

# Developing Resources to Support Training of Public Security Forces Assigned to Extractives Operations in Kenya

## Background

Kenya is experiencing an upsurge in oil, gas and mining exploration. So far, oil discoveries have been made in Turkana County, which is considered to be the poorest region in Kenya and characterised by under-development, perennial drought and inter-ethnic conflicts. Community expectations related to the benefits of the oil discoveries have already led to violent protests

by communities against exploration companies. This led to the increased use of security providers by extractive companies in the area and the deployment of armed national police, which creates risks associated with clashes with demonstrators. Indeed, public security forces assigned to extractives operations with limited knowledge of human rights principles present a

major security and human rights challenge.

To date, practical experience and good practices in this area have not been adequately developed or shared. The objective of this project is to develop and trial human rights training and resources through field-based engagement involving VPs member companies and other stakeholders.



## SHRIM Support

SHRIM supported the development of a Human Rights and Security training curriculum for police officers deployed around extractive operations in Kenya. DCAF partnered with Tullow Oil, a Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPs) member company active in Turkana county, and Safestainable, an independent consultancy specialised in sustainable

security management, to help address the outlined security and human rights challenges. The project was carried out in Turkana county within Tullow Oil's operating area. While Tullow Oil contributes to this project, it is meant to eventually benefit all stakeholders by increasing public security forces' respect for the human rights of Turkana communities.



**DCAF**

a centre for security,  
development and  
the rule of law

**S A F E S T A I N A B L E**  
acceptance strategies

## The Project

The project was carried out in 2017 and went through different phases:

- Safestainable conducted a one-week needs assessment in Turkana country and Nairobi. The purpose of this assessment was to evaluate training needs, to verify details concerning the format, audience, and content of the Human Rights training curriculum, and to assess the general risk environment for the project.
- Based on extensive research, the expertise of the project partners, and the findings of the needs assessment, Safestainable developed and implemented a three-day training course titled "Service with Dignity". The course based the training content on each forces' different roles, responsibilities and strengths, but also underlined their complementarities and emphasised the need for effective cooperation.
- 85 police officers attended one of four three-day courses delivered in December 2017.
- A lessons learnt report was produced to underline the curriculum's strength and weaknesses and to outline the next steps in relation to the project.

## Results

In total, 85 police officers were trained and completed a course evaluation at the conclusion of the training. Based on feedback from the instructor and the participants, the combination of classroom and practical training in the "Service with Dignity" curriculum contributed to participants' acceptance of and engagement with the course topic.

The final practical exercise demonstrated that participants had integrated many of the human rights-compliant behaviours and attitudes discussed during the previous days.



*Participants realized during this training, that by following human rights standards they will be able to act in a win-win process, protecting the company interest and respecting citizen's human rights.*

Raoul Forster, Safestainable Trainer

## What's Next?

Looking forward, it is important to remember that a single training course will not result in sustainable behavioural changes if police doctrine, culture, operating procedures, available equipment, and orders given do not reflect the

spirit of the training curriculum. As a result, DCAF and its partners are planning the second phase of a SRHIM project to develop a Train-the-Trainer training, which will be incorporated into the wider training for public security officers

deployed near critical infrastructure projects throughout Kenya. This is intended to ensure they are better able to integrate the respect for human rights while carrying out their duties.

*For more information, please contact Marlène Wäfler, [m.wafler@dcaf.ch](mailto:m.wafler@dcaf.ch)*