

EVALUATION BRIEFS

INDEPENDENT PROJECT EVALUATION

SUPPORT TO WEST AFRICA INTEGRATED MARITIME SECURITY (SWAIMS): GLOW63 SEGMENT

Region: West Africa (ECOWAS region), with a focus on Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Togo

Duration: 14 January 2019 – 13 June 2024

Donor: European Union

Programme: Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP)

Evaluation team: Elca Stigter (lead), Olivier Bertrand (expert)

Full report:

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/evaluation/reports_year_2024.html

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

By the late 2000s, piracy in the Gulf of Guinea had become a global concern. The Yaoundé Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships, and Illicit Maritime Activity, adopted in 2013, informed the establishment of the Yaoundé Architecture to support regional coordination. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) subsequently adopted the Integrated Maritime Strategy (EIMS) in 2014, which has framed the design and implementation of this segment.

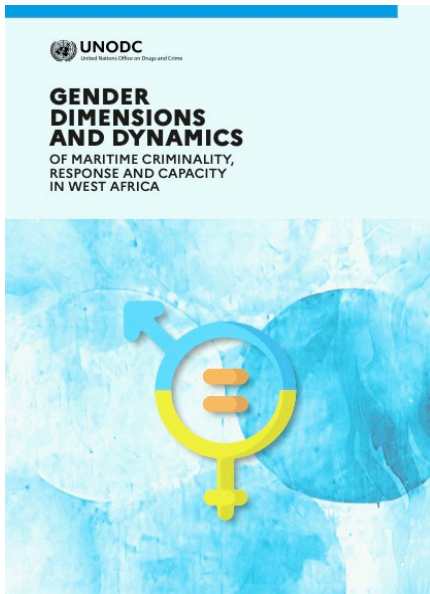
MAIN FINDINGS

The segment has contributed to the adopted ECOWAS Supplementary Act on the Conditions of Transfer of Persons Suspected of Having Committed Acts of Piracy, adopted on 3 July 2022, the validated ECOWAS Supplementary Act relating to Cooperation in Suppressing Illicit Maritime Activities, the

adopted Suppression of Piracy and Other Maritime Offences (SPOMO) Act of Nigeria, Harmonized Standard Operating Procedures in Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Togo, strengthened capacity in law enforcement, prosecution and adjudication, and a published regional study ‘Gender Dimensions and Dynamics of Maritime Criminality, Response and Capacity in West Africa’. While effectiveness and impact have been limited, progress has been made towards strengthening the legislative framework and regional and national capacities in the field of investigations. However, the expectation to reach a higher number of prosecutions of alleged pirates has not materialized. This could partially be attributed to the downward trend in piracy in the region. Nevertheless, the segment may have contributed to maritime security and safety in the ECOWAS Region (see figure 1). In addition, the segment has been efficient to some extent, with major delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, but team flexibility, virtual training and an increased use of local capacity have provided the means to mitigate the consequences of



Figure 1: Word cloud - Online survey data: Concrete positive changes in one or more areas as a result of attended events in the GoG.



this global crisis. Internal coherence has been considered by means of synergies with other GMCP segments, although with room for more cooperation with other UNODC global transnational organized crime programmes. Effective partnerships with organizations have contributed to external coherence, and no duplication of effort was noted. Human rights have been mainstreamed to some extent, gender equality to a limited extent and disability inclusion has not been considered in the segment. The continued relevance of this field of work is unquestionable considering international and regional frameworks, strategies and policies, and existing response mechanism and as maritime crimes continue to be committed in the region. The potential pre-emptive effect of strong legislation and response mechanisms, such as for piracy, confirm the segment's continued relevance.

LESSONS LEARNED

The importance of a comprehensive theory of change, monitoring and reporting is key for effective donor relations, informing management decisions and underpinning evaluations.

GOOD PRACTICES

Good practice 1. The investment made in in-person meetings, and building and maintaining informal working relations in parallel with formal ones has gone a long way, including with ECOWAS.

Good practice 2. Multi-agency regional and national meetings have supported multi-stakeholder and cross-border cooperation as a consequence of strengthened informal networks and an increased understanding of mandates and responsibilities.

METHODOLOGY

This evaluation has been carried out by means of a theory-based, mixed method methodology, namely a desk review, online semi-structured interviews, and an online survey of participants of training and other events. Data collection has been carried out virtually in a human right, gender-sensitive and inclusive manner. A total of 134 internal documents and 12 external documents were reviewed during the desk review, and 35 virtual interviews (12 F; 23 M) were concluded with recipients of assistance, UNODC, and partners. In addition, an online survey in French and English was conducted from 3 to 16 July amongst 306 participants, with a response rate of 24 percent (27 F; 45 M). Qualitative and quantitative methods have been used for analysis, such as statistical analysis and source and method triangulation. UN Evaluation Group and UNODC evaluation guidelines have been applied.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue with legislative reform and capacity building in maritime security, and strengthen programming by means of a Theory of Change, creating and implementing a comprehensive monitoring system and exploring synergies with other UNODC global programmes.
2. Strengthen the human resources component, including by increasing the number of field-based staff, including for mentoring, and expand the pool of consultants, including with regional and female consultants.
3. Strengthen human rights mainstreaming, including by integrating a victim-centered approach, mapping of human rights actors and obstacles to advancing human rights/actions to remove these.
4. Strengthen gender mainstreaming, including by preparing and implementing a plan of action for the recommendations in the 'Gender Dimensions and Dynamics' study given to UNODC.
5. Show leadership on inclusion, including disability inclusion, by preparing a plan of action for mainstreaming, including by ensuring accessibility of events for persons with limited mobility.



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