



NIGER



Regional conference on the promotion and protection of human rights in a context of insecurity: Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger

On 23 and 24 May, DCAF organised in collaboration with Niger's National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH) a regional conference in Niamey on human rights protection mechanisms in the Sahel in a context of insecurity: Burkina-Faso, Mali, Niger. The conference aimed to raise awareness and build the capacity of stakeholders on human rights prevention mechanisms and tools, and to contribute to improving good governance and the rule of law. The conference was attended by around 80 participants, among which 20 were women. To encourage the sharing of regional experiences, delegations from Burkina Faso and Mali were represented at the various sessions. At the end of the conference, the participants made a number of recommendations, including strengthening cooperation between the CNDHs at the regional level, reinforcing governance in the military and private security companies, and sensitizing civil society organisations and the media to their social responsibility in a context of insecurity.



Civil society organisations (CSOs) training on security sector governance and human rights in Maradi and Niamey

From 9 to 11 May in Maradi and from 18 to 19 May in Niamey, DCAF organised two training sessions for CSOs on their role in security sector governance and the promotion, protection and respect of human rights. The training was based on a participatory and interactive approach. A total of 52 participants, including 16 women took part in group discussions and carried out case studies and practical exercises. The participants shared their experiences and discussed the challenges they face in their work to promote and protect human rights, particularly in their collaboration with the Defence and security forces (DFS). Following these training sessions, DCAF will continue to support CSOs in building their capacities and developing methodological tools, particularly in terms of strengthening the means of citizen oversight of the security sector and the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of insecurity in Niger.



Methodological support for the annual meeting of the Regional Directorates of the National Police in Maradi

"Security challenges and internal control" were at the heart of five days of intensive work and reflection organised by the Public Security Directorate (DSP) in partnership with the DCAF from 22 to 26 May. This meeting of regional and departmental directors of the National Police, organised for the first time outside of the capital and attended by 35 participants, including one woman, represented an opportunity to exchange and share experiences on current security challenges. The discussions enabled the regional directorate of the national police (DRPN) and the departmental directorate of the national police (DDPN) to level up their level of information on the security situation in the country in general and in the different regions in particular, in order to propose a joint solution. During the development of recommendations, participants underscored the importance of establishing community policing to better respond to the concerns of the population.

MALI



Regional conference on citizen participation in governance and co-production of security in Bamako

On 09 and 10 May, DCAF organised a regional conference on "Citizen participation in the governance and co-production of security: regional dynamics and national approaches in West Africa and the Sahel". The conference aimed to help identify and review initiatives to empower citizens in the governance and delivery of security as public service in West Africa and the Sahel, take stock of citizen participation in the governance and co-production of security, identify the strengths and limits of national systems and disseminate good practices in participatory governance and collaborative security. A total of 92 participants, including 26 women, from public

institutions and civil society organisations from Mali, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger and Senegal came together to share their experiences and learn about initiatives in the sub-region. Participants agreed on a series of recommendations, including the need to move away from a security-only approach, improving transparency by promoting accountability and the protection of voice-bearers such as the media, and greater involvement of women and young people in security governance.



Dinner-Debate about security sector governance

In partnership with the Swiss Cooperation, DCAF organised a dinner-debate on "Experiences in security sector governance and reform in the Sahel, in the light of challenges, lessons learned and opportunities". The 66 guests, including 21 women, benefited from the presence of high-level panellists such as the Commissioner for Security Sector Reform (SSR), the Director General of the Ecole de Maintien de la Paix (EMP) in Bamako, and the Director of DCAF. Discussions focused on experiences in the field of security sector governance and reform (SSG/R) in the Sahel and highlighted challenges, lessons learned and opportunities. Participants agreed on the need to build confidence between defence and security institutions, the justice system and the population. The Security Consultative Committees (CCS), which bring together the defence and security forces, political representatives and civil society, represent a good practice that needs to be maintained and strengthened. Among the opportunities listed, the participants highlighted the existence of training structures such as the EMP, sub-regional cooperation and increased expertise in governance and reform of the security sector.



Capacity building for Judicial Police Officers

In partnership with the National Commission on Human Rights (CNDH), DCAF organised a training course on human rights and gender-based violence (GBV) for police and gendarmerie officers in the Bamako district from 16 to 18 May in Bamako. A total of 40 officers, including eight women in charge of GBV in their police stations and brigades, participated in the training. The various sessions provided an opportunity to build the capacity of police officers in the protection of human rights, the consideration of gender dynamics in the performance of their day-to-day duties and the management of GBV victims. The training focused in particular on the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment in police and gendarmerie operations. During the session on GBV, the police commissioner and director of the Dguiya One Stop Centre recalled the factors increasing the risk of GBV and underscored the extent of the phenomenon in Mali, and then presented GBV investigation techniques and the management of GBV cases.

BURKINA FASO



Workshop to finalise the GBV manual for DSF schools and training centres

In the summer of 2022, DCAF conducted an evaluation of the training curricula in Defence and security forces (DSF) schools to assess the inclusion of gender-based violence (GBV) training. The drafting committee, supported by DCAF, then developed a draft GBV training module to address the gaps identified. On this basis, 35 people, including six women from various branches of the DSF, met from 8 to 12 May 2023 in Koudougou to reflect on and develop the final version of the manual. The reference document will include all the elements on gender-based violence and will be used to train the DSF. The discussions were carried out in groups and led to the document being structured around five chapters: the context, definition and typology of gender-based violence; the guiding principles for the prevention and fight against GBV; the cycle, causes and consequences of gender-based violence; the legal and institutional framework; and good practice in processing GBV complaints. Each branch of the DSF contributed to the development of the manual in order to integrate the specific characteristics of the various branches and facilitate the manual's implementation during the training.



Training media professionals on the toolkit for security sector reporting

A total of 38 people, including seven women from the media, participated in the training on security sector reporting in Bobo-Dioulasso from 15 to 17 May 2023. The training primarily aimed to ensure that media men and women adopt and assimilate good practices in security sector reporting. Journalists have a duty to inform, analyse, question and challenge, while taking into account their social responsibility, particularly in conflict contexts. In order to fulfil this public interest role, the facilitators underscored journalism standards of accuracy and impartiality, without which the reliability of their information will be questioned. The training was punctuated by participatory work led by three communicators, including a senior expert, a representative of the Higher Council of Communication and a trainer from the Institute of Information and Communication Sciences. The participants work as professional journalists, bloggers and activists. They expressed the willingness to attend other training courses and recommended involving the defence and security forces to improve collaboration. They also recommended integrating security sector reporting into the training curricula for journalists.



Sensitization workshop on SALW management for the defence and security forces in Kaya

From 23 to 24 May, DCAF, in partnership with the National Commission on Arms Control (CNCA), organised a workshop attended by 40 people, including eight women, from the defence and security forces and civil society organisations (CSOs). The workshop aimed to promote the safe management of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and ammunition, and to fight their proliferation, by informing stakeholders about the normative framework regulating arms in Burkina Faso, management and control mechanisms, and the risks associated with illegal possession and trafficking. To this end, the CNCA presented the actions taken to fight the proliferation of arms in terms of strengthening the legal framework, building the capacity of the defence and security forces (DSF) and creating infrastructures to secure arms and ammunition. The workshop also provided an opportunity to present the national strategy to combat Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and the national strategy for the management of arms and ammunition.

What about other parts of the world ?

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