

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



Training in mediation and conflict management

From November 4 to 6, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, in partnership with DCAF, organized a training for 40 women community leaders from the central-west region of Burkina Faso. The aim of the initiative was to equip participants with key skills in mediation and conflict management to help them respond to and combat the growing threat of violent extremism and community conflicts. The session covered six major themes: community conflict management, the diversity and typology of conflicts, triggering factors and their consequences, prevention and anticipation practices, conflict analysis, and the essential stages of a successful mediation process. Experts in human rights and conflict management taught participants how to detect, analyze, and effectively resolve tensions in their communities. The women participants, coming from various sectors (associations, local authorities, public services), are now better equipped to play an active role in promoting peace. One of the recommendations formulated during this initiative emphasizes the importance of placing women at the heart of solutions for sustainable social cohesion.



Training in Police Integrity

From November 18 to 22, the General Directorate of the National Police, in collaboration with DCAF, initiated a training program for trainers on police integrity. About fifteen experts guided participants through a range of topics, including mechanisms for preventing and detecting corruption, the principles of ethics and integrity, respect for human rights, and transparency in the management of law enforcement operations. The sessions, which alternated between theory and practice, addressed not only techniques for analysing the challenges of police governance but also helped participants develop skills in imparting knowledge of transparency and community participation in addressing these challenges. As a result, the training helped strengthen the participants' teaching and technical skills, preparing them to conduct sessions in their respective regions. It also contributed to the creation of a pool of trainers capable of promoting a police force that is professional, transparent, and respectful of citizens, thereby consolidating trust between the security forces and communities.

MALI



Gender approach training for police personnel

From November 11 to 15, the General Directorate of the National Police, in collaboration with DCAF, organized a capacity-building workshop on gender mainstreaming for staff in positions of responsibility within the National Police. The aim of the training was to enhance the professional skills of 25 police managers and staff, including five in leadership positions, in integrating gender perspectives and gender budgeting into human resources management. The training sought to ensure a protective working environment through measures aimed at preventing and addressing sexism, harassment, and sexual violence within the National Police. At the end of the workshop, a key recommendation to the General Directorate of the National Police and its partners was to continue prioritizing and emphasizing gender mainstreaming within the police. This training course exemplifies DCAF's commitment to integrating gender issues at the core of security sector governance and reform.

NIGER



Community dialogue on security sector governance

From November 21 to 22, the Coordination of women's organizations and associations of Niger (CONGAFEN), in collaboration with DCAF, organized an awareness-raising dialogue on community participation in peace and security issues. The initiative brought together 50 participants, including 10 women. The aim of the dialogue was to educate and inform communities representatives and members on the role they can play in supporting the mission for effective security sector governance. Through this exchange, participants were encouraged to actively engage and advocate alongside security forces and other community groups such as youth, women, people with disabilities, and customary and religious leaders for a transparent and inclusive security sector. From this initiative, participants are now more aware of their rights and have a better understanding of their role in the governance of the security sector within their communities. One of the key recommendations from this dialogue was to enhance the involvement of actors such as customary leaders in local security governance and to strengthen efforts to combat corruption at all levels.

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