

Status of the MDRP in the Democratic Republic of the Congo – July 2007

The first phase of the MDRP-financed National Program for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (PNDDR) in the DRC is nearing completion. This phase of demobilization was completed by the December 2006 deadline set by the Government together with the international community, resulting in 121,942 combatants demobilized.

A second and new phase to deal with the remaining caseloads would involve:

- Demobilization of an additional 23,000 combatants
- Reinsertion support for an estimated 12,700 members of armed groups in the East
- Completion of reintegration support for those 40,000 already in the national program, as well as full support for the additional 23,000 ex-combatants mentioned above
- Support for approximately 9,000 children released from armed groups; and
- Specialized support for some 10,500 disabled ex-combatants.¹

The MDRP has mobilized an additional \$72 million to finance these tasks, reflecting the strong commitment of the MDRP partnership to peace and development in the DRC and the Great Lakes region. **This is over and above the almost \$200 million provided to date by the MDRP.**

Disbursement of the \$72 million awaits DRC Government action on the following conditions agreed upon between the Government, the MDRP donors, the World Bank and the African Development Bank, which are intended to uphold standards of good governance:

- The Government of the DRC to reimburse the IDA/MDRP for ineligible expenses and misprocurement that occurred under the first phase of the program and amounted to approximately \$6.8 million.
- CONADER to be abolished by Presidential Decree.
- A small and simple project implementation unit to be formed by the Minister of Defense, with an acceptable organization and staff, and the presence of an approved international agency to implement procurement and financial matters.

The Government has initiated the transfer of a first *tranche* of the reimbursement and has abolished CONADER. **However, organizational and staffing arrangements for the new implementing entity do not meet the agreed conditions.**

The MDRP cannot release new funding unless the Government resolves the organizational and staffing problems. We are aware of possible negative consequences to beneficiaries and security in the long-term if the PNDDR is not completed. However, lessons from the first phase of the program and the dictates of good governance require that the new implementation unit be fully accountable to stakeholders, with appropriate oversight mechanisms, transparent hiring procedures, and structures that support cost-effective and efficient implementation.

MDRP remains committed to supporting the DRC's PNDDR efforts. The World Bank and other MDRP partners are working with the Government and other stakeholders to get phase two in place and operational. Meanwhile, existing DDR activities will continue until the funds are exhausted. MDRP is also examining other mechanisms to expedite support to ex-combatants in the DRC.

¹ Adjusted beneficiary numbers from the May 2007 MDRP Status Update on the DRC