



# **MOVING TO CATCH UP: MIGRATION OF EX-COMBATANTS IN UGANDA**



DAVID BAXTER AND ALEXANDRA BURRALL

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# **MOVING TO CATCH UP: MIGRATION OF EX-COMBATANTS IN UGANDA**

*EX-COMBATANT MIGRATION FACTORS*

*AND LINKS BETWEEN MIGRATION AND DDR PROGRAMMING*

**David Baxter and Alexandra Burrall**

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## Acronyms

AC	Amnesty Commission
ACDO	Assistant Community Development Officer
ADF	Allied Democratic Forces
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CDO	Community Development Officer
CFP	Community Focal Point
CMI	Chief of Military Intelligence
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
DDRR	Disarmament, Demobilization, Reinsertion and Reintegration
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
DRT	Demobilization and Resettlement Team
FOBA	Force Obote Back Army
GMAC	Give Me A Chance
GoU	Government of Uganda
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICRO	Information, Counseling and Referral Officer
ICRS	Information, Counseling and Referral System
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LC	Local Councilor
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MDRP	Multi-country Demobilization and Reintegration Program
MIS	Management Information System
NRA	National Resistance Army
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PDRP	Peace, Dialogue and Reconciliation Program
SRO	Senior Resettlement Officer
TDRP	Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program
UNRF	Uganda National Rescue Front
UPDF	Uganda People's Defence Force
USh	Uganda Shilling
WB	World Bank
WNBF	West Nile Bank Front

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View of Rwanda from Uganda - Woman fetching water near Lake Bunyonyi

# **1. OVERVIEW**

## **1.1 Purpose of the study**

The purpose of this study was to provide a better understanding for policy makers and service providers of mobility and migration among ex-combatants and the effectiveness of DDR programming in Uganda. The study followed a scoping study on migration in Uganda conducted in March 2011 by the Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program (TDRP) of the World Bank.

This study had the following specific objectives:

1. To analyze push/ pull migration factors of ex-combatants in Uganda, with a specific focus on social as well as economic factors both within communities of origin and at new communities of re-settlement.
2. To explore any impact of DDR programming on migration of ex-combatants in Uganda.
3. To increase the understanding of the impact of migration by ex-combatants on the effectiveness of past and current DDR programming, specifically on reintegration efforts.
4. To generate recommendations on how to improve DDR programming, taking into account findings from other related studies.

## **1.2 Significance of study**

There has been a general lack of understanding regarding how forced and voluntary migration impacts the reintegration of ex-combatant populations in Uganda and throughout the Great Lakes Region of Africa. This has resulted in a lack of clarity on how DDR programming for these populations might be improved. This knowledge gap has been identified through several studies conducted by the TDRP Facility for Quality Enhancement and Innovation on the DDR processes, and documented in literature related to the subject, all of which point to potential differences in migration patterns between ex-combatants and civilian non-combatants.

Accordingly, special attention was given to:

- Initial and current social reintegration within the family and community;
- Initial and current economic reintegration in the community;
- Identification of primary causes and factors related to migration, namely push and pull factors for migration of ex-combatant populations;
- Areas of intersection between these factors including economic, social and cross cutting factors such as land;
- Access to sustainable livelihoods, including training, education and employment opportunities; and
- Any convergence or specific areas of divergence that can be identified between ex-combatant and civilian non-combatant migration experiences.

### 1.3 Report structure

The report is divided into five chapters:

CHAPTER ONE provides an **overview** of the report, stating the purpose and significance of the study and explaining the structure of the report.

CHAPTER TWO provides an overview of the **research methodology** utilized by the study, covering the study population, research setting, data sources and types, data collection techniques used, sampling size, methods, and observed research limitations.

CHAPTER THREE presents a report of **findings from existing literature**, which covers discussions on migration and war, the post-migration experience (including reintegration, community of origin, the urban destination, internally displaced persons (IDP) and refugee camps, and host communities), factors that influence migration decisions (such as values and priorities, facilitators and obstacles, and push and pull factors inside and outside the context of war), and notable research gaps.

CHAPTER FOUR presents a detailed report of **findings from the field research** conducted for this study, which covers a general overview of migration in Uganda, a snapshot of the present circumstance, reintegration trajectories, push and pull factors for migration, next steps for migrating ex-combatants, service and resource needs by rebel group, and other notable findings.

CHAPTER FIVE provides a **summary of the report findings as well as conclusions and recommendations in keeping with the objectives of the study.**

Finally, the APPENDIX contains the biographical data collection form, the questionnaire used and additional reporter quotes organized by topic area.