

DRC's CONADER: Progress and Constraints in Demobilization and Reintegration

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The Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), partners and donors of the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP) and World Bank staff held a technical review meeting in Kinshasa, February 23rd, 2006. Meeting participants reviewed findings concerning the DRC's National Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Program (PNDDR - Programme national de désarmement, démobilisation et réinsertion).



Left to right: John A. Elder, Task Team Leader World Bank; Maria Correia, MDRP Program Manager; Adolphe Onusumba, Minister of Defense; Daniel Kawata, General Coordinator CONADER.

These findings were obtained by a joint supervision/ implementation support mission during which teams visited 12 sites across the country. They reviewed progress and constraints in, among other issues: orientation center operation; coordination between demobilization and army reform processes; automation of the payment verification system; increasing data base capacities, improving effectiveness of integration of ex-combatants into reinsertion projects and subsequent monitoring of assistance provided; delays in decentralization and overstaffing.



CONADER Provincial Office in Mbandaka, equator province – a folk troupe that engages in sensitization work.

(CONADER). "On the one hand, it allowed us to carefully examine the state of implementation of the PNDDR. On the other, fruitful discussions helped us to

"This meeting served as a kind of mirror for us," explained Daniel Kawata, General Coordinator of the DRC's National Commission for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reinsertion

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become aware of our strong and weak points. This process is vital for the success of CONADER and thus for sustainable peace in the DRC."

Overall, mission participants were satisfied with the progress made in project implementation since the last review in September 2005. However, they also stressed the need for respect of the various joint plans and technical agreements.

"The government of the DRC clearly has made efforts to address outstanding issues since the last meeting," said the MDRP Secretariat's Program Manager, Maria Correia. "What is important now is that all concerned adhere to plans and agreements so that demobilization and army reform processes are in line with each other."



Boyeka Orientation Center (OC), Équateur Province
An evaluation team meets with members of CONADER to discuss progress of OC activities



General Pierre-Michel Joana,
Head of Mission EUSEC,
Ambassador Aldo Ajello EU,
Maria Correia, MDRP Program Manager,
addressing donors on February 24th.

There remains a great deal for CONADER to do. Even as the government progresses towards completion of demobilization efforts, reintegration is expected to continue. Participants in the Kinshasa meeting therefore hope that discussions and decisions taken will help to accelerate both processes and assist CONADER's transition to reintegration activities.

"There is an enormous job ahead for CONADER—the demobilization process should be in its final stages before elections, so that the commission can focus on reintegration of the ex-combatants," states MDRP Lead Social Protection Specialist John Elder. "For this to happen, orientation center capacity must be improved, as must the payment system for ex-combatants. But with political will from the government and the ongoing support of MDRP and its partners, these efforts can succeed."

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