

Training on counterterrorism and human rights in the Far North Region of Cameroon

17-28 June 2019

The Global Center and the National School of Administration and Magistracy (ENAM) held a third training series for magistrates and civilian administrators on the topic of good governance and access to justice in countering terrorism in Maroua, Cameroon.



The trainings brought together key actors in counterterrorism efforts in the departments most affected by Boko Haram in the Far North Region. Site visits were organized to bring practitioners closer to the realities and populations on the ground.

The administrators' course, centered on the core elements of good governance and their application in preventing crises, included a visit to a camp for internally displaced persons in Kolofata led by the chief and mayor of the commune, Seiny Boukar Lamine. Participants—divisional officers, mayors, traditional and religious authorities, and representatives of non-governmental organizations—exchanged with community members and reflected on the role of traditional authorities, the plight of victims, and the experiences of communities in reintegrating ex-associates of Boko Haram. To tie theory with practice on the topic of civic participation, exchanges were also held at the *Maison de la Rencontre Islamo-Chrétienne* in conversation with civil society representatives working with youth, victims, and communities affected by terrorism in the Far North Region.



The magistrates' curriculum brought together judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys and judicial police officers to discuss key issues that arise in the conduct of terrorism cases and conflicts of law questions grounded in Cameroon's legal framework, including applicable regional and international instruments to ensure human rights-compliant approaches. Participants visited the Cameroonian Institute for Children in Maroua (*Institut camerounais de l'enfance de Maroua*) to concretize the situation of children in conflict with the law. They also held discussions with the military commander of the fourth region and the head of the Regional Center of the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration to learn about peacebuilding efforts.

Both trainings resulted in a set of recommendations adopted by participants which will be submitted to the Government of Cameroon for consideration.

The course forms part of a training suite for magistrates and administrators confronted with the threat posed by Boko Haram and ISIL-West Africa and is funded by the US Government. It follows a set of trainings that were first deployed in Yaoundé, Cameroon together with local experts selected following a [training orientation](#) held in May 2018.

