Table: Foreign armed uniformed personnel (and non-state state-armed Groups [NSSAGs]) supporting national security forces in Greater West Africa and neighbouring countries (Cumulative overview covering the period 2000-2024)

Country in which deployed	Organisations deploying peace operations with armed personnel	Bilateral security arrangements	Mercenaries ✓ = Yes	NSSAGs ✓ = Yes
Benin		France; Turkey; US	✓	
Burkina Faso	G5 Sahel	France; Russia	✓	✓
Cameroon	LCBC	France; Germany; US		
Central African Republic (CAR)	CEMAC; CEN-SAD; ECCAS; ECOWAS; UN	France, Rwanda, South Africa	✓	
Chad	LCBC	France		
Côte d'Ivoire	ECOWAS; UN	France	✓	✓
Gambia	ECOWAS	Senegal		
Ghana		UK, US		
Guinea		France		
Guinea-Bissau	ECOWAS			
Liberia	ECOWAS; UN			
Mali	AU; ECOWAS; EU; G5 Sahel; UN	Estonia; France, Russia; Sweden; UK	✓	✓
Mauritania	G5 Sahel	France		
Niger	EU; G5 Sahel; LCBC	Canada; France; Germany; Russia, US	✓	✓
Nigeria	LCBC	UK	✓	✓
Senegal		France		
Sierra Leone	ECOWAS; UN	Canada, UK		✓
Togo		France	✓	

KEY:

- AU = African Union
- CEMAC = Central African Economic and Monetary Community
- CEN-SAD = Community of Sahel-Saharan States
- ECCAS = Economic Community of Central African States
- ECOWA = Economic Community of West African States
- EU = European Union
- G5 Sahel = Group of Five for the Sahel
- LCBC = Lake Chad Basin Commission
- UK = United Kingdom
- UN = United Nations
- US = United States

NOTES:

- The information in this table, which benefited from a robust peer-review process, is meant to be exemplative. The examples provided should not be taken as a definitive account.
- Unarmed peace operations such as EU Training and Capacity-Building Missions (EUTMs, EUCAPs, respectively)— once active in Mali and Niger — or the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, are not included.
- Bilateral security arrangements cover sustained deployments of armed uniformed personnel and do not include short-term training missions or joint exercises. Long-term training by unarmed instructors is not included. (France recently has withdrawn—or will soon withdraw—its security personnel from many countries listed in this table.)
- Mercenaries refers to state-hired armed personnel undertaking security-related tasks that serve in formed units or fulfil combat roles. Those recruited solely to train or advise national security forces are not included. (Entries for Burkina Faso, CAR, Mali and Niger involve the Wagner Group, which in 2023 was subsumed into the newly-created Africa Corps within the Russian defence ministry (after the group's leader was killed in a plane crash that August). The level of Wagner's autonomy—both before and after this transition—is hotly debated. S[4] designates Africa Corps members as mercenaries, and distinguishes them from Russian troops listed elsewhere in this table.)
- State support to NSSAGs for the purposes of this table involves State authorities providing firearms to armed groups as part of authorised practice (i.e. not a rogue undertaking), and may be of short duration.

Source: Safeguarding Security Sector Stockpiles (S4) Initiative