

Background Notes on the DDRR Programme <<Programme National de Désarmement, Démobilisation, Réintégration et Rapatriement (PNDDRR)>>

i) Disarmament and Demobilization Operations:

Following the implementation of a “PNDDRR pilot phase” by the GoCAR (with support from MINUSCA and international partners- World Bank, ECAS, EU) in 2017, whereby over 400 combatants were disarmed and demobilized, the national DDRR programme was officially launched in December 2018. The programme which is led by the GoCAR with support from international funding partners, targets an estimated total of 7,000 combatants from the 14-armed groups that are signatories to the APPR.

With MINUSCA support, the national institution responsible for the implementation of the PNDDRR, ‘*Unite d’Execution du Programme National de DDRR*’ (UEPNDDRR), through its mobile teams, have disarmed and demobilized a total of 5,091 combatants including 342 women affiliated to various signatory armed groups in Bangui and various localities across CAR, since the official launch of the PNDDRR in 2018. This total represents over 70% of the programme’s target of 7,000 combatants. In the process, a total of 3,878 weapons of war, 185,697 rounds of ammunition, 1,653 grenades and other ordnances, 153 mortar shells and 329 rockets were collected.

With over 70% of the total number of eligible combatants targeted by the PNDDRR already disarmed and demobilized, it is assessed that most of the combatants belonging to armed groups who have remained loyal to the APPR (of which 6 armed groups and 3 fractions of armed groups were officially declared dissolved as of April 2023) have already entered the DDR process; while the bulk of combatants remaining to be disarmed and demobilized belong to CPC-affiliated groups. While the political engagement with CPC-affiliated armed groups is still ongoing, Disarmament and Demobilization (DD) operations continue to target remnant caseloads of armed groups who have remained loyal to the APPR and small fringes of CPC defectors.

ii) Reintegration and Integration opportunities for demobilized ex-combatants:

Of the three options provided to demobilized ex-combatants after the ‘DD’ phase (namely: socio-economic reintegration into civilian life; integration into uniformed personnel as per set criteria and quotas; and integration into the ‘Unites Speciale Mixtes de Sécurité’ -USMS), socio-economic reintegration remains the most viable option for ex-combatants. At present, the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the World Bank are the the GoCAR’s funding partners supporting ex-combatant reintegration in CAR, with MINUSCA DDR ensuring coordination between DD operations and the reintegration programmes.

- **World Bank-funded PREC:** The Socio-economic Reintegration Project for Ex-Combatants (PREC), implemented by UEPNDDRR's implementing partners IOM and ACTED with a World Bank funding of \$30 million, concluded on 30 June 2023, after three extensions and two restructurings, lasting 58 months instead of the initially planned 30. Despite the significant delay caused by political challenges and poor turnout of combatants due to security challenges in some locations, the project reintegrated 2,819 ex-combatants including 178 women in Bangui and multiple localities across the prefectures of Nana-Mambere, Ombella Mpoko, Vakaga, Haut Mbomou, Mbomou, Ouham. Ouham-Pende, Haute Kotto, Nana-Grebizi and Bamingui-Bangoran. The project also constructed 69 of 71 planned social infrastructures benefiting over 400,000 community members and supported 1,000 vulnerable youths to prevent recruitment by armed groups, contributing to national stabilization efforts.
- **PBF-funded SEDOUTI project:** Through PBF, the SEDOUTI project was launched in October 2023 to fill the potential funding gap in the support of the socio-economic reintegration of future demobilized ex-combatants after the closure of the WB-funded PREC in June 2023. Jointly implemented by UNDP, IOM, and UN-Women the SEDOUTI project aims to promote sustainable reintegration through resocialization, economic empowerment, and community development, benefiting ex-combatants, ineligible armed group members, and host communities, with a focus on women and at-risk youth. To date, 465 participants (89 women), including 91 ex-combatants, completed vocational trainings led by IOM in Bambari. Mobaye, Obo and Zemio. Plans are underway to start phase two of the project which focuses on infrastructure rehabilitation, labor-intensive projects, and income-generating activities for 1,000 community members.
- **World Bank-funded project for local governance and resilient communities dubbed EE-KPENGBA:** In November 2024, the 'Socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants' component of the World Bank-funded project for local governance and resilient communities (E-KPENGBA), was launched to support the socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants in the localities of Pissa, Damara and Yaloke (constituting Zone 1) and in Bria, Batangafo and Bossangoa (zone 2). To date, over 300 ex-combatants have been profiled for participation in the project's training activities.
- **Other post DD opportunities (i.e. USMS and Integration into DSF):** During the USMS Strategic Committee meeting on November 28, 2022, a decision was made to discontinue the stalled USMS process and integrate eligible members into the DSF. Following the phase-out of the USMS in May 2023, 231 former USMS elements were reportedly integrated into the FACA. According to UEPNDDRR reports, as of July 2023, a total of 222 demobilized ex-combatants were integrated into the Defense and

Security Forces while 400 ex-combatants were integrated into the USMS. However, due to the lack of transparency in DSF recruitment processes and the failure to adhere to the 10% quota for armed group members the reported figures on the integration of ex-combatants cannot be verified.