

Contributing to Improving Public Safety in Mali!
Japan-made equipment protects safe daily lives

May 28, 2018

Written by: Embassy of Japan in Mali

The crisis of a divided country

On January 17 in 2012, insurgents seeking the independence of northern Mali attacked the national army base, causing the outbreak of a conflict in the country for the fourth time. In March of the same year, the army staged a coup d'état in the capital of Bamako and the president at the time was ousted. In April, taking advantage of the chaos in the capital, the pro-independence group and Islamic extremists who came from foreign countries placed the entire north under their severe control, and declared independence. Mali fell into the crisis of a divided country.

What the conflict brought about

However, in 2015 after the expansion of the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and the presidential election, a peace agreement was concluded between the government and the pro-independence group, and Mali escaped from the crisis of being a divided country. On the other hand, many people became internally displaced people and refugees due to the conflict, the regional economy failed, and disputes incessantly arose. Islamic extremist terrorists also entered the country again, bringing about cross-border crimes including drugs and human trafficking.

Mali, which is located on the southern tip of the Sahara desert and is one of the world's poorest countries, is currently facing such serious public safety problems.

Steps toward peace and stability

In order to tackle such problems and contribute to the safety of the people of Mali, Japan gave a grant aid to provide equipment including police 4WD cars, police motorcycles, ambulances, and fire engines.

On June 22, 2017, the first equipment were delivered to the Government of Mali at a reception ceremony held by H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of the Republic of Mali. President Keïta highly appreciated Japan's quick contribution by providing high quality Japan-made equipment for public safety, an area which is a most important issue for the Government of Mali and expressed gratitude to the people of Japan.

We sincerely hope that these Japan-made equipment are utilized for the safety of the lives of Malian people of Mali, and that peace and stability will be restored in Mali as quickly as possible.