DIVISION FOR PEACE
RESULTS REPORT
THE YEAR OF CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
INNOVATING CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PEACE IN THE FACE OF COVID-19
2020
Since 1963, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has been working on addressing capacity-related gaps of individuals and institutions to support global progress towards a more sustainable, peaceful and prosperous world. Within the framework of UNITAR, the Division for Peace contributes to the accelerated achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 of Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by designing customised learning solutions, carefully crafted for communities facing or emerging from conflict.

At the core of our success is a unique methodology that allows for the creation of powerful and inspiring spaces for high-quality learning and collaboration, promotes participation, dialogue, local ownership and multiplication of knowledge for sustainable impact and behavioural change.

A child visits an artistic exhibition about peacebuilding in his community, organised as part of the UNITAR's project “Youth-Led Peace and Reconciliation in Colombia”, December 2020. Learn more about the project here.
MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development places the creation of peaceful and just societies on top of our global priorities. Recognizing that there is no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development, UNITAR has been contributing its capacity-building expertise to providing individuals, institutions and communities working or living in fragile and conflict-affected contexts with sound knowledge and skills needed to establish peace, promote justice and create strong institutions.

2020 has clearly been a special year for all of us as the global health crisis and related impacts have altered, potentially irreversibly, the mode of and the approach behind our capacity-building activities. Yet, as the present report demonstrates, UNITAR Division for Peace has managed to maintain a remarkably high level of performance, regardless of the numerous challenges.

With over 27,000 beneficiaries, 321 events, and roughly two-thirds of activities having been delivered through e-learning tools, the Division’s team has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to sustainable development through the consolidation of peace. These achievements and the fact that we have been able to continue meeting the needs of our beneficiaries result from a combination of the dedicated work of the team, the effective support of our partners, donors and collaborators and the competent guidance on behalf of the Advisory Board.

The strategic expansion of the Division’s country presence and thematic areas is particularly noteworthy. The Division was among the first within the UNITAR family to be represented in the new office in Bonn, Germany, which brings vast opportunities for forging new partnerships and for expanding and deepening UNITAR’s collaboration with a broad range of German and European institutions. Likewise, the new project office in Bamako, Mali, is expected to strengthen our cooperation with partners in Mali and the broader G5 Sahel region. These developments are only the first steps in the direction of bringing our operations closer to those whom we serve and who support our work, which is especially important in light of the ongoing travel restrictions.

It is hard to underestimate the amount of work done to move the majority of our activities online without compromising on the quality and customisation of training. Thus, a number of new and ongoing projects in the areas of pre-deployment training, community peacebuilding, peacemaking and conflict prevention, disarmament, mediation and youth and women empowerment have benefited from the implementation of innovative digital and blended formats and carefully adjusted methodologies.

Looking for creative approaches clearly does not stop here. As the COVID-19 related restrictions continue to impact the delivery of our training, there is need to leverage cutting-edge technologies to further advance and fine-tune our approach and leave no one behind in this era of digitalization and remaining digital divides.

Our joint continuous commitment and innovation are what will eventually enable the Division, and UNITAR in general, to make a sustainable and significant contribution towards the achievement of our Sustainable Development, and Goal 16, in particular.

Nikhil Seth
UN Assistant Secretary-General
UNITAR Executive Director
Working for peace means working on and in crisis situations. Implementing capacity-building projects in the areas characterized by conflict, instability, fragility, and weak institutions is the everyday reality for us and many of our local partners. Last year, for the first time in life for the majority of us, we witnessed an unprecedented situation where crisis became the reality for everyone at once, enabling the entirety of the world population to experience vulnerability, loss of confidence and, sometimes, hope.

While taking the central stage, the COVID-19 health crisis did not reduce or eliminate the hardship of those who have already been living in crisis zones due to persistent conflicts or instability, and in many cases – it was only exacerbated by the pandemic. The virus unveiled and highlighted the vast inequalities and gaps that have already been present but became much more pronounced, including those related to capabilities. At the same time, it triggered the search for new solutions and approaches as well as attention to those innovative and ambitious ideas that had not been prioritised before and, thus, remained dormant.

At the Division for Peace, we are confident that there are as many opportunities as one can notice, and that these can not only be seized, but also created, if needed. After finding a significant part of our activities in the field paralysed at the beginning of the crisis, we have managed to transfer many of them – wherever appropriate and possible – to the online space and adapt the rest, to eventually achieve the level of implementation and the number of beneficiaries – even higher than it was before. Because supporting and promoting peace cannot be suspended under any circumstances.

Working for peace means working together. Prioritising sustainability of our training programmes through local participation and ownership has always been one of the core principles of our work. During these challenging times, having a strong network of dedicated local partners and being close to those whom we serve – through the opening of new project offices, among else – became key to our success. We are thankful to all our partners and collaborators for their strength and continuous commitment to our common goals.

Working for peace means working for results. In this results report, the first of its kind, in addition to objective indicators like numbers and geographical reach, you will hear from those with whom we work and whom we support – our beneficiaries. The impact of our activities on the lives and well-being of people reflected in the featured testimonials is our biggest reward and our biggest motivation to move forward.

As we emerge from the universal crisis, let us not forget that there is still a lot to be done to ensure that stability and peaceful development are the reality for everyone. And let us work together to achieve this reality sooner than one can imagine.

Evariste Karambizi
Director, Division for Peace
UNITAR
RESULTS-BASED APPROACH TO CAPACITY BUILDING

2020: Not the time to stop, but the time to adjust and grow

27,538 INDIVIDUALS TRAINED

PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING
5,193 MILITARY
784 POLICE
45 MILITARY

EDUCATION
13,447 ONLINE COURSE PARTICIPANTS AND POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

OTHER THEMATIC AREAS
8,069 INDIVIDUALS TRAINED IN

- Youth empowerment
- Social inclusion in conflict-affected contexts
- Peacemaking and conflict prevention
- Sustainable energy
- Gender
- Conflict analysis
- Rule of law
- Human rights
- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

25 ONLINE COURSES
176 COUNTRIES
8 PUBLICATIONS

4 MASTER DEGREES
320 TRAINING EVENTS
228 ONLINE EVENTS

MORE THAN DOUBLE OUR 2019 REACH
INCREASED PROPORTION OF WOMEN BENEFICIARIES

OUR 2020 GROWTH
25% 40%
GLOBAL REACH FOR UNIVERSAL PEACE

Click on each icon to learn about our geographical scope.

- Our Offices
- Peacemaking and Conflict Prevention
- Pre-Deployment Training and Advisory
- Youth and Women Empowerment
- Recovery and Resilience
- Youth-led Peace and Reconciliation in Colombia
- Online Learning and Education
- Sustainable Energy
- Rule of Law
- Cross-cutting
OUR THEMATIC AREAS

- Peacemaking and Conflict Prevention
- Pre-Deployment Training and Advisory
- Youth and Women Empowerment
- Recovery and Resilience
- Youth-Led Peace and Reconciliation in Colombia
- Online Learning and Education
- Sustainable Energy
- Rule of Law
PEACEMAKING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

175 INDIVIDUALS TRAINED
Negotiating for peace, and engaging in dialogue to address challenges is a top priority for Africa – a continent that has made a commitment to “Silencing the Guns” and building sustainable peace. With recent instability observed in some of the French-speaking regions and countries of the continent, the UNITAR Training Programme in Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking for French-speaking Africa, with a special focus on Central Africa, provided advanced training in conflict analysis, prevention and resolution to thirty-one French-speaking mid and senior-level female and male officials from Offices of the President, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, staff from the African Union, sub-regional organisations, from UN and AU peace missions across the continent and from civil society. In line with the Division for Peace’s commitment to SDG 5 and advancing opportunities and encouraging participation for women and girls, women comprised 52% of the senior and mid-level officials trained.

The ability to listen is key in mediation be it between individuals, groups of individuals, organisations or governments. That was the first lesson I learnt during my training in Addis. During my country’s tenure at the Security Council, I was constantly involved in all sorts of negotiations, involving actors with vested national interests, sometimes almost irreconcilable. I had recourse to the essential quality in negotiating resolutions, press statements and even the scheduling of meetings of monthly programmes. Also, identifying and mapping various and conflicting interests of different parties are key as we were formulating solutions that were acceptable to all parties.

As Gender Focal person of the mission, I regularly apply the techniques towards inclusive peace processes: by enhancing women’s participation in the process design, mediation, facilitation and conflict handling stages. I have localised these techniques and applied to the Somali cultural and religious system. As a mediation officer, I regularly facilitate reconciliation workshops and conferences for grassroots and opposing national political figures. Therefore, I always apply the principles of reconciliation strategies presented in the Peacemaking in Africa programme.

National Political Affairs Officer, UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)

The Fellowship Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy is an intensive two-week programme that each year invites the nomination of senior and middle level professional staff from the substantive departments, peace missions and agencies of the United Nations, staff from regional and sub-regional organisations and diplomatic staff from foreign ministries around the world. In 2020, blended online methodologies were employed to maintain the interactive nature of the Fellowship Programme bringing together a unique group of 41 key actors including three ambassadors, regional organisation and UN peace mission staff working in complex conflict situations.

SEMINAR FOR SPECIAL AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND ENVOYS OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

The annual SRSG Seminar is a flagship UNITAR project that focuses on facilitating the highest-level exchange among senior Headquarters officials and the leaders of UN peace missions with the purpose of enhancing practice. Due to the pandemic, the 16th edition of the Seminar was conducted virtually with the participation of the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, Chef de Cabinet and 35 S/RSGs and Heads of Mission around the world. To contribute to continued knowledge and experience sharing among these senior UN officials, UNITAR has also initiated the creation of a knowledge platform for current and newly-appointed SRSG and SESGs.

FELLLOWSHIP PROGRAMME IN PEACEMAKING AND PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

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STRENGTHENING KEY PEACEMAKING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION CAPACITIES IN FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA

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Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations
PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING
AND ADVISORY

6,022 Individuals trained

5,193 MILITARY
784 POLICE
45 MEDICS
REINFORCEMENT OF THE MULTINATIONAL JOINT TASK FORCE (MNJTF) INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

The project aims to pre-empt the aggravating impact of armed conflict on the vulnerable populations and supporting the stabilisation of the Lake Chad basin, by enhancing the operational and tactical planning capacities of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF). To achieve this, the project involves reinforcing information management structures and strategic information sharing mechanisms of MNJTF and promoting cooperation within MNJTF contributing countries, which – in turn - plays a significant role in early warning and conflict prevention.

TOWARDS SHATTERING THE GLASS LABYRINTH OF FEMALE LEADERSHIP IN NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES

This project supports international, national and local efforts aimed at advancing gender equality and women’s meaningful participation in national security forces and peace operations across the African continent – including in leadership positions. It does so by (1) contributing to the existing evidence and knowledge of the obstacles to women’s meaningful participation to serve as a basis for related policymaking and further remedial action, and by (2) fostering the creation of a conducive environment for women’s participation and leadership within national security forces and peace operations. The initiative was piloted in Burkina Faso, to be later scaled up to a large number of T/PCCs.

SUPPORT TO GLOBAL PEACE OPERATIONS INITIATIVE (GPOI) TROOP CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING

This flagship UNITAR project focuses on improving the performance of United Nations peace operations, by strengthening the capacities of UN peacekeepers (women and men) to operate securely in increasingly complex and high-risk environments. It does this by: (i) enhancing peacekeeping training capacities of Troop-Contributing Countries (TCCs) through training and mentoring programmes; (ii) advancing a shared understanding among commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the basic principles, guidelines and policies, which improves the effectiveness and coherence of peace operations. In 2020, seven TCCs benefited from the training – Rwanda, Chad, Benin, Togo, Niger, Guinea, and Burkina Faso – with over 3,550 military personnel trained prior to their deployment to the most high-risk peacekeeping missions on the African continent.

SUPPORT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PSYCHIATRIC UNIT OF THE MALIAN ARMED FORCES (FAMA)

The project contributes to improving the safety and security of members of the Malian Armed Forces, by strengthening the capabilities of specialised medical personnel to address the symptoms and consequences of “combat stress reactions” (CSR) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Thereby, the project fosters the establishment of a supporting “work culture” that is positively responsive to the challenges faced by personnel working in the field – in alignment with the security sector reform strategy adopted by Mali in 2017, as well as with 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3 – Target 3.4).

STRENGTHENING RESPONSE CAPACITIES OF MEDICAL AND PARA-MEDICAL PERSONNEL DEPLOYED TO UN PEACE OPERATIONS

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the improved performance of peace operations in Mali and beyond, by strengthening the capacities of Chadian peacekeepers to operate securely in dangerous environments. By promoting adherence to international standards and providing adequate equipment, the project directly responds to the recommendations of the 2017 Report on “Improving Security of United Nations Peacekeepers”, specifically under the following four dimensions: (i) changing mindsets; (ii) improving capacity; (iii) achieving a threat-sensitive mission footprint that is coherent with mission mandates and limits the exposure of the mission to threats; and (iv) enhancing accountability.

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF MEMBERS OF CHADIAN ARMED FORCES IN THE AREAS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

UNITAR launched a new project that strengthens the knowledge, skills and behaviours of medical and para-medical personnel to enable them to effectively address physical and psychological trauma in a gender-responsive manner. The project targets military and police medical and para-medical personnel deploying to Level 1 medical units in the top 5 high-risk UN peace operations: MINUSMA, MONUSCO, MINUSCA, UNMISS and UNAMID.
The project is designed to support the implementation of the UN Police Strategic Guidance Framework, by adopting a new integrated approach to the training of African Formed Police Units (FPUs) prior to deployment to three of the most high-risk missions (MINUSMA, MINUSCA and MONUSCO). The approach places specific attention on mainstreaming gender, human rights and protection priorities, while promoting a close cooperation with military and civilian components of the missions.

## STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF MEMBERS OF MALIAN ARMED FORCES (FAMA) IN THE AREAS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The project supports the development of a comprehensive strategy and action plan that will guide future interventions of the Malian Army health services and align them with actual needs. The strategy is developed on the basis of a comprehensive assessment of current medical and paramedical services available to FAMA, and will be complemented by the recommendation of a coordination cell to harmonise the support and donations of national, regional and international partners.

## DEVENTPOE OF A COMPREHENSIVE CONCEPT FOR THE MEDICAL AND PARAMEDICAL SERVICES OF THE MALIAN ARMED FORCES (FAMA)

The project contributes directly to the professionalization of the Malian Armed Forces in line with the national vision of the Security Sector Reform in Mali. More specifically, the training programme developed by UNITAR contributes to the protection of Malian citizens by providing the personnel of FAMA with the knowledge, skills, and behaviours necessary to effectively apply International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law provisions to the planning, commanding and execution of military and combat operations.

We express our profound gratitude to UNITAR for its involvement in our drive to train our personnel. The course, which was the first of its kind, exposed the participants to the requisite knowledge which will help prevent the increasing casualty rate among peacekeepers caused by inadequate preparation of medical personnel. UNITAR’s training assistance therefore comes to fill in the gap in the preparation of these medical staff earmarked for deployment on UN missions.

Colonel Joshua Amanor, Director – Army Peacekeeping Operations, Ghana

 UNITAR Division for Peace Results Report 2020
YOUTH AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

4
PROJECTS

147 Individuals trained
For the 12th consecutive year, UNITAR and its partners shared a unique set of leadership tools with practitioners in peace and security field through a virtual senior leadership course. The course included the exploration of different mindsets, skills, and tools required to nurture, foster, and develop effective and forward-leaning leadership for peace – the knowledge that was further reinforced through a personal leadership challenge with the support of mentors. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, for the first time, the course was delivered in a virtual format allowing for more diversity and more active engagement.

"Peacebuilding in the Digital Age" is a groundbreaking pilot project aimed at identifying innovative ways to leverage digital innovation in support of women and girls’ contributions to peace on the African continent. The initiative contributed to the enhanced understanding of the challenges facing young African women mediators in their efforts to build and sustain peace in their communities; identification of an innovative digital solution that could support young African women mediators’ mediation and peacebuilding efforts; and development of rapid prototypes of the proposed digital solution.

Sustainable development and peace go hand in hand. Therefore, UNITAR aims to provide women and youth entrepreneurs with the skills to thrive while at the same time creating a flourishing environment to grow their businesses and meaningfully advance peacebuilding efforts across the Lake Chad Basin region. With this goal and as an active member of the Lake Chad Basin Commission Regional Task Force, in December 2020, UNITAR conducted a refresher course on topics relevant to entrepreneurship and ICT for 25 Chadian women and youth. Through eventual multiplications, the initiative is expected to benefit over 500 youth and women across the country.

Youth Peacemaker Network is the flagship programme of the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative (WPDI), which brings together young women and men who want to be forces for good and voices for change in communities impacted by conflict. In 2020, UNITAR joined forces with WPDI to conduct a complete methodological and content revision of the core training of trainers programme. The revision aimed to strengthen coalitions of peacebuilders and entrepreneurs and to increase the capacity of young changemakers to disseminate knowledge and skills in their communities, notably in South Sudan, South Africa and Uganda, which hosted the first updated training.

What makes the SLPB course especially powerful is the selection of participants and the creation of an environment in which they truly share. Leaders who are committed to making the world a more peaceful place, coming together from all over the planet – including some of the most conflict-affected parts – representing a broad spectrum of different roles in peace, security, and humanitarian efforts, engaging in a meaningful dialogue about how to enhance their individual and collective impact… it couldn’t get any better.”

Lisa Larson, Leadership Coach and Mentor
RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

245
BENEFICIARIES

 Countries with implemented projects

 Donor and partner countries

6
PROJECTS
UNITAR is supporting UNDP – with the collaboration of UNSMIL - to increase the impact of local Libyan mediation efforts by strengthening a Network composed of 125 local mediators from different regions. For that purpose, UNDP and UNITAR are developing and delivering a tailored training programme – composed of face-to-face trainings, educational videos and online participatory trainings - to build and develop the capacities of individual members of the Network and of the Network collectively.

The project Stabilization Facility for Libya - Stronger for Libya (SFL2) seeks to support Libyan efforts to successfully complete the critical period of transition from the initial humanitarian relief towards mid- and long-term structural and sector-specific support. The intervention has been designed to strengthen national unity and reinforce state authorities for all Libyans. UNDP and UNITAR are currently delivering the Output 3 activities of the project that focus on Local Peace Structures and Conflict Management Capacity and include tailored training workshops as well as mentoring and coaching. These activities aim to support the local peace structures through enhancing capabilities of 32 civil society organisations (CSOs) in conflict analysis, conflict mapping, conflict monitoring, conflict management, and conflict reduction.
Despite the current pandemic and short hours for training online, the private coaching and support sessions come as a life saver for NGOs. As each NGO has unique characteristics that differ from the other, this requires a deeper understanding from the trainers to give suitable advice and guidance to make the best practical outcome from the training programme.

Aimen Abdelwanis, Mizan Development Organization

Think positively, learn how we can replace our negative thoughts with positive ones. When we change the way we think and our perception of things, we can change the current reality. We become more distinguished and excel in our jobs. The benefits we reaped from the trainers and the diverse training approaches adopted made it exceptional in both the way it was delivered and presented.

Malak Al Hanoushi, Pulse Organization Dem

“I am glad to have been selected to undertake this rare and intensive training programme on “Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) in a DDR context”. My DDR experience in the Far North Region of Cameroon was greatly enhanced by facilitators and expert field practitioners with great savvy! The training has greatly increased my interest and knowledge of the DDR program in general as an independent researcher/consultant. I hope to use this new expertise knowledge to contribute in the crafting of a national strategy and framework for a more effective DDR program in Cameroon and beyond.”

Willibroad Dze-Ngaa
YOUTH-LED PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN COLOMBIA

5,334 BENEFICIARIES
♀ 2,811 ♂ 2,523

58 COMMUNITIES BENEFITED
FROM 19 REGIONS

COMPONENT I
♀ 19 COMMUNITIES INVOLVED

COMPONENT II
♀ 16 COMMUNITIES INVOLVED

COMPONENT III
♀ 23 COMMUNITIES INVOLVED

1,016 Participants in online sessions
896 Participants in phonecall or Whatsapp sessions
1,433 Participants in radio broadcasts for low-connectivity communities
900 VISITORS TO FACE-TO-FACE ARTISTIC EXHIBITIONS ON PEACEBUILDING IN SEVEN TOWNS
The UNITAR flagship project “Youth-led Peace and Reconciliation in Colombia” was implemented between 2019 and 2020, yielding unprecedented results. In close partnership with Ciudad Don Bosco (CDB) and a large network of civil society organisations and educational institutions across Colombia, the project contributed to the ongoing peace and reconciliation process in Colombia, reaching a total of 58 communities.

With the vision to support the leadership role of young people in strengthening community-based reintegration processes, conflict resolution mechanisms as well as community resilience and reconciliation, the project was structured in three components: Pintando el Futuro (Painting the Future), Viaje de Héroes y Heroínas (The Superhero’s Journey), and Perspectivas de Paz (Perspectives of Peace). Through transformative learning processes, project participants were enabled to (1) overcome past experiences lived during the conflict; (2) recognize their potential as agents of positive and peaceful change in their immediate surroundings; and (3) contribute to reconciliation efforts.

The incredible reach of the project was achieved through a three-stage multiplication process, working with trainers from educational institutions across the country. With the support of only 67 Master Trainers, a total of 5,500 project beneficiaries were impacted directly by the project measures. This approach ensures long-term sustainability as the capacities and tools remain in the hands of participating institutions. Due to its great success, UNITAR is now looking at scaling this important initiative in further Latin American countries.
Carlos Barbosa is one of the beneficiaries of "Youth-Led Peace and Reconciliation in Colombia" project, living in one of the country’s ETCRs, a place where FARC excombatants and their families are changing their lives through reconciliation and peacebuilding, with the help of UNITAR, among other actors.

Here, Carlos holds a photo of himself, taken by the only photographer in his hometown, located in a territory highly affected by conflict.

For more than half a century, Colombia endured an internal conflict that left almost nine million victims, 27% of them being minors.*

*Unit for the Attention and Integral Reparation of Victims.
ONLINE LEARNING AND EDUCATION

6 PROJECTS

11,160 Adult learners benefited from
25 MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE COURSES IN 3 LANGUAGES

357 Graduate students enrolled in or completed
4 ONLINE MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

387 UN Volunteers completed one or more of
12 ADVANCED ONLINE COURSES
The **Master in Conflict, Peace and Security** is jointly delivered by UNITAR and the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC) and provides students with internationally-recognised education within their community. In 2020, UNITAR and UOC expanded their offer to include 4 new specialisation courses intended to help students gain critical insights into the structural roots of conflict. The **related qualifications** as well as the full Master’s programme are suitable both for professionals working in conflict-prone environments within the framework of international, regional, governmental, or non-governmental organisations, and for graduate students, young researchers or other academics interested in enhancing their understanding of conflicts and acquiring skills to address them better. In 2020, 70 adult learners were enrolled in the cross-disciplinary field of conflict, peace and security studies.

This blended learning programme offered in partnership with Hautes Études Internationales & Politiques (HEIP) has been developed in Paris under the direction of Ms. Ouided Bouchamaoui, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2015. **This Master’s degree** enables students and auditors to prepare for career in a company, consulting firm or public institution working on national and/or international crisis issues. In a world where areas of tension are numerous and multifaceted, prevention and arbitration techniques are increasingly used to avoid the destruction of property and the loss of human life caused by armed conflicts as well as to prevent the destabilization of entire countries over long periods of time.

Born, raised, and living in a country where I witnessed first hand over 10 conflicts, I knew I needed to learn the necessary skills to proactively help in resolving and bringing peace. The programme was a very enriching experience where I learned from both teachers and students who shared a wealth of knowledge and wisdom from practical experiences. This was extremely useful when applied to my work in designing peace initiatives, capacity building programmes, and even sustainable development projects.

Hisham Al-Omeisy, Conflict Analyst, Yemen – Participant in Master in Conflict, Peace and Security

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The **Master in Electoral Policy and Administration (MEPA)** aims to provide advanced learning on electoral processes for current and aspiring election professionals by drawing on the expertise of the UNITAR, the Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) through a network of field practitioners and world-leading academics and electoral experts.

Considering the ever-changing challenges and the continuous evolution of new trends and policies within this specific sector of public administration, the project has established new collaborations with the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia and the Coalition of Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations. In 2020, 140 learners and practitioners were enrolled in courses on electoral policy and administration. Furthermore, Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna and UNITAR developed the InnovElections project to continue delivering electoral assistance activities in response to the global coronavirus pandemic. The project aims to boost youth and women’s roles and participation in the management of elections, as well as enhance electoral stakeholders’ leadership, conflict, and quality management capacities.

In 2020, the programme was able to adapt its programming with the appreciation of the wider fields of humanitarian action and peacebuilding, though is also open to personnel working in related fields. The programme aims to enhance reflective practices by combining the art of conflict-sensitive approaches to humanitarian and peacebuilding programming with the appreciation of the wider context in which these interventions unfold. In 2020, the programme was able to adapt its approaches to the COVID-19 reality and continue to offer an updated and useful learning journey for its learners.

InnovElections will initially benefit institutions and Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) in 11 African countries with a subsequent scale-up to the major regional bodies in Africa.

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Complex man-made crises, conflicts, violence and unrest, have become a significant concern for the international community. Designing interventions in these extremely volatile contexts requires specific knowledge and skills to enable involved professionals to minimise negative impacts and maximise opportunities for positive and sustainable changes.

Built on the expertise of UNITAR and Oxford Brookes University (OBU), the online **Master in Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding** explores the interactions between these two fields, by linking theory with practice and applied knowledge for practitioners working in the fields of humanitarian action and peacebuilding, though is also open to personnel working in related fields. The programme aims to enhance reflective practices by combining the art of conflict-sensitive approaches to humanitarian and peacebuilding studies by combining the art of conflict-sensitive approaches to humanitarian and peacebuilding programming with the appreciation of the wider context in which these interventions unfold.
The best thing is that literally everything I learn, I can directly apply in my profession as country director for an NGO in Iraq. And the knowledge that is not directly relevant to me, I pass to my colleagues. I feel that my input in a discussion is relevant and accurate, more than before, it makes me also less insecure as a young professional.

Esther Grisnich, Country Director, ZOA, Iraq – Participant in Master in Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding

The knowledge and skills obtained in the programme have significantly improved my ability to deliver with confidence in the conflict area. I have come to understand that violence is not inescapable, we only need to understand why people behave this way and meet their needs. The philosophy behind the global peace movement tells us that everyone is important and that all of us have something to contribute.

Judith Draleru, UNV midwife, South Sudan – Participant in Master in Conflict, Peace and Security

The programme is designed in a way to be directly applicable to the work of an elections professional. I learn and test my new knowledge in a real time, and see the results.

Fatuma Silungwe, legal analyst, UNDP, Malawi – Participant in Master in Electoral Policy and Administration

The broader view is what I find truly awesome about MEPA. There is no definition of democracy as American or democracy as South African. Democracy is not limited to a particular country, and this should always be borne in mind while selecting course materials.

Henry Atem Oben, Executive Director, United States Center for Electoral Support, USA – Participant in Master in Electoral Policy and Administration

Together with United Nations Volunteers, UNITAR offers all assigned or deployed UN Volunteers the opportunity to take part in a series of 12 in-depth online courses. The courses range from child soldiers and security forces to electoral security and conflict prevention. Completely online and self-paced, the courses provide in-depth insights and advanced knowledge to develop professional skills and critical competencies in conflict, peace, and security.

The course provided me with professional development I needed for my career while also gaining new insight about the UN and their humanitarian activities. The courses are quite commendable, and I believe they are designed to offer the best practices on how to start a profession within the UN. It’s allowed me the opportunity to interact with different applicants across the globe while expanding my horizons.

Participated in Milestones in UN Peacekeeping – Open Online Course

The course provided me with professional development I needed for my career while also gaining new insight about the UN and their humanitarian activities. The courses are quite commendable, and I believe they are designed to offer the best practices on how to start a profession within the UN. It’s allowed me the opportunity to interact with different applicants across the globe while expanding my horizons.

I’ve been searching to enter the field of conflict, peace and security since 2017 and had not succeeded. As I don’t have a degree in that field, and I was too busy working to provide for my family, I couldn’t afford a degree or an internship in the area. Thus, I didn’t have much experience as well as how to get started within the field. I’ve only had a strong passion for it and beginning with these free courses, I hope I can build a fruitful career!

Participant in Conflict Series – Open Online Course

25 self-paced free online courses serve as entry-point for anyone willing to become familiar with the basic concept and topics in conflict, peace and security. The courses are offered in 3 languages, English, French and Spanish, and can be taken at any time with no prior knowledge required.

UNITAR Division for Peace Results Report 2020
Leticia Álvarez Reguera, UNASOM Communication Officer, Somalia – Participant in Master in Conflict, Peace and Security

This Master’s degree gives us a complete picture of how the United Nations works and provide us with instruments to better analyze conflicts and develop mediation strategies to apply between parties in conflict. It taught me that the more diverse points of view are, the more enriching the final result will be.

Orsolya Bader, International Telecommunication Union, Switzerland – Participant in Master in Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding

All of UNITAR’s Master’s programmes are inspired by humanistic vision of learning and development. A deep respect for human life and human dignity, equal rights, social justice, cultural diversity, international solidarity, and a shared responsibility for a sustainable future that leaves no one behind.

Nishu Chaudhary, Manager-Health & Social, IPE Global Private Limited, Ethiopia

I am very happy with the course structure and delivery strategies that enable full-time professionals like me to balance work and studies. The HAP course allows students to blend sector theories with their practical work experience and adds value to their work in the humanitarian aid space. The facilitators are veterans with wide demonstrated experience in their respective themes, and they are patient and cooperative with students. Thanks to the HAP team, glad to learn from you all.

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SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

The Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy in Situations of Displacement (GPA) with its Coordination Unit at UNITAR is a non-binding framework that provides a collaborative agenda for concrete actions to ensure that all refugees and displaced people enjoy safe access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy services by 2030.
In the first of its 10-year ambition, the Clean Energy Challenge (CEC) was transformed from aspiration to mechanism for implementation. It is now one step further towards bringing affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy to all settlements of forcibly displaced people and nearby host communities by 2030. This aligns the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and partners with the SDG Goal 7 of the 2030 transformative Agenda (the Decade of Action). 2020 saw a rapid increase in membership from 30 to 250 stakeholders and concrete progress on three workstreams of the CEC: data, financing, and clean energy project development. The CEC is essentially the externalisation of UNHCR’s Global Strategy for Sustainable Energy, recognising that partnerships are crucial to achieving the goals. UNHCR has taken on the role as a catalyst among other UN agencies, NGOs and private sector actors to realise the ambitious goals and co-facilitate the Challenge with the UNITAR’s GPA secretariat and support from Deloitte as pro bono strategic partner.

Think positively, learn how we can replace our negative thoughts with positive ones. When we change the way we think and our perception of things, we can change the current reality. We become more distinguished and excel in our jobs. The benefits we reaped from the trainers and the diverse training approaches adopted made it exceptional in both the way it was delivered and presented.

Maurizio Berardi, Facility Management Engineer, World Food Programme (WFP), Rome
RULE OF LAW
The project is a joint effort by UNITAR's Division for Peace and the Centre for Parliamentary Studies, and Training-Kenya (CPST), which aims to address the legislative assemblies and civil society organisations' capacity gaps in the East African Community region. Through targeted training, the project intends to equip the beneficiaries with the knowledge, skills, behaviours, and attitudes necessary to implement their mandates in full respect of the rule of law and to create opportunities for different actors to work together for the promotion of democratic governance in the East Africa region. The project directly contributes to the Agenda 2063 of the African Union through the advancement of a universal culture of democratic values, gender equality, respect for human rights, and justice for all. With the Member States of Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania serving as pilot countries, the project is planned to be rolled out to eventually benefit all the Community Member States.
STRENGTHENING GLOBAL AND REGIONAL HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT

7TH HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA: ASSISTING AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL IN PREPARING TO ADDRESS PEACE AND SECURITY ISSUES ON THE CONTINENT

Effective collaboration and mutual support between major multilateral bodies at both global and regional levels are key for peaceful and inclusive development. Following a recommendation of the UN Security Council, since 2013, the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) in collaboration with the AU Commission and the UNITAR Division for Peace, have been organising annual high-level seminars on peace and security between the PSC, the African Members in the UN Security Council (A3), the AU Commission, UN and other partners, to discuss and exchange views on issues related to the coordination between the PSC and A3 on peace and security on the continent.

The seminar is organised as an annual event before the newly elected African Members of the UN Security Council take their seats, and ensures that the incoming A3 benefit not only from the lessons learnt from the outgoing A3, but also from a direct exchange of views with PSC Member States, briefings with Special Envoys and Special Representatives of the Chairperson of the Commission, as well as other relevant stakeholders on common African positions and concerns related to the agenda of the UN Security Council.

The 7th high-level seminar took place in Libreville, Gabon, in January 2020, under the theme “Silencing the Guns in Africa: Creating the Right Conditions for Africa’s Development”, and with a particular focus on the situation of children in armed conflict. Serving as a unique opportunity to exchange views and elaborate recommendations on the key issues facing the continent, the initiative seeks to further strengthen the effectiveness of the PSC in promoting peace, security and stability in Africa, thereby making a direct contribution to SDG 16 and exploiting the link between peace and development to their mutual advancement.

The seminar saw the participation of high-level officials from the AU Commission, the PSC and the UN, with the sessions being chaired by Ambassador Smail Chergui, AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, H.E. Alain-Clause Bilie-By-Nze, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Gabonese Republic, H.E Ezechiel Nibigira, Minister of External Relations and International Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi and Chairperson of PSC in January 2020.
THE VOICES OF SUSTAINING PEACE: IMPACT STORIES

Peace does not have a single face but all the faces of those who tirelessly contribute to stability, security and justice for communities around the world. On the occasion of the #UN75 anniversary and its 2nd Division for Peace Advisory Board meeting, UNITAR has conducted an online campaign “The Voices of Sustaining Peace” that featured the real stories of six local peacebuilders and the challenges they faced while building capacities for peace amid the pandemic. The campaign was followed by the online discussion, during which the story protagonists were joined by high-level UN experts Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild and Mr. Alan Doss to discuss innovative approaches to sustaining peace during COVID-19. The diversity of speakers – their ages and backgrounds – resulted in a productive exchange that can be watched online on the UNITAR YouTube channel.

Youth are the future, and we need to draw them away from the cycle of violence.

Hisham Al-Omeisy, Conflict analyst, Yemen; Alumni of the Master’s programme in Conflict, Peace and Security by UNITAR/Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)

In a world full of polarization, young people can be the authors of critical reflections about the current situation, not only regarding COVID-19 but also when it comes to the construction of peace in our society.

Cristina Ríos, Head of Corporación Génesis, an NGO dedicated to peacebuilding in Colombia

The big challenge that is present now is how to connect people, and not states, to the UN.

Alan Doss, Special Advisor and Former President of the Kofi Annan Foundation, Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNITAR Division for Peace Advisory Board Member

The pandemic highlighted the role of connectivity in society, but also the disparities. The reality is that half of the world population has never been connected.

Orsolya Bader, Digital Networks & Society Department, Telecommunication Development Bureau, International Telecommunication Union; Participant in the Master’s programme in Humanitarian Action and Peacebuilding by UNITAR/Oxford Brookes University (OBU)
In line with the UN System’s increasing strides towards implementing its gender equality goals and the Executive Director’s strong commitment to making UNITAR a pioneer in gender equality, the Division for Peace is committed to systematically mainstreaming gender across the vast majority of its programmatic work. We take relevant and valuable steps towards successfully achieving this comprehensive and timely integration of gender equality goals into our work, through both gender-oriented projects and through including gender elements in other activities.
#TAKEASTEP – A SMALL CAMPAIGN WITH A BIG GOAL

Born out of a desire to celebrate International Women’s Day beyond just one day per year, in March 2020 UNITAR launched a social media campaign #TakeAStep dedicated to the amplification of women’s voices and their achievements, as well as sharing tools which women can use to empower themselves. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the available opportunities for women to succeed and make a difference in the security sector – whether through training, education, advocacy or other means. It aims to contribute to fighting stereotypes, inciting confidence, spreading knowledge, changing mindsets, and presenting opportunities for change in relation to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.

"My children are my biggest inspirations. I want to make them dream, to give them the possibility to imagine all that they can do with their lives, the capacity to feel fulfilled no matter their options.”

Jocelyne Dabine, Police commissioner in Burkina Faso

"The most rewarding part of my career is that I was proud to be a police officer. I was proud to serve my community; I was proud also to show that I am a child of immigrants and when other young Black girls see me in a police uniform, that’s a statement. It says, “hey, you can do it, you are worth it, and you are valuable.”

Kossiwa J. Tossoukpe, Security consultant, founder of KESecurix — Diversity in security, former police officer

"I'm not buying it. Show me that I cannot do it."

Mathilda Stroosnijder, Independent security sector gender advisor and mediator

CLICK TO READ OUR REFLECTIONS ON THE ROAD
The past year saw a massive rush of organisations and educational institutions attempting to find online solutions to their face-to-face trainings, events and educational activities. This resulted in an incredible amount of resources, articles and webinars offering unique online solutions, and this document serves to help filter through all of this to what is relevant for the individual needs of training and capacity building. Effective methods acknowledge various learning styles, engage learners and make facilitation easier. In this guide, UNITAR has selected the most relevant and appropriate tips for trainers, training institutions and others in the learning development field.

COVID-19 is changing the way we learn as events, workshops and meetings move online. While participants may appear equal on screen, there are various factors, both individual and structural, preventing people from accessing, participating in and benefiting equally from online events. This series of tips is intended to help trainers, facilitators and organisations that are transitioning their events online to mainstream inclusivity across all aspects of the event design and implementation.

Being uncomfortable to speak up in online meetings and giving effective feedback without losing time are just some of the common challenges faced when facilitating and participating in online events. To address this, UNITAR has designed a set of printable and digital images that can be used to visually facilitate online meetings, workshops and learning events. Provided in convenient formats and user-friendly design, these facilitation cards will bring out an engaging online experience for facilitators, and participants alike.

*The Guide is not available in free access.*
UNITAR contributes to enhancing the capacity of other training institutions by designing and delivering Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes and developing various training materials. This Learning Solutions Guide has been developed as part of these training support materials to serve as a basis for UNITAR’s advanced Training of Trainers programme on simulation exercises. The Guide builds upon our foundational Training of Trainers Toolbox and course that over the years have benefited thousands of uniformed and civilian personnel with a proven impact on knowledge development and retention. It outlines a clear step-by-step approach to the design, development and facilitation of a simulation exercise and illustrates these steps with examples derived from various simulation exercises that we have organised.

The opportunity to be a trainer is both rewarding and challenging. When done it well, training may create an impact that lasts beyond the training itself. Our foundational Facilitation Toolbox presents a practice-oriented, easy-to-use repository of knowledge and techniques to support you with the design and delivery of training. It is composed of seven chapters – each answering a specific question – plus the appendices. The chapters cover various training aspects from understanding adult learning to each stage of the instructional process offering a systematic and systemic approach to create effective and efficient learning experiences. The toolbox addresses both non-experienced and experienced trainers and is available in three languages.

The COVID-19 pandemic, and subsequent policy and security measures taken as a result, have impacted the administration of justice in almost every legal system. The disruption to conducting hearings and other judicial proceedings has the potential to significantly undermine access to justice, due process, and civil and human rights. The Remote Hearing Toolkit is the second joint project by UNITAR and UN OROLSI (JCS) which helps stakeholders determine whether and how to use audio, videoconferencing, and other technologies to conduct remote hearings when in-person hearings are not feasible. Recognising the distinct challenges faced in different settings and legal systems, this new, highly innovative and interactive tool is not intended to be prescriptive but provides national stakeholders - ministry officials, judges, lawyers, court officials, and others - with a step-by-step decision-making framework for the introduction and use of remote hearing technology.

Responding to the COVID-19 outbreak is particularly challenging in the places of mass confinement, such as prisons, which makes prevention critical. The information in the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response in Places of Detention: Operational Toolbox, developed by the Justice and Corrections Service within the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI), in partnership with UNITAR and available in English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Arabic, is intended to support prison administrators and staff in their efforts to prevent COVID-19 from entering the prison and mitigate the impact in case of an outbreak, while ensuring the safety, security and well-being of staff, prisoners, their families and the public.

Over the past months, the Toolbox and the related materials in various languages have been widely used in mission settings, including in the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO).
UNITAR extends its deepest gratitude to our supporters, who help us work towards the 2030 Agenda by bringing peacebuilding, equality and sustainable development initiatives to various communities worldwide. The commitment of our partners and donors is what allows us to reach those who need it most.