



## COUNTRY PROFILE: RWANDA

### ***Nature of Conflict***

The conflict in Rwanda developed over decades as an internal, ethno-political struggle that led to the 1994 Rwandan Genocide. The flight into neighboring DRC of the *genocidaires* along with civilian populations greatly contributed to the broader regional conflict.

### ***Demobilization and Reintegration Program (DRP)***

**National Program** The Rwandan Demobilization and Reintegration Program (RDRP) is being implemented in two stages. Stage I took place from 1997 to 2001 and demobilized 18,692 Rwandan Patriotic Army soldiers (2,364 of which were children). While there were significant achievements, many technical and political problems slowed program implementation progress. The lessons from Stage I have been integrated into the design of Stage II.

Stage II of the RDRP, which commenced in December 2001 and is still ongoing, saw a revamping of the program to incorporate these lessons and eventually to bring it within the MDRP framework. As of April 2003, 15,202 RDF personnel have been demobilized under the RDRP. An additional 4,534 repatriated ex-combatants from Rwandan armed groups (including 454 children) have been demobilized. A total of 12,258 ex-FAR (*Forces Armées Rwandaises*) soldiers are receiving assistance through the program.

**Regional Activities** The governments of the DRC and Rwanda have endorsed a joint sensitization strategy to provide timely, correct and consistent information on the DDR process in both countries, taking into account preoccupations of Rwandan armed groups still in the DRC. It is hoped that recent positive developments in the relations between the two countries will permit further progress in the implementation of this joint initiative.

### ***Technical Coordinating Committee – International Member Organizations***

#### ***Bilateral Members***

- Austria
- Belgium
- Burundi
- Canada
- DRC
- Denmark
- DFID (UK)
- EC
- EU
- France
- GTZ (Germany)
- Japan
- Kenya
- The Netherlands
- Norway
- South Africa
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tanzania
- USAID

#### ***Multilateral Members***

- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
- UN Development Program (UNDP)
- UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC)
- UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- The World Bank
- World Food Program (WFP)

#### ***Other Members***

- Concern International
- International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC)
- MDRP
- Save the Children

***Major Peace Agreements / Cease-fire Agreements***

<u>AGREEMENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>MAIN POINTS</u>	<u>SIGNATORIES</u>
<a href="#"><u>Pretoria Agreement</u></a>	July 2002	DRC will disarm ex-FAR and <i>Interahamwe</i> ; Rwanda will withdraw forces from DRC	DRC, Rwanda
<a href="#"><u>Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement</u></a>	July 1999	Cessation of hostilities in DRC; release/exchange of prisoners; withdrawal of foreign forces; normalization of borders; control of illicit arms trafficking and infiltration of armed groups; Inter-Congolese Dialogue; army restructuring; disarmament; repatriation of foreign combatants; Joint Military Commission (JMC); UN peacekeeping force	Angola, DRC, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe; <i>Mouvement de Libération du Congo</i> (MLC)
<a href="#"><u>Arusha Accords</u></a>	Aug. 1993	Cessation of hostilities; creation of transitional institutions; establishment of broad-based Transitional Government	Government of Rwanda, <i>Rwandan Patriotic Front</i> (RPF)

***Links with other conflicts in the region***

<u>Country</u>	<u>Involvement</u>
DRC	Rwanda sent troops to the DRC in 1998 due to persisting security problems resulting from the presence of ex-FAR and <i>Interahamwe</i> in the DRC. Rwanda also provided support to the <i>Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie</i> (RCD) rebels in their fight against the Government of the DRC. While troops officially withdrew in October 2002, MONUC confirmed their renewed presence in the DRC in April 2004.
Uganda	Tensions between Uganda and Rwanda emerged in 1999, with multiple clashes between the rebel movements they backed and their own forces taking place in eastern DRC. The Government of the United Kingdom worked actively to mediate these tensions, which had been exacerbated by Uganda's redeployment in eastern DRC. Ongoing direct discussions between the governments of Uganda and Rwanda seem to be further easing the tensions. In April, Rwanda deployed troops along the Ugandan border to guard against potential militia attacks.

***Internally Displaced and Refugees***

Internally Displaced	As of March 2004, there were approximately 4,158 internally displaced persons. (OCHA)
Refugees in Rwanda	As of mid-March 2004, approximately 34,000 refugees from other countries were residing in Rwanda. (OCHA)
Rwandan Refugees	According to UNHCR, approximately 62,000 Rwandans were refugees in other countries as of end-June 2003.