DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE

Security Sector Governance (SSG) is the concept used to determine how well the security sector provides security services. SSG relates to the formal and informal actors who are involved in the provision and oversight of security services at the national and local levels and assesses how these services are rendered. Ensuring the effective and responsible governance of the security sector is a key part of building democratic societies. There is a strong connection between security and governance since a safe and secure environment is essential for ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law, political stability, socio-economic development, and meeting essential human needs. USAID's SSG programs ensure that security services operate in the interests of citizens, society, and the state. In the 2013 USAID Democracy and Governance Strategy, USAID recognized that governance, security, development, peace, human rights respect, and prosperity are strongly interlinked.

> **What Is Security Sector Reform?**
> Security sector reform is the set of policies, plans, programs, and activities that a government undertakes to improve the way it provides safety, security, and justice. SSG relates to how these services are provided with an overall objective of providing these services in a way that promotes an effective and legitimate public service that is transparent, accountable to civilian authority, and responsive to the needs of the public.

SECURITY SECTOR ACTORS AND USAID'S SSG APPROACH:

The security sector actors could be classified into three categories: 1) uniformed services mandated to use force (armed forces, the police, or paramilitary forces); 2) elected and appointed civilian officials with responsibility for SSG (executive branch officers, legislators, justice and security ministers, civil service employees, organs of control (national ombudsman, inspector general office); and 3) civil society and private sector actors that monitor the state (i.e. media, civil society organizations, academia and researchers, and special commissions). Two other sets of actors that USAID doesn't program with, but who influence the security environment, include: non-state actors (militias and illegal armed groups outside of the state's control), and external constituencies (actors outside the country that have a keen interest in security, e.g. neighboring states, national and international donors, and regional organizations or actors).

While traditional security assistance focuses on military or police professionalism and performance, a SSG approach helps partner governments develop efficient security services that function in accordance with democratic principles of good governance and the rule of law. An SSG approach also helps them follow their human rights commitments under national, international law, and international humanitarian law. USAID's approach to SSG targets the civilian actors engaged in, or affected by, the security sector.

EXAMPLES OF USAID'S SSG PROGRAMMING:

Policing: Community policing and crime-prevention programs, human resources and recruitment reforms in police departments, public financial management, gender training, and strategic planning.

Defense, Security, and Border Management: Human resources reforms, anti-trafficking activities, human rights and gender training, customs management systems, support to national security councils and other coordinating mechanisms, and capacity building of parliamentary committees responsible for security.

Justice, the Rule of Law, and Security: Legal frameworks; linkages between police, prosecutors, and courts; court administration systems; transitional and customary justice systems; integrated case-management systems; and court automation programs.

Human Rights, Crime Prevention, Stability and Security: Legal frameworks, early warning systems, institutional strengthening programs to ensure human rights are respected and enhance stability, support to oversight institutions to ensure State's compliance with its commitments under national and international human rights law.

> **USAID and Police**
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> USAID has previous and current programming to support effective and democratic policing. See USAID's Effectiveness of Police Accountability Mechanisms and Programs and our Field Guide for *Assistance to Civilian Law Enforcement in Developing Countries* for examples and policies.

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR): Psychosocial and material support for reintegration, oversight mechanisms on ex-combatant treatment, DDR strategy, and strategic communications.

Independent Oversight Mechanisms: Gender-sensitive budget review and budget formulation training for legislature and support to independent organs, commissions, and civil society groups to monitor and document practices, promote reform, and facilitate inputs into reforms.

Public Administration Reform: Human resources reforms for diverse workforces, corruption complaint and income/asset declaration management systems, public financial management in security sector institutions, and automation of processes in security institutions to reduce corruption.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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