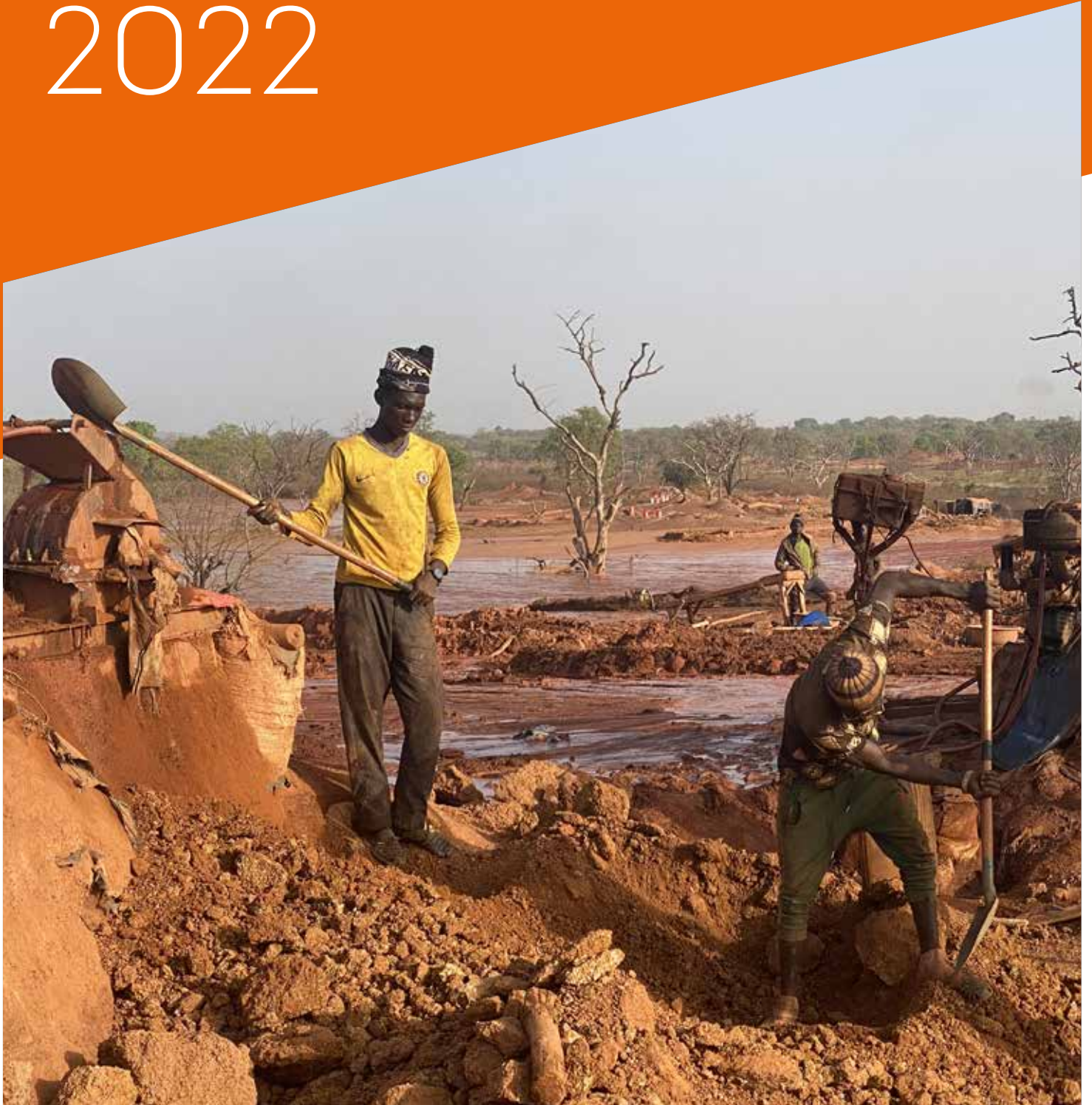


ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Coginta

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	PAGE
A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT	05
THE YEAR IN BRIEF	07
COGINTA IN NUMBERS	10
AREAS OF EXPERTISE	13
PRESENTATION OF OUR PROJECTS	17
FINANCIAL INFORMATION	60
GOVERNANCE OF COGINTA	65
ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS	68
PUBLICATION	69
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	71
CONTACT	75



A word from our President

For many years now, it has been clear throughout sub-Saharan Africa, and even more so in the depths of the territories, that the State structures that guarantee security and the proper administration of justice remain weak. Internal security forces in particular are often absent, and even when they happen to be there, they suffer from a lack of efficiency and capacity to ensure that the populations are effectively protected, if they are not perceived as a predatory force. This shortage of internal security has proven to be dramatic for the populations, in terms of everyday security, exposure to criminal networks, inter-tribal clashes and raids by jihadist groups.

This security and judicial vacuum leads to the transposition of the Weberian principle of the monopoly of legitimate violence to other entities that the State is struggling to regulate. As part of this weakening of the State, there is a correlative erosion of social services such as education (overcrowded schools, lack of resources, preference given to schooling boys), health and the continued deterioration of vital social functions such as water supply and the provision of basic food products. In this context, terrorist movements are also seeking to replace the powers that be, whether they are traditional chiefdoms or state administrations, and impose a new social order.

Faced with this situation, the international community and the States concerned have not always been able to react in a timely and appropriate manner. In 2019, during an extraordinary summit of the 15 ECOWAS states (Economic Community of West African States), extended to include Mauritania, Chad and Cameroon, the participants agreed that the fight against terrorism had failed. It was noted that there was a need for a global and concrete response to be provided to the populations at the heart of the territories, in close liaison with local actors, who are too often neglected.

Involving local, civil and non-state actors in the management of security policies is at the heart of Coginta's mandate. In many parts of the world, civil society has gained visibility and influence in the areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. In West Africa and the Sahel, civil society activities aimed at promoting peace and security are too often unwelcome or even compromised. Many governments distrust civil society organisations and see their activities as acts of opposition. This is why capacity-building – not only for civil society organisations, but also for local players, whether they are decentralized authorities or traditional chiefdoms – in local security management, is a necessary step towards reconciling the sovereign approach to justice and security with local initiatives based on traditional and alternative modes of regulation and social peace, which are often better able to meet the needs and expectations of the population.

Some of these approaches promoting local safety initiatives are presented in this 2022 Annual Report. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Blaise BONVIN
President



P.N.C
SSARIAT PROVINCIAL
EQUATEUR
N-MORAL ET HONNEUR
MBANDAKA
MH

The year in brief

2022 was marked by Coginta's continued commitment to sub-Saharan Africa, with the start-up of new projects in Côte d'Ivoire, Niger and Burundi:

January

Start of the technical assistance project for the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) in Niger

This project, financed by the European Union, aims to strengthen and consolidate Niger's system to promote, protect and defend human rights, in particular the CNDH, so that it ensures the promotion and effectiveness of human rights and fundamental freedoms. This support includes technical assistance in preparing CNDH reports, conducting fact-finding missions on cases of human rights violations, and operationalizing the CNDH's regional offices.

February

Inauguration of the regional branch of the Central Service for the Fight against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime (SCLCT/CTO) in Agadez, Niger

On February 4, 2022, the SCLCT/CTO regional office in Agadez was inaugurated in the presence of the Minister of the Interior, the EU Ambassador to Niger, the Sultan of Air, the Director General of the National Police, representatives of the Defense and Security Forces and the Executive Director of Coginta. This new, fully-equipped site allows 30 employees to be deployed in working and accommodation conditions that are perfectly suited to their mission.

March

Inauguration of the premises of the Specialized Investigation Unit (SIU) of Wour in Chad

The premises of the Specialized Investigation Unit in Wour, Chad, were inaugurated on 28 March 2022. As a reminder, the mission of the SIU of this police component is to fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime. The infrastructure, funded by the European Union, has been set up in the Wour military camp, in order to be able to operate as closely as possible to the Chadian battalion of the G5 Sahel Joint Force. This site built by Coginta is furnished, functional and self-sufficient in water and solar electricity. It can accommodate 16 officers.

April

Start of the assistance measure to support military units trained by the EU Training Mission in Mozambique (ASMOZ)

Funded by the European Union, the ASMOZ project is implemented by the Ministry of Defence of Portugal with which IdD Portugal Defence and Coginta have signed a partnership agreement. The purpose of this 85-million-euro project is to train and equip 9 companies of the Mozambican army and navy to form a rapid reaction force in the fight against the terrorist insurgency in the Cabo Delgado province.



- May

Launch of the study on customary justice systems and alternative methods of resolving existing conflicts in Burkina Faso

As part of the project to support the strengthening of military justice and local justice to combat impunity in Burkina Faso (AJUMJUP), funded by the European Union, Coginta is conducting a study on customary justice systems and alternative dispute resolution methods in Burkina Faso. The terms of reference of the study have been validated by the Burkinabe authorities and it can therefore get started.
- June

Mission to formulate the project to support the security and prevent the risk of terrorism in the north of Côte d'Ivoire (SECUNORD)

A joint mission was organized by Coginta and the Côte d'Ivoire National Gendarmerie to formulate the SECUNORD project. 2,000 kilometers were covered across the country, 48 meetings held and 203 people consulted. The overall objective is to help stabilize the northern part of Côte d'Ivoire, particularly along the borders and in the Bounkani region. This mission allowed us to finalize the project's action plan, its logical framework and the budget.
- July

National workshop on artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Côte d'Ivoire

As part of the European Union-funded project to support the security and development of artisanal gold mining as a factor of development and social cohesion in northern Côte d'Ivoire (SECORCI), a national workshop on artisanal and small-scale gold mining was held in Yamoussoukro from July 12 to 14, 2022. It brought together 45 participants and provided them with an opportunity to take stock of the situation in the sector and to advocate for changes to the mining code that would be more favourable to artisans.
- August

Training of 120 trainers within the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) nautical units

The training of trainers for the MNJTF nautical units operating in the Lake Chad basin to fight terrorism and secure the waterways came to an end. 120 Cameroonian, Nigerian, Nigerien and Chadian MNJTF staff were trained as part of the STABLAC project, implemented by Coginta with funding from the European Union. They are now able to train their peers in boat preparation, nautical mission organisation and intervention techniques, including in emergency situations.
- September

Adoption of the law on legal aid in the Republic of Guinea

On September 23, 2022, the Plenary Assembly of the National Transitional Council unanimously adopted the law on legal aid in the Republic of Guinea. This law, for which Coginta led a major advocacy campaign in favour of its adoption as part of a project to support strengthening access to justice for the most vulnerable (PARAJ), creates a legal aid system. This translates into setting up a legal aid fund and defining the terms and conditions for granting legal aid to indigent litigants.

- October

Start of technical assistance for the Justice Sector Support Program in Burundi (AT-PASJU)

Funded by the European Union, the Justice Sector Support Program in Burundi is made up of various components implemented by specialized partners. Coginta's role in this new project is to coordinate their actions in order to ensure an overall coherence in their activities. This involves harmonizing and coordinating the monitoring and evaluation system for the program's various components, organising the meetings for the steering committee and the technical monitoring committee, as well as taking the cross-cutting issues of gender equality, digitization and strengthening civil society organisations into account in these actions.
- November

Start of the project to support security and prevent the risk of terrorism in the north of Côte d'Ivoire (SECUNORD)

The SECUNORD project started on 20 November 2022 for a period of 18 months. With a budget of 3.8 million euros funded by the European Union, this project aims to contribute to the stabilization of the northern part of Côte d'Ivoire, particularly along the borders. A country office has been opened in Bouna, in the far north-east of the country, in the Bounkani region, close to the Comoé National Park. 8 new employees were hired to implement this project.
- December

Start of the second project to support the creation of a multi-purpose squadron for the National Guard of Niger (EP-GNN2)

Funded by the European Union with a budget of 5.5 million euros, the second project to support the creation of a multi-purpose squadron for the National Guard of Niger is expected to take 20 months. Coginta is in charge of building an infrastructure for this newly-created squadron in the Tillabéry region. The project also includes equipping it with individual equipment, campaign materials and tools to conduct investigations, communication and mobility equipment. Training will be provided on how to use certain equipment, as well as on ethics, deontology and human rights. We also plan to work on strengthening the bond of trust with the local populations and coordinate with other actors in the criminal justice system.

Coginta in numbers

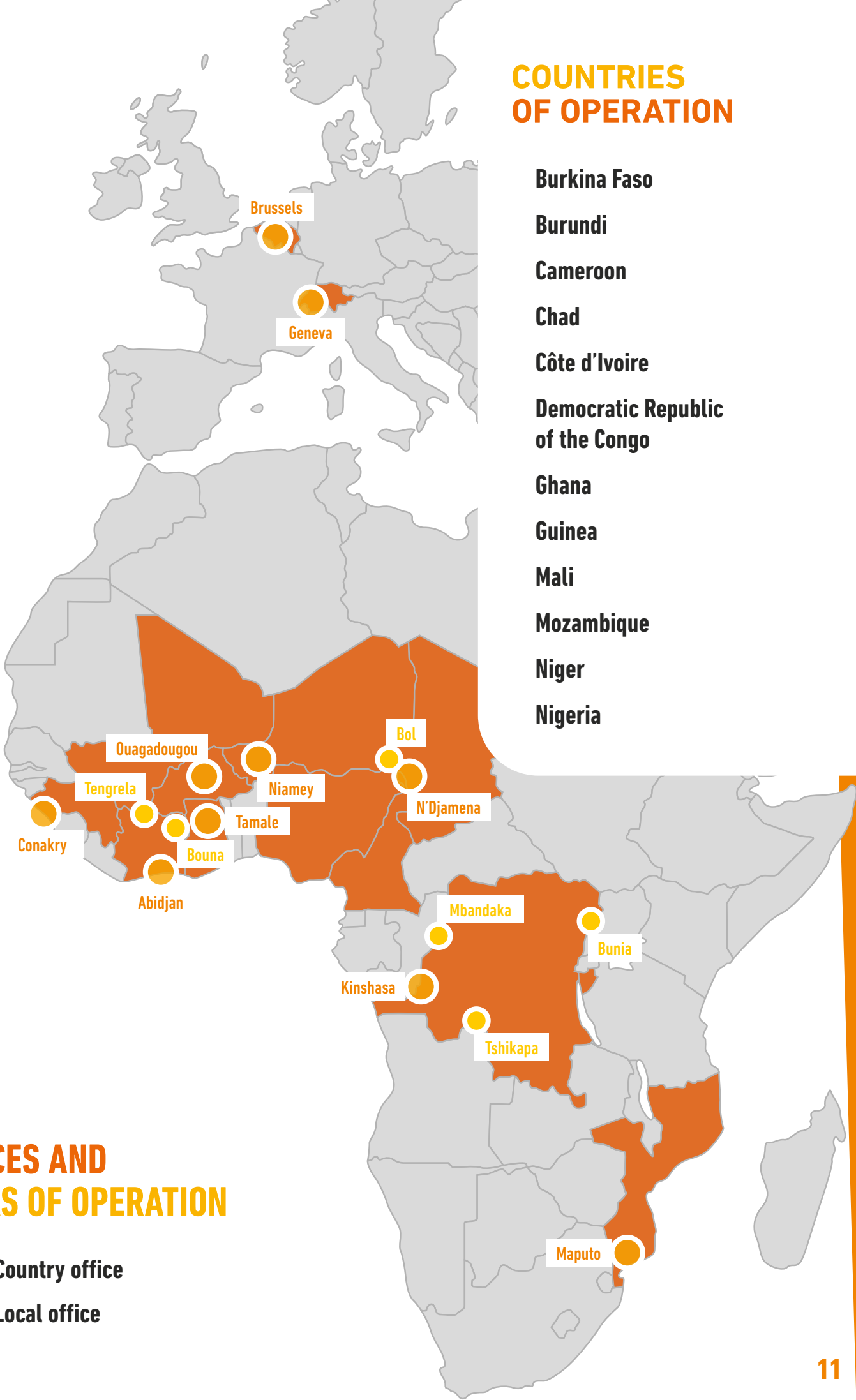
Coginta is a non-governmental, non-political, non-profit organisation recognised of public utility with headquarters in Geneva (Switzerland) and nine representative offices: Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), Brussels (Belgium), Conakry (Guinea), Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Maputo (Mozambique), N'Djamena (Chad), Niamey (Niger), Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and Tamale (Ghana).



Coginta's objective is **to support host governments** in strengthening judicial and security institutions in accordance with the norms and principles of the rule of law, and to improve the effectiveness of justice and security institutions in preventing violence, insecurity and crime in order to promote an environment conducive to peace, development and social cohesion.

OFFICES AND AREAS OF OPERATION

- Country office
- Local office



Areas of expertise

Coginta's areas of expertise include:



Stabilization, resilience and integrated security-development approach

The increase in conflicts (including cross-border), changes in terrorist threats, displacement of populations and even the consequences of climate change are just some of the security and development challenges that countries and populations in many parts of the world. From this perspective, Coginta promotes innovative solutions aimed at integrated security-development approach that benefits local populations. These include re-establishing the bond of trust between the internal security forces (ISF) and the local population, strengthening the role of local actors in local security governance and promoting security management to support development.



The fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime

Coginta supports countries facing terrorism and transnational organized crime by strengthening the criminal justice system so that judicial police operations can be carried out while respecting human rights and the legal standards in force. Support is therefore provided both to the armed forces (that need to be deployed on national territory due to the high threat level) and to specialized investigation services, as well as to day-to-day public security services, some of whose personnel are deployed in areas considered to be particularly at risk.



Local security governance

For a long time, support from technical and financial partners in terms of security was mainly focused on improving the way institutions functioned, in the hope that this would eventually have an impact at the local level. Another approach, promoted by Coginta, is to work in a more inclusive and decentralized way, directly with communities, bringing together ISFs and major local players (administrative authorities, religious and traditional chiefdom representatives, members of civil society, etc.) to co-produce security. Depending on the context, this methodology involves strengthening local governance bodies, carrying out local security diagnoses, introducing community-oriented policing or initiatives to bring ISFs closer to the local population, among other things.

POSTE DE POLICE
DU TRIBUNAL DE PREMIERE
INSTANCE D'ABENGOUROU





Public safety in mining areas

Coginta supports the internal security forces in the fight against illegal gold mining, by training them specifically in investigation techniques and the legal regulations in force. However, our approach is not limited to the law enforcement aspect. Support is also provided to local consultation frameworks as well as mining cooperatives, awareness-raising initiatives are organized for local populations, training is provided for artisanal miners, and advisory support is provided to national authorities for better consideration of issues related to small mining in public policies.



Access to justice

In partnership with civil society organisations in countries where it operates, Coginta works to improve access to justice for citizens by providing legal and judicial assistance in legal clinics, and by organizing information, awareness-raising and mediation-conciliation initiatives in legal aid clinics and Maisons de Justice (legal advice centres). We train lawyers and legal experts, and run awareness-raising and rights-education campaigns for the general public. Coginta works with legal aid institutions (funds) or lobbies for their creation and operationalization in countries where they do not exist yet.



Ethics and professional conduct

The support provided by technical and financial partners is not compatible with certain bad behaviors that tarnish the image of the ISF in the eyes of the public. A bureaucratic culture characterized by a negative attitude has sometimes developed in institutions responsible for the public safety of people's daily lives. To overcome this, Coginta is committed to addressing issues related to ethics and professional conduct. Charters have been developed, as well as educational material, both for ISF personnel and to inform the general public about these texts. Training is provided to remind employees of the basic principles, including those in management positions. Support is also provided to the General Inspection Services.



Public safety in river, lake and maritime environments

Coginta provides advice and technical assistance in managing and securing river, lake and maritime areas, including border areas. This support takes the form of support for (or even the creation of) specialized units, the construction and equipment of nautical stations, and the acquisition of resources suitable for patrol, surveillance and population protection missions. Both theoretical and practical training courses are conducted with the objective of professionalizing personnel assigned to nautical units with the skills they need to operate in hostile and difficult environments. These include piloting, operational navigation, patrolling, boat control, rescue and assistance maneuvers, etc.



Protecting the environment and preventing conflicts over natural resources

The challenges involved in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts caused by climate change and the difficulties in accessing natural resources are key issues for peace and security. Coginta has therefore set up a centre of expertise in land conflict management, securing pastoral mobility, capacity building in natural resource management and conflict prevention, and support for security institutions (environmental police, forest rangers, nature conservationists, nomadic guards and meharist units, etc.) in charge of safeguarding natural resources and public safety, particularly in transhumance corridors.



The fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW)

Coginta supports the development of policies and initiatives to bring states into compliance with international agreements to combat the proliferation and illicit trafficking of SALW and munitions. Coginta thus provides technical assistance regarding the legal and regulatory framework, stockpile management, marking and tracing, as well as efforts to reduce armed violence and the circulation of SALWs and armed violence, in particular through awareness-raising initiatives and preventing armed violence among communities and civil society players.



Risk and disaster prevention and management

Coginta supports the development of national risk and disaster management policies, and the creation and organisation of national civil protection structures. This support also contributes to improving the operational response of civil protection units, in particular through initial training (technical, theoretical and practical knowledge), specialized training (water rescue, road rescue, fire management, etc.), and by strengthening logistical and operational capacities.



External control over security institutions

Coginta's activities are aimed at strengthening civilian, democratic and parliamentary control of the security forces, fighting corruption and promoting integrity and respect for human rights in the security sector. Training and consultancy missions are also conducted for the media and journalists, civil society organisations following the security sector, and members of parliament. Awareness-raising campaigns are also conducted among the population to promote the rule of law and to raise awareness about the roles, responsibilities and duties of the defense and security forces.



Support for initial and continuing education of public security forces

Coginta provides high-level expertise in training engineering, in particular in creating training guidelines, designing training programs, training trainers, using a skills-based approach, creating specially designed teaching materials and tools, for public security institutions. Coginta also contributes to strengthening the management capacities of training institutions and training centres for security forces (by developing internal regulations, role descriptions, organisational procedures, etc.). Training is provided to gendarmes, police officers, forest rangers, customs officers, etc.



Strengthening the skills and professionalization of public security forces

Coginta provides advice and technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of public security institutions in the areas of strategic planning, organisational development, recruitment and human resource management, the development of legal and regulatory frameworks and budgetary management. We have also taken steps to improve the logistics chain, strengthen internal and external communication, and computerize procedures. This support takes the form of strengthening the staff capabilities, or even strengthening the institution itself (by implementing procedures).



Security diagnostics, perception surveys and mapping

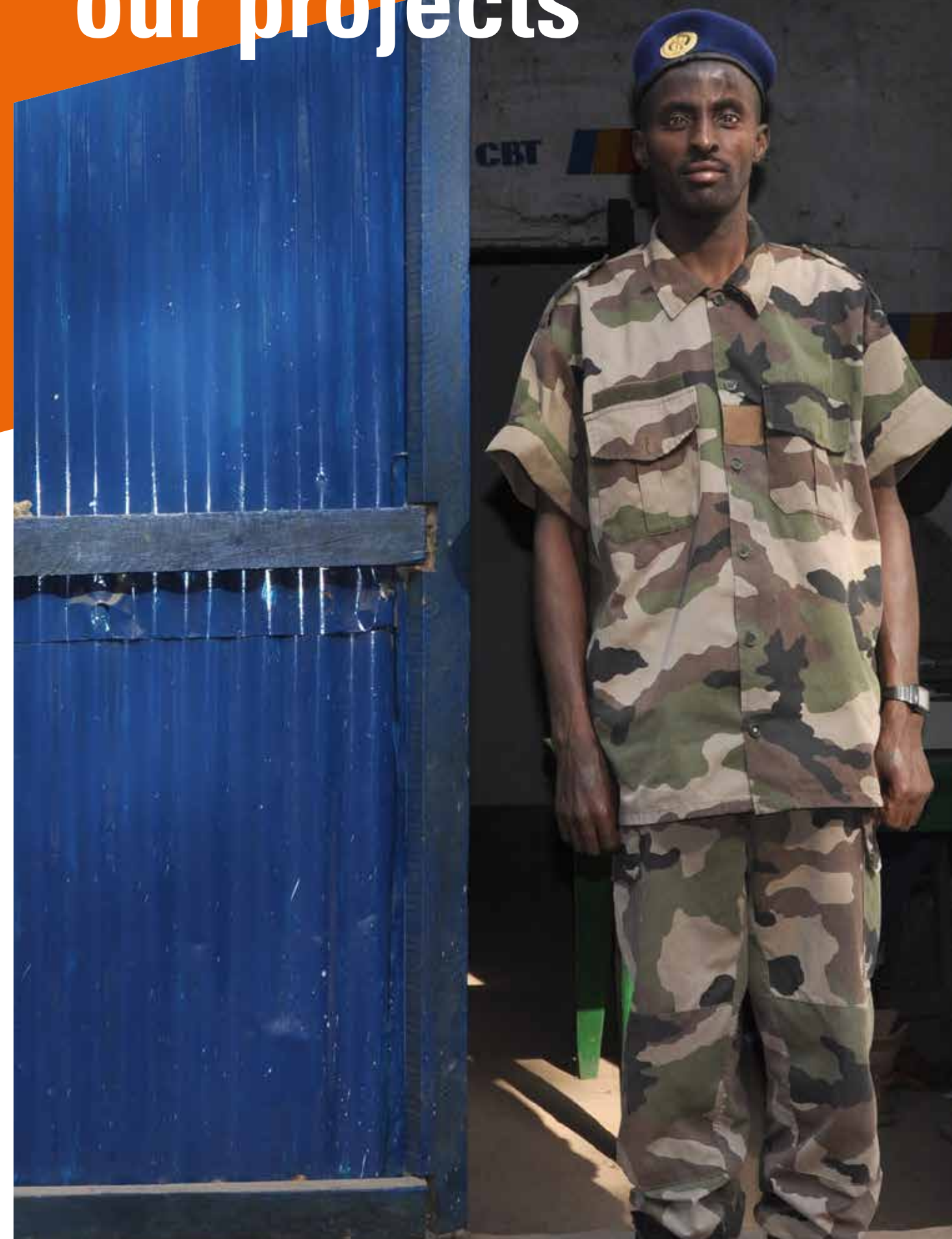
Drawing on its network of high-level international experts and know-how in sampling and data collection techniques, Coginta conducts perception studies on local, national or regional security and justice issues (access to justice, drug use and trafficking, delinquency, radicalisation, arms circulation, mining conflicts, cross-border crime, etc.). Thanks to simple technological tools, the results can be presented in the form of interactive maps, even in unmapped areas.



Monitoring and impact studies

Coginta implements project and program monitoring systems that use quantitative indicators to track the progress that has been made. Based on its expertise in the field of surveys and social science methodologies, Coginta conducts impact studies using original data collected from the communities concerned, even in areas that are difficult to access.

Presentation of our projects





SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN MILITARY JUSTICE AND LOCAL JUSTICE TO FIGHT IMPUNITY IN BURKINA FASO (AJUMJUP)

Context

Once renowned for its stability and security, since 2016 Burkina Faso has been experiencing a particularly difficult security context marked on the one hand by an increase in crime, mainly in the form of highway robbers and cattle thieves, and by the resurgence of terrorist acts, and on the other hand by transnational trafficking. The feeling of insecurity has increased exponentially since 2018. Groups associated with the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (GSIM) and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) first targeted state institutions – mainly schools and defense and security forces (DSF) stations – in the northern regions bordering Mali, before spreading to the eastern areas bordering Niger, Benin and Togo, and then to the civilian populations themselves. These attacks are rooted in the desire of jihadist groups to discourage any willingness of the population to cooperate with the DSF or to join local self-defense groups.

As a result, the justice system is no longer able to fulfil its role in accordance with the population's expectations. A significant number of common law defendants are awaiting trial, and this number is only increasing. People involved in crimes and offences or involved in terrorist attacks have been arrested and brought to justice, but very few trials have been able to take place.

The destabilization of the country has led to an increasingly massive involvement of Burkina Faso's armed forces, particularly the Special Forces, but also auxiliary units, mainly the Volunteers for the Defense of the Homeland. National and international observers regularly report abuse, hasty treatment of those apprehended, and even reprisals against populations that are supposedly supporting terrorist groups. Strengthening the gendarmerie's Provost Marshal component is one response to this situation, so that it can effectively perform a priority regulatory function for the military and the militias, but also to carry out investigations in the field by positioning the Provost Marshals as the first to arrive, in support of the units.

To rebuild trust between the justice system and those subject to its jurisdiction, and to restore the credibility of this institution which is essential to maintaining social cohesion, the public authorities of Burkina Faso, with the support of development partners, have undertaken major legal and institutional reforms. In this respect, local justice, by bringing justice closer to the citizens, is a central element of the country's justice policy. The objective of this local justice system is to reduce the physical,

psychological and financial distance that is characteristic of the relationship between the people of Burkina Faso, especially the most vulnerable, and the judicial system.

Project

Implemented since 2021, in partnership with the Burkinabe Movement for Human and Peoples' Rights, the project is based on three interacting intervention objectives:

- The need to strengthen military justice to guarantee the protection of armed forces personnel or assimilated groups in their operational engagement and to fight against impunity when abuses are committed against the civilian population;
- The need to strengthen the judicial capacities of first responders, from the perspective of local proximity, efficiency and performance of the criminal justice system;
- The need to respond more effectively to the needs of vulnerable populations, and to contribute to restoring the confidence of those subject to the law in Burkina Faso's judicial system.

The AJUMJUP project aims to combat impunity by strengthening the justice sector and improving the way the criminal justice system works and by promoting access to justice for the most vulnerable people and the victims of serious human rights violations. It also aims to improve the way military justice works, by building up a Provost Marshal force capable of effectively exercising its primary function of regulating the military and militias, as well as conducting investigations in the field by Provost Marshals who work alongside the units within their geographical jurisdiction.

The project builds on the achievements of the National Justice Policy Support Program, previously funded by the European Union.

Achievements

The operational activities of the project continued throughout 2022 and the main achievements are as follows:

- The construction and operationalization of infrastructures for the benefit of the military justice department;
- Strengthening the capacities of the magistrates and clerks of the military courts;
- Training future gendarmes in technical and forensic policing;
- The development and distribution of a guide for an efficient criminal justice system;
- Strengthening the capacities of judicial police officers on compliance with the Code of Criminal Procedure and the guide to the criminal justice system;
- Strengthening the capacities of prosecutors trained on compliance with the Code of Criminal Procedure and the guide to the criminal justice system;
- The operationalization of 9 legal aid clinics and the training of their managers in providing information to individuals seeking justice, as well as mediation and reconciliation.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

36 months

BUDGET

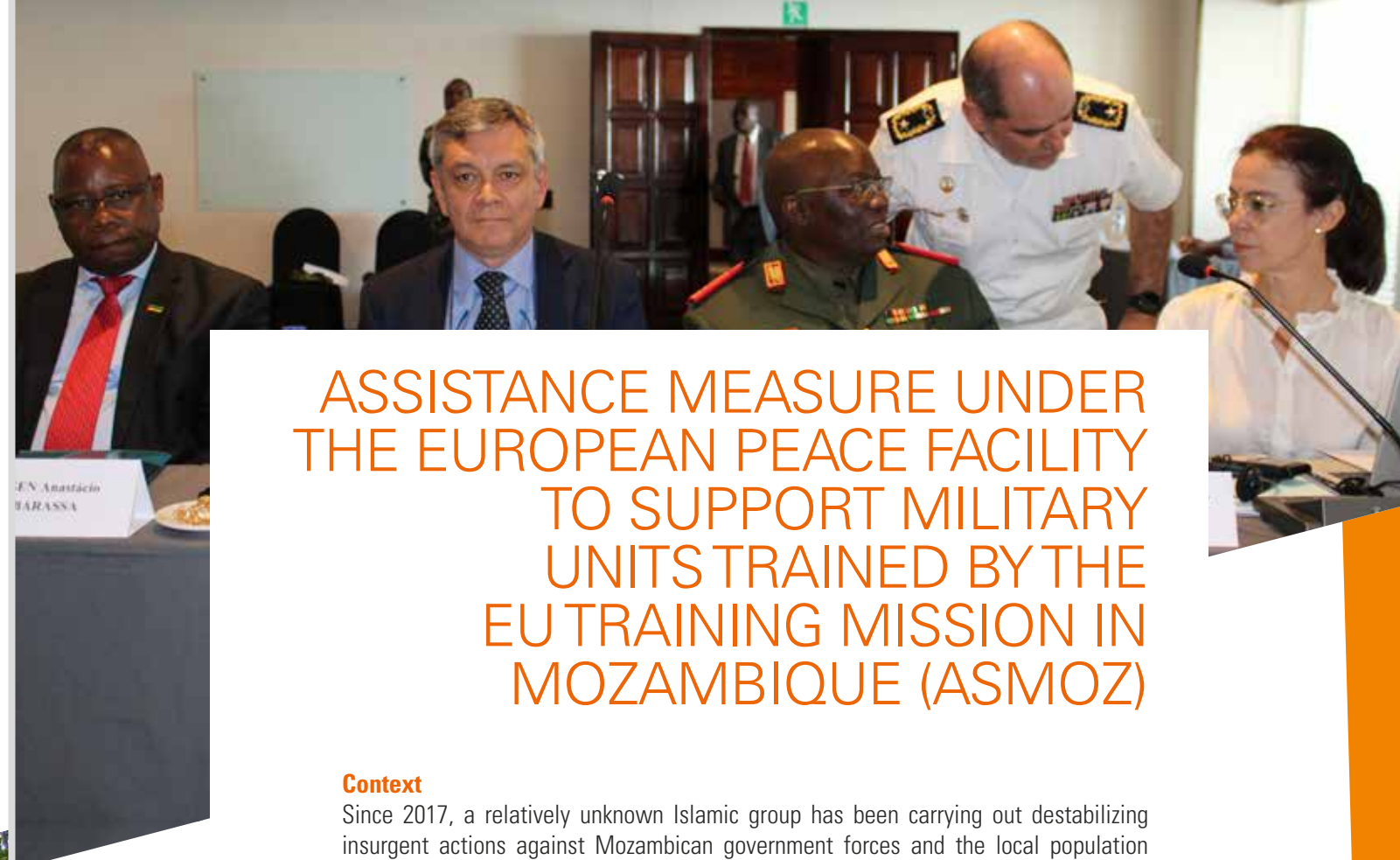
6 000 000 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

April 2021 – April 2024

BENEFICIARIES

Ministry of Defense, High Command of the National Gendarmerie;
Military Court;
Ministry of Justice;
The Supreme Council of the Judiciary (CSM);
Legal Aid Fund;
Burkinabè Movement for Human and People's Rights (MBDHP).



ASSISTANCE MEASURE UNDER THE EUROPEAN PEACE FACILITY TO SUPPORT MILITARY UNITS TRAINED BY THE EU TRAINING MISSION IN MOZAMBIQUE (ASMOZ)

Context

Since 2017, a relatively unknown Islamic group has been carrying out destabilizing insurgent actions against Mozambican government forces and the local population in the predominantly Muslim northern province of Cabo Delgado. These actions have had serious repercussions on the security and humanitarian situation, as well as on economic activity.

The humanitarian situation in Cabo Delgado province remained unstable in 2022. Fighting has moved to the southern areas of the province and the northern province of Nampula – which had not experienced attacks before – with occasional outbursts into the neighbouring province of Niassa. Non-state armed groups have continued to destabilize pockets of territory in 2022, generating new waves of displacement and constantly compromising the supply of humanitarian aid.

Although the situation is slowly improving with people returning to the most affected areas, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), about 1 million people have been internally displaced since the conflict broke out in October 2017. The main concern remains the large-scale protection and humanitarian needs of displaced and host communities, which mainly require food assistance, access to health, education, water and sanitation, and shelter. Women and children represent 80% of the total displaced population.

Project

This assistance measure was encouraged by the EU under the European Peace Facility to support military units trained by the EU Training Mission in Mozambique (EUTM). Under the “train and equip” principle, it plans to provide adequate equipment to strengthen the capabilities of nine of the eleven Mozambican army and navy special forces companies trained by the EU's non-executive military training mission (the other two companies were trained and partially equipped by the URMOS project). These companies form a rapid reaction force and are intended to fight insurgencies in the province of Cabo Delgado.

The project also provides adequate equipment to companies trained by EUTM, in order to strengthen the capabilities of special forces. The project is implemented by the Portuguese Ministry of Defense, in partnership with idD Portugal Defence and

Coginta, with the latter ensuring programmatic and technical consistency between the emergency measure (URMOZ) and the assistance measure (ASMOZ) and facilitating communication between the project team and the EUTM.

Achievements

The operational activities of the project began in the 2nd quarter of 2022 and the main achievements are as follows:

- Definition of technical specifications within the working group;
- Submission of the acquisition plan to the Mozambican authorities for approval;
- Preparation of calls for tenders;
- Launch and monitoring of tender procedures.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

24 months

BUDGET

85 000 000 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

April 2022 - March 2024

BENEFICIARIES

MOZAF - Mozambican Armed Forces



MOZAMBIQUE

EMERGENCY MEASURE TO SUPPORT MILITARY UNITS TRAINED BY THE EU TRAINING MISSION IN MOZAMBIQUE (URMOZ)

Context

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Project

The EU has encouraged an emergency measure under the European Peace Facility to ensure that the most urgently needed equipment and supplies can be made available to the first companies that have completed the training provided by the EU Training Mission in Mozambique (EUTM), an EU-promoted, non-executive military mission whose aim and mandate is to support a more effective response to the insurgency in full compliance with international law. On 30 July 2021, the EU Council approved an emergency measure worth 4 million euros to provide the most urgently needed equipment and supplies to the two Mozambican companies (one army and one navy) that are expected to be the first to benefit from the training provided by the EUTM.

The objective of this emergency measure is therefore to allow both companies to participate fully in the training provided by the EUTM, and to benefit from the delivery of individual equipment to their soldiers, as well as resources at company level to facilitate



a meaningful training experience and to improve the living conditions in the training camps. The support and equipment to be provided to the companies includes individual and collective equipment, land mobility resources and technical devices.

The direct beneficiaries of the project are the Mozambican Armed Forces, in particular the two companies trained by the EUTM. The final beneficiaries of this initiative are the local populations of the province of Cabo Delgado, who will benefit from a safer environment, which will allow the resumption of socio-economic activities, and vulnerable groups such as women, children, religious leaders and internally displaced people, who are directly targeted by the conflict and the abuses of insurgent groups.

Achievements

In 2022, most of the activities started at the end of the previous year came to fruition, with calls for tender and most deliveries now finalised:

- Definition of technical specifications within the working group;
- Submission of the acquisition plan to the Mozambican authorities for approval;
- Preparation of calls for tenders;
- Launch and monitoring of tender procedures;
- Monitoring of contract implementation and delivery;
- Official handover of the equipment to the Mozambican Armed Forces.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

17 months

BUDGET

4 000 000 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

October 2021 - March 2023

BENEFICIARIES

MOZAF – Mozambican Armed Forces



MOZAMBIQUE



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF NIGER (AT-CNDH)

Context

In a context marked by the resurgence of terrorism and transnational organized crime, the National Human Rights Commission of Niger (NHRC) plays a key role in promoting and protecting human rights in the country. Indeed, the abuses committed by both non-state armed groups and defense and security forces on populations, the exacerbation of inter-community land conflicts, the rise of religious extremism and internal displacement, coupled with the health and environmental crisis, are weakening the society, especially vulnerable people, and require that the NHRC be fully operational to respond to the multifaceted challenges it is facing.

As an independent entity towards the State and civil society players, the NHRC must strengthen its authority and develop practices that contribute to the construction of a human rights culture in Niger. With its mandate recently extended to include the National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture (NMPT), and also wishing to retain its "A" status at the next accreditation review with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), the NHRC has therefore requested support from the European Union, in order to improve the efficiency of its operations and fully fulfil its mandate throughout Niger, with the help of its seven regional branches.

Project

The partnership between the European Union and the NHRC stems from a shared desire to strengthen and consolidate Niger's system for promoting and protecting human rights. It has resulted in various supports since 2017, including the provision of equipment, the funding of the project to strengthen the system for promoting and protecting human rights, and the provision of dedicated technical assistance led by B&S Europe and Coginta.

It is therefore expected that the resources made available to the NHRC by the European Union will be streamlined, and that support from its technical and financial partners will be coordinated to optimize their results. Technical assistance to the NHRC, through advisory support, strengthening of capacities, providing tools and assistance in the implementation of its activities, is intended to lead the NHRC towards institutional and organisational development that will enable it to adequately assume its mission of promoting, protecting and defending human rights in Niger. It also aims to strengthen its system for investigating and preparing annual reports on the human rights situation, in particular through fact-finding missions on human rights violations and by monitoring the implementation of the formulated recommendations.

Achievements

The operational activities of the project continued throughout 2022 and the main achievements are as follows:

- Conducting an organisational audit of the NHRC and developing an internal operating manual with tools and service standards to standardize and streamline the institution's working methods at both the central and decentralized level;
- Continuous strengthening of the NHRC's commissioners, executives and branch managers' capacities, particularly through advisory support to the existing working groups and technical committees, strategic meetings with the presidency, the executive board and the general secretariat, and organizing a workshop to meet the managers of the NHRC regional branches in Niamey;
- Supporting the NHRC in implementing the Mechanism for Prevention of Torture (MPT) by establishing a partnership with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) and the NGO Grandir Dignement, co-organizing a workshop with the APT to strengthen the NHRC's capacities with regard to the MPT's mandate, and providing techniques for prisons and custody cells visits and advisory support for the working group and the central directorate in charge of fighting arbitrary detention, torture and cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment, as part of implementing the MPT;
- Support in creating a consultation framework between the NHRC, the defense and security forces, the civil society and the technical and financial partners;
- Support in setting up a legal and judicial assistance fund for vulnerable people, by advising the committee responsible for determining the criteria for granting financial assistance to victims, and drafting a technical note;
- Assistance in writing the NHRC's annual report on the human rights situation in Niger and the NHRC's activity report for 2021;
- Advisory support in setting up a monitoring and evaluation system for the recommendations of the annual human rights reports addressed to the authorities, by forming a monitoring committee;
- Advisory support for investigation, verification and fact-finding missions related to serious human rights violations (e.g.: events of October 2022 in Tamou, Tillabéri region) and writing reports.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

15 months

BUDGET

257 400 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

January 2022 - April 2023

BENEFICIARIES

The beneficiaries of the intervention are the members of the NHRC, namely:
Commissioners, permanent members of the NHRC;
The Administration and the Technical Departments of the NHRC;
The local and regional branches of the NHRC.



PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A MULTI-PURPOSE SQUADRON FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD OF NIGER (EP-GNN)

Context

Niger shares borders with seven neighbouring countries: Libya to the north-east, Chad to the east, Nigeria and Benin to the south, Burkina Faso and Mali to the west and Algeria to the north-west. While most of these countries face a significant deterioration in their security situations, Niger's 5,690 kilometers of insufficiently controlled borders expose it to the movement of criminal and terrorist groups. This country was, is and will remain a crossroads for trade between North Africa and Africa south of the Sahara. As a result, it faces security threats, terrorism and criminal trafficking. Securing its territories and developing them economically are two major challenges the Republic of Niger is currently facing, with the support of the international community.

From this perspective, the national internal security strategy recommends creating mobile force intervention units to better control the territory against the terrorist actions of non-state armed groups and transnational organised crime. The National Guard, a component of the internal security force under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, is part of this dynamic by creating new multipurpose squadrons that are capable of moving independently to areas that require their presence depending on the development of the threat.

Project

Launched at the request of the Nigerien authorities, the purpose of the project was to equip and train the multipurpose squadron of the National Guard of Niger, soon to be deployed in the Tahoua area. The project was carried out in close coordination with the EUCAP Sahel Niger mission, which is also training the squadron's personnel as part of its mandate. Scheduled to end on 30 June 2022, the project was extended until 30 November 2022 and was completed to the general satisfaction of all stakeholders. So much so that the European Union and the High Command of the National Guard decided on a new phase, in favour of another squadron.

Achievements

The year 2022 made it possible to continue the delivery of equipment acquired for the benefit of the multipurpose squadron during the year 2021. A total of 17 vehicles have been delivered, including 16 equipped for troop transport, as well as a medical ambulance, a tow truck and two armoured vehicles. Training in the maintenance and piloting of the armoured vehicles was organised for 22 National Guard personnel in September 2022. These courses are designed to help trainees operate the equipment safely and to maintain it in operational condition.

The squadron was given radio communication equipment that is interoperable with that of other Niger defense and security forces. IT tools were also purchased and the choice of equipment was based on whether it was suitable to working conditions in the middle of the desert.

The 202 guards in the squadron were issued their own individual equipment (uniforms, packs, personal protective equipment, field equipment, etc.) so that they can move around in the best possible conditions throughout the area they need to secure. The project has also acquired collective equipment for life in the field, including a mobile kitchen. 10 National Guard personnel were trained to use it.

The squadron has been provided with a range of special equipment to help them carry out their mission using high-performance technology. Training was provided for 4 employees to teach them how to operate and maintain the equipment.

The project team also worked alongside the High Command of the National Guard in close collaboration with the EUCAP Sahel Niger mission to strengthen the squadron's governance capabilities. Three working groups, each dedicated to a particular area, were set up and met regularly to define the procedures governing the operation, organisation and employment regulations of the service, but also its management, including in terms of human resources and logistical and budgetary support. In April 2022, a workshop attended by around fifteen National Guard participants was organised to study these projects and present them to the High Commander before their final approval.

In addition, since the squadron had only recently been created and deployed, it seemed necessary to raise its officers' awareness of the rules of ethics, professional conduct and respect for human rights. To this end, a workshop was organised for 25 squadron commanders from 26 to 30 July 2022. This was followed by 8 sessions for all the squadron's officers between September and November 2022.

Lastly, a workshop to strengthen the bond of trust with the population was held in Tahoua on 10 November 2022, attended by the political, administrative and religious authorities and representatives of civil society in the departments covered by the squadron during their nomadic missions. 83 people participated in the event, which provided an opportunity to present the squadron's role, the importance of cooperation between the public and the GNN, and the public's expectations in terms of public safety.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

PROJECT DURATION

24 months

BUDGET

4 450 000 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

December 2020 - November 2022

BENEFICIARIES

National Guard of Niger



START OF THE SECOND PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A MULTI-PURPOSE SQUADRON FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD OF NIGER (EP-GNN II)

Context

Niger shares borders with seven neighbouring countries: Libya to the north-east, Chad to the east, Nigeria and Benin to the south, Burkina Faso and Mali to the west and Algeria to the north-west. While most of these countries face a significant deterioration in their security situations, Niger's 5,690 kilometers of insufficiently controlled borders expose it to the movement of criminal and terrorist groups. This country was, is and will remain a crossroads for trade between North Africa and Africa south of the Sahara. As a result, it faces security threats, terrorism and criminal trafficking. Securing its territories and developing them economically are two major challenges the Republic of Niger is currently facing, with the support of the international community.

From this perspective, the national internal security strategy recommends creating mobile force intervention units to better control the territory against the terrorist actions of non-state armed groups and transnational organised crime. The National Guard, a component of the internal security force under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, is part of this dynamic by creating new multipurpose squadrons that are capable of moving independently to areas that require their presence depending on the development of the threat.

Launched at the request of the Nigerien authorities, the project to support the creation of a multipurpose squadron of the National Guard of Niger in the Tahoua region was implemented by Coginta from 30 December 2021 to 30 November 2022. Bolstered by its success, the European Union, in agreement with the National Guard of Niger's High Command, has renewed the project for a second phase, this time in the Torodi area.

Project

The purpose of the project is to equip and train the National Guard's multi-purpose squadron, which will soon be deployed in western Niger, near the border with Burkina Faso, in the Torodi area. The project - like the previous one - will be carried out in close coordination with the EUCAP Sahel Niger mission, which is also training the squadron's personnel as part of its mandate.

This new phase also provides for the construction of a right-of-way for the squadron with living quarters and an administrative base. In addition to the activities mentioned above, there are also plans to work on strengthening the bond of trust with the local population, by organising and running social cohesion activities and even building small community infrastructures. The project also includes two workshops. The first with the

Departmental Security Council, to present the squadron's missions and the squadron commanders to the local officials (elected representatives, DSF representatives in the area, representatives of decentralised government departments, community leaders, civil society representatives, etc.). The second with the players in the criminal justice system in the Torodi department to evaluate the methods of interdepartmental cooperation and to improve the judicial handling of cases of terrorism and transnational organised crime.

Achievements

The project began on 1 December 2022 with a series of consultations with the Mobile Forces Technical Coordination Committee and the High Command of the National Guard, to fine-tune the multipurpose squadron's non-lethal requirements in terms of rolling stock, communications equipment, individual protective equipment, collective and special equipment, and field equipment.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

PROJECT DURATION

20 months

BUDGET

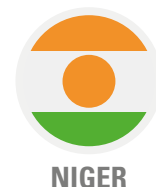
5 500 000 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

December 2022 - June 2024

BENEFICIARIES

National Guard of Niger



NIGER



PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONALISATION OF THE POLICE COMPONENT OF THE G5 SAHEL JOINT FORCE AND THE JUDICIARY PROCESS IN THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN SAHEL AND NEIGHBOURING AREAS (UISN)

Context

To improve the security situation in the region, the G5 Sahel countries created the G5 Sahel Joint Force (FCG5S) in 2017, which is tasked with fighting terrorism and transnational organised crime. This military response has been supplemented by creating the police component of the FCG5S, which consists of Provost Units and Specialized Investigation Units (SIUs) in each of the 5 countries, whose mission it is to judicialize military operations.

In Niger, the SIUs report to the regional branches of the Central Service for the Fight against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime (SCLCT-CTO), an inter-ministerial structure with a nationwide mission that brings together personnel from the national police, the national gendarmerie and the national guard. The SCLCT/CTO is responsible for coordinating, directing and processing all investigations relating to the fight against terrorism and transnational organised crime. Niger has deployed an SIU in Bankilaré and has branches in Diffa, Ouallam, and Agadez. Installing the SIUs - with the support of the project - as close as possible to military operations, and in particular to the FCG5S's area of operation, has considerably reduced the response and transport times to the scene of terrorist offences, which should make a significant improvement in processing cases. From this perspective, ensuring that the branches are fully functional and secure is essential to the success of their missions.

Project

Coginta is implementing the project to support the operationalisation of the police component of the G5 Sahel Joint Force and the judicialization process in the Central and Eastern zones and their neighbouring areas, by supporting the SCLCT/CTO. The project activities have been divided into four areas:

- Constructing buildings for the SIU branches in Agadez, Diffa and Téra;
- Supplying operational and specialized equipment for the SIU buildings and staff;
- Training SIU staff, mainly in judicial policing and techniques to fight terrorism and organised crime;
- Strengthening the organisational and coordination capacities of the SCLCT/CTO, both in terms of governance and operations.

Achievements

The project ended on 30 April 2022 after 30 months of implementation. The project had to be extended as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which slowed down a number of activities and reduced travel, and also because the Niger authorities changed the location of the SIU (from Madama to Agadez).

In February 2022, the project delivered the third and final infrastructure, the Agadez SIU. It provides accommodation for 35 employees, and the living quarters have separate dormitories for women and senior staff. The workstation has several offices, a conference room and holding cells for detainees. The SIU premises are handed over to the national party on a turnkey basis, which means that they are fully furnished and equipped with appropriate IT equipment and radio communications. The infrastructures are connected to the water and electricity networks, but they also have a borehole and a solar energy system to compensate for irregularities in the national electricity network. Mobility resources have also been made available, as well as specialized equipment to conduct investigations, including biometric identification equipment and criminal analysis and telephone data analysis software. On 4 February 2022, the SIU premises were inaugurated in the presence of the Minister of the Interior, the EU Ambassador to Niger, the Sultan of Air, the Director of the National Police and the Executive Directors of Coginta.

The project's last training course was held for 20 days in February and March 2022. 21 officers from the Intervention and Protection Division (one of the three divisions of the SCLCT/CTO) were trained in professional intervention techniques (command, intervention, escort transfer) and detecting improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

PROJECT DURATION

30 months

BUDGET

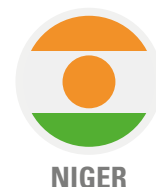
3 499 164 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

November 2019 - April 2022

BENEFICIARIES

Central Service for the Fight against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime (SCLCT/CTO) and its branches



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE JUSTICE SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM IN BURUNDI (AT-PASJU)

Context

Following the general elections in May 2020 and the subsequent political efforts to improve human rights, good governance and the rule of law in Burundi, the European Union decided, on 8 February 2022, to lift the restrictions on direct financial aid to the Burundian administration or to institutions that had been in force since 2016.

While many challenges in these areas persist and the government has placed Burundi's judicial and political system at the heart of the monitoring and vigilance mechanism following the political crisis of 2015, the justice system still suffers from deep-rooted structural problems that undermine the respect for people's rights and reinforce the difficulties that vulnerable people in Burundi face when it comes to having access to justice. These problems mainly related to the lack of independence of the judicial system, the lack of resources and training for judicial staff, the overcrowding of prisons, issues with the management and archiving of case files, the poor application of the law by magistrates, and the lack of protection for victims and witnesses.

Project

Within this fragile context, the European Union has set up a support program for the justice sector in Burundi (PASJU), which is divided into three separate projects. The Belgian Development Agency (Enabel) is implementing a project that focuses on strengthening the justice system and the efficiency of the Ministry of Justice and improving prison conditions. The Embassy of the Netherlands, via Cordaid, is responsible for improving access to justice for vulnerable people in Burundi by implementing legal aid activities. Lastly, Libraries Without Borders is responsible for digitising the legal system in 4 pilot provinces.

The technical assistance entrusted to B&S Europe and Coginta contributes to the implementation of the program's objectives and supports the actions of the implementation partners by strengthening the management and steering capacities to ensure an overall coherence of the activities. It harmonises the monitoring and evaluation system for the various components of the program, organises meetings for the steering committee and the technical monitoring committee, and ensures that the cross-cutting issues of gender equality, digitisation and strengthening civil society organisations are taken into account in these actions. It also supports the implementation of the sectoral plan of the Ministry of Justice by strengthening its institutional and operational capacities and skills and supports the revitalization of the Sector Group for Justice and Rule of Law.

Achievements

The operational activities of the AT-PASJU project began in November 2022, and the main achievements are as follows:

- Start-up mission of the team leader and the statistical expert and installation of the technical assistance on the premises of the coordination unit for support from partners of the Ministry of Justice;
- Analysing the political and legal context in Burundi and organising meetings with the beneficiary judicial authorities and partners implementing the various components of PASJU;
- Preparing a harmonised monitoring and evaluation system for the various components of the PASJU;
- Support for the harmonisation and finalisation of the PASJU project documents and partnership agreements between the Ministry of Justice and the actors implementing the program;
- Assessment of the current state of the judicial information system to draw up a work plan and a new framework to collect judicial data that will support the Planning and Statistics Department of the Ministry of Justice.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

36 months

BUDGET

753 880 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

November 2022 - October 2025

BENEFICIARIES

The Ministry of Justice of Burundi



BURUNDI



STRENGTHENING PEACEBUILDING AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES IN NORTHERN GHANA (NORPREVSEC)

Context

Ghana enjoys a relatively stable socio-political environment and one of the most dynamic economies in West Africa. However, the situation in northern Ghana is a cause for concern due to high poverty rates, poorly developed infrastructure, high youth unemployment, and numerous conflicts linked to resource management or a feeling of marginalisation. The borders with Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo are poorly controlled, a situation that encourages trafficking and the infiltration of armed groups operating in the Sahel. This situation creates a potentially fertile ground for armed groups wanting to establish themselves or recruit. All these factors are challenging the ability of security institutions to prevent violent extremism from developing, and they are also mobilising a large section of the population, who are determined to maintain the high level of cohesion and their culture of dialogue that is so prevalent in Ghanaian society. Religious leaders, traditional chiefs, community leaders and civil society organisations are actively working to promote peaceful coexistence in northern Ghana.

Project

The overall objective of the NORPREVSEC program is to promote inclusive governance that directly contributes to resilience and security in Ghana, by strengthening key governmental and non-governmental players in their joint and coordinated efforts to maintain peace and contain the rise of violent extremism. It is being implemented as part of a partnership between Coginta, the NCCE (National Commission on Civic Education) and the FILAPP (Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas).

Implemented since 2021 together with WANEP (West Africa Network for Peacebuilding), the second part of the program is specifically aimed at strengthening key governmental and non-governmental non-security players in terms of early warning, conflict resolution and preventive diplomacy. More specifically, it supports civil society organisations, regional peace councils and traditional chiefs.



Achievements

The operational activities of the project continued throughout 2022 and the main achievements are as follows:

- Strengthening and extending WANEP's early warning system;
- Financial and capacity support for 30 civil society organisations;
- Financial and capacity support for Regional Peace Councils;
- Implementation of the preventive diplomacy and mediation mission;
- Training for leaders of governmental and non-governmental organisations on preventing violent extremism and alternative conflict resolution methods;
- Training for chiefs and queen mothers in alternative dispute resolution methods, land management, chieftaincy and inheritance laws.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

28 mois

BUDGET

2 000 000 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

September 2021 - January 2024

BENEFICIARIES

Civil Society Organisations;
National Chamber and Regional Chambers of Traditional Chiefs;
National Peace Council and Regional Peace Councils;
WANEP.



DEVELOPMENT OF 3 TRAINING MODULES FOR POLICE OFFICERS ON COMMUNITY POLICING, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEADERSHIP IN GHANA

Context

Thirty years of democratic and peaceful transfers of power between political parties, one of the most dynamic economies on the continent and a society characterised by a strong culture of dialogue and tolerance. Ghana is a role model in West Africa. Nevertheless, there are glaring disparities between the south and the north of the country, where the poverty rate is close to 90% in some regions. The border with Burkina Faso, about 500 kilometers long, has been the scene of violence and destabilisation by Sahelian jihadist groups for a number of years, the risk of pockets of local underdevelopment being exploited and conflicts over chieftaincies are a source of concern. These challenges are putting a severe strain on the capabilities of the police force, who are having to adapt to the new situation and undertake reforms to improve their service and their image in a context of territorial weakness. The Executive Board of the National Police Force intends to revitalise its community police force, provide it with better supervision and training, while developing strategies to fight the security risks the country is facing.

Project

German cooperation agency GIZ commissioned Coginta in June 2021 to assist the national police in developing a new community policing strategy, while embracing international best practice and adapting it to their own institutional and cultural context. Until now, the Ghanaian community police force has been organised vertically, with local branches reporting directly to a central police unit. The latter were not very closely integrated with the local police stations where they worked.

In its new vision, the Ghana Police Force intends to extend the concept of community policing to all police station patrols under the command of an inspector. Coginta is supporting this transformation process by developing a manual on the new strategy, designing community policing training courses and training police academy instructors and other staff who may be called upon to act as instructors.

Achievements

At the end of 2021, the Executive Board of the Ghana National Police Force adopted a new community policing strategy paving the way for training courses supported by Coginta. Teaching materials were developed in workshops in the autumn of 2021. These focused primarily on community policing but also on inspection services as well as training for first-level managers managing a police station. In 2022, working groups led by Coginta finalized the drafts of the manuals on these topics and this work was followed by training of trainers sessions in the spring. Parallel with these training courses, Coginta supported the national police in reviewing the basic training of its personnel by revising and completely revising its curriculum.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

GIZ

PROJECT DURATION

11 months

BUDGET

138 810 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

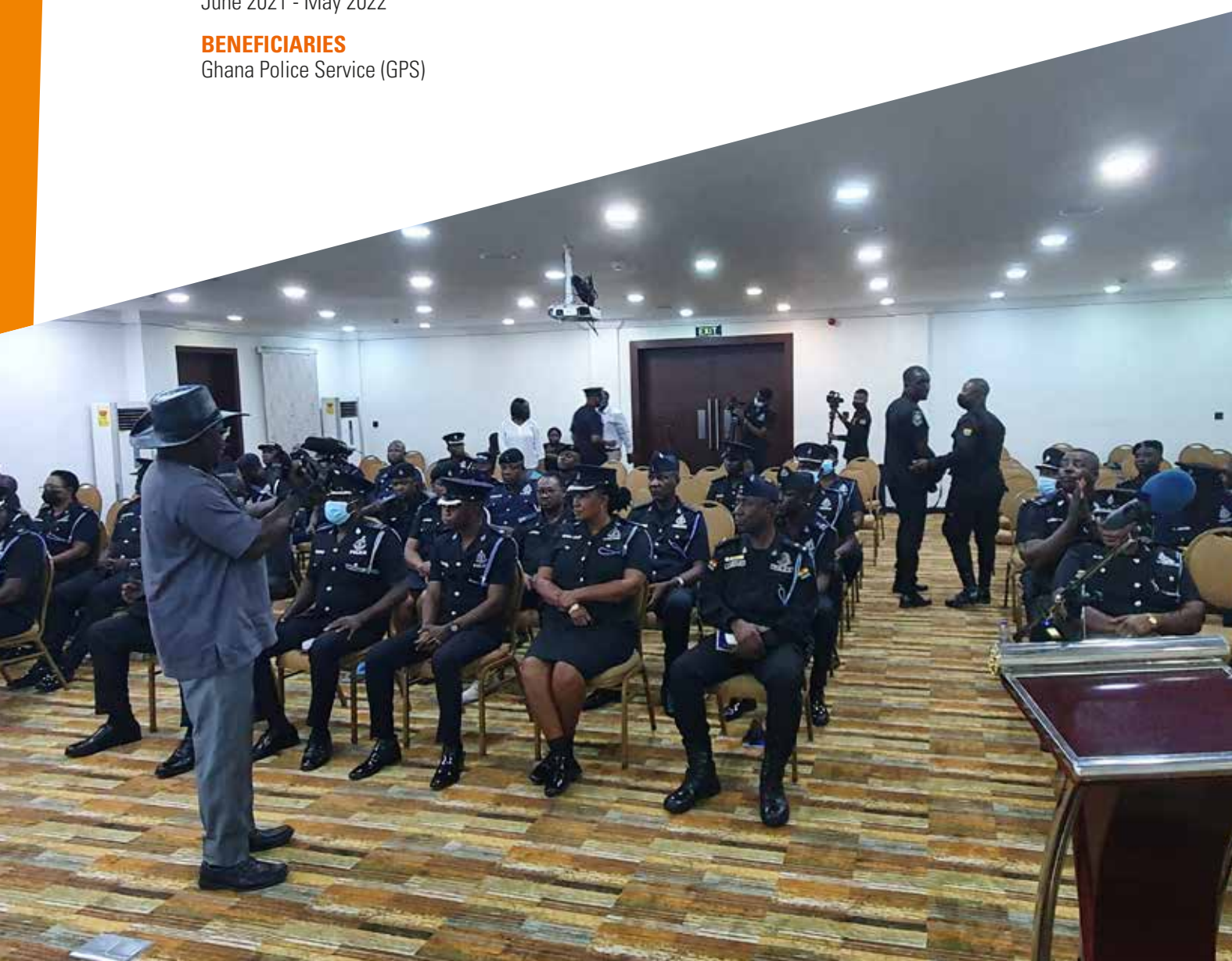
June 2021 - May 2022

BENEFICIARIES

Ghana Police Service (GPS)



GHANA



PROJECT TO SUPPORT STRENGTHENING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA (PARAJ)

Context

Given the dual context of difficult access to justice for people in need of legal assistance and the lack of effective legal aid in Guinea, a number of initiatives have been undertaken in recent years to meet – among other things – the many needs expressed by victims whose fundamental rights have been violated, and by people in prolonged pre-trial detention. By way of illustration, the action taken by the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), which allowed lawyers from the Legal Clinics of the Guinean Organisation for the Defence of Human and Citizens' Rights (OGDH) and Les Mêmes droits pour tous (MDT) to assist more than 1,250 people free of charge before the courts between 2014 and 2017, was aimed at responding to the many wishes expressed by litigants. Despite this assistance to people who do not have sufficient means to assert their rights before the courts, many other needs remain unsatisfied, justifying the need to implement other more effective actions to better respond to the difficulties of access to justice for vulnerable populations.

Project

As an extension of the Legal Clinics run by the FIDH, the PARAJ aims to strengthen, perpetuate and extend the legal and judicial assistance provided by the Legal Clinics to the regions of Kindia and Labé, and to combine them with the information, awareness-raising and mediation-conciliation activities of the Maisons de Justice, in order to guarantee a more effective, holistic and inclusive concept of local justice, and to provide geographical coverage throughout the Guinean territory.

Implemented since November 2020, its overall aim is to support civil society organisations in consolidating the rule of law, by strengthening access to justice for vulnerable people and combating impunity in the Republic of Guinea. To this end, it aims more specifically to strengthen the capacities of the Legal Clinics and the work of civil society organisations involved in legal and judicial assistance, to improve access to local justice services for the most vulnerable sections of the population, and to strengthen the coordination of the Legal Clinics with the justice system.



Achievements

PARAJ's operational activities continued throughout 2022, with the following achievements:

- 263 visits to places of detention by Legal Clinic lawyers across the country;
- 1,358 cases, including 1,131 correctional cases and 221 criminal cases, processed through the free legal assistance services of the OGDH and MDT Legal Clinics, benefiting 1,809 people, including 139 women;
- 1,356 people, including 637 women, assisted by the Houses of Justice through reception, information, mediation and conciliation;
- 2 new agreements signed between universities and Legal Clinics;
- 58 interactive radio programs broadcast in local languages on specific themes relating to human rights and access to justice in the project intervention areas;
- 7 training sessions covering 7 modules organised for 173 local justice professionals, and 2 training sessions for 18 national trainers;
- A plea was made in support of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, to the Justice, Human Rights, Reconciliation and Communication Commission of the National Transitional Council (CNT), in favour of the adoption of the law on legal aid.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

32 months

BUDGET

1 750 000 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

November 2020 - July 2023

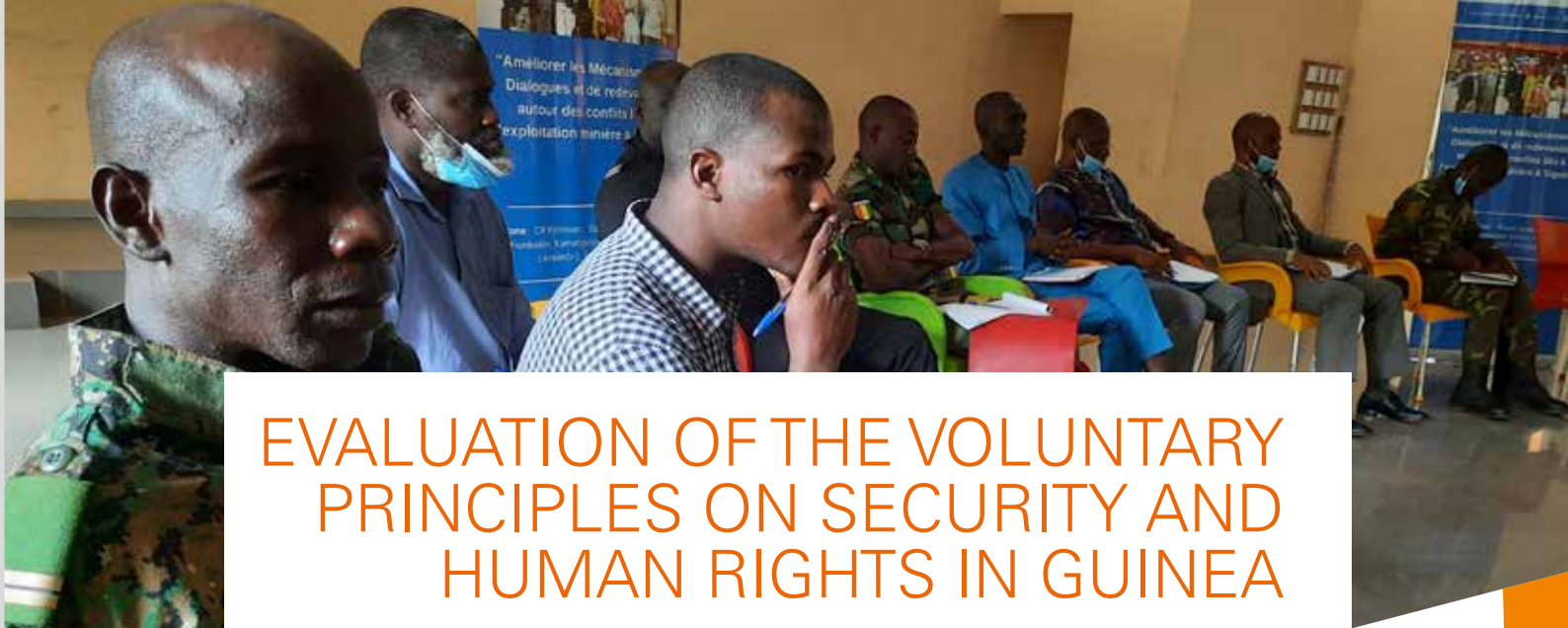
BENEFICIARIES

In addition to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, which is the institutional beneficiary, the project mainly targets vulnerable and destitute people, including:

- Victims of serious human rights violations;
- Detainees in arbitrary or prolonged pre-trial detention;
- Victims of trafficking/migrants in vulnerable situations;
- Victims of gender-based violence;
- Minors who are victims and in conflict with the law;
- People with disabilities, serious illnesses or mental disorders.



GUINEA



EVALUATION OF THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES ON SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUINEA

Context and project

The Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights formulate principles that govern the collaborations of extractive companies with national security forces as well as private security companies contracted to manage their sites. Companies that sign the Principles agree to follow these guidelines voluntarily. Following a complaint from local communities alleging human rights violations by mining company AngloGold Ashanti at the Siguiri mine, mediation was undertaken by the Office of the Advisor-Mediator of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), one result of which was to set up a conflict prevention team under the auspices of Search for Common Ground. Coginta was involved in this process to evaluate the application of the Voluntary Principles and to provide training on respect for human rights for security guards in Siguiri.

Achievements

Training on the Voluntary Principles and Human Rights for security forces was held in Siguiri in 2021. A one-month field mission to evaluate the application of the Principles in the Siguiri and Kintinian area was also conducted and an evaluation report was submitted to the Office of the Advisor-Mediator.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

Search for Common Ground

PROJECT DURATION

8 months

BUDGET

25 505 USD

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

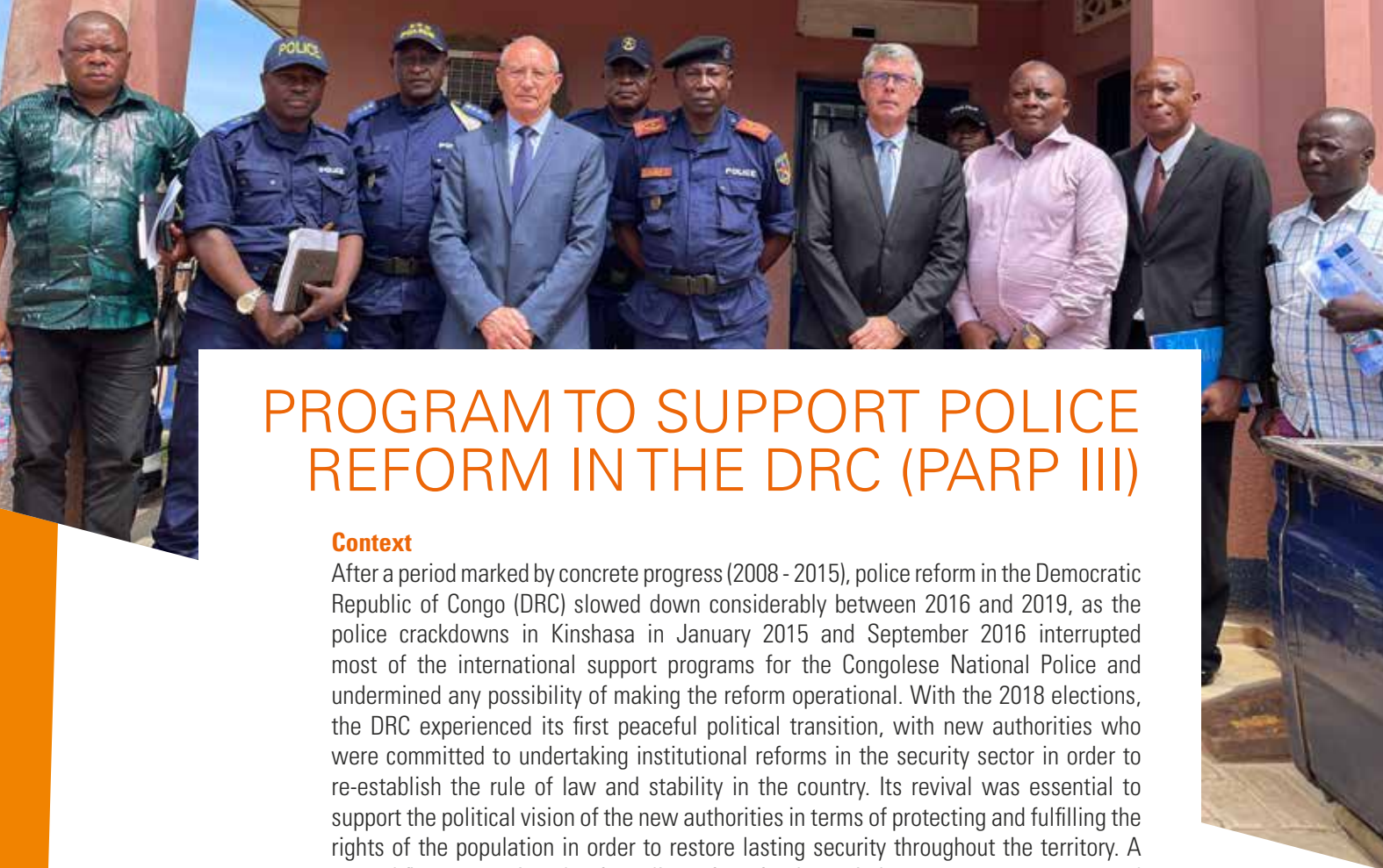
July 2021 - February 2022

BENEFICIARIES

Search for Common Ground



GUINEA



PROGRAM TO SUPPORT POLICE REFORM IN THE DRC (PARP III)

Context

After a period marked by concrete progress (2008 - 2015), police reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) slowed down considerably between 2016 and 2019, as the police crackdowns in Kinshasa in January 2015 and September 2016 interrupted most of the international support programs for the Congolese National Police and undermined any possibility of making the reform operational. With the 2018 elections, the DRC experienced its first peaceful political transition, with new authorities who were committed to undertaking institutional reforms in the security sector in order to re-establish the rule of law and stability in the country. Its revival was essential to support the political vision of the new authorities in terms of protecting and fulfilling the rights of the population in order to restore lasting security throughout the territory. A second five-year action plan for police reform for the period 2020 – 2024 was approved at the end of 2019 by the new government. The Program to support police reform (PARP – Phase III) continues its holistic approach in this sector and supports the reformist dynamic in the continuity of the EUPOL DRC mission and the programs of the European Development Fund and other European cooperation agencies.

Project

Implemented since 2021, by a consortium that brought Enabel, DCAF and Coginta together, the overall objective of the program is to contribute to peace, security and strengthening the rule of law by improving governance, protecting human rights and fighting impunity and corruption in the DRC. The four specific objectives are:

- Improve the implementation of police reform and accountability;
- Strengthen the professionalism of the police and the criminal justice system;
- Improve human resources management;
- Operationalise community policing to restore public confidence.

The program is being implemented by the police and the Ministry of the Interior in Kinshasa and in three regions (Equateur, Ituri and Kasai). It strengthens the coherence between police reform and army and justice reforms in a more global vision of security sector reform by involving all security forces and improving the relationship between the police and the population, both at the central and the local level.

Achievements

The first quarter of 2022 consisted of officially establishing Coginta in the DRC and setting up human and material resources in Kinshasa, Mbandaka, Bunia and Tshikapa. At the same time, contact was established with representatives of the NGOs RCN Justice & Democracy and Lawyers without Borders (LWB), involved in the implementation of the project to support justice reform, in response to the wish expressed by the EU delegation to promote complementarity between the police and the judicial system implemented by the EU in the same provinces and during the same periods.

PRESENTATION OF OUR PROJECTS

In close collaboration with the Congolese National Police and the public prosecutor's offices concerned, the program has launched the preparation of a three-month training course for 50 judicial police officers in each province, leading to the qualification and accreditation of trainees as JPOs and including specialized training on sexual violence. PARP III also acquired additional equipment, contracted IT service providers and set up an encoding office within the national coordination of the judicial police and the child protection and prevention of sexual violence squadron.

The installation missions to set up the provincial offices were used to carry out an initial inventory of the Mobile Intervention Groups (MIG) and the National Intervention Legion (NIL) (in charge of maintaining order during demonstrations or gatherings) in terms of the staffing numbers, protective equipment, communications resources, weapons, vehicles in Kinshasa and in the provinces covered by the project. A workshop to reflect on and draft the policing intervention doctrine was organised in November 2022 with the participation of experts from the Belgian Federal Police.

A first update on the database and human resources management was carried out and showed that the tools in place were mostly out of service and therefore would not allow for the implementation of computerised management. The program proceeded to launch the phase related to reconstructing the database and a first batch of computer equipment was handed over in October 2022 to the Congolese National Police to facilitate the reconstruction of the database.

As part of implementing community policing in the three target provinces, the target municipalities were identified as Tshikapa, Bunia and Mbandaka. Local neighbourhood safety committees have also been set up and trained. At the same time, awareness-raising campaigns were organised in the neighbourhoods of the municipalities concerned, with the support of mayors, neighbourhood chiefs and representatives of associations and civil society organisations. In two municipalities, a first version of the local safety diagnosis has been drawn up (the one for Mbandaka will be ready in January 2023). It is based on this diagnosis that we will identify the problems people are encountering and their expectations in terms of security. The local safety diagnosis is the basis from which the local safety plan will be constructed.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

48 months

BUDGET

8 789 269 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

December 2021 - December 2025

BENEFICIARIES

Ministry of Interior, Security, Decentralization and Customary Affairs;

Political and administrative authorities in the implementing provinces;

Executive Secretariat of the Police Reform Monitoring Committee;

Congolese National Police;

General Inspectorate of the Congolese National Police;

National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies of the Implementing Provinces;

Civil society organisations working in the field of security governance and police reform.



RDC



PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF ARTISANAL GOLD MINING AS A FACTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL COHESION IN NORTHERN CÔTE D'IVOIRE (SECORCI)

Context

Côte d'Ivoire is currently the seventh largest gold producer in Africa. Its annual production has increased from 12.4 tonnes in 2011 to 34.4 tonnes in 2020, making the country attractive for workers and intermediary gold resellers. However, professionals in the Ivorian mining sector estimate that 50% of the country's gold production is exported illegally, mainly via Mali and Burkina Faso. In fact, between 2006 and 2016, illegal gold mining is estimated to have cost the Ivorian state about 480 billion FCFA, or more than 730 million euros. In many localities, artisanal gold mining is now the main socio-economic activity, involving virtually all groups of the population: children, young people, the elderly, natives, immigrants and migrants, etc. While gold mining could be a real lever for development benefiting the local population, it poses real challenges at many sites. All too often, gold mining sites are characterized by their lack of sanitation, the use of child labour, school dropout, promiscuity, prostitution, diseases and increased risks of infection (HIV/AIDS, STDs), environmental destruction, banditry, the use of harmful products or even land grabbing. Gold-mining sites are also notorious for being the scene of tragic events (landslides, deadly clashes, etc.), insecurity, violence, even conflicts with local populations, corruption and illegal conflicts of interest. In a regional context marked by insecurity and the rise of terrorism, the possibility of some of these sites being taken over by non-state armed groups cannot be ruled out. This may be to recruit fighters, as we have seen in neighbouring countries, or as a way to generate income by levying taxes, or in the worst case, even to manage their exploitations.

Project

The project is part of the Ivorian government's national policy to streamline gold mining. Funded by the EU, the objective of this project is to create favourable conditions that will allow artisanal gold mining to contribute to local development in an environment that is stable, secure and conducive to social cohesion. More specifically, in the department of Tengréla – in the Savanes district, located in the extreme north of Côte d'Ivoire close to the Malian border – the objectives are:

- Contribute to structuring the artisanal gold mining business to channel the economic benefits and make it a lever for local development;
- Contribute to conflict prevention and social cohesion in a gold mining area in a sustainable and participatory manner;
- Guarantee public safety in the day-to-day life of people living in gold mining areas and combat illegal trafficking and organised crime linked to artisanal gold mining.

Achievements

The project organised a national workshop to discuss the challenges of small-scale mining from 12 to 14 July 2022 in Yamoussoukro. The event was attended by 45 participants and provided an opportunity to call for changes to the legal framework that would be more favourable to artisanal miners. As part of this advocacy effort, a socio-spatial study of the security situation related to illegal gold mining was conducted in the department of Tengréla to provide the national authorities and technical and financial partners with a better understanding of the various aspects involved. On 23 July 2022, the study was presented to 70 representatives of local authorities and civil society in Tengréla and will also be presented next year in Abidjan.

The artisanal miners in the Tengréla department have benefited from the close support provided by the project, and three cooperatives have received assistance with their formalisation process (revising their articles of association, drafting by-laws, holding general meetings, electing board members, etc.). The sites they operate have been completely reorganised with the support of the project. They are now fenced off, access to it is filtered, signs have been installed and minors are not allowed in it. The members of the cooperatives were also trained in good practices in artisanal and small-scale mining, but also in regulations regarding the use of chemicals and even in environmental protection. In this perspective, a former mining site has been completely rehabilitated by the Ivorian NGO Green Project Africa. Five hectares have been transformed this way, some of it into farmland and some reforested with mango trees. This pilot experiment took the surrounding communities by surprise, but was emulated and other plots of land were quickly reclaimed and used for agricultural purposes.

With the support of the project, a number of infrastructures have been built in the department of Tengréla, including a multi-purpose room with a capacity of 150 people and two offices, one for the local technical committee and one for the civil-military unit responsible for improving relations between the defence and security forces and the population.

Awareness campaigns on compliance with the mining code and the dangers of illegal mining were also held for the benefit of the communities. Twenty-four radio commercials were broadcast for four months, and thirty educational talks were organised along with handing out T-shirts and poster campaigns. Three sessions specifically dedicated to traditional chiefs were also conducted on mining code violations and artisanal mining provisions. The Departmental Directorate of Mines has been given a vehicle to allow it to fully perform its monitoring duties with mining operators in the Tengréla department.

The project has provided extensive support to the gendarmerie services in the area. The Tengréla brigade is currently being renovated and the work should eventually allow it to accommodate 45 gendarmes. An outpost is currently being built in Papara to allow around fifteen gendarmes to be deployed in the area for a few days. The infrastructures will be fully furnished and equipped with radio and mobility equipment. Lastly, gendarmes, police officers and water and forestry officers in the area also benefited from specialized training in judicial policing, community policing, gender-based violence, human rights and everyday public safety. Given the special features of the Tengréla department, a training session is planned for next year by the Ministry of Mines Specialized Services on the mining code and commonly observed violations.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

PROJECT DURATION

18 months

BUDGET

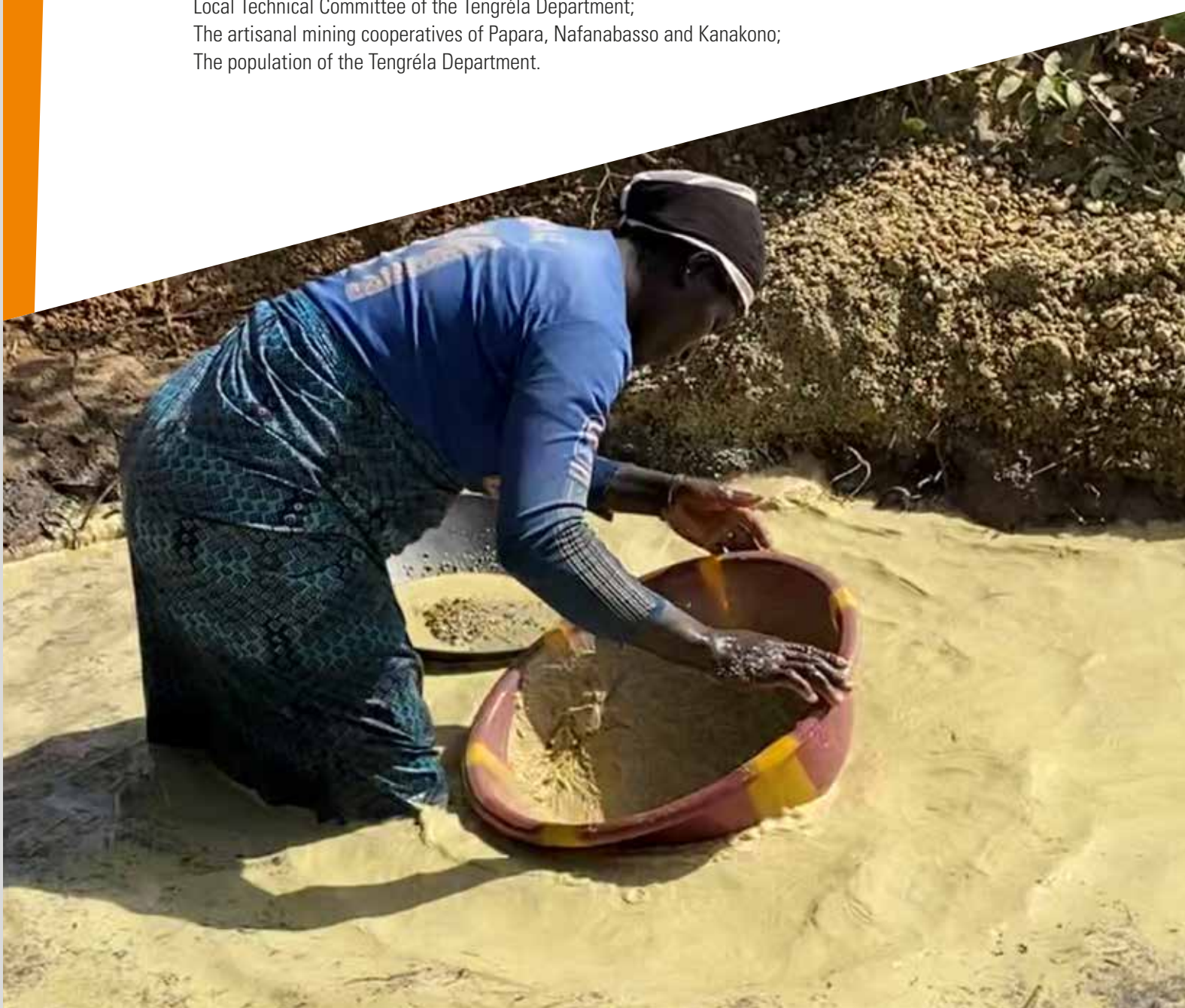
2 500 000 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

July 2021 - May 2023

BENEFICIARIES

Ministry of Mines, Oil and Energy;
 Minister of Water and Forests;
 National Gendarmerie of Côte d'Ivoire;
 Côte d'Ivoire National Police;
 Prefecture of the Tengréla department;
 Civil-Military Unit of the Tengréla Department;
 Local Technical Committee of the Tengréla Department;
 The artisanal mining cooperatives of Papara, Nafanabasso and Kanakono;
 The population of the Tengréla Department.



PROJECT TO SUPPORT SECURITY AND PREVENT THE RISK OF TERRORISM IN THE NORTH OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE (SECUNORD)

Context

Côte d'Ivoire is facing growing instability in its northern neighbourhood as a result of the increasing number of terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso and Mali. The country itself has been the victim of several attacks, in 2016 in Grand Bassam, in 2020 in Kafolo and in 2021 in the Bounkani region. Faced with this situation, the Ivorian government has mobilised and put in place its National Development Plan 2021-2025 that focuses on six pillars, including strengthening governance and modernising the State. It aims in particular to consolidate the peace-justice-security triptych in order to strengthen social cohesion and maintain peace and stability. In February 2021, to counter the threat from armed terrorist groups, it was decided to create an operational zone that runs along the entire northern border of the country (638 km), and to commit the army alongside the internal security forces, which would not be able to respond to the threat on their own. On the social front, the Ivorian government is also mobilizing, since one of its priorities is to fight fragility in the northern border areas. It has therefore set up the Youth Integration Support Program to offer training and integration opportunities to young people in need of economic prospects.

Project

Since 2022, the SECUNORD project has been implemented in the Bounkani border region, which has been identified as a priority intervention zone, exposed to terrorist threats, criminal organisations and the constant arrival of Burkinabe refugees. Its overall objective is to improve public security and strengthen the population's confidence in the gendarmerie and the State in their role of securing the region. The project is part of an overall approach to improve the security environment, by combining strictly security-related aspects with local governance systems based on the principles of dialogue between the population and the security forces, which is essential for conflict prevention. The project aims to consolidate the region's territorial security network, strengthen the resources and capabilities of the gendarmes, and support dialogue initiatives by involving all civil society players and the administrative authorities.

Achievements

The operational activities planned as part of the project are as follows:

- The construction of infrastructures that will allow additional gendarmes to be deployed in the Bounkani region in secure conditions that are adapted to their mission;
- Training activities designed to strengthen the skills of the gendarmes deployed in the region, by ensuring that their skills meet the population's needs;

- Supplying the technical and operational resources needed for the gendarmes to carry out their missions;
- Setting up and/or consolidating local governance frameworks for security and conflict prevention.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

18 months

BUDGET

3 800 000 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

November 2022 - May 2024

BENEFICIARIES

National Security Council;

Ministry of Defence;

Higher Command of the National Gendarmerie;

The local authorities (the prefecture of the Bouna region, the prefectures of Nassian, Doropo and Tehini, the sub-prefectures of Tougbo and Kotouba);

The Royal Court of Bouna;

The judicial authorities;

National Border Commission of Côte d'Ivoire;

The local population.



CÔTE
D'IVOIRE

FINAL EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT TO MODERNISE AND EXTEND CIVIL PROTECTION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Context

From 2016 to 2020, the European Union has funded a project to modernise and extend civil protection in Côte d'Ivoire. The aim of the project was to strengthen the capacity of civil protection structures, to take responsibility of protecting the people, the property and the environment, but also to facilitate the sustainable absorption of 1,500 ex-combatants. The specific objectives of the project were to operationalise 10 emergency relief centres (ERC) throughout Côte d'Ivoire, to train 1,200 agents, to strengthen the coordination capacity of the National Office for Civil Protection (ONPC) and to strengthen its administrative management.

Project

The final evaluation of this project was entrusted to Coginta and the consultancy firm B&S Europe. The purpose was to make recommendations to the Ivorian side on how to improve the sustainability of the results of the action, but also to provide food for thought on the benefits of continued EU funding in the field of civil protection and to analyse whether the conditions are right for a potential future intervention.

Achievements

The evaluation was divided into three phases: a start-up phase, a field phase and a summary phase. The start-up phase allowed for an initial series of interviews to be held with the EU, the implementing operators and former consultants to the ONPC. A documentary review was conducted and the evaluation questions, criteria and indicators were drawn up. The team then conducted interviews in Côte d'Ivoire, giving nearly 245 people the opportunity to give their opinion on the project. The ten ERCs supported by the project were also visited. The synthesis phase allowed the report to be drafted and the presentation of the conclusions of the mission to the beneficiaries of the project, the EU and other technical and financial partners interested in the subject in Côte d'Ivoire.

The conclusions of the evaluation were very positive, with most of the infrastructure and equipment still in place and operational two years after the end of the project. The quality of the training provided by the project appears to be very high and the skills acquired overall seem to have been maintained at an acceptable level. In terms of impact, it appears that the project has succeeded in strengthening the population's sense of security in the areas covered by the ERCs. Based on the testimonies of the local authorities, the beneficiary population's perception of the firefighters is very positive.



The integration of staff from the DDR (Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration) process seems to be effective, with the vast majority still on the job in March 2022. During the interviews, all the agents involved in the DDR process said that their job as firefighters had kept them away from the armed struggle for a long time. The success of this reintegration seems to be due to three factors that are characteristic of civil protection: a strong sense of self-esteem, a recognition by the population and a stable contractual situation.

The project also had a positive impact on gender equality. All ERCs have both male and female staff. Women are in the minority but they hold similar positions to men. Four ERCs are led by women. All the people that were interviewed said that the integration of women into the ERCs and their high visibility helped to change social norms and encouraged a more egalitarian relationship between men and women in Côte d'Ivoire.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

5 months

BUDGET

99 744 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

January 2022 - May 2022

BENEFICIARIES

National Security Council;
National Office of Civil Protection (ONPC);
Ministry of Security and Civil Protection (MSPC).



CÔTE
D'IVOIRE



PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONALISATION OF THE POLICE FORCES WORKING WITH THE G5 SAHEL JOINT FORCE AND THE JUDICIAL PROCESS IN CHAD (UIST)

Context

To improve the security situation in the region, the G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) created the G5 Sahel Joint Force (FCG5S) in 2017, which is tasked with fighting terrorism and transnational organised crime. This military response has been supplemented by creating the police component of the FCG5S, which consists of Provost Units and Specialized Investigation Units (SIUs) in each of the five countries, whose mission it is to judicialize military operations.

The distribution of the SIU system was designed by the Chadian authorities while taking both its commitments to the FCG5S and the desire to strengthen their national system to fight terrorism and organised crime into account. But until the SIU structures were recently deployed, the response of the Chadian authorities has not improved the security situation: the Chadian authorities have always favoured a military response, while the judicial authorities are too often kept out of the loop when it comes to initiating investigations or bringing military operations before the courts. In addition, the internal security forces (ISF) are sorely lacking in operational resources, as well as in preparedness for judicial police missions. So, there are multiple challenges: to modernise the doctrine of the fight against organised crime and terrorism by affirming the role of the judicial authorities, consolidate the judicial process for military operations (provost marshals, UIS, specialized judicial pool), strengthen the resources and skills of the SIU personnel, and to improve its governance, organisation and management.

Project

Coginta is implementing a project to support the operationalisation of the police component of the G5 Sahel Joint Force and the judicialization process in Chad by supporting the implementation of the Chadian SIU. The project activities have been divided into four areas:

- The construction of buildings for the branches of the SIU in Bol (Lac province) and Wour (Tibesti province), alongside the Chadian battalion of the FCG5S based in Tibesti;



- Supplying operational and specialized equipment for the SIU buildings and personnel;
- Training SIU staff, mainly in judicial policing and techniques to fight terrorism and organised crime;
- Strengthening the SIU's organisational and coordination capacities at the central level, both in terms of governance and operations.

Achievements

Given the dual mission assigned to the Chadian SIU by its founding decree, the project has focused its efforts on strengthening the judicial process for military operations and on specialising the SIU in investigations related to organised crime and terrorism, both in terms of the selection of their operational resources and the content of the training courses. Strengthening these operational skills has been backed up by significant support in terms of organisation, management and unit management. Substantial support has been provided to SIU executives in their day-to-day work, as well as to the SIU executive management team in terms of governance and organisation. Management documents regarding organisation and operation (organisational charts, draft decrees, management materials, etc.) have been produced and made available to SIU executives, as well as support materials for operational activities (management guide, procedures manual, guide to investigation techniques, forms, procedure templates, etc.). In total, 57 SIU personnel, 16 technical and forensic police officers and 6 provost marshals benefited from more than 3,400 training days between 2020 and 2021. Each SIU staff member has benefited from an average of nearly five months of training.

The construction of the SIU branches in Bol (in the Lac province) and Wour (in the Tibesti province), as well as the central coordination offices in N'Djamena, was completed in 2021. All the equipment was also acquired during 2021: mobility equipment, radio equipment, investigation equipment, individual protective equipment, equipment for life in the field, etc.

The project was completed on 30 April 2022, with a series of results welcomed by all stakeholders.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

PROJECT DURATION

30 months

BUDGET

2 999 975 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

November 2019 - April 2022

BENEFICIARIES

Ministry of Public Safety and Immigration;
The National Police;
The National Gendarmerie;
The specialized judicial pool.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR A PROJECT TO IMPROVE INTERNAL SECURITY IN CHAD (PAASIT)

Context

Following the death of President Idriss Déby on 20 April 2021, a National Transitional Council (NTC) - led by the former President of the National Assembly - was established to ensure national representation. The NTC led the National Inclusive and Sovereign Dialogue, which culminated in October 2022 in the swearing-in of the Transitional President, followed by the appointment of a Transitional Prime Minister and the establishment of a Transitional Government for a period of 24 months. However, the political, economic and social context remained very tense. Demonstrations and disturbances occurred regularly, a resurgence of armed movements and political organisations was observed in the form of strong protests against the transition policy. In October 2022, during the protests, more than 100 people were killed and at least 500 injured. The security situation throughout Chad remains fragile and its development is uncertain. Despite all the security initiatives, Chad continues to be the target of terrorist and bandit activities, resulting in sporadic and targeted attacks. The Lac province and the north of the country are particularly targeted. The south of the country is a victim of the resurgence of inter-community conflicts between breeders and farmers, which is taking on increasingly alarming proportions for the country.

Project

Implemented since 2017, the project is part of the management and reform of the internal security system, recommended by the National Internal Security Plan. Its objective is to help reduce and dissipate the general climate of impunity and insecurity by providing security as a quality public good that meets the needs of all citizens. To do this, it focuses its efforts on the internal security forces (ISF) to develop and promote an internal security offer focused on the population's expectations, and to improve the relationship between the ISF and the citizens. Within its system, the project aims to make the ISF's work and operations more effective, more competent, more efficient and with more integrity.

Achievements

In the area of skills improvement, PAASIT has implemented skill-building initiatives throughout the training process for the benefit of ISFs, including the management of schools and training centres, teaching teams and training programs. The year 2022 was also marked by the introduction of community policing, the continuation of training initiatives for law enforcement units and the allocation of grants to the Association for the Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms (APLFT) to develop local security governance and to the ENA-CERGIED-CRASH consortium to implement the Observatory for Violence, Crime Prevention and Police Ethics.

In addition, the main achievements of the project in 2022 are:

- Support for the organisation and operational support of the Joint Operational Centre (JOC) in Bol;
- Support for the organisation and operational support of the National Command Centre for Law Enforcement Operations (NCCLEO) in N'Djamena;
- Strengthening the organisational and control systems at border crossing points;
- Training for 31 border police officers to improve the detection of document fraud;
- Support for human resources and logistics management for the ISF (national gendarmerie, national police, national guard and nomadic forces);
- Strengthening the operational capacities of personnel in charge of traffic and road accident management;
- Strengthening the operational capacities of first responders to road accidents;
- Strengthening the operational capabilities of the National Gendarmerie's Provost Brigade;
- Training PN and GN executives on the concept of local security governance;
- Support for the development of communication and consultation tools between the population and the ISPs;
- Training 90 police officers in professional intervention on public roads;
- Training 141 trainees in first aid procedures and techniques;
- Training 90 trainees in maintaining public order and democratic crowd management;
- Theoretical and practical training for 50 investigators in the fight against drug trafficking;
- Theoretical and practical training for 34 investigators in the fight against terrorism;
- Theoretical and practical training for 20 judicial police officers (JPO) and judicial police agents (JPA) in the fight against economic and financial crime;
- Support for the development of security plans corresponding to the priority needs identified in the National Internal Security Plan.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

PROJECT DURATION

72 months

BUDGET

5 574 500 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

November 2017 - December 2023

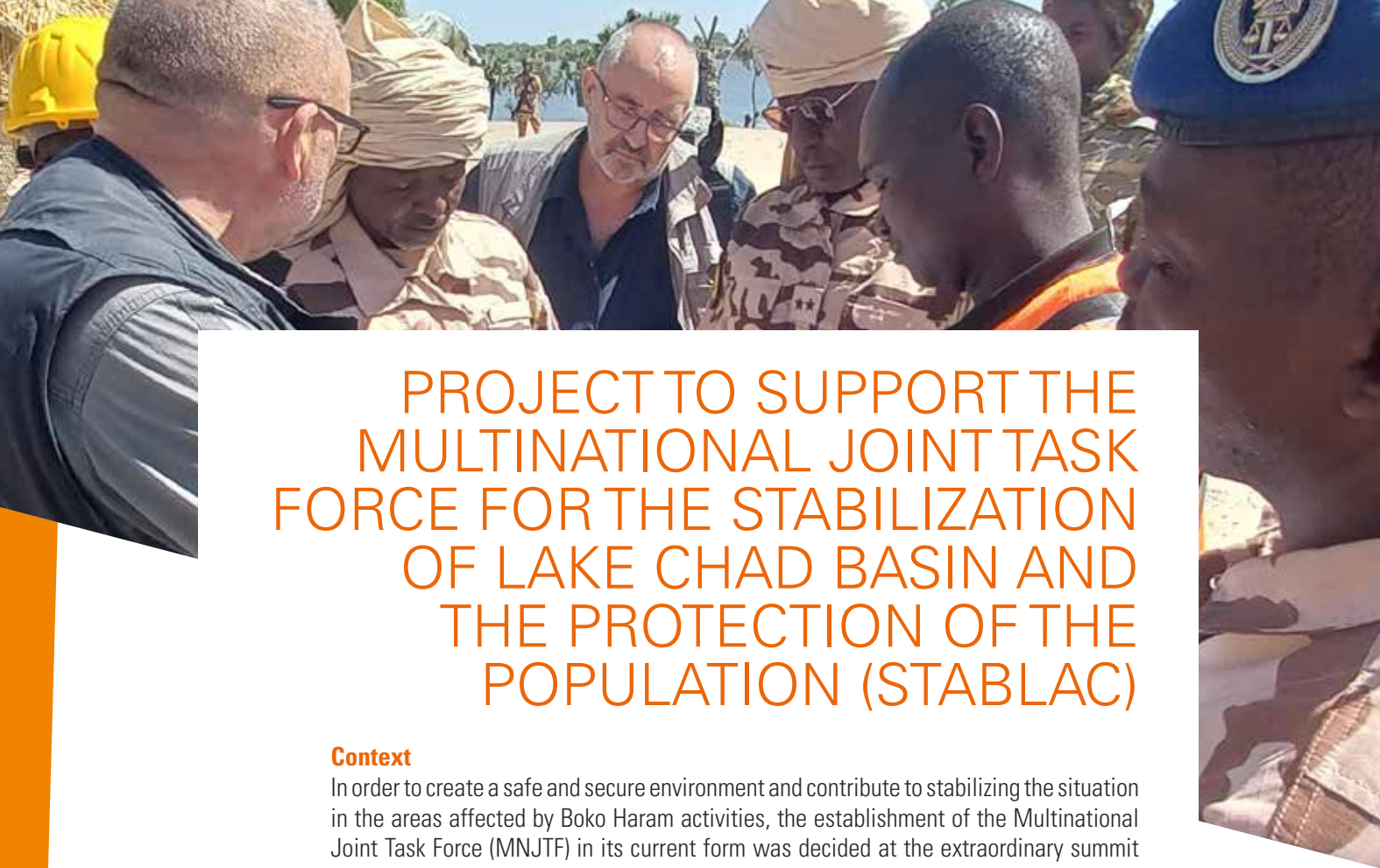
BENEFICIARIES

Presidency of the Republic, Prime Minister's Office, National Assembly, National Internal Security Council (CNSI), Defence and Security Commission of the National Assembly, General Directorate of the National Gendarmerie, General Directorate of the National Police, General Directorate of the National and Nomadic Guard, National Gendarmerie School, National Police School, National Gendarmerie Officers Training School, Ministry of Territorial Administration, Public Security and Local Governance, Ministry of the Economy, Development Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Integration and International Cooperation, Ministry of the Economy and Development Planning, National Authorising Officer for the EDF, Observatory for Violence, Crime Prevention and Police Ethics, Non-State Actors (ENA, APLFT, CERGIED, CRASH).



CHAD





PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE MULTINATIONAL JOINT TASK FORCE FOR THE STABILIZATION OF LAKE CHAD BASIN AND THE PROTECTION OF THE POPULATION (STABLAC)

Context

In order to create a safe and secure environment and contribute to stabilizing the situation in the areas affected by Boko Haram activities, the establishment of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) in its current form was decided at the extraordinary summit of Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and Benin held in Niamey, Niger, on 7 October 2014. In March 2015, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union authorized the deployment of the MNJTF, with the LCBC retaining political control of the operation.

The MNJTF's mandate is based on three interacting pillars:

- Create a safe and secure environment in areas affected by the activities of Boko Haram and other terrorist groups, in order to significantly reduce violence against civilians and other violations, including gender-based violence, in accordance with the international humanitarian law and the United Nations human rights due diligence policy;
- Facilitate the implementation of stabilization programs by member countries of the LCBC and Benin in the affected areas, including the full restoration of State authority and the return of displaced persons and refugees;
- Facilitate, within its capabilities, humanitarian operations and provide assistance to the affected population.

Composed of approximately 8,000 men, the MNJTF is divided into four sectors with an operational headquarters in N'Djamena in Chad. Each contingent is deployed on its national territory and operates primarily on that territory. On this subject, it is worth mentioning that the MNJTF's area of operations does not cover the entire Boko Haram's area of operations, particularly in Nigeria.

The impact of Boko Haram in the sub-region was especially felt in and around Lake Chad. Agricultural, livestock and fishing activities make the region's economy prosperous, and attract migrants from all over the Sahel, which creates tensions over the control of natural resources. Boko Haram has taken advantage of the geography of the lake, particularly its labyrinth of islands, to find refuge there. The cultural and religious influence of the Nigerian state of Borno, where the jihadist group originated, facilitated its penetration by manipulating community tensions that have plagued the region for many years.

PRESENTATION OF OUR PROJECTS

Project

The overall objective of the STABLAC project, implemented by Coginta, is to contribute to the restoration of a safe and secure environment in the territories of the Lake Chad Basin affected by Boko Haram, through increased regional cooperation. In addition, the aim is to provide the Multinational Joint Task Force with the means to improve its operational, planning, coordination and intelligence-sharing capabilities, so that it can better support the African Union's regional stabilisation strategy by promoting respect for human rights and carrying out civil-military actions to benefit the population.

Achievements

The year 2022 was marked by the launch of specialized training courses, by the signing of most service, work and supply contracts, and by meticulous fieldwork conducted in collaboration with the MNJTF and decentralised local authorities in intervention areas to identify future civil-military activities (CMA). In addition, the main achievements are:

- Finalising calls for tenders and signing contracts for the acquisition of nautical resources and radio communication equipment, and for ISR services;
- Obtaining land titles for the construction of the MNJTF's infrastructures;
- Setting up local committees to identify needs related to CMA;
- Validation of the specifications regarding the implementation of an asset management system within the MNJTF;
- Training trainers and training nautical crews for the benefit of 120 military personnel from the 4 sectors of the MNJTF;
- Training 80 military personnel in the fight against improvised explosive devices (IEDs);
- Training 80 military officers and senior commanders in international humanitarian law (IHL), international human rights law (IHRL), ethics and professional conduct;
- Training 30 senior military officers in the 4 sectors of the MNJTF in IHL, IHRL, ethics and professional conduct.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

24 months

BUDGET

40 800 000 EUR

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

July 2021 - June 2023

BENEFICIARIES

Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF);
Decentralised state services and local populations in the operation areas.



CHAD

MID-TERM EVALUATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE BORDER PROGRAM OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES (APF-CEEAC)

Context

Since December 2019, the European Union has been supporting the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Borders Program by financing an intervention amounting to more than 13 million euros. The aim is to improve regional political stability and democratic governance in Central Africa by supporting the consolidation of regional institutions involved in promoting peace, security and conflict prevention and management. To achieve this, the project is helping to develop a framework for cooperation and strengthening the regional and national border management capacities according to the guidelines of the African Union, while taking Central Africa's specific characteristics and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic into account. More specifically, the project follows three lines of intervention and objectives:

- Promote and facilitate the delimitation and demarcation of the borders of African states;
- Promote cross-border integration dynamics driven by local actors, civil society and local cross-border cooperation or local initiative;
- Support capacity-building in the field of border management.

Project

The mission consists of a mid-term evaluation of the ECCAS Border Program Support Project. More specifically, this evaluation aims to provide the European Union with:

- An overall analysis of the project's performance, paying particular attention to its intermediate results compared to the expected objectives and the reasons behind these results;
- Lessons (at the strategic and operational levels), conclusions and recommendations so as to improve this intervention and future interventions, if necessary, within the framework of the new EU programming for the period 2021-2027.

Achievements

The evaluation analyses the intervention according to five of the six OECD-DAC standard evaluation criteria (relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability), to which the specific EU criterion regarding the added value of the EU has been added. The impact criterion has not been included, given the fact that this is a mid-term analysis. The evaluation also covered the cross-cutting criteria of gender equality, the environment and climate change. It also incorporates the cross-cutting criteria of gender

equality, the environment and climate change, as well as the principles of "do no harm" and "leave no one behind", and the consideration of human rights at the various levels of intervention. A total of 34 semi-structured interviews were conducted and 71 people who benefited from the project completed an online questionnaire.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

European Union

DURATION OF THE PROJECT

3 months

BUDGET

42 500 EUR

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

January 2022 - March 2022

BENEFICIARIES

The ECCAS Commission;

The national institutions of the Member States responsible for border management;

The national institutions of the Member States responsible for public health;

Local state and traditional authorities, law enforcement agencies, NGOs such as women's associations and youth organisations in border areas;

Local healthcare authorities, such as traditional doctors, local health associations and health authorities in the respective regions of the Member States.

Financial informations

2022 was a continuation of the previous year, with the consolidation of our actions in the countries where we operate. As a result, 6 new projects have been launched in 2022, and donors are showing renewed confidence in our organisation. Coginta is now working in Burundi and has opened a third office in Côte d'Ivoire, in the town of Bouna in the north-east of the country.

The financial audits conducted in 2022 confirmed Coginta's good results. In order to continue with this dynamic, 22 of our colleagues came together in Brussels from 14 to 18 November 2022 for a seminar on the contractual procedures applicable to the European Union's external action. The country directors, administrative and financial managers from all the countries where Coginta operates, as well as the headquarters staff, gathered in the European capital for five days of training.

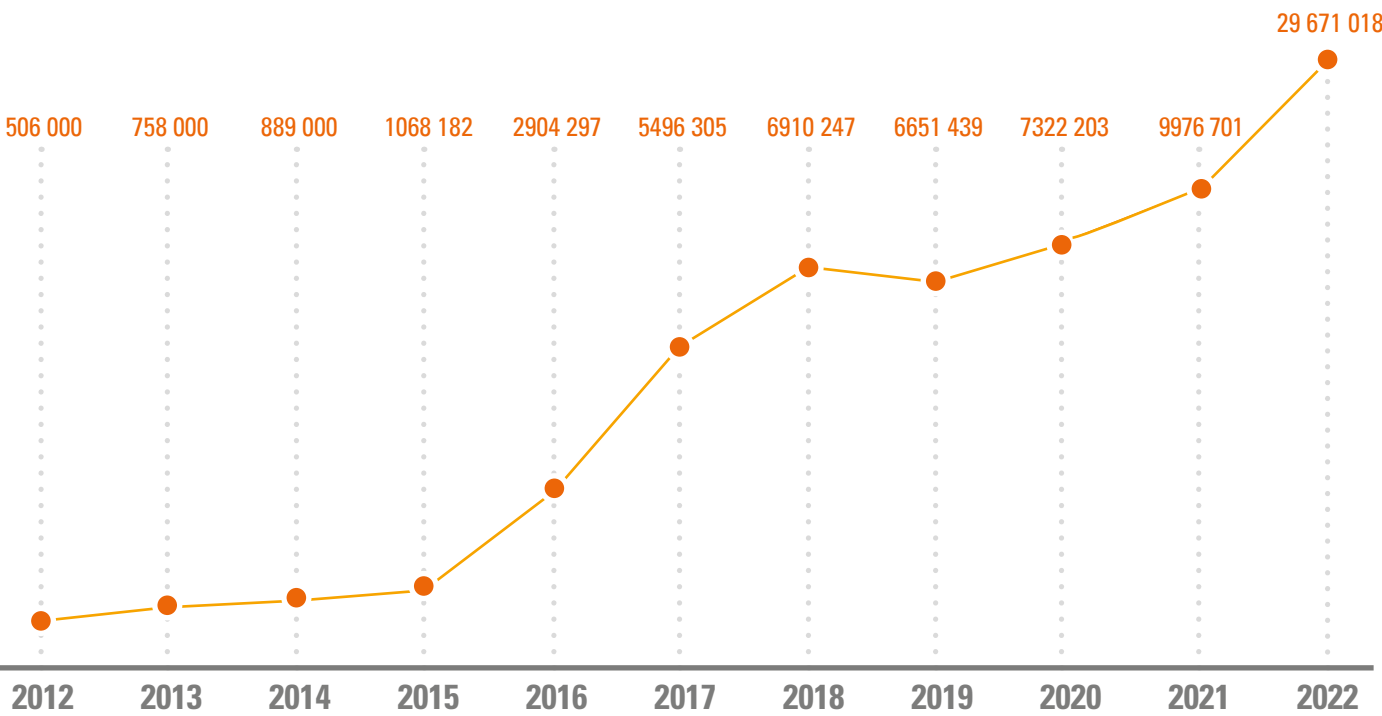


RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT 2012-2022

AMOUNT IN EUR	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
RESOURCES	506 000	758 000	889 000	1 068 182	2 904 297
ANNUAL GROWTH		50%	17%	20%	172%
CURRENT ASSETS	42 204	156 073	184 360	330 075	1 964 683
PREPAID FINANCING	31 548	144 604	172 173	302 912	1 845 918

AMOUNT IN EUR	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
RESOURCES	5 496 305	6 910 247	6 651 439	7 322 203	9 976 701	29 671 018
ANNUAL GROWTH	89%	26%	-4%	10%	36%	197%
CURRENT ASSETS	3 565 548	3 457 000	7 667 491	3 928 435	27 996 015	22 579 208
PREPAID FINANCING	3 147 906	2 991 698	7 044 330	3 049 630	25 662 773	18 472 417

Rates on 31.12.2022 1.00481626 CHF for 1 EUR



Rapport de l'organe de révision sur le contrôle restreint
à l'assemblée générale ordinaire des membres de

l'Association Coginta

ASSOCIATION COGINTA

**RAPPORT DE L'ORGANE DE REVISION
SUR LE CONTROLE RESTREINT
A L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE ORDINAIRE DES MEMBRES**

Exercice 2022

Mesdames, Messieurs,

En notre qualité d'organe de révision, nous avons vérifié la comptabilité et les comptes annuels (bilan, compte de résultat et annexe) de l'Association Coginta pour l'exercice arrêté au 31 décembre 2022.

La responsabilité de l'établissement des comptes annuels incombe au Comité de l'association alors que notre mission consiste à contrôler ces comptes. Nous attestons que nous remplissons les exigences légales d'agrément et d'indépendance.

Notre contrôle a été effectué selon la Norme suisse relative au contrôle restreint. Cette norme requiert de planifier et de réaliser le contrôle de manière telle que des anomalies significatives dans les comptes annuels puissent être constatées. Un contrôle restreint englobe principalement des auditions, des opérations de contrôle analytiques ainsi que des vérifications détaillées appropriées des documents disponibles dans l'entreprise contrôlée. En revanche, des vérifications des flux d'exploitation et du système de contrôle interne ainsi que des auditions et d'autres opérations de contrôle destinées à détecter des fraudes ou d'autres violations de la loi ne font pas partie de ce contrôle.

Lors de notre contrôle, nous n'avons pas rencontré d'élément nous permettant de conclure que les comptes annuels ne sont pas conformes à la loi suisse et aux statuts.

Comtesas + Gerficom SA


Fabrice Gouthière
Expert réviseur agréé
Agrément n° 105145

Genève, le 5 juin 2023
FG/as

Annexes : - comptes annuels
(bilan total CHF 22'692'231.50, compte de résultat, annexe)

Governance of Coginta

Committee



Blaise BONVIN has been a member of the Coginta committee since it was founded in 2011, and has been its President since 2019. Blaise is a public management consultant, specialized in security, justice, social and health policies and administrations. He holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Lausanne and in European studies from the University of Geneva (Switzerland). He also chairs the Board of Directors of a management consulting firm.



Luna IACOPINI has been a member of the Coginta committee since 2019. She is responsible for international affairs at the University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland. A Doctor of Educational Science, Luna has 15 years of experience implementing educational programs and partnerships in Europe, South-East Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. She is a member of the Technical Commission of the Geneva Cooperation Federation and of the Regional Commission of Experts of the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie.



Alexandre DORMEIER FREIRE has been a member of the Coginta committee since 2019. He is a professor and researcher at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva (Switzerland), where he holds the position of Director of the Development Policy and Practice Program and Associate Researcher at the Centre for Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding. With a PhD from the University of Geneva, his recent research focuses on the importance of family structures in reducing violence in fragile contexts.



Dr. Silke GRABHERR joined the Coginta committee in 2020. She is the Director of the University Centre of Legal Medicine and Head of Department at the Lausanne University Hospital and the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG). She is a full professor at the Faculties of Medicine in Geneva and Lausanne. She has published the Atlas of post-mortem angiography, as the principal editor, and has trained teams on every continent in this field. She is considered a leading authority on forensic imaging. As a forensic pathologist, she is called upon as an expert in a number of national and international cases.



Executive Management



Sébastien GOURAUD is the Executive Director of Coginta. With a degree in law, political science and international security, he is a specialist in public policies on internal security and judicial and security reform processes in fragile or transitional States. Sébastien has 20 years of experience in technical assistance and international cooperation project management, particularly in the Central African Republic, Guinea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Chad and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.



Dominique WISLER is the founder of Coginta. Specialized in community safety issues and methodologies, he develops safety analysis tools and conducts thematic and impact monitoring studies in Coginta's areas of activity. He is the author of comparative studies and books on public security in sub-Saharan Africa. Dominique also leads project development and technical assistance missions related to community policing and mining security. He holds a Doctorate in Political Science and a degree in Philosophy.



Jérôme BERNARD has been Coginta's Administrative and Financial Director since 2017. For more than 20 years, he has been involved in transition management processes both in the non-profit and private sectors for small-scale groups with a European or global focus, mainly focused on financial and organisational accountability. Jérôme holds a Master's degree with a major in Management and Development of small and medium-sized businesses.



Justine VERDIER is Program Director and Head of the Coginta office in Brussels (Belgium). Project manager in Chad, Niger, Mozambique and Côte d'Ivoire, she also works on developing, setting up and drafting new projects. Justine holds a Master's degree in European law and has ten years of experience in implementing cooperation projects in the fields of security and good governance (public administration and justice reform, support for electoral processes, etc.) in sub-Saharan Africa.

Country Directors



Marguerite TEWA CAMARA (Guinea) has a postgraduate degree in agri-food engineering. With over 15 years of professional experience in non-governmental organisations and national institutions in Guinea, she is a specialist in cooperation project management and procurement. She was mainly responsible for security sector reform, decentralization and deconcentration programs. She joined Coginta in March 2018.



Yahaya NOUHOU (Niger) holds a Master's degree in Management, Finance and Accounting. He has more than 15 years of experience in national and international non-governmental organisations and bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies in Niger, Chad and the United States. For ten years, he was in charge of operations at the United Nations for development, on projects in governance, justice, security, rule of law, resilience, demobilisation and reintegration. He has been working with Coginta since November 2019.



Hippolyte HARKITE SIB (Côte d'Ivoire) has a degree in Public Affairs Management and a Doctorate in Geopolitics. He has almost 15 years of professional experience, of which 6 with Coginta. He has mainly coordinated cooperation and development projects focused on community policing and access to law and justice in Guinea. Since 2006, Hippolyte has contributed to several international development and exchange programs in Africa and the United States.



Salifou OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso) holds a university degree in Management Sciences. For more than 20 years, he was an Administrative and Financial Manager in development programs (Togo, Chad, etc.) in the areas of livestock, justice, rule of law and good governance or security sector reform. His skills include developing procedure manuals and tools for internal control and risk management, as well as procurement. He joined Coginta in May 2021.



Appolinaire DOUANODJI (Chad) has a Bachelor's degree in Geography and a Master's degree in Business Administration Management, with a major in Project Management. He specialises in managing, setting up and organising development projects on issues of social cohesion and local, judicial and security governance. He has 17 years of professional experience in Chad in the field of development and the promotion of human rights. Appolinaire has been working for Coginta since 2016.



Emmanuel KAMATE LIMASI (Democratic Republic of the Congo) has a degree from the Higher Institute of Rural Development in Bukavu and specialises in planning and managing development projects in rural areas. For more than 30 years, he has managed and coordinated emergency humanitarian programs (assistance to displaced people and natural disaster victims) for a number of non-governmental organisations. He joined Coginta in December 2021.

Organisational Development

In 2022, Coginta opened a third office in Côte d'Ivoire, in Bouna in the Bounkani region in the far north-east of the country.

The headquarters team was also strengthened, with the recruitment of four new employees. The Administration/Finance Department in Geneva has seen the arrival of Solène DEBOVE, Financial Controller, responsible for supporting projects on administrative and financial matters, and Mélanie FILIPPELLI, Administrative and Human Resources Assistant. At the Brussels office, the Programs Department has also expanded with the arrival of Ilaria BRACCHETTI, Program Manager in charge of projects in Mozambique, and Vanina ECKERT, a long-time Coginta employee who has been deployed in Guinea since 2018. Vanina ECKERT, who is also a Program Manager, is in charge of projects in Burundi, Niger and Guinea.



Publication

As part of the European Union-funded project to support the security and development of artisanal gold mining as a factor of development and social cohesion in northern Côte d'Ivoire (SECORCI), Coginta has published a qualitative socio-spatial study on security issues related to illegal gold mining in the department of Tengréla. The study is the first of its kind in the country, given that gold mining is a relatively recent phenomenon.

The purpose of the study is to analyse illegal gold mining from a holistic perspective, focusing in particular on socio-safety, environmental, health and education issues. Sixty-two semi-structured interviews, divided into individual and group interviews, were conducted with one hundred and twenty-two respondents. All the social components of

the Tengréla department were consulted, including the administrative authorities (deconcentrated and decentralised), traditional chiefs, businessmen who buy gold, gold miners, school officials, and women and children affected by the gold mining activities.



The results of this study focus on the current state of illegal gold mining in the department of Tengréla. In a region characterised by high unemployment and limited to agricultural activities, gold mining represents a considerable financial windfall that sustains a host of players, even if some feel they are being excluded. Contrary to what might be expected, the practice of gold mining seems to be a driving force for development and seems to be a paradoxical factor in social peace. This, despite the fact that the study was able

to highlight strong suspicions of a connection between terrorism (through its financing) and its intelligence services, and the practice of gold mining.

In addition to safety issues, gold mining has a direct impact on public health and the environment. This is taking place in a context where arable land is becoming increasingly scarce and healthcare facilities are inadequate. The numerous pits that have been dug make farming impossible, just as dredging the river soil pollutes the watercourses and appears to be an obstacle to fishing. In terms of health, gold mining is all too often done in precarious conditions and without suitable equipment, putting the workers' health at risk. Women and children also participate in this activity, the first by washing the ore or selling products and food on the sites, the latter to help their families in being able to afford everyday consumer goods, despite the fact that they are still in school.

Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our warmest thanks to all our technical and financial partners and to the authorities of the host countries for the trust they have placed in us throughout 2022, and for their invaluable support, which has manifested itself in so many ways.

We would particularly like to thank the following partners:

Savatan Police Academy

The Embassy of France in Niger

The Embassy of France in Côte d'Ivoire

National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire

National Assembly of Chad

Association pour la Promotion des Libertés Fondamentales au Tchad (Association for the Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms in Chad)

Lawyers Without Borders, Belgium

Lawyers Without Borders, France

B&S Europe

Côte d'Ivoire European Union Cooperation Coordination Unit (CCCCIUE)

Civil-Military Unit of the Tengréla Department

Regional Chamber of Chiefs of the Far East Region, Ghana

Regional Chamber of Chiefs of the Far West Region, Ghana

Regional Chamber of Chiefs of the Northern Region, Ghana

Civipol Consultancy

Higher Command of the National Gendarmerie of Côte d'Ivoire

Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)

European Commission

Ivorian National Commission to Combat the Proliferation and Illicit Trafficking of SALW

National Security Council, Côte d'Ivoire

Savannah Regional Peace Council, Ghana

Far East Regional Peace Council, Ghana

Far West Regional Peace Council, Ghana

Northern Regional Peace Council, Ghana

DCAF
Côte d'Ivoire Prison Administration Department
Directorate of Non-Governmental Organisations and Development Associations of Niger
European Union Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
Directorate General of Customs of Côte d'Ivoire
Directorate General of Water and Forests of Côte d'Ivoire
Directorate General of the National Gendarmerie of Burkina Faso
Directorate General of the National Police of the Republic of Guinea
Directorate General of the Congolese National Police
Directorate General of the National Police of Niger
Directorate General of the National Police of Chad
Gendarmerie academies, Mali
ENABEL
EUCAP-Sahel Niger
Expertise France
Multinational Joint Task Force
Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire
Armed Forces of Mozambique
FOSEC, Burkina Faso
Communal Guard of the Republic of Guinea
National Guard of Niger
National and Nomadic Guard of Chad
National Gendarmerie of Burkina Faso
National Gendarmerie of Niger
National Gendarmerie of Chad
GIZ
GIZ International Services
Governorate of Lake Chad Province
High Authority for Peacebuilding (HACP) in Niger
Interpol
Maisons de Justice in the Republic of Guinea
Les Mêmes droits pour tous (MDT)
Burkinabè Movement for Human and People's Rights (MBDHP)
MDF Training and Consulting, The Netherlands
Ministry of Social Action of the Republic of Guinea

Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization of the Republic of Guinea
Ministry of Territorial Planning and Community Development of Niger
Ministry of Defence of Burkina Faso
Ministry of National Defence, Veterans and War Victims of Chad
Minister of the Economy, Development Planning and International Cooperation of Chad
Ministry of Public Service, State Reform and Administration Modernization of the Republic of Guinea
Ministry of Finance and Budget of Chad
Ministry of Interior and Security of Côte d'Ivoire
Ministry of the Interior, Public Security, Decentralization and Customary and Religious Affairs of Niger
Ministry of Justice of Burkina Faso
Ministry of Justice of Burundi
Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Guinea
Ministry of Justice of Niger
Ministry of Justice of Chad
Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Energy of Côte d'Ivoire
Ministry of Security and Civil Protection of the Republic of Guinea
Ministry of Public Security and Immigration of Chad
Netherlands organisation for international cooperation in higher education (NUFFIC)
National Office of Civil Protection (ONPC) in Côte d'Ivoire
Guinean Organisation for the Defense of Human Rights and the Citizen (OGDH)
World Food Programme (WFP) in Chad
Belgian Federal Police
Specialized Unit in the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime in Niger
Specialized Judicial Unit of Chad
Tengréla Prefecture, Côte d'Ivoire
Geneva Cantonal Police, Switzerland
RCN Justice and Democracy
Department for Combating Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime of Niger
European External Action Service
Permanent Secretariat of NGOs and Humanitarian Affairs (SPONGAH) of Chad
UNHAS Chad
WANEP Ghana (West Africa Network for Peacebuilding)

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Coginta is a non-governmental, non-political, non-religious organisation, recognised as being of public utility, specialising in judicial and security governance, social cohesion, conflict management and prevention, resilience and community development. Coginta's objective is to support host governments in strengthening judicial and security institutions in accordance with the norms and principles of the rule of law, and to improve the effectiveness of police agencies in preventing violence, insecurity and crime in order to promote an environment conducive to peace, development and social cohesion. Coginta has its headquarters in Geneva and national offices in Belgium, Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Mozambique, and Niger.



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