

# The ILO activities in the greater Great Lakes Region



Briefing Note No. 11

ILO/CRISIS, December 2007

## The ILO and Socio-Economic Reintegration

The ILO's mandate is to promote social justice around the world and fight against poverty by providing access to decent work. The ILO is committed to provide decent work opportunities to ex-combatants to move on from war-torn past to productive civilian future.

### Through MDRP

The ILO has actively engaged in the implementation of MDRP. The ILO has provided its technical expertise to conceptualise and implement long term socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants and other people affected by war in the region.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- Following the request from the Transitional Government of the DRC and the World Bank, the ILO supported the Transitional Government draft the National Programme for DDR. The process was funded by the Multi Donor Trust Fund and coordinated by UNDP.
- Between 2001 and 2003, the ILO engaged in the implementation of the pilot programme to reintegrate vulnerable groups from armed forces.
- During this period, the ILO assessed labour absorption capacities within various sectors, provided Congolese demobilised combatants with vocational rehabilitation and income generating activities, together with BUNADER, the World Bank and IOM.
- Since 2004, the ILO has assisted 7,020 beneficiaries (male and female ex-combatants) by supporting their income-generating activities with a focus on micro and small enterprises and cooperatives.
- In five provinces (Bandundu, Equateur, Maniema, and North Kivu and South Kivu), the beneficiaries have received job referral and counselling, training on business management and vocational training.
- Since 2006, the ILO has carried out vocational-training and entrepreneurship assistance for sustainable socio-economic reintegration of about 7,000 ex-combatants in five provinces.

In Burundi:

- A programme proposal has been submitted and is waiting for a final approval. The programme is to assist the National Commission for DDR to implement vocational training for demobilised soldiers.

### Through Other Activities

Besides the MDRP framework, the ILO also engages in the sustainable reintegration in the greater Great Lakes region.

Between 2002 and 2007, the ILO's International Programme on the Eradication of Child Labour (IPEC) has provided assistance to children formerly associated with armed forces and groups and children that risk to be recruited by armed forces in countries as Burundi, the DRC, the Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

The ILO's assistance for the children includes the provision of vocational guidance, basic education, vocational training, business start-up support and social protection schemes at local health institutions.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo:

- 1,700 children (including 367 girls) formerly associated with armed forces and groups were reintegrated into civilian life.
- The recruitment of 897 children (including 436 girls) at risk was prevented.
- Vocational training and employment support were provided to these children.
- Labour market assessments were carried out in several provinces in the DRC.
- In South Kivu, the ILO has assisted socio-economic reintegration of approximate 500

Briefing Note No. 11

children and young people by providing business development services, mentoring, access to micro credit and micro health insurance.

In Burundi:

- 1,500 children formerly associated with armed forces and groups were reintegrated.
- 1,000 children at risk were prevented from joining armed forces.

### The ILO within the IAWG on DDR

The ILO is a member of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (IAWG DDR), which was formerly established in 2005.

Along with other 14 UN organisations, the ILO has engaged in developing knowledge and tools for an integrated, effective DDR. For example, the ILO contributed a module on socio-economic reintegration to the Integrated DDR Standard (IDDRS). The ILO also provides technical advice to national governments to design long term reintegration policies.

## The ILO Guidelines and Tools for Post-Conflict Reintegration

Available at [www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/crisis/info/g\\_publ.htm](http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/crisis/info/g_publ.htm)

- *Manual on Training and Employment Options for Ex-Combatants*
- *Red Shoes: Experiences of Girls Combatants in Liberia*
- *Operational Guide: Local Economic Development in Post-Crisis Situations*
- *Guidelines for Establishing Emergency Public Employment Services*
- *Employment-Intensive Reconstruction Works in Countries Emerging from Armed Conflicts*

### CONTACTS

**International Labour Organisation** ([www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org))  
4, route des Morillons, 1211

**ILO/CRISIS** ([www.ilo.org/crisis](http://www.ilo.org/crisis))

Alfredo Lazarte-Hoyle  
E-mail: [lazarte@ilo.org](mailto:lazarte@ilo.org)  
Tel. +41 – 22 – 799 8822

Shukuko Koyama  
E-mail: [koyama@ilo.org](mailto:koyama@ilo.org)  
Tel. +41 – 22 – 799 6724

**International Programme on the Eradication of Child Labour (IPEC)**

([www.ilo.org/ipecc/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/index.htm))

Maria Jose Chamorro  
E-mail: [chamorro@ilo.org](mailto:chamorro@ilo.org)  
Tel. +41 – 22 – 799 7427