

Project Information

- **Country:** Democratic Republic of the Congo
- **Project Name:** Democratization Training for the Congolese National Police (Local Training)
- **Cooperation Period:** 2011 - 2013
- **Executing Agency:** Congolese National Police

1. Background of the Project

(1) General Background

It is said that the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which has continued since the 1990's with the intervention by the surrounding countries and with the rise of armed insurgent groups, has cost more lives than any other since World War II. The situation has gradually stabilized after the signing of a peace accord in 2002, setting up of a transitional government in 2003, and a democratic election to elect the president in 2006. In the eastern parts of the DRC, reintegration of demobilized ex-combatants and internally displaced persons to local communities is an important issue. Additionally, an unemployment rate of more than 50% and a population flow from the rural areas into urban areas has worsened the security situation. Restoration and maintenance of security is considered to be the national top priority.

While the Congolese National Police (PNC) takes a role in restoration and maintenance of the security in the DRC, the PNC includes as police officers many enlisted from former armed insurgent groups who started to work without any opportunities to gain basic knowledge of police work.

(2) Background from the Gender Perspective

During the conflict, especially in the eastern provinces, human rights violations toward civilians, e.g. massacres and sexual violence, had been organized extensively by insurgent groups. The situation has not improved as the conflicts continue in the east. There are many reports of women and children not only being victimized for sexual violence on site, but also kidnapped and forced to be child soldiers or sexual slaves for soldiers. It is said that insurgent groups use sexual violence as a "weapon" to instill a sense of terror in peoples' minds to control them. There is no end to the reports of cases of sexual violence by security enforcement agencies. Additionally, the situation has worsened with repeated violence as criminals including rape offenders go unchecked with impunity because of the dysfunctional judicial system. To improve the situation and promote reconstruction, capability building of the security sectors, i.e. the armed forces, the police,

and the judicial system, are needed immediately.

2. Project Summary

JICA, in collaboration with the PNC, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in DRC (MONUSCO) and UNDP, have been supporting human resource development since 2004 to advance security sector reform as the national priority issue, by conducting various trainings for the PNC around the capital and the still-disputed east provinces. Since 2011, the main focus has been long-term (six-month) basic trainings to acquire basic police knowledge for new recruits to the police and police officers in active service without having received any training as police officers including many enlisted from former armed insurgent groups. As many as 20,000 police officers had undergone the training by 2013. This accounts for about a fifth of the PNC officers. Positive results have been shown gradually as the handlings of the PNC were more democratic in the presidential election in 2011 compared to the one in 2006.

3. Gender-responsive Activities

At the long-term basic training incorporating human rights to the contents, lectures are given on basic human rights concepts, gender equality, prevention of sexual violence, and child protection. During the lectures on gender equality, trainees learn the concept of gender, the reasons for the necessity of gender-responsive activities, as well as the necessity of gender equality within the PNC. In the topic on the prevention of sexual violence, included in the course with the strong request by the government of the DRC as well as the PNC, it is taught that sexual violence is a human rights violation and lectures are also made on actions to be taken as a police officer in charge of an investigation. Many of the trainers in charge are women who have been trained by JICA. It is said that about 6% of the total number of PNC officers are female. A total of 143 female police officers have received the training in the three years since 2011 as the training encourages female participation as much as possible.



People, especially women, cannot live in peace in their local community without security. It is of vital importance to improve understanding and capability building on gender and sexual violence in the PNC to put an end to the sexual violence and prevent the victims from being hurt again by the handlings of the police.