

World Bank Happy With Ex-Soldiers Demobilization

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Angola Press Agency (ANGOP) - The World Bank (WB) representative to Angola for the General Programme of Demobilisation and Reintegration (PGDR), Sean Braley, Friday in Luanda expressed satisfaction at the ongoing programme on ex-soldiers of UNITA and Angolan Armed Forces (FAA).

Addressing a press conference meant for an evaluation of the PDGR, going under the Institute of Socio-Professional Reintegration of Ex-Militaries (IRSEM), he said to the parties involved, the implementation is going on well.

The PGDR, approved in March 2004, provides for the demobilisation and reintegration of 105,000 ex-UNITA soldiers and 33,000 former FAA militaries and the integration of vulnerable groups, among women, children and people living with disability.

According to the source, up to now, 97,114 UNITA demobilised soldiers are registered, with the programme having supplied about 60,000 primary opportunities of reintegration, while another 15,000 are being processed. To the PGDR information system, about 39,000 people have benefited from the said opportunities.

Besides those ex-militaries, the project expects to provide 11,114 opportunities for minors, adolescents (mainly through the rehabilitation of schools), 2,275 for women and 2,586 for disabled persons.

A WB and IRSEM mission has visited the project in the provinces of Huila and Luanda, having met with members of local governments and with representatives of UNITA and NGOs involved in the programme.

The WB representative to Angola said that under PGDR, his institution has set aside the equivalent of Usd 100 million, of which about 20 million have already been released. The programme is financed by the WB and 11 donors. They are Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Holan, Norway, Sweden, UK and European Union.