

# SAHEL NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our newsletter highlighting DCAF's latest activities in the Sahel region. Dive into this edition to stay informed on our projects supporting a more accountable and effective security sector.

## BURKINA FASO



### Capacity-building in project management

From 28 July to 1 August, DCAF organised a capacity-building session for its partners in the implementation of the "Espace civique" project in the field of project management. Twenty people, including 11 women, benefited from the activity. The training emphasised monitoring and evaluation to prepare these structures for the workshop on capturing the project's effects, which will be held at the end of the year. In particular, this section delved into "success stories", which enable results to be communicated in an accessible and convincing way. In addition to monitoring and evaluation, participants also put interpersonal communication tools into practice and learned how to monitor digital platforms. Finally, they reviewed aspects of financial reporting in order to harmonise their documentation. The participants recognised the added value of the training, which will enable them to manage their projects more effectively and, in particular, to capture their impact more effectively.

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## MALI





### Support for the AJDS' initiative contributing to local governance of the security sector

On 25 July, with the support of DCAF, the Sangaréboougou Youth Association (AJDS) officially launched its micro-project entitled "Strengthening and extending the Community Observers Network for Participatory and Sustainable Security in Commune I of the Bamako district". This project promotes participatory governance and the co-production of security by strengthening, structuring and extending the network of community observers in Commune I. On this occasion, 50 community observers, including 22 women, received training on community policing and the principles of participatory governance in the security sector. The ceremony was attended by representatives of the commune's president, the neighbourhood chiefs, members of the security forces, and representatives of the Communal Youth Council. The community observers play an essential role in providing a link between the population and the security forces, and in managing certain situations without involving the police if this is not necessary. The training of new intermediaries, particularly young people and women, enables citizens to play an active part in the governance of security in their local area. DCAF support local civil society organisations' initiative to increase the meaningful participation of civil society in security sector governance.



### Building on the lessons of the CNDH's previous mandate

At the end of the previous mandate, DCAF supported the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) in a capitalisation exercise to ensure continuity between mandates. The information was compiled in a report that was presented to the new commission during a workshop held on 30 July. The meeting provided an opportunity to disseminate the contents of the capitalisation document and a space for exchanges between the new commissioners, CNDH staff and technical and financial partners, on the achievements and challenges of the previous term, as well as learning opportunities. Chaired by the Acting President of the CNDH, the workshop was attended by 41 participants, including 14 women, from the CNDH (commissioners and staff) and human rights organisations. The workshop also offered a platform for technical and financial partners to coordinate their support to the institution, including EUCAP, the European Union, the United Kingdom, the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Support Fund for Drivers of Change. The interim President of the CNDH expressed her



### **Launching of the DSF capacity-building project on PoC, HR/IHL and leadership**

DCAF and the Peacekeeping School Alioune Blondin Beye (EMP-ABB) organised a launch workshop to present the strategic lines of the project, which aims to build the capacity of the defence and security forces (DSF) in the areas of protection of civilians (PoC), human rights, international humanitarian law (IHL) and leadership. The project is financed by Switzerland over the period 20225-2026. The workshop, held on 29 July, was attended by executives and managers from the partner institutions and provided an opportunity to present the project's logical framework, its performance indicators, the monitoring and evaluation system, and the administrative and financial arrangements for implementation. The project has three main pillars. The first focuses on operational training for DSF personnel, the second on strengthening the leadership skills of senior managers, and the third centres on military justice, particularly in its role as legal advisor.

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**NIGER**





### **Validation of the manual of procedures for managing cases of GBV**

From 22 to 23 July, DCAF organised a participatory workshop to validate the manual for managing cases of gender-based violence (GBV), for officers from the Central Service for the Protection of Minors and Women of the National Police of Niger. Bringing together 41 participants, including 19 women, from the public administration (General Directorate for the Promotion of Women, Ministries of Health, Population and Justice), the defence and security forces women's network (Gendarmerie, National Guard, Customs, Water and Forests, Municipal Police), international organisations (UNFPA, UN Women) and civil society, this workshop provided a space to share experience and know-how that was essential for the validation of the manual. The document now includes appropriate procedures, both preventive and judicial, to ensure effective, coordinated and gender-sensitive care for survivors of GBV. Through this participatory process, Niger is strengthening its national protection system and laying the foundations for a long-term institutional partnership to reduce gender-based violence.





### Raising awareness among ISF about ethics, professional conduct and respect for human rights

On 29 July, the Public Security Directorate of the Niger National Police, in collaboration with DCAF, organised an awareness-raising session for the Internal Security Forces (ISF) on respect for human rights and codes of ethics and professional conduct. This initiative aims to support the ISF in improving the quality of the security service offered to the population, in particular through constructive dialogue with civil society organisations (CSOs). A total of 155 ISF officers took part in this session, including six women from the various components of the ISF: National Police, Municipal Police, National Guard, Water and Forestry Services and Customs. Five CSO representatives, including religious leaders, women's representatives and youth representatives, also participated in the discussion. The meeting provided a platform for civil society to express its perceptions and grievances regarding certain cases of human rights abuses and violations perpetrated by a limited number of individuals, but which have an impact on relations between the population and the security forces. Thanks to DCAF's role as facilitator, this space for dialogue strengthened mutual trust, fostering a better understanding of the challenges facing the ISF and bringing Nigeriens closer to their security forces.

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