



« Understand, Analyze and Document the Security System: the Role of Civil Society Organizations in CAR and DRC »

The African Security Sector Network (ASSN) and CORDAID organized two workshops entitled "Understand, Analyze and Document the Security System: the Role of Civil society Organizations" held respectively:

- in Bangui, Central African Republic (CAR) from 22 to 24 May 2019; and
- Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), 27-29 May 2019.





Context

With the support of Cordaid and Oxfam, the African Security Sector Network (ASSN) has, since 2017, been implementing the project « *Engaging Civil Society In Security And Justice Sector Reforms* » with the objective to put into effect, in a number of countries, the Section H of the AU Policy Framework on SSR, specifically related to the role of civil society through the operationalization of the following points:

- Promoting dialogue between different segments of society on security issues as a confidence-building measure;
- Active participation in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and legislation related to the security sector;
- Promotion and defense of the culture of good governance, democracy, human rights principles and freedoms as well as social justice in the security sector;
- Research and training on security issues;
- Advocacy and awareness raising on security issues, in particular, on the analysis of the security budget, monitoring and evaluation of security policy and practice; and
- Promotion for the implementation of the policy framework at national, regional and continental levels.



Purpose of the training session

The first phase of the « *Engaging Civil Society In Security And Justice Sector Reforms* » project focused on transmitting to a limited number of civil society organizations from CAR, DRC, Burundi, Niger, South Sudan, and Somalia, general knowledge on the concept of SSR in general and on the democratic governance of the security sector in particular, in several training sessions held in Addis Ababa in close collaboration with the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, ECCAS and IGAD).

These two training sessions have pursued a more specific objective and aimed at deepening the knowledge of Congolese and Central African civil society organizations in the field of SSR while providing them with methodological tools for research so that they can play in a more relevant manner, their oversight responsibilities over the their respective security sectors.

During these workshops, the aim was to develop the capacity of CSOs to collect, analyze and publicize data and open sources related to the DRC and CAR security system in order to produce easily accessible media and documents that are understandable to the populations and the authorities.

In particular, participants learned about methods to:

- conduct a comprehensive and thorough assessment of a security sector, depending on reliable, circumstantial and verifiable documentation and information;
- prepare reports as well as precise, synthetic and well-argued documents on security issues.

By developing the technical skills and expertise of Congolese and Central African civil society organizations in the area of SSR, these training sessions were intended to help strengthen citizen control of public security action in the DRC and CAR.