

Strengthening the police in Africa

Support to the reform process of national and regional police structures

What is the initial situation?

Most of the police authorities in sub-Saharan Africa are unable to fulfil their mandate to protect citizens against violence, crime and terrorist threats. **National and regional authorities and institutions often do not pay sufficient attention to human rights and the rule of law.** Deficiencies in transparency, monitoring and accountability in the security sector are undermining the legitimacy of the police to the extent that **police officers are sometimes even perceived as a threat** by the citizens. They are thus fuelling instability in what are already fragile states in most cases.

Rights violations by security authorities are also facilitated by structural deficits such as **the lack of training, expertise and standard operating procedures as well as inadequate infrastructure within the police services.** Cooperation between police departments, the criminal investigation agency and the justice system is often weak. Along with high crime rates and low clearance rates, this is also causing significant legal uncertainty amongst the general public and creating a lack of trust in the police as guarantors of the rule of law. **The absence of services is felt particularly keenly in remote rural areas** where the police is often not reachable at all.

The state monopoly of power is limited in contexts like these, with **traditional authorities and informal security actors** moving in to fill the gaps. This is giving rise to cross-border threats to the security and stability of individual countries and regions, accompanied by the spread of transnational organised crime such as illicit trade of drugs and arms and human trafficking. At the same time, terrorist organisations such as Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and Al-Shabaab, are using these spaces to train and organise themselves and are threatening the local population. In this context, National and regional police authorities lack sufficient institu-

Programme title	Programme to build and strengthen the police structures in selected partner countries in Africa
Country and regional components	Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Mauritania, Nigeria, the Gambia, Kenya, Senegal, Ghana and Benin as well as the African Union (AU) and the G5 Sahel
Commissioned by	German Federal Foreign Office
Lead executing agencies	Interior ministries, public security ministries, some police authorities and justice ministries, the AU Commission and the G5 Sahel Permanent Secretariat
Overall term	July 2019 to December 2022
Budget (2019-2022)	EUR 35.8 million

tional and human resources to ensure public safety and security.

What is the goal?

The institutional and human capacities of national and regional police services, organisations and partnerships has been strengthened based on rule-of-law principles, thus contributing to combat transnational organised crime and terrorism in (post-)conflict and fragile countries in Africa.

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 to build and strengthen the police structures in selected partner countries in Africa' comprises a total of



Photos from left to right:

Community policing on the importance to wear a helmet in Benin

Police officers being trained in crime scene analysis in Senegal



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*Photos from left to right:
Reception in a police station in
Côte d'Ivoire
Presentation given as part
of a G5 Sahel awareness-
raising mission*

11 individual country- and region-specific components (see table). Based on the German Government's guidelines on "Preventing Crises, Resolving Conflicts, Building Peace" (Federal Foreign Office, 2017), the programme is focusing on the state's legitimate monopoly on the use of power as source to protect its citizens. The structures and institutions in the security sector should ensure that police work is geared towards protecting citizen safety and human security.

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 resulting measures are to be allocated to three fields of activity: 1) strengthening the legitimacy of the police service by increasing transparency, professionalism and community orientation; 2) improving performance by strengthening forensic services and the criminal justice system; 3) reinforcing the state monopoly of power by boosting capacity to combat transnational organised crime.

What have we achieved so far?

Varying results have been achieved in the three fields of activity depending on the context. In some countries such as Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, for instance, the capacity for the basic and advanced training of police officers has been

expanded in cooperation with the partners. Fostering a police approach based on the rule of law has also been made an integral part of all country components.

Cooperation throughout the investigative process (police – public prosecutor) has been intensified. The success achieved in supporting different forensic services is now paving the way for a continent-wide forensic network to be set up. The programme has also contributed to expand the cooperation and coordination capacity of the national actors at international interfaces (AU, G5 Sahel) and has thus improved their performance.

What more do we want to do?

The adherence by police authorities to the rule of law, and thus also their legitimacy, are to be further improved by strengthening internal control processes, improving accountability and complaint mechanisms and increasing the level of professionalism through the provision of organisational advice. The programme will also support performance and cooperation throughout the criminal justice process, e.g. by strengthening forensic services. This will reinforce the rule of law in criminal proceedings, from the investigation stage right through to potential conviction. Improving how criminal offences are investigated and the law is enforced will help to protect citizens more effectively from crime.

At international level, the AU, AFRIPOL and, in selected areas, the five regional organisations (ECOWAS, EASF, NARC, SADC, ECCAS) as well as the G5 Sahel are strengthened in their efforts to combat transnational organised crime and terrorism and thus to reinforce the state monopoly of power, especially in unstable regions.

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