

Global Program on Civil Society and the Security Sector

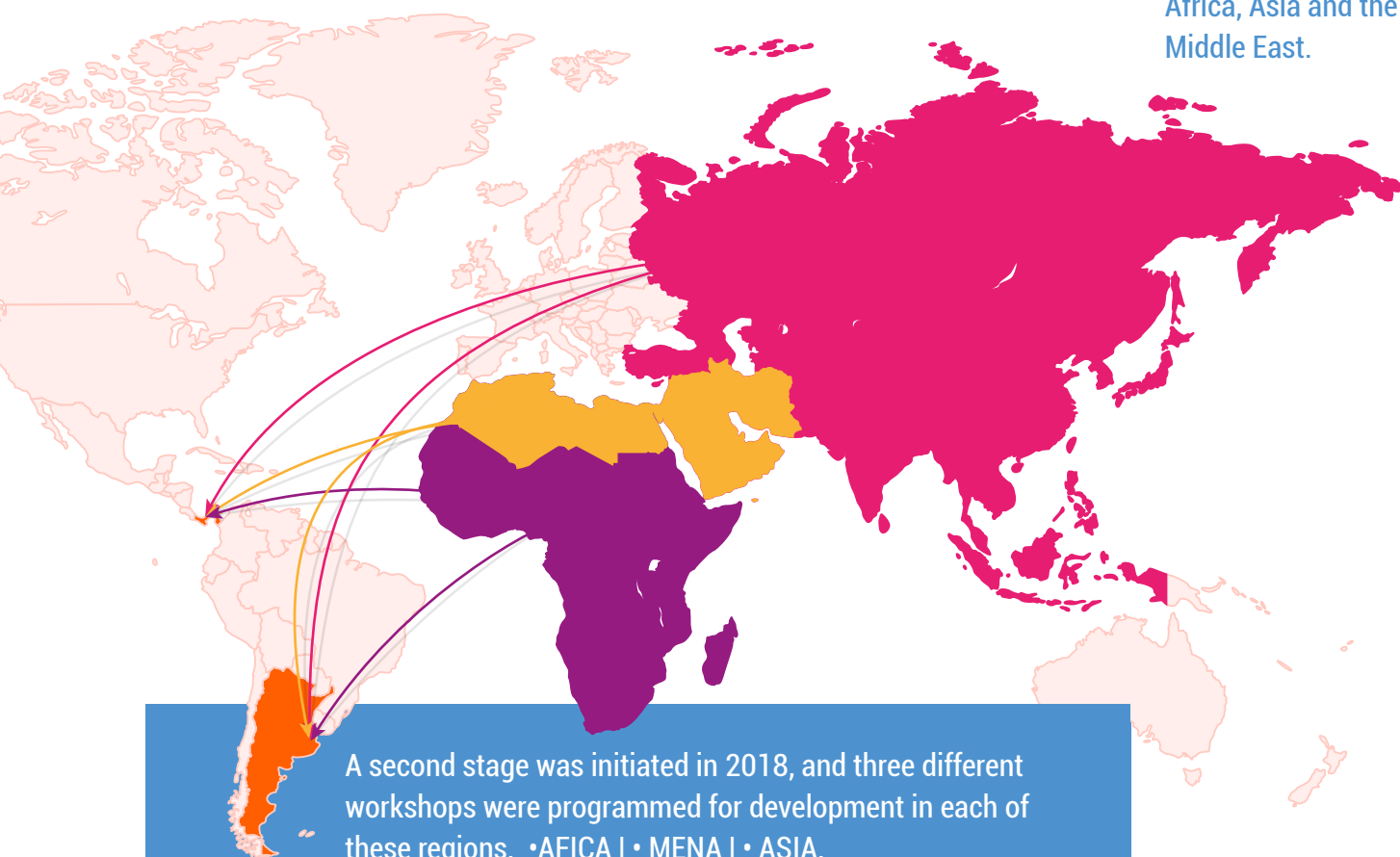
WORKSHOPS 2018

Background

In the case of countries that have experienced conflict or that are developing democratic institutions, the issue of security sector reform is central to their agendas, as is consequently the possibility for civil society to participate in such processes. This involvement of civil society in issues relating to the sector, and specifically in reform processes, allows for more collaborative, democratic, comprehensive and plural processes – extremely necessary in the present times - to be generated.

These reform processes are observed in various parts of the world, and despite their differences, these distinct regions share characteristics and challenges that promote interregional collaboration. It is in this context that RESDAL has established its Global Program on Civil Society and the Security Sector, departing from the Latin American experience. The Latin American region has undergone important experiences over recent decades, especially regarding the development of institutions within the security sector. These experiences from the Global South express the different ways in which civil society has been incorporated into, and collaborated in, public policy processes. This Program conveys the sharing of both the positive and negative lessons learnt during the process, and the development of stronger links with organizations in other regions of the world that are working in the same field.

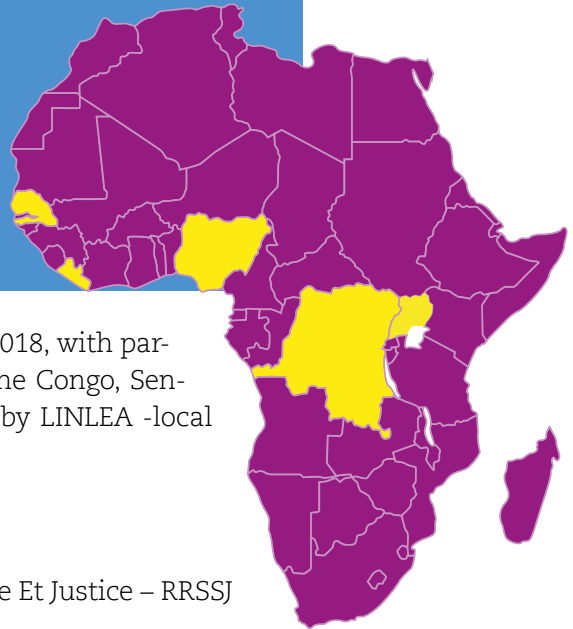
In 2017, when this program was initiated, two workshops were developed in Latin America (Panama City and Buenos Aires) with the participation of organizations from Africa, Asia and the Middle East.



A second stage was initiated in 2018, and three different workshops were programmed for development in each of these regions. •AFICA | • MENA | • ASIA.

Global Program on Civil Society and the Security Sector

AFRICA EDITION



The first workshop of this second stage was held in May 2018, with participants from Liberia, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal and Uganda. It was organized in Monrovia, Liberia, by LINLEA -local organization- and RESDAL.

The following organizations participated:

- DRC/ Réseau Pour La Reforme Du Secteur De Securite Et Justice – RRSSJ
- Nigeria / CLEEN Foundation
- Senegal / Partners West Africa – Senegal
- Uganda / Facilitation for Peace and Development (FAPAD)

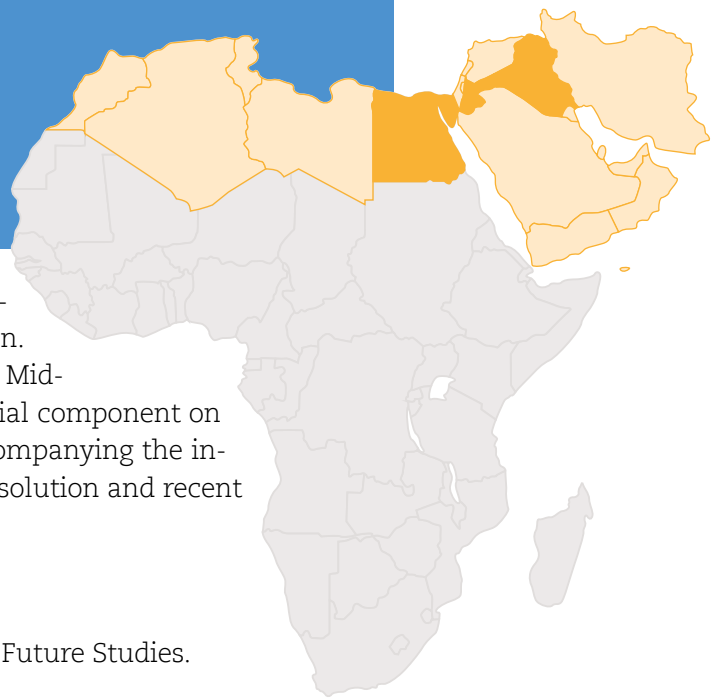
In this case, with the authorization of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia, the group was received at the Edward Beyan Kesselly Military Barracks on May 9th, 2018, where military personnel under the responsibility of the head of the barracks, together with a team of 8 officers, made a presentation detailing the history and transitions of the AFL.

Held across four days, the working sessions were divided into: presentations and general discussion, practices, an outreach visit to meet with local authorities (in this case the Liberian Armed Forces), and a final exercise.



Global Program on Civil Society and the Security Sector

MENA EDITION



The second regional workshop was held in August 2018, with participants from Egypt, Iraq and Jordan. It brought together academics from countries in the Middle East and North Africa region, and included a special component on the subject of gender and peace operations, thus accompanying the international community's efforts on Security Council Resolution and recent activities such as the Elsie Initiative.

The following organizations participated:

- Iraq / AKKAD Center for Strategic Affairs and Future Studies.
- Jordan / Al-Quds Center for Political Studies.
- Egypt / Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies.
- Some other academy representatives from Egypt.



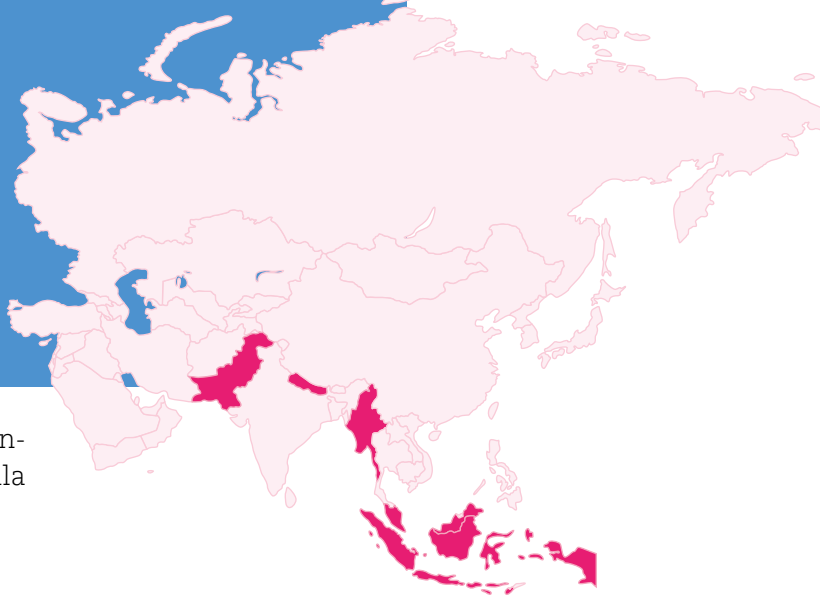
The workshop was developed over four days and the working sessions included presentations and general discussions, as well as some practical exercises. Issues discussed included budgets, human rights, civil-military relations, institutions, data collection, confidence-building measures, and a special component on gender, peacekeeping and Women, Peace and Security.



Utilizing a different form of participation, with academic points of view more greatly mixed in, this workshop added some new elements to the cross-regional networking effort. This included the importance of working with primary data, which begins with the identification of all possible data sources, and the technical training necessary for analyzing and working on them, while at the same time building organizational prestige.

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ASIA EDITION



The third and last workshop of the year was conducted between December 10th and 13th, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The following organizations participated:

- Indonesia / Imparsial
- Malaysia / National Patriots Association
- Burma / Tagaung Institute of Political Studies
- Nepal / Peace and Justice Promotion Center
- Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency (PILDAT)

On this last occasion, the group was composed of very different organizations, some more closely linked to human rights issues, others with more experience in areas related to the armed forces. The length of time the organizations had been in existence also varied, with some having recently been formed while others had more than ten years of experience. This provided for the possibility of addressing different issues. Among the topics discussed, working on security and defence budgets can be highlighted alongside the incorporation of a gender perspective in the security sector.



CONCLUSIONS

Despite the particularities of each case, the three workshops held a common central core regarding the issues addressed and subsequent exercises. These were: ways to work in this sector as a civil society organization, the implications of this, a possible specification in terms of the topics to be worked on, selecting one topic and developing a corresponding strategy, budgets, gender, human rights, civil-military relations, data collection, confidence-building measures, DDR, police reform, and strategies around issues such as the use of data, gender perspective and the employment of entry points.

These last points were crucial in all cases, where the central issue was the search for routes of collaboration. Exchange with state institutions was thus one of the elements worked on as part of the training.

Finally, a further commonality between the three workshops was inquiries and demands for networking to emerge again, as in the previous year, however not only with Latin America but also in a global manner, relating to other regions.