

Fall 2005

**WWS 591d Policy Workshop on Reintegrating Youth and Former Combatants
Nat Colletta**

The purpose of this workshop is to explore and learn (through research, dialogue and field experience) about the key challenges and possible solutions to the issues surrounding the reintegration of conflict affected persons. We will focus on youth and ex-combatants, but also include displaced persons (particularly women and children), and communities.

Of course, we will want to place the reintegration of the conflict affected into the broader social, economic and political context of peace making, peace building, conflict resolution and prevention, and reconstruction and development (war to peace transition). I suspect we shall use our early discussions (first class and background reading) to contextualize the reintegration challenges. If you have any particular related areas which you feel the group should explore and or expectations for the course, please feel free to share them with us so that we might address them.

There are several key questions underpinning our dialogue and learning. First, we may wish to explore what we mean by 'Reintegration'. How do we define the term conceptually (economic, social, psychological, and political dimensions) and operationally? Reintegration for whom, by whom? What are the varying approaches, dynamics and impacts of reintegration policies and programs under varying conditions of conflict and peace, and for differing affected groups? What are the key cross cutting institutional, management, operational and financing dimensions? What has worked and not worked under varying conditions? What are the lessons learned and best practices? To what extent are we looking at a reintegration as 'transformational' versus a 'transitional' process? Do we need to disaggregate the reintegration process and talk in terms of different objectives and time bounded stages, e.g., 'reinsertion' or 'transitional reintegration' into civilian life, and longer term 'sustainable reintegration' for durable livelihoods and social inclusion/reconciliation? These are but a few of the many questions we shall grapple with during the course.

There are a number of specific issues, dilemmas and tradeoffs that immediately come to mind which we hope to explore. These include the trade off between security and justice (e.g., stability and immunity) and the interface with transitional justice and DDR programs. Here, the recent controversial Colombian law regarding the AUC-DDR program is one of many examples which we shall discuss. Another key issue is that of targeting benefits to individual ex-combatants and communities as such (directly and indirectly affected by the conflict). This ties into the problem of handling 'spoilers', perceived injustices (e.g., rewarding perpetrators while victims are ignored) and the latent potential for refueling conflict through a reintegration program. It also highlights the special needs and aspirations of women and children. Should there be parallel, integrated or some mix of programs, and why, how, what, etc.? How to work in divided societies,

rebuilding the social capital and social cohesion through reintegration programs is a central concern to overall sustainable peace and the prevention of reoccurring conflict. How to finance reintegration programming, e.g., multi donor trust funds, assessed contributions to peacekeeping missions, among other means, is also central to sustainable peace and development.

In addition to the above issues, there are also a host of related larger conflict concerns, like the governance (or miss governance) of natural resources as both contributors conflict as well as potential sources for financing reintegration and reconstruction. Questions of identity, citizenship, and the spillover (e.g., cross border and global impacts) of reintegration or failed reintegration programs especially for youth and former combatants are evident from the Great Lakes to the Northern Caucasus.

Of course, early on we will want to reach a consensus on the specific country case we would like to address and hone in on the mission preparation to undertake our field work. Please feel free to share ideas and specific possibilities with the group through Blackboard so that we can jointly explore them and make early preparations.

Regarding some background reading, I suggest we start with a few key readings to get the ball rolling (attached).

Nat J. Colletta, Markus Kostner and Ingo Wiederhofer. "Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration: Lessons and Liabilities in Reconstruction", in Robert I. Rotberg, Editor, **When States Fail: Causes and Consequences**, Princeton University Press, 2004: Princeton, New Jersey.

Anton Barre. "An Analysis of Transitional Economic Reintegration", **Stockholm Initiative on Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (SIDDR)**. Unpublished Paper of SIDDR Technical Working Group on Reintegration. April 2005: New York.

Roger Duthie. "Transitional Justice and Social Reintegration", **Stockholm Initiative on Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (SIDDR)**. Unpublished Paper of the SIDDR Technical Working Group on Reintegration. April 2005: New York.

In addition to the above required reading, perhaps we could put the following on reserve.

United Nations. **Report of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (ISG-DDR)**, now in draft--forthcoming final version, August-September 2005, see the chapter on Reintegration. United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO): New York.

Beatrice Pouligny. **The Politics and Anti-Politics of Contemporary Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programs**. Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales Sciences (CERI) , Secretariat General de la Defense Nationale, September, 2004: Paris, France.

UNIFEM. **Getting it right, Doing it right: Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration**, October, 2004: New York.

Beth Verhey. **Child Soldiers**. Africa Technical Department Working Paper. August 2000. World Bank: Washington, D.C.

IPA. **A Framework for lasting Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration of Former Combatants in Crisis Situations.** Report of a Joint IPA-UNDP Workshop. December 12-13, 2002: New York.

Mid-term Review of the Multi Donor Great Lakes DDR Program. World Bank. 2005: Washington, D.C.

Gebreselassie Tesfamichael, Nicole Ball and Julie Nenon. **Peace in Sierra Leone: Evaluating the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Process.** Creative Associates. August 2004: Washington, D.C.

You may want to make the following books available for purchase or on reserve:

Nat J. Colletta, Markus Kostner, and Ingo Weiderhofer. **War to Peace Transition in SubSaharan Africa.** 1996. The World Bank: Washington, D.C.

Colin Gleichmann, Michael Odenwald, Kees Steenken, and Adrian Wilkinson. **Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration: A Practical Field and Classroom Guide.** Pearson Peace Keeping Center, GTZ, SNDC, and NODEFIC. 2004: Frankfurt.

Nat J. Colletta and Michelle Cullen. **Violent Conflict and the Transformation of Social Capital: Lessons from Cambodia, Rwanda, Guatemala and Somalia.** Conflict Prevention and Post Conflict Reconstruction Monograph Series, 2002, World Bank: Washington, DC.

The following Websites may be of interest for starters:

Human Security site: hsc.list@ubc.ca

Post Conflict Reconstruction: PCRBrief@csis.org

Africa and Conflict: IRIN@irinnews.org