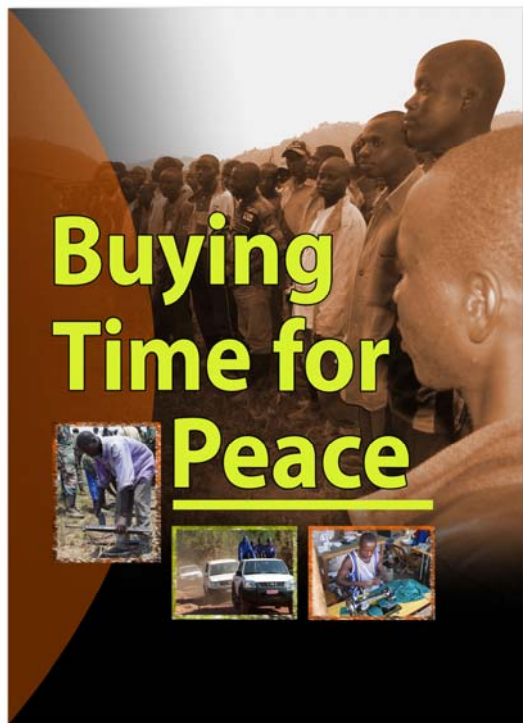


The MDRP launches its film *Buying time for Peace*

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Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) is a fascinating, but complex process. To facilitate the dissemination of information and raise awareness about its program, the MDRP is launching this month a short introductory film about its work in the Great Lakes region.



“Buying time for Peace was created as a tool to inform several audiences about our partners’ work, its nature, its scope and its importance, but also about its complexities and challenges,” explains Bruno Donat, MDRP Communications Officer.

The film, directed by Philip Carr and produced by Bruno Donat, was first introduced to the partnership in late November during the annual MDRP Advisory Committee meeting in Paris, which brings together national commissions, donor countries, the United Nations and other partner organizations.

“This 30 minute documentary serves as a great introduction for those, in the government or outside, who have to work with the MDRP but are not yet familiar with its work. It enables the general public and decision makers to have a better grasp of the program,” notes Major Junior de Fabribeckers, MDRP’s Focal point in the Belgium government.

Immediately following the Paris meetings, the MDRP Secretariat organized several outreach events across Europe using the film as a backdrop and introduction for a wider debate about the program, DDR and the situation in the Great Lakes region.

“We tried to show our successes and struggles, while leaving space for comments and criticism,” explained Bruno Donat. The outreach events included screenings and

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discussions at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the Department for International Development (DFID) in the United Kingdom, the European Network for Central Africa (EURAC) in Belgium as well as several events in France.



Film launch at the World Bank

In the United States, *Buying time for Peace* was presented in early December to a large World Bank audience. Followed by a panel discussion, which included MDRP Secretariat staff members Maria Correia, Marcelo Fabre, Bruno Donat, Roisin de Burca and Sigrun Aasland, the event aimed at familiarizing colleagues within the institution with the Bank's involvement in DDR work, a subject still unfamiliar to many.

The MDRP Secretariat also reached out to the Washington political community in the 125th Great Lakes Policy Forum, a monthly event co-organized by the Woodrow Wilson Center, the United States Institute for Peace (USIP), Search for Common Ground, Refugees International, the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, the Council on Foreign Relations and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

“It's important for us to engage other groups and individuals working on issues in the Great Lakes Region. By sharing ideas and information, we improve the work of MDRP, and learn from each others' challenges and successes,” explains Pamela Becroft, Consultant for Communication.

Soon, clips of the documentary will be made available online, and in the next few months, similar screening and consultation events will be organized in Africa.

Once the mass production is completed, the film will be distributed to key stakeholders as well as members of the academia, the press, national counterparts and donor countries as part of a larger fundraising and awareness campaign.



Washington audience

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