

WORLD BANK



Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program

EX-COMBATANT MIGRATION & THE IMPLICATIONS FOR DDR

January 24, 2012

Aki Stavrou

David Baxter & Alexandra Burrall



Migration & Ex-Combatants – what's the big deal?

What is the link between migration, ex-combatants and reintegration programming and why bother?

FACT: Empirical evidence shows that:

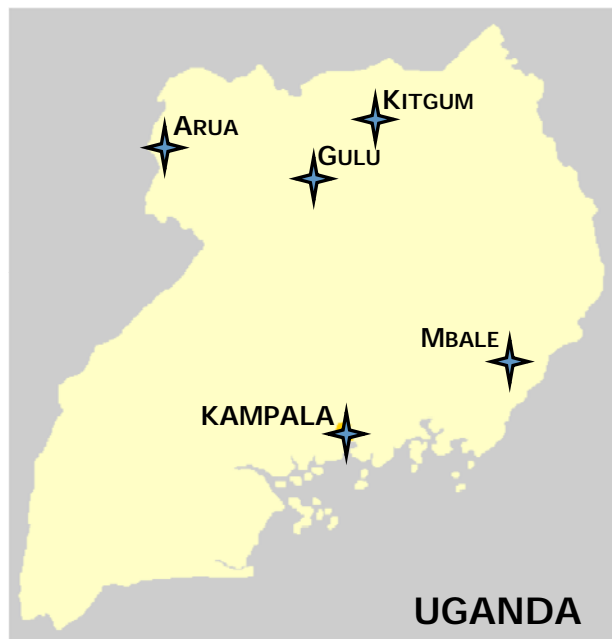
- significant numbers of ex-combatants are highly mobile, immediately after reinsertion and move away from their communities.
- there is a knowledge gap in understanding the full impact of this mobility and migration on reintegration programming.

CONSEQUENCE: It is very possible that:

- we could be under-delivering reintegration services and over-estimating our impact on both ex-combatants and communities, because we are partly missing our targets.



Migration of Ex-Combatants in Uganda



Methodology & Field Work

- **121 interviews** with migrated ex-combatants – **87 male and 34 female**
- Interviews in **5 of the 6 districts** in which the Ugandan Amnesty Commission had active Demobilization and Resettlement Team offices
- Represented **7 Ugandan armed groups**:
 - Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)
 - Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)
 - West Nile Bank Front (WNBF)
 - Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF)
 - Uganda National Rescue Front 2 (UNRF II)
 - Force Obote Back Army (FOBA)
 - National Resistance Army (NRA)



Unique Realities of Ex-combatants

- Stigma or fear due to former and present affiliation with armed groups
- Extended rebellion-driven absence from communities of origin
- Interrupted life trajectories
- Combination of stigma, absence and interrupted life trajectories led to challenges:
 - Economic
 - Land
 - Social



As with many Ugandans, ex-combatants often migrate due to economic, land and marital factors. However, these are often exacerbated for ex-combatants.



Migration Push and Pull Factors

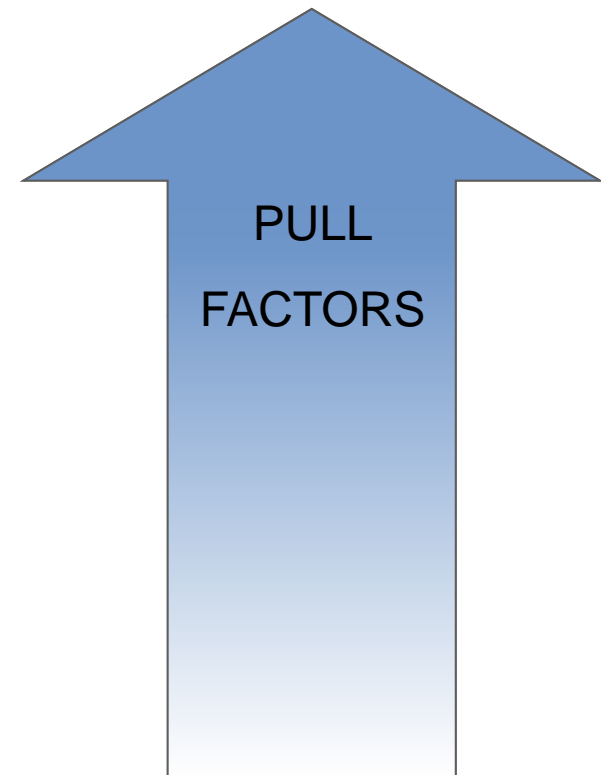
PUSH
FACTORS

- Fear
 - Of community
 - Of rebel group
 - Of government
- Breakdown or loss of family
- Loss of house, material possessions
- Social stigma and marriage
- Interrupted life trajectory
- Land issues
- Economic challenges

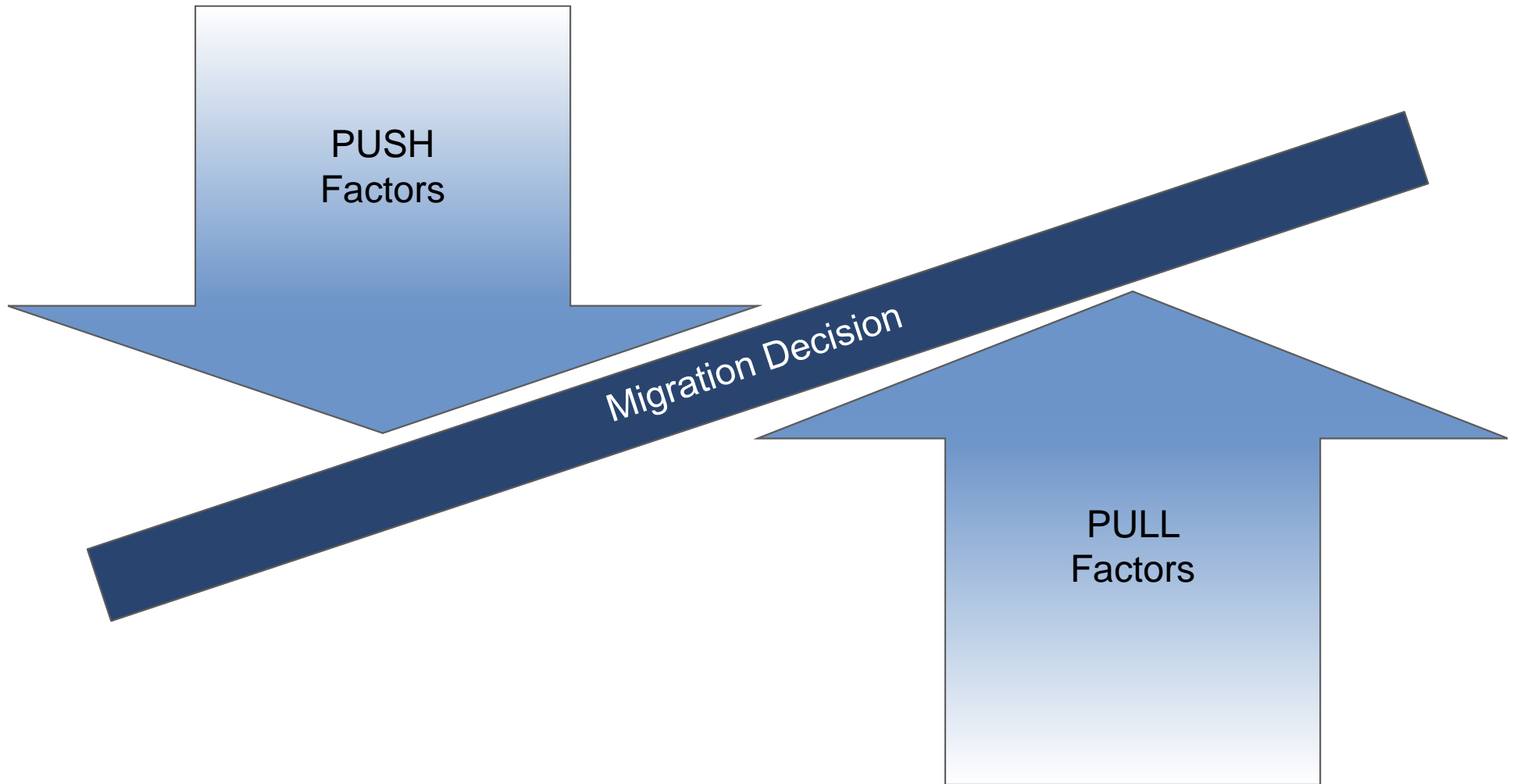


Migration Push and Pull Factors

- Anonymity
- Lack of stigma
- To be closer to the DDR program
- Re-coalescing of previous networks
- Tangible job offers
- Specific assistance
 - Family members
 - Community members
 - Larger NGOs
 - Faith based institutions
- Economic opportunity
- Land access
- Increased security



Migration Push and Pull Factors



Implications for DDR

DDR in Uganda did not factor in the issue of migration, evidenced by:

- Absence of a viable nationwide mechanism for tracking ex-combatants;
- DDR practices that seem to have encouraged unnecessary migration and/or exacerbated challenges for the ex-combatants, such as:
 - Inflexible reinsertion policies
 - Poor communication strategies
- Migration is undermining DDR
 - Full potential of DDR program cannot be realized
 - Missed opportunities for service delivery both in accurately assessing and meeting needs and logistical implementation



Migration Study Lessons

Lesson 1



An XC migration strategy and its implications should be an integral component of all DDR programs

Lesson 2



Social and economic reintegration support should be tailored both to communities of origin & communities receiving migrant XCs

Lesson 3



DDR Commissions should be structured to enable them to track and support both migrant XCs and their host communities



WORLD BANK



Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program

EX-COMBATANT MIGRATION & THE IMPLICATIONS FOR DDR

Thank You

