



DDR Section Support to Non-Mission Settings

Non-Paper

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Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Section
Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI)
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1. INTRODUCTION

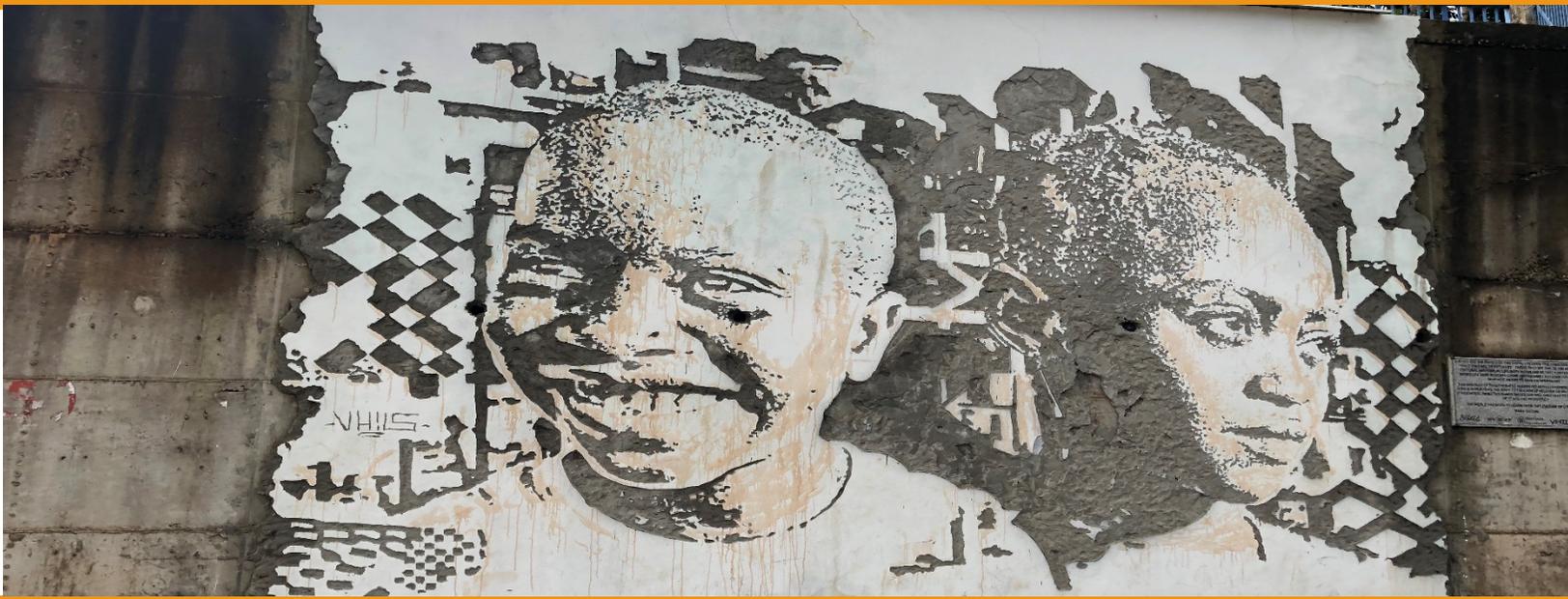
Non-mission settings are generally considered situations where there is no United Nations peace operation deployed, be it a Peacekeeping Operation (PKO), a Special Political Mission (SPM), regional and liaison offices, or country-specific good office arrangements such as a Special Envoy. Support to non-mission settings is not an entirely new spectrum within the field of DDR. In such environments, DDR has commonly taken place either

“Non-mission settings are generally considered situations where there is no United Nations peace operation deployed”

without any involvement on the part of the United Nations, or with targeted support from specific agencies, funds, and programmes as part of a United Nations Country Team (UNCT). However, with the implementation of the most recent UN Reforms which came into effect on 1 January 2019 – most notably the reform of the UN Peace and Security Architecture – the DDR Section as part of DPO/OROLSI is now considered a system-wide service provider on DDR. In addition to the increased support to SPMs since 2009, which the Section has only been able to sustain through extra-budgetary support – initially by the United Kingdom and since 2017 from Germany –, DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section is now mandated and expected to systematically respond to DDR-related requests from non-mission settings. As part of the review of the Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS) – which different Member States have consulted in their DDR efforts even in the absence of a United Nations peace operation –, the Inter-Agency Working Group on DDR (IAWG-DDR), co-chaired by the DPO/OROLSI DDR Section (with UNDP), has therefore introduced DDR support to non-mission settings into the new United Nations Approach to DDR.

2. DPO/OROLSI/DDR SECTION SUPPORT TO NON-MISSION SETTINGS TO DATE

Requests for DDR support from DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section by stakeholders in non-mission settings did occur irregularly even prior to the United Nations reforms but were often left unattended in the absence of clear modalities and funding. By way of example, in 2015, the DDR Section received a request from Papua New Guinea, which was declined primarily due to unavailable resources and secondary a lack of clarity on the concrete nature of support to be rendered. However, during the same period, the DDR Section was providing strategic and technical advice to the Colombian Peace Process negotiations in Havana which resulted in the “General Agreement for the Termination of the Conflict and the Construction of a Stable and Lasting Peace”, prior to the establishment of the UN Verification Mission in Colombia (UNVMC). Over the past 36 months, the DDR Section has increasingly responded to requests coming from non-mission settings in the context of the aforementioned United Nations reforms.



2.1 NATIONAL CONTEXTS:

PAST

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Nature of request: DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section continued to work with the UNCT in Côte d'Ivoire following the closure of UNOCI to ensure a smooth hand-over of tasks and responsibilities related to the national DDR programme managed by the *Autorité pour le Désarmement, la Démobilisation et la Réintégration* (ADDR). In addition to this, the DDR Section also participated at the request of CTED in its country assessment from 26 to 30 March 2018, in line with the signed framework for the partnership and coordination between CTED and OROLSI.

Response and impact: The main objectives of the DDR Section's participation in this assessment visit were to i) assess the security threat posed by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and the large presence of youth in conflict with the law, ii) to identify national actors' initiatives which could inform the development of the national strategy on counter-terrorism, and iii) to provide recommendation on possible UN support to be provided to Cote d'Ivoire to reinforce its national strategy on counter-terrorism. Subsequently to its participation in the mission, DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section provided specific contributions to the report that was issued by CTED in September 2018.

SIERRA LEONE

Nature of request: The DDR Section received a request from the Peace and Development Advisor (PDA) in the Resident Coordinator's Office in 2018 for a joint United Nations mission to assess patterns of recruitment of youth into gangs with links to political circles and propose recommendations to national authorities in this regard.



Response and impact: In July 2019, the DDR Section led a technical assessment mission (TAM) to Sierra Leone. Extensive discussions were held with the United Nations entities which participated in the assessment (UNDP, IOM, UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, FAO, and WFP). Among other tasks, DDRS was responsible for defining methodology for data collection, designing the perception survey and processing/analyzing the information (see attachments). Overall, 241 in-person surveys were conducted in 5 locations (Freetown, Makeni, Kono, Bo, Kenema). The initial assessment was based on a combination of methods, including semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, focus groups with youth at risk and community-based associations, use of online tools (UReport), and analysis of Government/United Nations statistics. The Ministry of Youth Affairs (MYA) and the Office of National Security (ONS) were briefed on preliminary findings by PDA and DPO in late August 2019. Following the submission of the final report in October 2019, the Government adopted a series of preventive measures to address the issues identified in the TAM report. Among the actions, the Office of National Security (ONS) escalated the findings of the report to the Presidency, which decided to increase the 2020 budget allocation for youth employment. In addition, the Ministry of Youth Affairs initiated an advocacy campaign against drug use, considered a key risk factor for gang violence. Considering innovative tools, national authorities are now using the U-Report and are designing a new app for gathering nation-wide, real-time data. Moreover, the Technical Assessment served to reactivate coordination mechanisms such as the Youth Group, co-led by UNDP and UNFPA. The findings and recommendations of the technical assessment further served as a basis for the development of the PBF project, aimed at addressing gang violence. In this context, DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section provided technical support

to PBSO/PBF experts and the PDA throughout the drafting of the project proposal. On 15 November 2020, the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, and the Vice-President of Sierra Leone, Dr. Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh, officially launched the PBF project, “Empowering Youth at risk as a Resource for Peace”.



DDR SECTION CHIEF WITH DEMOBILIZED COMBATANTS IN THE POOL REGION OF CONGO

ONGOING:

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Nature of request: The first official request from a non-mission setting to which DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section would positively respond (in anticipation of its new role as system-wide service provider in the reformed United Nations Peace and Security Architecture) came from the Government of the Republic of the Congo through the Resident Coordinator in December 2017. Transmitted through United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) to UNHQ (first to the Department of Political Affairs which relayed it to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations), it specifically stressed the need for support regarding the development of a DDR programme following the *Kinkala Agreement*, signed on 23 December between the Government and the Ninja militia of Pasteur Ntumi in the Pool department.

Response and impact: The DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section led a joint DPKO-UNDP-DPA/UNOCA DDR technical assessment mission (TAM) to Brazzaville from 22 January to 4 February 2018. The TAM analysed the feasibility of a DDR programme in compliance with the Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS) and was adapted to the context of the Republic of the Congo (RoC). Key prerequisites were defined as i) the political will of actors, ii) integrated DDR planning, iii) a people-centred DDR approach addressing cross-cutting aspects, as well as iv) linkages between DDR and other humanitarian, recovery and development programmes. In line with the IDDRS, programmatic activities would need to frame disarmament within the most recent international arms regulation

standards, apply flexible demobilization interventions as well as a community-based reintegration approach. The findings and recommendations of the report subsequently informed the successful submission of a Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) project proposal comprising DDR as one of three core elements in addition to dialogue and human rights. This furthermore allowed for the Resident Coordinator to hire a dedicated DDR Officer to lead the support to the Government on DDR. The DDR Section also participated in the review of the first phase of the DDR component of the PBF project for the RoC in 2019 and continues to provide remote technical assistance to the Resident Coordinator, the Department of Political Affairs (DPPA) – Department of Peace Operations (DPO) responsible regional desk, and DPPA/Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO).

The RoC held presidential elections in March 2021 and is due to hold legislative elections later in 2021. The United Nations system, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, has adopted a coordination framework that inter alia aims to i) prevent a relapse into conflict of the restive Pool region, ii) broaden the space for political solutions to the interlinked tensions at the national and local level, and iii) strengthen peacebuilding and social cohesion within communities that are vulnerable to electoral violence. Specifically, with support from DPO/OROSLI/DDRS, a key priority is to shift from the long-delayed finalization of a DDR programme – namely the stalling reintegration phase – to Community Violence Reduction (CVR) in the Pool region. It is envisaged that a suite of CVR projects will address socio-economic grievances of ex-combatants and local communities, thereby contributing to trust-building vis-à-vis state authority and reducing the likelihood of re-mobilization in the lead up to, and aftermath of, the upcoming elections, with particular focus on the inclusion of women and youth.

This proposed shift from DDR to CVR would constitute a major strategic reorientation of UNCT's planned programmatic engagement in the Pool region.



Support was provided in the following ways:

- **Organization and facilitation of a UNCT workshop on CVR:** The workshop, attended by representatives from various agencies funds and programmes including UNDP, the World Bank, UNICEF, and UNFPA, became an opportunity for a meaningful discussion on developing a coordinated approach towards a CVR strategy. It resulted in a broad agreement that CVR could serve as a tool around which AFPs could coalesce various humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding activities in response to the presence of demobilized combatants in the Pool region and to the potential election-related violence later this year. In this regard, the main outcome of the workshop was a broad commitment to initiate a consultation process towards the development of an interagency CVR strategy.
- **Knowledge management workstreams:** As part of the background documentation for the workshop, as a response to a request from the Resident Coordinator to have more evidence on CVR, the DDRS drafted and submitted a paper on the lessons learned on CVR in electoral contexts, to which the Electoral Assistance Division contributed.
- **Completion of the conflict analysis for CVR:** The conflict analysis which was funded through the joint UNDP-DPPA seed fund will serve as a common analytical foundation for the UNCT and contains a dedicated section on CVR, further giving the approach a foothold in this non-mission context. The conflict analysis will feed into the CCA and will form the analytical foundation for an international consultant to develop a national CVR strategy in collaboration with the UNCT.

While the development of an interagency strategy on CVR is a significant milestone, the planning, financing, coordination activities undertaken in support of that goal also represented important learning opportunities. As such, the following key features emerged as part of the DDR Section's lessons learned regarding its support to complement DDR efforts with a CVR approach in the Republic of Congo. **High Level engagement:** The request for support was triggered by a high-level meeting bringing together the Resident Coordinator, the Resident Representative of UNDP, and the Chief DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section. This engagement provided the political and strategic direction upon which technical-level engagement was established. **Close coordination with the PDA** was a key feature of the support provided to the RCO. Through weekly meetings, the PDA, DDRS, UNDP, DPPA/CSAD, and UNOCA formed (and continue to form) a steering committee dedicated to advancing political, planning, and financing aspects. As part of its support, DDRS organized a technical UNCT workshop designed to build capacities related to CVR and DDR within the UNCT in line with new UN approach to DDR as outlined in the revised Integrated DDR standards (IDDRS). The workshop was also an opportunity to conduct a mapping exercise to identify possible programmatic entry points for CVR based on development and humanitarian activities undertaken by AFPs in the UNCT. Through the [Joint United Nations UNDP-DPPA](#)

Programme's JP seed funding seed funding mechanism, the DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section in close collaboration with DPPA/CSAD was able to secure USD 96'000 to fund a) a national consultant to conduct a conflict analysis; and b) the deployment of CVR expertise to produce an interagency CVR strategy based on the analysis. The **Cross-mission deployment of CVR expert** also lead the process of developing the CVR strategy as the DDR Section facilitated an agreement between BINUH and the RCO for the deployment of a Haitian national professional staff with extensive CVR expertise, to support the PDA through a temporary duty assignment. Overall, it is important to note that this constitutes the first time CVR capacities from a United Nations mission setting are deployed in support of a non-mission setting, providing a promising example of a concrete service that DPO can provide in support of RCs and their offices.

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MOZAMBIQUE

Nature of request: Since 2018, the DDR Section has been approached by Member States (e.g., Argentina, Germany, and the European Union) to provide a preliminary assessment on DDR process in Mozambique. As a result of the mediation support provided by Switzerland, the parties to the conflict – RENAMO forces and Government of Mozambique – signed the Maputo Accord for Peace and National Reconciliation in 2019. During the same year, the United Nations appointed Amb. Mirko Manzoni as the Secretary-General’s Personal Envoy for Mozambique. The peace settlement allowed the start of the DDR process, targeting a caseload of 5,221 combatants. Moreover, the nomination of the Personal Envoy created a direct channel of communication within the Organization for discussing the implementation of the peace process. While national authorities have advanced the disarmament and demobilization phases, the reintegration into civilian life is constrained due to insufficient funding. DDRS has maintained regular exchanges with the PDA in Mozambique, and most recently engaged with the Personal Envoy of the Secretary General, and the Resident Coordinator.

Response and impact: Prior to the signing of the Maputo peace agreement, the DDR Section examined the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and RENAMO articulating a DDR process centered on i) the integration (placement) of former RENAMO leadership into the national security sector, and ii) the DDR process for the remaining ex-combatants. This effort allowed the identification of conceptual and operational gaps, and the formulation of recommendations on how to address them. Throughout the implementation of the DDR process, the Section has provided policy support and technical advice to UNHQ and field counterparts. This included contributing to conflict analysis, facilitating technical exchange with IAWG entities, supporting the development of PBF project proposals and advocating for the

harmonization of DDR activities with international standards. Given the deterioration of security conditions in the northern region, the Section has contributed to the drafting of the Comprehensive Strategy for Cabo Delgado. Moreover, DDRS has briefed relevant counterparts on the operational and programmatic implications of the recent designation of Ansar Al-Sunna as a terrorist group. Moreover, by serving as OROLSI coordination, the Section has promoted the mobilization of technical experts among components and its support to planning process.

CAMEROON

Nature of request: In November 2018, the DDR Section was initially approached by the PDA and subsequently by the Resident Coordinator following the establishment of a national DDR commission the same month. On 6 January 2021, the Secretariat General of the Presidency of the Republic issued a letter to the Permanent Mission of Cameroon to New York to formally solicit a “multidimensional and urgent” support on DDR to the National DDR Committee.

Response and impact: During the Resident Coordinator’s first visit to UNHQ in 2018 DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section provided technical assistance, advising to separate DDR approaches to Boko Haram (Far North) with those of Anglophone movements in the North-West and South-West. The DDR Section also proposed and subsequently facilitated the training of three Cameroonian members of the National DDR Committee at the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA) in 2019. In his statement of 10 September 2019, announcing the launch of the National Dialogue, President Biya, referred to the DDR process as a key offer of his government to the armed groups in the two English-speaking regions. The buy-in of the armed groups to the National Dialogue was, however, eventually insignificant and the Government used it mostly for public-relation tool. The DDR Section remains, however, engaged with the National DDR Committee in view of providing a more comprehensive capacity building support. Following meetings held between DDRS and the Cameroonian National DDR Coordinator and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York in 2020, DDRS received an explicit request from the Permanent Mission of Cameroon for support with its National DDR Programme in early 2021. DDRS subsequently established a working-level focus group with the NDDRC and UNCT in Cameroon and has held bi-weekly meetings to gauge the nature and scale of required and feasible support. DDRS works in close collaboration with the RCO and the DPPA, also liaising with UNOCA, focusing currently on generic capacity building and support to some operational aspects of the Far North but with a view to support any process that could contribute to an orderly and voluntary DDR process in the North-West and South West.

A separate initiative is being developed jointly with WHO to establish a CVR approach with a strong health-services angle that could be used in the future to build confidence and serve as an entry point to a conversation between the Government and armed groups. In collaboration with WHO and IOM and through funding from the PBF, the DDRS is planning on implementing a health-focused CVR project in Cameroon, focusing on the Far North and eventually expanding into the South-West/North-West. Within this context and considering that a major stumbling block in the implementation of the DDR programme in Cameroon is the lack of trust between the Government and non-State armed actors, it is proposed that a Community Violence Reduction programme be considered for areas affected by the armed groups and under the supervision of the National DDR Committee. The proposed project will attempt to turn neutral health entry points and health services provision into an opportunity to build elements of trust between the armed groups and their constituencies on the one hand, and the Government on the other, to then translate the initial trust achieved into a two-way dialogue and, ultimately, a political process. In addition, small-scale livelihood opportunities within the health sector, such as community disease surveillance, can serve as a prevention of recruitment tool and provide youth in particular with viable alternatives to violence. Within the framework of such a political process, conditions will be established for a viable DDR programme to be developed.

“The proposed project will attempt to turn neutral health entry points and health services provision into an opportunity to build elements of trust between the armed groups [...] and the Government [...], to then translate the initial trust achieved into a two-way dialogue”

ETHIOPIA

Nature of request: As part of President Abiy Ahmed’s pacification efforts in Ethiopia and the region, the Government engaged the UNCT and donors with a request to support DDR efforts. As a potential key donor, Germany then reached out to DDRS for advice after which – following informal engagement by the PDA – a formal request was transmitted by the Resident Coordinator to ASG OROLSI after a bi-lateral meeting at UNHQ in March 2019.

In December 2020, the Resident Coordinator Office convened a meeting with UNMAS, DDR Section, UNOAU and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa on mine action support to Ethiopia. The Resident Coordinator used this as an opportunity to consolidate broader UN support in Ethiopia and requested support in the development of a comprehensive UN support package on security-related issues, including DDR, WAM and SSR.

Response and impact: As part of the remote technical assistance, the DDR Section proposed the facilitation of i) a technical assessment mission, ii) a DDR workshop with Government and other

stakeholders, as well as iii) additional capacity building and DDR training opportunities for RCO staff and national counterparts. Follow-up by the DDR Officer at UNOAU revealed that the German Embassy in Addis Ababa had taken the lead for the international community and was quite advanced in providing support for the process, which was deemed to be politically sensitive. No progress seems to have been made since early 2019, while the DDR Section remains standing by, including the UNOAU DDR capacity in Addis Ababa, to provide such support should it be requested through the GFFO and/or the German Embassy.

In addition to assistance in demining activities provided by UNMAS, the DDR Section offered to provide support on WAM more broadly in the framework of a joint initiative between the DPO and the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) on “Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Context”. The DDR Section proposed the provision of a study on weapons and ammunition dynamics to identify priority areas of WAM intervention, as well as the deployment of a Technical Assessment Mission to provide recommendations on WAM at the strategic, policy and technical level and to identify potential WAM activities linked DDR processes. While the Resident Coordinator had initially planned to develop a comprehensive security support package (including DDR) as proposal to the Government, the interest by the national authorities has since faded amidst the Tigray crisis.

BURKINA FASO

Nature of request: As a reaction to the increasing threat to the security and stability of Burkina Faso, the United Nations Secretary-General Executive Committee established an inter-agency Emergency Task Force which, in turn, established two technical working groups, including one on Rule of Law and Support to Security Institutions co-chaired by DPPA and OHCHR. Per the mandate of the Executive Committee the technical working groups were tasked to develop an Emergency Support Plan for Burkina Faso. The results were presented to the Emergency Task Force on 23 May 2019. At the meeting of the Emergency Task Force, the co-chairs ASG Keita and the Resident Coordinator formally requested the urgent deployment of 1 DDR Officer on a short-term mission to strengthen the RCO monitoring and analysis capacity. The DDR officer will be tasked to conduct a threat analysis of non-State armed actors; develop a typology of armed groups; and identify options for programmatic support.

Response and impact: The technical mission was conducted in July 2019 and produced two separate sets of analyses and recommendations for the Government and the United Nations, respectively on the approach to armed actors, including, but not limited to the terrorist movements. The policy and legal framework for the implementation of the recommendations are still lacking. The DDR Section remains involved in the technical working group and works with other streams of activity in support of Burkina Faso. The evolution on the ground, however, points currently to an increased militarization of Burkinabe approaches to the conflict, including

the creation of a para-military group Volunteers for the Fatherland. With that, perspectives for DDR approaches have faded.

THAILAND

Nature of request: In June 2021, the PDA in Thailand approached DPOS/OROLSI/DDR Section – through the DPPA-DPO/Asia-Pacific Division – regarding an engagement with the Thai Government around the peace process in their long-running conflict in southern provinces; a process the United Nations has stayed quietly connected with over the years in helping to advance. The PDA team had helped to broker a training agreement wherein New Zealand would fund a local academic institution to deliver several trainings later in 2021 for Thai army contingent commanders responsible for security in the southern provinces. This was framed as a follow up on some earlier rounds of trainings conducted in the beginning of the year around gender, which the United Nations had fed into by offering some guidance/best practices materials developed by the DPPA/DPO gender units, which they were able to tailor to their audience. While the Thai Government are generally quite wary of any direct United Nations involvement in their peace process, this substantive input was welcomed and considered by the PDA as a key opportunity for to stay engaged and offer value. Concretely, the PDA requested substantive support for the delivering of a training module on DDR/SSR/reconciliation and justice through the development of a pre-recorded lecture on DDR which they could use as a module in these trainings.

Response and impact: Following consultations with DPPA-DPO Asia-Pacific Division as well as the PDA and his team in Bangkok, DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section – together with the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) – has been following up on this request. By making use of the training budget of the joint DPO-BICC project on the “Operationalization of the IDDRS”, the DDR Section is developing a DDR training video with inputs from the field and support from a filmmaker company based in Germany. The video will be shared with the PDA in Thailand in October 2021 and will also be of use for further similar endeavors

2.2 REGIONAL CONTEXTS:

LAKE CHAD BASIN

Nature of request: In late 2017, the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the African Union requested DDR support from the United Nations based on Security Council resolution 2349 which *“encourages Governments in the region, in collaboration with regional and sub regional organisations, relevant United Nations entities and other relevant stakeholders, and, in the context of this resolution, to develop and implement a regional and coordinated strategy that encompasses transparent, inclusive, human rights compliant disarmament, demobilisation, deradicalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration*



initiatives, in line with strategies for prosecution, where appropriate, for persons associated with Boko Haram and ISIL” (OP29). Moreover, it “urges Governments in the Region to develop and implement consistent policies for promoting defections from Boko Haram and ISIL and for deradicalising and reintegrating those who do defect, and to ensure that there is no impunity for those responsible for terrorist acts” (OP31).

Response and impact: In close partnership with UNDP, IOM, CTED, UNODC, UNICEF, the DDR Section supported the development of the Regional Stabilization Strategy (RSS) for the Boko Haram-affected countries, particularly its Pillar 3 on Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, Reinsertion and Reintegration (DDRRR). The Strategy was adopted by the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) Council of Ministers on 30 August 2018 and endorsed by the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) on 5 December 2018. The strategy was presented during a donor conference in Berlin, Germany on 3-4 September 2019. This conference was co-hosted by Germany, Nigeria, Norway, and the United Nations. The outcome statement by the co-hosts refers to the “importance of building legal foundations for a DDR process, and supporting reintegration of former fighters, Civilian Joint Task Force members and vigilantes with reconciliation efforts, education and job perspectives. Furthermore, we stressed the need to strengthen prevention of violent extremism.” During the conference, collective grants were pledged of \$2.17 billion USD, with an additional \$467 million in concessional loans.

Since official adoption, DDRS has supported the operationalization of the Regional Stabilization Strategy. Given this objective, the Section has provided policy and technical support to the LCBC Secretariat. Support has been provided for the development of the RSS Results Framework for Pillar 3 on DDRRR and revision of numerous policy documents (e.g., Community-Based Reconciliation and Reintegration). The Section has actively engaged United Nations partners in order to raise awareness on regional dynamics as well as ongoing interventions. In 2021, DDRS facilitated the dissemination of in-depth research on the DDR processes conducted across LCBC countries. Currently, DDRS is exploring partnerships with UNDP and the LCBC Secretariat to advance a regional study on transitional weapons and ammunition management (WAM). The study will serve as a basis for subsequent technical assessments, field support and capacity-building initiatives.



3. ANALYSIS AND PRELIMINARY LESSONS LEARNED

Based on the experiences so far, several patterns have emerged that should be used to further conceptualize DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section support to non-mission settings going forward. In terms of a legal framework as basis for such support, the main difference to Mission settings is that there will be no Security Council resolution mandating a Chapter VI or VII peace operation; however, there might nevertheless be resolutions in place – especially at the regional level – providing a mandate and defining clear or generic parameters for United Nations DDR support. There are two major implications stemming from this for DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section regarding both the legitimacy and nature/scope of potential DDR support. In such countries where there is no United Nations peacekeeping operation or special political mission (including special envoys and regional offices) mandated by the Security Council, a legitimate entry point for United Nations DDR support is provided when formal requests for assistance are made either by a national Government and/or the United Nations Resident Coordinator or relevant regional/sub-regional organizations. In cases where DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section is approached by third-party Member States or a regional organization, the Section may consider providing informal technical advice remotely, however, unless coordinated with the host country, this should not entail a deployment to the affected country. In terms of the nature and scope of DDR support, this should ideally be aligned with broader development and peacebuilding frameworks that guide overall United Nations support in the specific context, such as the Common Country Analysis (CCA) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs). As it is likely that Governments in such settings are in stronger positions than host nations of United Nations peacekeeping or special political missions, DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section will need to mitigate the risk of being instrumentalized for purposes that are not in line with the United Nations Approach to DDR.

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DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section support based on a formal request by a Government and/or United Nations Resident Coordinator will realistically comprise of remote technical assistance and – subject to available funding and where appropriate – a TAM with subsequent findings report with recommendations to all stakeholders (e. g. the Government, the UN System, and donors/international community). Following such a TAM, it is important to sustain relations with the Government and Resident Coordinator through different activities. Continued remote technical assistance can continue to be provided through DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section from UNHQ in a needs-based manner. Additional support can also include the provision or facilitation of DDR training (e. g. through the Integrated DDR Training Group - IDDRTG) and knowledge sharing through partnerships as well as support in the identification of funding sources and mechanisms

(e. g. PBF and World Bank). In this context, it is important that the DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section actively contributes to the formulation of relevant concept notes, proposals, and project documents. With regard to funding, donors, including the World Bank, have also prioritized funding streams that reinforce coherence across Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs), UNSDCFs, and in-country peacebuilding priorities. Most notably, the members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) committed to the promotion of complementarity between humanitarian, development, and peace actions as a principle when planning and implementing Official Development Assistance (ODA) and other forms of bilateral assistance in fragile contexts. DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section should develop a strategic approach to tap into these funding sources for DDR support to non-mission settings.

Options for DDR support proposed by DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section in non-mission settings should comprise the entire spectrum provided through an integrated DDR process as outlined in the new United Nations Approach to DDR, namely DDR programmes, DDR-related tools, and Reintegration support for individuals leaving armed groups during active conflicts in the absence of a DDR programme. From a programmatic point of view, the disarmament and demobilization components of a DDR programme as well as DDR-related tools should ideally be undertaken by national institutions with advice and technical support from relevant UN departments,

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agencies, programmes, and funds. The reintegration component of a DDR programme and reintegration support for individuals leaving armed groups during active conflicts ought to be supported and/or implemented by the UNCT in an integrated manner. To facilitate the implementation of a DDR programme, DDR-related tools, and/or reintegration support in the absence of a DDR programme, a minimum level of security will have to be ensured by the country’s security forces or through security forces of a third state if provided for through a bilateral military cooperation agreement with the host nation.

Key in ensuring the subsequent implementation of the recommendations by the DDR Section are partnerships with the UNCT and other non-United Nations external partners, including entities within the Integrated DDR Training Group (IDDRTG) that may already have research expertise and/or practical experiences in specific contexts. DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section should facilitate such partnerships in view of i) a comprehensive assessment (by using available research and data, including from non-United Nations institutions active in the respective areas), ii) support to the development of a national DDR framework which outlines the political, legal, institutional, coordination, and programmatic parameters for DDR, iii) the raising of required funds and

establishment of appropriate funding mechanisms (e. g. through the World Bank or concerned regional development banks and/or the Peacebuilding Fund), as well as iv) tailored and effective operational support to Governments (by identifying suitable implementing partners in the UNCT as well as amongst local NGOs). DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section could also consider the establishment of a talent pool of individual experts that could be called upon to support with efforts in particular contexts. These could be identified by regional or substantive expertise. Depending on the degree of formality and volume of candidates, DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section could collaborate with UNOPS to establish and manage such a non-mission settings roster.

DDR programmes, DDR-related tools, and reintegration in the absence of DDR programmes, will require the allocation of national budgets and/or the mobilization of voluntary contributions, including through the establishment of financial management structures, such as a dedicated multi-donor trust fund or through catalytic funding provided by the PBF. DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section should support such efforts by the Government through the Resident Coordinator's Office. Overall, decision-making and accountability for UN-supported DDR in a non-mission setting will rest with the UN Resident Coordinator who will need to identify one or more UN lead agency(ies) in the UNCT based on in-country capacity and expertise. DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section could furthermore advise UN Resident Coordinators to establish a UN DDR Working Group co-chaired by the lead agency(ies) at the country-level to coordinate the contribution of the UNCT to integrated DDR, where appropriate. DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section should continue providing remote technical assistance to such country-level working groups, including in coordination with the IAWG-DDR.

Furthermore, direct collaboration with DPPA with its global mandate needs to be maintained and strengthened. Political analysis conducted in this department, as well as funding streams offered by its peacebuilding support architecture, constitute both a useful pathway towards the identification of contexts where armed groups are coming to a head and a channel for political advice on the engagement with armed actors, but also offer a potential source of fundraising for technical support and programmatic activities implemented through partners. In several cases, the DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section has also been able to leverage regional and liaison offices, or country-specific good office arrangements such as a Special Envoy in its support of particular non-mission settings under the purview of the latter (e.g., UNOCA with regard to RoC and Cameroon). Where applicable, guidance from and close coordination with such United Nations Regional Offices or Special Envoy's is paramount.

A new solid relationship will need to be enhanced and maintained with the United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO) which as of 1 January 2019 serves as the secretariat for the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) that comprises 40 agencies, funds and programmes working on development at the regional and global levels, following the reform of

the development pillar. A United Nations Secretariat entity, DCO provides substantive guidance and support to Resident Coordinators, in addition to daily backstopping to Resident Coordinator Offices on the ground. DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section will need to sensitize DCO counterparts on the United Nations Approach to DDR and its potential added value for non-mission settings affected by conflict or in need of prevention efforts. Intensified relations with DCO will also facilitate systematic engagement of the entire UNSDG and Resident Coordinators who might be interested in receiving DDR support.

As part of the UNDS and humanitarian sector reform, the UN system has increasingly deployed country and regional HDPN advisors to support RC/HCs in bringing coherence to humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding objectives in protracted humanitarian settings. To support this, the Joint Steering Committee (JSC), a principal-level mechanism chaired by the DSG, was established to support RC/HCs and UNCT/HCTs. The JSC includes, FAO, IOM, OHCHR, PBSO, DPA, DPKO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNWOMEN, UNFPA, World Bank, WFP, and WHO. To achieve this coherence, the notion of “collective outcomes (COs)” serves as a planning tool to harmonize short, medium, and long-term objectives in HRPs, UNSDCFs, and in-country peacebuilding priorities. COs have been articulated and/or explored in conflict settings including, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Niger, Somalia, Nigeria, and Sudan. DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section will need to explore options to link-up with these mechanisms to increase the effectiveness of its support in non-mission settings.

Against this backdrop, framing CVR within the scope of humanitarian and development system-wide policy reforms has proven to facilitate the uptake and understanding of this DDR-related tool with UN agencies funds and programmes. In particular, during the UNCT workshop on CVR held in RoC, conceptualizing CVR within the framework of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (HDPN) proved to be useful in sensitizing on where potential points of collaboration could lie. Through the HDPN approach – as part of these system-wide reforms initiated by the Secretary General – RC’s, PDAs, and representatives of AFPs operating in protracted and fragile contexts, have been tasked with looking for opportunities where they can simultaneously address immediate needs (humanitarian), tackling structural inequities and chronic vulnerabilities (development), while addressing the root causes of those needs and vulnerabilities (peacebuilding). The flexibility of CVR is therefore very much in line with the HDPN and will form the basis for the RoC nexus approach in the Pool Region.



4. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

With the new UN Peace and Security Architecture in place since January 2019, the scope of work on non-mission settings is certain to further increase for DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section with its new mandate as a system-wide service provider. What is also clear based on the above elaborations is that DDR support in non-mission settings can add value to broader peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts through the multifaceted functions and approaches that it can take. One additional possibility to enhance this in line with the armed group life cycle approach could also be establishing ties with any

“DDR support in non-mission settings can add value to broader peacebuilding and sustaining peace efforts through the multifaceted functions and approaches that it can take.”

early warning systems that would signal where the issue of non-State armed actors’ activity is coming to a head so that DDRS can pro-actively approach a state or the RCO to share its situation assessment (e. g. conducting a TAM within a prevention logic) and outline possible options to prevent the situation from escalating.

Going forward, DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section will need to ensure the systematic provision of timely and coordinated responses to requests from non-mission settings, including through well-established partnerships with key United Nations system entities (e.g., PBSO), regional actors (e.g., the AU), and other relevant entities (e.g., the World Bank). A case in point is the UN-World Bank-supported African Union DDR Capacity Program (AUDDRC), whose recently approved framework agreement for Phase III (2019-2021) foresees joint UN -World Bank -AU DDR support to non-mission settings on the African continent upon request by Member States and/or Regional Economic Commissions (RECs).

Building on these and potentially new partnerships, tailored technical advice for different non-mission contexts from the strategic to the operational level will require creativity and flexibility. The recently established DDR standing capacity at UNLB in Brindisi will be an additional resource to facilitate *ad hoc* DDR support to non-mission settings on a global scale. Synergies have also been established with other ongoing initiatives and projects under the DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section’s purview, such as the joint DPO-BICC project on the “Operationalization of the revised IDDRS” (e.g., by facilitating training opportunities for clients), and – most notably – the joint DPO-ODA project on “Effective weapons and ammunition management (WAM) in a changing DDR context” with its shared technical assistance mechanisms to facilitate *ad hoc* DDR-related WAM support for DDR processes across the globe. With a view to providing assistance and advice under this mechanism, a WAM & DDR Roster of Experts was recently established, composed of experts with the skills and knowledge to provide strategic, policy and technical-level support on WAM as

part of integrated DDR processes. Under the DPO-ODA technical assistance mechanism, technical assessment missions can be deployed to provide recommendations on WAM and to identify potential WAM activities as part of DDR processes. Remote support can also be provided, including through studies on weapons and ammunition dynamics, to identify lessons learned from past WAM initiatives and priority areas of intervention. Potential support also includes the development and delivery of tailored training programmes for UN staff and national authorities. When technical assistance on WAM is provided in non-mission settings, close coordination with UNMAS should be undertaken to ensure collaboration and complementarity of activities and to leverage UNMAS technical expertise on WAM.

As the available extra-budgetary funding for this workstream remains unpredictable and short-term, it will be crucial for DPO/OROLSI/DDR Section to secure stable and sustainable resources now that its status as a system-wide service provider has been formalized. The increased need manifested in the growing number of requests from non-mission settings as well as the work that DDR has already done and continues to do in response should be presented as justification for appropriate funding sources and levels before the relevant legislative bodies within the United Nations System.

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