

# Press Release



**Government of Angola – IRSEM- World Bank  
Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP)  
for the Great Lakes Region**

**Study tour: Angola’s experience with the demobilization and reintegration  
process of ex-combatants**

**Luanda, June 16, 2006** – The staff of the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP) for the Great Lakes Region – that is to say, Burundi, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Congo, and Uganda – together with the staff of the Angola Program, began a study tour on June 15 as part of the work of the Technical Coordination Group (TCG). Also participating were a number of MDRP donors and partners.

Angola’s General Program for Demobilization and Reintegration (PGDR) is one of the national MDRP-financed programs whose economic and social reintegration component is at a more advanced stage. Consequently, the working field visits and workshops during the study tour will provide participants with a unique opportunity to learn about Angola’s experience with the reintegration process, share information on work accomplished and exchange national perspectives.

The study tour will be particularly useful for sharpening the skills and expertise of the Technical Coordination Group. Participants in the event are expected to focus mainly on the following:

- Design and implementation of reintegration projects;
- Establishment and management of partnerships among the Institute for the Socio-Professional Reintegration of Ex-Soldiers (IRSEM) and relevant actors;
- Specific information on alternative sources of financing for the program outside the MDRP;
- Specific areas of support for vulnerable groups; and,
- Ties with economic and infrastructure rehabilitation entities supporting the reintegration process.

The study tour will end with a workshop to be attended by all participants and other partners associated with the program.

**MDRP:** *The Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program is a regional initiative that supports comprehensive planning and financing of the work plan for the demobilization and reintegration (D&R) of close to 400,000 soldiers, whether or not regularized, in countries involved in or affected by conflicts such as Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda. MDRP and D&R forces help create mechanisms for sustainable development by helping to foster a climate of general security and contributing to stabilization and peace-building efforts.*

*The program is financed by the World Bank and 11 donors – Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the European Commission. The MDRP also collaborates with close to 30 partner organizations, including a number of United Nations agencies.*

*For more information on the MDRP, please visit the website: [www.mdrp.org](http://www.mdrp.org)*