

MODULE SIX

What Roles Does Civil Society Play in Security Sector Reform?



A Women's Guide to Security Sector Reform Training Curriculum



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Over the last decade, Inclusive Security and DCAF have conducted dozens of training workshops with women and men in countries undergoing security sector reform processes. We wish to thank all those who have participated in these trainings, sharing their stories, their wisdom and their experience, and helped us in turn to develop the training approaches reflected in this curriculum.

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MODULE OVERVIEW:

What Roles Does Civil Society Play in Security Sector Reform?

Learning Objectives

- Participants are able to explain what a “civil society organization” is.
 - Participants are able to identify ways in which civil society organizations contribute to security sector reform.
 - Participants are able to explain civil society oversight of the security sector.
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Background Resources for Trainers

- Bastick, Megan, and Tobie Whitman. *A Women's Guide to Security Sector Reform*. Washington: Inclusive Security and DCAF, 2013. www.dcaf.ch/Publications/A-Women-s-Guide-to-Security-Sector-Reform
- Cole, Eden, Kerstin Eppert, and Katrin Kinzelbach. *Public Oversight of the Security Sector: A Handbook for Civil Society Organizations*. UNDP, 2008. www.dcaf.ch/Publications/Public-Oversight-of-the-Security-Sector
- DCAF. *Gender and Security Sector Reform: Examples from the Ground*. Geneva: DCAF, 2011. www.dcaf.ch/Publications/Gender-and-Security-Sector-Reform-Examples-from-the-Ground
- Inclusive Security. *Inclusive Security: A Curriculum for Women Waging Peace*. Washington: Inclusive Security, 2009. www.inclusivesecurity.org/training-resources/
- UN Women. “Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls – Security.” Last modified June 27, 2015. www.endvawnow.org/en/modules/view/13-security.html

Time

Description

5 minutes

6.1 Introduction to the Module

6.1.1 Facilitator Talking Points

90 minutes

6.2 What are the Roles of Civil Society Organizations in SSR?

6.2.1 Facilitator Talking Points: Roles of Civil Society Organizations in SSR

6.2.2 Activity: Mapping Existing Activities with the Security Sector

55 minutes

6.3 Real Life Examples of CSO Engagement in SSR

6.3.1 Activity: Case Study

5 minutes

6.4 Wrap Up

6.4.1 Facilitator Talking Points: Points to Take Away

Adapting the Module

Assessment Questions

Total Time: 2 hours 35 minutes

6.1 Introduction to the Module



6.1.1 Facilitator Talking Points

Background for Facilitator

This section introduces the purpose and learning objectives of the module.

Facilitator Talking Points

- In Module 5, we explored security sector reform, or “SSR,” identifying its objectives and essential characteristics. We considered SSR in practice—what it might entail—and some of the challenges to its success. In this module, we examine the roles of civil society actors in security sector reform. After this module, you will be able to:
 - Identify ways in which civil society organizations can contribute to SSR.
 - Explain what a “civil society organization” is.
 - Explain what civil society oversight of the security sector is.

Materials Needed

None

Learning Objectives

Participants are able to identify the purpose and learning objectives of this module.

Time 5 minutes

6.2 What are the Roles of Civil Society Organizations in SSR?



6.2.1 Facilitator Talking Points: Roles of Civil Society Organizations in SSR

Background for Facilitator

This section introduces the term “civil society” and asks participants to consider why civil society has an important role in overseeing the security sector and in SSR.

The first part of this section includes talking points and a short brainstorm to help participants define “civil society.” If participants are already familiar with this term, skip ahead and begin with “let me tell you a story.”

Facilitator Talking Points

- *Distribute sticky notes.*
- What do we mean when we say “civil society” and “civil society organizations” (CSOs)? What is a CSO? What is not?
- Reflect on this individually for few minutes and come up with two or three basic elements of what you think defines a civil society organization.
- *Ask participants to share what they have come up with, recording their answers on the flipchart.*
- The term “civil society” encompasses those individuals whose activities take place outside the state’s direct control.
- “Civil society organization” is a comprehensive term for all kinds of organizations and associations that are not part of the government but that represent nonprofit interest groups, professions, and different communities within society. These can include NGOs, community-based organizations, religious groups, women’s organizations, youth and student groups, trade organizations, professional associations, cultural societies, and academia. It can also include the media.
- *If time allows, facilitate a discussion around the elements of this definition. For example, ask participants whether “outside the state’s direct control” is always clearly defined. Once the group is clear on the definition, move on to the next talking point.*
- Let me tell you a short story. *Read aloud from the [Perspectives on Security](#) handout (and if you wish, distribute it), showing some photos from Haiti as you tell the story.*
- What does this story tell us?

Materials Needed

Flipchart; markers; sticky notes; presentation slides; [Perspectives on Security](#) handout

Learning Objectives

Participants are able to define “civil society” and “civil society oversight” and name a few ways civil society can participate in SSR.

Time 55 minutes

Civil Society

Individuals whose activities take place outside of the state’s direct control. This term includes all kinds of organizations that are not part of the government, but that represent nonprofit interest groups, professions, and different communities within society (including NGOs, community-based organizations, religious groups, women’s organizations, youth and student groups, trade organizations, professional associations, cultural societies, academia, and the media).

- There are often multiple perspectives on the same problem; in this case, there are two different interpretations of the same security threat and the team is presented with two vastly different solutions. Who is right? Why?
 - It’s likely that both sides are “right,” and likely neither is right on their own.
- It’s important to remember that security is very complex, and it requires the perspectives of a broad range of social actors, not only security professionals. By actively involving a wide range of civil society actors in security decisions, we ensure that all points of view and all interpretations are considered when deciding the best approach to increase security.
- Moreover, the expertise and independent interests of civil society actors and organizations can provide important checks and balances to the powers of the state. CSOs can be well positioned to oversee the security sector, holding it accountable.
- There are many ways for CSOs to participate in SSR. They can deliver services (e.g., to victims of violence or women prisoners); they can build the capacity of security sector personnel through training and awareness-raising; or they can provide input for policy discussions and processes.

Civil society oversight of the security sector, including SSR, involves the active participation of CSOs in defining policies and overseeing the structures and practices of security sector actors.

CSOs oversee the security sector to ensure that it applies the law fairly and equally and serves the interests and priorities of all communities.

What does civil society contribute to SSR?

Builds accountability: Oversight, monitoring, and facilitating dialogue between state security sector actors and communities.

Contributes to effectiveness: New program ideas, policies, and training.



6.2.2 Activity: Mapping Existing Activities with the Security Sector

Background for Facilitator

Use this activity to assess whether participants can identify how civil society organizations can contribute to SSR.

It might be helpful to display the security sector mapping that participants completed in Module 2.

This activity aims to create a mapping of what types of activities participants are doing with the security sector. Display and refer to the security sector maps participants created in Module 2 to remind them of the state and non-state components of the security sector, and the agencies focused on oversight and management, as well as those providing security services.

Prepare six flipcharts with the following headings and hang them around the room:

- Police
- Armed forces
- Justice institutions (e.g., courts, prisons)
- Ministries responsible for the security sector
- Other CSOs working on security issues
- Other

Materials Needed

Flipchart; sticky notes

Learning Objectives

Participants are able to identify ways civil society contribute to SSR from their contexts and other contexts.

Time 35 minutes

Instructions

Give each participant approximately 5 sticky notes, leaving extra blank sticky notes by each flipchart.

Introduce the activity by noting that many participants have probably already been involved in SSR, though they may not have called it that.

Have the participants position themselves next to whichever flipchart lists the main security sector institution they have been working with over the last year or would like to work with over the next year.

When everyone is in place, invite participants to comment on their positions. If necessary, clarify any questions and identify the “other” category.

Next, have participants rearrange themselves into groups according to the main type of activity they or their organization focus on when working with the security sector:

- research or monitoring
- training
- victim support
- advocacy
- other

If they have not worked yet with the security sector, have them choose the topic they would like to work on in the future.

When everyone is in place, clarify any questions and identify the “other” activities. Ask a few participants to share more details about their activities: what were their objectives and outcomes?

Have all participants briefly write their key activities on sticky notes then affix them to whichever flipchart represents the institution they have been working with. For example, if they have been researching police procedures, they would write “researching procedures” and stick it to the “police” flipchart. You will refer back to this record of activities later in the training (make sure to keep the flipcharts for this purpose).

Debrief

Facilitator Instructions

Discussion during the activity may already have drawn out a wide range of examples of how CSOs can contribute to SSR. If not, when the participants have sat down again, share some additional examples of CSO activities that promote the two goals of SSR (ask again, “What are the two main goals of SSR?”). You can draw on local or global examples.

You can also highlight the following examples from “A Women’s Guide to Security Sector Reform” and “Gender and Security Sector Reform: Examples from the Ground.”¹

¹ Megan Bastick and Tobie Whitman, *A Women’s Guide to Security Sector Reform* (Washington: Inclusive Security and DCAF, 2013), www.dcaf.ch/Publications/A-Women-s-Guide-to-Security-Sector-Reform; DCAF, *Gender and Security Sector Reform: Examples from the Ground* (Geneva: DCAF, 2011), www.dcaf.ch/Publications/Gender-and-Security-Sector-Reform-Examples-from-the-Ground.

How do CSOs contribute to SSR?	Examples
Provide expert technical and policy advise, based on independent research or personal expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Organizations and the South African Defense Review Process (A Women’s Guide, page 9) • Liberia’s Civil Society SSR Working Group (A Women’s Guide, page 26)
Train security sector personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nepal: Women’s CSOs working with security institutions (Examples from the Ground, page 78)
Monitor and document human rights abuses and misconduct by security sector personnel, and shortcomings in security and justice provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodian Women’s Rights Monitoring Office (A Women’s Guide, page 34)
Provide security and justice services, such as aid to prisoners or survivors of domestic violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yemeni Women’s Union Provides Services to Prisoners (A Women’s Guide, page 34)
Raise public awareness on key issues through campaigns and working with the media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazilian Soap Opera Supports CSOs’ Advocacy (A Women’s Guide, page 28) • “Women in Security” Radio Programs in Sierra Leone (A Women’s Guide, page 29)
Facilitate dialogue between communities and security sector actors, including identifying community security priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poster Surveys in Libya (A Women’s Guide, page 16) • Local Gender and Security Needs Assessment in Serbia (A Women’s Guide, page 17) • Prijedor Security Forum in Bosnia (A Women’s Guide, page 32)
Join oversight bodies and structures, such as human rights commissions or local police boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesia: Oversight and monitoring of gender issues in justice reform (Examples from the Ground, page 33) • United Kingdom: Civil society oversight of places of detention (Examples from the Ground, page 82)

6.3 Real Life Example of CSO Engagement in SSR



6.3.1 Activity: Case Study

Background for Facilitator

This activity will also help you assess whether participants are able to identify how civil society organizations contribute to SSR.

Instructions

Explain to the group that they will now work on a case study illustrating how a civil society organization might participate in prison reform. Divide them into small groups, then distribute the [Case Study: Female Prisoners in Afghanistan](#) handout (see annex), giving them 5 minutes to read through it (10 minutes).

Have each small group discuss what concrete activities they could undertake as a CSO to solve the problems posed in the case study (20 minutes).

Invite groups to briefly present what they have come up with (20 minutes).

Materials Needed

[Case Study: Female Prisoners in Afghanistan](#) handout; [Examples of CSO Support for Female Prisoners in Afghanistan](#) handout

Learning Objectives

Participants are able to identify specific ways civil society can contribute to SSR.

Time 55 minutes

Debrief

Facilitator Talking Points

- Civil society organizations bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to security sector reform and make sure that it is people centered. In this case study, we only examined one aspect (prison reform).
- In real life, it is important for CSOs engaging in SSR to have a comprehensive approach and understand how their activities connect to different aspects of SSR. For instance, in an effort to improve security sector performance, we often focus just on training, but a training initiative will not be successful if it is not accompanied by good policy and operational guidelines.
- This is why it's important to map the root causes of a problem and all of the different outcomes that need to be achieved to solve it, and to try to address each one. We'll work more on this type of mapping strategy in later modules.
- *Prepare to distribute the [Examples of CSO Support for Female Prisoners in Afghanistan](#) handout (see annex) after presenting the concluding points. If time allows, have participants read and discuss it.*

6.4 Wrap Up



6.4.1 Facilitator Talking Points: Points to Take Away

Background for Facilitator

This section highlights the main points of this module.

Facilitator Talking Points

- “Civil society organization” is the comprehensive name for all kinds of organizations and associations that are not part of the government, but that represent nonprofit interest groups, professions, and different communities within a society.
- Civil society organizations are key actors in security sector reform. They can take action in many different ways to influence national security policies and security sector institutions, and to reform processes.
- Civil society can, for example.... *Go back to the different colored flipcharts and read the activities participants have put up.*

Materials Needed

None

Learning Objectives

Participants understand the main points of this module.

Time 5 minutes

Adapting the Module



Less Time



6.3.1 Activity: Case Study (SAVE 50 MINUTES)

With less time, you might leave out Activity 6.3.1: Case Study. Should you do so, try to incorporate its debrief points in your debrief of Activity 6.2.2: Mapping Existing Activities with the Security Sector.



More Time



6.3.1 Activity: Case Study (ADD 15-20 MINUTES)

You can further develop this activity by adding the following question after participants have identified the activities they would like to plan and implement: “What are some potential obstacles in implementing these activities, and how could you overcome them?”

Assessment Questions (Blank)

Q.6.1 “Civil society oversight of the security sector” means: (select one)

- a. Making unannounced visits to barracks, police stations, and prisons.
- b. The active participation of civil society organizations in defining policies and overseeing the structures and practices of security sector actors.
- c. Organizing social events for members of the armed and security forces.

Q.6.2 Civil society organizations can contribute to SSR by: (select one)

- a. Supporting the government’s position on controversial issues.
- b. Ensuring that the communities they represent get special treatment in the SSR process.
- c. Facilitating dialogue between communities and security sector actors, including identifying community security priorities.

Assessment Questions (Answer Key)

Q.6.1 “Civil society oversight of the security sector” means: (select one)

- a. Making unannounced visits to barracks, police stations, and prisons.
- b. The active participation of civil society organizations in defining policies and overseeing the structures and practices of security sector actors.
- c. Organizing social events for members of the armed and security forces.

Q.6.2 Civil society organizations can contribute to SSR by: (select one)

- a. Supporting the government’s position on controversial issues.
- b. Ensuring that the communities they represent get special treatment in the SSR process.
- c. Facilitating dialogue between communities and security sector actors, including identifying community security priorities.

ANNEX

Perspectives on Security

An international team arrives in Cité Soleil, an impoverished neighborhood of Haiti's capital city, that is notorious for insecurity. The team is tasked with a quick assessment of the security situation. At stake is funding for an SSR program worth millions of dollars.

First, the team meets with the chief of police; they ask what his most pressing security problem is and how he would respond. He says, "the worst problems we have are the bands of children and young people doing nothing all day, standing around in the street, committing petty crimes and getting involved in drug trafficking. What we need are more police officers to arrest them, more prosecutors to process them, and more jails to detain them."

The team later meets with a local women's civil society organization and asks the same question: "what is your most pressing security problem and how would you respond?" The organization's president answers, "the worst problem we have is that our children have no school to go to, no field to play sports, no jobs to earn some money. They stay on the streets all day long and are easy prey for organized crime gangs, who make them steal and sell drugs. What we need is more schools, more teachers, a community center with activities and counsellors, and a work program to keep them productive and busy."

Case Study: Female Prisoners in Afghanistan¹

Instructions

You are a local civil society organization that has received funding for a project to support female prisoners in Badam Badgh. On average, the prison accommodates approximately 200 female inmates and 50 children.

- Which activities you would plan and implement to achieve this objective?
- What are the results you would like to see?

Background

Afghanistan's prison population has exploded since 2001. In 2001, there were only 600 prisoners; by March 2005, there were 5,500 recorded prisoners; by March 2007, there were 10,400; and by 2012, there were 24,613.²

Many people are detained illegally, and the lack of an independent bar or state-subsidized legal aid system impedes most citizens' access to justice. Adults and children are often imprisoned for months before actually being seen by a judge to determine the legality of their detention.

At the same time, the traditional, informal justice mechanisms that serve as the de facto legal system throughout most of Afghanistan frequently discriminate against women and children. In this system, disputes and crimes are tried and resolved by a council of elders (*jirgas* or *shuras*) composed exclusively of men.

Women are unable to approach these councils without the assistance of a male relative, limiting their ability to raise certain issues even if they wish to do so. In addition, the *jirgas* often deal with matters relating to marriage, abduction, and adultery in a discriminatory way. For example, all sexual relationships outside of marriage are treated the same way by the *jirgas*, regardless of whether rape or consensual sex has occurred. In the Nuristan region, if a girl is raped, the *jirgas* pressures the perpetrator's family to bring her back and "asks" her to marry him. If she accepts, the dowry is paid and she is married.

While some cases of abduction may be consensual, in others, the girl is shamed by the abduction and possible rape ("adultery") and therefore has little choice but to marry her abductor. Any other future for her would be bleak, with little or no prospect of marriage to someone else. Thus, the settlements concluded by *jirgas* in such cases of "abduction" or "adultery" often amount to forcing a girl to marry her rapist.

In 2009 Afghanistan adopted a law to eliminate violence against women, creating new criminal penalties for underage and forced marriage, domestic violence, rape, forced prostitution, and other abuses against women. This law has yet to be fully implemented.

1 Adapted from DCAF, Gender and Security Sector Reform: Examples from the Ground (Geneva: DCAF, 2011), 41-44, www.dcaf.ch/Publications/Gender-and-Security-Sector-Reform-Examples-from-the-Ground.

2 World Prison Brief, "Afghanistan," last modified 2014, www.prisonstudies.org/country/afghanistan.

The female prison population

As with the male prison population, the number of female prisoners has increased over the last 15 years. Female prisoners rose from 86 in December 2004, to 275 in 2008 (along with 175 of their children), to 718 in 2014, to 744 in May 2015.³ The majority of female prisoners are 18 to 25 years old.

The majority of female prisoners are being held for violating social, behavioural, or religious norms—so-called “moral crimes.” According to the Human Rights Watch, the number of women and girls imprisoned for these crimes increased by 50 percent from October 2011 to May 2013 alone.⁴ In May 2015, the UN Human Rights Council’s Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, who visited prisons across Afghanistan, reported that 58 percent of female prisoners were charged with “moral” crimes.⁵ These are considered crimes against the dignity of the family and include “adultery,” running away from a husband after abuse, having a relationship without being married, and refusal to marry. Although running away from home is not technically an offense under Afghan law, a woman who runs away is often detained while the prosecution determines whether or not she has committed unlawful sexual relations; these women are often detained for long periods and are sometimes sentenced to imprisonment. There are also cases of women being imprisoned for having publicly reported rape and being placed in the same detention facility as their rapists.

Despite this, it’s important to remember that women in prisons are a very small percentage of Afghan women who are punished for violating moral codes. Most women are tried for such offenses under the traditional justice systems. According to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the use of non-judicial mechanisms, including mediation, hinders women’s access to justice.⁶

Conditions in women’s prisons

In 2008, Afghanistan’s first women’s prison, with a capacity of 330 prisoners, was established in Kabul with the help of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In 2015, Kabul’s women’s prison, Badam Badgh, housed 159 women and many children and babies. While Badam Badgh offers some vocational and literacy programs and overall better conditions than previous facilities, according to the UNODC, women prisoners across Afghanistan are incarcerated under conditions that do not meet international standards.⁷ For example, the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and NGOs have reported cases of rape of female detainees by police. Women, too, have reported sexual harassment, voyeurism, invasion of personal privacy, intimidation, rape, and even forced prostitution. A culture of bullying and abuse within the prisons is common as women and children live cramped together in inadequate space.

The Paywand Afghan Association released a report in December 2015 stating that of women inmates interviewed, 68 percent said they were not given any information about their rights, and no one told them that they could access state-appointed defence lawyers, or that they had the right to remain silent.

3 Ibid. Government of the United Kingdom, “Country Information and Guidance: Afghanistan: Prison Conditions,” September 2015, www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/565457/CI-G-Afghanistan-Prison-Conditions-v1-September-2015.pdf.

4 “Afghanistan Surge in Women Jailed for ‘Moral Crimes,’” Human Rights Watch, May 21, 2013, www.hrw.org/news/2013/05/21/afghanistan-surge-women-jailed-moral-crimes.

5 Government of the United Kingdom, “Country Information and Guidance: Afghanistan.”

6 “Afghanistan: Reforms needed to ensure justice for women victims of violence – UN Report,” UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, April 19, 2015, www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15861&LangID=E#sthash.q8gnvpbn.dpuf.

7 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, “Concept Note: Reforming Penitentiary in Afghanistan,” July 2010, www.unodc.org/documents/afghanistan/conceptnotes/Microsoft_Word_-_2010_19_July_03_Concept_Note_Penitentiary_Reform_Final.pdf.

Examples of CSO support for Female Prisoners in Afghanistan¹

Civil society organizations provide much-needed services to female prisoners in Afghanistan, including contact with the outside world. The following are examples of the diverse ways in which CSOs support female prisoners.

The **Afghan Women's Education Centre (AWEC)** worked with women and girl prisoners in detention centres in Kabul and Mazar from 2004 to December 2014. AWEC's doctors regularly visited the prison facilities, and AWEC provided social workers to support the women prisoners, facilitating their re-entry into society. Inside the prisons, these social workers led awareness-raising workshops on issues such as prisoners' rights, human rights, civil rights, women's rights and Islam, gender, violence against women, peace and conflict resolution, health, and HIV/AIDS prevention measures. Classes were held five days a week and included basic health education, literacy, first aid, handicrafts, and tailoring. Between August 2007 and July 2008, 146 female prisoners and their children took part in AWEC's education and vocational training in the Kabul prisons. AWEC's social workers also visited prisoners' families outside the prisons, arranging family visits and helping the women be welcomed back into their families after release. Because most Afghan women in prison cannot afford to hire lawyers, AWEC provided a legal assistant to look over their cases and help them. On the International Women's Day in 2015, AWEC provided female prisoners with basic hygiene supplies. Since these programs ended, former AWEC staff say that the women and children in the prisons have lacked these essential services, suffering from a range of health and sanitation problems.²

Medica Afghanistan runs a project offering legal assistance to women prisoners. Medica Afghanistan's lawyers and social workers help mediate between women and their relatives to mitigate family conflicts. Many women are imprisoned as a result of such conflicts escalating, so this mediation helps prevent court cases in advance.³ When women are already in prison, Medica Afghanistan provides them with criminal defence services in court.

Similarly, the **Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan** has legal aid centers for female victims of violence in Herat, Kabul, Mazar, and Jalabad. These centers offer free legal counseling and psycho-social support, and in-court support for women.⁴

1 Adapted from DCAF, Gender and Security Sector Reform: Examples from the Ground (Geneva: DCAF, 2011), 41-44, www.dcaf.ch/Publications/Gender-and-Security-Sector-Reform-Examples-from-the-Ground.

2 Afghan Women's Educational Center, "Celebrating the Human Rights of Women Prisoners on Women's Day," April 3, 2015, www.awec.info/eng/?p=1319.

3 Medica Mondiale, "Women's rights in Afghanistan," accessed 1 March 2016, www.medicamondiale.org/en/where-we-work/afghanistan.html.

4 Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan, "HAWCA- Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan," accessed 1 March 2016, www.hawca.org.

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