*Kinshasa, 12 March 2004*

*Dear members of the MDRP partnership,*

*Dear colleagues,*

*Now that the draft National DDR Plan is out, and we are gradually passing ownership of the process to the national authorities, I thought of sharing with you the latest developments related to DDR activities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.*

*A more comprehensive presentation will be contained in the next edition of the DDR bulletin that should be coming out in the course of this month.*

*We are expecting the nomination of the National Programme Coordinator, shortly after which UNDP will relinquish the Lead Agency status and revert to its normal role of providing technical assistance to the Government.*

*Currently a team from the World Bank is working with the national authorities on the definition of the different aspects related to the Bank's credit.*

*We hope that the whole process will continue to follow the path that has been defined in the past months.*

*Meanwhile, UNDP will continue carrying out the technical studies for the final National Plan and the preparatory activities for the launching of the disarmament and community reintegration programme in Ituri.*

*Looking forward to the next steps in this challenging endeavour.*

*Sincerely,*
*Herbert M'cleod*
*Resident Representative*

# POST CONFLICT UNIT
# UPDATE ON UNDP'S DDR ACTIVITIES IN THE DRC (MARCH 2004)

## CONTEXT

Currently, the security situation remains relatively unstable, particularly in the East and Northeast of the DRC. On March 2nd the MONUC deployed 3,500 peace-keepers to the eastern city of Bukavu in South Kivu Province to reinforce security conditions in the Kivus[1]. The UN Security Council has expressed concerns regarding the violence and killings in the region[2]. Regarding the humanitarian situation, OCHA regularly reports on summary killings, human rights abuses, sexual violence, disruption of food distribution, and sudden movements of Internally Displaced Persons. Despite delays in the establishment of democratic institutions, general elections could still be held in 2005, according to the UN Special Representative in DRC[3]. A major challenge facing the Government is the restructuring of the army and the DDR Programme. Within the framework of the *DDR Interim Strategy*, adopted in May 2003 by the Government and the international community, UNDP has been focusing its activities on the implementation of the Ituri DRC Plan, addressing spontaneous and voluntary disarmament and supporting the preparation of the national programme.

## DDR ACTIVITIES DURING THE INTERIM PHASE

*Preparation of the National DDR Programme.* The first draft of the national programme on DDR was finalised on March 5th by a joint working group composed of Government representatives, MDRP, MONUC, the World Bank, UNDP and Belgium. This programme defines the objectives and main components and proposes a budget. The document will be presented to national and international partners during the National Forum on DDR, scheduled for the end of March and organised by the Government with the support of UNDP's *Rapid Response Mechanism* (RRM). A set of preparatory studies will be carried out through the UNDP/RRM in support of the National Programme, with the financial support of the MDRP. The following studies will be undertaken: (a) Formulation of the legal framework regarding Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration of ex-combatants, (b) Analysis of the institutional and operational capacity of the partners in the socio-economic reintegration in support of the national DDR programme, (c) Study to determine the needs of the demobilised combatants during the transit period, (d) Study of DDR of war disabled, (e) Database for identification and registration of military personnel

*Coordination of the DDR process.* The *DDR Inter-ministerial Committee*, composed of key ministries in charge of DDR, met March 1st and approved the Terms of Reference and procedure for the nomination of the future head of CONADER (Commission Nationale de Désarmament, Démobilisation et Réinsertion). In addition, the committee decided on the functioning of the Inter-ministerial group. To ensure the close coordination between the national DDR Programme and the Army Integration processes, the Technical Planning and Coordination Committee (TPCC) and the General Staff of the Congolese Army had a meeting on February 12th. Since then, several meetings have taken place on the level of sensitisation sub-groups to better coordinate this phase of the process.

*Ituri Operational Plan.* A joint mission including the Vice Minister for the Integration of the Army, the Vice Minister for Demobilisation, SRSG, UNDP-RR, WFP, and UNICEF visited the Ituri region the 2nd and 3rd of March with the purpose of updating the situation and assess the military and humanitarian situation. Preparatory activities continue on the ground and the Government will formally set a starting date for the operations shortly. MONUC, UNICEF, UNDP, and the Government have established a Steering Committee in charge of coordinating the Disarmament and Community Reintegration Plan (Establishment of Transit Sites). The first five transit sites have already been identified by MONUC and accepted by the armed groups.

## UNDP PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF DDR (See also Annex I)

**THE RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM (RRM) PROJECT.** With financial support from France (USD 217,759 from a total of USD 1,060,000), Japan (USD 500,000), MDRP (3,243,450 USD from a total of 4,629,870 USD) and UNDP (USD 244,140 from a total of USD 350,000), the RRM has been operational since November 1st 2003 and is already

[1] The arrest and transfer of an officer from RCD-Goma provoked gunfights between forces under the regional military commander and soldiers allied to RCD-Goma. ReliefWeb, March 13th
[2] Press statement from Security Council President Jean-Marc de la Sablière. ReliefWeb, March 2nd
[3] Integrated Regional Information Networks, January 14th

responding to various DDR Contingencies linked to the DDR Interim Phase and the preparation of the National DDR Programme. The RRM is in charge of creating the humanitarian conditions for the transit sites in Ituri to be used for the disarmament of combatants and the beginning of their reinsertion. MONUC and the armed groups in the region have already identified five such sites.

Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with four partners: With FAO for its Emergency Agricultural Assistance Project for a sum of USD 100,000. The project promotes the development of market gardening, the lying out and rehabilitation of fish-breeding ponds and rice growing boxes. It benefits 8000 host communities and the reinsertion of internally displaced people in Kisangani.

Secondly, GRETs Rapid Impact and Civil Society Project, which amounts to USD 113,003. The project aims at re-launching basic economic activity by providing 300 micro-credits to Trading *Mothers* in Bunia. The project has also rehabilitated 17 km of roads in Bunia and has provided school material to 25 establishments. In order to improve commercial transactions by means of transportation, 130 bicycles have been provided to an association supplying Bunia with everyday necessities.

Thirdly, AIDES' project of Demobilisation and Reintegration of Young Soldiers from the province of Western Kasaï, which amounts to USD 12,220. It supports the reintegration of young people and has set up a psychosocial and professional training programme. It has benefited 17 youngsters from Kananga in Western Kasaï, whose demobilisation had been delayed. Their families were traced and family reunification or reintegration in host communities was set up.

The fourth project is CARE's Emergency Support to the Demobilisation of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups in North Katanga, Maniema and Orientale, which amounts to USD 34,177. It consists of expanding community reception for underage soldiers through the provision of tents for their accommodation in the transit centres and bicycles to facilitate the search for their families.

In addition, two projects are in the final phase of being approved. One will be executed by the national NGO CAB and regards Water Conveyance Project Phase I in the Walungu Territory, in South Kivu. The total cost of this project stands at USD 250,518. The second project will be executed by the national NGO ICG in Support of Spontaneous Disarmament in Maniema. It has a budget of USD 125,421 and aims at supporting income generation activities through the rehabilitation of the micro-finance system. Beneficiaries will be ex-combatants and members of the host communities.

Within the context of the reinforcement of the Government's planning capacity, UNDP, through the RRM, has supported the set-up of the Technical Planning and Coordination Committee (TPCC/DDR). The TPCC is composed of the key ministries in charge of DDR in DRC. The RRM provides the TPCC with technical, logistical, and institutional support (Networking and information management, vehicles, logistics, rehabilitation of a conference room, computers, printers, photocopiers). UNDP also assisted in the organisation of a workshop on the development of a strategic document for the National DDR Programme in November 2003, an information and sensitisation mission to the Eastern DRC, the undertaking of studies in preparation of the National DDR Programme, and the organisation of the National Forum. Technical assistance is continuously being provided also through the UNDP Post Conflict Unit.

| **Project** | **Donor** | **Total contribution** | **Disbursement made by donors as of Feb. 2004** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **RRM** | MDRP | 4,629,870 USD | 3,243,450 USD |
| | France | 1,060,000 USD | 217,759 USD |
| | Japan | 500,000 USD | 500,000 USD |
| | UNDP | 350,000 USD | 244,140 USD |
| **Total** | | **6,539,870 USD** | **4,205,349 USD** |

**THE COMMUNITY RECOVERY, REINTEGRATION OF EX-COMBATANTS AND SMALL ARMS REDUCTION PROJECT (COMREC)**. Three offices are now open and operational - in Bunia and Kindu, since December 2003, and in Bukavu, since February 2004. The Bukavu office will serve as headquarter for the project. The international Programme Manager, two international Reintegration Experts and one international Disarmament Expert are present already on the ground. The arrival of all the necessary equipment and communication systems is currently taking place. Shortly, the first 3 of a total of 5 UN Volunteers will be deployed to the field.

The project has benefited from a total of USD 5,497,111 thanks to the contribution of Belgium (USD 1,960,370 of a total of USD 3,000,000), Japan (USD 2,000,000 of a total contribution of USD 3,777,778 to UNDP's DDR projects), MDRP (USD 2,780,000 of a total of USD 5,000,000), and UNDP (USD 811,401 of a total of USD 1,600,000).

A network of national and international partners is being set up in Oriental provinces. At present, 13 proposals have been submitted by NGOs to the ComRec in Ituri for an estimated total of USD 850,000. Three proposals have been approved during the week beginning 8th March: (1) the Promotion of the Economic Revival through the Support of Economic Operators and Networks in Bunia (USD 99,971) executed by COOPI, (2) a project for the rehabilitation of 30 km of road between Bunia and Iga Barrière by Atlas Logistics (USD 249,695), (3) the Disarmament and Community Reintegration and Sensitisation Campaign in Support of the Ituri Plan (161,850 USD) executed by the local NGO ACIAR. Two proposals do not meet the eligibility criteria and the remaining 8 projects are still in the evaluation phase.

In Maniema province, a network of international and national NGO's is being established. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the NGO COOPI for the provision of 200 tables to primary schools in the city. Another project has recently been approved in Support of the Spontaneous Disarmament in Maniema and host Communities Through Agricultural and Fishery Material, executed by ICG with USD 125,421.

In South Kivu, the Water Conveyance Project Phase II in the Walungu Territory (Muhambwe source) has been approved. It is executes by the NGO CAB for a total amount of USD 145,376.

| **Project** | **Donor** | **Total contribution** | **Disbursement made by donors as of Feb. 2004** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ComRec** | MDRP | 5,000,000 USD | 2,780,000 USD |
| | Belgium | 3,000,000 USD | 1,960,370 USD |
| | Japan | 2,000,000 USD | 2,000,000 USD |
| | UNDP | 1,600,000 USD | 811,401 USD |
| **Total** | | 11,600,000 USD | 7,551,771 USD |

**THE PROJECT «SUPPORT TO WAR-WOUNDED EX-COMBATANTS»**. Through a close partnership between the Fond Social, military and civilian authorities and the UNDP, the project has registered 4170 war-wounded ex-combatants on 13 sites and has rehabilitated two hospitals in support of physical rehabilitation of war disabled (The Ceta Hospital in Kinshasa in May 2003 with 50 beds and la Ruashi Hospital in Lubumbashi in October 2003 with 120 beds). In total, 1840 war-wounded have been admitted to the hospitals, 900 have been treated, 530 cured.

The project is undertaken through a partnership between the private sector, the Government, international donors, and UNDP. It is financed by UNDP (USD 1,600,000) and by Celtel Congo (USD 250,000). Of this amount, USD 1,346,396 has been spent in the period between its implementation in November 2002 and February 2004. Recently the project benefited from a USD 1,000,000 contribution from Japan, which will reinforce the reintegration component of the project.

A medical team of 4 civilian and 9 military doctors, as well as a team of social and professional experts (in which the Ministry of National Defence and the Ministry of Social Affairs are represented) is in charge of the registration of war disabled. Additionally, a database with information on all the registered war-wounded ex-combatants has been created and is now operational. In order to treat some specific illnesses, conventions have been signed with civil hospitals for Ophthalmology and Dentistry, which resulted in the treatment of 250 persons.

Moreover, 20 war-wounded have completed the training module of the pilot reintegration plan. All elements of the reintegration phase (planning of training, contacts with the hosting communities for the social reintegration, etc.) are now in place, but the delay in the official demobilisation of the war-wounded prevents the project from getting off the ground in this respect.

| **Project** | **Donor** | **Total contribution** | **Disbursement as of Feb. 2004** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **War wounded ex-combatants** | Japan | 1,000,000 USD | 1,000,000 USD |
| | Celtel | 250,000 USD | 250,0000 USD |
| | UNDP | 1,600,000 USD | 1,600,000 USD |
| **Total** | | 2,850,000 USD | 2,850,000 USD |

**The project Peace Building and Development in the Eastern Region of DRC / Ituri**. From a project budget of USD 3,100,000 of which NORAD contributed USD 3,000,000 million and the UNDP USD 100,000, a number of activities on the ground have been financed and executed in the past year, all aimed at restoring peaceful coexistence, promoting reconciliation between communities and economic recovery. A total of 18 community micro-projects have been supported and the total expenditure in 2003 amounts to USD 407,282.

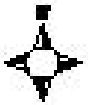
The project has supported the bringing together of 500 women from 20 community associations in an inter-community self-help initiative (FLEVICA) focused on the production of soy. It has also contributed to the rehabilitation of six ethnically mixed schools in Mahagi and Bunia (Initiative Locale de Développement) and supported the rehabilitation of a footbridge on the Ngezi River (CARITAS), mainly used by students and traders. In Bunia, support was given to 77 handicapped people who have been trained in sewing, carpentry, and shoe making (Fraternité). A local association of honey producers, who popularize bee keeping in Mahagi (CRONG-D), and a vocational training program for women who have been victims of sexual violence (CARITAS) are also among the beneficiaries of the project.

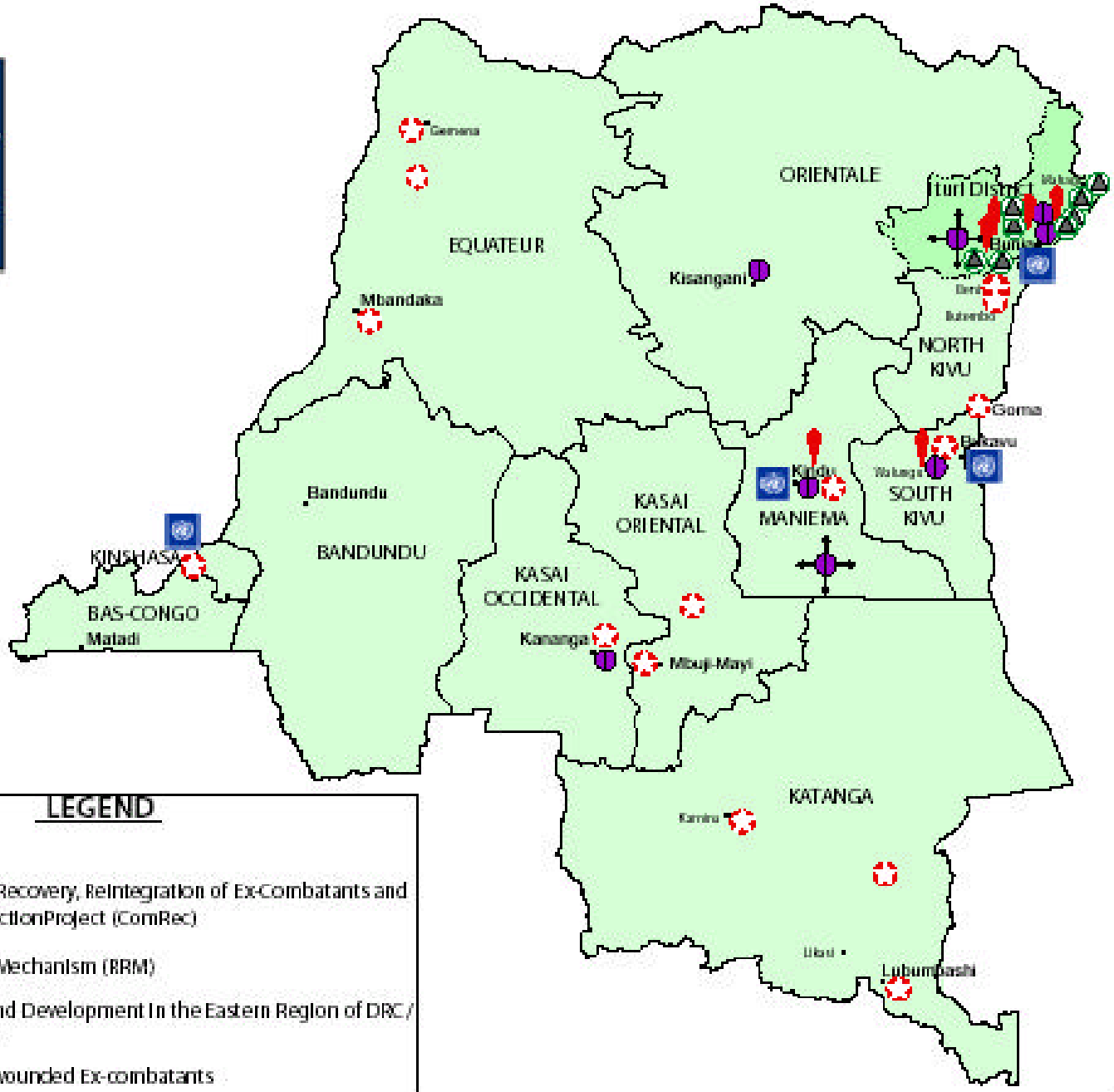
An Information, Education, and Communication Programme on HIV/AIDS, which included training workshops and an information campaign involving the MONUC-OKAPI radio station and a local youth radio station (Revelation) has received support. Furthermore, the project has funded the installation of a community radio in the city of Mahagi (implementing agent LIPADHO), which will disseminate peace messages and information relevant to the project. In addition, AIDS consultants in the district carried out a technical study on AIDS prevention, which was endorsed by local authorities.

The Ituri Interim Administration has received technical and material assistance from the project, and its initial functioning was secured with the provision of office equipment and supplies to the Executive Body. Also, from April to December 2003, the project supported the training of the local police, who was equipped with computers and an Internet satellite connection. The total expenditure for the assistance to the Administration including the subcontracts with implementing agents amounted to USD 407,282 in the period from April to December 2003.

| **Project** | **Donor** | **Total contribution** | **Disbursement as of Feb. 2004** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Ituri** | NORAD | 3,000,000 USD | 3,000,000 USD |
| | UNDP | 100,000 USD | 100,000 USD |
| **Total** | | 3,100,000 USD | 3,100,000 USD |

# UNDP PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF DDR PROCESS IN DRC






## LEGEND

- UNDP Offices
- The Community Recovery, Reintegration of Ex-Combatants and Small Arms ReductionProject (ComRec)
- Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)
- Peace Building and Development In the Eastern Region of DRC / The ITURI Project
- Support to War-wounded Ex-combatants

**ComRec**
- Promotion of the Economic Revival through the Support of economic Operators and Networks in Bunia
- Building of 30 km of road between Bunia and Iga Barrière
- The disarmament and community reintegration sensitisation campaign in support of the ITURI Plan
- Support to spontaneous Demobilized & other members of host community through Agricultural and Fishery tools/materials
- Water adduction in the Walungu territory
- Promotion of Economic revival in KINDU through the support of Primary schools

**RAPID RESPONS EM ECHANISM (RRM)**
- Emergency Agricultural Assistance Project
- Rapid Impact and Civil Society Project
- Demobilization & Integration of Child Soldiers
- Emergency support to the demobilisation of children associated with armed forces and groups in North Katanga, Maniema and Orientale
- Water adduction of 10 km in the Walungu territory
- Agriculture assistance for the host community in Maniema
- Plan of Disarmament & Community Reintegration in Ituri

Peace Building and Development in the Eastern Region of DRC/ The ITURI Project
- Professional Training for Women
- Rehabilitation of the football ground
- Rehabilitation of Matete bridge
- Rehabilitation of crossover
- Peace and AIDS prevention message
- Training in Agriculture
- Promotion of firstaid and diffusion Red Cross
- Revenue generating activities for handicapped
- Rehabilitation of six schools

Support to War-wounded Ex-combatants
*also including 2 Hospitals at Kinshasa & Lubumbashi*

| Executing Agencies (Partners) | | |
|---|---|---|
| FAO | Mairie de Bunia | ATLAS LOGISTIQUE |
| GRET | Groupe SYABO | ACTED |
| AIDES | CARITAS | CESVI |
| CARE | Radio Canal Revel | COSI |
| CAB | UGAO | MEC |
| ICG | Croix Rouge | PREMIERE URGENCE |
| ATLAS | Fraternite | TPD |
| CARITAS | COOPI | SOLIDARITE |
| AAA | ACIAR | |

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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