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womENACTion



INTERPOL

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womENACTion NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the third issue of the womENACTion newsletter! The newsletter highlights previous activities and inform you about upcoming initiatives.

THE WOMENACTION INITIATIVE

The womENACTion initiative, launched in 2022 by INTERPOL, provides a virtual networking environment dedicated to African female law enforcement officers working in the fields of Transnational Organized Crime and Criminal Intelligence Analysis.

womENACTion aims at facilitating the sharing of experiences, tools and learning resources that can contribute to their development in these fields and to increase knowledge on gender mainstreaming on criminal intelligence analysis among law enforcement agencies.

- Free virtual network
- Launched in 2022
- 200 female officers participate

Through different activities such as a monthly Quiz, meetings and webinars, the womENACTion network already reached 200 female officers from 35 African countries.

womENACTion WEBINARS

On 11th July 2024, Project ENACT organized the webinar “Gender perspective on firearms trafficking in Africa”. Experts on firearms trafficking, arms control and criminal intelligence analysis shared their knowledge on best practices, case studies, and recommendations for incorporating a gender perspective into the analysis of firearms trafficking. A total of 120 African police officers attended the event.



Gendered Impact of Armed Violence: Focus on Africa

Part 2

Frida Thomassen
Political Affairs Officer,
Conventional Arms Branch
UN Office for Disarmament Affairs



Ms. Elisabete Julio Dominges, ENACT Criminal Intelligence Analyst, INTERPOL, shared the key findings of **ENACT latest analytical report on Firearms trafficking in central and western Africa**, stressing that a more inclusive and diverse police force can better fight criminal network groups.

Mr. Callum Watson, Gender Coordinator at Small Arms Survey, presented data on global violent deaths and **explained how firearms enable other types of crimes such as sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence**. He also highlighted **how sex, firearms and homicidal violence are linked**, stressing that firearms trafficking has a different impact in men, women, boys and girls.

Ms. Frida Thomassen, Political Affairs Officer at the Conventional Arms Branch of UNODA presented the global commitments on addressing gendered impact of armed violence **highlighting the need for disaggregated data and gender-responsive policies and programming in arms control**. Ms. Thomassen, stressed that one of the major challenges in addressing the gendered impact of armed violence in Africa is the weak collaboration between institutions on data collection and information sharing.

Oluwole Ojewale, Regional Organised Crime Observatory Coordinator & Raoul Sumo Tayo, ENACT Senior researcher Institute for Security Studies (ISS), shared findings from their research on gendered dynamics of arms trafficking in Nigeria, **showcasing the relevance of understanding social dynamics and contextualizing responses to firearms trafficking**. Lastly, Jackline Nyakaana, Head of Uganda Crime Intelligence Analytical Unit, presented analytical results on firearms trafficking and its gender dimension, **describing the implication of women in the illicit trafficking of firearms** and also the social norms that influence the demand for arms, affecting notably boys and women.

TESTIMONIAL

ORNELLA MODERAN

Sahel Political and Security Analyst, Trained Criminologist, Gender Specialist

Member of the Advisory Board of the ENACT Programme

Why gender mainstreaming is relevant for understanding transnational organized crime dynamics?

Gender is an integral part of how criminal organizations – like any other organization, really – function. 15 years of experience working in the security governance and crime prevention arenas have shown me time and time again how **transnational crime harnesses traditional gender roles and expectations to their advantage.**

For instance, whereas women may be exploited in human trafficking or coerced into roles that support criminal activities, **we have multiple examples of organized crime defying social expectations of women as victims** to co-opt them into voluntary roles as significant actors in these networks. In such cases, gender stereotypes of women's victimization make it difficult for analyses that overlook gender dynamics to spot their actual agency.

This also applies to dynamics affecting men. **A gendered analysis is essential to understand how gender influences the motivations, roles and positions of men involved in organized crime.** Social expectations of men as providers and protectors, for instance, may explain much of why they engage in dangerous activities.

In other words, **gender mainstreaming highlights the differing roles, vulnerabilities, and impacts of crime on individuals based on their gender markers,** but it also determines their agency in organized crime. It helps to understand how gendered power dynamics can shape the structures of these organizations, influencing decision-making processes and the distribution of resources. **By incorporating gender perspectives, policymakers and researchers can develop more effective strategies** for prevention, intervention, and support that address the specific needs and challenges faced by different groups of people in the context of organized crime.



womENACTion Mentorship Program



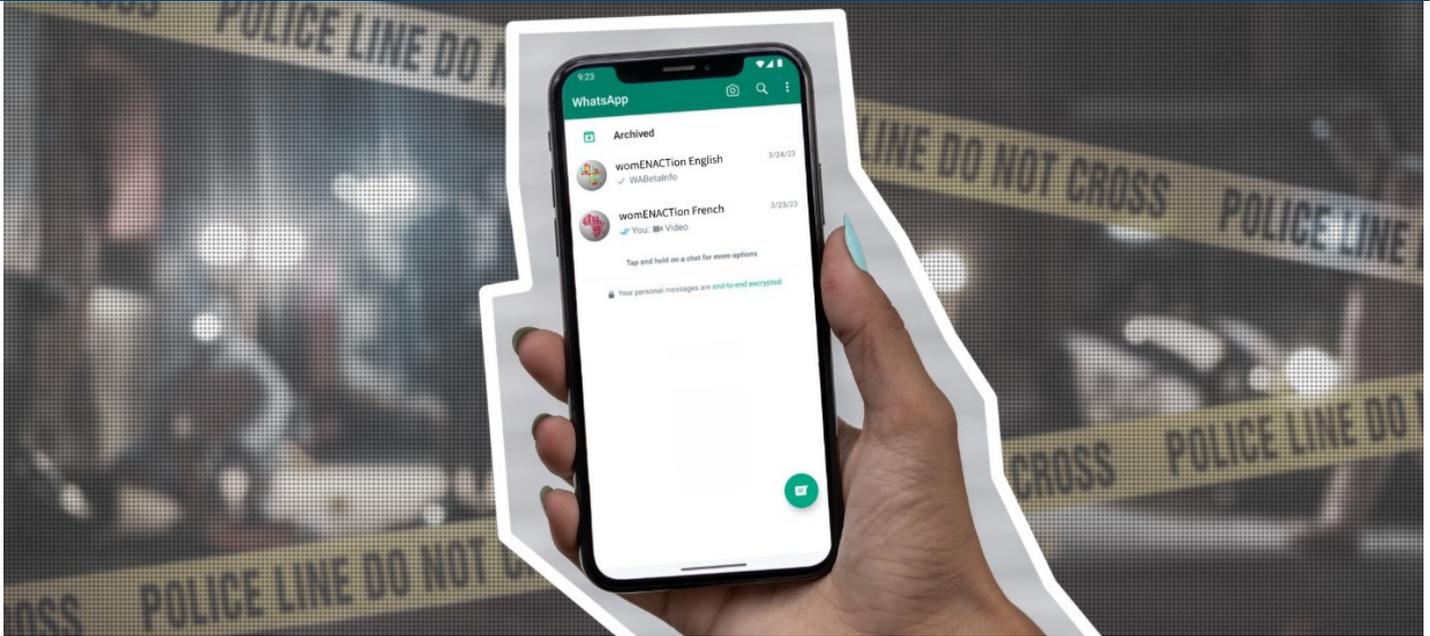
ENACT INTERPOL launched an open call for the womENACTion **Mentorship Program** in **May 2024**, aiming at providing equipment and support selected women law enforcement officers, at junior to mid-professional level, to work on a strategic analytical report to foster the use of criminal intelligence analysis to prevent and counter transnational organized crime.

Over 120 officers from 31 African countries applied to the Mentorship Program. After a careful review by an advisory board, four final candidates were selected from Botswana, Cameroon, Cape Verde and Kenya. These officers will embark on a year-long mentorship, which will begin in September 2024 with a visit to INTERPOL General Secretariat in Lyon, France.

Each mentee will be matched to a mentor from the ENACT team, provided equipment and journal subscriptions, and mentoring sessions will be organized on a weekly basis. Mentees will produce evidence-based knowledge that is relevant to proactively prevent transnational organized crime in Africa. An annual work-plan will be designed, and mentees will produce a final strategic assessment using criminal intelligence analysis techniques.

The womENACTion Mentorship Program will contribute to the integration of gender mainstreaming into criminal intelligence analytical services in African countries.

VIRTUAL PLATFORMS



In 2022 ENACT team created two virtual forums (one in English and one in French) as a platform for womENACTion members. These forums are used to share analytical tools, exercises, identifying opportunities and understanding the challenges women police officers face on career development in the field of criminal intelligence analysis. ENACT feeds the virtual platforms with (non-police) information and animate a monthly quiz to assist the womENACTion member's testing their knowledge on analysis and transnational organized crime. These forums **already gathers 200 African law enforcement officers** and the number is increasing on a monthly basis! African law enforcement officers **interested in joining the virtual platform** can send a request to enact@interpol.int indicating WhatsApp number, name, country and position within their national agency.

On 9 and 10 April, the ENACT Project organized two virtual meetings for the womENACTion network called *"Coffee & Learn – Getting insights from Head of Analytical Units"*. The objective of the meetings was to offer womENACTion members the opportunity to participate in an **interactive interview with the Heads of Analytical Units from Africa** opened under ENACT. The Heads of Units discussed with female officers about topics such as: a day in analysts' life, the challenges for an analytical workforce, how to move from field officer into analyst position and they also shared advice within the womENACTion network on the skills and opportunities to work as analyst. The members of the womENACTion network welcomed the opportunity to have such insights from experienced analysts from the region.

QUIZ

The ENACT team continues its tradition of hosting a monthly quiz, where analysts share their insights and expertise through two virtual platforms, accompanied by a series of multiple-choice questions that delve into the topic of the month.

In the past four months, womENACTion member's have learned about:

Structured self-critique technique

Analysis of strategic report

Threat Assessment

Firearms and Gender (using OSINT)

RESOURCES

The ENACT team shares free available online tools and analytical techniques to improve participants' skills and capabilities in relation with criminal intelligence analysis in order to be better equipped to fight organized crime

ANALYTICAL REPORTS

Firearms trafficking is a major enabler for transnational organized crime. It fuels violence, exacerbates conflict, and enables terrorist and armed groups' activities. Illicit circulation of firearms strengthens an array of illicit markets, including violent robberies, kidnapping, human and drug trafficking.

Based on the analysis of information collected from INTERPOL Operation Trigger VIII, ENACT latest analytical report assesses the scope of firearms trafficking in Central and Western Africa. This Operation took place from 13 to 19 June 2022 in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Guinea, Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In Central and Western Africa sub-regions, firearms trafficking is a substantial threat along with other persistent criminal markets. The ongoing conflicts taking place in these sub-regions are a major enabler for criminal networks operations and fuel the illicit flow of firearms. In addition, the porosity of borders, corruption and limited access to resources facilitate firearms trafficking throughout Central and Western Africa sub-regions, overlapping with other illicit markets in complex ways. In this context, firearms trafficking generates profits for criminal, terrorist and armed groups undermining peace and stability. They threaten the humanitarian situation, including by targeting humanitarian workers, national stockpiles and resorting to violence to recruit and control populations.

Firearms trafficking often goes underreported. Nonetheless, various data sources reveal the following major dynamics of groups and networks active in both sub-regions, which need to be addressed strategically. This report aims to bring additional insights that can be useful to enhance the fight against organized crime in their region and contribute to a safer globalized and interconnected world.



This QR code will give you access to this report published by ENACT INTERPOL. You can also access the report following this [LINK](#).

COMING ACTIVITIES

The womENACTion initiative expands its activities in 2024!

ANALYTICAL BOOT CAMP

ENACT INTERPOL, with the support from the German Federal Foreign Office, will foster the womENACTion initiative with the organization of an analytical boot camp in November 2024.

The womENACTion analytical boot camp will aim at empowering women with acquiring further knowledge and skills on criminal intelligence analysis through an intense workshop on criminal intelligence analysis, which will benefit their national administration and, ultimately, mitigate the impact of transnational organized crime in Africa on development, governance, security and the rule of law.

The five-days program will focus on practical exercises and will include a mix of presentations and group activities, such as role playing, case scenarios, solving analytical problems, conducting research and addressing challenges related to gender in criminal intelligence analysis. It will include guests speakers, Q&A sessions and networking spaces that will create opportunities for female officers from law enforcement agencies from African countries who intend to work in criminal intelligence analysis.

The womENACTion analytical boot camp will target female law enforcement officers from Africa, and it is expected to transform their aspirations into concrete results and give them access to resources and expertise. After completion of the program, participants will become “alumni” and form part of a long-term network of experienced officers that will contribute to proactively prevent and counter transnational organized crime in Africa.

We will continue hosting webinars, issuing the newsletter and keeping regular interactions and monthly Quiz within the virtual platforms!

CONTACT DETAILS

We invite African women police officers interested in participating in the womENACTion initiative to contact the ENACT team at enact@interpol.int