

# Joint UN project for the consolidation of peace prevention of conflicts and enhancement of human security in Congo



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



## Fast Facts

**Country:** Congo

**Duration:** November 2011 to November 2014

**Implementing UN Agencies:** UNDP; FAO; UNICEF; WHO; UNFPA

**Other Implementing Partners:** High Commission for the Reinsertion of Ex-Combatants; Ministry of Planning; Congolese Armed Forces

**Budget:** \$4,032,188

**Key Words:** Peacebuilding; ex-combatants; reconciliation; agricultural development; access to basic services; poverty reduction

## BACKGROUND

The Republic of Congo's post-conflict context is characterized by a gradual consolidation of peace as well as an increase in economic reconstruction and rebuilding activities. Although the country has been recovering gradually since the 2003 peace agreement, many problems persist that constitute serious impediments to enhancing the level of human security and human development of the population. Poverty and a lack of income-generating opportunities remain major issues as well as food insecurity and poor access

to drinking water and sanitation services. Furthermore, there has been an increase in crime and violence, in part due to the weak reintegration of ex-combatants who have been largely isolated and without livelihood options. With the majority of the infrastructure destroyed and productive economic activities disrupted, it is essential to address the various peacebuilding challenges in a comprehensive way in order to create sustainable solutions for human security in the region.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project seeks to contribute to the consolidation of peace and social stability, provide sustainable livelihoods to vulnerable populations, and enhance the overall level of human security in the Pool region of the Republic of Congo. More specifically, the project aims to: (i) ensure personal and community security; (ii) improve the delivery of and access to basic social services such as water, sanitation, health and education; and (iii) promote a culture of peaceful

existence within and among the different communities. The project seeks to achieve these goals through activities focused on income-generation; improving water and sanitation services; increasing access to health care; improving school facilities; strengthening maternal and child nutrition practices; promoting a framework for peaceful coexistence; and preventing gender-based violence.

### BENEFICIARIES

The project directly targets up to 120,000 vulnerable people in the Pool region, including ex-combatants, at-risk youth, women and children. Community members

who have been indirectly affected by the conflict in the region will also benefit from the project.



## APPLYING THE HUMAN SECURITY APPROACH

Post-conflict situations require a comprehensive framework that no single sector or organization can tackle alone. It is in this context that the human security approach provides a practical framework to effectively address the complexity of threats facing communities in post-conflict Congo. In addition to its multi-dimensional focus, the human security approach also sharpens attention on the core set of freedoms that are fundamental to the survival, livelihood and dignity of people. As a result, the human security approach enables the identification of insecurities and the prioritization of strategies that are required for providing concrete and sustainable benefits to conflict-affected communities.

In the Pool region, the project accordingly undertakes a thorough assessment of the insecurities facing the communities and considers those actions which would be most effective in providing concrete and sustainable responses in addressing the most critical challenges faced in the region. As a result, in response to factors such as the weak reintegration of ex-combatants, lack of sustainable livelihoods, failing

health and educational services, persistent tension and mistrust among community members, as well as acts of gender-based violence, the project highlights the need for a mutually reinforcing protection and empowerment framework that could help strengthen the response mechanism and the resilience of the impacted communities.

Subsequently, based on the findings of the initial assessment, the project promotes protection efforts that help improve public safety, deliver essential basic services, and strengthen the rule of law. The project complements these protection efforts with empowerment measures that seek to strengthen the participation and the capacities of the communities in decision-making processes as well as income generating activities. The combined impact of these measures help improve the delivery of and the access to basic social services, promote a culture of peaceful coexistence, and return stability and economic recovery to post-conflict communities in the Pool region.