

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 of civil society organisations in advocacy

From 16 to 18 April, DCAF delivered a training on advocacy techniques for civil society organisations (CSOs) working in the field of journalism and inter-community dialogue. Effective advocacy enables organisations to increase their impact by tailoring their messages to the audience, particularly when advocating to political decision-makers. A total of 26 participants, including 12 women, from seven CSOs, discussed security sector governance (SSG), and in particular the participation of civil society in security sector oversight. Following the exchange on SSG issues, the CSOs explored the theoretical aspects of advocacy and shared their good practices, before putting into practice the new competencies during various simulation exercises. The participants expressed their satisfaction with the training and desire to further practice and deepen their knowledge of the topic.

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### Training for the CAEDS members on PRVE and gender

In collaboration with DCAF, the Commission for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security (CAEDS) organised a capacity-building session for its members on gender and the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism (PRVE). From 23 to 25 April, the 15 participants, including three women, delved into the factors of radicalisation and the consequences of violent extremism in the context of Burkina Faso. One of the sessions focused on the importance of gender in PRVE by covering key concepts such as gender, gender equality and gender-sensitive budgeting to ensure a common understanding of these concepts. During the discussion on the situation in Burkina Faso, the progress made in women's integration into the Defence and Security Forces (DSF) was underscored while pointing out that access to managerial positions remains one of the main challenges for female members of the DSF. Following the analysis of the situation, the participants discussed and identified the lack of social cohesion as an important factor of radicalisation. The exchanges and discussions informed the development of recommendations that focused on strengthening social cohesion, in particular through a more inclusive engagement of civil society in PRVE, the development and dissemination of messages supporting de-radicalisation and the organisation of a national forum on reconciliation.



### Training for civilian oversight local committees on GBV monitoring

In partnership with the Groupe de Recherche-Action sur la Sécurité Humaine (GRASH) and the Centre pour la Qualité du Droit et la Justice (CQDJ), DCAF organised a training course on mechanisms for monitoring and reporting cases of gender-based violence (GBV) for civilian oversight local committees in the Centre-North and East regions. The training was held in Kaya from 23 to 25 April and brought together 30 participants, including 13 women. It began with a stocktaking of the security situation in the Centre-North and East regions, highlighting in particular the difficulties in promoting and defending human rights. Then, the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) presented its missions and roles to the committees and the complaint mechanisms available to them. Lastly, the civilian oversight local committees of the Centre-North, East and Boucle de Mouhoun regions presented a report of their activities. They expressed their satisfaction with their ability to report cases of human rights violations while underscoring the challenges posed by the security situation and the forced displacement of

populations. The participants will be able to tackle gender-based violence including strengthening the prevention, developing and implementing a multisectoral response and improving the care for victims and survivors.

## MALI



### Dialogue between women's and youth organisations in San

On 18 April, DCAF organised a dialogue between women and youth organisations to discuss their security concerns and identify their priorities, which will be communicated during the communal and regional consultative security committee (CCS) meetings. This dialogue provides an opportunity for a broader consultation of civil society and thus includes more voices than those participating in the CCS meetings by transmitting the recommendations resulting from the dialogue. The 40 participants, including 21 women from various civil society organisations (CSOs), put forward a total of 16 recommendations, including the creation of training opportunities for women and young people, the introduction of civics and ethics courses in primary school curricula, the creation of socio-professional training centres for youth that left school, and the creation of three water stations in the commune for the civil protection services.

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