

## Q&A with Demba Kissima Tandia

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**Demba Kissima Tandia** is the project chief technical advisor for the MDRP-supported UNDP Special Project for the Demobilization and Reintegration of ex-Combatants and Community Support in the Central African Republic. He took a few moments to tell N&N about the project, its goals and its hopes for the future.

**What is the history of UNDP's Special Project for the Demobilization and Reintegration of ex-Combatants and Community Support (PRAC) in the Central African Republic (CAR)?**



Multiple political-military crises in the last decade exacerbated insecurity and facilitated the circulation of large numbers of weapons in the CAR; security had to be established throughout the country, according to the recommendations that came out of the National Dialogue. This is how the Special Project for the Demobilization and Reintegration of ex-Combatants and Community Support (PRAC) came to be implemented, with financial support from the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Implemented by UNDP, the project was officially launched in December of 2004 in Bossangoa. It also receives financial assistance from France.

**Why is demobilization and reintegration important in the context of the Central African Republic and the region as a whole?**

The project is one means to restore peace in the CAR and the sub-region of Central Africa; without peace there can be no development.

**What are the overall project goals ?**

Our goal is to disarm, demobilize and reinsert 7,565 ex-combatants into the economic and social life of the country, and to support the communities to which these ex-combatants return.

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## What specifically does the project do, and what organizations are responsible ?

The project demobilizes and reinserts ex-combatants and supports communities of return by, among other things, rehabilitating public infrastructure, such as schools and health centers and so on, that were damaged during the frequent periods of unrest and coup d'etats that the CAR has seen.

These activities are carried out by the National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reinsertion, the communities of return, and by the project beneficiaries themselves, working in tight collaboration, with the support of supervising structures.



**Ex-combatants examine fishery reinsertion kits.**



**Reinsertion kits for ex-combatants opting to go into fishery.**

Furthermore, the project aims to respond to beneficiaries' needs in the required timeframe and according to the rules and regulations stipulated by the parties concerned. By doing this and achieving lasting reinsertion of ex-combatants, we can help establish peace in the Central African Republic and the region.

## What is your responsibility in the project ?

My responsibility is to coordinate all project activities. I try to ensure that all resources are managed so that we can meet project objectives.

## What are your expectations for the future ?

We hope that the project will receive further financial support, so that we can expand our activities in disarming civilians, so that we can better assure a return to sustainable peace in the country.

*Sincere thanks to Demba Kissima Tandia for this interview, and to Jean-Christophe Ngaiporo for facilitating it.*

**For more information on MDRP, please visit [www.mdrp.org](http://www.mdrp.org) or contact Bruno Donat, Communications Officer, MDRP Secretariat, World Bank at [info@mdrp.org](mailto:info@mdrp.org).**