

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

SPECIAL NEEDS:

It includes, general health and mental assessments through mobile medical teams; awareness raising and sensitization on HIV-AIDs, drug counselling and psychosocial reintegration support, to assistance to traumatized former combatants.

ICRS supports the training and capacity building of local structures and personnel at different levels. The linkage of counselling activities with available services within the community facilitates the continuity of support and a better understanding of the problems faced by former combatants, without excluding the needs and resources of the communities in which they reside.

OUTREACH AND MOBILE TEAMS:

Outreach refers to grass-roots verification & monitoring mechanism. It serves as the backbone of ICRS field operations, strengthening community participation, working to reconcile differences, identifying problems to reintegration & supporting the administration of solutions. It also serves as programme's basic information & feedback component that keeps the delivery of assistance in tune with the beneficiaries' transitional needs & changing realities.

Mobile Teams are used as out-stations in areas where IOM does not have a sub-office and broaden the geographical coverage of the ICRS.

IOM DDR/SSR AND HUMAN SECURITY OPERATIONS

COUNTRY	PERIOD	PROJECT
On-going Projects		
ANGOLA	2004 - on going	- Reintegration of Former Combatants (FC) and Community Revitalization
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	2002 - on going	- Transitional Assistance to FC, Security Sector Reform (SSR)
COLOMBIA	2001 - on going 2004 - on going	- Support To Ex-Combatant Children - Community Oriented Reintegration of Ex-Combatants
CROATIA	2003 - on going	- Reintegration Assistance to Separated Defence Personnel (SSR)
INDONESIA	2003 - on going 2006 - on going	- Reintegration support to demobilized combatants through ICRS. - Direct Health-Psychosocial Assistance.
IRAQ	2007 - on going	- Programme for Human Security and Stabilization in Iraq
KOSOVO (SERBIA)	1999 - on going	- ICRS/Reintegration Fund & Kosovo Protection Corps Training Programme
MONTENEGRO	2007 - on going	- Assessment of Montenegro's Security Sector Reform (SSR)
SERBIA	2006 - on going	- Programme of Assistance to Redundant Military Personnel in Serbia (SSR)
Completed Projects		
MOZAMBIQUE	1992-1996	- Return Assistance to Demobilized Combatants & their dependents; Information Referral Service and Provincial Fund
HAITI	1994-1996	- Haiti Assistance Programme: Demobilization & Reintegration Programme and the Communal Governance Programme
ANGOLA	1994-1996	- Return and Reintegration of Demobilized Soldiers; conflict mitigation and reintegration programme
MALI	1996-1998	- Consolidation of Acquired Practices for Reinsertion credit: PAREM - Assistance Programme for the Reinsertion Combatants in North Mali
GUATEMALA	1996-1998	- Demobilization and Reintegration of URNG Fighters
PHILIPPINESE	1998-1999	- Mobile Information, Referral and Community Assistance Service
EAST TIMOR	1999-2001	- Falintil Reinsertion Assistance Programme
GUINEA BISSAU	2001-2005	- Reintegration of FC of all the conflicts that G.Bissau faced since 1954 - DDR to all the militiamen & part of soldiers of the 1998-1999 conflict
CONGO BRAZAVILLE/ DRC	2000-2002 2005-2006	- Ex-combatant reintegration and small arms collection; repatriation of ex Faz/Fac combatants from Brazza to Kinshasa
CAMBODIA	2000-2002	- General Health Assessment of Demobilized Soldiers
TAJIKISTAN	2002-2004	- Assistance to Demobilized Soldiers, Released Detainees, Unemployed Youth
SIERRA LEONE	2002-2004	- Reintegration of Demobilized Ex-combatants and their families through the Rapid Project Implementation Facility (SLRPIF)
UGANDA	2002-2004	- Integrated project for the return and reintegration of Ugandan Reporters of Concerns to the Amnesty Commission through ICRS
COTE D'IVOIRE	2004-2005	- Provision of Managed Transportation Services to support the DDRR Program in Liberia
AFGHANISTAN	2004-2006	- Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP) Reintegration of Ex-Combatants in Northern, Central and Eastern regions



IOM Return and Reintegration Programmes developed in East Timor, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Afghanistan through the implementation of the ICRS mechanism.

IOM - REINTEGRATION OF FORMER COMBATANTS

IOM'S REINTEGRATION FRAMEWORK OF FORMER COMBATANTS

DISARMAMENT DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION (DDR)

Since 1992, IOM has supported the design and implementation of some of the largest Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) operations in the world. These operations have assisted thousands of former combatants and their dependents to return to normal civilian life after many years of conflict and as such, have contributed to national and regional reconciliation and stabilization, preventing further negative migration.

DDR operations are complex and are often characterised by continuing security risks, weak or absent public administration and protracted discussions over issues not sufficiently explained in peace negotiations or agreements.

DDR operations comprise many inter-related tasks, which include political, military, humanitarian, security and socio-economic activities. Experience has shown that neglecting one of these components can quickly lead to the failure of an entire process.

WHY DO FORMER COMBATANTS NEED TO BE SUPPORTED?

There are fundamental reasons why former combatants and their dependents need to be categorized as a special vulnerable group in need of support.

For the former combatants, the arrival of peace, despite all its positive aspects, does not immediately translate into a "peace dividend." Peace ushers in new social realities that can have traumatic impacts on all those for which war has become a way of making a living. For many of them, a peace agreement signifies giving up their uniforms, their identity, their status and their former survival strategies.

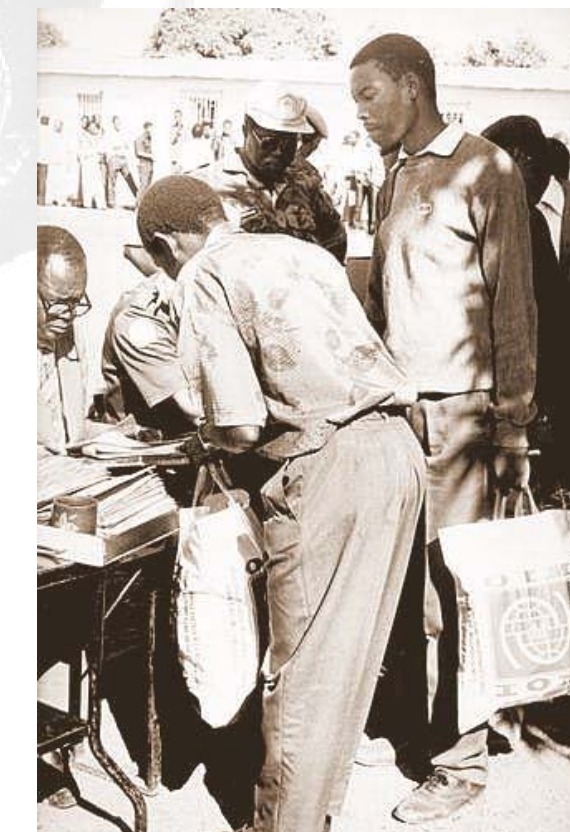
During protracted conflicts, most former combatants may have spent more than ten years in the military and often have no immediate marketable skills and little or no training other than using a gun and fighting. Often blamed for the excesses of war and unable to find alternative employment, they can easily become marginalised and disgruntled. If left unchecked, security conditions can very quickly deteriorate and may end up serving as the catalyst for a return to armed conflict. Thus, their reintegration within the host-community is a key component for community stabilization and prevention of forced displacement after peace agreements.

In addition to this, most combatants, their families and host communities may have also had limited access to basic health and social services. Loss of life, disrupted family and social support mechanisms are contributory factors to heightened health risks and vulnerability to develop health problems. Thus, addressing their general and mental health needs, will also ensure their meaningful reinsertion and reintegration.

IOM's view on social protection is through an operational perspective and focuses on the return and reintegration phases whilst mitigating the factors that cause tension and displacement.



GUATEMALA: A group of supporters with peace slogans cheer the demobilization of former combatants of the civil war. © IOM 1997 - MGT0004



MOZAMBIQUE: Former soldiers register with IOM officials for their return home. Mozambique Demobilization and Return Programme 1994. © IOM /Peter Schatzer /1994 - MMZ0025



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INFORMATION, COUNSELLING AND REFERRAL SERVICE (ICRS)

WHAT IS ICRS?

The **Information Counselling and Referral Service (ICRS)** is a dynamic, solid and rapidly implemented mechanism developed by IOM over many years of involvement in DDR operations. The ICRS inter-phases to and from the former combatants and all other relevant stakeholders, in the anticipation and identification of gaps, needs, expectations and changes in a negotiated DDR framework and through this, administer timeline solutions that ensure that a given DDR process is kept on track.

ICRS lives to link its own assistance components and resources to those available amongst all other relevant partners and stakeholders (public, private, community, UN and other IO/NGOs) that can be used to support the process of successful transition of the former combatants from military to civilian life. In particular, the Referral component replaces the need for IOM to directly intervene with its own funds by making use of existing locally available structures and expertise already in place.

ICRS mobilizes and directly works with the community structures on the identification of social and economic obstacles, along with the priority solutions to be administered, through the promotion of dialogue and consensus and as a means to building confidence in the future.

IOM's direct action, through the funding of micro-projects (engineered through the use of the Reintegration Fund-RF), is only undertaken as an activity of "last resort" and when all other options have been exhausted and no other alternatives exist to support the further socio-economic absorption of former combatants. As such, IOM's ICRS-RF has the capacity to pool-in and/or coordinate players and stakeholders, including acting as a conduit through which diverse multi-sectoral and socio-economic activities are strategically and rapidly channelled, connected and interlinked.

Some of the components supported by the ICRS during DDR operations include:

- Technical support in the establishment of Information Management Systems to support the DDR process as a whole;
- Pre-demobilization socio-economic/demographic profiling of combatants, including identifying the beneficiaries' needs, concerns and expectations to reintegration, along with information as to the known absorption possibilities at the level of return communities;
- Screening and registration of bona-fide caseloads to be assisted, including the identification of vulnerable categories (the handicapped, those needing psychosocial support, underage soldiers, women-combatants, the elderly, etc);
- Establishment and management of demobilization assembly areas;
- Implementation of dignified, safe and orderly return programmes to areas of origin or choice;
- Purchase, storage and distribution of multi-purpose reinsertion kits on the day of demobilization;
- Creation of multi-sectoral income-generation opportunities, inclusive of vocational and on-the-job training components, that support the sustainable reinsertion into civilian life.

IOM's capacity to rapidly pool-in and activate both internal and external resources to the ICRS, to close gaps and reconnect service networks, has significantly contributed towards stabilizing communities in formerly contested areas (thereby creating the breathing space needed by other longer-term peace and reconciliation initiatives to take root).

ICRS COMPONENTS

INFORMATION:

ICRS contributes to a positive environment to peace by making available timely, accurate and unbiased information, to and from the former combatants and all other relevant stakeholders, including the humanitarian agencies, educational institutions, potential employers, their communities of absorption and other stakeholders, as to on-going reintegration initiatives and how to access these.

It seeks to dispel misinformation and close information gaps through media and all available networking systems and promotes successful reintegration stories while acting as an outlet for peace advocacy.

ICRS, in close cooperation with other partners, supports the registration process and engages in public awareness campaigns and civic education initiatives that are implemented and monitored, grass-roots upwards.

At the heart of the Information component, a **Database and Data Management System** serves as the central depository for all related information. This, not only, allows for the best cost-effective management of IOM's own programme resources, but also supports the development of a transparent and strategic system of monitoring and information sharing amongst all relevant partners and stakeholders.



COLOMBIA: Former combatants being interviewed to develop the socio-economic profile. Santa Fe de Ralito, Colombia © IOM/RSanz/ 2004 - MCO0522

COUNSELLING:

ICRS facilitates personalized and confidential counselling that serves to highlight and address, through direct dialogue and discussion, the identification of the socio-economic/demographic obstacles faced by the former combatants and their dependents, along with the administration of reintegration solutions that will include the direct participation of the community as a whole.

Counselling serves as a vital confidence-building tool that supports the establishment of grass-roots networks to bridge gaps and build consensus amongst the concerned beneficiaries: informing, advising, listening, collecting and updating data for transformation into easily digestible information for action and prioritization of direct micro-project assistance for those most in need. Counselling is not just a one-time event but a continuous process throughout the life of the reintegration programme.

REFERRAL SERVICE (RS):

The RS serves to support economic sector identification, analysis and development and through this, map-out preferential opportunities that are likely to offer the best options for growth, expansion and capacity to absorb former combatants and other related vulnerable groups into employment.

The RS not only ensures access to immediate opportunities available within the programme, but more significantly links these to other external activities, such as those undertaken within the public and private sectors, including health, legal support, housing services, education, training and other general business and development initiatives.

The RS also includes the analysis of labour market trends by sector and the provision of new employment opportunities for skilled and unskilled labour in both urban and rural areas.



HAITI: IOM staff at Croix-des Bouquets enroll former Haitian soldiers into IOM's vocational training programme. © IOM 1995 - MHT0004

REINTEGRATION FUND (RF):

The Reintegration Fund (RF) is used as a flexible-funding instrument; it is utilized to finance potential reintegration opportunities, whenever such opportunities can be created for the former combatants and their communities.

Sub-grants (in the form of in-kind donations) are facilitated to those programme beneficiaries who have not chosen another particular reintegration opportunity, or, are finding it difficult to overcome certain reintegration problems due to a lack of absorption capacity within the community.

RF labours to dampen competition between civilians and former combatants through the rapid revitalization of traditional patterns of productivity and through the reinforcement of rural and grass-roots communal structures. It serves as a catalytic component that enhances investment opportunities and reconstruction possibilities, including assistance in the establishment of sustainable gainful employment, encompassing self-employment and micro-enterprise development, fellowships, training and capacity building.

It is important to note that the RF does not constitute an entitlement, but rather, it offers additional opportunities when specific criteria are met.

In tandem with the Referral modality, the RF identifies and monitors community profiles, along with those of the former combatants. It establishes linkages between the communities and development agencies, thereby balancing the flow of available resources and manpower of the community with the available resources of the assistance agencies. At all times, the RF ensures that the needs of the community are also taken into account whenever considering assistance to be delivered to the former combatants and their dependents.

CAPACITY BUILDING (CB):

The CB component ensures the direct presence and ownership of the process by the government and all other relevant national stakeholders.

Either through the creation of the Employment Assistance Service (EAS), the set up of Disaster Management Teams or Civil Defence training programmes, or any other initiative, the mechanism works to enhance the participation of local authorities and community structures, at large, emphasizing community organization and civic participation that will work in tandem with the reintegration needs of the former combatants.

Capacity building aims at pooling into the reintegration effort, the direct participation and ownership of the process by the society at large and enhances their intervention as stakeholders to the process of pacification, reconciliation and economic revitalization.

By linking counselling activities with available services within the community the ICRS facilitates continuity to the support given, as well as a better understanding as to the problems faced by both direct and indirect beneficiaries and the socio-economic solutions to be administered, beyond the direct participation of IOM.



ANGOLA: Micro-projects deal with sustainable income generation and job creation. Local resources need to be used to ensure sustainability and maintenance of projects beyond the direct presence of IOM. © IOM 2005



KOSOVO: Kosovo Protection Corps trainees are taught rescue & resuscitation techniques as part of IOM's ongoing demobilization and retraining programmes. © IOM/ Tony Allen/ 2000 - MYU0013

