Support to the National Demobilization & Reintegration Programme (SNDRP)

Annual Progress Report

2025

The SNDRP is generously supported by its partners

Programme Summary

Programme Name	Support to the National Demobilization and Reintegration Programme (SNDRP)[1]
Country	Ethiopia, Addis Ababa
Project Number	01000544
Project Duration	January - December 2026
Implementing Agency	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Implementing Partner	National Rehabilitation Commission (NRC)
Total Expected Budget (US$)	US$ 377,221,768.95
2025 Budget (US$)	**US $153,011,370**
Total Non-Core Allocation till 2025	US $90,870,006.93
Government Contribution in addition to budget outside UNDP SNDRP	Government of Ethiopia contribution 15% of total resources: 2 billion (ETB)[2] and additional in-kind support.
Total Utilization (US$) 2025	**US $ 53,757,115.14**

[1] This report summarizes the progress of the Support to the National Demobilization and Reintegration Programme (SNDRP) from 1 January – 31 December 2025. Contact the UNDP DDR Team on ddr.et@undp.org.

[2] This amount reflects two financial allocations from the Government of Ethiopia's budget – 1 billion ETB for the 2024 and 1 billion ETB for the 2025 fiscal year, respectively.

Programme Outcomes & Outputs	**Programme Outcome -** A total of 371,971 ex-combatants (XCs) from conflict-impacted Tigray region and other regions are demobilized, the military command structure is broken and XCs are inserted back into their communities as civilians to build a lasting peace, enable reconciliation and reinforce social cohesion. **Output 1 -** Establishment and operationalization of institutional structures for the NDRP at national, regional, and local levels. **Output 2 -** Registration of the XCs during demobilisation and rolling out the Information, Counselling and Referral System (ICRS) and support linked to SGBV, MHPSS and PWD. **Output 3 –** Provision of benefits of US$ 800 to 150,000 XCs for reinsertion back to communities and rehabilitate community infrastructure as part of Community Based Reintegration (CBS). **Output 4 -** Support to women, people with disabilities and children with MHPSS, SGBV and/or rehabilitation needs. **Output 5 -** Capacity building of regional and local institutions and service providers in target areas of support. **Output 6 –** Support for reintegration.

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Acronyms

AWP	Annual Work Plan
CBE	Commercial Bank of Ethiopia
CoHA	Cessation of Hostilities Agreement
DPs	Development Partners
DREAM	Demobilization, Reinsertion & Reintegration Management
ENDF	Ethiopian National Defense Force
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
ICRS	Information, Counselling & Referral System
KAITPC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MHPSS	Mental Health & Psychosocial Support
NDRP	National Demobilization & Rehabilitation Programme
NRC	National Rehabilitation Commission
PwD	Person with Disability
SGBV	Sexual & Gender-Based Violence
TIRA	Tigray Interim Regional Administration
TPMA	Third-Party Monitoring Agent
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WVI	World Vision International
XCs	Ex-Combatants

I. Executive Summary

OVERVIEW

The **Support to the National Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme (SNDRP)**, implemented by UNDP in partnership with Ethiopia's National Rehabilitation Commission (NRC), contributes to the largest Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) processes in the world.[3] The national DDR programme targets 371,971 ex-combatants (XCs) located in conflict-affected regions, namely Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, South Ethiopia, Southwest Ethiopia and Tigray regions. However, in 2025, the NRC focused on demobilising XCs in Afar, Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray. As one of the most visible provisions of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA), DDR has been a linchpin in consolidating peace and stability in Ethiopia and the Horn, serving as a vital confidence-building measure between the parties and reducing the risks of renewed conflict, violence, and insecurity.

Since its inception, the Government and the NRC have demonstrated their political commitment to advancing the DDR process and their financial commitment by funding 15% of the programme budget. UNDP, through the SNDRP, has played a key role in establishing and strengthening the Government's core DDR policies, systems, and institutional capacities. Since 2023, UNDP has supported the NRC in capacity-building for the Commission and has provided technical and advisory services. UNDP, as the DDR fund custodian, plays an important role in advocacy and resource mobilisation.

This **annual progress report** covers results achieved from January to December 2025. Over this period, the national DDR process advanced from initial system-building, testing, and piloting in 2024, when 7,953 XCs were demobilised in the Tigray region, to at-scale implementation, reaching a total of **80,908 XCs** across Afar, Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray in the reporting period. Building on these gains, the NDRP is now preparing to accelerate and scale up the demobilisation process to reach an additional 150,000 XCs in 2026. Simultaneously, the programme will increase attention to the reintegration part of the DDR process.

Table: Demobilization status of XCs by the end of 2025

Region	Male	Female	Total
Tigray	51,947	11,513	63,460
Amhara	5,125	84	5,209
Amhara (GoE-funded)*	5,077	85	5,162
Oromia	5,274	91	5,365
Afar	1,415	297	1,712
Total Demobilized	**68,838**	**12,070**	**80,908**

[3] In terms of its overall target of XCs to be demobilized

KEY RESULTS

The following summarises key progress of Ethiopia's DDR process and major milestones achieved so far with Programme support since January 2025:

1. **Significant scale and acceleration of DDR in 2025**: 72,955 additional XCs have been demobilised in the Tigray, Oromia, Afar and Amhara regions - bringing the total to 80,908, including 7,953 demobilised in 2024. The programme till date has facilitated reinsertion payments of ETB 90,400 per XCs for 75,746 XCs, approximately ETB 6.8 billion ($ 53 million), with payments for the remaining XCs made directly by the Government of Ethiopia.
2. **Demobilisation process in Tigray region**: 55,507 new XCs have been demobilised in Tigray region in 2025, bringing the total demobilised XCs in the region to 63,460. In 2026, the NRC intends to finalise Phase I of the demobilisation process in the Tigray region by demobilising the final 11,540 out of the planned total of 75,000 XCs and continue with Phase 2 demobilisation.
3. **Improving and reinforcing national DDR systems and capacities:** The NRC and DDR systems are now operational at national and regional levels, underpinned by key DDR policy frameworks and standard operating procedures. In 2025, working with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), the programme provided tailored DDR training to 30 national and regional NRC staff members and partners, bringing the total number of key stakeholders trained by the programme to 67. The DREAM database, developed and customised by UNDP and transferred to the NRC, has become a foundational tool for XC registration, profiling and case management – being used to register all 80,908 demobilised XCs.
4. **Ensuring the inclusion of women, PwD and youth – leaving no one behind:** 76% of SNDRP XCs are between 18 and 32 years old. 12,070 women (31 % of total female XCs targeted by the NDRP) have been demobilised. The programme focused on providing gender-sensitive support, including supplemental nutrition for lactating mothers and providing specialised gender equality and responsiveness training for government staff. Approximately 42,923 PwD XCs have been demobilised. During demobilisation, XCs have indicated different levels of disability. These XCs have been registered as having a mild to very severe disability category. But these disability categories are not certified by the medical board. Initially, the government identified 37,473 XCs as disabled; however, the number has increased after the registration process at the demobilisation site.
5. **MHPSS training**: has been provided to 320 PwD (including 35 women) and to 10 caretakers. All XCs were provided with group psychosocial support during their stay at the demobilisation site.600 assistive devices are under procurement, and India has pledged 16,000 prosthetics and additional support for PwD. The programme has been focusing on assessing the key reintegration needs of this category of XCs, particularly those related to skills and employment.
6. **Laying the foundation for sustainable reintegration:** In 2025, key groundwork was laid to strengthen reintegration in the years ahead. The NRC drafted the National Reintegration Framework in consultation with regional governments to

guide coherent support into 2026. To inform this process, UNDP conducted a comprehensive assessment in the Tigray region, covering 5 woredas, consulting XCs and local stakeholders and mapping 190 initiatives that could serve as referral pathways for reintegration support.

7. **Supporting recovery and access to services to promote community-based reintegration:** The programme has invested $ 1.17 million in 29 infrastructure rehabilitation initiatives in conflict-affected woredas. These efforts have empowered approximately 1,825 civil servants, 318 medical staff (1st Line Beneficiaries, and 1497 administrative staff. These facilities have restored services to the community and to over 1,000,000 community members (2nd Line Beneficiaries).
8. **Strengthening partnerships and resource mobilization:** Through sustained partner engagement, the programme has mobilised $90.8 million for the DDR process until the end of 2025. In 2025, it broadened its donor base with a new partnership with the Government of Denmark and in-kind pledges from the Government of India. Strong collaboration has been maintained through regular coordination with the NRC via the Task Force Meetings, eight partner field visits to implementation sites and consistent progress updates/reporting.

MAIN CHALLENGES & RISKS

Despite a rapidly evolving, volatile implementation context, the DDR process achieved significant gains in 2025. This has been due to clear Government commitment and action, a relatively enabling political environment and continued financial and technical support through the programme and its partners. Looking ahead, the programme will need to navigate the following key challenges and risks:

- **Urgent and longer-term financing needs**: Despite strong resource mobilisation efforts, the programme's current resources will sustain operations only through mid-2026, threatening continuity into the second half of 2026 and beyond. In addition to this gap, to achieve the NDRP's goals and ambitions, significant and predictable financing is still needed, putting a premium on strengthening existing partnerships, building new and innovative partnerships and financing opportunities.
- **Enabling political and security environment:** Continuing to advance and scale the DDR process will hinge on ensuring an enabling political and security environment. Addressing the tensions in the Tigray region and reducing the volatility in the Amhara and Oromia regions will be needed to mitigate risks to the process going forward.
- **Relative lag in reintegration efforts:** Compared to demobilisation efforts, reintegration planning, financing and technical support, especially at the regional level, have thus far been more limited. Increasing the focus on reintegration will be needed to ensure the sustainable return of XCs to civilian life and ensure the durability of the CoHA agreement. A successful reintegration process is key to

reducing and mitigating the threat of re-mobilisation, and thus key to promoting longer-term peace and security both in Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa.

- **Operational constraints:** The programme's results so far have been enabled by flexible planning, proactive risk management, and strong transparency and communication with and between government and partners. Nevertheless, operational constraints, such as challenges in procuring items globally and shipping them into Ethiopia, administrative/security travel restrictions, and political sensitivities, have at different points challenged the pace of implementation. Moving forward, the programme will need to maintain its focus on advocacy, agility, and efficiency to reduce the impact of these operational risks.

THE WAY FORWARD – STRATIGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2026 AND BEYOND

Building on the results achieved so far, the Programme's strategic priorities will be:

1. Supporting the completion of Phase I and launching Phase II of demobilisation in the Tigray region**,** while extending DDR operations to additional conflict-affected regions.
2. Bridging immediate funding gaps and putting the programme on a sustainable financial footing to meet the ambitions and goals of the national DDR process.
3. Advancing support to reintegration by supporting the operationalisation of the National Reintegration Framework and the development of regional reintegration plans in all regions.
4. Increasing focus on women, PwD, and youth XCs, particularly to assist the transition to reintegration. This includes tailored support to enhance well-being, as well as access to services and livelihood opportunities.
5. Increase in partnership and in collaboration with qualified partners on MHPSS and support to PwDs and women XCs.
6. Enhancing data, monitoring and evaluation, including via the launch of rapid assessments, third-party monitoring and conflict-sensitive analysis to guide adaptive programming.

II. Programme Background

The two-year conflict in Ethiopia, concentrated in the Tigray region but spilling into Afar and Amhara regions, caused widespread devastation with loss of life, mass displacement, collapse of education and health systems and severe disruption of markets and essential services, deepening poverty and vulnerabilities across northern Ethiopia. To address the crisis, the Government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front signed in Pretoria, South Africa, a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) on 2 November 2022, committing to disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) of combatants, restoration of services, and return of displaced populations.

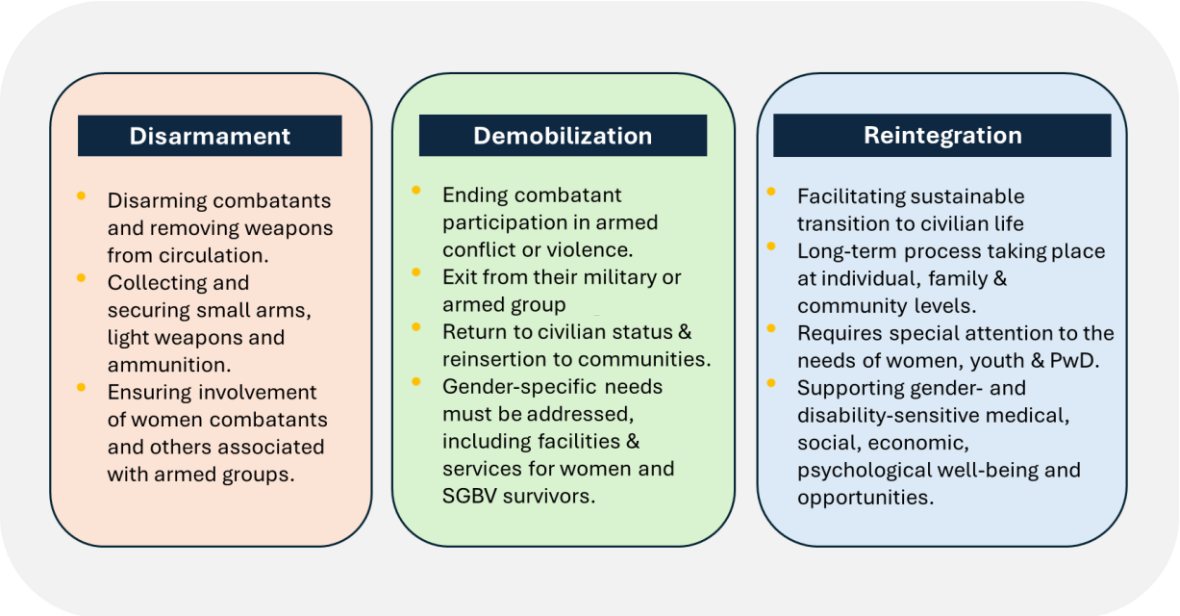
DDR is one of the central pillars of Ethiopia's efforts to consolidate peace and lay the foundation for recovery after years of devastating conflict. The DDR process is not only a central provision of the CoHA agreement but has also become a cornerstone of Ethiopia's efforts to promote peace and stability. As a visible, practical confidence-building measure, it has created space for dialogue and collaboration across political and regional divides. By enabling combatants to disarm, demobilise, and reintegrate into society, the programme has contributed directly to human security and reduced the risk of renewed conflict—thereby also supporting resilience and peace in the broader Horn of Africa.

DDR's Role in Consolidating & Sustaining Peace in Ethiopia

- ✓ **Reinforcing CoHA and other peace agreements** and building trust between and among communities, institutions and the state.
- ✓ **Reducing risks of** armed conflict and violence, improving security and stability.
- ✓ **Sustainably reintegrating** XCs—including women and persons with disabilities—through livelihoods and community roles.
- ✓ **Stimulating local recovery and economic growth** by channelling skills and resources into reconstruction.
- ✓ **Advancing social cohesion and gender equality**, addressing the needs of women and girls while easing tensions and reducing stigma.

The Government's National Demobilisation & Reintegration Programme (NDRP). On 25 November 2022, the Government of Ethiopia established the National Rehabilitation Commission (NRC) under Regulation No. 525/2022, with a mandate to design, plan and implement a nationwide DDR process. The NRC defines XCs as members of organised armed groups designated for demobilisation and reintegration. To operationalise this mandate, the Government launched the NDRP, led by the NRC, targeting 371,971 XC beneficiaries for the DDR process, including women, survivors of gender-based violence, persons with disabilities (PwD) and youth.

The NDRP's DDR Goals



The programme is aligned with the 2019 revised International DDR Standards (IDDRS) and spans eight regions—Afar, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, South Ethiopia, Southwest Ethiopia and Tigray regions. With an estimated required budget of $ 850 million for Demobilization and Reintegration, including estimated budget of $ 450 million for demobilization and reinsertion, the NDRP represents one of the largest DDR processes globally.

UNDP's Support to the National Demobilization & Reintegration Programme (SNDRP)

The Programme aims to deliver critical results of the DDR process via the operationalization of the HDP nexus supporting a highly vulnerable/at risk group, laying the foundation for recovery and longer-term development and helping to consolidate and sustain peace. It makes key contributions to the results of UNDP's Country Programme Document (CPD) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). To operationalize this, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) established and mandated the National Rehabilitation Council (NRC) as a custodian of the DDR Programme in December 2022.

Since its formation, the NRC has been receiving UN and UNDP technical and coordination support, including building the staffing, technical and operational capacities. Starting the inception phase, the DDR programme, UNDP has stepped up its direct support to the NRC, including by leading partner engagement, establishing operational systems, strengthening institutions and enhancing the links between the reintegration process and development programming.

At the request of the Ministry of Finance, in 2024, UNDP established a DDR basket fund to pool partner contributions to the initiative.

SNDP Partnerships. The SNDRP is supported by financial and in-kind contributions from key partners, including Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States. The African Union has provided $ 1 million in direct support to the NRC.

SNDRP Strategic Objective & Theory of Change

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

XCs from conflict-impacted regions are demobilized, the military command structure is broken, and XCs are inserted back into their communities as civilians to build a lasting peace, enabling reconciliation and reinforcing social cohesion.

THEORY OF CHANGE

IF the national DDR programme is designed to be participatory and inclusive, addressing the diverse needs of XCs, including gender-specific challenges;

and the capacity of the National Rehabilitation Commission is strengthened to implement demobilization and reintegration in Ethiopia;

and effective Information, Counselling and Referral Systems are established for XC registration and case management;

and appropriate reinsertion benefits are provided to XCs to assist with short-term transition needs;

and key reintegration opportunities are identified within existing development initiatives, including socio-economic opportunities and community-reconciliation initiatives;

and regional and local institutions and services are strengthened to support the reintegration process of XCs and well-being vulnerable community members.

THEN

XCs from conflict-impacted Tigray and other regions will be successfully demobilized, the military command structure broken and XCs will be sustainably reinserted and reintegrated back into their communities as civilians – contributing to peace, social cohesion and reconciliation.

BECAUSE

- The demobilization and reintegration process will be nationally led and owned by well-capacitated institutions;
- Eligible XCs are registered and demobilized, and during a six-day stay at the demobilization site receive XC identity Card, financial and medical assistance, bank account opening support, and civic and psychosocial education; facilitate their transition to civilian life and prepare them for reintegration support. XCs will be connected to basic services to support, which will support long-term reintegration needs of XCs and vulnerable communities;
- Successful XC reintegration will reduce a key risk factor in relapse into conflict, will support social cohesion and promote gender-inclusive socio-economic recovery and progress in conflict-affected regions.

Contribution to Strategic Frameworks & Global Agendas

Contributions to UNDP CPD (2025-2030)

- **Pillar 1:** Democratic governance, sustaining peace, human rights and rule of law.
- **Output 1.1:** Strengthened institutions to promote sustainable peace and social cohesion.
- **Indicator 1.1.2:** Number of XCs demobilized and reintegrated into society.

Contributions to the UNSDCF (2025-2030)

- **Pillar 1:** Ensuring quality economic growth that is inclusive and leads to reduction of poverty in all indicators
- **Outcome 1:** All people in Ethiopia, more specifically those who are left behind live in a peaceful, just and democratic society which upholds standards of the rule of law, accountability and human rights
- **Output 2.1:** GoE's capacity to improve performance of institutions and promote participation, transparency and accountability increased at national and sub-national levels
- **Output 2.2:** Capacities and mechanisms strengthened at national and sub-national levels for enhanced protection of human rights, rule of law access to justice and protection for vulnerable populations.
- **Output 2.3:** Peace architecture and related instruments are strengthened to prevent, mitigate and manage conflict and promote peace, reconciliation and social cohesion at national and local level.

Contributions to the 2030 Agenda & the Sustainable Development Goals:

- **SDG 1:** No Poverty
- **SDG 5:** Gender Equality
- **SDG 10:** Reduced Inequalities
- **SDG 16:** Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- **SDG 17:** Partnerships

The SNDP also contributes to key global agendas - Sustaining Peace Agenda; the Women, Peace & Security Agenda; the Youth, Peace & Security Agenda; New Agenda for Peace; OECD-DAC Recommendations on the HDP Nexus.

III. Programme Progress

The following sections provide an update on the SNDRP's progress toward its main outcome and interlinked outputs, which aim to enable the government to advance the DDR process from demobilization toward long-term reintegration.

Programme Outcome

A total of **371,971** XCs from conflict-impacted regions are demobilized, the military command structure is broken and XCs are inserted back into their communities as civilians to build a lasting peace, enable reconciliation and reinforce social cohesion.

Substantial demobilisation progress has been achieved during the reporting period. A total of **80,908** XCs have been demobilised across four regions, including **63,460** demobilised in the Tigray region. Approximately **11,540** XCs (out of 75,000 XC) remains to be processed to complete Phase I of the NDRP's plan for the Tigray region.

The process has involved strong adherence to quality standards, including rigorous eligibility screening, biometric verification and structured support to ensure dignity and safety throughout. Special attention and priority was given to the inclusion of women and persons with disabilities, who were often assisted with adapted procedures and onsite guidance.

The table below provides an overview and breakdown of the total number of demobilized XCs by region and gender since the start of the NDRP in November 2024.

Region	Male	Female	Total
Tigray	51,947	11,513	63,460
Amhara	5,125	84	5,209
Amhara (GoE-funded)*	5,077	85	5,162
Oromia	5,274	91	5,365
Afar	1,415	297	1,712
Total Demobilized	**68,838**	**12,070**	**80,908**

***** *Demobilization and reinsertion of the additional* 5,162 Amhara *XCs was fully funded by GoE.*

In 2025, due to security challenges and political instability, the demobilisation process in Tigray was paused for a period of four months (January to April). During this period, the NRC took the opportunity to launch a series of demobilisation efforts in Amhara and Oromia regions, in close coordination between NRC field teams and regional authorities.

In the Oromia region, 5,365 XCs were demobilised, with key demobilisation sites including Bulbula and Guder camps. The majority of these XCs were affiliated with the

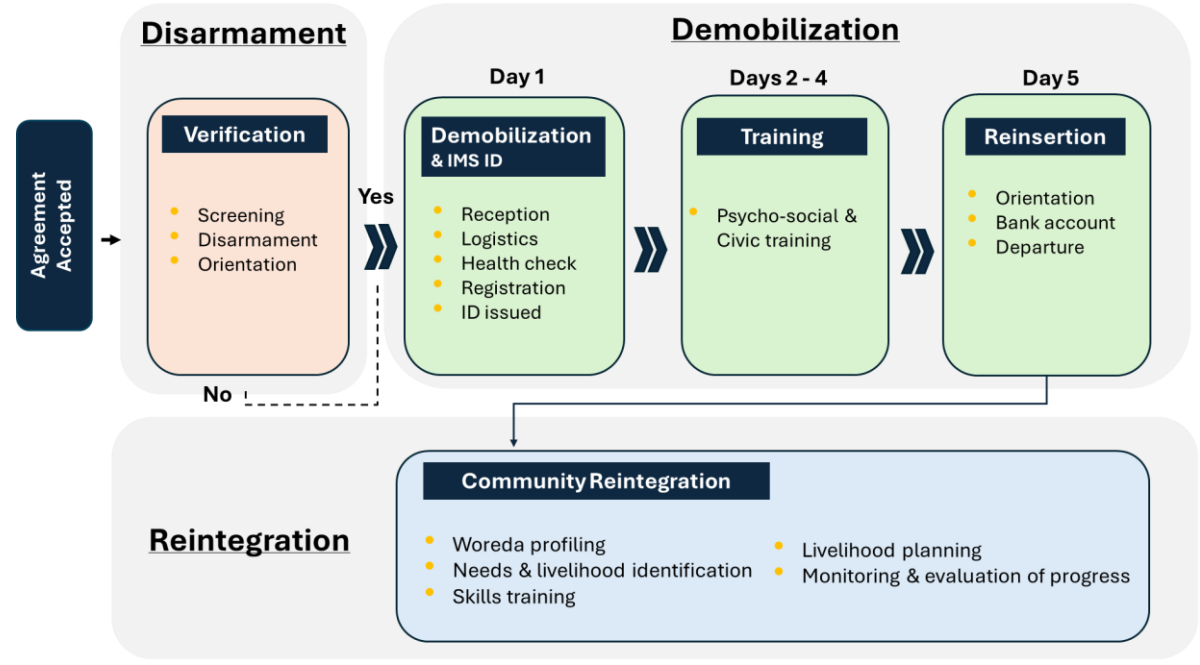
Oromo Liberation Front (OLF). Among them were 91 women and 613 individuals identified as persons with disabilities. In the Amhara region, 5,209 XCs were demobilised in Kombolcha, Debreberhan, Gondar and surrounding locations, with full enrollment into transitional support mechanisms.

In April 2025, demobilisation resumed in the Tigray region, following changes in the TIRA leadership. Subsequently, the NDRP began processing approximately 600 combatants per day across three sites in Meles, Edega Hamus and Adi Berah. Moreover, in August 2025, following brokered regional peace agreements in the Amhara region, the NRC launched a new demobilisation round of 5,162 XCs in the region. **Showcasing strong government ownership and commitment, this process was financed entirely from the federal government's budget.**

Overall, the Ethiopian government has allocated 2 billion ETB (1 billion ETB annually) to support the DDR process during the 2024 and 2025 fiscal years. This support has been key to ensuring food, full function of the demobilisation sites, transportation for XCs, essential goods and resources for XCs. The government's agreed funding contribution is 15% of the total resources required for DDR, though actual support has exceeded this due to additional non-monetised contributions.

The progress so far provides a solid foundation towards the next phases of the DDR process. Ensuring continued momentum and support—both political, technical and financial—will be key to consolidating these early gains and enabling a sustainable transition in Ethiopia's trajectory toward recovery and peace.

Overview of the NDRP's DDR Process



The typical timeline for the demobilization and reinsertion process varies by region, depending on operational capacities and needs. In Tigray region, demobilization and reinsertion progress takes up to six days, while it takes approximately four weeks in the Amhara and Oromia regions.

The NDRP eligibility criteria for participation in the process follows the IDDRS standards and include: (1) verification - involvement in armed conflict, including in armed groups, militias, rebel forces or other factions (as determined by a formal verification committee); (2) voluntary participation in the programme; (3) surrender of weapons; and (4) a demonstrable commitment to peace and non-violence.

Output 1 - Establishment and operationalization of institutional structures for the NDRP at national, regional and local levels.

Since its launch, a central priority of the SNDRP has been to help the Government establish the institutional foundations and capacities needed to implement the national DDR process. Over the past year, major building blocks were put in place to enable demobilisation, including the development of the National Demobilisation and Reintegration Framework, the strengthening and equipping of the National Reintegration Commission (NRC), the customisation and rollout of the DREAM database, and the establishment of local demobilisation sites. With these essential policies, operational and material systems in place, and the first phase of demobilisation in the Tigray region nearing completion, the focus in 2025 shifted toward consolidating NRC capacities and scaling up the DDR process into Amhara and Oromia.

Continuing to build NRC and partner capacities. In March 2025, UNDP financed the participation of four NRC staff on a foundational course on DDR at the KAIPTC. UNDP also financed one senior NRC staff member's participation in an advanced reintegration course, focused on supporting planning, referral systems, and localised recovery efforts.

In August 2025, UNDP and KAIPTC partnered to develop a Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration Framework training course for a broader set of 30 participants from Ethiopia, consisting of NRC federal and regional staff, two UNDP DDR officers, and two development partner representatives. This second training was specifically designed to focus on Ethiopia's DDR process and to help participants understand how to address key challenges and opportunities in the context.

The training featured a comprehensive theoretical and practical curriculum, covering the Ethiopian conflict landscape, stakeholder mapping, DDR planning and design, profiling and vetting, demobilisation procedures, transitional justice, economic reintegration, psychosocial and social support, youth-inclusive and gender-sensitive programming, security sector reform, community violence reduction, risk management and organised crime.

Training participants reported gaining a deeper understanding of DDR principles and operational tools, improved skills in stakeholder engagement and conflict analysis and increased confidence in contributing to coordinated DDR implementation. Such training is vital for building the technical capacity of national actors and for ensuring that DDR

planning is context-sensitive, inclusive and aligned with broader peacebuilding and recovery priorities.

The NRC and government stakeholders have also benefited from additional capacity development support provided outside of the SNDRP. In June 2025, the Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) – Sweden, supported a foundational DDR dialogue with NRC and regional representatives, including on the importance of preparations for reintegration across the regions. In the Benishangul-Gumuz region, where it is active, the Berghof Foundation has provided training for XCs with training focused on civic education and peacebuilding. In July 2025, UNDP and the Berghof Foundation began discussions on ways to enhance community-based activities and support peacebuilding efforts as part of the DDR process.

Looking ahead. With the NRC's basic operational and technical capacities established, the programme will focus on deepening its support to regional NRC staff and authorities supporting the DDR process.

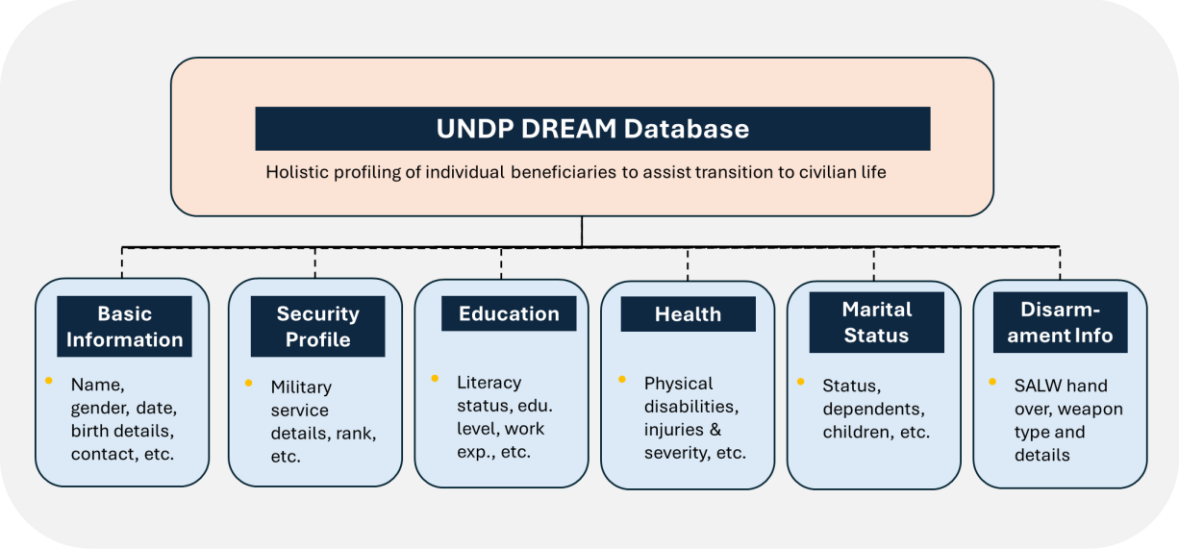
Output Indicator Progress

Output	Indicator	2024 Baseline	2025 AWP Target	Progress Update
Output 1 – Establishment & operationalizing of institutional structures for the NDRP at national and regional levels	1.1 Number of updated/ produced policies and procedures at national & local levels	3 -1 national -2 regional	5 - 1 national - 4 regional	In 2024, three operational documents have been produced (2 regional and 1 national). In 2025, the Programme is supporting NRC staff to develop additional key policies and procedures, including 'A support guideline for XCs with special needs developed and the draft Reintegration Framework. 2 local procedure/guideline was produced by NRC. These are the reintegration guidelines for Tigray region and consultative report to update the coordination of bureaus in Amhara.
	1.2 Number of staff with enhanced awareness on DDR disaggregated by sex	37	87/43F	In 2025, the Programme supported training for 30 (4 Female) NRC staff, bringing the total to 67.
	1.3 Number of field research & reports produced	1	2	In 2025, two field reports have been completed based on a mapping of DREAM database and a field assessment/report of reintegration opportunities in Tigray region. Two additional assessments are currently being planned (see more below).

Output 2 - Registration of the XCs during demobilization and rolling out the Information, Counselling and Referral System (ICRS) and support linked to SGBV, MHPSS and PWD.

The success of Ethiopia's DDR process rests on the NRC's capacity to systematically register XCs during demobilization and capture disaggregated data on their profiles to inform reinsertion and long-term reintegration. Built on UNDP's proprietary case management software and tailored specifically for Ethiopia, DREAM has become the central tool for the Government and NRC in processing XCs.

Overview of the DREAM Database



Tailoring and expanding the use of the DREAM database. A major milestone in 2024 was the establishment and roll-out of the DREAM database, alongside the training of NRC enumerators to use it during the intake process. The database has now become the NRC's core tool to track the status and progress of XCs over time. The NRC has used the information collected in the database to produce maps for planning and assessments of the status of XCs, including their residence following demobilisation, education levels and needs, medical needs and disability status, and desired livelihood opportunities (see output 6 narrative for more details).

Looking ahead. The programme will prioritise further improving the capabilities and efficiency of the DREAM system ahead of its expanded use in the next phases of the DDR process. This includes procuring additional iris-scanning and fingerprinting equipment to expand capabilities for biometric identification and registration.

Output Indicator Progress

Output	Indicator	2024 Baseline	2025 Target	Progress Update
Output 2 - Registration of the XCs during demobilization and rolling out the ICRS & support linked to SGBV, MHPSS and PwD.	2.1 Number of NRC demobilization teams with enhanced awareness on DDR principles.	4	5	Staff from 7 national and 3 regional teams have received training on DDR principles via trainings with KAIPTC in Ghana in 2025 (see above).
	2.2 Status of customization and functionality of DREAM database.	Low	High	The programme is further tailoring and scaling of the DREAM database through procurement of biometric equipment, which has expanded its operations with increased DDR caseloads in 2025.
	2.3 Number of DREAM database reports produced on registration & profiling of XCs.	1	13	The NRC has produced monthly DREAM reports for operational use in 2025. Data extracted from the system is regularly shared with the programme and partners. Additionally, the programme conducted an analysis of XC profiles in Tigray region on reintegration needs using DREAM data provided by the NRC.

Output 3 - Provision of benefits of $ 800 (90,400 ETB) to 150,000 XCs for reinsertion back to communities and rehabilitate community infrastructure as part of Community Based Reintegration (CBS).[4]

Reinsertion support provides short-term material or financial assistance to meet the immediate needs of XCs and their families during the reintegration process, for up to one year. It covers necessities such as allowances, food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education, training, employment and tools, serving as a bridge between demobilisation and longer-term reintegration. Timely payments are essential to sustain confidence in the peace process and ease pressure on host communities.

The NDRP provides a reinsertion benefit consisting of a single instalment of $ 800 (90,400 ETB). The reinsertion payment is made in ETB through a direct bank transfer from UNDP's Commercial Bank of Ethiopia account to XC accounts opened at the demobilisation site.

Timely provision of reinsertion payments. By December 2025, over ETB 6,847,438,400 (approximately $52 million) in reinsertion payments had been made to 75,746 XCs

[4] The value of reinsertion payments in US$ varies during the payment process due to fluctuations in exchange rates.

across all four regions where the SNDRP is active. The reinsertion payments are made via bank account transfers after the completion of the demobilisation process, which includes biometric registration, medical screening, and orientation sessions. At the time of this report, the number of reinsertion payment beneficiaries stands at just over half of the target set for this output.

The table below provides an overview of reinsertion benefits (2024 & 2025) by region:

Region	Reinsertion Payments (ETB)[5]	Beneficiaries
Tigray	5,736,784,000	63,460
Amhara	470,893,600	5,209
Oromia	484,996,000	5,365
Afar	154,764,800	1,712
Total	**6,847,438,400**	**75,746**

Looking ahead. The key forward-looking priority for this output is to sustain resource mobilisation and advocacy efforts to ensure continuity of support to the reinsertion process and payment packages into the second phase of the NDRP. The Programme will continue its collaboration with different stakeholders to advance the Tigray region's recovery and support community-based reintegration. The Programme is awaiting the finalisation of the federal Reintegration Strategy before beginning to support community-based reintegration and reconciliation activities. This includes likely support for the development of regional government Reintegration Implementation Plans.

Please note: Progress on the rehabilitation of community infrastructure is reported under Output 6 below.

Output Indicator Progress

Output	Indicator	2024 Baseline	2025 Target	Progress Update
Output 3- Reinsertion benefits provided to 150,000 XCs to reinsert XCs back to communities & rehabilitate community infrastructure as part of community-based reintegration.	3.1 Number of XCs provided with reinsertion benefits disaggregated by sex	7,953 (1,914 f)	150,000 (20,000 f)	The programme has thus far supported reinsertion benefits for 75,747 XCs (11,985 female). -As reported under Output 6 below - programme has also supported the rehabilitation of government building and offices (health, education, justice, and policing) benefiting 1,825 staff and over 1,000,000 residents.

[5] Please note that the source of these figures is from uncertified reporting and will be updated once final figures are certified.

Output 4 - Support to women, people with disabilities and children with MHPSS, SGBV-related and/or rehabilitation needs.

Among XCs, women, people with disabilities, and children represent particularly vulnerable groups that require tailored support throughout the DDR process. Persons with disabilities have significant medical, psycho-social and material needs. Over the reporting period, the programme has continued to focus on supporting female and male XCs with disabilities. In the reporting period, approximately 42,923 demobilised XCs were person with disabilities (self-declared), with 5,000 receiving treatment at a specialised hospital.[6] To strengthen its support to these XCs, the NRC has drafted Special Needs Group (SNG) guidelines, which aim to establish quality standards for supporting PwD, women and older people.

Providing specialised medical assistance and devices for XC PwD. To promote mobility and independence, an initial set of assistive items, including standard adult manual wheelchairs (250), three-wheel electric wheelchairs (175), and electric wheelchairs with one-hand joystick control (75), is being procured. However, Procurement has faced severe delays due to the lack of assistive devices that meet the global standard. Additionally, NRC is forging partnerships with Indian medical institutions to provide surgeries, physiotherapy and prosthetics manufacturing. These partnerships also include training for Ethiopian technicians and XCs, ensuring sustainable local expertise, as well as undergraduate and graduate scholarships for qualified XCs in India. India has also pledged to provide in-kind support in the form of providing prosthetics to 16,000 XCs.

Organising MHPSS training for XC PwD. Starting on 29 July 2025, UNDP in collaboration with UNFPA, and World Vision launched a series of MHPSS training and referral services, specifically tailored to the needs of disabled XCs. Six training rounds have been conducted, engaging 320 XCs, including 35 female XCs and 10 caretakers. Furthermore, all XCs were provided with group psychosocial support during their stay at the demobilisation site.

Preparation for targeted livelihood support. Plans are underway to train selected XCs in prosthetics manufacturing and fitting in India, to establish sustainable local prosthetic services in the Tigray region. This initiative forms part of a broader disability-inclusive reintegration strategy to ensure equal access to services and restore dignity to all returnees.

Looking ahead. The programme aims to deepen and scale its engagement with partners to support the specific needs of PwD and the vulnerable, both during the demobilisation process and as part of support to longer-term reintegration.

[6] These disabilities are self-declared by the XCs during their medical assessment and registration in the DREAM database. It is not certified by a medical board on both the type and level of disability.

Output Indicator Progress

Output	Indicator	2024 Baseline	2025 Target	Progress Update
Output 4 - Support to women, PwDs, children needing MHPSS, SGBV- related support and/or rehabilitation.	4.1 Number of XCs, women supported with MHPSS/SGBV referrals & support services – disaggregated by sex.	3,000 (1,800 f)	10,000	- 320 MHPSS training beneficiaries by 2025 (320 reached so far 35 female) -500 assistive under procurement -16,000 prosthetics pledged.
	4.2 Number of female XCs with children provided with reinsertion support.	406 female XC	1,000 female XC	-Reinsertion benefits provided for 11,985 female XCs. In Tigray region, the Programme supported provision of supplemental milk for lactating women, dignity kits and milk bottles and staff training on gender-sensitive procedures to ensure health and safety.

Output 5 - Capacity building of regional and local institutions and service providers in target areas support.

Capacity building of regional and local institutions and service providers is central to ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of Ethiopia's DDR process, as this is where the implementation takes place.

Supporting DDR training for government officials working at the regional level. Acknowledging that the reintegration of nearly 373,000 XCs cannot succeed without capable local structures, UNDP has prioritised equipping regional and local actors with the knowledge, tools and resources needed to deliver. That is why, as part of its joint training organised in August 2025 with KAIPTC (reported on above), UNDP prioritised the inclusion of regional NRC representatives and officials. These officials received tailored training to support the DDR process, aligned with global standards, but tailored to the unique capacities, needs, and challenges in their own regions.

Improving the operational capacity of regional DDR institutions. In Q2 of 2025, development partners provided essential equipment and supplies to the NRC at the regional level, significantly enhancing its ability to manage field operations and support demobilisation sites. The contributions included IT and office equipment, video conferencing systems, and furniture etc....Together, these contributions enabled the rapid establishment of demobilisation facilities, improved health and dignity standards and enhanced NRC's ability to coordinate reintegration activities across regions. By strengthening both the human and institutional capacities of regional actors, these efforts represent a decisive step toward laying the foundations for a nationally owned, locally driven and sustainable DDR process.

Strengthening dialogue and coordination between federal and regional authorities. In Tigray, the NRC strengthened collaboration with the Tigray Interim Regional Administration, clarifying roles and improving operational coordination through regular high-level missions from Addis Ababa. In the Amhara region, a May 2025 consultative forum brought together the NRC, regional authorities and over 10 bureaus to clarify institutional roles, enhance coordination and agree on practical steps. Key recommendations included improving data-sharing, expanding community engagement, mapping services and raising awareness to reduce stigma against XCs. The forum also emphasised tailored support for women, youth, and persons with disabilities, and the use of traditional peacebuilding mechanisms, reaffirming the strong political commitment of regional leaders.

Looking ahead. The programme's focus thus far has been to strengthen the NRC's core capacities at the federal and regional levels. Looking ahead, the programme will begin expanding support to the reintegration capacities of regional governments and institutions. The programme will also provide capacity-building for staff across sectoral bureaus, NGOs, and CSOs to integrate DDR principles. These sessions will be tailored to various programme areas, with particular attention to the reintegration of groups with specific needs—including women, children formerly associated with armed groups, XCs with disabilities and individuals affected by HIV/AIDS.

Output Indicator Progress

Output	Indicator	2024 Baseline	2025 Target	Progress Update
Output 5 - Capacity-building for regional and local service institutions and service providers in target areas of support.	5.1 Number of DDR training reports produced	2	2	-An outcome report has been produced on the joint UNDP-KAIPTC DDR training. - 3 Report has been produced capturing the results of the MHPSS training rounds with World Vision and UNFPA in Tigray region (with the Center for Disability in Mekelle). *Although it was originally planned; the government has not allowed local service providers and CSOs to engage with XC and in the DDR process. In 2026, NRC plans to shift to supporting livelihood activities for XCs, and this Output will focus on capacity-building for partners involved in these activities.

Output 6 - Support to the reintegration process

XCs require sustained support to successfully make the longer-term transition back to civilian life, including access to social services, medical and mental health care, protection and livelihoods. Under Ethiopia's DDR framework, regional governments have the responsibility of reintegration by promoting cooperatives, allocating land, and considering XCs in employment and development Programmes, while efforts are underway to expand credit, training, and livelihood opportunities—particularly for youth, women, and persons with disabilities.

However, the scale of reintegration needs, especially in the Tigray region, risks outpacing available capacity, underscoring the need for robust referral mechanisms and a comprehensive understanding of XCs' diverse, long-term requirements. Towards the end of 2025, NRC started developing the reintegration framework in consultation with regional governments and UNDP. This framework is likely to be finalised and moved to implementation in 2026.

Example of regionally led reintegration: bakery cooperative in Tigray

The Tigray Interim Regional Administration (TIRA) is actively supporting reintegration, with a strong focus on women XCs. In Mekelle, TIRA helped establish a women-led bakery cooperative run by 115 former fighters, providing land and mobilising diaspora contributions to equip the facility. Cooperative offers sustainable livelihoods while fostering empowerment and social reintegration. It is a clear example of how regional authorities are driving DDR implementation and enabling women to rebuild their lives with dignity.

Rehabilitating infrastructure for recovery and community-based reintegration: Approximately $1.17 million was invested in supporting key infrastructure rehabilitation in woredas previously affected by conflict. By October, all 29 rehabilitation and renovation programmes were completed, focusing on repairing critical government buildings and offices at the woreda and zonal levels to re-establish basic services, benefiting over 1,000,000 community members. This includes rehabilitation of facilities and offices related to health (centres and hospitals), education, justice (one-stop centres), and policing.

Progress on the National Reintegration Framework: The NRC has finalised its National Reintegration Framework, which is now pending NRC board endorsement. The Framework will bring greater coherence and effectiveness to the reintegration process. It is designed to strengthen coordination between federal and regional governments, both key actors in financing and supporting reintegration—and to ensure a more structured, inclusive and sustainable approach. To inform its development, the NRC carried out regional scoping missions and consultations to capture local needs, identify challenges and highlight opportunities to enhance reintegration support.

UNDP's Assessment of Referral Pathways & Reintegration Opportunities in the Tigray region: Between June and August 2025, UNDP conducted a comprehensive field

assessment of XCs' reintegration needs and a mapping of ongoing partner initiatives in the Tigray region to inform programming to support the reintegration process. The assessment mapped 190 UN and partner initiatives in Tigray and conducted field visits and consultations with XCs and other local stakeholders in five woredas: Adi Gudum, Adigrat, Agula & Abiy Addi (rural & urban).

The table below provides a snapshot of the assessment's key findings:

Needs & Opportunities	Challenges	Recommendations
-XCs in Tigray prioritized access to medical care, MHPSS and livelihoods (esp. among PwDs), with strong interest in farming and small businesses. -Local authorities in the region and communities have supported inclusion through land allocation and advocacy, though key sectors like WASH and protection remain underfunded. -Livelihood, education/TVET and health are among the best funded thematic areas in the regions.	-Many XCs lack access to essential services and finance. -While the mapping showed a range of promising referral opportunities, lack of coordination, limited reintegration focus on existing initiatives and the phase-out of many large Programmes pose key challenges. -Reintegration planning is under-resourced, under-capacitated and fragmented.	-Establish and strengthen referral mechanisms at the local level to connect XCs to longer-term reintegration support and participation in initiatives to strengthen social cohesion and peace. -Encourage partners to integrate XCs and their needs in programme targeting to expand access to service. -Develop a regional reintegration plan for Tigray and establish government-partner coordination platforms.

Launch of the rapid assessments of demobilised XC outcomes: UNDP launched a Rapid Assessment of the 7,953 XCs demobilised in 2024 in Tigray. This assessment will examine how combatants used their reinsertion payments and track progress on key indicators related to reintegration, including their vulnerability profiles, access to services, their livelihood preferences and community perceptions. The process was delayed due to political sensitivity and security issues in the region. The selected firm deployed to Tigray in December and commenced data collection.

The rapid assessment is in the data collection phase and is being implemented by the independent firm, The Centre for Excellence, to assess XCs demobilised in 2024. It uses a cross-sectional, mixed-methods design combining surveys of 1,400 XCs (700 in-person, 700 phone) with qualitative methods, drawing on the DREAM database and multi-stage stratified sampling by woreda, gender (with female oversampling), disability, age, and settlement type to ensure representative coverage across Tigray, including Mekelle.

Gender-balanced teams, with at least one GBV-trained member each, are collecting data following comprehensive training, verbal informed consent, and strict WHO ethical and safety standards for GBV to ensure confidentiality, prevent re-traumatisation, and enable referrals. During data collection the enumerators tag locations for the firm to

monitor the location of the interview. The assessment report will be shared with development partners in early 2026.

Looking ahead: The independent assessment of the status of demobilised XCs in 2025 will be conducted in 2026 for XCs across the four regions: Afar, Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray. Building on the evidence generated from the above assessments on needs, opportunities and gaps, the Programme intends to step up its support to the reintegration process by working with federal authorities, regional governments and partners to strengthen reintegration planning, coherence and coordination to sustainably connect XCs to the long-term support they need.

Output Indicator Progress

Output	Indicator	2024 Baseline	2025 Target	Progress Update
Output 6 - Reintegration support.	6.1 Number of reintegration plans and strategies developed.	1	2	-The NRC is finalizing its Reintegration Framework. UNDP is preparing to support a government Reintegration Plan for Tigray.
	6.2 Number of community peacebuilding initiatives implemented.			-The programme has also supported the rehabilitation of government buildings and offices (health, education, justice, , and policing), benefiting 1,825 staff and over 1,000,000 community members.
		0	13 (in Tigray)	-Rehabilitated community facilities have hosted community-based dialogues. With an increasing focus on reintegration, the programme will increase its focus on linking XCs to peacebuilding and social cohesion opportunities and initiatives.

IV. Leaving No One Behind – Focus on Women, PwD & Youth

This section summarises the programme's overall efforts to promote an inclusive DDR process, focusing on the situation and needs of women, PwD, and young people (especially unemployed). The programme has consistently ensured the collection of gender, disability- and age-disaggregated data (wherever possible) and the mainstreaming of gender-, disability- and youth-sensitive approaches throughout its activities.

The table below provides the NDRP's total XC beneficiaries for 2024 and 2025 by LNOB category.

Regions	Disabled XCs[7]			Total Female demobilised
	Female	Male	Total	
Tigray	5,301	36,412	41,713	11,513
Afar	4	52	56	297
Amhara	3	538	541	169
Oromia	9	604	613	91
Total	**5,317**	**37,606**	**42,923**	**12,070**

Women and gender equality: Gender considerations have been integrated throughout the demobilisation process to ensure that the needs of female XCs are recognised and addressed. In total, 12,070 female XCs have been demobilised so far. The programme focused on: (1) developing a strong analysis of the specific gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) needs of XCs, particularly in Tigray, through its various assessments; (2) providing gender-specific support, including SGBV and MHPSS support. In Tigray, lactating women received supplemental milk and milk bottles and dedicated support in demobilisation sites; (3) supporting gender mainstreaming across DDR policy and operations, including training government DDR staff in gender-sensitive procedures to safeguard health and safety; and (4) promoting and advocating for reintegration approaches that take into account both the needs and preferences of women for livelihood. To support the women and PwD, the SNDRP has recruited a Gender & Special Needs Officer.

Persons with Disabilities (PwD): Inclusive approaches have also been applied to XCs with disabilities, who are a key focus of the programme. Significant progress has been made in demobilising PwD. In 2025 (latest available figures), approximately 42,923 PwD have been demobilised. To support this group, the programme has focused on: (1) understanding the specific status and needs of PwD XCs through assessments; (2) critical assistive devices such as motorised wheelchairs and standard wheelchairs. The NRC is also finalising partnerships with Indian medical institutions to facilitate access to surgeries, physiotherapy and prosthetics, along with training for Ethiopian technicians; and (3) supporting MHPSS trainings and identifying referral pathways to promote their long-term well-being and economic self-sufficiency.

[7] These disabilities are self-declared by the XCs during their medical assessment and registration in the DREAM database. It is not certified by a medical board on both the type and level of disability.

Youth: Given their large share among XCs, young people have been a central focus of DDR planning and implementation from the beginning. The conflict interrupted young people's lives at a key developmental and transitional stage, and many will have to regain opportunities for employment, skills and education they missed during this period. In Tigray, for example, approximately 76.7% of XCs (210,679 people) are between the ages of 18 and 32. The programme has also prioritised young people in its analysis of potential referral pathways and reintegration opportunities.

Looking ahead: as the reintegration focus is scaled up, it will be vital to connect young people with support and services to promote their access to vocational training, micro-enterprise, and agriculture, as well as their participation in peacebuilding initiatives.

V. Monitoring & Evaluation

Robust monitoring and evaluation are a foundational element of the programme's operating principles. They are key to identifying the extent to which the programme achieves its overall objectives and to providing lessons learned to adapt and strengthen its approach in the face of evolving challenges.

Over the reporting period, the programme has also supported regular joint partner field visits to monitor and observe the demobilisation process directly and to engage with key stakeholders and beneficiaries (see more in the **Partnership** section below). UNDP and the NRC have launched a series of assessments, including independent third-party monitoring, to track the situation and progress of XCs who have already been demobilised.

Rapid assessment of XC outcomes. UNDP has launched its first rapid assessment in Tigray with an independent firm and in preparation for the launch of a second, wider assessment covering all DDR regions. Using in-person and phone interviews, the assessments will examine the use of reinsertion funds, access to services, social acceptance, livelihood plans, and ongoing risks of marginalisation or stigma.

Third-Party Monitoring assessment. The Third-Party Monitoring assessment, initially planned for mid-2025, was delayed due to political and security situations in the country. This assessment started in December 2025 and is likely to end in early 2026. Complementing internal monitoring and rapid assessments, it will validate results, gather beneficiary feedback, and review service delivery in fragile or remote areas—strengthening transparency, accountability, and future programming.

VI. Coordination & Partnerships

Since its launch and into 2025, the NDRP has relied on and maintained close collaboration and coordination with its partners to ensure that demobilisation and reintegration efforts are coherent, transparent, adequately resourced and responsive to the diverse needs of XCs across regions.

DDR Task Force. The Task Force, chaired by the commissioner of NRC, has become a pivotal forum for driving the NDRP forward—bringing government and partners together to review progress, set policy and programme priorities and tackle operational challenges in real time. By fostering open dialogue and regular information sharing, it has strengthened both transparency and trust among partners. Since January 2025, the Task Force has met seven times, maintaining regular discussion. Representatives from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Luxemburg, Netherlands , Norway, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States have participated in the meetings.

Partner field visits & monitoring. The NRC and UNDP have organized joint field visits to allow partners to directly observe and monitor progress at demobilization sites and interact with field teams. These field visits are meant to help partners to gain a tangible sense of progress on the ground and to better understand the evolving context in which the DDR process is taking place. Six development partner field missions were organized between April and October 2025. Missions to Tigray included visits by a high-level delegation to the resumption of the DDR programme, opening of the Adi Berah Demobilizaiton site, meetings with the new TIRA President, Lt. Gen. Tadesse Werede and consultations with female XC beneficiaries.

DDR roundtables. UNDP and the NRC have also organized two roundtables this year to support strategic dialogue and alignment with partners on the DDR process. In February, a high-level donor roundtable was organized with partners to present updates on the DDR process and to highlight key challenges, in particular urgent financing needs where the UNDP regional director was present. On June 25, UNDP's Senior Management Team convened a roundtable with partners to discuss its key programmes, with a specific focus on the SNDRP with the Deputy Director for the Crisis Bureau present.

Regular Situation Reports (Sit Reps). In addition to the efforts above to maintain strong communication and contact with partners supporting the programme, UNDP has produced regular SitReps for partners, documenting on a regular basis the programme's progress, challenges and key milestones. Ten SitReps were produced and disseminated to the partners between January and December 2025.

Bilateral partner engagement. Over the course of the reporting period, UNDP has been holding regular bilateral meetings with a broad range of development partners. Meetings were held with representatives from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Italy, India, Japan, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Quatar, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and the United Kingdom. These engagements have been opportunities to have dedicated discussions with interested partners on the DDR process, focusing on technical updates, strategic priorities and opportunities to initiate or strengthen collaboration.

Programmatic collaborations & partnerships. This year, UNDP has worked closely with a range of partners to support the NDRP and the NRC. This included collaborations with KAIPTC on capacity building for NRC and partners and joint implementation of MHPSS training for person with disabilities with UNFPA and World Vision. The programme has also collaborated with GIZ and ACIS to integrate XCs as part of vulnerable community members in their ongoing programmes. The SNDRP programme

has closely coordinated with its partners to support infrastructure rehabilitation in Tigray.

The SNDRP has established regular coordination and dialogue platforms to ensure transparency, strategic alignment and sustained engagement with partners and the international community, including the high-level DDR Dialogue, monthly Taskforce meetings and regular consultations with development partners. The DDR Dialogue serves as the principal forum for strategic exchange, bringing together Ambassadors, Ministers and senior representatives from the National Rehabilitation Commission (NRC), UNDP and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to review progress and discuss priorities. To date, four DDR Dialogues have been convened: 23 December 2023 at the Embassy of Canada in Addis Ababa; 24 February 2024 at the Embassy of the United States in Addis Ababa; 24 July 2024 at the Sheraton Hotel in Addis Ababa (organized by UNDP); and 22 October 2024 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Addis Ababa (also organized by UNDP). In addition, the DDR Task Force, chaired by the NRC Commissioner, meets monthly to review implementation progress, address operational challenges and agree on next steps, while UNDP also holds monthly internal meetings with development partners to respond to inquiries, provide technical updates and ensure continued coordination and information-sharing.

VII. Risks, Challenges & Adaptation

Evolving implementation context: The context of the programme has been rapidly evolving since January 2025, particularly in the Tigray region. This has included key developments, such as the intensification of political divisions in Tigray, the appointment of new TIRA leadership, and the emergence of new armed actors. Despite a pause in DDR implementation in Tigray in January 2025, the resolution of political and security challenges allowed the process to resume in April 2025. It continued until August 2025, achieving substantial progress. In Oromia and Amhara regions, ongoing insurgencies continue to pose challenges for DDR. However, the government has been successful in brokering local peace agreements with specific armed groups in both regions, allowing for additional combatants to be demobilised.

Challenges and constraints: Even as it has made significant strides since January 2025, the programme has faced several structural, political and operational constraints over the reporting period (summarised below). The Programme maintained strong risk awareness through close context monitoring, regular partner feedback and deeper situational analysis. UNDP has closely worked with NRC, regional stakeholders and partners to implement mitigation strategies to maintain momentum in demobilisation (where/when possible), promote transparency on challenges, integrate conflict sensitivity into its operations and advance early reintegration planning.

Strengthening risk-informed and conflict-sensitive implementation: To further strengthen the programme's risk awareness and adaptation, in August 2025, the programme recruited a Risk Analysis Specialist consultant, who has been providing regular assessments and updates to integrate better risk-informed and conflict-sensitive approaches into the Programme's implementation.

The table below summarizes the key risks observed and the mitigation measures.

Risks & Challenges	Description	Mitigation Measures
Funding shortfalls	-One of the key risks and constraints for Programme implementation is sustainable and predictable financing for reaching the NDRP targets. -While targets have been reached for the first phase of the NDRP, an immediate and longer-term shortfall could interrupt the process. -The long wait of XCs in camps is a liability for peace, and security; law and order in the essentially in the Tigray region.	-Consistent advocacy and engagement with partners have so far yielded good results: keeping sufficient levels of financing to complete the first Phase of the process. -Over the coming months, the UNDP and the government will need to significantly step up its RM efforts: engaging partners existing and non-traditional partners and bringing greater visibility to the DDR process.
Strategic & political context	-Despite the delay and pauses in the process, the DDR process has successfully reached its target for the first phase. -Yet, limited implementation of other COHA provisions could affect the next phases of the process. -Ongoing dynamics: (1) intra-Tigrayan; (2) regional-federal; (3) cross-border dynamics could also put pressure and politicize the process. -The longer the DDR process is delayed, It is susceptible to spoilers. - There is a likelihood of the breakdown of command and control within the camps, in addition to the likelihood of Xcs engaging in criminal activities. -The upcoming electoral period – slated for June 2026 - represents a particularly sensitive political moment for the COHA and therefore the DDR process.	-The NRC and the TIRA administration are engaged in a dialogue to finalize the planning for the next phase of the DDR process. Continued political dialogue and transparency among the parties will be key to building further confidence in the process, as is increasing the visibility and strategic communications vis-vis the public on positive progress and impact. -The UNDP is closely monitoring these risks and engaging closely with NRC and government representatives on ensuring readiness to support the process.

Access & security constraints	-At different points over the course of the reporting period, security constraints restricted access in Tigray, Amhara and Oromia demobilization sites (either to UNDP staff or NRC officials).	-While access constraints due to instability and insecurity are exogenous risks, UNDP and the programme have maintained operational readiness to step up support as soon as access is regained.
Monitoring and transparency	-Over the reporting period, there were administrative challenges for obtaining timely clearances for UNDP and donor site visits, which are key for maintaining operational support and reinforcing international support and sustaining resource mobilization momentum. -There has been a challenge of ongoing delays of independent/ Third-Party Monitoring of programme – key needs to ensure transparency, accountability and trust.	- On administrative constraints, close and regular communication and coordination with federal entities has been key to ultimately resolving administrative access challenges. This close engagement will continue. -UNDP is currently working with the NRC and other government stakeholders to clarify the ToRs, the role of the TPM and ensure a consensus on the implementation of the monitoring exercise.
Limited focus on reintegration	-Over the course of the programme, the predominant focus of the NDRP has been to accelerate rapid progress on demobilization. However, limited support to reintegration elements (which is the ultimate responsibility of regional governments) could pose a risk to the sustainability of the outcomes. -However, sensitivities over ownership of the reintegration process, high degree of programmatic fragmentation, limited focus on XCs in existing programmes and substantial financing/capacities dedicated to reintegration are ongoing challenges.	-The NRC has been working to develop a Reintegration Framework and UNDP has been supporting the development of a robust evidence base on needs, existing initiatives that could support reintegration and the establishment of potential referral mechanisms. -A key element of this will be to ensure that reintegration support is tailored to the needs of women, youth and PwD. -Over the coming months, UNDP, with partners, will continue to advocate for and support the progress of government-led efforts to accelerate and sustain the reintegration process. This will include support to strengthen reintegration planning at the regional level.

Looking ahead. The DDR programme is inherently sensitive and operates in a volatile security environment, requiring continuous risk analysis, regular updates, and close coordination with partners to identify and implement mitigation measures. UNDP will engage with the NRC to advocate for increased emphasis on reintegration support and

mental health services for women and children in 2026. In parallel, UNDP will make concerted efforts to ensure that development partners actively engage with both the NRC and UNDP in joint planning, implementation, and monitoring processes.

VIII. Strategic Communication

The high profile of the CoHA agreement and its impact in silencing the guns in the Tigray region have made it a focal point of attention among political elites, XCs, the public at large, and Ethiopia's international community. While not without its challenges, the DDR process has had the most visible progress among the agreement's key provisions. Therefore, ensuring effective strategic communication tailored to these audiences is a vital priority for the NDRP and the Programme.

Given the complex and sensitive nature of the DDR process, there is a need to counter misinformation and disinformation. In several regions, narratives misrepresenting the objectives and status of the NDRP have contributed to confusion, scepticism, and, in some cases, resistance among community members and XCs. Ensuring that stakeholders, including the media, civil society, local authorities and affected populations, have access to accurate, timely and consistent information is therefore a critical priority.

NRC public communication initiatives: The NRC has encouraged reporting and media engagement during the demobilisation process. During the recent government-led demobilisation in the Amhara region, the government invited media to observe the disarmament process and report on the demobilisation ceremony in Debre Birhan, which engaged close to 2000 XCs. The NRC has produced a short documentary highlighting the importance of the DDR process, emphasising its human dimension, showcasing the impact the programme has on the lives of XCs and receiving communities, and underscoring the equally important role it plays in the government's peacebuilding efforts. Specifically showcasing the demobilisation and reintegration experiences of XCs in their own voices. The documentary was screened for DDR task force members in August 2025. The NRC intends to continue this initiative with new segments planned.

Strengthening UNDP's focus on strategic communication: Recognising the importance of communication and public perception, UNDP has been regularly providing updates and information to partners and to the public through its social media platforms. To further strengthen its approach, in Q2 of this year, the programme drafted key messages and a communications approach for targeted audiences, based on regular context/media landscape assessments and the integration of conflict-sensitivity principles.

IX. Resource Mobilization & Advocacy

Development partners have been vital to the success of the NDRP. They have not only provided financial and in-kind support, without which the programme would not be possible, but also played key roles in supporting advocacy and providing strategic and technical guidance. The significant financial requirements of this DDR process, the largest globally—have placed a premium on both strengthening engagement with existing partners and identifying ways to broaden its base of support.

The key role of development partners: Thanks to the engagement of its key partners, the programme has mobilised close to $91 million. This is a notable achievement against the backdrop of competing global priorities. These results demonstrate both national ownership and effective collaboration with UNDP and the development community.

These contributions have been indispensable to sustaining the programme's continuity and results – enabling it to reach its Phase I goals and helping tens of thousands of XCs in the four regions receive identification, reinsertion payments, medical care (including on MHPSS and SGBV) and transitional support for their longer-term well-being and livelihoods.

The table below provides a summary of partner contributions to the Programme.

Partner	Contributions ($)
Canada	10,104,350.50
Denmark	8,822,182.27
European Union	16,082,040.00
Italy	9,307,628.75
Japan	6,513,002.00
Republic of Korea	3,000,000.00
Norway	4,638,461.59
Sweden	6,962,743.79
US	4,950,495.00
UK	20,489,103.03
Total	**90,870,006.93**

Expanding partnerships: Over the reporting period, the programme has continued to expand its partnership base. In 2025, Denmark joined the programme as a new contributor. UNDP also invested in outreach to emerging development partners, including Brazil, India, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. Proposals for support are currently being developed with several new partners. UNDP has, at the same time, continued to explore possibilities of expanding the Programme's cooperation with regional and philanthropic organisations.

Resource mobilisation priorities: The programme's immediate resource mobilisation priority is to avoid interruption to the process. Current funding will only last to mid-2026. UNDP will work to increase the number of development partners financially supporting the programme.

Looking ahead: To meet this challenge, UNDP and the NRC plan to step up their advocacy, outreach and resource mobilisation efforts to ensure the programme can continue uninterrupted progress toward meeting its objectives and targets. In the longer term, reintegration financing will require joint advocacy and a shared vision for long-term recovery that extends beyond immediate reinsertion support.

X. Programme Staffing & Capacities

Increasing Programme capacities: Over the reporting period, UNDP has sought to strengthen its ability to achieve its objectives by increasing staff capacity and redeploying staff to the field (Tigray) – a key constraint identified at the start of the programme. Recent additions to the DDR programme have included the recruitment of a DDR Officer UNV (recruited in August 2025), a Risk Analysis consultant (recruited in August 2025 for short term), a Finance & Budget Specialist (recruited in December 2025) and a Gender & Special Needs Specialist (recruited in December 2025). In September 2025, the DDR programme Specialist was relocated to Mekelle to more closely steer and monitor the programmes' progress on the ground, strengthen engagement with the regional government and local stakeholders and partners.

Ongoing recruitment: The Programme is currently recruiting for vacant national staff positions, including a Reintegration Specialist, a DDR Coordination Officer for the Tigray region, and a Communications Specialist. Staffing these positions will further improve the programme's ability to achieve its financial, operational, and programmatic objectives effectively.

XI. Programme Budget & Status

The total resources required for the programme amount to US$ 377,221,768.95, of which $ 90,870,006.93 has been secured by the end of 2025.[8] The Government of Ethiopia has followed through on its financial commitment by providing 1 billion ETB annually. The Government covers additional cost of rehabilitation of demobilization sites, and other related costs that have not been monetized. The in-kind support includes where XCs stay up to four to six weeks before entering the demobilisation process at the cantonment sites and six days at the demobilisation site. Nutritious meals are provided throughout their stay. Upon departure, the government supplies each XC with a transportation allowance, a mattress and a blanket. For female XCs, a dignity kit is also provided, with expectant or nursing females XCs receiving additional support, including milk, bottles, sanitary pads and diapers.

To date, ETB 6,847,438,400 (equivalent to approximately $52 million) has been disbursed to support the demobilisation of 75,746 XCs in 2024 and 2025. However, a significant shortfall in funding remains to achieve the goal of demobilizing all 371,971 XCs targeted by the NDRP.[9]

XII. Lessons Learned

The scale of the programme, its implementation in a rapidly evolving/fragile context and its commitment to continuous learning and adaptation have meant that the Programme has been keen to document and improve its implementation based on its lessons learned. These lessons are also meant as a resource for other global DDR initiatives.

The table below provides a summary of key lessons learned so far.

Lessons Learned	Description
Importance of DDR's political dimensions	The success of the DDR process so far has hinged on the government and other parties to the conflict's ability to sustain a political consensus, maintain a minimum level of trust, and maintain institutional contact and coordination to advance DDR. The halt and resumption of the DDR processes over the past year underscore the importance, in a complex environment, of signaling a strong commitment to political dialogue and trust-building, as is the case in Tigray between federal and regional authorities. The Government's credible leadership and commitment to the process have also contributed to higher levels of partner support.
Staying agile and creative in a fragile context	The dynamic security situation in the regions of Amhara, Oromia and parts of Tigray required adaptive planning. The ability to shift coordination timelines, restructure site visits and respond to unexpected bottlenecks proved essential to sustaining momentum

[8] This amount is inclusive of levy fee.

[9] Please note that this figure has been provided by the Government in 2023. There is a likelihood of it being reviewed.

	and avoiding paralysis in implementation. The NRC, on its side, adopted what it called an "accordion model" of demobilisation-reducing demobilisation rates in line with funding availability – to maintain momentum and positive visibility for the process, despite financial limitations.
Acting fast to mitigate risks	Linked to the above, the sensitive nature of the DDR process has made it subject to scrutiny by local and national stakeholders. Facilitating rapid reinsertion support and benefits, especially for XCs who have been waiting for years since COHA, has been important for increasing confidence in the process and preventing disenchantment and mistrust in the programme.
The multiplier impact of capacity building	Building the operational, logistical, programmatic and staff capacities of the NRC since the start of the programme has not only supported its ability to carry out its mandate. Still, it has strengthened its credibility and leadership – both internally and externally. Recent training rounds have helped local NRC staff accelerate DDR progress at the regional level.
Need for proactive communication and transparency	Transparent and proactive communication is essential to build trust among XCs, communities and donors. Given the visibility of the COHA agreement, consistent and audience-specific messaging helps counter misinformation and maintain confidence. Frequent and open communication with partners and donors has strengthened both accountability and sustained support for the process.
Key role of data and evidence	An important lesson is the need for a strong evidence base to design and implement effective DDR programmes. Given the diversity of XCs, tailored approaches must be grounded in solid data and analysis, with ongoing feedback and learning loops integrated into the Programme. The assessments conducted so far have demonstrated the effectiveness of reinsertion, but also the gaps in specific XC profiles that support their transition toward reintegration.
Not ignoring local peace agreements	Even as significant attention has been paid to the COHA, the government, including at the regional level, has negotiated local peace agreements with non-state armed groups. Supporting DDR as part of these agreements – even in the absence of an overarching framework with all armed groups - has made important, if relative, contributions to peace and security in otherwise highly volatile regions. The more visible the benefits and the more genuine the official intent to support XCs, even in these processes, the more it will act as an incentive for other members of non-state armed groups to participate.
Looking beyond demobilization	While efforts have rightly largely concentrated on accelerating demobilisation and reinsertion to reduce the large pending caseload of XCs, the limited focus on reintegration, including increasing dedicated financial support, is creating risks. Rebalancing attention toward reintegration—alongside efficient reinsertion—is essential to sustain gains and prevent reversal of DDR progress.

XIII. Looking Ahead – Priorities for 2026

Over the reporting period, Ethiopia's DDR process has made significant strides. Despite challenges and interruptions, the NDRP has successfully demobilised 80,908 people since November 2024. This represents about 21% of the overall NDRP goal of reaching 371,971 XCs. The government has so far demonstrated its strong commitment to the process, including through continued significant budgetary allocations to the process and working through dialogue to proactively unblock potential political bottlenecks to further rounds of demobilisation with its counterparts. The progress achieved during this period reflects growing national ownership and operational maturity of the DDR process. Yet, the scale of the task ahead remains significant.

1. Advancing the DDR process in the Tigray region and expanding to other regions: With the key NRC systems built, tested and operationalised at scale, the Programme's focus will turn to ensuring that the NDRP is sufficiently resourced and technically supported to sustain progress, inclusivity and effectiveness through the next phases of the process. The NRC has set a target of demobilising an additional 150,000 XCs in 2026. Therefore, next year, the programme will focus on supporting the next phase of the process in Tigray and on expanding it to other regions.

2. Bridging urgent and immediate financial gaps: Current funding will only last until mid-2026, placing the continuity of operations at risk. The immediate priority is to avoid an interruption to the process. Working with partners to bridge this gap will be essential to sustain momentum into 2026. For the upcoming fiscal year, the Ethiopian government has allocated ETB 1.1 billion for the NRC's operations. Yet the NRC's target for 2026 of 150,000 XCs will require approximately $ 153 million. To help mobilise the necessary resources, the Government and UNDP aim to promote global visibility and attention to Ethiopia's DDR process through international events in Addis and New York in the coming year.

3. Getting sustainable and predictable financing: Beyond short-term funding, sustained and predictable support will be critical to the programme's ultimate success. The NDRP aims to support demobilisation and reinsertion for all targeted XCs and is estimated to cost $ 377 million. This is not only an operationally sound objective but also an urgent one: many XCs have been in camps since 2022 (not counting the two years of conflict), meaning those demobilised in 2026 will have waited nearly four years, and those in 2027 as long as five years. Securing the full resources required will demand high-level advocacy that underscores the strategic stakes of the NDRP—not only for Ethiopia's peace and stability but also for wider regional security in the Horn of Africa. Innovative financing strategies and diversified funding streams will need to complement traditional aid flows, particularly in today's constrained international environment.

4. Stepping up technical support for the reintegration process: As demobilisation and reinsertion progress, the programme will increase its focus and support the reintegration process. It is critical to ensure the sustainability of the demobilisation process and to address residual risks, reintegration nevertheless is the "weaker link" in the DDR process so far. To address this challenge and informed by the evidence base generated through its completed assessments, UNDP, over the coming year, will step up its support to regional governments for policy development (regional reintegration plans), capacity

development, and institutional strengthening. As more XCs are demobilised in the coming phases, the aim is to ensure adequate systems are in place to support their sustainable return to civilian life.

5. Increasing a focus on the well-being and reintegration of PwD, women and youth: Going forward, the programme will deepen its focus on the specific needs of PwD, women and vulnerable groups to ensure that no one is left behind in the DDR process. PwD and women are considered priority groups for reintegration support. This includes strengthening access to medical and psychosocial support, scaling up disability assistance and rehabilitation, and expanding gender- and youth-responsive reintegration opportunities, such as training, livelihoods, and community participation. Tailored support to these groups will be essential to promote inclusion, restore dignity and build a more equitable and sustainable peace.

6. Enhancing monitoring and evaluation of programme progress and results: Monitoring and evaluation remain central to ensuring accountability and learning within the DDR process. UNDP and NRC will advance a series of independent assessments—including rapid assessments in Tigray and other regions and a Third-Party Monitoring exercise planned for 2026—to track reinsertion outcomes and strengthen transparency. These efforts, combined with regular joint partner field visits, will help verify progress, gather beneficiary feedback and inform adaptive programming moving forward.

Conclusion

Ethiopia's DDR process stands at a critical juncture. The progress achieved so far has restored a sense of normalcy, dignity and hope for tens of thousands who once bore arms. Yet, sustaining this progress will require continued political will, resources and collective commitment to ensure that XCs and the communities they rejoin can rebuild their lives together in peace. Beyond the numbers, the DDR process represents a promise to turn the hard-won silencing of the guns into lasting peace, and to keep hope alive for those whose futures depend on it.

Annex I - UNCERTIFIED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE SNDRP, 2025

ALL DONORS		
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	**Expenditure**	
OUTPUT 1: Establishment and operationalizing of institutional structures for the NDRP at national, regional and local levels.	639,931.01	
OUTPUT 2: Registration of the XCs during demobilization and rolling out the Information, Counselling and Referral System (ICRS) and support linked to SGBV, MHPSS and PWD	272,294.19	
OUTPUT 3: Reinsertion benefits provided to 75,000 XCs (17,000 Japan @200 USD for 14,500 XCs)	46,297,465.13	
OUTPUT 4: Support to Women, People with disabilities and children needing MHPSS, SGBV-related support and or rehabilitation support (Related to NRC Output; Number of BCs Rehabilitated and MHPSS/SGBV support provided	168,501.41	
Output 5: Capacity-building of regional and local institutions and service providers in target areas support.	120,716.55	
Output 6: Reintegration (The per capita cost per XC is not included. As presently, option of a referral to ongoing is being considered.	1,190,536.46	
Output 7: Programme Management & oversight	**DES**	978,918.71
	1,235,409.70	
TOTAL DIRECT ELEGIBLE COSTS		48,945,935.74
GMS (7%) for EU and 8% for Canada, Japan, USA, UK, Italy, Sweden, South Korea, Denmark and Norway		3,832,260.69
Grand Total		**53,757,115.14**