

**INEE Round Table
The Role of Education and Youth in Preventing Urban Violence and
Countering Violent Extremism**

Case Study:

**Protection of Adolescents at Risk of
Recruitment and of those associated with
Armed Groups in South Kivu through
Prevention, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
Processes**

The Context: South Kivu – DRC

- + 2 decades of conflict
- Extensive displacement, loss of life, destruction of economy/infrastructure,
- The use of sexual & gender based violence against women as weapon and,
- Recruitment of child/adolescents into armed groups – Thousands of ado.
- Poverty & vulnerability

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The Context: South Kivu – DRC

- Armed groups controlling mineral resources;
- Local militia groups – defend their communities;
- Armed groups defending their regions from external forces (Burundian and Rwandese)

The underlying factors of recruitment

Exogenous related factors

- Poverty and socio-economic vulnerability,
- Lack of quality education and understanding of children's rights,
- Lack of community and youth sensitisation/understanding of the issues related to children/adolescents recruitment,
- Lack of familial stability and support.
- Forced recruitment by armed groups

The underlying factors of recruitment

Endogenous related factors

- Youth's inability to establish a “life project”,
- Psychological fragility related to the violent environment,
- Feeling of insecurity,
- Peers influence to join the “powerful” armed groups,
- Search for social identity, need to belong to a group
- Need for revenge following exactions and lootings committed by hostile armed groups

RET's DDR Programme

PREVENTION – Civil Society/Youth Associations

SENSITIZATION- Networks/engagement with stakeholders in DDR

REHABILITATION – CTO, Education, Psychosocial & health support, life plans

REINTEGRATION – Vulnerable adolescents's support, education, follow up

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE – IGA training, sensitisation, further youths' support /focal points

General Outcomes

- Demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of **481 (including 41 female) adolescents** through the CTO.
- Direct support to **249 vulnerable adolescents (including 113 girls)** in the territories of Uvira and Fizi,

General Outcomes

- 30 local youth associations trained and supported to raise awareness and to cope with the risks and threats associated to the armed conflict.
- Sensitization of more than **12,567 community members**,
- Signed instruments of engagements with key stakeholders in the DDR processes, including **16 armed groups**.

Remaining Challenges

- Poverty and the lack of favourable circumstances in the often-remote communities of return.
- **Dropping out from their initial reintegration path or leaving school due to the incapacity of parents to pay for the tuition fees or to provide adequate supervision.**
- Many parents still **lack understanding of the importance of education, especially for girls.**
- Despite agreements with armed groups, some continue recruiting adolescents

Protecting Through Education



Thank you!

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