



ADVISORY AND TRUST FUND COMMITTEE MEETING

Brussels, Kingdom of Belgium

May 12-14, 2004

Report of Proceedings

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP) for the greater Great Lakes Region is an initiative that brings together over 40 donor, UN, multilateral and national government partners in an effort to address the challenges of demobilization and reintegration of members of national armies and informal armed groups of the countries involved in or affected by the conflict in the greater Great Lakes Region.¹ This initiative is outlined in the document *Regional Demobilization and Reintegration Strategy for the Greater Great Lakes Region*,² endorsed by donors and the Board of the World Bank in April 2002. The MDRP Multi-Donor Trust Fund was established in May 2002 in support of the regional program.

2. This report summarizes the proceedings of the fourth MDRP Partners' meeting held in Brussels, Belgium from May 12 to 14, 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to (i) review program progress to date and challenges with members of the Technical Coordination Group (TCG) and the MDRP Secretariat, (ii) approve MDTF funding towards the national demobilization and reintegration programs in Burundi and the DRC, and (iii) discuss upcoming plans under the program and specific next steps to follow up on recommendations made by partners in the course of the meeting. Attachment 1 of the report contains the meeting agenda.

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of 9 donor governments, 7 UN and other multilateral organizations, and 7 Governments of the countries of the greater Great Lakes region. The full list of participants is contained in *Attachment 2*.

¹ For the purposes of the MDRP these countries are: Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

² World Bank Report No. 23869-AFR, dated March 25, 2002.

II. SUMMARY DISCUSSIONS AND MEETING RESULTS

Trust Fund Committee Meeting

4. In line with a request made by several donors, the meeting began with a one-day session of the Trust Fund Committee. The Secretariat presented an analysis of the current and projected financial status of the MDRP Trust Fund (MDRP/TF) (Attachment 3), which showed that the Trust Fund had received paid-in contributions and earnings totaling US\$65.2 million, disbursed a total of US\$18.1 million, and had a cash balance of US\$47 million at the end of April 2004. In addition, the MDRP/TF had outstanding grant commitments of US\$25.1 million for national programs and special projects, and expects to commit an additional US\$213 million by mid-2004. Current total receipts and outstanding commitments from donors stands at an estimated US\$205 million, with an additional US\$11.75 million in pledges.

5. Current cash and commitment levels of the MDRP multi-donor trust fund are healthy and are estimated to remain so until 2005, when income and disbursement projections indicate that additional pledges and contributions to the program will be required. The continued positive cash-flow status of the trust fund is the result of (i) higher than expected commitments on the part of the World Bank in support of national programs, as well as (2) slower than anticipated disbursements during the first two years of operations. As a result of these higher than anticipated IDA allocations and lower than expected unit costs, and taking into consideration all current donor commitments and pledges, the MDRP will require less additional resources from donor partners than originally projected.

6. The Trust Fund partners expressed their strong satisfaction with the substantial accomplishments realized during the past period as exemplified by the number of national and special projects coming on stream, and indicated their readiness to help bridge the projected overall funding gap of approximately \$67 million. However, the partners indicated that further pledges should be coupled with substantive progress under the program as measured by commitments, disbursements and implementation. The donor partners also:

- endorsed the negotiation of an estimated \$42 million trust fund grant for the Burundi national program, and a trust fund grant of approximately \$100 million for the DRC;
- supported the proposed next steps to engage the Government of the Republic of Congo in the finalization of a national program to be considered for financing under the MDRP/TF;
- expressed concern over the delays in finalizing the UNICEF special project agreements and encouraged the Bank and UNICEF to rapidly conclude the negotiations or seek alternative approaches to ensure

momentum would be maintained on the ground in Burundi and the DRC;³ and,

- welcomed the Secretariat's analysis of communications and outreach activities under the program and promised to provide feedback in the near term.

Advisory Committee Meeting

A. Country updates

7. During the meeting of the Advisory Committee, national representatives of MDRP programs provided an update on the status of the national programs, which was followed by a discussion with all partners on progress and country specific issues of interest or concern. Partners expressed their appreciation for the rapid advancements made on a number of fronts. In particular, the finalization of the preparation process for the Burundi, CAR and DRC national programs is a significant achievement for the MDRP and the national governments involved. Furthermore, both Rwanda and Angola reported on important progress made in the implementation of their respective national programs, particularly in relation to reintegration aspects. In parallel, advances in the area of security sector reform in both Burundi and DRC, with support from bilateral partners, are also encouraging.

8. The following summarizes the presentations on each country program.

- In **Angola**, of the 97,136 demobilized UNITA combatants about 46,000 have received resettlement kits and over 33,500 have received contingency allowances. In addition, they have received the equivalent of five months salary of the *Forças Armadas Angolanas* (FAA) from the Government as well as food aid. Furthermore, to date the Government has provided reintegration assistance (in the form of employment, training and subsistence agriculture support) to approximately 48,000 ex-combatants. Systems and procedures for reviewing and approving reintegration sub-projects are established in the priority provinces of the country and national staff and implementing partners are receiving training in these procedures.
- In **Rwanda**, 15,202 members of the Rwanda Defense Force have been demobilized since April 2002. However, the rate of repatriation from the DRC has been slower than anticipated and to date, only 4,534 members of armed groups have returned and been demobilized (including 454 children). The national program has provided reinsertion basic needs kit to 18,828 beneficiaries, reintegration support to 13,902, and grants to 11,098 through the vulnerability support window. In addition,

³ The MDRP Advisory Committee was subsequently informed that the main concern regarding financial management had been resolved and it was estimated that agreements would now be finalized in the near future.

reintegration support was provided to 12,258 members of the former *Forces Armées Rwandaises* demobilized during the first stage of the program (prior to World Bank and MDRP support).

- In **Burundi**, a US\$33 million IDA grant in support of the national program prepared by the Burundian Government was approved by the World Bank Board in March 2004. The Executive Secretariat of the National Commission for Demobilization, Reinsertion and Reintegration is preparing for program implementation. At this time, Government is drawing upon resources of the Preparation Facility (PPF) to finalize preparatory activities.
- In the **DRC**, a national program has been developed by the Transitional Government in collaboration with MDRP partners, and will be presented to the World Bank Board for IDA grant support in May 2004. The national institution responsible for the execution of the program, CONADER, is preparing for implementation and working with MDRP partners to ensure that the structure is adequately supported. A joint operational plan is under preparation.
- In **CAR**, as agreed during the Kinshasa MDRP partners meeting, a national program has been developed by the Government of CAR and UNDP for funding under the MDRP special projects window. The World Bank approved the project in March 2004. UNDP, responsible for its implementation, has already started to recruit staff and set up satellite offices, pending the signature of a grant agreement between UNDP and the World Bank.
- In the **Republic of Congo**, the report of an independent mission has set the stage for the next steps, which will include a review of the Government's national program. The situation in the Pool region requires a political solution.
- In **Uganda**, Government noted advances with the defense review process that will underpin the reform of the army and possible related demobilization. The MDRP Secretariat/partners are engaged in discussions with Government on the need and requirements for potential MDRP support to such demobilization efforts. Government stressed the importance of rapid start-up of the special project focusing on irregular forces that surrender under the Amnesty Act to be implemented by the Amnesty Commission in the meantime.

B Review of MDRP Activities

9. The MDRP Secretariat briefed participants on the status of overall program implementation to date, including program management and the status of the special projects window. The MDRP Secretariat also provided an overview of the conclusions of

its retreat, which took place in January 2004, and progress made in addressing administrative matters, including staffing, improving internal and external linkages and communication, and plans for enhancing regional initiatives, and further enhancing MDRP field presence, particularly in the DRC. Partners expressed their appreciation of increased communication efforts and recommendation to further enhance links with all partners.

10. With regard to special projects, partners noted satisfactory progress being made in terms of disbursements and project implementation. The Secretariat also informed the meeting of the process of linking special projects in the DRC to the national program. Partners requested specific information on the numbers of demobilized child soldiers being supported through the special projects, and also encouraged the relevant agencies to explore the use of the rapid response mechanism in support of the repatriation of foreign armed groups. It was recognized, however, that repatriation would require appropriate contacts between the Governments of the region at the political level, which the MDRP could help facilitate.

11. Partners encouraged the MDRP Secretariat to enhance its focus on regional activities and providing support to cross-border sensitization and repatriation activities. Partners also stressed the importance of maintaining a technical focus in supporting such cross-border activities and welcomed the offer of Germany to continue supporting initiatives in this area.

12. The Advisory Committee provided input on two proposals made by the Secretariat with regard to a possible mid-term review and a revised format for the semi-annual Trust Fund and Advisory Committee meetings. It was agreed that the Secretariat would further develop the two proposals and circulate them to partners for further comment and decision.

13. The IMF reconfirmed its support for the MDRP framework and welcomed advances in program implementation. The IMF representative noted that military integration and DDR operations were of sufficient size to have macroeconomic implications in many of the countries and therefore needed to be accounted for, and made consistent with, the macroeconomic framework set out in IMF programs with individual countries. In this regard, the representative indicated an appreciation of the need for flexibility with respect to the short-term budgetary impacts of military integration, as long as these are tied to credible medium-term security sector reform as well as demobilization and reintegration processes. Finally, the IMF emphasized the imperative for the inclusion of national DDR program costs in national budgets.

14. The representative of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs briefed the meeting on the purpose and progress in preparing for the Great Lakes conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development. He highlighted the importance of national ownership of the process, the role of civil society representatives in this initiative, challenges related to the expansion of countries involved in the process, and the need to explore synergies with the MDRP.

III. CONCLUSIONS

15. *Next steps.* The meeting concluded with a discussion of the proposed six-month work-plan for the MDRP Secretariat (see Attachment 5). Those activities specifically identified or recommended by the MDRP Partners in the course of the meeting include:

- Prepare and circulate information regarding the number of child soldiers demobilized through MDRP funded programs;
- Deploy additional MDRP Secretariat staff in the DRC and Burundi;
- Strengthen provision of technical assistance to national programs/institutions in full coordination with relevant Governments;
- Propose a streamlined format for and organize/conduct annual Joint Supervision Mission;
- Develop terms of reference for a mid-term review process;
- Upon the invitation of partners, increase MDRP participation in relevant regional fora;
- Explore further the limits of what activities can be funded under the Trust Fund;
- Increase direct contacts with partner Governments and Institutions;
- Increase support cross-border communications, especially between Rwanda and the DRC.

16. *Closing remarks.* In his closing remarks, the World Bank co-chair thanked the participants for the successful conduct of the Partners' meeting (see Attachment 6). In particular, he highlighted his satisfaction with the progress made in the last six months, highlighted a number of actions agreed upon by the Partners as detailed above, and confirmed agreements reached by the Trust Fund Committee. The Bank co-chair concluded by noting the renewed sense of energy within the MDRP based on the tangible progress made in recent months. While significant challenges remain, the national program implementation institutions, partners and the MDRP Secretariat have continued to move forward and the partnership continued to demonstrate the value added of a regional approach in helping to consolidate peace in the region. The co-chair thanked the Government of Belgium for hosting and co-chairing the meeting in exemplary fashion and, in particular, for their generous hospitality.

17. The Belgian Minister for Development Cooperation closed the meeting by congratulating participants on progress achieved under the MDRP in the past six months and on the fruitful discussions of the Trust Fund and Advisory Committees. He went on to stress the importance of ensuring that the regional dimension of the initiative be

brought to bear to help solve cross-border issues where and when appropriate, strengthening further links between security sector reform and DDR as a number of program are about to start implementation, and ensuring that adequate and timely technical expertise is provided to national institutions. The Minister concluded by reiterating Belgium's unwavering commitment to the regional partnership the MDRP has come to embody (see Attachment 7).

18. A press release reflecting the conclusions of the meeting was prepared following its conclusion (see Attachment 8) .

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Trust Fund and Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
2. List of participants
3. MDRP Trust Fund Status Report
4. MDRP Bi-annual Status Report, April 2004
5. MDRP Secretariat Semi-annual Action Plan
6. Closing Remarks, World Bank Co-chair
7. Closing Remarks, Government of Belgium
8. Press release



Attachment 1

TRUST FUND COMMITTEE MEETING Hilton International Hotel - 38 Boulevard de Waterloo Brussels - May 12, 2004

AGENDA

Wednesday, May 12

- 10h45 Registration
- 11h00 Welcome
- 11h15 MDTF update: financial review and cash flow analysis
- 12h00 Trust Fund Committee decisions:
- Trust fund grant for Burundi
 - Trust fund grant for the DRC
- 13h00 Lunch break
- 14h30 Discussion period:
- Republic of Congo – proposed next steps
 - World Bank fiduciary responsibility under special projects with UN agencies
 - Program communications and outreach
- 17h00 Wrap up and end of Trust Fund Committee meeting



ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Palais d'Egmont, 8 Place du Petit Sablon
Brussels - May 13-14, 2004
AGENDA

Thursday, May 13

- 08h30 Registration/coffee
- 09h00 Welcome and opening remarks
- 09h30 Session 1 MDRP status update: overall review of national program activities
- 10h00 Session 2 Country reviews: *(during this session, each of the MDRP country representatives will make a short presentation outlining key achievements and constraints and present a series of next steps they are planning to undertake during the following six months. Each presentation will be followed by a discussion period.)*
- 13h00 Lunch break
- 14h30 Session 2 continued
- 17h30 Session 2 ends
- 18h00 Reception for all participants



ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Palais d'Egmont, 8 Place du Petit Sablon
Brussels - May 13-14, 2004
AGENDA

Friday, May 14

- | | | |
|-------|-----------|---|
| 09h00 | Session 3 | MDRP status update (continued): <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Retreat and other administrative matters▪ Special projects▪ Regional activities |
| 09h45 | Session 4 | Advisory Committee decisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Scope and timing of mid-term review▪ Review of format for partners' meetings |
| 10h45 | Session 5 | Update on preparations for the International Conference
for Peace, Security, Democracy & Development for the Great
Lakes region |
| 11h45 | Session 6 | Presentation and discussion: MDRP 6-month action plan |
| 12h30 | Session 7 | AOB and closing remarks |
| 13h15 | | « Mot de la fin » - Minister Verwilghen |
| 13h30 | | END of MDRP Partners Meeting |



Attachment 2

TRUST FUND COMMITTEE MEETING Hilton International Hotel - 38 Boulevard de Waterloo Brussels - May 12, 2004

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Belgium

Ms. Sophie da Câmara
Senior Expert, Central Africa -DDR
Directorat Général for International
Coopération
Major Junior de Fabribeckers
Expert DDR, Programme de Partenariat
Militaire, Ministère de la Défense

Canada

Ms. Frances Tanner
Senior Development Officer, Rwanda -
Central Africa & Great Lakes
CIDA
Mr. David Rhody
Consultant
CIDA

European Commission

Mr Richard Wyatt
Great Lakes Coordinator, DG Development
Ms. Virginie Morillon
Stagiaire, DG Development

France

Ms. Aline Kuster-Ménager
Chef du Département Afrique et Océan
indien
Direction Internationale de la Coopération et
du Développement
Ms. Agnès Humruzian
Chargée de mission Grands lacs

Direction Internationale de la Coopération et
du Développement

Germany

Mr. Andreas Pfeil
Ministry for Economic Cooperation and
Development
Mr. Geerd Wurthmann
Ministry for Economic Cooperation and
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Netherlands

Mr. Martin Koper
Peacebuilding & Good Governance Division
Ms. Laila Franck
Peacebuilding & Good Governance Division



Norway

Mr. Einar Rystad
Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ms. Kristin Ven Brusgaard
Norwegian Mission to the European Union

Sweden

Mr. Fredik Kirst
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom

Mr. Nick Bates
Political Analyst Great lakes Region
DFID
Ms. Georgina Yates
DFID Representative for Burundi

World Bank / MDRP Secretariat

Mr. Emmanuel Mbi
Country Director
South-Central Africa and the Great Lakes
Mr. Mathurin Gbetibouo

MDRP Manager
Mr. Sean Bradley
Trust Fund Administrator
MDRP Secretariat
Ms. Roisin De Burca
Senior Demobilization and Reintegration
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MDRP Secretariat
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Ms. Léoncie Niyonahabonye
Language Program Assistant
Ms. Natacha Meden
Communications Specialist
MDRP Secretariat
Mr. Adriaan Verheul
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MDRP Secretariat
Mr. Ingo Wiederhofer
Senior Operations Officer, AFTS2



ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Palais d'Egmont, 8 Place du Petit Sablon
Brussels - May 13-14, 2004

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

GOVERNMENT PARTICIPANTS

Angola

General Antonio Francisco de Andrade
Director General
Institute for Socio-professional
Reintegration of Ex-combatants

Burundi

Mr. Liberat Ntunzwenimana
Executive Secretary
Executive Secretariat of the National
Commission for Demobilization,
Reinsertion and Reintegration
Gen. Major Cyrille Ndayirukiye
Military Attache
Embassy of Burundi in Belgium

Central African Republic

Mr. Côme Zoumara
Defense Advisor
Office of the President

Democratic Republic of Congo

M. Sylvain Delma Mbo
Vice-Ministre de la Démobilisation et des
Anciens Combattants
Mr. Daniel Kawata
Coordonnateur Général
CONADER
Ms. Innocente Bakanseka
Vice-Coordonnateur Général
CONADER

Republic of Congo

Mr. Michel Ngakala
Haut Commissaire
Haut Commissariat à la Réinsertion des Ex-
combattants
Mr. François Bouesse
Haut Commissaire Adjoint
Haut Commissariat à la Réinsertion des Ex-
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Mr. Joseph Mbossa
Directeur de Cabinet
Haut Commissariat à la Réinsertion des Ex-
combattants
Mr. Léon Mahoungou
Attaché au Cabinet
Haut Commissariat à la Réinsertion des Ex-
combattants
Mr. Valérien Mudoy
Ambassade de la République du Congo en
Belgique
Mr. Henri Dimi
Conseiller
Ambassade de la République du Congo
auprès du Benelux, Bruxelles

Rwanda

Mr. Jean Sayinzoga
President
Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration
Commission



Uganda

Major General Emilio Mondo
Executive Secretary
Uganda Veterans Assistance Board

DONOR GOVERNMENTS

Belgium

Mr. Marc Verwilghen
Ministre de la Coopération au
Développement
Ms. Martine Van Dooren
Directeur Général de la Coopération au
Développement, DGCD
Ms. Krista Verstraelen
Directeur Adjoint de la Cellule Stratégique
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Ambassadeur Eric Duchene
Directeur Général Adjoint , DGCD
Ms. Sophie da Câmara
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Ambassador Jan Mutton
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Major Junior de Fabribeckers
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Ministry for Economic Cooperation and
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Sweden

Mr. Fedrik Kirst
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United Kingdom

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Political Analyst Great lakes Region
DFID
Ms. Georgina Yates
DFID Representative for Burundi

USA

Mr. Nicholas Jenks
Program Officer
USAID/DRC

MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS

European Commission

Mr Richard Wyatt
Great Lakes Coordinator, DG Development

International Monetary Fund

Paul Mathieu
Deputy Division chief
Mission Chief for Burundi

MONUC

Mr. Behrooz Sadry
Deputy Special Representative of Secretary
General/DRC
Col. Jean Marc Tafani
Deputy Director DDRRR Division

United Nations Children's Fund

Mr. Manuel Fontaine
Child Protection Section
Program Division

UNICEF Headquarters

United Nations Development Program

Mr. Babacar Cissé
Coordinator
Countries in Special Development
Circumstances Unit
Mr. Herbert M' Cleod
Resident Representative in the DRC
And Humanitarian Coordinator

UN – Department of Political Affairs

Amb. Amadou Baidy Keita
Senior Political Advisor
Office of the SRSG the Great Lakes Region
Nairobi – Kenya

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Mr. Emmanuel Mbi
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South-Central Africa and the Great Lakes
Mr. Mathurin Gbetibouo
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MDRP Secretariat
Mr. Kees Kingma
Senior Demobilization and Reintegration
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Ms. Léoncie Niyonahabonye
Language Program Assistant
Ms. Natacha Meden
Communications Specialist
MDRP Secretariat
Mr. Adriaan Verheul



Senior Demobilization and Reintegration
Specialist
MDRP Secretariat
Mr. Ingo Wiederhofer
Senior Operations Officer, AFTS2



Attachment 3
MDRP Trust Fund Status Report

Multi-country Demobilization and Reintegration Program



Trust Fund Status & Projections



MDRP Partners' Meeting ~ Brussels May 12-14, 2004

MDRP Financial Status (US\$ millions)



	As of 11/03	As of 4/04
Donor commitments	• 205 mil	• 217 mil*
Income <small>(contributions + interest)</small>	• 54.7 mil	• 65.1 mil
Disbursements	• 6.1 mil	• 18.1 mil
Grant commitments	• 37.8 mil	• 40 mil
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- Cash balance	• 48.6 mil	• 47 mil
- Fund balance	• 167.2 mil	• 177 mil

* Includes pledges from Kinshasa meeting



MDRP Partners' Meeting ~ Brussels May 12-14, 2004

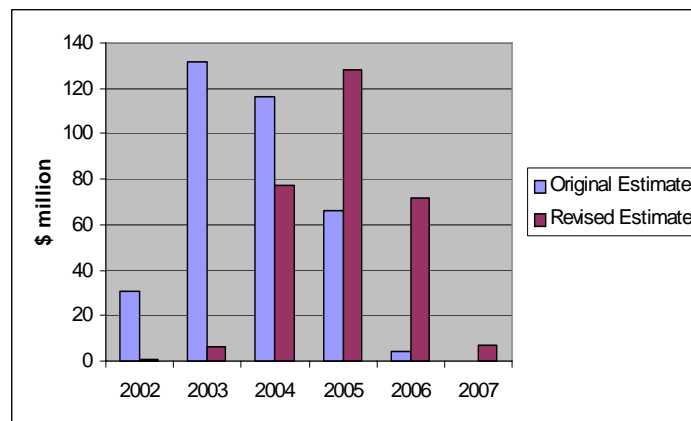
Financing Trends

- Increase in overall beneficiaries by 30% to ~455,000
- Increase in proposed IDA financing by 27% to \$190 million
- Decrease in projected TF financing by 17% to \$295 million
- Decrease in unit costs to ~\$1,025 per beneficiary
- 80% required funding secured/pledged; remaining overall funding gap of \$67 million
- Overall IDA/TF split for nat'l programs has risen to: 45%/55%; and for overall program: 40%/60%



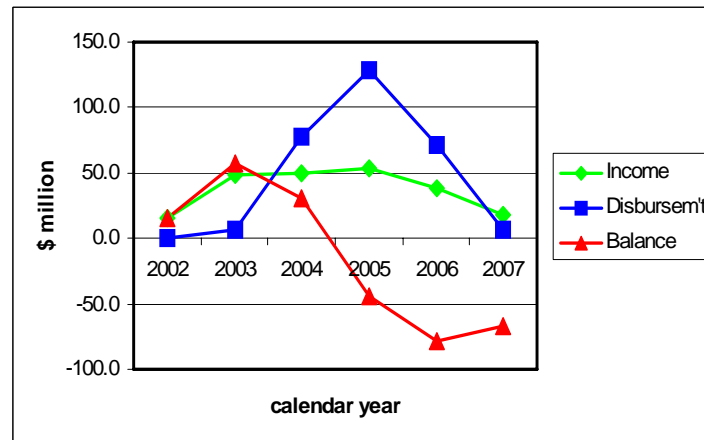
MDRP Partners' Meeting ~ Brussels May 12-14, 2004

MDRP Disbursement Projections



MDRP Partners' Meeting ~ Brussels May 12-14, 2004

MDRP Cash Flow



MDRP Partners' Meeting ~ Brussels May 12-14, 2004

Priority MDRP Trust Fund Actions

- Finalize grant agreements for Angola, Burundi, DRC, UNICEF, CAR and Amnesty Commission;
 - total approximate value: \$213 million
- Secure pledged funds from AfDB
- Ensure linkages with parallel financing
- Identify and secure support from new donors
- Seek additional support from current donors who have provided single/annual pledges
- Seek additional support from multi-year donors who have indicated willingness to contribute further



MDRP Partners' Meeting ~ Brussels May 12-14, 2004



Attachment 4
MDRP Status Report No 3



Attachment 6

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING Palais d'Egmont, Brussels - Belgium, May 13-14, 2003

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS Emmanuel Mbi, World Bank Country Director, South-Central Africa and the Great Lakes

Colleagues,

1. As always, it has been an eventful three days of presentations and discussions here in Brussels. The continued dedication and commitment of all partners to the MDRP process and these program review meetings continues to give me hope that the regional partnership strategy is the correct one to support the long-term stabilization of the region. The progress discussed was very encouraging, the deliberations were informative and constructive, and the road ahead—"implementation, implementation, implementation"-- is clear.

Trust Fund Committee

2. The Secretariat presented an update on the status of the Trust Fund that showed an increase in disbursements, continued financial support from donor partners, and continued financial health of the Trust Fund. Though disbursements still remain below original projections, cash flow estimates indicate a rapid acceleration, linked to the implementation of national programs of Angola, Burundi and DRC, which may result in a negative cash balance sometime in early to mid 2005. Other important issues highlighted include a higher than planned IDA contribution to the overall program, an overall increase in the estimated number of ex-combatant beneficiaries, and a reduction in the overall financing required from the Trust Fund donor agencies.

3. The partners expressed their very strong satisfaction with the large number of accomplishments during the past period as exemplified by the number of national and special projects coming on stream, and indicated their readiness to help bridge the projected overall funding gap of approximately \$67 million. Trust Fund partners were clear, however, that further pledges would likely be triggered by a substantial increase in commitments and/or disbursements and progress in program implementation. The donor partners also:

- endorsed the negotiation of an estimated \$42 million trust fund grant for the Burundi national program, and a trust fund grant of approximately \$100 million for the DRC;
- supported the proposed next steps to engage the Government of the Republic of Congo in the finalization of a national program for financing under the Trust Fund;



- expressed concern over the delays in finalizing the UNICEF special project agreements and encouraged the Bank and UNICEF to rapidly conclude the negotiations or seek alternative approaches to ensure momentum would be maintained on the ground in Burundi and the DRC. (In this regard, we were happy to report in the course of the meeting that the major bottleneck seems to have been resolved and that an agreement for the Burundi program should be finalized in the near future).
- The Trust Fund committee also welcomed the Secretariat's analysis of communications and outreach activities and promised to provide feedback in the near term.

Advisory Committee

4. Our partners from the region presented a series of informative updates on the status of national program preparation and implementation. I think we all agree that the rapid progress on a number of fronts is highly impressive. In particular, the finalization of the preparation process for the Burundi, CAR and DRC national programs represent significant steps toward implementation. Both Rwanda and Angola reported on progress in the implementation of their respective national programs and, in particular, reintegration efforts. In parallel, advances in the areas of security sector reform in both Burundi and DRC, led by bilateral partners, are also encouraging.

5. In response to the presentations, partners warmly welcomed the substantial progress made in the preparation of national programs in the DRC, Burundi and the CAR in the past year and the establishment of associated implementation structures. Partners recognized the significant implementation advances in Angola and Rwanda.

6. With regard to the Republic of Congo, partners agreed on next steps that would lead to a national program and complementary efforts in the area of disarmament. Uganda noted important advances with the defense review process that will underpin reform of the army and possible related demobilization. In the meantime, the Government stressed the importance of rapid start-up of the special project with the Amnesty Commission focusing on irregular combatants.

7. The IMF reconfirmed its support for the MDRP framework and welcomed advances in program implementation. The IMF indicated that military integration and DDR operations were of sufficient size to have macroeconomic implications in many of the countries and therefore needed to be accounted for, and made consistent with, the macroeconomic framework set out in IMF programs with individual countries. The IMF indicated an appreciation of the need for flexibility with respect to the short-term budgetary impacts of military integration, as long as these are tied to credible medium-term demobilization and reintegration processes. Finally, the IMF emphasized the imperative for the inclusion of national DDR program costs in national budgets.



8. The MDRP Secretariat briefed the meeting on the results of its retreat, which took place in January 2004, and progress made in addressing administrative matters, including staffing, improving internal and external linkages and communication, and plans for enhancing regional initiatives. We noted your thanks for the improved communications efforts and recommendation to further enhance links with all partners.

9. On special projects, we have made good progress in disbursement and project activities are well underway. Also, the process of linking special projects in the DRC to the national program has begun. Partners requested specific information on the numbers of demobilized child soldiers, which we will provide in the very near future. There was also a need to use the special project window, in particular the rapid response mechanism, to support the repatriation of ex-combatants on foreign soil. However, this depends largely on contacts between the Governments of the region at the political level, which the MDRP can help facilitate. Vulnerable groups, including handicapped and sick ex-combatants, should not be overlooked, whether in the context of special projects or national programs.

10. Partners encouraged the MDRP Secretariat to enhance its focus on regional activities and providing support to cross-border information and sensitization and repatriation activities. Partners stressed the importance of maintaining a technical emphasis in supporting cross-border activities, and we welcomed the offer of Germany to continue supporting such initiatives as in Kibuye.

11. The Advisory Committee provided input to the decision briefs on a mid-term review and revised format for the Advisory Committee, and it was agreed that the Secretariat would further develop the two proposals and contact the partners electronically to finalize decision.

12. Ambassador Keita briefed the meeting on the purpose and progress in preparing for the Great Lakes conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development. He highlighted the importance of national ownership of the process, the role of civil society representatives in this initiative, challenges related to the expansion of countries involved in the process, and the need to explore synergies with the MDRP.

13. We wrapped up the meeting this morning with a discussion of MDRP's six-month action plan. Mathurin highlighted priority actions that will support what you all know that I believe must be the focus of the MDRP for the immediate future—implementation, implementation, implementation. While the Secretariat has primary responsibility for a number of these actions, I also call on all other partners—both international and national counterparts—to fulfill their respective responsibilities in this regard. We should all use this work plan to monitor MDRP progress over the next six-month period. We also welcome the increased partner awareness of the need to include the MDRP Secretariat in appropriate political fora when issues bearing on DDR are on the agenda.

14. In conclusion, I am pleased with the outcome of our three days of discussions, and hope you are as well. We come away from the meeting with a renewed sense of energy based on the



tangible progress made in recent months. While significant challenges remain, the national program implementation institutions, partners and the MDRP Secretariat have proven their ability to rise to the challenge. Overall, I believe that the partnership continues to demonstrate the value added of a regional approach to help consolidate peace in the region.

15. As a final note, I would like to thank the Government of Belgium for hosting and co-chairing this event and providing us this historical location for our fourth Partners' meeting, and to acknowledge the invaluable assistance and support of the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the MDRP Secretariat staff (Leoncie here with us in Brussels, and Caroline and Laura back in Washington) in helping prepare and coordinate the documentation and logistics for the meeting. As always, our thanks to the excellent work of the interpreters without whom we could not conduct these proceedings. Finally, I would like to thank the Minister for Development Cooperation and the General Director Mrs. van Dooren for their hospitality here in Brussels—they have set an even higher standard for future MDRP meetings.

Thank you.



Attachment 7

MDRP Advisory Committee meeting

Brussels, May 2004

Closing remarks by M. Verwilghen,

Minister for Development Cooperation of Belgium

- C'est un grand plaisir de vous avoir accueillis tous ici à BXL pour passer en revue l'évolution des processus de paix et de la mise en œuvre des programmes nationaux de Démobilisation et Réinsertion des Ex-Combattants dans une région si longtemps ravagée par la guerre et d'une telle importance pour la Belgique.
- C'est pour moi un plaisir particulier d'avoir pu réunir dans cette salle, sous les auspices de la Belgique et de la Banque Mondiale, tant d'autorités nationales de ces sept pays meurtris par les crises et les conflits et qui cherchent aujourd'hui ensemble à se reconstruire, à se stabiliser, à maîtriser leur sécurité INTERNE, EXTERNE et REGIONALE pour une paix durable en faveur de tous les peuples d'Afrique Centrale et ceci en partenariat direct avec les pays et les institutions qui soutiennent le MDRP.
- Je vous remercie tous pour votre participation active pendant cette conférence ainsi que pour votre engagement durable.
- La démobilisation et la réinsertion des ex-combattants, leur désarmement et leur stabilisation sociale dans une vie civile décente sont des pré-conditions fondamentales au développement économique et à la reconstruction de toute VOTRE région. Une attention toute particulière doit être portée à ces deux dimensions : le désarmement et la réinsertion sociale durable.
- Nous sommes très heureux de constater qu' un certain nombre de progrès notoires sont à porter au bilan de cette réunion : notamment le financement des enveloppes nationales pour la RDC et le Burundi, le renforcement du Partenariat MDRP et la prise de conscience des enjeux régionaux.
- Au cours de ces 6 derniers mois, à partir de Kinshasa, le Programme National de la RDC a été finalisé et adopté, celui du Burundi également. Les opérations de terrain vont certainement pouvoir démarrer au plus vite, le challenge qui nous reste alors à réaliser est énorme : «Implement and deliver!»
- But since the last meeting of this advisory group in Kinshasa last year, it is also my privilege to underline the level of commitment maintained by my country and my Ministry on providing direct bilateral assistance to National DDR Processes at



the request of National authorities (such as DRC), and on maintaining the closest links between DDR and SSR activities, as promised, in particular in the DRC. In Burundi we expressed the same commitment, in full partnership with other donors.

- Some key issues still require our full attention, support and capacities:
 - The MDRP has to deliver on its regional dimension, provide the necessary **regional Framework to solve cross-border security issues** such as the ones faced by DRC and Brazzaville (Ex-Faz)
 - The **link between SSR and DDR** must be strengthened and that requires a sheer level of engagement from all bilateral and the Secretariat
 - The MDRP will have to continue showing **financial flexibility**
 - The **reinsertion packages** will have to be sufficiently **attractive** and substantial to remain an incentive for disarmament and civilian life
 - The Secretariat must be able to deliver **adequate and timely technical expertise to the ground**, in particular now in DRC. Such Programs CANNOT face technical expertise shortage!
- La Belgique (coopération et défense) pour sa part, maintiendra son engagement auprès des autorités africaines afin d'adjoindre son aide bilatérale aux appuis déjà fournis par le MDRP, et afin de maintenir la cohérence entre le programme national de démobilisation et celui d'intégration de l'armée. Le programme congolais est un programme courageux et unique, mais qui devra bénéficier de toute l'aide technique possible pour réussir. Je saisis cette occasion pour féliciter le Coordinateur National Congolais et son adjoint qui viennent d'être nommés et je leur souhaite la bienvenue parmi nous.
- Je ne peux que conclure sur le rôle crucial du DDR pour la paix et la stabilité de la sous-région, pour amener chacun de ces sept pays à réussir leur Transition, la tenue d'élections en RDC et au Burundi dans des conditions dignes et sereines, la réconciliation durable de la population du Rwanda, la reconstruction de l'Angola, la stabilisation de nos pays amis de République du Congo, de Centrafrique et d'Ouganda. Que chacun puisse ramener ses combattants à une vie civile, réformer leur forces de défense et de sécurité là ou les Accords de Paix l'imposent, rétablir un Etat de Droit, une police et une Justice, et assurer, là où elles se profilent, la tenue d'élections dans des conditions adéquates. Voilà le cadre dans lequel notre travail s'inscrit.
- Je vous remercie



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***MDRP donors endorse financing
for national demobilization and reintegration programs
in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo***

Brussels, May 14, 2004 – Donors endorsed financing of national demobilization and reintegration programs in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo for a total of USD 142 million on the occasion of the fourth meeting of the Multi-country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP) hosted by the Belgian Ministry of Development Cooperation on May 12-14, 2004, in Brussels.

MDRP donors endorsed a USD 42 million grant in support of the Burundi Demobilization, Reinsertion and Reintegration Program to complement a USD 33 million IDA grant approved by the World Bank Board on March 18, 2004. The program aims to help the Government of Burundi consolidate the peace process by supporting the demobilization of approximately 55,000 ex-combatants and assisting in their return to productive civilian life.

For the Democratic Republic of Congo, donors endorsed an MDRP Trust Fund grant of USD 100 million to complement IDA financing in the same amount, for which approval of the World Bank Board of Directors will be sought on May 25, 2004.

“These programs will support the efforts of the Governments of Burundi and of the Democratic Republic of Congo to implement key aspects of their plans to restore stability and security that form the basis of their transitions out of conflict. Successful demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, coupled with security sector reform and socio-economic recovery, will help to establish an environment conducive to sustainable poverty reduction,” stated Emmanuel Mbi, World Bank Country Director for South Central Africa and the Great Lakes.

The two governments developed these programs within the MDRP framework and their respective delegations both expressed their satisfaction with the support provided through the MDRP partnership. The delegations also reaffirmed their governments’ commitment to implement these programs in a timely and transparent manner.

As he closed the meeting, Minister Verwilghen underlined the crucial role of demobilization and reintegration efforts in the pacification and stabilization of the sub-region. *“I am very pleased to note the significant achievements highlighted in the course of these meetings. In endorsing the proposed financing of these national programs in Burundi and in the DRC, we enable these two countries to move towards implementation and to prepare themselves to meet the challenges that lay ahead,”* said Minister Verwilghen.

The MDRP is a regional partnership initiative that provides a comprehensive framework for the demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants in the greater Great Lakes region of Africa. The MDRP aims to support the return to civilian life of approximately 455,000 ex-combatants, including members of national armies, irregular forces and child soldiers (see backgrounder attached). Representatives of regional governments and organizations, donors, UN agencies and international financial institutions convened on May 13-14, 2004 at the Palais d’Egmont in Brussels to review program progress to date and challenges ahead. A meeting of the eleven donors agencies contributing to the MDRP Trust Fund was held on May 12, 2004.

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A Regional Approach to Support the Demobilization and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants in the greater Great Lakes Region of Africa

The cross-border nature of conflicts in the greater Great Lakes area has led countries in or affected by these conflicts, regional and multilateral organizations as well as bilateral donors to agree that a comprehensive and regional approach supported by coordinated international assistance over a realistic period of time would be an effective and efficient way to begin to address the root causes of war in the region

This is very much the spirit that shapes the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration (MDRP), a program which seeks to enhance the prospects for stabilization and recovery in the region. The MDRP was designed on the premises that no single donor or agency can address the complexity of DDR issues in the region, and that the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants is necessary to establishing peace and restoring security, themselves pre-conditions for sustainable growth and poverty reduction.

This regional program needs to be seen within the broader context of efforts by regional bodies and the international community in the security, political and economic recovery spheres. It aims to complement national and regional peace initiatives by providing support for the social and economic reintegration of ex-combatants. It cannot, however, substitute for political solutions to the conflicts.

Multi-country Demobilization and Reintegration Program

MDRP objectives:

- to provide a comprehensive framework for DDR efforts
- to establish a consistent mechanism for donor coordination and resource mobilization
- to serve as a platform for national consultative processes for the formulation of national demobilization programs.

MDRP scope:

- countries involved in or affected by conflict in the greater Great Lakes region, i.e., Angola, Burundi, CAR, Congo, DRC, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe
- potentially **455,000 ex-combatants** to be demobilized and reintegrated - including former members of national armies, members of irregular armed groups and child soldiers
- program is to be implemented over a period of **five years** (2002 to 2006)

MDRP partners:

- regional governments and organizations



- contributing donors: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, World Bank
- UN agencies and international financial institutions

MDRP activities:

- **national programs** – the actual composition of national programs is / will be determined by each specific socio-political context. Possible components are: disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion, reintegration, and support to special groups.
- **special projects** – this category includes support to special target groups and activities carried out in parts of a participating country outside of the control of the relevant government, or pending the preparation of a national program. Activities designed and implemented according to local needs, yet in consultation with the national authorities.
- **regional activities** – addressing cross-border issues and aiming to foster technical knowledge sharing, capacity building and joint analysis among the participating national programs; harmonization of data bases for national programs and special projects; cross-border information and sensitization campaigns.

MDRP oversight, administrative and coordination mechanisms:

- Advisory committee (partners) and trust fund committee (contributing donors)
- Program Secretariat
- Local ad hoc committees (based in country to review special projects)
- Regional Technical Coordination Group
- Focal points nominated by each partner