ANNUAL REPORT 2025



COGINTA

Building safer communities. Promoting social justice.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2025 was a year in which Coginta maintained its momentum while broadening its reach. New projects were launched in the Central African Republic, Romania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), while two new country offices opened in Dakar and Bangui. Exploratory work also took us to Ukraine, as well as Madagascar and the Middle East.

These developments reflect the organisation's continued efforts to diversify its partnerships and funding base in a context of geopolitical uncertainty and growing pressure on international cooperation. They also speak to the continued relevance of Coginta's core mandate: strengthening the rule of law, conflict prevention, natural resource governance and socio-economic stability across different territorial scales, from communities and local authorities to national and cross-border settings.

A notable feature of 2025 was the deepening of our engagement with the private sector, particularly in relation to natural resource governance. Building on the work initiated in previous years around sustainable finance, Coginta is continuing to establish partnerships in settings where extractive industries are closely linked to livelihoods, local governance and biodiversity. This theme, explored in more detail in the thematic dossier of this year's Annual Report, is increasingly central to our practical work of strengthening local territorial governance and supporting community-level conflict prevention.

At the regional level, many of Coginta's new and emerging programming activities are anchored in the European Commission's Global Gateway strategy. This strategy seeks to support large-scale infrastructure investments and strengthen connectivity, including across the African continent. One example is Coginta's new Community Resilience Support Programme in eastern DRC, funded by the European Union, which forms part of this broader vision of establishing an economic corridor between eastern DRC and the Atlantic coast, improving connectivity, opening up marginalised areas and creating the conditions for sustainable investment to contribute to shared prosperity and social stability.

And yet, economic corridors can only deliver on their promise if the areas through which they pass are secure, effectively governed and connected to the needs of local populations. New infrastructure, investment and mobility can generate important opportunities, but they also place pressure on public authorities, security providers and communities, particularly in new or rapidly expanding regional hubs. This is where Coginta's territorial approach to security governance has a distinctive contribution to make: helping ensure that socio-economic development is anchored in accountable institutions, trusted mechanisms for managing tensions, and a clear understanding of local conflict dynamics.

It remains for me to thank Coginta's team, in Geneva and across our countries of operation, whose dedication makes the organisation what it is. I am also grateful to the local and national authorities with whom we collaborate closely, as well as to our technical and financial partners. Our work rests on a simple conviction: that lasting change is built with people, not for them, and that the places under the greatest pressure are precisely those that most deserve a sustained, committed and long-term presence.

DR. OLIVER JÜTERSONKE
President



COGINTA IN A NUTSHELL

Coginta is a Swiss NGO based in Geneva and recognised as a public-benefit organisation that works to promote stability and socio-economic development by addressing the structural causes of insecurity, poverty, and exclusion. Its activities lie at the intersection of territorial and security governance, conflict prevention, the promotion of social cohesion, and the sustainable management of natural resources.

Through its interventions, Coginta aims to strengthen trust between communities and public institutions, particularly in vulnerable or high-risk areas. Coginta's approach is based on participatory, community-based action tailored to local realities and informed by an analysis of social, cultural, and institutional contexts.

The organisation prioritises partnerships with authorities, public institutions, the private sector, civil society, and communities to develop practical solutions grounded in inclusive local governance and the management of resources. Its interventions combine technical assistance, capacity building, operational support, and the mobilisation of local actors, while incorporating the principles of human rights, inclusion, conflict sensitivity, and sustainability.

Coginta is headquartered in Geneva and has country offices in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal.

COGINTA IN NUMBERS

10
NATIONAL REPRESENTATIONS

11
COUNTRIES OF OPERATION

13
ONGOING PROJECTS

129
PERMANENT STAFF

270
EXPERTS ON CALL

32
SHORT-TERM EXPERTISE ASSIGNMENTS

45
INSTITUTIONS SUPPORTED

82
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED

3163
TRAINING PARTICIPANTS

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY SECURITY

Support from technical and financial partners in the security sector has traditionally focused on strengthening institutions at the central level, based on the assumption that this would also produce improvements at the local level. Coginta instead focuses on inclusive, decentralised approaches that are rooted in local realities and bring security forces together with local actors, including administrative authorities, religious and traditional leaders and civil society, to promote the co-production of security.

Depending on the context, this approach includes strengthening territorial administration and local security governance bodies, conducting local security assessments, introducing community policing, and developing initiatives that build closer relations between security forces and communities. It can also involve promoting traditional and customary mechanisms for social regulation, which are often better placed to respond to the needs and expectations of local populations.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms is at the heart of Coginta's mandate. Its work includes strengthening mechanisms and measures to prevent and mitigate human rights violations by security forces and provide remedies when violations occur. Coginta also supports specialised bodies, such as national human rights commissions, and civil society organisations in their efforts to strengthen citizens' access to justice.

As part of this work, Coginta supports the establishment of legal clinics, legal advice centres and justice centres that assist vulnerable populations through legal and judicial assistance, mediation and conciliation, as well as public awareness and rights education campaigns.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PREVENTING CONFLICTS OVER NATURAL RESOURCES

Preventing, managing and resolving conflicts linked to climate change and constraints on access to natural resources are critical to peace and stability. In response to these challenges, Coginta has developed a dedicated area of expertise encompassing the management of land-related conflicts, the securing of pastoral mobility and transhumance corridors, capacity strengthening in natural resource management and conflict prevention, and support to security institutions responsible for protecting natural resources and public safety, including environmental police, forest rangers, nature conservation officers, nomadic guards and meharist units.

PUBLIC SAFETY IN MINING AREAS

The recent growth of small-scale mining, particularly gold mining, in countries facing increasing security threats has led Coginta to develop dedicated expertise in supporting governments to strengthen public safety in mining areas. This support serves two main purposes: preventing natural resources from falling under the control of criminal groups, particularly in vulnerable areas where porous borders make population movements difficult to control; and creating the security conditions needed for responsible artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) to develop, generating economic opportunities and employment.

Coginta also supports local consultation mechanisms, under the supervision of administrative authorities, and mining cooperatives to strengthen local mining governance. It conducts awareness-raising activities with local populations and provides training to artisanal miners. It also works to improve relations between large-scale and small-scale mining operators, whose coexistence can generate conflicts that criminal groups may seek to exploit.

CIVIL PROTECTION AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Coginta supports the development of national disaster risk management policies and the establishment and organisation of national civil protection structures. It also helps civil protection units respond more effectively through initial training combining technical, theoretical and practical knowledge, specialised training in areas such as water rescue, road rescue and fire management, and strengthened logistical and operational capacities. The increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters, together with the challenges posed by pandemics, conflicts and rapid urbanisation in many countries, make civil protection an essential component of international cooperation.

COMBATING IMPUNITY AND CORRUPTION

Coginta works with its partners to promote integrity, ethics and professional conduct within defence and security forces and to combat all forms of impunity, including by supporting military justice institutions and oversight and inspection bodies. More broadly, this work contributes to stronger civilian, democratic and parliamentary oversight of the security forces. It also provides training and advisory support to media professionals, independent journalists, civil society organisations and parliamentarians to strengthen their capacity to exercise external oversight. Public awareness campaigns promote the rule of law and improve understanding of the roles, responsibilities and duties of defence and security forces. Coginta applies these principles internally as well, ensuring that its own staff uphold high standards of professional conduct.

COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME

Coginta supports the implementation of policies and initiatives that help states tackle transnational organised crime effectively, with particular attention to the proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, human trafficking and the trafficking of counterfeit medicines. It provides specialised technical assistance to strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks, deliver training and support efforts to counter these illicit activities. Coginta also works with local communities and civil society organisations, including through public awareness and prevention campaigns.

SECURITY IN LAKE AND RIVER ENVIRONMENTS

Coginta provides advice and technical assistance for the management and security of river and lake areas, particularly in border regions. This includes supporting, and where necessary establishing, specialised units; constructing and equipping marine posts; and providing equipment suited to surveillance and the protection of populations in these areas. Coginta also provides theoretical and practical training to strengthen the operational capabilities of personnel assigned to marine units and prepare them to operate in challenging environments. Training covers boat handling, operational navigation, preparation for patrol and vessel inspection missions, as well as rescue and assistance to local populations.

PREVENTION OF RADICALISATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Coginta supports countries affected by terrorism and violent extremism by strengthening actors across the criminal justice chain so that judicial police operations are conducted in accordance with human rights and applicable legal standards. Depending on the context, this support may be provided to armed forces deployed domestically in situations of heightened threat and acting as first responders, internal security forces protecting populations and conducting investigations, or specialised judicial units handling criminal proceedings. Support includes training, specialised equipment and the construction of appropriate infrastructure. Coginta also works at the community level through prevention initiatives in collaboration with administrative authorities, youth and women's associations, traditional authorities and religious leaders.

COMBATING THE PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW)

Coginta supports the development of national policies and programmes to help countries meet their international commitments to combat the proliferation and illicit trafficking of SALW and their ammunition. This includes technical assistance to strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks, modernise stockpile management procedures and practices, and support weapons-marking campaigns. Coginta also works to prevent armed violence through awareness-raising and prevention initiatives targeting communities, civil society organisations and schools.



HIGHLIGHTS 2025

JANUARY

Completion of the project to support the strengthening of military and local justice in the fight against impunity in Burkina Faso (AJUMJUP).

Implemented over 45 months, the project sought to improve the functioning of the justice system, promote equitable access to justice for all and address perceptions of impunity in Burkina Faso. Partners acknowledged significant progress, including strengthened capacities within the military justice system and the provost gendarmerie, improved practices and reduced case backlogs in the criminal justice system, and better access to justice for the most vulnerable populations. The project also produced important outputs, including a study on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms or frameworks for dialogue between state and customary justice systems.

17-19 MARCH

Regional workshop on intelligence sector governance in the fight against terrorism in the Gulf of Guinea.

Held in Jacqueville, Côte d'Ivoire, under the auspices of the Ministry of Defence, the workshop was organised as part of the project to support the fight against terrorism in northern Côte d'Ivoire (SECUNORD 2). It brought together key security sector representatives from Benin, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. This strategic meeting aimed to provide a forum for dialogue among intelligence experts from across the subregion, enabling them to examine existing institutional frameworks, assess operational approaches and identify practical ways to improve governance in the sector. The discussions and exchange of experiences helped identify mechanisms for cooperation among intelligence services from the participating countries, as well as measures to improve and strengthen these mechanisms. All participants committed to continuing informal exchanges pending the establishment of a formal follow-up mechanism.

JUNE

Launch of the programme to support community resilience through improved security and sustainable economic opportunities in eastern DRC (RÉSILIENCE).

The programme forms part of a strategy for stabilisation and improved economic connectivity in eastern DRC, particularly along the Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor and, more specifically, the strategic route linking Lubero and Mambasa, in the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri. By helping to secure areas affected by insecurity and population displacement, strengthening the presence of the state and supporting economic development along this strategic corridor, particularly in key urban centres, the programme aims to help create the conditions needed for inclusive development and lasting improvements in living standards for the people of eastern DRC.

12 JULY

Handover ceremony for three major facilities to the Water and Forests Service, Civil Protection Service and Police in Tengrela, Côte d'Ivoire.

As part of the project to support the securing and promoting of artisanal gold mining as a driver of development and social cohesion in northern Côte d'Ivoire (SECORCI 2), three facilities were completed during the project's first year: a new Water and Forests Service cantonment, a Civil Protection Centre and a new joint police station. The handover ceremony for these facilities and the accompanying equipment took place alongside the project's first steering committee meeting. It was attended by the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council (CNS), the Minister of the Interior and Security, the Minister of Construction, Housing and Urban Planning, the Ambassador of the European Union to Côte d'Ivoire, and senior government officials.

15-27 JULY

Presentation of the findings of a study on types of conflict and vulnerabilities in southern Chad.

Conducted during the first year of the project to support social cohesion and peaceful coexistence in southern Chad (LAPIA), the study aimed to help administrative, judicial and security authorities better tailor their efforts to promote dialogue and peaceful coexistence in the region. Its findings were presented at provincial forums held in Sarh, Koumra and Donia/Goré. These forums secured engaged provincial authorities at the highest level and brought together approximately 50 local and institutional stakeholders, who formulated concrete proposals to reduce tensions and improve peaceful coexistence among communities.

SEPTEMBER

Launch of the project to strengthen community policing in rural Romania (a component of the COMPOL programme).

Implemented in partnership with the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police (GIRP) and the Savatan Police Academy (Switzerland), the project forms part of the Swiss Contribution aimed at strengthening public safety and social cohesion in Romania. This initiative marks the beginning of a significant partnership designed to support the Romanian police in moving towards a community-oriented approach based on prevention, public trust and improved support for people affected by crime, particularly survivors of domestic violence.

10 SEPTEMBER

Inauguration of the new Local Peace Centre in Walewale, Northern Region, Ghana.

As part of the PEACE PROTECT project, Coginta has stepped up its efforts to promote peace and stability in the northern border regions of Ghana by helping to establish local peace centres and strengthen conflict prevention mechanisms. These centres reinforce regional and local peace councils, help structure mediation mechanisms and improve early warning systems. In total, the project has enabled the construction of 11 new peace centres and the renovation of six existing facilities, providing visible and accessible spaces within communities where local peace actors can meet, mediate disputes and carry out essential peacebuilding activities.

OCTOBER

Launch of the project to support the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic (ACPES).

This 37-month project aims to improve the justice system and strengthen the rule of law in the Central African Republic by making the transitional justice process more effective. It is being implemented during a sensitive period of institutional transition, marked by the gradual transfer to Coginta of functions previously performed by MINUSCA and UNDP. The immediate priority was to ensure the continuity of the Court's administrative, logistical and financial operations, which are essential to maintaining its judicial activities.

DECEMBER

Completion of the programme to support police reform in the DRC (PARP 3).

Implemented since 2021 by a consortium bringing together Enabel, DCAF and Coginta, the programme has contributed to significant progress in reforming the Congolese National Police. First, it helped strengthen the governance framework for the reform, notably through improved management, dialogue among key stakeholders and the adoption of a 2026-2030 programming law. It also contributed to the professionalisation of the police and the criminal justice system through training, the identification and equipping of judicial police officers and intervention units, and improvements to oversight mechanisms. The programme further modernised human resources management by introducing tools for monitoring and managing careers, while supporting the deployment of community policing through local security assessments, action plans and community involvement. Finally, it helped improve operational capabilities and local security governance through equipment, training and funding for projects addressing priority security needs, thereby contributing to the rule of law and greater trust between the population and security forces.

OUR PROJECTS

In 2025, **Coginta led 13 projects in 11 different countries**. These projects are outlined in the following pages of this report, which provide an in-depth overview of the scope and impact of our activities.



Our projects respond to Sustainable Development Goal 16 - Peace, justice and effective institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

BURKINA FASO



Project to support the strengthening of military justice and local justice to fight against impunity in Burkina Faso (AJUMJUP)

Overall objective

Help improve the functioning of the justice system to ensure equal access to justice for all and combat perceptions of impunity in Burkina Faso.

Budget	Duration	Execution period	Funding source
€6,000,000	45 months	May 2021 - January 2025	European Union

Context

Once renowned for its stability and security, Burkina Faso has been facing a particularly challenging security situation since 2016, mainly due to an increase in crime, terrorist acts and transnational trafficking. Perceptions of insecurity increased exponentially from 2018 onwards, when jihadist groups associated with the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (GSIM) and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) carried out attacks in the northern regions bordering Mali, before spreading to areas in the east of the country.

These attacks, which mainly target state institutions (schools, defence and security force posts, etc.) but also civilian populations, are rooted in the jihadist groups' strategy of discouraging any willingness on the part of the population to cooperate with the defence and security forces, and of undermining the State's control over these often remote regions. As a result, the justice system is no longer able to fully fulfil its role in these areas, and a significant number of defendants involved in crimes or terrorist attacks are still awaiting trial.

To restore trust between the justice system and those subject to its jurisdiction, and to re-establish the credibility of this sovereign institution, which is essential to maintaining social cohesion, the public authorities of Burkina Faso have undertaken major legal and institutional reforms with the support of development partners. In this respect, community justice is a central element of the country's justice policy. The objective of this local justice system is to reduce the obstacles (distance, costs, perceptions, etc.) that limit access for the people of Burkina Faso, particularly the most vulnerable.

These actions are in line with the vision of the Justice and Human Rights Sectoral Policy 2018-2027 as expressed: "By 2027, Burkina Faso will have a credible justice system, accessible to all and respectful of the rules of a state governed by the rule of law that guarantees women and men the effectiveness of their rights for a peaceful and united nation"; and more recently, with the priorities expressed in pillars 3 and 4 of the Action Plan for Stabilisation and Development.

The project to support the strengthening of military justice and local justice to fight against impunity in Burkina Faso (AJUMJUP) is part of these efforts to consolidate and strengthen justice, the rule of law, as well as the fight against impunity.

Specific objectives

- Support the military chain of command in order to step up the fight against impunity.
- Improve the operation of the criminal justice system to meet the demand for justice.
- Strengthen local justice to better meet the needs of those who use the justice system.

Results to achieve

- Military courts are strengthened in their role and supported in their ability to handle proceedings until the trial phase.
- The provost gendarmerie is established and has the operational capacities necessary for its function.
- The provost gendarmerie is integrated into the judicial and security system, supporting the strengthening of the rule of law and the accountability of the defence forces.
- Criminal justice practitioners (judicial police officers, judges and prosecutors, court clerks, lawyers, investigating judges, etc.) have their capacities strengthened in criminal matters.
- Access to justice is strengthened through the elimination of backlogs of investigation files (in correctional and criminal matters).
- In collaboration with the Burkinabe Movement for Human and Peoples' Rights (MBDHP), legal and judicial assistance for victims is reinforced.
- The feasibility of a legally pluralistic model, which respects customs, traditions and the rule of law, is currently the subject of an in-depth study.

Activities conducted

- Training of judges and clerks for the military justice system.
- Providing the military justice system with the equipment and materials necessary for its function (vehicles, IT equipment and office furniture).
- Construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure for the military justice system.
- Training of senior and junior officers of the provost gendarmerie.
- Providing the provost gendarmerie with vehicles and individual and collective protection equipment.
- Providing the provost gendarmerie with technical and scientific police equipment as well as specialised resources.
- Supply of IT, office equipment and furniture for the provost gendarmerie.
- Construction of eight facilities for the provost gendarmerie.
- Design, production and distribution of two practical guides for use by those involved in the criminal justice system.
- Design, development and distribution of printed templates for use by investigating judges and prosecutors.
- Training of judicial police officers from the police and national gendarmerie, and prosecutors, on compliance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Guide for an Effective Criminal Justice System.



- Training of investigating judges on the application of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Guide for an Effective Criminal Justice System and in managing the investigating offices.
- Strengthening the capacities of judges of the Investigation Chamber of the Court of Appeals regarding their prerogatives in monitoring the performance of investigating judges' offices.
- Support for monitoring missions of investigating offices by the Investigation Chamber of the Ouagadougou Court of Appeal.
- Establishment of a support unit to reduce the backlog of cases, to support the investigating offices within the jurisdiction of the Ouagadougou Court of Appeal.
- Deployment of two mobile groups to all the courts of first instance within the jurisdiction of the Ouagadougou Court of Appeals to support the courts in the process of clearing up the backlog of cases under investigation.
- Support for the MBDHP in setting up and running nine legal aid clinics in Dori, Koudougou, Kaya, Ziniaré, Kongoussi, Yako, Manga, Boulsa and Ouahigouya.
- Organisation of awareness-raising and rights education campaigns for local populations.
- Strengthening the capacity of lawyers to provide legal assistance in cases of crimes and human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence, abuses by internal security forces and acts of terrorism, and on the use of international and regional human rights protection mechanisms.
- Support for free legal aid for victims of serious human rights violations from the pre-trial phase until reparations are obtained (i.e. access to legal aid via the MBDHP's legal aid clinics and/or the Legal Aid Fund).
- Conduct and promote a study on customary justice mechanisms and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in Burkina Faso.
- Support for integrating traditional dispute resolution methods into the justice reform system, by setting up consultation frameworks between judicial and customary/traditional actors.

BURUNDI

Technical assistance for the justice sector support programme in Burundi (AT-PASJU)



Overall objective

Contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the justice sector support programme in Burundi and the justice sector plan.

Budget	Duration	Execution period	Funding source
€753,880	36 months	November 2022 - October 2025	European Union

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-seated 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 are mainly related to the lack of independence of the judicial system, the lack of resources and training for judicial staff, the overcrowding of the prisons, problems 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.

In this fragile context, the European Union has set up a justice sector support programme in Burundi (PASJU), with GOPA PACE and Coginta entrusted with providing technical assistance.

Specific objectives

- Support the implementation of actions carried out by the partners of the justice sector support programme in Burundi and strengthen the programme's management and steering capacities, in order to ensure the overall coherence of the programme's activities.
- Support the implementation of the sectoral plan of the Ministry of Justice by strengthening the institutional and operational capacities and skills of beneficiaries, in order to ensure efficient and better-quality justice for all.
- Revitalise and strengthen the coordination between the members of the justice sector group.
- Further strengthen access to the law and quality justice for all, with a particular focus on the rights of women, children and people living in vulnerable situations.

Results to achieve

- The actions carried out by the implementing partners of the justice sector support programme in Burundi are consistent and their management and steering capacities are strengthened.
- The sectoral plan of the Ministry of Justice is implemented and the institutional and operational capacities and skills of its staff are strengthened, to ensure effective and better-quality justice for all.
- The activities carried out by the members of the justice sector group are coordinated.
- Access to the law and to quality justice is strengthened, particularly for women, children and other vulnerable people.



Activities conducted

- Development of a harmonised results framework for the PASJU, serving as a reference framework for all three components of the programme, and development of key monitoring and evaluation tools, including a matrix of partner operations.
- Monitoring the regular updating of logical frameworks, ensuring their consistency and alignment with sectoral priorities.
- Regular technical meetings, joint missions and progress reviews of the programme's implementation, and in particular biannual meetings of the steering committee (COPIL) and meetings of the technical monitoring committee (CST).
- Methodological support for the coordination unit of the Ministry of Justice, which has gradually been able to play a more prominent role in ensuring the programme coherence and operational oversight of PAJSU.
- In-depth assessment of the level of modernisation of the judicial system (archiving of files, management of pre-trial detention, computerisation of court registries, etc.).
- Preparation of about ten technical notes on topics such as the independence of the judiciary, the recruitment and training of magistrates, prison overcrowding, the decriminalisation of minor offences or the organisation of virtual court hearings, to inform the implementation of the PASJU.

- Implementation of a structured filing system in the project's areas of operation, enabling better preservation, traceability and accessibility of files.
- Establishment and support for four technical working groups (TWGs) on access to justice; the prison service; human rights; and the general administration of justice. These bodies facilitate regular consultation and sectoral coordination between judicial bodies and technical and financial partners.
- Support for the regular holding of meetings of the Justice and Rule of Law Sectoral Group (GS-JED), the high-level body that coordinates technical and financial partners working in the judicial sector.
- Organisation of two training sessions for civil society organisations on governance and administrative and financial management, and on advocacy and fundraising techniques.
- Establishment of a comprehensive system for collecting judicial statistics: development of the data collection framework, training for trainers and focal points responsible for data collection, configuration of servers for data backup, capacity-building plan, and training of the strategic studies service (SEPSES) and the information and communication technology service (SETIC-MSJA).

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Programme to support the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic (ACPES)



Overall objective

Improve justice and the rule of law in the Central African Republic.

Budget	Duration	Execution period	Funding source
€4,200,000	37 months	October 2025 - October 2028	European Union

Context

The Special Criminal Court (SCC) of the Central African Republic (CAR) was established against a backdrop of widespread violence, the collapse of institutions and chronic impunity. Between 2003 and 2013, the country experienced repeated political and military crises, marked by coups d'état, armed rebellions and atrocities, with the emergence of numerous non-state armed groups. The 2012-2013 crisis, including the offensive by the Séléka coalition and the counterinsurgency by the anti-Balaka militias, triggered a spiral of inter-community violence, resulting in war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious human rights violations, as documented by UN investigations.

The weakness of the national judicial system made it impossible to prosecute these crimes independently, and the International Criminal Court's (ICC) involvement remained limited to a few high-profile cases. Faced with this legal vacuum, the Central African authorities, with the support of civil society and international partners, opted for a hybrid jurisdiction combining national law with international elements. The aim was to speed up proceedings, guarantee the independence of the judiciary and restore public confidence in the justice system. Organic Law No. 15.003 of 3 June 2015 established the SCC, which has jurisdiction to investigate, prosecute and try serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed since 1 January 2003, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Its mandate was initially for five years, before being renewed in January 2023 for an additional five years.

Operational since 2018, the SCC has established a specialised prosecutor's office, recruited magistrates and judicial police officers, opened investigations and organised its first hearings. To date, 28 cases are under investigation, four public trials have taken place, and 14 defendants have been tried, with a conviction rate of 92%. However, the Court continues to face major challenges: chronic underfunding, the Registry's limited capacity, a lack of operational independence, a shortage of specialist skills and poor integration with the national judicial system. Finally, the withdrawal of US financial support in May 2025 threatens continuity in the investigative process and the day-to-day functioning of the Court.

The proposed action aims to strengthen the judicial, administrative, budgetary and strategic capacities of the SCC as much as possible, against a backdrop of continuing uncertainty regarding international funding, complementing UN support. These measures

are part of the programme "Strengthening the rule of law and justice for Central African citizens," in line with the European Union's priorities for transitional justice in post-conflict contexts. The intervention aims to consolidate the achievements of the SCC and contribute to effective and sustainable justice for Central African citizens.

Specific objective

- Make the transitional justice process more effective.

Results to achieve

- The SCC has stronger administrative and financial management capacities.
- The SCC has stronger capacities and resources to conduct investigations and organise hearings.



Planned activities

- Strengthen the Registry's operational capacity to effectively hearings before the Assize Chamber, document legal proceedings, manage archives securely and disseminate institutional information.
- Support the Presidency in the design and implementation of a strategy for the gradual transfer of cases to national courts.
- Support the operational and strategic capacities of the Special Prosecutor's Office to finalise priority investigations, determine how pending cases should be handled, and prepare for the transfer or closure of remaining cases.
- Support the Investigating Chamber in the completion of ongoing cases deemed to be a priority in view of the SCC's judicial timetable.
- Support the Indictment Chamber in the processing of cases under investigation and their referral to the Assize Court in accordance with the relevant procedures.
- Facilitate the regular holding of trials before Assize Sections and establish a transitional mechanism for the partial funding of civil reparations ordered by the Court.
- Ensure effective access to legal remedies for convicted persons by supporting the functioning of the Appeals Chamber.

CHAD

Project to support social cohesion and peaceful coexistence in southern Chad (LAPIA)



Overall objective

Contribute to peacebuilding and peaceful coexistence through dialogue among communities, conflict prevention and resolution in southern Chad.

Budget	Duration	Execution period	Funding source
€2,000,000	36 months	November 2024 - October 2027	European Union

Context

Promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence remains a major challenge in Chad, where the authorities are striving to maintain peace and stability in a subregional context marked by multiple threats and persistent structural challenges.

At the national level, social cohesion is undermined by the lack of knowledge and inadequate implementation of the legislative texts and regulations that govern the concept of living together (Constitution, laws, decrees). This situation fuels harmful dynamics such as ethnocentrism, tribalism, injustice, corruption and impunity. At the same time, climate change is exacerbating tensions by intensifying competition for increasingly limited natural resources, particularly arable land and water.

A lack of trust between the population and the local authorities exacerbates this fragile situation further, as illustrated by often inadequate conflict management, which can lead to violence and loss of life. Explanatory factors include the absence of effective prevention measures, a lack of awareness of the roles and responsibilities of local authorities, inadequate institutional responses and a lack of respect for the customs and traditions of different communities.

In southern Chad, particularly in the LAPIA project area, these problems are reflected in recurring conflicts, both intercommunity, mainly involving farmers and herders, and intra-community. These tensions hamper social cohesion and highlight the urgent need for concerted, inclusive action to strengthen peace and promote lasting stability.

Specific objective

- Strengthen the capacities of community actors and local civil society to defuse and prevent intercommunity tensions and promote peaceful coexistence among communities in the provinces of Logone Oriental, Mandoul and Moyen-Chari.

Results to achieve

- Actions in favour of dialogue and peaceful coexistence among communities are better calibrated thanks to a better understanding of conflict dynamics, actors and their roles and existing resolution mechanisms.
- Communities are more resilient to crises and better able to promote dialogue and prevent conflicts.
- Community actors and local civil society are supported in implementing innovative actions to promote dialogue and prevent and resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Actors in decentralised local administration, the justice system and the security sector have strengthened capacities to prevent and resolve conflicts peacefully.



Activities conducted

- Conducting a study on the typology of conflicts and vulnerabilities in the three southern provinces of Chad covered by the LAPIA project (Moyen-Chari, Mandoul and Logone Oriental).
- Organisation of provincial forums to present and validate the study's findings in Sarh, Koumra and Donia.
- Development of three provincial roadmaps for peaceful cohabitation, setting out priority measures to be implemented at community level to address the causes of tensions in a sustainable way.
- Revitalisation and restructuring of 18 inclusive joint committees for dialogue, conflict prevention and conflict transformation in the project area. Comprising representatives of farmers and herders, religious leaders, young people and women, each committee has an average of 21 members, making a total of 386 members, 66 of whom are women.
- Initial and refresher training for 436 committee members on their role and responsibilities, monitoring and early warning techniques, data collection tools, conflict management and human rights principles.
- Establishment of a conflict mapping database to record conflicts that have occurred in the three provinces covered by the LAPIA project.
- Establishment of conflict surveillance and monitoring mechanisms across the three provinces, within the 18 revitalised joint committees in the 18 cantons.
- Production of ten magazine programmes, 12 radio announcements and two spots promoting a culture of peace and social cohesion and addressing issues relating to the resource, broadcast on partner radio stations in French and local languages (Arabic, Sar, Ngambaye, Mboum, Laka and Mbaye).
- Commemoration of three occasions: the International Day of Living Together in Peace (16 May), established by the United Nations; the International Day of Peace (21 September); and the National Day of Peace, Peaceful Coexistence and Harmony (28 November).
- Inventory of natural resources requiring the development of local agreements carried out in the 18 cantons in July 2025.
- Organisation of 18 public information days in the 18 cantons for traditional and customary chiefs, youth and women from herder and farmer communities as a first step towards establishing access agreements and the joint management of natural resources between communities.
- Seventeen workshops on prioritising natural resources, with a view to drawing up these local agreements, were held between September and October 2025, bringing together a total of 547 people.
- Mapping of civil society organisations (CSOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) and organisation of a workshop to define the scope and draw up guidelines for the awarding of small grants to 40 CSOs and CBOs.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Project to support the security and promotion of artisanal gold mining as a driver of development and social cohesion in northern Côte d'Ivoire (SECORCI 2)



Overall objective

Contribute to peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire and the fight against terrorism.

Budget	Duration	Execution period	Funding source
€9,800,000	36 months	July 2024 - June 2027	European Union

Context

In 2024, Côte d'Ivoire was the 7th largest gold producer in Africa. Between 2014 and 2024, the country's annual gold production rose from 19.4 to 58 tonnes, surpassing that of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. According to a 2024 report by Swissaid, up to 40 tonnes of gold per year could moreover be extracted illegally by artisanal miners in Côte d'Ivoire. As a result, the Tengrela department, which borders Mali and lies more than 750 km by road north of the capital, Abidjan, has seen a veritable gold rush in recent years.

Given the high levels of poverty in the local cross-border area, gold mining represents an irresistible economic opportunity for many young people. But this economic windfall is not without consequences. The at times massive influx of gold miners leaves visible traces in this landscape traditionally dedicated to agriculture: gutted land, precarious black tarpaulin shelters multiplying to the point of forming veritable small towns on the outskirts of villages, highly vulnerable migrant populations, prostitution, waste, and soil and water pollution. Less visible are the rapid social changes within the indigenous populations, which are a source of tension between locals and newcomers, and between those who see opportunities in gold mining and those who fear losing their ancestral way of life. Not to mention the criminal networks that profit behind the scenes from the movement of people and capital brought about by gold mining.

It is in this context that Coginta arrived in Tengrela in 2021, with the support of the European Union and the National Security Council of Côte d'Ivoire. Security, gold, Côte d'Ivoire: the SECORCI project was built around these three keywords, in order to provide a holistic response to the challenges of public security, as well as economic and environmental issues, related to illegal artisanal gold mining in the Tengrela department.

The objective of the project is to create favourable conditions allowing artisanal gold mining to contribute to local development in a stable, secure environment conducive to social cohesion. This first phase of the project, which ended in 2023, helped to build trust with the local and traditional authorities, the security forces and the communities that make a living from artisanal gold mining. The project notably contributed to strengthening the territorial coverage of the gendarmerie and the role of the Civil-Military Cell (CCM), supported the establishment of three artisanal mining cooperatives and a women's agricultural cooperative, and the construction of a Training Centre for Artisanal Mining (CEFAM) in the Papara sub-prefecture.

Recognising the achievements and potential of the project, the European Union has reiterated its support for Côte d'Ivoire through Coginta, this time committing to a three-year strategic project. To prepare for its conceptualisation, a transitional phase, called SECORCI-Bridge, maintained the project's achievements between July 2023 and June 2024. Twenty months into this second phase, which began in July 2024 and will end in June 2027, the project has implemented a range of activities and achieved several of its objectives, to the satisfaction of its beneficiaries.

Specific objective

- Support the formalisation and development of the artisanal gold industry so that it can contribute to the creation of wealth and jobs at the local level, thereby preventing violent extremism and ensuring that it does not become a source of funding for armed terrorist groups.

Results to achieve

- Structuring and strengthening the professional development of the artisanal and small-scale gold mining industry (ASGM) will make it possible to channel the economic benefits and make it a real lever for local development (mining axis).
- Promoting a responsible and sustainable ASGM contributes to reducing the environmental and health impacts of illegal gold mining (environmental axis).
- Strengthening the territorial network and local governance of security helps to prevent the risks of gold mining resources being captured by criminal groups (security axis).

Activities conducted

- Organisation of a presentation and discussion workshop on the new provisions of the Mining Code relating to ASGM.
- Organisation of a workshop on the coexistence of "large mines" and "small mines": challenges and perspectives.
- Strengthening the operational capacities of the Regional Directorate of Mines (DRM) in Boundiali.
- Support for the Local Technical Committee (CTL) of the Tengrela department.
- Support for the operation, proper governance and training activities of the Training Centre for Artisanal Mining (CEFAM).
- Improving the Training Centre for Artisanal Mining (CEFAM) capacity to accommodate trainees, with a view to making it self-sufficient.
- Support for the structuring and organisation of artisanal mining cooperatives in the sub-prefectures of Papara and Kanakono.
- Construction of the Tengrela Water and Forests Service cantonment and strengthening its operational and technical capacities.
- Mapping of degraded lands in Tengrela.
- Conducting a socio-hydrographic study of the Bagoué River (silting, obstructions, toxicity, gold panning and agricultural activities along the river, etc.).
- Training of local authorities in water resource management.
- Creation of three women's agricultural cooperatives in Papara, Débété and Kanakono.



- Support for the prefectural authorities.
- Continued support for the Tengrela Civil-Military Cell (CCM).
- Construction of a new Civil Protection Centre in Tengrela and strengthening its technical, logistical and operational capacities.
- Construction of the new Tengrela Joint Police Station and strengthening its technical, logistical and operational capacities.
- Strengthening the logistical and operational capacities of the Mobile Units of the National Gendarmerie in the department of Tengrela.
- Specialised training for the internal security forces (national gendarmerie and national police) in the areas of day-to-day public safety, ethics, professional conduct and respect for human rights.
- Training a core group of professional intervention instructors and assistant instructors (MIP and AMIP) responsible for providing ongoing training to personnel in the department of Tengrela.
- Capacity building for judicial police officers (JPO).

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Support for the fight against terrorism in northern Côte d'Ivoire (SECUNORD 2)



Overall objective

Help fight the threat of terrorism more effectively and boost the population's confidence in the gendarmerie and the State in their role of providing security in the north of Côte d'Ivoire.

Budget	Duration	Execution period	Funding source
€3,900,000	20 months	November 2023 - July 2025	European Union

Context

Côte d'Ivoire is facing growing instability in its northern neighbourhood as a result of the increasing number of armed groups in Burkina Faso and Mali. The country has been the victim of several attacks, in 2016 in Grand Bassam, in June 2020 in Kafolo and then in 2021 in the Bounkani region. Faced with this situation, the Ivorian government mobilised and established an operational area in the north of the country along the 638 km border, while also confirming the army's commitment to working alongside the domestic security forces. On the social front, the Ivorian government has also set up a programme to support the professional integration of young people in the northern regions. The goal is to offer them better economic opportunities and prospects, and to prevent them from being recruited by jihadist groups.

Côte d'Ivoire's National Development Plan 2021-2025 also focuses on strengthening governance and modernising the State. It aims in particular to strengthen social cohesion and maintain peace and stability, by consolidating the triptych "peace, justice and security".

The Tchologo region, which falls within the jurisdiction of the gendarmerie unit based in Ferkessédougou, its administrative centre, has been identified as a priority area for the project. Located in the far north-central part of Côte d'Ivoire, Tchologo is bordered to the north by Burkina Faso and Mali. This area, adjacent to the Comoé Park and separated from Burkina Faso by the Comoé River, has seen major population movements since the crisis years, with its relatively fertile land attracting people from Mali and Burkina Faso. The security situation in Tchologo remains fragile, and largely depends on the prevailing security situation in the two neighbouring countries. It is in this context that the SECUNORD 2 project was launched on 1 November 2023.

Specific objectives

- Strengthen the territorial network and the effective presence of the national gendarmerie in direct contact with the population in the Tchologo region.
- Strengthen the operational coordination of intelligence in the fight against terrorism.
- Make criminal investigations into terrorism more effective.
- Improve the alignment of gendarmerie interventions in the Tchologo region with the needs of the population.

Results to achieve

- The skills of the gendarmes deployed in the Tchologo region have been strengthened and adjusted to their day-to-day security and terrorism prevention mission.
- The territorial units of the Ferkessédougou company have the infrastructure and technical and operational resources they need for their missions.
- The capacities of the intelligence chain and the specialised investigation services have been strengthened in the northern operational zone.
- The mechanisms and frameworks for local governance of security and conflict prevention in the Tchologo region are being improved through inclusive dialogue with the population and respect for ethical values and professional conduct by the gendarmerie staff.



Activities conducted

- Construction of a new one-story headquarters building for the Ferkessédougou company, and renovation of the former headquarters building, refurbished to house a Family Trust and Protection Centre (MCPF).
- Construction of a new building for the Ouangolodougou territorial brigade, and substantial renovation of an old building, significantly improving the working conditions and public reception arrangements for the 58 gendarmes in this major unit.
- Equipment acquired and delivered to five territorial brigades in the Ferkessédougou company: nine pick-up vehicles equipped with VHF radios, 15 off-road motorbikes and 60 bulletproof vests and ballistic helmets.
- Installation of a tactical bubble communication system covering the three departments of the Tchologo region.
- Eight training sessions were conducted for 168 trainees from the gendarmerie units of the Ferkessédougou company, including 57 female gendarmes, strengthening their operational capacities in terms of daily public security and terrorism prevention.
- Eight training sessions were held for five experts from the Counter-Terrorism Operational Intelligence Centre (CROAT), 41 experts from the Côte d'Ivoire research sections and 15 intelligence officers within the Ferkessédougou territorial brigades. Moreover, specialised technical and scientific police equipment and special investigative resources were delivered, enabling criminal proceedings to be initiated more swiftly and ensuring continuity throughout the criminal justice process within the Northern Operational Zone.
- Organisation of a regional workshop on the governance of the intelligence sector as part of the fight against terrorism in the Gulf of Guinea.
- Reactivation of the Civil-Military Cells (CCM) in Ouangolodougou, Ferkessédougou and Kong by developing or updating their constituent documents and implementing a training and mentoring programme.
- Construction of three multipurpose rooms (one per CCM) with a dining hall and two fully equipped offices, and provision of furniture, equipment and awareness-raising materials to the CCMs.
- Conducted a "gender and security" study with the recruitment of nine investigators from the three Tchologo CCMs.
- Support for the CCMs in conducting 11 awareness sessions that directly reached 1,255 people on topics such as the role of traditional leaders and the Dozo brotherhoods in co-producing security alongside the authorities, the rights, duties and responsibilities of the population, and violent extremism and the detection of improvised explosive devices.
- Production and broadcasting of 23 audio spots and 15 radio programmes in several languages to explain the role of the CCMs and address various security issues, such as gender-based violence, the prevention of community conflicts and the fight against illegal gold mining.
- Drilling of eight boreholes in seven localities as part of small-scale infrastructure projects to prevent conflicts over natural resources.
- Organisation of a lessons learned and knowledge consolidation workshop on support for the CCMs.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Police reform support programme in the DRC (PARP 3)



Overall objective

Contribute to peace, security and strengthening the rule of law by improving governance, protecting human rights and fighting impunity and corruption in the DRC.

Budget	Duration	Execution period	Funding source
€8,800,000	48 months	December 2021 - December 2025	European Union

Context

After a period marked by concrete progress (2008-2015), police reform in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) experienced a major slowdown between 2016 and 2019, as the police crackdowns in Kinshasa in January 2015 and September 2016 led to the interruption of most international support programmes for the Congolese National Police and undermined any possibility of making the reform operational. With the elections of 2018 and 2023, the DRC experienced a peaceful political transition, with new authorities committed to undertaking institutional reforms in the security sector in order to re-establish the rule of law and stability in the country.

The police reform support programme (PARP 3), which is being implemented in Kinshasa and three provinces (Équateur, Ituri and Kasaï) as part of a consortium bringing together Enabel, DCAF and Coginta, is supporting the reform process as part of the continuity of the EUPOL DRC mission, European Development Fund programmes and other cooperation initiatives.

The programme's objectives are aligned with the Government Action Plan 2024-2029, presented to Parliament in June 2024. This alignment reflects the government's commitment to continuing security sector reforms and highlights the need to establish links with other policy areas that influence the reform process, including human resources and civil service policy, decentralisation, gender, public service improvement, and common defence and security policy).

Specific objectives

- Improve the implementation of the reform and accountability of the Congolese National Police (PNC).
- Strengthen the professionalisation of the police and the criminal justice system.
- Improve the PNC's human resources management.
- Make community policing operational to restore public confidence.

Results to achieve

- Judicial police officers are better selected, identified and trained.
- Police public order units are better trained and equipped.
- The reform of human resources management policies and procedures has been implemented.
- Police officers in the three provinces are provided with adequate resources and training so that they can implement the national doctrine on community policing.



Activities conducted

- Census and creation of a database of judicial police officers (JPO).
- Strengthening the initial and ongoing training of JPOs in the project's three target provinces.
- Strengthening the capacities of the General Inspectorate of PNC Services and public prosecutors' offices to oversee judicial police officers (JPOs).
- Support for the extension of the Criminal File of Recorded Offences and Suspected Offenders (FCICAP) in Kinshasa and the three project provinces.
- Assessment of existing capacities and support for the development of the operational doctrine for intervention units and the ministerial directive on managing public space in the context of maintaining public order.
- Capacity building for the National Intervention Legion and the Mobile Intervention Groups.
- Implementation of the Human Resources Information System to manage the employment and careers of police officers in Kinshasa and the provinces of Ituri, Kasaï and Équateur.
- Capacity-building for provincial/local authorities in security and crisis management.
- Completion of local security diagnostics and development of local security plans in the three provinces.
- In the context of local security governance, funding micro-projects that address the security issues prioritised in the three provinces' local security plans.
- Basic training for 150 police officers in the three provinces for six months.
- Support for the Local Community Security Councils (CLSP) and the organisation of forums (FLSP) in the three provinces.
- Acquisition and allocation of mobile and transmission equipment for police stations in the main towns of the three provinces.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Support for the professionalisation of the security forces of the Congolese National Police in the DRC (INL/IGPN)



Overall objective

Contribute to improving the effectiveness of the Inspectorate General of the Congolese National Police in monitoring police performance in accordance with the law, civil liberties and human rights.

Budget	Duration	Execution period	Funding source
$1,000,000	21 months	October 2023 - June 2025	US Department of State (INL)

Context

After a period marked by concrete progress (2008-2015), police reform in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) slowed considerably between 2016 and 2019, as the police crackdowns in Kinshasa in January 2015 and September 2016 led to the interruption of most international support programmes for the Congolese National Police (PNC). As of 2020, a second five-year action plan for police reform has been implemented with the support of the international community. However, the PNC still has major shortcomings in terms of training, equipment and funding. It is regularly accused of abuses and human rights violations, including the illegal use of force, assaults, arbitrary arrests and detention in abusive conditions.

The General Inspectorate of the National Police (IGPNC) has a mandate defined by Decree 15/026 of 9 December 2015, which specifies its organisation and operation, as well as its missions and areas of competence (control, audit, investigation and evaluation of PNC services). Specifically, it is responsible for "assessing the PNC staff's respect for fundamental rights, human rights and the protection of individual and collective freedoms in the performance of their policing duties." The main objective of the project is to ensure that the IGPNC inspectors in Kinshasa and four pilot provinces (Haut Katanga, Nord Kivu, Sud Kivu, and Kasaï-Oriental) have the resources, training and data management system they need to monitor and support the PNC's actions in terms of respect for the law, public freedoms and human rights.

Specific objectives

- Improve the skills and equipment of the IGPNC so that it can effectively carry out its missions of prevention, addressing abuses by law enforcement agencies, oversight and auditing.
- Equip the IGPNC with a computerised system that centralises data and assists its inspectors in conducting their daily tasks.
- Ensure that institutional partners and civil society are well informed and encourage their cooperation with the IGPNC.

Results to achieve

- IGPNC staff have adequate operational resources to carry out their daily missions
- Continuing and specialised training is provided for inspectors.
- Procedures for judicial investigations, auditing, internal control, and the evaluation and monitoring of IGPNC services are computerised.
- The administrative authorities, the police, civil society organisations and the general public are encouraged to communicate useful information to the IGPNC and to file appropriate complaints.



Activities conducted

- Organisation of 22 training sessions for the IGPNC's central administration and its 16 provincial branches: two training-of-trainers sessions and 20 sessions covering judicial and administrative investigation techniques, management, communication, the management and use of specialised software, and the processing of online reports.
- Development and implementation by IGPNC trainers and project experts of a comprehensive curriculum of refresher training modules, a guide to investigative techniques and management materials.
- Setting up hearing rooms, installing solar electricity systems and handing out motorbikes and equipment to IGPNC staff at the central level and in the pilot provinces, so that they have the necessary resources to conduct their missions properly.
- Delivery of IT equipment and fitting out of IT rooms at head office level and in four pilot IGPNC branches.
- Delivery of forensics and surveillance equipment to the central investigations department and the four pilot branches.
- Development and roll-out of software and a database enabling the IGPNC to conduct and archive its audit, internal control, investigation and service evaluation procedures, and to monitor investigations and the processing of complaints.
- Development and installation of software for processing online incident reports.
- Organisation of 15 information and coordination sessions between the IGPNC and civil society in the capital and in 12 provinces, design and distribution of 5,000 leaflets intended to inform the public.
- Information campaign in the media and on social media using videos accompanied by links for submitting online incident reports, to increase awareness of the role and mandate of the IGPNC among the public, civil society, the administration and the police themselves, in order to ensure that abuses and complaints are reported.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Programme to support community resilience through improved security and sustainable economic opportunities in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (RÉSILIENCE)



Overall objective

Strengthen community resilience through improved security and sustainable economic opportunities in eastern DRC.

Budget	Duration	Execution period	Funding source
€14,200,000	42 months	June 2025 - November 2028	European Union

Context

The eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri, has been characterised by a complex security crisis for several decades. Fuelled by economic (natural resources), ethnic, political and regional issues, these conflicts involve many local and foreign armed groups. Interference from neighbouring countries, systemic governance challenges and the lack of essential public services are exacerbating the situation, causing mass population displacements and chronic instability.

In this context, the State is struggling to protect the safety of the population. The army is facing significant capacity challenges, while the national police force, which is often absent from rural areas, lacks the resources to maintain a continuous presence. This security vacuum is fostering violence, impunity and the control of certain territories by militias. Displaced populations, who are particularly vulnerable, suffer abuse, violence and very limited access to justice and basic social services.

To address these challenges, the programme to support community resilience in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (RÉSILIENCE) is part of a stabilisation strategy aimed at improving security and promoting sustainable economic opportunities. This approach helps to reduce the region's isolation and supports socio-economic development, in partnership with the Virunga Foundation, among others.

The RÉSILIENCE programme ultimately aims to contribute to the long-term stabilisation of key areas in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo by restoring a climate of trust conducive to economic recovery, the voluntary return of displaced people and local development. Beyond its local actions, RÉSILIENCE is part of a broader strategic vision championed by the European Union through its Global Gateway initiative. This approach aims to establish a development corridor between the eastern DRC and the Atlantic coast by promoting the interconnection of territories, opening up marginalised areas and strengthening sustainable investment in the interests of regional peace and prosperity.

Specific objective

- The security services protect property and people living in the strategic urban areas of the corridor while respecting the fundamental rights of individuals.



Results to achieve

- The police are operational in the major strategic urban centres of the densely populated corridor.
- The framework for local security governance has been strengthened.

Activities conducted

- Training in judicial police functions for 27 police officers and three eco-guards from North Kivu and 30 police officers from Ituri.
- Start of work to extend the Bunia Police Academy with a view to doubling its capacity and enabling it to train 450 police officers.
- Launch of the external and local recruitment process for 450 second-class police officers.
- In collaboration with the PNC, development of technical specifications for the supply of personal and collective protective equipment, communications equipment and vehicles.
- Development of management manuals for the PNC's HR, logistics, vehicle fleet and infrastructure departments.
- Identification of 23 sites where the same number of police buildings will be constructed (sub-police stations, municipal police stations, regional police stations and urban police stations) and validation of the plans for these infrastructures by the PNC.
- Launch of a call for tenders for the acquisition of 16 vehicles (15 pick-up trucks and one Land Cruiser).
- Identification and training of 14 local community security councils (CLSP) spread across the two provinces.
- Launch of two contextual analysis and perception studies in partnership with the Catholic University of Graben (UCG) in North Kivu and the Security and Justice Sector Reform Network (RRSSJ) for Ituri.

GHANA

Project to prevent violent extremism and support peace in the northern border regions of Ghana (PEACE PROTECT)



Overall objective

Prevent socio-economic, environmental and political destabilisation of the northern regions of Ghana.

Budget	Duration	Execution period	Funding source
€5,000,000	24 months	February 2024 - January 2026	European Union

Context

Ghana enjoys a relatively stable socio-political environment and remains one of the most dynamic economies in West Africa. However, the situation in northern Ghana is a cause for concern due to the high poverty rate, poorly developed infrastructure, high youth unemployment and numerous conflicts related to resource management or feelings of marginalisation. The borders with Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo are poorly controlled, and this situation is conducive to various forms of trafficking and the infiltration of armed groups operating in the Sahel.

This situation creates potentially favourable conditions for armed groups seeking to establish themselves or recruit. All these factors challenge the ability of security institutions to prevent the spread of violent extremism and to mobilise a large section of the population to preserve the high level of social cohesion and culture of dialogue that characterise Ghanaian society. Religious leaders, traditional leaders, community leaders and civil society organisations (CSOs) are all actively working to promote peaceful coexistence in northern Ghana. This project will support these key actors, in particular by strengthening their resources and capacities to peacefully manage and resolve local conflicts.

Specific objective

- Strengthen the capacities of governmental and non-governmental actors in their concerted efforts to maintain peace and contain the rise of violent extremism in crisis-prone areas.

Results to achieve

- The role of Regional Peace Councils (RPCs) in identifying and preventing violent conflicts (including those related to elections) is strengthened.
- The National Community Policing Strategy is being implemented in northern Ghana.
- CSOs actively contribute to security, peacebuilding and the prevention of violent extremism, gender mainstreaming and social inclusion.
- The role of the Regional Houses of Chiefs in preventing and resolving ethnic and chieftaincy conflicts is strengthened.
- Regional collaboration and exchanges of good practices in the prevention of extremist violence are strengthened (support to the Executive Secretariat of the Accra Initiative).



Activities conducted

- Training of trainers for the RPCs (i.e. the technical staff of these councils) in early warning and repones mechanisms.
- Strengthening of the RPCs to establish and develop the capacities of 25 local peace committees (LPCs) in the 25 sensitive areas.
- Construction or renovation of 17 local peace centres for the LPCs so that they can conduct mediation, dialogue and organise activities that promote social cohesion.
- Support for RPCs to establish radio dialogues aimed at promoting social cohesion and combatting disinformation and fake news in conflict-prone areas.
- Provision of seven motorcycles to the RPCs to improve response times in the event of conflict.
- Support for RPCs to participate in 37 preventive shuttle diplomacy missions in the five northern border regions of Ghana to ease tensions.

- 183 police officers trained to implement the national community policing strategy in the five border regions of northern Ghana.
- Seven police stations built and brought into service at strategic locations to improve the visibility of the police and community policing in sensitive areas.
- 75 motorcycles donated to support community policing in 25 sensitive areas in the five northern border regions.
- Five grants awarded to CSOs to complement the community policing activities carried out by the Ghana Police Service.
- 30 CSO representatives trained in community policing to complement and promote community policing activities conducted by the Ghana Police Service.
- 20 local CSO initiatives supported by grants to implement projects integrating gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) as part of efforts to prevent violent extremism.
- 30 CSO technical staff members trained in GESI as focal points to lead projects and serve as local experts in the five regions.
- 50 CSO leaders and financial technical staff trained in financial management to effectively manage financial systems.
- Capacity-building for 160 queen mothers and 348 chiefs and landowners in customary arbitration and land management.
- 29 Customary Land Secretariats have been strengthened through the provision of office supplies, computer equipment and motorcycles to improve land management in sensitive areas.
- Key members of the 29 customary land secretariats have been trained to improve land management in the five regions.

GUINEA | SENEGAL

Resilience and stability project for border regions - Guinea, Mali, Senegal (RÉZO)



Overall objective

Improve local stability by combating trafficking (including human trafficking) and cross-border crime, and by strengthening security on a shared basis (including internal security forces, civil society, local authorities, women and young people) in order to prevent and address local conflicts and build trust in the authorities.

Budget	Duration	Execution period	Funding source
€4,600,000	39 months	December 2024 - February 2028	European Union

Context

The border areas between the Sahel States and the coastal countries are major crossroads for the mobility of people and the exchange of goods and merchandise. However, they are threatened by growing instability, violent conflicts and insecurity linked to the presence of non-state armed groups and rampant organised crime, against a backdrop of various forms of trafficking (human beings, arms, fake medicines, drugs, etc.).

The areas of south-eastern Senegal, western Mali and northern Guinea have been important centres of gold mining since the days of the Mali Empire. The artisanal exploitation of these mines by the local population and their industrial exploitation by multinational firms have made gold mining a real factor in local development in these areas. However, many artisanal mines remain outside state control, encouraging the proliferation of illicit economies and trafficking and even allowing criminal non-state armed groups to take control of mining activities. These areas are therefore faced with major security challenges, which creates a fragile situation and a high risk of conflict. In addition to the conflict issues and risks of instability inherent in gold mining, these areas are also experiencing environmental degradation due to the extraction methods used and a lack of basic social infrastructure (schools, hospitals, roads, electricity, drilling, etc.), making their populations vulnerable to extremist discourse.

It is in this context that the European Union has financed the second "Peaceful and Resilient Border Zones (RéZo)" programme to support, through three areas of intervention, the stabilisation and development of the border areas of Guinea, Mali and Senegal, and to strengthen cross-border cooperation to combat the above-mentioned security problems.

To this end, the European Union has signed a contract with Coginta to implement axis 2 of the programme in Guinea and Senegal (Project RéZo Stability and Cohesion), with the overall objective of improving local security by combatting illegal trafficking and cross-border crime and strengthening the co-production of security in order to prevent and address local conflicts and build trust in the authorities. This programme is being implemented in partnership with the German cooperation agency GIZ (axes 1 and 3) and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) for the Malian part of axis 2.



Specific objectives

- Reduce the risk of conflict through prevention and mediation processes.
- Strengthen the capacity of local players and security forces to better ensure the population's safety and access to justice.
- Contribute to local development in an environment that is stable, safe and conducive to social cohesion, through artisanal gold mining.

Results to achieve

- The risk of conflict is reduced through prevention and mediation processes.
- The capacities of local actors and security forces are being strengthened to better ensure the population's security and access to justice.
- A contribution is made to local development in a stable, safe and conducive environment for social cohesion, through artisanal gold mining.

Activities conducted

- Setting up a field office in Siguiri, Guinea.
- Presentation of the project to the authorities and project stakeholders in the prefectures of Siguiri and Mali, Guinea, with a view to engaging them and securing their commitment to the project objectives.
- Conducting a baseline study on conflicts and perceptions of security in the prefectures of Siguiri and Mali, Guinea (14 hotspots identified and mapped through an inclusive process involving stakeholders).
- Assessment of the training needs of institutional, community, media and civil society stakeholders.
- Mapping of civil society organisations and media operating in relevant areas relating to the project in the prefectures of Siguiri and Mali, Guinea.
- Analysis of the functioning and coordination mechanisms of bodies responsible for monitoring and assessing conflicts, and identification of areas requiring support.
- Preliminary analysis of the coordination mechanisms between the defence and security forces and the Donzo brotherhood as part of efforts to secure the gold-mining areas.
- Setting up the field office in Kédougou, Senegal.
- Launch of the baseline diagnostic study on conflicts, security, threats and vulnerabilities in the Kédougou region.
- Development and validation of the training plan for the National Gendarmerie in collaboration with the High Command.
- Development of a training programme for Senegalese territorial administrators on local governance and security management in border areas, in partnership with the National School of Administration (ENA) and the Directorate General of Territorial Administration (DGAT), and under the auspices of the National Border Management Commission (CNGF).

MOZAMBIQUE

Assistance measure under the European Peace Facility to support military units trained by the EU Training Mission in Mozambique (ASMOZ)



Overall objective

Contribute to strengthening the capacities of Mozambican armed forces units trained by the EU Training Mission in Mozambique, with a view to their deployment and their sustained ability to restore safety and security in the northern province of Cabo Delgado.

Budget	Duration	Execution period	Funding source
€85,000,000	36 months	April 2022 - March 2025	European Union

Context

Since 2017, the Islamist group Ansar al-Sunna has been carrying out destabilising insurgent actions against the Mozambican government forces and the local population, mainly in the northern province of Cabo Delgado and some neighbouring provinces. These actions, which are generating large waves of displacement and constantly jeopardising the supply of humanitarian aid, are having serious repercussions on the security of the population and on economic activity in the region.

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), approximately one million people have been internally displaced since the start of the conflict. However, the situation is slowly improving and people are gradually returning to the worst affected areas. The main concerns remain the protection of displaced and host populations on a large scale and the provision of humanitarian assistance that meets their urgent needs. Women and children represent 80% of the total displaced population.

Following the adoption of an initial emergency measure, the European Union adopted an assistance measure under the European Peace Facility to ensure that the most urgently needed equipment and supplies can be made available to 11 companies that have completed the training provided by the EU Training Mission in Mozambique (EUTM), a non-executive military mission promoted by the EU, whose objective and mandate is to support a more effective response to the insurgency in full compliance with international law.

The ASMOZ project is being conducted in partnership with the Portuguese Ministry of Defence's Directorate General for National Defence Policy and idD Portugal Defence.



Specific objective

- Strengthen the operational and logistical capacities of 11 Mozambican army (six) and navy (five) companies, enabling them to operate autonomously and safely in Cabo Delgado province.

Results to achieve

- The operational capabilities of six companies of the Mozambican armed forces and five naval companies have been strengthened through the provision of individual and collective equipment, land and amphibious transport equipment, specialised equipment and communications resources.
- The armed forces deployed in the province of Cabo Delgado have access to medical support through the provision of a field hospital.

Activities conducted

- Definition of the 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.

ROMANIA

Strengthening community policing in rural Romania (COMPOL)



Overall objective

Improve residents' access to police services in vulnerable areas.

Budget	Duration	Execution period	Funding source
CHF 1,000,000	39 months	September 2025 - December 2028	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Context

The COMPOL programme, which is part of the Improving Public Safety and Security Programme managed by the Romanian Ministry of Justice and financed by Switzerland, aims to sustainably strengthen public safety and trust between the police and citizens through the implementation of a structured approach to community policing. Deployed over a period of 39 months, the programme is based on the transfer of tried-and-tested Swiss approaches to prevention, citizen-centred policing and the co-production of security, adapted to local circumstances. It emphasises a detailed understanding of security needs, through studies and surveys on perceptions of security, trust in the police and support for victims, particularly those of domestic violence.

The programme's design is based on an integrated approach combining institutional capacity-building, the development of operational and methodological tools, and the professionalisation of policing practices, particularly in terms of communication, de-escalation, field presence and a victim-centred approach. Particular attention is paid to improving the accessibility and visibility of police services, especially in rural and semi-rural areas, through innovative solutions such as modular units that promote direct contact with communities.

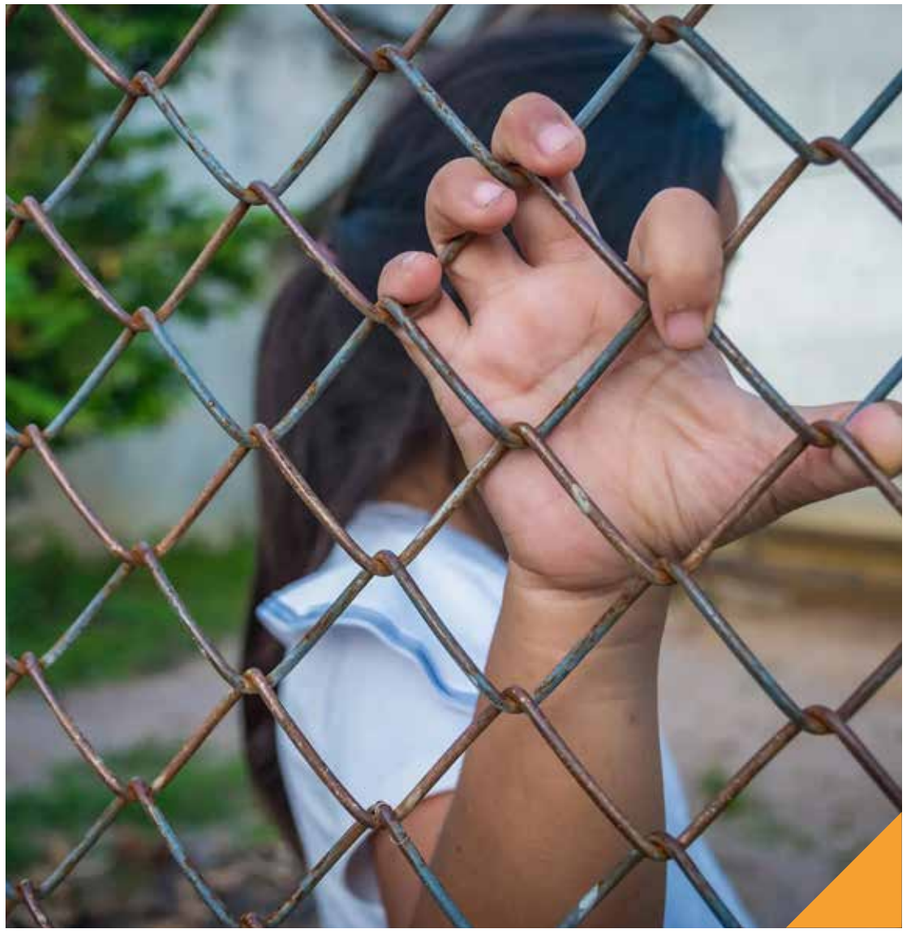
By nurturing partnerships between institutional stakeholders, sharing best practice and making use of data to inform decision-making, the programme helps to create a police force that is closer to the community, more responsive and better integrated into its local environment, with measurable effects on the quality of services and citizens' perception of security.

Specific objectives

- Improving residents' security and trust through enhanced services, dialogue and consultations.
- A community police force capable of interacting effectively and more closely with local communities.

Results to achieve

- Enhanced local consultations with communities, particularly in 30 vulnerable localities.
- An impact study on the introduction of community policing in the project's pilot areas.
- An international comparative study of online services for victims of domestic violence.
- A study on the needs of victims of domestic violence.
- A strategic public safety plan that has a stronger focus on community policing.
- A strengthened police presence in pilot vulnerable areas through the installation of 30 modular police stations.
- The development of a two-week training programme for 500 police officers deployed in rural areas.
- Four visits to Switzerland by police delegations, psychologists and trainers to discuss the topics of community policing, tactical intervention in crisis situations, domestic violence and first aid.



Activities conducted

- Provision of technical and methodological expertise in community policing, including data analysis, and the production of studies, perception surveys and decision-making tools to guide the programme's implementation.
- Design, adaptation and support for the implementation of training modules for police forces, particularly focusing on a victim-centred approach, communication, de-escalation, field presence and introducing greater professionalisation into selection processes.
- Development of innovative operational tools, such as modular police units in rural and semi-rural areas, to improve the accessibility, visibility and proximity of police services to communities.
- Technical coordination and consolidation of contributions from programme partners, while facilitating institutional dialogue and overall coherence among national and international stakeholders.
- Establishment of support for monitoring, evaluation and the consolidation of lessons learned, including the definition of indicators, analysis of effects on local security and public confidence, and technical and financial reporting.
- Organising and facilitating the exchange of best practice and bilateral cooperation activities, such as study visits, workshops and experience-sharing forums, to ensure a sustainable transfer of skills.

TESTIMONIALS

LAPIA (CHAD)

« Thanks to the support of the LAPIA project, we have carried out awareness-raising and outreach activities in the canton of Moussafoyo and in the village of Goro. These actions have allowed us to convey important messages to the communities, particularly on the need to avoid taking the law into one's own hands where conflicts arise and instead take the matter to the courts and the relevant authorities. Positive results have been observed: throughout the last rainy season, no violent conflict was recorded in the canton. This demonstrates the positive impact of the joint efforts made with the project. »



Mr. Ali Nanina OUMAR
Prefect of the department of Barh Kô

« Since the LAPIA project established and supported the joint committee in the canton of Péni, we have seen very encouraging results. Thanks to the committee's actions, more than 50 inter-community conflicts have been managed amicably. Some cases requiring more formal measures have also been referred to the relevant authorities in order to find appropriate solutions. We also have very good cooperation with the local administrative authorities, who regularly call on the committee to intervene in disputes. »



Mr. Nadangar ALLAISSEMBAYE
President of the inclusive joint committee for dialogue, conflict prevention and transformation in the canton of Péni

« I want to congratulate the LAPIA project for everything it has done in our canton this year. Before the project came along, every rainy season we'd be running all over the bush with the children because of the conflicts. But the project has promoted forgiveness, social cohesion and living together in harmony, so this year everyone is at peace at home. I can say that the LAPIA project is bringing about a major change for us. »



Ms. Nabia ACHTA
Teacher at the official school of Alakaou/Koskobo

« The LAPIA project came along a year ago, but I've really noticed a big change. In the past years, there were so many conflicts that caused bloodshed throughout the canton, but since the project came along, no clashes or deadly conflicts have been recorded. The LAPIA project continues to encourage people to sit down together to resolve their problems, and that has really helped us this year. »



Mr. Mahamat YOUNOUSS
Farik breeder from Kouyo/Moussafoyo

SECUNORD 2 (CÔTE D'IVOIRE)

« What I thoroughly appreciated about the SECUNORD 2 project was the sincerity of the NGO Coginta. Not just words or training courses thrown together, but genuine, long-lasting, customised and effective support. This type of commitment is rare. Today, thanks to the project, the Civil-Military Cell in Ouangolougou is respected throughout the department. The population is aware of our work. The defence and security forces collaborate with us in a spirit of openness and trust. There's been a profound shift. Thanks to this project, we've found our place. We've realised that we could be useful, visible and a driving force for change. »



Ms. Aïcha TOUNGARA
Member of the Ouangolodougou Civil-Military Cell

« When the SECUNORD 2 project started in November 2023, we had a dormant Civil-Military Cell that was poorly structured and not very visible in the community. Thanks to Coginta's support, everything has changed. The project has allowed us to breathe new life into our unit: we were trained, equipped and empowered. Today, we know how to prevent conflicts, raise awareness, collect data and make our voice and that of the community heard. We have resolved sensitive conflicts such as those between herders and farmers, or land disputes. We have also helped to bring the population closer to the defence and security forces by taking concrete steps such as the restoration of water pumps in Tiassanakaha and Togoniéré. »



Mr. Soungalo KONÉ
President of the Ferkessédougou Civil-Military Cell

« The training provided to the CROAT investigation units to strengthen the capabilities of the criminal investigation service and the intelligence chain as part of the SECUNORD 2 project was of great importance to us. It enables these units to be more autonomous in gathering intelligence, conducting preliminary investigations and processing digital equipment seized in the fight against terrorism. Given the proximity of certain investigation units to the northern border area of Côte d'Ivoire, which is affected by the threat of terrorism, these investigation units could now easily assume the role of first responders. »



Mr. Soro KATCHINGAHA
Head of the technological trace analysis section of the Counter-terrorism Operational Intelligence Centre (CROAT)

THEMATIC DOSSIER

GOOD GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, A STRATEGIC ISSUE FOR DEVELOPMENT

THE NEED FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

Natural resource governance has become a central issue in many fragile contexts marked by conflict, insecurity, climate stress and weak public institutions. Land, minerals, biodiversity and water are not merely economic or environmental assets: they are also sources of power, legitimacy and social cohesion and, at times, of violence. When their management is inequitable or opaque, or when they fall under the control of criminal or political interests, these resources can become drivers of tension, instability and protracted conflict.

Governance in this context encompasses the mechanisms, institutions, rules, practices and power relations that shape access to resources, their exploitation and management, and the distribution of the benefits they generate. This applies to agricultural and pastoral land as well as mineral, forest, water and fishery resources, biodiversity and conservation areas. Good governance therefore means managing these resources in a transparent, equitable, sustainable and legitimate manner, for the benefit of local populations and territorial stability.

In many fragile countries, however, competition for access to land, water and extractive resources is intensifying under the combined effects of population growth, climate change, population displacement and weak regulatory mechanisms. Conflicts between farmers and herders, tensions surrounding artisanal mining, illicit trafficking in minerals and wildlife, and disputes over extractive projects are all manifestations of these pressures. Climate change further exacerbates existing vulnerabilities, reduces community resilience and increases pressure on available resources.

In practice, this is not solely a matter of environmental or economic policy. It is fundamentally about power: natural resources shape access to wealth, livelihoods, territory and political authority. When poorly governed, they can contribute to exclusion and corruption or fall under the control of armed groups and criminal networks. Conversely, when managed inclusively and responsibly, they can contribute to resilience, stabilisation and sustainable development.

Good natural resource governance rests on several fundamental principles. The first is institutional legitimacy. People must regard the rules governing access to and use of resources as fair, credible and enforceable. In many contexts, resource governance systems involve a complex interplay between state institutions, traditional authorities, private stakeholders and informal mechanisms. Effective governance therefore needs to recognise this plurality of actors and norms rather than impose purely administrative or technocratic models.

A second principle is inclusiveness. Decisions about natural resources directly affect livelihoods, social relations and local power dynamics. Affected communities must be able to participate in decision-making processes, express their concerns and have access to mechanisms for appeal and grievance resolution. This is particularly important in mining areas, pastoral territories and protected areas, where tensions over access to resources can escalate rapidly.

A third principle is transparency and accountability. Revenue from natural resources, exploitation agreements, compensation mechanisms and land allocation decisions should be accessible and understandable. A lack of transparency often fosters corruption and illicit economies and undermines trust in public institutions.



Finally, good governance is becoming even more important as pressure on natural resources increases globally. Population growth, urbanisation, the energy transition, demand for critical minerals, climate change and geopolitical tensions are intensifying competition for strategic resources. In fragile countries, these pressures are compounded by often weak institutions and deteriorating security conditions, making natural resource governance both more complex and more essential.

AFRICA: UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

Africa is increasingly at the centre of global dynamics surrounding natural resources. The continent has immense mineral, forest, water and agricultural resources, as well as exceptional biodiversity. It also holds a significant share of the strategic minerals needed for the global energy transition, including cobalt, lithium, copper, gold and rare earths. Yet despite this abundance, many African countries continue to face fragility, poverty, instability and protracted conflict.

Growing competition for access to resources is fuelling tensions between different groups

of users in many regions, particularly over agricultural land, pastures, water points and mining areas. Conflicts between farmers and herders in the Sahel, land disputes linked to urban or agricultural expansion, and tensions surrounding artisanal mining sites are among the most visible manifestations of these pressures. They are often exacerbated by the absence of effective mediation and dispute-resolution mechanisms and by weak local institutions. In southern Chad alone, Coginta and its research partner, the Centre de recherches en anthropologie et sciences humaines (CRASH), recorded more than 320 deaths linked to such conflicts between 2022 and 2025 across three provinces. At the same time, land tenure continues to be governed by a 1967 land code that does not recognise the customary collective rights of herders.

Climate change acts as a risk multiplier: rising temperatures, variable rainfall, droughts, floods and land degradation are increasing pressure on available resources. In parts of West Africa and the Horn of Africa, the growing scarcity of arable land and pasture contributes to population displacement and community tensions. Extreme weather events are also undermining rural livelihoods, increasing food insecurity and deepening economic vulnerability.

Natural resources also play a central role in illicit economies and conflict dynamics. In many fragile contexts, illegal mineral extraction, smuggling and environmental crime finance armed groups, sustain networks of corruption and undermine state authority. This is particularly evident in parts of the Sahel and the Great Lakes region, where control over resources is strategically important to a range of armed and political actors. Gold occupies a particular place in these dynamics. Considered a safe-haven asset in times of economic and geopolitical instability, its price has risen steadily since the 2010s, drawing increasing numbers of people into artisanal gold mining across the Sahel and beyond. This growth has also fuelled smuggling networks through which artisanal gold is often laundered before entering formal supply chains.

Artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) provides livelihoods for millions of people across Africa and plays a vital economic role in many rural areas. Yet it is often characterised by precarious working conditions, significant environmental impacts, security risks and low levels of formalisation. In some contexts, tensions between artisanal and industrial mining contribute to local conflicts, community protests and the risk of violence. Illicit cross-border flows of gold, minerals, timber and wildlife add to these dynamics, fuelling criminal economies and eroding state authority. These patterns are now well documented. In Ghana, the Minister of National Security has warned that violent extremist groups may target illegal mining sites for funding and recruitment, while repeated reports indicate that foreign fighters from neighbouring countries have been recruited to provide armed security for illegal gold mining sites.

The governance of protected areas and biodiversity is another growing challenge. Conservation policies can sometimes conflict with local communities' needs for access to land, forest resources and pastoral mobility areas. When conservation approaches are perceived as imposed or exclusionary, they can lead to disputes over legitimacy, community resistance or human rights violations. In several African regions, conservation areas are also affected by wildlife trafficking, criminal activities and insecurity.

Private investment is becoming increasingly important in this context. Companies operating in the extractive, agricultural and energy sectors face a complex range of risks and requirements, including community conflicts, social protests, insecurity, reputational risk, regulatory compliance and increasingly stringent due diligence requirements. In fragile contexts, the ability to obtain and maintain a "social licence to operate" can be a determining factor in the viability of investments.

Taken together, these dynamics show that natural resource governance in Africa cannot be approached solely as a technical or environmental matter. It intersects with security, justice, development, climate resilience and political governance, requiring integrated, conflict-sensitive approaches adapted to local realities.



COGINTA'S RESPONSE TO THESE CROSS-CUTTING CHALLENGES

Coginta's approach is grounded in an integrated understanding of natural resource governance in fragile contexts, including those affected by conflict or facing significant climate and security pressures. The organisation recognises that the management of land, minerals, biodiversity and other natural resources involves complex and interconnected dynamics of governance, security, development, institutional legitimacy and social cohesion.

Coginta works in settings where technical solutions alone are insufficient. Its approach seeks to strengthen the governance arrangements, stability and trust needed for the sustainable management of natural resources in fragile environments.

Political economy and risk analysis. Coginta conducts integrated analyses of natural resources, conflicts and climate-related risks to better understand the drivers of tension, vulnerabilities and opportunities for stabilisation. Its work includes mapping hotspots, developing early warning mechanisms and establishing systems for collecting and visualising operational data. These analytical capabilities support adaptive programme management and help to anticipate risks associated with natural resource management.

Local governance, conflict prevention and mediation. Coginta supports the establishment of dialogue platforms bringing together communities, public authorities and the private sector. It works to prevent and manage conflicts linked to natural resource exploitation by strengthening the capacities of local actors and community-based mechanisms. This includes facilitating the development and adoption of negotiated agreements on land access, pastoral mobility, resource use and equitable resource sharing, particularly in border areas.

Civil protection and public safety. In contexts where natural resources are under significant pressure, environmental crises, mining accidents and community tensions call for appropriate operational capacities. Coginta therefore supports early warning mechanisms, disaster response capacities and public safety infrastructure in areas at risk.

Formalisation and professionalisation of artisanal gold mining. Coginta promotes an integrated, practical approach aimed at making artisanal and small-scale gold mining a driver of local development. This involves improving productivity and working conditions, strengthening social cohesion and reducing environmental impacts. The organisation supports the establishment and formalisation of mining cooperatives and contributes to the professionalisation of those working in the sector.

Combating illicit economies and environmental crime. Coginta helps strengthen capacities to prevent, detect and prosecute offences related to illicit trafficking and the illegal exploitation of natural resources. This includes capacity strengthening for law enforcement and judicial services, support for inter-institutional and cross-border cooperation mechanisms, the development of tools to analyse illicit financial flows, and the collection and sharing of criminal intelligence. This work may also address illegal logging, trafficking in protected species, environmental pollution, illegal gold mining and smuggling networks that sustain organised crime.

Biodiversity and conservation. Coginta contributes to the participatory, transparent and sustainable management of ecosystems, the prevention of resource overexploitation and the protection of species and habitats. Its aim is to reduce pressure on biodiversity by strengthening governance mechanisms, particularly in protected areas.

Private sector, investment and risk management. The organisation supports companies, investors and financial institutions in understanding local dynamics relating to risk, governance and conflict. It also helps them integrate due diligence requirements and develop strategies for the coexistence of industrial extractive activities and artisanal mining.

Beyond these areas of intervention, Coginta views natural resource governance as a means of fostering stability, local development and lasting peace. In many countries, tensions over natural resources stem from perceptions of exclusion, injustice or a failure to share the benefits. By encouraging a fairer distribution of wealth, community participation in decision-making and transparent management mechanisms, good governance can help prevent crises and support peacebuilding.



Harnessing natural resources for sustainable development also requires a long-term perspective on their exploitation. Mineral resources are finite, and their management should therefore help prepare for the future through investment in human capital, local entrepreneurship, infrastructure and the economic diversification.

Promoting responsible natural resource governance is therefore more than an economic matter. It is a strategic and political choice aimed at turning mineral wealth into lasting opportunities for local populations, strengthening institutional stability and laying the foundations for enduring and inclusive social peace.

This is what Coginta's work seeks to achieve.

OUR TEAM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



DR. OLIVER JÜTERSONKE - President

Dr. Oliver JÜTERSONKE has served as President of Coginta since 2023. Based in Geneva, he is a strategic advisor, lecturer, and facilitator with extensive field experience in conflict-affected settings across sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. He works with international organisations, national authorities, and civil society networks on security sector governance, stabilisation, social cohesion, durable solutions for displaced populations, integrated approaches to the triple nexus (humanitarian–development–peace), and conflict sensitivity. His pedagogical focus is on applied research, strategic foresight, organisational learning, and the design of innovative mentoring initiatives for practitioners.



DR. LUNA IACOPINI - Committee Member

Dr. Luna IACOPINI has served on Coginta's Board since 2019. In 2024 she became Chief of Staff to the Rector of the University of Geneva. Previously, she led International Affairs at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland (HES-SO). She holds a doctorate in Education and has over fifteen years' experience designing and implementing education programmes and partnerships across Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa.



DR. ALEXANDRE DORMEIER FREIRE - Committee member

Alexandre DORMEIER FREIRE joined Coginta's Board in 2019. He is a lecturer and researcher at the Geneva Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID), where he serves as Director of the Development Policies and Practices (DPP) programme and as Research Associate at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP). He holds a doctorate from the University of Geneva, and his recent research examines the importance of family structures in mitigating violence in fragile contexts. He sits on several commissions, including for the Swiss Confederation, the City of Geneva, and various international organisations active in international solidarity and humanitarian action. His contributions include the recruitment of development professionals, project evaluation, and the formulation of field-oriented strategic guidance.



DR. SILKE GRABHERR - Committee Member

Silke GRABHERR joined Coginta's Board in 2020. She is the Head of the University Centre of Legal Medicine (Centre universitaire romand de médecine légale, CURML) for French-speaking Switzerland and serves as Head of Service at the Lausanne University Hospital (Centre hospitalier universitaire vaudois, CHUV) and the Geneva University Hospitals (Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève, HUG). She is also a Full Professor at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva and at the Faculty of Biology and Medicine of the University of Lausanne. As lead editor of the Atlas of Post-Mortem Angiography (2016), she has trained teams on every continent and is recognised as a leading authority in forensic imaging. As a forensic pathologist, she is called upon as an expert in several national and international cases and takes part in a range of humanitarian missions.

MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT



SÉBASTIEN GOURAUD - Executive Director

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 reform processes in fragile or transitional states. After working for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sudan, he joined the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) in Geneva as a "Rule of Law, Justice and Security" Programme Manager. In this role, he covered numerous countries, including the Central African Republic, Guinea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Chad, and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. With a wealth of experience in technical assistance and project management, he participated in the creation of Coginta and became its Executive Director in September 2011.



DR. DOMINIQUE WISLER - Scientific Director

Dr. Dominique WISLER is the co-founder of Coginta. Specialising 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 studies and comparative works on public safety in sub-Saharan Africa. Dominique also leads project development and technical assistance missions related to community policing and mining safety. He holds a doctorate in political science and a degree in philosophy.



JÉRÔME BERNARD - Administrative and Financial Director

Jérôme BERNARD has been the Administrative and Financial Director of Coginta since 2017. For over 20 years, he has been involved in transition management processes in both the non-profit and private sectors for human-sized groups with a European or global reach, with a focus on financial and organizational accountability. Jérôme holds a Master II degree in Small and Medium-Sized Business Management.



HERVÉ GONSOLIN - Programmes Director

Hervé GONSOLIN has been Coginta's Programmes Director since 2024, after having notably served as Programme Manager and principal technical adviser since September 2021. He has more than 25 years' experience in various fields focusing on security sector reform, reducing armed violence, and community engagement. Previously, he was Senior Programme Coordinator for Sub-Saharan Africa at DCAF Geneva. He has also held the position of Special Adviser on Peace and Security at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. As an independent consultant, Hervé Gonsolin has provided expertise in the identification, formulation, monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes in countries such as Guinea, Tanzania and Nigeria. His professional background also includes roles as a Project Manager and Programme Coordinator for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and non-governmental organisations in emergency humanitarian contexts.

TECHNICAL ADVISORS



BERTRAND CAVALLIER - Technical Adviser

Bertrand CAVALLIER is a technical adviser for Coginta. He is a graduate of the École spéciale militaire de Saint-Cyr and the École de Guerre and spent his military career in the French Gendarmerie Nationale. He has held a number of operational commands but has also served in senior staff and training positions. Most notably, he was commander of the National Training Centre for Gendarmerie Forces at St-Astier. As a European expert, he contributed to the development of the European Union's crisis management concepts and to the creation and development of the European Gendarmerie Force. Since 1993, he has been involved in the design and implementation of numerous projects, mainly European, for the benefit of internal security forces in Cambodia, Romania, Ukraine, the Balkans, Jordan, and since 2014, under the banner of Coginta, in Africa.



VICTORIA WALKER - Technical Adviser

Victoria WALKER is a technical advisor at Coginta, where she leads research at the intersection of natural resources, conflicts, security and environmental governance in conflict-affected and high-risk contexts. With more than 25 years' experience in sustainable development and human rights, she specialises in governance, risk management and institutional change, with a strong focus on implementation. Her career is underpinned by solid practical experience in sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as in Asia-Pacific, where she has worked with governments, international organisations, financial institutions, businesses and community stakeholders. More recently, her work has focused on artisanal and small-scale mining, biodiversity and conservation, as well as reducing investment risk through long-term engagement on the ground, inclusive dialogue processes and strengthening local governance systems and livelihoods.

COUNTRY DIRECTORS



MARGUERITE TEWA CAMARA - Guinea

Marguerite Tewa CAMARA has a postgraduate degree in agri-food engineering. With more than 15 years of professional experience in international NGOs and national institutions in Guinea, she is a specialist in the management, monitoring and evaluation of cooperation projects. She was mainly in charge of security sector reform, decentralisation and de-concentration programmes in Guinea. She joined Coginta in 2018.



YAHAYA NOUHOU - Niger

Yahaya NOUHOU 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 UNDP, on projects in governance, justice, securitý, rule of law, resilience, demobilisation and reintegration. He has been working with Coginta since 2019.



HIPPOLYTE HARKITE SIB - Côte d'Ivoire

Hippolyte HARKITE SIB has a degree in public affairs management. He has almost 15 years of professional experience, of which ten with Coginta. He has mainly coordinated cooperation projects in security sector reform and justice sector reform in Guinea, followed by cooperation and development projects in Côte d'Ivoire. Since 2006, Hippolyte has contributed to several international development and exchange programmes in Africa and the United States.



SALIFOU OUEDRAOGO - Burkina Faso

Salifou OUEDRAOGO holds a university degree in Management Sciences. For more than 20 years, he was an Administrative and Financial Manager in development programmes (Burkina Faso, 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 2021.



APPOLINAIRE DOUANODJI - Chad

Appolinaire DOUANODJI has a Bachelor's degree in Geography and a Master's degree in Business Administration Management, with a major in Project Management. He holds several certificates, including in association management, accounting and financial management in organisations, and development projects. He specialises in managing, setting up and organising development projects on issues of social cohesion and local, judicial and security governance. He has over 20 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 as Country Director and Project Manager.



EMMANUEL KAMATE LIMASI - Democratic Republic of the Congo

Emmanuel KAMATE LIMASI is a graduate of the Higher Institute of Rural Development of Bukavu and a specialist in planning and management of development projects in rural areas. For more than 30 years, he has managed and coordinated emergency humanitarian programmes (assistance to displaced people and natural disaster victims) for a number of NGOs. He joined Coginta in 2021.



CLEMENT AAPENGNUO - Ghana

Clement AAPENGNUO has worked for Coginta since 2021. He holds a degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution and has extensive experience in conflict transformation, peacebuilding and facilitating community dialogues. For more than 23 years, Clement has been working on community conflicts in northern Ghana, related to issues of power, social identity and resources.

HEADQUARTERS TEAM



MIREILLE WIDMER - Programme Manager

Mireille WIDMER joined Coginta in 2024, following a varied career focused on issues of peace and development. In particular, she has worked on the issue of small arms control at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue; implemented community security projects in Haiti and Somalia on behalf of the UNDP; supported the rule of law in the Central African Republic; and conducted an academic study on local security governance in Nepal. She holds a Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Sydney and a PhD in Development Studies from the University of Sussex (Institute of Development Studies).



VALENTIN WAGEE - Programme Manager

Valentin WAGEE joined Coginta in 2025. He has around ten years of experience in governance and security sector reform. Before joining Coginta, Valentin was a Programme Manager at the Kofi Annan Foundation, leading projects on democracy and multilateralism in collaboration with governments, regional organisations and civil society in West Africa. He previously spent eight years at the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), half of which was spent in the field in sub-Saharan Africa and the Sahel, contributing to the development of local partnerships. His career demonstrates a strong commitment to good governance, transparency and institutional building.



ANNE MOLTÈS - Programme Manager

Anne MOLTÈS joined Coginta in 2025, with nearly 15 years of field experience in peacebuilding in West Africa, the Sahel region, Somalia and Burundi. She was Interpeace's Regional Director for West Africa, where she supported the development and implementation of social cohesion, governance and resilience programmes. She has also worked on various projects related to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), notably with DCAF, focusing on defence and security forces, and for USAID, focusing on the media and communities, strengthening local capacity to respond sustainably to challenges relating to security and peace. An experienced facilitator and conflict-sensitivity trainer, Anne brings her participatory approach, field experience and programme coordination skills to Coginta to support sustainable partnerships and local ownership. She holds a double Master's degree in International Relations and Security/Defence.



ILARIA BRACCHETTI - Programme Manager

Ilaria BRACCHETTI joined Coginta in January 2022 as a Programme Manager, after working as a project manager in the field for more than 15 years in Africa (Mozambique, Tanzania and Angola) and Latin America (Brazil) with international NGOs. Ilaria holds a law degree and a post-graduate Master's degree in international cooperation, as well as additional training in project management, monitoring and evaluation, and a professional certificate in European project design. She has a proven track record in project and grant management, and strong skills in governance, capacity building and human rights.



MAVIATOU BAH - Procurement Manager

Maviatou BAH has been Procurement Manager at Coginta since January 2025, having previously served as a procurement expert on various Coginta projects since 2021, notably in Guinea and Chad. He holds a Master's degree in Economics and Finance and has over 18 years' professional experience in the official development assistance sector, having worked with a range of donors including the European Union and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Throughout his career, he has held positions in various fields, including internal audit, management control and procurement.



FRÉDÉRIC WASMER - Communications Manager

Frédéric WASMER joined Coginta in 2023 as the Communications Manager. Frédéric holds a Master's degree in Socioeconomics from the University of Geneva, and also studied graphic design and visual communication. Particularly interested in issues related to international cooperation and development, he has sought to combine his skills in positions within NGOs and international organisations since 2015. He has notably worked as a communications officer for the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.



MÉLANIE FILIPPELLI - Administrative and HR Assistant

Mélanie FILIPPELLI joined Coginta in December 2022 as Administrative and HR Assistant. She brings extensive experience in administrative and HR support, gained primarily in the private sector in Switzerland. She is responsible for coordinating the deployment and contracting of short- and long-term experts across Cogint's countries of operation. She also serves as Office Manager and provides support to the finance team at headquarters.



SOLÈNE DEBOVE - Financial Controller

Solène DEBOVE has a degree in Economics and Management. She initially worked for international groups specialising in aeronautics and then luxury goods, setting up financial and industrial reporting processes. In 2022, she joined Coginta as a Financial Controller, supporting the finance managers in various country offices to ensure they comply with the organisation's financial and administrative procedures.



DERYA OZBAHAR - Financial Controller

Derya OZBAHAR joined Coginta in 2023. A versatile financial controller with federal certification training, she specialises in finance and accounting. She has more than 10 years of experience in demanding business environments, which require strong organisational and analytical skills.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Each year, the Coginta Board submits the financial statements, presented by the Treasurer at the Annual General Meeting, to the association's members for approval. These statements are audited beforehand by an approved auditor, Comtesas + Gerficom SA, which verifies that Coginta's accounts and financial results comply with Swiss law and the association's Articles of Association.

In 2025, Coginta's resources amounted to CHF 21,969,661. Funds entrusted to Coginta may also be subject to expense verification audits, conducted in accordance with terms established by donors depending on the nature of the contract.

Where required, an approved auditor verifies:

- Documentation, archiving and record-keeping
- Eligibility of expenditure and revenue
- Public procurement and rules of origin
- Asset management (including the management and control of fixed assets, such as equipment)
- Cash and bank account management (treasury)
- Payroll and working time management
- Accounting and financial reporting
- Internal controls and audits, including financial audits

Comptesas + Gerficom SA confirms that the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2025 comply with Swiss law and the association's Articles of Association and present a true and fair view of its financial position, financial performance and cash flows, in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER standards, in particular FER 21.

In 2025, no expenditure was declared ineligible in the 11 expenditure verification audits conducted across 8 countries.

Coginta also attaches the utmost importance to risk management across all areas of its operations, including legal and regulatory compliance, human resources, fraud and corruption, information management, finance, strategy, and safety and security. It continuously seeks to improve its internal control system by developing policies and procedures aligned with international standards and the requirements of its financial partners.

FINANCIAL PROGRESS (CHF)

	2025	2024
REVENUES	**21,969,661**	48,914,469
DIRECT PROJECT COSTS	**19,516,167**	46,484,758
GROSS PROFIT	**2,453,494**	2,429,711
OPERATING COSTS	**1,943,374**	2,303,741
FINANCIAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES	**59,586**	14,533
EXCEPTIONAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES	**371,820**	-
TAXES AND DUTIES	**-**	-
PROFIT / LOSS	**78,715**	111,437
CURRENT ASSETS	**11,115,157**	16,066,423
ENTRUSTED FUNDS	**6,969,596**	13,076,494

RESOURCES

PUBLICATIONS



Chad : Study on conflict in southern Chad (LAPIA)



Burkina Faso : Achievements of the AJUMJUP project



Côte d'Ivoire : Achievements of the SECUNORD 2 project

COGINTA ROSTER

As Coginta expands its activities, it draws on a pool of experts that you can join today. Do you have skills in one or more of the areas listed below? Do you have relevant professional experience in fragile or crisis-affected environments? If so, your profile may be of interest to us. We regularly seek experts to support our new projects. If you would like to contribute to our mission, please visit our online recruitment portal.

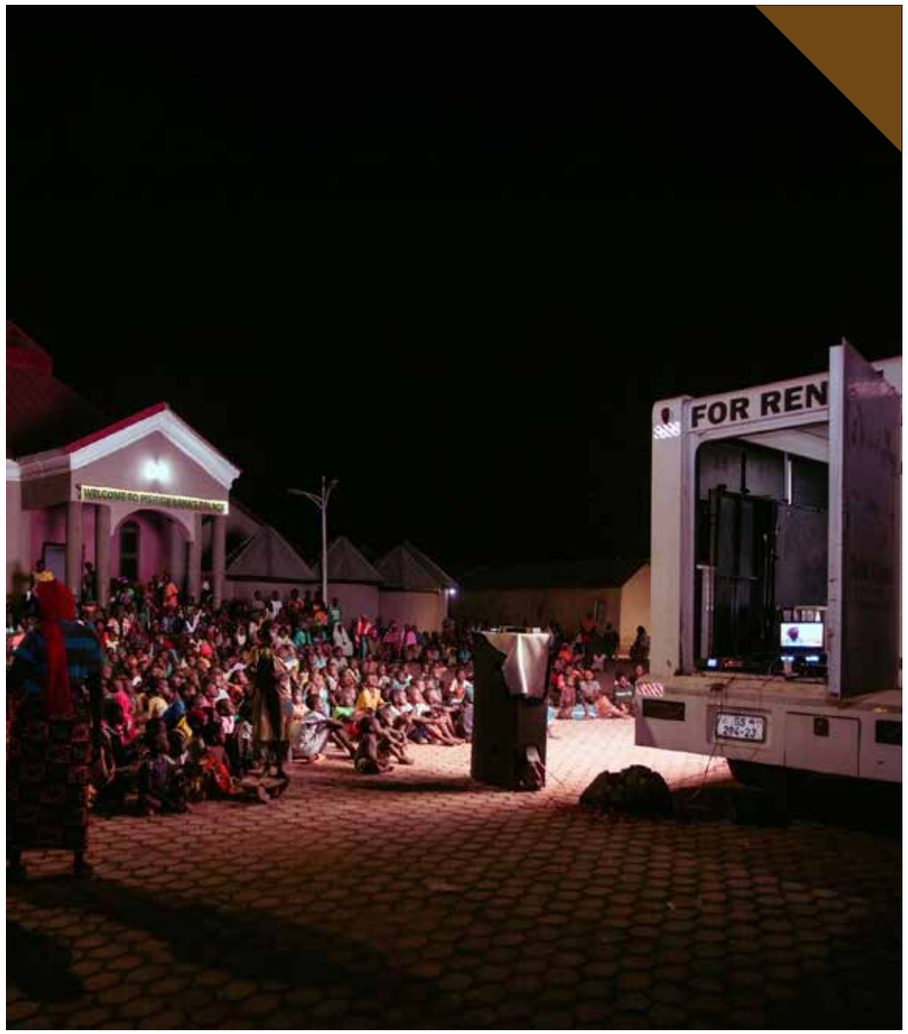
Profiles required:

- Judicial and security governance
- Local security governance
- Access to justice and promotion of human rights
- Conflict prevention and social cohesion
- Civil protection and risk management
- Conflict, environment and biodiversity
- Humanitarian-development-peace nexus
- Project management, monitoring and evaluation

Join our pool of experts today and submit your complete application. You can update your profile information at any time.

Your application will undergo an initial assessment to determine whether your skills, experience and qualifications match the requirements of particular positions. If your profile is considered suitable for short- or longer-term opportunities, our team will contact directly when a relevant position becomes available.

Scan the QR code below and register:



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Coginta is a Swiss NGO based in Geneva and recognised as a public-benefit organisation that works to promote stability and socio-economic development by addressing the structural causes of insecurity, poverty, and exclusion.

Its activities lie at the intersection of territorial and security governance, conflict prevention, the promotion of social cohesion, and the sustainable management of natural resources.

Coginta is headquartered in Geneva and has country offices in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal.

Find out more on our website

coginta.org