

# 1. Introduction

The World Bank commissioned this report as part of a set of studies concerned with the Uganda Demobilization and Reintegration Program and the Amnesty Commission. The study represents one element of the set of studies which included the Final Independent Evaluation of the UgDRP, Reporter Reintegration Survey and Community Dynamics Survey, and a study on the relationship between the Amnesty Commission and its DDR Implementing Partners study. The background field work and research for this study was integrated into the overall background research and fieldwork for the set of studies. As such the analysis benefits from aspects of the other studies undertaken by NCG for the World Bank/TDRP.

## 1.1 Country Context

The historic origins of conflict in Uganda lie in internal geopolitical dynamics including regional development that neglected the North and North East of the country. The insecurity that persisted in the northern regions has posed significant development challenges as well as peace and security challenges. In the north of Uganda literacy rates remain the lowest in Uganda at 64%. The incidence of poverty is at the highest level (46.2%) nearly twice the national average (24.5%).<sup>2</sup> When decomposed by sub-region the overall incidence of poverty in the North is driven largely by the North East sub-region. While there has been a decline in absolute poverty nationally the northern regions remain trapped in a disparity in poverty and development with the rest of Uganda. Moreover the legacy of abductions, violence and internal displacement continue to challenge the health and development of the northern communities.

## 1.2 The Amnesty Act and the Amnesty Commission

The Amnesty Act of 2000, which became law on the 21st of January 2000, is intended to provide assurances and incentives for those willing to abandon rebellion to do so without fear of retribution or revenge. In other words, the Amnesty Act provided a means of exit for those reporters looking to return home, while simultaneously the Government of Uganda (GoU) pursued a military campaign against the remaining insurgents, mainly the ADF and LRA.

The Amnesty Act established the Amnesty Commission (AC) and identified that among other monitoring and coordination functions the AC will “monitor programs of (i) demobilization; (ii) reintegration; and (iii) resettlement of reporters”<sup>3</sup>. A seven member demobilization and resettlement team (DRT), established by the Act and under the supervision of the AC, was constituted to “draw programs for: (a) de-commissioning of arms; (b) demobilization; (c) re-settlement; and (d) reintegration of reporters.” The AC through the DRT has maintained six offices as follows: Central, Gulu, Kitgum, Mbale, Arua, Kasese and a liaison office in Beni in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The AC implemented the UgDRP between August 2008 and June 2011. It built upon previous DDR focused support to the AC through the Multi-country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP). The MDRP assisted in the DDR of 14,545 reporters

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2 2010, Ugandan Bureau of Statistics.

3 Amnesty Act, Section 8 (a)

at a cost of USD 4.2 million. The UgDRP was originally planned to be worth USD 8.254 million for the purpose of bringing an end to the protracted conflict in northern Uganda. In 2008 a single-country MDTF managed by the World Bank was established to implement the UgDRP.

The objective of the UgDRP has been to assist the urgent implementation of the agreed demobilization and repatriation of the remaining caseload of the rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) – as well as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and other existing groups eligible for Amnesty – and to assist the social and economic reintegration of former rebel combatants and collaborators into the communities to which they return, within the context of the Government of Uganda Amnesty Act of 2000. A total of 28,800 ex-rebel beneficiaries were planned to be directly targeted by the project's activities, with secondary benefits expected for their families and communities. In so doing, the project as envisaged would contribute to the consolidation of peace-building, reconciliation and enhanced security for the country as a whole, and its northern regions in particular. Of its five sub-components the UgDRP had four that were directly related to programming: demobilization, reinsertion, dialogue and reconciliation, socio-economic reintegration.

### **1.3 Defining reporter reintegration**

In this study the focus of the analysis is on processes of reintegration rather than the achievement of a static marker of reintegration. In other words rather than examining the experience of reporters to identify the ones who are reintegrated and the ones who are not, the study examines the complex interplay of elements

in the process of social and economic reintegration to identify which drivers have most influenced (positively and negatively) the reintegration process in which reporters are and have been engaged. Reintegration depends much on the welcome and dynamics of the family and the community to which reporters return as well as the traits of the community (for example, the condition of various economic markets including markets for the skills in which some reporters have been trained). Distinguishing between poverty as a result of failed reintegration and poverty largely unassociated with reintegration requires that the analysis in the report applies a wider lens to the phenomenon of reporter reintegration and the role of the family and community. The study identifies the drivers of successful or unsuccessful reintegration and the cross-cutting dynamics such as gender, tradition, poverty and economic markets that exacerbate the impact of drivers of reintegration on the lives of reporters and communities. The report presents actionable findings that can inform future programming in the area.

The term “drivers” of reporter reintegration refers to a set of factors, either as a standalone or concomitant, associated with reintegration. The causal relationship is sometimes indeterminate, although it can be positive or negative, but a clear association is evident based on empirical information. “Drivers” is almost a synonym of determinants or a strong force.

### **1.4 Purpose of the study**

The overall purpose of the study is to provide an analysis of the drivers of reintegration and to identify the distinguishing features of successful reintegration amongst reporters.