



## Escaped from the LRA

In March 2010, Joseph Oroj was out hunting with two friends when rebels from the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) ambushed them. His friends escaped but Joseph was not so lucky. Back home his family mourned Joseph and held a funeral, believing he was dead. However, after weeks of suffering under the brutal hands of the rebels, Joseph managed to escape.

With help from the Disarmament, Demobilisation, Repatriation, Resettlement and Reintegration Unit (DDRRR) from the UN mission in Congo, he made his way to Uganda where he was repatriated to Sudan, to be reunited with his family. On arrival in Juba on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October, Central Equatoria Member of Parliament Hon. John Malish received Joseph, along with a team from the Southern Sudan DDR Commission including the Rev Saturnino Lado Lawrence, State Director for Central Equatoria and Mr Samuel Yerimia, Director for State Affairs.

Joseph Oroj was reunited with his family shortly afterwards.

## Candid camera

DDR PI photos available for viewing and downloading [www.google.com/profiles/ssddrpi](http://www.google.com/profiles/ssddrpi)

## SSDDRC website

so much more on DDR  
[www.ssddrc.org](http://www.ssddrc.org)



from **South Sudan**



# DDR Digest

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## Christmas holiday break

During the referendum and holiday season, demobilisation operations have been suspended in south Sudan to allow for DDR participants and staff to prepare for voting “DDR operations .. will resume again on the 15th January 2011” says Ambrose Kam-baya from the Southern Sudan DDR Commission.

The DDR programme wishes all stakeholders a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

## Getting the message across

On the 1st December the DDR Public Information Taskforce visited the MTC training centre in Juba to meet with XCs and WAAF to discuss messaging and sensitisation. The aim was to get their input in how the programme can better reach out to communities through its public information messages.

The test exercise was aimed at determining how appropriate and easily understandable the language level of the DDR Key Messages are. The participants were divided into three groups according to their spoken language – Dinka, Juba Arabic and English. During the sessions some ex-combatants demonstrated good knowledge of the DDR programme, its roots and the reasons why it should be carried out, though 30% or more of participants still found the questions challenging.



## Driving towards his future

Juac Lueth Apac was once a child soldier who fought alongside the SPLA for approx 15 years. During his time with the SPLA his main passion was driving and maintaining vehicles. Due to his limited physical fitness he had to leave the army in 2004. Apac registered with the DDR Reintegration Implementing Partner GTZ in June in Rumbek and

opted for vocational training as an auto mechanic.

After his initial 6 weeks of literacy and numeracy training, the 31-year old ex-combatant from Rumbek East was transferred to the Kaumbwa Driving School in Rumbek where he received his 3-months technical training in his chosen area.

Impressed with Juac's progress, the Kaumbwa Driving School in Rumbek have employed Luac to work as an auto mechanic. His salary will be 200 SDG per month. “This money is very small for my 5 children and wives, but it will be enough to cater for their food, accommodation and soap.”

Total demobilised in  
South Sudan

10,842

Figure 17 December 2010

**HOTLINES for ex-combatants and WAAF available Mon-Fri 08:30-17:00**

Tel Zain +249 (0)901 33 2562 Tel Vivacell +249 (0)955 56 1752 or email [info@ssddrc.com](mailto:info@ssddrc.com)

## SPLA-UN Action Plan for Child DDR deadline needs to be extended



On the 20th November 2009 the SPLA signed a time-bound Action Plan with the United Nations to release all Children Associated with its Forces (CAF) by the 20th November 2010. The deadline has past and currently the Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC) and the SPLA are working together on a short extension to cover the remaining outstanding areas searching for children who may be still based in the military.

In South Sudan, the SPLA has shown a considerable level of cooperation with the SSDDRC, United Nations and Save the Children in the implementation of the Action Plan.

A Technical Committee was established in May 2010 to run the day-to-day operations for the implementation of the Action Plan. The Technical Committee is comprised of members of the SPLA, SSDDRC, UNICEF and the UNMIS Child Protection Unit. Both the SSDDRC and the UN provided financial, technical and logistical support during this implementation period.

The Technical Committee undertook comprehensive awareness campaigns against child-recruitment and use in five Divisions of the SPLA. More than five thousand SPLA troops benefited from these campaigns. Key child protection messages, developed by SSDDRC and UNICEF against the recruitment and use of children were aired by UNMIS Radio Miraya during the time of the Action Plan implementation.

Oluku Andrew Holt, Child DDR Coordinator from SSDDRC, confirmed that a total of two hundred and ten boys associated with the SPLA were verified, registered and officially demobilised by the SSDDRC from five SPLA divisions. Another five divisions are yet to be assessed over the coming months.

Cephus Diggs, Child Protection Advisor at UNMIS, noted that logistics remains one of the main problems in the implementation of the SPLA-UN Action Plan. Some of the SPLA locations where child soldiers have been reportedly seen are nearly inaccessible due to the poor conditions of the roads or insecurities in these areas.

Also, some children end up going back to the army after already being demobilised - due to the limited reintegration support back home.

As a result, it has been recommended that the SPLA request an extension of the Action Plan for another six months in order to fully implement the activities outlined in the Action Plan and be declared a child soldier free army.



John Okullu, ex-child soldier says  
“Let’s leave the army to our fathers, it’s a job for adults, not children. Let’s go back to school”.

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