

The AFP Timor-Leste Police Development Program is providing the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste with the institutional strengthening and governance frameworks that is the basis of an effective police force. This bilateral police-to-police arrangement develop and strengthen the leadership, vocational and management capabilities of the Timor-Leste police and enhance policing skills, create a professional, accountable and community-oriented police force with the leadership skills and training to allow it to deal with contemporary policing challenges. The AFP are working in partnership with senior executives on how to support criminal investigations, prosecutions, financial investigations, community policing, transnational crime, intelligence, internal investigations and training.

The need for dedicated section of the AFP to manage growing international deployments led to the establishment of the International Deployment Group (IDG) in February 2004 to provide logistical support for missions and a body of suitably trained men and women ready for deployment. Training focuses on cultural sensitivities, remote first aid, principles in capacity development, team building and UN police training modules. A purpose-built training facility that looks like a typical village or town in a country where an AFP member may be deployed is used so police officers can experience conditions and different cultures first-hand before they depart for a mission. The AFP is the first police force in the world to receive UN recognition for its pre-deployment training program.

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## **POLICE WOMEN ACTIVITIES IN THE UNITED NATIONS**

Women are deployed in all areas – police, military and civilian – and have made a positive impact on peacekeeping environments, both in supporting the role of women in building peace and protecting women's rights.

In all fields of peacekeeping, women peacekeepers have proven that they can perform the same roles, to the same standards and under the same difficult conditions, as their male counterparts.

During 2013, the Departments of Field Support, Peacekeeping Operations and Political Affairs undertook a project called «Bridging the Civilian Gap in Peace Operation» to better understand the barriers to attracting, retaining and advancing female staff in the field. With civilian field staff representing 53 per cent of all UN Secretariat staff, an increase in

the number of civilian women in peace operations will help towards increasing the number of female staff serving with the United Nations at large.

**Why is it important to have female peacekeepers?**

Female peacekeepers act as role models in the local environment, inspiring women and girls in often male-dominated societies to push for their own rights and for participation in peace processes.

**The presence of women peacekeepers can also:**

- help to reduce conflict and confrontation;
- improve support for local women;
- provide role models for women in the community;
- provide a greater sense of security to local populations, including women and children;

- broaden the skill set available within a peacekeeping mission.

**The increased recruitment of women is critical for:**

- empowering women in the host community;
- interviewing survivors of gender-based violence;
- mentoring female cadets at police and military academies;
- interacting with women in societies where women are prohibited from speaking to men.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations continues to respond to the call in all Women, Peace and Security mandates to increase the numbers of women in peacekeeping by advocating for the deployment of more women. However the ultimate responsibility for getting more women into the military peacekeeping lies with the individual countries that contributing troops and police.

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**DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS**

Doctors Without Borders also known as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international humanitarian non-governmental organization created in Paris on December 22, 1971 by a group of young doctors, who sought to expand accessibility to medical care across national boundaries.