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# BEYOND STORIES

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## Training the Central African Armed Forces



We completed our 6-month mission in Central African Republic (CAR) with the support of the UK Government and in partnership with the EUTM CAR and the CAR MOD.

Quote from participant answering a question by General Pulkkinen, MPCC DG: "Is this training of any use to you?"

*"Yes. We are learning the difference between a professional military force and bandits".*

The first month included the conduct of a contextual analysis ; the design of a tailored training curriculum ; and the identification of 4 axes of work with the CAR MOD (Educate Officers and NCOs; Train battalions; Train the future instructors; Train the "DDRR" project).

As of August 2017, Beyond peace implemented the training programme in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Prevention of Sexual Violence (PSV) through lectures, group work, scenario exercises and drills. We trained some 900 soldiers, NCOs and Officers. We trained 100 former members of the non-state armed groups who joined the armed forces in the context of the DDRR programme.

More on this story can be read [here](#) and on our website [here](#).

Comment from the Speaker of CAR Parliament, paraphrasing himself Thomas Sankara:

*"You are doing the right thing. Without ethics, we train brutes".*

## How can we measure success?

Success may be measured through:

— The evaluation report which was shared with CAR civilian and military authorities and with the EU (extract : at the start of the course, between 40 to 50% participants for each platoon, considered it acceptable to burn civilian houses; 15% admitted that torture is necessary; about 15% could tell the difference between a combatant and a civilian; 0 knew what is a hors-de-combat; 0 had heard of collateral damage or could explain the principle of proportionality; about 80% could not explain why women should be protected during war. At the end of the class: two-thirds can explain the difference between a civilian and combatant; 100% confirms they will never burn houses; two-thirds can explain proportionality and hors-de-combat; 100% recognise that rape is a crime & the military should protect women).

— Feedback and progress made by participants (through questionnaires pre and post-training)

— The training of 8 IHL/PSV instructors within the FACA

— Recognition by the CAR Minister of Defense and by the Speaker of Parliament as well as by the Commander of the Camp Kasai Training Centre.

After completing the 6-month pilot project, Beyond peace director conducted a high-level debriefing visit in Brussels, where she discussed lessons learnt with the highest authorities at the EEAS and the Chief of Staff of the MPCC. These include:

- ❶ The importance and effectiveness of tailored training on behaviour for the military
- ❷ How to improve preparation for our deployed military
- ❸ Mission design and the need to include gender and IHL from the design phase of missions
- ❹ Gender mainstreaming within EU CSDP missions and
- ❺ Monitoring and evaluation of EU CSDP missions

*Beyond peace director Cynthia Petrigh shared feedback and observations on the pilot project with the Ambassadors to NATO, gathered around a VIP lunch by Spain's Ambassador to NATO H.E. Nicolas Pascual de la Parte & with civil society around an event at EPLO offices.*

## Training Vietnam Peacekeepers

Vietnam will be deploying a full military medical team to man the new hospital at the UNMISS mission in Bentiu, South Sudan. In the context of growing accusations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) by peacekeepers, the Vietnam Peacekeeping Department has sought to organise pre-deployment training to ensure its troops meet standards ahead of mission to South Sudan.



At the invitation of Vietnam and of the British Embassy in Hanoi, Beyond peace Cynthia Petrigh delivered a workshop on prevention of SEA and care for survivors of sexual violence in Hanoi from 25 to 27 January. This was a wonderful opportunity for Beyond peace to meet the new Vietnam peacekeepers and to keep supporting this mission; as we were associated before with the pre-deployment training of the British Engineers who have built said hospital. We wish good luck in their mission for Vietnam peacekeepers.

More details [here](#).

## Integrating refugees in Europe

Beyond peace participated in March 2018 in the training of a new batch of mentors/refugees in the context of the Kodiko project for the integration of refugees through professional mentoring.

More info [here](#).

## Field survey on resilience in CAR

In partnership with Concern Worldwide, Beyond peace is conducting a survey in the provinces of Ombella M'Poko and Lobaye in the Central African Republic, in view of advising the organisation on the best approaches towards integrating peace-building, gender mainstreaming and disaster risk reduction in their different programmes across the regions.



## Women, Peace and Security Agenda

At the invitation of the Toledo International Centre for Peace (CITpax), Beyond peace contributed to the facilitation of a workshop on *Mediation and Conflict Resolution from a Gender Perspective*. The meeting, held in Madrid in October 2017 gathered women peace-builders from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, France, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Romania, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.

Based on years of field work in the Middle East, Beyond peace is contributing to a study conducted by Social Development Direct (SDD) and UN Women on the *Report on the Implementation of the UNSCR 1325 Women, Peace and Security agenda in the Arab States region*.



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