



NIGER



Workshop on Security Sector Reform Governance and Reform (SSG/R) for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

After the launch of the exchange framework between CSOs and the Defence and security forces (DSF) at the beginning of 2023 and following on from a training on the role of CSOs in the promotion and protection of human rights held in March, DCAF organised an introductory training on SSG/R for CSO members of the exchange framework present in Niamey on 12-13 April. The activity brought together 40 participants, including eight women, who all obtained the certificate upon completion of the training module and passing the E-learning course. The training focused on the concepts of human security and good governance and aimed at identifying ways to strengthen the impact of CSOs in participating in the governance processes of the security sector. The primary objective of the training was to equip CSOs to play an informed advocacy and community representation role with institutions and the DSF. DCAF will continue to support civil society actors, particularly through the development of methodological tools, and facilitation in the relationship with the DSF, but also through advice and advocacy.



Workshop to disseminate the National Strategy for the Prevention of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (SNPREV)

As part of its support for the dissemination of security policies and strategies, DCAF collaborated with Niger's National Coordination Centre for Early Warning and Response to Security Risks (CNAP) in the implementation of a presentation of the National Strategy for the Prevention of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (SNPREV) for senior civilian and military officials, civil society actors, the media, community leaders, external oversight of security governance, and youth organisations' representatives. On 26-27 April, the workshop brought together 32 participants, including nine women, who also received presentations from experts on approaches to the prevention of violent extremism and human security. In addition, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Director of CNAP who gave opening speeches, attended the workshop as well as the Executive Secretary of SNPREV and representatives of several Ministries

MALI



Training of CNDH staff and collaborators

In collaboration with DCAF, the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) organised a training workshop in Bamako on 3-4 April that brought together 46 people, including 18 women from the regions of Mopti, Kayes, Sikasso, Ségou, Gao and the district of Bamako. The audience was composed of community relays, partner civil society organisations, commissioners, regional representatives and CNDH support staff in human rights investigation techniques. The training aimed to strengthen participants' knowledge of human rights, international humanitarian law, conflict-related sexual violence (CSV), human rights monitoring and reporting of human rights violations. The training strengthened participants' capacities to conduct effective investigations by ensuring thorough documentation and analysis of cases of human rights violations and abuses in accordance with the fundamental standards and principles of this type of investigation. By contributing to the improvement of the quality of investigation reports and evidence collection, the training also contributes to increasing the consideration of investigation results by administrative and judicial authorities.



Capacity building for the staff of the Mediator of the Republic of Mali

In collaboration with DCAF, the Mediator of the Republic organised a seminar on 25-27 April to strengthen the capacities of his staff in handling complaints and interpellations concerning the Department of Defence and Veterans and the Department of Security and Civil Protection. The seminar enabled 24 participants, including seven women, to strengthen their capacities in the processing of complaints filed by users of public services, including analysis of admissibility and preparation of case files. The participants were also informed of the internal complaints mechanisms existing in the various institutions of the security sector to enable them to better orient complainants and make relevant recommendations for improvement to these institutions. Finally, the presence of representatives of the ombudsmen of Niger and Senegal allowed the sharing of good practices implemented in other countries of the sub-region.

BURKINA FASO



Training in the use of the toolkit on Gender and Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R) in Ziniaré and Kombissiri

A workshop on the appropriation of the toolkit, intended for members of the Association of Women Lawyers of Burkina Faso and the training schools of the defence and security forces (DSF), took place on 4-6 April in Ziniaré with the participation of 36 people, including 20 women. The training focused on the mainstreaming of gender in the governance of the security sector and the participants expressed a need for further training on the topic. To respond to this need, DCAF organised a second workshop for members of the DSF with the aim of encouraging taboo-free discussions on the consideration of gender in the institutions providing security services. Three partner organisations, namely the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Mediator of Faso, participated in the training, which took place on 18-20 April. The main recommendations of the 38 participants (including 18 women) contain advocacy for the introduction of a gender quota in all recruitment processes for the DSF and the modification of the texts of the military and paramilitary bodies that do not respect gender equality to align them with the constitutional provisions and the conventions ratified by Burkina Faso.



Training of members of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Committee (CAEDS) of the Transitional Legislative Assembly

On 13-14 April, DCAF organised a training session that saw a total of 42 parliamentarians, including 10 women belonging to the CAEDS, receive training on parliamentary oversight and strategic reference frameworks for the security sector in Burkina Faso. The exchanges supported the MPs in better understanding the challenges linked to parliamentary oversight of the security sector such as the lack of means of investigations and sanctions to enable them to develop informed resolutions to improve security sector governance. The representatives of the Defence and security forces (DFS) stressed that "the army expresses the needs but does not place the orders". The parliamentarians were able to discuss the importance of working relations with security sector institutions in order to establish a framework for efficiency and accountability.



Workshop to present and validate the study on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

DCAF has been coordinating national studies taking stock of the legal and operational frameworks on SALW in Burkina Faso and Niger. The presentation and validation of the findings of the study carried out in partnership with the National Arms Control Commission (CNCA), took place during a workshop held on 24-25 April in Ouagadougou and attended by 30 people, including 10 women from various ministries among others Defence, Justice and Security. During the two days, each represented institution examined and amended the document to finalise it and facilitate its implementation. The participants also submitted recommendations including the dissemination of the document and the reinforcement of the training of the defence and security forces (DSF) on the handling and prescriptions related to SALW, because as one of the participants pointed out, "some people do not know that the weapon and its magazine should not be stored side by side".

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