

Total Demobilised
in South Sudan

12,525

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from South Sudan



DDR Digest

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Graduation time in Eastern Equatoria State



448 former soldiers have been awarded graduation certificates in Eastern Equatoria State after they completing various training packages including carpentry, small business management, food processing, tailoring, agriculture, driving and construction. The training was organised by the German International Cooperation Services (GIZIS) and contracted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Deputy Governor of Eastern Equatoria Nartiso Loluke Munir was the guest of honour for the graduation ceremony. He encouraged the excited celebrants to strive and be job creators rather than job seekers, advising them to put their

newly acquired skills to good use so as to support the state to grow and develop. He also suggested that they join co-operative groups so as to access and benefit from the support and other benefits like learning and improving on ones training. "With the new skills you have acquired work together and cooperate with one another then we will be able to fight disease, poverty and hunger in our new and young country", said the Deputy Governor.

Mr Pierre, the GIZIS site manager congratulated the former soldiers for their efforts throughout the training, thanking the South Sudan Demobilisation, Disarmament and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC) for their contribution and

continued support in Reintegrating the DDR participants. "By working hard and committing yourselves to the training, you have greatly contributed to the development and peace of the country, this will be considered as an example for other DDR programmes". Mr Pierre also appealed to the government to give more support to the former soldiers.

The DDR State Coordinator for Eastern Equatoria Mary Achomo informed the gathering that Disarmament and Demobilisation of former soldiers in Eastern Equatoria state was launched in 2010 and 1800 DDR participants were demobilised. Because of the preparations for the Referendum last year, the

DDR programme was put on hold and training resumed early this year. Ms Achomo appreciated and thanked GIZIS and the UN family for their support. She called upon the former soldiers to work together and support each other in order to fully integrate into the communities and participate in the nation's development.



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/ssddrpi?>

Aisha Yahya is one of the former soldiers who have gone through the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration programme. She joined the SPLA as an active combatant in 2004 after losing her husband. She was deployed to serve in Kubri Arbein, one of the then military camps in Juba County. Whilst in the military Aisha had many harsh experiences. "Apart from the rough life which I was exposed to in the military, I always missed my family", explains Aisha.



training centre and operates her kiosk in the evenings.

Aisha's business is expanding and progressing well, she makes a weekly profit of about 70 to 100 Sudanese pounds per week. She is now in position to pay her children's school fees, adequately providing for her family and relatives.

"The assistance from DDR has paved way for me to progress. My wish is to continue with my business, I am now able to help my relatives whom I was depending on when I came back from Mangala", said Aisha.

Aisha is planning to build a small shop to expand her business and secure the goods she sells. "My business is growing and I am sure the money I have can be used to build my shop", said Aisha. At the moment she has 12 sheets of iron ready for roofing her new shop.

in Wau town in Western Bahr El Ghazal.

She enrolled in the Reintegration programme and opted for small business training as her new economic livelihood option. She received training by International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in small business management, literacy and numeracy. IOM is the DDR partner responsible for providing training to DDR participants

in Western Bahr El Ghazal

Aisha successfully completed her trainings and received a small business Reintegration assistance start-up kit in January 2011. Then she started practising her new livelihood by selling charcoal, ground nuts paste, soap, sugar, salt, tea leaves, candles, sandals, tea and coffee. In the morning she prepares and sells tea and coffee to former soldiers at the IOM

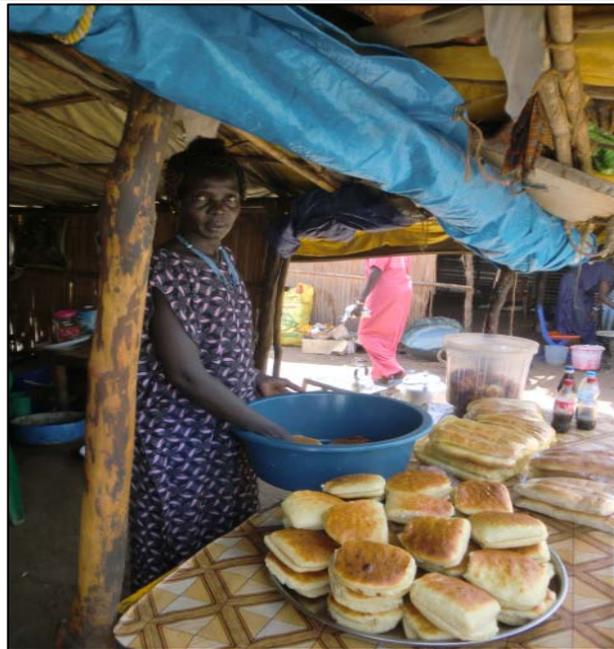
DDR Digest: **Women contribute too**

Three years after the launch of the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration programme (DDR), participants reflect on the past and present.

Mary Alak, a Woman Associated with Armed Forces (WAAF) shares her experience and life after the DDR programme.

"DDR provided us support through training but it's up to us to make the most of it", Mary starts narrating her experience.

During the war, she used to cook and clean camps and houses for the army, all this she did voluntarily never receiving a wage for her services, making it difficult to provide for her seven children. After accomplishing her duties for the day at the military camp, she would then cultivate vegetables including sorghum that would help feed her family. Sometimes she sold some of her garden produce in the nearby market in order to make ends meet. A few years after signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), Mary joined the



DDR programme and was demobilised and reintegrated in Central Equatoria State. She opted for small business as her new economic livelihood. She was then trained in literacy and numeracy, life skills and small business management. She successfully completed the training and graduated in November 2010. Mary was given a small business start up kit to enable

her start practising her chosen reintegration economic option. Being a creative person even before completing her training, Mary already had opened up a small kiosk at Newsite using the money she received during the demobilisation and the stipend she received during her training period at the Multi Training Centre with (German International Technical Corpo-

ration (GIZIS). "After completing the training and receiving the start up kit, I had to think of ways to survive and live a better life, I added the kit to my existing capital and this helped my business grow", says Mary.

Through the support from the DDR programme, Mary was able to acquire a loan of five hundred Sudanese pounds from a micro-finance institution (BRAC). "I made a double profit and have already paid back the loan; I have now applied for another loan of two thousands Sudanese pounds" excitedly explained Mary.

Mary is very hopeful that she will achieve even more. With her profits she is now able to support her seven children in school and also supplement on her husband's income. She intends to find a bigger and better place to operate her business. "I use my money wisely, I don't drink alcoholic beverages, I reinvest my profits and this is why I have come this far", says the mother of seven.