

NIGER



BASIC INFORMATION

Population:	14 million inhabitants (2005)
GDP:	3,405 million dollars (2005)
GNI per capita:	240 dollars (2005)
HDI:	0.331 (177 th) (2004)

BACKGROUND TO THE CONFLICT

In the 1990s, Niger experienced a period of internal conflict in the 1990s, caused mainly by armed rebellion and leading to the near absence of local development. In 1992, the nomadic Tuareg in the north and Toubou in the east engaged in an armed rebellion against the Nigerien state. A fragmented guerrilla war ensued in the Aïr, Azawak, Kawar, and Manga regions, which prompted local Arab and Peulh communities to establish self-defence militias to prevent both Tuareg and Toubou rebels from stealing cattle and property in order to fund their war effort. Soon after the resolution of the 1992 guerrilla war, the formerly united Aïr and Azawak Liberation Front (Front de libération de l'Aïr et de l'Azawak, FLAA) dissolved into as many as 13 Tuareg and Toubou rebel groups that wound up splitting along tribal lines in order to contest adherence to the successive peace agreements. The Union of Armed Resistance Forces (Union des forces de la résistance armée, UFRA, a coalition of three groups), the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Sahara (*Forces armées révolutionnaires du Sahara*, FARS), and the Democratic Front for Renewal (*Front Démocratique du Renouveau*, FDR) were among the last groups to agree to peace in 1997 and 1998 respectively.

PEACE AGREEMENTS / PROCESS

Despite peace agreements signed in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) on 24 April 1995; Alger (Algeria) on 28 April 1997; N'Djamena (Tchad) on 21 August 1998 with the rebels, the conflict continued and a programme of demobilisation and reintegration for the ex-combatants did not materialize until 2002. All that was followed by the adoption of a new constitution in 1999 and elections in 2000.

INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

The Project for Peace Consolidation in Aïr and Azawak is implemented by the UNDP and the UN Volunteers.

DDR STRUCTURE

Background to the DDR process:

After the peace agreements in 1998, more than 7,000 ex-combatants registered to take part in the country's disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programme. The 1,243

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weapons surrendered as part of the peace agreements were subsequently destroyed at a Flame of Peace ceremony on 25 September 2000 in Agadez. During 2002 and 2003, several smaller-sized arm collection programmes managed to collect and destroy 1,791 weapons.

Type of DDR:

Small arms reduction and reintegration and opposition armed groups.

Enforcing bodies:

The Project for Peace Consolidation in Aïr and Azawak is coordinated and implemented by the UNDP and the UN Volunteers, but also receives the Governmental support of the Ministry for Territory and Community Development and the High Commission for the Restoration of Peace.

Basic principles:

The present project aims at the consolidation of peace in the regions of Aïr and Azawak through the reintegration of 3,160 ex-combatants; sensitisation campaigns to promote a culture of peace; and support for socio-economic activities and local development in areas affected by conflict. This project falls within the framework of the peace agreements, signed between the Government of Niger and the ex-rebels. It is also consistent with the Government's local development policy and places a strong emphasis on building partnerships at the local level.

Groups to be demobilised:

3,160 combatants of the former armed group FLAA.

Vulnerable groups:

The project has 12 cooperatives of women ex-combatants and victims of the rebellion whose names have been included on the reintegration lists. The women will be supported in terms of sensitization efforts and in self-organizing. The women organizations will also be helped in terms of income-generating activities, for which financing is still required through the project.

Despite no children being found among ex-combatants, a preventive policy has been put to work in the education of children in schools to promote a culture of peace.

Budget:

The budget is estimated at \$2,391,168 (1,195,584,000 FCFA) over a period of two years. By stages, it's divides as it follows:

Stage	Quantity (\$)	(%)
Personnel (UNV)	107,472	4.5
Re-integration Fund	1,042,000	43.5
Training	688,000	28.7
Equipment	58,000	2.4
Operating Costs	376,896	15.7
Monitoring and Evaluation	118,800	4.9
TOTAL	2,391,168	100

By donors, there's a commitment of 1.8 million dollars with a shortfall of 632,000 dollars. Commitments are as it follows:

Donor	Disbursed (\$)	(%)
UNDP	580,000	24.2
France	390,000	16.3
Libya	324,000	13.5
Niger	240,000	10.0
USA	225,000	9.4
TOTAL	1,759,000	73.5

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Timetable:

- 1st phase: from 1 March to 31 December 2006 and 2nd Phase: 1 January to 31 December 2007.

DDR STAGES

The overall objectives of the project are consolidating peace and enhance local development in the areas of Aïr and Azawak through three strategic interventions: Socio-economic reinsertion of 3,160 ex-combatants as envisaged in the peace accords (local development); promotion of a culture of peace; and mobilisation of partners. *On the socio-economic reinsertion of ex-combatants, the activities are:* organising ex-combatants in local cooperatives; technical support to assist ex-combatants identify and elaborate micro projects; review of proposals for financing; and monitoring of and support to ex-combatants in project implementation. **On the promotion of local development initiatives, the activities are: targeted training for local communities; installation of a local financial credit system; Land and natural resources management.**

EVOLUTION OF THE DDR PROCESS

In September 2006, the first 1,067 ex-combatants, grouped into 106 cooperatives, received the sum of 271,000 dollars in the city of Agadez, which made up 80% of the total sum received in this matter. At the beginning of October, the UNDP declared that 3,160 ex-combatants had been reintegrated into the socio-economic fabric of the country. Another 2,600 ex-combatants had been already incorporated into the Armed Forces, the police, public administration or educational institutions. The Tubu ex-combatants from Kawar and Manga have also been beneficiaries of the same programme.

ASPECTS TO BE EXAMINED

Planning:

- The need for good and continuous communication between all parties and partners is key to attaining the objectives of DDR and to reinforce the social dialogue.
- The geographical coverage of the project is very vast compared with the human resources allocated to the project, which makes project monitoring difficult.

Reintegration:

- The conditions placed by some ex-combatants in participating in the project were one difficulty encountered.
- The lack of details on the reintegration sites for some ex-combatants and the mobility of some ex-combatants because of their nomadic lifestyle can make project implementation difficult.

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SOURCES

International:

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- Reliefweb, en <<http://www.reliefweb.int>>.
- UNDP: *Project for Peace and Consolidation in Aïr & Azawak*, September 2006, at <<http://www.pnud.ne>>.

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LA ESCOLA DE CULTURA DE PAU FUE CREADA EN 1999, CON EL PROPÓSITO DE ORGANIZAR VARIAS ACTIVIDADES ACADÉMICAS Y DE INVESTIGACIÓN RELACIONADAS CON LA CULTURA DE LA PAZ, LA PREVENCIÓN Y TRANSFORMACIÓN DE CONFLICTOS, EL DESARME Y LA PROMOCIÓN DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS.

LA ESCOLA ESTÁ FINANCIADA BÁSICAMENTE POR EL GOBIERNO DE CATALUNYA, A TRAVÉS DEL DEPARTAMENTO PARA UNIVERSIDADES, INVESTIGACIÓN Y SOCIEDAD DE LA INFORMACIÓN, Y DE LA AGÈNCIA CATALANA DE COOPERACIÓ AL DESENVOLUPAMENT DE LA SECRETARIA DE COOPERACIÓ EXTERIOR. TAMBIÉN RECIBE APOYOS DE OTROS DEPARTAMENTOS DE LA GENERALITAT, DE AYUNTAMIENTOS, FUNDACIONES Y OTRAS ENTIDADES.