

Post-Conflict Re-Integration of Ex-Combatants in Countries Affected by Civil War

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1 Introduction¹

Once a peace treaty, ceasefire or cessation of hostility in a civil war is signed, there are thousands of combatants who are no longer “needed”. When the fighting is over, they lose their livelihood, their social network and their sense of purpose. Therefore, to them, the return to their troops and to the patterns of violent behavior they learned during the civil war may appear to be the logical thing to do. Thus, the formation of militias and the rise of banditry is a considerable danger to stability and security in post-conflict countries. Disarming the former soldiers and removing them from their fighting faction certainly goes a long way towards securing stability in the short run. In order to rebuild a social fabric that can ensure long-lasting peace, however, it is vital that the ex-combatants are re-integrated into life as civilians.²

Therefore, the United Nations Security Council included disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants in the mandates of each one of the UN’s seven most recent peacekeeping operations.³ Despite the fact that the UN has continuously put greater effort into implementing DDR-programs, no resolution that deals with DDR in a comprehensive way has been passed. In this year’s CSocD, we will try and change that by passing a resolution on the re-integration of ex-combatants.

2 Background

In order to understand what exactly our topic encompasses, let us take a look at the definitions regarding DDR as they were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (abridged; for the entire definitions please check out the given sources):

- Disarmament: The collection and disposal of weaponry from combatants and civilians.
- Demobilization: Discharging and separating active combatants from their armed groups.
- Reinsertion: Short-term aid to ex-combatants to cover their immediate needs such as food, clothes and housing.
- Re-integration: Ex-combatants becoming civilians with sustainable employment.^{4,5}

Please note that in some sources, reconciliation and/or rehabilitation, vital aspects of the re-integration of ex-combatants, are viewed as separate stages of DDR. Therefore, you may come across abbreviations such as DDR&R, DDDR or DDDRR during your further research. These all refer to the same process as DDR.⁶

¹ A word on the footnotes in this particular research report: They are used solely to give the sources to the statements made here. Therefore, if you are currently not interested in the sources, you do not need to check the footnotes.

² cf. Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War“; 2007; Available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/sib/egm/paper/Jennifer%20Hazen.pdf>.

³ cf. <http://www.unddr.org/whatisddr.php#11> (26 December 2011).

⁴ cf. United Nations General Assembly, “Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-Integration – Report of the Secretary General”; 2 March 2006 [A/60/705], pg. 8.

⁵ cf. Specht et al., „Reintegration Strategy for Ex-Combatants“; Bonn International Center for Conversion; 2006; pg. 3.

⁶ cf. Ibid., Glossary: DDR.

As you can see, disarmament and demobilization can easily be thematically separated from re-integration. However, you will see in this research report that re-insertion – though technically the second stage of demobilization⁷ – inevitably influences the preconditions for re-integration. Therefore it will be addressed in this research report as well.

3 A Short History of DDR

Considering that the United Nations Charter states that one of the UN's aims is "to maintain international peace and security",⁸ it is surprising that the UN had not been involved in DDR, a process so vital to peacekeeping and peace-building, before 1989.⁹ Jonah Leff of the research project "Small Arms Survey" suggests that the international community shifting its attention to intra-state conflicts and their aftermath at this time is rooted in the end of the cold war.¹⁰

In the past twenty years, international attention to the topic has continuously grown and the UN is not only supporting the aforementioned DDR programs in the countries with a UN peacekeeping mission, but also DDR programs in other countries including Afghanistan, Niger and Somalia.¹¹ The grown awareness also resulted in the formation of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-Integration (IAWG-DDR) that consists of 14 UN organizations with expertise on the field (e.g. the Department for Peacekeeping Operations, the International Labor Organization and the United Nations Development Program) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). It published the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-Integration Standards (IDDRS) in 2006. One reason for composing the IDDRS was the realization that without such a generally accepted document, each DDR program had to be drawn up from square one by the involved organizations, relying on vague reports and own experiences. This resulted in uncoordinated and thus ineffective DDR programs.¹²

If you are interested in an overview of the DDR programs that have been commissioned since 1990, please take a look at page 17 of the DDR retrospective available at http://unddr.org/docs/DDR_retrospective.pdf.

3.1 Other Official Documents on DDR

Annex B to Chapter 2.10 of the IDDRS lists the UN documents that apply to disarmament, demobilization and re-integration.¹³ These include statements by the President of the Security Council appreciating the role of DDR in peacekeeping and peace-building, most notably one given in 2000.¹⁴ Moreover, several resolutions regarding women and children were passed that included references to DDR. In these resolutions, DDR is mentioned in passing only, the gist being that the

⁷ cf. United Nations General Assembly, "Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-Integration – Report of the Secretary General"; 2 March 2006 [A/60/705], pg. 8.

⁸ Charter of the United Nations, Article 1; Available at: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter1.shtml>.

⁹ cf. IAWG-DDR, "Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards"; 2010; pg. 13.

¹⁰ cf. Leff, J.: "The Nexus between Social Capital and Reintegration of Ex-combatants: A Case for Sierra Leone", *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* Vol. 8 (1) 2008; pg. 9.

¹¹ cf. <http://www.unddr.org/whatisddr.php#11> (26 December 2011).

¹² cf. IAWG-DDR, "Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards"; 2010; pg. 13-14 and 281.

¹³ cf. <http://unddr.org/iddrs/02/#b> (2 January 2012).

¹⁴ cf. UNSC, Statement by the President of the Security Council; 23 March 2000 [S/PRST/2000/10].

inclusion of women and children in DDR programs shall be ensured and that their special needs shall be considered during the implementation of such programs.^{15,16,17,18}

The UN resolution with the most comprehensive section on DDR probably is resolution 59/296, passed by the General Assembly in 2005. In section VI of this resolution, the GA, inter alia,

- appreciates a note by the Secretary General on, among other issues, the IDDRS and
- voices its support for a coordinated, integrated approach to DDR.¹⁹

4 Situation in Post-Conflict Countries

In order to understand the necessity of DDR programs and the problems encountered during their implementation, it is important to understand the environment for these programs. Typically, these are countries where a year-long armed conflict has just been concluded. Naturally, the extent to which the following characteristics are present in each country varies, which is one of the reasons why there is no blueprint for a DDR program that would work in any country.

4.1 Social Environment

During war, people have to choose their allegiances or they may be chosen for them. Most obviously, civil wars imply the formation of two or more factions within one country. These factions may be divided along the lines of formal groups such as political parties, religion or ethnicity (e.g. in Rwanda and Burundi the war mainly raged between Hutus and Tutsis^{20,21}) or other factors. The longer the war lasts, the worse the disintegration of societies gets as inflammatory rhetoric against other formal groups may be employed in order to gain supporters or split up the opponent. This may happen even if these affiliations were not the initial catalyst for the hostilities. As Jennifer Hazen, formerly at the University for Peace, notes: “The goals of fighting factions often evolve, changing from such lofty aims as political reform, to a focus on destroying the ‘other.’”²²

Another division within the communities may not be as obvious but it is vital to the understanding of the topic “re-integration of ex-combatants”: The division into combatants and non-combatants also plays a big role in the process of social disintegration. Joining an armed group leads to the formation of new social bonds within these factions. At the same time, the relationships to non-combatants deteriorate drastically as combatants are distrusted by the communities and are displaced to the location of the conflict.^{23,24}

Regarding this division it is important to take note of the fact that recruitment into an armed group does not necessarily happen voluntarily. On the one hand, armies may recruit new combatants through violence or threat thereof. This is especially true for women and children, who are often also

¹⁵ cf. UNSC resolution 1325 (2000), 31 October 2000 [S/RES/1325 (2000)].

¹⁶ cf. UNSC resolution 1460 (2003), 30 January 2003 [S/RES/1460 (2003)].

¹⁷ cf. UNSC resolution 1379 (2001), 20 October 2001 [S/RES/1379 (2001)].

¹⁸ cf. UNSC resolution 1539 (2004), 22 April 2004 [S/RES/1539 (2004)].

¹⁹ cf. UN GA resolution 59/296, 15 August 2005 [A/RES/59/296].

²⁰ cf. <http://unddr.org/countryprogrammes.php?c=17> (27 December 2011).

²¹ cf. <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/unomurbackgr.html> (27 December 2011).

²² Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War”; 2007; pg. 2.

²³ cf. Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War”; 2007; pg. 2f, 8.

²⁴ cf. IAWG-DDR, “Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards”; 2010; p. 34.

forced by the “recruiters” to take drugs in an effort to break their resistance.^{25,26} On the other hand, recruits may agree to join a fighting faction because they lack viable alternative options which will be discussed in the section “economic environment” below.^{27,28}

The distrust against combatants as well as suspicion and fear regarding their return to the communities grows with the level of violence and atrocities against civilians, sometimes even against those within the combatants’ own home-communities (this happened in Sierra Leone, amongst others).²⁹ This issue is not resolved when a peace agreement is reached, especially since many states in post-conflict situations lack the capacities to prosecute large number of war crimes. Therefore, the reconciliation process “often ends being a matter of forgive and forget without the proper forgiveness mechanisms in place”, as Jennifer Hazen puts it.³⁰ The death of community members breaks up social networks even further, especially if the fatalities were community leaders.^{31,32}

It would be falling short, however, to disregard the social bonds that develop within fighting units. As the combatants spend a lot of time together and share a common set of goals, norms and patterns of behavior, they form a social network, a “war family”. This social integration is encouraged and even forced upon the combatants by the military leaders as it is imperative for having the troops adhere to the hierarchy and follow orders. For those who joined voluntarily, the following may be motivators for forming social bonds within their unit and stay within their fighting faction:

- security
- a sense of belonging and purpose
- belief in the goals of their faction
- rise in social status and
- economic gain, e.g. access to luxury goods.

For those who were recruited forcefully, the identification with their faction is often forced by the leaders through:

- indoctrination
- drugs
- physical violence, rape and even
- forcing the recruits to kill their family and killing members of their village, thus taking away the option to go back to their former life.

²⁵ cf. Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War”; 2007; pg. 4.

²⁶ cf. OROLSI, “DDR in Peacekeeping Operations – A Retrospective”; September 2010; pg. 24.

²⁷ cf. Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War”; 2007; pg. 2f, 8.

²⁸ cf. IAWG-DDR, “Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards”; 2010; p. 34.

²⁹ cf. Ginifer, Jeremy, “Re-Integration of Ex-Combatants” in ISS, “Monograph 80: Sierra Leone, Building the Road to Recovery”; 1 March 2003; pg. 39.

³⁰ Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War”; 2007; pg. 8.

³¹ cf. Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War”; 2007; pg. 2f, 8.

³² cf. IAWG-DDR, “Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards”; 2010; p. 34.

Over the years of conflict (remember that many of these civil wars rage several years), social integration into the war family is reached even for those who were recruited forcefully.^{33,34}

In conclusion, civil war leads to the fragmentation of society into several small, exclusive groups, the war families. Since leaving these social networks post-conflict is connected to great levels of uncertainty for many soldiers, the main challenge for the re-integration of ex-combatants is the destruction of their war family and the construction of an intact society that allows and fosters stability and development. At the same time, the social situation pre-conflict (e.g. in countries with great inequality) may have been one of the root causes for the war and the re-establishment thereof should be avoided, as well.³⁵

4.2 The Economic Environment

The economic environment in post-conflict countries is worth considering since it directly affects the reasons for joining an armed group and the conditions for socio-economic re-integration of ex-combatants.

During war, the economy often comes to a near stand-still because even seemingly simple economic transactions like growing and selling food become difficult and dangerous in the context of a raging armed conflict. There are several factors that destroy the economy in a war:

- When violence and insecurity are ever-present in the countryside, any economic activity – including production, transportation and trade – is difficult to complete. This is especially true of agriculture when land mines are used.
- The depletion of the workforce by recruitment, war fatalities and displacement further destroys the economy. This is especially true of agriculture, which requires a lot of laborers. Keep in mind that most or all DDR-programs are implemented in less- or least-developed countries (LDCs/LLDCs) where agriculture is responsible for a big part of the gross domestic product (e.g. Burundi, where over 30% of the GDP and 93% of all jobs stem from agriculture³⁶).^{37,38}
- Social disintegration (see previous chapter) leads to the destruction of “social capital”, i.e. “networks of trust, which are based on agreed upon norms that can enhance efficiency through collaborative action”.³⁹ The main problem of destruction of social capital is its grave effect on political life and the peace-building process. However, its effect on the economy should not be disregarded, either, since trust and the will to work together are vital to economic development.⁴⁰

³³ cf. Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War”; 2007; pg. 3f.

³⁴ cf. Leff, J.: “The Nexus between Social Capital and Reintegration of Ex-combatants: A Case for Sierra Leone”, *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* Vol. 8 (1) 2008; pg. 13.

³⁵ cf. Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War”; 2007; pg. 1.

³⁶ cf. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/by.html> (30 December 2011).

³⁷ cf. Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War”; 2007; pg. 2f.

³⁸ cf. IAWG-DDR, “Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards”; 2010; p. 35.

³⁹ Leff, J.: “The Nexus between Social Capital and Reintegration of Ex-combatants: A Case for Sierra Leone”, *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* Vol. 8 (1) 2008; pg. 12.

⁴⁰ cf. Leff, J.: “The Nexus between Social Capital and Reintegration of Ex-combatants: A Case for Sierra Leone”, *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* Vol. 8 (1) 2008; pg. 13.

The effects of the destruction of the economy include that options to earn livelihoods become very scarce both during and after the war, depriving recruits/ex-combatants of alternatives to fighting or banditry. Post-conflict, the flood of ex-combatants (along with many civilians who were displaced or lost their jobs during the war) on the job market may leave many applicants jobless and thus without the means to secure basic needs. In such a situation, the temptation to return to their war family and create a livelihood through violence criminality is bound to endanger the peace-building efforts. Keep in mind that many ex-combatants lack formal education, vocational training and experience in civilian jobs since they had spent the last few years in battle. Hence, they are often called a “lost generation”.^{41,42}

5 Approaches to Re-Integration

The Operational Guide to the IDDRS identifies three different approaches to re-integration of ex-combatants. These can also co-exist within one DDR-program and are not always clearly separable:

5.1 Short-Term Stabilization (Re-Insertion)

This approach to peace-building focuses on stabilizing countries where the conclusion of the conflict has recently been achieved. Usually, these stopgap-programs take place in the time – usually two to three months – between the actual demobilization and re-integration. Since these programs do not immediately aim at sustainability but at short-term stabilization, they are considered part of the demobilization process, not re-integration in the definitions used by the UN (and introduced in the chapter “Background” of this research report).^{43,44}

Re-insertion efforts may include:

- Providing ex-combatants with financial means to meet their immediate needs such as clothes, food and transportation to the community they plan to start the re-integration process in. For example, over 20,000 ex-combatants in Rwanda received RW 60,000 (about \$100,-⁴⁵) each upon demobilization plus a “Recognition of Service Allowance” according to their rank a month later.⁴⁶
- Hiring ex-combatants to do work that is necessary to re-start economic development such as demining of the countryside and re-construction of the destroyed infrastructure. Since the projects the ex-combatants carry out help the communities in recovering from the war, they may also start the reconciliation process between combatants and non-combatants.⁴⁷

⁴¹ cf. IAWG-DDR, “Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards”; 2010; p. 35.

⁴² cf. Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War”; 2007; pg. 6.

⁴³ cf. IAWG-DDR, “Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards”; 2010; p. 158f.

⁴⁴ cf. Leff, J.: “The Nexus between Social Capital and Reintegration of Ex-combatants: A Case for Sierra Leone”, *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* Vol. 8 (1) 2008; pg. 17.

⁴⁵ cf. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2076.html#rw> (3 January 2012).

⁴⁶ cf.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTABOUTUS/IDA/0,,contentMDK:22311262~menuPK:4754051~pagePK:51236175~piPK:437394~theSitePK:73154,00.html> (3 January 2012).

⁴⁷ cf. Leff, J.: “The Nexus between Social Capital and Reintegration of Ex-combatants: A Case for Sierra Leone”, *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* Vol. 8 (1) 2008; pg. 17.

- What the IAWG-DDR calls “information, counseling and referral services” (see below).⁴⁸

On the one hand, re-insertion efforts often are vital to providing ex-combatants with a short-term alternative to returning to fighting (e.g. in newly formed militias) or entering a life of criminality within the first two to three months after demobilization. On the other hand, communities often view awarding ex-combatants with money and jobs as rewarding violence. Therefore, animosity towards beneficiaries of these programs may grow, hindering progress in re-integration.^{49,50}

5.2 Ex-Combatant Focused Re-Integration

This category covers all long-term sustainable efforts at re-integration that directly benefit ex-combatants and may include:

- Providing participants of DDR-programs with grants or microfinance loans allowing them to start a small business or agricultural projects. One instance where this was implemented is Rwanda, where RW 120,000 (about \$200,-⁵¹) were awarded to those who had already gotten RW 60,000 and a “Recognition of Service Allowance” during re-insertion and to other ex-combatants struggling to re-integrate.⁵² In Côte d’Ivoire, 1000 micro-projects were started. Initially designed as a re-insertion effort, some of these turned into a sustainable livelihood option for the ex-combatants involved and can therefore now be considered re-integration programs.⁵³
- Providing information, counseling and referral services to ex-combatants in order to
 - *inform* ex-combatants and communities about the re-integration process, for example through the media or in schools, in an effort to avoid disappointment among combatants and hostility towards ex-combatants within the communities;
 - *counsel* ex-combatants in a detailed and individual way on how to re-integrate and
 - *refer* ex-combatants to helpful services throughout the process of re-integration including jobs and medical help.^{54,55}
- Education for ex-combatants. As mentioned above, many ex-combatants were deprived of learning opportunities during their involvement in the armed conflict. This damages their opportunities on the job market and their chance for socio-economic (re-)integration, which is especially true of combatants who entered the armed forces as children or youths and therefore had no chance to gain a primary school education. However, older ex-combatants

⁴⁸ IAWG-DDR, “Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards”; 2010; pg. 158.

⁴⁹ cf. IAWG-DDR, “Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards”; 2010; pg. 158.

⁵⁰ cf. Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War”; 2007; pg. 7.

⁵¹ cf. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2076.html#rw> (3 January 2012).

⁵² cf.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTABOUTUS/IDA/0,,contentMDK:22311262~menuPK:4754051~pagePK:51236175~piPK:437394~theSitePK:73154,00.html> (3 January 2012).

⁵³ cf. OROLSI, “DDR in Peacekeeping Operations – A Retrospective”; September 2010; pg. 6f.

⁵⁴ cf. IAWG-DDR, “Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards”; 2010; pg. 162f.

⁵⁵ cf. Leff, J.: “The Nexus between Social Capital and Reintegration of Ex-combatants: A Case for Sierra Leone”, *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* Vol. 8 (1) 2008; pg. 17f.

often require vocational or on-the-job training, as well, in order to increase their chances of finding a decent job and thus becoming an asset rather than a burden to the community.⁵⁶

- Ex-combatants do not only require training to secure their livelihood but also to re-integrate socially. During years of war, they often learn to solve their problems through violence and to fortify their social and economic position within the fighting faction through anti-social behavior and atrocities.^{57,58}
- Re-integration programs often also have to deal with the fact that many ex-combatants and civilians suffer from physical and psychological trauma induced by being the perpetrators and/ or victims of violence and atrocities. Moreover, many ex-combatants are addicted to drugs; rape and sex-slavery promote the spread of HIV/ AIDS especially among women.⁵⁹

Like re-insertion, ex-combatant focused re-integration brings about the danger of inciting hostilities within civilian communities towards ex-combatants as the benefits received by ex-combatants (often perpetrators of violence and atrocities) are perceived as unfair.^{60,61} Consider, for example, that lack of education opportunities is not a problem exclusive to ex-combatants in LDCs and LLDCs. This is why achieving universal primary education was named one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and why the UN Development Program acknowledges that “[this] target is unlikely to be met.”⁶²

5.3 Community-Based Re-Integration

The potential further social disintegration brought along by ex-combatant focused re-integration is accounted for in the community-based (or community-focused) re-integration of ex-combatants. This approach aims at enabling communities to receive and re-integrate ex-combatants and displaced persons. For instance, this is achieved by improving livelihood opportunities by boosting the economic environment for existing businesses. This form of re-integration is the most expensive and complex of the three, since it basically covers the entire issue of economic development. Due to the long time the measures of community-based re-integration take to show an effect and since ex-combatants may not be motivated to leave their war family without a concrete alternative for them in sight, these measures usually have to be supported by other programs.⁶³

As mentioned above, the border between ex-combatant focused re-integration and community-focused re-integration is not clearly drawn. Instead, creating job-opportunities for ex-combatants ideally benefits the civilians, as well, since they profit from the human capital ex-combatants bring to the table or from the food produced by agricultural projects. Community-focused re-integration may also involve the establishment of community development projects where ex-combatants and

⁵⁶ cf. IAWG-DDR, “Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards”; 2010; pg. 163f.

⁵⁷ cf. *ibid.* pg. 164.

⁵⁸ cf. Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War”; 2007; pg. 7.

⁵⁹ cf. *ibid.* pg. 7f.

⁶⁰ cf. IAWG-DDR, “Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards”; 2010; pg. 159.

⁶¹ cf. Hazen, Jennifer: „Social Integration of Ex-Combatants after Civil War”; 2007; pg. 7.

⁶²

http://www.beta.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/mdg_goals/mdg2/where_do_we_stand.html (03 January 2012).

⁶³ cf. IAWG-DDR, “Operational Guide to the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards”; 2010; pg. 159.

civilians work together and step by step take over development and decision-making as a joint community.⁶⁴

6 Challenge

After having read this research report, you should now have a general idea of what re-integration of ex-combatants is, what the environment for such efforts is, which problems may occur and which approaches may be taken. In our committee work, it will be our aim to define a framework for re-integration programs and to develop ways to foster re-integration. Therefore, issues you may want to address in your policy paper may include, but are not limited to:

- When shall re-integration programs be introduced?
- How can the UN be involved in non-peacekeeping environments?
- Who should be in charge of planning and implementation of re-integration?
- Who should be eligible to join a re-integration program?
- How can re-integration take place and how can the programs be supported by the international community? (Please note that the mandate of the Commission for Social Development does not include making decisions on the funding of such programs.)

However, you may also identify other important issues regarding this topic during your research.

Please do not be discouraged if you cannot find a lot of information on “your country’s” position and proposals on re-integration of ex-combatants. This would be great in order to have a discussion that is as realistic and diverse as possible. However, it is more important that you are able to identify general interests and opinions of the government of the country you represent so that you are able to act in accordance with them. In other words: Don’t be afraid to be creative and trust your own judgment as long as you stick to the interest of your country (as opposed to your own opinions and norms)!

⁶⁴ cf. Leff, J.: “The Nexus between Social Capital and Reintegration of Ex-combatants: A Case for Sierra Leone”, *African Journal on Conflict Resolution* Vol. 8 (1) 2008; pg. 18.

7 Useful Sources

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- <http://www.unddr.org/> - the United Nations Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-Integration Resource Center: A comprehensive website on DDR including, inter alia,
 - o information on current DDR programs (<http://unddr.org/countryprogrammes.php>),
 - o the Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS) and the Operational Guide on the IDDRS (<http://www.unddr.org/documents.php?doc=1284>),
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- UNSC, Statement by the President of the Security Council; S/PRST/2000/10, UNSC resolutions 1325, 1460, 1379 and 1539 and UN GA resolution 59/296 are all available and can be found by typing their symbols given in the respective footnotes to this research report (e.g. S/RES/1539) into the search mask on <http://www.un.org/en/documents/>.