Services and Support

By the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Section (DDRS)

Who We Are

- We are part of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) of the United Nations (UN) and are the leading implementing partner for DDR initiatives in the UN System.
- We nurture strong strategic, policy and operational partnerships with other leading DDR institutions, think tanks, INGOs, training centers, UN Member States, regional organizations and more.
- We also co-chair the UN Inter-Agency Working Group on DDR (IAWG), which brings together 26 UN entities and the World Bank and is the custodian of the Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS) which were recently revised.

DDRS serves as a global service provider and a center of excellence on DDR

Scope of work

We work across the entire peace continuum with UN entities, Member States, Regional Organizations and other partners towards mitigating the threats posed by armed groups, encouraging their members to lay down their arms, demobilize and reintegrate into civilian life.

DDR related tools

- **Community Violence Reduction (CVR):** CVR projects contribute to preventing and reducing violence at the community level in ongoing armed conflict or in post-conflict environments. It is a bottom-up approach that targets not only ex-combatants, but communities affected by conflict including youth at risk of recruitment to armed groups.
- **Transitional Weapons & Ammunition Management (T-WAM):** Includes gender-responsive interim arms control measures and aims at reducing the capacity of individuals and groups to engage in armed violence and conflict, and at reducing accidents and save lives by addressing risks related to possessing weapons, ammunition and explosives.
- **Pre DDR:** A local-level transitional stabilization measure designed for those who are eligible for a national DDR programme; may include a range of gender-responsive and age-appropriate activities.
- **DDR support to Mediation support (see next page) and Transitional Security Arrangements:** These are security-related confidence-building measures used as part of ongoing negotiations, ceasefire or peace agreements. The agreements can include for e.g. the temporary establishment of legitimate non-state security providers or mixed patrols and units consisting of state and non-state actors.
- **Support to the voluntary disengagement/exit from non-state armed groups:** States encourage voluntary exit by offering safe pathways out of the group. Individuals report to State institutions that will formally recognize their transition to civilian status and provide transition assistance.
1. Policy & Guidance
- Develop, update, inform and consult on leading DDR, CVR, WAM policies and guidance, through the IDDRS.
- Offer technical assistance, such as support to building strategies, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), guidelines, policies, and more, to enhance national institutional capacities to implement DDR programmes and processes.
- Conduct research to inform DDR strategies and formulate recommendations to national authorities and relevant stakeholders.
- Analyze local contexts to tailor DDR interventions to specific conflict dynamics.
- Map armed groups and identify entry points for programmatic engagement.

2. Strategic Design & Roll out
- Provide planning support and coaching to design & implement Gender responsive national DDR processes, including direct support to national DDR commissions.
- DDR Related Tools: Provide support to strategic design and roll out of Gender responsive DDR related tools such as CVR and T-WAM.
- Provide support to programmes for those leaving armed groups labelled and/or designated as terrorist organizations.
- Provide programme and project support to UN Secretariat and Agencies Funds and Programmes on DDR.
- Deploy DDR Standing Capacity expert upon request, for limited time and targeted purpose.
- Monitor & evaluate DDR processes, including CVR and WAM activities, to consolidate lessons learned and best practices.

3. Mediation & Political Support
- Deploy experts, support drafting provisions of agreements, and provide negotiation advice to partners on engaging with armed groups as part of broader mediation, ceasefire or peace agreement processes.
- Support broader political processes and engagement with armed groups, including support to political reintegration and transformation of ex-combatants, with support from leading experts and institutions.

4. Coordination & Partnerships
- Support National institutions to create effective coordination and partnership mechanisms to implement DDR, CVR and WAM activities.
- Support developing regional approaches to DDR.
- Support UN Partners with DDR coordination, and strengthen UN system wide coordination on DDR, CVR and WAM, ensuring synergies with broader UN agendas such as Youth Peace & Security and Women Peace & Security.
- Support peer to peer learning, and facilitate South–South Cooperation, and engagement between UN entities, national stakeholders and the DDR community, including training centers, think tanks and partners.
- Invite national and UN stakeholders to participate in relevant events and networks such as the Inter Agency Working Group on DDR and the DDR National Commission Network.

5. Capacity Building & Training
- Provide tailored training and capacity-building programs for stakeholders involved in DDR efforts—including UN and national stakeholders.
- Provide tailored Training of trainers (TOT) programs.
- Actively participate and provide linkages to leading DDR training institutions, including through the Integrated DDR training Group (IDDRTG).

6. Advocacy & Finance
- Provide an entry point to engage with the UN system and Member States on DDR, including through the Group of Friends on DDR.
- Promote South–South cooperation across countries and contexts, by connecting relevant stakeholders.
- Provide visibility and support to on the ground DDR teams, including through advocacy with member states and partners, including financial institutions.