

3 Analytical framework: the reintegration of ex-combatants and the informal sector

The three case study areas will be assessed with the following analytical framework: human development, economic conditions, governance, security, DDR support, and the personal circumstances and networks of ex-combatants. The focus of the research was on individual ex-combatants. A supplementary analysis ex-combatant households would have been preferable, but this was not pursued due to time and resource constraints.

Gender is widely accepted as a crosscutting issue in the DDR literature, which was observed throughout this study. In this regard, it has been widely suggested that male ex-combatants have typically received disproportionate DDR support over females. The main reason for this state of affairs has arguably been that security has been the prime objective of most DDR processes, with young men being perceived to be the greatest threat to the peace-building process.⁶³ Consequently, some DDR scholars have intimated that the definition of a combatant, and the DDR criteria, has often been intentionally skewed to favour male ex-combatants. Similarly, DDR programmes have often linked financial and material support to the surrender of firearms; and in most armed formations it has been men that have had preferential access to firearms.⁶⁴ In addition, varieties of gender discrimination within armed entities have conceivably restricted women's ability to access DDR support. However, it has not been possible to accurately interrogate and gauge the actual extent and dynamics of the alleged gender discrimination due to the absence of baseline data.⁶⁵

3.1 Level of human development

The level of human development in the environments

in which ex-combatants reside has a significant impact on the degree of individual economic reintegration. In essence, human security is determined by the extent to which people can pursue their needs and interests relatively unhindered, and consequently lead productive, healthy and fulfilling lives, not only as individuals, but also as community members. A key component is therefore individual choice, namely “what people should have, be and do to be able to ensure their own livelihood”.⁶⁶

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a comprehensive numeric value used by the UNDP to rank countries' level of human development, based on the premise that people are the authentic wealth of nations. The HDI reflects life expectancy, literacy, education, gender, poverty, political freedoms and living standards, with a high HDI reflecting an environment in which people can pursue their full potential and lead productive, creative lives in accordance with their needs and interests. The HDI will be used as an assessment tool for the case study analysis.

3.2 Economic conditions

Macro economic conditions, structures and dynamics (including the relationship between the formal and informal economies) fundamentally shape and constrain the local economy. This in turn affects the opportunities that are available to ex-combatants and to the societies in which former combatants and their families (or dependents) reside. The case study analysis will consider the manner in which ex-combatants have responded to the economic environment, both opportunities and challenges, in which they find themselves.

3.3 Governance

The nature and extent of government involvement of in the economy results in both opportunities and challenges for ex-combatants undergoing reintegration. Ex-combatants are likely to benefit where governments seek to facilitate sustainable economic growth, particularly at the micro level. Likewise, an over-regulation of the economy and predatory practices by officials (such as excessive taxation and extortion) is likely to constrain livelihood options. In addition, the absence of government presence in sections of the economy has the potential to either undermine ex-combatant reintegration or provide income-generating prospects for the more astute business-minded individuals. The case studies will assess the impact of governance (or the lack thereof) on the reintegration of ex-combatants.

3.4 Security and insecurity

As with the majority of members of society, livelihood choices of ex-combatants are informed by security considerations and perceptions. Despite the absence of full-scale war in all three cases studies, incidents of armed conflict and violence continue to feature prominently. The case studies will analyse the

manner in which ex-combatants reintegration has been shaped and/or constrained by the dynamics of security (or insecurity).

3.5 Nature of DDR programming and support

DDR programmes and processes typically provide ex-combatants with resources and skills, with the aim of assisting these individuals (and their families) with the reinsertion and reintegration processes. This case study research will interrogate the extent to which ex-combatants have used this support, particularly the impact on reintegration choices and outcomes.

3.6 Personal circumstances and networks

The livelihood choices of individual ex-combatants are directly informed by their personal circumstances (such as personal experiences, family commitments and responsibilities), as well as by their relationships and networks within areas in which they reside. Available resources and enabling processes/systems at the local and macro levels fundamentally shape ex-combatants choices and the manner in which they interact with others.

