

DDR INTEGRATED DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION STANDARDS

The UN commemorates the first anniversary of the launch of the IDDRS

Jointly developed by staff from 15 United Nations agencies, departments, funds and programmes¹ and the International Organisation for Migration, the Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS) are the most comprehensive body of knowledge on disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) in existence, providing wide-ranging guidance for all those involved in this field.

While the UN has been involved in supporting disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes since the late 1980s, this was the first attempt to develop a system-wide approach to DDR. In the past five years, DDR has been included in the mandates for peacekeeping operations in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Liberia and Sudan, including Darfur. In these countries alone there is an expected caseload of over 417,000 ex-combatants. Simultaneously, the UN has increased its DDR engagement in non-peacekeeping contexts, such as Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Congo, Indonesia (Aceh), Kosovo, Niger, Somalia, the Solomon Islands and Uganda.

So what are the IDDRS? They are the most comprehensive one-stop source of policy guidance on DDR, which enable any practitioner to translate the guidance into an operational strategy. They are also the most complete repository of lessons learned and good practices drawn from the experience of all United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes in DDR. In sum, they are a crucial tool for informed decision-making in every step of DDR programming and are the basis for the UN to deliver as one on DDR.

The web-based DDR Resource Centre which ("<http://www.unddr.org>") includes electronic copies of all of the IDDRS documents, and much more.

So if you think you are familiar with the IDDRS or want to test your knowledge on the IDDRS, take the on-line quiz on the UN DDR Resource Centre – www.unddr.org.

¹ IAWG members are as follows: Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Department of Political Affairs (DPA), Department of Public Information (DPI), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA), The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO).