

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING AFFAIRS

2023 MULTI-YEAR APPEAL
ANNUAL REPORT



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FOREWORD

As we navigate the current complex landscape of geopolitical challenges and humanitarian crises, our Multi-Year Appeal (MYA) Report for 2023 underscores that investing in peace remains not only essential for the preservation of human life and the prevention of suffering, but also the most cost-effective strategy for securing enduring peace and development gains. Unlike the large price tags often associated with humanitarian work and peacekeeping missions, peacebuilding initiatives – looked at through an economic lens alone – offer a remarkable return on investment.

By addressing the root causes of conflict and fostering environments conducive to sustainable peace, Member States can avert the enormous economic and human tolls exacted by prolonged instability and insecurity. Additionally, through targeted investments in conflict prevention, mediation, and reconciliation efforts, DPPA, working with its international partners and other UN entities, can mitigate the need for post-conflict reconstruction efforts. Given the magnitude of the conflicts currently raging around the globe, it is almost impossible to imagine the sheer scale of the work that will need to be carried out in this regard in the coming years. Needless to say, the toll on human life can never be reversed.

Guided by the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan 2023-2026 and the Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace, DPPA is committed to its vital work of prevention and crisis response. Our preventive diplomacy work, informed by timely and actionable analysis and insights, allows us to respond to sensitive

situations to reduce tensions, or keep them from worsening, at the request of parties concerned and frequently alongside partners.

Against this backdrop, it is impossible to overstate how vital it is to allocate resources swiftly in response to new and evolving needs. Unearmarked contributions afford us the flexibility to prioritize assistance where it is urgently required. This enables us to deploy mediation efforts, support peace processes, and provide critical assistance to conflict-affected communities quickly and efficiently.

In the current difficult political and funding environment, DPPA is determined to continue to deliver on its mandate, working around the globe and in cooperation with Member States and other partners to help build peaceful and equitable societies. With the support of our donors, we are confident that we can make a decisive contribution to achieving the mission of our Organization: to make peace a reality for all.



Rosemary A. DiCarlo
**Under-Secretary-General for Political
and Peacebuilding Affairs**

INTRODUCTION

This reporting period covers the inaugural year of the Department's Strategic Plan for 2023-2026, and demonstrates how DPPA was able to respond to new and protracted crises – together with our partners – amidst an ever more complex international peace and security environment. Notably, the Plan is built around A New Agenda for Peace, for which DPPA served as penholder, as a follow-up to the Secretary-General's report *Our Common Agenda*. Together, the two documents guide the Department in developing new, bold and innovative approaches to global peace and security challenges.

This first year saw the Plan in action amidst a rise in violent conflicts and tensions worldwide, highlighting the importance of striking a balance between addressing immediate crises and engaging in non-crisis prevention efforts. Through a deliberate approach, DPPA effectively managed its priorities across its global conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding mandate.

Extrabudgetary funding through the MYA has been indispensable in this regard, enabling us to act swiftly and effectively, enhancing our impact. Crucially, the majority of funds were also unearmarked, granting the Department the flexibility to allocate resources to the most pressing needs. By complementing the regular programme budget, the MYA supports our core functions and boosts our capacity to assist Member States and the UN system both at Headquarters and in the field. Vital areas such as mediation, and electoral support, along with our partnership initiatives, rely heavily on this voluntary funding.

Against the backdrop of a troubling erosion of progress on gender equality, our dedication to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda has remained unwavering. In 2023, we allocated \$8.2 million (19 per cent of the MYA budget) to WPS activities, surpassing our goal of 18 per cent. The MYA also played a crucial role in incorporating youth in peace and security efforts, mainstreaming climate security, leveraging innovation, and other thematic priorities.

In 2023, the MYA secured \$31.1 million, falling short of the \$41 million target by 24 per cent. Despite strong ongoing support from our current and new donors, this deficit impacted the MYA portfolio. The shortfall necessitated tapping into our cash reserves and, in certain instances, required us to recalibrate our activities and scale back engagement. Importantly, however, the majority (77 per cent) of funding was unearmarked, providing the Department with the ability to act and react flexibly. In the context of a broader liquidity crisis affecting the United Nations, the critical role of the MYA has been further highlighted.

This report showcases how donor contributions through the MYA have enabled DPPA to remain operational, field-focused, and responsive during challenging times. In 2023, due to continued monitoring and review of the MYA projects, the Department was able to boost its implementation rate to 89 per cent of the total programmed funding, the highest rate in the past five years.

A NEW AGENDA FOR PEACE

As penholder for the Secretary-General's policy brief on A New Agenda for Peace, DPPA drew on MYA funding to conduct extensive consultations with Member States, civil society, UN entities, regional organizations and international researchers. In addition to in-person consultations, DPPA analyzed 46 written contributions from individual Member States, Member State groups, and regional organizations, all of which informed the analysis and recommendations of the policy brief. MYA support further enabled the Department to coordinate with DPO, UNOCT and the UNODA.

When the Secretary-General presented A New Agenda for Peace in July 2023, he outlined his vision for how Member States could advance shared interests and strengthen multilateral action for peace. Cooperation is more essential than ever to combat an interlocking set of global threats, such as the changing nature of armed conflict, persistent violence outside of conflict, the potential weaponization of new technologies, rising inequalities, shrinking civic space, and the climate emergency.

A New Agenda for Peace presents twelve concrete sets of proposals for action, in five priority areas, for the consideration of Member States in their negotiations on the Pact for the Future, to be endorsed at the Summit of the Future in September 2024.

With MYA funding, the Department continues to maintain a small surge capacity to help accompany and support intergovernmental negotiations ahead of the Summit of the Future in 2024 and works across the UN system to ensure that relevant upcoming processes and reports are informed by the recommendations contained in the Agenda.



OVERVIEW OF THE MYA

PEACE IS PRICELESS
AND POSSIBLE

MULTI-YEAR APPEAL 2023-2026

GLOBAL



We fund political work across the world

FLEXIBLE



70% of our funding is unearmarked

FAST



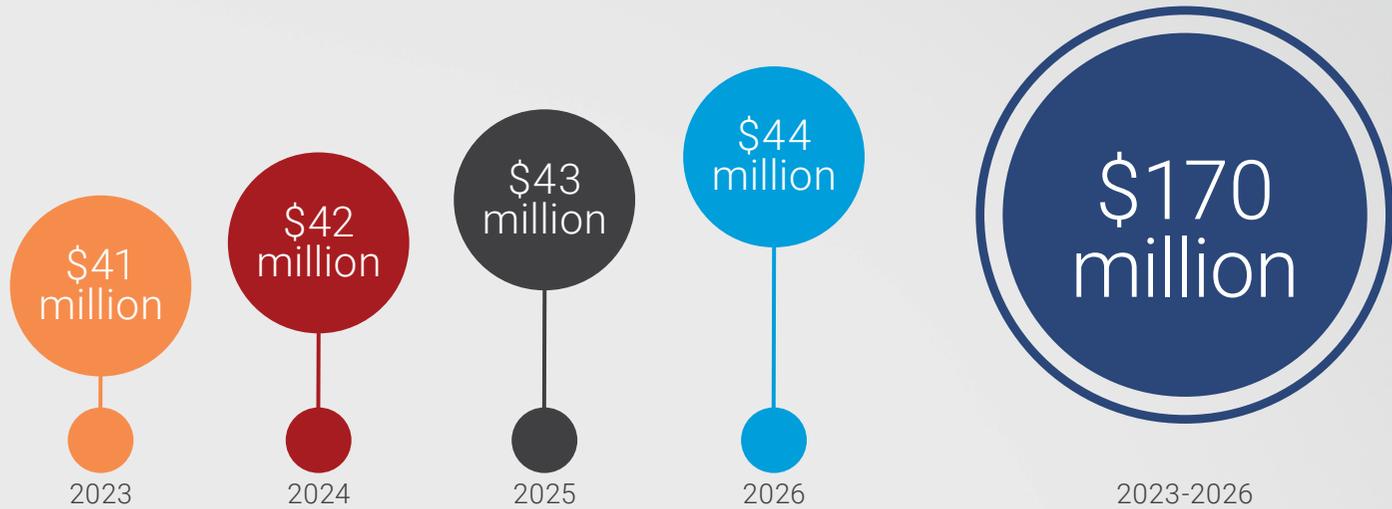
We can allocate funding within 72 hours of a crisis

INNOVATIVE AND INCLUSIVE



We use innovative approaches to peace and security with emerging technologies

THE MYA CALLS FOR



MYA FUNDING WINDOWS



GOAL 1

PREVENTING AND RESOLVING VIOLENT CONFLICTS AND SUSTAINING PEACE

Driven by the vision of A New Agenda for Peace, conflict prevention and resolution are central to the work of the Department. With a network of Special Political Missions (SPMs), Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs), and Headquarters-based capacities, the Department works alongside the rest of the UN system, as well as external partners, to respond to and prevent conflict.

The MYA enhanced the Department's mediation, preventive diplomacy, and peacebuilding activities, to build resilience, support local mediation, and foster social cohesion. We also focused on inclusive participation, ensuring that women, young people, and marginalized groups are fully involved in peace efforts. Flexible MYA funding and the Rapid Response window allows us to adjust to new situations quickly.



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS UNDER GOAL 1



46%

of Departmental analytical products contained gender-sensitive analysis



295

staff/advisors were deployed (upon request) for assistance in mediation and conflict prevention



171

SPM leadership briefings to the Security Council and the General Assembly were supported by DPPA



100%

of cases where a coordinated response was communicated to Member States within 4 weeks of receiving their requests for electoral assistance



130

country settings/ sub-regions where DPPA engaged on prevention and peacebuilding issues on a regular basis and in a structured manner with RCOs/UNCTs

WE EXPANDED OUR CONFLICT ANALYSIS TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO NEW THREATS

The MYA enables and amplifies our work in support of conflict prevention, management and resolution through a variety of tools. In 2023, we continued to deploy mediation expertise to enhance the good offices, mediation and facilitation work of the UN system and its partners. At the request of Member States, or as mandated by the Security Council or General Assembly, DPPA provided

technical assistance to facilitate elections that were deemed credible by national stakeholders. We continued to backstop more than 30 SPMs and provided additional capacity to support their diverse mandates – from preventive diplomacy, to supporting complex transitions, to helping build and sustain peace. All this is underpinned by our work as the UN system’s political lead.

ADDRESSING CLIMATE-RELATED SECURITY RISKS

In 2023, DPPA made enhancing its capacity to address climate-related security risks in the field a top priority. Climate, Peace and Security (CPS) advisors are now deployed in our SPMs covering West Africa and the Sahel, Central Africa, the Horn of Africa, Somalia and Iraq. Additional deployments are planned for 2024.

In **Nairobi**, the Office of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa (OSE-HoA), with MYA support, launched the first UN CPS Hub to support the new Climate Security Coordination Mechanism of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

In **Afghanistan**, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), in close collaboration with DPPA, undertook a comprehensive CPS study. This research, grounded in extensive fieldwork and local community engagement, found that climate shocks were already acting as a risk multiplier by intensifying local conflicts over resources, fueling domestic and regional tensions over migration, and adding stress on transboundary river basins. The study also highlighted the pivotal roles of Afghan women in resource management and climate action.

In **Iraq**, DPPA, in partnership with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), also completed a CPS study that informed the deployment of a new CPS advisor in May 2023. An early priority for the advisor was to conduct CPS trainings for UN staff in 14 Iraqi governates.

Our engagement on climate, peace and security in 2023 culminated at the **28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in Dubai**, where DPPA endorsed the COP28 United Arab Emirates Presidency's declaration on "Relief, Recovery and Peace Day", which underscores the urgency of climate action in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. The inter-agency Climate Security Mechanism (CSM), of which DPPA is a founding member, was specifically mentioned in the Declaration as a key player in its realization. Additionally, the Declaration's "Package of Solutions" spotlighted DPPA's Geoguard tool for its role in facilitating detailed risk assessments and risk mapping across different sectors.

WE WORKED AROUND THE CLOCK — AND AROUND THE WORLD — TO PREVENT CONFLICTS AND MAKE PEACE

Through its network of **SPMs**, DPPA backs a range of conflict prevention, management and resolution processes globally. This includes dedicated backstopping and deployment of additional capacity as needed, as well as specialized thematic support (for example on gender, climate security or innovation). The MYA complements DPPA's regular budget resources; without voluntary funding from our partners, such support would not be possible.

MYA funding helped UNAMI's good offices to expedite the implementation of the "Sinjar Agreement" and reach a similar

agreement between the different communities in Kirkuk, while addressing outstanding issues in relation to the administration of the two areas. In close coordination with the Prime Minister's Office, UNAMI conducted six community consultations to address the demands and needs of stakeholders in Sinjar. Discussions centered on priority topics for Sinjar communities, including the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the security landscape. In 2023, UNAMI conducted four dialogue sessions and eight bilateral meetings with Kirkuk representatives to discuss power-sharing, security and land disputes between the different constituencies in Kirkuk.



WAR IN GAZA AND THE UN RESPONSE

Hamas' attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, and the subsequent Israeli military response in Gaza, mark the worst escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in decades. The future of Gaza, and of the security and stability of the region, are in the balance.

The ongoing war in Gaza has exacted a catastrophic toll, causing tens of thousands of civilian casualties, massive internal displacement and extensive destruction of infrastructure. While

attention is primarily focused on Gaza, the situation in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, continues to worsen as well. The UN's main objective is to advocate for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, averting regional military escalation, securing the release of remaining hostages, and addressing the severe humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

DPPA, as the lead UN Department for prevention and conflict resolution, is an integral part of advancing international peace and security efforts in the Middle East.

Through MYA-funded capacities, DPPA has been actively involved both at Headquarters and backstopping the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), amidst a significant increase in the pace of UN engagements with members of the Security Council, the broader membership, and other stakeholders. The Department also deployed surge capacity to UNSCO to reinforce its crisis response and planning and its coordination with UN Headquarters. Without additional capacity funded by the MYA, DPPA would have been seriously hampered in meeting the monitoring and analysis needs to adequately support Member States and the UN system in responding to the conflict. DPPA's staffing capacity dedicated to the Middle East Peace Process is funded entirely through the MYA.

The deteriorating security and humanitarian situation, coupled with the looming risk of regional escalation as the Gaza conflict continues, requires proactive and sustained engagement by DPPA. Continued support of the MYA will be essential in this regard.



SUPPORTING UN ANALYSIS AND MONITORING IN UKRAINE

As the war in Ukraine endures, the heightened risks of escalation and spillover necessitate timely and accurate analysis. Sustained capacity funded through the MYA is critical, allowing the Department to respond to the significantly increased demands since the outbreak of war in 2022. This includes the additional human resources and requisite operational support for the DPPA Liaison Office in Kyiv.

In 2023, DPPA was again in the lead in providing the Secretary-General and UN principals with comprehensive analysis related to the war. Regular reporting also contributed to the preparation of public statements and briefings to the Security Council on Ukraine – numbering more than 100 briefings in various formats, delivered by the Secretary-General and senior DPPA officials.

The Department also provided Headquarters and field-level guidance and support to the UN’s crisis and humanitarian response. This guidance extended across multiple areas, including the Black Sea Initiative, engagement with civil society, and fostering Member State discussions aimed at peace in Ukraine, including by chairing internal coordination structures.

The MYA-funded DPPA Liaison Office in Kyiv was indispensable in monitoring and reporting on political and security developments in and around Ukraine. DPPA’s continuing presence and engagement with the Government and local stakeholders, including women and youth civil society representatives, and with international partners, as well as ongoing support and advice to the Resident Coordinator (RC) and the UN Country

Team (UNCT), have become even more important to inform opportunities for potential UN support, including with regard to the implementation of the WPS and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas.

Thanks to the MYA, and in collaboration with the Peace and Development Team in Moldova, DPPA supported the participation of a Ukrainian women civil society delegation at a regional conference organized by UN Women in Chisinau. The event brought together nearly 100 participants from over ten countries to share insights on women’s contributions to peace, security, humanitarian and crisis response. The DPPA-supported delegation of seven women from Odesa, Ukraine, contributed to a panel on women’s agency and leadership in peacebuilding, where they shared and gained insights on the role of women in peacebuilding.



SUPPORTING UN POLITICAL EFFORTS IN SUDAN

In 2023, the situation in Sudan deteriorated dramatically following the outbreak of fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in April. Clashes spread across the country, leading to widespread human rights violations and a devastating humanitarian crisis. The war in Sudan risks causing further fragmentation and regional spillover..

Throughout this period, UN Headquarters staffing capacity funded through the MYA enabled DPPA to provide real-time monitoring, reporting and analysis to the Secretary-General and Member States. DPPA ensured a coherent response among UN entities, by leading the regular meetings of the Integrated Task Force on Sudan and activating relevant crises management mechanisms. The protracted crisis also demanded strengthened coordination with, and backstopping support to, the United Nations Integrated Transition

Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS). This provided much needed additional capacity to facilitate the good offices efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and UNITAMS towards an inclusive political dialogue, in close partnership with the African Union (AU) and IGAD as part of the Trilateral Mechanism.

Despite the significant escalation in hostilities in April, DPPA also continued to support UNITAMS efforts to ensure the inclusion of women's voices in peace efforts as a key priority. Building on years of work to support the political participation of diverse Sudanese women, the mission had notably intended to organize six regional conferences and a national conference for dialogue and shared learning. In the wake of the eruption of conflict, the mission instead held virtual consultations and one in-person workshop in Cairo with women activists to explore the potential of joint advocacy and action. The participants agreed to form one group to monitor the humanitarian response to the war, and another to advocate for women's participation in peace and political processes.

The Security Council terminated the mandate of UNITAMS in December 2023, but support from the MYA will remain critical to sustain DPPA engagement on Sudan during this crisis period. This will include necessary capacity to support the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Sudan and his good offices and political engagement with Sudanese, regional and international stakeholders. The efforts of the Personal Envoy will build on resolution 2724 (2024), in which the Security Council encouraged him to use his good offices with the parties and the neighbouring States, complementing and coordinating regional peace efforts.



SUPPORT TO CONSOLIDATING PEACE AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION IN MOZAMBIQUE

In 2023, Mozambique achieved a significant milestone in the process to definitively overcome the conflict that once pitted the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO) and the Mozambique National Resistance (RENAMO) against one another in a brutal civil war. International support, including from the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Mozambique, was crucial to the success of the process.

The closure of the 16th and final RENAMO base in June 2023 marked the successful settlement of all the group's 5,221 former combatants, including 271 women and 4,950 men, in communities across the country.

The Personal Envoy also backed the development of a roadmap for expediting the issue of pensions for former combatants. The Government approved a historic decree extending pension rights to eligible disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) beneficiaries in March. Following the final RENAMO base closure in June, registration activities for pensions were launched in central Mozambique in the city of Beira in August. Registration has also taken place in seven provinces in the centre and north of the country, reaching a total of 2,579 DDR beneficiaries. The first group of DDR beneficiaries began receiving their pension in September 2023.

With support from the MYA, the Personal Envoy engaged with the Government, the international community and representatives of the private sector, to secure reintegration opportunities for DDR beneficiaries, their family members and communities. In March, the Personal Envoy held a private sector event with 18 high-level

representatives, which led to internships and entrepreneurial opportunities for family members of DDR beneficiaries. In May, 97 DDR beneficiaries and family members graduated from training to join the Police Force of Mozambique. Altogether, 1,560 DDR beneficiaries and 449 family members have been linked with economic, livelihood and education reintegration opportunities across the country since 2019.

The good offices of the Personal Envoy concluded in October 2023.



EXPANDING PEACE IN COLOMBIA

Thanks to MYA funding, DPPA offered essential political, operational and financial support to the UN Verification Mission in Colombia, thereby playing a critical role in the country's peace process. The wide-ranging provisions of the 2016 Final Peace Agreement carry the promise of transformational change for the country, with a focus since 2023 on peace efforts in rural communities and for Indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations. The Mission continues to verify the Agreement's implementation and encourages further progress.

In 2023, our efforts helped facilitate significant progress in peace negotiations between the Government and the National Liberation Army (ELN). A ceasefire agreement entered into effect in August 2023 and the Security Council granted the Mission a monitoring role. The SRSG continued to engage in good offices work, accompanying the Government's peace talks with the ELN, as well as separate

talks with a dissident faction of the former FARC-EP. It is hoped that these talks will sustain the momentum of Colombia's peacebuilding efforts. This requires strengthened political and operational support from DPPA. Notably, the MYA filled a critical gap, as no dedicated regular budget allocation existed for good offices support.

In August 2023, an agreement on participation of society in peacebuilding between the parties also came into effect. The document explicitly requested the Mission's assistance in the operation of the National Participation Committee, which is tasked with advancing the implementation of the agreement. Support from the MYA enabled the organization of relevant forums, meetings, and events with different sectors of society in conflict-affected areas, which helped further sensitize and inform Colombian society about the peace process. Altogether, 28 preparatory sessions and 14 events were held, including with critical sectors like Indigenous communities, youth and persons with disabilities. At least 4,000 people (45 per cent of them women) participated in the workshops. With MYA funding, the Mission also supported the production of videos to spread awareness among civil society, particularly at the territorial level.

During the reporting period, DPPA and the Verification Mission jointly organized a field visit for the Department's donors and partners to experience first-hand the dynamics of Colombia's peace process. Representatives of Member States that support the MYA engaged with key stakeholders during meetings in Bogotá and in two rural communities where former combatants are reintegrating into civilian life.



SUPPORTING UN POLITICAL EFFORTS IN YEMEN

The situation in Yemen remained relatively calm from the expiration of the six-month UN-mediated truce in October 2022 until the recent escalation in the Red Sea. The Special Envoy's mediation efforts are ongoing, and in December 2023 the parties committed to a set of measures to implement a nationwide ceasefire, improve living conditions in Yemen, and engage in preparations for the resumption of an inclusive political process under UN auspices. These commitments will serve as the basis for establishing a UN roadmap that includes these commitments and supports their implementation.

Through MYA support, DPPA was able to enhance its backstopping to mediation efforts led by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OESGY), including through the provision of strategic and operational planning assistance, as well as inter-agency coordination and cooperation. In late 2023, the enhanced political support of DPPA extended to addressing the ongoing escalation in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, including through engagement with the Security Council and Member States, coordination with other UN entities involved in addressing the issues, and by advocating for restraint by all parties and seeking to shield the mediation efforts led by the Special Envoy.

Additional funding allowed OESGY to undertake several high-profile and high-impact activities to align its work more closely with local and national priorities of Yemeni stakeholders for the peace process. This included the organization of consultations in Amman, Aden and Cairo, which helped OESGY increase its outreach to a diverse group of women representatives working towards an inclusive peace process.

Funding from the MYA also contributed to ceasefire preparations. It made possible consultations of the OESGY Principal Military Advisor and Security Arrangements Team with the Government of Yemen delegation to the Military Coordination Committee in Amman in October 2023. On the economic track, additional capacity was made available to OESGY's Economic Team in designing the holding of consultations and political outreach on key economic issues that the parties are actively considering. Moreover, the MYA enabled the extension and expansion of the Special Envoy's regional engagements, to undertake discussions with regional political actors and with the diplomatic community.



MAINTAINING POLITICAL SPACE FOR DIALOGUE IN AFGHANISTAN



In 2023, DPPA supported UNAMA to continue its engagement to maintain political space for dialogue in Afghanistan. The mission spoke out on violations of human rights, particularly in relation to the rights of women and girls, and the need to uphold human rights standards, while engaging with the de facto authorities on topics such as law enforcement and detention. Together with UN Women and IOM, UNAMA conducted regular consultations with Afghan women, while seeking to maintain and improve workforce diversity, such as the number of Afghan women in professional capacities. National UN volunteers serve in an array of mission areas, supported by MYA funding.

In May 2023, the Secretary-General convened a meeting of special envoys on Afghanistan in Doha, Qatar, where issues of common concern were identified with regards to Afghanistan. UNAMA continued efforts to bridge between Afghanistan's de facto authorities and the international community. For instance, the Mission convened a working group on counter-narcotics and hosted a conference on microfinance in support of the private sector. The Mission also advocated for expanded support by the international community not only for humanitarian assistance but for meeting the basic needs of the population.

Flexible funding from the MYA was instrumental in providing Headquarters support to UNAMA, facilitating the undertaking of the aforementioned initiatives.

SUPPORTING THE POLITICAL PROCESS IN SYRIA

The conflict in Syria continues to inflict tremendous suffering on the civilian population and remains an evolving threat to international peace and security. Ongoing hostilities and risk of escalation in the northwest, northeast and southwest persist amidst fragile ceasefires. Since 7 October, there has also been spillover from the conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, a reminder of the risk of a broader regional conflagration. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) also continued to pose a threat. Meanwhile, UN efforts to advance the political process in line with Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) continued to face challenges, including obstacles to reconvening the Constitutional Committee and advancing the Special Envoy's step-for-step approach to build confidence and cooperation between Syrians and among the international community.

In 2023, DPPA continued to provide backstopping support to the Office of the Special Envoy and assistance to UN leadership on Syria-related engagements, including analysis, advice, policy formulation, messaging and advocacy on Syria-related issues.

DPPA also partnered with other UN entities to seek positive outcomes for Syrians. For example, the Department supported the Secretary-General and OHCHR's work on the creation of the Independent Institution for Missing Persons in Syria by the General Assembly, in close coordination with human rights organizations and survivor and family associations. DPPA furthermore supported monitoring and advocacy on justice and accountability issues, in coordination with the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM), Commission of Inquiry and human rights organizations, as

well as Member States directly involved in ongoing legal processes, such as Canada and the Netherlands in the case against Syria before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). On the WPS agenda, DPPA contributed to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) by supporting the participation of women and women's groups in the Syria political process, as well as through monitoring and advocacy on protection issues affecting women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, housing, land and property rights, civil documentation, preventing refoulement and ensuring necessary conditions are in place for voluntary, safe and dignified refugee return. DPPA also advocated for the adoption of resolution 2672 (2023) to extend authorization of UN cross-border humanitarian access, through its relationships with Security Council members and in consultation with OCHA. DPPA continued to monitor humanitarian access since its transition to a government consent model, including through monitoring implications for the political process.



FACILITATING THE POLITICAL, SECURITY AND ECONOMIC DIALOGUE TRACKS IN LIBYA

In Libya, MYA resources enabled the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to continue facilitating the Libyan-owned and -led political, security and economic dialogue tracks, which remained at the centre of the Libyan political process.

MYA resources were instrumental in providing financial support to the 5+5 Joint Military Commission (JMC) of representatives from eastern and western Libya, buttressing UNSMIL's efforts to advance the security track. This included work to prepare for the withdrawal of foreign fighters, foreign forces and mercenaries

from Libya and to enhance UNSMIL's situational awareness in southern Libya. An UNSMIL-facilitated meeting between the 5+5 JMC and the Chiefs of Staff of the Libyan Armed Forces from the east and the west focused on preparing the re-unification of Libyan military institutions and the formation of a joint military force to support Libyan border security.

To complement the analytical capacities of UNSMIL, DPPA commissioned a comprehensive analysis on the main security, political, socio-economic, and cross-border dynamics in southern Libya. The analysis also includes a gender component on conflict and security dynamics in the southern part of the country. The findings informed the work of the Liaison Committees from Chad, Niger and the Sudan.

On the economic track, MYA funding enabled the temporary extension of the UNSMIL Senior Economic Adviser. The Adviser worked closely with key Libyan stakeholders and the Economic Working Group co-chairs of the Berlin International Follow-up Committee to advocate for a unified Libyan approach to reconstruction efforts in Derna and other areas affected by catastrophic storm damage in September, as well the role of existing Libyan entities in ensuring transparency and accountability in those efforts.

MYA funding further enabled the UN Secretariat to deploy a Joint Assessment Mission to UNSMIL to provide strategic advice to the Mission's leadership on the implementation of the 2021 Independent Strategic Review of UNSMIL (S/2021/716).



DPPA SUPPORT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S GOOD OFFICES IN CYPRUS

With MYA support, DPPA played a critical role in engaging with the parties in support of the Secretary-General's good offices mandate in Cyprus, including through regular visits by DPPA leadership. Following an agreement by the sides, the Secretary-General appointed a Personal Envoy in January 2024 to search for common ground on the way forward. DPPA works closely with the Personal Envoy and backstops the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus, providing the UN leadership with political analysis and recommendations for action.

With MYA support, the work of the Technical Committee on Gender Equality on implementing an action plan to increase women's participation in peace talks has been extended. The Mission engaged with broader civil society, including women and youth. The Mission organized a photo exhibition entitled "Inclusive Diplomacy: Women participation in the Cyprus talks." Opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, on 15 March 2023, the exhibition has since been made a permanent feature in the buffer zone due to its popularity.



RAPID RESPONSE WINDOW

The MYA's **Rapid Response** mechanism allows DPPA to quickly act on emerging needs by deploying resources within 72 hours. The funding window has previously supported a range of short-term interventions to bolster early warning, good offices and mediation.

Amidst a fragile political transition in **Chad**, Rapid Response funding enabled the deployment of surge capacity to the RCO. A consultant helped translate a system-wide UN strategy for the transition into concrete action. Together with the PDA, the consultant also contributed to monthly integrated analytical reports, regular political updates, the United Nations Integrated Response Plan, and conflict-sensitive programming to foster social cohesion and conflict prevention. This involved active participation in Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) projects and support to the good offices efforts of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

The situation in the **Tigray** region of **Ethiopia** remains fragile, as the gradual implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement continues. Tensions persist between Tigray and the Federal Government over aspects of the implementation of the Agreement, and the Tigray Interim Regional Administration (IRA) is under pressure from the public to deliver swift peace dividends and improve living conditions in the region. Against this background, the UNCT was requested to provide guidance and support to the IRA to develop a roadmap for reforms and governance re-structuring. Rapid Response funding supported the short-term deployment of a staff member to Tigray, who assisted the IRA in developing an assessment and implementation strategy for a Democratic Governance Reform Programme. The Programme proposes to address urgent peacebuilding-related capacity gaps in Tigray's justice sector and civil service, while increasing government accountability, independent institutions and media, and civic engagement. The staff member worked alongside not just the IRA, but also civil society, women's groups and other stakeholders. In addition to supporting work on the Programme, the deployed staff member also provided political analysis to the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa (OSE-HoA) and RCO in Addis Ababa.

While elections have led to seven political transitions in **Nigeria** since 1999, they have also been flashpoints for violence across the country. Ahead of elections in early 2023, DPPA organized dialogues in Cross River, Enugu, Kaduna, Kano and Oyo States to convene key actors including political parties, traditional and religious leaders, civil society organizations (including women and youth groups), security forces and the media to propose actions to prevent electoral violence.

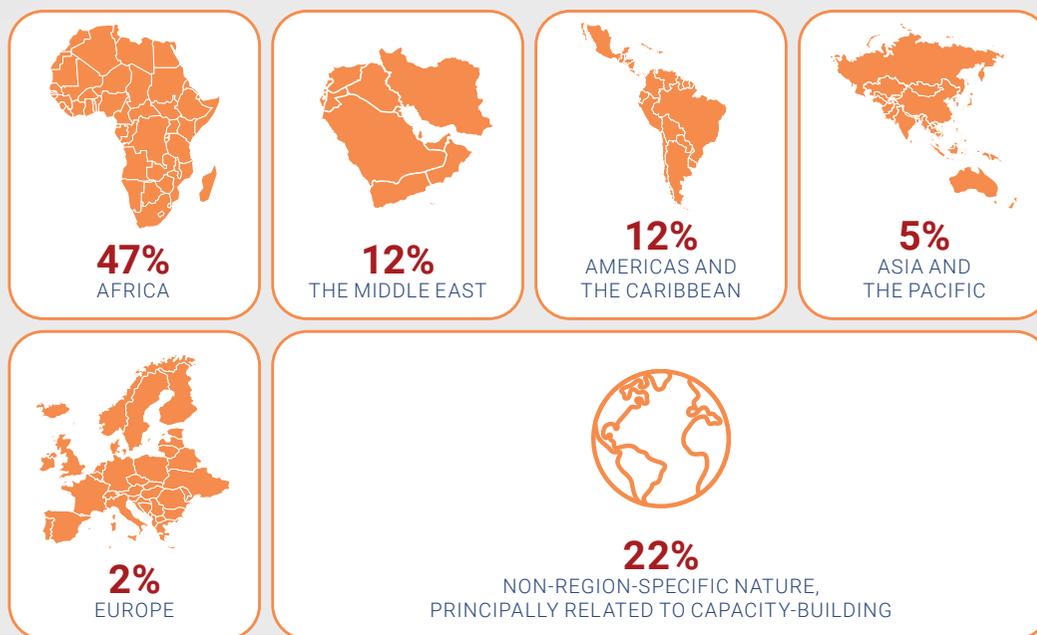
WE DEPLOYED MEDIATION EXPERTS TO NEGOTIATING TABLES AROUND THE WORLD

DPPA's Mediation Support Unit (MSU) and the Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisors (SBT) deliver tailored operational support to mediators, SRSGs, Special Envoys, and Resident Coordinators, among others.

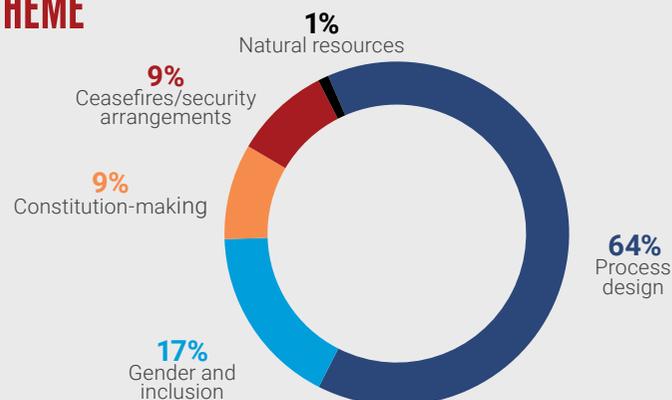
SBT members can deploy within 72 hours and offer specialized advice on peace discussions, as well as training for mediators, mediation teams and/or, when appropriate, parties to a conflict.

Fully funded by the MYA, in 2023, the Standby Team (SBT) engaged in 131 mediation support assignments in approximately 26 different contexts. These included, inter alia: Afghanistan, Angola, Chad, Chile, Haiti, the Horn of Africa, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Nigeria, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

SBT SUPPORT BY REGION



SBT SUPPORT BY THEME



KEY ENGAGEMENTS OF THE STANDBY TEAM IN 2023

SUPPORT TO SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS



AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA)

DPPA and SBT members supported UNAMA on discussions regarding the Mission's good offices role and development of options for confidence building, engagement and dialogue, with a focus on women's rights and empowerment, as well as climate action and security. In November, an SBT member visited Kabul to advise on best practices and identify potential entry points to help UNAMA to establish additional ways to implement its mandate on outreach and good offices.



LIBYA (UNSMIL)

In 2023, DPPA and the SBT provided support to UNSMIL. In May, DPPA supported the SRSG in the organization of a High-level Strategy Session in Libya to brainstorm on plans to sensitize Libyan security actors on the importance of the inclusion and safe political participation of women. SBT experts specializing in gender, inclusion, and ceasefires contributed as key resources. In July and August, the SBT ceasefires and security arrangements expert conducted two follow-up online sessions with Libyan actors focused on integrating gender perspectives into Libya's ceasefire monitoring mechanism and best practices for preventing the recruitment of child soldiers.



SUDAN (UNITAMS)

After fighting broke out in Sudan in April 2023, the UN looked for an immediate way to de-escalate and stop the violence. Working closely with UNITAMS, SBT experts provided strategic advice to the diplomatic efforts of the UN and external partners. Activities included participation in the Thabo Mbeki Foundation-led informal discussions in September, supporting International IDEA-Sudan and the Arab Association of Constitutional Law in crafting an options paper for post-conflict constitutional discussions in Sudan, and collaborating with UN Women to empower Sudanese women to participate in high-level negotiations and ceasefire talks.



YEMEN (OESGY)

Two SBT process design experts supported two workshops for OESGY, which analyzed the peace process and connections between economic, security and political issues. Additionally, throughout the year, DPPA and SBT members provided remote support to OESGY on designing an inclusive political process. This included developing ideas for potential mechanisms to promote public participation and inclusion.

SUPPORT TO PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS



SOUTH SUDAN (UNMISS)

DPPA offered ongoing advice to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to support its mandated activities. The SBT constitutions expert and DPPA visited Juba in May to discuss advancing the constitution-making process and the broader political transition. Additionally, SBT experts engaged in a series of discussions on election-related challenges in South Sudan. In August, an SBT expert in process design and gender inclusion contributed as a facilitator at a workshop aimed at training South Sudanese women mediators for the launch of the African Union's FemWise South Sudan Chapter. In October, UNMISS hosted a retreat in Juba, supported by two SBT experts in process design, to explore strategies for enhancing the Mission's ability to mediate local conflicts.

SUPPORT TO RESIDENT COORDINATORS/ NON-MISSION SETTINGS



ANGOLA

An SBT expert, working in conjunction with the RCO in Angola, the Global South Unit for Mediation of the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro and DPPA, assisted in training Angola's diplomatic corps. The training, held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Diplomatic Academy in Luanda, aimed to bolster Angola's mediation expertise and preventive diplomacy skills. This initiative was launched in the context of Angola's mediation efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo through the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and preparations for its role as the then-upcoming Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In 2023, Standby Team experts supported the Resident Coordinator in Papua New Guinea by offering technical advice on the post-referendum consultations between the Papua New Guinea Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government. A process design expert from the SBT also helped the UN and national counterparts to brainstorm on possible options to resume these consultations considering timelines set out in the 2022 Era Kone Covenant.



PANAMA

At the request of the Resident Coordinator, in late 2023 an SBT process design expert was deployed to Panama City to assist in the context of the large-scale public protests against a government contract with a mining company. The expert provided support by advising on potential UN preventive actions and technical assistance concerning extractive industries. Additionally, the expert offered a series of recommendations designed to help strengthen the national Human Rights Ombudsman's conflict prevention capacities.

WE PROVIDED MULTI-FACETED ELECTORAL SUPPORT

The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, as the UN system-wide Focal Point for electoral assistance matters, continued to provide leadership on electoral assistance matters within the UN system and ensure coordination and coherence in responding to Member States' requests for electoral assistance, with support from DPPA's Electoral Assistance Division.

In 2023, **57 Member States** benefited from United Nations electoral support. Ensuring timely response to requests from Member States for electoral assistance remained a key priority. In 100 per cent of cases, following a request for UN electoral assistance, Member States received a coordinated response within four weeks of the receipt of the request by the DPPA.

Elections can be useful in preventing conflict. Therefore, our approach to electoral assistance combines technical assistance with good offices and mediation to ensure peaceful and credible elections. In 2023, the UN supported 18 elections, including in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Paraguay**. DPPA led **53 electoral missions** in 2023 to various Member States that requested UN assistance, including needs assessment missions (NAMs) to **Burkina Faso, Chad, Papua New Guinea, Lesotho and Libya**. DPPA also conducted advisory missions to **Somalia and Madagascar, among other countries**.

The goal of most of these electoral missions was to assess the needs of requesting Member States, provide advisory support or to ensure timely and effective support to Special Envoys and SRSGs, UNCTs and electoral officials. Other electoral missions aimed at supporting regional efforts for peaceful and credible elections and strengthened our partnership with regional and sub-regional governmental and non-governmental organizations. In this connection, in partnership with IGAD, League of Arab States (LAS), and Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), DPPA co-organized, or supported the organization of, workshops, trainings and roundtable discussions on election-related topics.

In fulfilment of the Focal Point's mandate to provide clear leadership within the UN system and ensure coherence and coordination, DPPA developed or updated internal guidance on matters ranging from social media to artificial intelligence (AI) in elections. Moreover, it reviewed and provided input to around 30 initiatives and documents of other UN entities to ensure consistency, coordination and coherence within the system on electoral assistance activities. DPPA also continued to train UN staff and regional partners on the prevention and mitigation of election-related violence and to manage the UN single roster of electoral experts.

ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE TRENDS IN 2023

Africa continued to be the main region of focus for DPPA's electoral support, accounting for around **47 per cent** of the assistance provided, followed by **Asia (21 per cent)**, **Latin America and the Caribbean (20 per cent)**, **Oceania (10 per cent)** and **Eastern Europe (2 per cent)**.

GENDER AND ELECTORAL SUPPORT

Gender equality and women's participation and representation continued to be a priority in UN electoral assistance activities in 2023. All electoral needs assessment reports contained analysis and recommendations on women's electoral/political participation and, where appropriate, incorporated dedicated analysis and recommendations on temporary special measures (TSMs), including quotas. All electoral support project documents developed or implemented in the field incorporated gender and support to women's participation as key components. Newly issued guidance reflected various gender considerations. DPPA continued to reinforce strategic messages and advice to UN staff on women's political participation, and on the use of TSMs, including through participation in the Task Team on TSMs, the annual UN High-level Seminar on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Strategies and the DPPA training course on "A Political Approach to Preventing and Responding to Election-related Violence".

Promoting women's electoral and political participation was a key guiding principle for regional trainings initiated, co-organized or supported by DPPA. The four events on electoral topics held in partnership with or in support of the IGAD, LAS, and PIF included components on promoting women's political and electoral participation. DPPA also continued to support the activities of the Arab Network for Women in Elections and provided support

to the establishment of the Arab Women Leadership Academy, a new initiative in support of promoting women's participation and representation in electoral and political processes in the Arab region. Gender was also an important part of the Secretary-General's biennial report on electoral assistance, which DPPA drafted in 2023.

ELECTORAL SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS

BURKINA FASO

A NAM was deployed to Ouagadougou from 30 January to 10 February 2023, in response to a request for UN electoral assistance from the Government of Burkina Faso. The NAM recommendations included continuing the UN's good offices and advocacy work, in close consultation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as UN technical assistance and advice focused on strategic planning, electoral operations (including voter registration), special measures for internally displaced persons and out-of-country voting, information and communication technology (ICT) processes; and partner coordination.

CHAD

A NAM was deployed to N'Djamena from 6 to 24 March 2023 upon the request of the Government of Chad. The NAM recommendations included UN support to political facilitation for dialogue among national actors, and targeted technical and operational assistance through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other relevant UN entities. Furthermore, the recommendations noted technical support should concentrate on strategic communication, stakeholder mobilization, women and youth participation, expertise in electoral operations and logistics, and conflict prevention related to elections.

 **COMOROS**

A NAM was deployed from 19 to 29 June 2023, further to a request for electoral assistance from the Government. The mission recommended UN electoral assistance, including good offices, support to civil society organizations and the Independent National Election Commission (CENI) for the upcoming 2024 presidential and island governors' elections.

 **PAPUA NEW GUINEA**

Following a request from the Government for assistance ahead of the next general elections in 2027, a NAM was deployed to Port Moresby from 11 to 24 April 2023. Assistance was specifically requested on electoral reforms, which are planned to be completed by 2025. The recommendations from the NAM include the establishment of a new electoral support project covering the entire electoral cycle, ending with the general elections, and to provide assistance towards the reforms, coordinating international observers, enhancing political participation of women and other disadvantaged groups, and coordinating UN's peacebuilding efforts for conflict prevention.

 **LESOTHO**

Following a request for UN electoral assistance from the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of Lesotho, a NAM was deployed from 24 April to 5 May 2023 to Maseru and Pretoria, for meetings with the diplomatic community accredited to Lesotho, in view of the local elections, and a possible referendum, due to anticipated constitutional reform and national elections scheduled for 2027. The recommendations of the NAM, as approved by the Focal Point, extended the current electoral assistance project until December 2028. The extension includes providing technical support to the IEC for strengthening institutional capacity, improving operational planning and the election management system. Additionally, it aims to promote inclusion of women, youth, and persons with disabilities, support media, and counter hate speech.

 **LIBERIA**

The first legislative and presidential elections under the sole responsibility of Liberian authorities since the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) in 2018 were organized and implemented in 2023. The UN electoral assistance project, as recommended by the NAM, enabled UN's integrated technical assistance to strengthen electoral institutions and processes, as well as good offices to promote a conducive environment for peaceful, inclusive, and credible elections.

 **GUINEA-BISSAU**

UN electoral assistance was aimed at supporting peaceful parliamentary elections in Guinea-Bissau on 4 June 2023. The assistance encompassed political and good offices support throughout the preparatory phase up to polling day. It also included regular coordination and exchanges between the RC, the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), OHCHR, DPPA and the UNCT. At the technical level, UNDP's electoral assistance project, launched in March 2023, focused *inter alia* on enhancing transparency, improving the election results management system, promoting the participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups, and other conflict prevention activities. Electoral support is expected to continue until March 2025.

 **MADAGASCAR**

Further to a previous assessment carried out earlier in the year, an electoral advisory mission was deployed from 26 September to 4 October 2023, ahead of the 9 November presidential elections, in support of the good offices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to the African Union. The approved NAM recommendations included the continuation of UN technical assistance through the elections- support project, to complement political efforts aimed at securing a conducive environment to peaceful elections.



★ SOMALIA

An electoral advisory mission was deployed to Somalia from 10 to 19 May 2023 upon the request of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). The aim of the mission was to support UNSOM and UNDP in reviewing the electoral assistance strategy, improve delivery of electoral support to the National Independent Electoral Commission and other electoral management bodies, explore restructuring of the UN Integrated Electoral Support Group, assess development partners' interest in funding future electoral processes, and enhance coordination of electoral assistance with other joint programmes. The mission culminated in concrete recommendations for UNSOM engagement with the Federal Government and partners on electoral support, as well as internal restructuring and security management for enhanced support to the elections.

🇿🇲 ZAMBIA

Following a request from the Electoral Commission, a NAM was deployed from 11 to 21 September. The approved recommendations included additional technical assistance to support national efforts in further improving the inclusivity, transparency, and peacefulness of the elections, as well as to advance electoral reforms and promote the participation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

GOAL 2

A MORE EFFECTIVE MULTILATERAL ARCHITECTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

DPPA seeks to contribute to the multilateral architecture for international peace and security through our activities under Goal 2. This includes our support to the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Peacebuilding Commission and other UN bodies, to enable them to effectively perform their functions and deliver on their mandates. Partnerships also remain a core priority for DPPA. Through Goal 2, we seek to strengthen our engagements with, and support to, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as international financial institutions. We also continue to work closely with UN entities, UNCTs and RCOs, to leverage our unique strengths and deliver more impactful results on the ground.



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS UNDER GOAL 2



45

initiatives were undertaken with regional and sub-regional organizations



88

inter-agency mechanisms were led or co-led by DPPA



52

projects funded by PBF and MYA incorporated climate, peace and security-related considerations



WE ARE MORE INTERCONNECTED THAN EVER BEFORE

Effective cooperation with regional and sub-regional organizations remains a core priority for DPPA. Our partnerships are in recognition of the central role these organizations play in managing and resolving conflicts, based on their unique institutional positioning, knowledge and networks. Regional approaches also become more important as the repercussions of conflicts are felt across borders.

DPPA's collaboration with the **African Union (AU)** has continued to strengthen and grow, critically underpinned by support from the MYA. Extrabudgetary funding in 2023 enabled continued backstopping at UN Headquarters to coordinate the UN system in support of the UN-AU partnership on peace and security. This included the organization of the fourth trilateral meeting of the **AU, European Union** and the **UN**, hosted by the Secretary-General

in September, as well as the seventh UN-AU Annual Conference in November. The latter resulted in the signing of the Joint UN-AU Framework on Human Rights by the Secretary-General and the AU Commission Chairperson. Funding from the MYA also supported the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General requested by the Security Council on financing of AU-led peace support operations, including consultations with the AU Commission. DPPA continued to accompany the AU in its **“Silencing the Guns in Africa”** initiative through dedicated capacity seconded to the AU Commission.

In 2023, UNOCA supported **ECCAS** and other national and regional stakeholders in the development of a draft regional strategy and action plan for the prevention and fight against hate speech in the media. The draft strategy will cover written, audiovisual and digital media.

UNOCA and UNOWAS, in conjunction with UNODC, have continued to assist **ECCAS** and **ECOWAS**, as well as the Gulf of Guinea Commission and the Inter-regional Coordination Centre, in enhancing maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. The two missions helped to facilitate ongoing dialogue around the review of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct and evaluation of the Yaoundé Architecture, including through a meeting of relevant stakeholders in Dakar in August.

In line with its role as the UN system focal point for coordination with the **Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**, DPPA continued

to collaborate with the organization on its Crime and Security Strategy – specifically providing support to CARICOM’s counterterrorism strategy.

We continued to strengthen our partnership with the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**, with a particular focus in 2023 on introducing climate, peace and security as a new area of policy focus. Southeast Asia ranks among the world’s most climate-vulnerable regions. With MYA funding, DPPA had prepared a preliminary assessment outlining relevant climate, peace and security risks, which served as the background for discussions at the ASEAN-UN Regional Dialogue in November in Jakarta. The event, co-organized with the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and the Indonesian Government, provided an opportunity for stakeholders including government officials to share technical expertise and comparative experiences, with a view to kickstarting policy-level discussions within ASEAN.

Cooperation with the **LAS, Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** and the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** continued to focus on deepening strategic dialogue, carrying out joint analysis and forging common approaches on preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution and mediation. This included support to the biennial General Cooperation Meetings of the LAS and OIC, and biennial Sectoral Meeting with the LAS, as mandated by the General Assembly and which is reliant on MYA extrabudgetary funding.

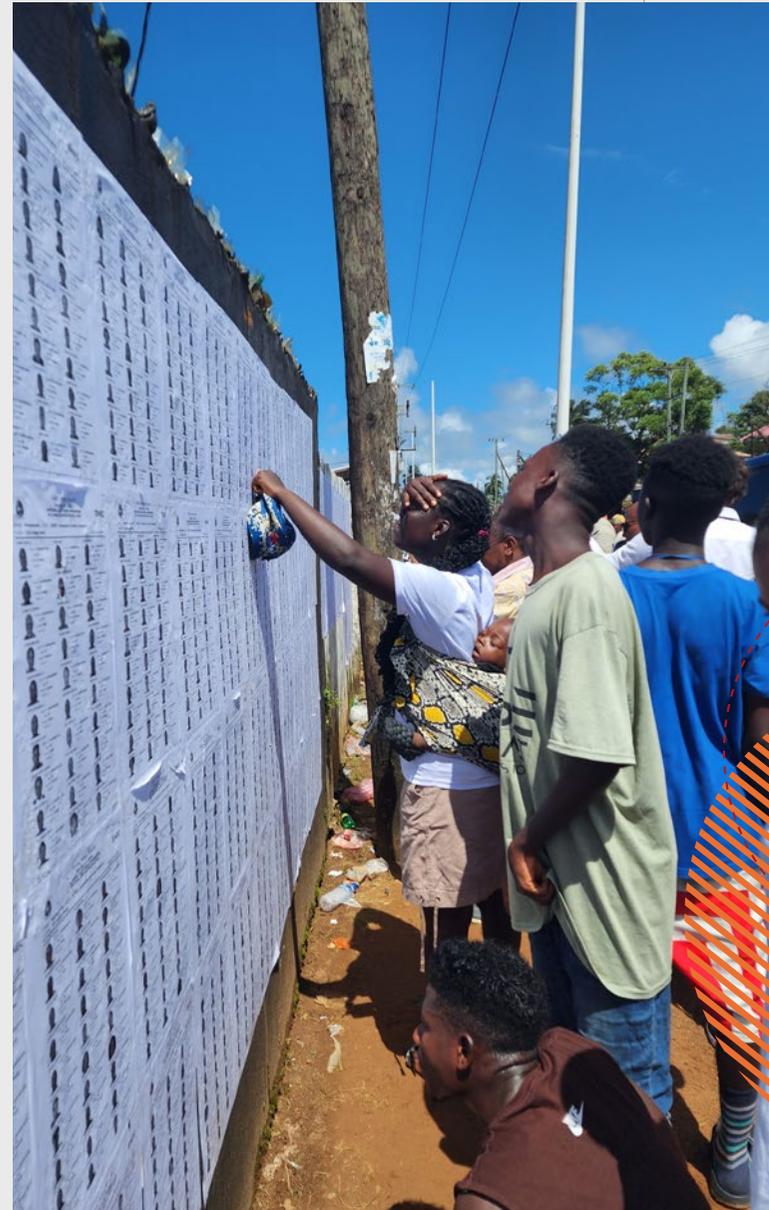
PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY EFFORTS TO SUPPORT PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS IN LIBERIA

The peaceful outcome of the 2023 elections in Liberia was a remarkable achievement for a country that ended a bloody civil war two decades ago and hosted over 16,000 UN uniformed personnel at the peak of the 15-year-long UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) deployment.

MYA funding provided DPPA and UNOWAS with critical resourcing to carry out early warning and preventive diplomacy work to help ensure peaceful and inclusive elections. In May 2023, DPPA re-activated the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) to ensure coherence of UN system-wide preventive engagement ahead of the 10 October general elections and the 14 November presidential runoff vote. MYA funding was key to the efforts of the RC, ECOWAS and UNOWAS to defuse pre-electoral tensions. Notably, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel and Head of UNOWAS visited Liberia four times to provide his good offices, successfully managing to defuse tensions, in close partnership with ECOWAS.

Supported by MYA funding, UNOWAS, together with the RCO and UN Women organized two stakeholder forums ahead of the elections. The first forum, facilitated by the SRSG on 15 August, saw the involvement of presidential candidates. The second forum, held in Ganta, Nimba county, on 3 October, focused on women in politics, exploring strategies to ensure safer spaces for women's participation in elections.

Additionally, MYA funding enabled the deployment of surge capacity from DPPA and UNOWAS to the RCO to enhance political analysis and early warning. These efforts collectively played a pivotal role in easing tensions, advancing the women, peace and security agenda, and sustaining Liberia's hard-won peace gains, in close collaboration with regional and international partners.



PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY AND PROMOTING REGIONAL APPROACHES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA



The Horn of Africa region faces ongoing multifaceted peace and security challenges, including the escalating conflict in Sudan, peace consolidation in Ethiopia, and the political transition in South Sudan. The region also contends with border disputes, tensions over access to natural resources, terrorism, violent extremism, and climate crises, as evidenced by drought impacting Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia, and flooding in South Sudan.

Through MYA funds, the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa (OSE-HoA) has provided vital political leadership and coordination for the implementation of the Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy for the Horn of Africa, enhancing linkages between the UN and partners and promoting regional approaches.

MYA resources also played a crucial role in the regular engagement of the OSE-HoA with the IGAD Secretariat on issues pertaining to peacebuilding, climate security, women's participation and representation. Through MYA support, OSE-HoA co-organized key workshops with IGAD such as a roundtable for Election Management Bodies (EMBs) from IGAD Member States, a panel of experts meeting to validate the IGAD Regional Action Plan on WPS, and an IGAD Ministerial meeting for the adoption of the WPS Regional Action Plan.

MYA funding has also supported the engagements of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa with other Special Envoys from the European Union, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Germany, France, Japan, and Norway, fostering strategy and response coordination to regional crises, including the climate crisis and developments in Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan.

PROMOTING PEACE AND SECURITY IN HAITI

Amidst a dramatic deterioration in Haiti's security, human rights and humanitarian situation, we continued to support the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) and the SRSG's good offices, as well as build support for stabilization opportunities.

In 2023, gang-related homicide and kidnapping rates intensified and spread outside the capital Port-au-Prince, including to the Artibonite Region, forcing tens of thousands of people to abandon their homes. Throughout this turbulent time, DPPA has stepped up its cooperation with regional organizations, including CARICOM, to ensure coordinated engagement to support a Haitian-led political process towards the restoration of democratic institutions.

In response to calls made by the Secretary-General and the Haitian Prime Minister, the Security Council, through resolution 2699 (2023), authorized in October 2023 the deployment of a non-UN Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission to Haiti. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to establish a Trust Fund as a mechanism to facilitate voluntary contributions to the MSS and affirmed that the Secretary-General may provide logistical support to the MSS, upon request. Through backstopping support funded by the MYA, DPPA has been instrumental in leading UN system-wide engagement with MSS contributing and donor countries, as well as broader crisis management and political engagement support in relation to Haiti.

The Department also continued to support cooperation between the Government of Haiti and CARICOM's Implementation

Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS). As a member of CARICOM, Haiti participates in the Caribbean regional security architecture under IMPACS. However, due to the current crisis in the country, Haiti has fallen behind in fully integrating into the IMPACS system. With support from the MYA, additional capacity was provided to identify shortfalls and strengthen the support that the agency provides to Haiti in the fight against criminal networks, armed gangs, illicit arms trafficking and illicit financial flows.

Extrabudgetary funding will remain critical to support DPPA's effective backstopping of BINUH and the urgently needed accompaniment of political dialogue efforts in 2024 towards the timely restoration of democratic institutions.



WE ADVANCED ANALYTICAL SUPPORT AND COORDINATION THROUGH OUR LIAISON PRESENCES

With funding from the MYA, DPPA has been able to maintain liaison presences in Bangkok, Beijing, Brussels, Buka, Gaborone, Jakarta, Kyiv, Nairobi and Vienna. These offices have helped ensure close coordination with regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as other UN entities.

Through our liaison office in **Beijing**, we continued to work closely with regional, national and local partners. This included building on the partnership with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), for example working with UNRCCA on an SCO event focusing on youth, peace and security.

In **Brussels**, the liaison office continued to play an important role in strengthening the partnership and cooperation on matters of mutual priority between the UN and EU, as well as supporting regional engagement with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

DPPA's liaison office in **Buka** continued to facilitate engagement with the Pacific region and accompaniment to the Bougainville peace process in Papua New Guinea. This included support to UNCTs in the Pacific region on capacity-building, good practices, and analysis of geopolitical developments and trends.

In **Gaborone**, DPPA's liaison office continued to support engagement with SADC and the organization's efforts to address the root causes of conflicts by devising and implementing capacity-building activities.

In **Vienna**, our liaison office supported our ongoing partnership with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, as increased geopolitical tensions and Russia's invasion of Ukraine continue to echo in European peace and security. The office further supported our relationship with other international organizations present in Vienna, including the International Atomic Energy Agency, think tanks and other stakeholders.



WE BACKSTOPPED UN TEAMS IN EVERY REGION

With support from the MYA, the Department developed a new practice note synthesizing good practices and lessons learned with regard to **Indigenous** conflict resolution efforts and Indigenous governance structures. The note is based on the review of experiences in countries in the Andean region (**Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador** and **Peru**) and lists recommendations to guide DPPA's work in support of dialogue and mediation initiatives involving Governments and Indigenous Peoples, including strengthening the role of Indigenous women and youth leaders. The note is also intended to benefit relevant UN officials, including RCs and PDAs.

In **Venezuela**, we backed UNCT initiatives to promote dialogue between social actors across the socio-political spectrum and address the effects of polarization through a conflict prevention approach. DPPA funds strengthened a Community of Practice of Social Dialogue Facilitators, enhanced the capacities of civil society groups to promote a culture of peace, and launched an academic network to foster collaboration, research and training in peacebuilding and dialogue.

Funding from the MYA was crucial in supporting DPPA engagement in the run-up to elections in West Africa, which took place in the context of democratic reversals in a sub-region affected by insecurity from violent extremism, activities

of non-state armed groups and unconstitutional changes of government. Collaboration between DPPA, UNOWAS and RCOs was strengthened through missions to **Liberia, Senegal** and **Togo** and the development of shared situational awareness and jointly agreed action points.

In the **Western Balkans**, DPPA has continued its efforts towards social cohesion, trust-building and reconciliation, building on efforts by national and local authorities, as well as civil society. The Department provided additional support to the RC and UNCTs on the WPS agenda, youth empowerment and reconciliation approaches. The Department's close cooperation with OHCHR in the region allows for the monitoring, analyzing and implementation of activities.

In **Montenegro**, DPPA provided strategic guidance and technical expertise in the design of a UNCT initiative, funded by the Peacebuilding Fund, focusing on community-level social cohesion and building trust towards public institutions.

In **Moldova**, DPPA supported efforts to promote confidence-building, dialogue and long-term reconciliation between both banks of the Nistru River. The OSCE-led Transnistrian settlement process has been affected by the war in Ukraine and continuing regional tensions.

WE DEEPENED PARTNERSHIPS WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IFIs)

We continued to strengthen our partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs). With over two-thirds of the world's extreme poor living in settings affected by fragility, conflict and violence, the interdependence of peacebuilding and sustainable development efforts has never been clearer. While ODA for peacebuilding in fragile contexts declined by 19 per cent from 2010 to 2020, resources available to the **World Bank** for fragile, conflict and violence (FCV) contexts tripled in the same period and have continued to rise. The Secretary-General has urged IFIs to consider themselves “agents for peace”, and as part of his 2019 reforms, assigned DPPA's Peacebuilding Support Office to serve as a UN system focal point for partnerships with IFIs in prevention and peacebuilding settings.

Against this backdrop, MYA funding enabled DPPA to continue to deepen strategic engagement with the World Bank and other IFIs, including on relevant policy and country-specific processes. DPPA led consultations across the UN system to feed into the World Bank's Midterm Review of the Bank's Fragility, Conflict and Violence Strategy. Furthermore, DPPA and the Bank co-led a five-year review of the flagship joint report “Pathways for Peace”.

In the context of the **International Monetary Fund's** Strategy for Fragile and Conflict-Affected States, the Department deepened dialogue with the Fund on country-specific and thematic issues.

DPPA also continued to support the **UN-World Bank-European Union** tripartite partnership on Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessments, providing assistance on lessons learned and carrying out a methodology review.

The Department is expanding its cooperation with regional development banks. In 2023, DPPA's Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) developed a joint work plan with the **African Development Bank's (AfDB)** Transition States Coordination Office, with priorities to be reviewed annually, and contributed to policy exchanges at AfDB's Africa Resilience Forum. PBSO held several dialogues with the **Islamic Development Bank** with a view to further collaboration in 2024.



WE INCREASED OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

In July 2023, **UNOCA** supported the organization of the general assembly of the Coalition of Civil Society Organizations for Peace and Conflict Prevention in Central Africa (COPAC). The event aimed to enhance the coalition's operational effectiveness, in line with UNOCA's efforts to strengthen regional civil society organizations' capacity to contribute to security, conflict resolution and governance discussions.

In **Georgia**, DPPA facilitated a dialogue process among CSOs and government representatives. Support from the MYA was instrumental in helping the fragmented peacebuilding community

in Georgia to self-organize in a broad coalition of youth activists, conflict experts and academics around common advocacy for more active conflict transformation policies by the government and systematic donor support for civil society actors engaged in peacebuilding.

In July, DPPA helped convene an event bringing together scholars, conflict experts and peacebuilders in the **South Caucasus** to discuss the peace education agenda for the region. The conference stimulated follow-up discussions at country levels and formulation of new advocacy and programming initiatives.



WE AMPLIFIED THE VOICES OF YOUTH

In **Equatorial Guinea**, we partnered with UNDP to train 110 young men and women on conflict resolution. Participants were drawn from all eight provinces of Equatorial Guinea, and the ethnic groups of Fang, Bubi, Ndongwe and Annobonese were represented. Gender parity among participants was achieved and efforts were made to broaden accessibility, with three sign-language interpreters supporting the training. The feedback and lessons from this project also benefitted the broader UNCT, including development of the new Cooperation Framework 2024-2028.

MYA funding assisted in the organization of a regional YPS workshop by the Working Group of the Central African Youth, Peace and Security Coalition, in partnership with ECAAS. Held in Cameroon, the event convened 25 young people from all 11 ECCAS countries. The Coalition had been selected by UNOCA as the partner because it is the leading group in **Central Africa** for young people working on peace issues.

In **Northeast Asia**, DPPA continued to encourage and facilitate the inclusion of youth voices in regional policy fora. Through sponsoring their participation at key events, including the Ulaanbaatar Dialogue for Northeast Asian Security, the Jeju Forum, and the Internet Governance Forum, youth were given a platform to share their perspectives on regional dynamics, and connect with policymakers and other stakeholders.

The United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) continued to respond to the growing need



to increase the capacity of **Central Asian** youth to contribute to peace and security processes, through the Preventive Diplomacy Academy. In 2023, 36 youth (50 per cent of them women) participated in a series of trainings on preventive diplomacy, multilateralism, understanding the UN system, and the YPS agenda. Members of the Academy's alumni network participated in 112 international, regional and national events.

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY WINDOW

Many of the political challenges that mark the global landscape have a disproportionate impact on women. These include climate security threats and the complexities of hybrid warfare. Moreover, we are witnessing an alarming erosion of human rights, particularly women's rights, with a noticeable regression in gender equality, alongside an increase in attacks on women human rights defenders and the emergence of new forms of misogyny.

These issues not only hinder the implementation of women's rights globally but also present significant challenges to the WPS agenda. They also underscore the urgent need for inclusive political and peacemaking efforts in the pursuit of gender equality.

DPPA's 2019 WPS Policy identified priority areas for the implementation of the WPS agenda and DPPA's gender mainstreaming efforts. In 2023, DPPA revisited and updated this Policy, reflecting ongoing developments and needs. This encompassed inclusion of new and expanding focus areas such as climate, peace and security, and digital technologies. The revised policy is an important tool for moving forward the Secretary-General's 2020 five Forward-Looking Goals on WPS (S/2020/946) for the next decade as well as his 2019 10 UN Directives on WPS (S/2019/800), while also placing WPS as a priority within the DPPA 2023-2026 Strategic Plan.

The MYA remains indispensable to these efforts, funding most of the relevant capacities in DPPA, such as the Gender, Peace and Security unit, and programmatic activities. A dedicated WPS funding window continued to encourage attention and support for this agenda.

In 2023, \$8.2 million (or 19 per cent) of the entire MYA budget was programmed towards WPS activities. This exceeded the MYA's annual target of 18 per cent. The Department continued to use its gender marker tool, which enables and encourages gender and WPS mainstreaming in MYA project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

EXAMPLES OF MYA-FUNDED ACTIVITIES

STRENGTHENING GENDER-SENSITIVE POLITICAL AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS

DPPA delivered training to both UN and non-UN stakeholders to strengthen gender-sensitive political and conflict analysis. This included collaboration with DPO where relevant – for example in the Actionable Conflict Analysis Training – as well as with Missions, for example, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen in February 2023. Building on its recent Practice Note on gender and climate, DPPA helped promote more gender-sensitive and climate-informed political and conflict analysis and work, including through briefings for interagency and civil society discussions. DPPA also provided training on WPS and climate for DPPA and external stakeholders, including civil society and the Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisors.

PROMOTING INCLUSION AND WOMEN'S MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN ALL PEACEMAKING AND PEACEBUILDING EFFORTS AND ADVANCING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PROCESSES



Cooperation with the AU

DPPA supported the AU in organizing the fourth High-level Forum on Women, Peace and Security in Africa in December 2023, with a focus on strategies to advance women's equal and meaningful participation in peace processes. Participants shared experiences and recommended practical actions for advancing women's participation in such processes.



Cooperation with the East African Community (EAC)

In coordination with UN Women and the EAC, we organized a joint workshop in Uganda December 2023, for which the Minister of State for Gender and Culture delivered opening remarks. The five-day event focused on strengthening the capacity of the EAC to enhance the implementation, monitoring and reporting of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in the EAC region, and to identify priorities for an EAC Regional Strategy and Action Plan on WPS. The workshop developed a zero draft of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) which participants, drawn from the EAC Partner States as well as the EAC Secretariat, took back to capitals for consultation. It is hoped that EAC Ministers will endorse and adopt the RAP in 2024.



Cooperation with ECCAS

In May 2023, UNOCA supported ECCAS in the organization of a conference of ministers in charge of gender policy on the theme of "Building a Common Agenda for Promoting Women's Rights and Empowerment in Central Africa". Participating ministers renewed their commitments to key strategic priorities, including to ensure more visible and active participation of women in peacekeeping, peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and conflict resolution in Central Africa.



Cooperation with the LAS

With the support of its liaison office in Cairo, DPPA collaborated with the LAS to organize a two-day workshop for ten women mediators from the Arab Women Mediators Network. The workshop aimed at strengthening the mediation and negotiation capacity of members of the network.

CENTRAL ASIA

DPPA continued to support the convening of the Women Leaders Caucus (WLC) Forum, held in 2023 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The event focused – inter-alia – on women’s role in countering the adverse effects of climate change and concluded with the adoption of an address to the Heads of State of the region with relevant recommendations. The Department also supported the regional WLC conference on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), held in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The event convened civil society representatives from all Central Asian countries to present recommendations to the UN and WLC, and further kick-started consultations on developing the first regional WLC action plan.



AFGHANISTAN

UNAMA and UN Women consistently advocated for women’s rights and protection, both publicly and in bilateral engagements with the de facto authorities, sharing concerns and raising individual cases of arbitrary arrest and detention.



ANGOLA

We helped to increase public awareness of gender mainstreaming in legislative, political and governance processes through supporting the organization of a conference to develop relevant recommendations. The event, led by CSO Rede Mulher Angola, was attended by over 150 participants from the public, legislative, political and governance domains. Furthermore, Rede Mulher Angola and the RCO Angola jointly developed an action plan as an advocacy tool for inclusive public affairs management. Around 200 women, from CSOs and the breadth of the political spectrum, were also trained on political leadership and participatory democracy, through workshops organized in Huambo, Malanje, Benguela and Huila provinces.



BURUNDI

With MYA funding, a research study was conducted on the revitalization of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and validated with the assistance of the RCO. The study highlighted the bottlenecks in the implementation of the WPS agenda and proposed recommendations and funding guidelines to improve women’s representation in socio-political life, conflict prevention and social cohesion.



GABON

In partnership with the CSOs Réseau femmes lève-toi and Malachie, various activities were organized to bolster women’s political participation. Notably, women’s groups were established for lobbying their political parties to ensure compliance with Gabon’s 30 per cent quota law, the “He For She” approach within political parties was reinforced, and 60 women candidates and potential candidates for the 2023 elections were trained in leadership skills.





COLOMBIA

MYA funding strengthened the Verification Mission's efforts to support implementation of the gender provisions of the 2016 Final Peace Agreement, which continues to register a lower level of fulfilment in contrast to other provisions. The Verification Mission organized two sectorial forums for women former combatants (linked to different political parties) to generate proposals which were included in the draft National Action Plan on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), which would be Colombia's first. The Verification Mission also supported the development of a Local Gender Plan to advance reintegration of former women combatants in remote areas of Caquetá Department and the Doncello territorial area for training and reintegration (TATR). Local events were also held in Quibdo, Popayan, Mellin and the former TATR of Colinas on capacity-building for the political participation of women former combatants, gender analysis of the Peace Agreement, child protection, prevention of gender-based violence, and reconciliation.



IRAQ

Amidst intensified anti-gender rhetoric and a possible rollback on women's rights, MYA funding enabled UNAMI to strengthen interventions to advance the WPS agenda in Iraq. Jointly with the Government's Women Empowerment Directorate, the Mission conducted 12 governorate-level consultations to assess the challenges in advancing women's political participation and identify mitigating recommendations. More than 400 individuals (including 21 per cent men) took part in the consultations.



LIBYA

In May, DPPA helped organize a High-level Strategy Session to support inclusive peace processes in Libya. The session launched a mission plan on inclusive mediation and identified options for

strengthening women's participation in all phases of the Libyan electoral process while ensuring their safety. In line with this action plan, the SRSG continued outreach to women's groups and women members of Libyan institutions, as part of efforts to increase women's participation in the intra-Libyan dialogue tracks. DPPA developed informal guidance on organizing context-specific strategy sessions for lessons learning purposes.



YEMEN

To broaden its outreach to diverse women representatives, OSESGY organized a series of consultations in Amman, Aden and Cairo. The ultimate objective of these meetings was to contribute to a peaceful, Yemeni-led political process that reflects the meaningful participation and concerns of Yemeni men and women, while integrating gender perspectives throughout the peace process in Cairo (see also Page 15).

STRENGTHENING OUR WORK TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE (CRSV)



GLOBAL

DPPA participated in the meetings of the UN Action network Against Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, including those aimed at finalizing the Provisional Guidance Note on the Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) on CRSV. DPPA also co-organized the biennial Senior Women Protection Advisers' (SWPA) retreat with SWPAs from the Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Libya, Haiti, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan and Ukraine. The objective of the retreat was to strengthen the implementation of the CRSV mandate at the Mission and country-levels through sharing of best practices and lessons learned and updates on recent policy and programmatic developments.

COLOMBIA

As part of its efforts to strengthening a gender-transformative reintegration process and improve conditions to prevent gender-based violence, the Verification Mission supported an event in Bogotá in June for the symbolic reparation of victims of CRSV. Thirty women victims from six departments participated in artistic creations for collective healing.

CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR UN AND NON-UN STAKEHOLDERS

A new DPPA-DPO **Gender Equality and Women, Peace and Security Community of Practice** (WPS CoP) was launched in March 2023. The CoP aims to support the implementation of the WPS agenda in UN political and peacekeeping efforts by serving as a resource and platform for lessons exchanges for all DPPA and DPO staff – beyond gender advisers and gender focal points. A series of joint webinars were held in 2023, including on women's inclusion through digital tools and temporary special measures for women's political participation.



As part of the Department's efforts to strengthen staff capacity to implement the WPS agenda, DPPA organized the 18th and 19th iterations of the **Gender and Women, Peace and Security** training. Participants were drawn from over a dozen SPMs as well as DPPA liaison presences globally. Several PDAs also attended.

DPPA further organized the **12th UN High-Level Seminar on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Strategies** in Finland in May 2023. Participants, comprising senior officials from SPMs as well as from other UN entities, the AU, ECOWAS, NGOs and Member States, were provided with practical strategies and tools for more inclusive mediation processes.

From September to November 2023, DPPA organized the **3rd Women in Cease e Negotiations Course**. The online training course aimed to empower women to engage in ceasefire and security arrangement negotiations and implementation through topics such as ceasefire typologies, inclusion strategies, and monitoring and verification mechanisms.

Building on the Department's previous work on digital technologies, DPPA launched a new online training course on **Digital Inclusion and Women in Peace Processes**, in collaboration with Build Up. The self-paced course was developed for UN staff, peacebuilders, government, NGO affiliates and other stakeholders interested in gaining knowledge about women's digital inclusion. Over 300 users engaged with the course in 2023.

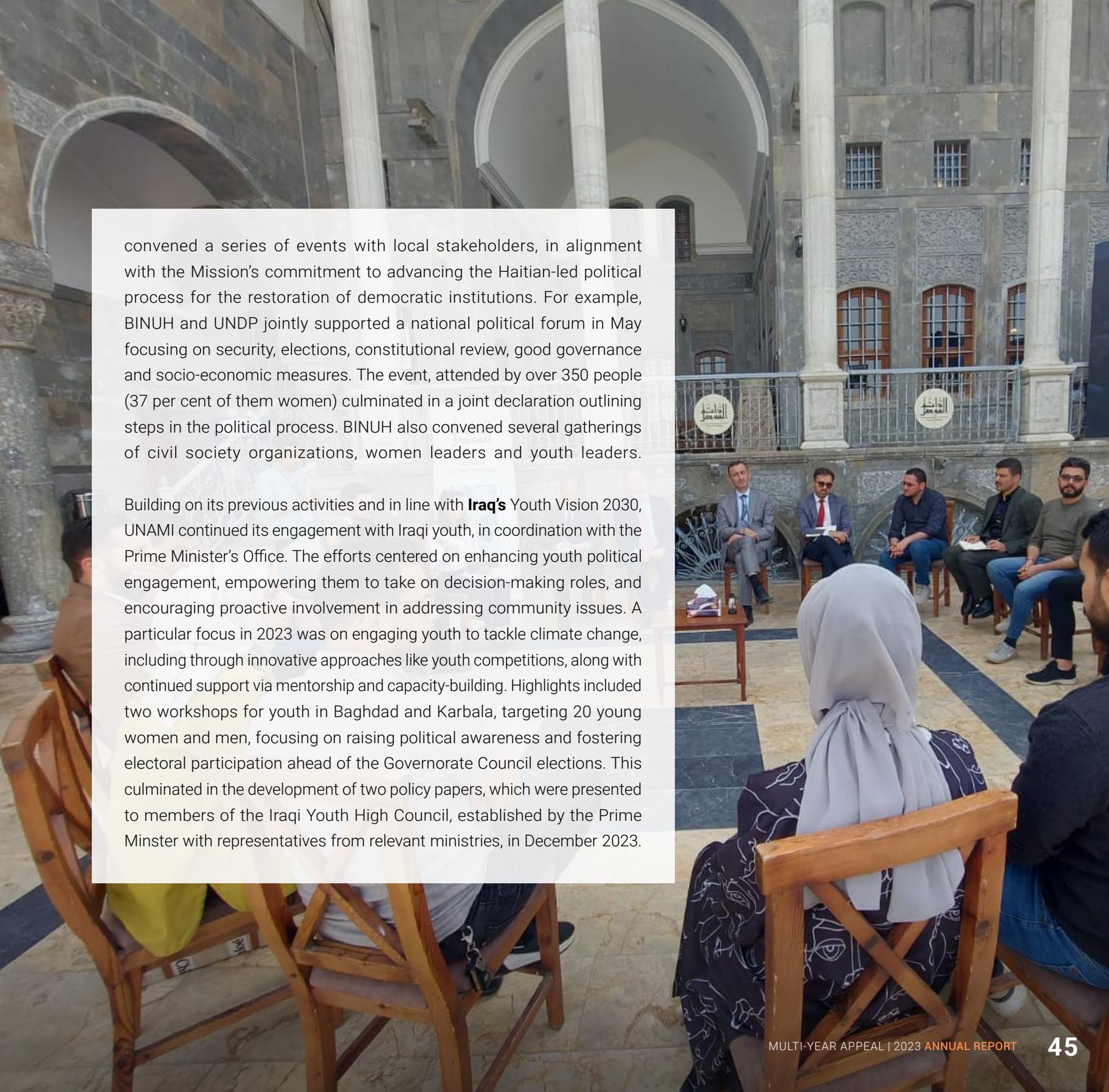
LOCAL PEACE INITIATIVES WINDOW

The Local Peace Initiatives (LPI) funding window encourages SPMs to deepen their relationships with grassroots peacebuilders and support localized peace initiatives aimed at complementing broader national processes. Inclusion, particularly of civil society, women's groups and youth groups, is a key priority.

In **Colombia**, the MYA continued to promote the sustainable implementation of the Final Peace Agreement. In 2023, the **UN V Mission in Colombia** focused on four thematic areas: i) dialogue facilitation, cohesion and reconciliation at the local level; ii) supporting former combatants' socio-economic reintegration; iii) promoting access to security guarantees; and iv) increasing awareness on the Special Jurisdiction for Peace's (SJP's) restorative sentences. The Verification Mission implemented over 35 activities including dialogues, meetings and cultural events to increase trust between communities and the capacities of social leadership for peace, while enabling the participation of traditionally excluded populations. More than 20 events were held around the country to raise awareness on restorative sentences and the Mission also facilitated workshops to strengthen the SJP's capacity within the Monitoring and Verification Mechanism. Altogether more than 4,500 people participated in the events, of which 40 per cent were women, 48 per cent were men and 12 per cent were non-binary.

Meanwhile, a pilot project was successfully implemented in the municipality of Yotoco to help facilitate dialogue between community members and former combatants. The pilot eventually evolved into a community-based reintegration strategy endorsed by the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) body, the Agency for Reintegration and Normalization. In 2024, the Yotoco pilot will be replicated in 67 locations in 12 departments and Bogotá.

Amidst converging crises in **Haiti**, the UN Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) used MYA funding to expand the operational reach of its good offices mandate and respond flexibly to ongoing needs for dialogue support. Throughout 2023, BINUH

A group of people are seated in a circle in a courtyard of a large, ornate building with arches and columns. The courtyard is paved with light-colored stone tiles. In the background, there are several arched windows and doorways. The building's facade is made of light-colored stone or concrete. The people are dressed in business casual attire. A woman in the foreground is wearing a white headscarf and a dark patterned dress. The overall atmosphere is professional and engaged.

convened a series of events with local stakeholders, in alignment with the Mission's commitment to advancing the Haitian-led political process for the restoration of democratic institutions. For example, BINUH and UNDP jointly supported a national political forum in May focusing on security, elections, constitutional review, good governance and socio-economic measures. The event, attended by over 350 people (37 per cent of them women) culminated in a joint declaration outlining steps in the political process. BINUH also convened several gatherings of civil society organizations, women leaders and youth leaders.

Building on its previous activities and in line with **Iraq's** Youth Vision 2030, UNAMI continued its engagement with Iraqi youth, in coordination with the Prime Minister's Office. The efforts centered on enhancing youth political engagement, empowering them to take on decision-making roles, and encouraging proactive involvement in addressing community issues. A particular focus in 2023 was on engaging youth to tackle climate change, including through innovative approaches like youth competitions, along with continued support via mentorship and capacity-building. Highlights included two workshops for youth in Baghdad and Karbala, targeting 20 young women and men, focusing on raising political awareness and fostering electoral participation ahead of the Governorate Council elections. This culminated in the development of two policy papers, which were presented to members of the Iraqi Youth High Council, established by the Prime Minister with representatives from relevant ministries, in December 2023.

GOAL 3

A STRONGER, MORE DIVERSE AND MORE EFFECTIVE DEPARTMENT

In 2023, the MYA not only supported but significantly accelerated the Department's progress toward Goal 3. DPPA's strategy to achieve its vision of becoming a stronger, more diverse and more effective Department centers on enhancing departmental capacities by prioritizing strategic planning, knowledge management, investing in staff, fostering innovation, and enhancing cross-pillar cohesion—elements vital for DPPA's success in executing its mandate effectively. By driving the Department's progress toward Goal 3, the MYA has been instrumental for refining DPPA's approach to achieving Goals 1 (Preventing and resolving violent conflicts and sustaining peace) and Goal 2 (A more effective multilateral architecture for international peace and security).



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS UNDER GOAL 3



2

self-evaluations
and 1 lessons
learned study
conducted



46

policy materials
and guidance
developed or
updated



89

innovative
initiatives
undertaken



10+

million
audience reached
with departmental
communication
outputs

WE GROUNDED OUR WORK IN PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In 2023, the launch of the Department's 2023-2026 Strategic Plan occurred amidst escalating violent conflicts worldwide, emphasizing the need to strike a balance between immediate crisis response and longer-term prevention efforts. The Plan, accompanied by a comprehensive Results Framework, enabled focused efforts to deliver results in the field, as demonstrated by the achievements under Goal 1 and Goal 2 in this report.

A significant advancement was the development of operational-level theories of change for all strategic objectives across the three Goals, a first for the Department. Through mid-year and end-of-year reviews, DPPA was able to monitor progress, make necessary adjustments, and maintain alignment with its strategic Goals. The MYA was instrumental in this process, enhancing our strategic planning and monitoring capabilities.

Similarly, all our evaluative exercises are entirely supported by voluntary funding. A key evaluation conducted by DPPA centred on assessing the work of its Mediation Support Unit (MSU). This included assessing the extent to which MSU management and operational arrangements enabled it to achieve its goals in the changing peace and conflict landscape. The evaluators concluded that MSU has been highly successful, despite its small size and institutional constraints, in providing relevant, effective, and efficient mediation support. To become more effective and have more impact on political processes and conflict prevention, the evaluators recommended that MSU

should shift from being almost entirely client-demand driven to being more proactive, by identifying priority mediation support needs and entry points for UN mediation and facilitation.

DPPA further continued to monitor and actioned the recommendations from oversight entities, including the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and the UN Board of Auditors. This commitment to accountability and improvement was acknowledged as OIOS closed three recommendations that were set for completion in 2023.

WE MONITORED TOP STRATEGIC RISKS AND IDENTIFIED CONCRETE MIGRATION MEASURES

DPPA actively participated in reviewing the Secretariat-wide risk registry, co-leading the working group on SPM and peacekeeping operation (PKO) mandates together with DPO. This collaborative effort contributed to the joint DPPA-DPO risk registry, which undergoes an annual review, ensuring that both Departments' strategic approaches to risk management are aligned. Additionally, DPPA, in partnership with DPO, facilitated the in-person Organizational

Resilience Management System and Crisis Management training sessions, with nearly 40 per cent of the participants coming from the field. The Department continued to integrate risk management into MYA project planning. Drawing on the DPPA-DPO risk registry, project managers are now required to identify pertinent risks and outline mitigation strategies in their project proposals, enhancing overall project resilience and preparedness.

WE LEARNED AND HELPED OTHERS TO LEARN

DPPA supports nearly 5,000 staff across Headquarters and field through a training portfolio predominantly financed by voluntary contributions. **Training** is central to ensuring an innovative and agile workforce that can deliver on the Department's core prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding mandates in a continually changing peace and security landscape.

In 2023, DPPA courses had a weighted average of over three applicants for each available spot. The challenge of meeting this demand for training is exacerbated by the limited training opportunities available to civilian staff and the growing interest from other UN entities and external partners in collaborative training initiatives. During the reporting period, DPPA delivered or supported 21 training, notably on drafting and speechwriting, conflict analysis, e-analytics and innovation, mediation, and electoral violence.

The MYA continues to play a critical role in bridging significant gaps in support of SPMs, particularly in the areas of **knowledge management and strategic planning**, for which there is no regular budget allocation. The **Policy and Best Practices Workshop**, organized together with DPO, marked a pivotal in-person gathering—the first since 2019—and brought participants from 13 field entities together to discuss how to build more effective guidance and knowledge management systems in Missions. Similarly, together with DPO, DPPA convened **Mission Planners and Planning** focal points across all SPMs and PKOs, also the first such gathering since 2019, to discuss challenges related to strategic and operational coherence.



Through the MYA, DPPA contributed significantly to various **transition-related initiatives**. These efforts included producing a Practice Note on the benefits of using the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in Libya, helping organize a workshop in Mogadishu to address Somalia's transition challenges, offering global scenario-based training in Istanbul to aid in integrated planning, and authoring a practice note on gender-sensitive transitions to ensure gender equality during UN transitions.

KEY TRAININGS AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS FUNDED BY THE MYA IN 2023



The collaboration between DPPA and the Department of Operational Support (DOS) led to the launch of an updated hybrid course on **Drafting for Political Analysis**. By targeting skills essential for crafting DPPA's core documents such as analytical notes, code cables, and reports of the Secretary-General, this course equipped staff with the expertise necessary for generating the outputs that are indispensable to the work of DPPA.



Recognizing the need for empowering to craft impactful speeches, the Department partnered with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) to launch **a pilot speechwriting course** for DPPA staff. 22 desk officers underwent the training, which received positive feedback and sparked Department-wide interest in expanding access to the course in 2024.



To broaden our analytical focus to integrate emerging climate, peace and security issues, DPPA organized a **Climate, Peace and Security Training** for UN field Missions and RCOs in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. This initiative aimed to boost their ability to assess climate-related security risks, understand their impacts, and identify entry points for action, thereby enhancing our integrated approaches to prevention, peacemaking, and peacebuilding.



DPPA trained over 100 staff in various innovation techniques, enabling them to incorporate these methods into their work. DPPA's flagship **E-Analytics training** significantly boosted staff's digital capacities, enhancing technical skills and a vibrant innovation community. Additionally, the Innovation Cell facilitated brainstorming sessions (for example with the UN Operations and Crisis Centre on new methods for crisis monitoring) and convened the DPPA-DPO Innovation Group on a quarterly basis.



The MYA also enabled DPPA to excel in its role as the UN's central hub for **mediation knowledge**, focusing on digital technologies, ceasefires, climate, religion, and knowledge management. In the field of **digital technologies**, DPPA produced: i) a framework for digital technology-sensitive conflict analysis, which is now aiding regional divisions and field Missions in developing country-specific case studies; and ii) an online course, which equips participants with the skills to effectively utilize digital tools for promoting women's participation in peace negotiations. Key initiatives relating to **c** **res** included

the UN Ceasefire Mediation Course, which engaged mid to senior-level UN staff and various conflict party representatives. Additionally, the third iteration of the women and ceasefire negotiations virtual course benefited around 30 women negotiators and civil society members from diverse conflict contexts, fostering a global exchange of knowledge and strategies. Similarly, DPPA expanded its outreach by publishing the 2022 Practice Note “The implications of **climate change** for mediation and peace processes” in Arabic, French, and Spanish, utilizing social media and other channels. Through this convening role, PMD was able to support capacity-building, such as through the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) climate peace and security training for OSESGY, as well as identify emerging needs on climate financing. Furthermore, the 2023 UN Religion and Mediation Course successfully blended online and in-person formats to train 30 participants. The course aimed to provide analytical tools for understanding religious dimensions of armed conflicts and fostered discussions on incorporating religion into mediation efforts.



WE WERE RECOGNIZED FOR OUR WORK TO MAINSTREAM GENDER — AND WE HELPED TO INTEGRATE GENDER AND INCLUSION AT THE UN

UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING AFFAIRS (DPPA)

UN-SWAP 2.0 PERFORMANCE 2022

The following three pages capture DPPA's performance on UN-SWAP 2.0 indicators for 2022.

In 2022, DPPA met or exceeded the requirements for all 16 applicable performance indicators.

DPPA's progress towards meeting UN-SWAP 2.0 requirements is significantly above average.

DPPA continued to maintain its strong track record on the 2022 UN System-Wide Action Plan for gender equality and the empowerment of women (**UN-SWAP**), an accountability framework for accelerating gender mainstreaming in the UN system. DPPA met or exceeded 100 per cent of the requirements of the 2022 UN-SWAP. In comparison, 78 per cent of the UN Secretariat and 74 per cent of the overall UN system met or exceeded the requirements in all categories. DPPA was recognized as a top performing entity and was praised by UN Women for its enhanced approach for gender-related results delivery and reporting, along with championing gender parity and fostering an inclusive organizational culture.

MYA supported the Department in its focus on issues related to **diversity and inclusion**, taking an integrated approach to further the peace and security pillar's commitments on anti-racism, gender parity, geographical diversity, disability inclusion, and LGBTIQ+ inclusion. DPPA worked closely with DPO and OHCHR to support the development of a UN system-wide strategy and accountability framework for LGBTIQ+ inclusion. This initiative aimed at bolstering externally focused efforts on LGBTIQ+ inclusion and protection, alongside promoting internal measures to support LGBTIQ+ staff. Moreover, MYA funding was instrumental in leading the coordination of the DPPA-DPO Mental Health working group and enhancing workplace mental health awareness.

OUR AUDIENCE EXPANDED AS WE DIVERSIFIED OUR COMMUNICATION EFFORTS

Fully funded by the MYA, our communication team played a vital role in the Secretary-General's strategic communication efforts. This included daily collaboration with the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on global political messaging, assisting the Secretary-General's speechwriting team, and providing crisis communications support on various country situations. The team also helped prepare Security Council briefings by the Under-Secretary-General and managed social media content across platforms. In 2023, we expanded our outreach by establishing new accounts on Instagram, Facebook, and Threads, in addition to our existing X/Twitter (for the Department and the Under-Secretary-General) and LinkedIn accounts. Our communication products, such as the weekly newsletter "This Week in DPPA" and the monthly online magazine "Politically Speaking," kept the UN community informed about issues under the Department's remit. Additionally, the team guided DPPA divisions and field Missions in marking the 75th anniversary of Special Political Missions with the "Diplomacy for Peace" campaign and contributed to organizing the "Peace Begins" exhibit at UN Headquarters.



TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION WINDOW

Supported entirely by the MYA, the Innovation Cell significantly advanced DPPA's work in 2023 by integrating emerging technologies into political and peacebuilding efforts. Its support extended across a diverse range of SPMs – UNOCA, UN Verification Mission in Colombia, UNAMI, the Office of the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL), and UNOWAS—and non-mission settings (Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, and Guinea). DPPA continued to incorporate cutting-edge methods, including AI-assisted digital dialogues, search engines and data dashboards, to improve outreach, inclusivity, data analysis, and strategic foresight.

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

In a significant year for AI, the Innovation Cell played a crucial role in monitoring the impact of this technology on peace and security. A standout initiative was the June Innovation Lab on Gender and Generative AI, focusing on AI biases and promoting inclusivity in AI design and use. Additionally, the Innovation Cell demonstrated AI tool applications to the DPPA-DPO Innovation Group, led workshops on generative AI's application in the UN's work, addressing data security and ethical concerns, and actively engaged in technology governance dialogues.

ENHANCING PEACE PROCESSES THROUGH AI-ENABLED DIGITAL DIALOGUES

In 2023, DPPA effectively utilized AI technology to promote broad-based participation in peace and political initiatives, notably enhancing the inclusion of women and youth. This strategy led to meaningful outcomes: In **Guinea**, it facilitated the engagement of nearly 250 virtual stakeholders which – together with an in-person cohort (over 30 per cent of women) – discussed inclusion in decision-making, and advancing the YPS and WPS agendas. The dialogue was a crucial component of the elaboration of the UN cooperation framework for 2024-2028. In **Bolivia**, more than 700 participants— 76 per cent of whom were women—used DPPA's tool for digital dialogues on topics such as trust-building and electoral confidence. This highlights how the UNCT, through the RCO, has embedded digital innovation in their work since the initial 2021 digital dialogue, supported by DPPA.



DATA-ENABLED EFFORTS FOR ANALYSIS AND INCLUSION

DPPA expanded its geospatial data analysis through GeoGuard, a dashboard developed in-house, improving our understanding of climate-related risks. The Department enriched the Peace and Security Data Hub with new datasets on key areas such as the Security Council, electoral assistance, and peace mediation for deeper integrated analysis. DPPA also upgraded its in-house search engine, Diplomatic Pulse, enabling quick access to official press releases from 193 Member States and 25 intergovernmental organizations, in the identification of global diplomatic trends and opportunities for collaboration. Additionally, our support for data-driven foresight exercises in the Asia Pacific and African regions has strengthened evidence-based decision-making and the formulation of peace initiatives.

ADDRESSING DISINFORMATION AND ADVANCING ANALYSIS

Using technical expertise and forming strategic partnerships, including with social media platforms, DPPA provided essential real-time support to combat disinformation and hate speech across various field presences. Notably, we aided UNAMI with social media monitoring ahead of municipal elections in December 2023 and enhanced analytical support for UNOCA, UNOWAS, UNSCOL and the UN Verification Mission in Colombia.

UTILIZING VIRTUAL REALITY FOR ENHANCED SITUATIONAL AWARENESS AND PEACEBUILDING

In partnership with UNSCOL, DPPA created the Virtual Reality (VR) experience “Dreaming of Lebanon” to offer Member States an engaging briefing on Lebanon’s situation, focusing on the perspectives of three young peacebuilders. This innovative approach facilitated discussions on Lebanon’s critical economic, political and security challenges. Additionally, the Innovation Cell contributed to “Solidarity for Chad,” a VR experience that gave an on-the-ground view of Chad’s challenges and peace efforts, enhancing the Deputy Secretary-General’s visit in July 2023.

MYA ANNUAL RESOURCES AND FUNDING



Since 2010, over 60 Member States and other partners have contributed close to US\$362 million to the MYA, demonstrating confidence in DPPA's work.

This support remained critical in 2023, as the MYA continued to complement the Department's regular budget resources in enabling DPPA to carry out much of its operational work, as well as sustain core capacities.

FUNDING TARGET (MYA 2023-2026)

\$170 MILLION

FUNDING TARGET (2024)

\$42 MILLION

With the Appeal cycle for 2023-2026, calling for US\$170 million, to accompany the implementation of the Strategic Plan, we continue to ask for the unwavering support of our partners to reach the 2024 goal of US\$42 million. For DPPA to be able to sustain its conflict prevention, peacemaking, and peacebuilding efforts globally, the continued support of our donors will be essential. This includes urgent support for Special Political Missions, technical assistance in political analysis, conflict prevention, mediation, and elections to support the Special Representatives and Special Envoys of the Secretary General, as well as advancing work under our thematic windows.

MYA ANNUAL FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE IN 2023

FUNDING TARGET (2023)

\$41 MILLION

FUNDING RECEIVED (2023)

\$31.1 MILLION (76%)

FUNDING PROGRAMMED (2023)

\$43.8 MILLION

FUNDING GAP (2023)

\$9.9 MILLION (24%)

MYA FUNDING SPENT (2023)

\$38.8 MILLION

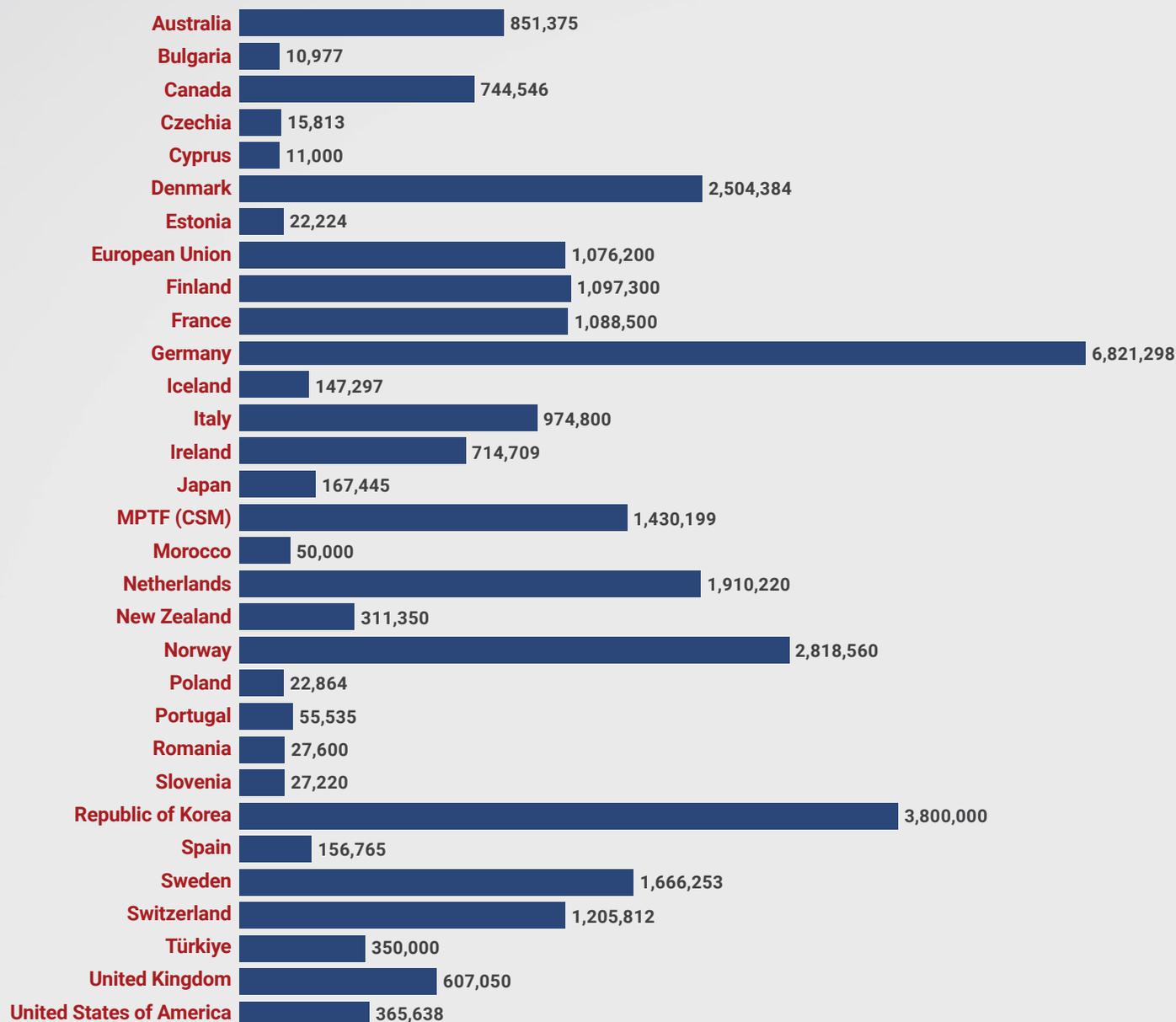
OVERALL MYA IMPLEMENTATION RATE

89%

In 2023, due to continued monitoring and review of the MYA projects, the Department was able to boost its implementation rate to 89 per cent of the total programmed funding in 2023, which is the highest in the past five years.

31 DONORS

CONTRIBUTED TO MYA IN 2023 (US\$)



FLEXIBILITY OF FUNDING

In 2023, the low level of earmarking (23 per cent) allowed DPPA to invest with more flexibility and provide timely responses to acute crises and requests from Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations, and UN partners. Unearmarked funding is a prerequisite to the success of the MYA. The target for 2023-2026 is to receive two-thirds of the funds unearmarked, providing the required flexibility and autonomy in allocating resources.

UNEARMARKED

77%

EARMARKED

23%

MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENTS

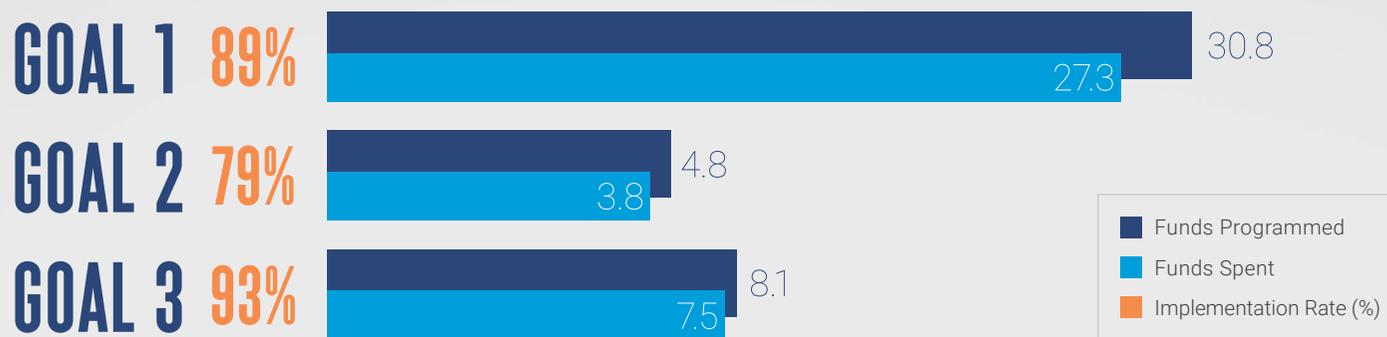
Predictability and sustainability of MYA funding also comes through multi-year agreements, that are essential to plan and implement activities with greater flexibility and efficiency. In 2023, DPPA's work continued to be supported by ten multi-year agreements, a positive trend that we hope to sustain.

DISTRIBUTION BY THEMATIC WINDOW (2023, US\$)

Funding by window	Programmed	Spent	Implementation rate
REGULAR	37 million	33 million	89%
WPS	2.5 million	2.4 million	95%
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION	2.3 million	2.1 million	90%
LOCAL PEACE INITIATIVES	1 million	0.8 million	82%
RAPID RESPONSE	0.9 million	0.7 million	74%

Programmed and Spent amounts are rounded up.

DISTRIBUTION BY GOAL (2023, US\$ MILLION)



FUNDING PER REGIONAL FOCUS (2023, US\$)

	PROGRAMMED	SPENT
AFRICA	10.2 MILLION	8.2 MILLION
MIDDLE EAST	5.4 MILLION	4.8 MILLION
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	3.2 MILLION	2.7 MILLION
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	3 MILLION	2.8 MILLION
AMERICAS	2 MILLION	1.9 MILLION

JUNIOR PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS (JPOs)

The JPO Programme provides young professionals with the opportunity to gain substantive experience in DPPA across a range of teams. In 2023, donors sponsored 47 positions throughout the Department (27 women and 20 men).

DONOR	JPOs	DUTY STATION(S)
Bahrain	1 ●	New York
China	3 ●●●	New York/Nairobi
Denmark	2 ●●	New York
Finland	3 ●●●	New York
France	9 ●●●●●●●●●	New York/Addis Ababa
Germany	4 ●●●●	New York
Italy	3 ●●●	New York
Japan	4 ●●●●	New York/Nairobi
Kazakhstan	1 ●	New York
Morocco	1 ●	New York
Netherlands	2 ●●	New York
Norway	1 ●	New York/Beijing
Qatar	1 ●	New York
Republic of Korea	2 ●●	New York
Russia	1 ●	Vienna
Spain	1 ●	New York
Sweden	1 ●	New York
Switzerland	7 ●●●●●●●	New York

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial intelligence
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	African Union
BINUH	United Nations Integrated Office In Haiti
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CPS	Climate, Peace, and Security
CRSV	Conflict-related sexual violence
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DPPA	Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
DOS	Department of Operational Support
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FCV	Fragile, conflict and violence
ICGLR	International Conference of the Great Lakes Region
ICJ	International Court of Justice
IDP	Internally displaced person
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
IFI	International financial institution
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IIIM	International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism
JMC	5+5 Joint Military Commission
LAS	League of Arab States
LPI	Local Peace Initiatives
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MSU	Mediation Support Unit
MSS	Multinational Security Support
MYA	Multi-Year Appeal
NAM	Needs Assessment Mission
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization

OSE-HoA	Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa
OSESGY	Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to Yemen
PBF	Peacebuilding Fund
PDA	Peace and Development Advisor
PESG	Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
PKOs	Peacekeeping Operations
PMD	Policy and Mediation Division
RAP	Regional Action Plan
RC	Resident Coordinator
RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SBT	Standby Team
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
SPM	Special Political Mission
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
UNOCA	United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa
UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
UNSCO	The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process
UNSCOL	The Office of the UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UNSMIL	United Nations Support Mission in Libya
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
UNSSC	United Nations System Staff College
UN-SWAP	UN System-Wide Action Plan for gender equality and the empowerment of women
UNVMC	UN Verification Mission in Colombia
WLC	Women Leaders Caucus
WPS	Women, Peace and Security
YPS	Youth, Peace and Security

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For further information on the Multi-Year Appeal,
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