

Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme  
on Building National Capacities  
for Conflict Prevention

## Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

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# FOREWORD —

## a year of reforms, new beginnings, and impact in conflict prevention

2018 was a transformative year for us at the United Nations. A year filled with repositioning and reforms aimed at enhancing our capacities to work more coherently and collaboratively. The reforms of the UN development system and the peace and security pillar were ambitious and comprehensive.

The move towards a single, integrated peace and security pillar<sup>1</sup> points to a clearer, system-wide prioritization of prevention and sustaining peace, as well as a move to more closely align with the development and human rights pillars. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are no longer new concepts around which we should orient ourselves; instead, they are instruments we must closely align to and mainstream across our organizations to ensure that we are delivering upon their bold promises. Similarly, the development system reform empowers Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to better engage with and support the 2030 Agenda at country level.

It is in this context that the *Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention* enters its 15<sup>th</sup> year with a proven record of enhancing UN collaboration on conflict prevention and delivering impactful results at the country level. In 2018, the Joint Programme supported 49 Peace and Development Advisor (PDA) positions, with a reach of over 70 countries across the globe. PDAs work in a variety of different complex settings to support Resident Coordinators, UN Country Teams and national stakeholders in consolidating local capacities for dialogue, mediation, social cohesion, and national infrastructures for peace.

Through a unique skillset that bridges political and development, PDAs supported national stakeholders on a wide array of thematic issues. They accompanied key preventive diplomacy initiatives and social cohesion efforts in countries such as **Guinea**, **Guyana**, the **Maldives** and **Moldova**. They led reconciliation initiatives in **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, **El Salvador**, and **Sri Lanka** and strengthened national peace architectures in **Nigeria**, **Uganda** and **Zimbabwe**. In **Liberia** and the **Solomon Islands**, PDAs supported dialogue and mediation efforts in land conflicts. Furthermore, PDAs enabled joint conflict analysis, conflict sensitive programming, and strategic leadership on conflict prevention within UN Country Teams.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) are fully committed to this exceptional partnership. We believe that PDAs are some of our best assets to effectively lead and support conflict prevention initiatives at the country level. With their political acumen, and conflict sensitive background, PDAs bring an integral multifaceted skill-set to Resident Coordinator Offices and UN Country Teams. Furthermore, an important part of our partnership is the highly valued contribution of the Peacebuilding Support Office. This relationship enables PDAs to support the design and accompaniment of projects funded by the Peacebuilding Fund in 27 countries, and successfully translate their analysis into programming. In some countries, PDAs have also demonstrated their added value by supporting enhanced collaboration between the UN and the World Bank, a key priority for the years to come.

<sup>1</sup> Composed by the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) with the peacebuilding responsibilities of the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and Department of Peace Operations (DPO).

In addition to broader UN reforms, the Joint Programme has also embarked on a new phase as of December 2018. The new five-year programme (2018-2023) builds on the reforms to make meaningful contributions to policy and programme coherence at the country and global levels. This new phase will focus on enhanced results-based monitoring and evaluation, and provide a more targeted and structured support framework to enable the Programme to better work with national stakeholders in strengthening their unique capacities for peace. This includes PDAs receiving additional support to better implement their mandates through setting up Peace and Development teams and having access to support from a cadre of six regional programme specialists to be deployed to Addis Ababa, Amman, Bangkok, Dakar, Istanbul and Panama.

The continued and unwavering support from our donor partners, the European Union, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom, and the growing partnership with UN Volunteers and the Folke Bernadotte Academy have and will continue to be critical to the success of these efforts. We are pleased to present this report of our joint efforts in strengthening national capacities for conflict prevention. We look forward to working together on a new phase of the Joint Programme. We are now in year four of the 2030 Agenda and remain as committed as ever to realising the goals that we have set as the international community. As UN Secretary-General, António Guterres has said, “We don’t have a moment to lose.”<sup>2</sup>



**Asako Okai**

Assistant Secretary-General  
Assistant Administrator and Director  
Crisis Bureau  
UN Development Programme



**Miroslav Jenča**

Assistant Secretary-General for  
Europe, Central Asia and the Americas  
Departments for Political & Peacebuilding  
Affairs and Peace Operations  
United Nations

<sup>2</sup> Remarks to the General Assembly at the Adoption of the Resolution on Repositioning the UN Development System; <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2018-05-31/repositioning-un-development-system-ga-remarks>

“The Programme builds on the strengths of the reformed peace and security pillar to ensure that joined-up support is provided to the new resident coordinator system. Currently, the Programme supports 49 peace and development positions in resident coordinator offices, promoting national efforts to prevent conflict, advance sustainable development and sustain peace while assisting the United Nations system in identifying entry points for engagement. [...]Peace and development advisers play a key role in ensuring that United Nations country team programmes are conflict-sensitive and informed by high-quality analysis.”<sup>3</sup>

—*UN Secretary-General, António Guterres*

“But building resilient societies is not an easy task...Strong national capacities for conflict prevention are also essential, and it is important that the multilateral organizations are willing and equipped to support such national efforts. For this reason, the United Kingdom supports the UNDP-DPA joint programme on building national capacities for conflict prevention. The deployment of UN Peace and Development Advisors has assisted Member States to generate the analysis that allows for early identification of conflict risks and the ability to devise de-escalation strategies.”

—*Ambassador Karen Pierce, UK Permanent Representative to the UN Statement at the Security Council Open Debate, December 6, 2018*

<sup>3</sup>(A/73/890-S/2019/448), “Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace Report of the Secretary-General”, 2019 p. 5, 7.

“PDAs are a crucial asset in the new generation Resident Coordinators Offices and provide essential support to national stakeholders to build and strengthen their own capacities for sustaining peace. The unique skillset that the PDAs possess, including their analytical skills and ability to promote conflict sensitive UN approaches in our partner countries, will help us all deliver shared results and support Member States fulfill the 2030 Agenda.”

*—Robert Piper, Assistant Secretary-General,  
United Nations Development Coordination Office*







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# 1

## The Joint Programme in brief

The *Joint UNDP-DPPA<sup>4</sup> Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention* provides critical support to the new generation Resident Coordinators system building on the strengths of DPPA and UNDP. The Programme is widely recognized as a ground-breaking contribution in bridging the gap between political engagement and development support in pursuit of preventing violent conflict and sustaining peace. The UN Secretary-General has cited the Programme as a best practice of UN engagement on conflict prevention, and recommended that it “serve as a model” for the system in making available to UN Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) enhanced capacities that are matched to the needs of national priorities, particularly as it reinforces national efforts to build capacities for conflict prevention.<sup>5</sup>

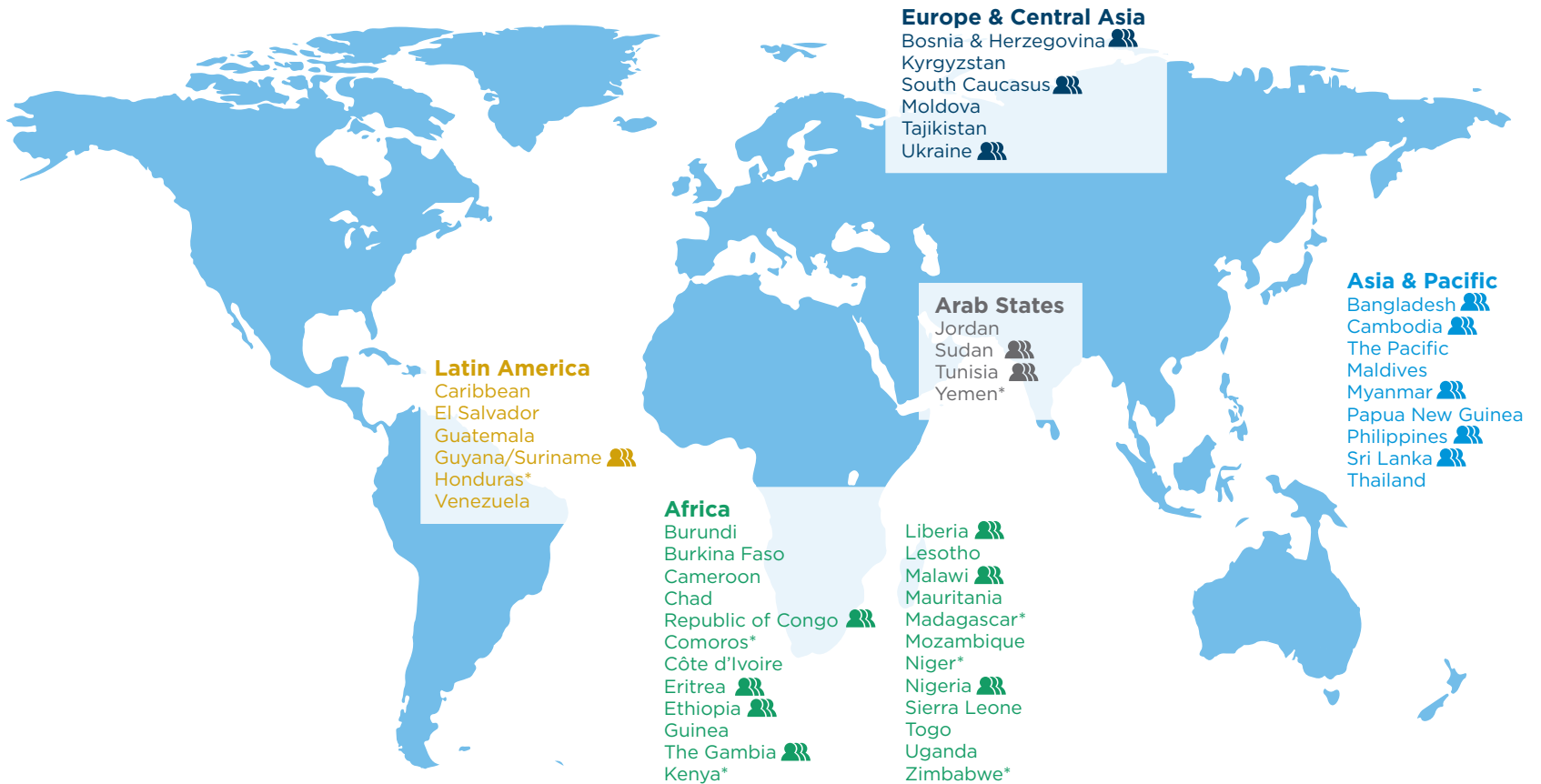
<sup>4</sup> While the present report covers the period of 2018, reference is made to the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) as established by the General Assembly resolution A/RES/72/262C effective January 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Report of the UN Secretary-General, “Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace”, 18 January 2018 (A/72/707-S/2018/43), at paragraph 36.





## PDA POSITIONS IN 2018



\*PDA deployment planned for 2019

Peace and Development Teams (Specialists and national PDAs deployed to work alongside the PDAs)

The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or UNDP concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



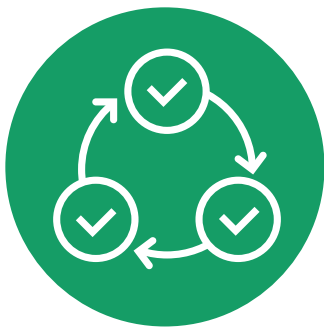
# OVERVIEW OF JOINT UNDP-DPPA PROGRAMME

Peace and Development Advisors (PDAs) are at the forefront of the Programme's efforts to empower national stakeholders and strengthen mechanisms and capacities for inclusive dialogue, social cohesion, reconciliation and national peace architectures. PDAs support the UN system to effectively identify entry points for prevention, and to adapt action and respond to complex political situations appropriately. Since the start of the Joint Programme in 2004, the cadre of PDAs has grown significantly, reflecting the increasing need for conflict prevention, and recognizing the value of embedding capacities for conflict analysis, conflict sensitive programming, and strategic leadership on prevention within UN Country Teams. PDAs are recognized as joint assets benefitting Resident Coordinators, DPPA, UNDP and the wider UN Country Team.



# THE NEW JOINT PROGRAMME DOCUMENT, OUTCOMES AND OUTPUTS

In December 2018, the Joint Programme initiated a new five-year programme phase lasting until the end of 2023. The new programme document is informed by an independent evaluation of the Joint Programme, a UNDP management audit, and extensive consultations held across the UN system, with Resident Coordinators (RCs), PDAs, and donor partners. The programme components have been reinforced and configured in a way to maximise the impact in the context of the reforms to the UN Peace and Security Architecture and the UN Development System, also building on prior experience and lessons learned. In its new phase, the Joint Programme further strengthens the analytical capacities of national stakeholders and the UN system in support of Member States efforts to advance policy and programmatic coherence on conflict prevention and support strategies for sustaining peace. The new phase is designed to contribute to two mutually supportive outcomes:



**OUTCOME 1:**  
Targeted initiatives  
and national  
capacities are more  
effectively  
contributing to  
conflict prevention  
and sustaining peace.



**OUTCOME 2:**  
UN Country Teams  
have strategies and  
programmes that are  
increasingly conflict  
sensitive, and are  
leading partnerships  
on sustaining peace.

The main focus of the Programme remains on strengthening national capacities for conflict prevention, and the primary mechanism at the Programme's disposal is the deployment of PDAs. The new phase of the Joint Programme will provide a stronger and systematic support framework to enable PDAs to better engage their mandate, including through greater clarity around expectations and accountability, more systematic provision of technical and strategic support, better access to knowledge, guidance, best practices and information exchange, and more systematic allocation of seed funds and resources for catalysing conflict prevention initiatives in country.

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW 2018

| Fund  |                                | Income              | Expenditure         |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|    | Germany                        | \$5,600,000         | \$3,200,000         |
|    | The Netherlands                | \$4,500,000         | \$3,300,000         |
|    | Norway                         | \$850,000           | \$140,000           |
|    | Republic of Korea <sup>6</sup> | \$200,000           | \$200,000           |
|  | Sweden                         | \$4,500,000         | \$2,100,000         |
|  | Switzerland                    | \$910,000           | \$750,000           |
|  | United Kingdom                 | \$1,300,000         | \$1,500,000         |
|  | DPPA Multi-Year Appeal         | \$170,000           | \$170,000           |
|   | <b>Total income</b>            | <b>\$18,030,000</b> | <b>\$11,360,000</b> |

<sup>6</sup> through the DPPA Multi-Year Appeal



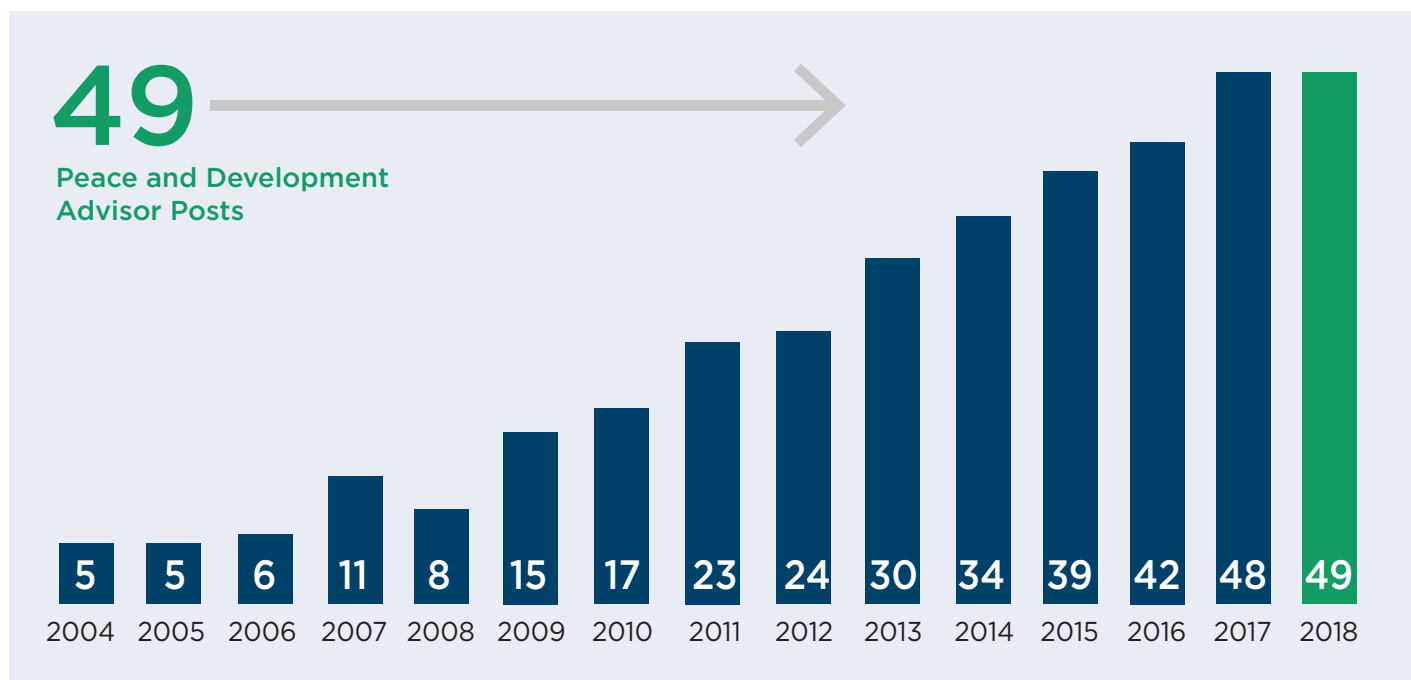


## PDA DEPLOYMENTS

In 2018, the Joint Programme supported **49 PDA posts**, including four with regional or multi-country mandates. This enabled the support of the Programme to strategically cover more than 70 countries, and increasingly engage across borders.

In an effort to ensure that PDAs are better equipped and empowered to advance their work, the number of Peace and Development Teams (PDTs) continued to grow in 2018. Since the previous year, eight additional teams were established bringing it to **seventeen teams** with five Peace and Development Specialists (PDSs) seconded by Sweden's Folke Bernadotte Academy to Liberia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Philippines, and Ukraine; seven international UN Volunteers (UNVs) in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Malawi, Suriname, The Gambia, Tunisia; and five national PDAs including one in Bosnia and Herzegovina, three national PDAs (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia) deployed to work with the regional PDA for the South Caucasus, and a national reconciliation and development specialist deployed to work alongside the PDA in Sri Lanka.

### PDA Deployments in Numbers

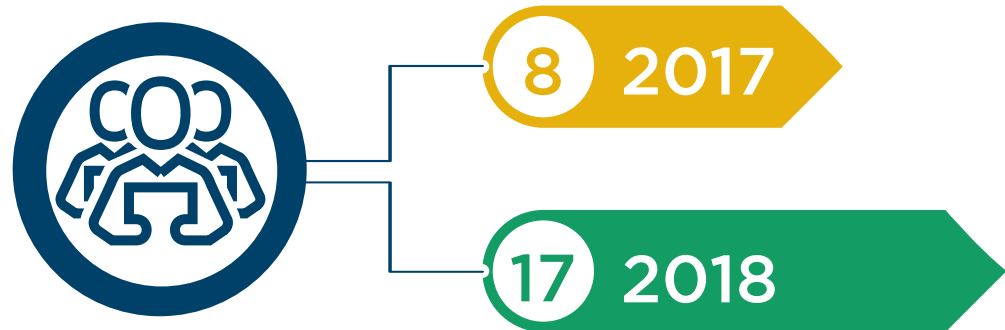




The experience from Nigeria shows that setting up a peace and development team, working in tandem with relevant UNCT agencies, is critical to ensuring the UN becomes more relevant, coordinated and strategic in its work at the country level.”

— PDA Zebulon Takwa & PDS Adam Bergman, Nigeria

**Expansion of teams:**  
specialists and national PDAs deployed alongside PDAs



## NEW PDA DEPLOYMENT IN NUMBERS



## DEPLOYMENT OF INTERIM AND SURGE CAPACITIES

To respond to emerging needs and rapidly changing contexts, the Joint Programme enables short-term support through the deployment of conflict prevention experts in crisis contexts, including expertise available within UNDP and DPPA, as well as interim PDAs to ensure there are no capacity gaps within the Resident Coordinators Offices. In 2018, interim PDAs were deployed in **Comoros, Lesotho, Mozambique, Sudan, Togo** and **Zimbabwe**. Temporary PDA positions were also established for Ecuador and North Macedonia, with deployment planned for 2019.



In the context of heightened political tension in **Comoros**, the UN Resident Coordinator (RC), DPPA and UNDP requested the Joint Programme to deploy a PDA in the country. While the new position was being reviewed by the Joint Programme, an interim PDA provided analysis to the country leadership and UN HQ, supported the humanitarian needs assessment team deployed in the wake of the Anjouan Crisis and the formulation of recommendations for UNCT leadership.

In **Mozambique**, the deployment of an interim PDA was critical at a time where municipal elections were taking place. The PDA also engaged closely with UNDP and contributed to validation sessions of the regional consultations of the African Peer Review Mechanism, which when published, will offer civil society insight on four thematic areas (socio-economic development; democratic and political governance; economic governance; and corporate governance) based on regional consultations and input by national experts.





# 2018 KEY AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT



Support to national conflict prevention capacities & initiatives for sustaining peace

Strategic advice and analysis to UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams

Capacity building and trainings

26

support to implement the Humanitarian, Development, Peace Nexus

13

integrated conflict sensitivity in UNDAF

26

involved in PBF project design

12

supported cross border initiatives

# 2

## Empowering national stakeholders to lead conflict prevention efforts

The guiding principle of the Joint Programme is that strengthening national capacities for conflict prevention is essential to sustain peace. As such, the Programme emphasizes national ownership and inclusivity, to ensure that peace is sustained over time. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the major impact of violence and instability on development and vice-versa, stating, “there can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development.”<sup>7</sup> In working to prevent conflict, the Joint Programme is geared not only at making a direct contribution to the realization of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on the promotion of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, but also at advancing cross-cutting issues to create an enabling and supportive environment for the fulfillment of a host of national and international development objectives. PDAs are the forefront of these efforts. Deployed in complex political situations, PDAs have a mandate to support and identify entry points and capacities for sustaining peace.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution of the UN General Assembly, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, 25 September 2015 (A/RES/70/1).



# Strengthening role of local actors in mediation and dialogue

## THE GAMBIA

In **The Gambia**, a number of Collaborative Leadership and Dialogue retreats were facilitated by UNDP with technical support from the PDA. The events gathered a broad range of stakeholders including government officials, political parties, leaders of the private sector and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The PDA and UNDP Governance colleagues worked together to support collaborative leadership training, joint visioning of the future, collective problem solving and dialogue facilitation skills of participants. The Interparty Committee members, an umbrella body for all

registered political parties in The Gambia, who attended the retreat highlighted that the retreat was critical in helping maintain collaborative and open channels of communication among their members. As a result of the retreat, joint regional peace education sessions and joint media appearances were held in six regions of the country; and participants also developed compacts for future collaborative action that the PDA will help put into action during 2019.

## REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The PDA in the **Republic of the Congo** led the development of and accompanied an inter-agency Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) project to help start up the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process in the Pool region following the signing of the 2017 Ceasefire. This project supports local dialogue structures and community reintegration activities. Jointly with a partner non-governmental organization, the PDA contributed to the establishment of intra-community dialogue platforms to help heal the social fabric damaged during recurrent conflicts in the Pool region. Comprising local leaders, government representatives, former combatants, IDPs and host-community members, these dialogue fora contributed to identifying some of the root causes of the conflict and discussed peacebuilding approaches to address them. The continuous engagement of the PDA contributed to an inclusive, trust-building dialogue process.

## PHILIPPINES

In the **Philippines**, the PDA and UNDP, together with DPPA and PBSO, provided support to a group of senior advisors to the parties in the Bangsamoro peace process. This ‘Insider Mediators’ Group’ helped members of the Philippines Congress to find the common ground necessary in the process of establishing the Bangsamoro autonomous region, and thus fulfilling a key provision of the 2014 peace agreement. Select civil society leaders and previously trained women leaders were assisted in mobilizing support for the Bangsamoro peace process among Moro communities which contributed to the momentum for the passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law in the Philippines Congress, and its signing by the President in July 2018.

## GUINEA

Since 2016, the PDA in **Guinea** supported the political dialogue process in the country and played a facilitation role instrumental for the political parties to reach agreement. Following the violent conflict related to local elections held in February 2018, the RC assigned the PDA to lead a taskforce of international partners composed by the UN, the European Union (EU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), France and the USA, to devise a negotiation process. These efforts resulted in a political deal, signed in August 2018 between the Majority and Opposition. Furthermore, the PDA initiated and supported a group of twelve insider mediators who were designated by the three parliamentary groups to work with their constituencies. Support to the ‘Insider Mediators’ is part of the activities under the UNDP and OHCHR project “Appui au dialogue et participation politiques inclusifs en Guinée” funded by the Peace Building Fund (PBF).

Together with DPPA and OHCHR, the PDA in **Thailand** promoted dialogue among relevant national stakeholders on issues affecting the situation in the southern border provinces, such as the role of religious leaders, anticipated impact of the 2019 general elections, and women, peace and security. Senior officials involved in peace negotiations were provided with mediation training to support efforts to reinvigorate the stalled peace talks. This strengthening of national capacities for peace – the first such support provided by the UN in recent years – is now on solid footing and will continue in 2019.

THAILAND





Working with the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme has been one of the highlights of my time as an RC. I've worked with several PDAs and believe that together as a team we played a critical role to advance the democratic transition here in the Maldives.”

*—Shoko Noda, Resident Coordinator, formerly in Maldives  
(currently UNDP Resident Representative in India)*

### TOGO

In early 2018, the PDA in **Togo** worked closely with the RC and United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) to ensure the provision of UN technical support as requested by the regional mediation for inter-Togolese political dialogue led by the Presidents of Ghana and Guinea. The UN support was critical for the efforts of the regional mediation and led to the adoption of an ECOWAS Roadmap, which inter alia enabled the holding of legislative elections on 20 December 2018. Though boycotted by the coalition of 14 main opposition parties, the election helped ease political tensions in the country. Furthermore, the PDA worked closely with UNDP to mainstream conflict analysis into electoral and governance programmes to strengthen the capacity of the new legislature, electoral management body and to prevent violent extremism.

### UKRAINE

Recognizing the importance of social cohesion and the need to promote understanding between and within different regions and communities in **Ukraine**, the peace and development team (PDT) has supported dialogue efforts, since 2016, through the Donbas Dialogue Initiative. As part of this initiative, an online platform was established to help people share information and experiences, improve their skills and capacities for dialogue. This year, the PDT contributed to the sixth Donbas Dialogue entitled “Dialogue Marathon: what can (re)unite us” which involved speakers from both sides of the divided communities.



© UNDP Ukraine



*Supporting women's engagement  
in mediation and dialogue:  
Cameroon and Tajikistan*



In **Cameroon**, the RC and PDA supported the South-West and North-West Women's Task Force (SNWOT), a group of women leaders from the English-speaking parts of Cameroon, in seeking a role in future dialogue efforts to resolve the SW-NW crisis, which was positively received by Government authorities.

Through the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan cross-border cooperation project funded by the PBF, the PDAs in both countries supported dialogue efforts aimed at strengthening linkages between border communities by making people work together on joint initiatives. The project supported the creation of women leader groups, provided training to these women, helped them participate in decision-making, and to maintain dialogue with women on the other side of the border (women-to-women exchanges across the border). In **Tajikistan**, through the PDA's support, 40 women leaders improved knowledge and skills in conflict resolution, mediation and decision-making. In addition, five women's business initiatives, which are aimed at strengthening trust and cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan communities, were supported.

**84%**

of PDAs reported supporting the participation of women and/or youth in conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives, 63% specific to the engagement and participation of women in mediation and dialogue processes.



# Establishing and strengthening national infrastructures for peace

based on PDA reporting, **21 of the countries** of deployment have a national peace architecture developed and/or underway

In **Nigeria**, there has been an increasing momentum and progress on establishing a functional national infrastructure for peace ahead of the 2019 general elections. In 2017, the peace and development team led UN efforts to support the National Assembly in putting in place legislation to underpin such an infrastructure, partnering with the Ministry of Interior. The following year, the senate passed legislation to establish a Commission for Peace, Reconciliation and Mediation and the National Peace Committee (NPC) of eminent Nigerians was reactivated in support of peaceful elections and the National Peace Accord. Following the signing of the Peace Accord in December 2018, which committed political parties to peaceful campaigns, the NPC will serve a monitoring function and intervene should campaigns begin to incite violence. The PDT will support this infrastructure for peace, through a UNDP project. Furthermore, the team will harmonize these national efforts, in addition to supporting already existing infrastructures at the state level, notably the Kaduna State Peace Commission. The Kaduna State Peace Commission could help serve as a model for a national-level architecture. The PDT's support to this process has infused a strong emphasis on the Commission's ability to operationalize and translate into action UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250 for the Kaduna context.

**NIGERIA**



© UNDP Zimbabwe

## UGANDA

In **Uganda**, the PDA supported a national peace architecture structure consisting of the Interreligious Council of Uganda, the Elders Forum and The National Consultative Forum (a constitutionally mandated body for political dialogue), Interparty Organization for Dialogue and the Women Situation Room to initiate dialogue with the presidents of political parties on the controversial 2013 Public Order Management Act, which inter alia grants the Inspector General of Police wide discretion to permit or disallow public meetings and also monitor them. The PDA also supported the government to coordinate different early warning units, which successfully resulted in a more coherent early warning system. Uganda has various early warning mechanisms including the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre at the Office of the Prime Minister, the Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Unit in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Peacebuilding Platform at the Office of the Prime Minister. The PDA provided technical assistance for these early warning units to conduct joint analysis, share information and improve reporting and coherence in responses.

## ZIMBABWE

One of the key pillars of **Zimbabwe's** Peace Architecture is the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC)– a constitutional body mandated to promote peace, support prevention efforts and foster healing and reconciliation in the country. Working alongside the NPRC Commissioners, the interim PDA facilitated a process leading to the assessment of conflict and peace factors following the party primaries. The risk mapping took the form of regular multi-stakeholder forums largely with civil society and faith-institutions. These forums then evolved into the NPRC's Early Warning and Early Response Committee. Furthermore, the PDA supported the Peace Caravan initiative, a national creative mechanism to mobilize citizens to support the peace efforts in the country in the build up to the elections and beyond. The PDA supported the Caravan by working with a multi-media company to design key messages and outreach material for the public engagement. The Caravan toured all ten provinces of the country with direct engagement of over 17,000 citizens and indirectly reaching to millions through multi-media channels. The roll-out of the Peace Caravan within communities was enabled by the existing 324 Local Peace Committees (LPCs) who mobilized communities for peace. In 2018, the PDA accompanied LPCs efforts by enhancing capacities of their leadership through training on facilitating multi-stakeholder processes and supporting local level mediation efforts.

*Lessons learned:  
the National Peace Architecture  
project in Malawi*





Recognizing the critical value of the national peace architecture (NPA) in contributing to bringing together local structures and mechanisms to strengthen national peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts in **Malawi**, UNDP has managed an initiative dedicated to supporting the national peace architecture in Malawi from 2015-2018. In 2018, the project was evaluated and the peace and development team in Malawi supported the process to ensure the NPA project is even stronger and more capable. The project was evaluated against six criteria: effectiveness, impact, design and relevance efficiency, sustainability and management and institutional arrangements. Overall, the evaluation unearthed key findings to strengthen the UN support to the NPA. The evaluation found that there is a need to re-assess some approaches to move the NPA initiative forward in a more relevant, effective and sustainable fashion. Some findings of the evaluation included discussions over where the NPA is currently housed and the subsequent agreement by the Tripartite partnership (Government, UN, civil society) to work on the process of facilitating the establishment of Malawi Peace Commission where the NPA will be housed; issues over representation with the District Peace Committees (DPCs), leading the Tripartite to agree to re-visit the selection criteria during the drafting of the NPA bill, to ensure that the DPC selection criteria is re-defined and robust. The evaluation succeeded in bringing together all stakeholders to revisit the design of the institutions for peace, which has invigorated inclusiveness and the desire to collaborate among relevant stakeholders. The next cycle of this project will continue from 2019-2023.



# Supporting peaceful elections

## MALAWI

To mitigate potential tensions in **Malawi** during and after the elections held in May 2019, the peace and development team supported the Public Affairs Committee (PAC), an inter-faith group, to play a role in conflict mediation and management. Training on mediation were organized for PAC members and influential leaders from the business sector, academia and media. The PDT also supported the establishment of additional District Peace Committees, increasing the total of committees from three to six. These District Peace Committees are contributing to the creation of a peaceful electoral environment.



*Mangochi DPC with different political party leaders at district level in August, 2018 pledging unity towards the run up to the elections*

## SIERRA LEONE

In 2018, the challenging electoral climate in **Sierra Leone** required the PDA to engage main political leaders in a dialogue to ensure credible and peaceful elections, as well as the peaceful transfer of power. The PDA engaged in a trust-building effort with political parties and civil society organizations and supported the RC and development partners to undertake a political dialogue process with political leaders. The dialogue succeeded in increasing trust of opposition leaders in the electoral process and achieved a change of behaviour of main leaders who shifted to a more moderate discourse. This contributed to decreased violence between parties' supporters and, eventually, to the acceptance of the electoral results. The political dialogue also benefited from the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for West Africa and the Sahel's good offices missions, as well as the mediation efforts of ECOWAS and African Union (AU) former Presidents.





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# Facilitating inclusive political processes

## LIBERIA

To improve communication between political parties and the Government, the RC, supported by the PDT in **Liberia**, guided the President in convening a national forum for political parties through a UNDP managed project. In August 2018, leaders of 24 out of a total of 26 registered political parties attended the forum with cabinet

ministers and the RC Office as an observer.

Through constructive exchanges, the forum established a working relationship between the government and the opposition parties. As a result of the national forum and the Government's willingness to engage in a constructive dialogue, key opposition parties revealed that they cancelled plans for a large-scale popular demonstration. The President of the Republic proposed to continue such engagements.

## GUYANA

In **Guyana**, the PDA provided support to the Constitutional Reform Education project, which aims to educate the public and promote information sharing on constitutional provisions and articles. The PDA developed and rolled-out a countrywide perception survey to capture public opinion about the constitutional reforms and to identify key national priorities. In partnership with the University of Guyana, a set of thematic lectures will be organized based on the survey results and will be broadcasted on national TV and radio to stimulate inclusive public debate on this issue. The PDA also focused on providing space for discussion between politicians and the public on the reforms. A training for the Ethnic Relations Commission was prepared on the use of media for engagement with citizens – in particular youth – on conflict sensitivity. The survey results and their roll-out will better inform citizens about the reform process. In light of the upcoming elections, the survey results are also expected to help facilitate and foster more substantive political debates about issues of national priority among political parties and voters, rather than focusing exclusively on narrow and, at times, divisive party narratives during the electoral campaigns.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In **Papua New Guinea**, the PDA was part of the team that achieved major milestones in the Bougainville Peace Agreement process. The PDA's impact has been reflected in the successful joint supervisory board meeting resolutions where both peace partners have confirmed to not only have the Bougainville referendum in 2019, but also the Bougainville referendum commission chairman was chosen, the referendum question agreed upon and a referendum budget passed. In addition, the PDA worked with the joint peace partners to implement the weapons disposal plan and provide UN experts, including a member of the Mediation Support Unit Standby Team, to assist.

# Local stakeholders preventing violent extremism (PVE) and addressing hate speech

## JORDAN

In **Jordan**, a PVE task force was established by the PDA in order to generate a one common UN approach with the government and civil society. The PVE task force will provide a common position and language on PVE engagement in Jordan with national stakeholders, develop a common operational

framework for the UN to work on PVE and integrate and implement the PVE monitoring and evaluation framework developed by UNDP's regional hub in Amman. UNDP is currently working with national NGOs to develop a PVE platform online and the PDA will assist with the integration of the prevention platform and familiarizing the NGOs with a conflict sensitive approach. In 2019, the PDA will support formulating a common theory of change on PVE work in Jordan.

## BANGLADESH

In December 2018, the peace and development team in **Bangladesh** helped design and facilitate an inaugural workshop in Kathmandu, which brought together representatives of Bangladesh and Myanmar, to share knowledge and exchange ideas on the role of digital technologies in driving forward extremist and hate speech narratives. It is hoped that the workshop and its findings will lay the foundations for the creation of a regional taskforce that convenes on a regular basis to strengthen cross-cultural and cross-border efforts on combatting violent extremism in the digital space. At the country level, the PDT is enabling coherence in PVE programming in Bangladesh with the creation of a UNCT Prevention of Violent Extremism Working Group (comprising the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), UNDP, and UN Women), which has drafted a Joint Annual Workplan on PVE. This workplan will be submitted to government for its views. Furthermore, the PDT also continued its partnership with Facebook South Asia, via the Digital Khichuri Challenge. This initiative is part of the UNDP managed and peace and development team-created Partnership for a Tolerant and Inclusive Bangladesh which sees teams of young people competing to produce digital platforms and content that promotes a tolerant or inclusive vision of Bangladeshi society. It is sponsored by Facebook and finds support from the ICT Division of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology. Following the hackathon, the winning teams receive funding and mentoring from UNDP and its partners to refine and implement their idea. Past winners have created an online platform for graphic novels and comic books promoting tolerance and an online automated chat platform that helps young people manage stress.



### KYRGYZSTAN

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the PDA supported the implementation of PBF joint projects under the 2018-2021 Peacebuilding Priority Plan, which contribute mainly to the National Programme on Countering Extremism and Terrorism 2017-2022. The priority plan seeks to curb radicalization and violent extremism by improving the state's relationship with communities vulnerable to radicalization. The PDA also supported projects that aim to address the marginalization of women and youth, including by supporting the analysis exercise that informed the PBF's Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative.

*2018 Digital  
Khichuri  
Challenge*



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## MALDIVES

In the **Maldives**, as part of UNDP's larger PVE programme, the PDA organized the first informal government, CSOs and academia consultations on PVE, in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Center, Transparency Maldives, and the Islamic University of Maldives. Using research findings from a 2016 PDA led study as a baseline, the forum outlined key challenges of radicalization and extremism in the Maldives and resulted in an agreement on a number of alternative messages that could be utilized for public dialogue and awareness raising initiatives. The PDA successfully piloted a PVE public advocacy initiative by organising a youth drawing contest on: "Islam - religion of peace and tolerance", with the support of Joint Programme catalytic funding. This initiative was organised in collaboration with the Junior Chamber International (JCI) Maldives, Maldives National Center for the Arts, and Islamic University of Maldives.

In the **Philippines**, from 2017 to 2018, the PDA together with UNDP supported the organization and facilitation of a high-level process to bring together local stakeholders around a National Action Plan on PVE, resulting in anchoring the process with the National Security Council as the technical lead and the Anti-Terrorism Council as the coordinating body. In addition, the PDA supported a PBF funded, UNDP supported, and UNICEF implemented project which helped disengage over 1,869 children and youth who were deemed to be at risk of association with radical Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)-linked armed groups.

## TAJIKISTAN

In **Tajikistan**, the PDA's support to PVE efforts is multifaceted. In 2018 the PDA finalized research initiated by the previous PDA on deepening an understanding of the drivers of violent extremism and fragility risks in the country. The research results are used to set up a discussion between development partners in Tajikistan for more effective response to conflict risks, and inform future programming of the UN in country in the area of conflict prevention and social cohesion. Furthermore, the PDA supported the Government in carrying out the flagship High-Level Conference on Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism in May 2018. Serving as UN focal point, the PDA contributed to the design of the conference agenda and drafting of the conference's outcome document. Informed by research and in-depth analysis, the PDA supported the UN Country Team in programming the PVE initiatives, fostering inter-agency cooperation, and promoting human rights-based programming on PVE.



*Addressing land conflicts:  
Liberia and Solomon Islands*



In **Liberia**, supported by the PDT, the RC Office has been instrumental in mediating a land concession dispute between ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) and the government. A committee established by the President of Liberia to review legal compliance found the AML mineral development agreement non-compliant in several areas relating to infrastructure development, payment of taxes and social benefits. The Inter-Ministerial Concessions Committee had demanded that AML pay \$40 million to rehabilitate a road between Ganta and Yekepa, which AML was disputing. Through the RCO, with advice from the PDT, the AML agreed to the terms.

In 2018, the Government of the **Solomon Islands** introduced several reform bills that bring to the forefront contested issues, including access to natural resources and land. Given the difficult nature of land issues and reforms in the country, the Regional PDA for the Pacific focused on creating space for inclusive dialogue by supporting the preparations of the first Guadalcanal Land Summit in the Solomon Islands, a summit supported by the PBF. In cooperation with the DPPA Mediation Standby Team expert on process design, the PDA ensured a stronger focus on dialogue during the summit and in particular enabled the inclusion of women and youth to advocate for their needs and concerns. In addition, the PDA developed and co-facilitated with UNDP a training for the government on innovation and land; and supported the Ministry of Lands with customary land registration and broad-based benefit-sharing schemes. The PDA also inaugurated a research initiative on land conflict and policy in the country, which will serve as a baseline study for the UNDP-UN Women peacebuilding project.



# Promoting social cohesion

over half of the PDAs reported providing support to national stakeholders on questions of social cohesion

## MOLDOVA

The PDA in **Moldova** continued the development and implementation of both the adult and youth focused Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE). The results of both SCOREs were shared within the UNCT, development actors (including donors), the OSCE, as well as key civil society and government actors. The SCORE provides evidence to government, the UN and other key actors to help strengthen social cohesion. In Moldova, the SCORE process is a partnership between UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the RCO, and is led by the PDA; it contributes to an increased common understanding of the social fabric of the country. The PDA subsequently developed a project that utilized data gathered from the SCORE to inform a dialogue with policy makers. Together with UN Women, and with funding from DPPA, the project sought to empower women to participate in a more meaningful way in ongoing civic and political processes. The project touched upon ways to begin to address the underlying causes of weak social cohesion and the barriers to effective participation in decision-making. Over 170 women and girls from different backgrounds from across Moldova, many from ethnic minority groups, gained skills, knowledge, and capacities to engage in political processes and decision-making at local and national level.

## UKRAINE

In **Ukraine**, the PDT launched the UN SCORE for Eastern Ukraine (USE) web-based interactive platform, which established a database on social cohesion to inform both policy and programmatic development. On the basis of the results of the USE regional consultations conducted in March 2018, the PDT organized a conceptual model workshop together with the Center for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development (SeeD) and UN implementing agencies (UNDP, UNICEF and IOM). The PDT applied USE analysis in designing a social cohesion component for UNDP's Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme project document.

# Laying the foundation for reconciliation

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (BiH), the peace and development team actively worked with the RC, the UNCT, HQ and other UNCTs in the region to re-orient the Organization's approach toward a number of long-standing, deep-rooted structural and functional challenges that continue to block the country and the region from making a clean break from the conflicts in the 1990s. Building on on-going work done in concert with local and international stakeholders, the PDT, in tandem with the RC, advocated to have the UN redirect its focus on BiH's "reconciliation deficit." This would support the efforts of national actors and international stakeholders to strengthen peace in a deteriorating and increasingly unpredictable political environment. Following a number of System-wide policy reviews, strengthening trust-building, constructive dialogue and reconciliation were identified as a UN-wide priority for the Western Balkans region, including BiH. Country-specific actions were already under way and further lines of work will be developed in the future. In connection, the PDT provided substantive advice and guidance during an extended visit to BiH by the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide - especially around the growing challenges generated by increasing rhetoric of division, fear, mistrust and hate and the denial of genocide. The PDT has developed strong working relations with a broad range of actors in the diplomatic community and amongst local stakeholders who are working to identify pragmatic, do-able reconciliation-based initiatives. The UN's focus in this specific area of peacebuilding and conflict prevention will complement the priority of, among others, the EU, which in its 2018 Enlargement Strategy for the Western Balkans, called on all countries to commit to overcome the legacy of the past, by advancing reconciliation.

## CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The PDA in **Côte d'Ivoire** supported the civil society organization APDH (Action pour la promotion et la défense des droits de l'homme) in conducting an assessment of the status of reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire. The support consisted of providing APDH with technical advice on how to analyse data and draw objective conclusions based on trends revealed by the data.

**PDA's in 16 countries engage with national stakeholders on questions of reconciliation and transitional justice.**

### MYANMAR

In **Myanmar** the PDT was closely involved in the UN's effort to support a national ceasefire monitoring mechanism (the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee or JMC). This included frequent engagement with representatives of the Military and Ethnic Armed Organizations on the planning of capacity-building activities and coordinating with UN Headquarters, including the Mediation Support Unit and Standby Team of Mediation Experts to involve ceasefire experts in these activities.

### EL SALVADOR

In **El Salvador**, the PDA led the design, facilitation and systematization of a national consultation process aimed at advancing a project to build a National Museum for Peace and Reconciliation. The PDA also developed a successful project proposal for building a virtual Memory Site in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture of El Salvador and the Museum of Memory and Human Rights of Chile.

### SRI LANKA

A focus for the PDA and the National Reconciliation and Development Specialist in **Sri Lanka** in 2018 has been to assist in the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms through the Office on Missing Persons and to bringing rapid and flexible support to ensure its operationalization, in close coordination with OHCHR. As soon as the commissioners for the Office on Missing Persons were appointed, the peace and development team initiated dialogue to offer technical assistance to the development of their short-term strategy and plans to operationalize the office. This included: embedding technical expertise and UNVs to bring on board core skill sets, helping with the development of a communications campaign to generate support and engender trust amongst victim groups, and initiating outreach to victim groups by establishing a regional presence. The team has also been coordinating with donors to ensure long term sustainable funding for the Office and its mandate.





# *Youth building peaceful futures*



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Building on the success of an earlier, novel initiative, the PDA in **Eritrea** helped conceptualize and conduct an intensive training course for 30 young Eritrean diplomats in Asmara. This course was the product of close collaboration between the Eritrean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DPPA and the Resident Coordinator's Office. The training focused on peace and security issues and honed the cadre's skills in situation analysis, multilateral negotiations, mediation and dialogue facilitation. Feedback on the training was highly positive, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has requested that a third course be held later in 2019. In the context of Eritrea's increasing engagement in the region and expanding cooperation with the UN System, the Eritrean Government recognized the training as an important investment in its bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.

In the **Maldives**, the PDA facilitated a conflict analysis, dialogue design and facilitation workshop for a group of young leaders from major islands, in collaboration with UNFPA Maldives. The event led to continued collaboration with young people under the leadership of the Junior Chambers International (JCI) Maldives, with the organization of national youth summit in June 2018 in which young activists and leaders representing a dozen national youth NGOs participated. Taking place in the run-up to critical Presidential elections in September 2018, the summit provided a safe space for participants to discuss their role in politics and the challenges the youth faces while attempting to contribute to policy and political life in the Maldives. The role of women in politics and public life and the growing conservatism in societal norms was another matter of heated debate among the summit participants. To keep the important conversation ongoing, participants agreed that the summit would be organized on biannual basis.

In liaison with UNDP and UNOWAS, the PDA in **Mauritania** supported the revitalization of the National Task Force on Women Peace Security (WPS) and Youth Peace Security (YPS). Through consultations with the Youth National High Commission and women's groups in country, the PDA encouraged the collaboration of the task force as a means to sustain peace through both groups positive participation, in line with UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250. The PDA facilitated the involvement of the task force in sub-regional activities, such as attending a regional learning forum in Togo. The W/YPS National Task Force accepted to set-up a joint coordination mechanism with youth groups. They are also committed to developing a Joint Action Plan with PDA support.



# Preventing conflict across borders

approximately **one third** of PDAs work on cross-border initiatives

## NIGERIA

The peace and development team in collaboration with UNDP in **Nigeria** supported the inaugural meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum. To ensure that affected communities had input into the process, the PDT led a regional consultative exercise, which included focus group discussions with some 1,100 persons in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. The findings from the consultations directly informed the forum agenda in identifying the thematic sessions on stabilization, reintegration and reconciliation as central issues. Following the success of the meeting, the PDT worked with UNDP's Africa Regional Hub and respective country offices to support the African Union Commission and the Lake Chad Basin Commission in developing the strategy. The Regional Strategy for

Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin was formally adopted by both the Lake Chad Basin Committee Member States and by the AU Peace and Security Council. With the strategy in place, the countries of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria have a strategic framework for tackling the regional dimensions of the Lake Chad crisis, and a platform that promotes closer collaboration and coordination to help change the trajectory of this crisis and advance peace and development for the sub-region in the years to come.

## KYRGYZSTAN AND TAJIKISTAN

The PDAs in **Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan** continued to support the mitigation of conflict risks in the border areas of both countries by actively supporting the second phase of the "Cross-border Cooperation for Sustainable Peace and Development" PBF initiative. The project—carried out by five UN Agencies (UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, WFP, UN Women)—aims to enhance trust and confidence between citizens. The risk of cross-border conflict escalation is reduced by addressing natural resource challenges and infrastructure gaps in border areas, thus improving linkages between security providers and citizens, as well as those between youth and other societal groups from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The PDAs ensured that the project was conflict sensitive, both in the design of the workplan and the actual programme and by advising on a "Do No Harm" approach.



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*Joint peacebuilding camp of Kyrgyz and Tajik youth*





# 3

## **Serving the UN system to leverage entry points for conflict prevention**

Peace and Development Advisors support UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators to collectively identify entry points for conflict prevention and offer strategic guidance to the implementation of peacebuilding initiatives with national counterparts. This engagement often takes different forms depending on the context of deployment, ranging from developing early warning and early response mechanisms, to mainstreaming conflict sensitivity into programming and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals. The advisors also facilitate joint conflict analysis and provide key trainings for UN Country Team staff and key national partners.



### 3.1 Conflict Prevention programming and advisory support to the UNCT

# Facilitating joint conflict analysis and assessments

## CAMBODIA

In **Cambodia**, the PDA conducted a training on conflict-sensitivity programming for staff of Better Factories Cambodia (BFC is a joint initiative of ILO and the World Bank). The training was instrumental in shaping BFC's work with the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training in relation to the garment sector.

## BURKINA FASO

The PDA in **Burkina Faso** coordinated a Fragility and Risks Assessment which enabled the country to gain its eligibility to the PBF. On the basis of this assessment, entry-points for PBF programming were identified, focusing on trust building between communities and security actors as well as in the prevention of violent extremism. The PDA's role was to mainstream conflict prevention and sustaining peace approaches in the work of the UNCT and support action on the humanitarian, development and peace (HDP) nexus. The PDA has also been instrumental in supporting efforts to mobilize \$8 million for the PBF portfolio of projects in the area of confidence building between population and state, PVE, and conflict prevention/resolution mechanisms in the North. These projects were all approved at the end of 2018.

Many PDAs work in environments where access to information is not always easy; as a result PDAs with their knowledge of the country context and links to government and civil society are called upon to help develop analysis. This was the case in **Ethiopia** where the PDA was tasked with bringing together OCHA, DSS, UNICEF, UNDP and OHCHR to conduct cross-disciplinary analysis and ensure complementarity of efforts among the different agencies. The PDA worked to ensure that there is a coordinated UN approach to analysis and response. This work has been extensively used to inform the UN's burgeoning support to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) in the country, since the return of large numbers of ex-combatants is likely to exacerbate political challenges in the country. This work led to the creation of a small task force (RCO, UNDP, IOM, UNICEF, DPO, UNIDO) to provide advice to the RC and UNCT focused exclusively on DDR in line with the UN's integrated standards on DDR.

ETHIOPIA

## THE GAMBIA

In order to assess the nature of peace and conflict dynamics amidst transformations shaping **The Gambia**, a participatory and nationally driven Conflict and Development Analysis (CDA) was undertaken by UNDP under the technical guidance of the PDA in 2018. The CDA brought together the government, represented by the Ministry of Interior, and civil society, represented by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), as well as the UN Country Team. The primary value of this study's methodology is the participatory, inclusive, and Gambian-driven systems analysis for understanding critical issues. The joint analysis exercise identified six main potential conflict drivers, including concerns over social cohesion, identity and citizenship; conditions and expectations around informed dialogue, public participation and civic education; and the issue of meaningful participation, inclusion and ownership of and by youth. The CDA was critical in informing the country's Peacebuilding Fund eligibility and the subsequent receipt of \$7 million in 2018 for four prioritized projects to address these risk factors.

## SUDAN

In **Sudan**, the PDA worked with the UNCT (primarily UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR) to implement a Sudan-wide context analysis in order to better inform programming around peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity of the UNCT portfolio as well as to provide the space to meaningfully address structural issues driving conflict. This context analysis directly contributed to the process of accessing the PBF which was requested by the President of the Republic of the Sudan. It also provided an opportunity to outline a common understanding for the UNCT of the broad issues currently affecting fragility in the country and helped shape strategic thinking around peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity.



*Conflict analysis focus group  
discussion in The Gambia*



# Supporting joint planning processes

The UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), now renamed Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), has been elevated by a recent General Assembly resolution to become the most important instrument for the planning and implementation of UN development activities at the country level, geared towards achieving results under the 2030 Agenda. Looking ahead, PDAs will provide critical support to the UNSDCF, as well as other planning and strategy development processes at the country level by feeding in multidimensional conflict analysis.

## BANGLADESH

In an effort to mainstream conflict prevention into UNCT programming and decision-making, in early 2018 the UN Country Team solicited the PDT in **Bangladesh** to commence a mapping process to identify conflict issues and sources of insecurity in Bangladesh. This was undertaken by the newly created, PDT-led Conflict Prevention Task Team (CPTT), which consists of representatives from UN agencies including WFP, UNHCR, UNDP, UNODC, IOM, UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, and FAO. The next steps in this process involve the production of joint conflict analyses select sources of insecurity and conflict issues identified by the CPTT, which will be integrated into the next Common Country Analysis (CCA) and UNSDCF and used to inform UNCT decision-making and programming throughout Bangladesh.

**13 PDAs reported  
having supported conflict  
sensitivity mainstreaming  
in the UNDAF**

# Mainstreaming conflict sensitivity in programming

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The PDT in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** worked in support of the BiH Presidency, together with UNESCO, UNICEF and UNDP to provide overall strategic oversight, quality assurance, guidance and technical advice from a political, peacebuilding and conflict-prevention perspective to the second iteration of the joint peacebuilding initiative of the UN Secretary-General called 'Dialogue for the Future' (DFF). In 2018, the PDT supported the roll-out of activities with the aim of having BiH's citizens work across group lines in order to identify common challenges and priorities and generate joint solutions. These would be discussed with their highest-level elected leaders at dialogue platforms. If done well and in a sustained way, it can serve to break down barriers between groups and their leaders. In parallel, the PDT worked with the Presidency, as well as with the UN in New York, UNCTs and UN partners in neighbouring states to help develop and launch a regional-level DFF project proposal, which was approved in January 2019. The goal of the expanded DFF is similar to the BiH-stream initiative described above, but with the added layer of state-to-state dialogues between communities and leaders.

**90% of PDAs supported the UNCT in implementing conflict sensitive principles and approaches in 2018**

## MAURITANIA

In **Mauritania**, the UNCT agreed to identify avenues to strengthen coherent delivery in agencies' engagement with local village committees on programme implementation, which had previously been mostly carried out separately. The PDA supported IOM, OHCHR, UNDP and UNHCR to jointly develop conflict sensitive principles, processes and approaches to design a community-centred methodology for UNCT intervention in vulnerable areas. The PDA contributed to identifying these principles and participative project implementation processes.

## SRI LANKA

In its coordinating and advisory role, the PDT in **Sri Lanka** is helping to mainstream conflict sensitive planning across the UNCT. When local communities expressed concerns regarding a project focusing on a sole women's cooperative, the PDT worked closely with the project owners, WFP and ILO, to help build trust and broaden the scope of benefits of soft infrastructure and public goods, thereby diffusing tensions, while retaining the original project objectives of serving female ex-combatants. The PDT facilitated collective brainstorming to develop strategies to prevent escalating tensions, while leveraging relationships at the national and provincial level to generate support for the project. The women's cooperative in question is now proactively reaching out to non-members and including them in the project activities.

## MYANMAR

In **Myanmar**, the PDT supported conflict sensitivity by organizing an induction course for new staff on the political context and human rights. This covered issues such as the democratic transition, the peace process and Rakhine crisis, as well human rights trends, Myanmar's international obligations, and special human rights mechanisms currently focused on the country. In addition, the PDT provided regular context analysis reports to the heads of agencies and programmes and bespoke conflict sensitivity advice to various projects and initiatives from across the UNCT.

In **Uganda**, the PDA provided support in mainstreaming conflict sensitivity into the UN Country Team and ensured that conflict sensitivity was integral to the UNCT's programming. This effort included leading a conflict sensitivity training for the country team. Several agencies requested the PDA's support to review their individual programmes from a conflict-sensitivity perspective.

UGANDA



# Strengthening early warning and strategic foresight capacities

**27 PDAs** reported supporting UNCT capacities for early warning and early response

## TUNISIA

In **Tunisia**, the peace and development team supported the Early Warning-Early Action framework (EWEA). This framework is conceived as comprising three pillars: situational awareness and conflict analysis; human rights violations monitoring; and humanitarian preparedness. Implementing the EWEA framework involved close collaboration with OHCHR on human rights violations monitoring and the development of an early warning geographic information systems (GIS) tool. The strengthened early warning and action capacities of the UNCT enabled deepened analysis, which led to targeted advocacy by the RC with national authorities on issues of concern, helping to position the UN on issues related to stability and the democratic transition.

## BANGLADESH

The conflict analysis undertaken by DPPA in late 2017 and a subsequent one by UNDP-UN Women in early 2018 both recommended that the UN team leading the Rohingya response in Cox's Bazar, **Bangladesh**, develop capacities to understand and explain non-humanitarian challenges to the UN and partners. These capacities would be needed to provide the humanitarian operation and the country team with some measure of conflict and risk analysis to enable enhanced early warning and prevention action. As such, the PDT designed the concept for UNDP Bangladesh and raised the resources from the Government of the Netherlands for the "Social Tensions Mapping Unit" (now known as the Cox's Bazar Analysis and Research Unit) which was launched in October 2018 as part of the UNDP Cox's Bazar sub-office. The unit will provide monthly monitoring reports, select political economy analysis and quarterly public perceptions surveys, and a range of other knowledge products.



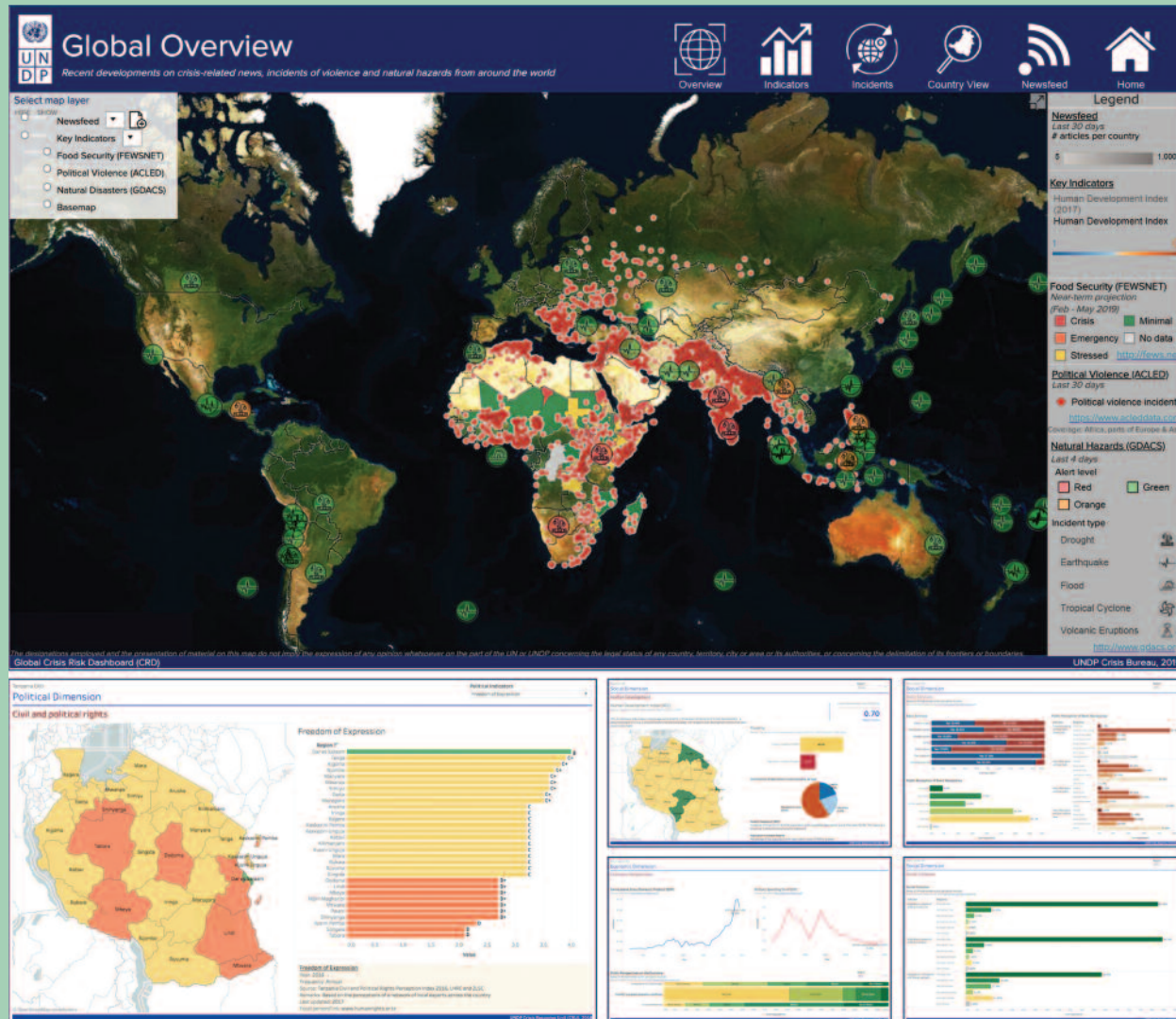
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*Disaster early warning systems in Bangladesh*



# Working with the Crisis Risk Dashboard

Overview of the Crisis Risk Dashboard tool



To better analyse and monitor conflict risk and apply an early warning approach in country, UNDP Crisis Bureau has developed a Crisis Risk Dashboard (CRD). The CRD is a global innovative data aggregation and visualization tool to equip UNCTs with a mechanism to systematically assess contextual risks in a multidimensional fashion, particularly in complex settings, to encourage evidence-based and risk-informed strategic and programmatic decisions. UNDP Crisis Bureau has worked with a number of PDAs, UNDP Country Offices and RCs, in setting up country-specific UN-wide CRD.


In the **Republic of the Congo** under the guidance of the RC, the PDA is coordinating a working group on early warning to review data gathered and presented by the CRD, to inform the situational analysis presented to the UNCT and its partners. After the CRD's completion and validation, the UNCT, government and CSOs were trained by the PDA on the use of the CRD. Given the challenges of retrieving credible data and information sources, the dashboard offers the UNCT and national stakeholders a unique tool for evidence based planning and will help strengthen information exchange and collective situational awareness among these actors.

In **El Salvador**, the PDA led coordination efforts with UNDP's Crisis Bureau for the implementation of a UNCT dashboard for the collective monitoring and analysing of relevant indicators for and risks to development, peace and humanitarian action. A Crisis Bureau scoping mission was organized in coordination with the UNCT Interagency Group on data. The dashboard will be fully implemented in 2019, pending approval from incoming senior management.



The PDA in **Moldova** with support from UNDP Crisis Bureau led the development of a Crisis Risk Dashboard to inform the Country Team of the evolving country and regional context, identifying emerging and evolving risks to development. Additional analysis facilitated by the PDA, such as the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index (SCORE), is made available directly through the Moldova CRD, and has helped prioritize key risk areas and issues of concern directly related to social cohesion.

In light of the election related risks in **Sierra Leone**, the UNCT requested to establish an interagency early warning system, in close collaboration with UNICEF, WFP, UNDSS, and UNDP. The PDA maintained a combined analysis of young people's perceptions of elections and violence, collected through UNICEF reports, main incidents and stakeholders, recorded through the CRD, and situational maps assessing levels of food security, developed by WFP. This effort helped to monitor potential escalation of violence cross-referenced against socio-economic characteristics and other structural factors for integrated analysis, but also contributed to strengthening the collaboration within the UNCT and generating innovative thinking.



# Leading programme design and development

## CHAD

The newly deployed PDA in **Chad** focused on catalysing peacebuilding programming by working with several UN agencies and the government to finalize five joint PBF peacebuilding projects. The projects were aligned to the Government's priorities identified in the PBF eligibility request, namely; preventing radicalization and extremism, promoting inclusion, and reducing inter-communal tensions and cross-border transhumance. These projects attracted over \$10 million in investment from the PBF. The PDA also worked with the UNCT and government ministries on Chad's first Annual Strategic Report to the PBF, which outlines priority areas for peacebuilding investment during 2019.

## PACIFIC

The regional PDA in the **Pacific** helped to develop an 18-month, \$1.8 million, joint UNDP-ILO peacebuilding project for the Solomon Islands approved for funding from the PBF. The project aims to establish a sustained entrepreneurship capacity and a co-working space among youth in at-risk areas and strengthen peacebuilding and leadership skills for youth leaders in these provinces. The project will provide tailored empowerment training using entrepreneurship concepts that the participating youth could use to identify potential conflict situations and collectively implement solutions to social grievances. A key mentoring component will be using successful young entrepreneurs and leaders from the at-risk areas to build a critical mass of social entrepreneurs and peace advocates.

In 2018, the peace and development team in **Sri Lanka** provided for updating the peacebuilding priority plan—which serves as the framework for the peacebuilding programme—in partnership with the government, development partners and CSOs. The update was aimed at identifying quick wins that would enable development partners to collectively support transitional justice and

reconciliation to sustain long term peace in Sri Lanka. The updated priority plan served as an important framework for development partners to mobilize funding from their respective capitals and to identify priorities that need to be supported in the country. It forms the basis for coordination and dialogue with the government. The PDT leads and manages this process.

# Catalytic seed funding

## THAILAND

In 2018, the PDA in **Thailand** provided support to the Resident Coordinator and the Country Team in establishing partnerships with Government officials, CSOs, academia, and the international community. The PDA provided advice and technical assistance to UN agencies active in the southern border provinces in addressing the impact of the conflict and in supporting peacebuilding activities, thus ensuring a more coordinated and effective response. The PDA took the lead in convening the UN inter-agency group on programme activities in the southern border provinces, which also coordinates with the World Bank.

The Joint Programme provides PDAs with seed funding up to \$50,000 per year to support catalytic conflict prevention programming efforts. DPPA also contributes to the provision of catalytic programmatic funding to PDAs through the 2018 multi-year appeal funding allocated to the Joint Programme.

\*Includes two requests approved end of 2017 and implemented in 2018

# 9 seed funding projects in 2018\*

1

## Republic of the Congo

establish mechanism and capacities for early warning and risk mapping

2

## El Salvador

support inclusive dialogue in dealing with the past

3

## Eritrea

offer advanced training for young diplomats

4

## Tunisia

enable operationalization of UN-World Bank 'Pathways for Peace' report; and inform PBF project on peace engines and youth

5

## Sudan

support a Sudan-wide context analysis

6

## Gambia

carry-out an inclusive conflict and development analysis

7

## Maldives

PVE public advocacy initiative engaging youth and women

8

## Pacific

promote dialogue on the role of political parties in the Pacific

9

## Venezuela

develop local peacebuilding dialogues through 'Caravans' around the 2030 agenda



### 3.2 Enhancing cross-pillar collaboration

# Implementing the Humanitarian, Development, Peace Nexus

## ETHIOPIA

With the escalating ethnic violence and resulting displacement, the PDA in **Ethiopia** worked with the RC and OCHA to establish an IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) Advisory Group to prepare strategic recommendations to the Humanitarian Country Team. The goal was to have a common international (HCT and DAG) response to the IDP situation, as well as advocacy to Federal and Regional Governments. In addition, it would develop policy recommendations for the consideration of the Government on how best to address the situation. A key part of the advisory support provided by the PDA was on developing humanitarian response plans that are durable and conflict sensitive. The overarching political objective was to ensure that responses do not exacerbate an already tense political situation. The PDA worked with OCHA and UN country teams to identify principles of engagement for “Do No Harm” interventions and worked on identifying and finding solutions for dilemmas around the resettlement of IDPs. Through the IDP advisory group, the PDA worked with a number of humanitarian partners to develop joint UN-partner positions and identify joint entry points to dealing with IDP issues.

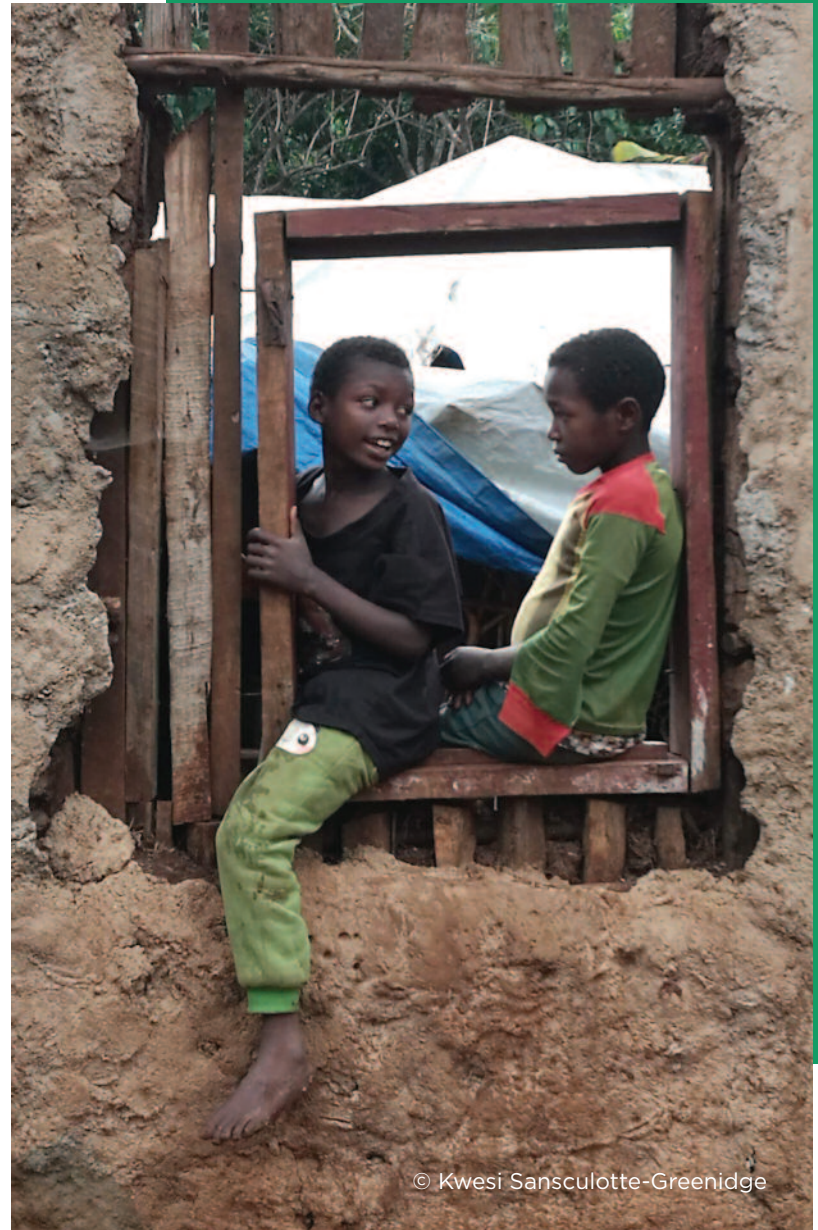
## NIGERIA

The peace and development team and UNDP in **Nigeria** led a project development process as part of UN Nigeria’s ambition to scale up its response to the farmer-herder crisis in the country. The project leverages the humanitarian, development, peace nexus in the crisis, through a partnership with UNDP, FAO and UNHCR, and is funded by the UN Human Security Trust Fund. This project was launched in late 2018 and has already led to the holding of a Peace Summit where parties agreed to continue to dialogue and promote trust between conflicting parties through the establishment of the Herdsmen-Farmers Peace Forum. This project forms a new generation of interagency programming by the UN in Nigeria.

in 2018, over  
**half of PDAs**  
were involved in  
implementing the  
HDP nexus

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Following the earthquake in the highlands of **Papua New Guinea**, the PDA worked with the UNCT—specifically UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA, UN Women and UNHCR—in the relief and recovery phase. The earthquake also exacerbated existing tensions and triggered additional fighting and rioting. The PDA helped ensure an increased awareness on conflict prevention and the nexus with UN recovery and development programs by the UNCT. The PDA was part of the UNDSS and UNICEF security team that went back into the disaster areas to do a security assessment of the situation. The resulting report mapped out the hot spots and led to a unified UNCT conflict context document of the highland's tribal fights.



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# Integrating human rights

## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In a country with persisting human rights challenges, the PDT in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** worked with national and international partners to target gaps that merit attention by the UN and the wider community of stakeholders. In particular, the PDT worked with national counterparts and the UN System in 2018 to prepare for BiH's 3rd Universal Periodic Review in 2019 - a Member State-driven process under the auspices of the Human Rights Council that reviews the human rights records of all UN Member States. The PDT continued to work with the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and other human rights based partners around the challenges related to the denials or glorification, of crimes adjudicated, or facts established, by international justice institutions. The PDT also worked with the UNCT and OHCHR to ensure that field-based inputs into all relevant human rights reporting mechanisms and processes were met.

In **Lesotho**, the PDA collaborated with OHCHR and DPPA to ensure the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy ahead of support to the security sector reforms. The PDA worked with OHCHR to develop the terms of reference and eventual deployment of a Human Rights Officer to ensure human rights mainstreaming in the national dialogue and the reforms.

LESOTHO

## REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The PDA in **the Republic of the Congo** liaised closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to analyse and address human rights violations in the conflict-affected Pool region. The OHCHR and PDA advocacy contributed to the Ministry of Justice establishing an Independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate alleged human rights violations since 2015. However, by the end of 2018, the commission had not yet undertaken any field missions.

## MYANMAR

In **Myanmar**, in the absence of an OHCHR office, the peace and development specialist functioned as the human rights focal point for the UNCT, providing analysis and advice on a wide range of issues including ongoing human rights concerns inside the country and international mechanisms involved in the situation.

## MALDIVES

In the **Maldives**, the PDA worked closely with the National Human Rights Officer to provide regular updates and analysis on the political and human rights dimensions in Maldives, while looking at the impact in the country, possible implications for the UNCT and any action to be taken.



*Annual training for the UN Youth Advisory Panel made up of youth NGO representatives in Cambodia*

© UN



# Sustaining peace: Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia

UN PBF funded project on engaging women and youth in peacebuilding



In **Cambodia**, the PDA delivered an annual training on Sustaining Peace for youth NGOs that are part of the UN Youth Advisory Panel. The participants shared this knowledge with their respective organizations. The PDA also helped to connect several of the participants in the training to a UNDP initiative called the Youth Media Lab—thus encouraging collaboration.

In **Sri Lanka**, the PDT continued to support the peacebuilding survey as it remains a key part of informing both political and conflict analysis and strategic planning for the UN in country and with HQ. In 2018, the peacebuilding survey was instrumental in informing the PDT on the emerging political discontent prior to the political crisis. It was a critical resource for the UN strategic workshop on Sri Lanka in October with key stakeholders including OHCHR and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. In 2019, the PDT plans to scale up the survey in partnership with DPPA to the South Asia region to better understand regional dynamics specifically in relation to potential peace and conflict drivers.

In **Tunisia**, the PDT contributed to a Sustaining Peace framework, which helped the UN to establish a shared vision of the national context and the scope of Sustaining Peace in the country. The Sustaining Peace framework also guided the development of a conflict-sensitive project on local level youth inclusion, which received \$3 million from the PBF. The PDT developed a strategic approach for resilience-based youth inclusion at the local level, and organized a workshop on best practices for the inclusion of marginalized youth. Extensive consultations were held throughout three different stages of designing the PBF project, which included over 150 national and local CSOs, International NGOs, authorities, youth and women, and peacebuilding experts, to develop this programme, which focuses on the inclusion of marginalized youth in border municipalities. In addition, the Sustaining Peace framework framed the designing of a UNDP-led SDG 16 programme that has received \$18.8 million to date from the Netherlands.



## Supporting UN Mission in transition settings



In cooperation with the UN Mission in Transitions Project jointly managed by UNDP, DPPA and the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), the Joint Programme supports the UN in settings where a UN Mission have been withdrawn or is in the process of withdrawal. Through the deployment of PDAs in these transition contexts, the RC and UNCT are supported to identify critical conflict prevention priorities to ensure that peacebuilding gains achieved during the mission are sustained. In 2018, PDAs were deployed in mission transition settings in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sudan. In **Liberia**, the PDT supported the RC in several engagements to address

political tensions, in addition to ensuring that the activities of the UNCT incorporate a conflict prevention dimension. In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the PDA supported the RC and UNCT with regular analyses on the political situation to facilitate high-level engagement with national stakeholders and the programming of the UNCT. In the absence of a Transition Advisor, the PDA in **Sudan** worked with UNAMID colleagues to facilitate UNCT engagement in Darfur in the context of the UNAMID drawdown as well as Sudan's request to be declared eligible for the peacebuilding fund and the Darfur Development Strategy (DDS) refresh.



# Promoting the Sustainable Development Goals

## CAMBODIA

While one of the top recipients of foreign direct investment from China and a participant country in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), **Cambodia** lacked forums for evidence-based discussions on how such investments could be best aligned with the country's own development priorities and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To address this gap, the PDA commissioned analytical research from a diverse pool of experts (Chinese, Singaporean, Cambodian) and organized a series of multi-stakeholder dialogues that brought together a diverse group of stakeholders ranging from senior government officials, civil society, media, academics, international development partners, and neighboring countries. The discussions were also an opportunity to help build trust amongst key stakeholders. These policy dialogues on BRI and SDGs have reconfirmed the convening role of the UN on complex issues that necessitate a neutral space and independent expertise.

## SOUTH CAUCASUS

In 2018, the PDT in the **South Caucasus** continued to organize and facilitate regional roundtable discussions focusing on SDGs between UN agencies and their civil society partners in the South Caucasus. Two roundtables bringing together three-dozen civil society participants from around the region were held via this initiative in 2018. The two roundtables focused on innovative delivery of SDGs, including best practices in data collection and analysis, co-designing, youth engagement, and private sector partnership. They also discussed issues of social entrepreneurship and labour migration, including successful local schemes to leverage migrant remittances to support better service provision and local development in home communities. The roundtables provided an important opportunity for civil society members from the three countries to engage directly on issues of common concern.

## GUATEMALA

In partnership with the Esquipulas Foundation, the PDA in **Guatemala** established spaces for dialogue for young leaders around the 2030 agenda and the SDGs. These spaces were developed with the participation of young leaders from the private sector, political parties, indigenous communities, civil society organizations and the academic sector. The

conceptual and methodological design of the conversations with the young leaders were formulated by the PDA. This method aimed to promote a space for reflection, and encourage the young leaders to articulate their vision for Guatemala's future through a narrative of the 2030 agenda and the SDGs.



## MALAWI

In partnership with the Malawi Government, the University of Malawi - Chancellor College, UN Women, and UNDP, the PDT in **Malawi** supported an International Peace Day event, which brought together 100 women in government, business, NGOs, faith networks, public service, and journalists to discuss their contributions to peace in their communities. The women made a declaration to acknowledge their current role in achieving SDG 16, as well as promoting peace and tolerance during and after the elections to sustain Malawi's peace, democracy and development. Their discussions focused on inclusive institutions, justice for all and peaceful co-existence. One of the main outcomes of the event was the signing of the Lilongwe International Peace Day Declaration, which specifically mentioned a commitment to promoting SDG 16 and SDG 5, by contributing to initiatives that enhance peaceful coexistence and gender equality.



In 2018, the Special Advisor in **Venezuela** continued to support the SDGs Caravan initiative. This initiative aims to develop local peacebuilding dialogues around the 2030 agenda through a series of multi-stakeholder workshops. The Special Advisor served as a facilitator for local dialogues in six of the twelve cities where the initiative was implemented. Through the SDGs Caravan Initiative, a network of local actors was developed. Using the global SDG framework, the initiative provided an opportunity to bridge differences between participants with various political and socio-economic backgrounds and contribute to depolarization by focusing on joint solutions for common local needs. The Special Advisor's support to the SDGs Caravan initiative in 2017 and 2018 equipped the UNCT and RC with tools to expand peacebuilding efforts at the local level.

VENEZUELA



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# 4

## **Strengthening partnerships, fostering collaboration and learning**

The Joint Programme assists the UN system to make conflict prevention efforts more effective, coherent and complementary. To achieve this, the Joint Programme encourages and facilitates information sharing and collaboration among its partners and promotes peer-to-peer learning and exchanges. Recognizing the importance of leveraging the capacities and comparative advantages across and outside the UN system, the Joint Programme continues to develop and pursue strategic partnerships.





## BREADTH OF PDA ENGAGEMENT: DATA IN 2018



# 4.1 Strengthening partnerships

## PDA CADRE COLLABORATION

In addition to their myriad of functions, a growing trend among the PDA community is enhanced cadre collaboration. In 2018, 66% of PDAs reported collaborating with PDAs in other countries. The engagement also extends to non-PDA countries where they provide key support to enhance capacities of various country offices. For instance, the PDA in **El Salvador** provided support to the Colombia RC and to DPPA on issues related to Nicaragua. Upon a request from the RC in Honduras, the PDA in **Guatemala** facilitated one of the negotiation tables of the Honduran National Political Dialogue and supported high-level negotiation between political parties. The PDA in Guatemala also supported the PDS in Suriname to adjust and specify the prospective scenarios underway. Furthermore, the PDA in **Cambodia** was deployed for detail assignment to Pakistan to support conflict-sensitive programming for UNDP Pakistan's Rule of Law programme. The PDA in **Bangladesh** was deployed for a short mission to Timor-Leste to support the RC on elections in May 2018. Increased collaboration across the PDA eco-system will be prioritized for 2019.

# Linking regionally and globally

## REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



*PDA work with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism organizing a meeting on Strategic Communications for Preventing Violent Extremism with NGOs, FBOs and municipal government officials. The group showing off the hashtags that were created in an exercise to develop a communications strategy targeted at youth.*

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), a regional organization comprising 15 Member States and five Associate members, has been working to update its normative framework. Since 2016, the regional PDAs deployed in the **Caribbean** have partnered with CARICOM, to assist the organization with the development of a Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This regional strategy was approved by the CARICOM Heads of State meeting in February 2018. The CARICOM

Counter Terrorism Strategy is a seminal regional instrument that enhances national and regional efforts to reduce the risk of terrorism and associated violent extremism and build resilience to extremist ideology. With the strategy adopted, the PDA is providing support to the implementation of follow-up programmes, such as the development of community outreach to reform youth at risk of being recruited into violent gangs. The PDA also supported CARICOM with the review of its Crime and Security Strategy to enhance the regional body's response to the changes in the context. Additionally, in 2018, the PDA engaged with CARICOM's Implementing Agency on Crime and Security (IMPACS) to facilitate technical dialogues and craft key messages for the regional body to raise the visibility around maritime crime, among others, as some of the emergent security threats in the Caribbean. The PDA facilitated training on strategic communications for national partners and the UNCT as a way of enhancing their capacities in the implementation of counter-terrorism measures.

In **Liberia** the PDT supported the RC in joint problem-solving initiatives with ECOWAS and the African Union, which has seen dividends in the national political arena. RCO's good offices functions mitigated the growing rift between the President and Vice President and staved off unpredictable outcomes across security, political and social domains; averted a potentially-violent protest by opposition actors and interest groups that risked destabilizing the country, and facilitated dialogue between the President and media actors which resulted in new rapprochement and change in the tone of the media and government relationship.





The PDA in **Lesotho** supported the robust partnership with the Southern African Development Community (SADC). SADC is a regional economic community comprising 16 Member States committed to regional integration and poverty eradication within Southern Africa through economic development and ensuring peace and security. This partnership and through the RC's leadership enabled the UN to position itself as a key actor in Lesotho supporting the national dialogue and reform process. The UN, in particular, assisted in the development of the reforms roadmap followed by the design of the national dialogue toward consensus on the reforms, while ensuring national ownership of the process by all stakeholders. The mobilization of resources ensured the translation of ideas into actions and the participation of multiple UN agencies and SADC based on their comparative advantages.



In **Nigeria**, the peace and development team deployed one member of the team to temporarily support the African Union on the Regional Stabilization Strategy as well as the Vice President's Office in developing a national strategy to tackle the farmers-herders crisis.

## REGIONAL UN PRESENCES



PDAAs work closely with DPPA regional political presences including the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) by sharing of regular analysis, and support to SRSG visits. In 2018, 21 PDAs reported working directly with these UN regional offices/presences. With a view of strengthening joint analysis on key regional issues, UNOCA organized the first coordination meeting between UN Political Units and PDAs in November 2018. The meeting was attended by key UN partners, and a representative of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). Participants identified opportunities for enhanced collaboration amongst UN entities in the region and recommended issues to be discussed in the upcoming meeting of Heads of UN Presences in Central Africa.

The PDA in **Guinea** provided regular political updates to UNOWAS. The PDA supported the RC in preparing good efforts and visits of Mohamed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for West Africa and the Sahel, to Guinea and his meetings with relevant national authorities, international partners and the UNCT. In **Nigeria**, the PDT plays a critical role supporting UNOWAS SRSG in top-level engagements with governments, especially on electoral matters.



## COORDINATION ROLE AMONG THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY

Four out of five PDAs reported having regular meetings with the diplomatic community in country, including Joint Programme partners. While entry points for collaboration between the UN and the broader international community vary based on the country context, they are often structured around existing coordination platforms where the PDAs play a critical role in sharing analysis and supporting technical consultations around peacebuilding programmes. Ad-hoc or more informal exchanges have also been reported by PDAs as avenues for facilitating information-sharing and a more cohesive engagement of the international community in country. PDAs in 16 countries have specifically highlighted regular exchanges with counter-parts from **EU delegations**. This includes exchanges around elections in Côte d'Ivoire and Thailand, regular exchanges with the South Caucasus peace and development team on the latest developments in the sub-region, and coordination around PVE engagement in Tunisia. In Mauritania, the PDA participated in monthly meetings with the government, CSOs, G5 Sahel, EU Delegation and the USA on the thematic issue of countering/preventing violent extremism.

### WORLD BANK

In a major 2018 report, 'Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict' the UN and the World Bank decided to place conflict prevention at the center of their approach to jointly support countries to enter sustainable development pathways. The Joint Programme then proposed to organize the first *UN-World Bank Senior Country Leadership Dialogue* bringing together five UN Resident Coordinators and World Bank Country Directors/Managers to look at practical ways of operationalizing the 'Pathways for Peace'. The meeting took place in February 2019, in Dakar, Senegal.

In **Tunisia**, the peace and development team contributed to efforts aimed at anchoring UN-World Bank cooperation in the country. Following a joint mission to Tunisia in July 2018, the UN and the World Bank are discussing how to leverage synergies on the local level through capitalizing on the UN's methodology for including marginalized youth in political decision-making. They are also cooperating on a joint analysis on the southern regions.

TUNISIA

# Global Partners

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The Joint Programme continues to build and strengthen partnerships with civil society actors, academia and research institutes to generate knowledge products and action-oriented guidance that can inform the formulation of effective global policies and strategies on conflict prevention and sustaining peace. For example, the Joint Programme collaborated with the NGO-led ‘Conducive Space for Peace initiative’ that aims to bring about institutional change in the international system to support local and national efforts to sustainable peace. The Joint Programme also aims to strengthen collaboration between these actors and the UN on the ground. A research initiative has been developed with the Civil Society-UN Prevention Platform to understand civil society engagement and identify lessons learned on cooperation

between civil society and PDAs. The study will be based on an overview of the PDA engagement in 8 different countries – that reflect different contexts. The study, to be finalized in 2019, will be the basis of further contributing to building capacity of both PDAs and civil society to meaningfully engage with each other; and ultimately strengthen their collective prevention efforts.

## FOLKE BERNADOTTE ACADEMY

Since 2015, the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), the Swedish government agency for peace, security and development, and the Joint Programme have been deploying FBA-secondees to work alongside PDAs. The objective of the collaboration is to provide reinforced capacity to Resident Coordinators Offices and UN Country Teams through the establishment of Peace and Development Teams (PDTs); and to develop the cadre of professionals who could be identified for future PDA deployments. In 2018, five secondees were deployed—to Liberia, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Ukraine. FBA also supports the PDA induction programme, which takes place twice a year.

In 2018, the Joint Programme partnership with UN Volunteers was fortified. UNVs with a profile in peace and development were deployed to support and work alongside PDAs in seven countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Malawi, Suriname, and Tunisia. UNVs served a critical function in working with PDAs in a team-like structure as PDTs. UNVs often have particular focus on supporting and strengthening linkages, coordination and collaboration with civil society partners on issues related to conflict prevention and sustaining peace.

UNV



## 4.2 Fostering collaboration and learning



© UNDP

*Participants of the Joint Event on UN System-wide Coherence and Collaboration gathering UN Senior Leadership in Fragile and Crisis Settings, 5 June 2018, Lausanne*



## NEXUS EVENT

On June 5, the first joint event on “UN System-wide Coherence and Collaboration” which gathered UN senior leadership working in crisis and fragile contexts to discuss ways to increase collaboration and coherence across the HDP Nexus took place. During the discussions which gathered over 60 RCs, Humanitarian Coordinators and Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, the participants highlighted a number of measures that could be taken to further strengthen system-wide coherence and collaboration on the ground. This included efforts to improve joint and continuous situational awareness and analysis to inform policy and decision-making at every level, including sound analysis of root causes and conflict factors, and a commitment to act timely and decisively on early warning and risk indicators to help prevent or mitigate the impact of crises. Participants also included senior leadership from the EOSG, PBSO, UN Women, OHCHR, DFS, and the World Bank. The event successfully provided a forum for dialogue and sharing of innovative practices and lessons to enable collective work toward system-wide agreed outcomes to reduce needs, vulnerabilities and risks. The core organizers of the event were UNDP, DPPA, OCHA, DOCO and DPKO.

“In my experience the two most useful events related to the Joint Programme were the induction and the Global PDA Retreat (in this order). The induction provided me the full scope of the PDA function. The peer-to-peer exchange there, the excellent facilitation, and the whole work put by the Programme’s Secretariat to make the experience a full immersion in the PDA role, made the induction the most valuable experience in my short life as a PDA. The Retreat was too an extremely valuable experience, particularly because of the peer-to-peer exchange. I am glad that both elements will be around in the future work of PDAs around the globe.”

*—Gonzalo Kmaid Special  
Advisor, Venezuela*

### RC MONTREUX RETREAT

The fifth iteration of the 'Montreux' series for Resident Coordinators took place in a context of significant UN reform processes with system-wide implications, including the reform of the UN Development System, Resident Coordinator System, and the UN Peace and Security Architecture. The workshop offered a forum to take stock of the ongoing UN reforms and policy developments that pertain to the UN's work on conflict prevention, and focused on the concrete implications of these for the UN's engagement at the country level and with a view to strengthening support to these efforts. Participants included 44 RCs and senior leadership from EOSG, PBSO, UN Women, OHCHR, OCHA, DFS, DPKO, DOCO, World Bank, UNDP regional bureaux, DPPA divisions, and the United Nations University. The RCs highlighted the importance of the continued Joint Programme support especially in the context of the UNDS reform, and how critical the PDA function will be to RCs in the new reformed context.



### PDA FELLOWSHIP

The third cohort of the PDA Fellowship hosted by UNDP Oslo Governance Centre with the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), in collaboration with the Joint Programme, took place in March 2018. The two-week fellowship focused on gender responsive peacebuilding and brought together six participants, including PDAs and UN conflict prevention practitioners. The fellowship was anchored around discussions of how the PDAs contribute to gender responsive peacebuilding and peacemaking, particularly in strengthening participation, prevention, protection in tackling the root causes of conflict to create sustainable peace.

### PEACE INFRASTRUCTURES PORTAL

Peaceinfrastructures.org is a knowledge portal for practitioners, policy-makers, academics, and institutions engaged in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In 2018, the Joint Programme launched several communities of practice designated to providing peer-to-peer exchanges among the PDA cadre.

## PDA INDUCTION

The Joint Programme, in partnership with the Folke Bernadotte Academy organizes an induction programme for recently deployed Peace and Development Advisors and Peace and Development Specialists, twice a year. Set as a peer-to-peer exchange exercise, the orientation provides an opportunity for them to better understand conflict prevention work at the UN, meet key counterparts from different UN agencies, and create a support base of other PDAs, PDS', and practitioners. 2018 brought forth the largest cohorts with more than 15 PDAs and PDS' participating in each induction.

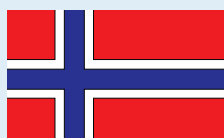
## BROWN BAG AND TOWN HALL MEETINGS

When PDAs and PDS' are in New York, brown bag discussions are organized to provide an opportunity for colleagues to hear directly from them and highlight their innovative work, share lessons learned and discuss the challenges and opportunities they face. In 2018, four brown bag meetings were held with PDAs from Burkina Faso, Tunisia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Sri Lanka, the Caribbean, the Pacific and the South Caucasus. The themes ranged from 'sustaining peace in practice' to 'are regional approaches to conflict prevention and peacebuilding working?' These meetings provide an opportunity for colleagues in the HQ to directly hear from practitioners on the frontlines of the UN's conflict prevention and sustaining peace efforts. Furthermore, in December 2018, the Joint Programme organized a town hall discussion with the PDA cadre to discuss the agreed management and operational arrangements outlined in the new Joint Programme Document, in particular, the reporting lines of PDAs in the context of the UNDS reform. The town hall provided a welcome opportunity to discuss the Joint Programme in the midst of the reforms, expectations of the PDA cadre and how the Joint Programme Secretariat can continue to best provide support.

# Thank you

The Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme would like to thank its partners for their continued support and generous financial contributions, in particular the Governments of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, as well as the European Union and the Folke Bernadotte Academy.

This report would not have been possible without the inspiring and innovative work led by the Peace and Development Advisors in the field. The Joint Programme team would like to express appreciation to all Peace and Development Advisors for their efforts in supporting countries in sustaining peace.







**Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme  
on Building National Capacities  
for Conflict Prevention**



For more information on the work of the Joint UNDP-DPPA Programme  
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