

# MULTI-YEAR APPEAL SUDAN

DEPARTMENT OF  
POLITICAL AND  
PEACEBUILDING AFFAIRS  
2026



A sprawl of tents has cropped up at Zam Zam Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp, in El Fasher, North Darfur, as tens of thousands have sought protection. © UN Photo

# Sustaining Support to the Good Offices of the Secretary-General in the Sudan

Total requirements \$1.7million

The past few years have seen a marked deterioration in the global peace and security environment, including intensified rivalry among major world powers. In virtually all regions of the world, violent conflict has been destroying lives and livelihoods, often with little sign of let-up. Nowhere is this trend more evident than in the Sudan, the world's largest humanitarian crisis. The conflict has led the country to the verge of fragmentation and contributed to the destabilization of neighbouring states in an already volatile region. For the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), entrusted with the United Nations efforts in conflict prevention, crisis management and peacemaking, Sudan remains one of our highest priorities.

DPPA shapes the United Nations response to the most acute political crises around the world. The Department plays a vital role in laying the foundations for peace and legitimate governance by accompanying countries through political transitions and fostering inclusive dialogue at the national and community level. It provides expert technical advice on conflict prevention and mediation to Special Representatives and Envoys of the Secretary-General, and promotes the inclusion of women, youth, and marginalized groups in peace processes – offering critical assistance to people in need around the world.



Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan Pekka Haavisto meets with Chairperson of the African Union Commission Mahmoud Ali Youssouf.

These efforts are eminently cost-effective. The money spent on reducing human suffering, strengthening foundations for development and promoting lasting peace pales in comparison to the costs of humanitarian assistance and post-conflict recovery.

Yet, DPPA is currently facing a dire financial situation in terms of both assessed and voluntary contributions. At a time when conflicts and crises are multiplying and intensifying worldwide, our work has never been more indispensable. To continue delivering on our mandate, the Department increasingly depends on the steadfast partnership of its donors through the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA) – its principal fund for preventive diplomacy, crisis management and peacebuilding – to be able to deploy expertise and sustain engagements in places like the Sudan, where it is needed most.

## Context and Objectives

Well into the third year of the conflict in the Sudan, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) remain embroiled in an ever-escalating cycle of violence. The parties continue to receive external support, including substantial supplies of increasingly sophisticated – and deadly – weapons. Following SAF advances in the first half of 2025, marked by significant battlefield gains and the recapture of Khartoum and eastern regions, the RSF captured El Fasher and solidified its control over most of Darfur, excluding small pockets in North Darfur. The Kordofan region is now heavily contested and is at the center of high-intensity fighting.

As the fighting, displacement and destruction of Sudan’s infrastructure and economy continue, a devastating humanitarian crisis has gripped the country. Widespread human rights violations, including mass-scale sexual violence, continue, with impunity. The RSF’s recent assault on El Fasher, which saw targeted and extremely brutal attacks on civilians, epitomized this trend. Catastrophic food insecurity is also rampant, with the warring parties politicizing humanitarian access and the distribution of aid. Sudan now stands on the brink of fragmentation, and the conflict is fueling dangerous destabilization in neighboring states within an already volatile region.

These developments underscore the urgent need to intensify United Nations good offices and mediation efforts, led by the Secretary-General’s Personal Envoy for Sudan. A future ceasefire will need to be anchored in an inclusive political process that will require sustained political support from the United Nations. The conflict cannot be resolved on the battlefield; dialogue remains essential to achieving a sustainable peace in Sudan.



North Darfur village abandoned after deadly attack. UN Photo

## The Office of the Personal Envoy

The Multi-Year Appeal (MYA) has played a critical role in the establishment and operationalization of the Office of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Sudan. Following the creation of the Office as a special political mission (SPM) in early 2025 – and the General Assembly’s approval of an essential, though modest, budget from assessed contributions – the MYA provided the funds necessary to commence operations.

The MYA and assessed contributions function complementarily. The SPM budget, from assessed contributions, provides foundational capacity, while extrabudgetary funding enables the operational and substantive activities required of the Personal Envoy. Voluntary contributions through the MYA are therefore critical to the Office’s ability to fulfill its mandate, enabling the deployment of the Standby Team and thematic experts, facilitating travel and engagement of relevant parties, and supporting ongoing mediation activities.

Without full funding of the \$1.7 million appeal, the Office faces significant operational limitations including constrained engagement with parties, reduced field presence, and limited thematic and mediation support. These limitations would directly impact the Office’s ability to advance its priorities in the critical months ahead, which remain heavily dependent on extrabudgetary resources.

## Engagements in 2025

In 2025, as the situation on the ground deteriorated, the Personal Envoy pursued complementary mediation initiatives focused on de-escalation. Through intensified engagement with the warring parties and consultations with key Sudanese and regional interlocutors – including repeated visits to Port Sudan as well as Cairo, Nairobi, and other capitals – the Personal Envoy pressed for vital measures to protect civilians and advance a political solution to the conflict. This work was also informed by engagements with key stakeholders across the region to ensure that political processes would be inclusive, ensuring the broad support needed for sustained peace.

### Multilateral Partners

Throughout the year, the Personal Envoy’s good offices efforts were anchored in consultation and engagement with a range of key stakeholders, including close collaboration with multilateral and bilateral partners. Under his leadership, the Sudan Consultative Group was established as a platform to promote strategic alignment and information-sharing among the African Union (AU), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), League of Arab States (LAS), and other Member States engaged in mediation efforts.



Third Consultative Meeting on Enhancing Coordination of Peace Initiatives and Efforts for Sudan. MOFA Mauritania

The United Nations also continued partnering with the AU, LAS, and IGAD as a part of the Quartet mechanism. Launched with the support of the United Nations Secretary-General at the Arab Summit in Baghdad in May 2025, the Quartet seeks to align the four organizations’ operations to resolve the conflict in Sudan and complements engagement by Member States, notably that of the Quad

countries (Egypt, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and United States). Since its launch, the Quartet has spearheaded efforts to convene an inter-Sudanese dialogue that brings together civilian groups to lay the foundation for an inclusive political process and post-conflict transition.

### **Civil Society**

The Secretary-General’s Personal Envoy’s approach is also firmly rooted in collaboration with civil society. Throughout the year, the Personal Envoy and his office engaged youth movements, women’s groups and other civil society actors, ensuring their often-overlooked voices were heard and included in high-level discussions.

Workshops with community members and civil society leaders provided critical insights to inform the Personal Envoy’s advocacy with the warring parties centered on de-escalation, the protection of civilians and in support of a more inclusive political process.

### **Women, Peace and Security**

As a crucial part of its peace efforts in Sudan, DPPA also worked to advance women, peace and security (WPS) priorities. In close coordination with the Mediation Support Unit and Standby Team of Senior Advisors, the Personal Envoy convened expert consultations throughout the year to identify strategic entry points for WPS initiatives, contributing to the development of a comprehensive framework pushing for meaningful participation in future peace negotiations and delivering capacity-building sessions for Sudanese women on ceasefire negotiations and peace processes.



Women leaders and civil society representatives gather in Kampala, Uganda, for a high-level dialogue on peace in Sudan.

Sustained funding for the vital work of the Personal Envoy will be critical in 2026 to renew these efforts and ensure that the warring parties continue to be engaged and brought toward an inclusive political solution to the conflict.

## Priority activities in 2026

2026 will be pivotal for sustaining momentum toward peace in Sudan as the situation requires deepened strategic engagement to move from the current state of crisis toward a credible peace process. DPPA is committed to continue working closely with the parties to the conflict, regional and international partners, and leaders within civil society to foster the conditions necessary for an inclusive political process that protects civilian lives and ensures that marginalized voices are heard.



Personal Envoy Pekka Haavisto meets with Sudanese civil society during his trip to Sudan.

To achieve these goals, the Department is focusing on several priority activities:

- **Engage key stakeholders:** Continuing the progress from the previous year, the Office of the Personal Envoy will sustain its engagements with key stakeholders – including parties to the conflict, multilateral organizations, regional and international partners – convening critical talks with the parties and making use of technical expertise across DPPA to strengthen the foundations needed to support the parties to reach an inclusive political solution to the conflict.
- **Promote Women, Peace and Security initiatives:** DPPA will build on its 2025 achievements in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including the comprehensive Women’s Agenda, with the goal of identifying practical ways to ensure women’s meaningful participation in peace processes. Through ongoing consultations, workshops, and capacity-building initiatives, DPPA will strengthen the foundations needed so that women can play an active role in future peace efforts.
- **Deepen analysis on Sudan:** DPPA will strengthen the United Nations efforts in Sudan through deepened analysis, including on the conflict, peace processes, the political economy and other important dimensions of the crisis.
- **Sustain OPESG’s field-based support:** The current office structure in Addis Ababa is considered the minimum required capacity to support the Personal Envoy’s good offices and coordination efforts. The Office of the Personal Envoy engages daily with key international, regional and Sudanese stakeholders in support of inclusive political initiatives to resolve the conflict and pave the way for the Sudan to resume its civilian-led political transition
- **Maintain capacity at UN Headquarters:** which coordinates strategic and operational guidance to the mission and provides political analysis and advice in support of UN leadership and engagement with the Security Council and legislative bodies.

# Funding needs

The urgency of the conflict in Sudan calls for timely action and investment.

Continued funding in support of DPPA's political efforts in the Sudan remains vital to maintain DPPA's capacity to contribute meaningfully to peace efforts in the country. A fully funded MYA helps facilitate follow-up to the Pact for the Future, which urges the Secretary-General to actively use his good offices and ensure that the United Nations is adequately equipped to lead and support good offices, mediation and peacemaking.

**The MYA requests US\$44 million for 2026. At this juncture, the Department is seeking earmarked funding for DPPA's engagement on the Sudan in the amount of \$1.7 million for 2026.** Funding this capacity is crucial to meet increasing crisis response requests, political analysis and reporting, and strategic planning. Without sustained funding, the progress made by DPPA in laying the foundations for peace in Sudan could be significantly undermined, increasing the risk of escalating violence and deepening the humanitarian crisis in the region.

BUDGET REQUIREMENTS IN US\$	
Staffing/consultants	1,150,000
Travel	90,000
Operational Costs (for workshops, meetings, etc.)	264,500
13% Programme Support Costs (PSC)	195,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,700,000</b>

*\*This project may be funded in part or in full*



Activities under this proposal contribute to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goals 5, 16, and 17.

# PEACE IS PRICELESS and possible

For further information on the  
Multi-Year Appeal, please  
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