

The new Deputy Special Representative for MONUC, Fidèle Sarassoro, takes up his post

The new Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for the United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) took up his office in Kinshasa on Monday, 8 February 2010. Mr. Sarassoro succeeds Mr. Ross Mountain whose excellent leadership and dedicated humanitarian service as well as contribution to improved coordination of the United Nations system in the DRC have been recognised by the Secretary-General.

Mr. Sarassoro brings to MONUC broad experience in coordinating humanitarian action and in managing recovery and poverty reduction programmes in Africa. In addition, throughout the course of his career, he has established strategic donor partnerships with organizations such as the World Bank, the European Union, and others to fund programmes in support of democratic governance and the agricultural sector. Since 2006, he has served as United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Ethiopia, where he spearheaded the establishment of a high-level coordination mechanism to address access and humanitarian delivery issues for humanitarian actors. He led United Nations reform and enhanced coordination in one of Africa's largest United Nations Country Teams and advanced aid effectiveness as co-chair of the Development Assistance Group, the consortium of donors in Ethiopia. From 2002 to 2006, Mr. Sarassoro served as United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Togo, where he assisted the Government in the formulation of key governance-related reforms.

Mr. Sarassoro's prior experience



The Deputy Special Representative for MONUC, Fidèle Sarassoro
(MONUC Photo/Adèle Lukoki)

includes service with the United Nations Office for Project Services, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Mr. Sarassoro holds a PhD. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois and a Bachelor in Economics degree from the Université de Côte d'Ivoire.

Born in 1960, he is married and has three daughters.



Training session for Congolese Police force in Child Protection

A training session for Congolese Special Police for Protection of Women and Children is scheduled for 8 – 15 February 2010 by MONUC's Police component in Kananga in collaboration with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund).

Seventy members of the Special Police will attend the training which will help them to better cope with the difficult challenges arising from the work of protecting women and children.

As a response to the requirement of the new law on Women and Children Protection adopted in 2009, the training's objective is to enhance participants' skills with respect to basic requirements of the justice system regarding minors as well as mediation skills relevant to the organization of juvenile courts.

Besides operational capacity-building for senior members and staff of the Special Police, the training will also focus on how to carry out command procedures and draft minutes of proceedings in cases involving minors.

MONUC believes training in child protection is highly important in light of the increasing number of children thrown onto the streets over allegations that they are witches and those that are sexually abused and badly exploited when doing household jobs.

The Special Police for the Protection of Women and Children (PSPFE, according to its name in French), was created to provide legal protection for children, to promote and defend women's and children's rights, to combat sexual violence and all forms of violence against women and children as well as to

prevent HIV/AIDs. The Special Police is currently understaffed and made up of four operational cells in areas with the highest number of sexual violence and violations of children's rights: 8 in Kananga, and 3 in each Tshikapa, Luiza and Masuika, respectively. After the training session, more cells will be opened at Ilebo, Dimbelenge,

and later on in Kamako and Nsumbula.

This training follows two training sessions held for female police officers: one on sexual violence with 130 attendees organized from September 28th – 30th and one for police specializing in judiciary affairs with 59 attendees from December 3rd to December 22nd 2009.



Congolese police during a training session
(Archives Photo)