

**DCAF** Geneva Centre  
for Security Sector  
Governance  
**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**



**Asia-Pacific**

# Overview

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DCAF's Asia-Pacific Unit was established in 2017 after more than ten years of steadily increasing engagement in the region. In terms of security sector reform and good governance, the key challenges to be taken into consideration are:

- » Meeting the security needs of citizens, particularly women and vulnerable populations;
- » Improving the internal capacity of security institutions to deliver on those needs;
- » Ensuring effective oversight of security institutions through legal and policy frameworks;
- » Improving relations between security institutions and the communities they serve.

We provide support to nationally-led security sector reform (SSR) processes, as well as serve as a platform for partner institutions to network and share knowledge and experience in security sector reform. We work with national, regional, and international partners as well as multilateral institutions that are supporting SSR and good security sector governance (SSG).

Our activities include facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues, conducting policy research, and capacity building at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. Along with our main office in Geneva, we maintain a full-time presence in Myanmar as part of a multi-year European Union police reform support project. Our presence in the region is assured through ongoing close collaboration with partner institutions.

The Asia-Pacific Unit receives funding from a number of donors, most notably the European Union, Open Society Foundations, and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.



# Highlights

## › TRAINING FOR KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE MYANMAR PEACE PROCESS

In the context of the ongoing peace process, DCAF offers the Myanmar military intensive study courses in effective SSG/R practices, as well as disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of armed groups. The courses cover key concepts such as rule of law, accountability, transparency, participation, inclusivity, human rights, and gender equality. The courses take place in Switzerland and Myanmar, with those in Myanmar also including other stakeholders in the peace process, including political parties, government officials, and ethnic armed groups that have signed the 2015 Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

## › MYPOL: SUPPORTING THE REFORM OF THE MYANMAR POLICE FORCE

DCAF is part of a multi-year, European Union-funded project supporting the reform of the Myanmar Police Force (MPF). Taking a comprehensive approach, it engages the police, legislators, civil society organisations, the media, and other security sector stakeholders to support the MPF to meet international policing standards, respect human rights, become more effective, efficient, and accountable, and build trust with the communities it serves. DCAF focuses on police reform and internal accountability, as well as assistance to improve the legal framework and increase parliamentary oversight.



## › THE ASIA-PACIFIC SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE NETWORK

Over several years we have built a strong network of partner institutions and SSG experts across the Asia-Pacific region. This network facilitates ongoing opportunities for international exchange on SSG/R experiences and best practices, and supports national-level policy discussions. Members also cooperate in joint research to identify region-wide responses to common security sector challenges, such as COVID-19. The results of this research are discussed in sub-regional and regional meetings and disseminated throughout the network and beyond.

We have also developed a wide array of joint projects with network partners, including the promotion of gender equality in the security sector and building the capacity of parliamentary committees, civil society organizations, media, and national human rights commissions to conduct effective oversight. Every year we bring together our network partners into three sub-regional forums and a region-wide forum.

## › CAPACITY BUILDING OF SECURITY SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS

Together with Thailand's National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), DCAF has been training community radio stations, especially in the conflict-affected southern provinces, in the concepts of SSG/R and the important oversight role the media plays in effective SSG. Numerous activities have been developed with local partners for implementation in one or more countries across the region. With the support of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) DCAF contributes to an initiative to promote equal access to justice institutions and gender equity in the security sector through the translation and dissemination of DCAF's *Gender and Security Toolkit*.

Since 2013 DCAF has been collaborating with the National Defence College of the Philippines to run annual SSG/R workshops for a broad range of security sector actors. Since 2015 we have been offering seminars on police accountability to the Philippine National Police.



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 policy**



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

DCAF pursues five main activities:



**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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