

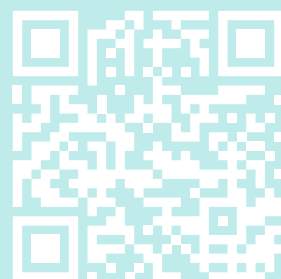
DCAF in 2024

2024 brought a further intensification of global challenges that tested the resilience and legitimacy of security institutions around the world. In conflict-affected contexts, such as Ukraine and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, there is the need to navigate between addressing immediate threats and ensuring that security institutions are grounded in legitimacy, legality, and accountability. In this increasingly fragile global landscape, our mission has only grown in relevance and our commitment to supporting effective, inclusive, and accountable governance of the security sector is more important than ever.

As you read this, DCAF is marking two milestones - our 25th anniversary and the launch of our Strategy 2025-2030 – with gratitude to everyone we work with around the world for their continued trust and collaboration.

Our 2024 Annual Report shares some of DCAF's highlights and key moments of the year, demonstrating our commitment to preventing conflict, strengthening social cohesion and promoting sustainable peace and human dignity for all.

**Read the full
Annual Report 2024**



OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY



Photo: DCAF

Putting people's needs at the centre of security

Since 2005, DCAF has worked in the Occupied Palestinian Territory to enhance the accountability of the security sector and its responsiveness to the needs of the people.

In 2023, we surveyed 1,500 people across Gaza, the West Bank, and refugee camps, gathering their views on security and justice provision. In 2024, amidst the ongoing conflict, DCAF mapped security actors, analyzed the emergence of new armed groups, and assessed war-related institutional losses. By fostering dialogue among factions and institutions, DCAF provided insights to international donors and supported post-conflict security planning, emphasizing people-centered approaches and future security arrangements.

“Security is the opposite of fear. I am afraid all the time.”

Youth
Gaza City

We envision a world in which democratically governed security sectors serve the needs of all people without discrimination and contribute to just, peaceful, and inclusive societies.

KENYA



Photo: Moses Sukali

Legal identity and access to security and justice

As of 2022, around 100,000 people in Kenya lacked legal identity documents, leaving them vulnerable to abuse, especially in Northern and Upper Eastern regions. Marginalized, nomadic, and ethnic communities faced systemic barriers, including corruption and discrimination. In 2024, the Commission on Administrative Justice, with DCAF's support, held a public inquiry in Wajir County, revealing bribery and delays in ID issuance. The findings led to a report and policy changes. President Ruto abolished discriminatory vetting committees and introduced new guidelines. Wait times for IDs dropped significantly, marking a key step toward equal access to legal identity for all Kenyans.

“We have the right to access national identity cards, but in Northern Kenya, this is not the case.”

Halima Kahiye
Journalist
Wajir Community Radio

HONDURAS



Photo: PNH

SENEGAL



Photo: MONUSCO / SENFPU Bunia

Shifting the ground on gender equality

Major Rokhaya Lô's rise in the Senegalese Gendarmerie shows that while personal resilience is key, real progress comes when institutions are ready to evolve and fully support women's leadership. With degrees in international affairs and gender and peacebuilding, Lô became the first woman to command a unit in the Gendarmerie.

As head of the Gender Division, she expanded training and later became the first female commander to lead a Senegalese police unit in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Lô credits the MOWIP methodology, developed by DCAF and Cornell University, for enabling structural institutional change and fostering confidence in female leadership both at home and within peacekeeping operations.

"It helped us see the barriers that held women back and gave the command the confidence to trust my leadership."

Major Rokhaya Lô

Building community confidence in policing

Since 2018, DCAF has helped the Honduran National Police (HNP) transition from a militarized force to a modern police service aligned with international standards. Among the changes were the introduction of a use-of-force manual and training, updated community policing practices, and regular community perception surveys. By 2024 the HNP had already found a reduction in observations of physical mistreatment by police and an increase in community confidence. DCAF also promoted gender equality by supporting the creation of the HNP's new Gender Policy and a first ever Gender Equity Diploma in the police university. Though women made up only 25% of National Police officers in 2024, over 60% of new recruits entering the police academy were women - a promising sign that efforts to be more inclusive are making a difference. Though DCAF's programme in Honduras ended in 2024, its impact will continue through the elements that are being taken forward in the HNP's 2025–2030 Strategic Plan.

UKRAINE



Photo: Volodymyr Lukichev

The importance of good governance in the midst of war

When Russia invaded in 2022, Ukraine rapidly expanded its military, creating urgent governance challenges, especially around adherence to International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Recognizing that IHL compliance is a strategic advantage, Ukraine's Ministry of Defense enlisted DCAF to assess gaps and improve training. DCAF developed a NATO-aligned, role-specific programme focused on real battlefield scenarios, such as handling surrendered soldiers or war crimes evidence. Materials, policy updates, and a new International Law Division were introduced to support enforcement. By promoting ethical conduct in warfare, DCAF has strengthened accountability and governance within Ukraine's armed forces –preparing them to fight both effectively and within the law.

"DCAF is a game changer in mainstreaming and reinforcing accountability with International Humanitarian Law."

Inna Zavorotko

Deputy Head - International Law Division
Ukrainian Ministry of Defence

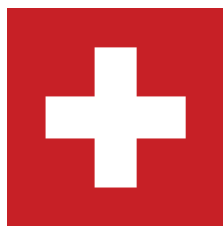
"We greatly appreciate the accompaniment provided by DCAF and their commitment to the Honduran Security agencies to maintain efficiency in their work and to strengthen citizen confidence."

Director

Directorate of Police Disciplinary Affairs

THANK YOU

We are grateful for the support and confidence of our generous donors and their belief in the importance of good security sector governance as a key to achieving peace and sustainable development.



STRATEGY 2025-2030

As we reflect on the progress of our first 25 years, we remain focused on the future. We are continually learning, innovating, and adapting our approach to meet the fast-evolving contexts and needs of our partners and stakeholders. Read more about our priorities and objectives for the coming years in our Strategy 2025-2030.



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