

Providing strategic advice to the AU and AFRIPOL

Supporting the AU build up police capacities for peace support and special operations

What is the initial situation?

Current trouble spots in Africa are making their presence felt beyond national borders and are escalating into **regional crises**. The fragile security situation in many African countries is fuelling the spread of **transnational organised crime** such as human trafficking, drug dealing and illegal arms trade. Terrorist organisations including Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Al-Shabaab and Islamic State are also profiting from these developments and new transnational threats such as cybercrime are emerging. Not all African countries have sufficient capacity to tackle crises and guarantee public safety.

The **African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)** was established in 2002 with the aim of strengthening peace and security on the continent. Many of the crises have a regional and continental dimension, hence the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Mechanisms (**RECs/RMs**) play an important role in preventing crises, managing conflicts and peace building alongside the AU. The **African Standby Force (ASF)**, one of APSA's five pillars, assists African governments to respond to potential strife and thus to promote stability on the continent.

There is currently a lack of **guidelines for the training, deployment and cooperation of police officers serving** in African peacekeeping missions and police operations. As things stand, the RECs and RMs only set out limited specifications for attracting and recruiting police forces. Overall, the criteria for ensuring the strength of the ASF are not being met.

Programme title	Programme to build and strengthen the police structures in selected partner countries in Africa
Regional component	Supporting police structures in the African Union (AU), the AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) and Regional Economic Communities and Mechanisms (RECs/RMs)
Commissioned by	German Federal Foreign Office
Lead executing agencies	African Union (AU), Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD), AFRIPOL
Other partners	EASFSEC, NARC, ECCAS, SADC, ECOWAS
Overall term	January 2019 to December 2022
Budget (2019-2022)	Approx. EUR 3.5 million

Building up AFRIPOL is another process under way on the African continent. The institutional development and operationalisation of AFRIPOL are in their infancy and require external support, not least due to the extent of coordination involved.



Photos from left to right:

A policeman takes details
AFRIPOL headquarters
PSSG Task Team



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*Photos from left to right:
Strategy planning at AMISOM
Headquarters of the AU Commission*

What is the goal?

The policing capacity of the AU and the RECs/RMs for peacekeeping, special missions and for fighting transnational organised crime in Africa has been strengthened in order to eliminate cross-border security threats and enforce state monopoly on the use of force.

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

The **AU component of the programme** is focused on providing strategic support based on the reform process of the AU administration, scheduled for 2018-2021. Planning and budgeting processes within relevant AU executive bodies are to be strengthened, as is AFRIPOL's capacity to perform its mandate. Networking between various organisations is to be maintained and advice provided on issues relating to transnational organised crime at continental, national or regional level.

What have we achieved so far?

Standard procedures, such as for recruiting and training police officers, have been established in some organisations. The programme has also supported the further development of databases, with one already being used successfully by the Eastern Africa Standby Force Secretariat (EASFSEC). AFRIPOL has achieved an important level of coordination between its own structures and is now implementing a work plan approved by its General Assembly.

Coordination between the various organisations has been the most recent point of focus. Cooperation between the organisations has been strengthened by formulating framework documents and holding workshops, giving the current AU regional component something to build on.

What more do we want to do?

The AU regional component is injecting new momentum into the operationalisation of the RECs and RMs' peacekeeping and special missions, continuing to standardise processes to improve cooperation and help national police authorities professionalize and enhance general capacities. Regarding AFRIPOL's operationalisation, it is hoped that the creation of operational plans and the ongoing provision of organisational support will boost effectivity and quality assurance in their work. Effective internal communications and external PR strategies are to be developed in order to create a sense of professionalism and responsiveness to citizens' needs. The programme also focuses on enhancing cooperation between individual organisations in order to support a stable peace and security architecture in Africa.

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