

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



Final workshop on the Integrity Kit for Burkina Faso's National Police

From October 21 to 25, the national police, with the support of DCAF, organized a workshop to finalize the integrity Kit designed for Burkina Faso's security system actors, specifically, the police. The workshop was attended by 25 people, including three women from the General Directorate of the National Police, the National Police School, the Police Academy and the Continuing Training Department. It offered an opportunity to consolidate and finalize the work started during the previous workshop in July. Throughout the five days, experts developed teaching and presentation materials that the trainers will use to deliver the modules. Several adjustments and comments raised by participants during the first workshop were taken into account to ensure that the Kit is tailored to the Burkinabe context. Through this Kit, the police institution will now be equipped with a contextualized manual which addresses various central aspects such as standards of integrity within the police, corruption, criminal and administrative procedures and judicial police missions. Following the consensual approval of the Kit, the participants also decided on selecting criteria for future trainers to enable the police to prepare for the next phase of the Kit implementation, which will consist of effectively integrating the modules into the police training schools.



Meeting of the Consultative Security Committee of the San region

On October 22, the fourth meeting of the San region's consultative security committee (CCS) was organised by the region's governorate and with the support of DCAF. The meeting brought together representatives of regional service chiefs, religious and customary authorities, the defence and security forces and other civil society organisations from the San region. A total of 67 participants attended the meeting, including six women. The meeting provided an opportunity to follow up on the recommendations of the previous meeting and to assess the current security situation. Those in charge of the implementation of activities, reported their work in raising awareness to populations regarding personal safety and also holding training sessions on first aid and rescue. They also mentioned the recommendations in progress, those postponed and those rejected. The presentation of the current security situation fuelled discussions that led to new recommendations such as increasing community policing activities to improve security at local level.



Training Civil Protection in gender self-assessment tools

From October 16 to 17, the General Directorate of the Civil Protection (DGPC), in partnership with DCAF, organised a training course for civil protection investigators and gender supervisors. The hybrid training brought together a total of 50 participants, including 20 women from the civil protection service. Facilitated by DCAF's Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and an external

consultant, the session trained agents and supervisors in data collection tools and techniques, in particular the KoboCollect software. The data collectors will conduct surveys and interview civil protection personnel to gather information on, among others, recruitment and selection processes, assignment, deployment, promotion, training, infrastructure and institutional culture. The data collected will be used to analyze gender mainstreaming in the institution, eventually leading to drawing up an action plan to address the shortcomings identified.

NIGER



Workshop on transparency and anti-corruption

From October 22 to 23, DCAF hosted a workshop for civil society organizations (CSOs) and the media on the dissemination of information and good practice in transparency and anti-corruption. Organized by Transparency International Niger, the workshop, which was attended by 23 people including four women, is part of the implementation of the recommendations of the Bamako and Ouagadougou regional conferences on transparency and anti-corruption organized by DCAF in May and March 2023. The workshop hence contributed to promoting good governance and transparency by establishing dynamic partnerships between CSOs and the media, thereby raising public awareness of good practices in transparency, prevention and the fight against corruption. CSOs and media partners become channels for change in governance, helping to create an environment where corruption is denounced, and transparent practices are respected. By strengthening the synergy between these actors, this workshop aims to make anti-corruption a collective priority, with a potential positive impact on the governance of the security sector in Niger.



Workshop on safety and justice issues for survivors of GBV

From October 09 to 10, the NGO Jeunesse Africaine et Action de Développement (JAAD), in collaboration with DCAF, organized a workshop on access to security and justice services for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV). The workshop brought together 30 participants, including 18 women from various civil society organizations, as well as the defense and security forces and state institutions. The workshop started with opening remarks by representatives of DCAF and JAAD respectively, and a speech from the Directorate for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children (DPF/PE) stressing the importance of collaborative action. Discussions revolved on DCAF's objectives for improving the security governance in Niger, integrating the gender dimension into security, and the national strategy for preventing and responding to GBV and sexual abuse and exploitation. The DFP/EP also shared detailed measures for the holistic protection of survivors, focusing on non-discrimination, respect for rights, confidentiality and security. Panels and experience-sharing explored the barriers to free medical expertise, staff shortages, and the call for support of holistic centers such as those in Tillabéry and Zinder. The importance of a holistic and interdisciplinary approach was also pointed out, highlighting how well-coordinated care not only improves support for survivors but also reinforces the public trust in security institutions.

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