



Implemented by:



Peace, Security and Good Governance in SADC

Background

Southern Africa experienced a longer struggle for independence than other parts of the continent. Democracies in the region are still evolving and, in a post-liberation context, the paradigm shift from a focus on state to human security is still ongoing. Despite being one of the richest and most peaceful regions in Africa, inequality threatens to destabilise the region, giving rise to challenges such as corruption, crime, abject poverty and exclusion of youth, women and minorities. In some instances these inequities have triggered conflicts that are exacerbated by a lack of resilient and accountable public institutions.

The Secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) is the key coordinator of the implementation of protocols and policies to achieve economic and political integration of the Member States. SADC's Strategic Indicative Plan of the Organ (SIPO) makes ambitious provision for accountable governance and for regional responses to security challenges in the region, based on the SADC's vision of a 'shared future in an environment of peace, security and stability', through which the region will endeavour to meet its socio-economic objectives.

Peace, security and good governance have been areas of key focus for German Development Cooperation with SADC. As SADC sees peace and security as an enabler for regional economic integration, Germany will continue to support peace- and security-related activities under the priority area of Regional Economic Integration (REI).

Approach

Germany has been supporting the SADC Secretariat's Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation since 2004, establishing a longstanding relationship with the institution. The Organ's tasks relate to politics, defence and security issues

across the region. The partnership with German Development Cooperation includes the development and implementation of mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflicts, establishment of civilian capacities for peacekeeping missions, strengthening electoral processes and supporting regional non-state actors to promote the implementation of SIPO.

The German Development Cooperation engages regional experts in capacity development and brings together local actors who work towards a common goal to create strong networks and linkages in the region. It supports the SADC Organ and non-state actors to gain relevance in the implementation and reviewing process of SIPO as a regional roadmap. The objective of this support is to strengthen the engagement between SADC and stakeholders, including parliaments and civil society representatives within the region. In particular, the cooperation strives to enhance the capacity of the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), the Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC (ECF-SADC), the SADC Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (SADC-CNGO) and other regional, non-state actors to cooperate with relevant political stakeholders in the region. The German Development Cooperation also assists in building individual and organisational capacities to strengthen election observation missions in the region by the SADC Secretariat, Member States and a number of regional non-governmental organisations. Through this cooperation, SADC has established the SADC Electoral Advisory Council, which advises election management bodies and national governments on conducting democratic elections. The cooperation also actively facilitates alignment with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), as envisioned by SADC and the African Union. Measures include support to the Regional Peace Keeping Training Centre (RPTC), the Mediation Support Unit and the Civilian Component of SADC's peacekeeping capacities.





Impact

- The evaluation of SIPO-II, which assessed the responsiveness of the SADC peace and security framework to the current trends and challenges of the region, led to the approval and extension of SIPO-II until 2020.
- The SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) has been established in order to advise Member States on elections and conflict mitigation, to ensure the implementation of the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, and to guide Member States on elections and the enhancement of democracy and good governance. SEAC is part of all SADC election observer missions, undertaking assessment missions to all Member States before and after elections have taken place.
- Revision of the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections was motivated by the need to adapt standards and to increase the use of modern technology in electoral management and administration. Events were organised in several Member States to introduce, sensitise and raise awareness of the revised Principles and Guidelines. A total of 300 representatives from both state and non-state institutions participated in these events.
- An estimated 3000 regional election observers have been trained as part of SADC election capacity development.
- Conflict prevention capacities in the region has been strengthened through the training of over 400 representatives of regional and national state and non-state actors in the conceptualisation and development of SADC mediation structures.
- The SADC Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) in Harare, Zimbabwe, has been strengthened in its role as a training centre for the region, following a training needs assessment and the development of specialised peace-support training courses.
- Policy documents have been developed and endorsed as part of improved operational readiness of the civilian component

of the SADC standby force. 66 experts have been fully rostered, 37 of whom have undergone the civilian foundation course at the RPTC in line with UN/AU standards.

- The Participatory Initiative on Social Accountability (PISA) in Lesotho, which is co-funded by European Union, is a civic education initiative aiming to increase civic participation in democratic processes. To date, 70,000 people have participated in various PISA activities such as community and social media-based campaigns.

Success in the Field

While her friends pondered leaving the country because of possible unrest during the snap elections held to resolve political tensions, Mphonyane Mofokeng was adamant that the February 2015 poll in Lesotho should be peaceful. Mofokeng, the Director of Thaba Bosiu Prevention and Treatment Center of the Blue Cross Center in Maseru, Lesotho, was proved right.

‘I wasn’t nervous at all. I was telling other people that nothing was going to happen, not on voting day or on the day of the announcement of results. People feared tension between the army and police, but I had prayed for peaceful elections,’ she says. Mofokeng said that this poll was indeed among the most peaceful she had experienced because regional governments contributed by sending observer missions at the request of Lesotho.

‘The observers were neutral so they could keep the peace between the police and army,’ Mofokeng explains. According to Dr. Joao Ndlovu, meanwhile, who was Regional Political Cooperation Coordinator for the SADC Secretariat at the time, the SADC sent 539 peacekeepers and 90 electoral observers, at the request of Lesotho.