SESSION 4

OPERATIONALIZING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN SECURITY ACTORS, LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CIVILIAN POPULATIONS IN WEST AFRICA

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In Benin, do the existing defense and security frameworks promote collaboration and trust between civilian populations and the defense and security forces in terms of preventing and combating violent extremism?
A- Brief overview of the security situation in the region and in Benin
(Images and numbers)

A.1-Continued deterioration of the situation in the Sahel with expansion towards the coastal countries of the Gulf of Guinea (CIV, Ghana, Togo, Benin)

A.2- Bénin = 50 terrorist attacks, 150 victims with 120 are civilians, 3 départements of 12, 10 communes in the North are threatened by armed terrorist groups

Opération Mirador (3000 soldiers)
B- Existence of Security Force/population collaboration frameworks for PVE?

Strategic objectives of community policing in Benin

1- Build a relationship of confidence and collaboration with the population
2- Working towards social cohesion through the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts
3- Train and educate the population on issues of their security
4- Work on conflict prevention and violent extremism and terrorism
5- Contribute to community resilience against violent extremism & terrorism

Prerequisites to transform the relationship

1- Engage in governance and security sector reform
2- Bring the republican police up to the standards of community policing
3- Conduire des projets et partenariats pour ériger les acteurs de la sécurité
2- Multifaceted frameworks for collaboration between the defense and security forces and the population in PVE

a) Republican Police
Police/gendarmerie fusion to bring the police services closer to the populations (coverage 80% #55%) improving to the ratio of 1/1000

c) Redefine the mandate of defense and security forces
Focus on emerging threats, (cyber crime, illicit trafficking, diverse VE & terrorism, etc...) and partner with the population

b) National Guard
Units specialized in PVE

d) Innovative Security Strategies
Armées: local security, ACM/RCM, privileged opportunities for dialogue with populations

Republican Police: community police, reinforce contact with the population, jointly produce security (See Decree & CAT)
e) IECD

In Benin, the DSF communicate little with the populations and causing people to fear the uniform. Populations have a base level of distrust of the DSF from colonial heritage and a lack of understanding of roles and responsibilities. The IECD is established as a framework for collaboration and trust building between the DSF and population through activities to break down fear and distrust, the enemies of collaboration.

Communication, the basis for creating a good climate of trust.

f) Local Security Committees (5282 CLS)

The principle of security from below, with the active participation of the population and elected officials. Frameworks for exchange and consultation between populations/elected officials/DSF to jointly carry out the security analysis for each village, find the drivers and local solutions adapted to the problems and needs of the populations, create trust, collaborate for the sharing of knowledge and information on various threats with SDS.
g) External inspection by the Presidency of the Republic (CCMSTN)

Control of security missions and services for the population
Unit Inspections and Governance Control
Fight against corruption, impunity and human rights violations
Renew dialogue by resolving DSF/population disputes
Ensure the good image of the DSF within the populace to strengthen trust, the source of legitimacy

Notes

Public trust remains an issue at the heart of any security strategy, from PLEV
- promotes the construction of symbiotic relationships that boost
Population/FDS collaboration
- Strengthens the credibility and legitimacy of the FDS- Improves the image of SDS
- Increases assets for building peace and social cohesion
II- How are partnerships between security actors and communities established, financed and managed in Benin?

Local security plans

Definition: Security governance instruments at the local and municipal level. Security aspects of the municipal development plan
III- Can you share some promising practices implemented in prevention and countering violent extremism policies and programs designed to facilitate information sharing and coordination between security actors, local authorities and local communities?
PREVENTION OF THE FIGHT AGAINST VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM

1- Police-Gendarmerie Fusion
2- Adoption of Police Com Strategy (Decree - Project)
3- IECD (As missions + Security strategies)
4- Training of Mayors in territorial intelligence)
5- ABéGIEF
6- ANCB + SDS (on safety)
7- ANCB + SDS (on safety)

Good practices of Collaboration, sharing of information PLEV'T