to former members. Beyond these limited goals, it has little or no ownership or buy-in of the wider process. This was illustrated at a two-day DDR review conference held in Juba in November 2010, during which mid-ranking SPLA officers did not present or take part in the discussions, contributing only when directly questioned.

**Who has gone through DDR?**

Between July 2010 and February 2011, the Small Arms Survey interviewed 53 participants (18 men and 35 women) undergoing reintegration training in the South Sudan DDR programme. While the sample size is small, it is geographically diverse, including participants in Aweil, Juba, Rumbek, and Wau. A number of patterns in their responses quickly emerged. The most striking was that, although all interviewees had been involved with the SPLA at some point in their lives, 51 out of the 53 were technically ineligible for DDR according to the DDR Standard Operating Procedures. They had either left the SPLA prior to joining the DDR programme (49), or had joined the SPLA after the CPA (11); nine participants fit into both of these disqualifying categories.

Most of those who had already left the SPLA before starting DDR were found in Wau (30 out of 31). These included 7 who had left before 2004 (of which 2 had left as early as 1997); 18 who had left between 2005 and 2009; and 5 who had left in 2010. The most common reason cited for leaving the SPLA was personal circumstances, in particular the desire to be with children or sick or elderly family members. Since leaving the army most interviewees had survived by subsistence agriculture and several had been running their own small businesses, including trading goods, selling phones, running tea shops, and braiding hair. Almost all (30 out of 31) had heard about the programme for the first time in mid- or late 2010, several years after they had demobilized, and had welcomed it as an unexpected benefit.

The general understanding among Wau participants was that DDR was ‘a programme for those who were once in the army and who are now suffering’. The interviewees were predominantly grateful for the benefits offered, in particular the reintegration package. Two-thirds of the Wau interviewees said they had never received a salary from the SPLA; those who had received a salary said it had been paid sporadically.

Attitudes were significantly different in Aweil, Juba, and Rumbek, where caseloads also included many individuals who had left the SPLA several years before joining the DDR programme. The difference was that they had been forcibly demobilized.