

MDRP-Supported Activities in Rwanda

November 2008

National Program: Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Program (RDRP)

Administrator: Technical Secretariat of the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (TS/RDRC)

Financing: \$65.5 million (Multi-donor Trust Fund: \$14.4 million | IDA credit: \$19.12 million | IDA grant: \$11.48 | DFID: \$8.8 million | Germany: \$8.6 million | Government of Rwanda: \$2.7 million | African Union: \$342 000)

Status: Closed December 31, 2008

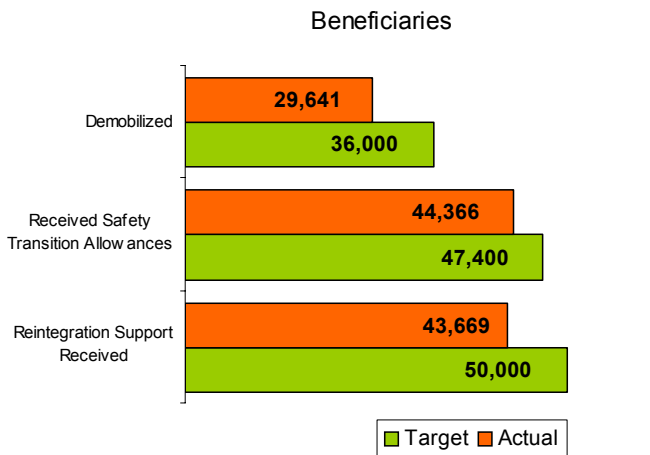
Objective:

The program aimed to support the consolidation of peace in the Great Lakes region and foster reconciliation within Rwanda. The four principle objectives of the program were:

- demobilize an estimated 36,000 ex-combatants from the RDF and members of armed groups, and support their transition to civilian life
- in the spirit of the Arusha Agreement, support the reinsertion of ex-FAR
- support the social and economic reintegration of all ex-combatants to be demobilized in stage II and all stage I ex-combatants who remain socio-economically vulnerable
- facilitate the reallocation of Government expenditure from defense to social and economic sectors.

Progress:

- The deterioration of the security situation in eastern DRC significantly slowed down the demobilization and repatriation of the remaining armed groups in eastern DRC.



BACKGROUND



Population: 9.2 million
Area: 26,338 m sq km (10,169 sq miles)
Life expectancy: 44.1 years
Main exports: Coffee, tea, hides, tin ore
GNI per capita: US \$250

In October 1990, the Rwandan Patriotic Front, consisting of Rwandan refugees, invaded Rwanda from Uganda. The fighting continued until the signing of the 1993 Arusha Peace Accords. Implementation of the Accords was hindered, however, by key elements of the governing regime. The death of President Habyarimana in April 1994 unleashed a genocide, during which at least 800 000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed and three million Rwandans displaced, most of whom fled to refugee camps in the DRC.

Hidden in the crowd were many *genocidaires* and former soldiers of the *Forces Armées Rwandaises* (FAR). Using refugee camps as staging and recruiting grounds, they began to launch attacks into Rwanda. This led the Government of Rwanda (GoR) to support Laurent-Désiré Kabila in DRC, who had promised to oust Mobutu. In 1996 the camps were forcibly disbanded and many refugees returned to Rwanda. However, after taking over power in DRC, the relationship between Kabila and Rwanda soured. In 1998, the GoR supported a new rebel movement, the *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie* (RCD) with the goal of ousting Kabila. The Rwandan Patriotic Army next entered the DRC in support of the RCD. Following the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement of July 1999 and the Pretoria Agreement of July 2002, Rwanda completed a withdrawal of its troops from the DRC in October 2002.

Thirteen years after the genocide, security has been restored within Rwanda and the country is enjoying significant economic growth. However, an estimated 7,000 combatants associated with the defeated ex-FAR and the *Interahamwe* militia, now aligned as *the Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda* (FDLR), continue to operate in the eastern DRC. In the fall of 2008, while the situation in the DRC was deteriorating, the Government of Rwanda started an enhanced cooperation with the DRC to fight against the FDLR and other rebel groups operating in the region.