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African Capabilities to maintain Peace in the SADC Region
SADC - Maintaining Peace in the SADC Region

Peace, stability and security form the basis of sustainable social, economic and democratic development. Thus, the African Union encourages the regional cooperation of their member states to prevent violent conflict in the region. Through its Peace and Security Architecture, the African Union mandated its pillars, the regional economic communities, to set up instruments and mechanisms to maintain peace and stability in their regions. To this end, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), along with four other regional groupings, is establishing its own Standby Force. The SADC Standby Force, as part of the African Standby Force, is to be sent to peace support operations and missions under the auspices of the African Union, thereby adhering to the principle “African Solutions to African Problems”.

SADC builds up a pool of civilians, police and military staff for the deployment in peace operations. In order to guarantee an appropriate preparation of the persons to be deployed in ongoing or future missions, SADC established an own training centre for the region, the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (SADC RPTC), based in Harare (Zimbabwe).

Programme Objective

The objective of this programme is for the SADC RPTC to become a Centre of Excellence for peacekeeping training in the southern African region. It is the RPTC’s particular objective to enable future African peacekeepers, consisting of civilians, police officers and military staff, to perform according to United Nations and African Union standards during their future deployment in peace support operations. GIZ and SADC are jointly committed to this objective.

<table>
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<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Support of the SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (SADC RPTC)</th>
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<td>Client</td>
<td>German Federal Foreign Office (AA)</td>
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<td>Countries</td>
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<td>Political Partner</td>
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<td>Budget</td>
<td>EUR 1.6 million</td>
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<td>2011-2014</td>
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Approach

Commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt), GIZ has been supporting the RPTC since 2011 in three different areas:

- Institutional and personal capacity development,
- Development of curricula and actual running of training courses for different aspects of peace support operations,
- Infrastructure support, such as purchasing of equipment and maintenance works.

Longterm advice is offered for research and curricula design. Furthermore, the project encourages peer learning from other Peacekeeping Training Centres with regard to course design as well as monitoring and evaluation, leading to exchange visits and co-development of certain training courses or modules. Recently, a field visit to the UN mission in Côte d’Ivoire has been supported, and a visit to the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations has taken place.
A regular exchange with national training centres in SADC Member States helps to avoid potential duplications and ensures that Member States' training needs are met.

The main support of the project currently lies in the area of training course development and implementation. Experts from the region and beyond are encouraged to take part in curricula development to ensure the highest standard possible, and a number of multidimensional courses have been held, comprising civilians, police, and military officers. The training courses are mainly held by experts from the SADC region and are attended not only by representatives from SADC Member States, but also from academia and non-governmental organisations.

In addition, the project supports the SADC RPTC in the modernisation of its accommodation facilities and offices, through procurement of modern infrastructure and renovation measures, for the Centre to be able to provide adequate training infrastructure for conferences, workshops and training courses.

Example of impact

Through its work, GIZ has significantly strengthened the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre. Regular exchange with national and regional training centres has contributed to the expertise of the Centre’s staff, leading to better curricula and professionally held training courses. A visit to the UN-mission in Côte d’Ivoire and to the German Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF) provided inside knowledge on current mission standards, adding to the Centre’s staff own deployment experiences.

Thanks to the support via the German Federal Foreign Office, a number of pilot courses could be developed and held, which sometimes were unique to the African continent. Important cross-cutting issues, like gender and fighting the proliferation of HIV/AIDS, are featured as modules in all entry-level courses.

In 2012, over 200 participants from all 14 incumbent Member States were trained at the Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre for a possible deployment in peacekeeping missions, with one third course participants being female. In the civilian courses up to 50% of the participants were women. The number of training courses held and persons trained at the centre is continuously expanding.