

Total Demobilised
in South Sudan

12,525

Fri 1 July 2011



from South Sudan



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SPLA embraces Public Information Strategy

The SPLA Moral Orientation attended a workshop on the new draft Public Information Strategy at the SSDDR Commission on 29 July. The meeting was opened by William Deng Deng, Chairperson of the DDR Commission, highlighting the importance of Public Information for the success of the DDR programme for the new South Sudan. "At this point in time the country is going to experience two important things, the Independence and the new DDR programme which is entirely our responsibility. We are not throwing away the soldiers but providing them with an alternative livelihood for the benefit of the entire country. It is very easy to mobilise for war but difficult to demobilise the soldiers to become civilians so we need to be organised in order to make the DDR programme a success."

Colonel Benjamin Makuer from the SPLA and based at the DDR Commission gave a little back-



SPLA Moral Orientation team at the PI workshop in Juba.

ground into the importance of this workshop: "Public Information has been lacking from the SPLA in the past, even our command was slow in understanding what DDR really

is" and continued "what I would suggest that SPLA requests workshops in DDR policy in order to take Public Information messages to our comrades".

For SPLA Moral Orientation Directorate the way forward is clear and communication is key in their view. Col Kella Duol Kueth embraced the options of languages saying: "When an area is targeted for DDR it is very important to survey that area in order to use the languages that are mostly spoken". For Lt Col Algali Musa Tia reaffirmed the use of Arabic for his native Nuba mountains "in some areas of South Sudan the majority of the population are speaking Arabic" and Major Michael Kondel went on to explain "In the military we do not address our soldiers in tribal languages we use the simple Arabic which is the language of command and communications from DDR can follow this".

The PI Taskforce is taking all considerations into our draft PI strategy and welcomes suggestions from the SPLA to work closely together for all our DDR communications in the future.

In Juba on the 7 June the final draft of the new Policy paper on DDR in South Sudan was presented to stakeholders including the SPLA and various Donors. The new South Sudan DDR Policy document has identified the first step in the preparation of the new DDR programme is to be the identification of transition facilities for the former soldiers to obtain skills during the waiting periods of DDR.

The South Sudan DDR Commission in consultation with SPLA has identified three potential locations where the transition facilities can be set up. This is envisaged to be finalized before the end of this year so that the programme will be able to start early next year.

A first reconnaissance mission

SPLA transition facilities



Team from SSDDRC, SPLA, UNMIS and UNDP make an assessment visit.

to these three locations was conducted on 16, 17 and 20 June by a joint team from SSDDRC/SPLA/UNMIS/UNDP to assess the viability of the potential locations for the DDR process.

The locations visited were: Mapel in Greater Bahr el Ghazal; Khorfulus in Greater Upper Nile; Yei in Greater Equatoria. The planning process is ongoing and final decision will be made at management level where the operational approaches will be thoroughly discussed and agreed upon during the redesigning the new SSDDR programme.

The SPLA is currently transforming from a liberation army to a modern, and professional force and DDR is one of the key vehicles for helping SPLA in this transition.

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 <https://picasaweb.google.com/ssddrpi?>

THE NEW DDR PUBLIC INFORMATION STRATEGIC OUTLINE



Public Information Taskforce member briefing DDR stakeholders in Rumbek (left) and Malakal (right) on the new PI Strategic Outline

The Public Information Taskforce conducted consultative field visits to Rumbek and Malakal from the 19 to the 24 June to present the draft Public Information Strategic Outlines to the States for their inputs prior to finalisation of the strategic document.

The workshop, which was conducted at SSDDR Commission conference rooms in both Rumbek and Malakal, attracted a total of 36 participants from

Knowledge is wisdom

IUNDDR, SSDDRC, Food and Agricultural Organization, BRAC and Radio Miraya. The workshops were formally opened by the State Coordinators who appreciated the gesture as timely, especially at this point when South Sudan is preparing for a new DDR programme.

The objective of the mission

was to share the DDR Public Information Strategic Outlines with the state teams with the aim to include their views and concerns to create a sub-national action plan for public information that is relevant to each state. A learning session on training for DDR PI basics, including handling media relations at state

level was also conducted. It is envisaged that it will in turn encourage and create ownership of the DDR Public Information component.

Vibrant participation, especially after the presentations on the draft strategy and PI basic concepts, will lead to comments on the overall Public Information Strategic Outlines which will be incorporated into the overall strategy.

Former soldiers in the Northern Bahr el Ghazal State capital Aweil were awarded certificates and driving licenses after completing a six-week driving course.

The training, which was attended by 14 former soldiers was organised by South Sudan Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC) and sponsored by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) as the Implementing Partner for the UNDP Reintegration programme.

“As long as you have a strong will and interest to be drivers, you will do well. South Sudan needs skilled personnel like you to boost development right after its independence,” said Wilson Lual Lual, SSDDRC State Coordinator.

Mr. Lual commended the Nyankiir Transport and Construction Company for conducting the training and added that the 14 were among the former soldiers in the state to have successfully completed the DDR process. He cautioned the new drivers to avoid driving under the influence of alcohol. Wany Anyit Majok, State Education Advisor, congratulated the graduates and said there was a need to organise similar trainings in different disciplines including carpentry, mechanics, masonry, and farming.

On the road



Former soldiers awarded certificates and driving licenses after completing a six-week driving course.

“You are visionaries who have realised opportunities ahead with the Independence of South Sudan”, said John Anodam, the Programme Specialist for UNDP NBeG State. It is hoped that if any vacancies for drivers opened up at IOM or SSDDRC, these drivers may be considered.

Graduate Simon Bak thanked the SSDDRC, IOM and other partners

for their role in organising the training. “When we started DDR process, we doubted its success, but now we are here as drivers ready to start our lives as civilians,” he said. The UN and SSDDRC launched DDR activities in the state in July 2010 and targeted some 2,600 DDR participants including former soldiers and Women Associated with Armed Forces (WAAF).

“

South Sudan needs skilled personnel like you to boost development right after its independence

You are visionaries who have realised opportunities ahead with the Independence of South Sudan

”

Talking DDR in Lakes State

On 21 June, Rumbek County saw yet another group of happy former soldiers who actively participated in the auctioning, haggling and purchasing of animals in the Government managed animal market in Rumbek town.

The former soldiers and Women Associated with Armed Forces who were Demobilised in 2010 with agriculture as their Reintegration option, received ox-ploughs and small ruminants as start-up kits from Food and Agricultural Organization and BRAC.

Among those who attended the animal distribution ceremony Member of Parliament for Wulu County, H.E. Moses Taban Manyiel. Addressing the former soldiers and community, the Member of Parliament for Wulu County



appreciated the contribution of the DDR programme in its efforts to Reintegrate the former soldiers into civilian life and back to the com-

munities. The Member of Parliament said Wulu County has seventy five former soldiers and sixty four of them have already gone through

Reintegration, many of whom are now cultivating.

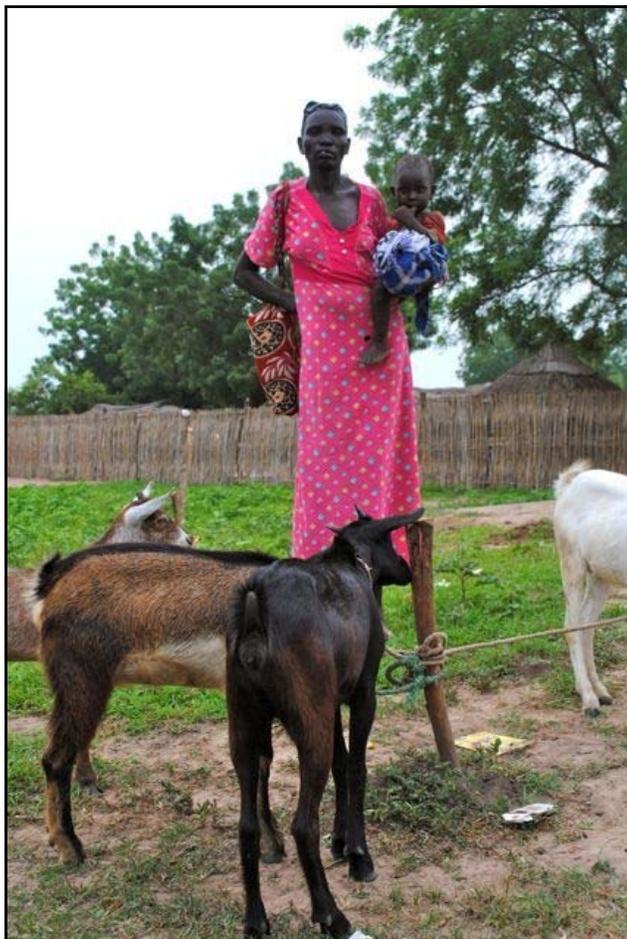
“Though the season for ploughing is running out as the dry season is approaching, I hope that the next rains will favour our farmers so that they can grow crops for sale and home consumption, hence improve food security.”

H.E. Moses Taban Manyiel recommended that the distribution process where the former soldiers are given the opportunity to select the animals of their choice before bidding and final purchase. This, Mr Manyiel said, would rule out incidences of beneficiaries coming back to seek exchange for the animals they did not like or were imposed on them and allow transparency on the side of Implementing Partners.

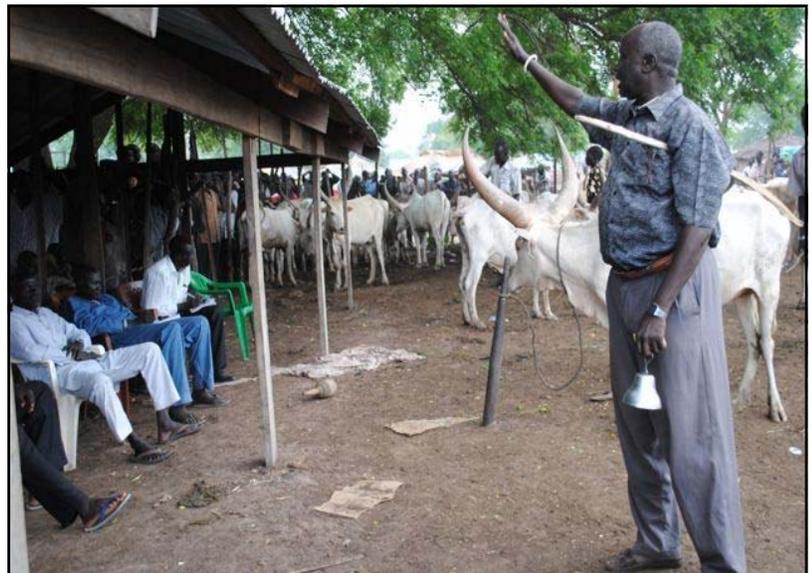
FOCUS: REINTEGRATION IN LAKES STATE

Goats, cows and cash

‘ I had one goat, now DDR has given me four more ’



(Above) A former soldier with her goats . (Top right) A former soldier bidding for bulls at the market.



Though Phase I of the Sudan DDR programme has ended, Reintegration is ongoing in few states

“I will sell my goats for cash and exchange some for cows when the goats that DDR provided me multiply in number.” These were the words of Ms. Yar Ahorn, a happy former soldier who received goats as a start up kit for her Reintegration programme.

“I had one goat before, now DDR has given me four more. I promise to take good care of them so that my family can benefit. I am proud that I own some things now,” she narrated.

She advised other DDR beneficiaries not to be tempted to sell their start-up kits for money but to invest

and become rich in the future. She however called upon the Government of South Sudan to support the DDR Programme and allow it to continue so that others who are redundant in the army can benefit as well. She also thanked the Food and Agricultural Organisation and BRAC for giving her the animals. Though the first phase of the Sudan DDR programme has ended, Reintegration is ongoing in Rumbek, Lakes State, with former soldiers and Women Associated with Armed Forces (WAAF) receiving training and start up kits for their chosen careers.