

DCAF's International Security
Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT)

**PROGRAMME
CYCLE SERIES**



THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SECTOR ADVISORY TEAM
THE GENEVA CENTRE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES

Backstopping

Swiss Mandate in Honduras



Backstopping

Long-term periodic support to Governing Board Members' programmes in the form of assisting embassy and mission staff and advisors deployed in the field. In addition to coaching and mentoring, which is integral to ISSAT assistance, regular deployments to field locations are also combined with short-term technical support to reinforce particular activities undertaken as part of a Governing Board Member's programme.

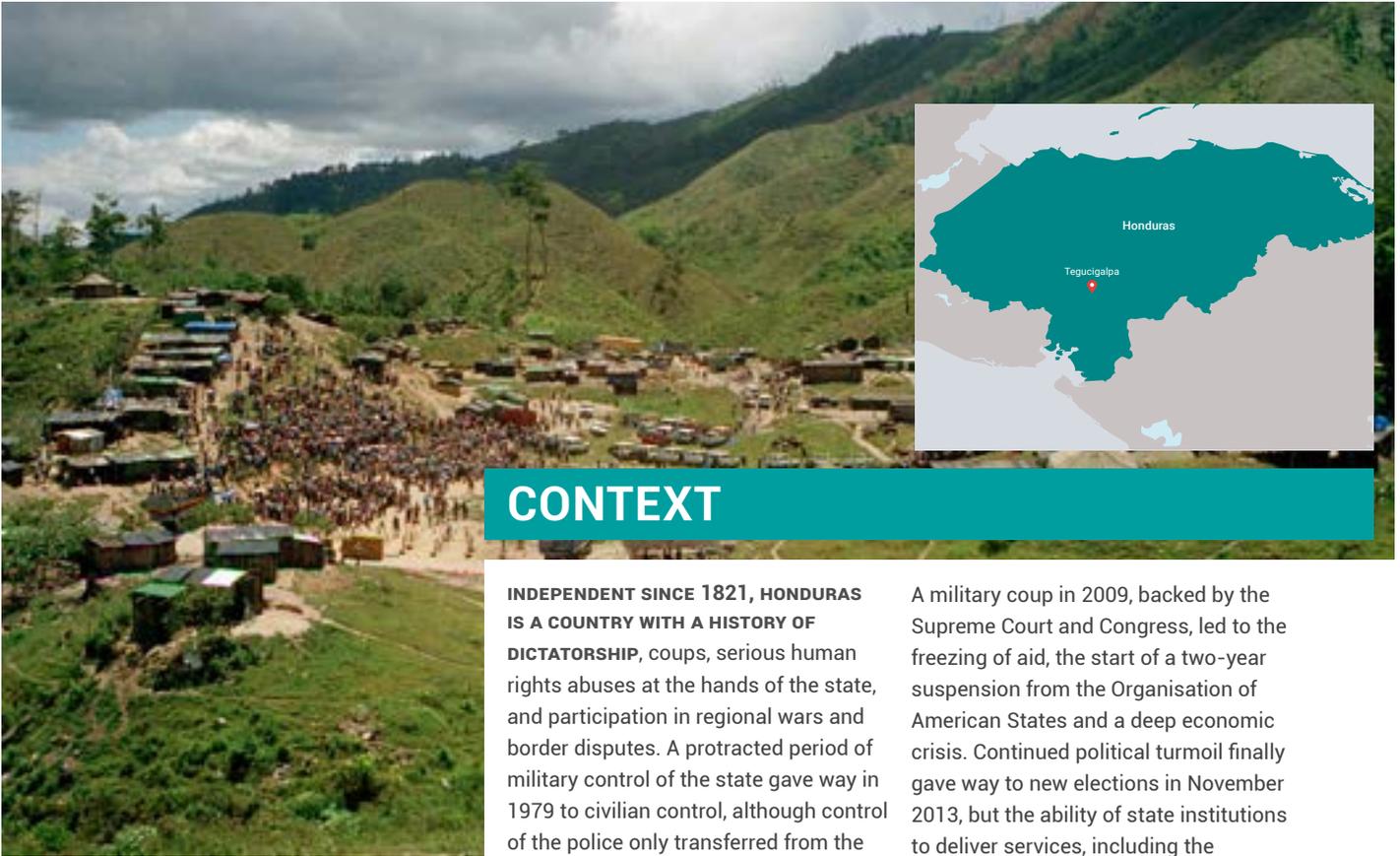
The Programme Cycle

Assessment

Design

Implementation

Evaluation



CONTEXT

INDEPENDENT SINCE 1821, HONDURAS IS A COUNTRY WITH A HISTORY OF DICTATORSHIP, coups, serious human rights abuses at the hands of the state, and participation in regional wars and border disputes. A protracted period of military control of the state gave way in 1979 to civilian control, although control of the police only transferred from the military to civilian authorities in 1998. The following year the Armed Forces were placed under civilian control. This did little to improve the security of the state or its people.

A military coup in 2009, backed by the Supreme Court and Congress, led to the freezing of aid, the start of a two-year suspension from the Organisation of American States and a deep economic crisis. Continued political turmoil finally gave way to new elections in November 2013, but the ability of state institutions to deliver services, including the provision of justice and security, remains mired in corruption and remains highly politicised.

ONUCA demobilizes Nicaraguan Resistance Forces in Honduras
UN Photo/Steen Johansen

SSR Opportunities in Honduras



At least 22 people on hunger strike, including Human Rights activist Wilfredo Mendez, demand the installation of the International Commission against Impunity in Honduras (CICIH)
Orlando Sierra/AFP

THE RULE OF LAW ARCHITECTURE IN HONDURAS IS WEAK. Organised crime and a strong youth gang culture—involved in extortion and in activities linked to the drug trade (Honduras is on the main drug trafficking route from South America to the US)—represent significant challenges.

However, in spite of these challenges, entry points for justice and security sector reform (JSSR) support are becoming more evident as a result of a continuous prioritisation of security issues. In addition, there is space for broader participation in national debate allowing for actors such as the national commissioner for human rights and civil society Peace and Justice Alliance (APJ) to have more influence. Furthermore, the homicide rate (the highest in the world for the last three years at 90.2 per 100,000 inhabitants) in 2012 is now down to 66 per 100,000 (UNODC).

In 2016, OHCHR will have a functioning Office in Tegucigalpa, thus providing the Government a key partner in developing a culture for human rights compliance.

The Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH), established via a recent signed agreement between the Organization of American States (OAS) and Honduran Government will seek to dismantle corruption networks operating in the country. Although different from the International Commission against impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), the OAS mission will still offer independency and the ability to closely follow the actors of the justice and security sector.

Finally, a number of donors are focusing on supporting this very important issue.

Swiss Agency for Development (SDC) Engagement



SDC SUPPORTS AN INTEGRATED SSR AND VIOLENCE-PREVENTION PROGRAMME, implemented through two strategic partners: the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the APJ. The programme looks at police reform including: strategic management; capacity building and community policing; criminal investigation, community security and strengthening; civil society participation and influence.



APJ conflict sensitivity training session with SDC SSR Team in Honduras
Bjorn Holmberg/ISSAT

ISSAT Support to SDC in Honduras

ISSAT JUST FINISHED A THREE-YEAR MANDATE to backstop the first phase of the SDC support programme. This encompassed ten missions and distance support. The ISSAT wide-ranging supports included:

- Technical advice and support to SDC and counterparts, including JSSR thematic training, and introducing tools for conflict sensitivity, political dialogue, stakeholder analysis, scenario analysis and theory of change (ToC).
- Support to SDC and counterparts to deliver capacity building on reinforcing local ownership of the SSR and violence prevention programme, as well as political dialogue
- Building the SSR support capacity of the SDC office in Tegucigalpa
- Support to IDB to develop their results oriented monitoring and overall JSSR support strategy
- Support to APJ to develop their

programme results matrix, baseline and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) instruments, as well as support to building a strategy towards JSSR

- Support to SDC to update their JSSR results framework and monitoring system for incorporation into the planning for Phase II (2016-2018) of the programme

ISSAT will provide new support for Phase II of SDC's engagement. This will prioritise supporting systemic change, and initiatives that will allow the authorities to provide more accountable security services. It integrates:

- the political dimension--supporting a nationally driven process based on nationally agreed public policies;
- the holistic dimension--integrating all key actors and sub-sectors;
- the technical dimension--bringing expert solutions and best international practices for the justice and security sector.



Honduras political crisis, protest against the 2009 Coup D'Etat
Wikipedia/Yamil Conzales



Results

THE PROGRAMME HAS ACHIEVED the following results:

- SDC in Honduras are managing the country programme more effectively by applying relevant tools.
- SDC has developed a clear aid effectiveness profile in JSSR, which has enabled it to manage the political dimension of its support.
- Using the increased awareness of JSSR principles, the SDC and partner IDB have a more effective and collaborative partnership on substantive issues.
- The Ministry for Security has enhanced its focus on strategic planning and policy dialogue, leading to an increase in performance of the Programme.
- APJ has the organisational cohesion and awareness to contribute to the national JSSR political dialogue more effectively through strategic planning and results-based management. The network is established as a specialised and trustworthy voice of civil society advocating for an integrated approach towards SSR.



APJ conflict sensitivity training session with SDC SSR Team in Honduras
Bjorn Holmberg/ISSAT

Main Lessons Identified



Training and Capacity Building session during ISSAT's mission in Honduras
Bjorn Holmberg/ISSAT

EMBEDDING CONFLICT SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS into technical support proved to be a key factor in building a trust-based relationship with counterparts. It allowed the team to periodically adjust their awareness of the key issues and take into account the evolving context. This also meant that the team was able to act in a flexible, but relevant, manner with regard to the timing and content of technical assistance.

THE THEORY OF CHANGE (TOC) IS A VERY USEFUL TOOL to bring together political and technical analysis in support of more robust RBM programming for JSSR.

WORKING SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH national institutions and a wide umbrella of CSOs provides a great opportunity to introduce a shared vision of SSR into public debate.

KEY RESOURCES

Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) in Central America:
<https://www.eda.admin.ch/deza/en/home/countries/central-america.html>

Secretary of Security Honduras:
<http://www.seguridad.gob.hn/>

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Honduras:
<http://www.iadb.org/en/countries/honduras/honduras-and-the-idb,1053.html>

Asociación para la Paz y Justicia (APJ):
<http://www.pazyjusticiahonduras.com>

Centro de Documentación de Honduras (CEDOH):
<http://www.cedoh.org/>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Countries/LACRegion/Pages/HNIndex.aspx>

IDB Citizen Security in Honduras
<http://www.seguridadyregion.com/honduras.html>

Insight Crime Honduras:
<http://www.insightcrime.org/honduras-organized-crime-news>

Contact ISSAT

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