RE-MEMBER

Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Reconciliation of War-Affected Children

Edited by
Ilse Derluyn, Cindy Mels, Stephan Parmentier and Wouter Vandenhole
# CONTENTS

**Preface**  
Radhika COOMARASWAMY ........................................... v

**Foreword**  
Jaap E. DOEK ......................................................... ix

**Introduction**  
Children Affected by Armed Conflict at the Intersection of Three Fields of Study  
Cindy MELS, Ilse DERLUYN, Stephan PARMENTIER and Wouter VANDENHOLE ............................................. 1

1. General Background ............................................... 1
2. Introducing this Book ............................................. 4
3. Lessons Learnt and Challenges Faced ............................. 13  
   3.1. Challenges for Children's Rights ............................. 14  
       3.1.1. Beyond Child Soldiers, Beyond Age Limits ............... 14  
       3.1.2. Clarifying Concepts ..................................... 16  
       3.1.3. Hard Questions .......................................... 17  
   3.2. Challenges for Psychosocial Approaches ..................... 20  
       3.2.1. Consolidating Psychosocial Intervention ................ 20  
       3.2.2. Holistic and Long-Term Consensus, yet Special Group Targeting and Short-Term Funding ..................... 21  
       3.2.3. Community-Based Buzz .................................. 22  
       3.2.4. Limited Evidence Base .................................. 24  
   3.3. Challenges for Transitional Justice .......................... 24  
       3.3.1. Children as Victims of Armed Conflict .................. 24  
       3.3.2. What About Perpetrators of Serious Crimes? ............ 27  
       3.3.3. The Political Context of Armed Conflict ................ 29  
4. Acknowledgements .................................................. 30

Intersentia XXV
3. Integrating Transitional Justice and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration: The Need to Achieve Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Reconciliation for Child Soldiers and Child Victims of Enforced Disappearances
Jeremy SARKIN ................................................................. 77

1. Introduction ................................................................. 77
2. How War Affects Children ........................................... 79
3. Developments to Deal with Acts Perpetrated Against Children during Conflict ............................................. 81
4. Developments on the Use of Child Soldiers ..................... 83
5. Children as Direct and Indirect Victims of Enforced Disappearances ..................................................... 84
6. Resources and Mechanisms to Address the Problems of War-Affected Children .......................................... 88
7. Achieving Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Reconciliation for War-Affected Children .................................... 90
8. Safety ........................................................................... 94
9. Mourning and Remembrance ........................................ 94
10. Reconnection ............................................................... 96
11. Counselling and Therapy ............................................. 97
12. Conclusion ..................................................................... 99

PART II
LESSONS LEARNT FROM CURRENT PRACTICES AND APPROACHES

4. And the Children Learned Not to Cry: Stories About Children and Transitional Justice in Latin America
Javier CIURLIZZA ................................................................. 105

1. Introduction ................................................................. 105
2. Transitional Justice ...................................................... 107
3. Transitional Justice and Children ................................... 109
4. Modelling Transitional Justice in Latin America .............. 111
5. Child Involvement in Transitional Justice in Latin America 112
   5.1. Children and Truth-Telling Mechanisms. .................... 112
   5.2. The "Nunca Más" for Children in Argentina ................. 113
   5.3. The Ongoing Drama of Children in Colombia ............... 115
   5.5. The Peruvian TRC and the Elusive Issue of Children .... 119
   5.6. Demographics and Criminality .................................. 122
6. Conclusion ..................................................................... 123

Intersentia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.2. The Past: Building Stories on Secure Foundations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3. Casework in Dost's Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4. The Future: Circular Routes Forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Community Rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Release and Reintegration of Child Soldiers: One Part of a Bigger Puzzle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Overview of Children's Involvement in Armed Conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. DDR Developments and Concerns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1. Releasing Children in Situations of Armed Conflict - Prevention Better than Cure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2. Post-Conflict Release and Reintegration - A Long-Term Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3. Improving Access to Reintegration Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4. Invisible Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5. Working with Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Conclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. No Return Home: The (Non-)Reintegration of Youth Ex-Combatants in Sierra Leone as a Challenge to the Contextualisation of DDR and Transitional Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Research Question and Methodology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Conflict and Peace Background</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Children and Youth in the Sierra Leone Conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The Reintegration of Children and Youth in Sierra Leone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1. Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2. No Return Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3. Fear for Retribution and Rejection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Why They Do Not Return Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1. Lack of Youth Accountability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.1. Criminal Prosecutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.2. Truth and Reconciliation Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.3. Traditional Practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.4. Traditional Values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.5. Current Tradition-Based Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2. Lack of Traditional Leaders' Accountability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.1. Role of Traditional Leaders with Regard to the War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.2. Traditional Leaders after the War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.3. Lack of Accountability of Traditional Leaders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Contents

5.3. Reintegrating into a Traditional Context ........................................ 236
6. Conclusion ......................................................................................... 240

10. Support to the Education and Livelihoods of War-Affected Children and Youth in Northern Uganda

**Ann Lorschiedter** and Femke Bannink-Mbaazzi ................................. 243

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The War in Northern Uganda</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1. “Child Soldiers” in the LRA</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.1. Conscription of Minors into the LRA and DDR</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.2. Statistics on Abduction</td>
<td>245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.3. Mystification of “Child Soldiers”</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.4. The Quantification of Trauma</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1.5. The Reintegration of Former “Child Soldiers” in the Context of Northern Uganda</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2. Efforts to Establish Peace in Northern Uganda</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Supporting War-Affected Children and Youth Through Education and Gaining Livelihood</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1. Vulnerability in the Return and Resettlement Setting.</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2. AVSI’s Programming</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1. Identification of Beneficiaries</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2. Supporting Pre-primary, Primary and Secondary Education</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3. Supporting Vocational Training</td>
<td>255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.4. Training for Teachers and Other School Stakeholders, and Community Sensitisation</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.5. Supporting Livelihoods</td>
<td>257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.5.1. Group Dynamics Training</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.5.2. Business Skills Training</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.5.3. Improved Psychosocial Wellbeing</td>
<td>259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.5.4. Group Businesses Leading to Micro-Enterprises Opportunities</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Conclusion</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Transitional Justice Implications for the Use of Child Soldiers in Eritrea

**Daniel R. Mekonnen** ....................................................................... 263

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Introduction</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Contextual Background</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Excessive Militarisation as a Major Societal Evil</td>
<td>268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The Plight of Eritrean Children</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Eritrea's Ambivalence to its International Obligations and National Commitments ........................................ 274
6. Critical Challenges and the Way Forward ........................................ 277
7. Concluding Remarks ............................................................................. 281

12. Children in Twentieth Century Europe Affected by War: Historical Experiences in Giving Them Refuge
Frank CAESTECKER .................................................................................. 283

1. Introduction ............................................................................................. 283
2. War-Affected Children from Spain: Offering Asylum in an Extremely Politically Polarised Situation (1937–39) ........................................ 283
   2.1. Decision-Making Process Leading to Refuge for War-Affected Basque Children (1937) ....................................................... 284
   2.2. Housing and Care of the Basque Children ........................................ 287
   2.3. Repatriation: The Normalisation of Spain at Stake ......................... 290
   3.1. Decision-Making Process Leading to Refuge for German Jewish Children ................................................................. 294
   3.2. Housing and Care for German Jewish Child Refugees ...................... 298
4. Flight to and Holiday in Switzerland (1940–42) ........................................ 299
5. The Long-Term Consequences of the Child Rescue Operations ............... 302
6. Conclusion ............................................................................................... 303

PART III
EXPLORING RESOURCES THROUGH EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

13. Life in Rebel Captivity and its Challenges for the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Former Child Soldiers: The Case of Northern Uganda
Sofie VINDEVOGEL, Kathleen COPPENS, Ilse DELLUYN, Gerrit LOOTS and Eric BROEKAERT ................................................. 307

1. Introduction ............................................................................................. 307
   1.1. Child Soldiering in Northern Uganda ............................................. 307
   1.2. Reception Centres ........................................................................ 309
   1.3. Theoretical Framework ................................................................ 310
   1.4. Research Questions ...................................................................... 311
2. Methodology .......................................................................................... 312
   2.1. Participants .................................................................................... 312
   2.2. Measures ....................................................................................... 313
   2.3. Analysis ........................................................................................ 313
14. Psychosocial Care in Rehabilitation Centres for Former Child Soldiers in Northern Uganda
Kathleen COPPENS, Sofie VINDEVOGEL, Ilse DERLUYN, Gerrit LOOTS and Eric BROEKAERT

1. Introduction ............................................. 329
   1.1. Formal Support Initiatives for Former Child Soldiers ............. 332
      1.1.1. Inpatient Support .................................. 333
      1.1.2. Rehabilitation Centres in Northern Uganda .................. 334
2. Method ..................................................... 335
   2.1. Participants ......................................... 335
   2.2. Data Collection and Analysis ................................ 337
3. Results .................................................... 338
   3.1. The Process of Rehabilitation in a Rehabilitation Centre: An Overview ............................................. 339
      3.1.1. Psychosocial Support .................................. 341
      3.1.2. Leaving the Rehabilitation Centre ........................ 349
   3.2. After Closing Down the Centre ................................ 350
   3.3. Lessons Learned ....................................... 351
      3.3.1. Problems Encountered ................................ 351
3.3.2. Good and Bad Practices ........................................... 353
4. Discussion ..................................................................... 354
  4.1. Main Goals of Inpatient Care .................................. 354
  4.2. Important Lessons to Take into Consideration when
        Developing Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programmes
        for FAC ........................................................................ 357
  4.3. Limitations of our Research .................................... 361

15. Lessons Learnt from the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of
    Girl Mothers in Northern Uganda: A Case-Study from Gulu District
    Sarah KAMYA and Charles N. BWANA ................................ 363
    1. Introduction .......................................................... 363
    2. Methods ............................................................... 364
    3. Findings .................................................................. 365
       3.1. Rehabilitation and Reintegration Services .......... 366
       3.2. Challenges of Service Providers ....................... 367
       3.3. Reintegration Challenges of Girl Mothers .......... 368
    4. Recommendations .................................................. 374
    5. Conclusion ............................................................ 375

16. Community-Based Approaches to the Reintegration of
    Self-Demobilised Child Soldiers: The Case of the Democratic Republic
    of Congo
    Mulanda JUMA ............................................................. 377
    1. Introduction .......................................................... 377
    2. Reasons Behind Self-Demobilisation ...................... 378
    3. Psychosocial Effects of War on Self-Demobilised Child Soldiers
       in the DRC ............................................................. 380
    4. Psychosocial Reintegration of Self-Demobilised Child Soldiers
       in the DRC ............................................................. 382
       4.1. Child Identification ............................................ 383
       4.2. Host and Transit Family Identification ............... 383
       4.3. Family Reunification .......................................... 384
       4.4. Medical Assistance, Stress Management and
            Trauma Healing .................................................. 384
       4.5. Education ........................................................ 385
       4.6. Legal Assistance ................................................ 385
    5. Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Reintegration of
       Self-Demobilised Child Soldiers ............................... 386
       5.1. Challenges ........................................................ 386
       5.2. Lessons Learned ............................................... 388
6. Approaches to the Reintegration of Self-Demobilised Child Soldiers and the Role of the Community

6.1. Promoting the Dignity of Self-Demobilised Child Soldiers

6.2. Raising Awareness and Assisting the Community to Mobilise Local Resources

6.2.1. Traditional Healing Mechanisms

6.2.2. Transformation of Relationships

6.2.3. Support Groups

6.2.4. Creation of Job Opportunities

6.2.5. Labour-Intensive Public Works Programmes

6.2.6. Agriculture and Fishing

6.2.7. Education and Training

6.3. Provision of Basic Stress Management and Trauma Healing Training

6.3.1. Understanding Stress and Trauma

6.3.2. Causes and Effects of Stress and Trauma

6.3.3. Solutions to Stress and Trauma

7. Conclusion

17. Psychosocial Adjustment and Mental Health Services in Post-Conflict Sierra Leone: Experiences of CAAFAG and War-Affected Youth, Families and Service Providers

Theresa Betancourt, Sandra ZaeH, A'Nova Ettien and Laura Khan
4.1.5. The "Informal" Services System: The Extended Family ........................................ 422
4.1.6. Traditional and Spiritual Healing ................................................................. 423
4.2. Systems Assessment ............................................................................................ 425
4.2.1. The State of Mental Health Services .............................................................. 425
4.2.2. Challenges to Mental Health Services Implementation .................................. 427
4.2.3. Funding ............................................................................................................ 427
4.2.4. Human Resources ............................................................................................ 427
4.2.5. Government Prioritisation ................................................................................ 428

5. Limitations of Study and Opportunities for Further Investigation .................. 429
6. Conclusions/Recommendations. ........................................................................... 430
   6.1. The Importance of a Sustainable Mental Health Response ......................... 430
   6.2. Knowledge from Current Service Models ...................................................... 431
   6.3. Multi-sectoral, Integrated Approaches to Service Delivery ......................... 433
   6.4. Thinking Beyond Sierra Leone ....................................................................... 435

18. The Fit Between Mental Health Needs and Programming Responses for War-Affected Children in Northern Uganda
   James Okello, Ilse Derluyn, Seggane Musisi and Eric Broekaert .................... 437

   1. Introduction ........................................................................................................ 437
   2. Traumatising Experiences and Mental Health Needs of War-Affected Children in Northern Uganda .......................................................... 438
   3. Programming Responses .................................................................................... 440
   4. Discussion .......................................................................................................... 442
   5. Implications ........................................................................................................ 445

PART IV
LOOKING BACK, REACHING FORWARD

   Vanessa Pupavac .................................................................................................. 449

   1. War-affected Children and International Psychosocial Programmes ............... 449
   2. Cycles of Trauma and Violence? ....................................................................... 452
   3. Contentions over Psychosocial Trauma Models .............................................. 456
   4. Contentions over Rehabilitation Models .......................................................... 459
   5. Psychological Crisis of Meaninglessness ......................................................... 463
6. Rehabilitating Children to the Struggle for Survival? .......................... 467
7. Conclusion ...................................................................................... 472

20. Exploring the Context for Adolescent Mental Health and Psychosocial Assistance in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo

Cindy MELS, Ilse DERLUYN, Eric BROEKAERT and Koen VLASSENROOT . 475

1. Introduction .................................................................................. 475

1.1. Outlining the Debate on Mental Health Intervention in the Humanitarian Field ............................................................... 477

1.2. Towards Consensus .................................................................. 478

2. Background of the Conflict ............................................................. 480

3. Method ......................................................................................... 483

4. Results ........................................................................................... 484

4.1. Separation and the Breakdown of Family Structures .................. 485

4.2. An Inadequate Framework for the Support of Youngsters ........ 485

4.3. Constrained Future Perspectives and Opportunities ................... 486

4.4. Changing Moral Standards .......................................................... 487

4.5. New Disturbing Social Phenomena ............................................. 487

4.6. Atmosphere of Interethnic Tension, Hatred and Vengeance .......... 488

5. Discussion ....................................................................................... 489

5.1. Multi-Layered Needs for Psychosocial Intervention in Ituri ...... 490

Level 1: Basic Services and Security .................................................. 490

Level 2: Community and Family Support ......................................... 491

Level 3: Focussed, Non-Specialised Support ..................................... 492

Level 4: Specialised Services ............................................................... 492

5.2. Reflections on the IASC Guidelines ............................................ 493

6. Acknowledgements ........................................................................ 495

21. A Gender Perspective on Girls and Young Women in Armed Conflicts and Organised Armed Violence – Some Examples from Latin America

Maria Luisa BARTOLOMEI .................................................................. 497

1. Introduction and Background .......................................................... 497

2. Girls and Young Women in Armed Conflict and Organised Armed Violence .......................................................... 500

2.1 Where are the Girls? ................................................................. 500

2.2. Girls and Young Women in Armed Conflict ................................ 501

2.3. Girls and Young Women Involved in Organised Armed Violence .......................................................... 503

3. The Cases of Colombia and El Salvador ............................................. 505

3.1. Colombia .................................................................................. 505

xxxvi Intersentia
4. Who is Guarding the Guards? The Evaluation Evaluated .............. 543
5. Spirit Possession Amongst the Mayi-Mayi ........................................ 545
6. A Children’s Right, a Soldiers Plight: Innocence and Guilt ........... 547
7. Reintegration – Children’s Rights as an End or as a Means? ........ 549
8. The Untapped Reservoir of Cultural Remedies ............................... 552
9. Putting Children’s Rights in Perspective ......................................... 554

About the Editors ................................................................. 557
About the Authors ............................................................... 559