

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND
PEACEBUILDING AFFAIRS

MULTI-YEAR
APPEAL
ANNUAL REPORT
2021

MYA: Peace is priceless, Peace is possible



DPPA
Preventing Conflict. Sustaining Peace



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Eitesam, 11, sits inside her classroom at Jil Al Wahda School in Sana'a, Yemen.
Credit: UNICEF/UN0536554/Haleem

Cover Picture: Peace doves fly on the grounds of the historic Hazrat-i-Ali mosque, in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan. Credit: UN Photo/Helena Mulkerns.

FOREWORD



Rosemary DiCarlo

Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

As the 2021 Annual Report goes to press, the war in Ukraine is shaking the foundations of the international system. The fighting comes at a time when geopolitical divisions, and the increased regionalization and fragmentation of conflicts, are challenging our traditional tools of conflict resolution. But be it in Ethiopia, Libya, Myanmar, Syria and Yemen or beyond, the unbearable suffering caused by armed violence compels us to do all we can to silence the guns. We must continue to harness increased creativity and determination to find opportunities to prevent and resolve conflict through dialogue and mediation.

In 2021, the Secretary-General launched *Our Common Agenda*, which makes the case for a new agenda for peace. A key recommendation in this report is the call for increased investment in prevention and peacebuilding. For the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), this is particularly important as we continue our work in thematic areas that lie at the heart of *Our Common Agenda*, including climate security, women, youth and new technologies.

Last year, we were intently focused on responding to acute crises, such as in Afghanistan, Ethiopia or Yemen, while maintaining the required attention on critical transition and peace processes in Colombia, Libya, Sudan, and elsewhere. This report looks back at our work in 2021 to advance political solutions and assist peace processes, mediation efforts, and elections throughout the world.

Much of this work would have been impossible without the strong financial support of our partners through the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA). Once more, the MYA has shown its distinctive value through projects and initiatives that respond quickly to the risk of violent conflict, and by providing us with the operational reach to deploy our conflict prevention tools.

We are deeply grateful to you, our partners, for your trust and we hope that your support will continue.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DPPA can look back on 2021 as a year of resilience, innovation and results. As we continued to face a sustained global public health crisis, conflicts were becoming more complex, fragmented and regionalized, and thus harder to resolve. It is no surprise that our conflict management capacities are overstretched. Throughout the year we made a difference and, with funding under the MYA, DPPA met nearly every benchmark in its current Strategic Plan. Our Results Framework shows that we have exceeded or met over 75 per cent of our targets despite the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We continued to meet changing needs, reducing travel and in-person staff deployments where necessary, and moving projects to modes of engagement appropriate to the pandemic. This included developing new hybrid models of mediation and consultation, blending digital and in-person engagement.

We sustained and developed our approach to preventing conflict, at times using cutting-edge technologies to further our impact. Our investment in innovation increased by 7 per cent. This led to the

inclusion of diverse voices in political processes – particularly the voices of women and youth. In a year that saw the creation of a new Women, Peace and Security window under the MYA, 18 per cent of our budget was invested in supporting this agenda, a record high. In a year still defined by health risks and restricted movement, we rapidly deployed more than 270 staff to negotiating tables around the world. Support to grassroots mediation activities through the Local Peace Initiative window increased by more than 60 per cent.

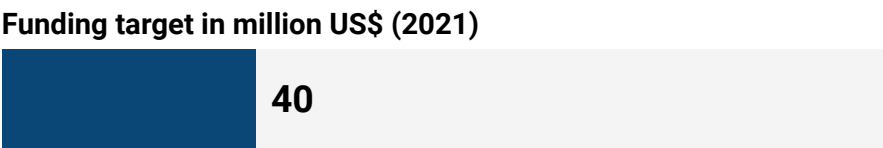
In 2021, we also continued to advance political solutions in contexts as challenging as those in Colombia, Libya and Sudan. We cultivated trusted networks with key actors, and importantly, continued to strengthen the quiet but essential support we provide in-country to Resident Coordinators (RCs), Country Teams and Special Political Missions (SPMs). Significantly, we developed and carried out more than fifty joint strategies and interventions with regional organizations around the world, an increase of 16 per cent compared to the previous year.

Our partners once more expressed their support by providing US\$28.5 million for our work. We felt the impact of COVID-19 as some donors struggled with budget constraints and had to re-direct funding towards other priorities; contributions decreased by \$7.2 million compared to the year before. While we welcomed new donors, including Burundi, the Dominican Republic, Malta and Slovenia, and continued to receive strong support from traditional and longstanding donors, the shortfall was felt across DPPA's entire portfolio. With our appeal of \$40 million only 72 per cent funded, we had to rely on our available cash balance and our savings in travel costs due to the ongoing pandemic, to meet all our needs and operations. Sixty per cent of the funds were unearmarked, allowing the Department maximum flexibility in using the funds towards urgent priorities.

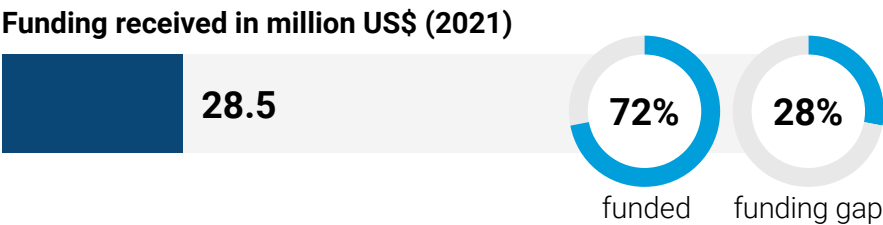
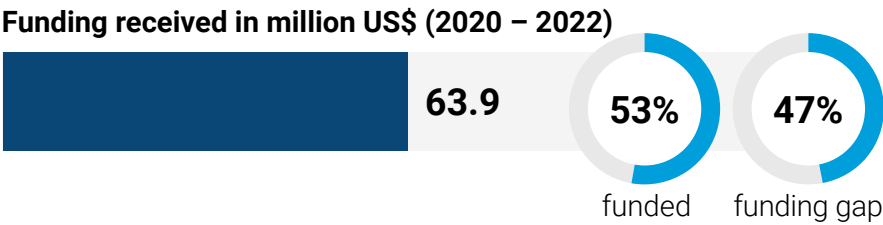
As this Annual Report shows, the MYA remains the ideal tool for the Department to respond to new opportunities, innovate, take risks and meet demands from the Organization and its partners for preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

OVERVIEW OF MYA FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE

Funding target



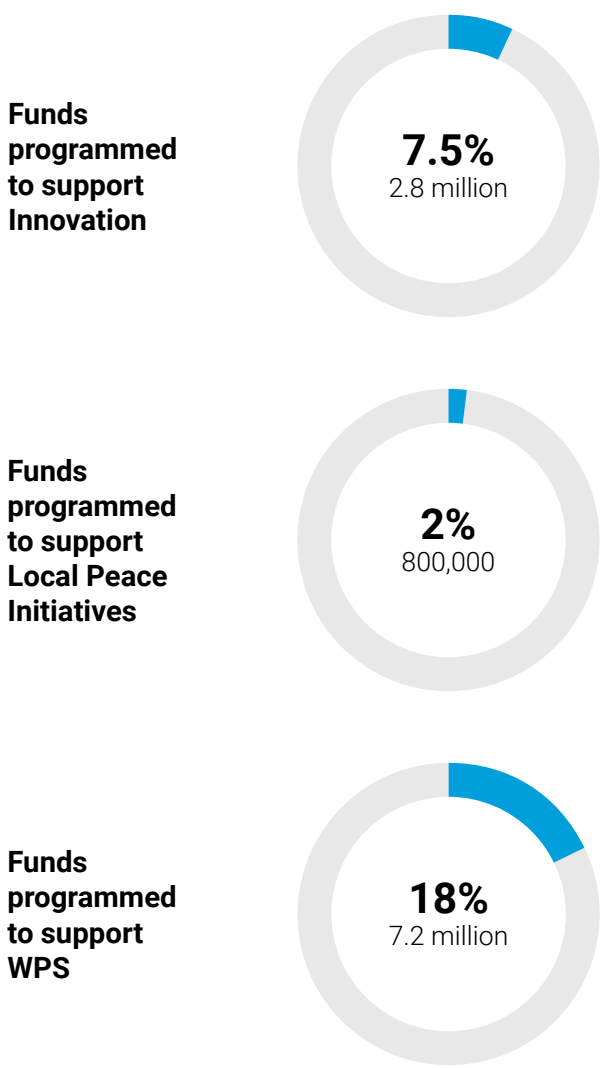
Funding received



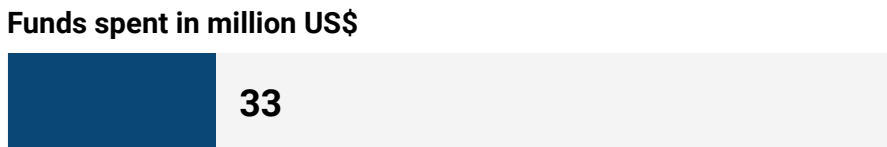
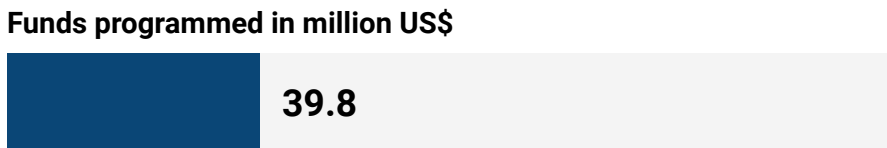
Funding windows

- 1 Regular projects
- 2 Rapid Response
- 3 Local Peace Initiatives
- 4 Innovations and New Technologies
- 5 Women, Peace and Security

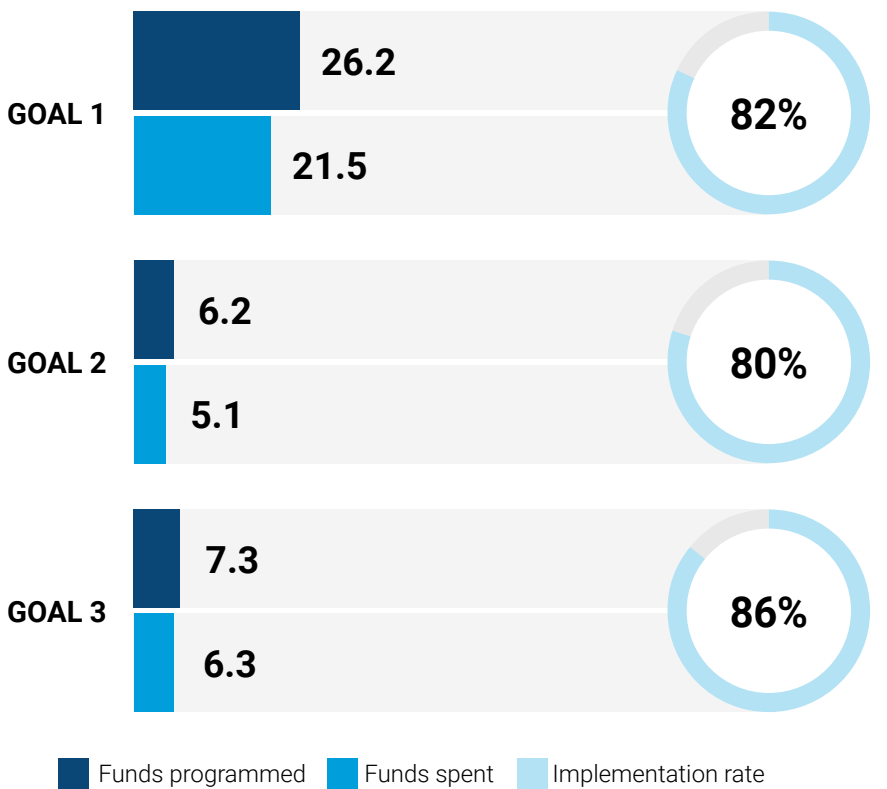
Funds programmed by thematic area



Implementation



Distribution by goal



GOAL 1

PREVENTING AND RESOLVING VIOLENT CONFLICT AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

A recent VR experience lets the viewer travel with UNITAMS virtually to Darfur, Sudan, and meet with local communities to discuss the transition process. Credit: UNITAMS

In presenting his priorities for 2022 to the General Assembly, Secretary-General António Guterres warned that we are facing a “five-alarm global fire” – and that our response will determine global outcomes for decades to come. DPPA’s work helps gird the world community to face these challenges, and three in particular: the rise in the number of conflicts and their complexity, the climate crisis, and the growth of digital lawlessness.

In 2021, we intensified our work to integrate climate security and digital technologies into our conflict prevention efforts, aiming to better understand their potential impact as both drivers of conflict and entry points for collaboration and inclusion. Under this Goal, we also continued to sustain and develop our approaches to preventing conflict and building peace, among them, facilitating dialogue, providing strategic analysis, and ensuring the inclusion of diverse voices into political processes.

We expanded our conflict analysis to better respond to new threats

The process of building peace relies on a shared understanding of threats, especially given the constantly changing nature of conflicts. One of our key roles is to monitor global political developments and provide the Secretary-General with analysis that informs decision-making and shapes diplomacy at all levels – whether between Member States, at regional and sub-regional levels, or with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

In 2021, our political and conflict analyses continued to incorporate regional dimensions, while **60 per cent** of our departmental analyses were gender sensitive. Our missions worked more closely with UN Country Teams and the wider UN system to better identify and build integrated responses to threats: **40** Common Country Analyses (CCAs) were informed by our departmental analysis.

With MYA funding, we have been able to sustain the global reach of our early warning capacities, and our breadth of partners too. Last year, this allowed us to rapidly respond to the potential outbreak or escalation of conflict in contexts ranging from Afghanistan and Burkina Faso to the Horn of Africa, among others.

For example:

When tensions escalated in **Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory** in May 2021, MYA funding facilitated the work of UN leaders, mediators and our good offices at DPPA headquarters, as well as the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), Tor Wennesland, through enhanced monitoring and mediation support. This included mapping the regional ramifications of escalating tensions, analysing key stakeholder responses and identifying possible policy changes aimed at reviving the Middle East peace process. MYA-funded teams – including those working on regional issues and on neighbouring Lebanon – identified risks, enhanced our crisis response, and collaborated on related regional analysis.

The small DPPA liaison team in Kyiv, funded by the MYA, continuously monitored the rapidly changing situation in and around **Ukraine**,

providing expert advice and support to in-country UN agencies and staff, particularly on the sensitive work taking place across the contact line in the east of the country. Their reporting was invaluable to UN contingency planning and the engagement between senior UN leaders and Member States, including at the Security Council (see [page 10](#)).

Finally, we have also been expanding the focus of our analytical lens on ‘stressors’ that may trigger conflict or violence. This includes researching the ways in which climate change could impact peace and security and developing effective responses. We are undertaking innovative prototype initiatives, such as a **series of climate security dialogues** in collaboration with the Climate Security Mechanism (CSM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), enabled by MYA funding.



The Secretary-General briefs the General Assembly on the Our Common Agenda report. Credit: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

Climate security

In 2021, extra-budgetary contributions allowed us to expand our work on the linkages between climate change, peace and security, and to support action in most-affected regions. Sustained collaborative engagement on climate security – with regional organizations, Member States, civil society and research institutions – has advanced our understanding and reinforced DPPA’s standing as a thought leader in this complex risk landscape. During 2021, we built the capacity of partners in the field; this included reaching over **750 practitioners** with virtual trainings and maintaining an active UN community of practice working with the CSM. We also provided technical advice and launched new workstreams in Iraq and Sudan. Among our other initiatives:

In **West Africa and the Sahel**, the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), completed a series of field visits to analyse this issue across the sub-region, which will feed into an upcoming report. This report will guide the integration of climate security considerations into the UN’s good office engagements in the sub-region, and highlight areas for further collaboration between the Office, UN Country Teams and the Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) as they address climate vulnerabilities and resilience.

In **Central Africa**, the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) conducted an in-depth assessment of climate-related security risks in the sub-region, including research visits to Cameroon, Chad and Gabon. Preliminary findings of the assessment were presented and discussed in November at a ministerial-level meeting of the UN

Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions. This laid the foundation for a regional framework on addressing climate-related security risks, to be operationalized collaboratively in 2022.

The CSM was created in 2018 as a joint initiative between DPPA, UNDP and UNEP, to build the capacity of the UN to analyse and address the impacts of climate change on peace and security. The Department of Peace Operations (DPO) joined the initiative in 2021. With the Mechanism, we advise regional divisions and the Peacebuilding Fund

on designing and implementing peacebuilding projects with a climate security angle, ensuring that integrated and catalytic approaches are taken. In Latin America and the Caribbean, initiatives were undertaken in countries including **Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, and Trinidad and Tobago**; in the Pacific, **Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu**; and in Sub-Saharan Africa, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, and Niger**. These initiatives are designed to generate a deeper understanding of context, strengthen partnerships, and lay the foundation for larger investment by implementing partners.



Families forced to move all their belongings, including livestock, in South Sudan. Credit: UNICEF/Sebastian Rich

We worked around the clock and around the world to prevent conflict

DPPA manages nearly **30** SPMs around the world. They bring the UN's peacemaking to the field by providing vital operational support to Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSGs) and Special Envoys. SPMs are often direct messengers to parties in conflict, and translators and interpreters of local dynamics. They enjoy the trust of their interlocutors, which makes them invaluable as mediators and allows them to support political transitions, help defuse crises, prevent disputes from escalating, and facilitate conflict resolution efforts. In contexts where significant challenges remain, such as Syria and Yemen, our Special Envoys are committed to the search for political solutions (see [pages 12 and 13](#)).

While SPMs are primarily funded through assessed contributions, evidence shows that flexible MYA funding multiplies their impact by allowing innovation and risk taking, and by enhancing their capacities in response to need.

In **Libya**, for example, the Mission helped address deep-rooted disputes by initiating and facilitating intra-Libyan political, security and economic dialogues, after the signing of a permanent ceasefire agreement in October 2020. It supported the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF), which brought together women and men from across the political spectrum and achieved agreement on a Roadmap to national elections – although these have not yet been held.

Throughout 2021, our **Envoys and SRSGs continued to adapt to the context of COVID-19**, including travel restrictions. Among other measures, we linked conflict parties with **new technologies platforms**, allowing technical and process-focused discussions to continue during critical junctures in political dialogues (see [page 36](#)).

We responded to crises and opportunities in record time

When it comes to getting access to conflict-affected areas for fact-finding, the Department needs funding mechanisms that are both rapid and efficient. Nearly **60 per cent** of our overall MYA funding is unearmarked, which gives us flexibility to support agile and often discreet initiatives.

By using the MYA-funded **Rapid Response window**, we can quickly send in a team of experts or staff to begin engaging with conflict actors with their consent – in support of Special Envoys, SRSGs, Country Teams or other partners – without waiting for the release of assessed contributions. This affords us valuable days and sometimes weeks of advance deployment time. Such efforts, as seen for example in our support in 2019 to the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General and the UN initiative to consolidate peace in Bolivia, or to our 2020 Transition Team in Sudan, ultimately help Member States respond quickly to brewing tensions or to sudden or escalating crises, in line with **DPPA's risk-reduction goal**.

In 2021, MYA funds continued to allow us to rapidly support political efforts. For example:

In **Western Sahara**, within a week of the appointment of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy (PESG), Staffan de Mistura, extra-budgetary funding allowed us to provide the additional staffing and expertise needed to support his efforts to restart the political process, under challenging circumstances.

In the case of **Afghanistan**, the SRSG, Deborah Lyons, worked with the negotiating teams of the government and the Taliban in the first part of 2021 to identify needed support for their talks. After the Taliban takeover, the priority shifted to recalibrating the UN's presence (see [page 11](#)).

Funds programmed under the Rapid Response window decreased by 50 per cent in 2021 compared to pre-pandemic levels because of the restriction-related reduction in travel; our travel costs fell by more than 60 per cent. We were able to leverage technology and innovation to deliver on our mandates, which, in some cases, enhanced the inclusiveness of our peacemaking work. Now that travel is starting to resume, it will be critical to programme sufficient funds for face-to-face engagement with conflict actors, as necessary, to ensure the continued impact of this work.

UKRAINE

DPPA's liaison presence in Ukraine, fully funded under the MYA, served as the Department's outpost to monitor political and security developments in and around Ukraine, and generate timely and expert analysis. By monitoring the rapidly changing situation in the region, the team was able to provide strategic advice and support to DPPA at Headquarters, as well as to the UN presence on the ground, particularly related to their work across the contact line in eastern Ukraine. This reporting became critical to broader UN contingency planning and the continuous engagement of senior UN officials with Member States, including at the Security Council.

As part of its liaison functions, in 2021, the DPPA office in Kyiv coordinated with national stakeholders, international partners, think tanks and academia, with a focus on conflict resolution-related approaches. The presence worked closely with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission and the Trilateral Contact Group to promote confidence-building measures and enhanced mutual understanding. This included multilateral and bilateral conflict resolution activities in the context of the Normandy Four format, and OSCE-led peace efforts in eastern Ukraine. In late 2021, as part of the UN's long-term partnership with the OSCE, the team in Kyiv also provided capacity-building support on ceasefire monitoring and confidence building for the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in eastern Ukraine.

The DPPA liaison office in Kyiv facilitated working-level engagement between the UN and Ukraine through regular consultations. It prioritized the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda by supporting technical expertise, promoting good practices and building the capacity of women peace leaders working in eastern Ukraine. The team has also partnered with civil society organizations and local peace initiatives on a wide range of issues. In 2021, this work included facilitating the launch of a landmark project funded by the Peacebuilding Fund, focused on strengthening social cohesion and national unity in Ukraine.



A conference officer adds a nameplate for Ukraine ahead of the Security Council meeting on the situation in Ukraine. Credit: UN Photo/Loey Filipe

AFGHANISTAN

The situation in Afghanistan entered a difficult new chapter in 2021. Having taken over most provinces and all major cities as of late June, the Taliban entered the capital, Kabul, in mid-August. By the end of August, the international military forces that had been in Afghanistan since 2001 had withdrawn, and the Taliban announced a 'caretaker government'. With the Afghan people facing extraordinary pressures, including a humanitarian crisis, economic isolation, threats to the rights of women and girls, and broad insecurity, calls for UN involvement and assistance increased. In the days immediately after the Taliban takeover, priority was given to security and the presence of humanitarian personnel. For a period, flights to Kabul were unable to operate, while the risk of the country's banking system collapsing and a further slide into poverty also loomed.

Recalibrating the UN presence amidst these highly volatile circumstances entailed serious challenges. Flexible funding

from the MYA was crucial in supporting the surge in demand for system-level guidance, as well as for response, including the establishment of a temporary remote office in the region and the relocation of staff members. Some aspects of prior support by DPPA were put on hold, such as those concerning institutional arrangements and processes. Others were invaluable in determining the new context; for example, the networks and channels involving women leaders, human rights defenders, and political representatives, which were developed through initiatives and programmes supported by the MYA. This contributed considerably to the ability of the Department and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to deliver priority messages to the de facto authorities and international partners, focused on inclusivity, human rights and especially the rights of women and girls – and on the need to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a safe haven for terrorism and an expanded illicit narcotics trade.



Deborah Lyons, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). Credit: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe.



Young students in Afghanistan. Credit: UNICEF/Frank Dejo



YEMEN

Longstanding frontlines in Hudaydah Governorate shifted substantially and unexpectedly last year, resulting in a volatile security environment and a changing political landscape. With MYA funding, DPPA was able to respond rapidly to the emerging needs of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, and the UN Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA), stepping up its analysis, communication and guidance efforts, and ensuring necessary coordination with partners – allowing a faster and more coherent response.

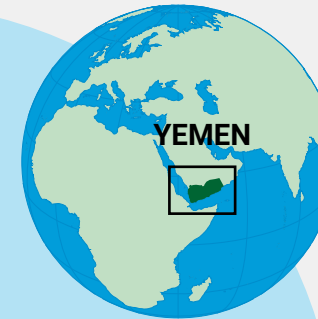
The appointment of a new Special Envoy, Hans Grundberg, took place as fierce clashes continued between the Houthis and the pro-Government of Yemen forces in Ma'rib, Al-Bayda and Al-Dhale governorates. The MYA funded additional surge capacity to ensure a smooth leadership transition and timely mediation efforts. It supported coordination between UN agencies, partners and Member States at Headquarters and in the field, and provided comprehensive briefings to the Envoy. Additional staffing capacity also supported consultations with Yemeni, regional and international partners, including Yemeni women, to help recalibrate the mediation process.

In supporting the day-to-day needs of the Mission, the surge staffing helped to ensure inter-agency coordination and contingency planning in Yemen across the three pillars of the United Nations – peace and security, human rights, and

development, as well as the humanitarian response. It also coordinated among regional organizations, key partners and Member States in support of an inclusive political process, which critically involved support to the Special Envoy's Senior Gender Adviser in advancing the meaningful participation of Yemeni women. In the latter case, MYA funding brought together representatives from six Yemeni political parties with Yemeni women to share their perspectives on key substantive issues, the roles of women within the parties, and ways to make the political process and future transition more gender inclusive.



Hans Grundberg, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, briefs reporters after the Security Council meeting on the situation in Yemen. Credit: UN Photo/Loey Felipe

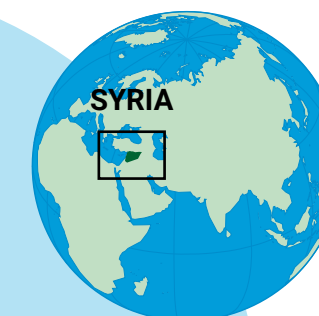


“IT TAKES HOPE TO BE ABLE TO DO THE KIND OF WORK DONE BY YEMENI WOMEN AND YOUTH PEACE ADVOCATES. WE NEED TO BELIEVE WE CAN BRING YOUTH HOME FROM THE FRONTLINES, AND THAT ROADS WILL ONE DAY OPEN, AND THAT WOMEN WILL ONE DAY ASSUME LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AND HAVE MORE INFLUENCE.”



Ola al-Aghbary, captured by Heba Naji for "In Their Hands: Women Taking Ownership of Peace", an exhibition organized jointly by DPPA, UN Women and DPO. Ola is the Yemeni founder and director of a development foundation focused on youth and women's empowerment. More recently, she played an instrumental role in negotiation efforts to reopen roads and create a humanitarian corridor to the war-torn city of Taiz.

SYRIA



2021 saw the UN continue to pursue a negotiated political settlement in Syria, in line with Security Council resolution 2254, as the country marked the ten-year anniversary of the conflict. Although a key first step would have been tangible progress in the Constitutional Committee, a consensus on how to move forward was disappointingly not achieved.

MYA support to DPPA has nevertheless allowed the UN to be flexible and responsive to urgent needs in the country, particularly the need to advance and unlock a sustainable political solution in line with the resolution, its members and civil society, and one that advances the WPS agenda. MYA funding has enabled a range of activities to support the good offices of the Secretary-General and the Special Envoy for Syria, Geir O. Pedersen. This included deploying expertise to support meetings of the Constitutional Committee, advising senior leadership on shifting regional dynamics, and supporting the Special Envoy's gender adviser and the Women's Advisory Board, on its substantive contribution to the overall peace effort. The latter has culminated in the inclusion of nearly 30 per cent women on the Constitutional Committee.

In the context of humanitarian and human rights processes, DPPA supported advocacy for the adoption of a Security Council resolution that authorizes UN cross-border humanitarian access

into Syria and supported the work of independent mechanisms and inquiries to advance human rights, protection, justice, and accountability. We have also contributed, in coordination with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and others, to preparing for a study on bolstering efforts to clarify the fate or whereabouts of missing people in Syria, as requested by the General Assembly in November.

With the support of the MYA, DPPA has continued to regularly convene all UN entities working on Syria and the region to ensure coordination, monitoring and reporting to senior leadership. As co-chair of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on Syria, DPPA has continued to convene meetings on issues related to UN assistance in the country. This convening role has been particularly important in relation to military developments in certain parts of the country, violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, UN assistance, the return of refugees, the collapse of Syria's economy, and the response to COVID-19. DPPA has informed the development of a new Strategic Framework and advised the Resident Coordinator on a Regional Dialogue Mechanism to build trust with donors, while also continuing to support adherence to the Parameters and Principles for UN Assistance in Syria. Without MYA funding, the UN would have much less capacity to advance the political process, civilian protection, humanitarian access, human rights, and accountability.



Special Envoy of the Secretary-General Geir O. Pedersen visits Baba Amr, Syria.

We bolstered our regional engagement

In addition to country-specific missions, we have three **regional offices in West and Central Africa and Central Asia**, and these SPMs have **regional mandates**. They have often been at the forefront of designing and implementing regional multidisciplinary responses to peace and security issues, and they complement the prevention efforts of other regional and national actors. In 2021, our political and conflict analyses were marked by an increasing consideration of regional dimensions: nearly **3,000** of our written outputs did so, underscoring the importance of integrated analysis. Examples from the past year point to the added value of our regional presences.

After the coup in **Guinea** in September 2021, the SRSG and head of UNOWAS, Mahamet Saleh Annadif, helped to ensure a coordinated response among the UN, the African Union (AU) and ECOWAS.

In the **Horn of Africa**, the then-Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, helped advance the implementation of the Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy during a particularly challenging moment in the region. The Special Envoy worked closely with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to support ongoing mediation processes, while coordinating the UN's support to the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa, former President Olusegun Obasanjo (see [page 15](#)).

THE GREAT LAKES



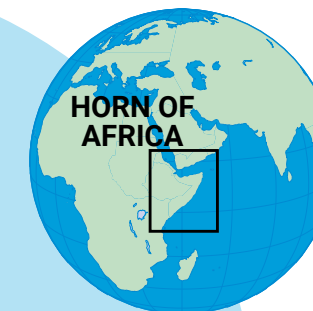
Over the past several years, Africa's Great Lakes region has been making progress towards peace, security and development, which has included peaceful transfers of power, various diplomatic initiatives, and an emerging consensus on the need for joint action against local and foreign armed groups. Against this backdrop, the Secretary-General requested his Special Envoy, Huang Xia, to develop a strategy to guide UN engagement in the region and help Member States engage in dialogue, improve their relations and enhance regional cooperation. The Special Envoy is now spearheading

the implementation of the strategy, which was adopted in late 2020 along with a coordinating body and a consultative action plan. It is organized around three broad areas of work: peace, security and justice; sustainable development and shared prosperity; and resilience to longstanding and emerging challenges. MYA funding equipped the Special Envoy with the expertise, experience and skills required to do so; it provided surge staffing to develop the Action Plan and strengthen the capacity of the Special Envoy's Office, in political analysis and the implementation of activities.



Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region Huang Xia visits Kiwanja, Democratic Republic of Congo. Credit: UN Photo

THE HORN OF AFRICA



The conflict in Northern Ethiopia continued throughout 2021, with serious ramifications for the affected areas. It has caused displacement internally and into Sudan and has involved Eritrean forces; should the conflict worsen, there is potential for instability to spread beyond Ethiopia and further into the Horn of Africa region. Tensions, meanwhile, continue to simmer in the dispute over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and along the Sudan-Ethiopia border.

With MYA funding, the then-Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, and his Office continued to provide political leadership and coordination in implementing the Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy for the Horn of Africa. UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes have all been able to enhance their implementation of Strategy activities, contributing to conflict prevention in the region. In particular, extra-budgetary funding allowed the Special Envoy to step in immediately when needed to support mediation efforts by the AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa, closely coordinating with other regional actors and providing logistical, technical, and political support. This would have been impossible if DPPA had needed to wait for the approval of assessed contributions. The Office has also been able to closely monitor the crisis and keep the UN Country Team and Headquarters abreast of developments, while the Special Envoy organized a series of valuable consultations between the UN and other high-level stakeholders in the region, including senior government and AU representatives, ambassadors, and representatives of IGAD.



Women rush to a feeding centre after the soldiers of the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) cannot contain the crowd in Badbado, a camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Credit: UN Photo/Stuart Price

We deployed mediation experts to negotiating tables around the world

DPPA has a unique role in mobilizing and deploying mediation expertise wherever and whenever it is required. We directly engage with parties to conflict and provide guidance and backing to mediators, SRSGs and Special Envoys, among others. In 2021, DPPA staff and/or advisers were deployed on **273** occasions for assistance in mediation and conflict prevention, up 45 per cent from 2020.

Our Mediation Support Unit (MSU) oversees the Standby Team (SBT) of Senior Mediation Advisers, eight experts who can be rapidly deployed to provide advice on a wide range of issues that arise in mediation and preventive diplomacy efforts, funded entirely by the MYA. UN envoys

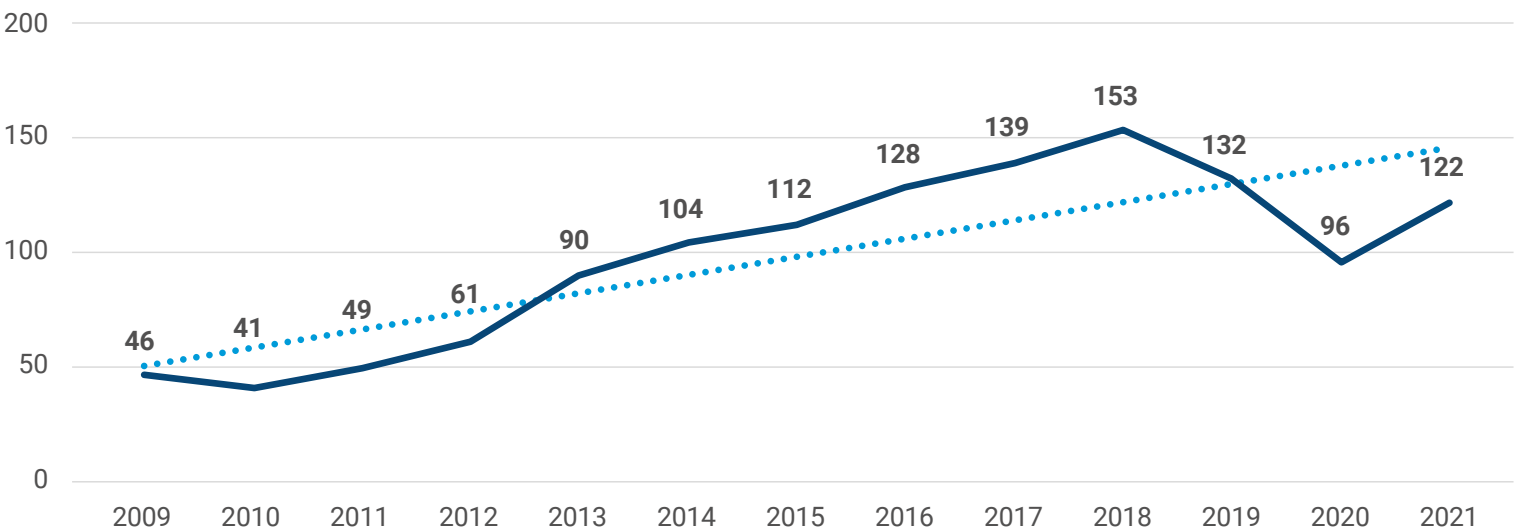
and mediators at times encounter difficulties in mobilizing the right technical expertise in a timely manner. Working behind the scenes, the SBT is able to enhance the quality of support available to UN and UN-supported mediation efforts across the globe on a wide range of issues to help prevent or end situations of armed violence.

In 2021, the SBT provided operational support on **122** occasions in **28** different contexts from Afghanistan and Bolivia to Georgia and South Sudan.

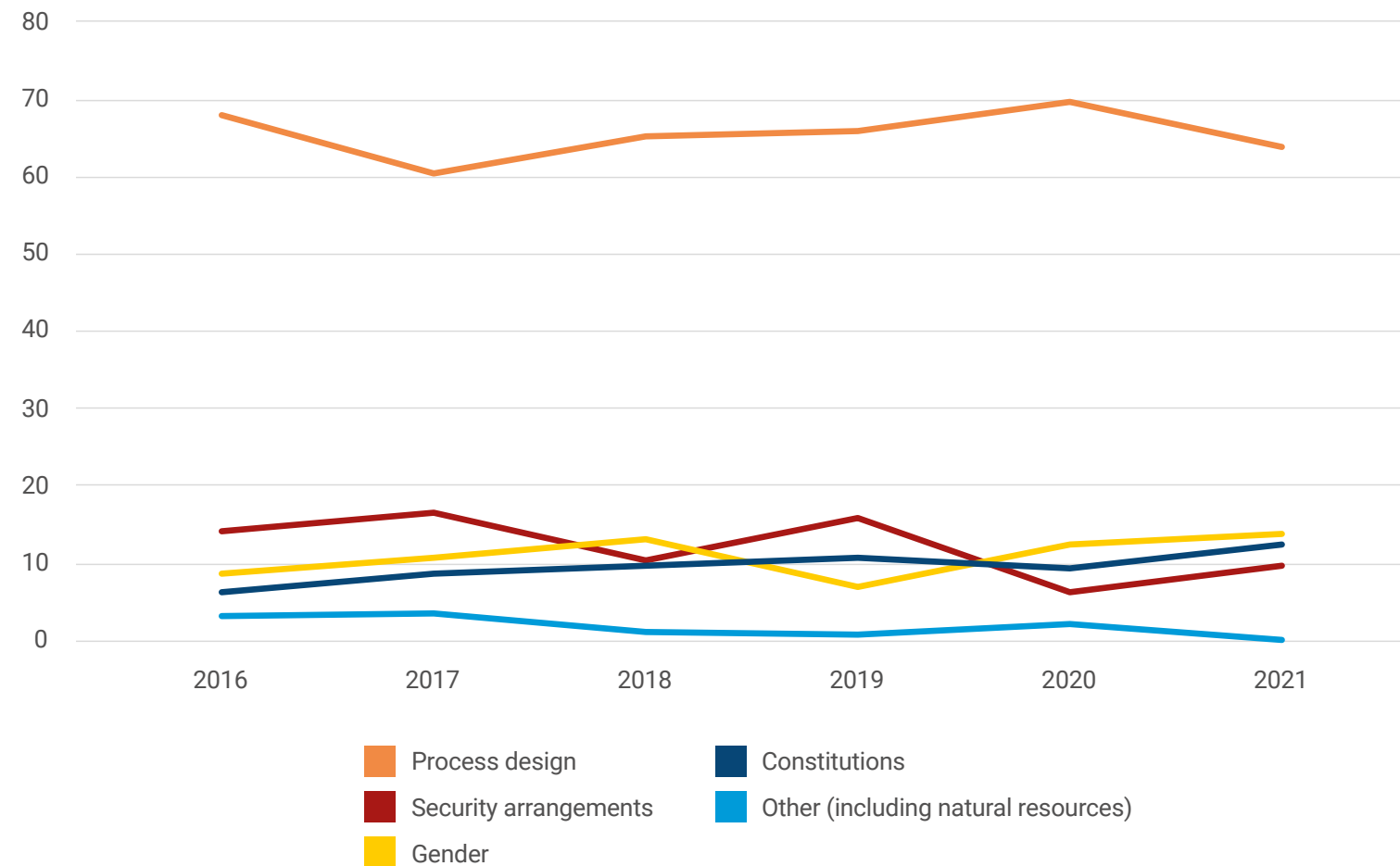
While the number of engagements in 2021 was lower than the peak of 153 deployments in 2018, the number of deployments has recovered to pre-pandemic levels after a drop during 2020. Overall, demand for SBT services has steadily increased since its creation, demonstrating its added value. During 2020 and 2021, SBT experts increasingly sustained their engagement remotely via digital platforms, although physical on-site deployments increased in the latter half of 2021.

A wide range of actors seek the technical advice of the SBT, from Special Representatives and peacekeeping missions to UN Country Teams, Member States and regional organizations. Its services are available to any entity leading, contributing to, or taking part in a mediation, dialogue or good offices initiative. The Team has also been used to support parties to conflict, particularly in capacity-building contexts.

NUMBER OF STANDBY TEAM ENGAGEMENTS BY YEAR



THE THEMATIC FOCUS OF STANBY TEAM SUPPORT (%)



Notably, support to RCs has increased as a percentage of total engagements in the last five years – at **20 per cent** in 2021 and **23 per cent** in 2020 compared to an average of **6.25 per cent** across the previous four years. This indicates increased support to conflict prevention and dialogue efforts, partly due to increased demand for support in Latin America and the Caribbean. While support to SPMs has remained relatively steady for the last several years, at about 30 per cent of engagements, it has decreased compared to 2016-17 (52 per cent).

The SBT provides specialized expertise in thematic areas, with the overall design and management of mediation processes comprising the largest part of its focus (approximately 65 per cent), and other themes – such as security arrangements, gender and inclusion, and constitutions – combining to make up most of the remainder. This thematic breakdown has largely remained steady, with the exception of gender and inclusion-related support, which has steadily increased over time and become the second most requested type of support.

In 2021, MSU and the SBT provided support on gender and inclusion on at least **17** occasions, representing **14 per cent** of the operational support provided in 2021, an increase from previous years. Most notably, support was provided in 2021 to efforts in **Afghanistan, Kenya, Sudan, and Yemen**.

KENYA

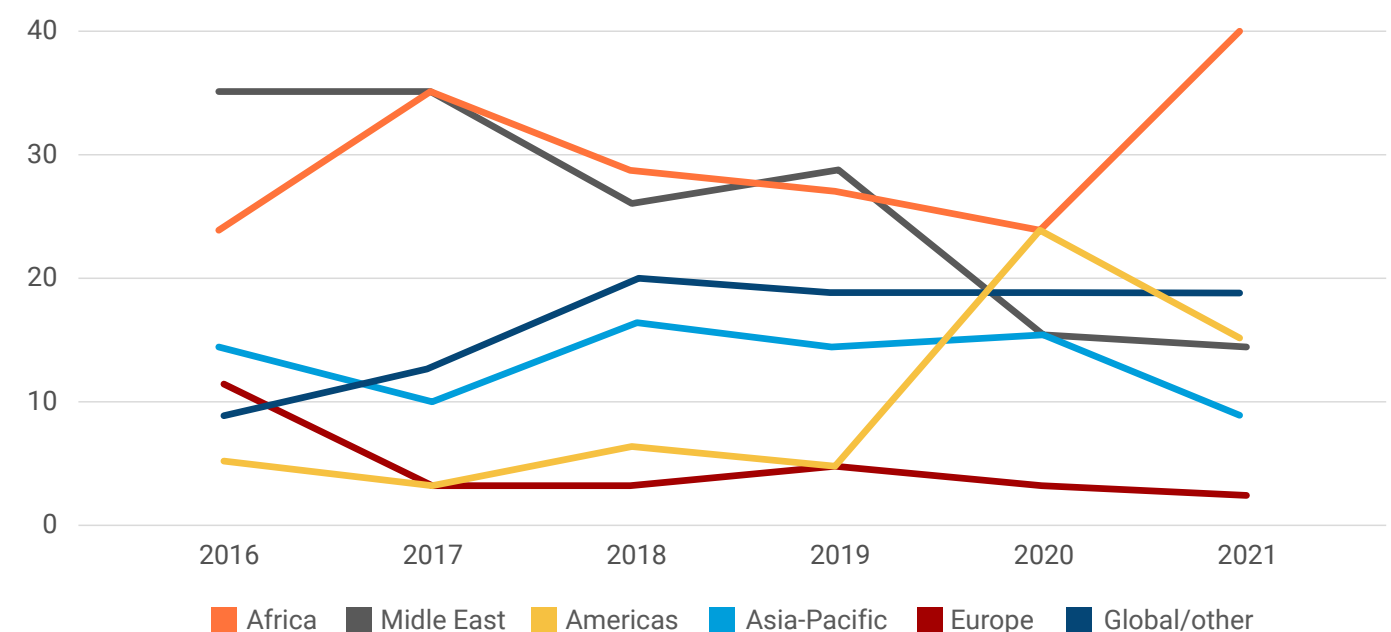
At the request of the RC in Kenya, MSU deployed the SBT Senior Adviser on Gender and Inclusion to support the establishment of the Kenya Women Mediation Network (KWMN) and the National Mediation Team (NMT). Both bodies aim to harness local mediation capacities to contribute to conflict prevention efforts in the country, especially as it gears towards general elections in August 2022. The SBT expert supported the drafting of a roadmap to guide the establishment of the networks; she provided advice and guidance to ensure an inclusive and participatory process in developing terms of reference, developing criteria for selecting representatives to the networks, mapping existing networks, and recommending eminent persons to be part of the networks. The KWMN, composed of 16 women drawn from civil society, faith-based entities, academia, the media and the private sector, was launched on 7 March 2022 by Kenya's Minister for Gender.



Geographically, SBT support in Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean has increased over the last three years to **40 per cent** and **15 per cent** of our engagements, respectively. Support

in the Middle East and Asia and the Pacific has decreased to 15 per cent and 9 per cent, while support in Europe remained relatively steady in 2021.

STANDBY TEAM SUPPORT IN DIFFERENT REGIONS (%)



Key engagements by our Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers in 2021

SPM contexts



Afghanistan

In the first half of 2021, SBT experts advised UNAMA on process design and victims' participation in support of the then ongoing Afghanistan Peace Negotiations and a proposed, but ultimately never held, Istanbul Conference. This support included options for the inclusion of women's civil society initiatives, technical advice on constitutions and security arrangements, and the physical deployment of a process design expert to Doha (the site of the Afghanistan Peace Negotiations) to provide advice to UNAMA leadership on engaging with the Afghan parties.



Libya

The SBT continued to support the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) across the different tracks of the political process, including transitional justice and process design advice in the context of promoting rights-based reconciliation. On the security track, we deployed an SBT expert to help plan, in close consultation with the 5+5 Joint Military Commission, scalable UN support to the Libyan-led and Libyan-owned Ceasefire Monitoring Mechanism; this was followed by guidance for UN support to operationalizing the October 2020 nationwide ceasefire agreement.



Somalia

At the request of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and UNEP, an SBT expert was deployed to consult a broad range of stakeholders and advise on a strategy for an environmental mediation process to address a recurring conflict in the Mataban District of the Hiran Region, Hirshabelle State. The expert then continued to guide and coach the newly established team, to carry the proposed strategy forward.



Sudan

MSU provided support to the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission (UNITAMS) as it worked with the Transitional Government of Sudan and signatories of the Juba Peace Agreement (JPA). It provided strategic recommendations on potential UN support to the JPA, later deploying security arrangements experts to Sudan to support a technical consultative meeting with signatories of the Agreement and civil society, and to help establish a Permanent Ceasefire Committee. Constitution experts collaborated with UNDP on an analysis of the draft Constitution Making Law, while other process design experts shared insights on issues of truth, justice, victims, and vetting. The SBT gender and inclusion expert provided remote advice on how to develop the role of women as observers to relevant talks.



Syria

MSU provided a process design expert to support the Office of the Special Envoy in planning and facilitating the fifth and sixth sittings of the Syria Constitutional Committee. We also provided technical expertise to the Office for a meeting held in the margins of the 'Astana talks' in July, which focused on simultaneous detainee release operations and proposals to strengthen the related working group on detainees.

Peacekeeping contexts



South Sudan

Experts supported the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) by advising on the constitution-making process as provided in the country's Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. This included assisting the finalization of the constitution-making support strategy and the launch of a related working group in Juba. The expert continued to develop written guidance for national stakeholders.

RCO contexts/non-mission settings



Bolivia

At the request of the RC and the Vice Presidency of Bolivia, an expert on process design provided ongoing support to trust-building and reconciliation efforts in the country, following the contested electoral process in 2019 and political instability in 2020. Last year, this involved both on-site and continuous remote support. Activities included programme design efforts; relationship-building with high-ranking officials; supporting a virtual forum on regional reconciliation processes; and supporting a digital consultation with Bolivians on issues of citizenship and national unity.



Papua New Guinea

MSU continued to support, via the office of the RC, the governments of Papua New Guinea and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville as they conducted consultations on the political future of Bougainville following the non-binding referendum on independence held in 2019. The expert on constitutions worked with the parties to develop key joint documents covering the timeline, principles and ‘rules of the road’ for the consultation process. The expert then supported three rounds of consultations.



Tunisia

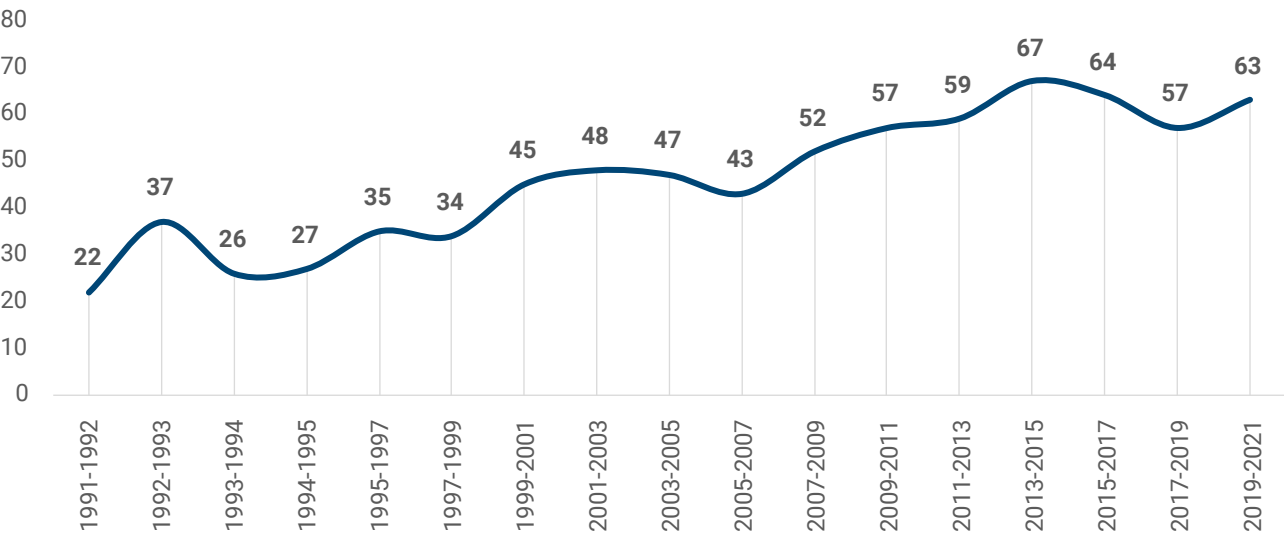
A process design expert provided technical assistance to the RC and to the Peace and Development Adviser on designing and implementing a dialogue with youth using the WhatsApp application. The dialogue was held to inform UN engagement on the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and on youth participation in public life. It engaged over 80 young Tunisians with diverse social, gender, political and geographic backgrounds.

We provided multifaceted electoral support

Demand for United Nations electoral assistance is growing, as is the duration and complexity of operations. While resources for field-based UN electoral projects are mobilized locally, MYA funding enables our Electoral Assistance

Division (EAD) to lead on needs assessment exercises, recommend parameters for UN electoral assistance, advise on the design of related mission components or projects, and offer political and technical guidance to all UN entities involved in electoral assistance. This includes advising on how to enhance the electoral participation of women and ensure their safety as a priority.

STATES AND TERRITORIES WHERE UNITED NATIONS PROVIDED ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE (1991-2021)



Note: The figures in the graph reflect the number of electoral assistance activities provided worldwide, based on data extracted from report of the Secretary-General.

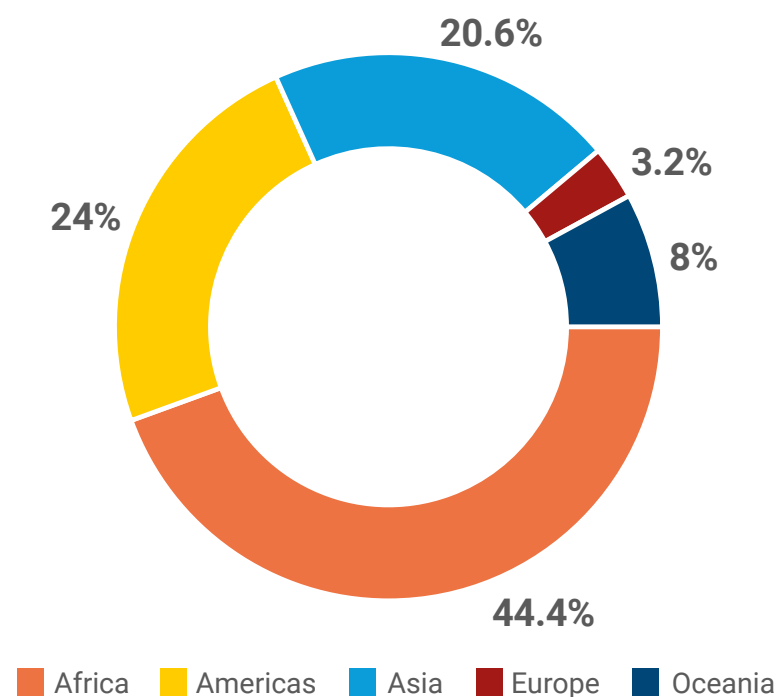
In the last three years, the greatest focus for DPPA’s electoral support has continued to be in Africa, where the Department channelled **44.4 per cent** of the provided assistance. Support to Latin America and the Caribbean and to Asia and the Pacific are our second and third

most frequent regions of focus; with 15 and 13 assistance activities provided, respectively. Our work in Oceania and Europe counted for 5 and 2 per cent of the electoral assistance carried out by the Department.

UN technical
electoral support
to over 50 member
states, deploying
24 missions

In 2021, we continued to coordinate UN technical electoral support to over **50** member states, deploying **24** missions. These included in-person Needs Assessment Missions (NAMs) to **Bolivia, Lesotho, Malawi, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Sudan** and **Sudan**; as well as other electoral missions to countries ranging from **Central African Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador** and **Iraq**, to **Libya, Timor Leste, Venezuela**, and **Zambia**. During the pandemic, innovations such as conducting virtual needs assessments allowed us to ensure continuity.

UN ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE (2019-2021) BY GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS



Note: The assignment of countries/territories to specific geographical grouping is for statistical convenience only. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

HOW DOES ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE COME ABOUT?

EAD responds to requests received from Member States or, less commonly, to a mandate from the Security Council or the General Assembly for electoral assistance to a Member State. A team will then often be required to conduct a needs assessment in close coordination with other UN and non-UN partners, onsite or virtually. Recommendations of EAD-led needs assessments are often carried out by other UN entities with our support and become the basis for new electoral support projects/activities in the field. We most commonly conduct needs assessments or provide technical advice via advisory and review missions to ongoing electoral support projects in various part of the world. In mission settings, assistance is generally delivered under the auspices of DPPA or DPO, complemented by UNDP. In non-mission settings, UNDP is the major implementer.

Experience tells us that electoral assistance works best as part of a broader approach to promoting peace and stability. Where appropriate, our technical assistance may therefore be combined with political engagement, such as mediation and good offices at national and regional levels. Recent examples of this include the UN's support to electoral processes in Iraq, Malawi, The Gambia and Zambia.



A woman casts her vote in the second round of the parliamentary elections in the Central African Republic. Credit: UN Photo

Our electoral support highlights in 2021



In **The Gambia**, MYA funds enabled DPPA to support efforts to enhance women's participation, train electoral officials and the police, and carry out civic and voter education ahead of the presidential election in December 2021. The elections were held in a peaceful manner and with a remarkably high voter turnout at over 89 per cent, with active participation from women and youth.



In **Iraq**, the Division supported the deployment of 150 international electoral experts and approximately 550 national support personnel to monitor the October 2021 election at the request of the Government. The deployment took place in a timely and effective manner and was seen as having contributed positively to national efforts in conducting the elections.



In **New Caledonia (France)**, a group of experts was deployed by DPPA to assist local officials in advance of the third and last referendum under the Nouméa Accord for New Caledonia's independence, which took place peacefully in December 2021.



In **Uzbekistan**, the Division assisted the national efforts aimed at strengthening the inclusivity of the electoral process, through supporting a UNDP-led electoral project that, among other activities, conducted several online workshops to increase women's political participation.



In **Venezuela**, the projects enabled DPPA to deploy a Panel of Experts to Venezuela to follow the November 2021 elections and report to the UN Secretary General. The deployment of the panel of experts was valued as useful and positive by all Venezuelan stakeholders seeking negotiated solutions to their differences, including through electoral means.



In **Zambia**, a senior electoral expert was deployed to support the good offices efforts of the former SRSG to the AU and Head of the UN Office to the AU, Hannah Tetteh, in advance of the August 2021 general elections. DPPA's support combined technical assistance with good offices and political engagement. The peaceful conduct of the elections and smooth transfer of power was hailed by national and international actors.



A polling station in The Gambia on election day. Credit: UN Photo/Arthur Sessink

LIBYA



UN efforts to advance the Libyan-led and owned dialogue UN efforts to advance the Libyan-led and owned dialogue process relied considerably on MYA support. Extra-budgetary resources have helped us to sustain intense multilateral engagement, to provide technical expertise to UNSMIL and to undertake good offices and mediation efforts with Libyan and international actors. We have also adopted innovative approaches to enhance our political, security and policy-economy analyses, such as tools to counter hate speech, disinformation and incitement to violence in traditional and social media.

This brief timeline outlines key moments of our engagement in Libya in 2021:

February to March – We begin to plan scalable UN support for ceasefire monitoring

With support from the MYA, DPPA leads a multidisciplinary and inter-agency advance team to plan the deployment of the UNSMIL Ceasefire Monitoring Component (CMC) in support of the Libyan Ceasefire Monitoring Mechanism. The team includes a DPPA Senior Mediation Adviser on security arrangements.

Action is taken in response to a request from the Security Council, taking into account 5+5 Joint Military Commission discussions. This includes supporting the implementation of key provisions of the agreement, such as reopening the Sirte-Misrata coastal road connecting eastern and western Libya, and preparations for the gradual and sequenced process of withdrawal of mercenaries, foreign fighters and foreign forces from Libyan territory.

April to May – We deploy support to national reconciliation planning

A DPPA Senior Mediation Adviser on transitional justice is virtually deployed to UNSMIL to assist the development of an inclusive, Libyan-led and Libyan-owned rights-based strategy for national reconciliation.

23 June – DPPA leads UN engagement in Berlin

The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, leads the UN delegation at the Second Berlin Conference on Libya, which represents a key opportunity to secure commitments from Libyan and international partners to advance the political process.

July – We support the strengthening of UNSMIL

With MYA funding and at the request of the Security Council, DPPA conducts an independent strategic review of UNSMIL with the assistance of an independent expert, and recommends measures to improve its efficiency. These include adjustments to the overall mission structure, strengthening certain mission components, and improving mediation and peace process management. The review is conducted at the request of the Security Council in its resolution 2542 (2020).

22 September – DPPA represents the UN at a high-level ministerial meeting

Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo represents the UN at a high-level ministerial meeting on Libya, convened by Germany and

co-chaired by various foreign ministers in the margins of the 76th United Nations General Assembly.

October to November – DPPA reaffirms UN commitment to the peace process and deploys Ceasefire Monitors

Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo attends the Libya Stabilization Initiative in Tripoli and the Paris Conference on Libya, to strengthen UN engagement and reaffirm the UN's full and continued support to the country.

In October 2021, the first team of UNSMIL Ceasefire Monitors is deployed and starts work, in close collaboration with Libyan counterparts.

6 December – A Special Adviser is appointed

The Secretary-General appoints Stephanie Williams as his Special Adviser on Libya, to pursue implementation of the three intra-Libyan dialogue tracks and support the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections.

The Special Adviser holds a wide range of consultations across the country with Libyan political, security and civil society actors, as well as presidential and parliamentary candidates, and regional and international actors. She has since called on all stakeholders to respect the aspirations of the more than 2.8 million Libyans who have registered to vote, and to continue to focus on the holding of presidential and parliamentary elections as soon as possible.

MOZAMBIQUE

Having suffered from low-level violence since 2012, Mozambique's central region appeared to be moving into a more peaceful era last year, thanks to the implementation of the Maputo Accord for Peace and National Reconciliation. MYA funds have been used to advance valuable and catalytic preventive diplomacy in support of these developments. As a trusted intermediary between the Government and the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO), the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, Mirko Manzoni, has been able to ensure continued dialogue on all aspects of the peace agreement through his good offices, including on the issue of the RENAMO Military Junta (RMJ). This engagement contributed to a ceasefire in late 2020, which in turn helped to abate attacks in central Mozambique and saw ninety RMJ members, including senior members, join the ensuing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process in 2021.

Since then, the Personal Envoy has worked closely with Mozambique's President and the leader of RENAMO in overcoming hurdles to the nationally owned process and ensuring that the DDR process and related activities move forward at a steady pace. In 2021, **1,687** former combatants were disarmed and demobilized, totalling **3,267** out of the **5,221** former combatants (63 per cent). Eleven out of the **16** RENAMO military bases have closed.

MYA funding has also allowed the Personal Envoy to support the identification of livelihood and education opportunities

for demobilized former combatants – with 41 women and 694 men accepting opportunities to date – and the inclusion of DDR beneficiaries into the national pension scheme, while championing the peace process to maintain international support. The latter actions contributed, in March 2021, to the formation of a Peace Process Reintegration Network among international development cooperation partners, to support long-term peace and stability efforts in the country. The Personal Envoy was able to ensure the involvement of all key actors, from the Ministry of Combatants to the World Bank. In the absence of MYA support, the process to stabilize central Mozambique would have taken longer and delayed the path to sustainable peace.



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



“WE’VE BEEN WAITING FOR A LONG TIME.

A former Lieutenant Colonel in RENAMO's military structure and a DDR beneficiary, Marta Carlos* is one of 257 women being demobilized through Mozambique's DDR process. With the reinsertion support provided, she is feeling hopeful as she begins her reintegration journey and cannot wait to return to her family.



I AM DELIGHTED. I NEEDED TO RETURN HOME AND HAND OVER WHAT IS NOT MINE,

she says, indicating her weapons.

WE’VE BEEN WAITING FOR A LONG TIME. THE FIRST THING I’M GOING TO DO IS TO BUILD A HOUSE, BECAUSE I DON’T HAVE ONE. THE SECOND STEP IS TO BE A FARMER BECAUSE I’VE LIVED BASED ON AGRICULTURE DURING THESE LAST YEARS, SINCE 1985. THAT IS TO SAY, I HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE.”

* Marta's name has been changed to protect her identity.

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

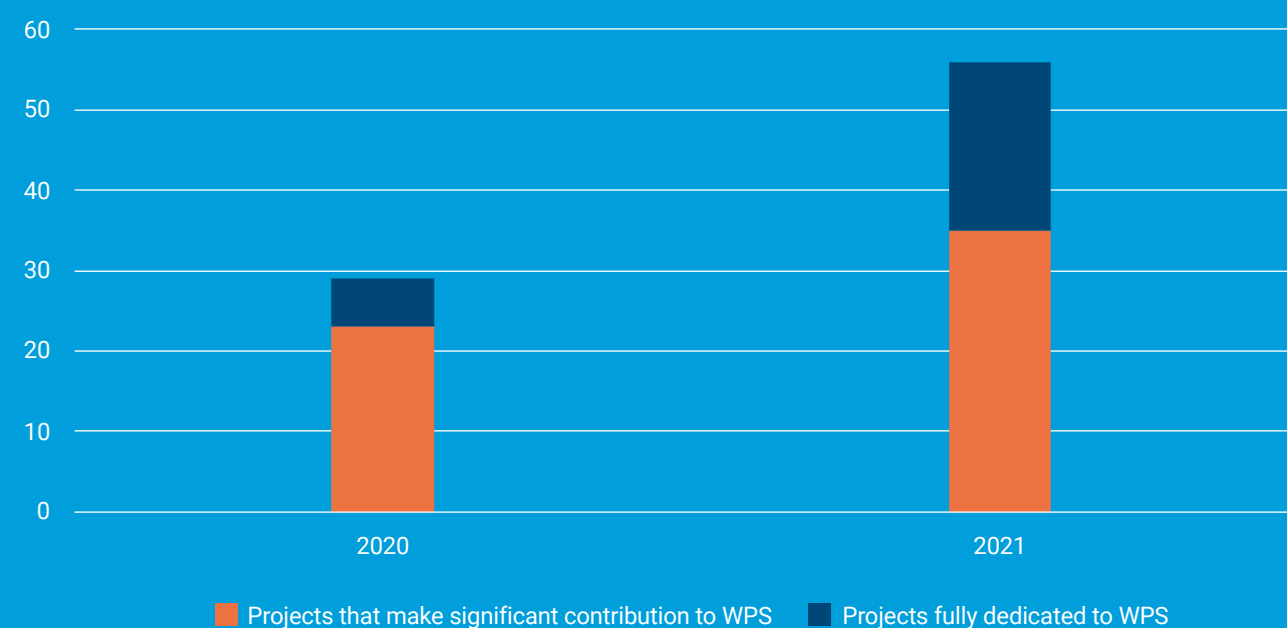


In 2021, DPPA created a dedicated Women, Peace and Security funding window and invested **\$7.2 million** in WPS across **all** MYA projects.

It is well established that women are differently and disproportionately impacted by crises compared to men, often bearing the brunt of conflict. The discrimination, exclusion and violence that women face on the ground during conflict are commonly replicated during the subsequent political processes, peacebuilding and transition, yet gender-sensitive and responsive programming remains scarce and is not sufficiently prioritized. With the COVID-19 outbreak shedding a harsher light on the myriad ways that gender inequality is sustained, it is more important than ever to ensure that all steps toward sustainable peace are gender inclusive.

In 2021, DPPA created a dedicated Women, Peace and Security funding window, setting aside **\$3.7 million** of MYA funding for projects entirely dedicated to the WPS agenda. This has increased WPS funding by **\$1.3 million** in comparison to 2020. In total, DPPA invested **\$7.2 million** in WPS across all MYA projects in 2021, amounting to **18 per cent** of all of the MYA's programmed funding and exceeding our commitment of 17 per cent. The proportion of projects that either make a significant contribution to the WPS agenda, or are entirely dedicated to WPS, increased by 44 per cent between 2020 (29 projects) and 2021 (56 projects).

NUMBER OF PROJECTS THAT WERE ENTIRELY DEDICATED TO WPS OR THAT SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTED TO WPS



We mainstreamed gender and promoted the meaningful participation of women in peace and political processes

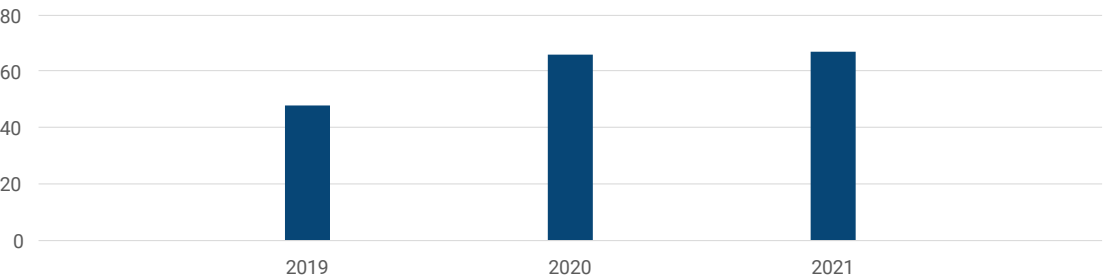
Gender is mainstreamed and integrated throughout all MYA projects and programmatic work, from planning, analysis, design, and implementation, through to reporting and evaluation – whether or not these are aimed at promoting the WPS agenda. To ensure this, they utilize a gender marker. This tool also allows the Department to perform gender budgeting and to track resource allocation as well as overall investment into the WPS agenda.

In 2021, DPPA progressed on the commitments and priorities in its Women, Peace and Security Policy, by continuing to promote the meaningful participation of women in peace and political processes and to support gender-responsive peacemaking and peacebuilding. This is not solely a moral commitment; it is a matter of

effectiveness. The inclusion of women broadens the ownership of processes and helps remedy structural inequalities and address the root causes of conflict. This makes peace agreements and transitions more durable.

In the past three years, women's representation in UN mediation support teams progressively increased, from **30 per cent** in 2019 to **40 per cent** in 2020, and stabilized at **43 per cent** in 2021. Our field missions consulted regularly with women's civil society organizations, with **100 per cent** of their reports to the Security Council containing gender-relevant language. In Iraq, Syria and Yemen, our MYA-funded Women's Advisory Boards continued to ensure that women's perspectives inform the work of the respective envoys, SRSGs, and missions.

% DELEGATIONS OF CONFLICT PARTIES WITH SENIOR WOMEN MEMBERS IN MEDIATION PROCESSES WHERE THE UN IS A (CO)-LEAD (2019 – 2021)



We explored new pathways for women's participation through digital inclusion. New technologies, such as virtual consultations, lowered access barriers for some groups that are traditionally excluded from decision-making and these hold promise for further

promoting meaningful inclusion, even in a post-COVID world (see our Technology and Innovation window). The MYA has been central to ensuring sustained financing and support to these catalytic initiatives.

MYA-funded work across the five WPS Policy priorities

Gender-sensitive political and conflict analysis. DPPA and the Office of UN Representative to the Geneva International Discussions launched the first gendered analysis of the Geneva International Discussions (GID) – a multi-lateral process co-chaired by the UN, the European Union (EU) and the OSCE to address the consequences of the August 2008 conflict in Georgia, to support the effort of making the peace and political process of GID more inclusive. This included a focus on increasing women's political participation through different modes of engagement, mainstreaming gender perspectives into key GID agenda issues and implementing WPS agenda priority areas in the GID process.

Promoting inclusion and women's meaningful participation in all peacemaking and peacebuilding efforts. In Mexico, DPPA played a catalytic role in forging a partnership with UNDP and UN Women and helping to identify strategic WPS priorities. The latter two agencies then partnered with the National Institute for Women to convene the First National Meeting of Women Peacebuilders, with over 120 participating women from 11 states. The meeting underscored women's authority, their role as transformers and builders of a peace and security culture, along with the need to prevent violence against women and to reconstruct the social fabric at the local level.

In May 2021, 26 Sudanese women's rights advocates engaged in high-level advocacy in Juba for the duration of talks between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North, with the support of UNITAMS, UNDP and UN Women. UNITAMS also secured the presence of gender experts inside the negotiation room as observers – a breakthrough compared to previous rounds of talks in Juba.

Preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence as a priority for peace.

In the past few years, some media outlets across several Central African countries have started to promote hate speech and incitement to violence against particular groups, including women. With MYA funding, our regional office for Central Africa (UNOCA) supported efforts to fight against discriminatory discourse against women and better involve women in peace and security-related action. A regional platform was created to exchange information, share experience and good practices on issues relating to peace, and move towards the implementation of the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on combating hate speech.

MYA funding has allowed the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) to advance the WPS agenda across Central Asia. This has included providing continued support to the Women Leaders' Caucus, preparing regional discussions on women's political participation and violence against women, and assisting in the successful adoption of a regional UN Declaration to harness the potential of women leadership. Following recurring border clashes in Sokh, an Uzbek enclave in Kyrgyzstan, UNRCCA also assisted the Women Contact Group, a coalition of women leaders, in carrying out a fact-finding mission. This aimed to assess the situation and grievances among the local community and propose policy measures for addressing specific concerns of women and increasing their role in cross-border confidence-building.

Women's participation in electoral and political processes. In Ecuador, a DPPA project to strengthen the capacities of women parliamentarians promoted political inclusivity and contributed to combating gender-based political violence. The project, which has included training for parliamentarians, and new research and awareness-raising related to prejudice in the media, has helped support steps towards agreements with the National Assembly and the National Council for Gender Equality on strengthening the capacities of women in politics.

DPPA support in Guatemala, drawing on our WPS policy, helped the UN Country Team's work to strengthen women's political participation at all levels, in support of the Guatemalan Congress and women organizations, among other stakeholders. Activities included a series of events, trainings and dialogues, and promoted a gender-sensitive legislative agenda and national budget process.



Scene from the municipal market in Tucuru, Guatemala. Credit: UN Photo/UN Women/Ryan Brown

GOAL 2

STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS FOR PREVENTION AND RESILIENCE

A recent example of mediation efforts, members of a newly established shura meet in Kunduz city. Shuras or local tribal councils help to foster local peace. Credit: UNAMA Photo/Hamsuddin Hamed

As global challenges become ever more complex, it is important for the United Nations to maximize its impact by enhancing partnerships with a wide range of actors. Collective peacebuilding efforts and a shared vision can lead to closer cooperation and lasting peace. Across all areas of its work, DPPA relies on the diversity, expertise and relationships of its partners to achieve results that would have been impossible to accomplish alone. MYA funding makes it possible for us to advance our sustaining peace agenda by investing heavily in operationalizing partnerships at all levels. As the examples below indicate, it also allows for creative 'workaround' solutions to coordination obstacles within the UN system.

We are in it for the long haul

DPPA invests in initiatives to sustain peace. As the Sustainable Development Goals recall, partnerships are important accelerators in all efforts to sustain peace and development. Maintaining focus on strategic, long-term and shared priorities, particularly in times of crisis, is the only sustainable pathway for our common future.

Last year in **West Africa**, MYA funding brought together various partners to promote social inclusion, cohesion and strengthened infrastructure in **Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Niger**.



Special Representatives Mahamat Saleh Annadif (UNOWAS) and François Louncény Fall (UNOCA) visit the Mnawo Refugee camp in Cameroon. Credit: UN Photo/UNOWAS



In Somalia, technical media training was carried out to Goodwill Ambassadors who will be advocating for a 30 per cent women's quota in the country's parliamentary elections. Increasing women's participation in Somalia's political life is vital for long-term peace. Credit: UN Photo/Calisto Oloingo

Under the leadership of UNOWAS, this two-year initiative collaborated closely with the ECOWAS and the respective RCs and UN Country Teams, and with the participation of all segments of society. The project launch saw the formation of several peace caravans to support communal peace commissions and strengthen local capacities for preventing and peacefully resolving conflicts in selected localities.

In **Central Asia**, the MYA has been supporting the UNRCCA since 2019 in its efforts to foster regional peace and stability by advocating for sustainable transboundary water management and diplomacy in the Aral Sea Basin. In 2021, MYA funding supported a further strengthening of relevant institutions and legal frameworks in the region, and in-depth engagement with all parties to

increase transparency and promote partnerships. This included capacity building on international legal frameworks governing watercourses and exchanging technological solutions on the rational use of water, and water sanitation on desiccated parts of the Aral Sea. It was followed by the enhanced engagement of national experts from Central Asian States and Afghanistan.

For people impacted by conflict, the resulting trauma can have significant long-term mental and social consequences. Improving psychosocial well-being and access to support is a continuing priority for the UN as a pathway to consolidating peace and preventing future conflict. At the global level, DPPA is leveraging its networks and partnerships to discuss and explore ways to integrate Mental

Health and Psychological Support (MHPSS) into some areas of its work, while at the local level some SPMs have conducted a wide range of activities that contribute, directly or indirectly, to alleviating mental hardship and/or fostering reconciliation between communities.

At the country level, like the United Nations Verification Mission in **Colombia**, some SPMs have integrated programme elements that are critical to ensuring that MHPSS is addressed across all peacebuilding efforts.

We are more networked than ever before

The repercussions of conflicts and crises are often felt beyond national borders. DPPA therefore also places great emphasis on partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations. These are often better placed than we are to understand the root causes of conflict in their regions, more trusted by their peers and have greater political legitimacy to influence fellow decision-makers. Our MYA investment in institutionalizing partnerships with regional counterparts has meanwhile led to more effective engagements before, during and after crisis. In 2021, we developed and carried out more than **50** joint strategies and interventions with regional organizations.

DPPA invests in strengthening cooperation between regional organizations and the UN system at large to better understand and address regional challenges. In the **Middle East**, the Department is deepening its strategic dialogue with the **League of Arab States (LAS)** and the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** to forge common approaches to preventive diplomacy, conflict resolution, mediation and peacebuilding efforts. We are also engaging in similar dialogue and cooperation with the **Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**. In 2021, MYA funding sustained UN engagement with the LAS and held regional consultations on advancing the Youth, Peace and Security agenda, along with study visits and working-level exchanges. These efforts fostered a common understanding of the international community's approach to crises affecting the region, and drivers of conflict.

MYA funding put DPPA at the forefront of UN-wide support to Silencing the Guns, a flagship initiative of the **African Union (AU)**, aimed at ending

all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence and violent conflicts, and at preventing genocide by 2030. Critical progress was made by operationalizing a Technical Working Group on elections to enhance coordination and information-sharing, headed by the AU's Regional Economic Communities and Mechanisms. The group has hitherto held discussions on electoral processes in **Libya, Madagascar, South Sudan, Sudan** and **The Gambia**.

As many AU Member States were navigating complex political considerations when deciding whether and how to proceed with scheduled elections during the COVID-19 pandemic, these working groups provided a much-needed platform to enhance UN-AU coordination and synergy in electoral support, to ensure timely, peaceful and inclusive elections.

We also supported regional efforts to create positive conditions for elections. The MYA funded our technical, logistical and programmatic assistance to the **Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)** as it established a regional governance framework that includes an electoral mechanism. We also worked hand-in-hand with the **Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)** to monitor and analyse a potentially volatile election period in Zambia. Given the absence of an inclusive platform through which national stakeholders could engage political parties to defuse tensions and resolve political disputes (outside of the formal judicial process), the RC supported national efforts to establish a Zambian-led Inclusive Dialogue Platform. These varied efforts ultimately helped support a peaceful transition of power.



A group of people on the streets of Yangon show their support for Myanmar. Credit: UN Photo/Saw Wunna

MYANMAR

In February 2021, the armed forces of **Myanmar** imposed a national 'state of emergency' and transferred the country's legislative, administrative, and judicial powers from the ruling party to the military's Commander-in-Chief. The coup undermined the fragile gains that Myanmar had made towards democratic transition, an inclusive peace process and national reconciliation.

In 2021, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General and her Office remained one of the few entities with access to key actors, working to help advance a political solution to this new challenge. Existing channels with the military were used to maintain contact at the working level, while the Special Envoy held continuous exchanges with the democratic movement, leaders of Rohingya communities, Member States and regional organizations, notably **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)**, in her efforts to promote a unified international response. As violence escalated, the Special Envoy engaged with ASEAN Member States, the newly appointed ASEAN Special Envoy and other regional partners to press for timely, robust and coherent responsive action.

The MYA accelerated these efforts by funding surge capacity in New York and Bangkok. This strengthened the collaboration and liaison capacities of the Office with ASEAN counterparts and supported decision-making at the level of senior UN management, rapidly meeting the high demand for in-depth briefing material and analysis on conflict trends and their impact on humanitarian and development activities.

MYA funding also allowed the Office of the Special Envoy to prepare and hold consultations with women from Myanmar with expertise on peace process and national reconciliation issues, valuably supporting emerging inter-communal solidarity and ASEAN efforts to facilitate an end to the violence.

Funding also helped us to strengthen engagement with Youth Advisers, in addition to consultations by the Special Envoy with youth from inside Myanmar and the diaspora. These consultations provided the Special Envoy with critical context on the conflict from diverse perspectives, starting an important discussion on the future involvement of youth and women in peacebuilding. These efforts will continue under the new Special Envoy on Myanmar, Noeleen Heyzer.



Rohingya refugees arrive cross the border near Anzuman Para village, Palong Khali, Bangladesh.
Credit: UNHCR/Roger Arnold

We enhanced monitoring and coordination with our liaison presences

DPPA has been able to maintain **9** liaison presences with MYA funding: in **Bangkok, Beijing, Brussels, Buka, Cairo, Gaborone, Jakarta, Nairobi** and **Vienna**. These teams continuously monitor changing situations, offer technical advice and provide critical reporting to DPPA, partners and where requested, senior UN leadership.

These regional footprints critically help us to forge working relationships with regional and sub-regional organizations, and to strengthen UN system ties. They support coordination and complementarity with UN Agencies and are often an important entry point for operational coordination on peace and security matters.

Our liaison presence in **Brussels**, for example, is key to maintaining strong coordination with the EU and NATO and helping to advance the peace and security agenda. In 2021, this included continued crisis management and quiet diplomacy on a range of files, as well as the creation of a key political dialogue mechanism on peace and security between the leadership of DPPA and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Our liaison office in **Vienna** worked closely with the OSCE in 2020 in support of the efforts to resolve hostilities in and around the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Since then, a coordinated UN response in the post-conflict phase has cut across inter-connected engagement tracks in the political, humanitarian, human rights and peacebuilding areas. The liaison presence has placed particular focus on engaging women, youth and conflict-affected communities in support of a peace and reform agenda. Civil society representatives from both countries, and from neighbouring **Georgia**, came together in a roundtable platform in May to discuss the Sustainable Development Goals and other issues of common concern, including the impact of COVID-19 on women in the sub-region.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



MYA funds supported the work of the DPPA Liaison Officer in the **Autonomous Region of Bougainville**, who has provided critical support to parties preparing for consultations related to the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement.

Since the 2019 referendum, the parties have initiated a process for consulting on the outcome of the referendum, with two related meetings taking place between the National Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government in May and July 2021. The second meeting saw a joint roadmap agreed for the future of the consultation process and the setting of milestones, including the goal of reaching a settlement between 2025 and 2027 on the political future of Bougainville. In December, the parties agreed to continue discussions on how to implement the roadmap and asked the UN to chair the consultation process, with the RC presiding over the first three meetings.

The MYA-funded Liaison Officer will continue to support the work of the newly appointed international moderator for the process, Bertie Ahern, the former Prime Minister of Ireland and former Chair of the Bougainville Referendum Commission. The officer has been working with the

parties to ensure that women are better represented in the consultation process, and the Bougainville delegation to the consultation meetings has included a female speaker. In close coordination with UN Women, the liaison presence supported the Bougainville Women, Peace and Security Working Group, which was called upon to provide critical advice to the Minister for Community Development and the Ministerial Taskforce on COVID-19, and has continued to encourage the formal participation of women in the consultation meetings.



Voters at the Natohia polling booth after casting their votes in Buka Town, Papua New Guinea. Credit: UN Photo/Seraphina Aupong

We backstopped UN teams in every region

Our missions are working more closely than ever with UN Country Teams and the wider UN system to better identify emerging threats and offer increasingly integrated responses. In the past year alone, we informed more than 40 Common Country Analyses, which are the basis for UN Country Teams' responses and guide regional priorities. Last year, this backstopping role also included fostering closer ties with the RC system, UN Country Teams and Peace and Development Advisers (PDAs), in particular. For example, we collaborated closely with the Development Coordination Office to support RC Offices in **Kyrgyzstan, Guinea, Guyana and Mongolia** at strategic moments; these included developing UN Country Frameworks and CCAs in conflict-sensitive and transitional contexts, and supporting inclusive policymaking. In **Brazil and Peru**, MYA funding allowed us to help strengthen Country Teams' analysis and scenario-building capacities in sensitive political contexts, when requested by the RC. Meanwhile, in **Eswatini** we deployed a senior dialogue adviser to help map out a UN response to the political instability that engulfed the Kingdom following an eruption of violence in June 2021, again at the request of the RC.

With the **Horn of Africa** facing multiple challenges, UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes have stepped up priority activities across the four pillars of the Comprehensive Regional Prevention Strategy. The Special Envoy used his convening power to bring together RCs in **Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia**, to work on a Peacebuilding Fund Cross-Border Integrated Programme for the prevention of violent conflict and extremism in the Mandera Triangle, and to ensure that it is fully implemented as soon as possible.

Working with UNDP through the Joint Programme on Conflict Prevention, we have been able to increase our catalytic support to RCs and UN Country Teams from 56 to more than 75 countries. PDAs are also notably often present in-country when the MYA is utilized because they are deployed to country contexts at various



UN vehicles travel on a road damaged by the fighting in Gijet, southern Tigray, Ethiopia. Credit: UNICEF

stages of conflict risk. For example, in the run-up to the general elections in **Lesotho**, scheduled for late 2022, MYA funding has critically enabled an increase in PDA support to the ongoing national reform process and its renewed focus on national reconciliation and transitional justice. Working closely with the RCO and UN Country Team, this included in-depth assessments and a series of trainings to assist local peacebuilding efforts, which were later also utilized by a UNDP pilot project on digital early warning applications for communities at risk.

Following the resurgence of open conflict between **Armenia and Azerbaijan**, the MYA enabled the South Caucasus PDA team to make use of technological advancements. By creating new tools for data collection and analysis, the team was able to automate data collection processes and analyse large volumes

of information, working with local media monitors. These approaches are now used to produce monthly monitoring updates on conflict-related dynamics, contributing to a better assessment of ongoing tensions around **Nagorno-Karabakh**.

In the **Western Balkans**, DPPA partnered with OHCHR to facilitate broad reflection on the UN's transitional justice work in the region, following a UN scoping in 2020. We engaged in advocacy with political leadership, civil society and international stakeholders, and supported UN-wide consultations with CSOs in order to translate the findings and recommendations of the scoping report into follow-up activities. These findings included taking a more strategic and better-coordinated approach across the UN system in the Western Balkans to address the current shortcomings of its transitional justice and rule of law support via a roadmap.

The role of a regional office: UNOCA

Working closely with ECCAS, UNOCA has been using MYA funding to support regional integration, inclusive participation and conflict prevention in Central Africa, while focusing on longer-term fragilities in the region.

Regional integration. As part of our work on governance and institution-building, funds have supported countries' efforts to adhere to the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). This has now been adopted by nine out of eleven ECCAS member States, with Rwanda and Chad having additionally implemented independent evaluation committees. This has promoted steps towards a regional protocol on elections and governance, with ECCAS launching a 'decade of governance' in support.

Participation. We helped bring a stronger cross-border and regional dimension to the Women Peacebuilders Network in Central Africa. The funds allowed an international delegation of women and youth peacebuilders to travel to N'Djamena in the aftermath of the recent transition, to engage in high-level advocacy and exchange. They also attended the Women's National Symposium in Chad.

Prevention. We organized a regional forum on the prevention of and fight against hate speech, which contributed to the development of a regional strategy and to the prevention agenda of the SRSG, François Louncény Fall. We also supported the establishment of a new organizational platform for media professionals in Central Africa, which will serve the exchange of good practice on media conduct, ethics and the prevention of hate speech. The SRSG visited Cameroon three times in October 2021, in relation to the multiple challenges facing the country, including continued violence in the Northwest and Southwest regions, and Boko Haram-related insecurity in the Far North.

Pastoralism and cross-border transhumance. By promoting mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflict between herders and farmers in Central Africa, including community-based approaches, DPPA has contributed to preventing and resolving conflicts, and to building resilience. This included an MYA-funded workshop to sensitize local authorities in eastern DRC to the need for a regional legal framework, who then called on national authorities and ECCAS to advance frameworks nationally and regionally.

Addressing long-term fragilities. Central Africa is one of the regions most impacted by climate security issues. We contributed to a study into the interlinkages between climate change and security in the region, which ECCAS can use to mobilize its Member States towards the adoption of a regional protocol, as well as for prevention-related capacity building.

We increased our partnership with civil society

Partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs) are key to carrying out our mandate. Rooted in their communities and often familiar with the varying groups and dynamics of peace processes, they can help beat the odds in achieving lasting peace. Civil society has either direct representation, formal observer status or is officially consulted in over 90 per cent of DPPA-supported political processes, and we are increasingly invested in working with and empowering CSOs: we engaged with **803** such organizations in 2021, compared to 631 the previous year.

In many contexts, CSOs are one of the few remaining channels for direct contact with affected communities. In the **Middle East**, for example, the **Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process** (UNSCO) has built strategic partnerships with a network of 80 Palestinian and Israeli CSOs, which provide crucial contact between civilians. Such organizations are critical to laying the groundwork for a peaceful resolution of the conflict and are a platform for underrepresented voices, particularly those of women and youth. In the wake of violent escalation in May 2021, a joint statement signed by 200 Palestinian and Israeli women and organizations – the first such initiative in over a decade – called for immediate action and the pursuit of long-term solutions to the conflict, based on the principles of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

We amplified the voices of youth

Young people have been increasingly recognized as a positive force in peacebuilding since the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS). Since then, funds from the MYA and the Peacebuilding Fund have positioned DPPA as a strong advocate for the YPS agenda and played a crucial role in engaging with and building on the unique contribution of youth.

While COVID-19 has worsened many of the hardships experienced by young people, including high unemployment rates, especially for young women, the crisis has also presented an opportunity for them to lead in preventing violence, training their communities and shaping more resilient societies for the future.

In **Iraq** last year, young peacebuilders continued to be at the core of efforts by our field mission to advance inclusive peacemaking and dialogue across the country. Following youth-led mass protests calling for reforms and early elections in 2020, the Government of Iraq adopted a National Youth Vision 2030 in May 2021. In support,

the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) has continued to foster youth networks, bringing more than 130 young women and men together to discuss issues of active political participation and trust-building between citizens and the state in the presence of a prime ministerial adviser, and ensuring the involvement of youth at a National Dialogue Conference.

In **Bolivia**, we provided a space for exchange among students from public, private, and indigenous universities. A DPPA mediation expert offered methodological assistance and led an exploration of entry points for collaboration with different university representatives.

In **Northeast Asia**, we worked closely with UNESCO to connect regional youth with policymakers. By mobilizing our civil society network in Northeast Asia, we helped to create a dedicated youth network of around 50 young people from across China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Mongolia. This has seen young people better included in key policy discussions at the crossroads of the YPS and strategic foresight agendas.

We leveraged partnerships with international financial institutions

In 2021, DPPA expanded and deepened its partnerships with the **World Bank** and other international financial institutions (IFIs) to promote joint risk analysis and increase understanding of risk and resilience factors in conflict prevention. Thanks to MYA funding, the Peacebuilding Support Office (which is the Secretariat for the UN-World Bank Partnership Framework in Crisis-Affected Situations) provided extensive liaison and advice last year to help UN RCs and Country Teams better identify partnership opportunities with IFIs.

One important area of work has been joint analyses and assessments with IFIs. We contributed, for example, to the first generation of the Prevention and Resilience Allocation (PRA), which provides enhanced support for countries at risk of falling into high-intensity conflict or large-scale violence.

“THERE IS MUCH UNTAPPED POTENTIAL IN ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE IN THIS WAY, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EMPOWERED YOUTH CONTINUING THESE DIALOGUES INTO THE FUTURE.”



Mo Sasaki, a conflict transformation facilitator from Japan, and a trainer at a Futures Literacy programme event in Northeast Asia.



Youth attend the Annual West Africa and Sahel Youth Forum organized by UNOWAS in collaboration with ECOWAS and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in Abuja in December. Credit: UN Photo/UNOWAS

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Spurred on by challenges wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, DPPA uses cutting-edge technologies to inspire and inform our work. Our Innovation Cell was established in early 2020 to catalyse innovation in peace and security, providing a forum for colleagues to engage collaboratively in human-centred design and problem-solving. In 2021, this ranged from using open-source earth observation to identify climate-related conflict triggers, to forging connections with decision makers with virtual reality.

Supporting peacemaking with Artificial Intelligence. Working virtually, the Innovation Cell helped UN Missions and Country Teams hold meetings with many hundreds of individuals in local communities, languages and dialects last year in contexts as varied as Libya, Bolivia and Iraq, using Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted dialogues and other digital tools. This allowed political and peacebuilding processes to be more inclusive and has reassured communities that the UN is listening to local viewpoints.



Advancing big data analysis. The Cell has been introducing user-friendly analytical tools across the Department and wider UN. Last year, this included Sparrow, a social media reporting tool, and the Diplomatic Pulse search engine, which has helped staff glean insights into Member State positions and trending themes to ease and improve political analysis. Since the Cell trained over 150 DPPA and DPO staff on using Sparrow last year, the Departments have produced more than 100 analytical reports, many with gender-sensitive insights. The Cell also supported the development of DPPA-DPO's Peace and Security Data Hub, which acts as a repository for the Pillar's vast amount of valuable open data.

Investing in speech recognition and text mining. Local TV and radio content is particularly significant in contexts where internet use is low. In recognition of this, the Cell has recently developed an AI-powered automated media monitoring platform that transcribes and translates spoken content in numerous languages, and Arabic dialects, both from radio and TV, and during live meetings. In Sudan, Libya, and Yemen, this has already augmented Missions' early warning capabilities.

Expanding geospatial open-source earth observation. The Cell has begun to use open-source earth observation to work on the climate-security nexus. This has included using satellites to detect changes that may be affecting water, agriculture, food, and other forms of security, for early warnings of conflict. The approach has seen increased traction in multiple settings. For example, last year the Cell supported UNAMI by introducing a water security project in Iraq that detects changes in water levels and soil moisture, with a view to monitoring possible rising tensions.

Strengthening our strategic foresight. In line with the call of the Secretary-General for improved anticipatory planning and decision-making, the Cell has been expanding its foresight and planning capabilities at UN Headquarters and in the field. In 2021, it employed foresight and futures to support the new generation of RCOs in strategic programming, and SPMs at key moments of political transition. This included providing design and implementation support to eight field presences, including in Kyrgyzstan, Guinea, Guyana, and Sudan.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Using behavioural science to fight disinformation. Open-source online data is changing the nature of strategic communications. In the area of electoral dis- and misinformation, the Cell has been working with UN Country Teams and our SPM in Iraq to monitor public perception and responsively inoculate media consumers to disinformation. This has included using comparative usability testing to identify effective political messaging interventions that will increase voter turnout.

Tracking hate speech with bespoke social media analytics. The Cell has been helping regional divisions to conduct political analysis using social media data. Last year, for example, this involved using advanced computational methods to study hate speech dynamics that could trigger conflict in the South Caucasus, and to map networks in Lebanon. This identified potential new entry points for the peacemaking and peacebuilding efforts of local UN presences by tracking emerging topics and influential conflict stakeholders.

Enhancing briefings with virtual reality. With travel currently restricted, the immersive technology of virtual reality (VR) can further enhance the situational awareness of important stakeholders. *Sudan Now* and *Pathways Colombia* are two of the 360-degree VR videos that we produced in 2021 with our respective Missions in Sudan and Colombia and screened to Security Council members, to give them a clearer perspective of the situation on the ground. 2021 also saw the launch of a Cell-supported VR video on Climate Security in Pacific region, which will be showcased at diplomatic fora in 2022, including the Peacebuilding Commission and the next UN Climate Change Conference, COP27.

Digital dialogues, tools and discussions. New technologies can help to promote inclusion in decision-making by lowering access barriers for groups that have traditionally been excluded. In 2021, DPPA supported digital dialogues around the world, from talks in Bolivia and Libya around issues of politics, elections and national reconciliation, to the first live digital dialogue between our Mission in Iraq and voters ahead of the 2021 elections. Another virtual discussion brought civil society groups together with senior Iraqi policymakers, Council of Representatives leaders and members of the Independent High Electoral Commission, to explore the needs and challenges facing Iraqi women entering politics. We also developed an online women's inclusion course that trained 25 participants from UN Headquarters, field missions and NGO partners on using digital technologies to enhance women's participation in dialogue and mediation processes.



An image of a street in Mosul from the Innovation Cell's virtual reality film on Iraq.

GOAL 3

ACHIEVE A LEARNING INNOVATIVE WORKING CULTURE THAT TAKES FORWARD THE VISION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

A member of the Security Council gets ready to view a virtual reality project created by DPPA.
Credit: UN Photo/Manuel Elías

Guided by our 2020-22 Strategic Plan, the Department was able to maintain a pace of work similar to pre-pandemic levels, despite unprecedented hardship. We monitored strategic risks and identified solid mitigation measures, while intensifying our commitment to transparency and learning. Meanwhile, we were lauded for both our programmatic gender mainstreaming and our staff-driven approach to organizational change around work-life balance, inclusivity, and accessibility.

We grounded our work in monitoring and evaluation

We have continued to closely monitor and evaluate our risks, resources and results, moving to six-monthly reporting against our Results Framework. Along with our usual quarterly reviews of MYA projects – largely virtual in the past year – this change has helped us to better identify gaps and boost our performance. DPPA has also continued to monitor and implement the recommendations of oversight bodies, such as the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and the UN Board of Auditors. Our efforts were recognized when OIOS closed six new and long-standing recommendations at the year-end, following their successful implementation.

Guided by our 2021 Evaluation Plan, DPPA conducted two self-evaluations and **12** lessons learned studies. Our annual lessons learned studies and evaluations summary report is being prepared and will be disseminated when ready. Among the evaluations, an independent Mid-Term Review of our current three-year Strategic Plan took stock of our key achievements and gaps between 1 January 2020 and 31 May 2021, the Plan's mid-point. Evidence from the Review indicated that the Strategic Plan served as a useful planning tool during the pandemic. The Review also confirmed that the MYA resources are clearly aligned with the objectives of the current Plan, enabling DPPA to continue its conflict prevention and sustaining peace work, despite cuts made under the regular budget. As we start preparing for a new strategic plan this year, covering a four-year period from 2023 to 2026, these findings and recommendations will inform our discussions.

We monitored top strategic risks and identified concrete mitigation measures

DPPA is involved in Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) at the level of the Secretariat and of the Department. To respond to risks that are Secretariat-wide, DPPA continued to co-lead the inter-agency working group on Peacekeeping and Special Political Mission mandates, while also active in the remaining seven groups. To embed ERM at the entity level, plans are underway to develop a joint DPPA-DPO risk registry by the last quarter in 2023, in line with instructions from the Secretary-General's Management Committee.

Using the Secretariat risk register, all divisions identified risks and related mitigation measures in their work plans and MYA projects. Placing risk management at the centre of planning and programming helped us take informed decisions, particularly around COVID-19-related risks, and to selectively build on past experiences.

We learned – and helped others to learn

In a rapidly changing peace and security landscape, DPPA is ensuring that our staff are equipped with emerging knowledge and new skills. We delivered over 22 training activities to **787** staff in total, ranging from conflict analysis and scenario-building to gender and mediation trainings. These numbers represent an **87 per cent** increase in staff trained from 2020 and a significant increase in the participation of field staff. We also integrated emerging peace and security issues into existing training modules, such as the digital dimensions of conflict, and climate security.

As the UN centre of expertise and operational engagement for crisis diplomacy and mediation, we also take pride in sharing learning and best practice in contexts around the world – whether via courses, convening and communities of practice, or our publications and data hubs. The following is a selection of the knowledge products we developed in 2021, often with other partners.

- We launched our first Constitutions Community of Practice for SPMs and UN Country Teams with UNDP. This included two virtual sessions with **40** staff from more than **25** country contexts joining to exchange on challenges and lessons related to constitution-making.
- We released a publicly available **online course on Digital Process Design and Facilitation for Mediation**, working with Build Up, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, and Tandemic.
- DPPA and Swisspeace issued a paper focusing on four issues related to the **use of social media in peacemaking**: analysis; communication; engagement with parties; and countering mis- and disinformation.
- In addition to the online course on Digital Process Design and Facilitation for Mediation, we also developed a Digital Risk Management E-Learning Platform for Mediators and a paper on the uses and ways that social media is impacting mediation.
- We finished the second phase of our joint study with DPO on Maximizing Complementarity between Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions. This offers recommendations on increasing the impact of co-deployed missions, such as by clarifying division of labour, expanding the UN's political space, and improving information-sharing and joint reporting.
- DPPA continued updating its **online peace agreement database, Language of Peace**, a critical resource for mediation practitioners and scholars. This is an innovative tool to search compare and collate language on key issues across more than 75,000 provisions of around 1,000 peace agreements.
- At IGAD's request, we also provided a tailored training on drafting, analysis and early warning to **40 IGAD personnel** in Entebbe. IGAD National Research Experts and Situation Room Officers were able to meet for the first time and chart recommendations for more efficient collaboration among teams within and between countries in East Africa.



A wide view of the Security Council open debate on women and peace and security featuring the "In Their Hands" exhibition. Credit: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

We were recognized for our work to mainstream gender — and we helped to integrate gender and inclusion at the UN

Last year, UN Women recognized DPPA for being the first entity to meet or exceed **100 per cent** of the requirements of the 2020 UN-SWAP — the System-Wide Action Plan for gender equality and the empowerment of women, the UN's accountability framework on gender mainstreaming. In comparison, 71 per cent of the UN Secretariat and 68 per cent of the overall UN system met or exceeded requirements of all the ratings. UN Women lauded DPPA's efforts to uphold its important work on gender equality and women's empowerment during the COVID-19 pandemic, including its efforts to bolster organizational culture with staff-driven solutions around work-life balance, inclusivity, and accessibility.

In 2021, DPPA also finalized the revision of its WPS indicators, which enable the tracking of allocations and expenditures for gender equality and women's empowerment across the UN system. These will further help us measure progress, for internal accountability and

DPPA's reporting to the Security Council. We have already utilized the indicators in helping the Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on Financing for Gender Equality to more strongly integrate gender in all UN programmatic work.

DPPA also helps to strengthen the ability of SPMs to implement their mandates effectively and efficiently use guidance, best practices and a gender and inclusion lens. In 2021, we convened monthly SPM Focal Points Group meetings on various policy issues, among them: youth, peace and security; SPM start-up and risk management; climate security; community engagement in peacebuilding; and conflict-related sexual violence.

We ensured the continuity of our work despite unprecedented challenge

The new variants of the coronavirus meant that a full return to the office was not possible. Yet by alternating in-person meetings with video calls, and wielding new technological tools, we were able to keep close track of our progress and stay well-connected with partners and with each

other. For example, we organized the high-profile online [launch event](#) of a '[Primer](#)' on Constitutions and Peace Processes with the Berghof Foundation, examining the nexus between constitution-making and conflict-to-peace transitions. We organized a virtual workshop with DPO for our Policy and Best Practices Officers and Focal Points in peacekeeping and special political missions, so they could exchange experiences and discuss emerging trends and issues in the field, along with 14 informal, virtual 'brown bag' lunch discussions for staff across various issues. We met around our quarterly MYA project reviews to discuss progress and risk mitigation, held three donor group meetings, and facilitated two Talking Prevention sessions with Member States, all virtually.

We grew our audience and raised awareness

The full capacity of the DPPA communications team is funded by the MYA. In 2021, our team worked steadily with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to prepare political messaging on developments around the world for the media and the general public. Our Twitter account gained **33,951** new followers, while followers of Under-Secretary-General DiCarlo increased by **6,900**. Our communications products — including the weekly newsletter, *This Week in DPPA*, and the monthly, *Politically Speaking* — helped about 3,000 staff across Headquarters and our SPMs keep abreast of DPPA activities and events. *Politically Speaking* also goes out to more than **10,000** external subscribers each month.

DPPA also launched an exhibition profiling women peacebuilders with UN Women and DPO, in partnership with New York's Photoville festival. *In Their Hands: Women Taking Ownership of Peace* featured 14 women peacebuilders from the Middle East, South America and Africa, alongside the women photographers who captured them. The exhibition and related media outreach shone a spotlight on the WPS agenda, advocating for women's meaningful participation in political and peace processes. It was also showcased at UN Headquarters in October, with the Secretary-General attending the exhibition.

LOCAL PEACE INITIATIVES

Lasting peace requires the investment and ownership of local communities, and the MYA portfolio recognizes the importance of locally-led peacebuilding initiatives. DPPA has steadily increased its dedicated support to local people and institutions through the Local Peace Initiative window, created three years ago. In 2021, funding for the window increased by more than **60 per cent** – from \$480,000 in 2020 to \$760,000.

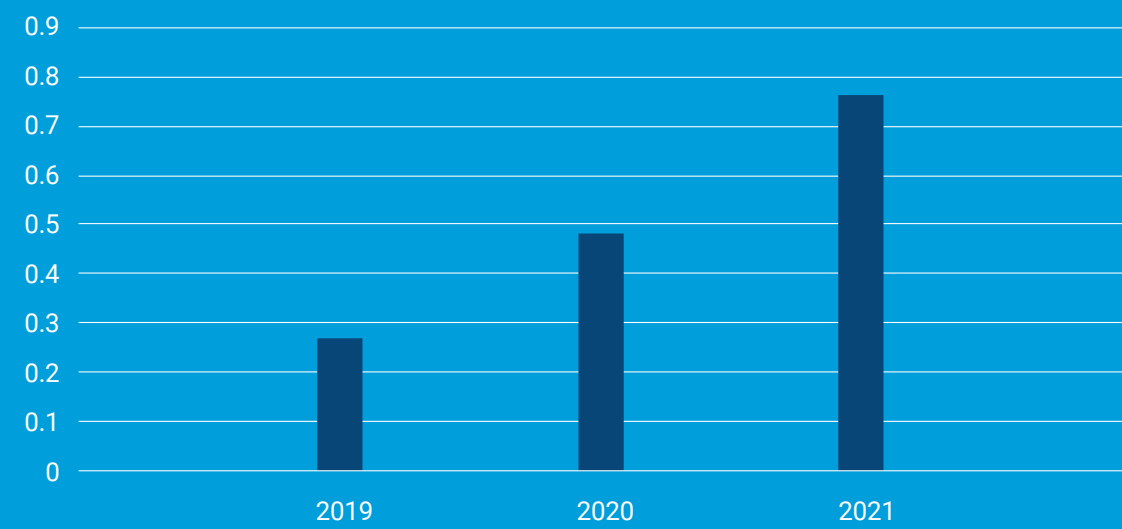
Through this dedicated window, resources are made available to directly support peace processes at the local level, enhance the capacity of societies to address conflict, rebuild trust and engage in social reconciliation within and across communities. In Myanmar’s Rakhine State, MYA funding enabled the Special Envoy’s

continued engagements with two inter-communal, inter-religious and community-led networks in support of social cohesion efforts. Following growing fears over the exclusion of civil society during a major revision of legislation in the Kyrgyz Republic, DPPA worked closely with local partner organizations to secure civil society involvement throughout the process, resulting in greater overall transparency.

During 2021, COVID-19 and social distancing requirements continued to interrupt many local peace processes and compound the risks of violence at the local level, often disrupting people-to-people approaches. For example, in Colombia, although COVID-19 disrupted the work of several peace promoters assessing local security issues, they were still able to complete it using digital approaches.



MYA FUNDING TO LOCAL PEACE INITIATIVES IN MILLION US\$ (2019 – 2021)



AFTER-ACTION REVIEWS

Our divisions regularly conduct a range of evaluative exercises and learning activities in line with the DPPA-DPO Policy on Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning, which we summarize in an annual report. In 2021, our exercises also included a number of after-action reviews (AAR): analyses of an action, activity or project that reflect on what has worked well and identify areas of improvement.

The UNITAMS planning process

Established in 2020, the set up and advancement of UNITAMS presented DPPA with an opportunity to stress-test guidance on establishing a field-based SPM, which was being finalized by our Headquarters. To do so, we undertook an After-Action Review on the mission planning process. Strong contributions from field-based consultations, in particular, helped document the value of an inclusive and coordinated approach, including the Mission's successful mainstreaming of gender considerations in all its planning documents.

The roll-out of UNITAMS in Sudan was also informed by a welcome partnership initiative between UNAMID's Integrated Team and UNITAMS' Peacebuilding Support section. Peer-to-peer knowledge sharing sessions on substantive issues promoted continuity between departing, arriving and continuing staff. Similarly, a UNITAMS-convened stocktaking workshop with UNAMID and UNCT partners allowed recent peacebuilding interventions in Darfur to be analysed and discussed, while reinforcing integration after the withdrawal of the peacekeeping mission in June 2021, and highlighting the importance of deep community engagement and capacity-building. It also promoted the Sudan Peacebuilding and Stabilization Programme (SPSP) as the vehicle through which to continue to address peacebuilding needs across the country. These examples are hallmarks of the Department's efforts to advance a culture of learning and well-informed policy and practice.

A joint mission to Guinea-Bissau

At the end of 2020, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) closed in a context marked by the COVID-19 crisis and continued political upheaval. Shortly before this, in October 2020, a joint Headquarters mission to the country took place to assess progress and outstanding transition milestones, comprising DPPA-DPO's Western Africa Division, the Department of Operational Support, and the Development Coordination Office. DPPA facilitated an AAR to help determine the impact of the mission and its follow-up outcomes and assess whether such an integrated model of support should continue to be used. Review participants – which

included mission staff, and representatives from DPPA, DCO and the Department of Operational Support (DOS) – highlighted the value of the joint approach, and particularly its role in improving cross-pillar communication, which triggered a deeper discussion on substantive questions, and advanced the closure and liquidation process of the Office. Participants also identified best practices and recommendations in various areas, including human resources management, asset disposal and transfer, capacity-building, coordination, and continuing political engagement with national authorities, regional organizations and civil society. The AAR concluded that Headquarters' support in driving the transition process should be balanced with an empowered UN presence on the ground that is sufficiently structured and resourced to deliver on national priorities.



A group photo of UN staff in Sudan with USG Rosemary DiCarlo and Special Representative of the Secretary-General Volker Perthes. Credit: UN Photo/UNITAMS

RESOURCES

DPPA relies on support from its donors to carry out its mandate. Since 2010, 45 Member States and other partners have contributed close to \$300 million to the MYA, demonstrating confidence in the Department’s efforts.

Despite the volatile economic situation around the world, many donors continued their unwavering support throughout 2021, albeit on a smaller scale than in 2020.

The Department received \$28.5 million from 35 donors – a decrease of \$7.2 million compared to the previous year. This represents a funding gap of \$11.5 million – 28 per cent – against the \$40 million called for in 2021.

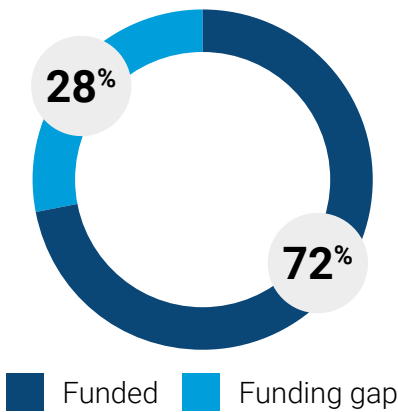
Recurrent donors



New donors



MYA 2021



The largest portion of funding – 85 per cent – came from Western European and Other States Groups (WEOG), followed by Asian-Pacific States with 8 per cent, Arab States with 4 per cent and Eastern European States with 2 per cent.



As needs far outpace our resources, a well-funded MYA is crucial for the Department to sustain efforts and carry out its mandate.

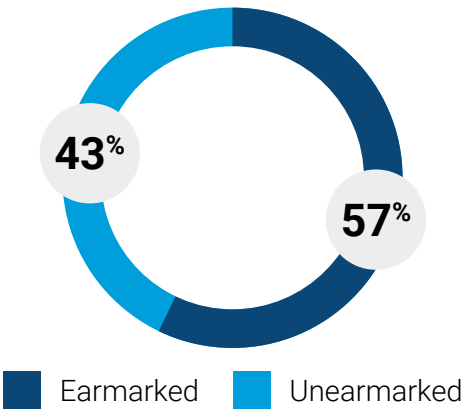
In 2022, DPPA is calling for \$40 million to reinforce its commitment to prevent conflict and achieve sustainable peace around the world.

Multi-Year Agreements



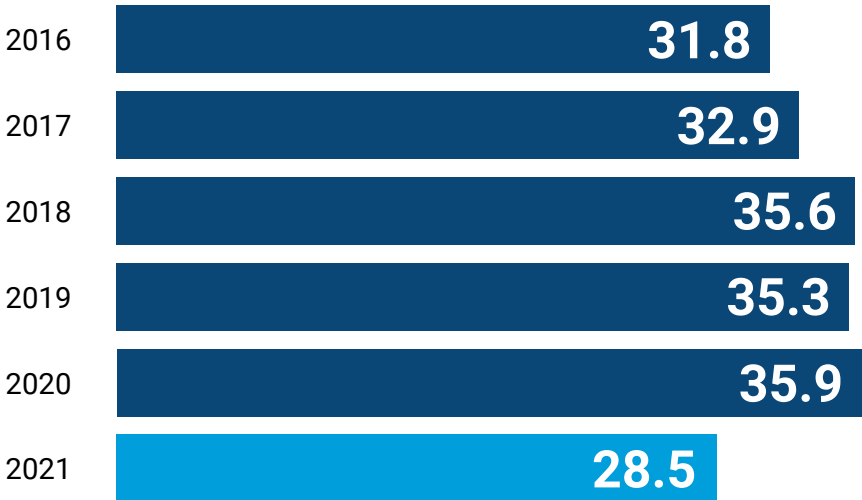
Predictable and timely funding remains crucial to ensure that DPPA can sustain its efforts. In 2021, the MYA had nine active multi-year agreements with a total value of close to one third of all contributions received.

Flexibility funding

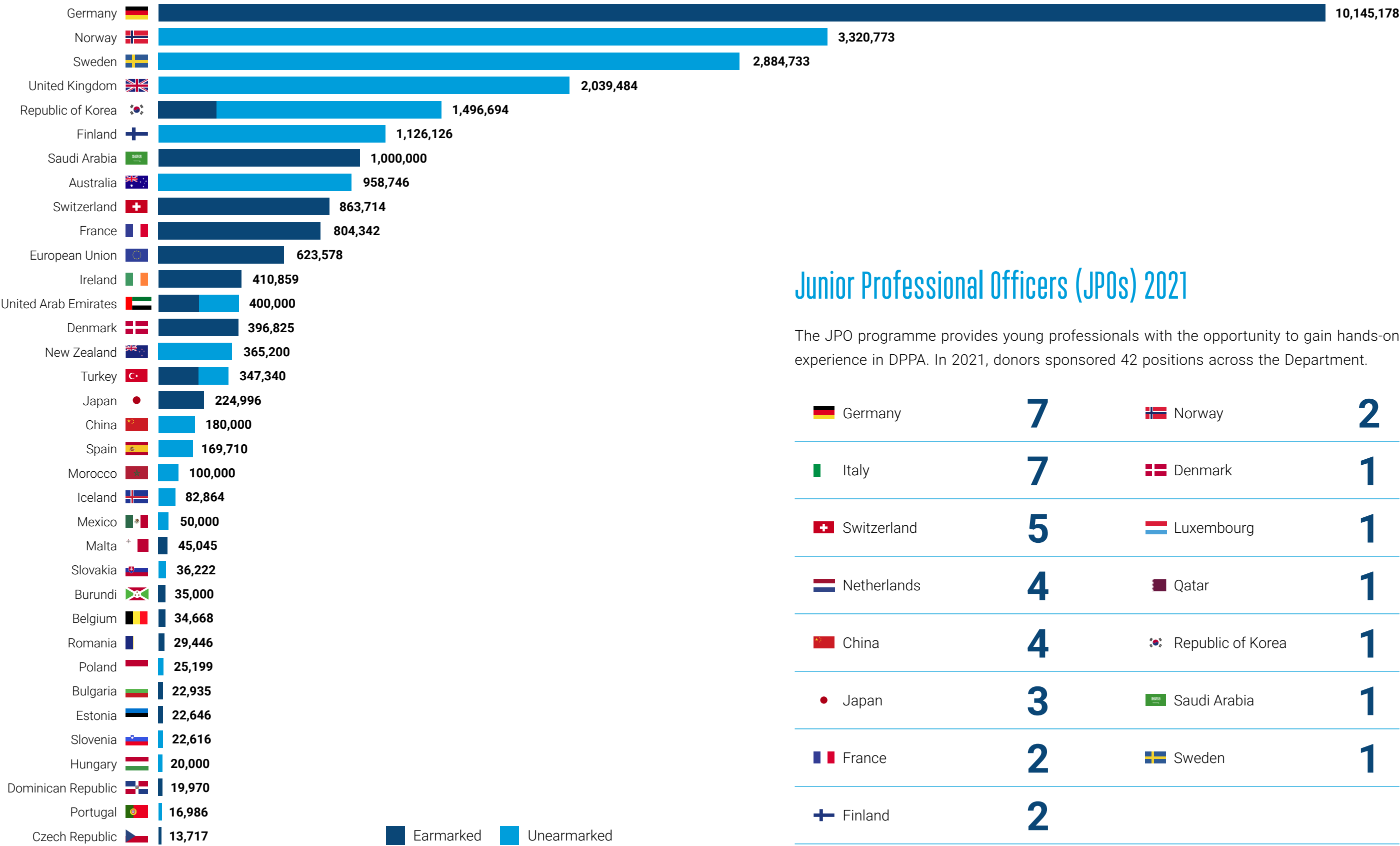


Unearmarked funding allows DPPA to invest when and where it is most needed and to provide timely responses to requests from Member States, regional and sub-regional organizations and other UN partners.

Funding trend from 2016-2021 in US\$ million



Funding received per donor in 2021



Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) 2021

The JPO programme provides young professionals with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in DPPA. In 2021, donors sponsored 42 positions across the Department.

Germany	7	Norway	2
Italy	7	Denmark	1
Switzerland	5	Luxembourg	1
Netherlands	4	Qatar	1
China	4	Republic of Korea	1
Japan	3	Saudi Arabia	1
France	2	Sweden	1
Finland	2		

For further information on the Multi-Year Appeal,
please contact the Donor Relations Team



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