

African Development Bank Representative, Ginette Nzau-Muteta, Speaks on the Significance of its Pledge to the MDRP

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The African Development Bank (AfDB) has recently pledged to contribute 20 million Units of Account (UA), approximately US \$25 million, to the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP). This sum is in addition to the approximately US \$23 million which AfDB is providing as parallel finance towards the finalization of the DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration) project in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Ginette Nzau-Muteta in a recent conversation with Sean Bradley, MDRP Trust Fund Coordinator

Below, MDRP's AfDB focal point, Ginette Nzau-Muteta, responds to some questions, highlighting the importance of the now reinforced MDRP and AfDB partnership. As a whole, the AfDB's mandate aims to reduce poverty and promote socio-economic development in the region. Ms. Nzau-Muteta agrees that the work supported by the MDRP is an important part of such goals.

Aside from the much needed financial support, what are the other benefits of AfDB becoming an MDRP donor?

Through its contribution to the MDRP, the African Development Bank has an additional opportunity to assist post-conflict countries and promote regional integration. These two aspects are among

the priorities of AfDB's interventions as reflected in its coming Bank Policy Document on Enhanced Engagement in Fragile States, as well as the Bank Strategic and Operational Framework for Regional Operations. Moreover, the AfDB will contribute to delivering a programme which is well coordinated and harmonized with partners, as outlined in the Paris Declaration, which will further increase the benefits and impact to recipient countries.

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What can AfDB contribute to the partnership?

AfDB's engagement in the MDRP is likely to strengthen the regional aspect of the program. Furthermore, the AfDB will contribute its wealth of knowledge and experience in working with these countries as well as leverage on its role as the lead African institution for advisory and technical guidance.



What is the larger significance of the AfDB becoming an MDRP donor?

It is a strong signal that the AfDB recognizes that building peace and restoring security, are pre-conditions for sustainable growth and poverty reduction. This also leverages on the expectations and confidence of donor partners and regional member countries that was clearly shown during the recent ADF XI replenishment exercise.

What are the regional benefits of having a program such as the MDRP?

Besides its reintegration assistance provided at national levels, the AfDB will be part of a large coordinated effort with various partners sharing the same vision, using coordinated mechanisms, reducing the scope for a duplication of donor efforts and administrative burden, in accordance with the Paris declaration on aid effectiveness. Moreover, it is expected that a programme such as the MDRP will become a cornerstone for regional integration activities in fragile states upon which other socio-economic and infrastructure development interventions can be built.

What is its place in the greater context of human development in Africa?

Given the context of a continent marked by repetitive and long lasting conflicts, efforts to reintegrate people affected by conflicts are part of social protection measures to mitigate the risks of these groups confronted by shocks. MDRP activities are the pre-conditions and first step towards capacity development in post-conflict situation which should include the three interlinked dimensions of individual human capacities; institutional and organizational capacities; and societal or community capacities.

Since Education and HIV/AIDS are specific focuses of AfDB's Human Development Department, how do you view the MDRP contributing to the advancement of these issues?

The MDRP will directly contribute to the education of former child soldiers by bringing them back to school and to ex-combatants by providing vocational training. However, more could be accomplished if DDR programs were to include special projects geared towards the insertion of peace culture. For instance, by incorporating peace building activities into the curricula. Regarding HIV/AIDS, some voluntary testing and counseling is done at the demobilization phase. However, more could also be done in this area. Especially, with regards to the huge number of female victims of sexual violence and their high rate of HIV infection.

For more information on MDRP, please visit www.mdrp.org or contact Bruno Donat, Communications Officer, MDRP Secretariat, World Bank at info@mdrp.org.