



From the  
People of Japan



## Supporting the organization of peaceful and inclusive elections in conflict-affected areas in the East of the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2023 (the Project for Electoral Assistance)

**\$ Budget: 2,005,816 USD**



**Duration: April 2023 – April 2024**

### Development Challenges

In the DRC, governance problems are significant and require particular attention. These include chronic insecurity, limited rule of law and endemic corruption. The country faces cycles of instability and remains underdeveloped despite the presence of significant natural resources on its territory and in its subsoil. The security situation is highly volatile in the East, particularly in the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu. A state of siege was declared by the authorities in 2021, resulting in the management of governance responsibilities by the military and the suspension of political activities in Ituri and North Kivu. The proliferation of hate speech and messages with tribalist, xenophobic, sexist, and misogynist connotations pose a threat to unity and social cohesion around the elections. In the face of rising diplomatic tensions with Rwanda, hate speech is a major concern for the Congolese authorities and the United Nations. Lack of inclusion is another challenge to better governance in the DRC. While women represent 52% of the population, the differences in representation between men and women remain significant due to the economic, political, and socio-cultural context, as well as the deteriorating security situation and violence against women. Young people are also poorly represented in governance institutions, even though they make up around 60% of the population and were at the forefront of political mobilization during the 2018 elections. The increase in human rights violations also represents a potential source of violence before, during and after the elections: disproportionate use of force against demonstrators, intimidation, attacks by armed groups, looting, cuts in communications (internet) and impediments to freedom of expression and the right to information have been reported in the recent past. For the 2023 elections to serve as a catalyst for progress in governance in the DRC, stakeholders expressed the need for greater transparency, inclusion, and responsible leadership in the management of elections.

### Project Objectives

The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the organization of peaceful and inclusive elections in 2023 in the Democratic Republic of Congo with a view to consolidating peace and stabilization by strengthening citizen participation and preventing conflicts before, during and after the elections.

### Project Outputs

Support the organization of peaceful and inclusive elections in 2023 in conflict-affected areas in the East

Support to the prevention and mitigation of conflicts before, during and after the elections in the East

### Partnership

Ministry of the Interior, Security and Customary Affairs, The Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), the Congolese National Police (PNC), the Technical Group for the Electoral Security (GTSE), Civil Protection and Civil society

### Contribution to SDGs

