

COPAWE (MVE/LAD)

The Community Coalition for Peace and the Promotion of Living Together (COPAWE) conducted a study in Cote d'Ivoire, assessing the successes and deficits of the Ivorian amnesty and DDR program implemented following the country's civil war in 2007 and post-electoral crisis in 2011. The study served to inform and develop approaches to DDR and R&R in Diffa, Niger, a region experiencing high levels of Boko Haram violence. While the Ivorian and Nigerien dynamics underlying DDR and R&R may appear very different, commonalities such as a need for strong coordination and collaboration among actors, as well as establishing robust processes of R&R to ensure sustainability, are cross-cutting features.

The study was subsequently shared with Nigerien CSO actors as well as government representatives to brainstorm and develop how the lessons learnt from Cote d'Ivoire and be applied, adapted, and translated into the Nigerien context. This included elements such as reducing grievances among unaffected populations by utilizing an approach based on fairness, including local communities, coordinating with political, religious, and military authorities, working with former soldiers of the regular armed forces, and promoting economic development of the Diffa region.

Building on these achievements, COPAWE implemented a capacity building training for CSOs and government representatives, focusing on the necessary tools and techniques of identifying, analyzing, and addressing the issue of R&R in Diffa. To this end, COPAWE developed a new tool "ARREC" (Tree of Insertion and Reintegration of Ex-Combatants), bringing together a variety of tools relating to communication techniques that can be utilized in R&R.

To sustain the impact of the program, COPAWE are planning a community mobilization workshop to enhance community participation in R&R with the help of traditional and religious leaders, as well as working with the National Human Rights Commission of Niger and the Ministry of the Interior to develop an action plan for R&R.