

Chapter 19

Different Paths to Peace Building: A Comparative Analysis of DDR Programs in Colombia and the Province of Aceh, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Since the first implementation of a modern DDR program, implemented in Namibia in 1989, more than 60 programs became the initial stage of a stabilization process in countries, in which national governments and irregular forces have ended hostilities, reached a ceasefire or signed a peace agreement. This document aims to provide a comparative analysis between two of them: the reintegration policy led by Colombia and Indonesia, from a description of these DDR processes and the general experiences that have been accumulated through the DDR processes in both countries. This paper makes a brief analysis of the political contexts that were conducive to the implementation of the reintegration process in both cases, describes the challenges faced and currently being faced by these processes, pointing out the strategies to address them and the role of international cooperation. The analysis will be framed during the peace process and DDR program in Aceh, Indonesia, and the Republic of Colombia, since 2003 until nowadays.

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INTRODUCTION

The process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) is considered by many practitioners and theorists as a key phase in a peace process. Modern DDR processes arose in the late eighties with the aim of becoming a tool to build stability after settling a formal peace agreement or adoption of a ceasefire in context of post war torn situations. These processes had a set of activities, which include interventions and operations, like controlled discharge of combatants from armed groups, the collection and documentation of heavy weapons, ammunition, small arms, as well as short-term transitional assistance designed to cover the basic needs of ex combatants and their families. As their first implementations, DDR mechanisms included safety allowances, such as food, medical services, clothes, training and occasionally also employment.

Once the fall of the Berlin wall and the end of Cold War occurred, employment of several stabilization and peace building missions, undertaken by international organizations like the United Nations, became frequent, in order to deal with a growing number of internal conflicts in regions such as Africa and Asia. Since the first implementation of a modern DDR program, which was implemented in Namibia in 1989 (Meek, & Mallan, 2004), more than 60 programs became the initial stage of a stabilization process in countries, in which national governments and irregular forces have ended hostilities, reached a ceasefire or signed a peace agreement (other typical cases reported are Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Liberia, Sudan, Indonesia, Rwanda, among others).

The degree of success of these programs greatly varies, especially since there are no unified indicators to measure it. Still, the international community agrees on recognizing cases of successful reintegration, such as Colombia, Indonesia and Rwanda (Edmonds, Mills & McNamee, 2009). These cases are recognized by its best practices,

the sustainability of improvement, their contribution to greater development processes and the achieved peace. This document aims to provide a comparative analysis between reintegration policy led by Colombia and Indonesia, from a description of these DDR processes and the general experiences that have been accumulated through the DDR processes in both countries. Under the idea of highlighting the efforts that have been developed in Colombia and Indonesia on reinsertion, reincorporation and reintegration over time, this paper makes a brief analysis of the political contexts that were conducive to the implementation of the reintegration process in both cases, describes the challenges faced and currently being faced by these processes, pointing out the strategies to address them and the role of international cooperation. The analysis will be framed during the peace process and DDR program in Aceh, Indonesia, and the Republic of Colombia, since 2003 until nowadays.

BACKGROUND

Over the years, DDR programs have been considered as a fundamental component for an effective transition from conflict to peace. Ultimately DDR processes have been considered as largely standardized techniques and procedures that include lessons learned from other crisis situations. Most of them were carried out without a previous design or theorization, and thus their evolution was mainly determined by trial and error. Later on, literature based on the experiences started to emerge. The Stockholm Initiative on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (SIDDR) in 2005, the Integrated DDR Standards of the United Nations (IDDRS) in 2006, the Cartagena Contribution to DDR (CIDDR) of 2009, and the First Global DDR Summit (2013), in which experiences on peace, rural development, technical cooperation and DDR in different parts of the world were discussed, are some of the examples.

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