



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

Reintegration of children associated with armed forces or armed groups

Wednesday 15 – Friday 17 February 2023 | WP3101

Summary

This Wilton Park event on 'Reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups' addresses a core recommendation from the April 2022 Wilton Park event 'Preparing the children and armed conflict agenda for the future'. Besides being a critical issue on the global peace, security, and development agendas, reintegration of children exiting from armed forces or armed groups continues to seriously impact children's rights and protection in situations of armed conflict.

This event will bring together representatives from government, UN agencies, civil society organisations, legal, juvenile justice and child rights advisors as well as academics to discuss how actors can better cooperate to address existing gaps and needs to achieve successful reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (CAAFAG) while also taking a preventive approach.

Context and key policy issues

In April 2022 key stakeholders convened at Wilton Park to take stock of the progress made since the creation of the CAAC agenda 25 years ago. The event was an opportunity to discuss how the CAAC mandate has contributed to improving the protection of children in armed conflict, including for children associated with armed forces or groups. Participants celebrated good practices and identified barriers and challenges that remain to be addressed to increase protection for children and prevent The Six Grave Violations from taking place, and discussed how the mandate might be further strengthened for a second 25 years.

Against this backdrop, the reintegration of children who have exited armed forces or armed groups was identified as a key challenge that needs to be addressed more holistically. As recruitment and use of children by armed actors continues to rise in many countries around the world, continued efforts aimed at preventing and ending this practice are still strongly needed.

Drawing on the key recommendations of the April 2022 event, this event aims to build stronger programmatic linkages between humanitarian and longer-term development initiatives across the Humanitarian and Development Nexus. It will also discuss how to

In association with:



Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for
CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT



unicef 



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



Save the Children



secure access to longer term innovative financing by placing a focus on responses to children's needs using a prevention lens.

Goal and objectives

- Unpack key issues that arise in reintegration policy and practice such as: the links with socio-economic strengthening, social cohesion and peacebuilding and the intersection of reintegration with the justice system(s), particularly in relation to children associated with or living under the control of armed groups designated as terrorist organisations;
- Identify key actors and constructive approaches to advance progress on reintegration policy - including funding, programming and increasing access to support for all children exiting armed forces and groups;
- Address the siloing of humanitarian and development programming and funding;
- Identify key indicators of successful reintegration based on child and community consultation, research, and other data, building on the evidence base derived from various initiatives focused on child reintegration.

Intended outcomes

- Develop greater synergies and closer collaboration between the existing range of activities by various actors in the child reintegration space;
- Agree on a key set of actions to enhance cooperation and accelerate progress in the reintegration agenda which includes time-bound actions to address key barriers/challenges to reintegration;
- An action orientated report will summarise the discussions, conclusions, policy recommendations, and agreed next steps, which will be widely circulated and promoted to interested parties and posted on Wilton Park and other websites.

In association with UNICEF, the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Save the Children, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and War Child.

Wednesday 15 February

1430-1530

Participants arrive. Tea and coffee on arrival

1530-1545

Welcome and introduction

Alison Hilliard

Programme Director, Wilton Park

Anne-Li Ferguson

Coordinator, Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, Section for Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

1545-1645

1. Framing the issues: the need for action

Virginia Gamba

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, United Nations

Cornelius Williams

Director, Child Protection, UNICEF

Gabriella Waaijman

Humanitarian Director, Save the Children

1645-1715

Tea/coffee

1715-1845

2. Evidence based approaches to reintegration: what practice and programming works

This session will present the latest evidence from research, practice, and situation analyses on successes and challenges for programming approaches.

It will also outline the latest findings from research, consultations, and engagement with children, families and communities on perceptions, attitudes and experiences of reintegration.

How can the evidence base outlined be used to strengthen programme design to support successful and sustainable holistic reintegration? Are implementing agencies learning from each other's research? If not, why not?

Siobhan O'Neil

Project Director, Managing Exits from Armed Conflict, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (UNU-CPR)

Sandra Maignant

CAAFAG Advisor, Plan international; Co-chair, CAAFAG Task Force, The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

Ilwad Elman

Elman Peace Foundation

Brigid Kennedy Pfister

Senior Child Protection Specialist, Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Thursday 16 February

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-1030

3. Recognising, protecting and fulfilling child rights in the context of security-led agendas

How can child protection actors more effectively advocate to protect children associated with armed groups designated as terrorist? What entry points are there to divert such children away from detention and into reintegration programmes? Who are the key actors that need to be engaged and how? What frameworks or tools can be used? How can child protection actors address concerns that authorities may have while maintaining human rights and humanitarian principles? What are the key accelerators for change?

Alexandra Souza Martin

Head, Global Programme to End Violence against Children, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Meschach Bwala

Child Protection (Reintegration) Project Manager, Search for Common Ground, Maiduguri, Nigeria

Ahmed Sameer

Country Director, Heartland Alliance, Iraq

Ulrich Garms

Implementation Support Section II, Sub-Saharan Africa, Terrorism Prevention Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

1030-1115

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1115-1300

4. How to bridge the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus and work together for sustainable, successful reintegration?

How do we understand the problem? Which institutions demonstrate ownership of the issue of reintegration? What solutions can be advanced to promote sustainable holistic child reintegration before, during and after conflict? How can humanitarian, development and peacebuilding approaches be leveraged for common outcomes? How can transitions, recovery and reconstruction be child focused? Who are the key actors or institutions to engage? What are the key accelerators for change? What are the indicators of success?

Glaucia Boyer

DDR Advisor, Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights Team, Crisis Bureau, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Co-chair Inter Agency Working Group on DDR (IAWG-DDR)

Robert Nanima

Assigned Country Rapporteur, African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of Children (ACERWC), African Union

Rikke Fredburg

Policy Officer, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), European Commission

1300-1400

Lunch

1400-1500

Free time

1500-1630

5. How to promote sustainable funding for reintegration?

How do we understand the problem? What solutions can be advanced at different levels (national, international, institutional) and through different funding mechanisms and modalities to promote and support sustainable holistic reintegration? Who are the key actors, and institutions to engage? What are the key accelerators for change? What are the indicators of success? How can national and local implementers better access global funding?

Sharon Riggle

Chief of Office and Chief of Analysis and Outreach Unit, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG/CAAC), United Nations

Daniel Owen

Lead Social Development Specialist, World Bank

Catarina Fabiansson

Senior Programme Manager, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1830

5. Breakout groups: how to work together to act on the accelerators for change identified?

Group 1. Building the evidence base

Group 2. Recognising, protecting and fulfilling child rights in the context of security-led agendas

Group 3. How to bridge the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus and work together for sustainable, successful reintegration?

Group 4. How to promote sustainable funding for reintegration?

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Friday 17 February

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout

0915-0945

7. Feedback from breakout groups: putting forward practical proposals

0945-1115

8. Moving the agenda forward

How can we collectively increase ownership, engagement and investment in this agenda? How will we take this forward? What are the levers or entry points that each actor in the room has to mobilize others and catalyse change? How can we better harness political energy and commitment to reintegration? How can we use the recommendations of this meeting to support the ongoing work of stakeholders in the reintegration space?

Rob Williams

CEO, War Child

Cornelius Williams

Director, Child Protection, UNICEF

***Rafael Alberto Lara Losada**

Vice Minister for Defense and Security Policies, Ministry of Defense, Colombia

1115-1145

Tea/coffee

1145-1245

9. Commitments and next steps

Virginia Gamba

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, United Nations

1245-1300

10. Evaluation survey

Completion of online survey

1300

Lunch

1400

Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

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