



# DEMobilIZATION & REINTEGRATION

**RWANDA**  
Demobilization and  
Reintegration  
Commission (RDRC)

## Context

In October 1990, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), consisting of Rwandan refugees that had fled to Uganda to escape persecution following the colonial instigated violence in 1959, launched an armed struggle and invaded Rwanda from Uganda. The fighting continued until the signing of the Arusha Peace Accord in 1993. Implementation of the Accord was hindered, however, by key elements of the governing regime in Rwanda.

President Habyarimana's death in a plane crash in April 1994 unleashed a campaign of mass killings and set in motion the long planned genocide. More than 1,000,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed and over three million Rwandans were displaced, most of whom fled to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Hidden in the masses of fleeing refugees were many *génocidaires*, perpetrators and individuals associated with the genocide, including former members of the Rwandan Armed Forces (ex-FAR) and *interahamwe*, a Hutu militia.

In 1998, the repeated incursions of the Rwandan armed groups (ex-FAR and *interahamwe*) into Rwanda forced the Rwandan Government to militarily intervene in the DRC to stop the attacks. Following the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement<sup>1</sup> (1999) and the Pretoria Accord<sup>2</sup> (2002), Rwanda withdrew its troops from the DRC in October 2002. However, combatants associated with the ex-FAR and the *interahamwe* are now aligned together as the *Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda* (FDLR), and continue to operate in the eastern DRC.

Twelve years after the Rwandan genocide, brought to an end by military force, the legacy of insecurity left in its wake continues to jeopardize the consolidation of peace in Rwanda and the Great Lakes region as a whole.

<sup>1</sup> In the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement (Zambia, July 1999) provisions were included for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the DRC and the disarmament and repatriation of armed groups (AGs) to their countries of origin.

<sup>2</sup> In the Pretoria Accord (South Africa, July 2002) the Government of Rwanda committed to withdraw its forces from the DRC in exchange for the DRC Government's commitment to track, disarm and repatriate the Rwandese AGs.

## About the RDRC

### Who We Are

The Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (RDRC), responsible to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), was formed in January 1997 as an autonomous Government Commission to manage and implement the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Program (RDRP) for ex-combatants.

The RDRC is composed of six Commissioners, including the Chairman. A Technical Secretariat (TS), headed by a Coordinator, assists the Commission to implement the RDRP. Under the TS department of Operations are 30 District Reintegration Offices that support the reinsertion and reintegration activities of the ex-combatants (XCs) in the districts. The RDRC works closely with the donor community, NGOs, international agencies, Ministries and local leaders.

Stage I of the RDRP took place from 1997 to 2001 and demobilized 18,692 RPA soldiers - 2,364 of whom were children. The second stage of the RDRP commenced in December 2001 within the framework of the World Bank's Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP). The MDRP supports and coordinates demobilization and reintegration efforts in the greater Great Lakes region of Africa. An estimated 455,000 ex-combatants currently receive support under the MDRP in the countries of Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda.

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*Our mission is to ensure that all  
ex-combatants are socially and  
economically reintegrated in their  
communities and to contribute to  
unity and reconstruction in  
Rwanda.*

*Jean SAYINZOGA, Chairman, RDRC*

## What is Our Mission

RDRP's mission, through the RDRP Stage II, is to ensure that all the demobilized ex-combatants (XCs) are socially and economically reintegrated successfully into their communities of return by embracing the following guiding principles:

- In the interest of reconciliation, all XCs, irrespective of previous military affiliation, receive appropriate assistance from the Program;
- XCs are free to choose their community of settlement and their path to economic reintegration; and
- The reintegration assistance seeks to foster community participation.

The RDRP relies on existing Government structures to facilitate the socio-economic reintegration of XCs and to build sustainable capacities beyond the program's duration.

The demobilization and socio-economic reintegration of Rwandan XCs represents a great challenge to Rwanda, as it constitutes an integral and critical part of the overall transformation from a war-torn society to a reconciled and reconstructed people and country.

## What Are Our Objectives

The program objectives, as amended in 2007, are:

- Demobilize and support the transition to civilian life of 22,000 military of the Rwanda Defense Forces (RDF) and 16,000 combatants of the Rwandan armed groups (AGs), including 1,600 child ex-combatants;
- In the spirit of the Arusha Peace Accord, support the reintegration of 13,000 ex-FAR who remained in Rwanda after 1994;
- Support the social and economic reintegration of all XCs to be demobilized in stage II and all XCs from stage I who remain socially and economically vulnerable;
- Since June 2005, support the repatriation and reinsertion of an estimated 9,300 dependents of the ex-AGs; and
- Facilitate the reallocation of Government expenditures from military to social and economic sectors.

The international community as represented in Kigali follows



closely the repatriation, demobilization and reintegration of all XCs and their dependents to Rwanda.

The RDRP set up a Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) with an objective of bringing together key national and international partners, and acts as a conduit to the larger group of stakeholders, technical advice to RDRP on planned activities and monitoring of program implementation.

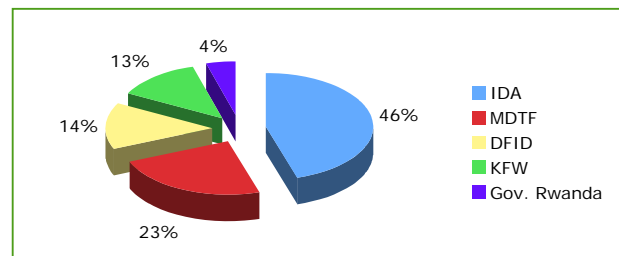
*The ultimate objective of the MDRP is to contribute to lasting peace in Rwanda.*

*Gregory ALEX,  
Senior D & R Specialist,  
MDRP Secretariat, Kigali*

## Who Finances Us

The RDRP's total budget of an equivalent of US\$53.7 million is financed in various currencies through the following mechanisms:

- The World Bank / International Development Assistance (IDA) – US\$28.7 million, composed of a credit of US\$17.9 million and a grant of US\$10.8 million;
- Grant from the Multi-donors Trust Fund (MDTF), including 11 donor countries – US\$14.4 million;
- Government of Rwanda - at least US\$ 2.7 million; and
- Bilateral financing by United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) - US\$8.8 million; and by the German Government through the *Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau* (KWF) – US\$2.7 million<sup>3</sup>.



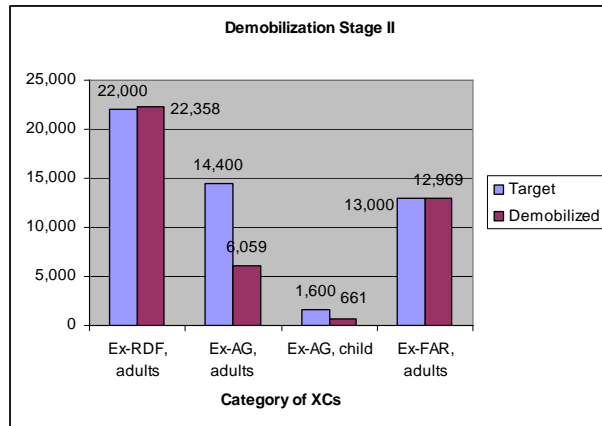
<sup>3</sup> The KWF amount relates to the medical rehabilitation activities of the RDRP and includes US\$39,712 donated in December 2001 during the first demobilization of ex-AGs. Furthermore, the German Government contributes to the Community Based Reintegration (CBR) with EUR 2.9 million through KWF and to skills training through GTZ with EUR 640,000.

# About the RDRP

## Demobilization

### Ex-RDF

An important milestone was reached by the end of March 2008 with the demobilization of the final round of RDF soldiers –surpassing the program’s target of 22,000 - to read 22,358.



### Ex-AGs

Individuals repatriated from the DRC as ex-AGs, undergo a screening procedure to separate child-soldiers and adult combatants from civilians. Adult ex-AGs, men and women, are taken to Mutobo demobilization center for a two-month pre-discharge orientation program (PDOP) aiming at helping them in their social and economic reintegration and ensuring a smooth transition from their former combatant life to their new future civil life in Rwanda.



The PDOP includes study of Rwandan history, human rights, entrepreneurship, project management, the new administrative framework of Rwanda and how to access micro credit. It also provides critical information about RDRP benefits, implementation arrangements at the central and local levels, economic reintegration opportunities, health issues (including sensitization on HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, etc.), and civic rights and duties (including women’s legal rights). Other key activities at Mutobo are: renunciation of combatants’ status, socio-economic profiling and issuance of an RDRP demobilization card, medical screening and voluntary HIV/AIDS testing.

Child-soldiers ex-AGs are separated from adult XCs and are accompanied to Muhazi rehabilitation center where they will benefit, before reunification with their families, from special care and assistance in a child-friendly environment (see Special Groups’ Assistance).

## Social and economic Reinsertion and Reintegration.

### REINSERTION

Following the official demobilization ceremony, every ex-RDF and ex-AGs receives its RDRP demobilization card and a Basic Needs Kit (BNK) of 50,000 Rwandan Francs (FRW) - US\$ 91 (550 FRW = US\$ 1).

Ex-RDF and ex-FAR, being former government soldiers, are categorized as civil servants and are eligible for Recognition of Service Allowance (RSA). The RSA varies with rank from 150,000 FRW (US\$ 273) to 500,000 FRW (US\$ 909) for a Private and a Colonel respectively. The RSA is paid in two installments to XCs’ bank accounts. The first installment (RSA1) is paid one month after settlement in the community of return, while the second (RSA2) is paid two months after RSA1.

The registration and provision of reinsertion assistance to members of the ex-FAR, who had remained in Rwanda after 1994, was completed in December 2005. A total of 12,969 (86% of an original estimate of 15,000) ex-FAR presented themselves for inclusion in the RDRP.



### SOCIO-ECONOMIC REINTEGRATION

Ex-AGs and ex-RDF (stage II) will have six months after demobilization to submit to their local authorities a proposal for their economic reintegration project. This will enable XCs to receive a grant of 100,000 FRW (US\$ 182) for the implementation of their projects. XCs’ projects may include agricultural and non-farm income-generating activities (IGAs), vocational and apprenticeship training, housing, employment, tools (starter kit), education and scholarships, including children’s education.

Based on their socio-economic profile, the RDRC orients and advises XCs on profitable investments and best economic reintegration opportunities within their localities. It also encourages XCs to pool resources in order to form or join associations that have income generating activities.

Vocational training opportunities offered to the XCs by RDRP partners include plumbing, masonry, carpentry, electrical installation, mechanics, tailoring, hotel operations, etc. As a

complement to these opportunities, economic skills and entrepreneurship courses are also offered.



Vocational training of XCs

An additional economic reintegration support, the Vulnerable Support Window grant (VSW), is provided to XCs of stage I and II, who remain vulnerable after having exhausted all their previous benefits. The VSW ranges from 100,000 FRW (\$US 182) to 500,000 FRW (\$US 909) depending on the XCs' level of vulnerability determined during a screening exercise. Female XCs are all considered as vulnerable and benefit automatically from the VSW. Adult XCs, willing to study, may also benefit from the VSW.

Concerning social reintegration, the RDRP offers social and psychosocial support, specialized counseling, and information and sensitization of XCs and local communities on national reconciliation activities at the community level.

## Special Assistance

### FORMER CHILD-SOLDIERS OF THE AGS



Reunification

Former child-soldiers of the AGs (child-XCs) are welcomed in a child-friendly environment at the Muhazi Rehabilitation Center. While waiting for reunification with their families, child-XCs are taught to read, write and count, are provided with medical care, psychosocial assistance and counseling, and are engaged in entertainment activities. Social workers from the centre, supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), trace and locate the families of the child XCs. Upon reunification with their families each child-XC receives a take-home kit of basic household items.

Child-XCs receive extensive reintegration assistance in the form of formal education, income-generating activities or vocational training. After graduating from training, each child-XC receives a starter kit. Those who opt for income generating activities (IGA) are, before being financially supported, first trained in project planning and management to ensure they have the necessary basic skills to manage profit oriented ventures such as animal or crop farming and petty trade.

### FEMALE EX-COMBATANTS

Special attention to female XCs starts at the demobilization

center where they have separate quarters and receive specific care. The RDRP is gender sensitive and ensures that women and men receive equal benefits for their socio-economic reintegration. Furthermore, special needs, for instance in terms of sanitation, housing and security, are taken care of by additional support mechanisms such as the VSW, to which all women are entitled (positive discrimination).

### DISABLED AND CHRONICALLY-ILL EX-COMBATANTS

XCs suffering from severe disability, chronic illness, and/or HIV/AIDS are provided with specific medical assistance (prosthetic, physiotherapy, surgery, medical care, etc.) for their physical rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration. A medical team determines the degree of disability and illness.



Medical assistance to disabled XC

Disabled and chronically-ill XCs are assisted with finding employment or trained in income generating activities to become self-sufficient and self-employed.

### DEPENDENTS OF EX-AGS

The RDRC, in partnership with the Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance, Community Development and Social Affairs (MINALOC), provides assistance to the dependents of ex-AGs who return from the DRC. Before returning to their communities, dependents are accompanied to UNHCR/MINALOC transit centers where they receive, like other Rwandan returnees, a reinsertion kit with food for three months and basic household items.

MINALOC officers' follow-up on dependents' reintegration process and the Government of Rwanda assists those in acute need of shelter.



# FACTS AND FIGURES

Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Program

## Demobilization (Stage I & II)

	Stage I (1997-2001)	Stage II (Dec. 2001 – Dec. 2006)			
		Target	Demobilized	Totals (I-II)	
Ex-RPA, adults	16,328	-	-	<b>16,328</b>	
Ex-RPA, child	2,364	-	-	<b>2,364</b>	
Ex-RDF, adults	-	22,000	22,358	<b>22,358</b>	<b>100%</b>
Ex-AG, adults	-	14,400	6,059	<b>6059</b>	<b>43%</b>
Ex-AG, child	-	1,600	661	<b>661</b>	<b>41%</b>
Ex-FAR, adults	-	13,000	12,969	<b>12,969</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18,692</b>	<b>51,000</b>	<b>42,047</b>	<b>60,739</b>	

**\*Challenge:** Despite all the accords and the Rome Declaration (San Egidio, March 31, 2005) of the leadership of the FDLR to abandon its armed struggle, disarm its forces and return to Rwanda, an estimated 8,000-10,000 combatants are still active in the eastern DRC

## Reinsertion and Reintegration Assistance (Stage II)

BASIC NEEDS KIT				REINTEGRATION GRANT			
	Demobilized	Distributed			Demobilized	Distributed	
Ex-RDF	22,382	22,382	<b>100%</b>	Ex-RDF	22,382	20039	<b>90%</b>
Ex-AG	6,059	6,059	<b>100%</b>	Ex-AG	6,059	5942	<b>98%</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28,441</b>	<b>28,441</b>		<b>Totals</b>	<b>28,441</b>	<b>25981</b>	

### RECOGNITION OF SERVICE ALLOWANCE (RSA)

	Demobilized	Distributed	
Ex-RDF	22382	21706	97%
Ex-FAR	12,969	12,969	100%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>35,351</b>	<b>34,675</b>	

### SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO CHILD-XCS

Support	Provided	
Reunification (back home)	661	Of the 661 child-XCs demobilized (see demobilization table), all received assistance for reunification with their families. After demobilization, child-XCs received reintegration assistance in the form of vocational training, formal education or income-generating activities
Transit care (foster family)	31	
Formal Education	85	
Vocational Training (skills training)	168	
Income-generating Activities	464	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,409</b>	

### TRAINING OF XCS

Organization	Field of training	No. of Trainees
OXFAM (Great Britain)	Conflict Management	85
Norwegian Church Aid	Hotel Management and Vocational skills	47
GTZ	Entrepreneurship and Vocational skills	1,558
RDRP	Entrepreneurship and Vocational skills	3,214
RDRP	Literacy education	2026
RDRP	Formal Education	1804
JICA	Entrepreneurship and Vocational skills	600
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>9,334</b>