



from **South Sudan**



not as simple as ABC

On the 31 March, for 35 Women Associated with Armed Forces (WAAF) who studied hard for six months in literacy and numeracy training, were rewarded with a certificate at their Graduation Ceremony, marking their achievements at the Sudanese Association for Humanitarian Aid (SAHA). SAHA used the occasion to officially open their new Women Resource Centre as well.

The course commenced in August 2010 and ended in March 2011. The WAAF studied alongside a further 30 women from the local community, including returnees, in a varied programme consisting of tutoring for three hours a day, three times per week. Alongside the English Language and Mathematical skills they learnt, the course also had modules in Peace Instruction, Health Education and Business Skills. The programme is funded by Pact Sudan.

Please send us contributions for the next Digest as soon as possible so we can include them in the next issue.

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DDR Digest

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greet the press

On Friday 25 March national press and radio staff gathered to attend the first SSDDRC Press Conference of 2011. H.E. William Deng Deng, SSDDRC Chairperson, addressed the awaiting media giving them updates of recent progress within the Commission, including introducing the Commission's Technical Committee composed of SPLA and SSDDRC senior officers sharing information with the press that they are preparing new policy outlines together.

The SSDDRC reaffirmed their commitment to continue working with all stakeholders and anticipates a renewed, better and more effective DDR for South Sudan in 2011 and beyond.

As a result of the success of this event further monthly, informal updates will be arranged for the media shortly.



thanks to IOM

Mr. Gerry Waite, Head of IOM South Sudan, took the opportunity at the 25 March SSDDRC Press Conference to hand over a donation of 15 laptops and 2 printers. On behalf of the DDR Commission, the donation was received by the Chairperson, H.E William Deng Deng.

Mr. Gerry Waite pledged that this is a gesture from IOM to show the continued support it has and will for a long time give towards the DDR Commission. "As the SSDDRC prepares to launch the new phase of the DDR programme in the coming months, IOM would like to take this opportunity to support the important work of the Commission and enhance its operations". He further added that "IOM feels privileged to be an Implementing Partner to the SSDDRC and remains committed to supporting the fulfillment of the DDR process."

Both the Chairperson of the SSDDRC and the Head of IOM South Sudan agreed that gestures like these are imperative if the Commission is to fulfill the huge task ahead of fully Reintegrating former soldiers in South Sudan in order to meet the CPA target of seeing 90,000 former soldiers realise full civilian potential.

Total Demobilised in South Sudan

11,965

Figure 1 April 2011

HOTLINES for former soldiers 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

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 <http://www.google.com/profiles/ssddrpi>

food for thought



On 23 March at the new UN compound in Jebel, the Women's Self-Help Development Organisation launched a restaurant cooperative consisting of 5 Women Associated with Armed Forces (WAAF) and 6 women from the community.

It is one of the 6 Community-Based Reintegration cooperative projects funded by Pact Sudan which aims to give and empower Demobilised women and an equal number of women from the community, to work together and earn a living through their preferred livelihood option.

This project fits in the overall SSDDRC goal of Reintegrating former soldiers back to civilian life, and the launch was possible through the collaboration and support of the other partners including UNMIS who provided the location and shelter and UNDP who facilitated the process.

In her opening speech, the executive director of WSHDO Ms. Lois Koropo thanked Pact Sudan for funding the project and other partners including SSDDRC, UNMIS and UNDP for a variety of support that has culminated in this official launch. She reiterated that this modest start will go a long way to assist the women cooperative members in improving the lives of their families.

Simon Yazgi the UNMIS DDR Regional Coordinator and Amanuel Gebremedhin the UNDP CPRU Head both commended the women's organisation and all the partners for the successful launch and looks forward to supporting these empowered Demobilised former soldiers to Reintegrate and pursue successful civilian lives.

The guest of honour Wiliam Deng Deng, the SSDDRC Chairperson praised the effort of these women and congratulated them for their devotion to make the opening day a reality. He urged them to work hard and improve the welfare of their families through the income they get from their work. However, he cautioned them against the culture of helping able dependants through cash handouts since that will, in the long run, severely compromise the ability to save and may also promote the culture of laziness.

On the other hand, H.E Deng Deng urged the partners to work together to deliver to the former soldiers and WAAF. Furthermore he gave a word of caution to the partners' representatives and donors to only act on formally signed written agreements as opposed to verbal directives as lots of views are shared which may change from one government department to another. Therefore, to minimise confusion implementation should be reserved for agreed actions points with the SSDDR Commission.

we mean business

Implementing Partner GIZ has completed the first module on literacy and numeracy which benefited 448 former soldiers who were Demobilised in Torit, Eastern Equatoria State. This same group is now beginning 3 months of vocational training including tailoring, auto-mechanics, carpentry, cooking, construction-building and micro-business. A baby-sitter service is also provided to former soldiers / WAAF with children to make sure mothers can concentrate on their class work.

