

Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (RDRC) was conceived in 1993 as part of the Arusha Peace Agreement between the then Government of Rwanda and the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF). The work of RDRC started in 1997. Since 1997 the RDRC has implemented demobilisation and support to social and economic reintegration for 71,658 ex-combatants including ex-RPA/RDF, ex-FAR, Ex-Armed Groups (AGs).

The RDRC has also provided support to over 12,000 dependants to ex-AGs returning with them from the jungles of eastern DRC. The demobilisation and reintegration support includes tailored assistance to women, children and disabled ex-combatants. The RDRC is presently governed by law N°50/2015 of 14/12/2015 and supervised by the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC). The RDRC also implements law N° 02/2007 of 20/01/2007 relating to the protection of disabled former war combatants through social protection and livelihood support interventions.



Inclusive social participation through peace tournaments annual



Discharge ceremony at Mutobo Demobilisation Centre



Barrier free houses for disabled ex-combatants



Tailoring skills training in Mutobo DC



**Rwanda
Demobilisation
and Reintegration
Commission**

MISSION

To facilitate the reinsertion and reintegration of the former military member to empower him/her to develop him/herself and contribute to the comprehensive development of the country.

Responsibilities

1. to receive and carry out social reinsertion and reintegration of former members of Rwanda Defence Forces placed at its disposal by the relevant organ;
2. to receive, demobilise and carry out social reinsertion and reintegration of the former military members; ex-FAR, ex-AGs.
3. to advocate for the initiatives meant for former military members with disability and follow up the implementation of such initiatives;
4. to advise the Government on the policy of demobilization, social reinsertion and reintegration of former military members;
5. to coordinate the actions of all Government organs and all stakeholders working with RDRC on matters related to the demobilization and the reinsertion and reintegration of former military members;
6. to carry out such other activities as may be required for the achievement of its mission.

Guiding principles

1. In the interest of national security and reconciliation, the Commission targets all ex-combatants irrespective of previous military affiliation;

2. To ensure consistency and fairness, all assistance to ex-combatants will be provided through the Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (RDRP) and supervised by the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (RDRC);
3. The RDRC relies on existing Government structures to the extent possible in order to build sustainable capacities beyond the program's duration;
4. Pension and social security issues for ex-RPA, ex-RDF and ex-FAR, are addressed outside the RDRC, in accordance with their respective terms and conditions of service;
5. The vulnerable groups (women, children, disabled/chronically ill and elderly) are given special care;
6. Every ex-combatant has free choice of where to settle within Rwanda, as well as freedom to move in search of economic opportunities.

Implementation mechanism

The RDRC pursues its mission and responsibilities through Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (RDRP), which has five components:

- i. Demobilization, ii. Reinsertion, ii. Social and Economic Reintegration, iv. Mainstreaming, and v. Programme Management.

RDRP Goal

To contribute towards consolidation of peace in the great lakes region especially in Eastern Democratic republic of Congo (DRC), and foster Unity within Rwanda.

Gains by Component

Demobilisation services are demand driven, and all demand has been fully satisfied with 100% of eligible beneficiaries successfully demobilised, totalling 71,828 ex-combatants.

Reinsertion support has been provided to all the 71,828 ex-combatants plus over 13,000 dependants of ex-AGs.

Social and economic reintegration of ex-combatants has been fully achieved. This is based on data from the External Independent Evaluation reports, 2022 and 2018 which conclude that ex-combatants are generally as socially accepted and economically active as other community members from the same neighbourhoods.

Disabled ex-combatants receive tailored support including Monthly Subsistence Allowances, medical services, plus shelter for the severely disabled and vulnerable.

Mainstreaming External Independent Evaluation reports (2022 and 2018) confirm that Ex combatants are generally as active in mainstream programs (including being elected into leadership positions) as other citizens