THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF ARMED GROUPS: DOING DDR IN NEW CONTEXTS

WORLD BANK GROUP

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SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

ON 1 MAY 2018, THE WORLD BANK GROUP'S GLOBAL PROGRAM FOR REINTEGRATION SUPPORT (GPRS), THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL (SSRC) AND THE UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION, AND REINTEGRATION (DDR) SECTION IN THE OFFICE OF RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS (OROLSI) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (DPKO), ORGANIZED A PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT IN NEW YORK. PARTICIPANTS DISCUSSED THE WAYS IN WHICH DDR PRACTITIONERS ARE ADAPTING TO THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF ARMED GROUPS. THIS PANEL DISCUSSION BUILT ON A PREVIOUS EVENT HELD IN MARCH 2018 DURING THE WORLD BANK FRAGILITY FORUM IN WASHINGTON, D.C., WHICH FOCUSED ON HOW NEW APPROACHES TO DDR HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AND REINFORCED THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS. THIS MEETING NOTE SUMMARIZES THE MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION. A WIDE-RANGE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE UNITED NATIONS, MEMBER STATES, CIVIL SOCIETY AND ACADEMIA TOOK PART IN THE EVENT.

CVR Ravine Building in Haiti
(Photo MINUSTAH)

INTRODUCTION

As United Nations peace operations grapple with heightened political and security challenges, DDR practitioners have had to adjust to complex dynamics (e.g. no peace agreement or inclusive political process, transnational criminal networks, rising number of armed non-state actors, and regional armed group dynamics). Practitioners must navigate complex political terrain and deal with legal constraints in asymmetric contexts where violent extremism poses a further challenge. In response, DDR practitioners are combining community-based programming with weapons and ammunition management. They are engaging both combatants and youth at risk of recruitment, while providing technical support to political processes, including mediation efforts, at different levels. DDR efforts remain critical across the peace continuum as one of the few non-military means in the UN tool box to directly engage armed groups.

The panel discussion opened with an overview of political, security and humanitarian contextual challenges in fragile environments, which served to frame the discussion on programmatic responses. Panel members underscored critical trends and developments relating to United Nations peace operations and World Bank DDR initiatives, including the closure of the Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program (TDRP) and the opening of the Global Program for Reintegration Support (GPRS). Furthermore, experts addressed specific contexts in which the World Bank and the United Nations are partnering on DDR, especially with respect to second generation DDR measures such as Community Violence Reduction (CVR). Participants discussed how to reinforce and codify these innovative measures, and how to apply and adapt them along the peace continuum, from prevention to sustainable development, as part of holistic DDR interventions.

RESPONDING TO INCREASINGLY COMPLEX CONFLICT DYNAMICS

Tatiana Carayannis, Program Director at the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), opened the discussion by articulating the increasingly complex dynamics of violent conflict. Over the last two decades, scholars and analysts have pointed to a shift in the nature of organized violence, from more commonly recognizable patterns of armed threats in conflict settings to more multi-faceted armed groups operating in more complex threat environments. While some argue war in the twenty-first century is on the decline, others point out that it merely has taken on new forms. Increasingly, conflict environments feature not only state armies but non-state armed groups, criminal gangs, drug-traffickers and terrorists. These actors employ new communications and weapons technologies, and frequently operate across national borders and regions, even though local allegiances are a critical dynamic of violence. This greater complexity in the production of violence has hampered efforts to respond to violent conflict around the world. There is a growing recognition that the international community's conflict response toolbox, including expensive international interventions, is inadequate in the face of new empirical realities.

DDR project in Abijan
(Photo: UNOCI by Patricia Esteve)

Micro and Macro Scales of Violence

The overwhelming, yet under-addressed, need to manage the increasing complexity of violence, including transnational dynamics and the proliferation of non-state actors, is at the core of current policy and academic debates about types and range of interventions by international and regional organizations. In addition, there is a growing recognition amongst researchers of the importance of responding to violence as opposed to conflict; in many contexts they are distinct phenomena that should not be conflated. There are regions suffering from widespread, often intense violence, such as various countries in Latin and Central America that would typically not be classified as intra-state conflicts. Moreover, in some parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, not all armed groups are fighting a war; rather, many are engaged in extortion or other rent-seeking activities, generating enormous rates of violence.

One of the policy responses that has emerged from these debates is the need to tackle local drivers of conflict. While this has proven to be a useful strategy in some contexts, we need to develop a broader approach that also addresses different "scales of violence". There is an increasing realization that if interventions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Afghanistan, and Iraq have failed to end violence, it is not because of failure to engage with local contexts sufficiently, but rather the inability to respond to the challenges of different "scales of violence". Over the last decade, while social science work on governance and the establishment of political authority in war zones has highlighted the importance of understanding local contexts and drivers of conflict, there are risks in romanticizing the local. Emphasizing local or cultural primacy, which implies that the local is somehow more progressive, can often be the pretext for exclusion and "ethnonationalism". Moreover, as wars in Somalia or the Democratic Republic of the Congo illustrate, many local actors who compete for power locally think globally. They have links outside their own communities all while being embedded in local society. Identifying territorial forms of the local can thus be a challenge. What is needed is to understand how various "scales of violence"—through state and non-state actors—are linked.

As scholars pay more attention to the role of non-state actors in producing local political orders and carrying out governance functions traditionally held by states, we find the state is present despite its weakness, i.e. reference to statehood is crucial in claims to public authority in conflict-affected settings. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and many other contexts, armed groups often employ a discourse of "stateness" and exercise taxation and

provide security for legitimacy. This is because the state—or the idea of the state—still resonates strongly in popular perceptions of public order. Paradoxically, groups do not take up arms to reject the state but rather to demand a greater and better state presence and governance.

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Today's conflicts and widespread violence have complex socio-cultural, economic, and political dimensions that operate through power networks which transcend conventional conceptual boundaries, e.g. public vs. private or local vs. national. Therefore, interdisciplinary and transregional approaches are required to fully understand and respond to these complex conflict drivers.

Implications for DDR

1. **Engage an increasingly wide-range of actors:** Given increasingly complex and diffuse conflict dynamics, one practical consideration for DDR practitioners is to engage a wider array of armed groups and local communities. At the same time, it is important to avoid exacerbating "forum shopping" where these actors may approach a myriad of international organizations to seek out the forum most favorable to their interests. Engaging a wide array of actors also has implications for long-term security efforts given that the strengthening of one actor in a fragile setting could exacerbate conflict. In effect, removing an armed group from the landscape could inadvertently create a power vacuum.

2. **Invest in research and analysis to inform evidence-based approaches:** It is evident that we need to invest in analysis of conflict dynamics in order to understand, for example, who communities turn to for protection and security. This type of research question has logistical and programmatic implications. Furthermore, outcome indicators have tended to be too narrow, focusing on job security and social acceptance of ex-combatants. Considering that DDR is deeply rooted in political dynamics on every level and scale, more relevant questions would be: How does DDR influence politics? Will ex-combatants be targets for remobilization? Will their return spark claims for local justice? If we evaluate these processes too narrowly, we risk overlooking the key grievances of dissatisfied ex-combatants and the underlying causes of conflict.

3. **Operationalize DDR as a political process:** While there is a widespread recognition that DDR is deeply political, interventions often fail to capture the political complexities of violent conflict. If DDR continues to be treated as a technical exercise, or only loosely rooted in the political process, these efforts are not likely to succeed. DDR faces the challenge of delinking ex-combatants from the political, economic and social networks that support and sustain them. Connections to local, national, regional and transnational actors must be better understood. As we have seen in the Balkans and elsewhere, networks established in war-time often continue in peace-time (e.g. criminalization of political space, protection and extortion rackets).

ADAPTATION AND INNOVATION IN DDR PROGRAMME RESPONSES

Challenges and Experience of World Bank investment in DDR

Daniel Owen, Senior Social Development Specialist and Program Manager of the Global Program for Reintegration Support (GPRS), outlined the World Bank's implementation experience with DDR and current challenges faced. Over the last 25 years, the World Bank has provided significant investment in national DDR programmes -specifically 23 programmes in Africa, and over $1 billion in financial support – through a combination of direct financing, investment support and management of multi-donor trust funds. The World Bank has focused primarily on reintegration delivered through direct assistance and investment support. Support also includes community-driven development work, including livelihood support, vocational training, capacity-building at the national level, as well as strategic planning for national institutions.

The World Bank's first investment operation

supporting DDR was in Uganda in 1992. Since then, the Bank has supported approximately 30 DDR operations in over 20 countries. In the Africa region, DDR support was associated with two long-standing multi-donor trust funds: the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP, 2002-2009) and the Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program (TDRP, 2010-2017) which together coordinated financing from 14 donors, and partnered in implementation with 21 regional bodies, UN agencies and NGOs.

As part of the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP), close to 300,000 combatants were demobilized and support, including $500 million in financing, was provided for the reintegration of 232,000 combatants. The MDRP was followed by the Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program (TDRP) which closed in December 2017. This was a comparatively smaller trust fund of $40 million. However, it provided important leveraging of other funding; including $15 million from direct World Bank budget for project financing and $82 million from other trust funds for DDR programming. The TDRP serviced 250,000 beneficiaries, it provided technical assistance for existing DDR programmes and a quick responsive window for financing gaps. The focus of TDRP was primarily centered on the reinsertion of ex-combatants in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and the Central African Republic. It also included a number of watch briefs in the region as well as a dedicated programme of support to the African Union implemented jointly with DPKO.

The Bank's new DDR facility, the Global Program for Reintegration Support (GPRS), housed within the State and Peacebuilding Fund, builds on lessons learned from MDRP and TDRP implementation experience. The five key focus areas for GPRS are: (i) DDR technical advisory work; (ii) national and regional data collection and analytics on DDR programming and practice; (iii) institutional capacity building; (iv) innovations and partnerships, and; (v) knowledge management. The programme will continue to work closely with the UN and the African Union to improve programming that strengthens conflict prevention and response capacities. The GPRS will shift the TDRP Africa focus to a global one, to ensure that it can meet future demand for DDR programming around the world. Furthermore, GPRS represents a move towards regional programming as opposed to a national focus.

Over the past decade the World Bank has grappled with the changing landscape of violent conflict and the resulting programmatic challenges. Lessons learned from MDRP and TDRP implementation practice point to several key issues related to DDR. The GPRS reflects this change in approach and thinking on a number of issues related to DDR:

1. **Targeting beneficiaries:**
   Early programmes mainly focused on ex-combatants, associates and families. A major shift in the current programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is to focus on families, and move away from individual targeting to support larger aggregates, including host communities.

2. **Implementing flexible programming:**
   Implementing and building flexibility into programmes is a key challenge. Through new approaches to social risk management, the Bank is exploring how to operationalize DDR more as a process as opposed to a discrete project, shifting from rigid timelines and milestones to more adaptive programming.

3. **Embedding DDR in wider strategies:**
   Breaking away from silo approaches means integrating DDR into the wider recovery and stability agenda. DDR has evolved from a short-term one-off intervention to a set of tools among a broader menu of options. Accordingly, efforts should be made to couple short-term DDR interventions with longer term efforts by partners, such as SSR, infrastructure, job creation, governance, human rights initiatives as well as access to justice and rule of law.

4. **Ensuring political ownership:**
   DDR programmes cannot serve as a substitute for national ownership and political will. Without political will to move towards peace, prospects for successful DDR are minimal.

5. **Linking up with research bodies:**
   A shift towards evidence-based programming to inform DDR approaches through real-time learning and monitoring is critical. This shift should be supported by the latest developments in the field of information technology.

6. **Transregional approach:**
   The GPRS represents a move towards regional programming as opposed to an exclusively national focus. The World Bank is cognizant that violent conflicts are nowadays rarely confined to national borders.

UN peace operations support to DDR: Challenges and lessons learned

Thomas Kontogeorgos, Chief of the DDR Section in OROLSI, DPKO, presented the following lessons from DDR experience in UN peace operations:
i) the need to link DDR to the political process
ii) the shift towards community-based approaches, and finally iii) the strategic importance of partnerships.

1. **Changing the political calculus around DDR:**
   Over the past decade, a rough model for international response to conflict-affected settings has emerged. Interventions begin with a limited transition period and quickly lead to elections, but they often unravel and conflict persists or eventually resumes. One key cause is that potential DDR clients—members of armed groups and, in particular, youth at risk of recruitment—are not fully engaged in political dialogue and conflict resolution initiatives. This lack of inclusivity directly affects DDR and has the potential to leave key political, security and economic grievances unaddressed, contributing to the proliferation of armed groups. There is an increasing need to address these grievances, while striking a delicate balance with sovereignty and political sensitivities. For a political process to be meaningful, discussions with armed groups should tease out the modalities for political participation and integration into the security sector.

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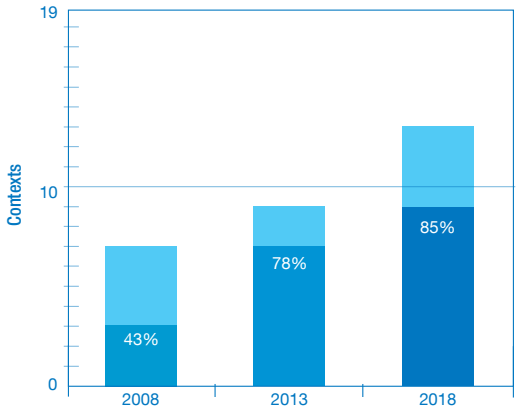
To do this, however, there needs to be a shift in how we view DDR. In the increasingly volatile environments in which peace operations are deployed, a fully-fledged DDR programme with key preconditions like minimum security and a political agreement may not be possible, but a DDR process could be established to engage armed groups politically and programmatically. DDR practitioners are increasingly using what is akin to armed group management or engagement techniques, rather than a large-scale national DDR programme. This takes several forms and is mainly focused at the community level. In cases like Mali and the Central African Republic, where technical preparations for a DDR programme are in place but the political process is stalled or at best rocky, practitioners have had to create a DDR process comprising community-based approaches.

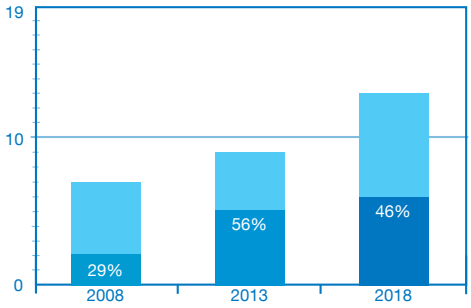
2. **Community-based approaches:**
   Over the last 30 years the UN has supported DDR in Central America, Africa and Asia. Based on these experiences and lessons learned, the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on DDR developed the Integrated DDR Standards in 2006. The standards laid out a set of preconditions for successful DDR, including an overarching peace agreement, trust in the process, and a minimum degree of security. In contexts, like Colombia and Myanmar, these preconditions still apply. However, the UN has been increasingly called upon to address security challenges in settings where political settlements are lacking (e.g. Afghanistan, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen) or where armed groups have either not signed or have abandoned a peace agreement (Mali, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo). Often, peace operations are deployed during conflict. Armed groups are embedded within communities. Most importantly security, legal or political challenges may interfere with a combatant’s decision to voluntarily join DDR. Moreover, in the Central African Republic and Mali, armed groups link their participation to DDR with their integration into the armed forces as part of wider political and economic grievances.



Percentage of contexts which don't meet the preconditions for DDR:

2008:	2013:	2018:
43 % Based on a total of 7 contexts out of which 3 - the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti and Darfur - don't meet the preconditions	78 % Based on a total of 9 contexts out of which 7 don't meet the preconditions. Only Côte d'Ivoire and South Sudan meet the preconditions.	85% Based on a total of 13 contexts out of which 11 don't meet the preconditions. Only Colombia and the Republic of Congo meet the preconditions.

Therefore, to fulfill DDR mandates and contribute to a secure environment for civilians in these challenging contexts, DDR practitioners with support from Headquarters have had to innovate. They have developed local, flexible, community-based approaches and programmes, and often changed the order of DDR, always with the objective of creating the conditions for disarmament and contributing to broader political and peacebuilding priorities. DDR components in peace operations are increasingly involved in a wide-range of DDR-related activities and confidence-building measures, such as support to mediation efforts in Mali, pre-DDR and transitional weapons and ammunition management (WAM) initiatives in the Central African Republic, and finally piloting violent extremists' disengagement initiatives for Al Shabaab elements in Somalia.



Percentage of contexts with non-traditional DDR programming underway:

2008:	2013:	2018:
29% Based on 7 contexts of which 2 contexts have non-traditional programming.	56% Based on 9 contexts of which 5 include non-traditional programming.	46% Based on 13 contexts, of which 6 include non-traditional programming.

The most prominent of these new approaches, however, has been Community Violence Reduction (CVR), which is a set of flexible tools aiming to prevent and reduce violence at the community level in both conflict and post-conflict environments. CVR targets vulnerable youth with the aim to prevent their recruitment and facilitate the reintegration of ex-combatants and active members of armed groups seeking to return to their communities. It also tackles recidivism, the concept of the "revolving door" phenomenon observed in several conflict settings.

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CVR includes labor-intensive projects, in which community members build infrastructure such as roads or schools to create alternative income streams. Other initiatives include vocational and skills training as well as psychosocial support. Through a participatory community-based approach, CVR partners directly interact with communities and beneficiaries, by including them in programme design and implementation.

CVR began in Haiti in 2006 when the Security Council requested MINUSTAH to reorient its DDR programme to a CVR programme targeting gang violence by adapting tools from development to peacekeeping. CVR is now mandated in the Central African Republic, Mali, Haiti as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and is implemented both in Darfur and Sudan. CVR is adapted to each context by taking into account local challenges and is implemented to support different stages of the peace process. In Mali, MINUSMA has relied on community violence reduction programmes to foster social cohesion in communities around cantonment sites. In the Central African Republic, CVR is focused on armed groups that are not eligible for the national

Training on computer science in Mellit, CLIPs
(Photo: UNAMID by Albert Gonzalez Farran)

DDR programme. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, CVR complements the national DDR programme, contributing to reinsertion of ex-combatants participating in the National Programme for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (PNDDR) III and assists in preventing recruitment of youth.

3. **Strategic importance of partnerships:**
As articulated in the A4P Agenda, partnership is crucial at the global, regional and local levels. National authorities are driving DDR before, during and after a peace operation deploys. The crux of the current reform efforts at the United Nations is to privilege long-term engagement and chart the path to peace in its entirety, through prevention, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, and development.

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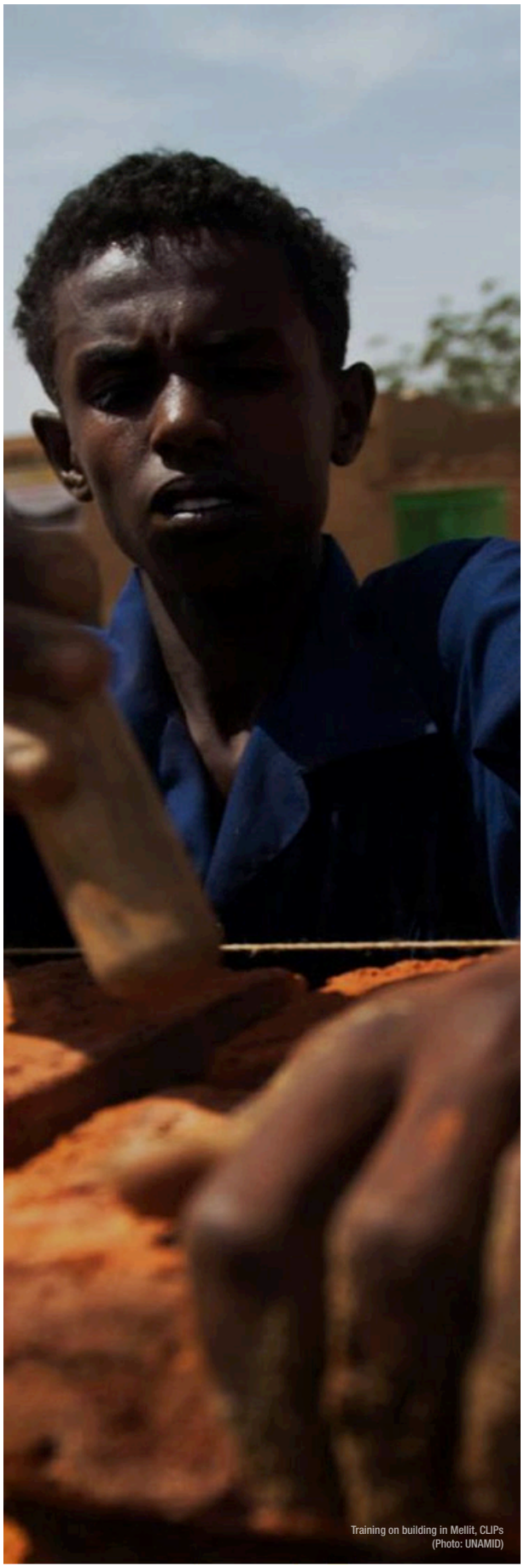
In this respect, reintegration has posed a key challenge. Since 2014, there has been no global lead for the reintegration of ex-combatants. Amongst other things, this has hampered efficient funding for long-term reintegration programmes, especially in middle-income countries. To fill this funding gap the World Bank has become involved in several key contexts, like the Central African Republic, Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where trust funds have been established to manage significant contributions to DDR programmes led by Governments. Together with the World Bank, DPKO also continues to provide support for the implementation of the African Union DDR Capacity Programme; this is a tripartite partnership on capacity-building. DPKO is working to solidify this partnership in support of DDR processes, including CVR. Beyond this critical tripartite partnership, inclusive national ownership is key for DDR and CVR programmes, which feature partnerships with international organizations, including IOM, UNDP, ILO, UN Women, UNOPS, UNHABITAT and UNICEF.

Regional partnerships, particularly in the context of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, are crucial to tackle the challenges posed by armed groups like the FDLR and ADF. In other emerging contexts, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa, DDR must tailor its political and programmatic strategy to different regional contexts.

Across the UN, further integration is required to support new joined-up approaches, e.g. guidance recently developed with the United Nations University on children and violent extremism. Moreover, DPKO's DDR Section has partnered with the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) to develop guidance and training in order to hone DDR-related weapons and ammunition management activities in both traditional DDR and innovative CVR programming. This is an unprecedented project that will strongly contribute to the revision of the integrated DDR Standards. The 24-member IAWG has taken the decision to revise the Integrated DDR Standards with added emphasis on DDR as a process rather than as a programme. New guidance will be developed in several areas including CVR, the political dimensions of DDR, and legal frameworks for DDR.

Lastly, support to DDR from Member States is critical. Member States need to be engaged systematically to address operational and policy challenges in DDR and CVR, and generate political support to recalibrate DDR and CVR approaches. Although DDR is institutionalized within the UN, through system-wide guidance and funding mechanisms, there has never been a group of Member States dedicated to it. For this reason, a Group of Friends of DDR was created to present key challenges and engage with Member States and other partners in frank discussions on how to support DDR, ensuring programmes are anchored in a solid political process.


CVR Masisi
(Photo: MONUSCO)



Training on building in Mellit, CLIPs
(Photo: UNAMID)

CONCLUSION

The event concluded with an open roundtable discussion allowing participants to distill conclusions from the panel discussion. Participants underlined the importance of sustaining DDR efforts in the long-term, pinpointing reintegration as a key challenge. It was noted that DDR has tended to have an economic focus and that it is critical to expand efforts on political and social reintegration, as well as to ensure research on the security dynamics of communities into which ex-combatants are reintegrated.

Participants further stressed the importance of pre-planning for DDR programmes with a wide-range of partners. Ideally, longer-term planning for reintegration should be initiated before programmes begin.

Participants recognized the importance of DDR across the peace continuum. It was noted that contexts affected by chronic violence, but not necessarily intra-state conflict, could benefit from the community-based approaches emerging in DDR work. In this respect, it was noted that DDR can prevent a relapse into conflict, especially with long-term investment. DDR should therefore be integrated into discussions in other forums for example on sustaining peace.

Overall, the event highlighted the political nature of DDR and the need for this to be reflected in DDR planning. Shifting the approach to DDR from a discrete programme to a process embedded in wider peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies was seen by experts as one way for this to be achieved. Lastly, the event showcased the importance of solidifying international, regional and national partnerships to achieve a longer-term and sustained focus on DDR.

AGENDA

The Changing Landscape of Armed Groups: Doing DDR in new contexts

Date: Tuesday, **1 May 2018**
Time: **10am to 12pm**
Venue: **Conference Room 8, UN Secretariat**

Introduction:
Elizabeth Kissam, Policy and Planning Officer, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section, Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations. Ms. Kissam has over ten years of experience in peacekeeping. Before working with the DDR Section she worked as a Policy and Planning Officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions. Prior to that, Ms. Kissam served in MONUC for three years as a Political Affairs Officer. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Duke University and a Masters from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Paris.

Panel Presentations

Panelists:

Tatiana Carayannis, Program Director of the Social Science Research Council's Understanding Violent Conflict Program and the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum. She has a visiting appointment at the London School of Economics (LSE) Africa Centre and Department of International Development. Dr. Carayannis leads the Council's China-Africa Knowledge Project, convenes the DRC Affinity Group, a small brain trust of leading Congo scholars and analysts, and is a research director of two international research collaborations, the Conflict Research Programme and the Centre for Public Authority and International Development (CPAID) based at the LSE. She holds a PhD in political science from The City University of New York Graduate Center, and an MA in political science from New York University. Dr. Carayannis served as moderator.

Daniel P. Owen, Senior Social Development Specialist and Program Manager, Global Program for Reintegration Support, World Bank. He was the Program Leader for the Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program, supporting post-conflict stabilization and DDR efforts in the Africa region and is currently the team lead for the new Global Program for Reintegration Support. He is the focal point for Labor issues (Labor and Working Conditions and Labor Influx) in the Global Practice for Social, Rural, Urban and Resilience. His academic background is in Anthropology and he has attended the universities of Cambridge, Harvard and the London School of Economics.

Thomas Kontogeorgos,Chief Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section, Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations. He has more than 19 years of experience in international cooperation with the European Union, NGOs and the United Nations. This includes 14 years with peacekeeping missions serving as a Civil Affairs Officer in Kosovo and Lebanon, and senior DDR posts in Haiti. Since August 2014, Thomas has served as a DDR Policy and Planning officer in UN Headquarters in New York, where he is currently the DDR Section Chief. He has a diploma in Mechanical Engineering and holds a Master's degree in International Humanitarian Assistance.

Open Discussion

Conclusion

PARTICIPATING MEMBER STATES AND ORGANISATIONS

The panel discussion was attended by 94 participants, representing the following Permanent Missions to the United Nations and government agencies, international organizations, UN departments, offices and specialized agencies, programmes and funds, as well as academic institutions, think tanks and non-governmental organizations:

PERMANENT MISSIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations
Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the United Nations
United States Dept. of State, Bureau of Conflict and Stabilizations Operations

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The International Organisation of La Francophonie

UN DEPARTMENTS, OFFICES AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA)
Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)
United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)
United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)
The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG/CAAC)
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS)
World Bank Group

UN PROGRAMMES AND FUNDS

United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF)
The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN)

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND THINK TANKS

The International Crisis Group (ICG)
The International Peace Institute (IPI)
The Social Science Research Council (SSRC)
The Stimson Center
The United Nations University (UNU)
University of the Witwatersrand (Wits University)

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC)
The International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA)
Soroptimist International
World Council of Peoples for the United Nations (WCPUN)

ORGANIZATIONS

World Bank Group

The World Bank's first investment operation supporting DDR was in Uganda in 1992. Since then, the Bank has supported roughly 30 DDR operations in over 20 countries. In the Africa region, DDR support was associated with two long-standing multi-donor trust funds: the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP, 2002-2009) and the Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration Program (TDRP, 2010-2017) which together coordinated financing from 14 donors, and partnered in implementation with 21 regional bodies, UN agencies and NGOs. The World Bank's total financing (including leveraged financing through these 2 MDTFs) for DDR activities over the last 25 years stands at $900 million.

The Bank's new DDR facility, the Global Program for Reintegration Support (GRPS), housed within the State and Peacebuilding Fund, builds on lessons learned from MDRP and TDRP implementation experience. The five key focal areas for GPRS are: (i) DDR technical advisory work; (ii) national and regional data collection and analytics on DDR programing and practice; (iii) institutional capacity building; (iv) innovations and partnerships, and; (v) knowledge management. The programme will continue to work closely with the United Nations and the African Union in improving programming to strengthen preventive and responsive capacities to conflict and violence.

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section, OROLSI, DPKO

United Nations peace operations are the leading international partner of national institutions implementing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) initiatives, designing context-specific programmes for members of armed groups.

Through a process of removing weapons from the hands of members of armed groups, taking these combatants out of their groups and helping them to reintegrate as civilians into society, DDR seeks to support ex-combatants and those associated with armed groups, so that they can become active participants in the peace process.
At present, the team is supporting DDR processes across United Nations peacekeeping operations in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Darfur (UNAMID), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Mali (MINUSMA), and South Sudan (UNMISS). The DDR Section also supports operations in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), United Nations Special Political Missions in Colombia, Libya (UNSMIL), and Somalia (UNSOM), as well as the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General in Burundi (OSASG-Burundi). Moreover, the section is increasingly called upon to support non-mission contexts (e.g. the Republic of the Congo).

Social Science Research Council

The Social Science Research Council (SSRC) is an independent, international, nonprofit organization founded in 1923 with a mandate to reach across disciplinary and institutional boundaries and bring the best social researchers together to address problems of public concern. It has also provided over 10,000 fellowships to graduate students and young researchers around the world. The Council's distinctive niche is to innovate and incubate, to identify emergent lines of research of critical social importance that will be enhanced by interdisciplinary or international ties, and to help scattered researchers build networks and nascent fields to achieve critical mass. Its Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum (CPPF) was founded in 2000 out of the Brahimi Report and works to strengthen the knowledge base and analytic capacity of the United Nations system. The SSRC's Understanding Violent Conflict (UVC) Program aims to strengthen the evidence base of international conflict and development studies through an interdisciplinary approach to better understand the complexities of violent conflict.

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un.org/peacekeeping

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

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