

13.1 Million Euro Grant to Support Angola Demobilization and Reintegration Project

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On December 16, 2005, the World Bank signed a grant agreement with the Angolan government and its Institute for Social and Productive Reintegration of Ex-combatants (IRSEM) for a grant of 13.1 million Euros from the European Commission (EC).

Adding to \$33 million from the World Bank and \$48 million from the Multi-country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP), the EC funds will support the Angola Demobilization and Reintegration Project (ADRP).



"As outlined in the EU Strategy for Africa of 2005, peace and security are essential prerequisites for sustainable development, while the security of citizens is now a major priority for both Africa and Europe," explains Rory Keane, MDRP Focal Point for the European Commission in Brussels. "It is in this context that the EC provided this grant; it is part of the process of providing security for citizens and rebuilding the infrastructure for the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals in Angola."

The ADRP has already demobilized over 97,000 UNITA ex-combatants, and will shortly begin demobilization of some 33,000 Government armed forces (FAA). Reintegration is also well underway.

"The EC grant is well-timed to further success of the Angolan government's efforts," states IRSEM's director, General Andrade. "By fulfilling the ADRP's financial needs, it supports the government's goal to reach vulnerable disabled ex-combatants, women, children and groups in communities of return."

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News & Noteworthy

Socio-economic reintegration of these vulnerable populations has so far proven difficult, because their diverse and complex needs make them difficult to target effectively. The Angolan government recently moved rapidly to launch initiatives for women and children, and is now developing a detailed strategy for the disabled.

Officials at the World Bank and the MDRP Secretariat also welcome the grant.

"This money fills a serious financial gap at a time when the government is making a tremendous effort to reach vulnerable groups," says Sean Bradley, World Bank Senior Social Development Specialist. "We hope that it will help the government and the MDRP develop innovative ways to deal with these special target populations."

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

The logo for the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP) features the lowercase letters "mdrp" in a light teal color, set against a faint, light yellow outline of a map of Africa.

Multi-Country
Demobilization
and Reintegration
Program