

The AU Defense & Security Division

The Defense and Security Division (DSD) is part of the Peace and Security Department within the African Union Commission.

The DSD is responsible for addressing long-term cross-cutting security issues and developing strategies for the Common African Defense and Security Policy and the Post-Conflict, Reconstruction and Development Policy (PCRD) including in the areas of:

- SALW
- WMD Non-Proliferation
- Counter-Terrorism
- Landmines/Mine Action
- Security Sector Reform
- Maritime Security

The DSD is the main implementing body of the AU-DDRCP but will collaborate closely with the other sections of the Commission including the Peace Support Operation Division and the African Stand-by Force.

As part of the AU Commission, the DSD is well placed to utilize the peace and security infrastructure of the AU, including its Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention and Resolution, to build the partnerships necessary to effectively implement the DDRCP.

The African Union & DDR

DDR is a core component of AU's crisis prevention and recovery mandate. The aim of the AU's support to DDR processes on the continent is to strengthen peace processes and enhance security in order to create the environment for longer term recovery and development.

"DDR must be integrated into the entire peace processes, from the initial peace negotiations through peacekeeping and follow-on peace building activities"

African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) Road Map

The aim of the DDRCP is to enhance the infrastructure within the AU, its Regional Economic Communities, and Member States by providing resource mobilization, technical and political support to DDR processes. This practical support will inform the development of AU DDR policy and best practices which will be further developed in the AU's DDR Resource Center.



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African Union

Disarmament, Demobilization & Reintegration Capacity Program



The AU - DDRCP: Assisting DDR processes across the continent

Background

Calls to develop AU DDR capacity were made in several AU policy documents:

- Common African Defense and Security Policy (CADSP)
- Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy (PCRD)
- African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)

In May 2011, the AU Defense and Security Division, DPKO, and the World Bank agreed on a DDR Cooperation Plan to implement the above recommendations.

In February 2012, the AU convened a consultative meeting with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (RMs) to develop a DDR capacity building program.

In September 2012, a validation workshop was held and the AU-DDRCP was adopted. The project will be officially launched in January 2013.



February 2012 AU DDRCP Consultative Meeting

Project Components

The AU-DDRCP is a 3-year project composed of three inter-related and reinforcing components.

Institutionalize DDR Capacities

- Hire and train staff to work in the AU HQ, RECs and Member States to enable support for DDR activities
- Conduct assessment and mentoring missions to AU Member States to support national DDR processes

Establish a DDR Resource Center

- Located in the AU HQ, the DDR Resource Center will be a repository of African DDR experiences and strategies
- Develop best practices and training tools for use throughout the continent
- Provide a platform for dialogue, research and knowledge sharing

Engagement in DDR Processes

- Conduct regular assessment and mentoring missions to DDR programs
- Assist Member States in mobilizing technical, financial and human resources for their DDR activities

Key Partnerships

With its continental infrastructure, the AU is well placed to bring together partnerships to strengthen national DDR processes.

From its inception, the AU-DDRCP is being supported by the following organizations:

The **World Bank Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program (TDRP)** is funding the initial development of the project and the initial training of AU staff.

The **United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)** and the **United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)** are providing technical assistance and creating synergy between the AU and other UN assisted DDR programs on the continent.

As the project develops, the AU will seek additional partnerships both internally and externally to sustain the progress being made and to continually improve the level of assistance it can provide to DDR processes on the continent.

