

SAHEL NEWSLETTER

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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



Training partner CSOs in administrative and financial management

As part of its "Civic Space" project, DCAF works with several civil society organisations (CSOs). In order to develop common processes for project monitoring, DCAF held a workshop for the eight administrative and financial managers of the partner CSOs on 19 June. The participants, three of whom were women, met at DCAF's offices in Ouagadougou to learn about and discuss the financial and narrative reporting templates proposed by DCAF. Finally, the workshop management policies were presented to ensure that all partners were aligned with the standards to be followed. DCAF's financial manager, based in Geneva, delivered the training by video conference to ensure consistency in the programme's financial and administrative management. The "Civic Space" project, which runs until the end of 2025, aims to build the capacity and resilience of CSOs in order to promote social cohesion in Burkina Faso.



Coordination meetings with national partners

During the month of June, DCAF organised two coordination meetings with its national partners to agree on expectations, objectives and the preparation of activities that will take place during the month of July. The first meeting, held on 10 June, brought together officials from the General Directorate of the National Police, the Police Academy and the National Police School to coordinate the project based on the Integrity Toolkit. This toolkit is designed to help police services devise effective measures to counter corruption, increase their capacity to fight crime, improve public safety and strengthen the rule of law and public confidence in the police. It focuses in part on the values, rules and behaviours expected in policing, but also on issues of ethics and accountability. This is one of DCAF's key areas of work, which has already been implemented in several countries, and which, with the support of Burkina Faso's partners, will be adapted to the context and realities of Burkina Faso. The second meeting, held on 21 June, was attended by auditors from the Higher Authority for State Control and the Fight against Corruption (ASCE-LC), representatives of the General Inspectorate of the Armed Forces (IGFAN) and the General Inspectorate of Services of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralisation and Security (IGS-MATDS), as well as the DCAF team. Risk mapping exercises in the field of security and defence and the implementation of the inspector's toolkit are planned for July with these partners.

MALI



Third meeting of the regional CCS of San

With the support of DCAF, the Consultative Security Committee (CCS) of the San region held its third meeting on 25 June 2024. Chaired by the Governor's representative, a total of 70 people, including 10 women, took part in

the discussions. The participants included representatives of regional departments, religious and traditional authorities, defence and security forces (DSF) and members of civil society organisations in the region. During the meeting, the DSF provided updates on the security situation and announced the measures taken, such as the increased number of joint patrols by the Gendarmerie, which have helped to reduce robberies on the San-Ségou and San-Sévaré roads. Secondly, monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations from the second meeting showed that the rate of implementation was low, with two recommendations finalised, two in progress and eight not implemented. This low rate is due to the three-month evaluation period and the lack of allocation of responsibility to relevant stakeholders for implementing certain recommendations. The meeting ended with the formulation of a new list of recommendations, made up in part of those not implemented while adding new ones such as the creation of a police station in the Farakolo neighbourhood and the holding of a general meeting on the issue of repeated killings in the same neighbourhood.



Training CNDH community relays on gender and GBV

From 6 to 8 June, the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), in partnership with DCAF, organised training on responding to and reporting gender-based violence (GBV) cases for community relays in the Koulikoro region. In May, during an initial training session for relays on human rights and the conduct of investigations, participants expressed a need for specific training on cases of gender-based violence and the resulting investigations, in order to be able to respond to this particularly prevalent phenomenon in the region. It was in response to this need that the CNDH organised the training course, during which 25 participants, including 11 women, were provided with tools on GBV, techniques for receiving and guiding GBV survivors, women's and girls' rights, how to refer cases to the courts responsible for protecting women's and girls' rights, texts guiding the promotion of women and the actors responsible for protecting women's and girls' rights. As one participant's statement shows, "I am now able to identify the types of GBV, their causes and consequences. I also know the steps involved in caring for a survivor", the relays can now inform their community about their rights and the procedures relating to GBV in order to combat the phenomenon and improve everyone's safety.



Training female Civil Protection staff in leadership and gender mainstreaming in risk and disaster management

In partnership with DCAF, the Directorate General for Civil Protection (DGPC) organised a training workshop on leadership, gender and disaster risk management for women officers and non-commissioned officers from the Bamako district. The training helped to promote a more effective, inclusive and proactive response to the challenges resulting from climate change, taking into account the gender dimensions that make women and girls more vulnerable. The training also provided an opportunity to build the capacity of the 50 officers to deal with the specific challenges they are likely to face in the course of their careers, particularly in their managerial roles. Over the course of the five days, participants discussed a wide range of topics, including the definition of gender concepts, gender equality and equity, psychological approaches to leadership, public speaking and the role of women, and gender mainstreaming in risk and disaster management. To conclude the workshop, the participants put forward recommendations such as the introduction of a mentoring programme for Civil Protection women personnel and the development of a gender action plan for the Civil Protection. In response to this request, the DGPC expressed its interest in conducting an assessment of the barriers to the recruitment and promotion of women, which will serve as a basis for developing a gender action plan for the institution.

NIGER



Coordination mission of the Niger team

In order to plan further activities following the approval of the new phase of the UK-funded project and the resumption of the Netherlands-funded project, members of the Niger team working in Geneva joined their colleagues in Niamey from 10 to 21 June. The Niger team dedicated their two weeks to planning the project, meeting and coordinating with national partners and developing new partnerships. The mission enabled detailed planning of activities and timetables, budgeting and the identification of relevant partners and consultants. Bilateral discussions with national partners were also held to identify local needs, set priorities and consolidate future cooperation. In addition, a launch event was organised to mark the resumption of the programme with the participation of national partners and key stakeholders, including the UK Ambassador, the Advisor to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Niger. Finally, meetings with

international stakeholders were organised to strengthen relationships and explore opportunities for collaboration.

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