



Rumours of Peace, Whispers of War

Assessment of the Reintegration of Ex-Combatants into Civilian Life in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri Democratic Republic of Congo



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Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program

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February 2012

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List of Acronyms

ACDAKI	Action Communautaire pour le Développement Agro-pastoral de Kiliba
ACDK	Action Communautaire pour le Développement de Kalundu
ADF-NALU	Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda
ANORI	Association des Négociants d'Or – Ituri
AODERPI	Association des Orpailleurs pour le Développement et la Reconstruction de Paix en Ituri
APCLS	Alliance pour un Congo libre et souverain
CI-DDR	Comité interministériel chargé de la conception et de l'orientation en matière de DDR
CNDDR	National Commission for Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration
CNDP	Congrès national pour la défense du peuple
CONADER	Commission Nationale de Démobilisation et Réinsertion
COOPEC	Coopérative d'Épargne et de Crédit
CPJP	Convention des patriotes pour la justice et la paix
DCR	Désarmement et Réinsertion Communautaire
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
DDRRR	Disarmament, Demobilisation, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EJDP	Encadrement des Jeunes pour le Développement de la Pêche
FAC	Forces Armées Congolaises
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FAZ	Forces Armées Zaïroises
FARDC	Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo
FDLR	Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda
FNI	Nationalist and Integrationist Front
FNL	Forces nationales de libération

FPJC	Front populaire pour la justice au Congo
FPLC	Forces Patriotiques pour la Libération du Congo
FRPI	Front de résistance patriotique de l'Ituri
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ILDELU	L'Initiative Locale pour le Développement de Luvungi
ILO	International Labour Office
ISS	Institute for Security Studies
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MDRP	Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program
MLC	Mouvement de Libération du Congo
MONUC	UN Organisation Mission in the DRC
MONUSCO	UN Organisation stabilisation mission in the DRC
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OKIMO	Office des mines d'or de Kilo Moto
PARECO	Patriotes Résistants Congolais
PNDDR	National Program of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
PRDR	National Programme on Disarmament and Reinsertion
RCD	Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie
RCD-K-ML	RCD-Kisangani-Mouvement de Libération
RCD-N	RCD-National
RPF	Rwandan Patriotic Front
SMI	Structure Militaire d'Intégration
TDRP	Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program
UFDR	Union des forces démocratiques pour le rassemblement
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
UNPDDR	Unité Nationale pour le désarmement, la démobilisation et la réintégration
UPC	Union of Congolese Patriots

Introduction

The eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is poised on the edge of a machete blade. Despite the achievement of considerable peace-building successes throughout much of this central African state in recent years, the current activities of armed groups and the Congolese armed forces in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri, have the potential to further destabilise the eastern provinces, and possibly even neighbouring countries.

Former combatants are prominent in the security and stability equation in the eastern DRC. The reason is that if this section of society has not been effectively disarmed, demobilised and reintegrated into civilian life, then they have the potential to return to arms. In this region, over 100,000 ex-combatants have been demobilised over the past decade in successive waves of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) interventions.

Viable and contextually relevant income generation and livelihood opportunities are vital for the success of former combatant reintegration. That is, in order to encourage ex-combatants to not re-militarise, an alternative and appealing means of making a sustainable living should be available. In addition, if former combatants are able to make a constructive socio-economic contribution to the communities in which they settle, these communities are more likely to be receptive to their presence.

Assessments and speculation about the reintegration of ex-combatants in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri have suggested that these individuals have become marginalised, and their reintegration into civilian society is precarious, thus making them vulnerable to further recruitment by armed groups. Some reports have even suggested that numerous former fighters have remilitarised in the mining areas in order to access mineral wealth.

Consequently, research on the socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants in the eastern DRC was undertaken by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS), and funded by the Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program (TDRP) of the World Bank. North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri were the three geographical areas of focus, given the volatility and potential pivotal role of these areas in promoting and consolidating peace in the eastern DRC. The specific objectives of the research were to:

- Assess the processes of the socio-economic reintegration of former combatants into civilian life;
- Analyze the causes and dynamics of the current security situation (or lack thereof) in the three areas, and the implications for current and future DDR processes; and
- Evaluate the extent to which demobilised former combatants have been re-recruited into armed groups, including motivating and resilience factors.

The research took place between February and September 2011, with the findings and analysis being presented in this report. In addition to a literature review and an assessment of published research and data on the subject matter, the project utilised a comparative case study field research method in each of the three geographical areas, which included:

- Semi-structured interviews with key DDR stakeholders;
- Focus group discussions with former combatants;
- Focus groups with affected community members wherein sizeable numbers of ex-combatants are residing;

- Semi-structured interviews with practitioners in agricultural, trade, commerce, mining and other economic sectors; and
- Semi-structured interviews with key informants in the same communities as ex-combatants.

This report is comprised of five sections. The first section provides an overview of the various armed conflicts that have occurred in the DRC since inde-

pendence, and subsequent peace-building processes. There is a general assessment of DDR programming to date in the second section. In the third section, the current security environment in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri is assessed. The fourth section interrogates the manner in which the socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants has unfolded in the eastern DRC. The final section outlines possible recommendations for future action.