

child soldier during the war and the UN agency came into agreement with SPLA to demobilize "Child Soldiers" out of the

DDR program. Those in the forefront of the exercise are Southern Sudan Disarmament Demobilisation

UNMIS, and Child Protection CP. Oluku said SPLA has shown commitment in respecting CAAFs since 1996. He said

SPLA said the decision was right then because SPLA got recognized as an armed force which respected

## UNDP rolls out CTP training for ex-combatants in Eastern Equatoria.

By Allen Poni Ladu

**JUBA - The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on 26th/9/2010 conducted a ten-day Civilian Training Package (CTP) workshop for ex-combatants and women associated with armed forces in Eastern Equatoria State, as part of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) program.**

The workshop that attracted over 70 participants was conducted in Torit diocese training hall. The training was aimed at giving ex-combatants important life skills to facilitate their reintegration into society. The ex-combatants will also be equipped with livelihoods training so that they can have a positive impact on society and also to prepare them for a peaceful and easy re-integration in the community.

"During the war, many ex-combatants acquired a different perspective to life which may differ from that of the communities they are to be re-integrated into," explained Mary Ombaka, UNDP's Civilian Training Consultant.

Ex-combatants gearing up during the training, while Mrs. Mary their trainer looks on. The civilian training package covers topics on Malaria, HIV/AIDs and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs),

River blindness (OV), hygiene and sanitation, civic education and citizenship, peace building and conflict management and mother-child care and nutrition. The package content was compiled by Mrs. Mary Ombark in coordination with South Sudan Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC). The CTP is also mandatory for all ex-combatants and Women associated with armed forces (WAAF) enrolled in the program. Each ex-combatant and WAAF must receive the training as one of the steps to reintegrate them into society. The next step for these men and women is to start economic training with one of the DDR program implementing partners. GTZ has been contracted to give ex combatants and WAAF training, start up materials and follow up support in Eastern Equatoria.

During the training, ex-combatants expressed gratitude and willingness to learn, a positive step in the reintegration process. The reintegration programme has now started in Eastern Equatoria [and] "Following the CPT training, GTZ will train ex-combatants on a livelihood option they have chosen," explained UNDP's Gender and HIV Specialist, Julius Otim.

Each combatant goes through a soul

searching experience to think about what they would like to do when they rejoin society. That is a first step towards ownership and it helps the trainee to sustain what they have learned, according to Mr. Otim. He said the training is one of the initial processes of reintegrating ex-combatants into their community.

"Demobilisation and reintegration does not mean taking ex-combatants' weapons but it is to equip them with new skills to live a happy and comfortable life," he said.

DDR is a Government-led program for 90,000 combatants and women associated with armed groups (WAAF) from the SPLA in South Sudan and 90,000 combatants and WAAF from the SAF & PDF in North Sudan. SSDDRC is responsible for leading DDR in Southern Sudan. UNMIS is the lead organization providing support to the SSDDRC with demobilization and UNDP provides lead support with reintegration.

Reintegration is underway in 7 states in South Sudan. In each state reintegration consists of training, start-up materials and follow up services. Training lasts 3 months and includes literacy and numeracy skills, and civilian life skills such as how to prevent HIV/AIDs, Child nutrition and Civic Education.

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