



QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE OF THE MULTI-YEAR APPEAL

1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2019



DPPA

Preventing Conflict. **Sustaining Peace**

During the reporting period, the **Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs** (DPPA) led the Secretary-General's good offices and mediation efforts and provided consolidated analysis and technical advice on preventive diplomacy to the United Nations system.

DPPA was established on 1 January 2019 through the reform of the peace and security architecture of the United Nations. It combines the strategic, political and operational responsibilities of the former the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the functions of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). The new Department is helping to bring about more synergies and cohesion with its partners and better tailored support to the field. DPPA made good use of flexible funding under the **Multi-Year Appeal** (MYA) to fund activities and initiatives of Special Political Missions (SPM) and in non-mission settings.

The MYA, which counts the unique Rapid Response and New Ideas funding windows, has become a key operational resource in the context of the reform, serving as a bridge across pillars. It allowed for the funding of initiatives in the single regional pillar to better support operations in the field and seize opportunities to prevent conflict and sustain peace. It also continued supporting the thematic divisions, strengthening DPPA's role as service-provider to the whole UN system. As such, the activities and projects funded under the MYA complemented local initiatives developed by Peace and Development Advisers (PDAs) under the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Conflict Prevention and large country-programmes financed through the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).

In 2019, the Department entered the last year of the Strategic Plan (2016-2019) and continued to work on its six priority areas outlined below. Below are a few highlights of achievements with MYA funding, showing an increase of cooperation across pillars.



PRIORITY AREA 1:

CONFLICT PREVENTION

In **Nigeria**, MYA funds supported the holding of high-level political dialogue workshops in four States to contribute to peaceful Presidential elections in February 2019. The workshops provided platforms for the main stakeholders, such as State governors, political parties and their candidates, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), security agencies, civil society, as well as traditional and religious leaders, to exchange views and address concerns on key electoral issues. They were conducted as part of the UN efforts to support Nigeria's National Peace Committee to mobilize stakeholders in States where there was a potential for electoral violence. In addition, MYA funds supported the deployment of staff from the **United Nations Office for West Africa and Sahel** (UNOWAS) and an electoral expert before, during and after the elections to help prevent violence and promote peaceful elections. The intense UN advocacy efforts contributed to lessening the level of electoral violence in the targeted States.

In **Madagascar**, the concerted efforts of the UN and partners in 2018, contributed to preventing further violence and to the opening of space for a Malagasy-led agreement and subsequently led to the formation of a new Government that paved the way for a peaceful transfer of power. In 2019, MYA funding facilitated the deployment of the Special Adviser on Madagascar, Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, to Madagascar on 16 and 21 January. Mr. Bathily represented the Secretary-General at the swearing-in ceremony of President Andry Rajoelina. The historic handover of power among democratically elected leaders took place on 19 January and marked the peaceful

conclusion of the presidential elections. The Special Adviser discussed with the new president his priorities for UN's support going forward, including in relation to the forthcoming legislative elections on 27 May 2019. Mr. Bathily also held consultations on progress in the process of national dialogue and reconciliation, which has proven to be politically difficult in the past and a catalyst of recurring crises.

MYA funds also allowed DPPA to provide strengthened support to the Office of the Resident Coordinator (RC) in **Venezuela**, in a context of deepening institutional and socio-economic crisis. The support included the deployment of surge reporting and analytical capacity to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), and also sustained a dedicated capacity in Headquarters to meet the increased workload related to the UN's engagement in Venezuela.

The rise of ethnic nationalism and lack of progress on trust-building and reconciliation is a key risk factor for stability in the Western Balkans. DPPA is co-leading with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) the development of **an inter-agency regional strategy on trust-building and reconciliation for the region**. A Senior Adviser of the Standby Team facilitated a brainstorming retreat in Geneva that gathered all RCs in Western Balkans and representatives of the UN Mission in Kosovo and the UN Office in Belgrade. The strategy is expected to be finalized in May 2019 and will be the first of its kind under the new prevention platform, leveraging the peace/security, human rights and development pillars.



PRIORITY AREA 2:

CRISIS RESPONSE

DPPA's Crisis Response System continued to prove an invaluable tool to ensure quick and tailored responses to unanticipated crisis or requests from SRSGs, Member States and regional organizations. The demand for Rapid Response has significantly increased with a total of \$2.3 million programmed in the first quarter alone, a testimony of the usefulness of the Rapid Response as a cross-pillar instrument.

In the first quarter alone, the **Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers** deployed expertise 46 times supporting initiatives in a wide range of contexts including Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, El Salvador, Georgia, Haiti, Iraq, Kosovo, Papua New Guinea, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tuvalu, Western Balkans, Western Sahara and Yemen.

Examples of deployments of the Standby Team

Security arrangement experts were deployed to the **Central African Republic**, where the objective was to assist MINUSCA in elaborating interim security arrangements. They held briefings on force presence, threats and responses with staff of the Multidimensional United Nations Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) in Bangui and visited the volatile localities of Bria and Bambari. Their recommendations are feeding into a national framework agreement for interim security as well as addenda for tailored local measures for Bambari and Bria.

A mediation process design adviser was deployed to **Afghanistan** in January to help facilitate a retreat for UNAMA Peace and Reconciliation Office staff based in Kabul and provincial offices. The retreat was designed to take stock of the Mission's current Local Peace Initiatives (LPIs) and to plan for future projects. It revealed that the extensive field work done in 2016 and 2017 to provide capacity building support to provincial office staff has had concrete and durable results, and that LPIs have increased in quality and can offer an innovative and holistic approach to tackling local conflict dynamics and promoting social cohesion.

Examples of ongoing conflict resolution processes:

Western Sahara: The Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, Mr. Horst Köhler, capitalized on the momentum created with the first roundtable organized in Geneva in December, where Morocco, the Frente Polisario, Algeria and Mauritania met for the first time since 2012. The meeting laid the ground for the second roundtable convened in Bursins, Switzerland, on 21-22 March 2019. It was an opportunity for delegations to start approaching crucial elements for building an enduring solution, revisit regional issues and discuss how to build trust. Despite some challenges, at the conclusion of the meeting, delegations adopted a joint communiqué welcoming the intention of the PESG to invite them to meet again in the same format. This was a unique opportunity to make progress on a longstanding conflict that impacts stability and socio-economic development in the entire region. In the case of Western Sahara, the unified and integrated team backstopping the SPM and a peacekeeping operation, has led to increased coherence, more efficient information sharing and integrated analysis of challenges and opportunities in Western Sahara and in the region more broadly.

Central African Republic: In early 2019, the African Initiative process culminated in peace talks in Sudan attended by regional countries as well as both SRSG Onanga-Anyanga of MINUSCA and SRSG, Mr. Francois Loucény Fall. On 6 February, the Government and 14 armed groups signed a peace agreement in Bangui. The African Union and the region led the process but DPPA's consistent technical and political backing in the country and the subregion helped advance it. The Secretary-General welcomed the agreement and called on neighboring countries and regional organizations to support its implementation to bring lasting peace and stability to the Central African Republic. To this end, MINUSCA and the **United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa** (UNOCA) with support from DPPA at Headquarters, will continue to support the process with technical expertise and good offices across Central Africa.

In the context of **Syria**, Special Envoy Geir O. Pedersen assumed his post as Special Envoy for Syria on 7 January 2019. DPPA, as the lead UN Department, continued its outreach activities to Syrian political, military, humanitarian, and civil society interlocutors as well as regional and international players, including through the Department's presence in Gaziantep, Turkey. It supported the UN's Principals Group on Syria - composed of Principals from DPPA, OSE, OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, OLA as well as the EOSG - which provides a more flexible and coherent UN coordination platform to determine options for a unified UN response to fast-moving developments.

MYA funding was also used to advance some of the priority thematic issues in the UN post-agreement planning process, such as civil documentation, housing/land and property and local governance. DPPA continued to lead inter-agency coordination on various aspects of the Syrian conflict, including on the due diligence mechanisms to ensure that UN assistance reaches its target beneficiaries, is in line with the UN Charter, and the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence.

By the end of the reporting period, the constitutional committee had yet to be launched. However, the principled stance the UN took in late 2018 continued to guide the Special Envoy's engagement with the government, the opposition, and key international stakeholders.

YEMEN

DPPA continued to support the good offices of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen. Following the Stockholm Agreement, reached in Sweden on 13 December 2018, between the Government of Yemen and the Houthis, the Security Council in its resolution 2451 (2018) authorized the establishment and deployment, for an initial period of 30 days, of an advance team to begin monitoring and to support the immediate implementation of the ceasefire and redeployment of forces from the city of Hudaydah and the ports of Hudaydah, Saleef and Ras Isa. The advance team was funded under the Rapid Response Window and represents another example of MYA's flexibility and uniqueness. Support to the Office of the Special Envoy, Mr. Martin Griffiths, and to the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) continued in 2019, with support from the Standby Team and funding under the MYA. For example, security arrangements experts were deployed to Amman to work closely with the Security Sector Reform Team in the Office of the Special Envoy. The Standby Team also organized workshops in Amman to help produce options for interim security arrangements that enable and incentivize the parties to re-engage in the peace process.

Post-Stockholm agreement UN System response:

DPPA coordinated the UN system response in support of the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement as it pertains to Hudaydah, as mandated by Security Council resolutions 2451 (2018) and 2452 (2019). DPPA continued the good interdepartmental cooperation, particularly with the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), to address a spectrum of peace and security issues in Yemen, including to support technical planning activities and peace talk processes.

Throughout, DPPA provided substantive briefings across the UN system and undertook the necessary administrative and support arrangements for the establishment of UNMHA, in close cooperation with DPO, the Department of Operational Support, the Department of Safety and Security, as well as the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen.

Political process brainstorming:

DPPA participated in a two-day brainstorming workshop organized by the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen in February 2019 to take stock of the intra-Yemeni consultations held in Stockholm in December 2018, and to discuss the way forward in the broader peace process.



PRIORITY AREA 3:

INVESTING IN PEACE

The UN Verification Mission in **Colombia** continued to support reintegration initiatives led by women former FARC-EP combatants. MYA funds supported the development of five urban productive projects and the roll out of three of the five planned training sessions for women entrepreneurs. The Mission provided technical support to design the projects, promote the capacities and knowledge of women outside traditional gender roles and foster viable and sustainable productive initiatives. Furthermore, the Verification Mission now has 13 FARC liaison focal points working across the country, gathering information, analyzing security risks and working with Government authorities on improving their security. This contributes to constructive tripartite relationship between former FARC-EP members, the national authorities and the Verification Mission through focused discussions on security contexts at the local level. As an indication of the complementarity of MYA funding in field settings, a project financed by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) was launched in Colombia during this period and implemented by UNDP, UN Women and UNICEF, in close coordination with the Government of Colombia and FARC. The project builds on efforts spearheaded last year by the UN Verification Mission in support of reintegration efforts for former FARC-EP combatants.

DPPA deployed a UN mission to **Burkina Faso** from 18 to 24 February led by SRS of UNOWAS, Mr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, and comprising UN entities working on sustaining peace. The team assessed how the UNCT is organized to provide support through the sustaining peace framework, and how it can better leverage its capacities to assist the country to cope with rapidly evolving security threats, human rights violations and humanitarian challenges. The mission recognized the need to strengthening of the RC's Office and identified four immediate priorities 1) expand the UN's footprint through the deployment of integrated UN presences in the region; 2) support to social cohesion; 3) support to national authorities to expedite the processing of

cases that fuel frustration and violence; 4) strengthen human rights presence in the country. The mission also recognized UNOWAS good offices and advocacy role, both with national actors in Burkina Faso and with regional leaders.

In **Papua New Guinea**, DPPA continued to support the implementation of the Bougainville Peace Agreement, including through backing the political dialogue. In the first quarter of 2019, the parties took a major step forward by agreeing to 12 October 2019 as the date for the referendum on the political future of Bougainville, though funding issues for the Bougainville Referendum Commission persist. DPPA support has been important in facilitating three meetings of the Post-Referendum Planning Taskforce which is providing a critical forum to develop joint understandings on issues and processes that will be addressed after the referendum. As preparations for the referendum accelerate, DPPA will also be supporting efforts on weapons disposal and voter awareness in the coming months.

Electoral Support

DPPA deployed 7 electoral missions, including advisory missions, needs assessment missions, and technical electoral support and advice to electoral processes in various countries. In **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**, following the country's first ever request for electoral assistance, DPPA deployed a senior voter education expert to work with the national electoral management body to support voter and civic education efforts in promoting early voter registration, women's participation in the electoral process and their representation in elected office. The Senior Electoral Adviser based in Addis Ababa supported the Election Management Body of **Cameroon** in preparation for the 2019 legislative and municipal elections, and for the launch of a national framework for political dialogue ahead of the elections.



PRIORITY AREA 4:

EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS

WITH MEMBER STATES, REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

There are a number of common challenges such as political transitions, land issues, inequality, as well as transborder threats that can best be addressed through regional cooperation. The Liaison Presences are often best placed to engage with regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as with RCs in the region. For example, the Liaison Presence based in Gaborone, Botswana, continued to support the RC in **Lesotho** in the implementation of the National Dialogue and Stabilization Project funded by the PBF which has a main component on women's participation in the national dialogue process. The team continued to monitor the increasing political tension in the country and offered political and technical support to the RC at a time when the country goes through a reform process that could impact long-term peace and stability.

DPPA organized a meeting on 11-12 March in Djibouti to develop a set of concrete action points guiding the future collaboration between the **Intergovernmental Authority on Development** (IGAD) and the UN in the area of peace and security. The meeting, attended by a wide range of participants from the UN system, high-level managers from IGAD, as well as representatives from the African Union, solidified the growing strategic partnership between both organizations and clarified the next steps for the immediate implementation of the Joint Action Plan. This milestone sets the way forward until the next High-Level Dialogue envisaged to take place in November 2020.

At the request of the RC in **Sri Lanka**, DPPA conducted a mediation workshop in Colombo for business leaders and traders, jointly hosted by the Ceylon Chambers of Commerce. The workshop was the first element of a longer-term initiative by the RC to draw on the potential capacity of the business community to support prevention initiatives at the local level. It helped participants gain an understanding of concepts and tools for mediation and dialogue and identified ways to engage with business leaders at the national and district level to strengthen resilience and counter ethno-religious tensions.



PRIORITY AREA 5:

STRENGTHENING UN SYSTEM-WIDE COLLABORATION

DPPA organized the first event on “**Prevention and Peacebuilding in Southeast Asia: Challenges and Opportunities**” on 5-6 March in Bangkok, with the participation of DPPA’s Liaison Presences in the region, PDAs from the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Conflict Prevention, other UN entities, experts, and academics from across the region. The discussions created opportunities for better integration and a whole-of-UN approach to prevention in line with the Peace and Security Reform. A special session was dedicated to ASEAN as entry point for, and partner in, prevention work in the region, with a view to build stronger synergy with the regional organization given the changing geopolitical environment.

DPPA and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue launched the “**Toolkit on Digital Technologies and Mediation in Armed Conflict**”, a resource that explores the opportunities and risks that digital technologies offer to the field of mediation in conflict analysis, engagement with parties, inclusivity and strategic communications. The Toolkit provides concrete examples of where digital technologies have been or are being employed and refers to a number of potentially useful technologies and applications. MYA funds facilitated multi-disciplinary reflection on digital technologies, the provision of technical expertise and the organization of a validation workshop with senior experts and practitioners to test and refine the toolkit. Going forward, MYA funds will be used to disseminate and activate the Toolkit, including through engagement with UN mediators and representatives of the private sector.

Women, Peace and Security

As a core commitment of DPPA, the Women, Peace and Security agenda is mainstreamed in all the six priorities. Below are a few examples:

In March 2019, DPPA facilitated a three-day workshop with the SRSG for the UN Assistance Mission for **Iraq** (UNAMI), Ms. Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, who officially inaugurated the Women’s Advisory Group (WAG) on Politics and Reconciliation. The WAG is a platform to ensure the meaningful inclusion of women in reconciliation and political processes in Iraq. The WAG, comprised of 22 members, who have been selected in their individual capacities for their skills and experience, acts as an independent source of expertise and advice for UNAMI.

Special Envoy for **Syria**, Geir O. Pedersen, has been actively looking for ways to further integrate and amplify the voices from the inclusion platforms of the Geneva political process, i.e. the Women’s Advisory Board and the Civil Society Support Room. The Board met in Geneva from 5-8 March to develop an action plan for their work going forward on key topics including the constitutional process and strategies to enhance their outreach to civil society on the ground. This represents an important, albeit limited, achievement in the absence of the constitutional committee being launched.



PRIORITY AREA 6:

ENSURING ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

With a focus on continued sound learning and accountability, the Department undertook **two self-evaluations** in the first quarter. Partnering with UN University Centre for Policy Research, the Department completed a comparative evaluation of preventive diplomacy efforts in Gabon and The Gambia and considered the sustainability of the political settlement that emerged from the crisis. The report is in its final review stage and will be released soon. The Department also initiated the final evaluation of its Strategic Plan (2016-2019) to assess the performance in the past three years and to draw lessons for the development of the next Strategic Plan. The Department expects to conclude this exercise in May.

To advance the Secretary-General's reform initiative, DPPA and DPO undertook two **leadership workshops for Directors and Deputy-Directors of the peace and security pillar**. The workshops helped harmonize knowledge and approaches to the new responsibilities of the senior managers, as well as foster teambuilding across the pillar. With the active participation of both USGs and ASGs, the workshops emphasized the importance of responsiveness to the field, delegating authority and accountability.

In line with the **Secretary-General Strategy on Gender Parity**, the United Nations Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) started a project to accelerate progress towards gender parity in the mission through the recruitment of female youth national UN Volunteers (NUNVs). The years of qualifying experience and education requirements for UN employment are often obstacles for recruiting female candidates as they were denied schooling and work opportunities under the Taliban. This initiative provides qualified female candidates an opportunity to enhance their professional skills and gain experience that will be useful for assignments in the UN or in the broader workforce. Out of the 30 national UNVs the project envisions to recruit, 14 have already been onboarded.



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