



Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

FACT SHEET

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)?

In Sudan, DDR is a key provision of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). It is expected to contribute to security and development by helping ex-combatants return to civilian life. DDR also supports development by reducing the size of armed forces so that public funds can be redirected from the military to the social sector.

What does DDR consist of?

The first phase is disarmament, when soldiers voluntarily hand in their weapons. Next, there is demobilization, when they are formally discharged from the military and receive a package of support. Reintegration is the final phase, when former soldiers are given the tools and knowledge to get a job or start a small business.

Who is in charge of DDR in Sudan?

At the political and strategic level, there is the National DDR Coordination Council. At the operational and technical levels there are the Northern and Southern Sudan DDR Commissions. Those are the entities responsible for leading the DDR programme, while the United Nations and other international partners provide technical and material support, capacity building and funding.

What does the military do during DDR?

The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) are key partners, who provide the names of candidates for entry into the DDR programme. They manage the disarmament phase, gather participants for demobilization and provide security during field operations.

What role does the United Nations play?

UNMIS provides various assistance, ranging from expert advice and demobilization packages (including

cash) to helicopter flights. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) mainly supports reintegration and co-manages that process with the government. UNICEF is the lead UN agency for child DDR, while the World Food Programme provides food to ex-soldiers. All of these entities work together under the framework of the Integrated UN DDR Unit.

Who pays for DDR?

A variety of sources fund DDR, including the Government of Sudan, UN peacekeeping mission's budget (for demobilization) and voluntary donor contributions (for reintegration).

What do DDR participants receive?

Participants receive short-term benefits to assist with immediate needs after demobilization, including items like clothing, mosquito nets and cash payments as well as family food rations. During reintegration, participants receive vocational training and material kits to help them earn a living as, for instance, a farmer, small business owner or mechanic.

What happens to the guns?

Guns collected in the disarmament phase are kept by the relevant military authority (SAF or SPLA). The UN military reviews the recordkeeping and assists with the disposal of unsafe weapons and ammunition.

When did DDR start in Sudan?

After some two years of planning, demobilization of adult combatants was launched in Ed Damazin, Blue Nile State, on 10 February 2009.

Who has been demobilized so far?

By mid-May 2011, some 48,000 adult ex-combatants, including Women Associated with Armed Forces (WAAF), had been demobilized in 10 centres – Ed Damazin, Kadugli, Julud, Juba, Rumbek, Kauda, Aweil, Torit, Wau and Khartoum. Of this number,

some 30,950 participants had received counseling on reintegration opportunities, with nearly 20,000 registered with UNDP implementing partners for training and the provision of reintegration packages.

What is the target number of DDR?

Under the CPA, up to 180,000 combatants (90,000 from SAF and 90,000 from the SPLA) were expected to be disarmed, demobilized and reintegrated into civilian life. In Phase One of the programme underway in May 2011, priority is given to DDR candidates with special needs, including female combatants, the WAAFG, combatants with disabilities and children associated with the forces. Demobilized children are reunified with their families and, in some cases, put back into school. As part of the reintegration process, UNDP is also implementing a number of Community Security and Arms Control/social reintegration projects to improve community security and social acceptance of ex-combatants.

What is the biggest DDR challenge in Sudan?

Among others, the size of Sudan, the two systems (North and South DDR Commissions) involved, the sheer size of the target group and the enormous resources required. Sourcing financial contributions can be difficult, given the scope of the programme, and UNDP expects a \$20 million funding shortfall for 2011. In addition, reintegrating former military personnel into productive civilian life faces challenges, given the lack of economic opportunities in some communities.

Does UNMIS do DDR in Darfur?

No, UNMIS is not involved in DDR in Darfur. There is no full-fledged DDR in Darfur to date, however, the North Sudan DDR Commission has launched an initiative to demobilize and reintegrate a small number of Darfuri ex-combatants.

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