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Sub Saharan Africa Division (SSAD)

Sahel Regional Program

Policy Brief

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As part of the project on 'Strengthening the control of financial resources allocated to the G5 Sahel defence and security forces' and the regional programme 'Security sector governance in the Sahel', DCAF supports competent national authorities of Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger in strengthening control over the management of resources allocated to the defence and security sector in order to improve institutions' efficiency and quality of services delivered to the population as well as the fight against corruption and fraudulent practices. [\[Read Policy Paper\]](#)

Burkina Faso

Training on communication techniques and tools - Ouagadougou

During 2021, DCAF conducted an assessment of institutional communication and information management in security sector institutions, which includes strategic recommendations and an operational action plan to strengthen institutional communication. It was based on the collection, review and analysis of documentation and communication materials from several security sector institutions as well as on interviews regarding external communication and information management practices and challenges.

The findings of the assessment highlighted the need for capacity building in communication for security sector actors in Burkina Faso. In this context, from April 11 to April 13 DCAF organized a training workshop on communication techniques for 36 representatives (including eight women) of security sector institutions. The workshop took place in two complementary phases: the first part was dedicated to communication principles and techniques while the second was organized around working group sessions so that participants could develop their institutional communication strategies.

Dissemination workshop of citizen monitoring tools - Kaya



From March 28 to 31, DCAF organized a workshop in Kaya for twenty representatives (including 10 women) of civil society organizations from the Centre-Nord regions. For four days, they were trained on the use of the toolkit for citizen control in the security sector, which was developed in 2021 by DCAF, the Action Research Group on Human Security (GRASH), the Center for the Quality of Law and Justice (CQDJ) and the National Human Rights Commission of Burkina Faso. The toolkit includes templates for interview forms for victim/witness of human rights violations, data collection forms, reports as well as of advocacy and referral letters and complaints, and therefore provides civil society organizations with standardized and unified documents and tools strengthening their capacities for actions. Aligned on the dissemination and diffusion strategy of tools of citizen control over the security sector reform, this workshop contributes to improving effectiveness of external control and accountability of security sector institutions. The various representatives of civil society organizations renewed their commitment to citizen watch enabling coordinated, structured and methodical citizen control of the security sector, particularly in the North Central regions

Mali

Support to the operationalization of the Consultative Security Committee (CSC) - Bamako



Following the launch of the Consultative Security Committee (CSC) of Bamako District and the training of its members on their roles and responsibilities, in November 2021 in

partnership with the Security Sector Reform Commissioner, DCAF supported its operationalization phase and several preparatory meetings. The first official meeting of the CSC was held on April 27, under the leadership of the Governor of the District. This first meeting aimed to clarify the roles and mandates of CSC members, to start discussion on some key security issues at the district level and to identify key expectations and needs from the populations.

Support for the revision of police training modules and their integration into police career management system - Bamako

At the request of the General Direction of the National Police (GDNP) of Mali, DCAF provided technical support to review and amend training modules for police officers as well as to evaluate opportunities and feasibilities for their integration into the career management system. This activity is part of the global reform of the career management system of the Malian police. In this regard, DCAF organized four working sessions with GDNP officials and recruited an expert to conduct the feasibility study which will provide an initial diagnosis and detail the next steps for reform implementation.

Niger

Validation workshop for the compilation of the national Defense legal framework – Niamey



In September 2021, DCAF experts started compiling the normative framework related to Niger defense sector from 1960 to 2021. The compilation aims at improving access to and knowledge of the legal framework through enabling members of security sector institutions and the general public to freely consult legal texts related to the defense sector in Niger. The whole normative framework has been compiled in five volumes: (1) constitutional legislation; (2) legislation of the central administration of the ministry of National Defense; (3) legislation related to the Nigerien Armed Forces (FAN); (4) legislation related to the National Gendarmerie; and (5) international legal instruments related to military cooperation, including conventions, treaties, protocols and regulations ratified by Niger. A reading committee of 15 people (including two women) from various defense sector institutions was established by the Minister of National Defense to review and validate this compilation work. From April 19 to 21, DCAF experts and the reading committee organized this validation workshop aiming to present and validate the compilation. The five volumes will soon be printed and distributed to

DCAF national partners. In a second phase, all the texts will be digitalized and hosted on a website accessible to the public.

Multi-stakeholder workshop on the promotion and protection of human rights with the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) - Niamey.



On April 26 and 27, the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) and DCAF jointly organized a multi-stakeholder workshop on the promotion and protection of human rights in Niger. The workshop brought together 28 participants (including nine women) from the defense and security forces, the National Assembly, the CNDH, the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (CESOC), the Mediator of the Republic, the civil society organizations and the media. It enabled the CNDH to present its role and mandate, in particular in terms of identifying, investigating and processing complaints related to human rights violations alleged to security forces. During the second day, in group work, participants had the opportunity to discuss challenges faced by their institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights. Lack of resources and capacity of the institutions, the difficulty in collecting sufficient evidence for building legal cases, and the difficulty in accessing to information due to the culture of secrecy within the security sector, were cited as the main challenges.

Sahel/Regional



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Gender & Security Feature

Based on preliminary findings from Measuring Opportunities for Women Participation in Peace Operations (MOWIP) assessments conducted in security institutions (armed forces, gendarmerie and national police) across four countries (Ghana, Senegal, Uruguay and Zambia), an animated video featuring Sarah's Story highlights how barriers to uniformed women's meaningful participation can play out across a women's career course. It also presents an array of good practices to promote women's meaningful participation in security institutions and peace operations.



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