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ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and People Rights
ACLED	Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project
ADEPAE	Action Pour le Developpement et la Paix Endogenes
APCOF	African Policing and Civilian Oversight Forum
ASSN	African Security Sector Network
AU	African Union
AU SSR	African Union Security Sector Reform
CEMLAWS	Centre for Maritime Law and Security
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSPPS	Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and State building
DCAF	Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EPSAO	ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations
ExCo	Executive Committee
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
FOSEC	Fondation pour la Sécurité du Citoyen
HACP	High Authority for Peacebuilding
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IGAD	Inter-governmental Authority on Development
JF	Just Future
JFA	Just Future Alliance
JIGOV-Sahel	Jihadist Insurgent Governance in the Sahel.
OMCT	Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture
ONS	Office of National Security
PA	Pan African Parliament
POs	Programme Outcomes
PRAWA	Prisons Rehabilitation and Welfare Action
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RRSSJ	Réseau Pour La Réforme Du Secteur De Sécurité Et De Justice
RESDAL	Latin American Security and Defence Network
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
SJSR	Security and Justice Sector Reform
SRIC	Security Research and Information Centre
SSDRB	South Sudan Defence Review Board

SSG	Security Sector Governance
SSLs	South Sudan Law Society
SSR	Security Sector Reform
SSRG	Sector Reform and Governance
TLO	The Liaison Office Afghanistan
UN	United Nations
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
VVI	Van Vollenhoven Institute of Leiden University
WANEP	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
WIPC	Women's International Peace Centre

ABOUT THE ASSN

The African Security Sector Network (ASSN) is a pan-African network of experts and organisations working in the area of Security Sector Reform (SSR). Founded in 2003, the network is headquartered in Accra, Ghana, with regional nodes in West, East and Southern Africa.

ASSN owes its uniqueness to its:

- Pan-African coverage, as the largest Security Sector Reform (SSR) specialist organisation of its kind; exchanging and synthesizing experiences and lessons from different traditions of security organisation and practice (Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone);
- African-centred character, building and disseminating African principles, expertise and best practices;
- Multidisciplinary and cross-cutting membership –of researchers, analysts, civil society activists, parliamentarians and (active and retired) security practitioners– able to pool expertise, thus permitting the network to deal with a wide range of security sector issues in an integrated manner; and
- Multinational networking, which facilitates south-south sharing of experiences and lessons

VISION

The vision of ASSN is that of an African owned security sector that is democratically governed people-centred, rights compliant, well managed, and accountable as well as effective in supporting and sustaining human security.

MISSION

The ASSN is committed to facilitating progress towards the achievement of effective and democratically governed security sectors across Africa. While the majority of African think tanks focus on research and expertise dealing with conflicts and insecurity, the ASSN is the only African organization exclusively and specifically focused on promoting democratic governance of the security sector in a way that makes African people more safe and secure.

CORE VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The core values of the ASSN are:

- An African-centred agenda
- Accountability and transparency
- Inclusivity
- Integrity and objectivity
- Diversity
- Responsiveness
- Sustainability
- Partnership

GOVERNANCE

ASSN is governed by an Executive Committee (ExCo), including a Chair, a Vice-Chair and an Executive Secretary. The ExCo provides strategic leadership to the Network and currently comprises the following:



Niagalé Bagayoko-Penone
Chair

Dr. Niagalé Bagayoko-Penone was the Programme Manager for the Maintenance and Consolidation of Peace Programme of the International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF). She has conducted extensive field research in several francophone African countries, much of it anchoring on the interface between security and development. She has been a lecturer at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) - University of Sussex (UK) and the Institute of Political Studies in Paris; an Associate Fellow at the Centre for Research and Education on Strategy and Technology (USCREST); and a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Institute of Research for Development (IRD) in France. In 2003, she won the Prize for Scientific Research awarded by the French Ministry of Defence. She has also been a consultant for the African Union; the Department for International Aid (DFID); the International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT); the Centre for Study of the Social Science of Defence (C2SD); and the French Ministry of Defence.



Lt Col Jerry Kitiku (rtd)
Vice-Chair

Lt Col Jerry Kitiku (rtd) is the Director of the Security Research and Information Centre (SRIC-Kenya), a non-profit think tank that provides data and information on human security and the security sector in Kenya, the wider Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa. A retired Kenya Navy officer, Lt Col Kitiku is an expert on human security dynamics and conflict. He has both command and administrative experience at senior levels in the military and was a senior instructor at the Defence Staff College (DSC) in Nairobi. In the early 2000s, he was among a team of experts that crafted an Implementation Plan and Agenda for Action, on request by the Kenya Government, for the Nairobi Declarations on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). He was also part of a research team that conducted national surveys on the problem of SALW and the development of national action plans in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Lt Col Kitiku also served for many years as a security attaché in various Kenyan diplomatic missions abroad.



Prof Eboe Hutchful
Executive Secretary

Prof. Eboe Hutchful is a retired professor of African Studies. He last taught at the Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, USA. Previously, he taught at several other universities in Africa and North America, including the University of Toronto, Trent and Waterloo Universities in Ontario, the University of Ghana and the University of Port Harcourt. He is a long-time researcher on civil-military relations, security sector reform, and international development issues. He is the author of *Ghana's Adjustment Experience: The Paradox of Reform* (James Currey, 2002), co-editor (with Wuyi Omitoogun) of *Budgeting for the Military Sector in Africa: the Processes and Mechanisms of Control* (Oxford University Press, 2006), and co-editor (with Abdoulaye Bathily) of *The Military and Militarism in Africa* (Codesria Books, 1998). Professor Hutchful was a member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (ABDM) and more recently, the Advisory Board of the Knowledge Platform for Security and Rule of Law (KPRSL). He was also a member of the International Advisory Board of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF); the UN International Policing Advisory Council (IPAC); the Governing Board of the Global Consortium for Security Transformation (GCST); and the Advisory Group of the (erstwhile) Global Facilitation Network for Security Sector Reform (GFN-SSR).



Uju Agomoh
Regional Coordinator (West Africa)

Dr. Uju Agomoh is the founder and director of Prisons Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA), a Security, Justice and Development focused NGO with regional/continental initiatives in several African Countries. She has served as a member of the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria (NHRC) and was the Commission's Special Rapporteur on Police, Prisons and Centres of Detention (2001-2008). She has also been a member of the Nigerian Presidential Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy (2006-2009); Member of the coordinating committee of the Association of Security Sector Education and Training (ASSET); Council Member of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT); Board Member of the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA); and Chair of the ICPA Developing Countries Committee. Dr Agomoh is also a Research Fellow at the University of Nigeria Institute for Development Studies (IDS). Her recent research work has focussed on the topics of Gender and the Criminal Justice System, Sustainability of Penal Reform Interventions and Management of Pre-trial Detention, Mentally-ill Detainees, Prison-based and Community-Based Re-entry Programmes, and the Prevention of Torture.



Medhane Tadesse
Regional Coordinator (Horn of Africa)

Prof Medhane Tadesse is a specialist on African Peace and Security. He has taught at various universities in Ethiopia and abroad and has written extensively on African security and related topics, spawning four books, over 160 briefing papers, articles, commentaries and policy memos. More recently, he has been a Visiting Professor at the School of Global Studies, Kings College, London, lectureship on the Governance of Security. A lot of his work has dwelt the pertinent issues of regime stability, vulnerability to conflict, ethnic conflict, armed violence, globalised security and diplomacy, militarisation, governance and humanitarian crisis in Africa. Professor Tadesse has served as a consultant to several African governments, international and inter-governmental organisations on issues relating to peace and stability. He is also a columnist and frequent commentator on global and regional security issues, and is the editor of The Current Analyst, an online journal that examines issues of peace and security in Africa.



Kossi Mawuli Agokla
Member

Prof Kossi Mawuli Agokla is a Togolese national and a senior public law professor. He graduated in International Relations and Public Administration. He has served in high positions in the Togolese administration, notably, twice as Secretary General of the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Internal Security and as Special Advisor to the Prime Minister in charge of reforms.

More especially, he served as an international civil servant in the OAU (now AU), ECOWAS, UEMOA as Secretary General of the Commission for the first mandate, etc. At the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), he led the African Security Sector Reform Program (ASSEREP) for almost 6 years implementing mostly in Francophone African countries programs on defence and security forces, Law enforcement related to electoral processes; Strategic and operational plans; SALW including stockpile management; Gender issues on National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 and Gender Policy paper; Civilian and military relations; democratic control of the security sector; monitoring of national SSR processes etc.

Dr Agokla has participated in and facilitated several workshops in Europe and throughout Africa on SSR issues and has contributed to several publications, articles and tools on SSR and has collaborated with many institutions: UN, AU, EU, ECOWAS, OIF, DCAF, ISS, KAIPTC, GRIP etc.

He has been an active member of the ASSN over the past decade and has conducted some of its major activities.



Emile Ouedraogo
Member

Dr. Emile Ouedraogo is an adjunct professor of practice at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, specializing in issues related to national security strategy development and security sector reform and governance. Since 2007, he has worked with the Africa Center on more than 30 activities as a speaker, facilitator, and author. He also works with AFRICOM, Partners Global, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Friedrich Erbet Stiftung, and the ECOWAS Parliament. He is a member of the African Security Sector Network and founding President of the Fondation pour la Sécurité du Citoyen (FO-SEC) of Burkina Faso. Prior to joining the Africa Center, in 2017-18, Dr. Ouedraogo completed a six-month mission with the African Union as a security sector reform and governance expert for Madagascar. As Minister of Security of Burkina Faso from 2008 to 2011, he initiated and developed a Homeland Security Strategy and operationalized the concept of community policing and community participation in the management of security issues. After 30 years of service with the Burkina Faso Army, he retired from active duty in 2012 as a Colonel, having served in positions including Aide to the Prime Minister, Support Regiment Commanding Officer, and Chief of the Military Intelligence Division at the Army General Staff. Dr. Ouedraogo was a parliamentarian in the National Assembly of Burkina Faso and the ECOWAS Parliament, where he sat on the Political Affairs, Peace, Defense, and Security Committees. In this capacity, he carried out informative and investigative missions in most of ECOWAS' 15 countries. He earned a Ph.D. with honors from the Center for Diplomatic and Strategic Studies in Paris, France, on security sector reform and governance in the ECOWAS Region.



Sean Tait
Regional Coordinator (Southern Africa)

Sean Tait is the founder and Director of APCOF. He holds a degree in Criminology from the University of Cape Town. He is a former Director of the Criminal Justice Initiative at the Open Society Foundation for South Africa, and the former Executive Director of a South African non-governmental organization Urban Monitoring and Awareness Committee (UMAC). His areas of expertise include policing, police accountability, crime prevention, conflict resolution and peace building.

APPRECIATION

The African Security Sector Network (ASSN) would like to acknowledge and thank all its partners who made its work across the African continent in the past year, possible.



STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR



Niagale Bagayoko (PhD)
Chair
African Security Sector
Network (ASSN)

I have great pleasure in presenting the ASSN's Annual Report for 2021 covering the Network's activities for the period April 2021 to March 2022.

With the dawn of three new projects, the past year reinforced the ASSN's mandate and propelled it further towards the attainment of its vision.

As a partner of the Just Future Alliance focusing on outcome one (people-centred security) of the Just Future Project, ASSN is working in 4 out of the 6 project countries, namely, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mali and Niger with the objective of ensuring that security providers are more responsive, accountable and people-centred, and take action enabling the most excluded constituencies to enjoy safety, protection and enforcement of the law. The Lobby and Advocacy wing of the project saw the ASSN supporting the work of the AU and RECs as well as the Citizens

Coalition of the Sahel. The Just Future Project is supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Alliance is led by Cordaid.

Further, ASSN expanded its thematic focus to youth resilience in violent extremism. With support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) ASSN was mandated to consolidate, highlight and position for use, key findings generated from the IDRC's pan-African research initiative. It had the unique (and comparative) potential to provide innovative and actionable perspectives into how African States and their partners understand and address youth involvement in violence, security (governance), peace and development. The research project sought to better understand and address the variegated youth experiences with violence on the continent, which supported 14 research projects in 12 English- and French-speaking African countries (Senegal, Kenya, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Mali, Egypt, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Niger, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

With the support of the GIZ's ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO) Project, ASSN also commenced the piloting of the dissemination of the ECOWAS Policy Framework for Security Sector Reform and Governance in Guinea Bissau, The Gambia and Senegal. The project involved a series of national workshops for cross-sectoral stakeholders and specialists in security issues from civil society, the state, departments and agencies involved in the security sector. The main objective of the workshops was to facilitate the dissemination and promote awareness of the ECOWAS Policy Framework on SSRG, as mandated by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

Similarly, the ASSN's regional/thematic nodes were also involved in the implementation of a wide range of activities aimed at ensuring sustainable peace and security on the continent.

Many thanks to the Executive Committee, Members and affiliates, Secretariat Staff and development partners for making the past year a huge success 2021 for the ASSN.

1. INTRODUCTION

The peace envisaged for Africa in the aftermath of imperialism appears quite elusive, as the continent has been consistently plagued by violence in most parts. Over the past decades, efforts by States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the African Union (AU) to maintain peace and stability on the continent has achieved uneven results across the various regions. In particular, the AU's latest initiative on 'Silencing the Guns' which aimed at a conflict-free Africa among other things, is yet to attain the desired peace. More recently, West Africa, predominantly, the Sahel, remains the most troubled spot. Rampant military interventions in politics, insurgencies and violent extremism are a few of the security threats the region countenances. These insecurity challenges in the region is further exacerbated by environmental factors such as drought, famine and desertification which does not only render security in the the region fragile but also leaves the affected countries impoverished given that such security challenges impede developmental efforts.

These events underscore the pertinence of security sector institutions across Africa and questions the viability of the traditional roles of these institutions and the extent to which these institutions are able to address the ever-evolving security needs of the African people. Additionally, it highlights the need for Security Sector Reform and Governance (SSRG) which has unfortunately, been a highly politically sensitive terrain inhibiting its progress in most African countries.

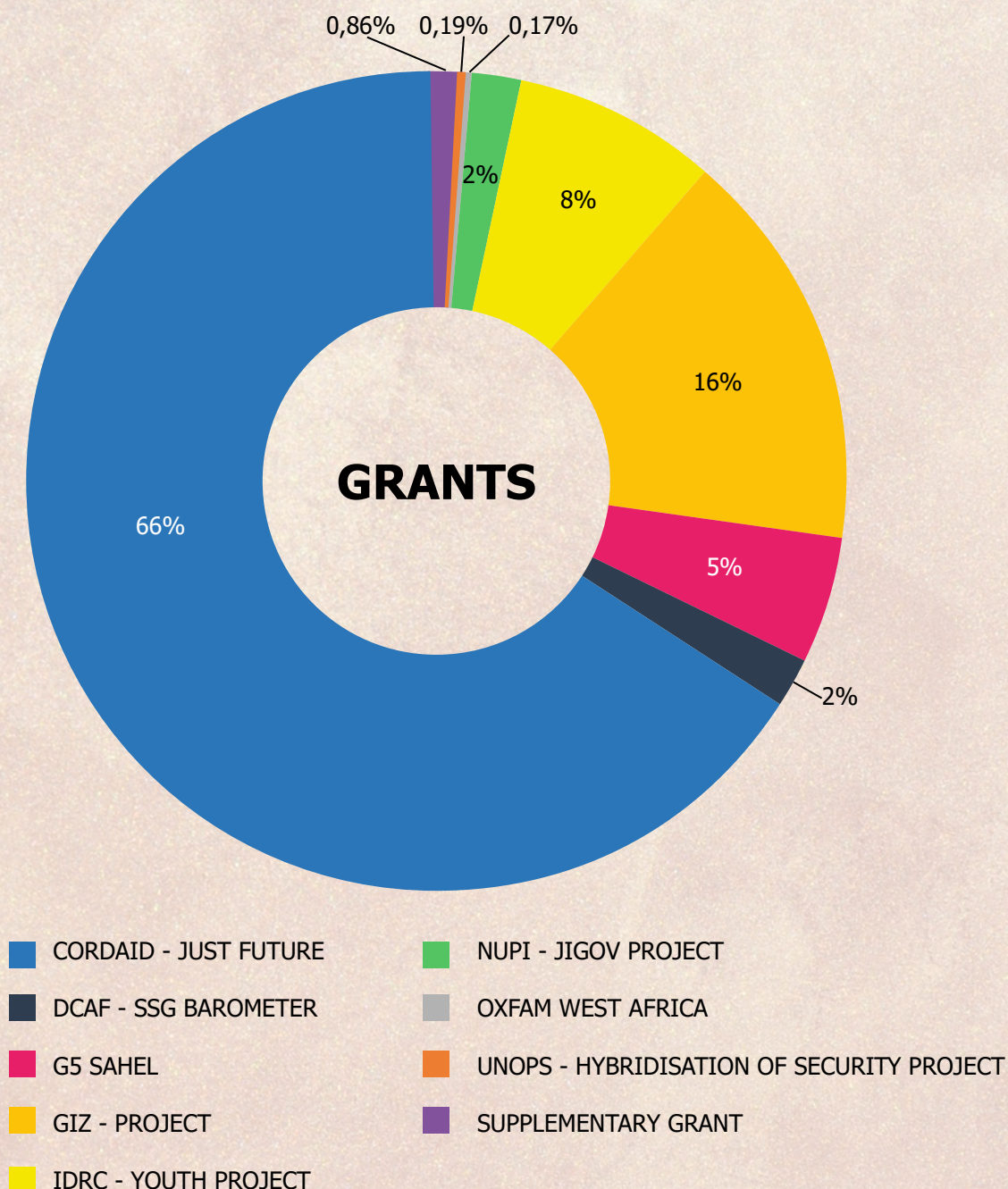
The interventions by the African Security Sector Network (ASSN) and its partners to address some of these security concerns through SSRG has been a welcoming development giving credence to the growing need for SSRG on the continent.

In pursuit of its vision of an African owned security sector that is democratically governed, people-centred, rights compliant, well managed, and accountable as well as effective in supporting and sustaining human security, the ASSN and its partners were engaged in a broad range of SSRG activities in selected African countries. This report covers the ASSN's activities of the past financial year; April 2021 to March 2022.

During the past year, ASSN commenced implementation of two new projects at the Secretariat: the Just Future Project and the Dissemination of the ECOWAS Policy Framework on SSRG Project. The ASSN also worked to complete the Sahel SSRG Barometer Project as well as the project on Youth Resilience in Violent Extremism and continued the research project on JI-GOV-Sahel (Jihadist Insurgent Governance in the Sahel).

As part of the implementation of the Just Future Project, ASSN supported the Citizen Coalition of the Sahel in its advocacy meeting and in the drafting of the Coalition's second report.

Project Contributions to the ASSN's work in 2021



In collaboration with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), ASSN's work over the past year also had a special focus on youth resilience in violent extremism.

ASSN's regional and thematic nodes were equally actively involved in a wide range of activity implementation aimed at ensuring improved security for the people of Africa.

The threat of the COVID-19 pandemic notwithstanding, ASSN astoundingly delivered on most of its activities outlined for the year. However, the volatile security situation in some of the project countries remains a challenge.

2. KEY ACTIVITIES BY THE SECRETARIAT

2.1. Just Future Project

The Just Future Alliance (JFA) is a consortium led by Cordaid and consisting of 6 established CSOs and networks from the Global North and South - African Security Sector Network (ASSN), Women's International Peace Centre (WIPC), West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), The Liaison Office Afghanistan (TLO), Search for Common Ground and Cordaid. Next to the Consortium, the Alliance consists of 3 research partners: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Rift Valley Institute (RVI) and Van Vollenhoven Institute of Leiden University (VVI). Finally, the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) is the network partner of the Alliance.

The JFA is working to strengthen the capacity of CSOs in a number of fragile and conflict-affected states and enable their collective action to bring about more inclusive and peaceful societies, inspired in large part by the vision of SDG16+.

The programme is being implemented across six (6) countries: Burundi, DRC, Mali, Niger, South Sudan and Afghanistan, as well as at the regional and global level, with generous funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Just Future programme is informed by the following long-term impact:

Improved accessibility, responsiveness and accountability of security and justice institutions, and inclusive political decision-making and peace processes, achieved by mobilizing civil society for collective action and advocacy that contributes to acceleration and localization of SDG16+ in the 6 fragile countries.

This impact will be delivered through achievement of three (3) programme outcomes (POs), specifically:

1. Security providers are more responsive, accountable and people-centred, and take action enabling the most excluded constituencies to enjoy safety, protection and enforcement of the law (PO1);
2. Justice providers are more accessible, responsive and accountable, and take action enabling the most excluded constituencies, to defend and enforce their rights, redress grievances and resolve disputes through diverse pathways to justice (PO2);
3. Political decision-making, especially in regards to peace processes, is more inclusive of and accountable to the most excluded constituencies, which are able to influence and negotiate collectively with duty-bearers and power-holders in a context of adequate civic space and respect for human rights (PO3).

Covering a five year period, from 2021 – 2025, the ASSN's role in the programme focuses largely on Outcome 1 - 'People-centred Security' with activities broadly categorized under Training/Capacity Strengthening, Research and Advocacy. ASSN is active in 4 out of the 6 project countries (South Sudan, DRC, Mali, Niger) as well as at the regional level with the African Union (AU), and RECs (IGAD, ECCAS and ECOWAS).

Below is a summary of activities implemented at the country level during the first year of implementation of the Just Future Project.

South Sudan: Led by the ASSN's local partner in South Sudan, the South Sudan Law Society (SSLS), activities of the first year, focused on three (3) objectives - strengthening CSO capacities to influence the Peace Agreement with particular emphasis on chapter two which deals with security arrangement and SSR; strengthening the capacity of the CSOs for effective engagement in the SSR process in South Sudan; and support to evidence-based advocacy through research.

With regards to supporting the CSOs to influence the peace process, a number of strategic meetings were held. Much of the support however, targeted the South Sudan Civil Society Forum, which is the forum of 200 CSOs formed in 2017 with the purpose of influencing the Peace Process (by then, the High Level Revitalization Process) in Addis Abeba, and to see to it that the Peace agreement is implemented to the latter in this field. The South Sudan Civil Society Forum consequently held a strategic convening meeting with Key stakeholders, responsible for security decisions and policy making. The Forum also convened with the South Sudan Bureau for Small Arms Control to discuss issues related to small arms proliferation and how to address them as well as small arms violence. There was another convening with the South Sudan Strategic Defence and Security Review Board, which is a board formed under the Peace agreement to oversee and to spearhead the implementation of the security arrangement and Security Sector Reform in South Sudan. The Civil Society forum also held a number of lobby meetings with the Ministry of Justice and Ministry responsible for security with the goal of influencing the implementation of the Peace agreement (particularly, chapter two).

Research activities in South Sudan focused on Security and regional mediation particularly IGAD ; Security and militarization including legacies of war and the UN Panel on Arms Embargo ; and the overall SSR process in South Sudan (national and international SSR policies). These are still work in progress.



Female participant presenting group work at SSR Training in Juba, South Sudan.

DRC: The project in DRC commenced with a public conference at which three of the studies conducted in the final year of the Strategic Partnership Project were launched: the study on the National Intelligence Agency in the DRC (ANR); The State of Play of the Army Reform; and the Role of Civil Society in Defence Sector Oversight. Three hundred copies (hundred per study) of the study reports were published and distributed in Kinshasa to stakeholders in the SSR process in the DRC. They included the Defence & Security Commission of the National Assembly, MONUSCO, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, the Delegation of the European Union in the DRC and the Embassy of Germany among others.

Subsequently, the JF team in the DRC also held a meeting with the Representative of the African Union in the DRC. The interaction revolved around the African Union's SSR policy and the African Union's involvement in supporting the DRC government in the

development of a National Security Strategy. Engagement with SSR stakeholders in the DRC (Defence & Security Commission of the National Assembly, the SSR Section of MONUSCO, the National Security Council, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior, and the DGM) also revolved around the need to create an advisory group for the development of the National Security Strategy in the DRC.

Further, a workshop was held to identify and conceptualize a set of SSR thematic issues to form the focus of action research. The workshop brought together a total of twenty people mainly from national CSOs involved in the Just Future Project in the eastern part of the DRC (DFJ, SOS IJM, ADEPAE, RRSSJ) and international NGOs (CORDAID and WIPC). Workshop participants reflected on a list of possible research themes, beginning in each case with a synopsis stating (a) the theme of the research; (b) the problem to be solved; (c) presentation of the main issues and challenges; and (d) summary recommendations, eventually settling on two which were considered most likely to respond to the context:

1. Study of the declared state of siege in North Kivu and Ituri and its impact on human rights and the protection of civilians;
2. A public perception survey of the role of the National Police.



ASSN and Cordaid team with AU Special Representative in DRC

Another workshop in Goma in December 2021, focused on African institutional and local/grass-root realities. The workshop was attended by about twenty participants from CORDAID, ASSN, WIPC, RRSSJ, CDP/CENCO, CEHAJ1325, DFJ, ADEPAE and SOS IJM. The rich exchanges enabled the participants to propose a series of recommendations related in particular to support the development of a national security policy; the establishment of a national SSR coordination structure; and the training of civil society actors on African and regional policy frameworks in the area of security sector governance. Prior to this training, the ASSN assigned an expert to develop a new training curriculum to evaluate the local implementation of the policy frameworks adopted by the AU and ECCAS on Security Sector Reform and Governance in the DRC. The content of the curriculum specifically reflected institutional and local realities of the DRC and was intended for senior and junior experts.

Niger: The ASSN worked with three (3) local partner CSOs in Niger: the Centre Afrika-Obota (CAO-Niger); the Niger Network for Non-Violent Conflict Management (Ré-GENOVICO) and SOS Civisme Niger. Under the supervision of the ASSN, the partners collaboratively worked on research, training and advocacy activities.

For research, there was an «assessment of the measures prohibiting the use of motorcycles in insecure areas in Niger» focusing on the region of Tillabéri where the prohibition applied. The assessment analyzed factual data from the socio-economic and security perspectives in the areas concerned. The second study on “military doctrine and the protection of civilians in Niger” aimed at analyzing the legal texts governing the use of the armed forces and the management of military operations in connection with the protection of civilian populations. The analysis led to recommendations for a real doctrine which puts the protection of populations at the core and in line with international rules and principles. The study is yet to be concluded. Two training activities were carried out for members and officials of the Civil Society Observatory on Security Governance (OGS) in Niamey and its branches in the Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabéri regions. The first was on Niger’s Security Architecture and the respective roles and responsibilities of the institutional actors that make it up.



Training of CSO members of the Security Sector Governance Observatory in Niger by ASSN and ACLED

This workshop offered a platform for the review of the national and international security institutions and their roles and responsibilities; the principles and rules governing the governance of the security sector in Niger as well as the reform of the security sector in Niger. More importantly, participants also reviewed the role and responsibilities of civil

society and the available avenues for CSOs to contribute to democratic governance of security. The second workshop on monitoring the security sector and updating the security index together with the monitoring tool, enabled the Security Governance Observatory to finalize and adapt its system for monitoring and surveillance of the sector security in Niger.

In the area of advocacy, partners conducted an institutional mapping of security actors in the three regions of intervention. Made at the regional level and with a focus on the departments of intervention, the mapping presents the state actors (different FDS; decentralized authorities; decentralized authorities, etc.) customary authorities; vigilante groups and other actors involved in security governance. It also presents the representation of security force coverage and security supply as well as the main threats and security challenges in each of the regions considered.

Mali: Activities implemented in Mali included research and advocacy work on pacification and the use of traditional and customary measures in conflict management; community diagnosis on the intervention of international forces and FAMAS since 2012 in the Gao region; the «bottom up approach» seminar on the AU and ECOWAS Policy frameworks for Security Sector Reform and Governance tested in the local context (the case of the Gao region) and another research work on the 'sociology and mapping of armed groups in the Gao region'.

Additionally, perception surveys on security were conducted in Gao, Timbuktu and Mopti.

Generally, the economic and financial sanctions imposed on Mali, worsened the political situation and called for several partner meetings to analyze the impact of the sanctions on project activities.



Workshop on Regional Policy Frameworks on Security Sector Reform (SSR)

An intended legacy of the ASSN's Just Future Project is the establishment of a web-based Security Sector Governance Observatory over the project implementation period. The Observatory is based on the concept of hybrid security, "characterized by the coexistence and interaction of multiple state and non-state providers of security, as the state shares authority, legitimacy and capacity with other actors, networks and institutions across the formal/informal divide"¹. This concept reflects the objective of "promoting a more informed and realistic understanding of decision-making processes and power distribution in African security sectors."²

Commencing with Mali and South Sudan while Niger and DRC will be added in subsequent years, the Observatory will be the first of its kind in the region, both because of the perspective provided by the hybridity concept, and because there is no data source on the security sector in these countries that allow citizens, stakeholders, decision-makers and researchers to access basic, updated integrated data on a matter that impacts the lives and rights of entire populations in the region as well as international security (as shown by the active UN presence in the targeted countries and throughout the African continent). By integrating the institutionalized information with a security from below and top-down approaches, it will address issues related to the three main outcome areas the JF programme's theory of change proposes.

Citizen Coalition for the Sahel: The ASSN has been deeply involved in activities of the «Citizen Coalition for the Sahel», particularly, advocacy with high level officials in Europe and France more specifically.

The People's Coalition for the Sahel is an informal and diverse alliance of civil society organisations that amplifies Sahelian voices and expertise to urge governments in the Sahel and elsewhere to resolve the conflict and humanitarian crisis in the Sahel by:

- Putting the protection of people at the heart of their response
- Addressing the root causes of conflict and insecurity
- Responding to humanitarian emergencies
- Holding people accountable for committing abuses and atrocities



ASSN National Coordinator for Niger engaging with members of the Citizen Coalition of the Sahel for data collection

¹ Bagayoko, N., Hutchful, E., & Luckham, R. (2016). Hybrid security governance in Africa: Rethinking the foundations of security, justice and legitimate public authority. *Conflict, Security & Development*, 16(1), 1-32. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14678802.2016.1136137>

² Ibid, p. 2.

The coalition was launched on 16 July 2020 and is made up of civil society organisations based in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and the Sahel region, and internationally in Africa, Europe, and the United States.

At its launch, the coalition released its People's Pillars: a set of priorities the Coalition recommends should guide any state response to the conflict and crises in the region.

2.2. Youth Violence, Exclusion and Injustice: Knowledge and Lessons learnt from Africa for positioning inclusive, democratic governance

This project was premised on a pan-African research initiative to better understand and address the variegated youth experiences with violence on the continent, which supported 14 research projects in 12 English- and French-speaking African countries (Senegal, Kenya, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Mali, Egypt, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Niger, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo).

The research aimed at seeking solutions in the form of strategies, technologies, and tools to develop more effective policies for combating the violence, exclusion, and injustice faced by youth, men, and women in Africa. ASSN's mandate was to consolidate, highlight and position for use, key findings generated from the IDRC's pan-African research initiative. It had the unique (and comparative) potential to provide innovative and actionable perspectives into how African States and their partners understand and address youth involvement in violence, security (governance), peace and development.

The research outputs include a synthesis report, webinar recordings/reports, thematic/synthesis briefs and media products (documentary, short videos and podcasts) are available at the following link:

<https://www.africansecuritynetwork.org/assn/idrc-youth-violence-exclusion-and-injustice/>

With regards to youth response to violence, the project concluded that there is broad consensus among cohort researchers in pointing to the concentration of violence in deprived and marginalised communities and neighbourhoods (slums, informal settlements, etc). All researchers agree on the role of marginalisation in stoking attraction to violence. The study on Uganda for instance argues that "political repression, and massive long-term unemployment are some of the factors that account for the injustice and frustration experienced by the youth." It is also agreed that in many contexts, violence and insecurity are compounded by resentments and distrust of the State and police violence and corruption, a sentiment expressed with passion and in almost identical language by youth in Kenya, South Africa and elsewhere. In spite of differences in history and context (and indeed regime behaviour), youth in Africa face largely identical problems of hardship, exclusion and injustice. In such contexts, it is not surprising or unexpected if and when youth rebel. Lately, the youth are increasingly moving from dispersed and unstructured social and political acts to more organised violence"

Indeed, youth in many contexts have demonstrated considerable skill and innovativeness in not only avoiding the attraction of violence, but actually worked, alone or with (and sometimes against) the community and the authorities to minimise crime and violence in cities like Dakar and Cairo and to reintegrate al-Shabaab returnees in Kenya and Tanzania. The overarching explanation offered for this ability to shun the temptations of violence is 'resilience', in its different manifestations.

The full synthesis report is available here: <https://www.africansecuritynetwork.org/assn/download/assn-full-synthesis-report-youth-violence-exclusion-and-injustice/>

2.3. Capacity development of stakeholders and institutions in the security sector and relevant oversight realms within ECOWAS Member States: Design and implementation of SSRG training workshops

This project, supported by the GIZ ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO) Project was piloted in Guinea Bissau, The Gambia and Senegal between January and March, 2022. Co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation (BMZ), the project involved a series of national workshops for cross-sectoral stakeholders to disseminate the ECOWAS Policy Framework for Security Sector Reform and Governance. The workshops brought together all stakeholders and specialists in security issues from civil society, the state, departments and agencies involved in the security sector.

The main objective of the 3-day training in the selected Member States was to facilitate the dissemination and promote awareness of the ECOWAS Policy Framework on SSRG, as mandated by the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government.

More specifically, the objectives are as follows:

1. To improve stakeholders' appreciation of the importance and value of the SSRG by introducing the key provisions and principles of the ECOWAS Policy Framework on SSRG;
2. To promote a common vision and understanding of SSRG among national security stakeholders, including policy makers, legislators, oversight bodies, senior security practitioners and civil society;
3. To enhance SSRG institution and capacity building in a way that strengthens national ownership, national responsibility and national action for reform;
4. To improve the efficiency, professionalism, accountability and responsiveness of the security services to the needs of the population; and
5. To integrate the gender dimension in the SSRG and promote the role of women and youth in peace and security.

Key topics covered by the trainings include:

- Core Principles and Essential Features of the ECOWAS Policy Framework on SSRG
- Security and Justice Sector Reform (Corrections, Human Rights, Safety and Security)
- Understanding and Deepening Democratic Security Governance
- Gender and SSRG
- Police and Policing Oversight
- Armed Forces and Defence Oversight
- Maritime Security Governance and the Management of Maritime Threats
- Security Sector Reform Coordination: Lessons from Sierra Leone
- Political Leadership and National Ownership of SSR
- Intelligence and National Security Management
- Effective Management of External Support to SSR

Participants across the three countries bewailed the rising insecurity in the ECOWAS sub-region with terrorism and a resurgence of coup d'état which threatens stability in the region. Other cross-cutting security concerns noted included conflicts, organized crimes, youth violence and maritime insecurity among others.



ASSN Expert Engaging Participants on Maritime Security During Group Work at the Workshop in the Gambia

The discussions also pointed to varying differences in the achievements of each of the countries in SSG. Guinea-Bissau had tremendous external support in the past but more recently, the support has dwindled significantly. Similarly, the Gambia continues to enjoy more support for its SSG but unfortunately, participants lamented the lack of political will in advancing the transformation they seek in the security sector. Perspectives from Senegal indicated a positive developments in SSG and human rights but underscored the need to consolidate the current gains and improve on it to address emerging security threats.

In all countries, there was emphasis on the effective management of external support to SSRG and the need to fully implement comprehensive programmes since there are not short cuts to SSRG. Meanwhile, ECOWAS reminded of the need to conduct periodic revision of the Policy Framework as the security of Member States keep evolving in a very dynamic context.

In all three countries, the ASSN established a virtual network of stakeholders to continue the conversation around improving SSRG in the respective countries moving forward. Please find below links to the full workshop reports.

Guinea-Bissau

English:

<https://www.africansecuritynetwork.org/assn/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Guinea-Bissau-ECOWAS-SSRG-Workshop-Report-edited.pdf>

Portuguese:

<https://www.africansecuritynetwork.org/assn/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Report-GB-ECOWAS-SSRG-Workshop-PT.pdf>

The Gambia

English

<https://www.africansecuritynetwork.org/assn/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Report-The-Gambia-ECOWAS-SSRG-Training-Workshop.pdf>

Senegal

English

[Rapport-Atelier-ASSN-040422-last-version-ENGLISH.pdf \(africansecuritynetwork.org\)](#)

French

<https://www.africansecuritynetwork.org/assn/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Rapport-Atelier-ASSN-040422-last-version-ENGLISH.pdf>

2.4. Jihadist Insurgent Governance in the Sahel (JIGOV-Sahel)

The JIGOV-Sahel Project is a research project supported by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs NUPI. ASSN's involvement in the project continued under the year under review culminating in the publication of a study on 'Burkina Faso's internal security architecture - addressing the management of a multidimensional crisis'.

The study focused on how Burkina Faso's homeland security architecture copes with the current multi-dimensional crisis. Generally, the study analyses the processes instituted to enable homeland security forces to address the widespread insecurity (emergence of radical Islamist groups, increase in self-defence groups, rising criminality, inter-communal violence) that has affected Burkina Faso since the mid-2010s. The study places these issues into a historical trajectory and considers how the security-defence continuum is being disrupted with such reconfigurations.

The study is available here:

http://www.africansecuritynetwork.org/assn/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/NUPI_Working_Paper_898_BagayokoSavadogo.pdf

2.5. Security Sector Governance Barometer for the Sahel

This study was conducted for the launch of an «interactive barometer for monitoring and evaluating the compliance of national legislation, policies and practices with the ECOWAS Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform and Governance (SSRG). It was led by ASSN Chair, Dr Niagalé Bagayoko and Dr Marcela Donadio of the Latin American Security and Defence Network (RESDAL).

This Index, developed by ASSN, DCAF and RESDAL, was designed with exclusive reference to the ten essential characteristics defined in section III of the «ECOWAS Policy Framework for Security Sector Reform and Governance (SSRG)».

The purpose of this Index is to measure the conformity or convergence of the processes undertaken by ECOWAS Member States with regards to reforming the governance of their national security systems in accordance with the criteria and standards that they themselves have defined and adopted through the ECOWAS Policy Framework on SSRG.

The Index first presents in detail the ten key features of Section III of the ECOWAS Policy Framework for SSRG. It then examines the status of their implementation through national legislation, policies and practices in three Sahelian countries: Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

2.6. Hybridisation of Security

Supported by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), this research project was themed "Advancing Policy Tools for Sustainable SSR". ASSN was tasked to draft a policy note on "Hybrid Security Arrangements and their role in conflict prevention".

ASSN's policy note indicated that theorists of 'hybridity' argue that the focus of current SSR efforts — inspired by Westphalian notions of the state characterized by legitimate monopoly of the means of violence — miss a fundamental reality of many Southern (and specifically African) states, where security is delivered in large part by informal and non-state actors and agents alongside the state, and where — in consequence — the security sector and its governance mechanisms have come to reflect a complex (and often unstable) amalgam of statutory and non-statutory actors and institutions.

The project attempted to address the question which has repeatedly been posed in this context: "How should the international community respond to local orders dominated by armed non-state actors" and informal (often customary) actors? We argue that there has been some ambivalence around this issue in the international policy discourse on both sides of the hybridity divide. The project consequently, sought to contribute to the task of developing essential guidance to national governments and international agencies. The final output is yet to be published by UNOPS.

2.7. Support to the African Union

The long standing partnership with the African Union (AU) continued in the past year as the ASSN collaborated with the AU on two key programmes.

Within the framework of technical assistance to the Government of The Gambia in its efforts in the development of a National SSR Coordination mechanism, the African Union Commission supported the Office of National Security (ONS) to organize a national consultative and mentoring workshop on SSR programming and coordination to in December, 2021. ASSN provided the technical expertise to facilitate this workshop held in Banjul.

The aim of the workshop was to sensitize and to enhance capacities of national stakeholders in SSR planning and coordination; within the framework of technical assistance to the Government of The Gambia in its efforts of development of a framework of National SSR Coordination mechanism; and collect inputs from the national stakeholders on the process of establishment of a strengthened SSR coordination mechanism in the country.

Thereafter, the ASSN seconded a resident SSR Advisor to the Gambia for a few months under the auspices of the AU.

The ASSN again collaborated with the AU in a consultative workshop in Mali in December, 2021 with a view to soliciting stakeholder inputs to develop a new SSRG training curriculum entrenched in grassroot realities, to evaluate the local implementation of the AU and ECOWAS Policy Frameworks on SSRG. The content of the curriculum specifically reflected institutional and local realities of Mali and was intended for senior and junior experts.

3. ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSN REGIONAL AND THEMATIC NODES

3.1. African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF)

The African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF) based in South Africa, is the ASSN's regional node for Southern Africa. APCOF continues to work closely with oversight bodies, civil society, academia and the police themselves in promoting accountable, rights compliant security services in Africa. In order to achieve its strategic objectives, APCOF uses networking and partnership-building, advocacy and provides technical support by working directly with institutions responsible for police oversight with a view to assisting them to develop the appropriate policies, practices and skills to carry out their functions effectively.

The following captures APCOF's highlights in the year under review, relevant to its relationship with the ASSN.

To begin with, on 22 April 2021, APCOF co-hosted a launch with the Pan African Parliament (PAP) of the Model Law for Police in Africa. The event brought together Africa's law makers, the practitioners and its human rights overseers to discuss a recently adopted model law and how can this can complement the efforts of the African Commission on Human and People Rights (ACHPR) and the African Union (AU) to building peace and promoting Rule of Law and Human Rights. The report is available here:

<https://apcof.org/wp-content/uploads/policing-in-africa-what-prospects-does-a-model-law-hold-eng.pdf>

APCOF collaborated with the Centre for Human Rights, at the University of Pretoria, to present an intensive a week-long advanced human right course on the impact of COVID-19 management strategies on the criminal justice system. This was held from 24 – 28 May 2021 and examined key issues exposed in criminal justice systems during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the increasing securitisation of public health, the dangers of over-reach by the criminal justice architecture, and the pressures on oversight mechanisms. Included was a high-level public panel comprising Hon. Solomon Dersso, Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Prof. Fionnuala ní Aoláin, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism Prof. Hélène Tigroudja, UN Human Rights Committee and Pedro Vaca Villareal, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to explore issues around rules that govern derogation from the obligation of States to respect and promote human rights, and limitation provisions in international rights instruments, the factors that activate the application of these provisions, methods of building in safeguards and sunset clauses to ensure they are time-bound, necessary and proportional, and what special considerations need to be factored into policymaking. Subsequently APCOF is working with the ACHPR to provide technical support in the development of continental guidelines on adhering to human and people's rights standards under the African Charter when declaring states of emergency or disaster.

On 30 November 2021 APCOF participated in the 3rd meeting of the AU Steering Group on Security Sector Reform. Following this meeting, APCOF will lead a process to conceptualize an Operational Guidance Note on oversight as an additional knowledge component of an existing series of tools available to support the African Union Policy Framework on SSR.

Between January and March 2022, APCOF made presentations on Policing and Policing Oversight at three 3-day ASSN trainings in Guinea Bissau, the Gambia and Senegal respectively to disseminate and promote awareness of the ECOWAS Policy Framework for SSRG.

APCOF with the support of the EU has been conducting research on strengthening police prevention, detection and investigation of xenophobic violence and related hate crimes. Three research publications were finalized and launched in the year under review:

- Deficit analysis of SAPS capacity to prevent, detect and investigate xenophobic violence and related hate crimes:
<https://apcof.org/wp-content/uploads/policing-and-non-nationals-report.pdf>
- The role of CPFs in preventing xenophobic violence and related hate crimes:
<https://apcof.org/wp-content/uploads/policing-and-non-nationals-community-police-forums-and-xenophobic-violence-in-south-africa.pdf>
- Strengthening oversight of SAPS performance in relation to xenophobic violence and related hate crimes:
<https://apcof.org/wp-content/uploads/policing-and-non-nationals-external-police-oversight-accountability-and-xenophobic-violence-in-south-africa-.pdf>

Additionally, APCOF has been active in:

- Co publishing with the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa, to publish a biannual newsletter on Police and Human Rights Newsletter.
https://apcof.org/wp-content/uploads/15th-newsletter-acphr-_eng-_fr_por_ar.pdf
- Promoting a common standard of policing in East Africa APCOF through an assessment and publication of studies on South Sudan, Uganda and Kenya.
<https://apcof.org/wp-content/uploads/common-standards-for-policing-in-eastern-africa-kenya-.pdf>
<https://apcof.org/wp-content/uploads/assessment-of-the-south-sudan-national-police-services-progress-towards-meeting-the-common-standards-for-policing-in-eastern-africa.pdf>
<https://apcof.org/wp-content/uploads/common-standards-for-policing-in-eastern-africa-uganda-.pdf>
<https://apcof.org/wp-content/uploads/women-in-the-uganda-police-force-barriers-to-women-in-operational-policing-pdf.pdf>
- Providing a coordination role for the Regional Campaign to Decriminalize Poverty and Status

More information on APCOF and its work is available on **www.apcof.org.za**

3.2. Prisons Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA)

a. Nigeria Police Force Human Rights Programme

The Nigeria Police Force, with technical support from PRAWA and funding from the Governments of Switzerland (Swiss Embassy) and Germany (GIZ) has over the years enhanced the

capacity and knowledge of police officers through human rights training, production of training resource materials, and establishment of online training platform.

Following the outcomes and lessons learned from the implementation of Nigeria Police Human Rights Training Programme (2015-2020) and the Human Rights Training for Specialized Police Units, the need for comprehensive and strategic interventions to further enhance the capacity of the police to comply with human rights standards, imbibe good policing practices, build trust between the police and the citizens, and strengthen accountability mechanisms was realized. Consequently, PRAWA continued the implementation of this programme in 2021 in Kano State, Lagos State, Ogun State and Nassarawa State. A total of nine hundred and sixty (960) participants in four (4) communities benefited from his programme which had three components, including capacity building training on human rights which included training on trust building and restorative justice, community engagement programme, and youth engagement training on alternatives to violence. It also touched on human rights; strengthening of internal and external oversight/accountability mechanisms to ensure that security is provided in an effective manner.

b. Crisis Response to System Change in times of Covid-19 Project



In 2021, PRAWA, with funding from OMCT sought to address the covid 19 challenges confronting the Nigeria Justice System and Correctional Service. The challenges included:

- increase in arrest and detention of violators of restriction regulations and other COVID 19 protocols;
- restriction of access to Nigerian Correctional Service custodial centers (prisons) to inmates families, legal counsels and NGOs and the resultant negative impact with respect to lack of provision of adequate support and welfare to most inmates;
- Closure of Courts and the resultant overcrowding of prisons as court hearings/trials could not proceed;
- non maintenance of social distancing due to overcrowded facilities; lack of maintenance of adequate hygiene and sanitary conditions in compliance with COVID 19 protocol; non – compliance with the provisions in support of effecting tracking and redressing of custodial centers (prisons) overcrowding as stated under section 12(4-12) and custodial centers inspections, visits and oversights as contained in sections 21 and 22 of the Nigerian Correctional Service Act 2019.

Having identified these challenges, PRAWA held virtual workshop for welfare officers from the 36 states of the Federation on the importance of family visits and inmates remaining connected to their families and communities and how this facilitates effective reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration.

Further, two physical trainings for correctional welfare officers in Lagos and Enugu states were conducted on the importance of inmate family link impacted for 50 welfare officers picked from all the custodial centers in Lagos and Enugu states. The project also piloted the procurement and installation of the first ever disinfection chamber in one of the largest custodial facilities in the country towards ensuring safe access of inmates’ families, legal counsels, NGO, etc, to the custodial centers.

A total of 30 inmates benefited from the pro bono and paralegal services rendered under the project.

c. Declassification and Decriminalization of Petty Offences in Nigeria



From April 2021 to February 2022, the declassification and decriminalizing of petty offences in Nigeria project was implemented by PRAWA with funding from the Open Society Initiative. The project focused on two (2) core components:

- Influencing attitudinal change towards petty offences.
- Increasing media awareness of the negative impact of criminalizing poverty.

A total of 302 persons were directly reached through activities implemented during the period and four (4) virtual court sittings were held. Additionally, twelve (12) inmates were released through the process.

PRAWA was consequently able to achieve the following during the project period:

- Operationalization of E-court sitting in Abia State.
- Synergy between key justice stakeholders in accelerating justice for petty offenders.
- Release of petty offenders utilizing the E-courts.
- Provision of Pro bono and paralegal services to petty offenders.

3.3. Fondation pour la Sécurité du Citoyen (FOSEC)

During the year under review, FOSEC continued the implementation of the second phase and final phase of the project “Sahel Road Safety Initiative” in partnership with the NGO Partners Global of US. The partners executed activities in five localities covered by the project. The activities implemented are divided into two categories:- Pilot projects for road safety and Training and opportunities for joint learning.

a. Organization of Defence and Security Forces “open-door days” for the civilian population

Eight open-door days were organized in the project’s intervention localities (Po, Léo, Cinkanse, Niangoloko) with the objective of promoting and enhancing interactions between Defence and Security Forces and the population in order to initiate collaboration between these two targeted publics of the project. These activities were organized for the benefit of youth (school children), women and local security initiatives and were attended by about 900 people, 70% of whom were women and 30% men. The themes addressed during these open-door days are road safety, drug use, reporting of suspicious cases, and the use of toll-free numbers.



Defence and Security «Open-door day» in the locality of Koloko

b. Organization of soccer matches between the Defence and Security Forces and the civilian population (Pô, Léo, Niangoloko, Cinkansé and Koloko)

Like the “open-door days”, soccer matches were organized with the aim of multiplying the opportunities of interactions between the populations and the Defence and Security Forces. In all, seven soccer matches were organized in the five localities where the “open-door days” took place.



Football match, defence and security forces vs population in the locality of Léo

c. Organization of theatrical performances

Eight theatrical performances were organized in the five localities of the project. These performances were provided by the theatrical groups set up within the framework of the project. The scripts were drafted and executed by the students themselves.

The theatrical performances focused on the themes of road safety, drugs, reporting of suspicious cases, and collaboration with the defense and security forces. This activity had a positive impact on awareness raising among the population.



Theatrical performance in the locality of Niangoloko

d. Organization of conferences on «The student, the police, the gendarme and the prevention of insecurity»

The last quarter of the project period hosted thirteen sensitization conferences in the project's intervention zones for the benefit of school boys. These conferences at school were a form of sensitization which considered the implementation of the concept of community policing. Defence and security forces joined elementary schools to talk with school boys about the police and gendarmes and the missions of each entity. These engagements between the security forces and the students laid the foundation for the students' familiarity with the security forces and at the same time, prepared them for future collaboration. It is expected that in the long run, this familiarity will facilitate security co-production, without barriers or prejudices. This activity highlighted the importance of involving youth in the prevention and fight against forms of insecurity and making them as conduits in the dissemination of information.



school session in the locality of Cinkanse

e. Organization of thematic conferences

The project also held thematic conferences both on radio and face-to-face in the five localities of the project aimed at improving the security offer and delivery as well as family education and reporting of suspected cases.

The thematic conferences constitute channels of sensitization and direct and indirect exchanges with the communities. These conferences, which took the form of public lectures and radio broadcasts, focused on several themes, including forms of insecurity along the roads, collaboration between security forces and the civilian population, reporting suspicious cases, deviant behavior and drug use.

The radio conferences were intended to reach a wider audience. On some occasions, local security officials (police commissioners and brigade commanders) were called upon to lead

conferences on topics falling within their area of responsibility and expertise. Through these interventions, they were given the opportunity to interact directly with the population.



FOSEC public conference session with women in the locality of Cinkansé

At the end of the implementation period, evaluation workshops were organized in three project locations (Cinkansé, Pô, Léo,) with the objective of making an overall assessment to close off the project activities in these localities, while identifying orientations for the sustainability of activities through local initiatives.



Session on final evaluation of the project with FOSEC experts in the locality of Koloko

f. Organization of training sessions for local security initiatives

Three training sessions were organized in Léo, Niangoloko and Koloko for local security initiatives. The objective of these trainings was to strengthen skills of local security initiatives for a better contribution to the prevention of insecurity, in accordance with the laws on the subject, and to provide them with knowledge on their functioning and their collaboration with the defense and security forces of the locality. These trainings were appreciated by the participants, especially since it allowed them to reinforce their knowledge on road safety but also to enhance the interaction between security forces and the civilian population.



Family Photo of participants in the training of local security initiatives in the locality of Niangoloko

Generally, the project had a good impact on the beneficiaries, which led the partners to consider renewing it in order to consolidate the gains made and extend it to other localities. Unfortunately, the process was stalled by the US government following the coup d'état of January 24, 2022, which put an end to the democratically elected regime of President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. FOSEC is therefore seeking for new partnerships to continue the project.

The Fondation pour la Sécurité du Citoyen (FOSEC) is the ASSN's Francophone West African Regional Node. FOSEC is based in Burkina Faso.

For more information on FOSEC, please visit <http://www.fosecburkina.org>

3.4. Security Research and Information Centre (SRIC)

a. Digitalization of Arms Records in Select Police Stations in Kenya

Picking from last year, SRIC continued to monitor the use of digital arms registers in selected police stations in Laikipia county in Kenya. The initiative is supported by Tetra Tech International with funds from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The project

is a pilot initiative that is meant to test the readiness of police stations and officers to embrace digitalization of police processes.

b. Training of Community Level Peace and Security Structures on Community Policing

With support from UNDP-Kenya and Tetra Tech International, SRIC continued to enhance the capacity of community structures to be able to quickly intervene and resolve community problems at the community levels. This has been done in Laikipia, Kitui, Baringo, Samburu and Nairobi counties. The role of those structures was considered crucial during the electioneering period. Participants were engaged on early warning early response mechanisms and also encouraged to actively take part in policing processes within their areas of residence.



Representatives from Community level peace and security structures during the capacity-building forum in Laikipia, County



SRIC staff taking participants through the training content in Laikipia County

c. Community Dialogue Forum to end Conflicts between Conservancies/Ranchers, Farmers and other peace and security stakeholders in Laikipia County

SRIC, through the support of Tetra Tech International held a community-level dialogue forum in Laikipia County. The forum brought together conservancy owners/ Ranchers, famers, community leaders and law enforcement agencies. It gave a space to all peace and security stakeholders to air their grievances and agree on better ways of working together to ensure peace in the county. The actors also agreed on a way forward that laid down specific steps that each should undertake to ensure peace in the county. The organization will continue holding the dialogue meetings targeting different groups in the county with a view of ensuring that the cyclic conflicts between farmers, pastoralists, conservancies and ranch owners are resolved.



Participants of the community dialogue in Laikipia County pose for a group photo during the forum

d. An Assessment of Peace and Conflict issues in Conflict Hotspot Counties

Supported by UNDP-K through the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), SRIC conducted an assessment meant to update peace and security issues in six counties that the commission had identified as conflict hotspot counties and flagged for constant observation and follow up. The six counties; Nairobi, Kericho Uasin Gishu, Mombasa, Kisumu and Nakuru had been identified to hold the highest potential or risk of electoral violence and SRIC was tasked with updating the peace and conflict scenarios in readiness for the August, 2022 General Elections. SRIC shared a summary of the findings to inform specific interventions by different peace and security stakeholders in the counties and is in the process of compiling the final report that will give the status of peace and conflict in those counties.

e. Rapid Assessment on the Extent of Armament and Potential Use of Illicit Firearms during the Electioneering Period

In partnership with the Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons (KNFP), SRIC conducted an assessment on the rate of armament and the potential use of illegally held firearms being used to cause conflicts and mayhems in five (5) hotspot counties; Nakuru, Bun-

goma, Mombasa, Kisumu and Uasin Gishu counties. The assessment was concluded and a brief shared. SRIC is in the process of compiling the final report that will detail the rate of armament in those specific counties.

f. Commemorating the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence, 2022

SRIC participated in the commemoration of this year's global week of action against gun violence. The organization hosted a public road show that traversed areas within the capital city, Nairobi, which had been identified as conflict hotspot zones and culminated into a youth public baraza held in Dagoretti South Sub-County. The activities were in line with the year's theme of "Let's work together! Strict gun controls are urgent". During the activities, SRIC and other peace and security stakeholders in Nairobi County engaged the public and the youth on the need to take part in electoral processes, need to refuse to be used as agents of violence, the need to report and surrender all illegally held firearms to the authorities and also to make use of the existing peace and security platforms to report peace and conflict issues to avert conflicts within the communities.



Members of the Community in one of the informal settlements, Mukuru Kwa Njenga, listening to peace and security messages from different leaders during one of the stop-overs.



A youth giving her views on security in Kawangware community dialogue done to commemorate the global week of action against gun violence

4. OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Like any other endeavour, ASSN's work presents both opportunities and challenges for the future. Currently, majority of African countries are beginning to appreciate the need to develop their own national security policies and strategies. This is a good opportunity for ASSN to advance the SSRG agenda by linking national security policy and strategy to SSRG processes.

In spite of this positive outlook however, the tumultuous civil-military relations (resurgence of military coups, non-compliance to term limits) as well as the threats of violent extremism and terrorism can negatively impact ASSN's vision.

5. CONCLUSION

The sustainability of a network requires prodigious effort and commitment. ASSN is consequently indebted to its staff, members, executive committee and partners for their unflinching support in advancing the mission of the network, even in the most difficult moments.

As it strives towards the realization of the vision of an African-owned security sector that is democratically governed, people-centred, rights compliant, well managed, and accountable as well as effective in supporting and sustaining human security, ASSN counts on the continued support of all stakeholders and partners.

The past year ushered in two new projects making it possible for ASSN to expand its outreach in West Africa and beyond. In tandem with this outreach is the broadening of the ASSN's thematic scope to encompass some of the most excluded constituents of our societies, particularly, the youth and women.

It is hoped that as the recognition of SSRG as a conflict prevention mechanism gains traction and the dissemination of both the African Union and ECOWAS Policy Framework on SSRG progresses further in Member States, there will be absolute dedication from partners (and possibly, African governments) to the continued support of the ASSN's work.



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