



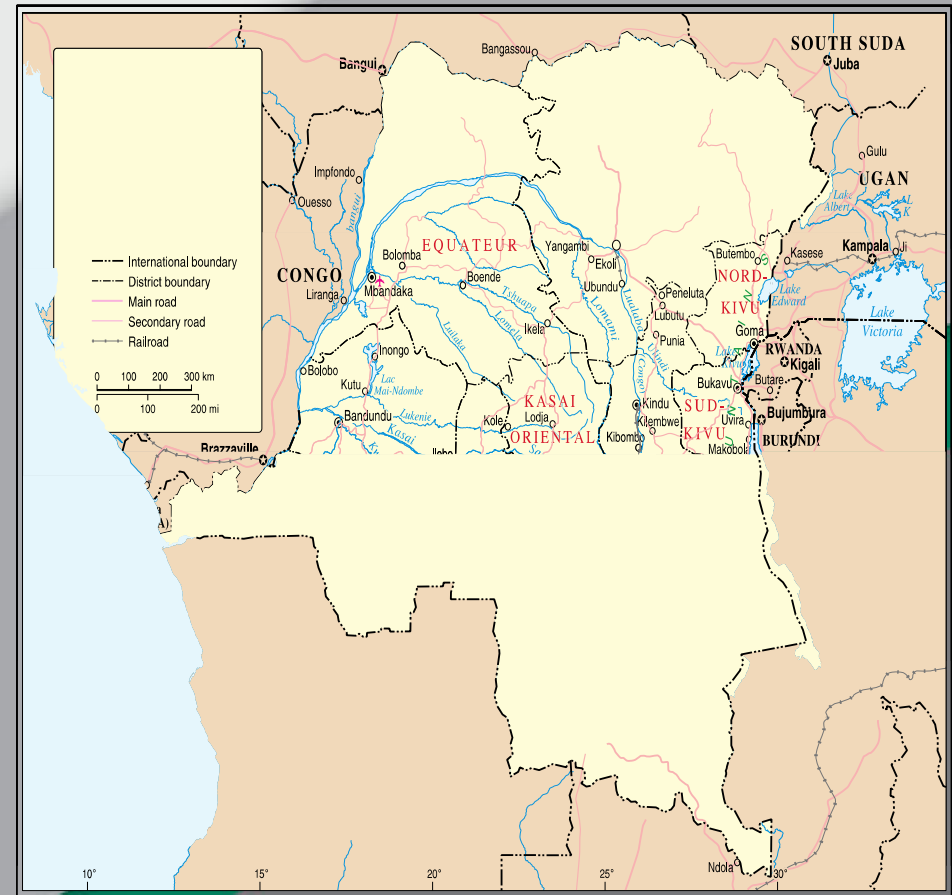
**“Here’s \$300.
Now go back and be a good citizen”:
Reintegrating ex-combatants back into
conflict zones**

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Presentation focus

- Geographic focus: Eastern DRC (North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri).
- Observations & analysis based on research undertaken in the eastern DRC for the TDRP, March - September 2011.
- Report titled: 'Rumors of peace, whispers of war'.





DRC DDR: Overview

- DRC DDR process: one of the most complex & multi-faceted programmes implemented in Africa.
 - National DDR programme
 - Programmes to disarm & repatriate foreign combatants & dependants
 - Processes for special needs groups
 - DDR for armed groups
- World Bank & UN (through the MDRP) were the main facilitators, with the DRC government.
- DDR was further complicated by two related developments:
 - Security sector reform (*Structure Militaire d'Intégration* – SMI) = incorporation of armed groups into FARDC.
 - Stabilisation initiatives, e.g. military operations; reducing access of armed groups to mineral resources (mining areas).



DRC DDR: Overview cont.

- US\$ 272 million available for DDR through the MDRP.
- Ex-combatants provided with 'safety transition allowances' & reintegration support.
- Ex-combatants received US\$ 110 (for transport, food etc.) & monthly allowance of US\$ 25 for 12 months.
- Socio-economic support was made available to ex-combatants through NGOs, international organisations & UN agencies.
- Reintegration training was provided in a variety of fields: e.g.: agriculture, fishing, sewing/tailoring, woodwork, bricklaying, driving & metal work.
- MDRP concluded all activities in 2010:
 - 102,014 ex-combatants received demobilisation & reinsertion support
 - 52,172 ex-combatants received reintegration support.

Conflict context: Armed groups



- Various armed groups (foreign & Congolese) operate in the eastern provinces, targeting civilian communities & FARDC.
- Responsible for numerous human rights abuses.
- Immersed in the mining sector & sustain themselves by:
 - Smuggling mineral resources & drugs
 - Cattle rustling
 - Ambushing vehicles
 - Extortion & looting
 - Piracy (on Lake Tanganyika)
 - Remittances from diasporas & state sponsorship
- Most prominent armed groups:
 - FDLR
 - Ugandan ADF-NALU
 - *Mai-Mai Yakutumba*
 - *Mai-Mai Sheka*
 - *Alliance pour un Congo libre et souverain (APCLS)*
 - *Patriotiques pour la Libération du Congo (FPLC)*
 - *Front populaire pour la justice au Congo (FPJC)*
 - *Front de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri (FRPI)*
 - Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)

MONUC/MONUSCO & FARDC response to armed groups



- Two-fold response:
 - Sensitisation campaigns: armed group leaders & rank- & file encouraged to be incorporated into FARDC or undergo DDR (Congolese) & demobilisation/repatriation (foreign).
 - Military campaigns against destabilising groups, at times in partnership with Rwandan & Ugandan militaries.
- FARDC has been implicated in human rights violations & criminal activities (e.g. exploiting mineral resources).

Security sector reform & ex-combatant reintegration



- FARDC military reform objective: To stabilise & reduce the levels of violence.
- Caused further insecurity as military contingents have been withdrawn from key areas, leaving communities vulnerable to attacks from armed groups.
- Some former armed group members, dissatisfied with realignment, conditions & benefits within FARDC have deserted – some re-joined armed groups or established new ones.



Reintegration in conflict zones: Observations (1)



- Numerous ex-combatants pursuing stable livelihoods.
- Livelihood choices informed by personal circumstances, family responsibilities, skills, experience.
- Individual networks (e.g. accessing loans, business partners, investors & markets) are important.
- Many ex-combatants entered into business arrangements with individuals & networks with non-military backgrounds.
- Ex-combatants from various armed groups worked together (e.g. artisanal mining, motorcycle taxi driving, small business & fishing).



Reintegration in conflict zones: Observations (2)



- Correlation between ex-combatant livelihood & marital/family status.
- Use of reinsertion/reintegration kits varied:
 - Used directly for income generation
 - Sold the kits
 - Used proceeds for consumption
 - Invested funds in economic ventures
- Often undertook multiple income generating activities.
- Changed & adapted income-generating activities.
- No reintegration support provided for some popular income generating activities (artisanal mining & motorcycle taxis).
- Used skills & expertise acquired from the period of conflict or prior to conflict to generate an income.



Reintegration in conflict zones: Observations (3)



Some ex-combatants we re-recruited into armed groups for the following reasons:

- Perceived discrimination within FARDC.
- Loss of access to lucrative mining sites by FARDC factions.
- Legal transformation of mining areas.
- Flawed security sector reform process.
- Allure of the armed group.



Future programming: Food for thought



- Increased liquidity of reinsertion/reintegration kits.
- Reintegration support for the mining & motorcycle taxi sectors (& related activities).
- Maximise reintegration support for multi-tasking.
- Supporting the demilitarisation of the mining areas.
- Simplify & reduce taxation.



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