



Sub-Saharan Africa

Foreword

Sub-Saharan Africa has been a long-standing geographical priority area for DCAF and its engagement on the continent has steadily grown year on year in the past decade. DCAF's team of experts from HQ across all three departments (ISSAT, Operations and Policy and Research) is complemented by field offices in, Addis Ababa, Banjul, Bamako, and Niamey, a consortium in Kinshasa and a team Ouagadougou.

In line with the DCAF SSA Strategy 2021-2024 (dcaf.ch), DCAF's engagement in SSA contributes to the following three objectives:

1. Reaffirm the value of democratic governance in addressing current and emerging security challenges;
2. Enhance engagement in fragile and conflict affected contexts;
3. Strengthen contributions of SSG/R to international policy and practice.

Providing medium and long-term support to develop effective security institutions that are accountable to the state and its citizens, while promoting the principles of good governance, human rights, rule of law and gender equality is at the heart of our work in the region.

We pursue these objectives through support to national partners, including security providers and internal and external oversight actors and institutions such as inspectorates, parliaments and national human rights commissions. We also help to sensitize and strengthen the capacities of civil society groups, women's rights groups, and the media, so that they meaningfully participate in the dialogue on reform and good governance of the security sector.

Thematic programmes are an important aspect of our work, and help to put into perspective current issues and threats, including prevention of violent extremism, peacebuilding, climate change, border issues, public health security, and the role of non-state actors in the security sector.

Our programmes are funded by several donors, including Denmark, France, the European Union, Germany, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. Our team is made up of 50 national and international experts with an average annual project budget of 8 million CHF.



Highlights

› THE GAMBIA

DCAF has been supporting the SSR process since the democratic transition in The Gambia in 2017. Since 2021, DCAF is implementing a programme (2021-2025) aimed at strengthening the effectiveness, management and accountability of the Gambian Police Forces (GPF) and the Gambian Immigration Department (GID). DCAF supports the revision of laws and policies, improving performance management and leadership, and reinforcing internal and external oversight. As of 2023, the programme has expanded its scope to support security institutions (incl. GPF and GID) in tackling transnational crime.

› MALI

Working in Mali since 2014, DCAF aims to help create a conducive environment where communities are empowered to raise their issues and demand change, and to assist our partners in improving the accountability and oversight of the security sector. DCAF is committed to support national security sector governance processes (including through the operationalisation of the consultative security committees), to contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of the security sector (by promoting accountability and supporting the professionalisation of the institutions) and to foster an informed public debate on governance and security issues.

› DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

In 2022, together with its consortia partners Enabel and Coginta, DCAF launched a 4-year programme in support of the reform of the National Police of the DRC. The programme aims to strengthen police accountability, professionalism, human resources management and community policing. DCAF's specific engagement focuses on supporting the development and operationalization of the legal and regulatory framework governing the police and reinforcing internal and external oversight of the police through targeted support to the inspectorate general, parliament and CSOs.

› MAURITANIA

Since 2021, DCAF implements a project to increase financial oversight of the defense and security sector in Mauritania. In providing capacity strengthening and dialogue platforms to actors from parliament, civil society, and state oversight bodies, DCAF contributes to improved transparency in the management of financial resources allocated to the defense and security sector. DCAF has recently concluded a comprehensive study of the state of play of financial governance of the defense and security sector of Mauritania that has served as a basis for sensitizing members of the inspection services of the Mauritanian armed forces.

› SOMALIA

Beginning of 2023, DCAF provided an update of the Public Expenditure Review to the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), previously undertaken by the World Bank. As a follow-up, the FGS commissioned an extension work to help them prepare for the drawdown of the African Transition Mission in Somalia. Based on a policy simulation tool it is developing, DCAF is providing an advisory service on security sector reforms and governance to the Government. By integrating the affordability dimension of the security sector in policy analysis, DCAF contributes to developing a holistic approach of security while building a sector that is people-centred.

› ETHIOPIA

In 2022, DCAF completed a multi-year programme supporting the strategic reform efforts of the Ethiopian Federal Police (EFP). The programme provided support to the EFP in five strategic areas: 1) policy, doctrine, leadership, and management; 2) internal oversight; 3) criminal investigations; 4) public order policing; and 5) professional development and administration. Since 2021, DCAF and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) have jointly implemented a programme focused on strengthening the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of the Ethiopian criminal justice system.

Highlights

› BURKINA FASO

Present in Burkina Faso since 2014, DCAF has just launched a new 4-year programme to support accountability and contingency systems to detect, prevent and reduce corruption in the security sector; as well as to increase citizens' knowledge of the complaint procedures and mechanisms of the in order to contribute to the promotion of human rights, including the prevention of community conflicts, radicalization and the fight against violent extremism.

› NIGER

Working in Niger since 2014, DCAF is supporting improved oversight, respect for human rights, and accountability within Niger's security sector. Our programme emphasizes strengthening civilian oversight through dialogue between civilians and security forces, capacity building of CSOs for effective SSG, and advocating for civilian oversight during political transitions. Additionally, it aims to improve the capacity of non-state institutions in preventing and addressing human rights violations by security and defence institutions.

› MADAGASCAR

Since 2022, DCAF is implementing a project aimed at promoting good governance within the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Force. The project, building on similar support to the police and the gendarmerie, focuses on the provision of tools and enhanced skills in the field of risk management and internal control.

› ZAMBIA

In 2022, DCAF launched a project aiming to ensure that the legal framework is amended to more effectively protect the right to peaceful assembly; strengthen oversight of the Zambia Police Service (ZPS)' management of public assemblies and use of force during public assemblies; And ensure that the ZPS apply a more proportionate and systematic approach to planning, risk assessment, and communication with assembly organizers.

Context

Although the contexts vary greatly from one country to another, the sub-Saharan African region is characterized by many common problems: weak institutions, lack of state infrastructure in many peripheral areas, socio-economic development relatively low, scarcity of national resources, as well as the proliferation of armed groups and growing insecurity.

In 2022, several countries in which DCAF operates were ranked among the countries facing the greatest challenges for development and peace in the world, according to the Global Peace Index. Gaps in service delivery fueled public grievances and affected the legitimacy of national institutions. As a result, some communities have turned to other sources of security, such as non-state armed groups or, in some cases, jihadist groups.

DCAF's support for reform and good governance of the security sector in the region is designed around several programmatic objectives:

- Improve the capacity of security institutions to meet the security needs of citizens, especially in neglected areas or peripheral areas;
- Strengthen the democratic control of the defence and security forces;
- Restore the legitimacy of the defence and security forces through greater integrity and accountability in their actions;
- Improve relations between communities and security forces.

DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance is committed to making people more secure through accountable and effective security and justice. We help national and international entities to deliver security that respects human rights, upholds the rule of law, and is democratically controlled, by:



Helping to improve the way national security sectors are governed



Guiding the development of sound, sustainable security governance policies



Promoting locally owned reforms that are inclusive, participatory, and gender responsive

DCAF's engagement consists of:



Providing technical expertise to nationally led SSG/R processes



Capacity building for state and non-state actors



Publishing research and knowledge products



Promoting internationally recommended good governance practices



Advising on security sector-related legal and policy questions



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