

Environments of demobilization

The gendered intersections between climate, security and DDR

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Project description

The relations between climate change, the environment, gender and security are of growing academic and policy concern. So far, work in this domain has paid limited attention to the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants. However, DDR processes and the effects of climate and other environmental change (e.g., deforestation, erosion) mutually shape one another. First, whether DDR processes succeed is shaped by climate and environmental change and how they affect ex-combatants' livelihoods, security and political-moral positioning, for instance, their sense of injustice. Second, DDR processes affect the vulnerability to climate change of both ex-combatants and the communities they integrate into. Third, DDR processes have important effects on environmental change, which in turn affects vulnerability to climate change. For example, former combatants may engage in resource exploitation with environmentally detrimental effects or in practices that contribute to environmental sustainability, such as farming methods that mitigate soil erosion.

Looking at two case studies in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and northeast Nigeria, this research project examines the gendered interplay between climate change and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants in order to contribute to scholarship and policymaking on climate security, environmental peacebuilding and the gender, natural resources, climate and peace agenda. The results will feed into the development of a toolkit for environmentally, climate and gender- aware DDR. The student working on this project would assist with: conducting a literature review on DDR, natural resources and the environment; analysing DDR manuals, toolkits, and guidelines from international organizations such as the UN and national governments; conducting (online) interviews with DDR experts; and contributing to the conceptualization and writing of a policy brief.

Job requirements

- An interest in climate change, development and conflict issues in Sub Saharan Africa
- Ability to review and synthesize academic literature
- Experience with or a willingness to learn interviewing