



NIGER



Meeting of the Expanded Advisory Committee on Security Sector Budget Planning and Financial Sustainability

DCAF organised a meeting with the enlarged advisory committee on March 2 in Niamey. This activity, which brought together 11 participants, including one woman, representing various institutions such as the National Centre for Strategic and Security Studies (CNESS), the Higher Authority of the Fight against Corruption (HALCIA), the Defence and Security Commission, the national police and civil society organisations, aimed to promote better management of the human and financial resources of the defence and security forces and to obtain a mapping of the actors to be integrated into the processes related to this theme. Several interventions marked this session, notably the presentation by Mr Andry Ralijaona, DCAF Principal Programme Management on public finance management and affordability, on budget planning and financial sustainability of the security sector, the presentation on the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) guidelines on resource management and the sharing of experience by the representative of the Ministry of Finance of Niger on public finance and governance of the security sector. The activity allowed the identification of key actors in the technical and political implementation of budget programming for each institution as well as the creation of consensus on the need to involve the political institutions in all decision-making processes.



Meeting to launch a partnership framework between DCAF and the General and Institutional Affairs Committee of the National Assembly (CAGI)

The establishment of this partnership framework aims to strengthen the role of the CAGI in promoting the rule of law and improving security governance in Niger. On March 7, DCAF presented the organisation's activities and its various areas of intervention. This meeting also provided the opportunity to take stock of several years of partnership between DCAF and the National Assembly through the Defence and Security Commission. The rapporteur of the CAGI and the members of the commission expressed their interest in this initiative and announced their willingness to develop and submit an action plan containing the priorities of their institutions to refine the areas of collaboration with DCAF as soon as possible.



Capacity Building Workshop for Civil Society Organizations on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

On March 30 and 31, DCAF and the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) co-organised a training workshop aimed at promoting the protection and respect of human rights by the defence and security forces (DSF) and the authorities in charge of the security sector in the context of their mission to combat armed groups by engaging with CSOs. The training brought together 55 participants, including 13 women, from CSOs, the defence and security forces and other state institutions.

Aiming to improve dialogue between CSOs and the DSF, particularly in terms of access to relevant information on the actions of security sector institutions, the workshop laid the groundwork for broader DCAF support, which will include assistance for the participation of the CNDH and CSOs in the DSF's human rights platforms at the national level, as well as for capacity building in the context of CNDH and CSO investigation missions.



MALI

Capacity building for CSO members of the AC-RSS

In partnership with the Citizens' Alliance for Security Sector Reform (AC-RSS), DCAF organised a capacity-building workshop for member organisations of the alliance from March 28 to 30. Created in January 2022, AC-RSS is a group of some thirty civil society organisations committed to good governance in the security sector in Mali.

This workshop enabled the 55 participants (including 33 women) to deepen their knowledge of their role in the governance and reform of the security sector in Mali with a view to making them drivers of change in the country. During the three-day workshop, participants had the opportunity to exchange on current initiatives, good practices, the role of civil society in SSR/G and the various mechanisms of democratic control. This workshop strengthened the Alliance's capacity to play an active role in public debate and advocacy on security sector governance and to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the national SSR strategy.



Training of CNDH staff and collaborators

With the support of DCAF, the National Human Rights Commission, which receives individual or collective complaints and investigates all allegations of human rights violations on the national territory, organised a training workshop for its collaborators and community relays on April 3 and 4.

The group was composed of 46 people, including 18 women, from the regions of Mopti, Kayes, Sikasso, Ségou, Gao and the district of Bamako. The aim was to build the capacity of these actors in the promotion of human rights, international humanitarian law and techniques for investigating and reporting human rights violations. Participants were also sensitised on the issue of conflict-related sexual violence. This workshop is part of a series of efforts to improve the capacity of participants to conduct quality investigations by ensuring thorough documentation and analysis of cases of human rights violations and abuses. By contributing to the quality of investigation reports and evidence collection, the training also aims to ensure the results of investigations are taken into consideration and acted upon by administrative and judicial authorities.



Pilot training on the management of gender-based violence (GBV)

DCAF supported the development of a gender self-assessment within the National Gendarmerie to assess how gender equality was integrated into both the management and service delivery of the institution. As a result of this self-assessment, the Gendarmerie Nationale highlighted the need to build the capacity of all personnel on gender issues. With the support of DCAF, a training module on the treatment of gender-based violence (GBV) was developed.

From March 13 to 17, in partnership with the General Directorate of the National Gendarmerie (DGGN), DCAF organised a pilot session of the training module. With the participation of 5 women and 5 men, this workshop allowed participants to deepen their knowledge on the management of GBV. The training covered many aspects and concepts such as the legal framework, the cycles of violence, the prevalence of GBV in Mali and the orientation and assessment of security risks for victims. This pilot session also allowed for the identification of actions to be taken in order to finalize the training module prior to a training of trainers for the National Gendarmerie School.

BURKINA FASO



Ouagadougou conference: security sector governance at the heart of a regional debate

From February 13 to 18, DCAF organized workshops in the North Central and East Central regions of the country for several civil society organizations that form "citizen control committees. The goal of these workshops was to provide these CSOs with the tools they need to monitor and contribute to security sector governance in their localities. For several days, DCAF Burkina and its partners (the Ombudsman of Faso, the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), le Groupe Recherche-Action pour la Sécurité Humaine (GRASH) and the Center for the Quality of Law and Justice) presented to participants the legal avenues of referral and recourse in terms of security sector regulation. The CNDH representative told the participants that "there are ways of referring cases to the courts and you have the right to do so". These workshops are part of the continuity of the work initiated in 2021 for the benefit of citizen control committees and contribute to their operationalization.

Presentation of the action plan for gender equality in the penitentiary administration in Burkina Faso

The Burkinabe prison administration organised a meeting with its partners to present the report of the institutional gender self-evaluation of the prison administration on March 23 in Ouagadougou. This activity brought together about thirty participants including more than a third of women. Resulting from a joint effort by DCAF and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), this self-assessment identified several shortcomings, including insufficient consideration of gender in the initial training modules for prison staff, insufficient consideration of the specific needs of women and men prisoners in social reintegration activities, and the lack of a formal gender mechanism for receiving and processing prisoners' complaints. This self-assessment led to strong recommendations in terms of training and law enforcement to better take gender into account in the penitentiary administration and is an example of good practice at the level of security sector agencies in Burkina Faso.

What about other parts of the world ?

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