

# Burkina Faso: Security and development for people in the border areas

On behalf of the German Federal Government and the EU, GIZ supports Burkina Faso's efforts to improve border management and to enhance living conditions, security and stability.

## The challenge

For several years, Burkina Faso has been affected by increasing instability in the neighbouring countries of Mali and Niger. Some sections of the borders of this landlocked country in West Africa are neither marked nor sufficiently controlled and do not offer the people adequate protection. Conditions are conducive for the spread of crime, particularly in the regions bordering Mali and Niger. At the same time, living conditions in these areas are often very poor because of a lack of good infrastructure and the absence of basic public goods such as water supply and education. People frequently have to travel for hours to obtain medical care. Development opportunities are therefore limited. The situation is exploited by violent groups, people smugglers and arms dealers seeking to gain control over the areas.

## Our approach

Burkina Faso has responded to the challenge and, with support from GIZ, has developed a national border management strategy which will be implemented under the project. Through integrated border management, the project aims to contribute to stability in the country, to prevent further radicalisation in the areas bordering Mali and Niger and create better long-term prospects for the population.

<b>Project name</b>	Integrated Management of Border Regions in Burkina Faso (ProGEF)
<b>Commissioned by</b>	European Union (EU) Federal Foreign Office (AA)
<b>Implemented by</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
<b>Project region</b>	Burkina Faso, areas bordering Mali and Niger
<b>Lead executing agency</b>	Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralisation
<b>Duration</b>	1 December 2016 – 31 December 2020
<b>Budget</b>	EUR 35,54 mill. (30 mill. EUTF; 5,4 mill. AA)

To this end, a range of structures will be created or expanded at local, national and regional level, which will improve not only the security situation but also the living conditions.

Regional and local partner institutions receive counselling in administering the regions more efficiently. Security sector actors such as customs officials, gendarmerie and police personnel, are being trained in carrying out border controls in a conflict-sensitive manner while respecting human rights, in preventing corruption and to network better to fulfil their duty, the protection of people. At the same time, wells, health care centres and schools are being built in order to increase safe access to water, medical care and education.

Transnational cooperation with Mali and Niger plays a crucial role in ensuring long-term stability in the region.





## How we go about...

The project focuses on four fundamental aspects of an efficient and integrated border management system:

- Strengthening the institutional and legal framework;
- Creating networks between the actors responsible for border control and border security;
- Developing basic social services and improving crisis management in areas close to the border;
- Improving steering, coordination and monitoring of the national border management programme.

Our measures and activities are:

- Training for and networking between, approximately 900 security actors at local, national, and regional level to date;
- Creation and development of four consultation frameworks in collaboration with Mali and Niger
- Strategies and legal texts for cross-border cooperation
- Improvement of infrastructures by the construction and rehabilitation of 50 wells, 7 health care centres, 4 schools and one road
- Organisational, technical and political advice for the project partner; development of a monitoring system
- Training in change management and organisational advice for ministry staff;
- Training and awareness-raising for improved disaster risk reduction strategies in at least 50 communities.

Protection of people is given top priority. All measures take account of the role and needs of most vulnerable groups such as women, children, people with disabilities, refugees and migrants.

## ... achieving real results

The project aims to achieve the following results by 2020:

- **Legal framework strengthened:** at least 50 % of the recommendations made by the national border commission and by local transnational commissions in order to improve the legal framework of cross-border cooperation, at the institutional and legal level are implemented.
- **Security and stability:** public satisfaction with border control and security has increased by 20%.
- **Improved basic services:** the population's access to basic public services (water, health care, education) has improved by 5%.
- **Effectiveness and local steering:** the Government of Burkina Faso has implemented its national border management strategy for the most part.

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Programme Gestion Intégrée des  
Espaces Frontaliers au Burkina Faso  
01 BP 1485 Ouagadougou 01,  
Burkina Faso

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/59821.html>  
<https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/>

**Contact:** [progef@giz.de](mailto:progef@giz.de)

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