

# Strengthening national police structures

## Support to the reform process of the Kenya Police Service

### What is the initial situation?

Kenya is exposed to major security threats, ranging from **terrorist attacks** to **organised crime**, and its police has only limited capacity to combat the destabilising impact of these activities. For the purpose of tackling corruption in its own ranks, the police has set up an independent supervisory body. Nonetheless, problems with corruption and limited capacity for creating a safe and secure environment for its citizens are undermining public trust in the state law enforcement authorities, jeopardising peaceful coexistence and eroding the state's entitlement to its monopoly on the use of power.

Inadequate cooperation between the police and the general public also means that the state has little capacity to control crime, which translates into **high crime rates but low clearance rates**. In 2010, Kenya launched **major reforms to its national police** geared towards transforming it into a professional police service that is responsive to citizens' needs and complies with rule-of-law principles. Although this process of institutional reform was started over ten years ago, it is still not completed. The latest attempt at police reform continues efforts to **increase efficiency and transparency in police work** while strengthening the police's **community orientation**.

The various law enforcement authorities do not cooperate enough with one another, and there are no institutionalised mechanisms for such cooperation. The law enforcement authorities also lack the human resources and material capacity required to provide citizens with full basic services.

So far, little importance is attached to the use of material evidence. Experts in crime scene preservation are not brought in often enough, and police officers and detectives do not always secure crime scenes or gather evidence properly. The problem is exacerbated by a lack of capacity at the Directorate of criminal investigation's forensics laboratory – there is a shortage of qualified staff and equipment in the existing departments.

Programme title	Programme to build and strengthen the police structures in selected partner countries in Africa
Country component	Strengthening national police structures in Kenya
Commissioned by	German Federal Foreign Office
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government
Overall term	July 2019 to December 2022
Budget (2019-2022)	Approx. EUR 3.25 million

### What is the goal?

The Kenyan law enforcement authorities are strengthened in their reform efforts to conduct investigations in cooperation with other authorities and in compliance with the law. They are thus better able to guarantee public safety.

### How do we work?

GIZ has been supporting police reform processes in Africa on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office since 2009. The programme is currently implementing **11 country- and region-specific components** on the continent. All processes are devised in close consultation with the partner institutions to meet their respective needs. The activities are based on existing national or international strategies and are implemented complementarily, focusing on compliance with legal standards and especially the **International Bill of Human Rights in police work**. The programme's measures place particular emphasis on **gender equality**. Our partners are given



Photos from left to right:

Participants in the planning workshop

Mrs Makori, Chairperson of the IPOA during the discussion

Both photos:

Handing over COVID-19 PPE and hygiene products to the Director of the Directorate of Criminal Investigations, Mr Kinoti

Marina Mdahili  
Marina.Mdahili@giz.de



support in the following areas: **infrastructure and equipment, basic training, in-service and advanced training as well as organisational advice.**

The **country component Kenya** is enhancing cooperation between law enforcement authorities, the judiciary and with the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA). Moreover, the Directorate of criminal investigation's capacities in the areas of forensics and crime scene preservation are strengthened. This also covers the national forensics laboratory, whose ability to analyse evidence is to be improved. The activities regarding the national forensics laboratory are jointly organised with the *Bundeskriminalamt* (German Federal Criminal Police Office), incorporating its experience wherever possible. Ensuring the relevance of material evidence in the prosecution process will strengthen human rights of suspects, since verdicts will be more often based on material evidence and rely less on only testimonies.

### What have we achieved so far?

Kenya was added to the programme as a partner country in mid-2019. The cooperation kicked off with a participatory workshop involving all implementing partners that resulted in the drawing up of joint operational plans. The first tangible measures are currently at the planning stage.

In other countries, the programme can draw on achievements in the fields of activity on which the country component Kenya is focused. For instance, the work being done by the Directorate of criminal investigation in Côte d'Ivoire has been successfully improved such that its laboratory has achieved

ISO certification thanks to the provision of equipment and training measures. In Nigeria, meanwhile, the police have built up capacity for forensics work, including in rural areas. Also at regional level, forensics departments in West Africa are working ever closer together as a result of networking meetings, joint training sessions and opportunities to exchange experiences.

### What more do we want to do?

The Kenyan police is strengthened in its capacities for cooperation between law enforcement authorities, the judiciary and with the IPOA by institutionalising the existing partnerships. This includes organising joint training measures and establishing platforms for regular dialogue. Strengthening the capacities of IPOA and hence increasing police oversight will have a positive impact on adhering to basic human rights when conducting police work.

The national police's capacity for forensics and crime scene preservation is to be increased through in-service and advanced training as well as awareness-raising measures with the Kenyan citizens (awareness on how to behave at crime scenes). This activity will also lead to better cooperation between the Kenyan police and the population. There are furthermore plans to establish standards for how to treat witnesses and victims of crime.

By April 2022, Kenya's forensics laboratory wants to have set up a quality management system in accordance with ISO standards and introduced written standard operating procedures. These efforts will be supported by the provision of technical equipment and training measures.

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Programme to build and strengthen the police  
structures in selected partner countries in Africa  
Potsdamer Platz 10  
10785 Berlin, Germany  
T +49 30 338424 - 475  
F +49 30 338424 - 22475  
marina.mdahili@giz.de  
www.giz.de/en/worldwide/15637.html

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#### Text

Ruth Langer

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

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Federal Foreign Office  
Werderscher Markt 1  
10117 Berlin, Germany  
T +49 (0)3018 17 - 0  
F +49 (0)3018 17 - 3402

poststelle@auswaertiges-amt.de  
www.auswaertiges-amt.de