

Strengthening national police structures

Support to the reform process of the Nigeria Police Force

What is the initial situation?

The Nigerian state is facing huge **challenges to its security policy** and its efforts to fight crime. For instance, **crime rates are extremely high** in relative terms, while clearance rates are very low. In particular, the precarious economic situation is fuelling a rise in criminal activity. **Organised crime** such as kidnapping and illicit drug trade as well as everyday offences involving violence and property crime present a major problem that is jeopardising public safety and security and threatening the country's stability. Moreover, **Boko Haram** operates in Nigeria's north-eastern regions.

The destabilising effects of criminal and terrorist activities that also extend across the country's borders can barely be met by the national police. The authorities lack adequate capacity at every stage of the prosecution process. Procedures that enable effective and seamless collaboration between state institutions are also insufficient. Due to these **shortcomings in the state's provision of basic public services** the state is unable to provide its citizens with adequate protection against prevailing security threats.

These deficiencies are undermining public trust in the law enforcement authorities. Corruption within institutions and cases of police violence are also eroding public trust and legitimacy.

Nigeria has been in the process of setting up a national security system for decades now. In this context, also its criminal justice institutions, particularly the national police, are undergoing **reform processes**. This process aims at improving working conditions for police officers in general, ensuring high-quality training and professional development, including in the field of **forensics**. Furthermore, these reforms are

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geared towards promoting **transparency, accountability and community policing**, as well as curtailing corruption. Although the efforts to bring about reform go back many years, implementation is still limited.

What is the goal?

In their reform efforts to professionalise police work, the Nigerian law enforcement agencies and other actors in the criminal justice chain are empowered to carry out investigation processes in cooperation with other authorities and in line with legal requirements. They are thus better able to guarantee public safety.



Photos from left to right:
Police officers at a human rights training
Registering evidence

Photos from left to right:
 Securing evidence, part
 of the crime scene
 preservation training
 Police training modules

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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 **country component Nigeria** is focused on strengthening capacity for the basic, in-service and advanced training of national actors in the criminal justice system. Standard operating procedures relating to forensics and investigations are also to be modernised and carried out in a consistent way. Cooperation between state authorities and within regional networks is to be enhanced.

What have we achieved so far?

There have been demonstrable improvements to the quality of the training given to the police, the judiciary and the

immigration services, by developing curricula and training modules, the training of trainers and providing teaching equipment and materials.

Standard operating procedures have also been introduced that increase the transparency of the institutions' work, thus making it easier to verify adherence to human rights. The programme has also contributed to improve border security: border posts have been provided with equipment and are receiving structural maintenance, while coordination meetings between the border authorities involved have also contributed to greater border security. Finally, in-service trainings, coordination meetings and the introduction of cooperation standards have brought a new level of professionalism to the investigative capacity of the police and public prosecutors.

What more do we want to do?

Building on what has been achieved so far, the programme continues to improve the quality of police officer training, hence working to develop further training modules and continuing the training of trainers. Accountability in the investigation process is to be encouraged by developing process descriptions, organising in-service trainings and procuring equipment for forensics and IT. To support local and regional cooperation, these activities are to be given a more formal structure, e.g. by introducing standard operating procedures. Dialogue with institutions in Nigeria and abroad is to be extended, particularly in the field of forensics.

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