In a survey of ex-combatant in Sierra Leone, over 75 percent said the training component of DDR had prepared them well for employment; the most common complaint about the program was that it should have lasted longer.

Push for DDR work to be given to national commission rather than international group (there was success in Burundi but it didn’t work in Congo.

The OECD conducted an evaluation which formed the basis for judgement. They used these criteria:

Relevance and appropriateness: (very good)

Project was found to be appropriately designed and implemented at the local level because it took different social groups into account (ex-combatants, victims, child soldiers and women). The project’s objectives were in line with national policy and was achieved in close cooperation with the national DDR structure.

Effectiveness and coverage: (good)

If recipients make use of the services. Improve security situation in the community level and reintegrate different social groups in order to establish peace. There should be documentation of systematic monitioring processes for example assessment of gernder-specific issue or market demand at the community level and the up-scaling process to the national level. In other words, there should be quantitative assement of the project. Focus on regions with the highest need for reintegration of ex-combatant. The number of communities were reintegration programs are instituted should be manageable. It shouldn’t be scattered all over. There should be visibility in the communities.

Sustainability

There should be follow-up programs in these communities that will require the services of the people. Single short-term project wont do the trick

Specific expectations and potentials of all social groups (implementing agencies, local authorities and ex-combatants, women and other war-affected people) be assessed and understood in order to conceptuatlise and monitor appropriate reintegration issue in post-war context.

Skills training should be based on the needs, preferences and capabilities of the people to be trained on the one hand and on the other, the participatory community needs and market absorption of the skilled persons be assessed.

Special attention should be given to women and the role they played during the war. Emphasis should be placed on agricultural development for generating sustainable income and livelihood security at the initial stages of the reintegration process. Government should reform the land tenure system to facilitate access to land by participants

Local reconciliation and conflict management techniques should be maintained and strengthened. They are crucial within the social reintegration process.

What is the procedure for the identification and demobilization of ex-combatant.

Short-term and long-term perspective of reintegration must be defined from the beginning. Community reintegration takes place in phases and needs simultaneous interventions – training, agriculture, shelter, social and health services, infrastructure and reconciliation.

Macro political level - the participating communities should put in place proper political structures (good governance, economic development, peace building and security policy) in tandem with state, national and international partners.

Elements critical to the successful reintegration of former child soldiers in Sierra Loene

* Community sensitization
* Formal disarmament and demobilization
* A transition period in separate centers for boys and girls, located well away from adult DDR sites
* Tracing and family mediation
* Follow-up after a return to family/community, and extended monitoring for children not placed with their parents
* Traditional cleansing ceremonies, traditional healing and religious support
* School or skills training of adequate quality and duration, coupled with literacy and numeracy instruction and the provision of tools, materials, and follow-up counseling
* Individual supportive counseling, facilitation and encouragement

Traditional healing and faith-based interventions were important to the pscychological and physical recovery and social reintegration of young women who had suffered sexual abuse and violence.

Challenges

Ex-combatants who are trained do not get employment due to unavailability of jobs. Reintegration was implemented rather hastily to meet a required deadline and considered completed by the end of the DDR program.

Funds were exhausted in the disarmament and demobilization phase and little left for the reintegration component.

Poor management of ex-combatants expectations about life after discharge – provoked by incorrect information campaigns

Umemployment is not considered as a socio-economic issue but also a political and security issue, posing serious obstacles to peace

Imprisoned ex-combatants (who may be deemed as high security risk) should be released and also reintegrated

A complex challenge of reintegration is that proper and comprehensive socio-economic profiling, opportunity mapping and labor market analysis were not undertaken to provide information and balance the needs and ambitions of ex-combatant, the needs and expectations of receiving communities and most importantly the limitations of the market and econmomy. Also, the reintegration component of the DDR programme was not closely linked with broader socio-economic recovery and reconstruction processes