



MEDIA RELEASE

Demobilisation launch in Western Bahr El Ghazal

For immediate release

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Demobilisation activities launch today in Wau, Western Bahr El Ghazal State of South Sudan. In the coming weeks, more than 3,500 ex-combatants and women associated with armed forces are expected to arrive in the assembly area which is approximately 5 kms from the demobilisation site. With the assistance of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the eligible participants of the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programme will enter a demobilisation process, consisting of counselling, briefings and some material support, at the DDR State Office in eastern side of Wau town.

The DDR process in South Sudan is led by the Southern Sudan Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (SSDDRC). UNMIS is the lead organisation providing support to the SSDDRC with Demobilisation and UNDP provides lead support with Reintegration. Since DDR demobilisation began in June 2009, there have been 8,526 people demobilised across South Sudan¹, including Central Equatoria, Lakes, Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Eastern Equatoria States.

“The DDR process will provide these ex-combatants with intensive professional support to help them reintegrate into their communities. The DDR participants richly deserve this unique opportunity to return to their communities with the skills and abilities necessary to build an honourable and productive new Sudan. We at the SSDDRC are proud to lead and participate in this process”, said William Deng Deng, Chairperson of SSDDRC.

“UNMIS is committed to support the National DDR institutions and particularly SSDDRC to implement the national DDR programme. Throughout the demobilisation phase, ex-combatants, members of special needs groups and women associated with

¹ South Sudan demobilisation figures correct for 22nd October 2010.

armed forces receive a Transitional Support Allowances that help them to sustain their livelihood for a short period of time until they receive their economic reintegration package”, said Sidi Zahabi, Chief Integrated DDR Unit, United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

In Western Bahr El Ghazal, the reintegration activities will be carried out by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) which has already rolled out reintegration in Western Bahr El Ghazal, Northern Bahr El Ghazal and WARRAP States. If needed, the candidates are trained in literacy and numeracy skills after which they can start different training programmes, such as agriculture or animal husbandry, skills to run a restaurant or other small business, brick making, hairdressing or mechanics, among others. Disabled and war wounded ex-combatants are entitled to the same training and packages as able bodied DDR candidates. Mothers can bring their children along and every effort is made to facilitate for them.

The Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) process was agreed upon in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005. Successful DDR is vital for peace and for sustainable development of South Sudan’s economy. Communities must be involved to support returning ex-combatants so that together South Sudan can grow.

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