

MULTI-YEAR APPEAL

ELECTORAL ASSISTANCE

SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AND PREVENTING CONFLICT



9 October 2024. Polling staff apply indelible ink to a voter's finger after she casts her ballot in the 2024 General Elections. Photograph by Rochan Kadariya, UNDP Mozambique.

- DPPA coordinates UN electoral assistance to Member States through its Electoral Assistance Division (EAD). Led by the Under-Secretary-General, the Department provides impartial electoral support to Member States throughout the electoral cycle.
- DPPA currently leads and coordinates UN electoral support in 50 Member States - 45 in non-mission settings and 5 in mission settings - including countries with emerging, new, and established democratic institutions and processes.
- UN electoral assistance is tailored to the needs and contexts of requesting states and adapts to a rapidly evolving electoral landscape shaped by shrinking civic space, expanding digital technologies and AI, and persistent barriers to equal participation and representation.
- Electoral assistance is a core DPPA good-offices tool, supported by the Multi-Year Appeal (MYA).

WHAT WE DO



Expert assessment missions: Expert teams deployed to support Member States on request.



Inclusion: Advancing the participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups.



Technical advice: Strengthening laws, institutions, and processes.



Conducive electoral environments: Building confidence among political stakeholders and preventing disputes.



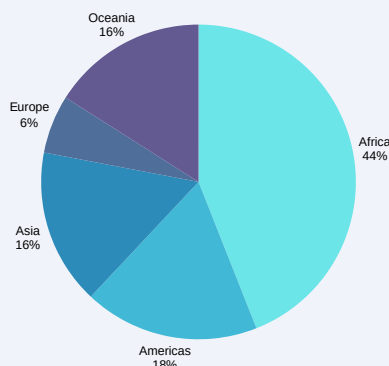
Coordination: rallies, operationalizes and coordinates the UN system to deliver effective support to Member States.



Capacity development: Strengthening the capacities of electoral management bodies and regional organizations.

Results from 2025

- ✓ 27 new requests from Member States processed
- ✓ UN electoral assistance provided in 50+ countries
- ✓ 20 elections supported worldwide
- ✓ 24 technical electoral missions to support Member States



Number of UN Electoral Assistance Projects in 2025 (per region)

Impact of Interventions

With MYA funding, DPPA's support helped:

Prevent violence: Early engagement and good offices reduced tensions ahead of key polls.

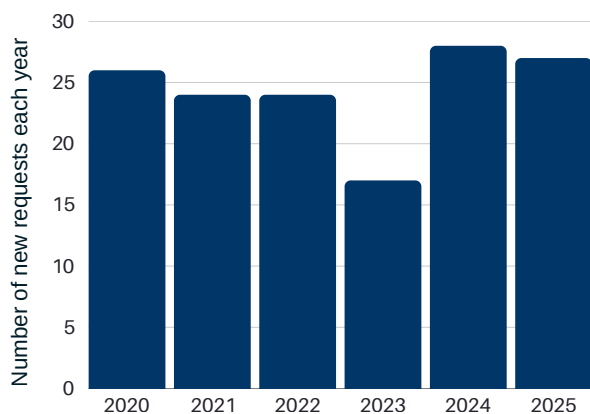
Enhance electoral integrity: Expert advice strengthened voter registration and dispute-resolution systems.

Promote inclusion: Support national efforts to increase the participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and marginalized groups.

Coordinating UN action: Ensured coherent and timely electoral assistance across UN entities and missions.

Managing risks: Support to Member States (including those with established democratic institutions), in managing the risks and opportunities of digital technologies in electoral administration.

Rising Demand for Electoral Support



Operating in a Strained Financial Environment

Electoral assistance relies largely on MYA funding.

While demand for UN electoral assistance continues to rise, funding and staffing are shrinking.

By 2026, the EAD's extrabudgetary resources will be 49 per cent below 2015 levels and 68 per cent below 2019 levels. Over the last ten years, EAD's budget has contracted by an average of 45 per cent, while its staffing capacity has fallen by nearly 30 per cent since 2024.

In 2026, more than 50 States and territories are expected to hold elections.

The United Nations is expected to provide support for at least 20 of these electoral processes.

Key Priorities in 2026

- Supporting inclusive, transparent, and credible elections in Member States through impartial, demand-driven assistance aligned with national priorities
- Advancing the participation and representation of women, youth, and persons with disabilities to help ensure electoral processes are credible, inclusive, and trusted
- Deploying technical experts and assessment missions to provide timely advice, identify risks, and support Member States before and during key electoral moments
- Strengthening the capacity of electoral management bodies, national institutions and regional organizations through targeted training and long-term technical support

Required MYA Resources

MYA requires **\$1.5 million** in 2026 to sustain our core electoral assistance work:

- Institutional strengthening of electoral bodies and capacity development for electoral officials and stakeholders (\$500,000)
- Deploying technical electoral expertise and missions where requested (\$400,000)
- Promoting inclusion (\$300,000)
- Training and capacity development support for regional organizations and their Member States (\$300,000)



Electoral Assistance Division
Department of Political
and Peacebuilding Affairs

PEACE IS PRICELESS
and possible

For further information on the
Multi-Year Appeal, please
contact the Partnerships Unit.



Voter education campaign in Moldova ahead of the 2025 parliamentary elections.



2025 Municipal Council elections in Lebanon.
Photo by UNDP in Lebanon