



MDRP-Supported Activities in Uganda

May 2007

Special Project: Repatriation, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Reintegration of 'Reporters' in Uganda

Administrator: Uganda Amnesty Commission

Financing: \$4.2 millions

Status: Ongoing

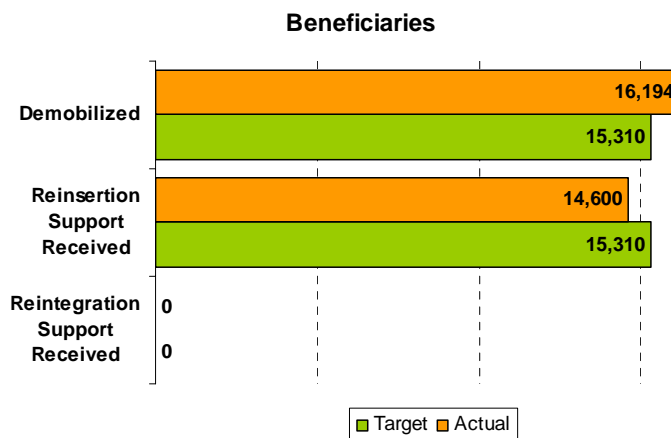
Objective:

The project aims to:

- Assist approximately 15,300 ex-combatants in their reintegration into civilian life, within the context of Uganda's Amnesty Act of 2000
- Strengthen the capacity of the Amnesty Commission

Progress:

- During the first quarter of 2007, the Amnesty Commission (AC) provided amnesty to 61 'reporters', almost all of whom were from the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). The total now 'resettled' stands at 14,600, of which 3,728 were adult women. Those reported included 1,777 girls and 3,773 boys.
- The MDRP Special Project has been extended through June 2007 and a beneficiary assessment is being prepared.
- In collaboration with the MDRP Secretariat, UNDP and UNICEF, the AC has continued to update the emergency plan for dealing with a possible large inflow of reporters as a result of the ongoing peace talks between the Government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in Juba, South Sudan.



BACKGROUND



In 1996-97 the Ugandan government began tacitly supporting rebel movements in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the hope that these groups would prevent Ugandan rebel groups based in the DRC from launching attacks into Uganda. The Ugandan Peoples' Defense Forces (UPDF) then entered the DRC in 1998 to support further these Congolese rebel groups and further secure Uganda's borders. The UPDF withdrew following the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement of July 1999; later redeployed to the DRC's Ituri district, and again withdrew in May 2003.

The Government of Uganda has also been fighting the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) for about two decades. Operating mainly in the north, previously with support from the Sudanese Government, the LRA is particularly known for its brutal treatment of the civilian population. There have been a series of attempted solutions to the conflict. The government adopted the 2000 Amnesty Act, now extended through 2008, granting amnesty to any combatant or collaborator who renounced rebellion. The International Criminal Court (ICC) investigated the LRA at the invitation of President Museveni and indicted five top LRA commanders in 2005. In mid-2006, the Government of Southern Sudan initiated mediation efforts that have so far led to the signing of a cessation of hostilities agreement between the LRA and the Government of Uganda. Talks have been difficult, but were revived in April/May 2007.

Population: 27.6 million
Area: 241,038 sq km (93,072 sq miles)
Life expectancy: 46 years (men), 47 years (women)
Main exports: Coffee, fish and fish products, tea; tobacco, cotton, corn, beans, sesame
GNI per capita: US \$280