



BURKINA FASO



DCAF's partners take stock of SSGR advancement and planning

DCAF organised a working session with the consultative committee comprised of the main contact points of burkinabè partner institutions and organisations from 10 to 14 July 2023 in Ziniaré. The workshop, which brought together twenty participants, including 14 women, helped to develop consensus roadmaps for implementing the recommendations of the three regional conferences held earlier in the year in Ouagadougou, Bamako and Niamey. This session also served as a framework for presenting the results achieved and the state of implementation of the activities of the Danish and Norwegian programmes, and for encouraging and promoting ownership of DCAF's objectives and areas of intervention. Lastly, this third session of the advisory committee provided an opportunity to discuss the impact on the programme of the electoral timetable defined by the transition charter, the added value of a new constitution in Burkina Faso in the light of the context and challenges, and the priorities of governance and security sector reform following the adoption of the national security law and policy. The participants deemed it impossible to organise an election in July, as it is a rainy period and the security context remains too challenging. Regarding the drafting of a new constitution, the participants did not see any added value in the exercise and recommended to prioritize strengthening the existing institutions.



Sensitisation workshop on SALW management

Supported by DCAF, the National Arms Control Commission (CNCA) began an awareness-raising tour on the management of small arms and light weapons (SALW) for civil society actors in May in Kaya and then in June in Bobo-Dioulasso. A new workshop was organised for the defence and security forces (DSF) and civil society organisations (CSOs) in Banfora from 18 to 19 July. A total of 42 participants, including seven women, enhanced their understanding of the problem linked to the proliferation of SALW thanks to discussions between the various branches of the DSF and CSOs. The discussions also provided an opportunity to fully explain the mandate and remit of the CNCA and to define the role of every actor in the fight against the proliferation of SALW, particularly within communities.



Workshop in SALW management for women and gender CSOs

As part of the fight against the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), the National Arms Control Commission (CNCA), with the support of DCAF, organised an awareness-raising workshop for women's and gender civil society organisations (CSOs) from 30 to 31 August in Ziniaré. Women play a key role in the management of SALW, hence their strong presence at this training (15 women out of 21 participants). For two days, participants were given an in-depth look at the legal and institutional frameworks for managing SALW. The participants showed a great deal of interest, and some agreed to share their views: "I didn't know anything about SALW. This training course brought me out of my ignorance. When you talk about weapons, people are puzzled and reticent", explains one participant. "I had to go to the police station and ask the commissioner to call my husband to inform him that I had to take part in a training course on SALW. It's a sensitive issue, but given its relevance, I think there should be more training to demystify mentalities and get everyone involved in the fight against the proliferation of SALW, which is a real scourge in the sub-region," says another participant. The participants, members of various community organisations, intend to fully play their role as relays in their respective localities.

MALI



Training workshop for elected officials from six communes and the Governorate of the District of Bamako

From 10 to 11 August, the Governorate of the District of Bamako, in partnership with DCAF, organised a training workshop for elected municipal representatives and staff from the town halls of the six communes in the District of Bamako, as well as for its own staff, on inclusive governance of the security sector. Over the course of two days, participants learned about and exchanged about the concepts of security, security sector reform, the missions of the security forces, community policing, the roles of civil society organisations and the links between security and gender. The training enabled the 28 beneficiaries, including six women, to strengthen their understanding of security and SSR-related issues, in order to enhance their role in the security consultative committees at regional and communal levels. The training was provided by a pool of trainers from DCAF and its technical and institutional partners, in particular, the National Commissariat for Security Sector Reform (CNRSS), the Citizen's Alliance for SSR (AC-RSS), the General Directorates of the National Police and Gendarmerie and the Bamako District Governorate.



Seminar on financial oversight for inspectorates

From 14 to 18 August, DCAF co-organised with EUCAP-Sahel a five-day seminar for inspectors from general and decentralised inspectorates. Over the course of five days, thirty inspectors deepened their knowledge of accounting and familiarised themselves with the tools used to conduct accounting audits. The training enabled participants to carry out effective audits and controls of the application of accounting in the security services for which they are responsible. High-level experts (chartered accountants, senior, national and international auditors) have been mobilised to provide participative teaching, to help provide solutions to the difficulties encountered by inspectors and, as a result, consolidate the role of inspectorates and improve the efficiency of security services.



Leadership and risk management training for female police non-commissioned officer cadets

The Directorate General of the National Police, in partnership with DCAF, has organised a training session on leadership and personal risk management for the 1,015 female non-commissioned officer cadets who will complete their initial training cycle in September 2023 before being deployed throughout the country. The overall aim of this training cycle is to build the professional skills and confidence of young female police officers so that they can start their careers with confidence. This event embodies the commitment of DCAF and the police hierarchy to strengthening the role of female personnel as actors in detecting crime and maintaining and preserving public order.

MAURITANIA



Coordination meeting with national partners

On 13 July at the Azalaï Hotel in Nouakchott, DCAF organised a restitution and strategic coordination workshop. The event, which brought together twenty-five participants, including five women, from the National Assembly, civil society and financial oversight institutions (Cour des Comptes, Inspection Générale d'Etat, Autorité de Régulation des Marchés Publiques), provided an opportunity to take stock of the recommendations of the March 2023 regional conference in Ouagadougou on transparency and financial accountability in the security sector, with which a five-person Mauritanian delegation was associated. The discussions highlighted the specific features of the Mauritanian context, which should be taken into account with a view to ensuring national ownership of the recommendations. At the same time, the participants took stock of the areas of capacity building that will shape the next training activities to be carried out for them. DCAF, which has been active in Mauritania since April 2021, supports Mauritanian state and non-state actors in strengthening financial control procedures in the security sector.

NIGER



Parliamentary mission to the Agadez Region

DCAF supported a parliamentary mission by the Commission for General and Institutional Affairs (CAGI) to the Agadez region from 14 to 19 July. Composed of five parliamentarians (including one woman) and two parliamentary officials (including one woman), the mission assessed the impact of the law on migrant smuggling and monitored the effectiveness of the right of access to justice and compliance with detention standards through an impact assessment of the latest judicial reforms, in particular on criminal chambers. Going through the cities of Agadez, Arlit and Assamaka, the delegation met the relevant authorities and the heads of the migrant camps (IOM and COOPI) to discuss the conditions under which migrants are received and cared for. Due to the suspension of parliament one week after the mission, the CAGI did not have time to publish the mission report, which was expected to contain recommendations for improving the weaknesses identified..



Restitution and validation of the study on small arms and light weapons

From 18 to 19 July, the National Commission for the Collection and Control of Illicit Arms (CNCCAI), in partnership with DCAF, organised a workshop to present the report of the study on small arms and light weapons (SALW). The study took stock of Niger's legal and operational frameworks for controlling SALW. The workshop presented the results to 23 participants, including two women, from the defence and security forces, civil society organisations and international partner organisations. After amendment and discussion, the participants validated the study and agreed on concrete recommendations, such as the introduction of a system for marking weapons at the time of purchase, the organisation of public awareness campaigns on the proliferation and misuse of SALW, and the introduction of national standards on the management and storage of weapons and ammunition. The CNCCAI praised DCAF's work highlighting that "this study is the first to specifically address SALW in Niger".

Project revision in the context of post-military coup in Niger

On 26 July, democracy suffered a blow in Niger as elected President Mohammed Bazoum was toppled by the Chief of the Presidential Guard, General Tchiani. In light of this unconstitutional change of government, international cooperation in security sector governance was suspended. The pause in implementation of DCAF's projects funded by Germany, the Netherlands and the UK has allowed space for project revision and adaptation to the new context. DCAF's office in Niamey set up a strategic monitoring mechanism providing regular stakeholder analysis, from which the Niger team developed scenarios to evaluate the coup's impact on programming. Given the political context, transformational reforms of the security sector are not feasible, nor desirable given the foreseeable lack of inclusiveness of the transitional structures and the risk of legitimizing the coup actors. Yet there is still an opportunity and need to engage in Niger on critical security sector governance issues by shifting the focus away from institutional support to more people-centred approaches addressing human security through collaboration with civil society organisations. Following this intervention logic, DCAF reviewed its projects' log frames and hopes to soon resume some work with civilian oversight partners in Niger.

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