

**KEY ISSUES ON DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION**  
**13TH IASC WORKING GROUP MEETING**  
**27 JULY 1994**

The paper attached, *Challenges of Demobilization and Reintegration* is primarily concerned with post-internal war situations where conflict-resolution measures include a cease-fire and negotiated peace arrangement which involves the demobilization of different parties and the re-integration of former combatants into civilian life or a reconstituted national army. Below, are some of the key issues arising out of the paper and the Task Force on Demobilization.

**1. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING**

An overall Plan should be drawn up constituting a coherent and integrated set of activities geared to (a) the effective re-integration of former combatants into civilian life, and (b) takes into account activities designed to assist war-affected populations including those who have been up-rooted and displaced.

What mechanisms and procedures need to be developed to ensure that those involved in political negotiations - and the design of cease-fire and peace arrangements - take into account the humanitarian, developmental and financial implications of demobilization and re-integration programmes?

**2. FUNDING**

Lack of adequate financial resources can have major ramifications and negate confidence-building measures essential to disarmament, the organization of a national army, and demobilization leading to effective re-integration.

What measures can be taken to involve donors, financial institutions, national authorities and others in order to generate adequate funding?

Which aspects of demobilization can be charged to assessed budgets?

**3. COORDINATION**

There is an obvious need for a coordination mechanism which will facilitate and ensure synchronization between the many different actors and sets of activities inherent simultaneously ensuring harmony and complementarity with other reconciliation and peace-building activities.

What coordination mechanisms are considered the most effective?

#### **4. CANTONMENT OR ASSEMBLY PHASE**

As this is the phase in which a transition is made from military control to civilian life there is much discussion on the types of activities which can or should be undertaken in cantonment sites and by whom. There are different perspectives on the most desirable duration of cantonment and the types of resources which should be allocated to what is essentially a transit site.

Who is responsible for specific activities e.g. registering, documenting, issuing IDs, provision of separation packages, basic needs (food, medical checks/care, sanitation, clothing, etc), disarming and stockpiling/destruction of weapons?

What should "preparation for civilian life" entail?

Who collects social and demographic data useful for planning/developing re-integration programmes?

Who is responsible for care and maintenance of families/dependents who may accompany or live in close proximity to soldiers assembled in cantonment sites?

Should cantonment be decentralized both to reduce transportation costs and minimize potential security/discontent issues?

#### **5. RE-INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE/PHASE**

Many factors will determine level and type of assistance but it is widely recognized that the bulk of overall assistance to former combatants should be linked to community and regional projects aimed at national reconstruction and reconciliation.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of initial cash and in-kind grants on departure from the cantonment area?

What kind of criteria should govern the design of training and education programmes that may be offered to ex-combatants?

What kind of counselling and general support, if any, should be provided to former soldiers?

How should special needs, for example of child soldiers, disabled, female cadres, traumatized veterans, be addressed?

What prior activities can be carried out in receiving communities to facilitate the absorption of former combatants?

What are the most effective ways to target re-integration benefits so that receiving communities and other war-affected groups also benefit?

What role can others (external agencies, local NGOs, community leaders etc) play in reducing post-conflict tensions that may arise between adversaries or former allies?

What indicators can be used to measure the success of reintegration activities?

## **6. FUTURE GUIDELINES, INFORMATION EXCHANGE, CASE STUDIES**

How can our overall knowledge and capacity be improved to assist future planners and programme managers responsible for demobilization and re-integration? For example, what kinds of information exchange, case studies and guidelines can be developed and expertise made available to assist policy makers and practitioners at the national and international level?