



**GOVERNMENT OF SOUTHERN SUDAN
(GOSS)**

**SOUTHERN SUDAN DEMOBILIZATION, DISARMAMENT AND
REINTEGRATION COMMISSION (SSDDRC)**



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Final Communiqué

DDR in Southern Sudan – Lessons Learned and Challenges ahead of the Referendum

Introduction and background

1. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) is an integral part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Regardless of the outcome of the referendum on January 9th, 2011, the Government of Southern Sudan reaffirms its commitment to the force reduction targets set out for the SPLA in the National DDR Strategy which have been defined at 34,000 members of the so-called “special needs groups” (phase 1) and 56,000 active-duty members of the SPLA (phase 2).
2. Regardless of the outcome of the referendum, both parties of the CPA will continue to share Africa’s largest inner-state border with ethnic groups from both sides living on each other’s territory. In order to deflect future tensions, the Government of Southern Sudan remains committed to the continuation of DDR in the “transitional areas” and accepts particular responsibility for ex-combatants formerly affiliated with the SPLA in those areas.
3. In addition to the caseloads for DDR defined in the CPA, a vote for separation during the referendum might create an urgent need for a comprehensive DDR program for those members of the Joint Integrated Units, which will not be absorbed into SPLA and SAF respectively. This could be as many as 20 – 30,000 ex-combatants, their DDR shall be referred to as a new “phase 1a” as it would need to start while the current reintegration of special needs groups is still ongoing.
4. Following a comprehensive review of the future security needs of Southern Sudan in the post-referendum period, it seems likely that additional caseloads from the Southern Sudan Police Service, Prisons, Wildlife and the Fire Brigade will enter the DDR process in order to reduce the burden on the national budget and to free funds for other political priorities. This potential “phase 3” of DDR in Southern Sudan is not likely to begin before late 2012, but ultimately the number of DDR participants in the country (from all phases) could be as high as 130,000.

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reinsertion (Phase 1)

5. The current approach is not sufficiently based in the realities on the ground in Southern Sudan. The Government of Southern Sudan requests UNMIS to engage in a process to review its operational approach to DD with regard to such issues as the location of assembly areas, transportation of ex-combatants over long distances and the provision of reinsertion kits.
6. Reinsertion assistance should no longer focus primarily on the provision of material items such as food and non-food items, but rather seek to engage ex-combatants in educational activities (for example literacy and numeracy) or in productive activities (labor-intensive construction etc.).

Reintegration (Phase 1)

7. The Government of Southern Sudan urges all international partners to harmonize the reintegration programs across Implementing Partners both with regard to the provision of training (length and content) and with regard to the material benefits (cash stipends and value of the tool kit) in order to reduce tension and to increase confidence into the program.
8. Whereas currently some Implementing Partners provide as little as two hours of training every day, the Government of Southern Sudan requests a to review what conditions need to be met in order to increase the numbers of hours spent in training to 5-6 every day in line with standard practice in DDR programs across the world

Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (Phase 1a and beyond)

9. The Government of Southern Sudan recommends that the current system of providing vocational and other training after demobilization will be replaced with a new approach by which training activities take place for a minimum period of six month while the soldiers are still with their military units. During this period, the soldiers would continue to draw their military salary, allowing them to focus on the training without worry about feeding their families.
10. This training could be provided through Implementing Partners under contract to bilateral or multilateral agencies (see below) based on an expanded curriculum of literacy/numeracy, life and vocational skills. UNMIS could provide assistance with the rehabilitation of training facilities on or near military sites.
11. Demobilization and Disarmament would then occur following the completion of the training. Subsequently Implementing Partners and SSDDRC staff would be responsible to provide counseling and referral services, as well as monitor the progress of reintegration into civilian life (see below).

Counseling and Referral Services

12. Government of Southern Sudan requests that the current system by which counseling of different sorts is provided by different agencies (UNDP, Implementing Partners) at different stages of the process is streamlined. Wherever possible, counseling shall be replaced by a system of case management.
13. The state offices of the SSDDRC shall be expanded to act as counseling and referral offices for ex-combatants during all stages of the process. This requires significant additional resources and training for SSDDRC staff, but would have the advantage that the case managers could guide individual ex-combatants more effectively through the process.
14. Ex-combatants should be required to meet with their case managers during regular intervals so that SSDDRC can track the status of each ex-combatant.

This shall be complemented by outreach, i.e. case managers should visit communities of return and ex-combatant's families.

Community-based reintegration

15. Government of Southern Sudan recognizes the need to assist communities of return in their development. This shall be achieved through activities by international agencies and non-governmental organizations complementing the efforts of the targeted individual reintegration program.
16. These projects shall be coordinated closely with both the GoSS Line Ministries and with the Bureau for Community Security and Arms Control, which are all engaged in similar activities.

Donor and Partner Relations

17. Government of Southern Sudan insists that the complex web of donor and partner relations to be streamlined. Roles and responsibilities of all partners need to be clarified (such as the meaning of the term "co-management"). Transparency in terms of financial management needs to become a core principle for all parties involved.
18. Government of Southern Sudan recommends that the management of donor funds and the execution of the program shall be allocated to different agencies with a proven track record in those areas. The governance of donor funds needs to be guided by clear and transparent structures with the full involvement of donor and GoSS representatives.

*Juba, Southern Sudan
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