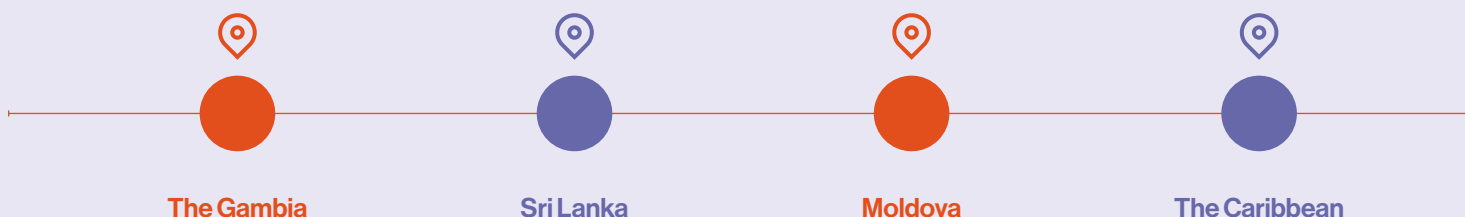


6,149,373 USD

3 **Notable progress achieved towards gender parity in the international PDA cadre:**
47% of PDAs were women in 2023, up from 33% in 2018.



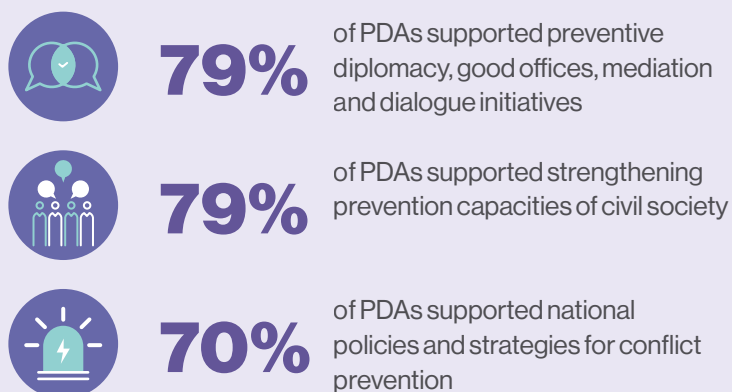
4 **Piloting of the Reflection and Learning Missions to programme countries to learn from the impact of the PDA's engagement:**
Four missions completed, in the Caribbean, Moldova, Sri Lanka, and The Gambia.



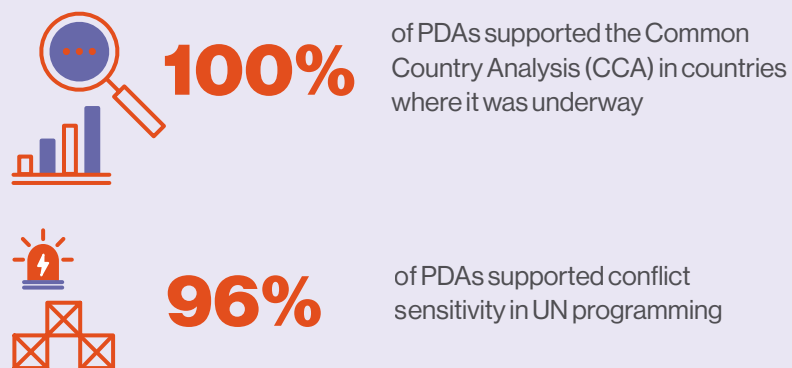
Trends in areas of PDA engagement since 2019

Top areas of PDA engagement*:

Outcome 1: Support to national stakeholders



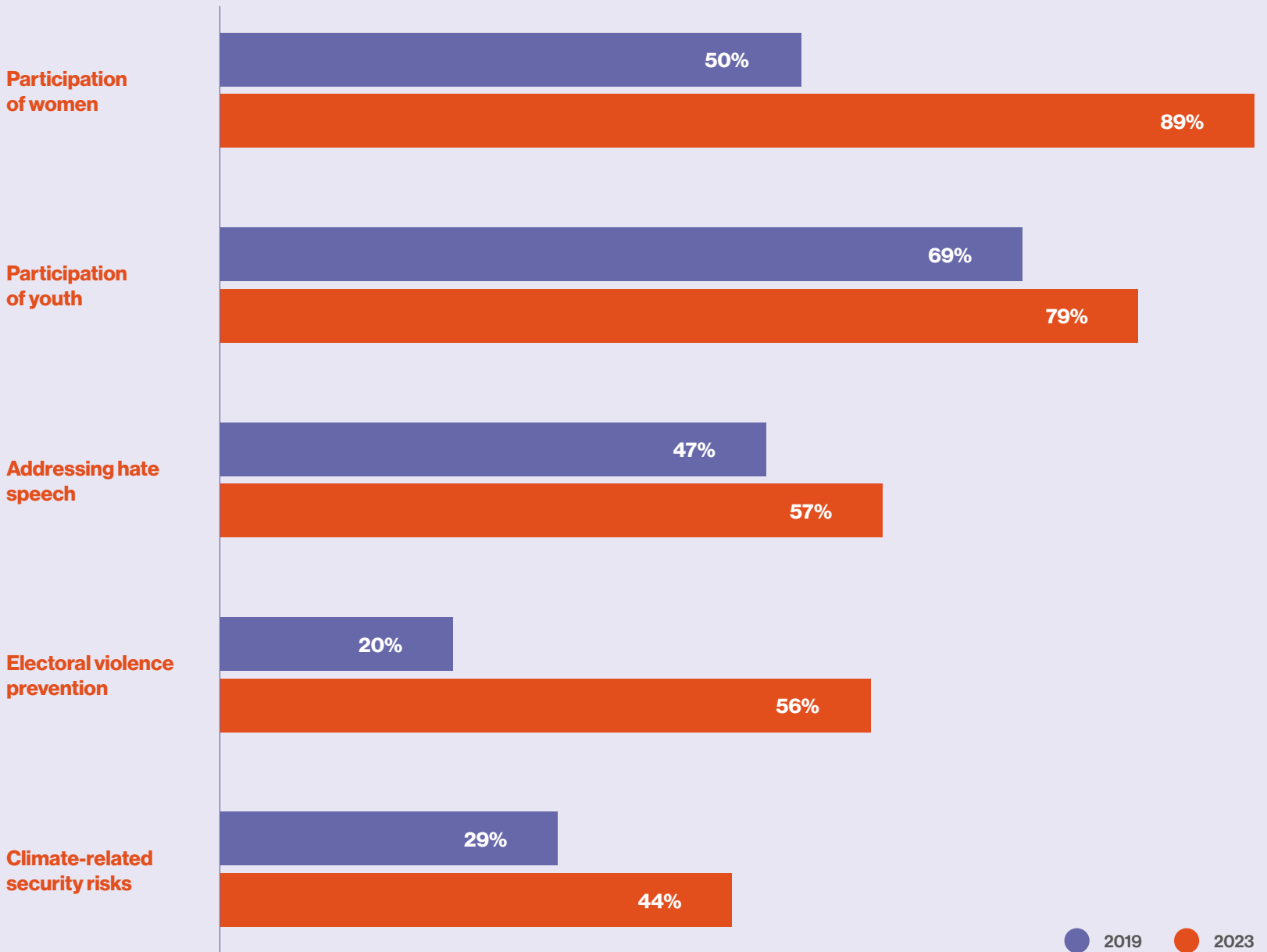
Outcome 2: Support to UN System



*based on the annual average between 2019-2023 as reported by PDAs

Other trends

Trends in PDA engagement over the 2019-2023 phase:



2024-2028

A new phase adapted to today's priorities

The Joint Programme entered a new phase on 1 January 2024 amidst a global landscape characterized by both new and protracted conflicts, the Secretary-General's call for an enhanced multilateral action for peace and revitalized shared commitment to conflict prevention. In alignment

with the Secretary-General's Policy Brief on *A New Agenda for Peace*, the Programme's new phase will bolster joint UN efforts in supporting national stakeholders strengthen their capacities and structures for conflict prevention.



Strategic areas of focus

Deepen engagement on national prevention strategies and infrastructures for peace.

Increase focus on gender, women's participation in peacebuilding efforts, and the broader Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda.

Enhance support for youth-led advocacy, networking and policy engagement to advance the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda.

Capture extensive country-level experiences and expertise to enhance evidence base for policy making.

Establish a robust learning, best practices, and policy ecosystem.

Expand and deepen the Peace and Development team model, optimizing the complementarity of national and international profiles.

Encourage innovation and leverage digital technologies to address emerging conflict prevention challenges while seizing opportunities for greater inclusion.

Enhance results-based management approaches and scale up Reflection and Learning missions.

Cadre of Peace and Development Advisors in 2023

In 2023, the PDA cadre continued to diversify and expand. The full cadre includes 133 positions, which includes international PDAs, national PDOs, UN Volunteers, and secondees. Steady progress has been made towards increasing gender parity within the cadre. By the end of 2023, 47% of the international PDAs were women.

New York




Panama

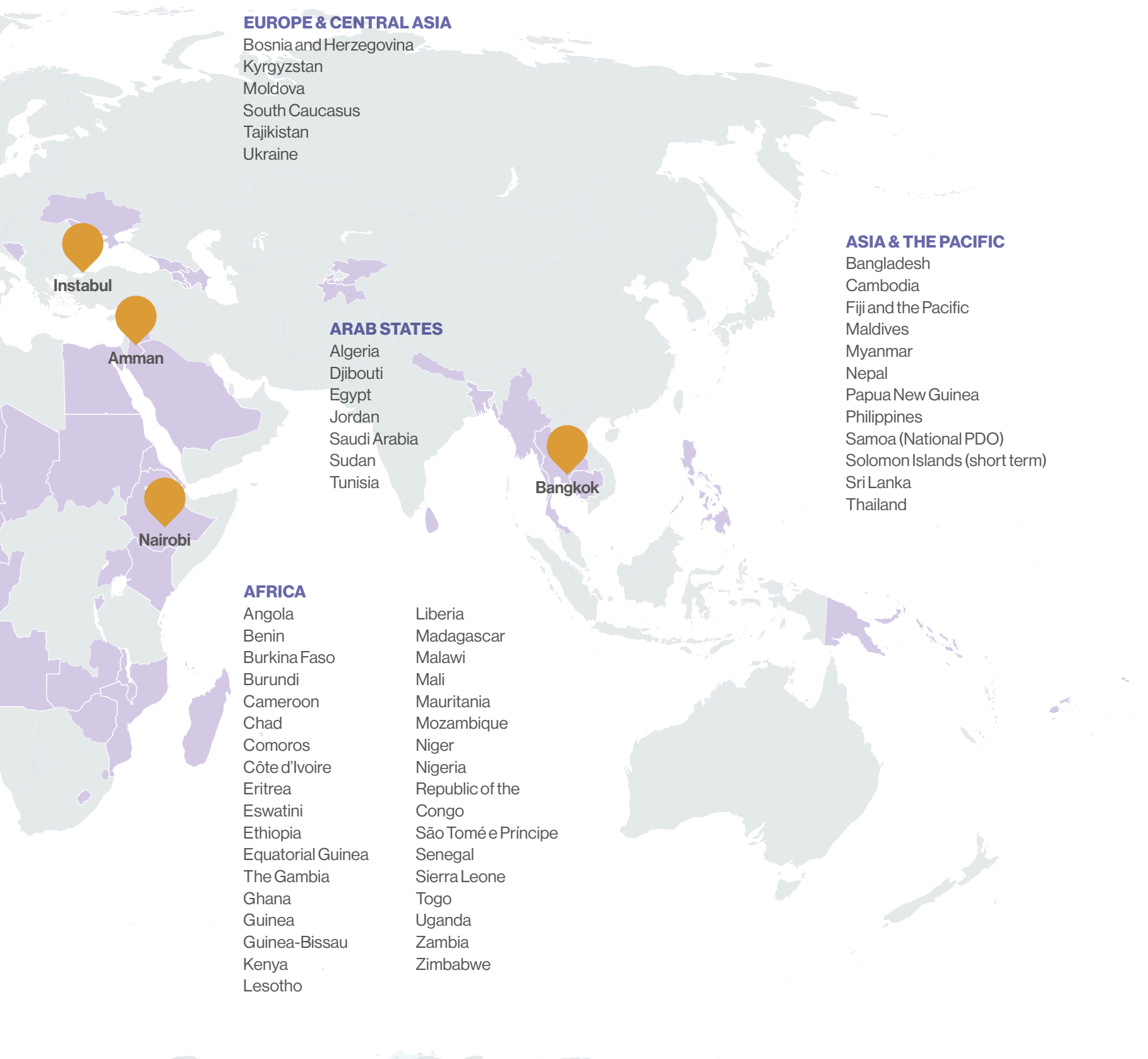
Dakar

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Bolivia
 Brazil (National PDO)
 Caribbean
 Colombia (Secondee)
 Ecuador
 El Salvador
 Guatemala
 Guyana and Suriname
 Haiti
 Honduras
 Peru (National PDO)
 Venezuela

Legend

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



Expansion of the PDA cadre globally

- International PDAs
- National PDOs
- UNVs
- Secondees
- Regional Programme Specialists

133

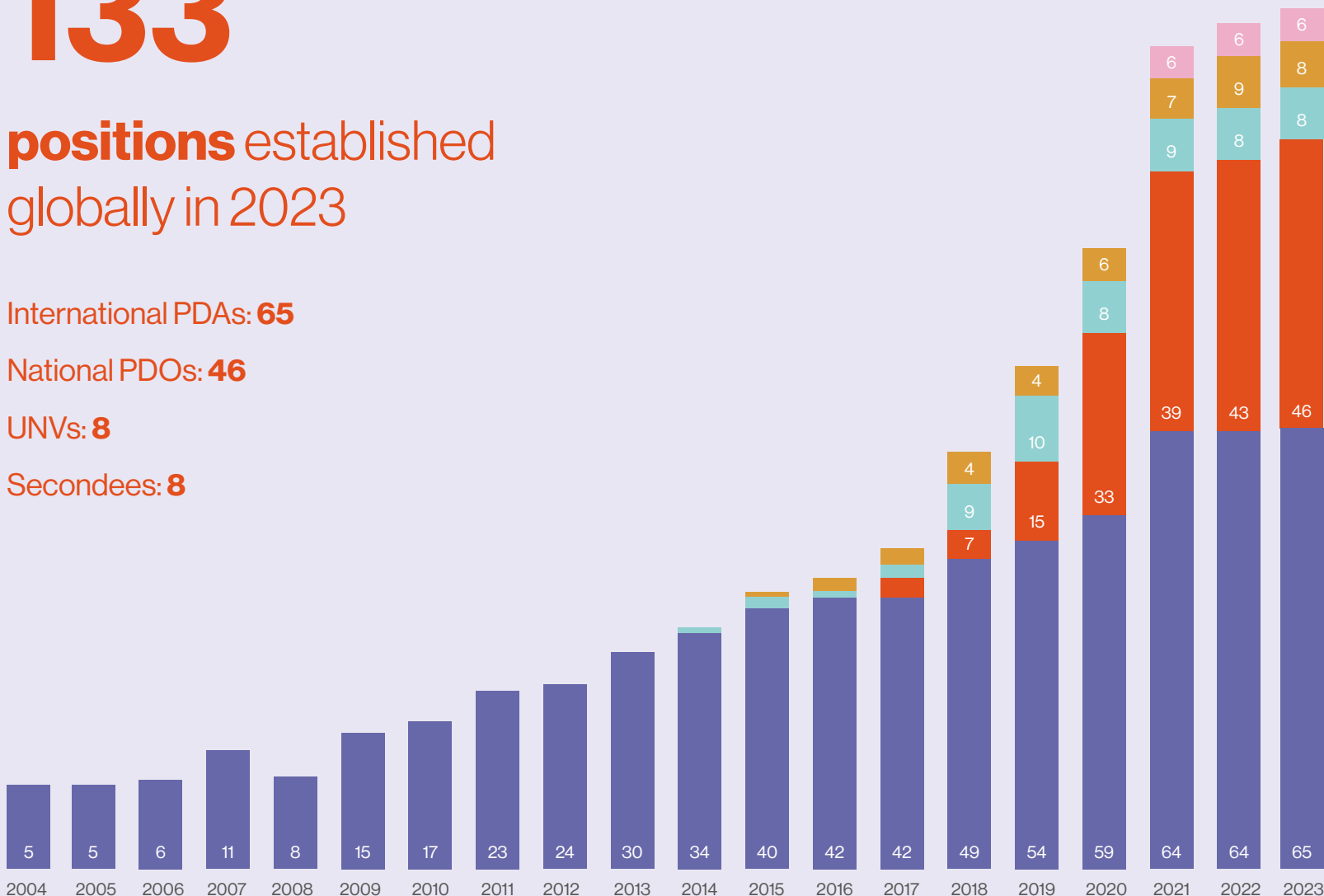
positions established globally in 2023

International PDAs: **65**

National PDOs: **46**

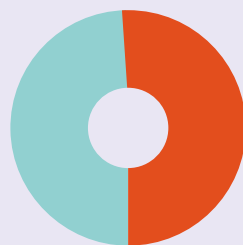
UNVs: **8**

Secondees: **8**



124 Advisors in post

(including international and national PDOs, UNVs, and secondees).



47% international PDAs are women

compared to **33% in 2018**.

● 2022

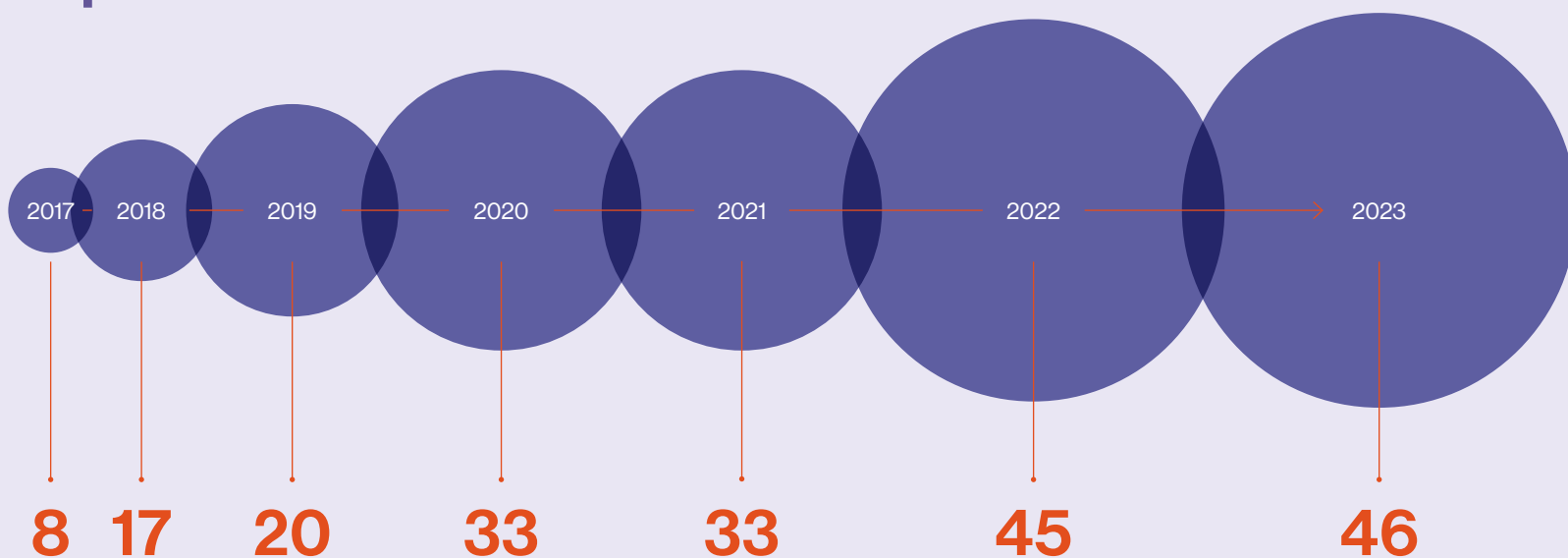
● 2023



46% of national PDOs are women compared to **48% in 2022**.



Expansion of PDA teams*



* Peace and Development teams could include international PDAs, national PDOs, UNVs and secondees.

Financial overview 2023

(In US Dollars)

The Joint Programme team is grateful to the seven long-standing donor partners who contributed to the Programme in 2023.

Donor	Income 2023	Expenditure 2023
European Union	682,000	681,000
Germany	3,236,000	7,339,000
Norway	658,000	934,000
Sweden	2,899,000	2,760,000
Switzerland	**	2,386,000
The Netherlands	8,595,000	8,197,000
The United Kingdom [†]	193,000	835,000
TOTAL	16,263,000	23,132,000

* Certified financial reports are issued by UNDP centrally on 30 June each year (these figures are preliminary except for the EU)

** Funds were received in 2022.

[†] UK International Development (UK Dev)

2023 Highlights

Key areas of engagement*



Outcome 1:

Targeted initiatives and national capacities that are more effectively contributing to conflict prevention and sustaining peace
% of PDAs*



58% Supported national peace architectures



89% Made a focused effort to enhance the participation of women in peace initiatives



75% Supported national policies and strategies for conflict prevention



79% Made a focused effort to enhance the participation of youth in peace initiatives



54% Supported the capacity development of national government stakeholders



82% Supported strengthening prevention capacities of civil society



86% Supported preventive diplomacy, good offices, mediation and dialogue initiatives

*The figures in this report related to PDA engagement are based on the annual survey conducted by the Joint Programme at the end of 2023 as part of its monitoring and evaluation responsibility. A total of 57 responses was received from individual Peace and Development Advisors and Peace and Development teams.



Outcome 2:

UN Country Teams have strategies and programmes that are increasingly conflict sensitive and are leading partnerships on sustaining peace

% of PDAs



100%

Supported the Common Country Analysis in countries where one was underway

75%

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



96%

Supported UNCT or its members on conflict sensitivity

95%

Supported UNCT programming efforts explicitly address peace and conflict issues

In 2023, PDAs engaged in the following emerging areas:



70%

Protection and promotion of civic space



58%

Addressing hate speech



49%

Foresight / predictive analytics



47%

Mis- and disinformation



44%

Social unrest / protests



44%

Climate-related security risks



26%

Mental health and psychosocial support



21%

Violent crime support





1

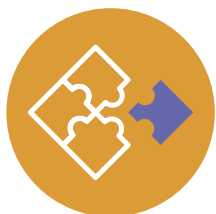
Outcome 1

Strengthening national policies, strategies, and infrastructures for prevention and sustaining peace

The Joint Programme's first outcome area focuses on enhancing countries' existing and emerging capacities to address and prevent violent conflict and sustain peace. The Joint Programme operates on the fundamental principle that national actors are best placed to drive prevention agendas. Technical advice, accompaniment and facilitation support provided by PDAs are necessarily context-specific and tailored to the specific prevention priorities of each country. By aligning their efforts with national contexts and priorities, PDAs contribute to strengthening capacities for sustaining peace in the most relevant and effective manner possible.

In 2023, PDAs deployed by the Joint Programme supported and accompanied nationally-led initiatives for sustaining peace in over 70 countries. Their work in this respect is wide-ranging. It included technical support to policies and strategies for conflict prevention in 43 countries, such as in **Chad, Kyrgyzstan, and Togo**. PDAs also supported peace infrastructures in **Kenya, The Gambia, and Malawi**. They facilitated dialogue and mediation activities in **Ecuador, Moldova, and Sierra Leone**, and led initiatives around elections in **Benin, Ghana, and Nigeria**,

among others. In the **Pacific** and **Sahel** regions, PDAs advised national stakeholders on tackling climate-related conflict risks. The PDA team in **Angola** partnered with the Angolan Diplomatic Academy to train diplomats on conflict resolution and mediation, in collaboration with DPPA, in order to bolster national capacities to drive peace efforts.



58% of PDAs
supported national peace
architectures



70% of PDAs
supported national policies and
strategies for conflict prevention



86% of PDAs
supported preventive diplomacy,
good offices, mediation and dialogue
initiatives



PDA Equatorial Guinea with youth participants
at a conflict resolution training in Malabo

The Gambia

Supporting national commitments to ‘Never Again’

The UN has been a partner throughout The Gambia’s ‘Never Again’ journey in establishing enduring foundations for peace and ensuring that past human rights abuses and injustice are not repeated. Since 2017, successive PDA teams have served as advisers, catalyzers and facilitators, providing essential inputs to the strategies and actions of national and international partners, and enhancing the UN’s collective prevention, peacebuilding, and sustainable development efforts.

The initial phase of the country’s political transition involved the establishment of a Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC), a Constitutional Review Commission and an independent National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). In May 2023, the Government reached a new major milestone by introducing a five-year plan to implement the TRRC’s recommendations. The Implementation Plan commits to establishing a National Peace and Reconciliation Commission and to operationalizing a National Reconciliation Strategy, both keystones for the country’s infrastructure for peace.

The PDA team together with UNDP is continuing to accompany the development of a Gambian-led peace infrastructure, conducting capacity assessment and development initiatives, supporting national consultations to extend and deepen partnerships among government and civil society actors, and supporting the development of a government endorsed ‘Infrastructure for Peace Road Map’. The PDA team has contributed towards operationalizing the TRRC and NHRC, as well as ongoing constitutional and security sector reform processes. A consortium of three UN agencies—UNDP, International Trade Centre (ITC) and UNESCO—is supporting Gambian-led processes through a Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) project the PDA team helped to conceptualize, entitled ‘Strengthening the National Infrastructure for Peace to Promote Social Cohesion in The Gambia’ (2023-25).

Equally important, PDA-supported analysis—such as The Gambia Conflict and Development Analysis—has helped provide a common foundation for Gambian and international actors to tackle key peacebuilding challenges. Drawing on their analysis and extensive partnerships, PDAs have advised timely and impactful engagements by the Resident Coordinator, the UNCT, and the good offices efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). The PDA team has also led collaborative work with the World Bank, including support on monitoring implementation of the Bank’s Turn Around Allocation.

The PDA team has also played a key role in facilitating and informing the mobilization of international resources vital for building national transition and peacebuilding capacities. Totalling almost USD 40 million by the end of 2023, PBF funds have supported key initiatives with the TRRC, the NHRC, a government policy framework for security sector reform, inter-political party dialogue, the implementation of measures to address climate-induced land conflict and cross-border tensions, and the empowerment of women and young people as agents of peaceful change and development. The PDA team was instrumental in facilitating the government’s application for a second term of PBF eligibility, undertaking an analysis that identified key unfinished business—including transitional justice, constitutional reform, enhancing women’s political participation—and emerging peacebuilding challenges such as the threat of religious extremism.

Lessons for the Joint Programme

The promise of a “New Gambia” in 2017 paved the way for a far-reaching transitional justice agenda. However, it is also clear that sustaining peace is a long-term, complex, and cumulative process—ongoing success rests on multiple, mutually reinforcing efforts. In The Gambia, peace and reconciliation are nested in the Government’s National Development Plan and the Implementation Plan of the TRRC’s recommendations with other overarching priorities of truth, accountability, reparations, and guarantees of non-repetition. While the UN and other international partners play an important supportive role in The Gambia, peace and reconciliation must continue to be nationally led, with civil society playing an important part.

A focus group discussion with community members during the Reflection and Learning Mission in The Gambia



2017

The Gambia’s political transition to democracy

Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) Act is passed

2018

Establishment of Independent National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

2021

TRRC submits its report to Government with 265 recommendations to address past human rights abuses and preventive measures to ensure non-recurrence

2022

Government publishes White Paper on the TRRC report that accepts all but two of the TRRC’s recommendations

Launch of National Early Warning and Response Mechanism Coordinating Centre (NCCRM), housed in the Office of the Vice President

2023

Government releases five-year plan to implement the TRRC recommendations with commitment to establish a Peace and Reconciliation Commission and a National Reconciliation Strategy

→ Launch of National Development Plan (NDP) 2023-2027 with provisions to “establish a Gambia specific Infrastructure for Peace”

2024

Launch of a “Partner Platform” by the Ministry of Justice, and a Peacebuilding Unit by the Ministry of Interior to mobilize and coordinate multilateral and bilateral support for implementation of the TRRC White Paper, including the Infrastructure for Peace

Kenya

Strengthening institutions and networks for peace

Kenya's peace infrastructure is today among the most advanced in the world. For over a decade, successive PDA teams in Kenya have worked closely with the UNCT to support national actors to enhance the effectiveness, inclusivity, and resilience of the country's peace infrastructure. These efforts reached a milestone in 2023 when the PDA team supported the nationally led strategic review and redesign of Kenya's national infrastructure for peace.

As new challenges to peacebuilding grew, some of them linked to climate change, new technologies and regional insecurity, the Government of Kenya appointed an Independent Panel of Advisors to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the extent to which the country's frameworks, systems and capacities for peacebuilding were fit for purpose. In partnership with the Kenyan Ministry of Interior and National Administration, the PDA team provided extensive support to the review process, offering operational support, analytical expertise, and coordinating technical input from across UN and international partners. Following a thorough analytical and consultative process, the review has articulated a vision for a new *National Agenda for Peace in Kenya*. It includes proposals to enhance inclusion in political institutions, strengthen the coordination and sequencing of peacebuilding and security activities, enhance the country's institutional architecture for peacebuilding, and address both longstanding and emerging conflict drivers. On 22 March 2024, the Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Interior and National Administration as well as the Vice-Chair of the Independent Panel of Advisors presented Kenya's National Peacebuilding Architecture Review document to the UN Peacebuilding Commission.

The PDA team has assisted national partners in identifying and responding to emerging risks and peacebuilding challenges. In collaboration with the Human Rights Advisor, the team's digital peacebuilding initiative has helped a variety of stakeholders scale up their ability to monitor and respond to online hate speech. In the lead up to the 2022 elections, the team advised and facilitated partnerships to establish a consortium of investigative researchers and youth media platforms with the goal of strengthening the National Cohesion and Integration Commission's

capacity to counter hate speech in real time. Leveraging the consortium's data-driven analyses, national peacebuilding actors were supported to marshal peace messaging and counter-narratives in a social media campaign that reached an estimated 314,000 users online.

The PDA team also worked with national and local mediators to strengthen their capacity to respond to risks of violence in targeted hotspots. In 2023, the team collaborated with UN Women and national and local actors to develop county-specific mediation action plans in the Wajir, Isiolo, and Lamu counties. The action plans, which focused on building the capacities of women mediators and promoting community dialogue led to a 50% increase in the number of women in mediation structures, enhanced partnership between communities and Peace Directorates, and a notable reduction of incidents of violence. The team continues to support programming for inclusive peace and development in Kenya's borderlands through a new PBF-supported initiative in the borderlands, specifically in Mandera, Wajir, and Garissa counties, focusing on addressing structural conflict drivers along the border with Somalia and Ethiopia.



Kenya has blazed the trail globally in sustaining its own peace with a powerful National Peace Infrastructure. The Joint Programme's 2023 close support to Kenya's Independent Review of that infrastructure keeps UN Kenya right on the frontline of partners to that pivotal national strategy."

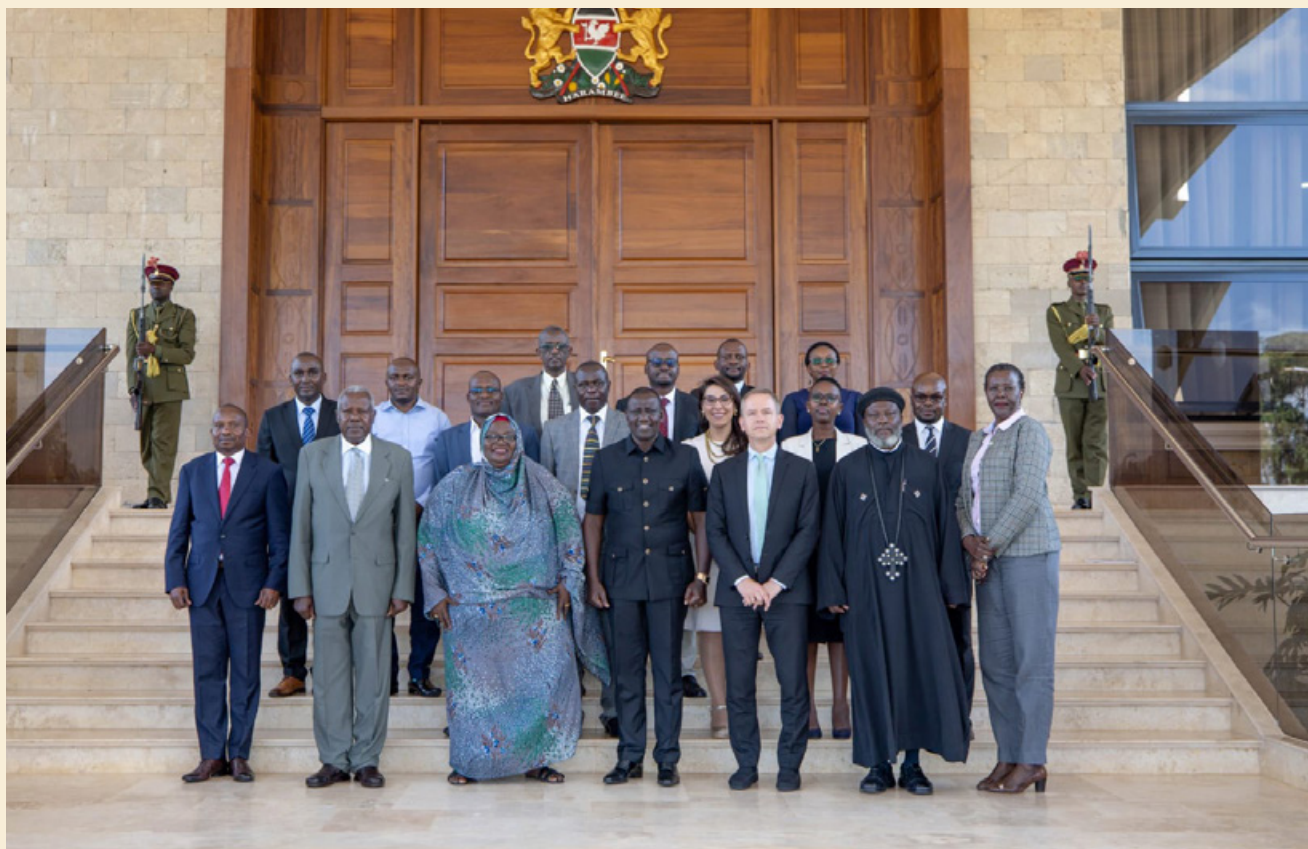
Stephen Jackson, UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya

Lessons for the Joint Programme

The PDA team's impact in Kenya highlights the value of long-term support to national institutions balanced with adaptive analytical and programmatic initiatives. In the context of the Secretary-General's Policy Brief on A New Agenda for Peace, the team's engagement on the review of Kenya's peacebuilding infrastructure offers an important

and innovative example of how the UN system can provide strategic support to national capacities for conflict prevention, which can in turn influence the global debate on peacebuilding, including through the Peacebuilding Commission.

Presentation of the Final Report of the Independent Panel of Advisors for Kenya's Peacebuilding Architecture Review to the President of Kenya, with the UN Resident Coordinator and PDA



Malawi

Accompanying the national infrastructure for peace from conception to creation

Since 2012, successive PDA teams in Malawi have accompanied a long, complex, and ultimately successful process of establishing and strengthening an inclusive national peace infrastructure. This architecture, as described in the country's 2013 National Peace Architecture document, includes institutionalized early warning and conflict prevention capacities at the national and local levels, as well as the establishment of a National Commission to oversee these processes.

Originating from civil unrest in 2011, the initiative to establish formal peacebuilding institutions has required a decade-long effort of building consensus across government, civil society and local communities. It culminated in late 2023 with the establishment of an inclusive, independent, and decentralized Peace and Unity Commission to oversee national peacebuilding efforts, guide strategy, and coordinate state and non-state actors in the field. Throughout this time, PDA teams, successive Resident Coordinators, UNDP Resident Representatives and the broader UNCT have supported national consultative processes and used the UN's convening power to foster buy-in and help maintain momentum.

While efforts towards the completion of the infrastructure for peace were underway, the PDA team helped enhance capacities among state and non-state actors in the emerging National Peace Architecture. In particular, the PDA, working with UNCT, invested in mobilizing more women to participate in, and lead, local peacebuilding initiatives. These initiatives have made important contributions towards the ongoing implementation of a key provision of the 2022 Peace and Unity Act, which requires gender parity among participants in district and municipal Peace Committees. In anticipation of the creation of the Peace and Unity Commission and its subnational counterparts, the PDA team with the UNCT helped to establish nine pilot District Peace Committees, which serve as localized platforms for peace education and conflict prevention.

Malawi's National Peace Architecture faced challenges during unrest after the disputed 2019 national elections, with some political actors questioning the credibility of interim peacebuilding institutions in the absence of the Peace and Unity Commission. This period of unrest and the subsequent change of government in 2020 provided an opportunity to advocate for fully constituted, independent peacebuilding institutions capable of bringing actors together, leading early warning and facilitating dialogue in difficult times. Consensus on this issue provided a strong basis for the incoming government to establish a Ministry of National Unity and, in 2023, establish the Peace and Unity Commission.

Lessons for the Joint Programme

The Joint Programme's experience in Malawi points to the importance of sustaining UN support over a long period of time, including through challenging periods when progress may be undermined. The establishment and strengthening of nationally led peace infrastructures take time. Moreover, UN advocacy and support for comprehensive and highly inclusive consultation processes can help build resilience and continued buy-in over the long term, including across changes in government.

© UNDP Malawi



2011

Mass protests demanding economic and governance reforms

2012

First **consultations** between government, CSOs and community leaders

Peace Architecture Secretariat established in the Office of the President and Cabinet

2013 -
present

Nationwide consultation process to ensure national ownership

2016

Three pilot District Peace Committees established (increased to six in 2018, and nine in 2022)

2017

National Peace Policy approved by cabinet and launched by the President

2019

Political impasse following contestation of presidential elections results leading to nationwide CSO-led protests

2020

Malawi Peace and Unity Bill drafted

Ministry of National Unity established

2022

Peace and Unity Bill passed into Law

2023

Malawi Peace and Unity Commission established as an inclusive, independent and decentralized commission to oversee national peacebuilding efforts, guide strategy, and coordinate state and non-state actors

Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture established, from merger of the Ministry of National Unity and Ministry of Local Government



Enhancing inclusion in prevention and peace efforts

The Joint Programme focuses on enhancing inclusion in conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives. PDAs work on catalyzing commitment to inclusive peace efforts among diverse national stakeholders, both formally and informally. They support innovative

strategies for enhancing the inclusion of different actors and groups, including women, young people, indigenous communities, and other traditionally underrepresented groups.



In 2023,
89% of PDAs
made a focused effort to enhance the participation of
women in peace initiatives



79% of PDAs
made a focused effort to enhance the participation of youth
in peace initiatives

Venezuela

Enhancing open and inclusive dialogue

In Venezuela, the work of the PDA has focused on enhancing and strengthening mechanisms for inclusive dialogue among a wide range of actors, including political leaders, civil society, scholars, and women and youth groups. Drawing on extensive consultations, the team designed and executed a comprehensive three-pronged strategy seeking to connect various groups of actors around the promotion of social dialogue.

Firstly, the PDA team supported a series of training courses and coaching sessions aimed at identifying national practitioners and strengthening their skills for the facilitation of social dialogues. The first cohort of 50 graduates—of which 70% were women—went on to form their own national network of social dialogue facilitators, which later consolidated as a *Community of Practice on Social Dialogue*. Members of the Community of Practice, with analytical and advisory support from the PDA team, launched a joint UNDP and UN Women Working Group and convened a series of forums on women's participation in public life, bringing together over 150 women to devise policy recommendations on dialogue and negotiation, combatting gender-based violence and increasing women's meaningful political participation.

Secondly, the PDA team supported the creation of an academic network consisting of six national universities and two specialized institutions working on women's political rights. This network jointly developed practical tools, including a handbook and a digital repository, specifically crafted for social stakeholders working to promote a culture of peace at the community level. Together with UNDP and UN Women, the PDA team launched and facilitated two community roundtables in the Greater Caracas. These roundtables provided a platform for local women leaders to collaborate and catalyze actions aimed at strengthening social cohesion within their communities.

Thirdly, the PDA team convened a core group of the eight largest platforms of civil society organizations and social movements, which collectively involve hundreds of organizations from across the socio-political spectrum with the capacity to both work at the community level and influence the political decision-making system. This group engages in dialogue and collaboration resolving differences within Venezuelan society. Moreover, jointly with OCHA and OHCHR, a group of civil associations of the humanitarian and human rights ecosystem engaged in collaborative strategies for policy advocacy to overcome the socio-political divide around issues of common interest.

Lessons for the Joint Programme

The PDA team's work in Venezuela highlights the critical importance of inclusion for ensuring local ownership of sustainable development and social cohesion. Bringing diverse actors and voices together, particularly those that may otherwise not have the chance to participate, and connecting practitioners and researchers enables groups to constructively interact with one another, identify shared

goals, and engage in joint problem-solving and action. This can contribute to overcoming socio-political divides from the grass-root level up. Inclusive dialogue mechanisms can deepen trust, enhance skillsets for managing tensions, and facilitate synergies among social actors.



PDA team members in Venezuela at UN Day

Promoting women's participation in prevention and peace efforts

In 2023 PDAs provided dedicated support for enhancing the participation of women in 51 countries.

In **Brazil, Niger, Zambia, and Zimbabwe**, PDAs advised on the development and the implementation of national action plans on WPS, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325. PDA teams also supported networks of women mediators in **Burundi, Moldova, and Tunisia**. In **Ecuador**, the PDA team worked with UNDP, ILO and DPPA to foster intercultural dialogue with indigenous women leaders, particularly indigenous women governors and mayors in Cotopaxi and Tungurahua provinces, as well in the recently elected National Assembly.

Angola

In **Angola**, the PDA team is actively supporting national and civil society initiatives aimed at enhancing women's participation in public life. In 2023, the PDA team in collaboration with UNDP supported the operationalization of the Angolan Chapter of the African Women Leaders Network (a joint initiative by the African Union and the UN) which is expected to work in key priority areas, such as governance, peace and security, youth leadership, finance and entrepreneurship, food security and agriculture, and social mobilization. The PDA team and UNDP also advanced a partnership with the CSO Rede Mulher Angola (Women Network Angola) to enhance women's political participation through an initiative financed by the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA). Working with Rede Mulher Angola, the PDA team supported the publishing of a training manual for women in politics and democratic processes in Angola, contributed to capacity building initiatives in four provinces, and facilitated the development of an action plan aimed at increasing women's political participation in the lead up to the country's general elections scheduled for 2027.



The technical support of the PDA team has been crucial in the implementation of the project on 'Women's Political Participation and Democratic Governance in Angola' financed by UNOCA. The achievements of the project have resulted not only in strengthening women's capacity across political parties in dealing with governance issues and promoting gender equality, but also in recognition for the Rede Mulher Angola's work, which has led to new funding opportunities."

Julia Ornela, President of CSO Rede Mulher Angola

Eswatini

In **Eswatini**, the PDA team built on a long-term partnership with the African Women Peace and Development Foundation to facilitate dialogues among women from diverse backgrounds across the country's polarizing divides. The team supported a women's peacebuilding platform convened by the Foundation, which brought together nearly 100 women, including persons living with disabilities, to identify shared goals and actions for strengthening women's participation in peacebuilding efforts. In addition to overall advisory support, the PDA team conducted training sessions for Foundation facilitators on dialogue, stakeholder mapping, and analysis. Together with the Human Rights Advisor in the RCO, the PDA team provided capacity support on prevention, peacebuilding, human rights and WPS. The platform dialogue resulted in a strong focus on improving community-level engagement. Leveraging Joint Programme seed funding, the PDA team is currently supporting an initiative led by the Foundation to strengthen community-level engagement on women's roles in prevention and peacebuilding, aiming to amplify women's voices at all levels of decision-making and combat gender-based violence.

Latin America and The Caribbean

The **Latin America and the Caribbean** region continues to grapple with chronic violence that disproportionately affects women and presents persistent barriers to their participation in decision-making processes. To address these challenges, the Regional Programme Specialist (RPS) for Latin America and the Caribbean has worked to strengthen capacities and networks of women peacebuilders. In 2023 the RPS, together with the PDA team in El Salvador, DPPA, UNDP, and UN Women, organized the second regional exchange of women peacebuilders in El Salvador, bringing together 30 women peacebuilders from eleven countries. The initiative built on the first regional meeting in Colombia held in 2022, both of which were funded by the Joint Programme. The gathering in 2023 focused on the Central American region, with particular attention given to enhancing women's sub-regional and national engagement in contexts facing climate-related and environmental challenges. The event provided a platform for peer exchange and learning, including through field visits in Indigenous communities and training sessions. The participants had the opportunity to share experiences and approaches for overcoming chronic gender-based violence, political violence, and persecution of women. They expressed a strong interest in more extended exchanges and called for continued UN support, notably through capacity building on early warning, mediation, and advocacy techniques.

PDA Eswatini supporting AWPDPF celebration of International Day of Peace 2023

The Maldives

In the **Maldives**, the PDA team leveraged the introduction of quotas for women's political representation at the local level to foster dialogue, networking, and collaboration among women in local government. Partly supported by Joint Programme seed funding, the PDA team worked with UNDP to support the organization of the first Women in Local Governance Forum in 2023. This event, held in partnership with the Local Government Authority, marked the first gathering of women councilors and members of Women's Development Committees from across the country, providing a platform to discuss, strategize and propose actions to advance gender equality. The Forum presented a valuable opportunity for women in local governance to exchange experiences, share knowledge, and extend mutual support, particularly in addressing the specific challenges faced by women in politics. It also enabled women participants to engage with government authorities with mandates covering women's political participation. The advocacy and facilitation efforts of the PDA team and UNDP's Integrated Governance Programme contributed to increased attention to key policy issues. Participants devised policy recommendations regarding women's safety, decision-making on local resources, economic empowerment and political participation, which was presented to the President's Office as well as the Minister of Local Governance and Cities. The initiative has resulted in the formation of an active network of women councilors and members of the Women's Development Committees who benefit from enhanced capacity and support to shape the development of gender-sensitive policies in the Maldives.



Ukraine

Throughout the war, the PDA has been supporting the Resident Coordinator and UN agencies, as well as women's groups in Ukraine, to develop strategies for enhancing women's participation in policy development on the WPS agenda, and in gender-sensitive recovery at regional and local levels. The PDA, in collaboration with other UN agencies, facilitated high-level strategic dialogues between the UN, women members of Parliament, and the Ukrainian Women's Congress—an advocacy platform of women from various government branches and civil society—that identified avenues to strengthen collaboration among national and

international partners to enhance women's participation in recovery efforts. This led to the jointly organized Women's Regional Dialogue in Kharkiv and Women's Regional Congress in Poltava in early 2024, which brought together civil society actors, private sector, and government representatives to formulate policy recommendations for greater inclusion of women in Ukraine's recovery.



Promoting youth participation in prevention and peace efforts

In 2023, PDAs advanced the YPS agenda in 45 countries.

In **Djibouti**, the PDA together with UNDP supported dialogues between youth and government agencies on social cohesion, gender equality, and inclusion. In **Ecuador**, the PDA team worked with UNDP, UNODC and UN Women to establish peace spaces in Guayaquil for enhancing youth capacities for conflict resolution and promoting their engagement in sports, education, and cultural activities. In **Haiti**, the PDA team supported the establishment of consultative forums for young people to share perspectives on key policy initiatives, including the national action plan on YPS and the establishment of a national youth council.

Sierra Leone

In **Sierra Leone**, the PDA's technical support and capacity-building efforts have been directed towards on empowering at-risk youth to advance peace and social cohesion within their communities. The outcome of a youth-at-risk assessment, led by the PDA, contributed to a multi-year PBF project aimed at supporting at-risk youth to become enablers of peace. The PDA, in collaboration with the Netherlands Institute for International Relations (Clingendael), has also facilitated the training of members of the All-Political Parties Youth Association in mediation, negotiation and leadership, ahead of the multi-tier general elections of June 2023. More than 60 young political leaders—women and men—participated in this training enhancing their understanding of political negotiation and supporting efforts to overcome political divides. Within the UNCT, the PDA's longstanding programming advice and guidance have enhanced the UN's overall engagement with the YPS agenda in Sierra Leone. The PDA's detailed analysis and recommendations regarding the role of youth in peace and development have prompted the UNCT to establish a youth advisory group, also comprised of external partners, to guide UN engagement with and for young people. The UNCT has since also increased its programmatic efforts on youth empowerment, inclusion, and political participation. A programme aimed at empowering youth motorbike riders as agents of peace and another addressed to youth in politics and peacebuilding were initiated respectively by the UNCT and Catholic Relief Service, with the technical advice of the PDA.

Peace Ambassadors from both projects helped to disseminate the messages of the political Peace Pledge between the presidential candidates ahead of June elections. The PDA designed the programme for the dissemination of the peace pledge, coordinated among all projects and stakeholders and supported the training of the Peace Ambassadors.



Young people, in particular, have a key role to play and must be enabled to participate effectively and meaningfully.”

The United Nations Secretary-General in A New Agenda for Peace

The South Caucasus

The PDA team for the **South Caucasus** completed the first youth perception survey in the region in 2023, generating new evidence and insights for advancing the YPS agenda. The findings were presented at a regional YPS conference that brought together CSOs from all three countries—Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia—to share experiences and identify ways to strengthen youth inclusion in the region. The team continued to lead a number of initiatives on YPS across the sub-region. In Armenia and Azerbaijan, the PDA team supported several cross-border dialogues between Armenian and Azerbaijani youth and experts in peace education. These dialogues brought together experienced youth peacebuilders and civil society actors as well as a new generation of peacebuilders working on conflict transformation and peacebuilding. The team is also supporting the Armenian government in the implementation of the national action plan on YPS and assisted in the development of a youth policy by a leading Armenian civil society organization. In Azerbaijan, the PDA team worked with a local think tank to develop a policy paper with recommendations for government, CSOs, and the UN to further promote youth inclusion in the country. In Georgia, the PDA team supported the formation of a network of young peacebuilders and peace researchers, providing capacity-building support to strengthen the localization of the YPS agenda among CSOs and within the UNCT.

Zimbabwe

In **Zimbabwe**, the PDA provided technical advisory support to the formulation of Zimbabwe's National Action Plan for YPS, which will be launched in the lead up to Southern African Development Community (SADC) Summit to be hosted by Zimbabwe in August 2024. This initiative is led by the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation together with the Zimbabwe Youth Council and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, with support from the UN. The PDA also played a pivotal role in shaping the UN 2030 Youth Strategy for Zimbabwe through the UN Joint Youth Group. This strategy serves as a comprehensive framework that guides the UNCT's efforts in engaging and supporting young people across three pillars—peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development.







President of Liberia signing the Farmington River Declaration for peaceful elections



PDAs
supported electoral violence prevention initiatives in
32 countries

Supporting peaceful elections

PDA support national and UN stakeholders in efforts to foster environments conducive to peaceful elections. They work with partners to deliver capacity building for electoral institutions, enhance inclusion and political participation of marginalized groups, and carry out initiatives to address mis- and disinformation. PDAs also engage in risk monitoring, situation analysis and scenario planning to help inform UN electoral assistance. In 2023 PDAs supported initiatives around elections in **Liberia**, the **Maldives**, and **Nigeria**, among others.

Liberia

In anticipation of the 2023 Presidential and Legislative elections in **Liberia**, the PDA team led a series of complementary initiatives. In collaboration with UNDP, UN Women, OHCHR and IOM, and DPPA, the PDA team helped design an electoral strategy for the UN to have a unified approach to advance political dialogue, monitor risks—including inflammatory rhetoric and mis/disinformation—and promote women’s political participation. The PDA provided support to UNDP in the conceptualization and drafting of the terms of reference guiding the National Steering Committee on Elections. Co-chaired by the UN Resident Coordinator, Minister of Justice, and ECOWAS, and comprising government institutions, development partners, and civil society representatives, this committee provided strategic guidance and assisted with identifying and resolving risks to the electoral process. The PDA team also facilitated inter-party dialogues, under the leadership of the Elections Commission, the UN Resident Coordinator and ECOWAS. These paved the way for the signing of the Farmington River Declaration by 26 of 31 presidential candidates, 10 new political parties and 175 independent candidates, committing to uphold peace before, during and after the elections, to refrain from violence against women in the elections, and to use the judicial system for any electoral disputes. Drafted by the PDA in collaboration with political parties, the Farmington River Declaration reinforced existing national efforts towards a peaceful election process, national cohesion, and a stable political environment within the country. Following a peaceful election period, the PDA designed the Transition Handover Report template used by the Joint Presidential Transition Team to oversee the smooth transfer of power to the new administration.



In the Maldives, the PDA team’s work was instrumental for the UNCT and UNDP to navigate support to electoral process and engagement with political parties in advancing the SDG agenda. The UNCT was regularly and fully briefed on the very complex dynamics in preparation, during and after election.”

Enrico Gaveglia, UNDP Resident Representative in the Maldives



Outcome 2

Enhancing UN prevention analyses, strategies and responses

The Joint Programme's second outcome area—conflict-sensitive UN strategies and programmes—draws on the analytical, programmatic, convening and cross-pillar coordination capacities of PDAs. The high-quality and foresight-focused analysis and advice that PDAs are able to produce have proven particularly valuable politically and contextually sensitive UN responses, especially during transitions, political shifts, and crises.



PDAAs also play a key role in integrating a conflict sensitivity and sustaining peace lens into UNCT strategies and programme priorities. Within the UN system, PDAAs serve as vital integrators, linking stakeholders, agencies, and workstreams, and contributing to UN approaches across the development, peace and security, human rights, and humanitarian pillars.

PDAAs design and utilize analytical tools to enhance the UN's ability to understand and address conflict risks. In 2023, they led efforts to monitor hate speech in **Azerbaijan, Djibouti, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, and Togo**. They contribute to the development and operationalization of Crisis Risk Dashboards (CRDs), a UNDP platform to analyze multidimensional risks and enable evidence-based prevention and sustaining peace efforts. In 2023, PDAAs led or supported CRDs in 33 countries including **El Salvador, Eswatini, and Papua New Guinea**. In **Bangladesh**, the PDA integrated a conflict sensitivity lens into the UNCT's disaster risk management framework and led the formulation of the UN Bangladesh Hate Speech Action Plan to enable strategic coherence and coordination in UN programming. In the **Caribbean** region, the PDA team developed and implemented the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index for seven countries to inform prevention and peace-related programming by the UNCT. PDAAs strengthened UNCT capacities and skills for conflict-sensitive programming through training and guidance in **Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone**.



Thanks to the Joint Programme, the UN in Ecuador is able to conduct continuous integrated analysis, work on scenario planning and even geographically focused risk analysis in border areas. This has allowed the UN to position itself as the leading player on conflict prevention issues in Ecuador and greatly facilitated our mobilization of resources.

Lena Savelli, UN Resident Coordinator in Ecuador



100%

Supported the Common Country Analysis in countries where one was underway

75%

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



96%

Supported UNCT or its members on conflict sensitivity

95%

Supported UNCT programming efforts explicitly address peace and conflict issues

Top UN entities supported by PDAs*



*Percentage of PDAs that reported supporting the UN entities listed, outside of UNDP and DPPA

Moldova

Shifting perspectives on social cohesion

In Moldova, the PDA team is injecting new evidence-based perspectives to enhance UN and partners' understanding and approaches to the various issues stemming from the long-standing Transnistria region conflict. The Joint Programme's experience in Moldova demonstrates how innovation can open new spaces and opportunities that over time help foster conditions for achieving lasting peace.

The PDA team has been promoting efforts towards social cohesion through utilizing the SCORE Index—a tool developed originally by the Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development and UNDP to assesses social cohesion and resilience in different contexts. Having supported the pilot SCORE Index for Moldova in 2017, the PDA team undertook the second SCORE survey in 2022—expanding its scope to cover respondents in the Transnistrian region of Moldova for the first time. The latest SCORE findings¹, many of which challenged existing ideas and assumptions, provide the only empirical evidence of what constitutes drivers of and spoilers for peaceful reintegration of the Transnistrian region with the rest of Moldova. They provide an essential ingredient for improving left bank-right bank engagement, showing that many issues resonate on both banks and that cross-river contact could increase openness and support for peace talks. In 2023, the findings were co-presented with USAID (which supported the implementation of the SCORE in the rest of Moldova) to key international and government partners, providing clarity on Moldovans' views of the future that included people from the Transnistrian region for the first time.

By identifying clear recommendations and entry points, this latest evolution of the SCORE better informs key actors and UN entities' programmatic activities. The PDA team closely facilitated the development of an ongoing joint OHCHR, UN Women and UNDP PBF Project for 'Building sustainable and inclusive peace, strengthening trust and social cohesion in Moldova'. The team's continued analysis and advice continue to enhance the project's cross-river contacts and confidence-building with a strengthened focus on social cohesion. The SCORE findings have also contributed to making UN development work across all themes and agencies more cognizant of and responsive to the challenges of social cohesion and sustaining peace in Moldova.

In addition to providing new evidence through SCORE, the introduction of 'peace-tech' methodologies—which enable reaching and hearing from previously marginalized voices, tracking changes over time, and new avenues to socialize findings—has increased the PDA team's impact. In collaboration with the Institute for Peace and Swisspeace, the PDA team conducted an experiment using the Pol.Is tool to facilitate online dialogue and understanding among youth. The exercise produced important insights around young people's attitudes towards Moldova's future. The PDA team and UNDP are continuing to explore how this powerful methodology can be used to facilitate increased dialogue and shared understanding, particularly through involving youth.

The PDA team's work is also ensuring gender perspectives are being thoroughly considered in conflict and other analysis, particularly in the context of the Transnistrian settlement process. The PDA team and UN Women have supported the creation of a cross-river Women's Advisory Board, comprising seven women from each side of the Nistru river, to inform the OSCE-facilitated 5+2 format of the Transnistria Settlement talks. Continued funding, advisory and accompaniment support from the PDA team and UN Women aims to enable the Advisory Board to take on a more visible and active role in Track 2 and Track 3 levels of the settlement process, while also promoting gender equality and the WPS agenda more widely.

1 <https://app.scoreforpeace.org/en/moldova/score/2022/1/map?row=tn-2-0>

Lessons for the Joint Programme

The Joint Programme's experience in Moldova demonstrates how building a robust evidence base—especially by introducing new data and overlooked voices—can boost advocacy and impactful action. Through Joint Programme support, national stakeholders have been better capacitated and informed to support more effective negotiations that benefit both sides of the river and lead to more durable progress. Close PDA team engagement with key actors in the settlement process has increased trust in the UN, creating space

for deepening engagement, reflection, and advocacy on approaches to negotiating an effective, durable and inclusive settlement. The PDA team will continue to engage key stakeholders from both banks and members of the settlement Working Groups, with the eventual goal of moving to joint training and reflection events including actors from both sides.



PDA Moldova and a member of the Women's Advisory Board at a capacity building event

Sri Lanka

Informing UN engagement in a dynamic context

Sri Lanka embarked on a far-reaching reconciliation and transitional justice agenda in 2015. However, amidst considerable political turmoil, the space for progress on peacebuilding has continuously evolved, sometimes in significant and unpredictable ways. More recently, the country has experienced a grave economic crisis, coming to a head in 2022 with mass protests. Throughout this period, PDA teams have provided core capacity support for an active, informed and adaptive UN approach for engagement on prevention.

Analysis led by the PDA team has been critical for enabling the UNCT to anticipate and adapt effectively to a complex and evolving context (see box 1). This has been particularly evident in guiding the UN's efforts to expand its support to peacebuilding initiatives as opportunities arose, and in adapting strategies as new conflict drivers emerged. Through regular briefings, spot analysis, and issue papers on key issues and trends, the team's advice has enabled the UN and development partners to take a risk-informed, conflict-sensitive approach to emerging dynamics.

Box 1

The PDA team led numerous analytical processes to continuously inform UN engagement in Sri Lanka, including:

- An Annual Peacebuilding Survey from 2014-2019 and in 2023.
- A UN Country Team Conflict Risk Analysis conducted in 2020 to inform the 2021 Common Country Analysis and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the period of 2023-2027. This analysis included specific emphasis on supporting new conflict prevention priorities such as early warning systems and countering hate speech.
- An early warning system and CRD developed in anticipation of evolving multi-dimensional risks in the lead up to the economic crisis.
- An Update to the 2020 Conflict Risk Analysis in 2022 following the economic crisis.
- An online monitoring system for hate speech and harmful content.

The PDA team's advice was pivotal in informing the continuation of key funding instruments for peace and reconciliation. The team played a key role in establishing the Sri Lanka PBF window (2015-2020), the Joint Programme for Peace in-country instrument (2019-2022), as well as the Peace Window of the UN Sri Lanka Sustainable Development Goals Fund due to run until 2025. These instruments have allowed UN peace-related programming to persist and evolve across three administrations. The team continued to guide programming under the Peace Window throughout 2023 in support of national peacebuilding efforts, including continued support to post-conflict resettlement, a needs assessment for the Office on Missing Persons, and ongoing technical support to the Office for Reparations.

Alongside engagement with transitional justice processes, a key priority for the PDA team was tackling the emerging dynamics of hate speech. These efforts have focused on supporting civil society capacities, for instance through advisory and coordination support to the Sri Lankan Community of Practice for Online Harmful Content. Strategic partnerships established by the PDA team helped UNDP and CSO partners experiment with innovative 'gamified' digital literacy tools to address online hate speech. Developed with PBF funding, this initiative targeted the underlying behavioral drivers that make disinformation narratives so powerful. In addition to facilitating collaboration with international experts, the PDA team generated data and analysis on the Sri Lankan online disinformation landscape. The team's analysis, drawing on insights from the early warning system, has informed the development of a joint project in 2023 focused on countering hate speech in the lead up to national elections in 2024.

The team's long term and active engagement with national peacebuilding initiatives has helped the UNCT deepen partnerships for peacebuilding across a wide range of stakeholders, including political parties, civil society, academia, media, the private sector, and others. In addition to building trust, networks developed by the PDA team have enhanced the

UN's ability to anticipate shifts in the context and spot opportunities for peace and reconciliation activities. Following a year of economic crisis in 2022, the team continued to strategize, provide advice, and identify new entry points throughout 2023 for sustained UN engagement and advocacy on prevention and peacebuilding.



In Sri Lanka, the Joint Programme was critical in helping the UNCT focus its engagement during the crisis, adjusting its programming to emerging needs and develop innovative new programmes for peacebuilding, notably in the North and East.”

Marc-André Franche, UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka

Lessons for the Joint Programme

The Joint Programme's experience in Sri Lanka demonstrates the critical importance of high quality, innovative analysis that evolves with rapidly changing contexts. The PDA team's analysis and strategies enabled the UN to adopt a 'forward-leaning' approach to

engagement and advocacy on sustaining peace and reconciliation, maintaining both political space and financing instruments to address these issues in an evolving peacebuilding context.



Tunisia

Strengthening UN foresight amidst political transition

Tunisia has undergone profound change since embarking on its democratic transition. The country's evolving context necessitated both strategic and programmatic shifts in UN engagement, for which the PDA team has provided crucial support. Mechanisms developed by the PDA team for analysis have established a standing UN capacity to anticipate and adapt to key developments.

The PDA team set up an UN inter-agency early warning group in 2020 to stay abreast of tensions and emerging risks. In collaboration with UNDP's Crisis Bureau, the PDA team enhanced the CRD with additional data on protest movements gathered by local civil society organizations. A partnership with a local think tank enabled the team to draw from a network of regional focal points to aid in understanding incidents and protests, thereby providing timely and verified updates to the CRD. For instance, the team's analysis identified tensions over access to water as an area of concern, leading UNDP, FAO, and UNICEF to scale up engagement in this area.

The PDA team's advice and facilitation have been instrumental in enabling the UN to navigate a rapidly changing context in recent years. In collaboration with DPPA's Mediation Standby Team, the PDA team developed a comprehensive analysis of the unfolding situation, informing the UN engagement in Tunisia—towards taking a more risk-informed approach, aligning the UN's political and development pillars, and identifying areas for further UN support.

The PDA team also led work to enhance the UNCT's internal preparedness and prevention-orientation. These efforts combined measures addressing current tensions with those laying the groundwork for longer-term capacity building, enabling the UN to deliver sustained support for Tunisia's prevention infrastructure amidst shrinking civic space. Entry points identified for long-term capacity building included increased engagement on strengthening women's participation in prevention efforts. The PDA team collaborated with UN Women to establish and accompany a grassroots network of women mediators, who work to strengthen

social cohesion in their communities and bolster the voices of women in dialogue. The network is set to contribute to the analysis of the national context to inform the upcoming UN Country Common Assessment, with facilitation support from the PDA and UN Women.

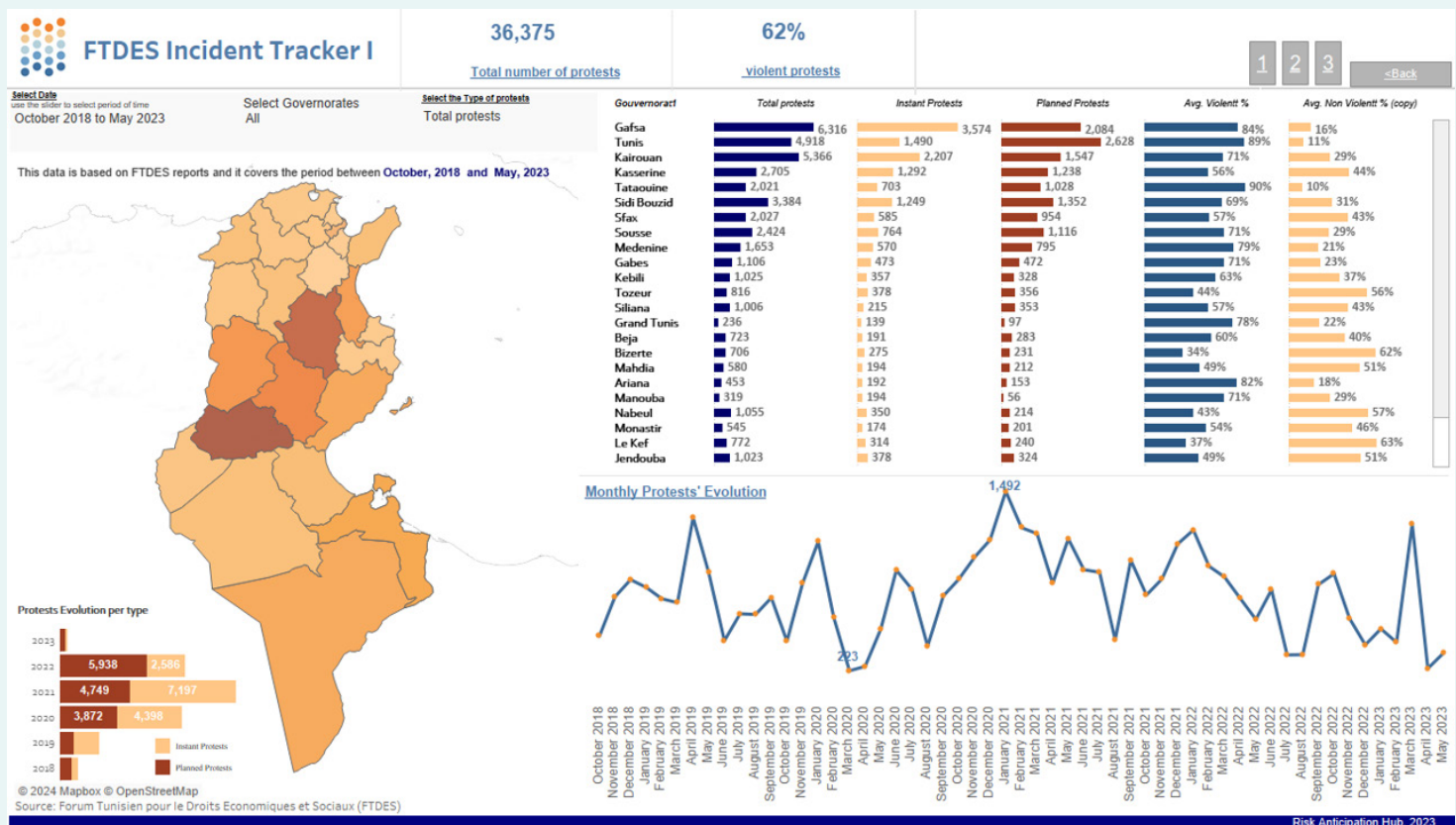
Building on both these initiatives, a new PBF project was approved starting in 2024 that focuses on strengthening inclusive social dialogue mechanisms. This project draws on the PDA team's analysis identifying low public trust in institutions and room for increased consultation on structural reforms as drivers of tensions and important factors in a strengthened social dialogue.

Lessons for the Joint Programme

In Tunisia, strong analysis and regular exchange across the UNCT, regional, and headquarters levels enabled UN entities to develop a shared understanding of the emerging context and cohesive efforts for continued engagement on prevention—identifying new entry points, updating programming, and linking actions to strategic priorities. Close collaboration with civil society partners further

strengthened the UN's ability to assess fast-moving developments on the ground, in addition to enabling long-term partnerships for engagement.

Snapshot of the Crisis Risk Dashboard for Tunisia





PDO Mauritania during a field visit for a climate, peace and security study to Hodh Chargui

Informing UN engagement through quality analysis



The PDA in Guatemala was instrumental in enabling our partners and the UNCT to better navigate deep political polarisation during a very challenging electoral year. Through prospective scenario analysis and capacity building, the PDA also supported the successful implementation of a PBF project by UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women that contributed to reduced post-electoral conflicts at the municipal level.”

Ana María Díaz, UNDP Resident Representative in Guatemala

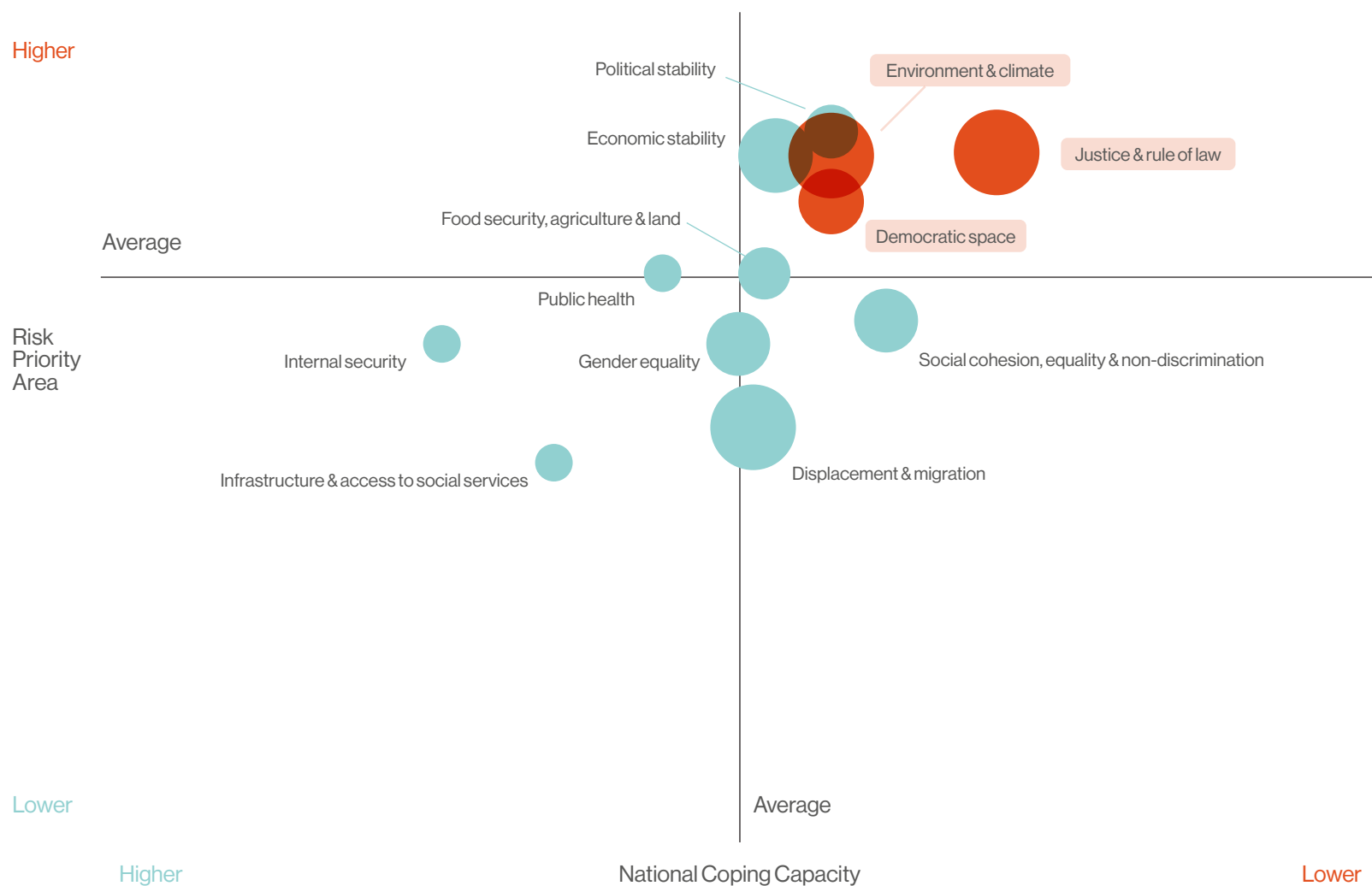
PDA lead, facilitate and support wide-ranging analytical processes, including the development of strategic frameworks such as the UNSDCF, CCA, and UNCT conflict prevention strategies. In **Bangladesh**, the PDA team’s analysis on social cohesion and sustaining peace in Cox’s Bazaar, in collaboration with the Cox’s Bazaar Analysis Unit, strengthened the UNCT’s understanding of conflict drivers and entry points for sustaining peace. In **Guatemala**, the PDA’s guidance and scenario analysis

contributed to more informed and effective UN engagement in the context of the 2023 elections. In **Honduras**, regular briefings and analysis from the PDA team has ensured that the UNCT stays abreast of emerging developments shaping prevention efforts, including femicide, rising polarization, and shrinking civic space—enabling more forward-leaning UN advocacy and engagement.

Bolivia

In **Bolivia**, analysis from the PDA team is helping the UNCT to better understand emerging risks and identify new avenues for inter-agency collaboration. The PDA team led an initiative to strengthen the Strategic Analysis Unit, an inter-agency unit comprising the PDA team, the RCO economist, and other UN agencies that support UNCT strategic decision-making from a prevention perspective. As a first step, the PDA team launched a multidimensional risk area survey for the UNCT to map identified risks to be monitored and existing national capacities to address the same. Working with the Strategic Analysis Unit, the team led

the development of analytical products with up-to-date analysis and data on the national context and guidance on identified risk and opportunities, which was presented monthly to the UNCT. The PDA team's analysis led to the UNCT's establishment of ad hoc inter-agency taskforces to identify and lead prevention approaches. The team's collaborative approach to developing its analysis enabled reflection beyond specific agency mandates and priorities, facilitating more cohesive strategies for the UN's work on prevention in Bolivia.



Results of Multi-Dimensional Risk Assessment survey completed by UNCT in Bolivia in September 2023

Georgia

In **Georgia**, the PDA team is strengthening the UNCT's ability to navigate a context characterized by intensifying political polarization, particularly in the period leading up to parliamentary elections scheduled for October 2024. Alongside providing regular analysis for the UNCT, the PDA team has facilitated a research initiative examining the nature of polarization in Georgian society. By identifying key drivers and mechanisms of polarization, the analysis provided valuable insights for the UN and development partners' to more effectively engage in sustaining peace efforts in the current political context.

It also opened up new joint programming opportunities, including a multi-agency UN initiative on youth civic engagement aimed at overcoming barriers to youth (including young women's) political participation.





© UNDP Myanmar



96% of PDAs
supported the UNCT or its members
on conflict sensitivity

95% of PDAs
supported UNCT programming efforts explicitly
address peace and conflict issues

Strengthening conflict-sensitive UN programming



PDA's provide high quality expert and strategic advice on peacebuilding that is essential for bridging the gaps between peacebuilding, human rights and development efforts so that UNCTs are better able to have a truly holistic sustaining peace approach to accelerating the SDGs."

Ingrid Macdonald, UN Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina

PDA's support relevant, timely and high-quality programming by UNCTs that responds to conflict risks and peacebuilding opportunities in a variety of ways, including by advising on programme design and operationalization, facilitating inter-agency and cross-pillar coordination, and generating innovative analysis to inform programming approaches. PDA's guidance and technical assistance have supported UN programming in nearly all countries where they are deployed. In 2023, PDA's advised UNDP programming on civic engagement in **Cambodia**, and supported a cross-border initiative on preventing violent extremism in **Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo**. In **El Salvador, Jordan and Nigeria**, PDA's have mainstreamed the integration of the Sustaining Peace Marker—an indicator that tracks the extent to which programme activities contribute to peacebuilding outcomes—into UNCT work plans.

PDA's often play a key role in mobilizing technical and financial resources from across the UN system, including through the PBF, to support prevention and peacebuilding programming. In 2023, all PDA's in countries where PBF process were ongoing provided support to the same, including on eligibility, programme design, and quality assurance. For instance, in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the PDA team's advocacy and support through the eligibility process culminated in the launching of three new joint programmes under a USD 10 million PBF portfolio focused on advancing the WPS and YPS agendas.

Philippines

In the **Philippines**, the guidance provided by the PDA has been critical in driving more inclusive peacebuilding and prevention-oriented programming. Analysis and advocacy by the PDA on the importance of enhancing the inclusion of Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples (NMIP) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) contributed to an increase in the number of UN joint programmes and policy initiatives focusing on NMIP, rising from zero in previous years to three in 2023. The PDA has worked closely with UN Women to shape the Women Peacebuilding and Humanitarian Fund's approach in advancing the WPS agenda in the country. This led to a strategic shift from individual capacity building for women mediators to effecting change at the institutional level by supporting legal registration for women-led, community-based peacebuilding organizations in Mindanao. As formal registration is a prerequisite for membership in local peace infrastructures and participation in conflict resolution and mediation processes, this shift has increased the representation of women peacebuilders in local institutions and effectively broadened the pool of women-led organizations able to engage in these processes, as well as in other nationally-led peace efforts.

To strengthen collaboration across the Humanitarian, Development, and Peace (HDP) nexus, the PDA has provided overarching strategic guidance for shifting the UNCT's approach on addressing displacement from a primarily humanitarian focus to a rights-based, durable solutions-oriented approach. The PDA further advised the design of an area-based PBF programme, implemented by UNDP, IOM and UNHCR, that supports the national and BARMM governments address protracted conflict-induced displacement, targeting areas where conflict dynamics threaten to exacerbate displacement. This approach has helped bring together agencies across the HDP nexus to jointly address key issues, such as strengthening early warning and response mechanisms in conflict hotspots to prevent displacement, facilitating peace agreements to enable return of internally displaced persons (IDPs), and enhancing the inclusion of NMIP and women IDPs.

Programming to Mitigate Climate-Related Conflict Risks

PDA has worked closely with UNCTs to integrate climate-related conflict risks into their prevention and peacebuilding programming. In 2023, PDAs worked on climate security initiatives in 25 countries.

While PDAs' support in this respect varies between contexts, their contributions include analysis for identifying programming entry points and opportunities, and technical advice on strengthening linkages between climate, gender, peace, and security. In **Papua New Guinea**, the PDA supported a PBF-funded initiative focused on enhancing women's leadership in the prevention climate-induced conflicts, including by facilitating capacity building to strengthen women's engagement in the formulation of Community Peace for Development Plans. In **Peru**, where socio-environmental issues are a key driver of conflict, the PDA team supported a UNDP initiative to empower environmental monitors as local agents of dialogue and conflict resolution in Participatory Environmental Monitoring and Surveillance Committees. In **Mauritania**, the PDA in collaboration with UNOWAS and DPPA conducted a study that deepened the evidence base on the linkages between climate change, peace, and security, surveyed existing work by the UN system and key stakeholders in this area and identified opportunities for joint action and collaboration.

Fiji and The Pacific

The **Pacific** region faces severe threats from the impacts of climate change including warming oceans, extreme weather events and sea-level rise. Considerable attention and resources are dedicated to this existential threat, but not always to its compounding risks to national and regional peace and security. The **Fiji**-based PDA team has actively addressed this gap across the region. Through the PBF's pioneering climate peace and security initiative in the Asia-Pacific region, the PDA advised and accompanied the project's implementation by engaging with UN agencies, governments, civil society, and regional actors, notably the Pacific Islands Forum and other Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies. The PDA has also facilitated the UN's work and leadership of the UN initiative on the climate-related displacement and durable solutions agenda in Vanuatu. The PDA team's analysis and guidance, including on political economy dynamics in Pacific countries, are helping to shift the needle on a collective understanding of climate security from an exclusively environmental issue to a multi-dimensional issue affecting peace and governance. The team has also facilitated dialogues between

CSOs and UN agencies, as well as policymakers in targeted countries including Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. Through these efforts, the PDA team has enabled a more cohesive, joined-up approach to climate security-focused advocacy and programming in the region.



PDA Papua New Guinea attending a reconciliation meeting between two clans in the Southern Highlands

Seed funding for catalytic initiatives

The Joint Programme provides seed funding for PDAs to develop small-scale catalytic initiatives that create entry points for more sustained or longer-term UN programming on conflict prevention. In 2023, the Joint Programme seed funding supported 24 such initiatives for a total

of USD 1.5 million. Approximately 45% of this allocation went towards initiatives promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment, far exceeding the 15% minimum funding target for gender equality set by the Secretary-General.



<p>Angola</p> <p>Strengthen Angola’s peace leadership through enhanced conflict resolution and peacebuilding capacities; and enhance human rights architecture</p>	<p>Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>Facilitate regional analysis, exchange and learning for conflict prevention</p>	<p>Bolivia</p> <p>Implement eMonitor+, an AI tool to monitor harmful content online and foster a more inclusive and equitable media environment</p>	
<p>Caribbean</p> <p>Implement a Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE) for the region</p>	<p>El Salvador</p> <p>Facilitate national and regional dialogues on advancing the WPS and YPS agendas</p>	<p>Eswatini</p> <p>Strengthen women’s inclusion in conflict prevention and peacebuilding</p>	<p>Ghana</p> <p><i>I pledge for Peace Campaign;</i> and support efforts to enhance accountability, democracy and inclusive development</p>
<p>Guinea</p> <p>Promote dialogue and social cohesion via peace through culture initiatives</p>	<p>Kenya</p> <p>Convene roundtables with national stakeholders on prevention-related challenges to inform UN engagement</p>	<p>The Maldives</p> <p>Support community-based theatre for change</p>	<p>Peru</p> <p>Promote inclusive dialogue with women, indigenous people and members of LGBTQIA+ community</p>
<p>South Caucasus</p> <p>Promote the YPS agenda in the South Caucasus</p>	<p>Thailand</p> <p>Use big data analytics tools to enhance political and conflict analysis</p>		

Seed funding for initiatives on mental health and psychosocial support in conflict prevention and peacebuilding

In 2023, the Joint Programme enhanced its focus on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Nine initiatives with a total funding amount of USD 443,000 were implemented by different UNDP offices with support from PDAs.

Through these initiatives, UNDP and PDA teams are driving wide-ranging efforts to integrate MHPSS in conflict prevention and transformation. PDA teams undertook mapping exercises to identify MHPSS services, needs, and gaps in **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Malawi, and Mauritania**. In **Burundi**, the PDA team worked with UNDP to strengthen networking and collaboration among CSOs delivering psycho-social services, to enhance MHPSS services available to women affected by sexual and gender-based violence.

PDA teams also undertook risk prevention and early intervention initiatives, targeting women exposed to online harms in Bangladesh and at-risk girls in Trinidad and Tobago. In **Bangladesh**, the PDA team led an initiative aimed at enhancing the resilience of female university students against

online threats, including cyberbullying and exposure to hate speech and extremist content. Working with Women Peace Cafes (university-based organizations established to encourage women's leadership in promoting peace), the PDA team and UNDP provided resilience training to nearly 80 female students at BRAC University and Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University. These training sessions equipped the students with skills to offer peer support within their campus communities. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the PDA team together with UNDP, facilitated a 16-week programme for at-risk teenagers in the context of a rise in youth gang violence, particularly among young girls. The initiative focused on promoting behavioral change and mental resilience for at-risk girls using the Psychosocial, Arts and Sports Model for Peacebuilding.

Seed funding for catalytic initiatives on MHPSS



<p>Bangladesh</p> <p>Support <i>Women Peace Cafes</i> to enhance resilience among female students against online harms</p>	<p>Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p>Integrate an MHPSS lens into UNCT prevention and peacebuilding initiatives</p>	<p>Burundi</p> <p>Strengthening the capacity of SGBV survivors to engage in conflict resolution and peacebuilding in their communities</p>	
<p>Eswatini</p> <p>Promote MHPSS and building peace for the vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Liberia</p> <p>Institutionalize MHPSS in the Liberian armed forces to support national conflict prevention efforts</p>	<p>Malawi</p> <p>Strengthening collaboration between MHPSS and conflict prevention and peacebuilding practitioners</p>	<p>Mauritania</p> <p>Map impacts of MHPSS services on conflict prevention</p>
<p>Trinidad and Tobago</p> <p>Implement a psychosocial, art and sports model for peacebuilding among at-risk youth</p>	<p>Turkmenistan*</p> <p>Strengthen community-based MHPSS support to vulnerable youth and women</p>		

* The Joint Programme does not deploy a PDA to Turkmenistan. This initiative was implemented by UNDP.

Spotlight on the Regional Programme Specialists

In 2023, the six Regional Programme Specialists based in Amman, Bangkok, Dakar, Istanbul, Nairobi, and Panama City, continued to support to PDAs and UNCTs on conflict analysis, conflict-sensitive programming, and strengthening national and UN capacities for conflict prevention. RPS' pay special attention to regional dynamics in their analysis and a key role in facilitating regional and cross-border partnerships and collaboration.

Africa

The RPS for East and Southern Africa, based in **Nairobi**, supported the formulation of the UN Horn of Africa Strategy on Hate Speech, as a joint initiative between OHCHR and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa. The regional strategy is aligned with the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech and provides a framework and a set of tools to support and complement existing efforts by governments, civil society, the media, and other actors.

The RPS in West and Central Africa, based in **Dakar**, co-organized a regional conference on gender with the UNOWAS Gender Unit, and contributed to UN Cooperation frameworks and CCAs with regional analysis on unconstitutional changes in government, and on the peace, security and development challenges in the Sahel and coastal West Africa. The RPS also supported the UNCT in Senegal in the context of national elections, through regular analysis and collaborating with UNOWAS to coordinate UN support for peaceful elections

Arab States

The RPS based in **Amman** supported the UN system in the region to better understand the regional implications of the war in Gaza by producing periodic analyses on risks and scenarios to guide preparedness and planning efforts. The RPS also supported the Resident Coordinators in Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Syria, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates through analysis and support for strengthening national capacities for peace.

Asia Pacific

The RPS based in **Bangkok** spearheaded the launch of the regional CRD in collaboration with DCO, UNDP, OHCHR, and DPPA, and OHCHR. The CRD resulted in the production of two Risk Monitoring Reports on protests and inflation, and on civic space, enhancing the UN's understanding of and response to key conflict trends in the region.

Europe and Central Asia

The RPS based in **Istanbul** facilitated monthly exchanges between the Special Representative for the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA) and the Resident Coordinators in five Central Asian countries to enable a coordinated approach to preventive diplomacy and addressing of water and climate-related challenges the sub-region. The RPS also undertook a mapping of trends in divisive narratives, hate speech, and mis-disinformation across the region and supported the development of action plans to combat hate speech.

Latin America and the Caribbean

The RPS based in **Panama City** organized a regional thematic consultation on WPS, bringing together PDAs in the region as well as DPPA, DCO, UNDP and UN Women regional colleagues to take stock of WPS challenges and opportunities from a UN perspective. During the consultation, colleagues identified entry points for collective action, and established priorities for UN System engagement, including supporting women's enhanced political engagement and advancing the WPS Agenda at both national and regional levels.

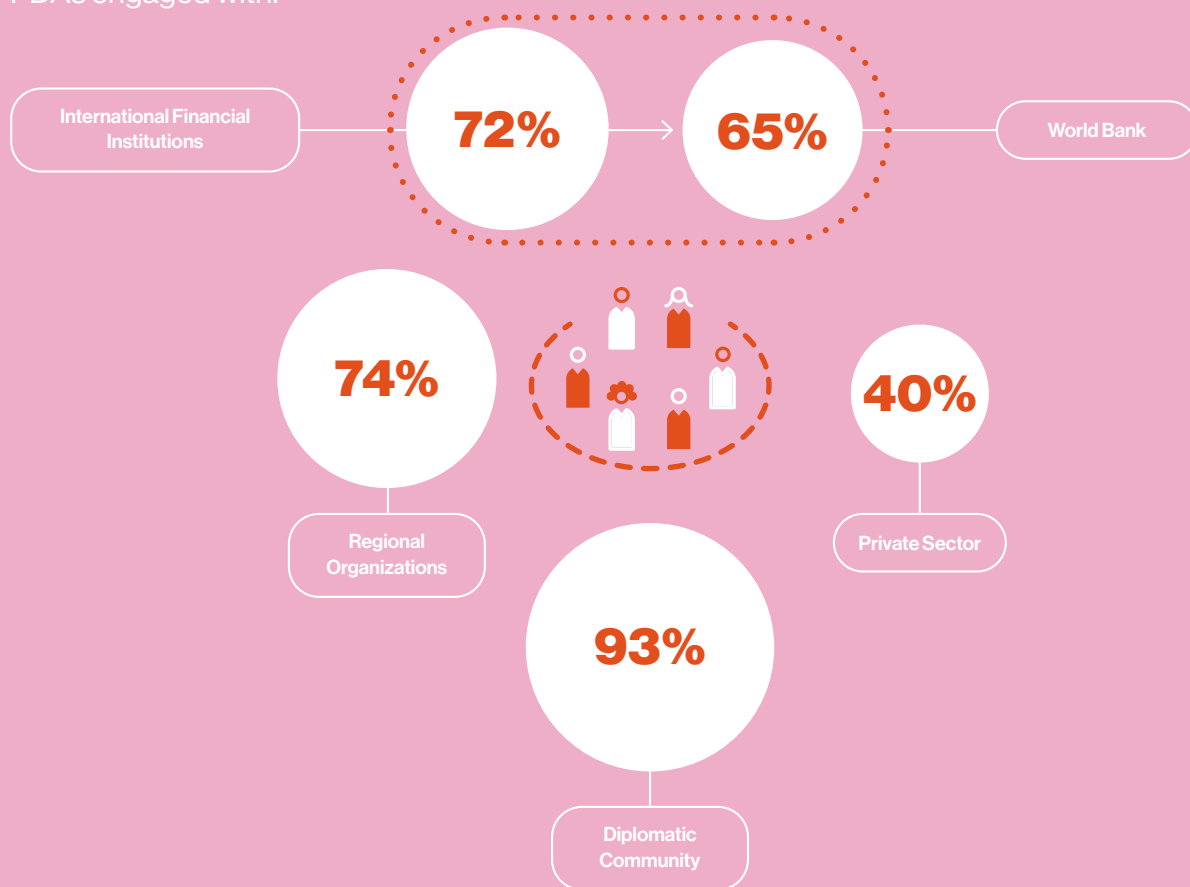




Peacebuilding partnerships, knowledge, and learning

Engagement with partners for conflict prevention

PDAAs engaged with:



Partnerships with international financial institutions

PDA continued to facilitate enhanced partnerships between the UN and international financial institutions (IFIs). In 2023, 72% of PDAs engaged with IFIs, primarily with the World Bank.

UN-IFI engagements facilitated by PDAs contribute to developing a shared understanding of country contexts and leveraging respective comparative advantages for advancing prevention priorities at the country level. PDAs facilitate UN-IFI partnerships in a number of ways, including by strengthening working relationships between UNCTs and IFI counterparts, facilitating exchange of analysis, and identifying opportunities for collaboration. In some countries, this collaboration has led to joint strategic planning and coordination of support to national stakeholders.

Burundi

In **Burundi**, the PDA team continued to facilitate a longstanding partnership between the UN and the World Bank that has enabled more coordinated alignment of peacebuilding support with national priorities, leveraging the comparative advantage of each. The PDA and World Bank counterparts jointly drafted the Peace Capitalization Strategy and the Prevention and Resilience Assistance (PRA) matrix, and led a series of joint consultations with the government and key stakeholders. These efforts have strengthened the UN and World Bank's collective support to Burundi's national programme for peace capitalization adopted in 2021. A Joint Steering Committee was established in 2023 under the leadership of the Prime Minister's office, including key government agencies, the UN, and the World Bank to operationalize the joint Peace Capitalization Matrix for Burundi.

The PDA also worked closely with the World Bank to coordinate the implementation of the Peace Capitalization Strategy, focusing on integrating "Leave No One Behind" principles into government and development partners' activities, milestones, and indicators. While the PDA and the Bank's PRA focal point maintain their own respective reporting format and channels, they have worked together on ensuring government ownership and reporting, as well as facilitating reaching the

milestones. In 2024, a key priority for the PDA team will be to engage in joint reporting with the World Bank, political and governance analysis, and continuously assessing lessons-learned, successes, and way forward for the remaining two fiscal years of the Peace Capitalization Strategy.



Diplomatic Community Engagement

PDAAs play an important role in building and strengthening partnerships between the UN and international diplomatic and development partners, contributing to more cohesive international engagements on sustaining peace. While each context offers different entry points for such partnerships, PDAAs have led or facilitated a variety of engagements, including convening partners in regular dialogues, and creating working groups for collaboration on key issues.

In **Cambodia**, the PDA team supported the organization of regular dialogues between the Resident Coordinator, UNCT, and diplomatic partners on the SDGs and human rights, which provided a forum for sharing updates on key developments, discussing challenges, and developing approaches for strengthening cooperation with national stakeholders on these issues. In **Georgia**, the PDA team continued to convene the Joint Consultative Forum for strategic dialogue and collaboration between international partners and UN agencies working in Abkhazia. Similarly in the **Maldives**, the PDA team facilitated regular exchanges with over a dozen diplomatic missions to provide a space for sharing perspectives, discussing challenges and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Following the unconstitutional change in government in **Gabon** in 2023, the PDA (deployed to country in surge capacity from Equatorial Guinea) provided essential analysis on fast-moving developments on the ground, enabling international partners, the UNCT and UNOCA to coordinate their engagement in response to the crisis. The PDA in the **Philippines** supported the convening of the Friends of Bangsamoro, a core group of development partners and members of the diplomatic corps, to enable joint engagement on the Bangsamoro peace process in the context of escalating violence in the BARMM region. In **Niger**, relationships with international partners built by the PDA over time paved the way for effective information exchange and coordination between the UN and international partners in the context of the 2023 coup. In **Nigeria**, the PDA team facilitated preventive diplomacy efforts with UNOWAS, the African Union, national actors, and state-level stakeholders to establish an environment conducive to peaceful elections.



PDA Nigeria meeting with Amb. Ibrahim Waiya, Head of Secretariat of the Kano State Peace Committee, on strengthening capacities and skills for sustaining peace

Advancing knowledge generation and organization-wide learning on prevention: Joint Programme Reflection and Learning Missions

The Joint Programme carried out three Reflection and Learning Missions in 2023—to the Caribbean, Moldova, and Sri Lanka, following from the first mission to The Gambia conducted in 2022. The missions enable the Joint Programme to deepen its understanding of how PDAs generate change in different contexts, and lessons that can be shared and applied across the PDA cadre. Ultimately, they seek to strengthen wider UN policy and practice based on the lessons learned from in-country PDA experiences.

The Reflection and Learning Missions have found that PDAs are contributing to enhanced national capacities for conflict prevention in a number of ways. They have played key roles in initiating and facilitating national exercises that provided a common foundation for national and international partners to operationalize peace agendas. For instance, The Gambia's nationally-driven Conflict and Development Analyses in 2018 and 2019 helped to build broad ownership and partnerships among government, civil society, and international actors for supporting national peace priorities, and were supported by PDA advocacy, sensitization, technical support, and networking among key stakeholders. PDAs have been instrumental in identifying and mobilizing resources, particularly through the PBF, in support of national peacebuilding efforts.

PDAs have also provided critical support for developing national and UN strategies that are relevant to each context's specific needs and priorities, and responsive to evolving conditions, entry points and challenges. In Sri Lanka, the PDA team's guidance, advocacy, and relationships across a wide range of stakeholders have supported the UN's continued

engagement on key transitional justice priorities as well as adaptive UNCT programming in a changing context. In sensitive or challenging situations, such as during major political shifts or crises, high quality analysis and foresight from PDA teams have supported more informed strategic UN engagements. Within the UN system, PDAs have often served as 'connectors' between the peace and security, development, and human rights pillars.

The Reflection and Learning Missions are yielding lessons for strengthening the Joint Programme's engagement on prevention and sustaining peace. Among these is the recognition that sustaining peace is often a non-linear and gradual process, requiring continuously adaptive approaches and long-term accompaniment. Inclusive and collaborative engagements, built on relationships of trust with a wide range of actors, can deepen national ownership and foster more sustainable infrastructures for peace. High quality analysis offers a strong foundation for UN support on prevention by informing strategies, strengthening programming, and enhancing UN credibility and leadership.

The Joint Programme will continue to conduct a minimum of two Reflection and Learning Missions per year over its new programme phase to further supplement its monitoring, evaluation and learning efforts and drive greater PDA impact on prevention and sustaining peace.

A meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration of Moldova during the Joint Programme Reflection and Learning Mission





PDA Induction in New York
held in June 2023

2023 Milestones

Brownbag discussion:

Perspectives from Regional Programme Specialists on promoting and facilitating regional and cross-border approaches for sustaining peace (in-person, New York)

JAN

PDA Induction in New York

Regional PDA Retreat for Europe and Central Asia (in-person, Istanbul)

Webinar: UN support to elections - avenues for PDA engagement (virtual)

FEB

Policy and Practitioners Forum: PDA Panel on opportunities, challenges and strategies for UN political engagement in Asia and the Pacific, Côte d'Ivoire and The Gambia at the 2023 Academic Council on the UN System (ACUNS) annual meeting (in-person, Washington DC)

Brownbag discussion:

Perspectives from the PDAs in Angola and Zimbabwe (in-person, New York)

JUN

Webinar: Integrated Policy Practitioners' Network Knowledge Cafe (accent): Cross-pillar collaboration for sustaining peace, perspectives from PDAs in Chad and Kenya, and Regional Specialist for Asia and the Pacific

JUL

Regional PDA Retreat for Latin America and the Caribbean (in-person, Panama)

SEP

Webinar with the members of the newly established PDA roster (virtual)

Regional PDA Retreat for Asia and the Pacific (in-person)

NOV

Joint Programme **Steering Committee** meeting (hybrid)

Brownbag discussion:

Perspectives from the PDA in Nigeria (in-person)

DEC

Signature of the **Joint Programme project document 2024-2028**

List of Acronyms

BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
CCA	Common Country Analysis	OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
CRD	Crisis Risk Dashboard	OSCE	Organizations for Security and Cooperation in Europe
CROP	Council of Regional Organizations in the Pacific	PBC	Peacebuilding Commission
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations	PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
DCO	United Nations Development Cooperation Office	PDA	Peace and Development Advisor
DPPA	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs	PDO	Peace and Development Officer
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	PRA	Prevention and Resilience Assistance
EU	European Union	RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	RPS	Regional Programme Specialist
FBA	Folke Bernadotte Academy	SADC	Southern African Development Community
IDP	Internally Displaced Peoples	SCORE	Social Cohesion and Reconciliation
IFI	International Financial Institution	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
ILO	International Labor Organization	TRRC	Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
ITC	United Nations International Trade Centre	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission		
NMIP	Non-Moro Indigenous Peoples		

UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOCA	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WPS	Women, Peace, and Security
YPS	Youth, Peace, and Security

Thank you

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**Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme
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for Conflict Prevention**
