The Role of Economic Actors in the Prevention of conflicts and Peace Building in CAR

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC –CASE STUDY

Brussels - Belgium
10 May, 2012
Presentation Outline

• Overview of CAR
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  • Political Governance
  • History of Conflicts in CAR
• Location of Ex-Combatants
• Failures in Peacebuilding
• UN Security Projects in CAR
• Regional Security
  • Reintegration of ex-combatants
• Water and Sanitation Challenges in CAR
Central African Republic

Location: central Africa
Surface: 622,987 km²
Population: 4.4 million
• 80 ethnic groups
Capital: Bangui
Neighbouring countries: Chad, Sudan, Cameroon, DRC, Congo Republic
Political Governance

Government:
• military elites
• autocratic systems of ‘ethnic exclusiveness’

Problems:
• Bribes & corruption
• Inability to ensure security within borders
• Incapacity to adopt sustainable reintegration of ex-combatants

Human Development Index: CAR number 179 / 187
→ Least developed country in the world
History of Conflict in CAR

2003 coup
• overthrow of President Félix Patassé
• at power President François Bozizé
→ 2005 establishment of transparent elections
2006 armed opposition strengthening
• CAR surrounded by countries in conflict
• Safe haven for armed groups
• Proliferation of small arms
• Decrease of international and humanitarian organisations’ presence

Ceasefire was signed on June 12, 2011 between the CAR government and the CPJP in order to ease the DDR process
Ex-Combatants Location
Failures in Peace Building

1. Contributing factors of a high mortality rate:
   - Crisis, conflict & displacement
   - Increased violence against civilians and humanitarian groups → human insecurity and increase of health issues

2. Presence of armed groups:
   - LRA → major IDPs, health and security issues
   - FPR → many reported attacks against humanitarians
   - CPJP and UFDR groups → IDPs movements to Chad → very limited humanitarian access in North

Consequences
   - Slowing down of the DDR process
Conflict Prevention in CAR

UN – BINUCA and MINURCAT

• Since September 2007
• Under Security Council Resolution 1778

Aim & Strategy:
1. **Dialogue Politique Inclusif (DPI):** reform of governance
2. Assisting DDR and SSR processes
3. Promotion of human rights, rule of law, justice & transparency
4. Establish cooperation with *Commission de consolidation de la paix*
5. Information sharing of peace & security threats
Regional Conflict Prevention

Tripartite Commission on Cross-Border Security

• Since December 2005
• Among CAR, Cameroon, Chad
• Aims to increase cross-border security at the border with neighboring states through cooperation and partnership
• Requires a more direct involvement of the African Union and the reinforcement of the AU architecture for conflict prevention mechanisms
Ex-Combatants Programs

Programme for Reintegration and Assistance to Communities

• Since April 2004
• Aimed at demobilization of over 7,500 ex-combatants

SSR program launched in 2008 (to restore peace & development)

CAR suggests the work of ex-combatants in unison with local communities as one tool for reintegration → by reactivating local structures, in particular Comités Locaux de Développement and Comités Locaux d’Approbation de Projets
Reintegration of Ex-Combatants in CAR

Strategy for reintegration:
• High Intensity Labor
• Economic reintegration
• Social reintegration
• Reintegration within the Defense and Security forces with the SSR
• Political reintegration, through the Inclusive Political Dialogue
• Gender reintegration
• the greater access to natural resources to increase economic reintegration opportunities
• the reconciliation between ex-combatants and communities as a driver for social cohesion
Reintegration of Ex-Combatants Cont.

• Taking into account **gender specific programs** of reintegration and reinsertion to prevent social stigma often felt by women ex-combatants and to increase their representation in socioeconomic forums

• pisciculture is seen as an economic opportunity along with possibilities in fish processing

• successful programs led by international NGO assistance need to find partnerships with CAR government
Vulnerable Population

Refugees & Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
• IDPs are estimated to represent 5% of the population; 108,000 with another 138,000 in South Chad, Sudan and East Cameroon.

Effective DDR process:
• in the N-W regions of Ouham and Ouham-Pendé.
• about 36,000 IDPs have returned.
• some 44,000 IDPs remain.
• 159,000 refugees remain in Chad and Cameroon.
Improved Access to Safe Water

- Decreasing since 2006! 52.1% → 30.5%

Consequences:

- Waterborne diseases (primarily diarrhea) cause death of 3,500 children under five years old annually
- Malnutrition (water contributes 50%) causes additional death of 1,100 children
Policy Proposals

1. Linking the reintegration of ex-combatants in Water/Forest as part of the *Force de Défense et de Sécurité*
   - Enhancing local, regional and national cooperation
   - Rebuilding the State economic and social infrastructures
   - Continuing partnership with international actors such as the UN and the European Union.

2. Adoption of a clear *Reintegration roadmap for ex-combatants* defining the role to be played by all actors at the local, regional and national level

3. Need for reform of the *Rule of Law and the State’s monopoly on violence*