iJETRM
International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

DETERMINE THE PROCESS OF THE REINTEGRATION OF FORMER COMBATANTS IN MOUNT ELGON; KENYA

Lydiah Wamocha
Joseph W. Nasong'o
Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology
lwamoccha@mmust.ac.ke
jwamocha@mmust.ac.ke

ABSTRACT

The social reintegration of former combatants is the most important aspect of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process. Reintegration understood in this context, speaks to societal transformation, which both takes time and is prone to setbacks long after peace has formally been declared. There is need to address the issue of reintegration of former combatants in Mt. Elgon in Bungoma County, but the process has been undermined by persistent instability in the region. The problem of follow up, re-recruitment of former combatants by different armed groups and the lack of long-term funding are some of the obstacles to successful reintegration in Kenya. The purpose of the study was to determine the process of the reintegration of former combatants in Mount Elgon. The objective of the study was to determine the process of reintegration of former combatants in Mount Elgon region, Kenya. The desistance theory was used in the study. The study used the cross sectional descriptive survey design. The population of the study comprised former combatants, Sub County Commissioners, peace committee members, religious leaders and NGOs. The respondents comprised former combatants, sub county commissioners and peace committee members, religious leaders and NGOs. The stratified and purposive random sampling technique was used to select a sample of 150 former combatants, Three Sub County commissioners and 16 peace committee members, five religious leaders and Four NGO members. Data was collected by use of questionnaires, interviews and Focus Group Discussion. In order to ascertain validity, the questionnaires and interview schedules were given to experts who matched all the items with the research questions to ascertain whether the instruments would measure all that it is supposed to measure. The reliability of the instruments was determined through test retest of the instruments. Data was analyzed by use of descriptive statistics of frequencies and percentages. Data from in-depth interviews was audio taped and transcribed. The transcripts were then organized into themes and categories as they emerged from the field. The findings of the study were presented descriptively. The findings of the study showed that: in the context of social reintegration the three dimensions of family and community; sustainable employment; and civic responsibilities should be given proper attention: to achieve the goal of reintegration there should be a major shift in the contemporary DDR approach by moving from the insertion approach towards a social reintegration one; community support is essential for the successful reintegration of former combatants and the sustainable social and economic reintegration of former combatants should be the ultimate objective of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR).

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

The United Nations launched its new Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (DDRS) in order to refine its approach to DDR. One of the reasons was to ensure that ex fighters do not take up arms which was critical for stabilization of post- conflict situations. In contrast to the ad hoc disarmament and reintegration of earlier years the new standards seek to foster a comprehensive approach. They provide detailed policies, guidelines and procedures for carrying out DDR (Africa Renewal, United Nations, 2007).

The reintegration of former combatants is often understood as the support given to offenders during their reentry into society. It includes imposing community – based sanctions rather than imprisonment in an attempt to facilitate the social integration of the offenders within the community integral part of what is commonly known as Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), rather than subjecting them to the marginalization and harmful effects of imprisonment (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2006). The post-release,

iJETRM
International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

community-based component of these interventions has been variously referred to as "aftercare", "transitional care", "reentry" or "reentry support", reintegration or resettlement.
According to Orzerdem and Podder (2011) communities should be provided with adequate resources in order to identify, gauge and prioritize needs locally to respond to their needs more
effectively. Those being reintegrated will benefit from returning to an environment that encourages them to lead a normal life, to return to education and witness stability. Support can be directed towards individual former combatants themselves, or it can help those who seek to develop infrastructure by allocating funds to schools for their benefit in the community as a whole.
After combatants have been demobilized, their effective and sustainable reintegration into civilian life is necessary to prevent a new escalation of the conflict. In the short term, former combatants who do not find peaceful ways of making a living are likely to return to conflict. In the longer term, disaffected veterans can play an important role in destabilizing the social order and polarizing the political debate, becoming easy targets of populist, reactionary and extremist movements (Fusato, 2003).
According to Fusato (2003) the first step in reintegration of ex-combatants is their inclusion in society. He states that ex-combatants are a special group who present additional challenges since: they constitute a potential security threat; they may be viewed with fear, suspicion, and resentment by the rest of the population; they are often uprooted from their communities of origin and their social networks; they may not know or may no longer accept basic social rules.
Reintegration projects aim to assist the former combatants and their dependants in three areas: social (building new relationships and trust) political (become part of the political making process), and economic (engage in sustainable employment and livelihood) (Buxton, 2008, Torjesen, 2013). Compared to the faces of disarmament and demobilization, reintegration is seen as a long term process and has often an open time frame (Munive & Stepputat, 2015).
Former combatants are a critical subgroup in the post conflict environment: First, former combatants who used to fight against each other encounter; second, former combatants who might have committed atrocities in their communities or victims' families; third, after years in a military environment, possibly without any contact to civilians, ex-combatants have to assimilate into civil society. These circumstances may lead to tensions and a threat for resurgent violence, especially considering the large number of former combatants. Therefore the successful reintegration is critical for peaceful co-habitation (Lotscher, 2016).

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The ongoing conflict in Kenya undermines the reintegration of former combatants as many of them are re-recruited by different armed groups. After combatants have been demobilized, their effective and sustainable reintegration into civilian life is necessary to prevent a new escalation of the conflict. In the short term, ex-combatants who do not find peaceful ways of making a living are likely to return to conflict. In the longer term, disaffected veterans can play an important role in destabilizing the social order and polarizing the political debate, becoming easy targets of populist, reactionary and extremist movements. The former combatants need to be given an opportunity to be integrated into the community in order to build a cohesive society. This study, therefore, sought to determine the process of the reintegration of former combatants
in Mt. Elgon, Bungoma County.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study was to determine the process of the reintegration of former combatants in Mt. Elgon, Bungoma County, Kenya.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The study sought to determine the process of the reintegration of former combatants in Mount Elgon region, Kenya.

SCOPE AND DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted in Kopsiro, Kapsokwony, Cheptais and Kaptama of Mt. Elgon region where the former combatants underwent the reintegration programme. Mount Elgon is an administrative unit in Bungoma

iJETRM
International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

County. The study focused on the reintegration of former combatants in Mt. Elgon region. The respondents will included the sampled 150 former combatants, Four Sub- County Commissioners and 16 peace committee members from the the four locations, 5 Church elders and 5 Non Governmental Organization leaders.
The study made reference to the year 2005 when the Sabaot Land Defense Force came into being up to 2017. This enabled the researcher to look at the current levels of reintegration and their contribution towards social cohesion.
The theoretical framework for the study was desistance theory which is pertinent in terms of conceptualizing the offender rehabilitation. It outlines assistance models of ex-offenders recovery into society and addresses the question of social reintegration.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Marrcan (2001) says a theoretical framework can be likened to lens through which the researcher views the world (study). Existing knowledge, or theory, serves as the foundation of this research (Khan 1999:3-4). A preliminary theoretical framework contributes to problematizing the issue under investigation and identifies the different variables that will be measured in the work. Furthermore, it helps to clarify the researcher's objectives and values
The theoretical framework for the study was the reintegration needs of former combatants. The desistance theory according to Harper (2013) a social and political psychologist is a criminological phenomenon which describes how criminal offenders stop their offending behavior. It is particularly pertinent in terms of conceptualizing offender rehabilitation and the career of a criminal, as well as having practical applications for probation workers working with convicted criminals in the community.
Desistance theory strives to explain the process by which offenders come to live life free from criminality. A number of factors are implicated in the natural (changes over time) and manufactured (changes due to rehabilitation programs or community strategies) processes of desistance. Some aspects of desistance include ageing. Some researchers claim that offenders, particular juveniles, essentially "grow out" of criminality.
The second aspect is life stability whereby engaging in regular employment helps offenders to focus their attention on something more meaningful than criminality. Similar to how a particularly aggressive individual may turn to sport, maintaining a routine of working and earning money can act as a kind of carthasis, meaning that motivation to engage in crime because of a lack of other activities or financial stress is replaced by the regularity of the work. Job satisfaction is suggested as a far better indicator as to whether or not an offender will desist. A second stability related factor is marriage. Satisfaction here again is an important factor in guaranteeing change of behavior patterns
The third desistance aspect is social identity which will almost exclusively be adopted in conjunction with a condemnation narrative script, meaning that the offender living in the community feels little hope of resisting from criminality in the long term. This lack of hope is widely cited as a risk factor for recidivism. Contrastingly offenders with redemption script tend to actively seek out positive social identities, such as 'good father', 'volunteer', or 'hard worker'. These individuals are likely to be met with increased support and acceptance from their wider community, which increases the likelihood of long term desistance.
Maruna (2001) states that desistance is the long term abstinence from crime among individuals who previously engaged in persistent patterns of criminal offending. This highlights the need to look at a long term perspective and it also hints at the need to be realistic about circumstances of life. If people have previously engaged in persistent patterns of criminal offending it is likely that there are some entrenched problems that will take time to resolve.
From a theoretical standpoint, desistance theory offers an opportunity to test specific variables connected with the cessation of criminal behavior. Practically, desistance theory helps in identifying potential ways of reducing reoffending in the community.
Offenders are often seen as a threat to society until they are able to 'prove' their reformation. For this reason desistance is viewed as a long term relapse prevention measure. Related to this, there are some cases where attempted reintegration is met with outrage by the public.
The desistance theory outlines assistance models of ex-offenders recovery into society and addresses the question of social reintegration can be perceived and structured effectively DDR operational landscape. The proposed approach is presented through a matrix of relationships between the elements of 'emphasis on the combatant' and 'emphasis on the community' in terms of 'low' and 'high' levels, resulting in the four main

iJETRM
International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

models for community reentry: 'self – demobilization', 'reinsertion', 'community' – located reintegration and 'social reintegration'.

RELEVANCE OF DESISTANCE THEORY

The desistance theory is most suited for this study since it addresses the three dimensions of social cohesion under economic, political and socio cultural aspects.

REVIEW OF RELATED THEORIES

Existing knowledge, or theory, serves as the foundation of this research (Khan 1999:3-4). A preliminary theoretical framework contributes to problematising the issue under investigation and identifies the different variables that will be measured in the work. Furthermore, it helps to clarify the researcher's objectives and values. Embedded within the interdisciplinary field of social science, this research draws on already discussed theories and concepts situated within the field of former combatants. It utilized also concepts from contemporary conflict studies.

Most prominent here is the theory of conflict transformation. The philosophy of conflict transformation may differ between actors and contexts, and this study makes use of important concepts from the founder of modern peace studies Galtung (1996) which were later visited by Laderach (1997), Miall (2004) and Ramsbotham et al. (2008). Conflict transformation conflicts such as ethnic conflict, are transformed into peaceful outcomes. It is therefore a process of engaging with and transforming the relationships, interests, discourses and if necessary the very constitution of society that supports the continuation of violent conflict.

Through the lens of Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory which is a key theoretical perspective that helps conceptualize the ex combatants unique needs following their return from fighting is Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory; a theory which posits that individuals cannot achieve their full potential unless their lower needs are met partially if not fully (Maslow, 1951; 1971). Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory is an appropriate theory which researchers and social workers can use to categorize, prioritize and evaluate ex combatants needs in the years following the war. This is because the ex combatants lack the resources to meet their basic needs, it is extremely difficult and almost impossible to reach full human potential (Walker & Early, 2010). The purpose of this theoretical framework is to describe the factors that contribute to the ex- combatants experiences during reintegration. An important part of this study is to explore the former combatants reintegration experiences as they transition to civilian living.

Erikson's psychosocial stages of development theory is used in this study. According to the former combatant's development: Erikson proposes eight stages of psychosocial development and assumes that in each stage, minors face psychosocial crisis that he views as an opportunity and challenge. The fifth stage identity versus role confusion is significant to adolescents or young ex- combatants. In this stage the developmental duty is to discover and establish a clear sense of identity. However, when this developmental task is not successfully completed Erikson (1993; 1968) argues that adolescents lack a sense of identity, have difficulty establishing meaningful bonds with others and may also experience role confusion.

From this theory soldiers experience abnormal stress since they are not given the opportunity to experiment with various social roles (Erikson, 1968). For this reason they are going to grow up into adults who lack the necessary sense of competence and self – efficacy

The purpose of this review of theories is to describe the factors that contribute to the former combatants' experiences during reintegration. An important part of this study is to explore the ex combatants reintegration experiences as they transition to civilian living. Erikson's theory explains child soldier's development during adolescence and how military experience affects their identities. Bronfrenbrenner's theory suggests the effects of five systems on reintegration experience.

REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL STUDIES

Reintegration includes: Reinsertion, which addresses the most immediate needs of ex-combatants. Reinsertion assistance consists of short term relief interventions, which provide a safety net for demobilized ex-combatants. Assistance may include housing, medical care, food and elementary education for children. The distribution of cash allowances has proved to be the most effective and efficient way to provide reinsertion assistance. Cash payments are preferred over in-kind assistance because of reduces transmission costs, easier and more transparent accounting, and because cash payments can adapt more closely to the specific needs of beneficiaries.

iJETRM
International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

Additionally, cash allowances have the positive psychological effect of empowering ex-combatants to take charge of their lives.

Ex-combatants are a special group who present additional challenges since: they constitute a potential security threat; they may viewed with fear, suspicion, and resentment by the rest of the population; they are often uprooted from their communities of origin and their social networks; they may not know or may no longer accept basic social rules. For these reasons, the first step in reintegration of ex-combatants is their inclusion in society. DDR programmes provide cooperation with formal and informal local social networks, psychological support and counseling and the initiatives for the reunification of families.

Economic reintegration, which is the final requirement for a DDR programme to be successful and sustainable in the long term. The goal of economic reintegration efforts is to provide ex-combatants with financial independence through employment. Different initiatives should cater for the special needs of the disabled veterans who cannot reintegrate into labour force, for rural settlers, and for urban settlers. Common economic integration programs include education and professional training, public employment, encouragement of private initiative through skills development and microcredit support, and access to land.

Dzinesa (2006) states that Namibia's successful disarmament and demobilization was undermined by the independence government's failure to plan and implement comprehensive reintegration programs. The high expectations for a comfortable post conflict- independence livelihood vanished amongst many disenchanted members of the Peoples Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN) who failed to reintegrate fully into Namibian Society.

He adds that in South Africa, one time gratuity payments, counseling and advisory service and a Service Corps training scheme failed to provide sustainable reintegration for ex- combatants. Unsuccessfully reintegrated ex-combatants engaged in small scale protests to highlight their grievances. For example as early as August 1993, 27 unemployed and disenchanted former members of African National Congress's military wing, *Umkhonto we sizwe* (MK), staged a 10 day sit-in at the ANC's Durban offices to demand welfare support, paralyzing its operations.

Mozambique's reintegration strategy, whose major component was a two year long cash compensation programme known as the Reintegration Support Scheme (RSS), 'paying and scattering' the demobilized soldiers. Two ex- combatants' associations were later established to represent the interests of their members and since then the ex fighters have expressed their discontent on a number of occasions (Banderia, 2008).

In Namibia's case, there were also no specific reintegration programmes for female ex-combatant fighters. The generally inadequate reintegration process relegated female freedom fighters to official oblivion against the background of a conservative society. It is not surprising, therefore, women former fighters were active participants in post independence protests calling for government assistance. For instance, a list compiled by the jobless ex fighters demonstrating at Okahao in 1998 indicated that there were 115 women, 65 men and 7 children gathered at the northern town.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The cross sectional design of the descriptive survey method was used. Descriptive research methods are pretty much as they sound since they describe situations. Surveys are good because they don't take as long as observational studies. The cross sectional design includes the study of individuals at one point in time (Jackson, 2009). This design was employed in this study in an attempt to gather large scale data in order to make generalizations on the role of the reintegration of former combatants on social cohesion.

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) the design was appropriate because it measures the characteristics of a large population and yields a great deal of information which is not manipulated. In addition this study fits within the provisions of this design because the data was collected and reported the way things are without manipulating any variable. The design is therefore considered an appropriate tool for collecting information where research calls for both qualitative and quantitative data (Polland, 2005).

The Study Area

The study was conducted in Mt. Elgon Sub County. This is an administrative unit in Bungoma County. It is located in the South Eastern slopes of Mt. Elgon covering an area of 940 square kilometers with a population of about 160,000 living in the Southern part which is more fertile and inhabitable that the northern part which is higher in altitude and almost entirely covered by forests. Mt Elgon is predominantly occupied by the Sabaot, Iteso and Bukusu communities. The Sabaot community is further divided into several clans comprising the

iJETRM
International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

Kony, Bok, Sebei and Bongom sub clans (Rombora, 2008). This region has 4 administrative units namely Cheptais Sub County with its head quarters at Cheptais, Mt. Elgon Sub County with its headquarters at Kapsokwony and a recent one Kopsiro with its head quarters at Kopsiro and Kaptama.

TARGET POPULATION

The study targeted all the former Sabaot Land Defense Force members. These former combatants who were reintegrated are a total of 1200 from the Mt. Elgon region**.** Four Deputy county commissioners, 16 peace committee members, Six church leaders and Five NGO coordinators**.**

SAMPLING PROCEDURE

The stratified random and purposive sampling technique was used in order to help the researcher to achieve the desired representation of various respondents in the population. The stratified random sampling technique involves dividing the population into homogeneous subgroups and then taking a simple random sample in each group. The sample was selected in such a way to ensure that certain subgroups are represented in the sample in proportion to the population for them to have equal chance to be included in the study.

SAMPLE SIZE

In this case the 1200 reintegrated former combatants were targeted. A sample of 150 reintegrated former combatants was taken, Four Deputy county commissioners, Six members of Cheptais, Kopsiro and Kapsokwony and Kaptama peace committees, Five church pastors and Five NGO leaders as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Sample Size

Category	**Population**	**Sample**
Reintegrated combatants	1200	150
Deputy County Commissioner	4	4
NGOs	6	6
Pastors	5	5
Peace Committee Members	64	16
Total	**1279**	**181**

DESCRIPTION OF THE RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

The data was collected using questionnaires, interviews and focus group discussions.

QUESTIONNAIRES

The questionnaire was the principal tool for collecting primary data. Questionnaires are used to collect basic descriptive information from a broad sample (Kathuri and Douglas, 1993). They are suitable for this study because they allow the researcher to reach a larger sample within limited time. Confidentiality is ensured besides gathering more candid and objective replies. The questionnaires were prepared for the sub - county commissioners and members of the peace committee. The questionnaire will had both open ended and closed ended questions. It was divided into two sections. Section one had questions related to demographic data, section two will have questions related to the reintegration process in relation to peace, identity, equity and unity.

INTERVIEW

The interview guide was used to gather data from the four sub county commissioners, and the peace committee members. The interviews guide had questions on the activities of reintegration, the challenges being experienced and the role of reintegration on cohesion.

TESTING VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY OF THE INSTRUMENTS

The validity and reliability of the instruments was tested.

TESTING FOR VALIDITY OF INSTRUMENTS

Validity is defined as the extent to which an instrument actually measures what it is supposed to measure (Dane, 1990; Kombo and Tromp, 2006). To ascertain the validity of the research instruments, the researcher sought to

iJETRM
International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

ensure both construct and face validity of the research instruments. Critical analysis of both test items was done to assess the relevance and appropriateness of the items in each instrument (content validity) and the sequencing, wording and instructions therein (face validity). The instruments to be used were given to experienced experts in the area who will review them and give guidance accordingly. Their comments and suggestions were used to adjust the items. This ensured that the instruments measure accurately the salient research characteristics that they intent to measure (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003).

TESTING FOR THE RELIABILITY OF THE INSTRUMENTS

Reliability is defined as the degree of consistency that an instrument or procedure demonstrates (Best & Kahn, 2004). The reliability of the instruments was determined through the test retest reliability technique (Gay, 1996). This test retest method was used to confirm the reliability of the instruments. The instruments were administered to the same respondents twice within an interval of three weeks. The responses to these items were computed using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient analysis. A correlation coefficient 'r' of 0.72 was obtained indicating the instrument was reliable and consistent for the study.
What was the reintegration process of former combatants carried out in Mount Elgon?

REINTEGRATION OF FORMER COMBATANTS

How was the process of the reintegration of former combatants carried out in Mount Elgon?
Respondents were asked to explain how reintegration of former combatants was carried out in Mt. Elgon.
Once combatants are demobilized they need to go through political, psychosocial, social and economic reintegration processes which are highly challenging mostly in an environment where there is an ongoing conflict.
After ex-combatants have been demobilized, their effective and suitable reintegration into civilian life is necessary to prevent a new escalation of the conflict. In the short term, ex-combatants who do not find peaceful ways of making a living are likely to return to conflict. In the longer term, disaffected veterans can play an important role in destabilizing the social order and polarizing the political debate, becoming easy targets of populist, reactionary and extremist movements (Munive, 2006).
According to the United Nations (2005) in being reintegrated the ex- combatants acquire civilian status and gain sustainable employment and income. The sustainability of the disarmament and demobilization processes depends on the successful social and economic reintegration of ex-combatants. This is a complex process where ex-combatants, many of them with no memory of family or community life, return to their communities and adjust to civilian life. The communities, many of them transformed by the conflict, play an important role in the ex-combatants' reintegration.

RECEPTION IN THE COMMUNITY AND HOME

The respondents stated that they were received with a lot of fear by most of the family members. This is so because the family members were not sure of their safety due to the way community members were treated by the former combatants. In addition, the community members were aware of the oaths that these former combatants had taken thus causing them to be uncomfortable to receive them.
However some family members were happy to receive them after learning that they were still alive. A number of former combatants who were put in custody were happy to be rescued by family members.
The former combatants had expectations of how they wanted to be received by the community. They felt that they needed dialogue with the community members in order to discuss key issues. They hoped that this would bring about understanding in order for them to settle down faster in order to engage in key community activities.
From their responses they had hoped to be welcomed with a lot of prayers**.** They had hoped to be taken to church to be prayed for. They believed that this was a time for giving thanks to God for their lives. However they noted that some churches out of fear never wanted to relate with them at all. This is because some of the churches refused to receive them and openly refused to interact with them since they felt that these people were not worth trusting at all.
These respondents felt that they should have been given capital to start a business. Besides the needed capital they hoped to receive seeds for planting. According to the United Nations (2005) assistance in economic reintegration includes education and training assistance which involves "catch - up" education, vocational training, apprenticeships, and life skills development. This assistance ought to respond to the needs of the labour

iJETRM
International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

market i.e. help ex-combatants find jobs. Livelihood and income generation assistance consists of access to land (where possible), short-term public works, grants for small businesses, business development services, and temporary wage subsidies to businesses that hire ex- combatants.

They all concurred that they needed a lot of guidance and counseling. The community therefore should have been encouraged to Counsel them and listen to them explain why they left the militia groups

According to Harsch (2005) focus should not just be on the men and weapons but on their futures as well. Reintegration must take a more central place, in part because successfully absorbing former combatants into civil society takes longer than their disarmament and demobilization.

Commonly applied measures by international and local organizations were engaged. These included family unification, provision of psychosocial assistance and engagement in education. These were quite crucial for the former combatants, but not sufficient enough for sustainable and successful reintegration of this vulnerable group in a conflict environment. Wider peace building challenges need to be addressed such as the high number of internally displaced persons, security, and unemployment, drug trafficking and corruption, among others.

They were successfully reintegrated in the civilian society in the political sense of the concept. This meant that they had to once again to become active members of the decision making process of the country. It was crucial that they be provided with trainings about their political rights, responsibilities, as well as the key tenets of democracy, good citizenship as well as non violent conflict resolution methods in order for them to become good citizens who appreciate democracy.

In addition psychosocial reintegration was engaged by the various organizations. They dealt with tackling the war related psychological issues of former combatants. These problems are related to their present everyday distress i.e. lack of security loss of hope and the presence of poverty more than their war experiences. Therefore, by providing security and meeting the basic needs of the former combatants, as well as addressing their family and community related issues such as stigmatization and lack of acceptance, there is a great possibility that their psychological problems will go away. However those who do suffer from mental issues even after their basic life conditions become satisfactory, need to be provided with non- professional help, such as participation in peer support groups, as well as professional psychological support through counseling sessions with psychologists, traditional healers, trauma counselors and psychiatrists (Wessells, 2012).

Social reintegration is a process through which former combatants acquire civilian status leaving their military identity behind and get accepted by their family and community. In order for social reintegration to be successful, three key interlinked requirements need to be met: former combatants have to transform to a new social identity which is no longer defined within military social networks but civilian ones, civilian social capital needs to be strengthened within communities and the society as a whole and some kind of transitional justice and social reconciliation need to take place (Porto et al, 2008). Social reintegration is problematic because family reunification is only possible in a very small number of cases, since families cannot be tracked down due to displacement. Furthermore, the large majority of former combatants refuse to open up concerning their past identity even to their closes friends and spouses, due to fear of rejection and stigmatization; therefore they cannot be honest about who they are.

Members noted that various organizations participated in their reintegration process. For example the Mount Elgon Peace Initiative (MEPI) established in 2010 works to enhance peaceful co-existence among the diverse ethnic communities of the Mt. Elgon region in Western Kenya. This area is mainly inhabited by the Sabaot, Bukusu and Teso peoples, who compete for resources and political representation.

MEPI was initiated by members of a local Mennonite Church who wanted to act as agents of peace in the community. Built on a doctrinal foundation of non-violence, its leaders reached out to other faith leaders in the area in an effort to widen the scope of their work. Registered as a national NGO since 2013, MEPIs mission is to foster a culture of tolerance and peaceful cooperation, in tandem with that National Integration and Cohesion Policy, part of the 2010 Kenyan Constitution. Its activities involved reintegrating the former combatants in Kopsiro Division

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The former combatants reported that the economic activities that they were engaged in included onion farming, forming of funded groups, life skills training. From these activities these members could feed their families and take their children to school. They were interacting freely and confidently as one community, became creative

iJETRM
International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

members of the family, trauma healing, reconciliation process. Various organizations helped the returnee members of the community to settle back in their communities.
These organizations included: Action Aid Kenya who organized a peace meeting with the community therefore enabling some of them to change their attitude and behavior. FPFK helped them to reconcile, them by organizing Open dialogue, Peace and Rights Programme Action Aid, RWPL- Rural helped Women Peace Link.
Economic reintegration is a process through which former combatants gain sustainable civilian employment or get enrolled in education in case of former combatants who are of school going age. Besides all else their education focused on teaching them about peaceful interaction and positive identity development.

The stigma associated with ex-combatants can complicate their employment prospects, social relationships and sense of identity during the transition to civilian life. The stigma partly stems from people's concerns that former combatants may slide back into violence, or be recycled into a new armed group or criminal network (Theidon & Krystalli, 2016).
The Reformed Church of East Africa contributed to the reintegration process a lot by training all youth to from self Help groups that enabled them to earn income and kept them busy as well.
Many of the participants reported persistent psychological distress or trauma relating to their activities and experiences during the war. Problems discussed by those interviewed included nightmares, intense sadness, and recurring, intrusive thoughts and images centering on the violence that they participated in or saw during the war. The psychological challenges faced by some of them resemble hallmark symptoms of PTSD and other traumatic stress reactions (Verhey, 2001).

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Those former combatants who served jail terms underwent certain forms of rehabilitation while in prison. They were advised on how to come back home and fit in the community. Some of them benefitted from vocational skills acquired while in prison.
In a broad sense, education**,** both traditional and alternative, supports the reintegration of former combatants in a number of ways, For instance, Marchel (1996) emphasizes the important link between literacy/skills learning and economic security for returning soldiers, factors that often determine the successful social reintegration and prevention of re-recruitment. Indeed in Northern Uganda, because of schooling loss as well as serious injuries suffered during the war, former abductees were on average, less than half as likely to be engaged in skilled work. These constraints furthermore reduced by about one-third the average age earned by the adolescents' post reintegration (Annan and Blattman, 2006). Research on former combatants from El Salvado has also emphasized the important livelihood benefit of education (Varhey, 2001)
Various organizations helped the returnee members of the community to settle back at home in their communities. These included: Action Aid Kenya who organized a peace meetings with the community therefore enabling some of them to change their attitude and behavior.
FPFK helped by organizing Open dialogue among the former combatants and the community members. This was a necessary step since there was need for the two groups to understand one another in order to live in harmony. Peace and Rights Programme Action Aid worked together and as a result they helped in bringing about reconciliation. Rural Women Peace Link (RWPL) helped Women to have a network of peace among themselves regardless of which community they came from.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The findings of the study are based on the objective and research question raised to generate data in its analysis.
The study therefore sought to determine the process of the reintegration of former combatants in Mount Elgon;
This objective examined the process of the reintegration of former combatants carried out in Mount Elgon. Commonly applied measures by international and local organizations were engaged. These included family unification, provision of psychosocial assistance and engagement in education. These were quite crucial for the former combatants, but not sufficient enough for sustainable and successful reintegration of this vulnerable group in a conflict environment.
They were successfully reintegrated in the civilian society in the political sense of the concept. This meant that they had to once again to become active members of the decision making process of the country. It was crucial that they be provided with trainings about their political rights, responsibilities, as well as the key tenets of

iJETRM
International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

democracy, good citizenship as well as non violent conflict resolution methods in order for them to become good citizens who appreciate democracy.

In addition psychosocial reintegration was engaged by the various organizations. They dealt with tackling the war related psychological issues of former combatants. These problems are related to their present everyday distress i.e. lack of security loss of hope and the presence of poverty more than their war experiences. Therefore, by providing security and meeting the basic needs of the former combatants, as well as addressing their family and community related issues such as stigmatization and lack of acceptance, there is a great possibility that their psychological problems will go away.

A key challenge that faces former combatants is that it may be impossible for them to reintegrate in their area of origin. Their limited skills may have more relevance and marketable value in urban settings, which are also unlikely to absorb them.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study it was concluded '/that in order to unpack the context of social reintegration the three dimensions of family and community; sustainable employment; and civic responsibilities should be given proper attention.

More so, social reintegration is the ultimate goal of former combatant's reintegration into the society and all other undertakings in terms of economic and political reintegration would need to be part and parcel of social reintegration.

To achieve the goal of reintegration there should be a major shift in the contemporary DDR approach by moving from the insertion approach towards a social reintegration one. More than 90% of the reintegration work done was carried out by the NGOs. Community support is essential for the successful reintegration of former combatants, but their experience may make worse the real or perceived vulnerability of local populations, which have neither the capacity nor the desire to assist a 'lost generation' of ex- fighters with little education, employment or training; war trauma; and a highly militarized view of the world. Unsupported former combatants can be a major threat to the community's capacity to recover because of their lack of skills or assets, their tendency to rely on violence to get what they want and their ignorance of or disrespect for local cultures, leaders and social habits.

In addition there should be a strategy of making receiving communities beneficiaries of reintegration programmes. However it is only through social reintegration that there can be bridging between former combatants and their receiving communities.

The sustainable social and economic reintegration of former combatants should be the ultimate objective of disarmament and demobilization and reintegration (DDR). If reintegration fails, the achievements of disarmament and demobilization phase are undermined; instability increases and sustainable reconstruction and development are put at risk.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations emanating from this study are divided into two: These include policy recommendations and recommendations for further research.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of the findings and conclusions of this study the following recommendations were made for the improvement of the reintegration programs

i) The government should be able to budget for and give priority to the reintegration programmes so that they are fully completed instead of leaving them at the reinsertion stage besides leaving the responsibility to Non Governmental organizations.

ii) The government should facilitate the engagement of the community in dialogue. This would lead to taking the responsibility of identifying the root causes and effects of the conflict, as well as the role individuals and groups have played in contributing to the conflict. Subsequently, the communities take the lead in proposing community- based solutions for the issues identified. This would mitigate against conflict in the community.

iJETRM
International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

There should be a comparative study to determine the experience of other places with regard to reintegration of former combatants.

.

REFERENCES

[1] Africa Renewal (2007). *Improving the Reintegration of Former Combatants*. United Nations. New York, NY 10017 USA
[2] Annan Jeannie, Blatmann Christopher . (2006). Research Brief 2, Survey of War Affected Youth. Uganda. *The Psychological Resilience of Youth*
[3] Best, J. & Kahn, J. (2004). *Research in Education* (7th Edition); New Delhi: Prentice Hall of India Private Limited
[4] Byman, A. & Bell, E. (2007). "*Business Research Methods", 2nd Edition. Oxford University Press.*
[5] Bronfrenbrenner, U., & Morris. P. (1998). *The Ecology of Developmental Processes.* In W. Damon (Eds.), *Handbook of Child psychology*
[6] *Buxton, J. (2008). Reintegration and Long Term Development: Linkages and challenges.* Thematic Working Paper 5. Bradford Centre for International Cooperation and Secuirity. University of Bradford
[7] Dane, F. C., (1990). *Research Methods*; Brookole: Pacific Groove
[8] Dzinesa, G. A. (2006). "Swords into ploughshares: Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa' *Occasional Paper* No. 120, Institute for Security Studies (www.issafrica.org).
[9] Dzinesa, G. A. (2007). 'Post –Conflict Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Former Combatants in South Africa', *International Studies Perspectives*, No 1.
[10] Erikson, E. (1963). *Childhood and Society* (2nd ed.) New York (Norton)
[11] Fusato, M. (2003). *Moving Beyond Intractability. Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration of Ex-combatants*. *Beyond Intractability*, Eds. Guy Burges and Heidi Burges. Conflict Information Consortium, University of Colorado, Boulder.
[12] Gay, L. R. (1992). *Educational Research Competencies for Analysis and Application.* 4th Edition, New York: Macmillan publishing Company
[13] Galtung, J. (1996). *Peace by Peaceful Means*, Sage Publications, London.
[14] Gay, L. R. (1992). *Educational Research Competencies for Analysis and Application.* 4th Edition, New York: Macmillan publishing Company
[15] Harsch, E. (2005). *When war ends*: Transforming Africa's Fighters into Builders. From Africa renewal. Free Town and Monrovia
[16] Kathuri, N. J. & Douglass, P. A. (1993). *Introduction to Educational Research*. Educational Media Centre (EMC) Egerton University
[17] Khan, R. E. (1999). *Developing the Theoretical and Conceptual Framework, Mini Lecture*. Available at: http://journclasses.pbworks.com/f/theoretical +framework.ppt
[18] Laderach, J. P. (1997). *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in divided Societies, United States Institute of Peace Press, Washington D. C.*
[19] Maruna, S. (2001). Making Good: *How ex-convicts Reform and Rebuild their Lives.* American Psychological Association Books. Washington DC
[20] Miall, H. (2004). *Conflict transformation: A Multi- Dimensional* Task, 2nd Edition, Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management, Berghof.
[21] Maslow, A., (1951:71). *Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory*: Simply Psychology.org
[22] Mugenda, M. O. & Mugenda, G. A. (2003). *Research Methods: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches*, Nairobi. Acts Press.
[23] Munive, J. (2006). Sustainable Security: Addressing the Underlying Drivers of Global Insecurity. Beyond Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration of Former combatants
[24] Munive, J. & Stepputat, F. (2015). Rethinking Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Programmes. Stability, International Journal of Security & Development, 4(1), 1-13

iJETRM
International Journal of Engineering Technology Research & Management

[25] Ozerdem, A. & Podder, S. (2011). "Disarming Youth Combatants: Mitigating Youth Radicalization and Violent Extremism" in Journal of Strategic Security (JSS) Volume 4 Number 4,
[26] Porto, Jodo Gomes & Alden, Chris&Parsons, Imogen (2008). *From Soldiers to Citizens: Demilitarization of Conflict in Society (Aldershot-England ,Burlington- US: Ashgate)*
[27] Ramsbotham, O., Woodhouse, T. and Mial, H. (2008). *Contemporary Conflict Resolution*, 2nd Edition, Polity Press, Cambridge.
[28] Rombora, S. R. (2008). "*Militarization of Resource Conflicts- the Case of Land Based Conflict in Mount Elgon Region of western Kenya". Pretoria, Institute for Security Studies. Monograph 152*
[29] Torjesen, S., (2013). *Towards a theory of ex-combatant reintegration. Stability: International Journal of Security and Development*. 2(3), p. Art. 63. DOI: http://doi.org/10.5334/sta.cx
[30] The United Nations. 2005. *Note by the Secretary - General on Administrative and Budgetary Aspects of the Financing of the UN Peace Keeping Operations. "A/C.5/59/31. May 24*
[31] United Nations. (2006).*Operational Guide to the Integral Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards*. New York. United Nations. http://www.unddr.org
[32] Verhey Beth (2001). *Africa Region working paper series*. Washington DC: World Bank;2001.
[33] Verthey, R. (2001). *"Child Soldiers: Preventing. Demobilizing and Reintegrating" Africa Region Working Paper Series*.23 November. ARWPS. http//www.worldbank.org/,afri/wps/index.h tm
[34] Wessels Michael (2012). 'Psychological Wellbeing and the Integration of War Affected Children: Towards a Community Resilience Approach' in Derluyn, Ilse & Mels, Cindy & Parmentier, Stephen & Vandhole Wouter: *Re- member: Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Reconciliation of War Affected Children (Cambridge-Intersentia)*