



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2024 was a year rich in challenges and opportunities for Coginta, marked by the continuation or launch of twelve projects across nine countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The activities presented in this Annual Report reflect the demanding and complex environments in which these projects are being implemented.

On the one hand, the start of new projects in Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, and the tri-border region between Guinea, Mali, and Senegal speaks to the continued trust placed in us by our financial partners. On the other hand, a global context that is increasingly unstable – geopolitically, economically, environmentally, and in terms of security – is putting growing pressure on international cooperation and requires us to work harder than ever to deliver tangible, visible results.

At a time when democratic values are being challenged, when many states are increasing military spending while drastically cutting back on funding for international cooperation, the need to listen to and act alongside populations in situations of vulnerability has never been more urgent. Staying true to its approach, Coginta has sought to co-develop projects with governments and other partners that respond to the most pressing needs in the areas of security and justice – through an increased field presence in highly fragile areas and the strengthening of local partnerships.

Despite the global turbulence, many local initiatives are striving to promote stability and peace, and deserve to be supported. Our commitment in Chad, Ghana, and Guinea alongside youth and women's organisations, regional peace councils, and traditional leaders illustrates our desire to support initiatives aimed at reducing the vulnerabilities and sources of conflict faced by local populations. In this regard, I would like to thank the International Solidarity Service of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, which is co-financing a project to prevent conflict and strengthen social cohesion in Chad, launched at the end of 2024.

Against the backdrop of growing tensions around access to natural resources – land, water, and critical minerals – the role of the private sector has become central, not least from the perspective of international stability. The rapid growth of sustainable finance – integrating environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations – is also becoming increasingly essential. In this spirit, Coginta has begun developing new partnerships that should materialise in 2025.

As ever, it is worth remembering that an organisation is only as strong as the people who carry it forward. I therefore wish to express my sincere gratitude to all Coginta staff and associates, in Geneva and across our countries of operation, for their dedication and outstanding work throughout the year. I also warmly thank our technical and financial partners, as well as the authorities in our host countries, for the confidence they have shown in us during 2024 and for the support they have provided in so many different ways.

Dr. Oliver JÜTERSONKE
President



COGINTA IN A NUTSHELL

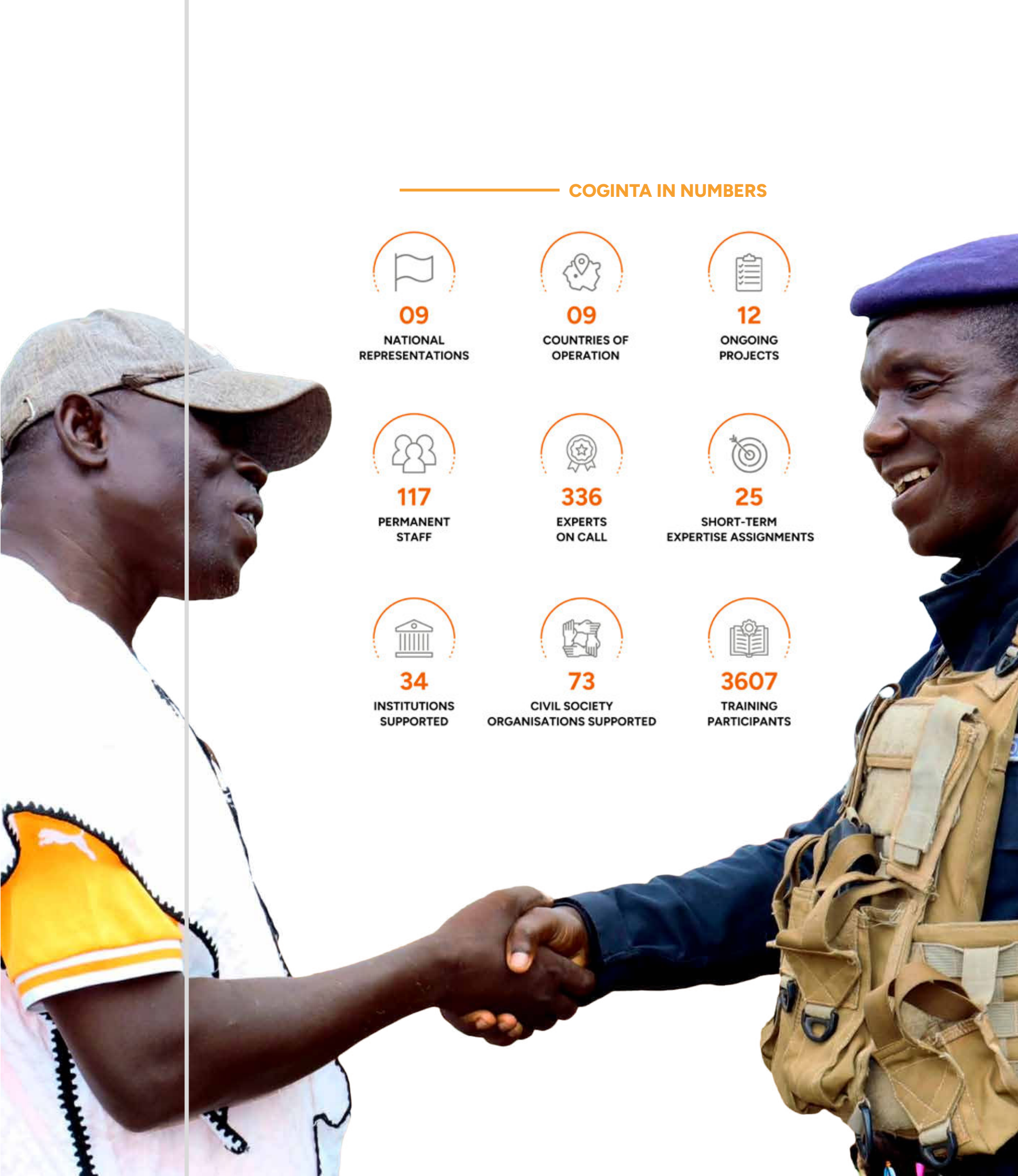
Coginta is a Swiss-based non-profit organisation specialising in judicial and security governance, conflict prevention, and social cohesion. Its objective is to support host governments in strengthening public institutions in accordance with the norms and principles of the rule of law, and to contribute to the prevention of violence, insecurity, and crime, in order to promote an environment conducive to stability, peace, and socio-economic development.

Coginta was born out of a desire to adopt and promote a sociological, anthropological, and cultural approach to judicial and security reforms in countries experiencing instability, fragility or emerging from crisis. Considering that justice and security are common goods, Coginta has drawn inspiration from the methodologies of the social sciences and the principles of good governance to give a voice to the most vulnerable populations – often in difficult contexts – so that they can express their views and expectations in terms of justice and security.

Since 2011, the year when Coginta was officially registered as a non-profit association, its growth has been accompanied by a significant expansion of its technical skills and network of experts in order to best meet the growing demands in the field. Its scope of action now includes transnational organised crime, the prevention of violent extremism, environmental protection, and natural resource management.

In addition to its upstream efforts with national institutions to strengthen legal and regulatory frameworks, promote ethics and deontology, and reinforce governance methods, Coginta's activities have gradually shifted to the very local level, in critical locations or geographical areas, making it possible to provide concrete solutions to the needs of the most vulnerable and directly threatened populations.

Coginta is headquartered in Geneva and has national representations in Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Mozambique, Niger and Senegal.



COGINTA IN NUMBERS

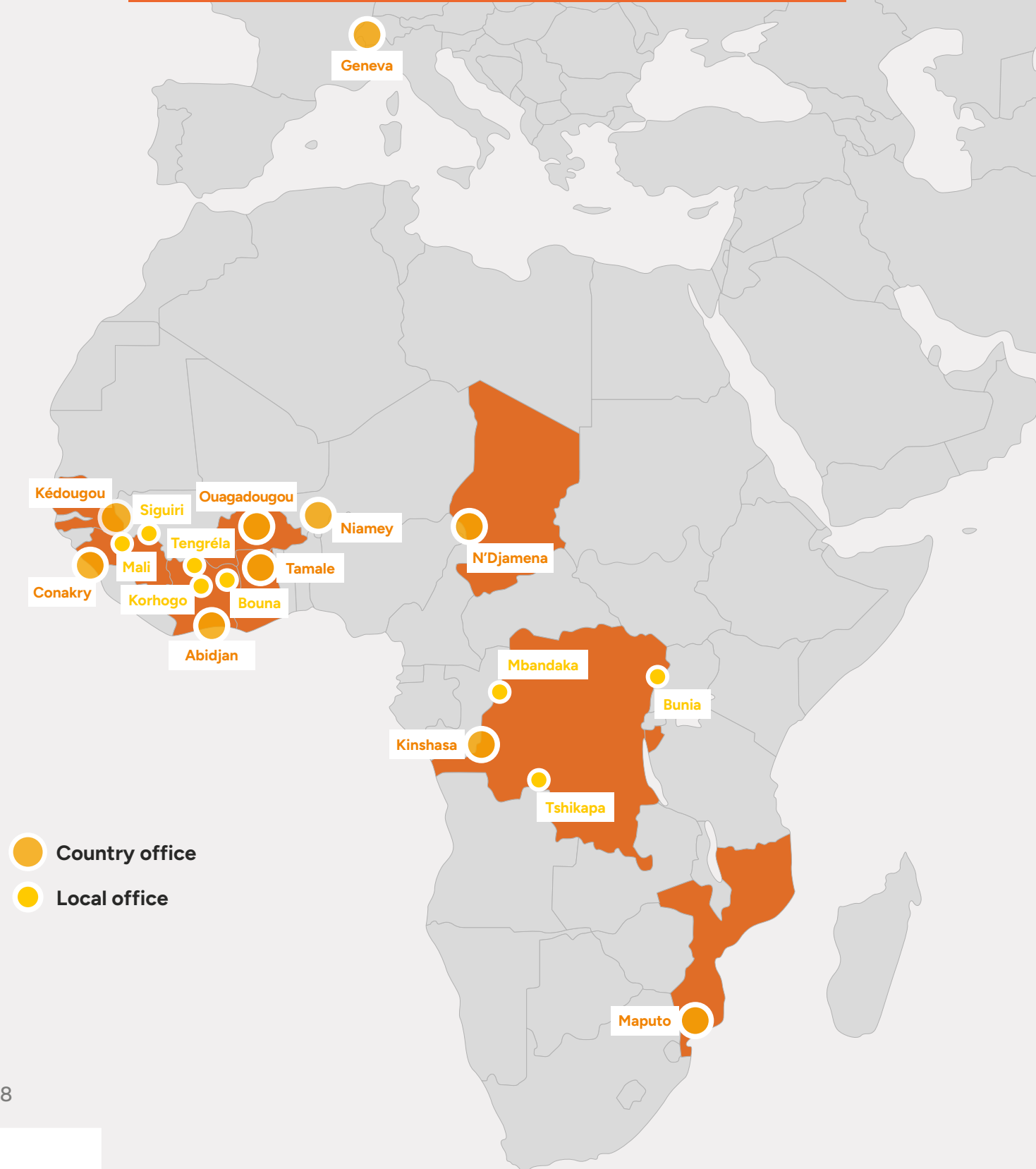




COUNTRIES OF OPERATION

Burkina Faso
Burundi
Chad
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic
of Congo

Ghana
Guinea
Mozambique
Senegal



Country office
Local office

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY SECURITY

For a long time, support from technical and financial partners in terms of security was focused on strengthening the way institutions functioned at the central level, with the expectation that this would have a trickle-down impact locally. Coginta, for its part, intends to focus on inclusive and decentralised activities, as close to the field as possible and in contact with communities, with the objective of bringing together security forces and local actors (administrative authorities, religious and traditional leaders, representatives of civil society, etc.) as part of an approach

aimed at co-producing security.

Depending on the context, this methodology specifically includes strengthening the territorial administration and local security governance bodies, conducting local security diagnostics, introducing community-oriented policing, and initiatives to bring the security forces closer to the people. This can also mean promoting traditional and customary methods of social regulation, which are often better able to meet the needs and expectations of the local population.



ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms is at the heart of Coginta's mandate. This is reflected in various forms, including strengthening mechanisms and measures to prevent, mitigate, and remedy human rights violations that may be committed by the security forces. It also involves supporting specialised bodies, such as national human rights commissions or civil society organisations, to strengthen citizens' access to justice.

In this vein, Coginta supports the creation of legal aid clinics and justice centres, which provide support for

the most vulnerable sections of the population through legal and judicial assistance, mediation and conciliation, and public rights awareness-raising and education campaigns. Coginta supports customary justice mechanisms and alternative dispute resolution methods as long as they do not hinder the fundamental rights of the person, particularly of the most vulnerable populations. Finally, Coginta provides high-level technical assistance aimed at strengthening the functioning of the penal chain, and improving the performance of judicial and penitentiary institutions.



FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY AND CORRUPTION

Coginta works alongside its partners to promote integrity, ethics, and professional conduct within the defence and security forces, and to fight all forms of impunity, in particular by supporting the military justice system or the control and inspection authorities. More generally, Coginta's actions aim to strengthen civilian, democratic, and parliamentary control of the security forces. Training courses and consultancy missions are therefore conducted for the

media, independent journalists, civil society organisations, and members of parliament to raise awareness of their role in terms of external control. Outreach activities are also conducted among the population to promote the rule of law and to raise awareness about the roles, responsibilities, and duties of the defence and security forces. Coginta, for its part, ensures that its own staff also adopts exemplary behaviour.

FIGHT AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME

Coginta supports the implementation of policies and initiatives that help States effectively fight transnational organised crime, especially in areas of particular concern such as the proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, human trafficking, and trafficking of counterfeit medicines. Coginta offers

technical assistance in strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks, as well as specialised training, while also working with local communities and in partnership with civil society organisations. Awareness and prevention campaigns targeting the general public are also being implemented in this regard.

PREVENTION OF RADICALISATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Coginta supports countries faced with terrorism and violent extremism by proposing actions aimed at strengthening the actors in the criminal justice chain so that judicial police operations can take place in compliance with human rights and the

legal standards in force. These can be initiatives directed at the armed forces (deployed on national territory due to the high level of threat and acting as first responders), internal security forces (protecting the population and conducting investigations) or



specialised judicial centres (in charge of criminal justice response). This support consists of initiatives such as training, providing specialised equipment, and building appropriate infrastructures. Coginta also acts

at the community level through prevention initiatives in collaboration with the administrative authorities, youth and women's associations, as well as traditional and religious leaders. les chefferies et les leaders religieux.

PREVENTION OF CONFLICTS RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES

The challenges involved in preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts caused by climate change and the difficulties in accessing natural resources are key issues for peace and stability. With these issues in mind, Coginta has set up a centre of expertise in land conflict management, securing pastoral

mobility and transhumance corridors, capacity-building in natural resource management and conflict prevention, and support for security institutions responsible for safeguarding natural resources and public safety (environmental police, forest rangers, nature conservationists, nomadic rangers and meharist units, etc.).

PUBLIC SAFETY IN MINING AREAS

The recent spike in small-scale mining activity, particularly gold mining, in many countries that are also facing growing security threats, has led Coginta to develop a centre of expertise and skills aimed at supporting governments in strengthening public security measures in these areas. There are two main reasons for this support.

First, to ensure that these natural resources are not captured by criminal groups, particularly in border areas that are more vulnerable due to their porous nature and poorly controlled migratory movements. Second, to create favourable security conditions for the emergence of responsible

artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), a source of economic development and job creation.

In addition, support is also provided to local consultation frameworks – under the supervision of the administrative authorities – and to mining cooperatives, with the aim of strengthening local mining governance. Awareness-raising campaigns are organised for local communities, and training is offered to artisanal miners. Coginta is also helping to strengthen the coexistence between small-scale and large-scale mines, which is often a source of conflict that criminal groups tend to take advantage of.



SAFETY IN LAKE AND RIVER ENVIRONMENTS

Coginta provides advice and technical assistance in managing and securing river and lake areas, particularly in border regions. This can take the form of support for (or even the creation of) specialised units, the construction and equipment of nautical outposts, and the acquisition of resources suitable for surveillance and population protection missions in these areas. Both theoretical and practical

training courses are conducted with the objective of professionalising personnel assigned to nautical units by preparing them for operations in hostile environments. This training specifically includes piloting, operational navigation, preparing for patrol and boat control missions, as well as rescue and assistance manoeuvres.

FIGHT AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (SALW)

Coginta supports the development of national policies and programmes to help countries comply with their international commitments to fight the proliferation and illicit trafficking of SALW and their ammunition. This specifically includes technical assistance aimed at strengthening legal and

regulatory frameworks, modernising procedures and methods for stockpile management, supporting marking campaigns, and also preventing armed violence, particularly through awareness-raising and prevention initiatives aimed at communities, civil society organisations, and schools.

CIVIL PROTECTION AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Coginta supports the development of national risk and disaster management policies and the creation and organisation of national civil protection structures. This support also helps to improve the operational response of civil protection units, particularly through initial training (technical, theoretical, and practical knowledge), specialised training (water rescue,

road rescue, fire management, etc.), and by strengthening logistical and operational capacities. Faced with the growing challenges posed by the recurrence and intensity of natural disasters, pandemics, conflicts, and galloping urbanisation in many countries, civil protection is an essential link in international cooperation.



HIGHLIGHTS 2024

Organisation of two meetings of the Justice and Rule of Law Sectoral Group in support of the European Union (EU) and the Ministry of Justice in Burundi. As part of the Technical Assistance for the Justice Sector Support Program in Burundi (AT-PASJU), Coginta organised two meetings of the Justice and Rule of Law Sectoral Group on 18 March and 15 November 2024, in support of the EU in its role as co-chair alongside the Burundi Ministry of Justice. These important meetings demonstrated the commitment of the EU and the Burundian government to combine their efforts to strengthen judicial governance and promote a faster, independent, impartial, gender-sensitive, and digital justice system that is closer to the people who are subject to it.

Setting up of a regional forum on local security governance in Tchologo, Côte d'Ivoire. As part of security sector reform, the National Security Council has implemented civil-military cells (CMCs) throughout Côte d'Ivoire to mobilise the population on security issues, in collaboration with the local authorities and the defence and security forces. The CMCs are key partners in Coginta's activities in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly in the three prefectures covered by the SECUNORD 2 project. As part of its support, the three CMCs in Tchologo were brought together in March 2024 to take stock of the region's socio-security situation, discuss approaches and solutions, and set up a regional consultation framework on participatory security.

Facilitating the signing of a joint peace communiqué in northern Ghana ahead of the 2024 elections. In April 2024, as part of the Preventing Violent Extremism and Supporting Peace in the Northern Border Regions of Ghana

(PEACE PROTECT) project, Coginta facilitated a high-level dialogue between the country's two main political parties, the New Patriotic Party and the National Democratic Congress. As a result of this facilitation, the two parties signed a joint communiqué pledging not to use inter-ethnic conflicts for electoral campaign purposes. Both parties agreed to organise a Peace March to demonstrate their commitment to stability and democracy in Ghana.

Design and installation of specialised software and a database for the Inspectorate General of the Congolese National Police (IGPNC) in the DRC. As part of the Assistance in the Professionalisation of the Security Forces of the Congolese National Police in the DRC (INL/IGPN), Coginta developed and installed specialised software to facilitate the processing of complaints and investigations in 2024. The software supports IGPNC inspectors in their day-to-day investigations by providing them with drafting tools and legal and administrative documentation. The software also makes it easier to exchange information between the regional departments and the IGPNC's central chain of command.

Inauguration of the new headquarters barracks in Bouna, in the Bounkani border region of north-eastern Côte d'Ivoire. The SECUNORD project has significantly increased the Ivorian gendarmerie's range of action by building a main barracks in Bouna, which was inaugurated in July 2024, and a new building for the Tehini brigade. In a region that is particularly sensitive from a security point of view, the project has also enabled the expansion of the radio network, the supply of vehicles and equipment, an extensive training programme and the implementation of civil-military cells, thereby ensuring a strong

connection between the defence and security forces and civil society.

Support from the AJUMJUP project in incorporating traditional dispute resolution mechanisms into the justice reform system in Burkina Faso. In July and August 2024, Coginta, in cooperation with the NGO HiiL, organised four regional consultation workshops to discuss the incorporation of traditional methods of dispute resolution into the justice reform system that is currently being implemented in Burkina Faso. These workshops brought together approximately fifty participants, including customary justice actors, judicial actors, representatives of the Ministry of Justice, civil society organisations, and technical and financial partners, and resulted in the drafting of a preliminary bill that will provide a legal framework for the way customary conflict resolution systems work.

Launch of the Project to Support Social Cohesion and Peaceful Cohabitation in Southern Chad (LAPIA). On November 5, 2024, Coginta officially launched a three-year peacebuilding project in the provinces of Logone Oriental, Moyen-Chari and Mandoul, in partnership with a consortium of Chadian organisations. Given the increase in the number of violent conflicts that have broken out in recent years, the aim of the project is to strengthen the conflict management and prevention skills of community actors and local civil society. It aims to prevent inter-community tensions, exacerbated in particular by agro-pastoral, land or traditional chiefdom conflicts, and to promote peaceful cohabitation.

Operational monitoring committee for the start the new phase of the SECORCI project in Côte d'Ivoire. Coginta has been present in the department of Tengrela, bordering Mali in the far north of Côte d'Ivoire, since 2021. The SECORCI project aims to strengthen the Ivorian authorities' capacity to turn the artisanal

gold mining activity that is rampant there into a lever for local, sustainable development rooted in a safe environment. Over the years, a growing partnership has developed around the project, as demonstrated by the unprecedented participation – more than one hundred participants – in the operational monitoring committee for the start of the new phase, SECORCI 2, that took place in November 2024.

Closing ceremony for the community policing training of 150 police officers in Tshikapa, Democratic Republic of Congo. This six-month training, which ended in December 2024, was part of the Support Programme for Police Reform in the DRC (PARP 3), of which one of the objectives is to make community policing operational in order to restore public confidence in the provinces of Kasai, Équateur, and Ituri. In each of these provinces, basic community policing training has been organised for the Congolese National Police, along with the construction of buildings and the provision of vehicles to enable optimum implementation of community policing in the towns of Tshikapa, Mbandaka, and Bunia.

Start of the Resilience and Stability in Border Regions – Guinea, Mali, Senegal (RÉZO) project. This new project, which started in December 2024, aims to strengthen the resilience and stability of the border regions of Guinea, Mali, and Senegal. It is divided into three main areas: improving access to government services for youth and women, managing and mediating local conflicts, and strengthening cross-border cooperation. Coginta is particularly active in the second area, in Guinea and Senegal, to strengthen security and social cohesion in gold mining areas. The objective is to improve the way local conflicts are managed by tackling the root causes of insecurity, while at the same time strengthening the local population's trust in the authorities.

OUR PROJECTS

In 2024, Coginta has led 12 projects in 9 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.

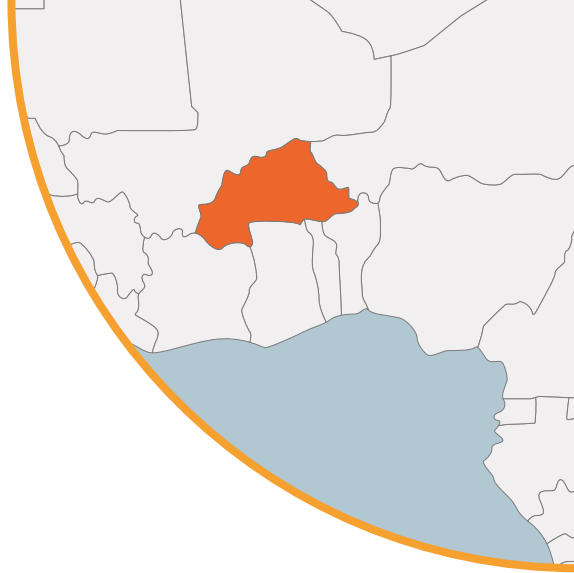


Our projects respond to Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Peace, justice and effective institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.



BURKINA FASO

PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE STRENGTHENING OF MILITARY JUSTICE AND LOCAL JUSTICE TO FIGHT AGAINST IMPUNITY IN BURKINA FASO (AJUMJUP)



MAIN OBJECTIVE

Help improving the way the justice system operates in order to guarantee equal access to justice for all and fight against the feeling of impunity in Burkina Faso.



Budget
€ 6 000 000



Duration
45 months



Implementation period
May 2021
January 2025



Source of funding
European Union

CONTEXT

Once renowned for its stability and security, Burkina Faso has been experiencing a particularly difficult security context since 2016, mainly due to an increase in crime, terrorist acts, and transnational trafficking. The feeling of insecurity increased exponentially as of 2018, 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 that is essential to maintaining social cohesion, the public authorities of Burkina Faso, with the support of development partners, have undertaken major legal and institutional reforms. In this respect, 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, perception, etc.) that make it inaccessible to 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, which reads: "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.

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.
- Reinforce local justice to better meet the needs of those awaiting trial.

RESULTS TO ACHIEVE

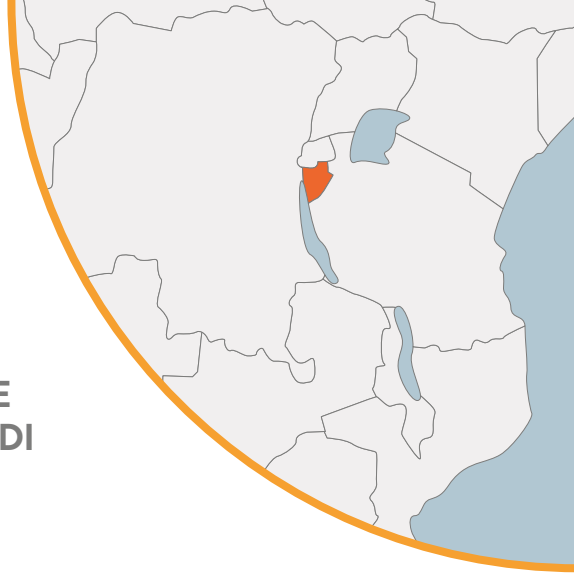
- The military justice courts are strengthened in their role and supported in their ability to handle proceedings until the trial phase.
- The provost gendarmerie is established and has the operational capacities necessary for its functioning.
- The provost gendarmerie is integrated into the judicial and security system, supporting the strengthening of the rule of law and the accountability of the defence forces.
- First responders (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 Mouvement Burkinabè des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples (MBDHP), legal and judicial assistance for victims is reinforced.
- Undertake an in-depth study on the possibility of a multi-juridical model, which respects customs, traditions, and the rule of law.

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).
- The construction and rehabilitation of infrastructures for the benefit of the military justice system.
- Training of senior officers and subordinates of the provost gendarmerie.
- Providing the provost gendarmerie with vehicles as well as 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 marshal's office.
- Creation of eight infrastructures for the benefit of 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 of the police and the national gendarmerie in compliance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Guide for an Effective Criminal Justice System.
- Training of investigating judges in compliance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Guide for an Effective Criminal Justice System and in managing the investigating offices.
- Strengthening of the capacity of the judges of the Control 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.
- Set-up 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 district courts 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 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 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 the process of taking traditional methods of dispute resolution into account in 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)

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Justice Sector Support Programme in Burundi and the justice sector plan.



Budget
€ 753 880



Duration
36 months



Implementation period
November 2022
October 2025



Source of funding
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 system 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 prisons, issues with the management and archiving of case files, the poor application of the law by magistrates, and the lack of protection for victims and witnesses.

In this fragile context, the EU has set up a support programme for the justice sector in Burundi, of which the technical assistance has been entrusted to GOPA PACE and Coginta.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Support the implementation of actions carried out by the partners of the Justice Sector Support Programme in Burundi and to 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 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 coherent and their management and steering capacities 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

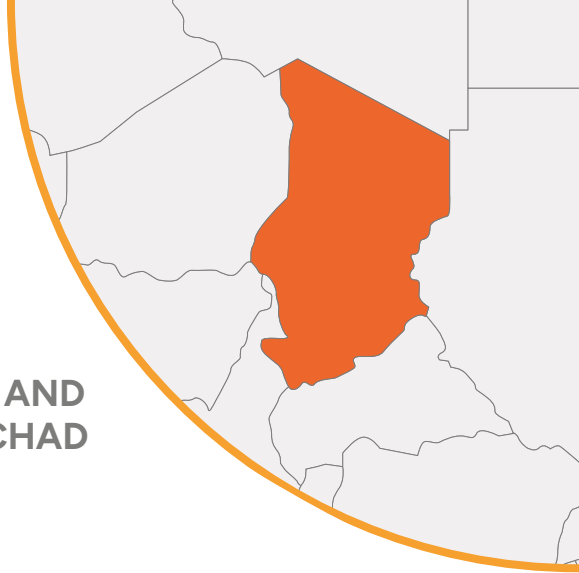
- Continuous analysis of the legal and political context by writing and presenting notes and minutes of all the meetings and key workshops conducted.
- Preparation and support for the PASJU monitoring and evaluation system.
- Support for the adoption and implementation of the new sectoral strategy for the justice system in Burundi.
- Facilitating exchanges and coordination between the various actors of the different components of PASJU.
- Organising and facilitating meetings of the PASJU Technical Monitoring Committee and Steering Committee.
- Monitoring the process of modernising the justice system, with a focus on risk mitigation strategies and measures.

- Technical support for the justice sector in terms of strategic planning and methodology for implementing actions.
- Technical support/advice to the EU Delegation and its partners on technical, legal, human rights, and methodological issues, cross-cutting issues related to the implementation of the sectoral plan of the Ministry of Justice and its key stages.
- Coordinating and organising meetings of the Justice and Rule of Law Sectoral Group and revitalising its technical working groups.
- Support to CSOs involved in the PASJU in order to strengthen their operational and advocacy capacities.
- Technical support for the Statistics Department and the Gender Unit of the Ministry of Justice, by analysing the institutional, organisational and individual capacities of the statistics department, and developing and implementing the statistics department's capacity-building plan (developing the data collection framework, installing the application, training focal points and staff in charge of data collection, monitoring data collection and the quality of the data collected).



CHAD

PROJECT TO SUPPORT SOCIAL COHESION AND PEACEFUL COHABITATION IN SOUTHERN CHAD (LAPIA)



MAIN OBJECTIVE

Contribute to the consolidation of peace and peaceful coexistence through dialogue between communities, conflict prevention and resolution in southern Chad.



Budget
€ 2 000 000



Duration
36 months



Implementation period
November 2024
October 2027



Source of funding
European Union

CONTEXT

The issue of living together and peaceful cohabitation is a major challenge in Chad, where the authorities are striving to maintain peace and stability in a sub-regional situation characterised 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 also exacerbates this fragile situation, 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 inter-communities, 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 in order to ease and prevent intercommunity tensions and promote peaceful cohabitation between communities in the provinces of Logone Oriental, Mandoul, and Moyen-Chari.

RESULTS TO ACHIEVE

- Actions in favour of dialogue and peaceful coexistence between communities are better calibrated thanks to an enhanced understanding of conflict dynamics, actors, and their roles and existing resolution mechanisms.
- Strengthening the resilience of communities in the face of crises and their ability to promote dialogue and conflict prevention.
- Community actors and local civil society are supported in implementing innovative actions to promote dialogue and prevent and resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Local decentralised authorities, the justice system, and the security sector are strengthened in their capacity to prevent and resolve conflicts peacefully.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

- Set-up of the team and organisation of the start-up workshop in N'Djamena.
- Presentation of the activities to the administrative authorities at the central level and in the provinces concerned.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

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

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Create favourable conditions allowing artisanal gold mining to contribute to local development in a stable, secure environment conducive to social cohesion.



Budget
€ 1 100 000



Duration
12 months



Implementation period
July 2023
June 2024



Source of funding
European Union

CONTEXT

At the end of a 23-month initial implementation phase, the SECORCI project, by establishing deep bonds of trust with local communities living off artisanal gold mining – the department's main resource – has enabled some former gold miners to carry on their activity legally through three newly created cooperatives, thereby contributing to the socio-economic development of the target localities. At the same time, the restoration in Papara of a five-hectare plot of land that had previously been soiled and abandoned is intriguing and of interest beyond Côte d'Ivoire's borders. The recent harvest of the first vegetables has demystified the villagers' relationship with this "cursed land."

The Training Centre for Artisanal Mining (CEFAM) that is being built in Papara is already

enjoying an exceptional response. Major institutions in Côte d'Ivoire are committed to making this establishment a benchmark at sub-regional level. For example, the Société pour le Développement Minier de la Côte d'Ivoire (SODEMI), the National Polytechnic Institute Houphouët Boigny (INP-HB), and the National Civic Service Office (OSCN) are all making ongoing contributions to training and management.

As far as security is concerned, vigilance is more important than ever, as the stability of the Tengrela department continues to depend largely on the deterrent presence of the armed forces in this extremely porous border area. The SECORCI project, through the renovation of the Gendarmerie brigade in Tengrela and the construction of the advanced Gendarmerie post in Papara, aimed

to strengthen the operational capabilities of the National Gendarmerie in the area, while helping it to forge bonds of trust with the local population. The civil-military cell also benefited greatly from the impetus provided by the SECORCI project, in terms of structure, training of its members and support for their activities. The resources provided allowed it to fully play its role in local security governance under the supervision of the prefect.

The objective of the activities implemented as part of this transitional phase is to extend the actions already undertaken in order to support the Ivorian government in promoting artisanal gold mining as a factor of development and social cohesion in Côte d'Ivoire. The other priority is to address security and border issues, which are more of a priority than ever in an increasingly deteriorated regional context marked by chronic instability.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

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

RESULTS TO ACHIEVE

- The artisanal gold mining sector is becoming more structured, and the professional skills of artisanal miners are being strengthened.
- Local security governance mechanisms are being strengthened to prevent conflicts, regulate artisanal gold mining, and promote social cohesion in gold mining areas.
- The local mining and day-to-day public safety system is strengthened and helps to prevent the risk of mining resources being taken over by criminal groups.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

- Organisation of a national capitalisation and lessons-learned workshop on the pilot phase of the SECORCI project in the Tengrela department.
- Support for the General Directorate of Mines and Geology (DGMG) and the Departmental Directorate in charge of mines (DDM), in particular by organising monitoring-and-evaluation missions.
- Organisation of training sessions at the Training Centre for Artisanal Mining (CEFAM) in Papara.
- Support in structuring and organising three mining cooperatives in the sub-prefectures of Papara and Kanako.

- Development of a restoration model for a former gold mining site.
- Training for the civil-military cell of Tengrela, particularly in the areas of conflict prevention linked to artisanal gold mining and the social and security issues the department is facing (gender-based and sexual violence, organised trafficking, commuting and irregular migration, community conflicts, juvenile delinquency, school dropouts, gender inequality, etc.).
- Support for the CMC to raise awareness among the local authorities, ISF, traditional authorities, and civil society on the Mining Code and the provisions related to artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM).
- Support the CMC in conducting awareness campaigns for the population on the dangers associated with illegal artisanal mining (safety, health and environmental risks, child labour/exploitation, gender-based violence, human rights, STDs/HIV, etc.).
- Upstream studies of the infrastructure to be built for the security forces as part of the SECORCI 2 project.
- Specialised training for the ISF (national gendarmerie and national police) in the areas of day-to-day public safety, ethics, professional conduct, and respect for human rights.
- Training for specialised services to fight fraud and offences related to the provisions of the Mining Code.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

PROJECT TO SUPPORT THE SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF ARTISANAL GOLD MINING AS A FACTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL COHESION IN THE NORTH OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE (SECORCI 2)



MAIN OBJECTIVE

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



Budget
€ 9 800 000



Duration
36 months



Implementation period
July 2024
June 2027



Source of funding
European Union

CONTEXT

In 2022, Côte d'Ivoire was the seventh largest gold producer in Africa. Artisanal mining officially accounted for approximately four tonnes, compared to 48 tonnes for industrial production. However, according to a 2024 report by Swissaid, up to 40 tons of gold per year could be extracted illegally by artisanal miners in Côte d'Ivoire. As a result, the Tengrela department, which borders Mali more than 750 km by road to the 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 sometimes-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 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 foreigners, between those who are betting on gold and those who fear the loss of 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

EU 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, 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 EU has reiterated its support for Côte d'Ivoire through Coginta, this time committing to a three-year structuring project. To prepare for its conceptualisation, a transitional phase, called SECORCI-BRIDGE, maintained the project's achievements between July 2023 and June 2024.

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 professionalising the artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) industry 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

- Support for the operation, proper governance and training activities of CEFAM.
- Construction of the Tengrela Water and Forestry cantonment and strengthening its operational and technical capacities.
- Continued support for the Tengrela civil-military cell.
- Organisation of the project's first Operational Monitoring Committee (OMC).
- 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.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

SUPPORT FOR SECURING AND PREVENTING THE RISK OF TERRORISM IN THE NORTH OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE (SECUNORD)



MAIN OBJECTIVE

Improve public security in the Bounkani region of northern Côte d'Ivoire and to strengthen the population's confidence in the gendarmerie and the State in their role of providing security in the region.



Budget
€ 3 800 000



Duration
22 months



Implementation period
November 2022
August 2024



Source of funding
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 has mobilised and implemented the National Development Plan for Côte d'Ivoire 2021-2025, which focuses in particular 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."

In February 2021, to counter the threat from armed terrorist groups, it was decided to create an operational zone that runs along the entire northern border of the country (638 km), and to confirm the army's commitment alongside the internal 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.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen the effective presence of the national gendarmerie in the main sectors of the Bounkani region.
- Improve the effectiveness of gendarmerie interventions in the Bounkani region in terms of day-to-day security and terrorism prevention.
- Ensure that the gendarmerie interventions in the Bounkani region meet the needs of the population.

RESULTS TO ACHIEVE

- The construction and/or renovation of the infrastructure will allow for additional gendarmes to be deployed in the Bounkani region under conditions that are safe and suitable for their mission.
- The skills of the gendarmes deployed in the Bounkani region have been strengthened and adjusted to their day-to-day security and terrorism prevention mission.
- The territorial units of the Bouna company have the technical and operational resources they need for their missions.
- The capabilities of the judicial police of the gendarmerie company in Bouna have been strengthened.
- The mechanisms and frameworks for local governance of security and conflict prevention in the Bounkani region are being improved through inclusive dialogue with the population and respect for ethical values and professional conduct by the gendarmerie staff.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

- Seven training courses conducted in 2023 for 336 military personnel of the gendarmerie in several areas: resource management and planning; collection, analysis and use of intelligence; management of improvised explosive devices (IEDs); day-to-day public safety; ethics, professional conduct and respect for human rights; as well as ongoing training for judicial police officers.
- Construction of the headquarters barracks for the Bouna company.
- Construction of the administrative building for the Téhini territorial brigade.
- Vehicles, personal protective equipment, communications equipment, IT equipment, and furniture will be supplied to the units of the Bouna company.
- Support in the operational structuring of civil-military cells (CMCs) in four prefectures.
- Educational talks organised to strengthen the cohesion between the security forces and the population. Various topics, identified by members of the CMCs, were discussed, such as security challenges in the “red” zone, cooperation between the security forces and the local population, the process of appointing a village chief and its impact on social cohesion, and traffic violations.

- As part of a partnership with the Executive Secretariat of the National Border Commission of Côte d'Ivoire, a training workshop on the management and resolution of community conflicts was organised to strengthen a peaceful coexistence between the various stakeholders and reinforce community resilience mechanisms.
- Organisation of an awareness-raising activity on security in the region, in partnership with the Union des Peuls du Bounkani (UPB)
- Awareness-raising campaigns on public security and the role of the actors in the region, by recording radio programmes with representatives of the security forces.
- Support in organising a tour of the project area by the National Gendarmerie Inspectorate (NGI).
- Support in setting up “Ethics Committees” within the Gendarmerie in the region.



CÔTE D'IVOIRE

SUPPORT FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM IN THE NORTH OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE (SECUNORD 2)



MAIN OBJECTIVE

Help fighting the threat of terrorism more effectively and to 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
€ 3 900 000



Duration
20 months



Implementation period
November 2023
June 2025



Source of funding
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 has mobilised and implemented the National Development Plan for Côte d'Ivoire 2021-2025, which focuses in particular 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."

In February 2021, to counter the threat from armed terrorist groups, it was decided to create an operational zone that runs along the entire northern border of the country (638 km), and to confirm the army's commitment alongside the internal 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.

The Tchologo region, which falls within the jurisdiction of the gendarmerie company in Ferkessédougou, its capital, has been identified as a priority intervention area for the project, making it possible to complete the other interventions by Coginta and other international partners operating in the north of Côte d'Ivoire. Located in the extreme centre-north of Côte d'Ivoire, Tchologo is bordered to the north by Burkina Faso and Mali, to the east by Bounkani, to the west by Poro, and to the south by the Hambol region. 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.
- Ensure that gendarmerie interventions in the Tchologo region meet 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

- 170 officers and non-commissioned officers from local units, research, and intelligence sections were trained in how to carry out their missions in the fight against terrorism over the course of 11 workshops.
- Established a partnership with the International Counter-Terrorism Agency (AILCT) and the Counter-Terrorism Operational Intelligence Centre (CROAT).
- Organisation of two training sessions on open-source intelligence and criminal analysis for 30 officers from research sections and CROAT.
- Equipment acquired and delivered to units 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.
- Start of the construction and renovation work on the barracks of the Ferkessedougou company headquarters, the Ferkessedougou brigade (both located in the same compound), and the Ouangolodougou brigade.
- Organisation of a regional security forum with 60 participants from the three civil-military cells (CMCs) of Tchologo and training on their missions, roles, and responsibilities.
- Organisation of four awareness-raising forums on the roles and responsibilities of citizens in security, each attended by at least 150 people, in the three Tchologo departments.
- An exchange workshop on the role of the Dozos and their relations with the defence and security forces, held in the department of Ferkessedougou.
- A “gender and security” study conducted with the recruitment of nine investigators from the three Tchologo CMCs.
- Launch of radio programmes as part of a partnership with local radio stations.
- Organisation of a regional workshop on the governance of the intelligence sector as part of the fight against terrorism in the Gulf of Guinea.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR POLICE REFORM IN THE DRC (PARP 3)

MAIN 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
€ 8 800 000



Duration
48 months



Implementation period
December 2021
December 2025



Source of funding
European Union

CONTEXT

After a period marked by concrete progress (2008-2015), police reform in the 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 2018 and 2023 elections, the DRC experienced its first peaceful political transition, with new authorities who were committed to undertaking institutional reforms in the security sector in order to re-establish the rule of law and stability in the country.

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 new 2024-2029 Government Action Plan presented to Parliament in June 2024, demonstrating that the programme is in line with the government's programme regarding the continuation of security sector reforms and that connections need to be established given their impact on this reform (general HR/civil service policy, decentralisation, gender, improvement of public services, common defence/security policy).

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- Improve the implementation of the reform and accountability of the Congolese National Police (PNC).
- Increase the professionalism 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

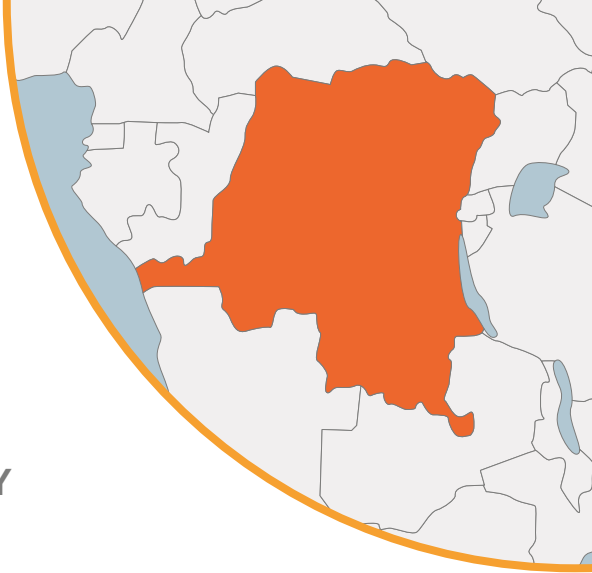
- Judicial police officers are better selected, identified, and trained.
- Police law enforcement units are better trained and equipped.
- The reform of human resources management policies and procedures has been implemented.
- Police officers in the three provinces are provided with adequate resources 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 skills of the General Inspectorate of the PNC services and public prosecutors' offices in supervising JPOs.
- Support for the extension of the Criminal File of Recorded Offences and Suspected Offenders (FCICAP) in Kinshasa and the three target provinces.
- Assessment of the capabilities and support for the development of the doctrine on the use of intervention units and the ministerial directive on managing public space in the context of maintaining law and 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 three target provinces.
- 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 CONGO

ASSISTANCE IN THE PROFESSIONALISATION OF THE SECURITY FORCES OF THE CONGOLESE NATIONAL POLICE IN THE DRC (INL/IGPN)

MAIN 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
\$ 1 000 000



Duration
21 months



Implementation period
October 2023
June 2025



Source of funding
US Department of State (INL)

CONTEXT

After a period marked by concrete progress (2008-2015), police reform in the 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 in four of the country's 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 properly perform its prevention missions, deal with law enforcement abuse, and its monitoring and auditing missions.
- 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.
- The procedures for judicial investigations, audit and internal control, and 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.

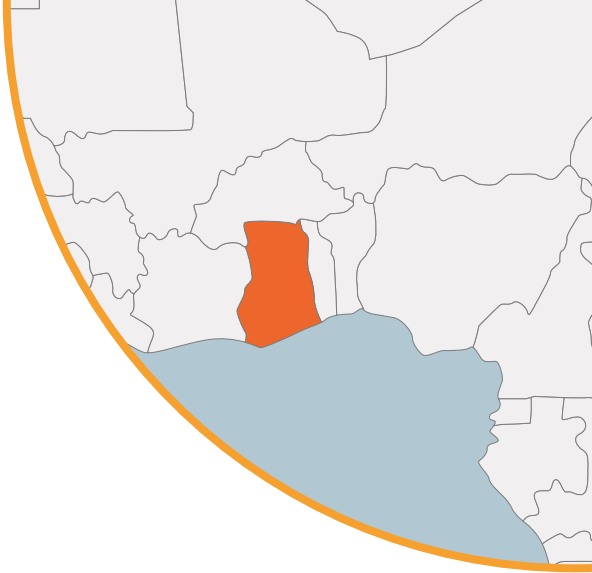
ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

- Organisation of 24 training sessions for the IGPNC's central administration and its 16 provincial branches, covering judicial and administrative investigation techniques, management, communication, and the use of specialised software.
- Setting up hearing rooms, installing solar electricity systems, and handing out 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.
- Development and implementation of a complete curriculum of refresher modules by IGPNC trainers.
- Development and roll-out of software and a database that will allow the IGPNC to complete and archive its audit, internal control, investigation, and service evaluation procedures, and to monitor investigations and processing complaints.
- Organising information sessions and a dialogue between the IGPNC and civil society in 16 provincial branches, in order to strengthen their collaboration.
- Media information campaign using videos followed by online reporting links, 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.



GHANA

PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND SUPPORTING PEACE IN THE NORTHERN BORDER REGIONS OF GHANA (PEACE PROTECT)



MAIN OBJECTIVE

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



Budget
€ 5 000 000



Duration
24 months



Implementation period
February 2024
January 2026



Source of funding
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 a potentially fertile breeding ground for armed groups wanting

to establish themselves or recruit. All these factors challenge the ability of security institutions to prevent violent extremism from developing, and to mobilise a large section of the population in order to maintain the high level of cohesion and their culture of dialogue that is so prevalent in Ghanaian society. Religious leaders, traditional leaders, community leaders, and civil society organizations (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 Chambers of Chiefs in preventing and dealing with 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

- Organised an information and planning workshop with the five RPCs in the northern regions of Ghana. The RPCs identified and selected 25 sensitive areas for the implementation of the project.
- The RPCs were strengthened in order to establish and develop the capacities of 25 local peace committees in the 25 sensitive areas.
- 17 radio dialogues were conducted by the RPCs on the 2024 general elections.
- 20 motorcycles were provided to the RPCs to improve the response time to intervene in conflicts.
- The RPCs were supported to participate in 15 shuttle diplomacy missions across Ghana's five northern border regions.
- 15 CSOs received grants to implement projects on gender equality and social inclusion as part of the prevention of violent extremism.
- Various mediation missions with communities, traditional leaders, and political parties in the Upper West, Upper East, North East, and Savannah regions. Coginta and its partners have participated in moderating and resolving violent conflicts that have shaken communities in and around Ghana's five northern border regions.
- Training of Regional Peace Council trainers (i.e. technical staff of Regional Peace Councils) in early warning and rapid response systems. The RPC trainers will strengthen their early warning systems by training their local peace committees in sensitive areas.

- Training of Local Peace Committee members in early warning and rapid response systems in sensitive areas of the Upper East region. Local peace committee members are able to identify and report early warning signs in their communities. They are also able to act as mediators in smaller conflicts.
- 100 chiefs, queen mothers, and landowners were trained in best practices in terms of land governance in the five northern regions of Ghana.
- Customary land secretariats received motorcycles to improve land management in sensitive areas.
- The Judicial Committee of the House of Chiefs in the Upper West Region has received support to adjudicate chieftaincy disputes in the region.



GUINEA | SENEGAL

RESILIENCE AND STABILITY IN BORDER REGIONS - GUINEA, MALI, SENEGAL (RÉZO)

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Improve local stability by combating illegal trafficking (including human trafficking) and cross-border crime, and by strengthening the co-production of security (including internal security forces, civil society, local authorities, women, and youth) in order to prevent and address local conflicts and build trust in the authorities.



Budget
€ 4 600 000



Duration
39 months



Implementation period
December 2024
February 2028



Source of funding
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.).

In particular, the areas of south-eastern Senegal, western Mali, and northern Guinea have been home to the main gold mines 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 significant factor in local development in these areas. However, many artisanal mines are not under State control, leading to the proliferation of illicit

economies and trafficking, and even to them being taken over by criminal non-state armed groups. 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 EU has financed the second "Peaceful and Resilient Border Zones (RÉZO)" programme, through three areas of intervention, to support 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 EU signed a contract with Coginta to implement axis 2 of the programme in Guinea and Senegal, with the overall objective of improving local security by combating illegal trafficking and cross-border crime, and strengthening co-production on 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 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

- Diagnose the dynamics of conflict risks.
- Mobilise local actors (defence and security forces (DSF), administrations, traditional local authorities, women, youth, etc.) on the importance of their role in peacefully managing conflicts, preventing violent extremism, and strengthening social cohesion.
- Strengthen the capacities of the national gendarmerie of Kédougou.
- Strengthen the capacities of local actors (DSF, community guards, traditional and local chiefs, etc.) to respond effectively to the daily security and justice needs of the population.
- Strengthen the capacities of local actors (elected officials, traditional chiefs, DSF) and the population on the provisions of mining laws and on artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM).
- Support civil society organisations in conducting public awareness campaigns on the dangers associated with ASGM (safety, health, environment, child exploitation, gender-based violence, human rights, etc.).
- Support local development committees in formulating community projects in gold mining areas.

MOZAMBIQUE

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

MAIN OBJECTIVE

Contribute to the capacity-building of Mozambican armed forces units trained by the EU training mission in Mozambique for their deployment, in order to sustainably strengthen their ability to restore safety and security in the northern province of Cabo Delgado.



Budget
€ 85 000 000



Duration
36 months



Implementation period
April 2022
March 2025



Source of funding
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 displacements 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 concern continues to be the large-scale protection of the population – both

the displaced and the host populations – and providing humanitarian assistance that meets the urgent needs of these populations. Women and children represent 80% of the total displaced population.

Following the adoption of an initial emergency measure, the EU has adopted an emergency 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 – idD Portugal Defence.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- Strengthen the capacity of 11 Mozambican army (6) and navy (5) companies in terms of operational and logistical resources, which will allow them to intervene autonomously and in complete safety in the province of Cabo Delgado.

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 mobility resources, 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.



TESTIMONIALS

AJUMJUP

“From my point of view, the implementation of the AJUMJUP project has had a positive impact on the way the criminal justice system works and has improved the work of the various actors involved. For example, the development of customised digital tools (a practical guide for investigating judges’ chambers, a guide for the efficiency of the criminal justice system) has resulted in faster processing of cases, improved collaboration and coordination between those involved in the criminal justice system, and above all has saved time and reduced the number of errors. Organising ongoing training and support for the investigating judges’ offices has also made it possible to update the technical and professional skills of those involved in the justice system, particularly investigating judges, which has resulted in better work organisation in the offices, a very significant reduction in the backlog of cases and faster processing of new cases.”

Dieudonné BONKOUNGOU, Director of Criminal Justice and the Seal



“At the end of September 2023, my husband was abducted from our home by armed men. This situation plunged me into a state of distress, especially in a situation where cases of executions and disappearances are increasing. I was scared and didn’t know where to go. So, I was referred to the legal clinic of the Mouvement Burkinabè des Droits de l’Homme et des Peuples (MBDHP) – supported by the AJUMJUP project – and they helped me to file a complaint. Thanks to their support and the various steps they took, I was heard by the courts, the gendarmerie and the police. I was then invited to go to a police station where I was told where my husband was being held. The clinic continued to help me until my husband was released. Without their support, it really wouldn’t have been easy for me, being a woman and a Fulani, to find my husband and obtain his release.”

Testimonial from a resident of Ouahigouya who wishes to remain anonymous

“After fleeing my village because of terrorism, I came to the legal clinic on the advice of a relative. I was pleasantly surprised by the welcome and support I received. Since 2009, I have been deceived by an individual who promised to help my son go to the United States. My son even dropped out of school for it. I paid a large sum of money to the person concerned and every day when I called him, he told me that everything would be fine and nothing happened. I was really desperate because I knocked on a number of doors but found no solution. After listening to me without blaming me, which is usually the case everywhere else, the MBDHP helped me to file a complaint. A few days after I filed the complaint, I received an initial bank transfer from the person concerned, who promised to reimburse me, something he had never done before. Later, he even admitted the facts at the police station. He then promised to pay back all the money, with instalments scheduled before a judge. I never could have imagined that. I sincerely thank you for this support.”

Abdoulaye OUEDRAOGO, Internally displaced Ouahigouya resident



PARP 3



"PARP 3's support in modernising human resources management is a major asset in the implementation of the police reform. The first beneficiaries were the managers and staff of the Human Resources Department, who enthusiastically embraced the new approach to human resources management, and were quickly joined by the staff from the HR departments of the provincial police stations. Significant progress has been made in terms of managing police staffing levels and pay, but there have also been considerable improvements in the day-to-day working conditions, with huge gains in efficiency. This revolution in human resources management has generated a wave of enthusiasm in all the provinces of the DRC, who now are expressing their desire to be connected to the human resources information system as soon as possible."

Damien YEMBE TUBA BOB'OTO, Senior Principal Commissioner, Deputy Director of Human Resources and Head of the HR Unit supporting the implementation of the reform.

"By supporting the Criminal File of Recorded Offences and Suspected Offenders (FCICAP), the programme has made it possible not only to consolidate it in the city of Kinshasa but also to extend it to three provinces of the DRC. This database provides a more accurate picture of crime and gives police officers the opportunity to work more professionally to protect people and their property. Personally, I am delighted to be able to help modernise the Congolese National Police Force to bring it up to international standards, and I sincerely thank Coginta for the quality of its technical support."

Lucien TSHAMALA NYEMBO, FCICAP Coordinator



"The awareness-raising sessions organised with the support of PARP 3 have given the people of Mbunya a better understanding of the concepts of community policing, which has helped to build trust between the police and the local population. The revitalisation and support of the Mbunya Local Community Security Council (CLSP) has also made it possible to create a local security plan, focusing on themes that have served as a basis for micro-projects that have had a huge impact on the local population. The police's duty to be accountable and the public's participation in debates on security have fuelled popular expression forums and neighbourhood forums, of which the value is recognised by all."

Bienvenu UKEC, a beneficiary of the microprojects in Kinshasa



THEMATIC DOSSIER

COGINTA'S WORK IN MINING AREAS, A MODEL TO FOLLOW?

THE CHALLENGES OF GOOD NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND THE CASE OF GOLD MINING AREAS

Against a backdrop of global political, economic and security instability, good natural resource management is one of the biggest challenges that countries rich in raw materials are currently facing. Managing these resources is made all the more complex when they are located in remote border regions, where the State is less present, and which are sometimes plagued by insecurity, fuelled in particular by the presence of non-state armed groups, cross-border trafficking, and systemic governance challenges. Managing these resources is therefore a geopolitical, environmental, economic, and social challenge.

Good management of natural resources allows States to secure access to raw materials, create stable jobs, and avoid crises caused by scarcity. It also seeks to preserve biodiversity, prevent limited resources (such as water, soil or forests) from being depleted, and limit pollution, in order to ensure that they are used in a sustainable and controlled way. Socially, it helps to reduce inequality by supporting local communities, while protecting the most vulnerable populations. Lastly, in the context of energy transition and climate change, rational management of resources is also essential to reducing

greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate disruption, and promoting the development of renewable energies.

Gold, although it is not a new resource in the world's economic history, now plays a strategic role in many rural areas, particularly in the Sahel-Saharan strip and in West Africa. Its value, which is higher than ever, its high demand on international markets, and the ease with which it can be transported make it a coveted commodity, but also a problematic one. According to the World Bank, artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) affects around 45 million people in more than 80 countries and indirectly provides a livelihood for around 150 million people. It therefore represents the largest workforce in the global mining industry and is often the second most important source of livelihood after agriculture. While this form of exploitation represents a real economic opportunity, it is also accompanied by a host of risks, such as job insecurity for workers, massive pollution, conflicts over land use and, above all, the infiltration of criminal groups.

These issues are particularly visible in West Africa, where countries such as Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, and Senegal have been facing an unprecedented gold rush since 2000. Indeed, the Birimian greenstone belts – rich in various metals – stretch across these regions, where the ASM boom is fuelled by a number of simultaneous dynamics: the impoverishment of agricultural land, demographic pressure, the lack of formal employment, and the search for quick revenue. As a result, mining areas often emerge on the periphery of state control, in border areas where governance is weak or absent. These areas attract a mobile and cosmopolitan workforce, made up of

unemployed youth, experienced miners, and sometimes transnational networks who see it as an ideal location for informal or even illegal activities.

This is particularly the case in the Tengrela region, in northern Côte d'Ivoire, where Coginta has been active since 2021 (through the various phases of the SECORCI project), and where artisanal and semi-industrial gold mining attracts tens of thousands of people, often young people who sometimes come from far away, creating unprecedented demographic pressure and a rise in crime. Tengrela is in fact located in an area where the Sahelian migratory dynamics and the economic opportunities of coastal countries converge. This makes it a crossroads for both commerce and security. According to a spatio-socio-security study conducted by Coginta in 2023, more than forty unauthorised gold-mining sites have been identified in the Bagoué region alone. These sites are often completely outside of the control of the local authorities. They are sometimes tolerated, sometimes repressed, but always difficult to control in the long term.

While gold mining is an important source of income for the local populations, it also leads to land conflicts, inter-community tensions, and illegal exploitation that is often completely outside of any government control. This situation provides fertile ground for organised crime and terrorist groups, who use these areas to finance their activities through taxes on gold or by providing protection to illegal operators. In some cases, illegal gold mining sites are becoming lawless zones where gold, arms, fuel, and illegal products are traded freely, and where the exploitation of women for

prostitution is widespread. The proliferation of these sites also brings with it a host of local problems, including overpopulation, conflicts with farmers, temptation of a quick profit for young people (who are tempted to drop out of school), pressure on natural resources, and disastrous consequences for the environment.

The environmental impact of illegal gold mining in these areas is considerable, in particular because of the most common technique used in artisanal operations, which is amalgamation. It consists of a rudimentary and extremely dangerous process of using mercury to extract gold. The result is a deep contamination of the soil, waterways and crops, and therefore poisoning of riverside communities over time. Women and children, who are often responsible for crushing the ore or washing it with a pan, are the most exposed to this phenomenon. In addition to chemical pollution, landscapes are ravaged, forests razed, land turned over, and water tables lowered. As a result, former gold-mining sites have created gaping craters without any rehabilitation, leaving behind barren land and devastated villages. As a corollary, the land dedicated to agriculture is shrinking drastically, depriving local populations of many jobs and compromising the food self-sufficiency of these regions, which are often already fragile and dependent on climate conditions that have become highly unpredictable.



COGINTA'S APPROACH

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 global response to the challenges of public security, as well as economic and environmental issues related to illegal artisanal gold mining. The objective of the project is to create favourable conditions allowing artisanal gold mining to contribute to local development in a stable and secure environment, conducive to social cohesion.

The first phase of the project, between 2021 and 2024, helped to build trust with the local and traditional authorities, the security forces, and the communities that make a living from artisanal gold mining. More specifically, the project has supported the creation of three artisanal miners' cooperatives and a women's agricultural cooperative and has seen the construction of the Training Centre for Artisanal Mining (CEFAM).

In fact, Coginta does not just regulate gold mining, it also seeks to integrate it into the local socio-economic development process. This involves an ongoing dialogue with local authorities, traditional chiefs, government technical services, and law enforcement agencies, but also with the miners themselves. The approach is based on the recognition that the latter are not criminals, but economic actors often forced into illegality for lack of alternatives. By building bridges between the different levels of governance, Coginta encourages a concerted approach to resource management.

Social cohesion is another fundamental pillar, as conflicts are frequent in mining areas. The

SECORCI project therefore contributed to strengthening the gendarmerie's territorial coverage and supported the establishment of civil-military cells (CMCs), local consultation committees responsible for preventing and easing these inter-community tensions. This approach of co-producing security is deeply rooted in Coginta's DNA, which aims to bring institutions closer to local realities. Awareness-raising initiatives have been conducted, traditional mediation processes have been reactivated, and discussion forums have been created. Social peace is an absolutely essential condition for considering a sustainable formalisation of artisanal gold mining.

The second phase of the SECORCI project, launched in 2024, plans to scale up the system by extending support to other institutional actors involved in securing artisanal mining zones – the national police, civil protection, Water and Forestry –, providing greater support for local and national mining governance, in particular by facilitating work on revising the Mining Code, and promoting extraction that respects human rights and the environment with the aim of supporting the emergence of a mining sector that is more compliant with international standards.

Lastly, environmental issues are addressed in a specific way. In a practical guide published in 2024, Coginta describes methods for rehabilitating former mining sites in partnership with local communities. Some areas have been transformed into community vegetable gardens, others into tree plantations. This ecological conversion goes hand in hand with support for the transition to so-called "green" jobs: mining waste management, compost production, reforestation, and sustainable agriculture.

The idea is to offer practical alternatives to former gold miners, while restoring degraded ecosystems.

Coginta's experience shows that another path is possible: that of regulated, legal gold mining that respects communities and the ecological balance. In Tengrela, the parties involved speak of a real change in mentality that has taken place since 2021. It is not a question of blindly prohibiting or repressing, but of building responsible resource management with the populations concerned. In a sub-regional situation where security tensions are high, where States struggle to enforce their authority, and

where the social expectations are immense, this pragmatic and inclusive approach can make all the difference. The transition to sustainable and responsible gold mining will not be fast or linear. It will require long-term investment, constant political commitment, and close coordination between public, private, and community actors. But it is necessary. Because gold can be a source of conflict, but it can also be a lever for local development, stabilisation, and peace. This is the gamble that Coginta is taking, and it is this model that we should be observing, supporting and, perhaps, replicating elsewhere.



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 issues related to peace and security, humanitarian action and sustainable development. His thematic expertise includes security sector governance, stabilisation, social cohesion, durable solutions for displaced populations, integrated approaches to the triple nexus, and conflict sensitivity – with a pedagogical focus 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 been a member of the Coginta board since 2019. She is responsible for international affairs at the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland (HES-SO). A Doctor of Education, Luna has 15 years of experience implementing educational programmes and partnerships in Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. She is a member of the Technical Commission of the Geneva Cooperation Federation (FGC) and of the Regional Commission of Experts of the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie.



Dr. Alexandre DORMEIER FREIRE, Committee Member

Alexandre DORMEIER FREIRE has been a member of the Coginta committee since 2019. He is a lecturer and researcher at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva, where he holds the positions of Director of Programmes in Development Policy and Practice and Research Associate at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding. He holds a doctorate from the University of Geneva, and his recent research focuses on the importance of family structures in reducing violence in fragile situations.



Dr. Silke GRABHERR, Committee Member

Dr. Silke GRABHERR joined the Coginta committee in 2020. She directs the University Centre of Legal Medicine and is Head of Department at the Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV) and the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG). She is also a full professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Geneva and the Faculty of Biology and Medicine at the University of Lausanne. She has published the Atlas of Post-Mortem Angiography, as the principal editor, and has trained teams on every continent in this field. She is considered a leading authority on forensic imaging. As a forensic pathologist, she is called upon as an expert in several national and international cases and takes part in various humanitarian missions.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT MEMBERS



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 ADVISERS



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.



Michel COAT, Technical Adviser

Michel COAT has been a technical adviser for Coginta since 2018, having served as Project Manager in Côte d'Ivoire and Chad before joining the Geneva headquarters. He is a graduate of the École spéciale militaire de Saint-Cyr (majoring in international relations), with significant experience in development aid. Michel is a specialist in security and defence issues who has a rich and long career as a senior executive in France as well as internationally.

COUNTRY DIRECTORS



Marguerite Tewa CAMARA, Guinea

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



Yahaya NOUHOU, Niger

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



Hippolyte HARKITE SIB, Côte d'Ivoire

Hippolyte HARKITE SIB holds a degree in public affairs management. He has nearly 15 years of professional experience, including 10 at Coginta. He has notably coordinated cooperation projects in security sector reform and justice sector reform in Guinea, and then cooperation and development projects in Côte d'Ivoire. Since 2006, Hippolyte has contributed to several development and international exchange programs 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 programs (Burkina Faso, Togo, Chad, etc.) in the fields of livestock, justice, the rule of law and good governance or security sector reform. His skills include the development of procedure manuals and internal control and risk management tools or procurement. He joined Coginta in 2021.



Appolinaire DOUANODJI, Chad

Appolinaire DOUANODJI holds a degree in geography and a Master's degree in business administration management, with a specialisation in project management. He holds several certificates, including in association management, accounting and financial management in organisations and development projects. He specialises in the management, assembly and organisation of development projects on issues of social cohesion and local, judicial and security governance. He has more than 20 years of professional experience in Chad in development and the promotion of human rights. Appolinaire has worked for Coginta since 2016 as Country Director and Project Manager.



Emmanuel KAMATE LIMASI, Democratic Republic of 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. He worked for more than 30 years in the management and coordination of humanitarian emergency programs (assistance to those displaced by war and those affected by natural disasters) for several non-governmental organizations. He joined Coginta in 2021.



Clement AAPENGNUO, Ghana

Clement AAPENGNUO has worked for Coginta since 2021. A graduate in conflict analysis and resolution, he has extensive experience in conflict transformation, peacebuilding and facilitating community dialogues. Clement has worked for over 23 years on community conflicts in northern Ghana, linked to questions of power, social identity or resources.

HEADQUARTERS TEAM

**Vanina ECKERT**, Programme Manager

Vanina ECKERT has been a Programme Manager at Coginta since 2022, after holding various positions in the field since 2018, including Project Manager and Project Officer in the Republic of Guinea. A lawyer by training, she holds a master's degree in international and European law from the University of Strasbourg (France) and an LLM in human rights from the University of Lund (Sweden). She has worked for various organisations, including the Danish Institute for Human Rights (Denmark), the UN Global Compact (United States) and the Council of Europe (France), capitalising on a wealth of experience in the field of human rights, capacity-building, and project management.

**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.

**Romain LÜSCHER**, Programme Manager

Romain LÜSCHER has been a Programme Manager at Coginta since 2024, after having worked for four years within the federal administration in Bern, as well as for the United Nations in Kyrgyzstan and Sudan. A graduate of political science and international relations, he has extensive experience in peace policy, project management as well as political and security analysis.

**Mireille WIDMER**, Programme Manager

Mireille WIDMER joined Coginta in 2024 after a multifaceted career centred on peace and development issues. She worked among other on small arms control at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, implemented community security projects with UNDP in Haiti and Somalia and a rule of law project in the Central African Republic, and designed and conducted an academic study on local security governance in Nepal. She holds a Masters 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).

**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 the Coginta team in December 2022 as Administrative and HR Assistant. Mélanie has extensive administrative and HR support experience acquired in the private sector, mainly in Switzerland. She is notably in charge of the deployment and contracting of long/short term experts to different countries. She is also an office manager, supporting Finance 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 that they are in compliance 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 committee submits for approval to the members of the association the financial statements presented at the General Assembly by the treasurer. These are previously verified by an approved expert auditor, Comtesas + Gerficom SA, responsible for ensuring that Coginta's accounts and results comply with Swiss law and Coginta's statutes.

In 2024, Coginta's resources amounted to CHF 48,914,469. It should be noted that the funds entrusted to Coginta may be subject to expenditure verification exercises whose modalities are determined by the donors, depending on the nature of the contract.

An approved auditor will, if necessary, be responsible for verifying:

- Documentation, archiving and record keeping
- Eligibility of expenditure and revenue
- Public procurement and rules of origin
- Asset management (management and control of fixed assets, for example equipment)
- Management of cash and bank accounts (treasury)
- Salary and work time management
- Accounting and financial information
- Internal audits, notably financial audits

Comtesas + Gerficom SA confirmed that the annual accounts for the financial year ending 31 December 2024 comply with Swiss law and the association's statutes, and present a true and fair view of the financial position, operating results and cash flows, in accordance with the Swiss Standard relating to ordinary control.

In 2024, no expenditure was declared ineligible during the five verifications of expenditures carried out in five countries.

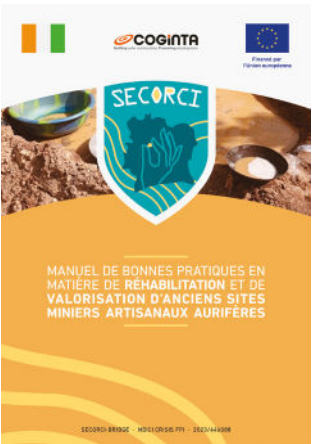
Coginta also attaches the utmost importance to risk management across all areas: legal and regulatory compliance, human resources, fraud and corruption, information management, finance, strategy, safety and security. Coginta is constantly striving to improve its internal control system by developing policies and procedures that meet international standards and the requirements of our financial partners.

FINANCIAL PROGRESS (CHF)

	2024	2023
REVENUES	48 914 469	66 224 727
DIRECT PROJECT COSTS	46 484 758	63 879 258
GROSS PROFIT	2 429 711	2 345 469
OPERATING COSTS	2 303 741	2 100 297
FINANCIAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES	14 533	100 339
EXCEPTIONAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES	-	222
TAXES AND DUTIES	-	-
PROFIT / LOSS	111 437	145 054
CURRENT ASSETS	16 066 423	20 661 924
ENTRUSTED FUNDS	13 076 494	12 711 689

RESOURCES

PUBLICATIONS



Côte d'Ivoire
Guide to rehabilitating former
artisanal gold mining sites (FR)



Côte d'Ivoire
Achievements of the
SECUNORD project (FR)



Burkina Faso
Achievements of the
AJUMJUP project (FR)



Cameroon / Niger / Nigeria / Chad
Achievements of the STABLAC project (FR)



Guinea
Achievements of the
PARAJ project (FR)

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COGINTA ROSTER

As part of the development of its activities, Coginta can rely 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 unstable and crisis-prone environments? Then your profile may be of interest to us. We are regularly looking for experts to support us in 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
- The humanitarian-development-peace nexus
- Project management, monitoring and evaluation

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

Your application will undergo a pre-assessment to determine if you meet the requirements for certain types of positions based on your skills, experience, and qualifications. If your profile is deemed suitable for temporary and/or longer-term employment opportunities, you will be contacted directly by our team if an opportunity arises.

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AND REGISTER



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Coginta is a Swiss-based non-profit organisation specialising in judicial and security governance, conflict prevention, and social cohesion. Its objective is to support host governments in strengthening public institutions in accordance with the norms and principles of the rule of law, and to contribute to the prevention of violence, insecurity, and crime, in order to promote an environment conducive to stability, peace, and socio-economic development.

Coginta is headquartered in Geneva and has national representations in Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Mozambique, Niger, and Senegal.

Find out more on our website

coginta.org