

AFRICAN SECURITY GOVERNANCE INDEX



DCAF Geneva Centre
for Security Sector
Governance



Denmark's Regional
Sahel Peace and
Stabilization Programme
(Sahel PSP II)

 **Norvège**

In partnership with:



An index to support Sahelian states in strengthening security sector governance

Through the creation of the **African Security Governance Index**, DCAF's goal is to **strengthen democratic oversight and control the defense and security sector in the Sahel** by contributing to the development of security systems and institutions that are responsive to democratic oversight, and that respects human rights and the rule of law.

The adoption of the "Political Framework for Security Sector Reform and Governance" in June 2016 by the Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was the touchstone of this domain. DCAF, in partnership with the African Security Sector Network (ASSN) and the Latin American Security and defense network (RESDAL), is contributing to ECOWAS'

efforts through the creation of a regional study and analysis system for the policy framework to promote its effective implementation by Sahelian states.

The Index aims to provide **indicators of achievement** in security sector governance and serve as a quantification tool **to measure the implementation of the ECOWAS framework**. This tool allows actors to gauge the status of security sector governance in ECOWAS countries, understand steps toward enhanced governance in Sahelian countries, assess their progress over time, and support the development of effective and appropriate policy responses.

PROGRAMME

The current project is part of Denmark's Regional Sahel Peace and Stabilization Programme (Sahel PSP II) whose main objective is to contribute to stability, justice and security for the people of the region.

The DCAF component aims to strengthen democratic oversight and control of the security sector by parliaments, national institutions and civil society in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

It also aims to create the necessary political conditions for the evolution and harmonization of legislation on cross-border police and judicial cooperation.

Measuring the ten essential characteristics of the ECOWAS SSRG framework

Measuring the state of specific social, political, or cultural factors requires a method adapted to contextual realities. The basic principle of the Index is that measures of social, political and cultural phenomena contribute to the understanding of reality, serve to provide explanations and combine different aspects in an integrative interpretation, thus offering elements that can orient society's view of the phenomenon analyzed and the decision makers' actions.

This baseline measure is based on the **ten essential characteristics that make up the ECOWAS Security Sector Reform and Governance (SSG/R) policy framework.** It provides an instrument for ECOWAS and its member states to analyze the implementation of the various aspects of the Framework and to have a map to assist them in their own evaluation and policies.

Each **principle** of the ECOWAS policy framework has **dimensions.** The principles are therefore variables that respond to the degree of achievement of each dimension. Each **dimension** has its own indicators and measures.

The ECOWAS SSG/R framework defines SSG/R through the following essential characteristics:

- a) National Security Policy;
- b) A periodic security sector review and needs assessment;
- c) A comprehensive professionalization and modernization of the security sector;
- d) The involvement of customary authorities and community-based security providers;
- e) The effective involvement of CSOs and the media;
- f) The establishment of effective democratic control and oversight institutions;
- g) An effective resources mobilization strategy and financing of SSRG;
- h) A national framework for cooperation and partnership building;
- i) An effective communication strategy;
- j) A monitoring, review and evaluation mechanism.

Appropriate modes and types of data collection

The indicators are accompanied by an interpretation grid and a protocol that determine their precision and accuracy. This interpretation grid and protocol are applied in the data collection process.

In this context, environmental and systemic differences must be taken into account. The methodology applies to all subjects of the study and the data collection, including available legal information and informational interviews. This data collection is based on facts and data rather than on expert opinion, to ensure that data collection takes place under similar conditions. Interview questions are formulated to generate yes / no responses. The data avoids bias by limiting the inclusion of opinions in these interviews through the verifiability of the facts (e.g., the existence or not of a legal framework).



The goals

Support governments in developing and strengthening their SSG/R framework. Ultimately, each country can use this exercise to select aspects of the data that are important to its own situation. This tool provides a technically easy-to-implement framework to constructively evolve one's own process.

Provide civil society and the academic world with a monitoring and impact tool. The index also helps strengthen citizen oversight of government commitments to security sector reform and helps strengthen and guide civil society advocacy efforts with accurate data.

Strengthen stakeholder engagement in SSG/R. The index regularly measures changes in the implementation of key features of the ECOWAS framework and thus highlights progress in different areas over time. It is also a question of maintaining and reinforcing the dynamics of transformation as well as the commitment of the actors in this virtual perspective.

Create a transparent, scalable and adaptable tool. A global website: www.africansecurityindex.org to present analysis of state contexts and developments in SSG/R. The methodology is built on the indicators applicable in the 2021-2022 edition but also provides a guide for future measurements allowing the tool to be adapted over time and space.



Control and accountability of the security sector



Cooperation and knowledge sharing



Policy measures and security sector reforms

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