

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



Workshop to launch the Police Integrity Kit

The General Directorate of the National Police, the National Police School and the Police Academy, in collaboration with DCAF, organised a workshop from 8 to 12 July with 15 experts from their institutions. The session provided an opportunity to tailor the Integrity Kit to the specific needs and realities of the Burkinabe police force thereby enhancing the institutional ownership. The Kit, developed by DCAF, is a tool to guide police officers in good practice. Divided into groups, the experts worked on adapting the document's content and format, before presenting the changes in a plenary session. Thanks to their contributions, a revised version of the tool will be ready for validation by the end of September. A team will then be appointed to participate in a training of trainers preparing them to deliver integrity training to officers in police schools and training centres, as well as to active staff, particularly those working in the regions.



Training in mapping corruption risks in the defence and security sectors

From 15 to 26 July, the High Authority for State Control and the Fight against Corruption (ASCE-LC), in collaboration with DCAF, organized a workshop on the process of developing risk mapping in the defence and security sectors. A total of 26 members from the General Inspectorate of the National Armed Forces (IGFAN) and the Technical Inspectorate of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralisation, and Security (ITS-MATDS) participated. The training aimed to equip participants with the skills to conduct structured and effective inspections to counter financial mismanagement. The workshop placed particular emphasis on in-depth analysis of corruption risks and the implementation of a concrete process for handling cases, thereby ensuring accountability. At the end of the course, participants noted that additional time for applying their knowledge through practical case studies would have been beneficial. They also suggested that organizations receive support as they develop their risk maps, to provide guidance as they apply the new knowledge in practice.

MALI



Training inspectorates to monitor the management of GBV

The Inspectorate of Security Services and Civil Protection (ISSPC), with the support of DCAF, organized a capacity-building session for members of the ISSPC and the Sectoral Inspectorates of the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection on the management and processing of cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) within the security and defence services. The training, held from 3 to 5 July in Kangaba, was attended by 24 participants, including one woman. It provided an opportunity for participants to discuss the topic and learn about integrating GBV into inspection processes. Notably, only four participants had prior specific training on the subject, highlighting the importance of this workshop. The final evaluation of the workshop indicated that the training was

well received and met participants' expectations. It is encouraging to see that inspectors have become more aware of their crucial role in preventing and addressing gender-based violence within security service units. Demonstrating the success of the training, the inspectors have not only committed to integrating gender considerations into their inspections but have also taken the initiative to conduct inspections specifically focused on managing GBV.



Training journalists on the guide on security sector reporting

From 23 to 26 July, DCAF organized a training session on the security sector reporting toolkit. This event provided an opportunity to present the toolkit's key themes and gather feedback from Malian media professionals. The knowledge gained by participants will enhance their ability to serve as external oversight actors by producing high-quality information on the security sector. Responding to a recommendation from a previous training session, the 26 journalists in attendance, including 21 women, came from the country's interior regions, where journalists typically have fewer training opportunities. Over the four-day workshop, participants explored a wide range of topics, including public interest reporting, the security sector in Mali, the national media landscape, the opportunities and challenges of reporting on the security sector, conflict-sensitive approaches, and journalism in times of restricted freedom. To put their new skills into practice, participants concluded the workshop by writing articles on recent national security sector news.



Training gendarmes in the Sikasso region to manage and process cases of GBV

From 26 to 30 August, the General Directorate of the Gendarmerie, in collaboration with DCAF, organized a training session on the management and processing of gender-based violence (GBV) cases. The session was attended by 30 gendarmes, including six women, from various units and departments of the Gendarmerie, as part of a capacity-building initiative for staff in the Sikasso region. Sikasso borders Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, and Guinea, and hosts several traditional gold-panning sites frequented by individuals of various nationalities.

and gold-panners from the interior of the country. In these areas, gendarmes are responsible for ensuring the safety of people and their property, and they frequently encounter GBV cases. More than half of the participants had never received training on this topic and benefited from modules covering a range of issues, including the legal, institutional, and political frameworks surrounding GBV, the cycle of violence, the prevalence of GBV in Mali, and mechanisms for managing and supporting GBV survivors.

NIGER



DCAF contribution to the International Scout Camp in Niger

From 12 to 18 August, DCAF participated in the Camp Chantier International de Solidarité in Tahoua, organized by the Scout Movement in Niger. This event, which gathered 500 young people, including 240 women, provided a platform for DCAF to raise awareness about its mission and to enhance participants' understanding of key issues related to peace and security. DCAF organized and facilitated several workshops introducing various themes aligned with its mandate. The presentations began with an introduction to DCAF, explaining its role in Niger and other regions where it promotes good governance in the security sector. This was followed by a workshop on the importance of media literacy in countering mis- and disinformation, particularly on social media, where fake news can have serious consequences for public safety. Another session delved into the concept of human security, emphasizing the critical role of youth in promoting peace. Finally, participants reflected on gender and security, discussing the vital contribution of women to security governance. The camp concluded with a panel on the prevention of violent extremism, where young ambassadors from Niger and Chad shared their experiences and proposed solutions.



Expansion of the system for monitoring human rights violations in the Tahoua region

From 16 to 23 July, the Youth Movement for Development and Civic Education (MOJEDEC), with the support of DCAF, conducted an awareness-raising mission to inform 140 local stakeholders, including 49 women, about their project and to update the mapping of legal remedies in newly extended zones. The mission identified prevalent issues such as sexual violence, farmer-herder conflicts, and acts of corruption. Local challenges include a lack of awareness about rights and a reluctance to file complaints. The stakeholders committed to improving victim support and enhancing collaboration among local actors. Additionally, the mapping of remedies was updated to better guide victims. Subsequently, from 28 to 29 July, MOJEDEC and DCAF organized training for 23 community relays and monitors, including eight women, as part of the project. The training, held in the communes of Abalak, Tabalak, Illéla, Badaguichiri, and Bagaroua, provided participants with skills in documenting human rights violations, using an electronic data collection platform, and understanding the fundamentals of security sector governance.



Mission to collect, study and centralise GBV data from departmental brigades in the Maradi region

From 25 to 26 July, a joint mission by the NGO SOS Women and Children Victim of Domestic Violence (SOS-FEVVF) and the Minor and Women Protection Division (DPMF), with support from DCAF, trained 22 brigade chiefs, including one woman, in the collection and management of gender-based violence (GBV) data in the regions of Maradi and Niamey. This initiative aimed to enhance GBV data collection, which is crucial for guiding authorities' decisions and improving victim support. During the training, participants identified several major challenges, including cumbersome forms, difficulties accessing the Internet, and survivors' reluctance to share information. A data collection platform was introduced to centralize information more effectively, but only 95 cases were registered in the first half of 2024, highlighting the need for improvement. Recommendations include fostering closer collaboration between brigade commanders, civil society organizations, and judicial authorities, as well as providing ongoing training and awareness-raising for line managers to improve real-time data collection. The next steps involve monitoring activities in Maradi and providing further training for brigade chiefs on criminal procedures and GBV, with the goal of establishing a robust statistical database.

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