

WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY



Inclusive peacemaking must involve the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding efforts. In the face of persistent and complex violent conflicts and a rising backlash against women's rights, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) is committed to keeping the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda at the core of its work.

The Department mobilizes voluntary contributions from Member States through its Multi-Year Appeal (MYA), which calls for \$120 million for 2020 to 2022. A dedicated WPS funding window was created in 2021 to ensure the upholding of our commitments.

Why does it matter?

- ▶ Gender equality is the number one predictor of peace
- ▶ Inclusion and meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding processes is fundamental to the full realization of their human rights
- ▶ Peacemaking strategies that include women and civil society are more likely to generate ownership and last longer
- ▶ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development enshrines the participation of women in electoral and political process as a vital contributor to more stable and prosperous societies
- ▶ Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), triggers violence that - beyond having serious consequences for survivors - can undermine peace efforts

How does DPPA advance the WPS agenda?

- ▶ In 2021, DPPA will continue to devote at least 17 per cent of its annual MYA budget to recognize and help advance the crucial role of women in conflict prevention and sustaining peace.
- ▶ To further strengthen these efforts, a new funding window has been established to support projects entirely dedicated to promoting gender equality, women's empowerment and the WPS agenda.
- ▶ **In 2021, projects will be geared towards:**
 - ▶ Applying gender perspectives throughout political and conflict analysis as the basis for action
 - ▶ Promoting women's meaningful participation in all peacemaking, peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts
 - ▶ Encouraging women's participation in electoral and political processes. Preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence.

How does DPPA track and monitor its WPS commitments?

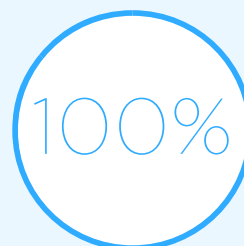
- ▶ Including WPS deliverables in senior leadership compacts
- ▶ Strengthening WPS performance indicators in the Results Framework accompanying the Strategic Plan 2020-2022
- ▶ Including mandatory gender marker for all projects
- ▶ Undertaking/conducting/gender budgeting to track resource allocation and the overall investments to advance WPS commitments
- ▶ Including a gender marker and a risk-management approach in all MYA projects

The impact of COVID-19 on our work demonstrated that new technologies and online platforms can offer possibilities for wider engagement of women and increase the legitimacy of peace processes by amplifying their voices. In **Yemen**, DPPA's Innovation Cell enabled AI- assisted virtual peace dialogues with real-time translation into different Yemeni dialects. It opened the door for many women groups and networks who would have otherwise been left out.

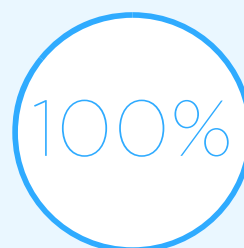
DPPA also launched a new web page (peacemaker.un.org/wps), dedicated to inclusive and gender-responsive mediation. Available on the UN Peacemaker website, the platform offers resources and guidance on gender and inclusive mediation and includes examples of the Department's work to promote the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

In addition, DPPA launched "Behind the Numbers" (<https://wps1325.org/>), an innovative initiative bringing unique insights about UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000).

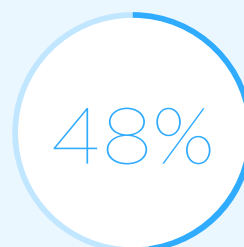
2020 Results



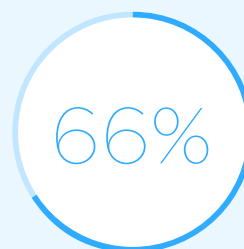
Electoral needs assessment reports included gender-specific analysis and recommendations



UN mediation support teams had women



Departmental analyses are gender sensitive



10 (out of 15) delegations of conflict parties had senior women members in mediation processes where the UN was a (co) lead



“As Sudanese women and girls we have been absent, this is the way we are raised. In a traditional society, we feel politics is not for us. I knew something needs to be done. So, I thought, I will try, I will try to break these taboos. As women, we deserve to be heard.”

Roaa Bakri Bilal, women's rights activist and political hopeful, North Khartoum

Credit: UNDP Sudan/Will Seal

This landmark text emphasized, for the first time in the Security Council's history, the differential impacts of conflict on women, the importance of their meaningful participation in peace and security processes, and the need for women's increased role in preventing and resolving conflict. With the aid of original United Nations data, interactive visualizations and unique interviews, the digital storytelling project explores how UNSCR 1325 and its sister resolutions making up the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda have been implemented and shaped policymaking.

In **Iraq**, DPPA is currently providing increased support to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) in strengthening women's political participation and promoting a gender-responsive electoral process. UNAMI initiated interactive virtual discussion with senior Iraqi policymakers, the Council of Representatives leadership, members of

the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) and civil society to discuss needs and challenges facing Iraqi women entering politics. UNAMI is also providing technical support to IHEC on women's inclusion, both as candidates and voters, in the parliamentary elections scheduled for October 2021.

In **Libya**, through engagement with Libyan stakeholders including multi-stakeholder women's consultations and dialogue meetings with mayors and youth, UNSMIL promoted increased participation of women in the subsequent meetings of the political track launched in October 2020. As the result of such efforts, the October meeting of the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) included 17 women out of 75 delegates, 23%, and they produced a list of recommendations, several of which were taken up by the LPDF, including the call for 30% women participation in leadership positions in the new interim government.



www.dppa.un.org



twitter.com/UNDPPA



dppa.medium.com