

# 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



### Raising civil society's awareness of the proliferation of SALW

DCAF country office in Burkina Faso has chosen to celebrate DCAF's 25th anniversary with a high-impact activity. In collaboration with the Permanent Secretariat of the National Anti-Drug Committee (SP/CNLD), an awareness-raising session on the illicit trafficking and consumption of narcotics was held on 20 May 2025 at the Lycée Bangré Yiguia in Ouagadougou. The aim was to anticipate the scourge of drugs by raising awareness, particularly among young people, who are directly exposed to the dangers of drug use, as well as parents and teachers, of the links between drug trafficking, the financing of terrorism, violent extremism, crime and organised crime. Nearly 3,000 people were reached by this awareness campaign, including 2,807 pupils (1,466 girls and 1,341 boys) and around 200 parents and teachers. This action, widely covered by the media, raised DCAF's profile on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.



### Dissemination of modules on the integrity of the National Police

Following the official handover of the manual in March and the piloting of the project in April, DCAF supports the Directorate of Continuous Training of the Police (DFC) in disseminating the integrity modules. From 11 to 13 June, the DFC delivered the first training course to 30 police officers, seven of whom were women. The modules address different aspects of integrity within the police, such as standards, corruption, criminal and administrative procedures and judicial police missions. During the training, the police officers followed presentations to acquire the theoretical bases. They then put them into practice through simulation exercises, which are then discussed in groups so that everyone can learn from them. The newly acquired knowledge will enable them to be more effective and responsible in the performance of their duties. At the end of the course, participants reiterated their commitment to the fight against corruption.



### Experience sharing between the CNDHs of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger

## NIGER



### Training in ethical and deontological reporting on the security sector

DCAF organised two training sessions for media professionals from the capital and various regions. From 16 to 20 June, 16 journalists from the private, audio-visual and written press in Niamey and the Ecole Supérieure de Communication (ESCOM) participated in the first session. Then, 17 community radio presenters, including seven female presenters, from seven regions attended the second session from 23 to 27 June. The training enabled them to strengthen their skills in public interest reporting, particularly on the security sector. The sessions focused on techniques for gathering, analysing and disseminating security information, with an emphasis on respect for journalistic ethics and the protection of sources. By equipping the media and community radio stations, which are often the first to relay information to local populations, this training has helped to improve the quality and effectiveness of reporting on security issues. In addition, participants discussed the challenges of covering conflict zones and the safety of journalists themselves. Following the training, the journalists recommended that their profession show greater cohesion and solidarity towards media professionals arrested in the course of their work. They also proposed ways of advocating for the establishment of a National Communication Observatory (ONC).



### Validation of the CSO analysis of private security companies in Niger

On 30 June, DCAF organised a workshop to validate the analysis carried out by a group of civil society organisations (CSOs) on private security companies in Niger. The session brought together 17 participants, including one woman, representing the main actors in the sector, to validate the contribution of CSOs to improve governance of the private security sector in the country. The analysis focused on the promotion of human rights and the integration of the gender dimension into the practices of private security companies, a crucial issue for ensuring a more responsible and inclusive sector. The workshop also provided an opportunity to share international best practices, in particular those derived from the Montreux Document, a global benchmark for the governance and accountability of private security companies. This validation marks a significant step for CSOs seeking to support the State's efforts to strengthen transparency, accountability and respect for fundamental rights in a sector that is expanding rapidly in Niger. The participants appreciated the importance of this collaboration between civil society, promoters and observers, authorities and international partners for improved security governance.

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### Advocacy for greater participation by young people and women in governance

On 30 June, five civil society organisations - Action pour l'Entrepreneuriat et le Développement (APED) Niger, SOS Femmes Enfants Victimes de Violence Familiale (FEVVF), ONG Jeunesse Africaines et Actions de Développement (JAAD), Coordination Nationale des ONG et Associations Féminines Nigériennes (CONGAFEN) and Mouvement des Jeunes pour le Développement et l'Education Citoyenne (MOJEDEC) – gathered, with the support of DCAF, to take stock of the participation of women and young people in the process of reforming Niger, covering the period from the end of 2024 to June 2025. The meeting enabled the stakeholders to take stock of the progress made and to discuss strategies for strengthening advocacy in favour of greater institutional participation by women and young people. The long-term objective is to consolidate their role in the governance of the country. A total of 11 participants, including seven women, participated in the discussions, sharing ideas and proposals to develop impactful arguments and define the next steps in this action. This session illustrates the commitment of Nigerian CSOs to promoting inclusive governance, where the voice of women and young people is recognised as an essential lever for stability and development in Niger.

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# Annual report 2024

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