
PROJECT:	Africa Security Sector Reform (ASSEREP II): Contributing to Secure Elections
DISARMAMENT FOCUS:	Security Sector Reform and Peacebuilding
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS:	West Africa/Togo
PROPOSED PROJECT TIMEFRAME:	12 months
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BACKGROUND

In response to the violence that followed the 2005 presidential elections in Togo and following the setting up of a reconciliation process and political dialogue in Togo (Comprehensive Political Agreement; Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission; and the Permanent Framework for Dialogue), UNREC launched a pilot project consisting of an awareness-raising campaign, capacity-building workshops for the security and armed forces and the Security and Defence Commission of the Parliament, the publication of a booklet on the role of law enforcement during the electoral period, and training for election monitors. Partly as a result of these efforts, the 2007 parliamentary elections were violence-free and considered fair by all concerned.

The pilot project was considered successful by all stakeholders and noticeable progress has been made in the relationship between civilians, and security and armed forces.

UNREC followed up on this project with further, decentralised activities throughout Togo in 2008, 2009 and 2010 (in anticipation of announced legislative elections in 2008 and Presidential elections in 2010). These included training for armed forces on the framework for domestic military interventions in a democratic context, as well as two “Training the Trainers” capacity-building workshops for 50 Togolese security forces officials, who in turn trained 6000 members of the Presidential Election Battalion (FOSEP). In terms of the professional provision of security, the presidential election of March 2010 was a success; no manifest violence was registered, which allows for a consolidation of peace and security in the country.

Based on this experience, UNREC proposes to continue and expand this work and organise similar activities in preparation for elections in other African countries.

OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this project is to help consolidate the relationship between civilians, and security and armed forces and prevent the eruption of armed violence in the lead up to or the aftermath of presidential, legislative or other elections in African countries. More specifically, the project aims to:

- Enhance the professionalism of the armed and security forces through enhanced knowledge about their roles and responsibilities in a democratic context;
- Enhance the oversight of parliamentarians and local administrations over the security and armed forces
- Raise awareness of the public about these issues.

CONTENT AND DESIGN

The project will be implemented by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC). The following activities will be undertaken:

1. Awareness raising campaign through the media, leaflets and other means throughout the relevant country;
2. Five capacity-building seminars on the legal framework for the intervention of the security forces in a democratic context for regiments in the capital;
3. Five capacity-building seminars on the legal framework for the intervention of the security forces in a democratic context for regiments outside of the capital;
4. Two capacity-building seminars on the legal framework for the intervention of the armed forces in a democratic context for garrisons in the capital;
5. Two capacity-building seminars on the legal framework for the intervention of the armed forces in a democratic context for garrisons outside of the capital;
6. One capacity-building workshop for local administration;
7. Dissemination of and training on the booklet/guide on the role of law enforcement during an electoral period
8. One national forum for civil society organisations (CSOs) and the armed and security forces on peace culture and non-violence.

The project will achieve the following major outputs:

- Enhanced capacities and skills of the members of the armed and security forces in matters related to the framework of their legal intervention in the democratic context;
- Enhanced capacities and skills of the members of local administrations related to the democratic oversight of defence and security institutions;
- Formulated strategies to improve the relationships between civilians and military;
- Publication and dissemination of an activity report focused on results and lessons learned

IMPACT

The intended impact of the project is to improve relations and communication between civilians and security and armed forces and strengthen the democratic governance of the security sector in the participating countries.

BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiaries of this project will be the armed and security forces, parliamentarians, and CSOs.

PARTNERS

UNREC will work in collaboration with relevant Government structures, including the Ministry of Interior, the General Staff of the Armed Forces; selected local CSOs with proven track records in security sector reform, and members of the United Nations Country Team.

BUDGET ITEMS	ESTIMATED COST IN US DOLLARS PER COUNTRY
Project Personnel	60,000
Operations and Implementation Costs	380,000
Total Budget Required	440,000
Total Secured Funding	0
Funding Gap	USD 440,000