



# Integrated UN DDR Unit Photo Release

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## Donors observe progress in the DDR firsthand

Donor representatives appraised yesterday in Ed Damazin, Blue Nile State, firsthand, progress in the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process, a year after the Sudanese authorities launched the programme with support from the international community.

“DDR is one of the most important benchmarks of Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) implementation. Successful DDR can contribute to peace and sustainable development in Sudan,” Japanese Ambassador to Sudan Akinori Wada remarked in Ed Damazin yesterday after meeting a number of ex-combatants who had gone through the demobilisation and reintegration process and were now self-dependent and fully reintegrated into the local community.

Mr. Wada was part of a delegation comprising members of the diplomatic community, Sudanese Government officials as well as the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) Georg Charpentier who traveled to Ed Damazin to personally assess progress in the DDR.

The trip came against the backdrop of concerted efforts by stakeholders to bolster the integrity of the DDR and shore up international support for the operation.

A total of 180,000 participants from the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), the Popular Defense Forces (PDF) and the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) stand to benefit from the scheme by leaving military life and reintegrating into civilian society.

“Success in DDR offers the opportunity to give ex-combatants, their families and the community at large hope that peace and stability will indeed improve their lives” UNMIS DSRSG Charpentier noted.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Sudanese NGO JASMAR and the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation currently provide vocational training and start-up kits for petty trade, cottage food processing, carpentry, and animal husbandry.

The DDR currently boasts four more centres in Julud, Kadugli, Juba and Rumbek. Most of these centres have since completed the demobilisation phase and are now conducting reintegration counseling and training sessions.

Across the board, more than 21,000 combatants have so far been demobilized and over 13,000 DDR participants have received counseling on reintegration opportunities. Meanwhile, preparations are well advanced for the launch of three more centres in Kauda, Aweil and Al Fula.

Funding remains a critical drawback in the DDR programme, which is estimated to cost \$430 million over a period of four years. Donor pledges to date stand at \$125 million, and actual contributions at \$40 million.

The programme is operationally managed by the North Sudan and South Sudan DDR Commissions, with technical and logistical support from the Integrated United Nations DDR Unit.

Photo Releases are posted on <http://unmis.unmissions.org>

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Small Commodities Shop - Real Reintegration packages displayed at Damazine DDR exhibition



UNMIS DSRSG Charpentier (third from left) at High Level Visit to DDR event in Damazin

Photos: Monique de Groot/UNDP