



# THE AMNESTY COMMISSION

## DDR IN UGANDA

Presentation by Damian Kato  
Secretary Amnesty Commission

# DDR In Uganda

---

- DDR in Uganda is mainly implemented under the **Amnesty Act**
- It involves disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of armed groups including women combatants
- It also involves repatriation of some combatants who are active in foreign countries e.g. DRC.

# DDR in Uganda

---

Uganda has experienced several DDR processes since 1986

- Some of the DDR focused on Disarmament and Demobilisation, and Re-insertion into the community (e.g. UNRFII) and later reintegration
- Some of the DDR focused on Demobilisation, Re-insertion into the community (e.g. WNBF) and later reintegration
- Some were captured by UPDF, demobilised, and re-inserted (e.g. Some reporters from DRC)

# Main groups

---

Groups that have gone through DDR include

- LRA 13,021 reporters
- WNBFB 4,108 reporters
- UNRF II 3,113 Reporters
- ADF 2,191 reporters

Out of the above, its only LRA and ADF which are still active

# Amnesty Act, 2000

---

- Approved by parliament, the Amnesty Act established an Amnesty Commission and Demobilization and Resettlement Team
- Current Mandate Expires on May 24, 2012
- However, an extension has been approved by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

# The Amnesty Commission

---

- Established by an **Act of Parliament in 2000**
- To **demobilise, grant Amnesty, resettle and reintegrate reporters, and to promote dialogue and reconciliation**
- To date **26, 232** have been granted Amnesty
- To date **20,263** have been issued with reinsertion kits.
- **AC has sensitised the public** about the existence of the Amnesty Law.

# Amnesty Commission -2

---

□ Statutory Functions of Amnesty Commission is to monitor programs of:-

(i) Demobilisation

(ii) Reintegration

(iii) Resettlement

(iv) Sensitise the public about Amnesty Law

(v) Promotion of Peace and Reconciliation in war affected areas

□

# Management of Amnesty

---

- AC is headed by a Chairman
- Six other members- Commissioners
- 7 DRTs
- Secretary
- Other staff



# Demobilisation and Resettlement Teams (DRT)

---

- The Act Establishes the DRTs with functions to draw programs for:-
  - (i) Decommissioning of Arms
  - (ii) Demobilization
  - (iii) Resettlement and
  - (iv) Reintegration

# Map of Uganda Showing the DRTS



 **Amnesty Commission Offices**

# Recent DDR Projects

---

## a) The MDRP(2005-2007)

- The Project targeted 15,310 reporters,
- Its main achievement was demobilization of 16,256 reporters
- It gave re-insertion support to 14,816 reporters

# Recent DDR Projects

---

## b) The Ug DRP (2008-2011)

- The Project arose mainly from the **Juba Final Peace Agreement** (FPA)
- Initial Arrangement was for an organised mass return of **5,000 combatants**, later restructured to handle trickle-in
- Funded by the MDTF.

# Objectives of Ug DRP

---

- The overall objective of the UgDRP was to assist the urgent implementation of the agreed demobilization and repatriation of the remaining caseload of the rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army – as well as the Allied Democratic Forces and other existing groups eligible for Amnesty

# Objectives of Ug. DRP

---

- And assist the social and economic reintegration of former rebel combatants and collaborators into the communities to which they return within the context of the Government of Uganda Amnesty Act of 2000

# Components of Ug DRP

1. **Emergency demobilization/support** to the return process (trickle-in)
2. **Reinsertion** of “reporters” (former rebel combatants and collaborators)
3. **Dialogue** and **reconciliation** promotion
4. Support for **socio-economic reintegration**, and
5. Project implementation and capacity building (program administration).

## c) The PRDP (2008-todate)

---

- Involves re-integration of reporters by giving them additional support beyond re-insertion
- The support includes skills training in
  - ▣ agricultural management,
  - ▣ Metal works
  - ▣ Motor vehicle repair
  - ▣ Tailoring
  - ▣ Brick laying



- 
- ▣ Carpentry
  - ▣ Hair dressing
  - ▣ Bicycle repair
- 
- So far 6,439 have been trained
  - The trainees are also given tools and a small financial support

# ACs achievements towards DDR-1


- To date **26, 232** have been **Demobilized** and granted Amnesty
- To date **20,263** have been issued with **reinsertion kits** on return to their communities allowing them to re-establish lives as civilians
- Ugandan public has been **sensitized** about the **Amnesty Law**
- Dialogue and reconciliation activities were carried out and have been **crucial** in **maintaining peace** and **creating conditions** for reporters to **return**
- 6,030 reporters have **formally accessed Referral Services** – informal access believed to be higher but is unknown

# ACs achievements - 2

- Net Work of **Community Focal Persons** to assist reporters **and communities** has been trained and mobilised in over 150 communities
- **ICRS**, a **first** for the TDRP has been developed
- **Vulnerability Index** of reporters has been developed and **Service Providers** have been Identified and mapped, and
- The ICRS could be **extended** to take into account **persons affected by conflict** and will be offered to **Community Development Officers** around the country as a tool that they can use. Support is needed in this area.
- On behalf of AC, TRDP carried out several studies on reporters in Uganda in order to understand reporter reintegration, community dynamics and migration so as to re-integrate the reporters better

# The challenge of DDR in Uganda

- **Organized** demobilization is limited. It is basically “trickle in” with a significant number of returnees going home **without reporting** to the relevant authorities
- While the community in general welcomes home returnees, **stigmatization is common**
- Some of the returnees (especially women and children) **continue to be vulnerable** (more than their peers), some returnees **face stigmatisation** (eg. girl mothers).

- 
- Some **returnees** are **vulnerable** due to **physical disabilities** or **illness**. Some returnees **suffer** from **psycho-social issues**
  - Giving packages or skills training to returnees can **cause resentment** among civilians
  - For AC to overcome this, 20% of the trainees re community members.

# Challenges cont.

---

- Significant numbers of ex-combatants are **highly mobile** – moving away from their communities immediately after reinsertion
- There is a knowledge gap in understanding the full impact of this mobility and migration on reintegration programming
- Need to ensure that **skills training** is based on **market surveys** (demand driven).

# Does the AC have a future role in DDR?

- The Amnesty Act mandates AC to contribute to DDR process, bringing peace and establishing reconciliation in Uganda as a whole. **This task is not yet complete.**
- There are **still reporters out in the bush.**
- There is **still conflict in the region and the LRA issue is a regional issue – not just a Ugandan issue.**
- The **AC is bound to continue to serve its mandate in DDR process.**
- However, since the DDR objectives it was set up for in 2000, the operating environment and the needs of the reporters have since changed.

# What are the DDR needs? - 1

- There is a need to **retain a mechanism** and **capacity** to **receive reporters**
- There is a need for the AC to **refocus** itself to meet these challenges
- Using the **Vulnerability Index(VI)**, AC to identify the **geographical areas (DRTs)** with the **most** vulnerable in order to refocus activities
- Using the **VI** identify the **most vulnerable** segments of the returnees e.g women, girl child, HIV, Sex workers, the sick etc.



# What are the DDR needs-3

---

- Using the ICRS, AC refer the most vulnerable to appropriate agencies.
- There is a need to continue to **communicate** the Amnesty message.
- AC to properly **reinsert** returnees, with the necessary equipment and training (demand driven). **Relevant** skills and equipment to be given out.

# What are the DDR needs? - 2

---

- There is a need to continue **dialogue** and **reconciliation** with communities and the general public.
- There is a need to be able to **reintegrate** those still to return.
- The process will be expensive and require commitment from the **Ugandan government** and **international donors**.



THANK YOU