

## Pointing the Way to Successful Reintegration in Lakes State



For Priscilla Nyanyony (pictured), the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process is both personal and professional. Once a sergeant in the SPLA in charge of 34 men and women, she demobilized in Rumbek, Lakes State, in 2009 to begin a new life as a civilian.

Soon after, the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) – one of a number of implementing partners working with the Southern Sudan DDR

Commission (SSDDRC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on reintegration – offered her a job.

Drawing on her experience as a DDR participant, Priscilla provides counselling to ex-combatants and WAAFs and helps them make decisions about their reintegration options. The programme she works for also offers material and vocational support – including a one-off grant, and literacy and numeracy training. Courses in carpentry, welding, hairdressing, construction, and small business management are available as well.

Priscilla also helps encourage new people to register by raising awareness about the DDR process. She does this through radio announcements in Dinka, where she provides details about where and when reintegration assistance can be accessed.

She is very happy to be working on the DDR programme, especially since she is directly helping some of her old SPLA colleagues.

“On the first day of registration in Rumbek, when GTZ received the first people for assistance, seven of my friends from Akocheng arrived”, Priscilla recalls. “We shared memories of the military camps and I then spoke to them about some of their options.”

DDR is a Government-led Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration programme 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. The South Sudan DDR Commission (SSDDRC) is responsible for leading DDR in South Sudan. UNMIS is the lead organization providing support to the SSDDRC with Demobilization and UNDP provide lead support with Reintegration.

In most post-conflict contexts, DDR is a fundamental requirement for securing the transition to peace. But when ex-combatants demobilize, they are often left with

limited skills or economic opportunities to support themselves and their families. This is why the SSDDRC, which was established in 2005, is working with the Integrated UN DDR Unit to create an enabling environment for human security. This Unit is comprised of UNDP, the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Food Programme (WFP).

In general, reintegration consists of three main components – economic, social and community reintegration. This is exactly what the Commission is focusing on, with support from key partners. Right now, both demobilization and registration for reintegration trainings are ongoing in Northern Bahr El Ghazal. Reintegration trainings by GTZ are continuing in Central Equatoria and Lakes states, and demobilization followed by registration for ex-combatant trainings are expected to start soon in Eastern Equatoria, Warrap and Western Bahr El Ghazal.

The DDR programme is providing opportunities for the future for those demobilized from the SPLA. Priscilla understands this better than most, and is looking forward to assisting DDR participants in Lakes State as they make the journey back to civilian life, contributing to a peaceful and prosperous future for southern Sudan.

