EDITORIAL

From June to August 2016, the programme ran its course as planned in all the areas of intervention despite the rainy season, which made access to some communities more difficult and the population was busy planting their fields making them less available to participate in activities. Among the activities implemented over the last three months in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, are the facilitated dialogues between community and security service providers, the implementation of community protection plans, including the construction and rehabilitation of small-scale infrastructure, conflict management training, Small Arms, Mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) risk education sessions, and socio-economic resilience activities.

Moreover, a number of important planning and coordination considerations for upcoming activities were concluded through a joint donor and partner meeting (Danida, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and the U.S. Department of State). DRC-DDG also conducted the year’s key planning session-- the annual strategic review for the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) where the program and support teams identified successes and challenges as well as new opportunities for the coming three years in terms of programming.

After almost two years of implementation, the programme’s results are becoming evident. Indeed, an initial evaluation of the conflict prevention and management trainings were conducted to measure this activity’s short term impact on beneficiaries’ knowledge, to quote one participant: “Now that we have received the training we are better able to resolve conflicts in our own community.” The results of the evaluation are presented below.

Furthermore, one of the key activities of the last three months was the conflict prevention, management and analysis training provided to security providers, including the gendarmerie, the police and authorities in Dori, Burkina Faso.

Finally, we would like to thank the national authorities for their commitment and the central role played in the delivery of activities, our partners from Denmark, the United States and the Netherlands, as well as all our external collaborators, including the United Nations, who support us in the implementation of this programme. We also thank our colleagues for their hard, high quality work in the field.

COORDINATION: THE KEY TO AN EFFECTIVE CROSS-BORDER ACTION

During the first week of August, the BSM Programme coordination team, met in Bamako in order to assess the delivery of activities and the general progress made in the implementation of the programme. The Supervisors based in Djibo, Gao and Mopti shared their experiences, challenges and successes with the coordination team for feedback and problem analysis. Various lessons learned can be drawn from these experiences, including on the importance of information management in a cross-border setting and on the necessity to strengthen collaboration and coordination between bases across the border. Moreover, during the meeting it was observed that all the activities are effectively being delivered, demonstrated by M and E reporting, and was well received by communities and security services evidenced by high attendance rates. It was also noted that one of the strengths of the programme is the high level of community acceptance of DRC-DDG.

Finally, the meeting also allowed for the planning of key activities to be implemented within the next months, including a mediation and dialogue facilitation training for the staff, awareness raising radio campaigns as well as a renewed conflict analysis in the Liptako-Gourma region.

The meeting was followed by an annual review for the sub-region where DRC-DDG is working, which had coordination, planning and programming related objectives. This meeting allowed for a deeper understanding of the Sahel’s political, security and socio-economic context as well as for an analysis of DRC-DDG’s organisational capacities. All of the management and coordination staff of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger as well as representatives of the regional office in Abidjan participated.
COMMUNITY SAFETY THROUGH DIALOGUE AND TRUST AMONG SECURITY PROVIDERS AND COMMUNITIES

In order to further the overall objective to strengthen community safety and border security and management, the implemented activities were designed to ensure an active participation of both the communities and the security providers. During the last three months 24 conflict management education trainings were provided to different target communities. In total, these trainings benefited 473 people, of which 186 were women. Monitoring and an evaluation report for these trainings can be found below. Furthermore, community-security provider dialogue fora continued at pace in the three countries. Indeed, 13 fora were held in which a total of 871 people participated, including 290 women. Finally, Small Arms, Mines and ERW risk education is now well underway: 17 mines and ERW risk education sessions were provided to 240 participants, of which 35% were women. In addition, 95 risk education sessions specifically addressing small arms related risks, which represent a major issue in the sub-region, were attended by 1,852 participants, of which 49% were women. It is important to note that the need for these sessions was identified and prioritised in the CPP.

COMMUNITIES STRENGTHEN THEIR CAPACITIES TO PREVENT AND MANAGE CONFLICTS

Conflict management education is an educational activity aiming to strengthen participants’ capacities to peacefully prevent and manage conflict, both at the individual and collective level. These activities were launched in the beginning of 2015 as part of the BSM programme.

The four modules are delivered in a participatory methodology addressing the definition of conflict, conflict prevention and management tools, conflict resolution and management and consensus building among different parties. The objective of this training is to enable community members to play a proactive role in conflict prevention and management. This training also aims to develop community members’ capacities to effectively manage their own conflicts and reduce the prevalence of high-risk situations in target communities, thus promoting a peaceful environment free of armed violence.

In order to measure the short term impact of conflict management education activities, after more than 18 months of implementation, DRC-DDG conducted an evaluation with 311 (men and women) selected participants from Burkina Faso and Mali, which represents 20% of the total participants of the trainings.

The results of the evaluation are overall encouraging, as 100% of the evaluated participants reported a perceived change in their conflict prevention and management capacity, and an average 74% of them are able to identify at least one tool or competency they are currently able to use and believe they will use in the future. While the majority of the surveyed participants reported they felt more capable of managing a conflict in general, the tools and capacities that were particularly appreciated are the capacity to see that parties to a conflict analyse the situation from different perspectives and the part the beneficiaries, themselves, play in the escalation of a conflict into possible violence. This suggests a change in the understanding of the conflict in itself and of one’s individual responsibility in its resolution. Numerous participants also mentioned they felt capable of using active listening and dialogue as conflict resolution tools. Although the more sustainable results can only be evaluated by measuring the application of these tools, these initial conclusions show a tendency to a more peaceful conflict management approach by the participants.
**USING TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE EVALUATION: MEASURING CONFLICT MANAGEMENT COMPETENCIES**

From 18 August to 9 September, the BSM Programme’s monitoring and evaluation team based in Bamako travelled to the different bases located in the three countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) in order to train the staff in using KOBO, a smartphone based surveying software. Trainings were provided to supervisors and project officers in Koro (Mali), Gorom-Gorom (Burkina Faso) and Ayorou (Niger) on data collection using smartphones. In addition to improving data collection for the programme, this software will be used to gather information for the second level evaluation of the conflict management education activities, which will measure actual behaviour change and will complement the evaluation on knowledge presented above. The tools elaborated for this evaluation were introduced to the staff and tested successfully. The staff have thus started to use it in their data collection activities in the field and will continue over the coming months.

**SECURITY SERVICES LEARN TO PREVENT, MANAGE AND ANALYSE CONFLICT FOR A SAFER BORDER**

From 5 to 8 September, an important training for security services and local authorities took place in Dori, Burkina Faso. The 14 participants, who came from Markoye, Gorom, Thiou, Kain and Dori in Burkina Faso, were comprised of representatives of the police, the gendarmerie, the Water and Forest service, the prefect of Markoye, the deputy mayor and a representative of the Dori governorate. In addition, members of DRC/DDG coordination team and the field supervisors based on the different cross-border axis also took part in the activity. The training addressed conflict prevention, management and advanced analysis. More specifically the objectives of the training were:

- To engage authorities to accept a proactive role in conflict prevention and management;
- To provide them with the tools and capacities to effectively manage the conflict they face in their day-to-day professional activities and thus promote a peaceful environment;
- Provide them with the tools and capacities to apply a conflict sensitive approach in their work.

During the training, participants were able to put into practice their skills to prevent, manage and analyse conflicts through inclusive exercises, group work and presentations.

Following the activity, participants stated that this training would be useful for them in their day-to-day and future work and DDG plans to follow up for concrete examples to measure outcome level change. At the end of the exercise, action plans were elaborated by the security services as a concrete way to incorporate conflict management and conflict sensitivity in their respective duty stations.

**IMPROVING SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESILIENCE TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY SAFETY**

On 21 July in Dori, Burkina Faso, commenced a training for DRC-DDG staff on “Income Generating Activities (IGA), Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) and the Value Chain”. The workshop, attended by 17 participants from DRC-DDG different field bases in Burkina Faso and Mali, aimed to strengthen DRC-DDG staff’s capacities in the implementation of the livelihood component of the BSM Programme. The training addressed a variety of themes, including food security, IGA, core entrepreneurial competencies and skills, resilience, the development of a business plan, VSLAs as well as the value chain.

At the end of this two-day training, key concepts were understood by the programme’s armed violence reduction and livelihood project officers and monitors, who have acquired tools to provide trainings to the communities’ selected livelihood associations.

Furthermore, during the first week of August and following...
Challenges and lessons learned

- During the rainy season, the capacity to deal with the unexpected was key to manage the various events that required changes in the planning and delivery of activities or the movements in the field.
- Security related events in the areas of intervention created some challenges in terms of movements and access, which led to the rescheduling of some of the activities.
- Material support provided to security providers ensures a better ownership of the project, proactivity and active involvement in the activities in the field, which in turn contributes to improve the level of achievement of behaviour change related objectives.
- Working in insecure and unstable areas requires a flexible and conflict sensitive approach in order to achieve long term objectives.
- Cross-border activities must be based on an advocacy strategy to respond to identified needs expressed by cross-border actors in the field, and be brought before regional and national authorities as well as international stakeholders in order to ensure that policy makers ensure a community sensitive border policy.

Upcoming activities

In light of these encouraging results, DRC-DDG teams will launch the following activities within the next months:

- Mediation and dialogue facilitation training (Third Party Neutral training) for the programme’s staff in collaboration with the Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution (CICR)
- Launch of radio campaigns on risks related to mines, ERW and Small Arms as well as on cross-border cooperation in the Liptako-Gourma region
- Evaluation of border security services infrastructures as part of the rehabilitation component of the BSM programme
- Provision of equipment and training to security services working in border areas, in collaboration with UNODC
- Cross-border meetings between authorities, security services and community leaders
- Tripartite meeting (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) on border security issues, including security services and administrative authorities located in the border area

PROGRAMME DE GESTION ET SÉCURITÉ AUX FRONTIÈRES AU SAHEL

DECOUPLAGE ADMINISTRATIF
- Ville
- Chef lieu de Cercle
- Capitale
- Communauté d'intervention
- Base DDG
- Limite de pays
- Cercle
- Région

ACTIVITÉ COMMUNAUTAIRE
- Sécurité et Gestion aux Frontières
- Sécurité Communautaire
- Dialogue et Coopération Communautaire-Police
- Prévention et Gestion de Conflit
- Éducation aux Risques liés aux MIN et aux ALPC

Sources: DDG-OpenStreetMap Mise à jour : 31 Octobre 2016