

MDRP-Supported Activities in the DRC

March 2009

National Program: Programme National de Désarmement, Démobilisation et Réinsertion (PNDDR)

Administrator: Unité d'exécution du Programme National de Désarmement, Démobilisation et Réinsertion (UEPN-DDR)

Financing: \$272 million (World Bank IDA grant: \$150 million | Multi-Donor Trust Fund: \$100 million, AfDB grant \$22 million)

Status: Ongoing

Objective:

The objective of the project is to help consolidate peace and promote economic stability and sustainable development in the DRC and in the greater Great Lakes region. The specific objectives of the program are to:

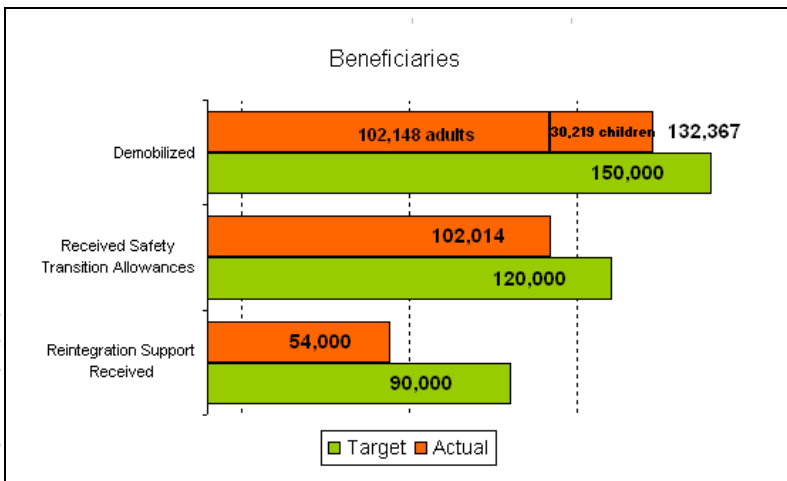
- Demobilize up to an estimated 150,000 ex-combatants and to help support their return to civilian life;
- Promote the reallocation of Government expenditure from military to social and economic sectors.

Progress:

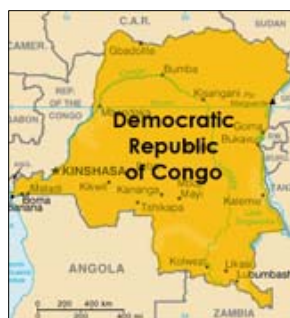
- 86% of the adults registered for socio-economic reintegration have been provided with assistance.
- 30,219 child soldiers were released. 85% have been reunified with their families and 15% placed in foster care. 75% have been provided with vocational training or education opportunities.
- The World Bank also established a single country trust fund for emergency reintegration activities in the East of the country.

Special Projects:

- Prevention of Recruitment, Demobilization and Reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces | UNICEF| Closed
- Situation Assessment and Projects for Demobilization and Reintegration of Child Soldiers | IFESH, IRC, CARE| Closed
- Capacity Building and Support to the Prevention of Recruitment, Demobilization and Reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces| Belgian Red Cross| Closed
- Community Recovery and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants in Eastern DRC| UNDP| Closed
- Rapid Reaction Mechanism to Support the DDR of Ex-Combatants in the DRC | UNDP | Closed
- Support for the Reunification and Reintegration of Former Child Soldiers in the DRC | SCF | Closed



BACKGROUND



In 1997 neighboring Rwanda entered the DRC to flush out extremist Hutu militias and in collaboration with Uganda supported anti-Mobutu rebels. The capital of Kinshasa was eventually taken and Laurent Kabila installed as President and the country renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 1998, former allies Rwanda and Uganda supported another rebel movement to oust Kabila, prompting armed intervention from Angola and Zimbabwe. In all, seven foreign countries became involved (Angola, Burundi, Chad, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe). Sometimes dubbed Africa's "first world war," the conflict claimed an estimated three million lives. The Lusaka Ceasefire Accords was signed in July 1999. By late 2003, a Transitional Government was formed with Kabila and four appointed vice presidents. The Accord, the subsequent Inter-Congolese Dialogue and the installment of the United Nations peacekeeping mission, MONUC, resulted in relative security in most of the country. On July 30, 2006, the Congo held its first multi-party elections since independence in 1960. After two rounds of voting, Joseph Kabila won the Presidential bid in November 2006.

Population: 59.3 million
Area: 2.34 mil sq km (905,354 sq. mi.)
Life expectancy: 44 years
Main exports: diamonds, copper, coffee, cobalt, oil
GNI per capita: US \$130

In August 2008, armed conflict resumed between the rebel National Congress in Defense of the People (CNDP) and the Congolese military (FARDC). This reached a stalemate in late 2008 with internationally brokered negotiations. In early December 2008 the two governments of DRC and Rwanda reached an agreement on the following: (i) joint military operations against the Rwandan rebels, the FDLR (Forces Democratique pour la Liberation du Rwanda); (ii) the integration of the CNDP forces into the FARDC and join in the Governments fights against the FDLR; and (iii) the arrest of former CNDP head, General Laurent Nkunda. On the 19 January 2009, military operations began against the FDLR. Rwandan soldiers are currently active in eastern DRC for this operation.