Improving the capacities for Peace and Security in West-Africa

Support to the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC)

Context


A key objective of APSA is the establishment of a multi-dimensional peacekeeping force (African Standby Force, ASF). Five regional economic unions are participating, each providing a regional intervention force to the ASF. In West Africa, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) developed the ECOWAS Standby Force (ESF). APSA requires highly qualified civil, police and military personnel. These have to prove strong competences in the field of peace and security, especially in conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction.

ECOWAS has recognized three training facilities in West Africa as Training Centre for Excellence. One of them is the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Ghana. The Centre follows an integrated approach and prepares civilian, police and military personnel to engage in multi-dimensional peace support operations, as well as in Conflict Management and Peace and Security Studies. By doing so, it makes a decisive contribution to regional and continental efforts to promote peace and security.

The KAIPTC has been supported by the Federal Republic of Germany since 2006 with a GIZ project on site. Since then, KAIPTC has further advanced its civilian training portfolio, expanded its strategic cooperation with regional and continental partners (e.g. ECOWAS) and improved its organizational structures and processes.

However, institutional and financial challenges remain for securing the long-term existence of the institution.

Challenges

In an unprecedented close cooperation between GIZ and KAIPTC, a critically acclaimed KAIPTC Strategic Plan 2019–2023 was developed, and its implementation is now supported. The Roadmap aims to improve the capacity and willingness to undertake well-coordinated peace and security interventions/missions in West Africa, promote women's interests, enhance the cooperation with CSOs, think tanks and the private sector and make research results more accessible.
In order to prepare the Centre for the future KAIPTC must change its current business model from a strongly supply-driven to a needs-based approach, servicing the demands of its key stakeholders more specifically. By that it needs to react more quickly to an ever-changing peace and security environment on the continent and adapt its training and research programmes accordingly. Additionally, a diversification of sources of income is urgently needed. Funds must be obtained beyond the ongoing support of established development partners.

Our approach

The project combines financial support with process, management and organizational consulting services. The following core areas are targeted:

Advisory on (demand-driven) developing and planning, implementation and evaluation of training services

• Design, implement and follow-up on Training Needs Assessments with AU and ECOWAS in order to strengthen the course portfolio’s relevance and tailor it to local, regional and continental needs.
• Conceptualize and implement a scholarship program to promote the participation of women in training for peace support missions.

Assisting the KAIPTC management in liaising with partners and stakeholders

• Capacity building, the formalization and expansion of consultation and coordination meetings enhance the coordination between KAIPTC and its key clients.
• Improved stakeholder engagement leads to more strategic alliances, better collaboration, demand-based service delivery and more and diversified financial support to the center.

Improve financial sustainability

• KAIPTC is supported in the elaboration and implementation of a Resource Mobilisation Strategy
• Financial management is improved and KAIPTC delivers its services on the basis of sound financial planning.

Achievements

With the support of GIZ in recent years, KAIPTC was able to expand its strategic and operational relationships with relevant partners and client organizations (UN, AU and ECOWAS), position itself better on the market and has thus emphasized its role as an important capacity builder within the APSA framework.

Along its multidimensional approach, KAIPTC has trained thousands of experts and provided critical capacities in peace operations. With the German support, the KAIPTC has developed new civilian training courses linking traditional peacekeeping with development approaches (e.g. human rights, civilian foundation course).

In addition, important processes for strengthening sustainability and effectiveness in the planning and organizational development of the Centre have been pursued in recent years. With the new Learning Management System, all important processes at KAIPTC are now running web-based which guarantees consistency and simplicity.

In an unprecedented close and constructive cooperation between GIZ and KAIPTC, the Strategic Plan 2019–2023 was developed, and its implementation is now supported. Moreover, the mobilization of resources is fostered in line with this plan, and through its monitoring and evaluation system, the KAIPTC is now implementing and evaluating its work on the basis of impact-oriented work plans on a quarterly basis.

With the publication of its KAIPTC Gender Policy, the Centre has set the basis for gender mainstreaming. GIZ will continue to support these processes to increase the autonomy, efficiency and sustainability of the Centre.