



**Security Sector Reform in  
the Democratic Republic of the Congo:  
ensuring local participation in programme  
design and implementation**

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“Local ownership” has become a key criterion against which the success or failure of international development and reform programmes are being assessed. Yet, the literature abounds with criticisms about the lack of appropriation of Security Sector Reform (SSR) programmes by local authorities and armed forces. These criticisms generally point to local stakeholders’ insufficient buy-in, not to mention the role of spoilers they at times assume, in particular in contexts where weak governance makes instability profitable (both economically and politically). After looking into the European Union’s (EU) and Belgium’s efforts to support SSR in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, this study argues that local stakeholders’ participation is consistently overlooked in SSR programmes’ design and implementation, thereby hindering their local ownership and sustainability.

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## The Lone Throne of the Middle East Recalibrating Jordan's Resilience

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 ROYAL HIGHER  
INSTITUTE  
150-year *think tank*  
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**The Lone Throne of the Middle East.  
Recalibrating Jordan's Resilience.**

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The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, sadly notorious for its scarce water supplies and complete reliance on oil import, has typically given birth to a literature addressing the issue of its resilience in a context of Middle Eastern instability. These assessments were generally positive, which has notably led the country to intermittently host Belgian F-16 fighter jets within the framework of the international coalition against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) between October 2014 and September 2021. At a time when the region is once more undergoing a series of large-scale transformations, this study aims at providing a detailed update of the state of play on this alleged 'resilience'. While previous studies largely focus on external challenges and describe Jordan as being by default in the eye of the storm, this analysis emphasises that increasing internal challenges make the eye of the storm itself even stormier than before.