



NIGER



Training of CDS and CAGI members on gender and security

DCAF organised a training from 31 May to 1 June in Niamey that built the capacity of the Defence and Security Committee (CDS) and the General and Institutional Affairs Committee (CAGI) of the National Assembly. The activity brought together a total of 53 parliamentarians, including 22 women, and is part of the implementation of the five-year action plan of the National Assembly which aims to mainstream the principles of good governance including gender mainstreaming. During the panel discussion on the role of women in security institutions, female members of the defence and security forces (DSF) shared their experiences which generated great interest among parliamentarians. To continue the discussion, the chair of the parliamentary gender network of the National Assembly committed to creating a forum for all parliamentarians and female personnel of DSF to exchange about their roles and their current situation in the security sector. In the future, DCAF will support the creation of this platform and assist the CDS in analysing and monitoring the implementation of Niger's Women, Peace and Security Action Plan.



Presentation of the self-assessment guide on the governance of the use of force

From 12 to 15 June in Niamey, DCAF organised a workshop on strategic planning and risk management for the Public Security Directorate (DSP) and the Regional Directorate of the National Police (DGNP). The workshop, which was attended by a total of 32 participants, including four women, introduced a module covering the governance of the use of force and the associated self-assessment guide. The training improved participants' knowledge of the three pillars of governance of the use of force by the police and stimulated reflection on the relevance of the self-assessment guide to the Niger context. Key highlights of the presentation were the importance of adapting tools to the challenges of security and cultural specificities as well as the importance of having tools and mechanisms to collect the information needed to strengthen internal and external accountability systems.



Scoping mission for the development of a support plan for Niger's civil society on SSG and human rights

From 20 to 28 June, DCAF conducted a scoping mission in Niger to identify civil society organisations (CSOs) with significant expertise in security sector governance (SSG) and human rights. During the mission, DCAF met with 16 organisations based in Niamey and with a presence in the other regions of Niger. The mission is paving the way for the formation of a working group to develop methodologies for the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate data, and to develop a plan to support CSOs on SSG and human rights abuses oversight. This strategic approach forms the basis of a broader support plan for the creation of reliable tools for monitoring SSG and human rights by civil society. The report of the scoping mission will be presented to the organisations in July.

MALI



Workshop to validate the Gendarmerie Nationale's gender plan

In partnership with the Gendarmerie Nationale, DCAF organised a workshop to validate the gender action plan of the Gendarmerie from 5 to 9 June in Bamako. Twenty members of the national gendarmerie, including 10 women, participated in the workshop, which was also attended by the gender adviser from the Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs and the Chief inspector of the gendarmerie. The participants reviewed and amended the various parts of the action plan, among which the context, the activities, the mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the plan, the target partners and the objectives. The participants proceeded by document reviews and group work. The inclusive reviewing process ensured maximum buy-in by the actors expected to implement the action plan. At the end of the workshop, the final version was submitted to the various stakeholders for their final comments.



Training unit commanders in security management during elections

In order to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement officers in terms of collaboration and cooperation with all stakeholders in the context of security management during elections, DCAF, in partnership with the General Directorate of the National Police (DGNP), organised a training seminar for police unit commanders in the Bamako district. Held in Bamako from 05 to 16 June, the 11-day training course prepared the unit commanders for the upcoming elections this year. The training reinforced the capacities of the 19 unit commanders, among which one woman, in terms of prevention measures during risk situations and appropriate communication mechanisms in order to guarantee an effective and responsible security service for the population before, during and after an election.



Training workshop on monitoring and documenting human rights investigations for the CNDH

At the end of the training workshop for commissioners, relays and regional representatives of the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) on investigation techniques held in Bamako from 3 to 4 April 2023, participants' recommendations highlighted the need for more training on techniques for documenting and processing cases of human rights violations. Responding to this need, DCAF organised a capacity-building workshop for commissioners, technical staff and the civil society organisations that are partners with the CNDH in order to improve the quality and number of investigations into human rights violations and abuses. A total of 22 participants, including seven women, were equipped to plan and conduct quality investigations by ensuring thorough documentation and analysis of cases of human rights violations and abuses while respecting the fundamental standards and principles of human rights investigations. The training also aimed to improve the quality of investigation reports and the collection of evidence in order to increase the likelihood of the administrative and judicial authorities taking the results into account. The participants developed a new tool and proposals for better protection of the personal data of witnesses and victims.



Workshop for members of the media on the use of the toolkit for security sector reporting

From 6 to 8 June in Koudougou, DCAF organised a training course, the second of its kind, which brought together 30 media professionals, including seven women, and equipped them to responsibly process information and report on the security sector. The group of participants, composed of journalists, professional bloggers and other media professionals learned about the protection of sources, the challenges of journalism and the social responsibility of journalists in a context of insecurity. At the end of the training, participants recommended that this framework for discussion be extended to other players involved in the security sector, in particular the defence and security forces and the political and judicial authorities. The activity is part of the support provided by DCAF to strengthen the trust between the defence and security forces and the population in which the media play a significant role.



Pre-validation workshop on the manual on GBV for defence and security forces schools and training centres

Finalised at the beginning of May (8-12 May), the manual on gender-based violence (GBV) developed for the defence and security forces (DSF) training schools was examined, amended and pre-validated on 9 June by the various DSF institutions and associations and structures advocating for gender equality and gender-responsive policies. A total of 25 participants, including eight women, revised the document's content to include the latest amendments required by the heads of the defence and security forces training schools. The manual presents and provides exercises and case studies on all types of GBV, and then focuses on the role and specific missions of the DSF in preventing and processing cases of GBV. Over the next few months, the manual will be disseminated to the DSF training schools, where it will be adapted to meet their specific needs.

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