

Total Demobilised
in South Sudan

12,525

Fri 12 August 2011



from South Sudan



DDR Digest

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Strategy and Planning workshop

The DDR Strategy and Programme Planning Workshop took place at Juba Bridge Hotel on 25-29 July.

For four days participants had an opportunity to look in depth at a variety of ideas to help develop a better and brighter DDR programme. The workshop ideas evolved from some of the nitty-gritty aspects of the previous DDR programme, moving on to more complicated issues for example successful Reintegration of ex child-soldiers, also cross-border violence conducted by the LRA, and looking any provisions

needed within the new programme for Sudanese soldiers on foreign soil. The workshop included many participants from Line Ministries such as Ministry of Health/ Education and Agriculture who worked shoulder to shoulder with the Commission, Consultants and UN agencies to help provide information to design better ways of Disarming, Demobilising, Reinsertion and Reintegrating.

Speaking at the end of the workshop Colonel Benjamin SSDDRC explained: "One of the most significant

outcomes of this workshop is the realisation of the importance of all the other Line Ministries for the success of DDR programme. The policy planning exercise has also highlighted the need to identify roles and responsibilities within the programme more precisely. The SPLA command needs to realise its role in the DDR candidate's selection process. Clear guidelines regarding the selection criteria have to be agreed upon. And finally, finding the root causes of what exactly hampered the success of DDR programme in previous years. Without understanding

what didn't work and why, it's hard to make it work in the future. Key issues were, of course, the lack of coordination of all the parties involved and the role of the implementation, i.e. financial support etc, which is of crucial importance too. But now we have learned the lesson and are ready to move on".

The information received at this workshop is currently being compiled into a new draft DDR Programme document to help explain how the new DDR Strategy will become a reality.

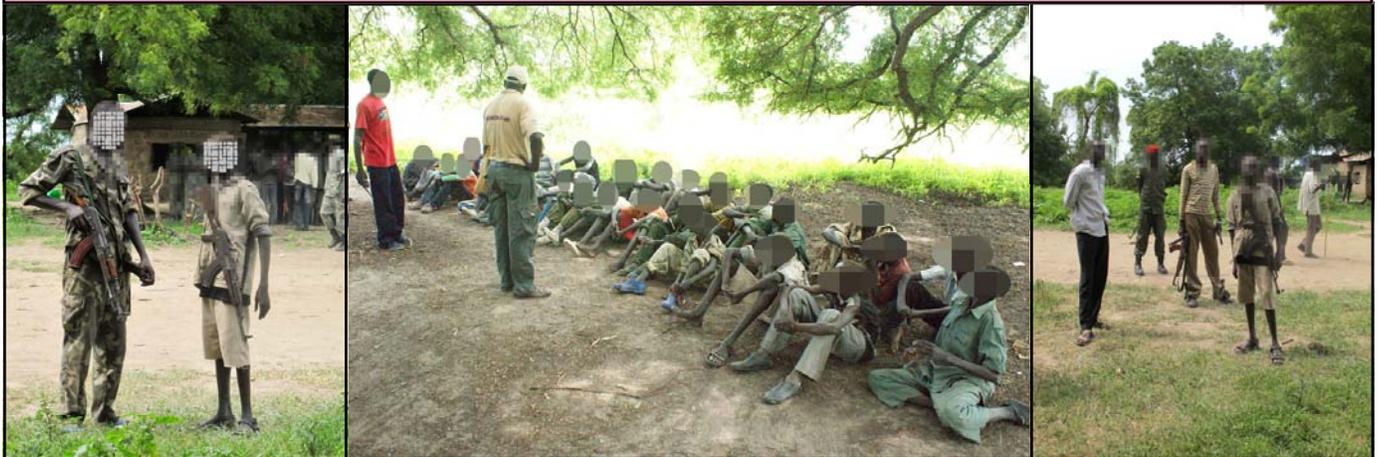
In Loving Memory of Monytoc

All staff members of the South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC) are shocked and saddened to hear about the sudden death of Monytoc Awet Monytoc, SSDDRC staff who passed on 3 August in Warrap State. SSDDRC community sends their sincerest and heartfelt condolences to his family and friends. Everyone at the Commission will miss him and his services dearly. Monytoc Awet Monytoc has died but memories of him will stay with us.

Comrade Monytoc was devoted employee who has worked for the Commission since 23 March 2009. He was very polite, social and cheerful person who would spread happiness all around the work place. The bereaved will find comfort in knowing that their loved one brought joy into the lives of people who have interacted with him. Monytoc is survived by a wife, three daughters and a son.

DDR Digest from South Sudan

CAAF update: no child left behind



Releasing all persons below 18 years of age from the armed forces and supporting their successful Reintegration into civilian life is one of the objectives of the South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC).

This credible endeavour continues with the verification and registration of children working with Major General David Yau Yau and Major General Gabriel Tang as they are integrated into the SPLA/SSAF. An identification and verification Mission was started in July 2011 by SSDDRC with the support of UNMISS and UNICEF Child Protection in which 40 children were verified and registered from Major General Yau Yau's forces in Pibor and the number accounts for 14 percent of the overall force. The children

who come from Pibor County are between 9 and 17 years old. Separately five children have also been identified in Pariak barracks amongst the forces of Major General Gabriel Tang and another five escaped from renegade Gen. Peter Gadet forces in Unity State.

Firstly, the number of child soldiers in Pibor may have been higher, but 90 soldiers of this force are believed to be still in Gumuruk and hence, those children there have not yet been identified.

Secondly, fewer children were registered because it is believed that some left the barracks on their own accord as they understood that they may not be integrated in the SPLA/SSAF due to their age. As being a soldier is considered a better way of

life in that it may be appealing to children to join the army and this appeared to be the case when four boys initially refused to be registered. Other children may have joined the army because their parents could not afford to provide for them, the long war in Sudan has negatively impacted some of their home communities so that there are no schools and therefore some children may have been recruited by force. As the army has no official infrastructure or support mechanisms to provide for the care and nurture needed for full child development, it is therefore better for the children to be cared for in their communities. The army duties are rigorous and may have taken heavy tolls on the children as the children in the military may not have enough food and living with the military would be

a much stricter lifestyle for a young child.

Looking forward, the DDR Commission will work closely with the UN Child Protection Units who are continuing with the verification and registration of children who are still in the army. Currently child protection partners working in Pibor and Pariak are involved in the tracing the families of these children. They will pay particular attention to any health needs and also to their nutritional requirements. In light of the current situation, SSDDRC calls on all uniformed forces such as the army, police, prisons, wild life and fire brigade not to enlist children. South Sudan forces are required by law to be child-free in order to offer to children better educational and training options in a home environment.

HOTLINES for former soldiers and WAAF available Mon-Fri 08:30-17:00

Tel Vivacell +249 (0)955 56 1752 or email info@ssddrc.com

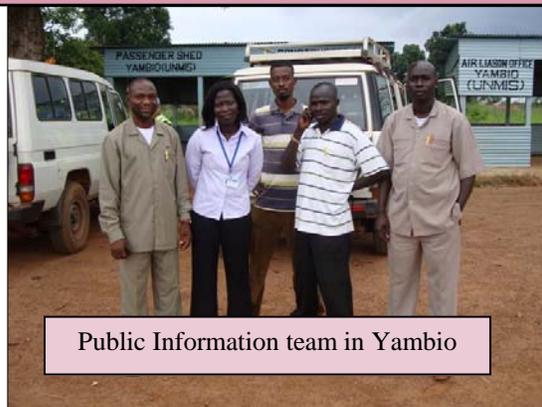
Please don't forget you can access more information about DDR on the website <http://www.ssddrc.org>

Photos from DDR events also available on Google Picasa <https://picasaweb.google.com/ssddrc/>

State by State: Western Equatoria

On the 18 July the Public Information Taskforce conducted a consultative field visit to Yambio in Western Equatoria to share the current draft of the Public Information Strategic Outlines and the annual work plan to the DDR team in order to get their inputs prior to finalisation of the strategic document. These field visits also aim to create a sub-national work-plan including the views of the DDR State teams to give specific input for their individual States, such as language and cultural diversities. The summary of these sub-national plans will appear as an annex in the DDR Public Information Strategy.

The workshop, which was conducted at SSDDR Commission conference rooms in Yambio,



Public Information team in Yambio



Elia Kamilo speaking on Yambio FM

attracted a total of 11 participants from IUNDDR, SSDDRC, CSSAC and Implementing Partner BRAC.

The workshop was opened by Mr Elia Kamilo Dimo who is the Director for Communications for the SSDDRC. The Western Equatoria State Coordinator also appreciated the meeting saying that it was timely, especially at this point

in time when South Sudan has just received its Independence and the new DDR programme is being designed.

A training session on the basics of DDR communications included how to handle media relations at State Level was also given during the visit. It is envisaged that the increased information sharing made during these visits will in turn en-

courage and create ownership of the Public Information component of the new DDR Public Information Programme.

The Director of Communications was invited to speak at Yambio FM talk show, during this one hour programme he updated the community on the new proposed DDR programme.



Independence: A personal account

“All families got up at 12 am on the 9 July, lighting candles symbolising the light of freedom has come and the darkness of marginalisation has gone. All families moved through to neighbouring houses carrying their candles with great happiness, singing the South Sudan national anthem. People were shouting with joy and continued singing the anthem throughout the night in Tongpiny area of Juba CE where I stay.

After a very long night of celebrating with family and friends daylight arrived on the special morning of Saturday 9 July, people moved from their homes to the freedom square also known as John Garang Mausoleum where people began to congregate for the day's events. My family and I arrived at freedom square at 7:30 am, I found thousands of South Sudanese people dancing and singing without stopping. Later in the afternoon was a very moving and symbolic time for me when the new Nation's freedom flag was raised. The celebrations continued for the whole day and all South Sudan Ethnic groups were able to join in the festivities expressing their joy in many traditional ways.

I was very much more than proud of my President, Salva Kiir's statements in which he was calling for forgiveness, reconciliation and unity among all South Sudan people”.

Joseph Magei Galuak Mayual

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