

Peace and Stabilisation Engagements in the Shadow of COVID-19

Annual Report 2020

The Whole-of-Government Steering Committee



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Front page: In 2020, Denmark provided support to procure COVID-19-related equipment enabling the Kenya Navy to maintain vital operational readiness in the fight against the terrorist group Al-Shabaab. Photo: Kenya Navy.

Peace and Stabilisation Engagements in the Shadow of COVID-19

For most of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic cast a shadow over the world and disrupted many of the Peace and Stabilisation Fund's (hereafter the Fund) engagements in countries and regions affected by conflict and fragility.

The pandemic has partly led to delays of planned projects, and in certain places it has been necessary to cancel projects entirely. Furthermore, many of the Danish advisors, who are deployed through the Fund to global hotspots to help local populations or governments transition towards peace and security, have been forced to work behind a computer screen or over the telephone. This situation has been far from optimal. Many of the Fund's engagements are built on positive and trusting relations that are easier to build and maintain through physical interaction.

The COVID-19 situation has consequently presented a considerable challenge that has forced us to adapt and think innovatively. Despite the challenges, however, we have achieved concrete, positive results in several areas, that you can read more about on page 7. You can also explore the Annual Report to read more about the Fund's many programmes and engagements, and our achievements in 2020.

About the Annual Report 2020

The Fund spends its annual budget of around DKK 500 million on multiannual, regional programmes, for example in Syria and Iraq or in the Sahel Region in West Africa. The Fund also supports a large number of diverse engagements throughout the world, typically through smaller grants. This includes support for the International Atomic Agency's work on preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and support for holding secure and fair local elections in Libya, among other projects. The Annual Report 2020 focuses on the Fund's large-scale, multiannual programmes.

The Fund is involved in a wide array of engagements that all seek to counter and prevent outbreaks of conflict and their potentially disastrous consequences for the affected community, country or region. The Fund works to secure more peaceful and stable societies in global hotspots. Finally, through its programmes and engagements, the Fund aims to mitigate the consequences of such conflicts on the security of Denmark.

We hope you enjoy reading the report.

The Whole-of-Government Steering Committee

THE FUND'S PROGRAMMES IN 2020

In 2020, the multiannual programmes focused on adapting to the effects of COVID-19. The majority of the planned mid-term reviews were postponed except in Afghanistan and Ukraine.

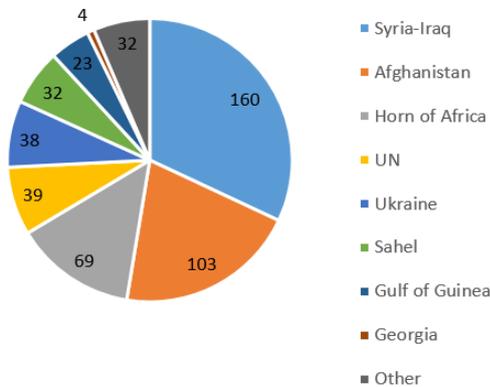


Figure 1: Distribution of the Fund's budget in 2020 (in DKK million). Approximately DKK 500 million in total.

Syria and Iraq: Stabilisation after ISIL's collapse

In Syria and Iraq, the regional programme maintained focus on supporting the immediate stabilisation needs, including clearing of mines and access to basic services such as water and sanitation.

In 2020, the programme's engagements were not only challenged by COVID-19 but also by military and political developments in Syria as well as the changing security situation in Iraq.

Afghanistan: Support to security forces

The programme for Afghanistan supports efforts to combat terrorism and irregular migration and to address fundamental causes of conflict.

The programme focused on building the capacity of Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior Affairs to ensure timely payment of Afghan police salaries. In addition, the programme supported efforts through NATO to strengthen the Afghan National Army. The programme also continued to train and educate the Afghan security forces to respect and uphold human rights.

The Horn of Africa: Engagement against extremism

The programme for the Horn of Africa has a regional focus on tackling violent extremism, cross-border organised crime on land and at sea as well as capacity building aimed at strengthening national and regional conflict management skills.

As a result of the Danish support for capacity building of the Ethiopian justice system, Ethiopia was removed from the EU list of countries with deficient legislative and regulatory regimes on anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing in 2020.

UN: Strengthening and reform of UN peacekeeping efforts

Denmark provided support to the UN Peacebuilding Fund (UNPBF) in 2020, which primarily focuses on conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacebuilding in countries and regions that have been, are, or could be affected by violent conflicts. During 2020, the UNPBF focused on alleviating the harmful impacts of COVID-19 in fragile countries, particularly in West Africa, and enhanced its focus on the link between conflict and human rights.

Through the UN pooled funds, which aim to facilitate the UN Peacekeeping Reform, Denmark supported efforts to eradicate improvised explosive devices (IEDs), to educate and train the peacekeeping forces, and to strengthen knowledge of the agenda on women, peace and security, among other initiatives.

The Sahel Region: Conflict resolution and stabilisation in an ever-deteriorating security situation

2020 saw the continued implementation of projects partly aimed at strengthening rule of law and improving stability and security in Sahel, with particular focus on the tristate Liptako-Gourma region (Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso).

Denmark supported the work on ensuring that the G5 Sahel Joint Force respects human rights, the work on resolving and preventing conflicts between local communities, and the work on

strengthening parliamentary oversight of the security sector.

These projects were carried out despite COVID-19 restrictions, a deteriorated security situation, and sanctions against Mali following the coup d'état in August 2020. The sanctions were lifted in October 2020 following the appointment of a civilian-led transition government.

Ukraine: Strengthening the Ukrainian armed forces and local security in the eastern region

The programme for Ukraine contributes partly to developing and strengthening the Ukrainian armed forces, and partly to supporting local security and cohesion in eastern Ukraine through the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme.

In 2020, Denmark deployed advisors and training teams to facilitate reform of the Ukrainian armed forces' education and training system. In partnership with Canadian and British units, the training teams provided instruction in basic military skills, among other skills. In 2020, Denmark also deployed military interpreters to Ukraine.

EXPECTATIONS FOR 2021

In 2021, the majority of the Fund's regional programmes will complete their current phases, and it will be decided whether the specific programmes will continue. For several of the programmes, mid-term reviews—which had been postponed from 2020 due to COVID-19—will be conducted during 2021.

COVID-19 has illustrated that the Fund must continue to be capable of allocating funds rapidly in order to deliver flexible and quick support in fragile contexts and conflict areas prioritized by the Danish government.



Image 1: Denmark contributes partly through EUCAP Sahel Mali to supporting the Malian security forces' efforts to restore state structures and civil administration in rural areas, particularly in central Mali. Photo: EUCAP Sahel Mali

The Gulf of Guinea: Strengthening maritime security

The programme for the Gulf of Guinea primarily focuses on Nigeria and Ghana, with the objective of strengthening maritime security.

In 2020, this was achieved by upgrading the capacity and ability of the local authorities to tackle and prosecute piracy and other maritime crime such as armed robbery against ships. The objective is to protect seafarers and maritime vessels, and thereby also to promote the blue economy, including Danish commercial interests.

NATO: Support to capacity building in Georgia

Denmark continued its support to NATO activities in Georgia in the form of two deployed advisors in 2020. One advisor has been deployed by the Danish Emergency Management Agency to support Georgian emergency management, whilst the other advisor has been deployed by the Danish Home Guard to help build a NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre (JTEC).

DEPLOYED CIVILIANS IN 2020

Besides the Fund's programme activities, Danish civilian experts have also deployed to crisis management and election observation missions financed through the Peace and Stabilisation Response (PSR). These deployments continued in 2020 where possible despite the restrictions caused by COVID-19.

49 long-term advisors

In 2020, PSR deployed or extended the deployment of 49 long-term advisors to crisis management missions in, for example, Iraq, Somalia, Mali, Niger, Ukraine and Georgia.

In Iraq, PSR contributes support to both the civilian EU Advisory Mission and the NATO Mission Iraq (NMI). Both missions focus on capacity building and provide advice on building sustainable, transparent, inclusive and effective national security structures.

In Somalia, the EU works on building the capacity of the maritime security institutions. The EUCAP Somalia Mission strives to develop a sustainable capacity to continue improving maritime security, including anti-piracy.

In Mali and Niger, the EU contributes to, among other things, the building and organising of the national security forces. The experts advise and train local authorities in for instance border control and HR as to enable them to recruit and train personnel.

23 election observers

PSR also deploys Danish election observers. These can be deployed as short or long-term observers through the EU or the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Significantly fewer Danish election observers were deployed through PSR due to COVID-19

during 2020. In total, 23 election observers were deployed to countries such as Peru, Ghana, Ukraine and Azerbaijan compared to 186 in 2019.

The observers are tasked with monitoring compliance with international guidelines on holding elections, which includes in-person visits of polling stations.

56 officers deployed from the Danish National Police

During 2020, the Danish National Police deployed 31 police officers as police advisors to various international missions and 25 police instructors to training and education assignments. The support to the EU crisis management and capacity building missions in Ukraine, Iraq, Somalia, Kosovo and Georgia have been given particular priority.

In the Horn of Africa, Danish police advisors have for example been tasked with collaborating with international organisations and local efforts to bolster the fight against organised crime and to build police capacity.

In Iraq, Danish police have continued cooperation with the UN partly by supporting the country's security sector reform work through a deployed advisor, and partly by supporting the provision of courses on leadership, investigation and analysis-based police work for Iraqi police officers.

At the end of 2020, the Danish National Police also deployed a police advisor to the Danish UN Mission in New York. The advisor will focus on strengthening the role of the police in connection with the UN's various peace operations.

IN FOCUS: SUCCESSES IN THE SHADOW OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In 2020, through its **cooperation with the Kenyan navy**, the Fund provided support to procurement of COVID-19-related equipment, which has helped the navy to maintain vital operational readiness for the efforts against the terrorist group *al-Shabaab*. Besides standard protection measures such as face masks and hand sanitiser, the Danish support contributed to enabling the navy's own hospital on the *Mtongwe* naval base to conduct tests and thereby reduce infection.

Through the *Syria Recovery Trust Fund*, the Fund supported **two projects in northern Syria** that focused on strengthening the capacity of the health sector to tackle COVID-19. In *Raqqa* – the former capital for ISIL – where the health system was destroyed by a decade of conflict, the project provided both medical equipment and training. In both *Raqqa* and *Deir ez-Zour*, where ISIL, Iranian militia and other destabilising actors remain active, the project supported specialised treatment centres for COVID-19 patients, including the availability of intensive care beds in both places. The projects also established isolation centres, and healthcare staff was provided with protective equipment and access to medicine, enabling them to continue their work despite conditions that were already challenging before the pandemic.

In **Iraq**, where the COVID-19 pandemic intensified existing political, economic, social and security-related tensions and put fragile and vulnerable local communities under additional pressure, local women, peace and youth groups contributed to reducing the tensions, partly by

distributing survival parcels comprised of food and hand soap to particularly vulnerable families across ethnic and sectarian divides.

Through the UN, the Fund also provided particular support to the establishment of **nine clinics in Iraq for treating COVID-19** as well as issuance of protective equipment and information. Lastly, the Fund maintained its support to Iraqi mining companies to keep them financially afloat during periods when they were unable to perform their important work due to restrictions on movement.

Furthermore, the **Danish National Police** has had to reorganise their activities, for example in Iraq, where they ran online courses in partnership with the UN, in which two Danish instructors delivered online training to Iraqi course participants gathered in Iraq in front of a large screen. The provision of online courses received positive feedback from the Iraqi course participants. During 2020, the Danish police ran a total of seven courses in, respectively, investigation and analysis-based police work for a total of 98 Iraqi course participants.



Image 2: Ward on newly created treatment centre in Raqqa. Photo: SRTF

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

SYRIA AND IRAQ

In 2020, the Fund's stabilisation programme for Syria and Iraq implemented projects with the overall aim of reducing regional instability, countering radicalisation and terrorism, tackling irregular migration, and reducing the number of people in protracted displacement. The engagements were conducted by various partners within three thematic areas: peacebuilding and justice; resilience and recovery; security and good governance.

At the end of 2020, Denmark deployed approximately 150 soldiers to Baghdad and assumed leadership of the NATO Mission Iraq (NMI). The mission is tasked with advising the Iraqi Ministry of Defence, the Office of the National Security Advisor, and Iraqi military academies and educational institutions. Through its leadership of NMI, Denmark supports an important part of the capacity building necessary for fighting violent extremist groups such as Islamic State (ISIL).

The stabilisation engagements in Syria and Iraq have continued to face challenging security and political conditions, to which the programme has continually sought to adapt. In Syria, the programme had to operate within a smaller geographical area as a consequence of military offensives in 2019 and 2020. In Iraq, the situation in areas previously occupied by ISIL was relatively calm in 2020, whereas the situation in Iraq in general was characterised by unrest, including large-scale popular protests and the security tensions in the region.

COVID-19 has generally had a major impact on the programme. First, a number of projects have been made more difficult to implement. This applies particularly to those requiring presence of international expertise in the field, including demining. Second, a number of partners restructured parts of their activities as of the pandemic. Third, the programme has adapted its efforts to include projects with direct relevance for COVID-19 response.



Image 3: Meeting in Baghdad with the Iraqi government on the international stabilisation efforts. Photo: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

SYRIA & IRAQ

Period: 2019-2021

Total budget: DKK 504.85 million

Main engagements: 7 in Iraq and 6 in Syria

Sustainable Development Goals: 2, 3, 5, 6, 16.



The engagements comprise:

- Support to the UN *Funding Facility for Stabilisation* (FFS) in Iraq: FFS helps, for example, internally displaced Iraqis to return to liberated areas by restoring water and electricity and rebuilding schools and hospitals. Approx. 186,000 internally displaced Iraqis returned to their region of origin between January and November 2020.
- Support to the *Syria Recovery Trust Fund* (SRTF): SRTF provides support towards rehabilitating critical infrastructure and services in areas outside the regime's control, thereby helping the population rebuild a more normal presence. It also supports the curbing of irregular migration. In 2020, the Danish-supported engagement helped, for example, to strengthen the COVID-19 response and to improve supply security for water and electricity.

- Support to civil society and efforts to fight impunity for crimes in Syria: The programme supports Syrian organisations in their efforts to engage in democratic dialogue and give a voice to marginalised groups in the political process. In addition, support is given to collecting documentation of committed war crimes and other human rights violations with the aim of holding those guilty accountable. In 2020, the Fund supported a total of three civil society organisations and the UN Special Envoy to Syria.
- Support to the UN work on strengthening the Iraqi justice system to investigate war crimes, including collection and proper storage of evidence material: The programme is implemented by the UN Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD). In 2020, UNITAD focused on mapping the need for education and training of Iraqi forensic pathologists and investigators.
- Support to demining efforts in Iraq: The programme supports both the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), which operates in liberated areas such as *Anbar, Salah Al Din* and *Ninewah*, and the US Department of State, which conducts mine clearance through the American company Tetra Tech. Restrictions on movement due to COVID-19 reduced mine action in 2020.

At the end of 2020, Denmark signed a new agreement with UNITAD for the period 2020-21. The new efforts are targeted specifically at facilitating investigation of crimes against women and children through UNITAD's *Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes and Crimes against Children Unit (SGBCCU)*. The crimes for which SGBCCU collects evidence, investigates and prosecutes include, among others, forced recruitment of child soldiers, sexual abuse, torture, and slavery.

AFGHANISTAN

Despite COVID-19, the programme continued in 2020. In 2020, the programme's third phase was extended by a year (to the end of 2021) and allocated a further DKK 100 million.

Despite the agreement between the USA and the Taliban on withdrawal of US military forces, the conflict continued in 2020 with fighting between the Taliban and other groups, including ISIL, in addition to attacks targeted at prominent individuals such as journalists and judges. The peace negotiations with the Taliban were initiated in September in Doha, and by the end of the year the USA had around 2,500 soldiers in Afghanistan.



Image 4: Afghanistan: The soldiers from National Support Element Team 13 stand ready for medal parade. Photo: Danish Armed Forces

AFGHANISTAN

Period: 2018-2021
 Total budget: DKK 408.25 million
 Main engagements: 5 (4 in 2021)
 Sustainable Development Goals: 5, 16 & 17



The engagements comprise:

- Support to Afghan police through the *Law and Order Trust Fund for Afghanistan* via a partnership with UNDP. The programme contributes to ensuring timely payment of salaries to police officers. In 2020, the system was improved to minimise the risk of misuse and corruption. For example, the vast majority of salaries are now paid via digital transfer. The capacity of the Ministry of

Interior Affairs to effectively manage the payroll and process salary payments at the correct time was also strengthened.

processes to the participants in the Doha peace negotiations.

- Support to the Afghan National Army through NATO's Afghan National Army Trust Fund. The support goes towards building the army's capacities and improving infrastructure such as training facilities and accommodation, as well as operation and maintenance of vehicles. In 2020, the Danish contribution also supported the maintenance of the army's radios for communication as well as leadership training of female officers.
- Support for the understanding and respect of human rights and international humanitarian law among the Afghan security forces. The support was provided via Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission, which in 2020 provided training in human rights and international humanitarian law to Afghan security forces, air force personnel, and cadets from the National Military Academy of Afghanistan.
- Support to peacebuilding at local and national level: Through support to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, UNAMA, women were trained in negotiating techniques to enable them to have a stronger voice in the peace process. In addition, UN experts provided guidance on negotiation

IN FOCUS: FIGHTING GLOBAL TERRORISM

The Peace and Stabilisation Fund adopts a multi-pronged approach to preventing and countering global terrorism. In 2020, the Fund both continued and launched a number of engagements in international hotspots, which, through previous preventive activities with civil society and other local stakeholders, focus on building resilience against radicalisation combined with strengthening the capacity of public authorities to deliver an effective counter response to individuals or groups planning or perpetrating terrorist attacks. All authority-focused activities aim to strengthen respect for the rule of law and human rights.

On the **multilateral track**, Denmark, together with the USA and France, supported in 2020 a regional training centre on Malta (*International Institute for Justice & the Rule of Law (IIJ)*). IIJ trains investigators, public prosecutors and judges from a number of countries on the African continent in how to investigate and prosecute terrorist cases. The programme supplements a contribution from other Danish stabilisation funds allocated to the *Global Community Engagement & Resilience Fund (GCERF)*, which, through civil society partnerships, supports early prevention of violent extremism in, for example, the Sahel Region and in the Horn of Africa.

In 2020, the Fund expanded its longstanding engagement in preventing and fighting terrorism in the **Horn of Africa** through a number of regional and bilateral partnerships. In order to promote cooperation and experience sharing across countries in East Africa, the Fund supported a newly established regional prevention centre in Djibouti. Similarly, the Fund allocated funding to regional strategy development in relation to countering the threat posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), such as roadside bombs, which is increasingly becoming the weapon of choice for the Somali terrorist organisation *al-Shabaab*.

In **Somalia**, the Fund continued the cooperation with the government on demobilisation and rehabilitation of *al-Shabaab* defectors, including training in screening and risk assessment of individuals who have laid down their weapons and expressed a wish to be rehabilitated and reintegrated into their local community of origin.



Image 5: Football tournament at the Serendi centre for al-Shabaab defectors in Mogadishu, Somalia. Photo: Adam Smith International

In parallel, a Danish police advisor has contributed to the UN work on procuring documentation of *al-Shabaab's* funding sources (charcoal, drugs, human trafficking, etc.) as well as smuggling of components for IEDs into the country. The programme has supported policy development in the UN Security Council on this issue.

In **Kenya**, the Fund finances a multiannual strategic partnership between the Centre for Prevention within the Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET) and the National Counter-Terrorism Centre. The support has positioned Denmark as a key partner for the Kenyan government in the work on developing and consolidating exit paths for extremists, including returning foreign fighters from primarily Somalia. The programme on experience sharing between the two public authorities will be continued by PET in the coming years and will be a key instrument in Kenya's efforts to counter the regional threat of terrorism.

In view of the increasing globalisation of the threat from ISIL, the Fund allocated funds at the end of 2020 to fight terrorism in **Southeast Asia**, which is one of the regions where ISIL is seeking to gain a foothold after losing control over physical territory in Syria and Iraq. In the coming years, the Fund will therefore provide support to a regional police training centre in Indonesia, *Jakarta Center for Law Enforcement Cooperation*, which runs courses in preventing and countering terrorism for the Indonesian police, anti-terrorism units, investigators and judges as well as law enforcement agencies from a number of Southeast Asian countries.

THE HORN OF AFRICA

The situation in the Horn of Africa remains characterised by instability, including national political crises in Ethiopia and Somalia. In Somalia, the political crisis between the federal president and the regional states culminated in the postponement of parliamentary and presidential elections, which has diverted focus from the general state-building process and from the fight against *al-Shabaab*.

In Ethiopia, the parliamentary elections were postponed until 2021 due to COVID-19, and the protracted political conflict between the federal government and the regional government in the northern *Tigray* region escalated sharply in November 2020 with subsequent wide-scale fighting. The conflict sent thousands of civilians fleeing to, for example, Sudan, and resulted in massive displacement of people internally in *Tigray*.

HORN OF AFRICA

Period: 2018-2022

Total budget: DKK 247million

Countries: Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya

Main engagements: 9

Sustainable Development Goals: 5, 16 & 17



The engagements comprise:

- Through the cooperation with the *Somalia Stability Fund*, Denmark has invested in mediation at local level and in the creation of local district councils that ensure contact between Somali citizens and the Somali state as well as in the delivery of services within healthcare, education and the justice system. The engagement focuses on establishing critical infrastructure in territories recaptured from *al-Shabaab* and supporting election processes at regional state level in which female representatives through a mentoring scheme and education have been elected and thereby participate actively in peace processes. This work is supplemented by the Danish support to the peacekeeping African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)'s stabilisation activities in re-
- captured territories in the country, which seeks to secure the support of local communities for AMISOM and the Somali government.
- Continuation of support to the Eastern African Standby Force (EASF) through deployment of both a civilian advisor and a police advisor. In 2020, the support prioritised training the personnel at EASF's operational headquarters to carry out integrated mission planning prior to a potential deployment. This will enable EASF to deploy the three components (military, police and civilians) in an integrated way in a concrete mission context, such as election observation, protection of civilians, and countering armed conflict or impending genocide.
- Through the *International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC)*, the programme has supported training on observation, planning and implementation of elections in the region. The support has also covered training in respect for human rights, protection of civilians, and mediation. These are skills that are predicted to be particularly important to have in 2021 in connection with elections in, for example, Uganda, Ethiopia and Somalia.
- In 2020, Denmark continued to work on enhancing the Kenyan navy's operational capacity, including its capacity to exercise its authority in Kenyan territorial waters as well as countering piracy and other maritime crime such as drug trafficking. COVID-19 presented major challenges for the Kenyan navy in 2020, which led Denmark to support the navy with a donation of COVID-19-related equipment such as personal protection equipment and test equipment.
- The programme supports the East African organisation *Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)*'s Center of Excellence in Djibouti, which was set up in 2019. The centre contributes to developing a regional

strategy for preventing and countering violent extremism in East Africa as well as carrying out capacity building and workshops targeted at civil society actors, among others.

- In partnership with the UK, the programme supports the Somali government’s work on demobilising and rehabilitating *al-Shabaab* defectors, which includes running a rehabilitation centre for defectors in Mogadishu. The number of defectors at the centre rose in 2020 following an intensified communication campaign partly among local communities and actively in *al-Shabaab*.
- In 2020, the Fund also approved financial support towards continuing the cooperation between PET and Kenya’s National Centre for Counter Terrorism on preventive efforts and de-radicalisation.
- Danish support to the UN (UNODC) and deployment of a Danish police advisor in 2020 facilitated work on mapping *al-Shabaab*’s funding sources, in particular from trafficking of, for example, charcoal and sugar via maritime routes, thereby documenting *al-Shabaab*’s ability to alter its funding sources. The documentation has been discussed in the UN Security Council, which has resulted in an expansion of UNODC’s mandate to include chemicals and arms as well as illegal, non-reported, and unregulated fishing.
- The programme also provides support to capacity building of Ethiopia’s Ministry of Justice and Special Prosecutor’s Office to counter money laundering and financing of terrorism. Over 300 public prosecutors, investigators and officials have received training through this programme. Expert support is also provided to undertake a revision of the country’s laws and guidelines to counter money laundering and terrorist financing. In 2020, the EU acknowledged Ethiopia’s progress by removing the country from the list of countries with deficiencies

in their legislative and regulatory regimes to counter money laundering and financing of terrorism.



Image 6: The Danish police advisor seconded to UNODC trains Somali maritime police on how to investigate crime scenes. Photo: EUCAP Somalia

THE UN PEACEBUILDING FUND

UN Secretary-General *Antonio Guterres* has made the UNPBF a key component in the reform of UN peace and security work, where emphasis is particularly placed on preventive efforts.

From 2018 to 2020, Denmark provided a total of DKK 100 million in support to the UNPBF. Although the UNPBF does not have a specific geographical focus, approx. 70 percent of investments are allocated to programmes in Africa, whilst approx. 40 percent go to gender equality and youth-focused programmes that primarily focus on girls and women.

UN PEACEBUILDING FUND

Period: 2018-2020

Total budget: DKK 100 million

Main engagements: 34 countries

Sustainable Development Goals: 5, 16 & 17

In 2020, COVID-19 made it necessary for the UNPBF to demonstrate considerable flexibility. By summer 2020, approximately half of the Fund’s current projects had made adjustments to adapt to the new conditions such as imposing restrictions on physical presence as well as devoting greater focus on mitigating tensions and countering stigmatisation, disinformation, and hateful speech.

THE FUND'S WORK ON NINE OF THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2020, the Danish Government initiated the work on updating the national action plan to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Peace and Stabilisation Fund programmes and projects contribute to Denmark's overall efforts to meet a number of the SDGs, with particular focus on activities promoting peace and sustainable development.



Main contributions to SDG 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions

The Fund primarily contributes to achieving SDG 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions. The vast majority of the Fund's regional programmes focus on capacity building: Through transfer of experiences, training, and advisory support, Denmark contributes to building strong institutions in places such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Ethiopia, the Gulf of Guinea, and Ukraine. Through regular contributions to the UN work on promoting peace and security, Denmark supports the UN's global and regional focus on conflict management, peacebuilding, and sustainable development.

Additional contributions

The Fund's activities also contribute to achieving SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 14 and 17 with its focus on strengthening resilience in fragile contexts and tackling conflict. On page 23, you can read more about how the Fund in 2020 focused on the work of implementing the women, peace, and security agenda that supports SDG 5 on gender equality. Through the *Syria Recovery Trust Fund*, Denmark supports the organisation's work in Syria to secure access to basic services such as cleaning drinking water and sanitation (SDG 6). You can read more on page 7 about how this programme played such a vital role in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Image 7: In 2020, COVID-19 made it necessary for the UN-PBF to demonstrate considerable flexibility in its implementation of existing and new programmes. This led to an increasing focus on protecting and promoting human rights, particularly in West Africa. Photo: UNPBF

COVID-19 also led to an increasing focus on human rights abuses in connection with the declaration of a state of emergency in a number of West African countries, in particular. In Gambia, the UNPBF provided support to the establishment and capacity building of the National Human Rights Commission, which in connection with COVID-19 increased its training of the police in rights protection. In Guinea, 35 representatives of local human rights groups were given training in order to strengthen the capacity to monitor the conduct of security forces and document human rights abuses. In Togo, the UNPBF also supported the training of 15 human rights defenders in how to monitor human rights abuses, and it financed relevant technological instruments for collecting and sharing information. The project quickly showed results, and by the summer of 2020 approx. 30 cases had been reported.

UN POOLED FUNDS

The UN pooled funds support activities that contribute to reforming and strengthening the UN's peacekeeping activities. The pooled funds focus on five thematic priority areas:

- 1) Use of technology in UN peace operations
- 2) Education and training of the peacekeeping forces

- 3) Improved use of intelligence in UN peace operations
- 4) Eradication of IEDs
- 5) Promotion of the agenda on women, peace, and security

Although all thematic priority areas were carried forward to 2020, the specific engagements needed to be adapted and regularly adjusted due to COVID-19.

UN POOLED FUNDS

Period: 2019-2021

Total budget: DKK 16 million

Main engagements: 5

Sustainable Development Goals: 5, 16

In 2020, the engagements comprised:

- Support to the *Peace Operations Training Institute* in developing an e-learning platform with courses on, for example, women, peace and security. In collaboration with UN Women, the Danish support makes the courses widely accessible.
- Support for the development of a project that focuses on gender aspects of intelligence work in UN peace operations. The project will be implemented in 2021 and will partly examine how gender aspects can be integrated more effectively in the intelligence work in peace operations in general, and partly how the intelligence work in the operations can better support protection of women and children in mission areas.
- Support to countering the threat posed by IEDs. In 2020, Denmark provided support to several programmes: A mobile IED expert training team in Uganda; UNMAS activities to clear improvised mines in Afghanistan; UNODC's efforts in Yemen to strengthen the ability of the Yemeni Coastguard to identify and confiscate components for making IEDs being smuggled into the country.

DANISH FOCUS ON UN VETERANS

In 2020, Denmark gave a commitment to the UN to support a project that aimed to map how widespread post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) is among veterans of UN missions throughout the world. Besides financial support from the Fund, Denmark also makes expertise available from the Veterans Centre for the study, which is to conclude with a number of recommendations to the UN on further work needed to develop a modern and adequate veterans' policy. The project will continue in 2021-22.

UKRAINE

In 2020, COVID-19 caused a number of cancellations of deployment of training teams as well as a temporary recall of individual advisors to Denmark. Nonetheless, the Danish contribution continued to support the process of reforming the Ukrainian armed forces. In autumn 2020, it proved possible to conduct the planned mid-term review of the programme with on-site visits to a number of cooperation partners in Ukraine.

UKRAINE

Period: 2018-2021

Total budget: DKK 131.9 million

Main engagements: 2

Sustainable Development Goals: 16



- Support to citizen involvement and citizen service through 11 advice centres for legal aid and mental health assistance as well as 34 citizen groups and 29 youth councils that advise local authorities.
- Development of online platforms for public services and local democracy.
- Allocation of grants to 73 NGOs in eastern Ukraine working with security, social cohesion, and COVID-19 response for vulnerable groups.
- Support to the training and education of Ukrainian soldiers and instructors. This is carried out through deployment of military advisors to military institutions, deployment of training teams for education and training of military units in the framework of the British training mission Operation ORBITAL, and deployment of linguistic officers to the Canadian training mission Operation UNIFIER.
- Support to the ongoing reform of the Ukrainian armed forces in order to accommodate Ukraine's wish to implement NATO procedures and standards, including through deployment of advisors to different relevant institutions, and support to education and training reform at tactical, operational and strategic level.

The engagements comprise:

- Support to the UNDP's *Recovery and Peacebuilding* programme with a focus on strengthening security, cohesion, decentralisation, and gender equality. This is achieved by fostering dialogue and cooperation between citizens, civil society and public authorities in the two regions of Luhansk and Donetsk, which are affected by the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

IN FOCUS: PEACE AND STABILISATION ENGAGEMENTS IN UKRAINE

Badge of Honour to Danish advisor at the National Army Academy

In 2020, Denmark's efforts at the Ukrainian *National Army Academy* (NAA) were particularly appreciated. NAA is equivalent to the Royal Danish Defence College and trains young cadets to become officers. In 2020, NAA was recognised as the fastest military training institution in Ukraine to approach NATO education and training principles and standards. The academy has been highlighted as an example to follow for other Ukrainian education and training institutions. The academy hugely values the international support, which is vital to its efforts to attain NATO standards.

As part of the Danish support to Ukraine within the framework of the Fund, the Danish armed forces had an advisor deployed at the academy in 2020. The advisor has helped to modernise the in-service training programme for officers in line with NATO standards and provided greatly appreciated help with the language training component. On 9 December 2020, the advisor was awarded the Ukrainian Defence Minister's *Badge of Honour* for his contributions at the academy.



Image 8: The advisor is awarded the Ukrainian Badge of Honour.
Photo: National Army Academy

Digital solutions in a war and conflict zone

COVID-19 has intensified the need for digital solutions. However, in eastern Ukraine new e-solutions have also contributed to solving more fundamental problems, such as access to public services and participation in decision-making processes.



Image 9: Hack For Locals 1.0 in the town of Khar'kiv. Here, local citizens, NGOs and companies meet to find digital solutions to everyday problems in eastern Ukraine. Photo: UNDP

In order to strengthen security, social cohesion and good governance, the Fund's support to the UNDP's *Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme* has for a long time focused on the use of digital tools to facilitate greater citizen involvement. Local 'hackathons' in 2019 and 2020 gave citizens and companies an opportunity to present ideas for digital solutions that can make life better and easier in eastern Ukraine. The winners have been given help with product development, which has so far resulted in, for example, the creation of the app *Smart Misto*, which combines communication with public authorities, participation in local decision-making processes, and information about local events.

Kateryna Zhemchuhova is 33 years old and an internally displaced person from the Donetsk area. She says that *Smart Misto* has helped her family to get the public authority support she needed during COVID-19: "I have a 4-year-old son, and last year we had to flee from Donetsk city (in the rebel-controlled area). When we had to go into Corona quarantine, we lacked our documents to apply for social support, but we weren't able to go back and get them. Using *Smart Misto*, I was able to access everything from home".

In eastern Ukraine, the local involvement and contact with public authorities is less than in the rest of the country. Studies show that this is primarily because people in the conflict area have less time and fewer resources to participate in the often bureaucratic processes. In this situation, digital solutions make great sense, and coupled with Ukraine's strong IT sector, there are many opportunities to develop this agenda further.

SAHEL

As a result of the military coup d'état in August 2020 in Mali, the activities of the programme targeted at Mali's security and defence forces were suspended. They were resumed in October after the West African regional political and economic union, ECOWAS, had lifted the sanctions against Mali, which had been adopted in response to the coup. During 2020, the programme partners adapted the respective projects to this suspension of specific activities, COVID-19, and the unstable security situation, including an increasing threat from terrorist groups with ties to *al-Qaida* and ISIL.

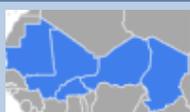
SAHEL

Period: 2018-2021

Total budget: DKK 166.5 million, of which DKK 45 million contributed by Norway

Countries: Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mauritania, Chad, with particular focus on the border areas between Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger

Main engagements: 6



The engagements comprise:

- Support to the organisations *Search For Common Ground* (SFCG) and *Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue* (CHD), which operate in the border area between Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. CHD focuses primarily on building the capacity of local communities to tackle local conflicts themselves, such as access to natural resources. In 2020, CHD continued its efforts to develop networks of local mediators who, through conflict mediation activities, contributed to resolving more than 35 new conflicts between local communities.

SFCG focuses on building the capacity of local defence and security forces to engage and cooperate with the local population on, for instance, border control and various security-related initiatives. The objective is to foster greater trust as well as counter extremism and violent conflict. In 2020, SFCG trained journalists among others in

conflict-sensitive communication and launched a youth-led radio programme "*Génération Sabel*", which seeks to promote peaceful co-existence across the borders between Niger and Mali.

- Support to the work with civil society, parliamentarians and the security sector in the Sahel countries in order to foster greater democratic oversight of the security sector and exchange of experience between Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. The programme is implemented by the *Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance* (DCAF). In 2020, DCAF for instance implemented initiatives to support parties (e.g. parliamentarians and representatives of civil society) that ensure external monitoring of state security institutions with the aim of strengthening public trust in these institutions.
- Support to UNODC to strengthen efforts to counter violent extremism, organised crime, and trafficking of humans, arms and drugs. This support is provided partly through training of police and prosecutors with the aim of improving communication and exchange of information. In 2020, the programme focused on, among other initiatives, a regional mechanism for police cooperation that aims to facilitate exchange of information between G5 countries (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mauritania and Chad). In 2020, UNODC also strengthened the capacity of investigators and prosecutors to process cases of corruption and promote cooperation between, for example, anti-corruption authorities and prosecution authorities.
- Support to the regional G5 Sahel Joint Force with a focus on 1) developing tools and methods for ensuring the Force respects human rights and for strengthening trust between soldiers and the local community, and 2) providing support to the Force in the form of security equipment. In 2020, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) con-

tinued its investigations and documentation of allegations of incidents where the G5 Sahel Joint Force has harmed civilians, for example as a result of arbitrary arrests, detentions, and maltreatment. As a means of protection, the local communities in the affected areas have also had early warning mechanisms introduced.



Image 10: From the Royal Danish Defence College's conference at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana. Photo: Royal Danish Defence College

- Support to the Malian National Guard through training, education and procurement of communications equipment. In 2020, the Danish Defence and the Danish Home Guard continued to train the Malian National Guard's anti-terrorism unit. Focus was partly on developing patrol and operational skills as well as ensuring greater involvement of Malian assistant instructors in the training in order to consolidate what was learnt during the day-to-day training of the unit. Similarly, the defence-related engagements comprise deployment of a Danish military advisor from the Danish Armed Forces to Mali as well as the procurement of equipment to counter IEDs (C-IEDs) for the regional G5 Sahel Joint Force.

GULF OF GUINEA

In 2020, the peace and stabilisation programme for the Gulf of Guinea was also affected by COVID-19 related challenges leading to postponement and cancellation of a number of activities. The programme continued nonetheless, with, for example, a maritime training course on security culture and regional cooperation for 55 people from Ghana and Benin. An online, regional symposium on maritime security activities was also held, as well as a technical seminar for representatives of regional institutions and national authorities in West Africa.

In May 2020, 22 video-conferencing devices were donated to partners in Ghana and Nigeria. The donation ensured that the forward momentum of the Danish-supported capacity building efforts in Ghana and Nigeria could continue despite the many cancelled physical activities.

GULF OF GUINEA

Period: 2019-2021

Total budget: DKK 46 million

Countries: Ghana, Nigeria, and West Africa

Main engagements: 4

Sustainable Development Goals: 14, 16 & 17



The engagements comprise:

- Deployment of a regional maritime military advisor to the Danish embassy in Abuja, Nigeria. The advisor ensures coordination between Danish and international partners and the leadership level at the Nigerian and Ghanaian naval headquarters on cooperation and training of Special Forces.
- Support to competence building through the capacity building exercise *OBANGAME EXPRESS* with units from Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, and Togo. In 2020, the activity was partially cancelled due to COVID-19. Part of the training was, however, delivered, including training in operational planning, the laws of war, tactical movement, boarding of ships, collection of evidence, and first aid.



Image 11: From the Royal Danish Defence College's conference at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana. Photo: Royal Danish Defence College

- The Royal Danish Defence College and the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) held a conference on challenges and opportunities for international cooperation on maritime safety in West Africa. The conference showed that there are good opportunities for trust-building and cooperation, and it identified the immediate obstacles to this, including inadequate political will to implement, for example, maritime legislation in the coastal states, which the pirates utilise.



Image 12: Course participants on a maritime safety course in Takoradi, Ghana, at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in August. Photo: Denmark's Embassy in Ghana

- Support to activities in Ghana and Nigeria that aim to strengthen legislation, capacity building of judges, implementation of test court cases on maritime crime, and training of maritime units in safeguarding evidence in collaboration with UNODC.
- Support to develop and implement maritime safety strategies in Ghana and Nigeria aimed at strengthening national frameworks and countering maritime crime in the Gulf of Guinea.
- Support to research at the Centre for Military Studies, University of Copenhagen, and UNODC within the underlying structures, driving forces and operational patterns characterising piracy in West Africa with a specific focus on Nigeria. The research contributes to current and future activities.
- Support to research, regional dialogue, and training at KAIPTC, including two training courses in Ghana and Benin, by maritime experts in maritime safety culture as well as inter-ministerial and bilateral cooperation in the established maritime safety structure in the region.



Image 13: Delivery of video-conferencing equipment in Ghana. Photo: Denmark's Embassy in Ghana

GEORGIA

In 2020, Denmark deployed two advisors to Georgia. One advisor was deployed by the Danish Home Guard to the NATO-Georgia Joint Training and Evaluation Centre (JTEC), while the other advisor was deployed by the Danish Emergency Management Agency to head the Danish crisis management project in the country.

In 2020, the advisor deployed by the Danish Home Guard continued the work on building up JTEC. The focus remained on strengthening Georgia's own capacity to conduct military field exercises at the battalion level and computer-assisted command-post exercises at the brigade level and above. The advisor also contributed to establishing a joint IT platform, which during the COVID-19 pandemic made it possible to hold online meetings.

The advisor deployed by the Danish Emergency Management Agency continued the support to enhance the capacity of the Georgian crisis management system, which in 2020 was seriously challenged by COVID-19 as several of the Georgian cooperation partners participated in the national COVID-19 response and therefore were unable to participate in activities related to the capacity enhancement. In 2020, a number of seminars at strategic level were planned and prepared.

The advisor also worked on preparing a training programme for the National Guard forces to supplement the day-to-day preparedness and response capability under the Emergency Management Services.



Image 14: The two deployed Danish advisors in Georgia in front of a Danish-donated conference room in JTEC. Photo: Danish Home Guard Command

GEORGIA

Period: 2019-2021

Total budget: DKK 8,081 million

Main engagements: 2

Sustainable Development Goals: 16



IN FOCUS: RENEWED DANISH EFFORTS FOR WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY

2020 marked the **20th anniversary of the UN Security Council's adoption of landmark resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security**. Resolution 1325 was the first thematic resolution to recognise that men and women are affected differently by crises and conflict, and that women have the right to participate meaningfully in the work on prevention of conflict, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding on equal terms with men. Since 2000, the Security Council has adopted an additional nine resolutions which together constitute the women, peace and security agenda.

In Denmark, the 20th anniversary of Resolution 1325 was marked by the adoption of a new national action plan which in the period up to 2024 raises the political ambition level for this agenda. The plan focuses on how Denmark as a security policy actor can advance the agenda and achieve positive outcomes on how women's meaningful participation in the work with peace and security can be strengthened, and on how sexual and gender-based conflict-related violence can be better tackled and victims helped back on their feet.

Examples of how the Fund seeks to advance the women, peace and security agenda:

- In **Iraq**, Denmark earmarked its new financial support to the UN's investigative team, UNITAD, for the period 2020-21 to the organisation's work that primarily investigates ISIL's crimes against women and children. These crimes will therefore be subject to particular focus and contribute to bringing ISIL to account for their systematic crimes against women.
- In 2020, through the Peace and Stabilisation Response, Denmark deployed an advisor on women, peace and security to NMI in **Iraq**, over which Denmark assumed command in November. The advisor's job is to support the realisation of Iraq's own ambitions regarding women, peace and security.
- Through the support to the **UN Peacebuilding Fund**, Denmark contributed to numerous projects focusing on women and gender. Also in 2020, the UN pooled funds earmarked funding to improve global access to an online training course on the importance of the women, peace, and security agenda.
- Education on how to integrate gender perspectives in military operations is not part of the in-service education and training of officers at the National Defence University (NDU) in **Ukraine**. In 2021, Denmark's deployed military advisor at NDU will teach lessons on the subject. Work is also being done to establish a designated *gender centre* at NDU.

Read Denmark's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2020-2024 [here](#)

The anniversary therefore also provided the Fund with an occasion to focus on how the Fund with its whole-of-government engagements in the world's hotspots could advance the women, peace, and security agenda and support the implementation of the new action plan.

Going forward, the Fund will increasingly focus on integrating the agenda in the planning of new programmes and strengthen engagements that align with the priorities set out in the new Danish action plan.



Image 15: Instruction session on gender perspectives in military operations

THE FUND IN FIGURES

The Peace and Stabilisation Fund is an inter-ministerial fund that was created in 2010 with the aim of ensuring integration of Danish peace and stabilisation engagements at the intersection between security and development. The Fund's activities are financed by both development funding (ODA) and non-development funding (non-ODA) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and non-development funding from the Danish Ministry of Defence.

In the implementation of the engagements financed by the Fund, professional expertise can be drawn from across government departments and relevant authorities such as the Danish Defence, the Danish Home Guard, the Danish Emergency Management Agency, and the Danish National Police. This makes the Fund a multipurpose instrument, and the engagements can be combined for a specific task in a specific context.

In 2020, the Fund's budget totalled DKK 514.1 million, which was DKK 13.9 million more than in 2019. Of the DKK 514.1 million, approx. 80 per cent comprised development funds provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

The Fund's resources in 2020		
Financial source ¹	Frame	Spent
MFA (ODA)	408.7	408.2
MFA (non-ODA)	11.2	11.2
MoD (non-ODA)	94.2	80.4
Total	514.1	499.8

Figure 2: The Fund's resources in 2020 (DKK million)²

In 2021, the Peace and Stabilisation Fund will have a total budget frame of DKK 513.8 million, of which DKK 102.5 million will come from the Danish Ministry of Defence, whilst the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will contribute DKK 400 million in ODA as well as DKK 11.3 million in non-ODA.



Image 16: The 20th anniversary of UN Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security was also celebrated in Iraq. Through the Peace and Stabilisation Fund, Denmark supports Iraq's efforts to advance the agenda. Photo: NMI Public Affairs

¹ MFA (ODA) is commitment-based, whilst the two other sources of funding are disbursement-based.

² In connection with the Danish Government's COVID-19 'Aid Package 2', the Fund's programme for the Horn of Africa was allocated special additional funding of DKK 10 million in 2020. As the adopted commitments were slightly lower than originally planned, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' ODA budget frame totalled DKK 408.7 million. In 2021, this budget frame will revert to the standard total of DKK 400 million.