



COMMUNITY VIOLENCE REDUCTION

Creating Space for Peace



Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) Section
Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI)
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WHAT IS CVR?

Community Violence Reduction (CVR) refers to programmes, implemented by the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) or CVR component of a United Nations (UN) peace operation, aiming at preventing and reducing violence at the community level in ongoing armed conflict or in post-conflict environments. CVR has the same strategic objectives as DDR: to contribute to peace and security by supporting programmes that reduce armed violence; creating political space and helping to build a secure environment conducive to recovery and development.

CVR differs from DDR in that it works directly with target communities to find solutions to causes of armed violence from within, and explicitly targets youth at risk of recruitment by armed groups in addition to ex-combatants. CVR utilizes a bottom-up approach, emphasizing community engagement. While the strategic direction of CVR is set from above, decisions related to participant and project selection, training and education options, and monitoring and evaluation are discussed and agreed upon with local communities.

Originally introduced in Haiti in 2006, CVR has gained traction in recent years as DDR operations have increasingly been mandated in contexts where the preconditions for DDR – including political will among the parties and the adherence to a comprehensive peace agreement – have not been met. In response, CVR programmes have been implemented with three main overarching objectives: to help create the necessary conditions for successful DDR; to support DDR initiatives; and, in some cases, to replace traditional DDR programmes. CVR programmes, like DDR, can be implemented in the context of ongoing peace operations, special political missions, as well as non-mission settings.

CVR programmes vary based on the needs of local communities. Its programmatic pillars include, but are not limited to, activities that seek to reduce the economic incentives of joining an armed group or provide enticement to leave the group through short-term employment, in combination with vocational and skills training. These programs and others provide tangible peace dividends through socioeconomic incentives not only to ex-combatants and youth at risk of joining armed groups or gangs, but also to community members in locations prone to violence. The very organization of the committees and working groups to support CVR builds capacity in terms of social efficacy. Bolstering the ability of communities to decide and act upon measures to improve their own security environment strengthens the resilience of communities. Establishing the mechanisms that allow communities to internally regulate the behaviour of their members is the driver to reduce violence. In this way CVR programmes mobilize support for the peace process and serve as short-term stabilization measures with the aim to pave the way for broader peacebuilding and development programmes.

BENEFICIARIES

CVR is a flexible, inclusive and bottom-up approach. Its beneficiaries vary in each context, yet four generic categories stand out as candidates:

- ▶ **Members of armed groups** not eligible for DDR or currently waiting for DDR.
- ▶ **Youth at risk of recruitment into armed groups** (also termed youth with weapon carrying capacity, referring to those between 16 and 29 years of age).
- ▶ **Former Combatants** part of existing DDR programs.
- ▶ **Members of other communities**, (not From Communities), likely to receive former combatants or susceptible to outbreaks of violence.





Photo: UNAMID

CVR also serves to mobilize and empower women by ensuring their participation. Women represent a relatively small percentage of overall combatants, but often exert important influence upon armed groups and their members. During the DDR process, women are often left out of the lists of combatants submitted by the armed groups or intentionally refuse to participate in the process, fearing possible stigmatization by their community. CVR projects serve as an alternative to include marginalized women and other special interest groups in the peace process.

COORDINATION WITHIN PEACE OPERATIONS AND WITH UN COUNTRY TEAMS

To promote synergy within peace operations, DDR staff develop CVR programming in close coordination with other sections of the mission as well as the UN Country Team. They work with representatives from relevant mission sections, often including Civil Affairs, Humanitarian Affairs, Protection of Civilians, Child Protection, Gender, as well as with agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP and IOM.

GENESIS OF CVR

CVR was first mandated in 2006 by Security Council resolution 1702, which requested the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti to **“reorient its disarmament, demobilization and reintegration efforts...towards a comprehensive community violence reduction programme adapted to local conditions.”**

CVR was implemented to address new challenges within DDR processes. The lack of a formal armed conflict, formal rebel groups and a formal

peace agreement hampered the capabilities of DDR, proving the need for a more progressive and flexible CVR approach. The CVR programme in Haiti focused on reducing gang-related violence in selected neighbourhoods of Port-au-Prince through the following four principles:

- ▶ **Mitigating risk factors** that contribute to insecurity.
- ▶ **Promoting capacity development of state institutions** and supporting rule of law.
- ▶ **Empowering civil society** and facilitating dialogue with government authorities.
- ▶ **Mobilizing and empowering women** to engage in project activities.

CVR was prominently featured in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) report "Second Generation DDR Approaches in UN Peace Operations" (2010) following its successful applications in Haiti. It has since been adapted by several peace operations and applied in a variety of contexts and stages of peace processes.

CVR TODAY

Currently, CVR is implemented by five UN Peace Operations:

- ▶ The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (**MONUSCO**);
- ▶ The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (**MINUSCA**);
- ▶ The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (**MINUSMA**);

- ▶ The African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur (**UNAMID**);
- ▶ The United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (**MINUJUSTH**).

In these missions, CVR is implemented either as a complement to, or an enabler of DDR, or as in Haiti, replacing DDR.

CVR initiatives, through a participatory approach, engage community members, local authorities and former members of armed groups throughout the project life cycle: community assessment, design and planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. This approach promotes inclusive local and national ownership, stabilizes targeted areas and creates conditions for post-conflict development.

Individual project implementation is done through collaboration with national and international partners, while the overall programme management is carried out by the DDR or CVR component of the peace operation. The mission's DDR/CVR component is in turn supported by the DDR Section in the DPO Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI).

THE CVR THEORY OF CHANGE

CVR is often implemented when the security, economic or political climates do not allow for effective intervention through DDR programmes. CVR serves as a short-term stabilization measure, designed to create "breathing space" for other rule of law, governance and livelihood programmes. It engages with communities and former members of armed groups. CVR projects are transitional measures aimed at linking its beneficiaries primarily to other DDR processes but also to broader peacebuilding strategies, while long-term programming, such as reintegration, is put in place.

CVR LOGICAL FRAMEWORK AND SAMPLE INDICATORS

INCREASED SECURITY & COMMUNITY STABILITY

OUTCOMES

- ▶ Strengthen community resilience
- ▶ Prevent recruitment by armed groups
- ▶ Create conducive conditions for DDR processes
- ▶ Empower and mobilize women across regions
- ▶ Promote social cohesion and improve social efficacy
- ▶ Contribute to early recovery and subsequent development initiatives

OUTPUTS

- ▶ Improve access to services
- ▶ Promote alternative livelihoods
- ▶ Enhance state capacity in targeted areas
- ▶ Provide income generation opportunities
- ▶ Support implementation of DDR processes
- ▶ Increase participation of women in community projects
- ▶ Provide short-term employment and vocational training

ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Conduct needs assessments
- ▶ Conduct sensitization campaigns
- ▶ Deliver on-the-job vocational training
- ▶ Coordinate actions with local authorities
- ▶ Engage with community members initiate dialogue on conflict drivers
- ▶ Construct/rehabilitate schools, basic health units, police stations, and community centers

KEY CONFLICT DRIVERS AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

Lack of basic services, marginalization of some community groups, unequal access to community resources, etc.

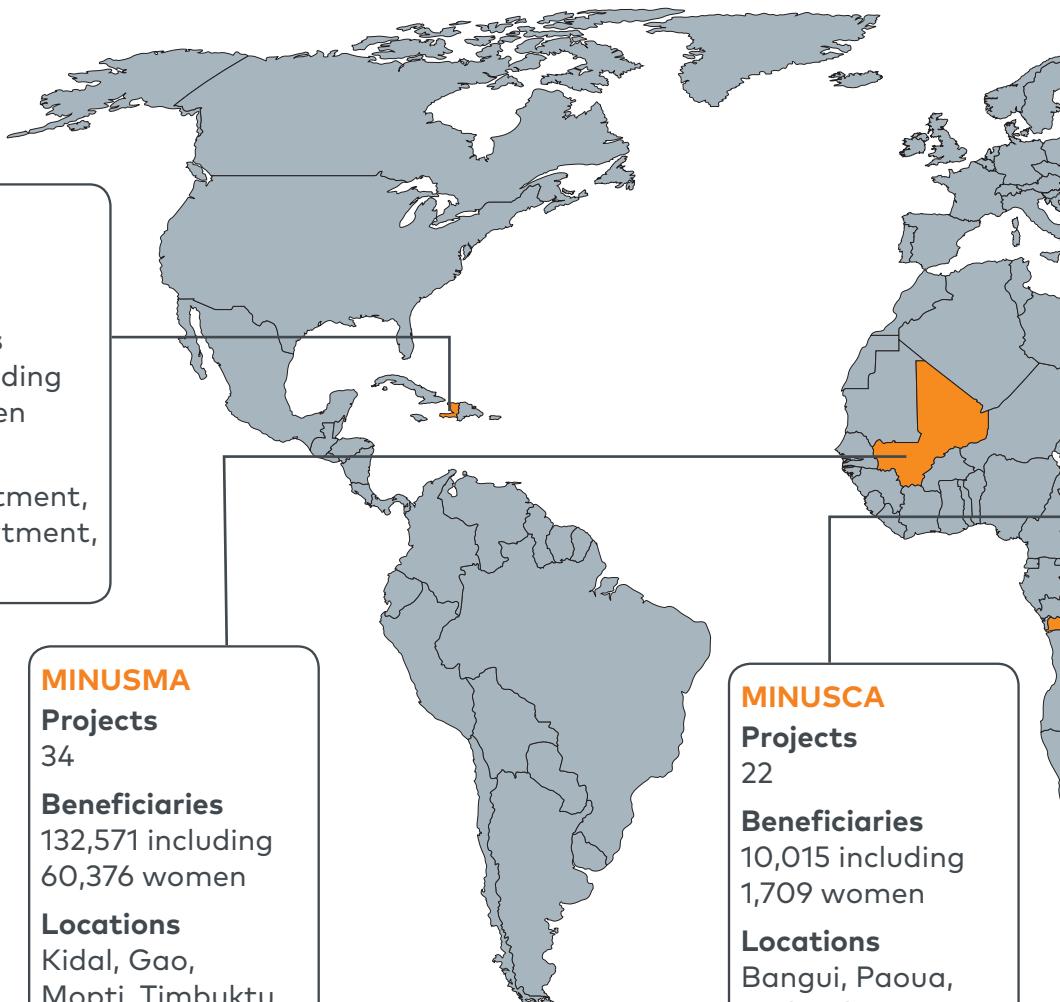
CVR programmes often consist of short-term community-based projects aimed at reducing violence and creating local stability through providing alternative livelihoods. In consultation with communities and beneficiaries, CVR includes an array of flexible programmatic activities using socio-economic tools to incentivize communities to reject violence and to tackle the underlying conditions that contribute to the emergence and consolidation of armed groups in specific contexts.

PARTNERSHIPS

CVR projects are designed to address local needs through consultation with community members. Local leaders and local communities are encouraged to identify and collectively agree on priority projects to address community-level violence. Communities are in turn selected according to clear criteria in a transparent, evidence-based selection process. This can be ensured through early assessment, do-no-harm considerations, weapons surveys, and scoping exercises of socioeconomic opportunities, taking into account community perceptions. Consultations with national line ministries, local authorities and civil society on security issues are essential for effective programming.

CVR programmes are carried out through a variety of national implementing partners, which are drawn from established community-based organizations, national and international NGOs, national training institutes, and international partners, including UN and non-UN entities. While partner organizations are responsible for programme implementation, local communities are actively involved in all aspects of programming.

CVR ACROSS THE WORLD, 2016-2017



MINUSTAH

Projects

31

Beneficiaries

188,984 including
60,939 women

Locations

West Department,
North Department,
Artibonite

MINUSMA

Projects

34

Beneficiaries

132,571 including
60,376 women

Locations

Kidal, Gao,
Mopti, Timbuktu

MINUSCA

Projects

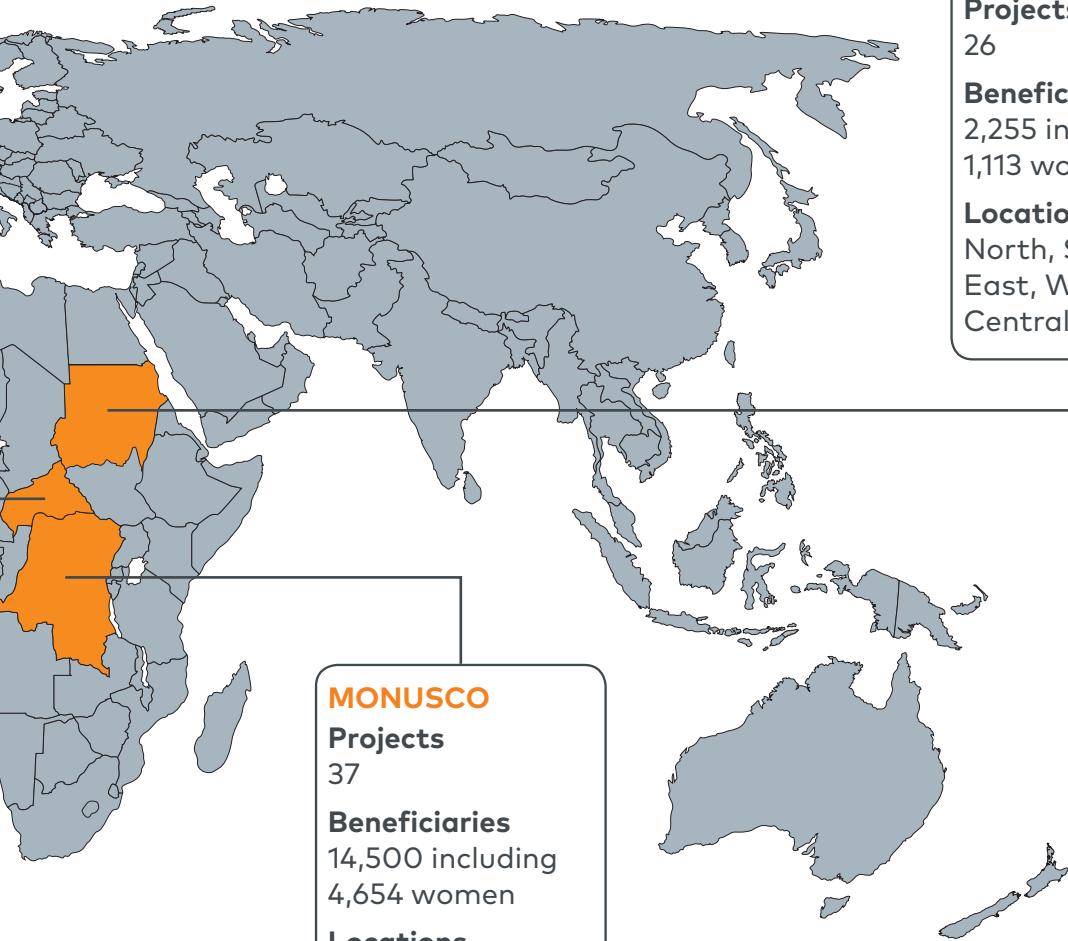
22

Beneficiaries

10,015 including
1,709 women

Locations

Bangui, Paoua,
and 10 hotspot
locations



UNAMID
Projects
26
Beneficiaries
2,255 including
1,113 women
Locations
North, South,
East, West and
Central Darfur

MONUSCO
Projects
37
Beneficiaries
14,500 including
4,654 women
Locations
Lumbishi, Ninja,
Uvira

CVR AND THE SDGS

By preventing recruitment by armed groups, contributing to early recovery, protection of civilians, and contributing to the extension of state authority; CVR helps promote peaceful and inclusive societies. Under this premise, CVR directly contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and Strong institutions.

CVR & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



CVR AND SUSTAINING PEACE

CVR also supports the UN's prevention of armed conflict agenda, as it preemptively targets violence hotspots and also prevents recruitment of individuals into armed groups. It works in conjunction with all three UN pillars to promote sustainable peace.

MINUSTAH: THE BIRTHPLACE OF CVR

CVR was first initiated by MINUSTAH in 2006 following Security Council Resolution 1702, which recognized that conditions for DDR did not exist in Haiti and that "alternative programmes were required to address local conditions...". It became clear that armed groups, in particular armed gangs, were the main source of insecurity in Haiti, and not the disbanded army (FADH). In 2007, MINUSTAH re-oriented its DDR approach prioritizing CVR to tackle the major root causes of violence in Haiti – poverty and the absence of rule of law. For over a decade MINUSTAH implemented CVR programmes, contributing to the reduction of violence in target communities, until the mission closed on 15 October 2017. The new peacekeeping mission (MINUJUSTH) is continuing the implementation of CVR.

Facts and figures

CVR has been implemented in three of Haiti's ten departments (Ouest, Nord and Artibonite). Initially, CVR involved labour-intensive projects and temporary work programmes as alternatives to criminality and unemployment for community members, especially youth at risk of recruitment into gangs. More targeted projects provided professional skills training, small enterprise start-up, business development and apprenticeship placement in the private sector. A special focus was given to incentivizing youth-at-



Photo: MINUSTAH

risk of recruitment to join these programmes. CVR also established legal aid centres, promoted community-based policing and led social reinsertion activities for former inmates, including women and minors. During its final year of operation (2016-2017), the CVR programme in Haiti implemented 31 projects, reaching over 188,984 direct beneficiaries, including 60,939 women. Selection criteria for CVR projects are based upon consultation with communities, which are selected due to their proximity to violence-affected areas and in areas with large numbers of youth-at-risk, and with government counterparts. Projects are designed through mapping exercises conducted at the community level.

It Takes a Village

Fort Saint Michel is an impoverished neighbourhood of approximately 6,000 habitants on the edge of Cap-Haitien (Nord) that in 2016 lacked access to public services, sanitation and potable water. The neighbourhood is also situated in a flood-prone area with mostly fragile dwellings, vulnerable to flooding. The town's underdeveloped infrastructure rendered the community mostly isolated, making it an attractive hide-out for bandits and gangs.

Community-based violence created a deeply insecure environment, which affected its residents, especially women. As part of CVR programming, a national NGO, the Association des Femmes Actives de Petite-Anse (AFA-PA), set up a four-month programme in 2017 designed to temporarily create employment opportunities in order to address community vulnerability, unemployment and criminal activity.

Initially, the project aimed to hire 200 local employees, 30 percent of whom were women, to provide the community with improved sanitation infra-

structure and build a culvert to reduce the risk of floods. This labour intensive project also led to the reconstruction of 1,623 meters of dirt road, reducing the community's isolation by connecting the neighbourhood with the airport.

By the end of the project, 450 employees, 135 (33.5%) of whom were women, were hired on a weekly rotation. Youth-at-risk of recruitment were specifically targeted and were taught to work together without resorting to violence. Social activities and workshops, centred around environmental protection, conflict management, gender equality and social dialogue, were organized alongside the project, further enhancing the social cohesion within the community. The infrastructural improvements greatly improved the living conditions for residents. In addition to the 1,623 meters of road connecting the neighbourhood to the airport, 300 additional meters were constructed to connect Fort Saint Michel with other secluded communities. This improved connectivity is expected to have a positive long-term impact on the economy of each of these communities.

For less than 200,000 US dollars, the CVR project in Fort Saint Michel provided temporary employment opportunities to youth-at-risk of recruitment and rehabilitated infrastructure, contributing to reduced insecurity and criminality while improving the living conditions of this vulnerable community.

MINUSCA: INTERTWINING CVR AND DISARMAMENT IN CAR

The Central African Republic has been characterized by proliferation of armed groups and heavy recruitment since the conflict broke out in 2013. Due to this complex context, MINUSCA's mandate has adapted to the evolving political process. Security Council Resolution 2387 (2017) urged



"the CAR Authorities to address the presence and activity of armed groups by implementing a comprehensive strategy that prioritizes dialogue and the urgent implementation of an inclusive DDR/R(Repatriation) programme." Among the mission's DDR-related tasks, the mandate lists CVR programmes to be implemented "for members of armed groups non-eligible for participation in the national DDRR programme". The December Security Council Resolution 2448 (2018) subsequently authorized MINUSCA to "support the CAR Authorities and relevant civil society organizations in developing and implementing CVR programmes, including gender-sensitive programmes, for members of armed groups including those non-eligible for participation in the national DDRR programme".

Facts and figures

While the mission's CVR strategy is still developing, it builds upon an earlier pre-DDR programme which contributed to security and stability, created space for dialogue, and reduced intra-communal violence during the 2016 elections by providing alternate livelihoods for combatants and communities. CVR is designed to maintain and sustain pre-DDR accomplishments and expand them to target elements associated with armed groups, youth at risk of recruitment and community members in hotspot locations throughout the country. Focus areas consist of priority regions in which recent conflict has occurred and where there is a proliferation of localized armed groups, militias or gangs. Both members of armed groups and communities are eligible to participate based on a ratio established separately in each context. Local committees, representing combatants, communities and local authorities support the beneficiary selection process.

Since 2016, MINUSCA has implemented CVR projects in nine hotspot locations, targeting more than 17,000 direct beneficiaries. In the financial year of 2017/18, MINUSCA implemented CVR in eight locations, reaching 6,283

beneficiaries (including 1,581 women). Funds were secured through assessed contribution of 7 million USD and with additional funding from the Peacebuilding Fund and other donors. The project was implemented in partnership with IOM and UNOPS.

CVR for DDR in Bria

CVR in CAR is complementary to DDR not only through providing alternative livelihoods to members of armed groups or reducing the risk of recruitment, but also by limiting the circulation of weapons in communities. In this innovative, new approach, armed group and community members are encouraged to voluntarily hand over their weapons. Hostilities in 2018, led to a massive outpour of civilian populations from the regional capital of Bria, leaving at least 75,000 IDPs, several deaths and more than half of the houses torched. CVR developed in the aftermath of the hostilities initially targeted 1,000 beneficiaries (including 443 women) but may be expanded in the future. The programme components, tailored to the local context, range from sensitization on social cohesion and citizenship education, vocational training, income-generating activities such as supporting stalls in local markets to capacity development in locally marketable crafts (tailoring, carpentry, metal works), completed with additional training in small business management. They also support the rebuilding of conflict affected infrastructure.

As of 30 June 2018, 791 weapons of different types were collected from CVR participants hailing from armed groups and the community. The programme enjoys strong support from local communities, and authorities both at the local and regional level. The CVR programme is contributing to restore a secure environment in Bria, so much needed after the recent hostilities, before a full-fledged DDR Programme can be implemented.

MINUSMA: SUPPORTING CANTO

On 29 June 2017, the Security Council passed Resolution 2364, renewing MINUSMA's mandate under Chapter VII of the UN Charter for an additional year, including the task to support to the "cantonment, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed groups". In order to lay the groundwork for the DDR process in Mali, MINUSMA has relied on community violence reduction programmes to foster social cohesion in communities around cantonment sites and to build support for the DDR and cantonment processes for potential communities-of-return for demobilized ex-combatants.

Facts and figures

To date, MINUSMA has implemented 89 CVR projects, reaching 132,571 direct beneficiaries and sensitization programme beneficiaries. Of these beneficiaries, 60,376 (45.54%) – are women. In fiscal year 2016-17, MINUSMA implemented 34 CVR project: 13 in Gao, 7 in Kidal, 5 in Mopti, and 9 in Timbuktu. These projects create short-term employment, providing both skills training and income to youth at risk of recruitment as well as members of armed movements. The majority of these projects have focused on rehabilitating public infrastructure, including water supply systems, livestock facilities, schools and community recreation centres, providing added benefits to the communities in which they are located. 9 of the 89 projects implemented to date specifically target women, providing economic opportunities and mobilizing support for implementation of the cantonment and DDR processes.

Reforestation in Gao

To prepare for the cantonment process, MINUSMA's DDR component has been engaging communities near cantonment sites through community violence reduction projects. In the regions of Gao, for example, MINUSMA



has launched a reforestation programme around each of the five cantonment sites. The project provides short-term employment opportunities to community members and aims to build social cohesion and support for the cantonment process. MINUSMA works through the Union pour un Avenir Ecologique et Solidaire (UAVES), a national NGO that has been implementing agriculture and ecological projects in Mali since 2001. The re-forestation project has provided short-term employment to 4,275 direct beneficiaries -1,283 women and 2,992 men. These beneficiaries include both ex-combatants and community members near the cantonment site. In addition, 18,750 Malians have indirectly benefited from the project through improved community access to public goods of lumber and firewood.

Beneficiary communities were chosen due to proximity to cantonment sites. Participation selection criteria considered special needs groups – primarily women, youth associated with armed forces and groups, and the elderly – and were formed through collaboration with communities. By providing short-term employment, the project reduces the vulnerability of youth to recruitment by armed movements and violent extremist groups—economically through the receipt of an income and socially through a sense of belonging and connection to the local community. The injection of income into these communities builds support for the cantonment process by providing and associating peace dividends with the cantonment sites.

UNAMID: VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUTH-AT-RISK OF RECRUITMENT

UNAMID was first mandated to support the Government of Sudan in implementing DDR programmes in 2007 through UN Security Council Resolution 1769. The mandate was most recently renewed by Resolution 2429 in 2018 to continue to provide technical and logistical assistance to the



Photo: UNAMID

Sudan DDR Commission and urged the Government of Sudan to conduct comprehensive disarmament process, given the wide proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

UNAMID has implemented community based labour-intensive projects (CLIPs) from 2011-2015, and since 2015 the Mission is implementing community stabilization projects (CSPs). These projects support the stabilization of communities through reducing community violence and preventing the recruitment of youth-at-risk to armed movements or criminal groups by promoting alternative livelihood and capacity building opportunities, strengthening resilience of local communities and bolster peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The CSPs and CLIPs are focused on promoting community security, strengthening governance, institution development and community empowerment, durable solutions for conflict affected communities and basic social services and economic service delivery. The design and implementation of CSPs project is based on a consultative process, which includes local authorities, community members and local partners. Selection criteria for beneficiaries include violence affected communities, the presence of youth-at-risk of recruitment and other vulnerable communities, and other community-determined priorities. The CSPs also target to strengthen local native administration, enhance administrative capacity for the rule of law, health and education, promote ecological resiliency and, overall, create and sustain a more secure environment in Darfur.

Facts and figures

From 2011-2018, UNAMID implemented 201 projects across Darfur. North Darfur (58 projects), West Darfur (61 projects), South Darfur (40 projects), Central Darfur (22 projects) and East Darfur (20 projects). These 201 projects have reached 10,786 direct beneficiaries, 4,311 of whom are women. Selection criteria for beneficiary communities include the pres-

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أغسطس ٢٠١٦





By improving youth's employability and social integration, their vulnerability to violence has been reduced. As the young people were engaged in rebuilding their fragile communities, there has been a substantial reduction of violence and conflict in targeted communities.

Bintou Keita

Assistant Secretary-General
for peacekeeping operations
(CVR Day 2017)

ence of youth-at-risk of recruitment in “hotspot” areas, project visibility in communities, and complementarity with other UN activities. Considering territorial presence and technical expertise, projects are implemented through local implementing partners, in coordination with local authorities and beneficiary communities.

Training Youth across the 5 States of Darfur

All CLIPs and CSPs implementation across the 5 states provided on the job training to more than 4,000 youth-at-risk of recruitment, which helped address the social exclusion of youth, bridged a critical gap between the increasing “youth bulge” and employment/livelihood opportunities, reduce vulnerability of youth to engage in community violence and criminal acts and most importantly preventing their recruitment by non-state armed groups. The project provided vocational training on auto-mechanics, general electricity, plumbing, computer skills, driving, carpentry, construction, water and sanitation, handicrafts and tailoring. The project was designed based on identified priorities of the community during the needs assessment mission to the area. The project contributed to the reduction of crimes in the areas by targeting unemployed youth who were causing most of the community's insecurity. A training curriculum is designed that suited the needs of the community and of participants.

MONUSCO: CREATING SPACE FOR DIALOGUE AND SOCIAL COHESION

CVR was first implemented by MONUSCO in January 2017 to complement both the *Plan national de désarmement, démobilisation et réinsertion* (PND-DR III) and Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement (DDRRR) activities. In 2017, Security Council resolution 2348 mandated MONUSCO for the first time to implement “a Community Vio-

lence Reduction (CVR) approach through community-based security and stabilization measures" which was subsequently renewed in 2018 by resolution 2409.

Facts and Figures

Since 2017, MONUSCO implemented 83 CVR projects reaching just under 500,000 beneficiaries. This includes sensitization and social mobilization projects. CVR is currently implemented primarily in the Eastern Provinces of the DRC. These projects include income generation, infrastructure development, vocational training, prevention of gender-based-violence, youth-at-risk, child protection and labor-intensive projects. Preliminary evidence has shown that CVR has contributed positively to reinsertion of PNDDR III ex-combatants and assisted in preventing recruitment of youth by armed groups.

Market Spaces and Space for Dialogue

In Binza, Rutshuru territory, North Kivu, cyclical violence has created a volatile environment with rampant poverty and intercommunity tensions. Without access to sustainable incomes, youth in Binza are vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups. MONUSCO collaborated with a national NGO, Clercs Réguliers Mineurs (CRM), to introduce CVR and to create short-term employment. One hundred and fifty community members, including 50 women, were hired to build a market space. Selection criteria for beneficiaries included special needs groups, particularly single mothers and widows, youth and ex-combatants. In addition to providing short-term employment, this labour-intensive project provided ex-combatants with the opportunity to (re)integrate into the community, decreasing their risk of returning to arms. Three of these ex-combatants were hired on a permanent basis to maintain the market. Psychosocial support was also provided to address trauma and grievances caused by intercommunity violence.



The market place provided residents of Binza with commercial opportunities and improved social cohesion through intercommunity interaction. Since the market was built, the implementing partner, CRM, reported that the recruitment rate of youth and ex-combatants had decreased and that there had been fewer incidents of violent conflict in the community since the implementation of the project. The market has also improved socioeconomic conditions, as many of the participants have become more self-reliant since they generate their own income.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHAT IS CVR?

CVR is part of Second Generation DDR processes and consists of an array of policies, projects and practices intended to prevent and reduce the threat and incidence of collective violence. CVR measures are typically flexible and bottom-up, focusing on at-risk of recruitment individuals and community members in hot-spot areas.

HOW IS CVR USED TO SUPPORT PEACE PROCESSES?

CVR is an important mechanism for community stabilization. Short-term CVR programmes can address the underlying causes of conflict in communities and provide socioeconomic incentives for peace. These programmes also play a key role in providing opportunities for former combatants, or youth at risk of recruitment by armed groups, allowing them to pursue alternative livelihoods and more effectively reintegrate into their communities. CVR can help fill the gaps throughout the DDR process both by providing combatants with livelihoods while political agreements are reached for DDR processes to commence and by providing opportunities to combatants who might not be eligible for formal DDR programming.

WHAT IS THE RELATION BETWEEN CVR AND DDR?

DDR and CVR share the same security and stabilization objective and are concerned with addressing a predominance of armed groups and, by extension armed – including gang-related – violence. CVR can be implemented to create conducive conditions for DDR, to support or complement DDR, or—in some cases—replace DDR.

HOW IS CVR IMPLEMENTED?

CVR projects are implemented through local and international partners in consultation with beneficiaries, communities, local authorities and state institutions. Once national capacity is developed, priority is given to the implementation of initiatives through local partners.

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF CVR PROJECTS?

CVR projects come in a range of shapes and forms and are developed in collaboration with communities. They can include vocational and skills training, rehabilitation of public infrastructure, income-generating initiatives, the initiation of intercommunity dialogue or any other project which mitigates risk factors that could lead to community violence or recruitment of youth-at-risk.

ARE THERE CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CVR?

No. CVR projects can be implemented in the absence of a peace agreement. CVR is part of the Second Generation DDR strategies and was designed to be flexible enough to adapt to complex contexts and address new challenges facing DDR programming.

WHO ARE THE CVR BENEFICIARIES?

In addition to combatants who are either ineligible for DDR or waiting for DDR processes to commence, CVR beneficiaries include youth (aged between 16 and 29) and other local community members. CVR aims to provide alternative lifestyles for young people, termed “youth-at-risk of recruitment”, who lack formal employment opportunities and may be vulnerable to recruitment by armed groups and non-state actors. CVR also focuses on empowering women, who make up 49% of direct beneficiaries.

WHO ARE THE CVR PARTNERS?

In line with the United Nations push for inclusive national ownership, DDR staff managing CVR programmes regularly partner with national NGOs and civil society organizations. These implementing partners work directly with communities and beneficiaries by including them in programme design and implementation. In addition to local organizations and communities, CVR programme managers also partner with international organizations, including UNDP, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).



Youth unemployment deprives millions of young people of the opportunity to fulfil their potential, and plays a part in violent conflict and the rise of global terrorism.

António Guterres

United Nations
Secretary-General
(2017)

www.un.org/peacekeeping/issues/ddr

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