



# Ex-Combatants Get Business Tool-Kits

**South Sudan National Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (NDDRC) in Western Bahr el Ghazal state has begun distributing business tool-kits to 92 ex-combatants who graduated in Mapel town two months ago.**

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Ex-combatants receiving agricultural tool-kits in Wau. [James Deng Dimo]

**By James Deng Dimo**

**WAU, 2 November [Gurtong]** - The kits include agricultural tools, carpentry and building materials.

“The World Bank is in cooperation with DDRC will help South Sudan in making a successful DDRC program in the Country.” said Alexandra Burrall, the World Bank Transitional Demobilization Reintegration Program operations officer.

“The reintegration ex-combatants through this program are a critical piece of the Country’s focus in the sustainable livelihood,” she said.

Speaking to the press conference, the state coordinator William Tong said the kits are very important since they will enable the ex-combatants to start up their local business.

Tong urged to combatants not to sell their kits in the market but to exercise their business.

“However the ex-combatants will have economic challenges, the NDDRC commission will be monitoring the activities being run by each combatant,” said Tong.

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“The National Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (NDDRC) in Western Bahr el Ghazal state is achieving today an important milestone in the pilot of the Republic of South Sudan’s new national DDR program,” said Tong.

The NDDRC has begun distributing reintegration livelihood toolkits to ex-combatants participating in the current DDR pilot program.

“The toolkits will assist the ex-combatants to achieve sustainable livelihoods by using the skills and tools they receive as benefits of DDR,” said Tong.

The toolkits distribution is taking place at the National Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Commission office in Wau, WBGs from 1st November 2013 through Saturday the 2nd November 2013.

The kits are available for those ex-combatants who have been trained and recently graduated from Mapel as participants in the South Sudan National Disarmament and Reintegration Commission’s current pilot program.

The new National DDR program is a South Sudan government owned program under the office of the president of the Republic of South Sudan. The DDR is among the top priorities of the government aimed at promoting stability and sustainable livelihoods in the country and rightsizing the national army to meet the international standard following the signing of comprehensive peace agreement in 2005.

About 150,000 active soldiers are targeted for our new nation’s DDR program, including 80,000 from the army and 70,000 from the national organize forces, said Tong.

The NDDRC is currently starting this work through a pilot program serving 290 soldiers from the Greater Bahr el Ghazal state.

Out of 290 ex-combatants, 92 belong to Western Bahr el Ghazal state while 18 are females and 74 are males.

Tong said the initiative is a support from the national Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration commission partners specifically the World Bank’s Transitional Demobilization and Reintegration program (TDRP) and founded by KfW of the German government.