Update on DDR Process, CAR: 29 Apr 2009

1. Summary

The Comité de Pilotage (Steering Committee) of the National

gathering the lists of potential beneficiaries of the program. In March 2009 the initial concepts for the delivery of the disarmament and demobilization were presented to the Steering Committee.

3. The lists of Potential Beneficiaries

Preliminary lists of potential beneficiaries were delivered by APRD, UFDR and UFR on 01 April with an estimate by the MLCJ. In addition a further group, in excess of ex combatants, who had been previously disarmed but who has yet to receive any form of reintegration support, have been introduced into the process by GoCAR. There is general agreement within the Steering Committee that the needs of this group should be addressed.

While the consultations occur in a very constructive environment there has often been contention in areas regarding the application of the principles of the IDDRS.

4. The Validation Process

With the lists now provided to the Steering Committee, the next event on the critical path involves the validation of those lists to confirm their legitimacy as representing beneficiaries who meet the appropriate criteria for admission to the DDR process. This validation process currently is being planned in the context of the Joint Operational Plan (JOP).

5. The Program Documents

The program is directed and funded through the operationalization of three Program Documents:

a) The Program for the launch of the DDR Process with the support from the Peace Building Fund. This process has been completed and the be   T   (JO3ents: from

7.   The Reintegration Process and the JOP

Draft 1 JOP specifies the concept for the implementation of the Disarmament and Demobilization phases of the DDR Program and establishes the foundations for reinsertion through the implementation of Community Focused Stopgap mechanisms; critical small infrastructural projects in the receiving communities to engage both program direct beneficiaries with community members in constructive activities. The development of the specific individual Reintegration Options will be based on individual profiling matched with options developed through appropriate socio economic analysis. While all Reintegration Options are likely to need basic literacy elements, it can be projected that the most likely areas for the development of Reintegration Options are in agricultural support, entrepreneurial support for going concerns; vocational training and formal education.

8.   Staffing of the DDR Management Unit UNDP

While the Senior DDR advisor has been in place since the beginning of February, providing technical support to the Steering Committee, drafting the program documents and developing the appropriate concepts, initial specialized DDR Unit experts started to arrive on 23 April and the development of the core team to implement the initial phases of the DDR process is currently being brought together.

9.   Current Issues facing the DDR Process

a) The Chronogramme and the capacity of MICOPAX. Based on the current projected critical path associated with the JOP, the chronogramme projects a date for the start of Disarmament of 'not before July 2009'. However, July is in the middle of the rainy season and is also the month in which MICOPAX plans to rotate.

b) The Issue of CEMAC Funding for DDR and the Consolidation of the Peace. Committed allocations of CEMAC funding, envisaged to be slated for the DDR programme, have not been committed by the GoCAR to date.

c) The existence of potential spoilers or other armed groups outside the DDR process. New armed groups are sprouting spurred by the hopes of   armed

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e) DDR to be implemented under the Overarching Framework of SSR. DDR in CAR is likely to have a higher sustainable impact if synchronized with SSR. Without practical commitments to SSR community security, RoL, DDR and related programs will have a more difficult time taking hold and facilitating recovery and development.

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