

**THE EFFECTS OF CHILDREN ENROLMENT IN  
ARMED FORCES/GROUPS ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN D R CONGO  
CASE STUDY OF BUKAVU/  
SOUTH KIVU  
(2003 – 2008)**

**A Thesis**

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**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Art in Development Administration and Management**

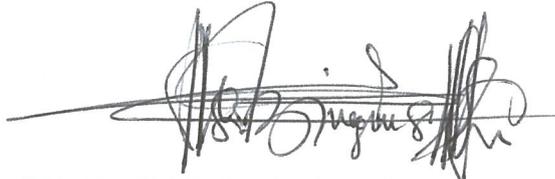
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**September, 2010**

**DECLARATION A**

"This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for a Degree or any other academic award in any University or Institution of Learning".



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**DECLARATION B**

"I/We confirm that the work reported in this thesis was carried out by the candidate under my/our supervision".

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18<sup>th</sup> March 2011

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**APPROVAL SHEET**

This thesis entitled" **The Effects of children enrolment in Armed forces/groups on Sustainable development in DRC. Case study of Bukavu (2003 – 2008) "** prepared and submitted by **BINGWA MUDERHWA Roger** in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of **Master of Art in Development Administration and Management** has been examined and approved by the panel on oral examination with a grade of PASSED.

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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis result of our labour is dedicated to our so loving God, our parents MUDERHWA Corneille and NSIMIRE Nathalie, and Ms Afine Luzine who know why this book is dedicated.

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research was based on "The Effects of children enrolment in Armed forces/groups on Sustainable development in D R Congo, Case Study of Bukavu District". The study was guided by three objectives namely: to determine the impact of armed conflicts on children, to assess the effects of child soldiers on sustainable development of Bukavu, and lastly to investigate ways of stopping recruitment of child soldiers and measures to mitigate its impact on sustainable development. A purposive or judgmental sampling method was used to select the sample size. However documentary review, observation and discussions were also used to supplement and validate the data collected through the self-administered questionnaire.

The major findings include identification of the impact of armed forces/groups on children and that in different forms such as; difficulties met during the military service, and after military service as consequences of it, and lastly the challenges met by different bodies when trying to reintegrate them through DDR process.

It has been found that Bukavu district will face at a certain time a high level of illiteracy which will result in lack of qualified manpower in all sectors of development thus poor production since most child soldiers and ex-child soldiers are not willing to rejoin their normal process of education. Which will lead them to be thieves and bandits in the community and creates a huge impact on human resources and community development as a result of the use of child soldiers. Insecurity and harassment on local population, lack of investment, criminalities and

slaughters cases as well on local population and youth manipulation in Bukavu were evaluated at very high level due to a big number of children used as child soldiers. Hence fighting impunity, making public awareness on the problem of child soldiers utilization and its impact on the society, and conducting permanent lobbying action towards government in order to take good measures and strict rules to punish whoever uses child soldiers, putting an end to conflict, lightening the condition of studying, alleviating poverty and promoting the conditions of living in Congo, were discovered as best ways among others to halt the use of child soldiers in armed forces. Additionally, to mitigate the consequences of child soldiers for the sustainability of development the following ways were found of great value: Effective and sustainable actions of child soldiers' DDR must be taken. The government should raise public awareness on DDR of child soldiers, and make it a must to take appropriate and sustainable actions such as good counseling of social rehabilitated former child soldiers. Involvement of NGOs, churches, and civil societies working hand in hand to execute effectively and efficiently the National Program Disarmament, Demobilisation and Rehabilitation (NPDDR) of child soldiers and fighting the proliferation of small armed groups have to be encouraged. Monitoring on reintegrated former child soldiers being done for at least two years to assure their integration and rehabilitation is complete, as well as creating vocational schools.

The researcher recommends that the government should fight impunity, end conflict and poverty. It should provide good education, reinforce laws on children protection and promotion, and revise the process of DDR especially on its implementation and time allocated. Civil Societies, NGOs

and other institutions should ensure good counseling of former child soldiers; conduct permanent lobbying actions and encourage peace and security initiatives. The government together with all the community should be characterized with a team work spirit in order to fight practically the use of child soldiers. Formers child soldiers must be welcomed and considered by their families and communities.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

A	: Agree
AFDL	: Alliance des Forces Démocratique pour la Libération
APC	: Congolese Army's People
CBOs	: Community Based Organisations
D	: Disagree
DDR	: Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reinsertion (Rehabilitation)
DRC	: Democratic République of Congo
Ex-FAR	: Ex- Forces Armées Rwandaise
FAC	: Forces Armées Congolaise
GAM	: Groupe d'Assistance aux Marginalisés
GAV	: Groupe d'Appuit aux Personnes Vulnérables
GRAM-Kivu	: Groupe de Recherche et d'Actions Contre la Marginalisation au Kivu
HIV/AIDS	: Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.
HRW	: Human Rights Watch

KIU	: Kampala International University
LAV	: Laissez l’Afrique Vivre
LRA	: Lord Resistance Army
MLC	: Mouvement de Libération du Congo
MONUC	: Mission de l’Organisation des Nations Unies au Congo
NGOs	: Non-Government Organisations
NRM	: National Resistance Movement
NPDDR	: National Program for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Rehabilitation
PRODES	: Programme de Développement Social
RCD	: Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie
RCD-G	: Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie/Goma
RCD-K/ML	: Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie-Kisangani/ Mouvement de Libération
RDF	: Rwandese Defense Forces
RENAMO	: Resistance National Mozambican
RCD-N	: Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie-Nord
RPA	: Rwandese Patriotic Army

SA	: Strongly Agree
SALW	: Small Arms and Light Weapons
SA	: Strongly Agree
SPGS	: School of Post Graduate Studies and Reaserch
SPSS	: Statistical Packages for Social Scientists
SOFADE	: Solidarité des Familles pour le Développement
UEPN-DDR	: Union de l'Execution du programme National – Désarmement, demobilization et Reinsertion
UNDP	: United Nations development Program
UNICEF	: United Nations Children Funds
UN	: United Nations
UPC	: Uganda People's Congress
US\$	: United States Dollar

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## CHAPTER ONE

### THE PROBLEM AND ITS SCOPE

#### 1.0 Introduction

This Chapter presents the overall introduction of the study. It explores the historical, theoretical and contextual background of the existing problem, which needs to be solved. It indicates the purpose of the study, objectives, and research questions which were achieved and answered at the end of the study. This Chapter further presents the scope of the study and the significance of the study.

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Each year thousands of children under 18-year are being affected by armed conflict directly and indirectly. They are recruited on the hope (of better future), fear, and insecurity.

Child soldier is widely practiced in the form of spies, porters, messengers, cooks, lay or clear landmines, training or guarding other children, weapons transport workers, among others in conflict-prone countries. Girl child is always at high risk of rape and other forms of cruelty, inhumane and degrading treatment (Bishnu P, 2009).

According to the same author, such forms rob their childhood and expose them to terrible dangers through the psychological, physical and socio-cultural sufferings. Due to these consequences, child soldiers are deprived of their basic and constitutional fundamental rights such as right to life, liberty, security, and education, protection against abuse and neglect, and so forth. Most of them die or badly injured during the battle. In case of

their rescue, socio-cultural reintegration is difficult. Child soldiers are doubly victimized because while most of the relatives are reluctant to accept them; the surrounding community is negative and biased about them. The situation is even worse for the girl soldiers. The issue of child soldiers has been a global problem where about 300,000 children are serving in more than 30 countries. Internal armed or socio-cultural conflict, poverty, illiteracy, ignorance, insecurity and religious, social and political causes are some of the major reasons for its prevalence. Bishnu P. (2009) estimates that easily and cheaply available small arms and light weapons (SALW) fuel this problem further. The desire of authoritarian regimes, along with bad governance, injustice, ethno-cultural identity-based interests, unequal distribution of resources and ideology are its root causes.

In the two last decades, hundreds of thousands of children under 18 years have been affected by armed conflicts. A number of armed conflicts have occurred in the heart of Africa and this led to the recruitment of children into government armed forces, paramilitaries, civil militia and a variety of other armed groups.

In the African Conference on the Use of Children as Soldiers, in Maputo Mozambique, 1999, Françoise J. has reported that more than 120,000 children under 18 years of age are currently participating in armed conflicts across Africa. Some of these children are below 8 years. The countries most affected by this problem are: Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Congo-Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda. Furthermore, Ethiopian government forces engaged in an armed conflict against Eritrea, and the clans in

Somalia, have both included an unknown, though probably not substantial, number of under 18s in their ranks.

The recruitment and use of children for combat is outlawed by various measures of international human rights law, humanitarian law, labour law and criminal law but a chasm exists between these standards and their application.

The report shows that the national recruitment legislation in many African countries, consider 18 years as the minimum age required for the recruitment in armed forces. The legislation is also ongoing in countries like D.R. Congo, Algeria, Benin, Ethiopia, and Equatorial Guinea (Francoise J. 1999). Unfortunately, this legislation is implemented properly by very few countries worldwide and especially in Africa. Many countries in Africa broken by armed conflicts like Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Chad, and D.R. Congo have been recruiting children less than 18 years for the front line. Child soldiers are recruited in many different ways. Some are conscripted, others are press-ganged or kidnapped and still others are forced to join armed groups to defend their families. Governments in a few countries legally conscript children under 18, but even where the legal minimum age is 18, the law is not necessarily a safeguard as it has been shown in the previous paragraph.

In northern Uganda at least 25,000 children have been abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) since the beginning of the 20 year conflict. An estimated 12,000 children have been abducted since July 2002 (Redress Trust 2006). In February 2003, the *Thirteenth Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the*

*Democratic Republic of Congo* (MONUC) reported that child soldiers are still present in all armed groups in DRC, in some cases representing up to 35 percent of troops, and are being sent to the front lines. The report also notes that new recruitment, sometimes of already demobilized child soldiers, continues in some areas (Watch List on Children and Armed Conflict, 2003).

According to United Nations Organisation Mission in Congo (MONUC), there were an estimated 30,000 children in armed forces or groups in 2004. Children have been used by diverse groups and forces in the various time periods of the conflict since 1996. Depending on the context, children were forcibly recruited, joined voluntarily, or joined at the instigation of local militias with the tacit consent of their families (RedRess Trust, 2006)

In fact, most observers agree that the practice continues because children make cheap and obedient fighters, and are easier because of their youth and inexperience to mould into effective and expendable combatants. In some areas subject to persistent violent conflict, there is a shortage of "eligible men" so belligerents widen the recruitment base by using girls and boys, some observers say. But all agree that the most obvious reason armed forces take on children as soldiers is because they can. Despite the regulations outlawing the practice, little effective action has been taken against those who violate the conventions and international agreements. Child soldiers are often abducted from their homes, schools or communities and forced into combat, whether by government forces, rebel groups or paramilitary militias.

Sometimes they are accepted as volunteers, although UNICEF makes the point that few children who join armies are really volunteers: minors who are forced to fight are often poor, illiterate and from rural or otherwise marginalised communities.

However, the negative effects of recruiting child soldiers are not limited in the concerned, country or region only. This means that child recruitment as soldier is not a problem of a single community. In some of the war torn countries, it seems that the majority of the population in the future will be ex-combatants, mentally and physically injured which has serious negative effects on socio-economic, political, cultural, and human development. This affects consequently the whole process of development at all levels (local, national and international level) since development is all about desirable changes in economic, political, social, administrative, and cultural dimensions of human life (Sapru R, 1991).

Moreover, we live a culture which considers children as the force of the future. Development then depends much more on how children rights are respected and protected for the betterment of future generation and sustainable development. Development therefore will remain a dream and an objective far to achieve since children will still be enlisted in armed forces as combatants, and being subjected to many other inhuman treatments. Children have been violated for long-time and will still be violated if nothing is done.

These evidences show the complexity of the problem of armed conflicts, children and sustainable development.

It is therefore in this context that this study was undertaken aiming at children protection from such a treatment that violates their rights in order to protect future generation and promote sustainable development.

### **1.2 Statement of the problem**

After the Universal Declaration on Human Rights 1948 (East African Human Rights Foundation 2004);

After the convention against torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment in December 1984 (ISIS-WICCE 2003); and

after the convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 (East African Human Rights Foundation 2004) worldwide, Africa has continued to witness an overall increase of human rights violation in general and children rights in particular. Children are still suffering multiple and severe disruptions of their lives: death, torture, separation from families, kidnap, rape, forced enrolment in armed groups, and often also losing their autonomy and dignity without any attention paid on their education, among others.

The utilisation of child soldiers has however had severe consequences on the economic, social, political, administrative and human development of DRC in general and of Bukavu province in particular due to a high level of insecurity created by the practice.

### **1.3 Purpose of the study**

The purpose of the study is to determine the impact of the utilization of child soldiers on sustainable development and to suggest mitigation measures of that impact on sustainable development in D.R.C with a particular reference to Bukavu district in South Kivu.

### **1.4 Research Objectives**

#### **1.4.1 General Objective of the study**

The study aims at determine the impact of armed conflicts on children: the past, present and future impact of child soldiers on sustainable development of DRC taking specifically the case of Bukavu district and suggest ways forward to halt the problem of child soldier's utilisation, and mitigate its impact on sustainable development.

#### **1.4.2 Specific objectives of this study**

1. Determine the impact of armed conflicts on children,
2. Assess the effects of child soldiers on sustainable development of Bukavu,
3. Investigate ways of stopping recruitment of child soldiers and measures to mitigate its impact on sustainable development.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

1. What are the impacts of armed groups or forces on children?
2. What are the effects of the use of child soldiers on sustainable development in Bukavu?

3. What are the possible ways to stop the use of child soldiers and its impact on sustainable development?

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The study was limited to Bukavu district in the province of South Kivu in, in the Eastern part of DRC, and was basically focused on the Impact of children enrolment in armed forces on sustainable development in DRC (2002-2008). A special attention was mainly paid on the welfare of children with particular accent on their human rights since it is known according to Unicef (2002) that, invest in children advances sustainable development. The district of Bukavu has attracted our attention for the simple reason that it is part of the Eastern part of DRC and has been seriously affected by the catastrophe of child soldiering in DRC. The study focused on child soldiers looking especially at the way they are used by armed forces, their backlashes on socio-economic development in Bukavu which in turn affect sustainable development, and finally at the way to mitigate those consequences on both children and development. The study period was of 6 years, starting from the year 2003 up to 2008. This period was selected for two main reason related to the history of child soldiers in DRC.

The year 2003 in December 18, indicates the year during which the government of Congo issued three decrees to appoint structures of future management of the National Program of Disarmament, Demobilisation and Re-insertion (NPDDR), after realising a massive recruitment and

utilisation of child soldiers in armed groups. The NPDDR was adopted in May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and officially launched in July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004 (PNDDR, 2004).

Year 2008 in January represents the period of peace agreement called *Acts of Engagement of Goma* "Actes d'Engagement de Goma" (in french) in which all political parties and armed groups have engaged to respect humanitarian international rights and human rights, and stop children recruitment and promote children rights (Coalition pour mettre fin à l'utilisation d'enfants soldats, 2010).

The aim here still being, to study how and at what extent children were used as soldiers, and what were the consequences of the practice on Bukavu during this period, and lastly to glimpse the distant impact of it on the development of Bukavu in order to find ways of mitigation.

### **1.7 Significance of the Study**

The significant of this study is to provide mainly a clear picture (insight) of the risks that children run during armed conflict period in D R Congo and its impact on sustainable development, and consequently to suggest ways to sort out the problem and its impact on sustainable development in Bukavu district in D R congo.

The study was also intending to enlighten the government and other institutions and anybody concerned with children rights and development, on the problem affecting children during armed conflict period and its impact on sustainable development. The study was also of great importance in providing academicians with necessary knowledge and appearing as an in-depth analysis for further research about the impact

assessment and mitigation of children enrolment in armed forces on sustainable development. The study findings are useful to policy makers as it enables them to come up with robust solutions on children problems during armed conflict and post conflict as basis of development as well as in D.R. Congo as elsewhere

## **1.8 Operational definition of Key terms**

### **❖ Child/ Children?**

According to UN convention on the rights of children, November 20, 1989, in its article one; and according to the constitution of DRC, February 18, 2006; a child is defined as all human being aged of less than eighteen years old (Coalition pour mettre fin à l'utilisation d'enfants soldats, 2009). The convention of UN related to the rights of children stipulates that *a child, due to his or her lack of physical and intellectual maturity needs a special protection and a special care namely an appropriate legal protection.*

### **❖ A child Soldier**

The most common and used definition of a child soldier is the definition of *Cape Town* which was adopted at the conference on the principles and good practices held at Cape Town in South Africa in 1997. The conference understand a child soldier as anybody under eighteen years old who takes part in a regular armed force or group or no and at any nature namely the messengers, cooks, spies, escorts, porters sentries..., this definition includes girls recruited for sexual ends and forced marriage. Therefore

child soldiers are not only those who have or have carried (used) arms (Coalition pour mettre fin à l'utilisation d'enfants soldats, 2009).

The coalition to stop the use of children in armed forces or groups (2009) defines a child soldier as any person aged of less than eighteen years who is or has been recruited or employed by an armed force or group regardless on the task he is fulfilling. Child soldiers can be children boys or girls utilised as combatants, cooks or chefs, carriers, messengers, spies, and are used for sexual purposes. The term child soldiers then do not only refer to a child who actively participates or has not participated directly in hostilities but also a child who has been engaged or associated to perform some tasks or works in armed forces or groups. In February 2010 the Coalition has defined a child soldier as any person of less than 18years old who is member or attached, however the capacity he has, at governmental armed forces, at regular or irregular armed forces or at political armed groups whether armed conflict situation exists or no. All these definitions aim the main at children protection. And this points out the following common principles:

- Any children should not be used at combats,
- Any children shouldn't be put in danger by finding himself on the ground of battle.
- Any children must not be part of an armed force or group or being associated to armed forces in order to be identified as combatant or to be considered as legitimate targeted military in the eyes of the humanitarian's international rights.
- A child is anybody aged of less than eighteen years old.

### ❖ **Armed force/group**

The term armed force is generally applied to official and governmental armed forces. This involves the land army, the marine or navy and air army.

The expressions armed groups or political armed groups refer to non state armed groups or irregular armed groups that use arms for political ends or purposes. These may constitute forces of opposition, rivals or tribal groups, armed groups that belong to an ethnical or religious minorities as well as different categories of militias. These expressions are most of the time used to express armed groups supported by governmental forces or allies but not officially (Coalition to stop the use of child soldier, 2009)

### ❖ **Recruitment of child Soldiers**

The word recruitment of child soldiers covers three different ways of enrolling children in armed forces or groups.

The recruitment can be compulsory or Obligatory: here for instance we look at the conscription in official armed forces. Here children are conscripted in army.

Secondly the recruitment can also be voluntary: here children adhere to armed forces or groups voluntarily and deliberately.

The last way which is the third is that recruitment can also be forced. This implies the illegal use of force during the recruitment time. This can include the kidnapping or the abduction and....The differences among

these three ways of recruitment are sometime blurred or vague. Many children for instance can be subjected to economic and political pressure which does not offer other options apart from joining the ranks of armed forces or groups (Coalition pour metre fin à l'utilisation d'enfant soldats, 2009).

### ❖ **Sustainable development**

According to S. Kojo, sustainable development is usually defined in three different ways.

First, it is defined as the introduction of technical management practices over particular resources to attain a sustainable yield over a long period, the continued harvesting and replenishment of a resource.

Second, Sustainable development is defined as the management and regulation of the environment, or the sum total of natural resources by society and its organs of governance to ensure their continued existence for future generations. This involves creating management mechanisms to ensure that natural resources are not over-exploited to meet immediate, selfish and greedy needs. This leads to the definition of sustainable development in terms of enter-generational equality, development that meets the needs of the present without compromising those of future generations, as espoused by the Brundtland Commission (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987).

The third definition embodies notions of equity, that sustainable development must provide equal opportunities and access for all, and cannot be based on having living standards for a minority and poverty for

the majority, or the division of the world into rich countries and poor countries. This approach argues that inter-generational equity is meaningless without generational equity, and therefore policies that are more inclusive and redistribution of resources are prerequisites for sustainable development.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter discusses especially the existing body of knowledge focusing on the problem of children and armed forces or groups and development. It examines the impact or risks to children in participating in armed conflicts in general. This chapter also assesses the impact of child utilisation in armed forces or groups on development in the aspects of Social and Economic life of DRC by looking particularly at the case of Bukavu district. It explains what a child is, what a child soldier is, what an armed force or group is, what children recruitment is and what says the government of DRC in its constitutions and other instrument about children and armed forces or groups as far as children rights are concerned. This section also discusses the behaviour of a child soldier and the consequences of former child soldiers on local population in Bukavu district. This chapter looks at other literature related to children and sustainable development in general in which development and sustainable development are defined. This chapter also analyses other related literature dealing with other important issues related to the mitigation of the impact of armed forces or groups on children. It explores different solutions suggested by others scholars on the matter of children enrolment in armed forces or groups in terms of impact mitigation on development in the process of the sustainability of development.

## **2.1 Situation of children in Wars and armed Conflicts in DRC**

### **2.1.0 Background**

The crisis in DRC dates back to 1998, when Laurent Kabila and his Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (AFDL) overthrew the regime of Mobutu Sese Seko with the help of Rwandan and Ugandan military forces. Earlier instability erupted in DRC due to poor management by Mobutu's government, the 1994 Rwandan refugee crisis, an outbreak of violence in 1996 and other difficult circumstances.

The war broke out fully in August 1998 when Kabila attempted to expel Rwandan and Ugandan military forces that had helped him to attain power. Many opposition groups gained control of over 50 percent of the territory. After Laurent Kabila's assassination in January 2001, his son, Joseph Kabila, succeeded him to power. Since then, President Joseph Kabila has vowed to renew peace negotiations and uphold civil and political rights for Congolese civilians. While efforts towards peace have progressed, repression and rights abuses have continued (WatchList 2003).

### **2.1.1 Children and Armed conflicts in DRC**

According to the WatchList (2003), many of the armed forces operated in DRC have splintered into various movements and shifted alliances over the years. Rights abuses committed against children by combatants associated with all armed groups in DRC are egregious and well documented. Moreover, the occupation of large portions of DRC by the

armies of neighbouring states has caused considerable suffering among children and other vulnerable groups.

The International Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers reported that tens of thousands of children are child soldiers in DRC.

On November 26, 2002, in the *Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict*, the UN Secretary-General listed the parties to armed conflict that recruit or use children in violation of relevant international obligations, in situations of which the Council is seized (WatchList, 2003).

### **2.1.2 Child soldiers in DRC**

Child soldiers have been recruited and used by different armed groups and in different areas of the DRC and the Eastern part of the country. Regarding the situation in DRC, the Secretary-General listed 10 of the parties to conflict: government of DRC, MLC, RCD-G, RCD-N, RCD-K/ML, UPC, Masunzu's forces, Lendu militias, Ex-FAR/*Interahamwe* and Mai Mai (WatchList 2003)

#### **2.1.2.1 Government Armed Forces**

WatchList on children and armed conflicts (2003) indicated that the armed opposition group, Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation (AFDL) during the war against former President Mobutu in 1996–1997, liberally recruited and used child soldiers. It is estimated that more than 10,000 children fought with the AFDL. After 1997, when Kabila came to power, some children recruited into the AFDL continued to serve in the FAC under Kabila, while many others became street children.

On June 9, 2000, then-President Laurent Kabila issued a decree to eliminate the government's use of child soldiers and to halt forcible conscription of children by the FAC or any other public or private armed group.

However, this decree has not been fully implemented. In 2001, it was reported that children as young as 10 years old were allowed to voluntarily enlist, despite the Presidential decree. An eyewitness account from Refugees International confirms continued FAC child soldier recruitment, both forced and voluntary, as recently as February 2003.

#### **2.1.2.2 Mai - Mai Armed group**

According to the Report from the UN Panel of Experts (S/2002/1146), UN sources estimate that 50 percent of the Mai-Mai forces are children. During the 1996–1997 uprising, the Mai Mai reportedly recruited children as young as eight years old (WatchList 2003).

#### **2.1.2.3 The MLC, RCD-K/ML and Ugandan Forces**

The Ugandan armed forces have assisted the Movement of Liberation of Congo (MLC) and Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie Kisangani/Mouvement de Liberation (RCD-K/ML), groups with their efforts to conscript Congolese children. The armed wing of the RCD-K/ML is the Congolese People's Army (APC). Forced recruitment and abductions of children by these groups continues, according to the Coalition.

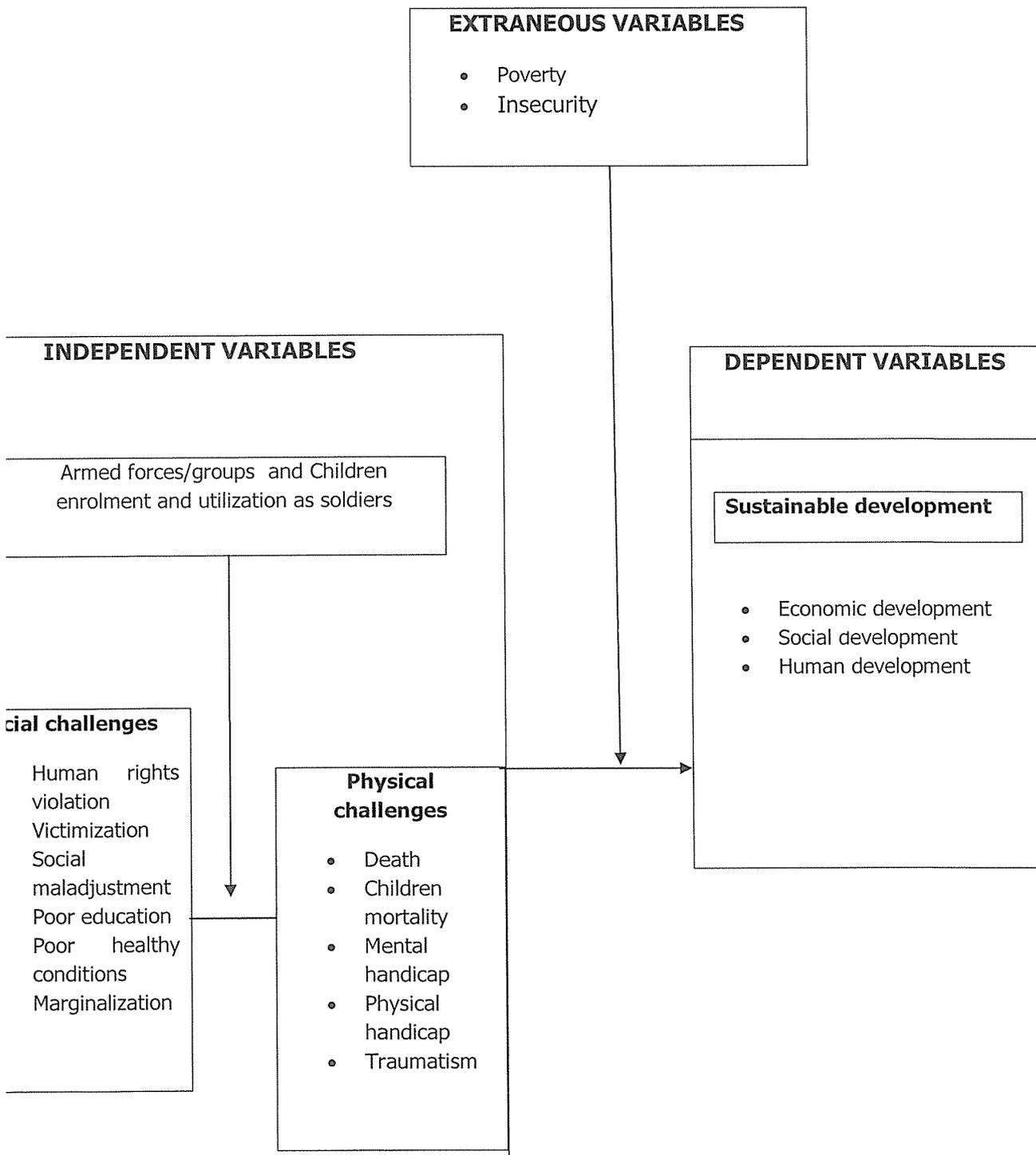
### **2.1.2.3 The RCD-Goma (RCD-G) and Rwandan Defence Force (formerly RPA)**

According to WatchList (2003), the RCD-G and the Rwandan Defence Force (formerly RPA) are known to press-gang and kidnap children for conscription. Both Congolese and Rwandans have been targeted.

The UN Special Reporter on the Situation of Human Rights in DRC reported to the Commission on Human Rights in 1998 that children between the ages of 9 and 13 had been recruited into the RPA and used as human shields and that about 300 children had been recruited in Congolese territory and sent to Kigali for training.

In 2001, HRW and Refugees International reported on RPA and RCD-G's systematic abduction of children and youth, both boys and girls, from roadsides, markets and their homes in eastern DRC. These groups reportedly sent unarmed children into battle as a diversionary force, resulting in large numbers of casualties. The UN estimated that at Mushaki, a training camp in Masisi, more than 60 percent of 3,000 newly trained soldiers were under age 18.

## 2.2 CONCEPTUAL FRAME WORK



**Source:** Researcher's innovation

The above conceptual frame work shows how the variables are influencing each other to restrain sustainable development in Bukavu. The independent variables as armed forces/groups have a big impact on children by using them as soldiers. And the key challenges faced by Children in armed forces are social and physical by nature. There are death, mental and physical handicap, traumatism, and other consequences that lead to a total incapacitation. All these together affect the future of the child, of the family, the Nation and the entire world, and the consequences are seen on economic, social, and human development level. Sustainable development becomes hard and far from being achieved since it reflects the good management of available resources in order to meet the needs of the present without compromising those of future generation.

### **2.3 The impact of armed conflicts on children**

The impact of armed force/group on children is huge believes the coalition to stop the use of child soldiers. Children are recruited and used for different ends in armed conflicts. In South Kivu (DRC) for example the armed group Mai Mai offers a special consideration to children. Both boys and girls are specifically targeted to be used as fetishists (healers) and many others. With armed conflicts children are sent to combats, they die, and others are injured and become psychologically or physically handicapped (Coalition, 2010).

### **2.3.1 Trends of armed conflicts on children**

One of the most alarming trends in armed conflict is the participation of children as soldiers. Children serve armies in supporting roles, as cooks, porters, messengers and spies. Increasingly, however, adults are deliberately conscripting children as soldiers. Some commanders have even noted the desirability of child soldiers because they are "more obedient, do not question orders and are easier to manipulate than adult soldiers".

### **2.3.2 The risks to children of participating in armed conflict**

In addition to the obvious risks to children of participation in armed conflict which apply equally to adults, children are often at an added disadvantage as combatants. Their immaturity may lead them to take excessive risks. According to one rebel commander in the Democratic Republic of Congo, *"children make good fighters because they're young and want to show off. They think it's all a game, so they're fearless."* Moreover, and as a result of being widely perceived to be dispensable commodities, they tend to receive little or no training before being thrust into the front line. Reports from Burundi and Congo-Brazzaville suggest that they are often massacred in combat as a result. Children may begin participating in conflict from as young as the age of seven. Some start as porters (carrying food or ammunition) or messengers, others as spies. One rebel commander declared that: *"They're very good at getting information. You can send them across enemy lines and nobody suspects them because they're so young."* And as soon as they are strong enough to handle an assault rifle or a semi-automatic weapon (normally at 10

years of age), children are used as soldiers. One former child soldier from Burundi stated that: *"We spent sleepless nights watching for the enemy. My first role was to carry a torch for grown-up rebels. Later I was shown how to use hand grenades. Barely within a month or so, I was carrying an AK-47 rifle or even a G3* (Francoise J.1999)

The history of Rwanda, Uganda, and D.R. Congo has shown how child soldiers called *Kadogos* a swahili word meaning *small thing*, had been mistreated in different training camps in Uganda at the Nakivale where more than 180 Congolese children under 17years were trained in 1991 for the 1994 Rwanda war, at Kyankwanzi the political military training centre of NRM in Kiboga district where 700 Congolese Children from Ituri did a cruel military training in 2000 for the Ituri war in D.R.Congo (Cheuzeville H. 2002). According to a local human rights NGO, Project GRAM-Kivu (GRAM), operating in South Kivu, many children in Shabunda and other areas die while hiding in the bush. Many children who survive are traumatized by acts of vandalism and barbarity perpetuated by armed groups. They witness horrendous scenes in which their own families and friends are killed, sometimes hacked to death in front of them. Many young people have lost years of schooling.

Armed conflicts across and between communities result in massive levels of destruction, physical, human, moral and cultural. Not only are large numbers of children killed and injured, but countless others grow up deprived of their material and emotional needs, including the structures that give meaning to social and cultural life. The entire fabric of their

societies their homes, schools, health systems and religious institutions are torn to pieces.

War violates every right of a child the right to life, the right to be with family and community, the right to health, the right to the development of the personality and the right to be nurtured and protected. Many of today's conflicts last the length of a "childhood", meaning that from birth to early adulthood, children will experience multiple and accumulative assaults.

Disrupting the social networks and primary relationships that support children's physical, emotional, moral, cognitive and social development in this way, and for this duration, can have profound physical and psychological implications (Watch List on Children and Armed Conflict, 2003)

### **2.3.3 How Child soldiers are used in armed Forces/group**

Once recruited as soldiers, children generally receive much the same treatment as adults including the often brutal induction ceremonies. Many start out in support functions which entail great risk and hardship. One of the common tasks assigned to children is to serve as porters, often carrying very heavy loads of up to 60 kilograms including ammunition or injured soldiers. Children who are too weak to carry their loads are liable to be savagely beaten or even shot. Children are also used for household and other routine duties. In Uganda, child soldiers have often done guard duty, worked in the gardens, hunted for wild fruits and vegetables and looted food from gardens and granaries. Children have also been used extensively in many countries as lookouts and messengers. While this last

role may seem less life-threatening than others, in fact it puts all children under suspicion.

In Latin America, reports tell of government forces that have deliberately killed even the youngest children in peasant communities on the grounds that they, too, were dangerous.

Although the majority of child soldiers are boys, armed groups also recruit girls, many of whom perform the same functions as boys. In Guatemala, rebel groups use girls to prepare food, attend to the wounded and wash clothes. Girls may also be forced to provide sexual services. In Uganda, girls who are abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army are "married off" to rebel leaders. If the man dies, the girl is put aside for ritual cleansing and then married off to another rebel.

A case study from Honduras illustrates one child's experience of joining an armed group:

*"At the age of 13, I joined the student movement. I had a dream to contribute to make things change; so that children would not be hungry ... later I joined the armed struggle. I had all the inexperience and the fears of a little girl. I found out that girls were obliged to have sexual relations 'to alleviate the sadness of the combatants'. And who alleviated our sadness after going with someone we hardly knew? At my Young age I experienced abortion. It was not my decision. There is a great pain in my being when I recall all these things ... In spite of my commitment, they abused me, they trampled my human dignity. And above all, they did not understand that I was a child and that I had rights."*

While children of both sexes might start out in indirect support functions, it does not take long before they are placed in the heat of battle.

#### **2.3.4 Position of the Government of DRC on the problem of Children and Armed conflicts**

The question guiding us in this matter is: "is the military recruitment and children utilisation in armed conflicts illegal in DRC"?

The answer is yes. The coalition to stop the utilisation of child soldiers 2009 shows sufficiently that the military recruitment and utilisation of children in armed conflict is clearly prohibited by the national laws of DRC and the international agreements ratified and signed by the DRC. And at the ratification of the protocol of November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2001 the government of DRC has declared the eighteen years old as the minimum age of all form of military recruitment.

According the Constitutions of DRC (2006) at its article 190, none can on pain (sentence) of high treason maintain an armed youth. And the law concerning children protection (law No 09/001 january 2009) prohibits obligatory or forced recruitment of children in order utilise in armed conflicts (Art. 53) and the enrolment and utilisation of children in armed forces/groups. ( Coalition 2007)

(Coalition pour metre fin a l'utilisation d'enfant soldats, 2009).

## 2.4 The effects of child soldiers on local population in DRC

The progressive involvement of youth in acts of extreme violence desensitizes them to suffering. In a number of cases, young people have been deliberately exposed to horrific scenes. Such experience makes children more likely to commit violent acts themselves and may contribute to a break with society. In many countries, including Afghanistan, Mozambique, Colombia and Nicaragua, children have even been forced to commit atrocities against their own families or communities (UN, 2002) .

As one rebel commander in the D.R. Congo declared: for the child soldiers, being immature may lead them to take excessive risks. *"Children make good fighters because they're young and want to show off. They think it's all a game, so they're fearless; they're very good at getting information. You can send them across enemy lines and nobody suspects them because they're so young."*(Francoise J. **1999**). Apart from being fearless they also think less at the extent that they shut as they want on civil population without any hesitation as we have experienced since 1996 up to nowadays.

The district of Bukavu is undergoing a problem of poor investment, poor production and insecurity which is a result of two mains related reasons namely: poor political system and insecurity caused by deserters and former child soldiers who failed their integration. Poor integration former child soldiers in the society of Bukavu has created opened doors to different small groups of bandits actually manipulated and used by anyone who want to disrupt the social and political situation which in turn has its backlashes on economic development of Bukavu.

### **2.4.1 The effects of child soldiers on social and economic development of Bukavu**

According to the National Program of Disarmament demobilisation and re-integration (PNDDR, 2005), DRC has met two main wars (1996 and 2004) and many and consecutives ethnic conflicts which have disturbed its process of development at different levels. The situation of war and political instability or conflicts has destroyed several of its economic and social infrastructures. Children, boys and girls have been recruited in armed forces or groups. That environment of children recruitment in different armed groups was characterized by permanent and chronic insecurity whereby the community self defence has been seen and justified the existence of permanent local milices.

### **2.4.2 Children and sustainable development**

According to United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF), Invest in Children advances sustainable development. Investing in children is a crucial way to advance sustainable development. *"Ensuring the rights and well-being of children is the key to sustained development in a country and to peace and security in the world,"* says Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF. Meeting this responsibility, fully, consistently and at any cost, is the essence of leadership. Heads of State and Government hold the lion's share of this responsibility but commitment and action are also called for across the board.

Sustainable development compels us to preserve the planet for our children while harnessing its resources. But poverty of income, health, education and natural resources stands in the way. As a formidable

enemy of both the well-being of children and the health of the planet, poverty must be eradicated. Children are the future. Our actions today will determine their world of tomorrow. We must overcome the challenges to sustainable development not only for our children but also with our children (UNICEF, 2001). The United Nation Special Session on Children, held in New York from 8 May through 10 May 2002, recognised that what is good for Children is good for the World.

### **2.5 Mitigation of the effects of armed conflicts on children and Sustainable Development.**

According to UNICEF, Children are the future. Our action today will determine their world of tomorrow. We must overcome the challenges to sustainable development not only for our children but also with our children. Sustainable development compels us to preserve the planet for our children while harnessing its resources. Ensuring the rights and well-being of children is the key to sustained development in a country and to peace and security in the world, says Carol Bellamy, Executive Director of UNICEF (2002). Antony Bloomberg, Unicef representative in DRC (2007), believes that protecting children from violence, exploitation and abuse is an integral component of protecting their rights to survival, growth and development. Meeting this responsibility, fully, consistently and at any cost, is the essence of leadership. Heads of State and Government hold the lion's share of this responsibility but commitment and action are also called for across the board.

The problem of child soldier's salvation requires a global responsibility. By global responsibility the coalition indicates that the Optional Protocol

embraces values of global responsibility that promote the universality of human rights. Neither victim nor perpetrator of serious abuses of human rights should be considered outside the sphere of moral and legal concern regardless of where those abuses have taken place. Building on other human rights treaties, the Optional Protocol requires state parties to commit resources, energies and political will to a recovery and rehabilitation agenda for former child soldiers and to ensure accountability for those who recruit and use children in hostilities. That agenda encompasses responsive and responsible asylum procedures, international assistance to and co-operation with countries where children have been active participants in armed conflict, and the establishment of robust legal protections against the recruitment of children and their use in hostilities (Coalition, 2009).

According to WatchList a call to all parties to conflict in DRC to immediately halt abuses against children and uphold all international obligations to protect children's security and rights must be done. The international community, particularly the UN Security Council, should work vigorously to ensure the end of abuses against Congolese children and adolescents. This includes abuses committed by all parties to conflict and international personnel stationed in DRC. To this end, the UN Security Council must press for special attention to the security and rights of children in peace negotiations, an end to impunity for crimes against children and support for programs and policies to protect and improve the lives of Congolese children, even as the conflict continues.

Moreover, based on the definition of the child in the Convention on the Rights of Children adopted in 1990 and its Optional Protocol, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child places obligations on State Parties to "*take all necessary measures to ensure that no child under 18 shall take a direct part in hostilities*", which allows children under the age of eighteen to be involved in support functions. However, it further provides that States Parties shall "*refrain in particular, from recruiting any child*," which should be read to include both voluntary recruitment and compulsory recruitment. This would therefore render the involvement of children under the age of eighteen less likely in the support functions to which they are technically allowed to participate. Furthermore, as the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is a human rights treaty, the prohibition on recruitment applies during times of peace as in times of conflict (Human Rights Network Uganda, 2000).

### **2.5.1 Disarmament Demobilization and re-integration (DDR) of child soldiers in the society**

According to UN (2002), one of the most urgent priorities is to remove everyone under 18 years of age from armed forces. No peace treaty to date has formally recognized the existence of child combatants. As a result, their special needs are unlikely to be taken into account in demobilization programmes. In Mozambique, for example, where recruitment of children was well known, child soldiers were not recognized in demobilization efforts by the Resistencial Nacional de Moc'ambique (RENAMO), the Government or the international community. Official acknowledgement of children's part in a war is a vital step. Peace

agreements and related documents should incorporate provisions for the demobilization of children; without this recognition, there can be no effective planning or programming on a national scale.

The process of reintegration must help children to establish new foundations in life based on their individual capacities. Former child soldiers have grown up away from their families and have been deprived of many of the normal opportunities for physical, emotional and intellectual development. As article 39 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child emphasizes, recovery and reintegration should take place in an environment that fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child.

Reintegration programmes must re-establish contact with the family and the community. Even children who are successfully reunited with their families, however, have little prospect of smoothly taking up life as it was before. A formerly cheerful 12-year-old may return home as a sullen 16-year-old who feels newly assertive and independent. Reunification may be particularly difficult for girl soldiers who have been raped or sexually abused, in part because cultural beliefs and attitudes can make it very difficult for them to stay with their families or to have any prospects of marriage. With so few alternatives, many children have eventually become victims of prostitution.

In many cases, reunification is impossible. Families may have perished in the conflict or may be untraceable. For some children, a transitional period of collective care may be necessary. Institutional approaches have proven ineffective, but one way to provide such care is through peer-group living arrangements that are strongly integrated into communities.

Effective social reintegration depends upon support from families and communities. But families are also worn down by conflict, both physically and emotionally, and face increased impoverishment.

The field visits and research for the present report repeatedly stressed the importance of links between education, vocational opportunities for former child combatants and the economic security of their families. These are most often the determinants of successful social reintegration and, importantly, they are the factors that prevent re-recruitment.

Education, and especially the completion of primary schooling, must be a high priority. For a former child soldier, education is more than a route to employment. It also helps to normalize life and to develop an identity separate from that of the soldier. The development of peer relationships and improved self-esteem may also be facilitated through recreational and cultural activities. A difficulty to be faced is the likelihood that former combatants may have fallen far behind in their schooling, and may be placed in classes with much younger children. Specific measures may be required, such as establishing special classes for former child soldiers who can then progressively be reintegrated into regular schools.

Hence, promotion of sustainability development, requires that abuses against children must end, this means to immediately halt all violations against the security and rights of children. Comply with all signed agreements and uphold international humanitarian law and international human rights law, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Child victims and witnesses should be treated with dignity and compassion in a caring and sensitive manner throughout the justice process, taking

into account their personal situation and immediate needs, age, gender, disability and level of maturity and fully respecting their physical, mental and moral integrity.

### **2.5.2 Preventing Future recruitment**

Many practical steps are to be taken to prevent future recruitment of child soldiers. Recruitment and use of children for combat is outlawed by various measures of international human rights law, humanitarian law, labour law and criminal law but a chasm exists between these standards and their application. Hence, the Governments should work for the finalisation and rapid adoption of the draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflicts. Next, Governments must pay much closer attention to their methods of recruitment, and in particular, they must renounce the practice of forced recruitment. They should ensure that all children are registered at birth and receive documentation of age. To be certain that these measures succeed, Governments must establish effective monitoring systems and back them up with legal remedies and institutions that are sufficiently strong to tackle abuses (UN, 2002).

The recruitment of children can be minimized if local communities are aware of national and international laws governing the age of recruitment and if they are sufficiently organized and determined. In El Salvador, Guatemala and Paraguay, ethnic groups and the mothers of child soldiers have formed organizations to pressure authorities for the release of under-age soldiers. NGOs, religious groups and civil society in general have important roles in establishing ethical frameworks that characterize

children's participation in armed conflicts as unacceptable. In Peru, it has been reported that forced recruitment drives have declined in areas where parish churches have denounced the activity. Another important preventive measure is the active and early documentation and tracing of unaccompanied children.

The United Nations and other international organizations also have important roles in reporting child conscription, raising the issue with those in authority and supporting local groups in their work for the release of children. In Myanmar, protests from aid agencies led to the return of men and boys who had been forcibly recruited from a refugee camp.

Further, United Nations (2002) suggests that armed opposition groups are less amenable to external or formal pressure than government-sponsored armies. Even with such groups, however, Governments and international organizations can exert influence. When Governments ratify the international humanitarian conventions that apply to internal conflicts, then international law holds all armed groups within those countries accountable. In Sudan, humanitarian organizations have negotiated agreements with rebel groups to prevent the recruitment of children. The human rights component within the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) supported local groups investigating complaints of forced recruitment of minors and raised the issue with authorities. In many cases, United Nations intervention secured the release of the minors involved.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter deals with the methods that have been used in gathering the needed data and the data analysis techniques that was used in order to come up with the findings. Therefore, various approaches were used to conduct this study. It further discusses the research design, the sampling procedure, the sample, the research data collection instruments, and the data analysis techniques.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The research design that was adopted in this study was a case study research design. The case study was used because it had the possibility of bringing the research to an understanding of a complex issue of objects and extended our experience or added strength to what is already known through previous research. Case studies emphasize detailed contextual analysis of a limited number of events and their relationship. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods were used.

The relationship between Children and armed forces/groups was evaluated, using documentation, discussion and questionnaires in all Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working with child soldiers in Bukavu district like UNICEF, War Child, UEPN-DDR, LAV...To get information about the impact of armed groups or forces, former child soldiers themselves were deeply interviewed. This justifies the use of qualitative method since much of the data was descriptive and explanatory. The quantitative

approach was helpful to generate empirical data to fill the gaps for the information that was left out during the qualitative approach.

### **3.2 Research Population**

The study was conducted in Bukavu as the specific area chosen by the researcher and different organizations working with child soldiers, former child soldiers, and the local community of Bukavu were selected as the research population of the study.

### **3.3 Sample Size**

The sample size was 10 NGOs selected from 10 populations as suggested by R.V.Krejcie and D.W.Morgan (1970) in the matter concerning the determination of sample size for research activities. According to them a simple size of ten is required for a population size of ten (M. E. Amin, 2005). Interviews were conducted on 24 child soldiers met accidentally as indicated in the sample selection.

### **3.4 Sample Selection**

The sample selection or study population was purposely selected. The researcher used purposive or judgmental sampling basing on his common sense regarding the participant from whom information may be collected. Information was collected therefore from all NGOs working for the protection of children rights and especially with child soldiers, and government's institutions. Other respondents were accidentally selected. This convenience sampling or accidental and haphazard sampling was used to gather information from former child soldiers who were available

at the moment of data collection in view of the difficulty to reach all former child soldiers who are scattered.

### **3.5 Research Instruments**

Both quantitative and qualitative research methods were used during the study. For purposes of validity data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. Secondary information was gathered from the available literature. This involve reviewing numerous documents like textbooks, journals, national and international policy documents, reports, articles and bulletins containing relevant information. Primary data was collected using self administered questionnaires, in-depth interviews, discussions, observation of people and phenomenon and documentary review.

#### **3.5.1 Documentation**

Under this instrument, data was gathered from district NGOs records. These flowed from UENP-DDR house records, UNICEF, War Child records, Laissez l'Afrique Vivre (LAV), GAM, GAV, PRODES, the Ministry of social affairs records and reports on child soldiers in the district. Others were pertained from individual human rights for children advocates and child soldier's bibliography.

#### **3.5.2 In-depth Interviews**

The in-depth interview was used in trying to obtain information from former child soldiers. The interview guide helped to collect data from respondents (child soldiers) basing on their life before they join armies and their experience in and after the military life.

### **3.5.3 Questionnaire**

Questionnaire was helpful to the researcher in gathering written information about the problem faced by child soldiers in military services, the attitudes of child soldiers towards DDR process, how the enrollment of Children in armed forces has affected development in Bukavu and about how to halt the use of child soldiers and lastly on the mitigation of child soldiers impact on sustainable development in Bukavu. The questionnaire was short, precise, and was filled by responsible of NGOs heads of department of child soldiers. These were NGOs; civil Societies; and National Institutions working with child soldiers.

### **3.5.4 Observation**

This was also used by the researcher to observe the behaviors of former child soldiers in local population, after demobilization and reintegration and the attitudes of local population towards former child soldiers by using personal intuition from what has been heard and said. This observation study was helpful to comprehend complex issues through direct observation and then if possible ask question to seek clarification on certain issues. The data reached the uncontaminated by self report biases.

### **3.5.5 Discussion**

This instrument played a role of gathering more information from heads of department of child soldier's organizations and helped to avoid disadvantages of open-ended questionnaire. Discussion accompanied the distribution or submission or the recovery of the written questionnaire with heads of department of child soldiers in every organization.

### **3.6 Validity and Reliability**

Since it was invalid to make a pre-test of a total simple size of ten population which could give one population as 10% of the sample, for the researcher to establish the reliability of the questionnaires and interview schedules, the method of expert judgement was used as it is recommended by Gay (1992) as the best method for reliability as its determined by (Kimbowa, 2006). To affect this after constructing the questionnaire and interview schedules, the supervisor was contacted by a researcher and other two expert's people and 2 statisticians to ensure the reliability and the validity of the research instruments. After the consultations, the researcher made the necessary adjustment to ensure that the questionnaire and interview schedules were made to the advice of the experts. That is, it was made more clearly, relevant, specific and logically arranged.

### **3.7 Data Gathering Procedure**

During the research, questionnaire papers was distributed to different organizations working with child soldiers and were collected after being filled. Ten (10) questionnaires were distributed in general to the 10 organisations as sample of the targeted population of the study, but only nine questionnaires were returned to the researcher. One organisation (organisation) did not respond as the head of department was in short break for a week and did not respond.

This questionnaire was with one format to all bodies, organisation and associations as actors involved and needed to provide the researcher with good information on matter of child soldiers and sustainable development

implementation at Bukavu district. The study was conducted then in Non Government Organisation like (NGOs) like Unicef, Warchild, LAV ( Laissez l'Afrique Vivre), CBOs like GAV ( Groupe d'Appuit aux personnes Vulnérable), GAM (Groupe d'assintsnce aux Marginalises, PRODES ( Programme de Developpement Social), SOFADE ( Solidarite de Familles pour le Developpement and National Organisations or Institutions like the Division of Social Affaires and UENP-DDR ( Union pour l'Execution du Programme National pour le Desarmement, Demobilisation et Re-integration. These organisations were attracted our attention for being involved in all activities concerning children rights protection and promotion and especially child soldiers in activities like DDR, Monitoring, Advocacy, community and children sensitisation, transit centres, social economic support of child soldiers. These organisations have contributed much in child soldiers DDR in mitigating its impact on development in the area of the study. In addition to this, discussions were conducted with heads of departments of child soldiers in every organisation; interviews were done with former child soldiers in different areas and organizations where they could be available during the moment of data collection.

### **3.8 Data Analysis**

Qualitative data or information obtained from interviews and discussions was compiled, and edited and as themes or statements used to support findings from the questionnaires. Data obtained from the questionnaires was entered into a computer using statistical packages for social scientists (SPSS 10) computer program for quantitative analysis. This data was transformed into frequencies and percentages so that more meaning

could be attached to it. The results were presented in tabular, graphical (figures) and chart according to the different themes or sections of study.

### **3.9 Ethical consideration**

A letter of introduction from University was obtained in order to enable the researcher collect data from the organizations. Then permission was sought from the organization administrators to conduct the study. The researcher sought for consent from the respondents (the organization heads and the children) and assured them that information provided was to be handled confidentially and would not be used against them.

### **3.10 Limitations of the Study**

The researcher has faced a problem of inadequate finance which was overcome by seeking financial assistance from friends and relatives.

The phenomenon of child soldiers and its impact in Bukavu is not very much known by the local population and that caused a difficulty in assessing them. This was however tackled by seeking information from NGOs dealing with child soldiers and development in Bukavu.

Child soldiers in Bukavu are scattered and their phenomenon covers a long period and there was a difficulty to assess them. To overcome this limit, the researcher assessed those who could be available during the moment of data collection.

There was also a difficulty to collect information from armed groups. To tackle this, related information was collected from existing books and reports and from former child soldiers.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

#### 4.0 Overview

This chapter presents the findings collected using closed-ended questionnaire from the study in tables, charts and figures; analysis and interpretation of the findings is done in relation to the research question as follow:

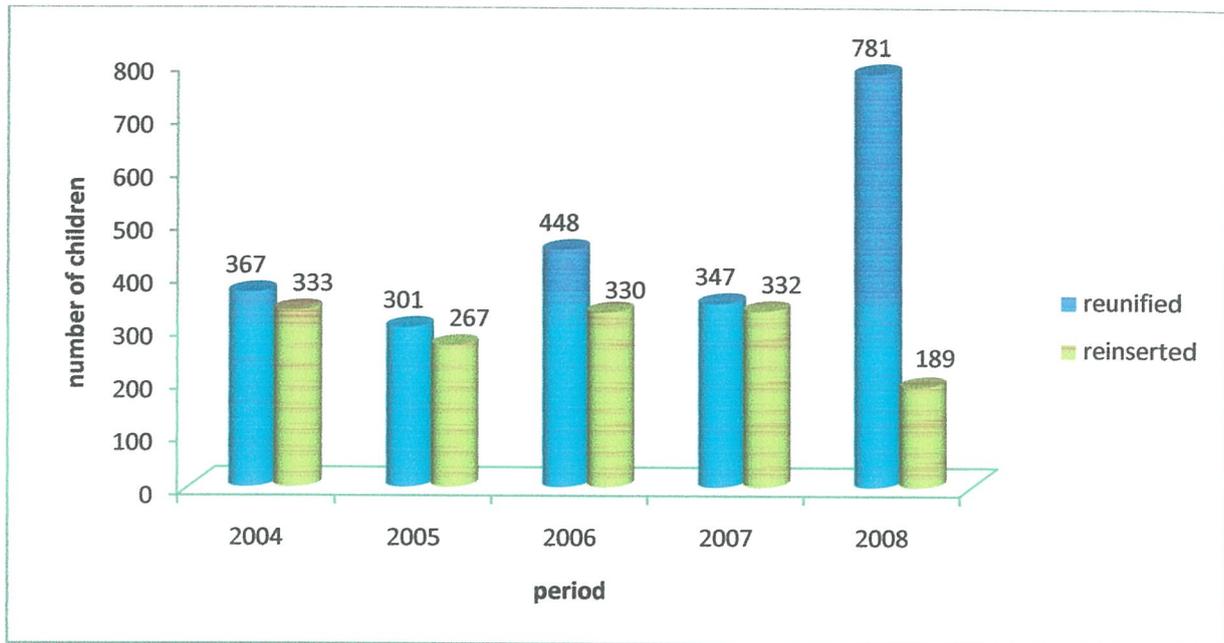
1. What is the impact of armed groups or forces on children?
2. What is the impact of the use of child soldiers on sustainable development in Bukavu?
3. What are the possible ways to halt or to stop the use of child soldiers and its impact on development for the sustainability of development?

Ten organisations involved in child soldier's rehabilitation were selected, however only 9 responded. Therefore this chapter presents results from the 9 organisations.

#### **4.1 Children involved in armed forces/groups during the of 2003 - 2008**

All the nine (9) organisations indicated having recorded cases of child soldiers being used in armed forces or groups during the period of 2003 to 2008 in Bukavu district.

**Figure 1: showing the number of child soldiers reunified and reinserted in Bukavu during the period 2003-2008**



**Source: UNICEF Bukavu**

**Reunified:** refers to the former child soldier whose tracing was successful and has reintegrated the family as his process of reinsertion is still ongoing.

**Reinserted:** refers to the former child soldier found in the community and has a certain place in the community which allows him to play an active role to re-establish his essential relations for his development.

The figure shows that much as the child soldiers have been reunified, few have been reinserted (fitting in their respective communities). It still

remains a challenge to make the child soldiers fit comfortably in their societies.

### **Age of child soldiers**

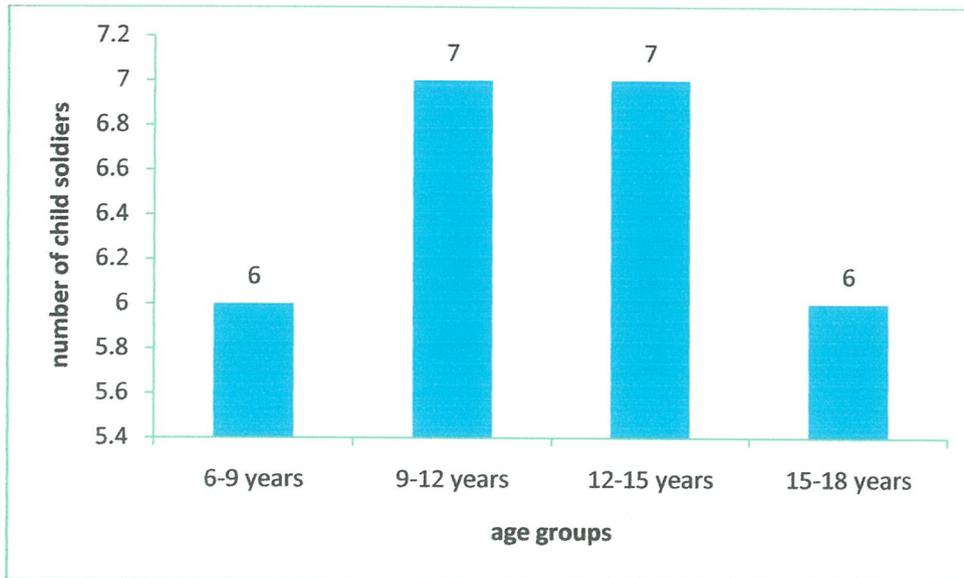
**Table 1: showing the age of child soldiers**

	Minimum	Maximum
Age of child soldiers in years	6	17

Source: **Primary data**

The findings revealed that the minimum age of the children recruited in military activities was 6 years and the maximum as 17 years.

**Figure 2: showing the age groups of child soldiers (multiple-response)**

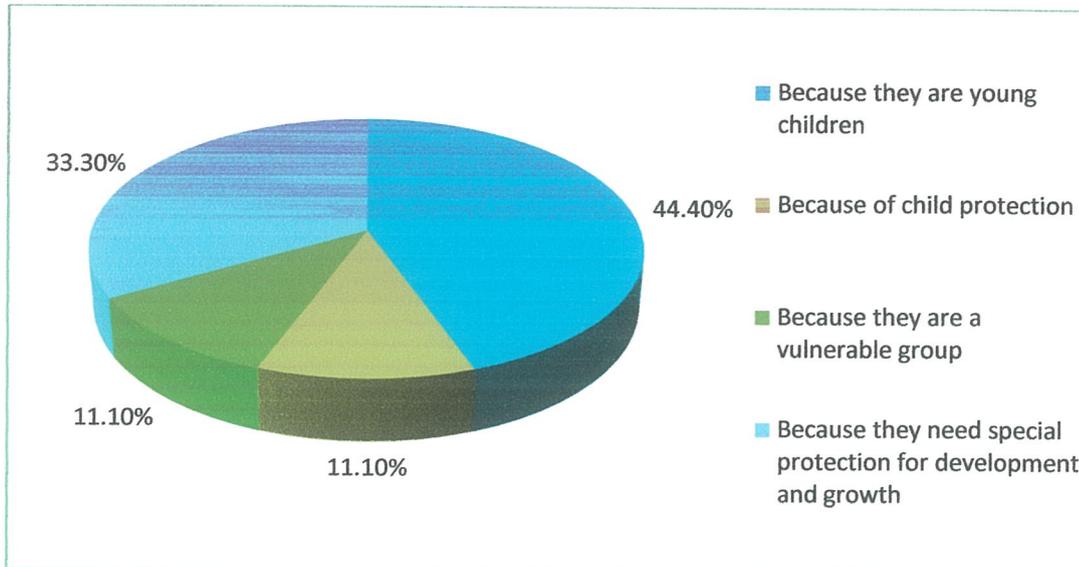


Source: **Primary data**

Figure 2 shows that most of the children recruited are in the age groups 12-15 years and 9-12 years. The age groups 6-9 years and 15-18 years are also equally targeted.

Children in the age group 10-15 years are considered to be capable of participating in fighting, the reason why they are targeted most. Above 15 years, children are mature and clever and can make their own choice to join or not. At times they can join willingly may be because poverty and frustration. On the other hand, children in the age group 6-9 years are still young and not schooling and even from marginalised families. This implies that they are less protected by their families; they are then idle and moving all over the streets which increases their risk of being abducted.

**Figure 3: showing why particular accent was put on child soldiers (n=9)**



Source: **Primary data**

The figure indicates that particular accent was put on child soldiers mainly because they are young (44.4%), 33.3% because they need special protection for development and growth, and 11.1% because of either child protection or being a vulnerable group.

Young children are weak intellectually and morally that they cannot participate in hostilities or simply in armed forces/groups. They are not yet able to undertake and support work as hard as militia activities. This is in support of UN 2002 report on children which indicated that once recruited as soldiers, children generally receive much the same treatment as adults including the often brutal induction ceremonies. Many start out in support functions which entail great risk and hardship such as carrying very heavy

loads of up to 60 kilograms including ammunition or injured soldiers. Children who are too weak to carry their loads are liable to be savagely beaten or even shot.

Therefore these children need special protection for development and growth because they are a vulnerable group.

#### **4.2 The impact of armed conflicts on children**

Armed conflicts have diverse impacts on the children who are involved in. The impacts are experienced during the military or after or even during the rest of their lives. The study explored these impacts by ascertaining the problems faced by child soldiers during military services, the consequences on the rest of the children's life, and the challenges during the DDR process.

##### **4.2.1 Difficulties met by child soldiers during military services**

During armed conflicts children are recruited and used as child soldiers as young as they are. They are used for different purposes and in different ways that they face many diverse problems which make them more vulnerable than they were.

**Table 2: showing the difficulties met by child soldiers during military services**

Problems faced		SA	A	D	Total
Face problem of diseases (HIV, Malaria,...) during military life	Freq	6	3		9
	Percent	66.7	33.3		100.0

Most of them die on battles during war time	Freq	6	3		9
	Percent	66.7	33.3		100.0
They are sexually abused	Freq	9			9
	Percent	100.0			100.0
They face problem of physical handicap	Freq	6	3		9
	Percent	66.7	33.3		100.0
They contract marriage at young age	Freq	4	4		8
	Percent	50.0	50.0		100.0
They use drugs and other narcotics	Freq	9			9
	Percent	100.0			100.0
They are used to criminal acts or slaughter acts	Freq	9			9
	Percent	100.0			100.0
Failure in their education process	Freq	7	2		9
	Percent	77.8	22.2		100.0
Most of them are used to aggressiveness and bandits acts	Freq	6	3		9
	Percent	66.7	33.3		100.0

Source: **Primary data**

Note: (SA=strongly agree, A=Agree, D=Disagree)

Table 2 shows that child soldiers face problem of diseases such as HIV/AIDS AND Malaria during military life as revealed by 66.7% who strongly agreed and 33.3% that agreed. Such diseases are common more especially HIV/AIDS where these child soldiers are sexually abused. They are at a very high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS from their seniors who are already infected. The findings reveal that all strongly agreed that child soldiers are sexually abused. Similarly all respondents strongly agreed that

child soldiers get used drugs and other narcotics, get used to criminal acts or slaughter acts.

Most of the child soldiers die on battles during war time, get used to aggressiveness and bandits acts, and face problem of physical handicap in which cases 66.6% strongly agreed and 33.3% agreed.

77.7% of the respondents strongly agreed and 22.2% agreed that child soldiers face a problem of failure in their education process while an equal proportion strongly agreed and agreed (50% in each case ) that they contract marriage at young age. This is because they are forced into marriages especially girls to the senior rebels against their will.

#### **4.2.2 Consequences of these Difficulties on the rest of the life of a child soldier**

Child soldiers face many problems when serving armies. These problems are either physically or mentally by nature and constitute in turn real challenges on the rest of their life. Child soldiers during war time are shot and die; others are physically or mentally handicapped, but still others are abused sexually, traumatized, doped, and contract diseases while others become aggressive and violent and many other disruptions. These disrupt them therefore at all levels and their life is likely to fail in case of lack of sustainable assistance or actions to mitigate these problems.

**Table 3: showing the negatives consequences of the problems met by child soldiers on the rest of their life**

Consequences		SA	A	D	Total
Poor health due to diseases after rehabilitation	Freq	3	6		9
	Percent	33.3	66.7		100.0
Death in case of poor assistance after DDR	Freq	3	6		9
	Percent	33.3	66.7		100.0
Aggressiveness culture after DDR	Freq	7	1		8
	Percent	87.5	12.5		100.0
Precocious responsibility( former child soldiers are condemned to take care of their own families)	Freq	1	2	4	7
	Percent	14.3	28.6	57.1	100.0
They are poorly educated	Freq	9			9
	Percent	100.0			100.0
Hard adaptation in civil society if not totally failing	Freq	5	3		8
	Percent	37.5	62.5		100.0
Most of them are traumatized and have psychological problems	Freq	8	1		9
	Percent	88.9	11.1		100.0
They are used to gratuitousness culture or habit of easy gain	Freq	2	2	2	6
	Percent	33.3	33.3	33.3	100.0
Failure to integrate and adapt in social life or community life	Freq	4	5		9
	Percent	44.4	55.6		100.0
Some of them have become physically and mentally handicapped	Freq	5	4		9
	Percent	55.6	44.4		100.0

Source: **Primary data**

Note: (SA=strongly agree, A=Agree, D=Disagree)

Table 3 indicates that all the respondents believed (strongly agreed and agreed) that child soldiers face consequences of poor health due to diseases after rehabilitation, at times death in case of poor assistance after DDR, aggressiveness culture after DDR.

All the respondents strongly agreed that child soldiers are poorly educated as a consequence while all believed (strongly agreed and agreed) that they find it hard to adapt in civil society if not totally failing and that most of them are traumatized and have psychological problems. Further the child soldiers usually fail to integrate and adapt in social life or community life and some of them have become physically and mentally handicapped.

More than half (57.1%) disagreed to the statement that child soldiers face consequences of precocious responsibility (where former child soldiers are condemned to take care of their own families) while the rest either strongly agreed or agreed. A third of the respondents disagreed that child soldiers are used to gratuitousness culture or habit of easy gain while an equal portion agreed and strongly agreed.

#### **4.4.3 Challenges faced during integration process**

The study revealed that all the organizations involved in child soldier rehabilitation face particular challenges when trying to integrate the child soldiers into the civil life or in the community. The particular challenges are a number and the study moved ahead to establish what these challenges are as indicated in table 4.

**Table 4: showing the challenges faced by organizations when trying to integrate the child soldiers into the civil life or in the community**

<b>Particular challenges faced by organizations when integrating children</b>		<b>SA</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>Total</b>
Changes in the way of living ( pretend to be old and adult)	Freq	4	4			8
	Percent	50.0	50.0			100.0
Difficulty for former child soldiers to start and complete a program of studies	Freq	5	4			9
	Percent	55.6	44.4			100.0
The will of former child soldier to return back to armies or join streets	Freq	5	4			9
	Percent	55.6	44.4			100.0
Attitude of independency ( they do not want to be controlled of guided)	Freq	2	7			9
	Percent	22.2	77.8			100.0
Used to easy life ( they want to get things easily even freely	Freq	3	6			9
	Percent	33.3	66.7			100.0
Developed love of money that they want to get even without working	Freq	6	3			9
	Percent	66.7	33.3			100.0
Use of violence as a mean to make life	Freq	8	1			9
	Percent	88.9	11.1			100.0
Stubbornness and obstinacy	Freq	6	3			9
	Percent	66.7	33.3			100.0
Lost of brotherhood or fraternity and social cohesion	Freq	1	6	1	1	9
	Percent	11.1	66.7	11.1	11.1	100.0
Used to drugs and other narcotics	Freq	8	1			9

	Percent	88.9	11.1			100.0
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Source: **Primary data**

Note: (SA=strongly agree, A=Agree, D=Disagree, SD=strongly disagree)

Table 4 indicates that organizations face challenges with the children's behavior. The study reveals that the children change in the way of living (they pretend to be old and adult) and thus feel can direct themselves. They develop an attitude of independency (they do not want to be controlled or guided).

The child soldiers lose the spirit of brotherhood or fraternity and social cohesion which may be because of use of drugs and other narcotics, having spent long time away from their families and living under abnormal conditions, stubbornness and obstinacy and as a result child soldiers find it difficult to start and complete a program of studies.

The child soldiers are used to easy life (they want to get things easily even freely) and develop love for money that they want to get even without working and end up using violence as a means of getting the money and way of making life.

From the researcher's observation, many former child soldiers or ex-soldiers demobilised in Bukavu D.R. Congo have become socially maladjusted in a normal daily life. For some of them, this is due to a high level of traumatism and drug consumed, others because of the acts of vandalism and barbarity encountered during their past adventure in military life, and still others to whom, a military life had become a normal life, and did not want to leave the army despite their immaturity.

The findings show that all the organizations face the challenge of former child soldier willing to return to armies or join streets where they are not under somebody's control. They therefore express their will to rejoin the army by their acts of vandalism or brutality and their will to hold the weapon illegally, which engender insecurity in South Kivu/Bukavu and undermines development.

#### **4.2.4 Attitude of child soldiers towards DDR process**

The DDR as a process of disarming, demobilising and reinserting child soldiers is a national program to take out all child soldiers participating in armed forces/groups. Child soldiers as indicated by its definition participate either actively in hostilities or used as carriers, cooks, spies, wives and for other many purposes. Once recruited and used to these different activities, in addition to ideologies and instructions from their recruiters end up by changing their ways of perceiving things and therefore get different attitudes towards the DDR process. However, not only that ideologies and instructions change their perception but also their attitudes depend much on the motivation of each of them to join the armed forces/group.

**Figure 4: showing the attitudes of child soldiers toward DDR process (n=8)**

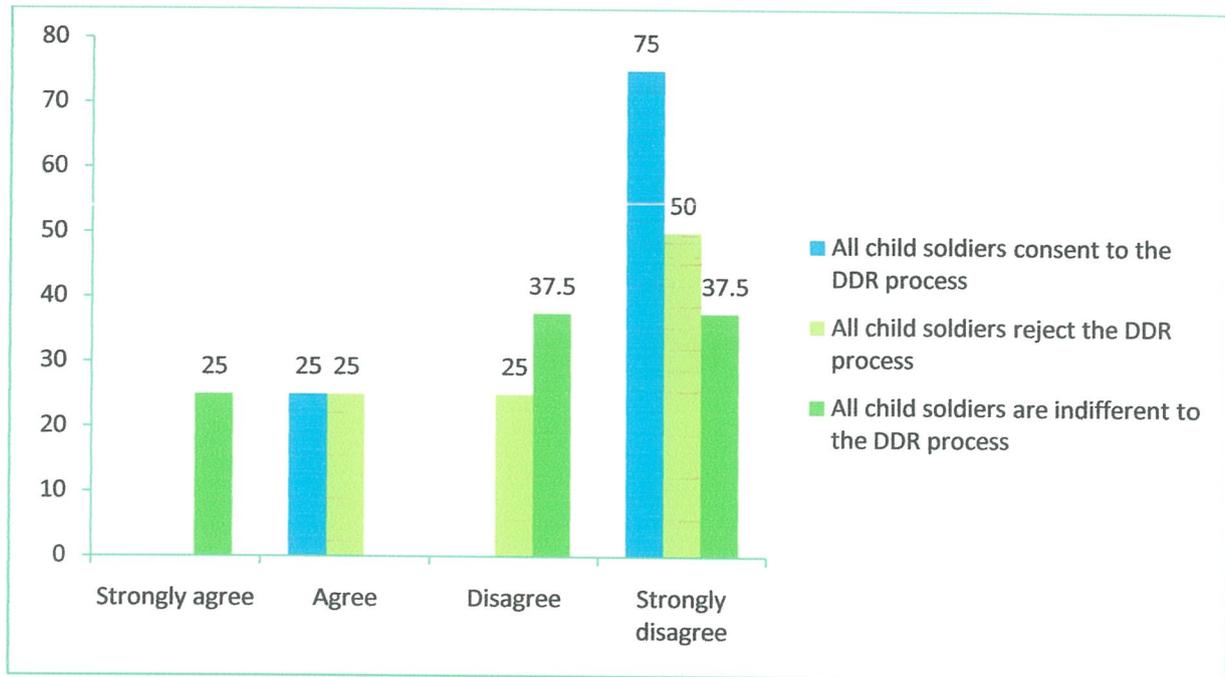
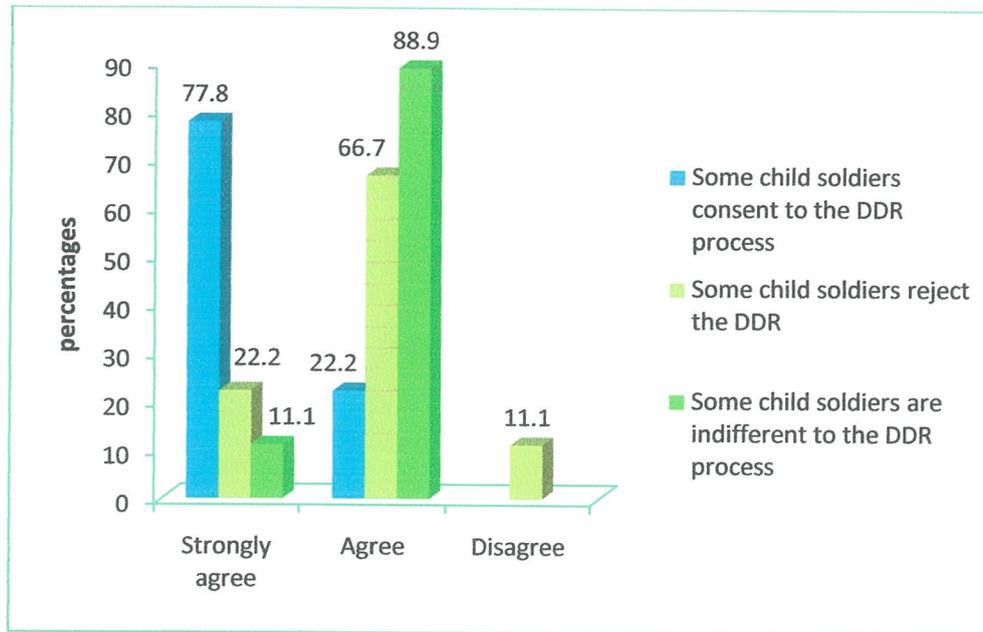


Figure 4 shows that 75% of the respondents strongly disagree that all child soldiers consent to the DDR process while 75% only agree and, 75% disagree that all child soldiers reject it.

**Figure 5: showing the attitudes of child soldiers towards DDR process (n=9)**



Source: **Primary data**

The figure indicates that all respondents believed (strongly agree and agree) that some child soldiers consent to the DDR process and that some are indifferent, however 88.9% believed that some child soldiers reject the process of DDR

#### **4.2.5 Reason why child soldiers behave differently or have different attitudes vis a vis the DDR process.**

Attitudes of child soldiers vary from one child soldier to another depending on his or her motivation to join armed forces/groups. Recruitment of child soldiers takes different ways. Some child soldiers are conscripted, others

are forced and others join deliberately. These three ways may justify their different attitudes towards DDR process. The three main attitudes are:

- Children who consent to the DDR process
- Children who reject DDR process
- Children who are indifferent towards DDR process.

Reasons are therefore analysed and interpreted according to these three main attitudes.

**Table 5: showing reasons why child soldiers adopt different attitudes towards DDR process**

Reasons		SA	A	D	Total
Child Soldiers reject DDR because of fear to be judged and punished for their acts	Freq	5	3	1	9
	Percent	55.6	33.3	11.1	100.0
They refuse DDR because they join army deliberately	Freq	6	3		9
	Percent	66.7	33.3		100.0
Child soldiers refuse DDR because they were sent in by their parents to defend their families	Freq	1	5	3	9
	Percent	11.1	55.6	33.3	100.0
Child soldiers avoid DDR because they have been victims of many abuses especially girls then they fear to be ashamed and disgraced	Freq	7	1		8
	Percent	87.5	12.5		100.0
They deny DDR because they think they won't be able to integrate the society	Freq	4	4		8
	Percent	50.0	50.0		100.0
They keep memories of the small grant	Freq		7	2	9

they were getting	Percent		77.8	22.2	100.0
They ran away from DDR because of disappointment reported by other former child soldiers who rejoined armies after being disappointed and failing to integrate the community	Freq	6	3		9
	Percent	66.7	33.3		100.0
They believe they won't be welcomed and well thought in their respective families and communities, then they refuse DDR process	Freq	7	1	1	9
	Percent	77.8	11.1	11.1	100.0
Child soldiers accept willingly the DDR process because they were forcibly recruited	Freq	9			9
	Percent	100.0			100.0
They join deliberately the DDR process to flee the different abuses and atrocities that they undergo in armed forces/groups	Freq	9			9
	Percent	100.0			100.0
Child soldiers do not either reject or consent to DDR simply because they think have got a job and that to serve armies was another way of living despite their age	Freq	2	6	1	9
	Percent	22.2	66.7	11.1	100.0

Source: **Primary data**

Note: (SA=strongly agree, A=Agree, D=Disagree, SD=strongly disagree)

Table 5 indicates reasons why children show different attitudes towards the process of DDR. More than 75% of the respondents strongly agree that child soldiers join deliberately the DDR to flee the different abuses and atrocities.

Not all the children consent to the DDR process; some reject the process as indicated by 88.9% of the respondents. Child Soldiers reject DDR because of fear to be judged and punished for their acts. As one child soldier interviewed at Bukavu during the research period responded:

*"I was eleven years in 2003, when I was caught by free soldiers to carry their heavy sacs of foods. I wanted to run away but they forced me. I carried the things until we reached the forest. While moving, I was told that going to school was not better than fighting, that a young boy must defend his country; up to the extent that they did not allow me to go back home and it was in the heart of the forest. I met other young boys and girls like me. They started teaching us how to use a gun. All those enemies caught in ambush on battles were our teaching aids. We would shut in their heads, legs, and target their heart. We were shown how death was not a problem. Never be afraid of any person. The gun was all, that when you hold a gun with 32 bullets, you have hold the right of death or life of 100 persons. We have learnt how to kill and we have killed a big number of people in many villages when we were going to loot thing but also during war time. Now I am coming to eighteen years."*

Others avoid DDR because they have been victims of many abuses especially girls and they fear to be ashamed and disgraced. These cases of some girls' child soldiers at Bukavu /South Kivu and in many others provinces in DRC as it was reported by the coalition to stop the use of child soldiers (2007) support this assumption. According to this the Coalition, girls who were used in large number by armed forces/ groups and yet few of them were taken in account by the official process of DDR

and the majority was self demobilized for fear of stigmatization related to their association with armed forces/groups, and others abandoned in villages once impregnated.

Psychologically, these girls are extremely weakened; life becomes meaningless; there are others who were traumatized that they are closed to any external contact and become incapable of communication. Physically, due to a high level of violence they were subjected to, either by guns or piece of wood, these girl child soldiers have got their genital organs ripped or unproductive (sterile) and have developed fistula. And others have contracted sexually transmittable diseases such as HIV and others.

Most of these child soldiers have got child from rape and sexual violence.

Socially they no longer have their chance to get married in addition to their lack of education, and are considered as malediction in their natural communities. They are then rejected by their families, communities and societies. Thus, because of discrimination that they are victim, child soldiers reject DDR process in spite of their own wish.

Other children refuse DDR because they joined army deliberately while others because they were sent in by their parents to defend their families. To others, they deny DDR because they think they won't be able to integrate the society or because they believe they won't be welcomed and well thought of in their respective families and communities.

Furthermore, some child soldiers keep memories of the small grant they were getting while they were still in the army most especially when do not get that money in the society whereas others ran away from DDR because

of disappointment reported by other former child soldiers who rejoined armies after being disappointed and failing to integrate the community. Child soldier's recruiters mislead child soldiers to be hired on position of officers and leaders of others. Others were promised to be given a big sum of money which stay in child soldiers mind and retain them in armed forces/groups.

The findings indicate that all respondents believe child soldiers accept willingly and deliberately the DDR process because they were forcibly recruited and then they want to flee the different abuses and atrocities that they undergo in armed forces/groups.

In a discussion with one of the heads of departments in these different organizations dealing with former child soldiers, he revealed that *"The child soldiers who accept willingly and deliberately the DDR process are those who were forcibly recruited, teared out from school and did not want to join the armed forces/group. These are also child soldiers who were subjected to many atrocities and violence, like hard labors, hard trainings and other sufferings from different diseases and were forced to use drugs and narcotics without their own consent. Among these children we find other children disappointed with their seniors or commanders. Many child soldiers were deceived by their officers to get grades and hold post of commanders."*

Findings demonstrate that more 66% agree while only 22% strongly agree with the fact that some child soldiers are indifferent toward DDR simply because they think have got a job and that to serve armies was another way of living despite their age.

One head of department of child soldiers organizations, had this to say *".... some child soldiers who join deliberately and those sent in by their parents to defend their families remain indifferent toward DDR process simply because they believed had got a job and that serving the army was another way of doing life for children as they were motivated by their parents. In this category we find also children from poor, vulnerable and marginalized families, where children do not feel like fitting in the conditions of their own families. They therefore decide to leave their families and join armies seeking for favorable conditions of life."*

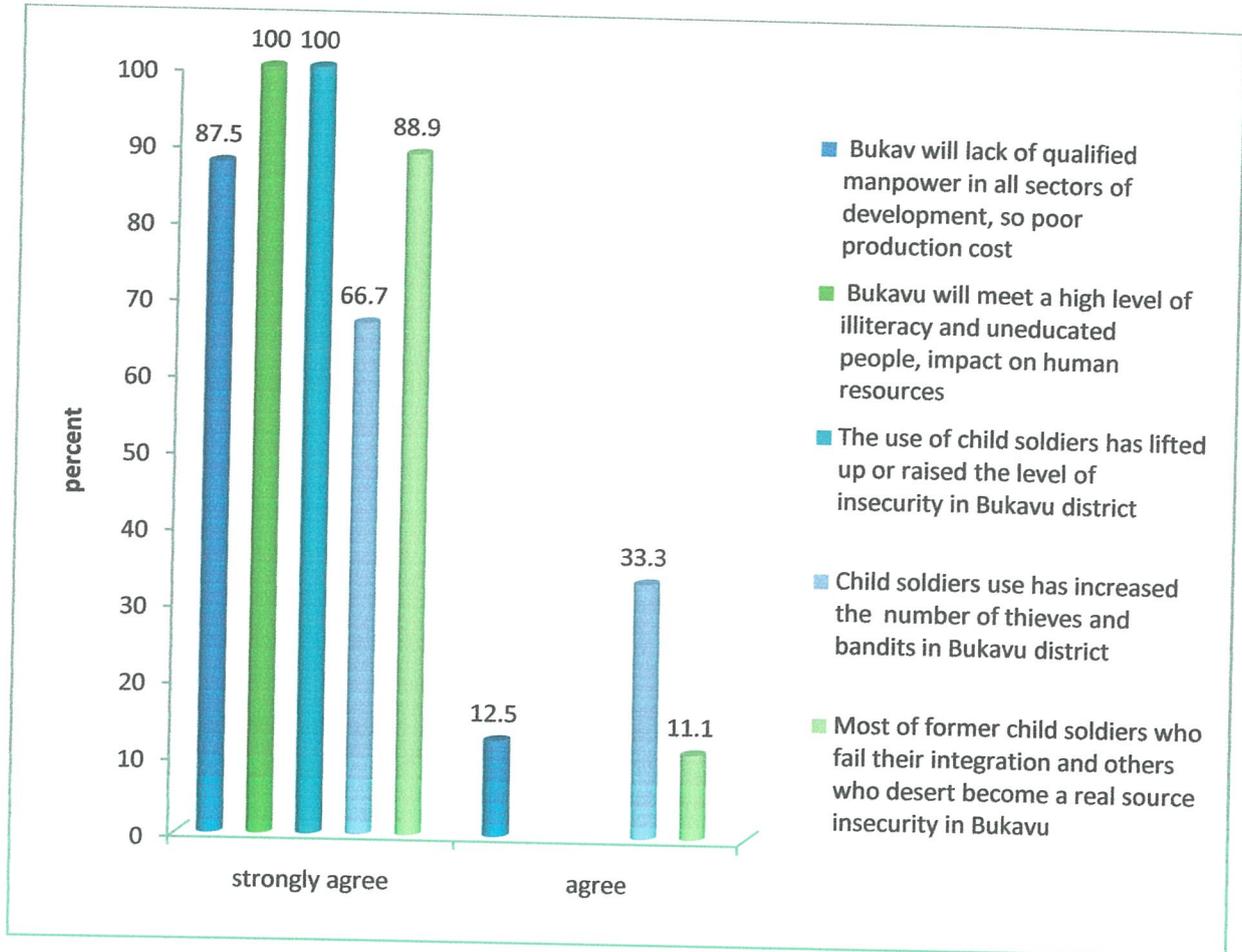
#### **4.3 The effects of child soldiers on sustainable development of Bukavu district**

Child soldier's utilisation presents real impact on sustainable development. These impacts can be immediate and long time after impacts. With child soldiers utilisation the community lose opportunities of investment in children. Most of them are abducted from school and this undermines their education which in turn have severe effects on the development process. As indicated by UNDP (2005), lost of opportunities for education are transmitted across generation in the form of illiteracy and reduced prospects for escaping poverty.

##### **4.3.1 Child soldier utilisation and sustainable development**

The use of children in armed forces/groups has a number of consequences or negative impacts on the sustainable development of the community. These impacts or consequences may be long time after the conflict, may be in a short or even immediately.

**Figure 6: showing the effects of child soldiers on sustainable development in Bukavu**



Source: **Primary data**

The figure indicates that all the respondents (100%) strongly agreed that Bukavu will meet a high level of illiteracy and uneducated people and that the use of child soldiers has lifted up or raised the level of insecurity in Bukavu district. High illiteracy levels are a huge impact on human resources and community development. In addition, the increased level of insecurity hampers sustainable development of the community.

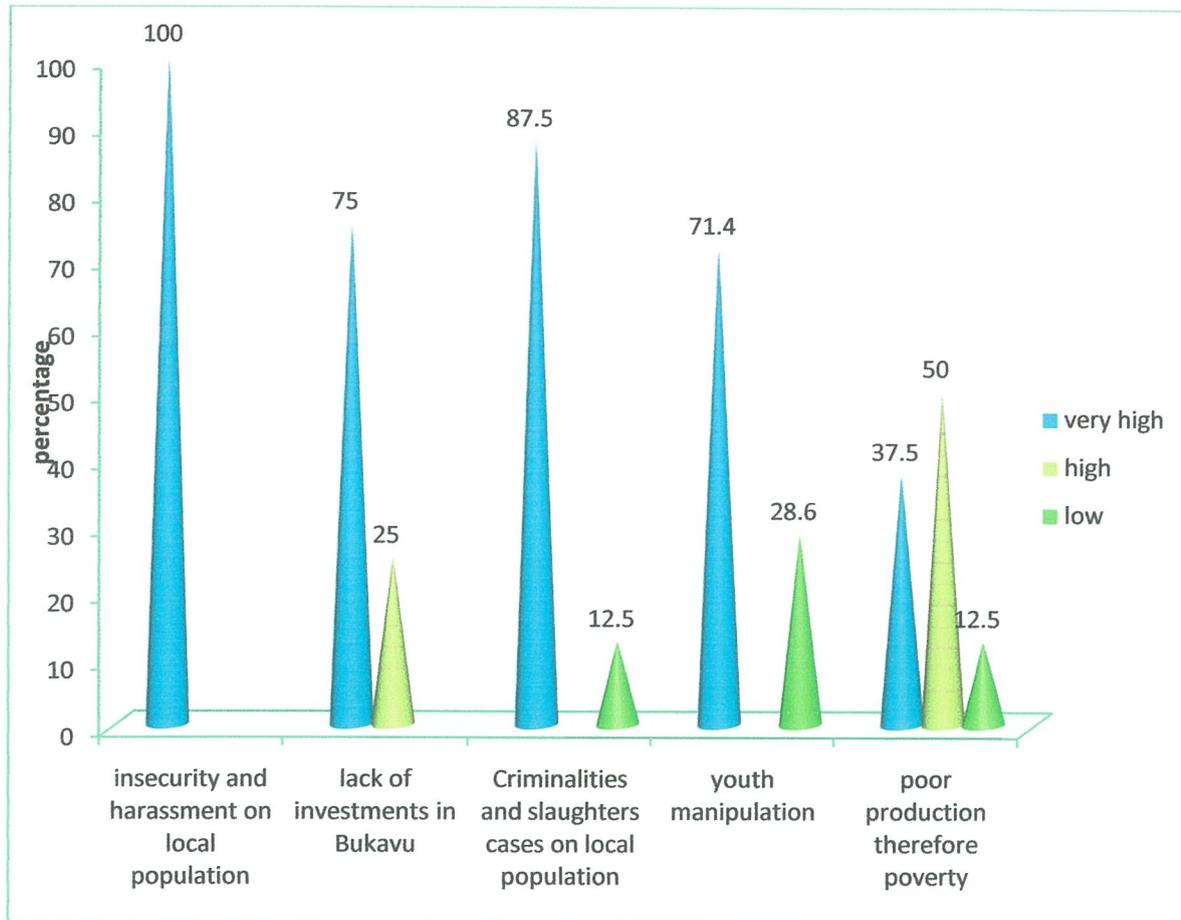
All believed (strongly agreed and agreed) that Bukavu will lack qualified manpower in all sectors of development thus poor production. This is because these child soldiers are not willing to go back to school and gain skills in production and so resort to being thieves and bandits. No wonder, all believed (66.7% strongly agreed and 33.3% agreed) that the use of child soldiers has increased the number of thieves and bandits in the community. That is why most former child soldiers who fail their integration and those who desert become a real source of insecurity in Bukavu district.

#### **4.3.2 Magnitude of child soldiers effects on social and economic development in Bukavu**

Social and economic development was also affected in DRC during the period of conflict. Means of livelihood, means of traditional subsistence such as paysanne agriculture, small businesses, fishing and panning for gold were touched in North and South Kivu. Few opportunities of job for youth were reaming and this has let many youth and young people to join armed groups, militias, or bandits groups in order to survive through their own effort using guns as means. Some groups of Mai Mai, CDNP, and governmental armed forces have conscripted child soldiers in this context.

The bandit group Arme rouge (red armed) in 2007, Fin d'heure (the end of time) in 2009 in Bukavu are some of those bandits groups made with former child soldiers and other youth who have also undermined and constrained sustainable development through different acts of vandalism and barbarity committed in Bukavu.

**Figure 7: showing the magnitude of child soldiers effects on social and economic development in Bukavu**



Source: **Primary data**

Figure 7 indicates that all respondents (100%) believe that the magnitude of insecurity and harassment on local population is very high due to a high degree of children utilization in armed forces/group. Many observers of child soldiers estimate that in most cases, young people have been deliberately exposed to horrific scenes. Such experience makes children more likely to commit violent acts themselves and may contribute to a

break with society. In many countries, including Afghanistan, Mozambique, Colombia and Nicaragua, children have even been forced to commit atrocities against their own families or communities. (WatchList, 2003)

At Bukavu among others causes of insecurity, self demobilised former child soldiers or deserters constitute the main source of people harassment and insecurity.

While showing the impact of insecurity on livelihoods, UNDP report (2005) indicates that violent conflict destroys livelihoods as well as lives. When peace breaks down, the movement of goods is often disrupted as traders abandon affected areas, lowering the prices of traded products and shrinking the income of poor. The poor become then poorer and undermines development.

Respondents (75%) rated the level of lack of investment in Bukavu at a very high level while only 25% consider it at high level.

More than 87% of the respondents rated very high; the level of criminalities and slaughters cases on local population in Bukavu, while the level of youth manipulation is taken at very high level by 71%. Also 50% of the respondents considers the magnitude of poverty due to poor production at high level while more than 37.5% of the respondents put it a very high level. The WatchList on children and armed conflict report (2003), in support of this shows that 2.5 of the 7million of people in Kinshasa DRC live on less than US\$1 per day while in some parts of the Eastern DRC people live on less than US\$0.18 per day

#### 4.4 Way forward to halt or stop the use of child soldiers by armed forces/groups

**Table 6: showing means to halt the use of child soldiers by armed forces/groups**

Way forward to halt the use of child soldiers		SA	A	D	Total
To fight impunity	Freq	9			9
	Percent	100.0			100.0
To fight poverty	Freq	6	2		8
	Percent	75.0	25.0		100.0
To alleviate the conditions of life of all Congolese	Freq	6	3		9
	Percent	66.7	33.3		100.0
To lighten the condition of studying by giving facilities and rendering free of charge the primary education	Freq	6	3		9
	Percent	66.6	33.3		100.0
Make public awareness of the problem of child soldiers utilization and its impact on the society	Freq	9			9
	Percent	100.0			100.0
To assure good education of children in their families as well as in the all country	Freq	8	1		9
	Percent	88.9	11.1		100.0
To inform everybody about the human rights of children and the necessity to be protected	Freq	3	6		9
	Percent	33.3	66.7		100.0
To conduct permanent lobbying action	Freq	9			9

towards government in order to take good measures and strict rules to punish whoever uses child soldiers	Percent	100.0			100.0
To work out laws and rules on soldiers recruitment	Freq	5	4		9
	Percent	55.6	44.4		100.0
To insure good implementation of laws and rules especially on children rights protection, advocacies on account of children rights should be furthered by NGOs, Civil Societies and Government institutions	Freq	6	2	1	9
	Percent	66.7	22.2	11.1	100.0
Small armed groups or forces should be destroyed	Freq	3	5	1	9
	Percent	33.3	55.6	11.1	100.0
To reinforce security measures on borders or frontiers to facilitate the control of illegal traffic of guns and weapons	Freq	3	3	3	9
	Percent	33.3	33.3	33.3	100.0
To create good relations with the great leak region	Freq	3	4	2	9
	Percent	33.3	44.4	22.2	100.0
To encourage initiatives that can lead or help to build sustainable peace and solve conflicts	Freq	8	1		9
	Percent	88.9	11.1		100.0

Source: **Primary data**

The table indicates that all the respondents strongly agreed that the best means to halt the use of child soldiers by armed forces is to fight impunity, making public awareness of the problem of child soldiers utilization and its impact on the society, and conducting permanent

lobbying action towards government in order to take good measures and strict rules to punish whoever uses child soldiers.

Fighting poverty, alleviating the conditions of life of all Congolese, and to lighten the condition of studying by giving facilities and rendering free of charge the primary education as means of halting the use of child soldiers by armed forces (indicated by all who either strongly agreed or agreed) can play a big role in halting child soldiers who join the forces willingly out of frustration due to the harsh living conditions. Children who are well looked after and have good education will less likely think of joining armed forces at least not below 18 years. Assuring good education of children in their families as well as in the all country (88.9% strongly agreed and 11.1% agreed) is such an important means of halting use of child soldiers in armed forces. Education is one of the building blocks of human development not just a human right but a foundation for progress in other areas of life (UNDP, 2005).

The study revealed that informing everybody about the human rights of children and the necessity to be protected; and insuring good implementation of laws and rules especially on children rights protection, advocacies on account of children rights which should be furthered by NGOs, Civil Societies and Government institutions.

Further, working out laws and rules on soldier's recruitment, destroying small armed groups or forces and reinforcing security measures on borders or frontiers to facilitate the control of illegal traffic of guns and weapons are better means which the government can use to stop child soldiers in armed forces. Security in its broad sense is a basic foundation

for sustainable development and effective government which implies systematic protection from human rights abuses (child rights in this case), physical threats, and violence and extreme economic, social and environmental risks. In conflict prone states, inability by governments to provide security creates opportunities for non-state actors to fill the security space and in such a way more child soldiers are likely to get involved in armed forces involuntarily.

In addition, creating good relations with the great lakes region which is a collective responsibility of all great lakes region nations; and encouraging initiatives that can lead or help to build sustainable peace and solve conflicts are other means highlighted by all the respondents. As reports the coalition to stop the use child soldiers (2009), an end to conflicts in Angola, Liberia and Sierra Leone in the last decade brought a halt to the massive recruitment and use of children by armed groups there. Peace agreements in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, the DRC, Nepal and Southern Sudan have also delivered significant reductions in such recruitment, if not in all cases a total end to the practice.

#### **4.4.2 Mitigating the consequences of use of child soldiers on sustainable development.**

To mitigate the impact of child soldiers on sustainable development, it involves many actions. The problem of child soldiers is not an individual or one community problem. It has ceased to be seen as one community problem rather, it has taken a global scope; the reason why it requires collective actions involving international, national, regional and local actions in order to have sustainable development.

**Table 7: showing way forward to mitigate the consequences of child soldiers on development for the sustainability of development.**

<b>How to mitigate the consequences of Child soldiers on development in order to achieve sustainable development</b>		SA	A	D	SD	Total
Effective and sustainable actions of child soldiers' DDR should be well organized	Freq	8	1			9
	Percent	88.9	11.1			100.0
The government should raise public awareness on DDR of child soldiers	Freq	5	4			9
	Percent	55.6	44.4			100.0
Appropriate and sustainable actions of social rehabilitation of former child soldiers must be taken	Freq	8	1			9
	Percent	88.9	11.1			100.0
Insure good counseling of former child soldiers	Freq	8	1			9
	Percent	88.9	11.1			100.0
NGOs, Churches, and civil societies should work hand in hand to execute effective effectively and efficiently the NPDDR of child soldiers and fight the proliferation of small armed groups	Freq	5	4			9
	Percent	55.6	44.4			100.0
Provide medical and psycho-social support for former child soldiers	Freq	5	4			9
	Percent	55.6	44.4			100.0
Socially reintegrated children associated with armed forces/groups should be	Freq	1	7	1		9
	Percent	11.1	77.8	11.1		100.0

financially and socially supported						
To control the movement of guns and weapons during war time as well as peace time	Freq	1	4	3	1	9
	Percent	11.1	44.4	33.3	11.1	100.0
Availability of centers of transit and assure good orientation and reintegration of former child soldiers	Freq	9				9
	Percent	100.0				100.0
Monitoring on reintegrated former child soldiers should be done for at least two years to assure their integration and rehabilitation	Freq	8	1			9
	Percent	88.9	11.1			100.0
Create vocational schools for those who can cannot adapt in formal schools for one or other reason	Freq	8	1			9
	Percent	88.9	11.1			100.0
Undertake actions which do not relay or depend on projects due to their limited time	Freq	9				9
	Percent	100.0				100.0

Source: **Primary data**

The table indicates that with an exception of controlling the movement of guns and weapons during war time as well as peace time where (11.1% strongly disagreed and 33.3% disagreed) and supporting financially and socially reintegrated children associated with armed forces/groups (where only 11.1% disagreed), all the respondents (strongly agreed and agreed) to these measures to mitigate consequences of child soldiers on development for the sustainability of development which included; effective and sustainable actions of child soldiers' DDR being well

organized, the government raising public awareness on DDR of child soldiers, making it a must to take appropriate and sustainable actions of social rehabilitation of former child soldiers, and insuring good counseling of former child soldiers.

Further, the respondents highlighted the involvement of NGOs, churches, and civil societies working hand in hand to execute effectively and efficiently the NPDDR of child soldiers and fighting the proliferation of small armed groups

Availing centers of transit and assuring good orientation and reintegration of former child soldiers, providing medical and psycho-social support for former child soldiers, monitoring on reintegrated former child soldiers being done for at least two years to assure their integration and rehabilitation is complete, undertaking actions which do not relay or depend on projects due to their limited time, as well as creating vocational schools for those who cannot adapt in formal schools for one or other reason were highlighted as measures to mitigate consequences of child soldiers on development for the sustainability of development.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 Overview**

This chapter discusses the findings according to the research questions and objectives, makes conclusions and recommendations.

#### **5.1 Findings**

The findings from the study are summarized according to the study objectives

##### **5.1.1 Impact of armed forces/groups on children**

The impact of armed groups or forces on children is evident in different forms such as; problems faced during the military service, consequences of the problems faced, the challenges during DDR process.

The findings revealed that child soldiers face problem of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria during military life, sexual abuses especially the girls, using drugs and other narcotics, getting used to aggressiveness and bandits acts, criminal or slaughter acts. Most of the child soldiers die on battles during war time, and others face a problem of physical handicap. They further fail in their education process and equally contract marriage at young age.

Further, the findings indicated that that child soldiers have consequences for the rest of their lives from the problems faced during military services. Such consequences like poor health due to diseases after rehabilitation,

and at times death in case of poor assistance after DDR process. Most child soldiers find it hard to adapt in civil society if not totally failing and most of them are traumatized and get psychological problems. Others become completely physically and mentally handicapped, and keep the aggressiveness culture after DDR which make child soldiers get poorly educated as a consequence.

The study found out that, organizations face challenges with the children's behavior while trying to integrate them during DDR process. These challenges were; children developing an attitude of independency, loss of the spirit of brotherhood and social cohesion, use of drugs and other narcotics, and thus find it difficult to start and complete their program of studies. Some child soldier express will to return to armies or join streets where they are not under somebody's control, and acts of vandalism or brutality which engender and increase insecurity in Bukavu province undermining development. All these challenges make it hard for organisations to effectively disarm, demobilise and reinsert the children in their communities.

The findings further indicate that child soldiers have different attitudes towards DDR process. Some consent others reject but still there are others who are indifferent depending on their different motivation to join the armed forces/group. Child soldiers who consent and join deliberately the DDR process are those who were forcibly recruited and willing to flee the different abuses and atrocities. Findings indicate that child soldiers, who are indifferent toward DDR process, are those simply thinking they

have got a job and that serving armies is another way of living despite their young age.

On the other hand, child soldiers who reject the process are those fearing to be judged and punished for their acts and having been victims of many abuses especially girls, they fear to be ashamed and disgraced. Further, the findings reveal that there are child soldiers who reject the process of DDR simply because they joined army deliberately or were sent in by their parents to defend their families while others think they won't be able to integrate in the society or be welcomed and well thought in their respective families and communities. Not only that, some child soldiers keep memories of the promises and small grants they were getting while still in the army most especially when they fail to get that money in the society whereas others run away from DDR because of disappointment reported by other former child soldiers who rejoined armies after being disappointed and failing to integrate the community.

This shows that the impact of armed conflict on children is severe and dangerous; affecting the children even for the rest of their lives and the development of the community.

### **5.1.2 The impact of child soldiers on sustainable development of Bukavu district**

The findings reveal that there will be a moment that Bukavu district will suffer from a high level of illiteracy and uneducated people and will lack qualified manpower in all sectors of development as consequences of child soldiering and which will result in poor production since most child soldiers and ex-child soldiers are not willing to go back to school and gain enough

skills in production resorting to being thieves and bandits in the community which creates a huge impact on human resources and community development as a result of the use of child soldiering. In addition, the use of child soldiers has increased the level of insecurity in Bukavu. Most former child soldiers who fail their integration and those who desert become a real source of insecurity in Bukavu and this hampers sustainable development of the community.

The study further evaluated the magnitude of impacts of the use of child soldiers on development. The findings reveal that insecurity and harassment on local population, lack of investment, criminalities and slaughters cases on local population and youth manipulation in Bukavu are all very high level due to a high degree of children utilization in armed forces/group. Other similar studies (WatchList, 2003) reported that in most cases, young people have been deliberately exposed to horrific scenes and such experience makes children more likely to commit violent acts themselves and may contribute to a break with society. In many countries, including Afghanistan, Mozambique, Colombia and Nicaragua, children have even been forced to commit atrocities against their own families or communities.

### **5.1.3 Way forward to halt or stop the use of child soldiers by armed forces/groups**

The research findings show that fighting impunity, making public awareness of the problem of child soldiers utilization and its impact on the society, and conducting permanent lobbying action towards government in order to take good measures and strict rules to punish whoever uses

child soldiers are the best way to halt the use of child soldiers in armed forces since 100% strongly agreed. Fighting impunity and putting an end to conflict alone can enhance development (UNDP, 2005)

Alleviating poverty and the conditions of life of all Congolese, and lightening the condition of studying by giving facilities and rendering free of charge primary education can play an important role in halting the use of child soldiers. UNDP report (2005) also shows that education is one of the building blocks of human development not just a human right but a foundation for progress in other areas of life Children who are well looked after and have good education will less likely think of joining armed forces at least not below 18 years. According to UNICEF (2002) poverty of income, health, education and natural resources are seen as formidable enemy of both the well-being of children and the health of the planet, thus poverty must be eradicated.

In addition, the study revealed a number of other ways to halt recruitment and use of child soldiers in armed forces such as: informing everybody about the human rights of children and the necessity to be protected, working out laws and rules on soldiers recruitment and children rights protection as well ensuring their good implementation, and advocacies on account of children rights which should be furthered by NGOs, Civil Societies and Government institutions.

Good relations within the great lakes region which is a collective responsibility of all great lakes region nations; and encouraging initiatives that can lead or help to build sustainable peace and solve conflicts and reinforcing security measures on borders or frontiers to facilitate the



control of illegal traffic of guns and weapons are other means highlighted to stop child soldiers use.

To mitigate consequences of child soldiers for the sustainable development, the findings revealed that measures such as; effective and sustainable actions of child soldiers' DDR, the government raising public awareness on DDR of child soldiers, and making it a must to take appropriate and sustainable actions (good counseling) of social rehabilitation of former child soldiers, involvement of NGOs, churches, and civil societies working hand in hand to execute effectively and efficiently the NPDDR of child soldiers and fighting the proliferation of small armed groups, monitoring on reintegrated former child soldiers being done for at least two years to assure their integration and rehabilitation is complete, as well as creating vocational schools for those who cannot adapt in formal schools are paramount.

## 5.2 Conclusions

From the study findings the following conclusions are drawn:

1. During armed conflicts children are recruited and used as child soldiers. From the study, it can be deduced that they face many problems while in the armies such as diseases like HIV/AIDS and malaria, sexual abuses especially the girls, use of drugs and other narcotics, habit of aggressiveness and bandits acts, criminal or slaughter acts and most of them die on battles during war time, and others get traumatized or get physically and mentally handicap. These bring consequences such as poor health due to diseases after rehabilitation, and at times death in case of poor assistance after DDR process. Most child soldiers find it hard to adapt in civil society if not totally failing. Others become completely physically and mentally handicapped in addition to the violent culture which affects their already disrupted education, and enhances insecurity which has a strong effect on development.
2. Use of child soldiers in armed groups has a big impact on community development. Bukavu is not different. The death of child soldiers while on battle field or as a result of diseases and poor health reduces manpower. In addition, failure to attain appropriate education increases level of illiteracy and thus lack of qualified and skilled people in all sectors of development creating a huge negative impact on human resources and community development. As if that is not enough, the use of child soldiers has increased the level of insecurity and harassment on local population

in Bukavu, lack of investment, criminalities and slaughters cases on local population and youth manipulation in Bukavu which are all at a very high level and this hampers sustainable development of Bukavu.

3. Halting the use of child soldiers in armed forces would be the best solution the whole problem in Bukavu province but how to achieve it still depends on how the government fights impunity, makes public awareness of the problem of child soldiers utilization and its impact on the society, and how the entire community conducts permanent lobbying action towards government in order to take strong and good measures and strict rules to punish whoever uses child soldiers. Alleviating poverty, ensuring good education, protecting children rights, mitigating consequences of child soldiers for the sustainable development through effective and sustainable actions of child soldiers' DDR, and above all solving conflicts through creating good international relations especially within the great lakes region can play an important role in halting the use of child soldiers and achieving sustainable development.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

#### **The government should;**

- Create more awareness to the public and child soldiers about the DDR process so that the community can welcome the child soldiers and the child soldiers can feel free to integrate in the community before and during DDR process.

- Alleviate poverty by creating job opportunities and providing security to boost investment and improve incomes of the people.
- Ensure good implementation of the laws protecting and promoting the children rights, restricting child enrolment in armed forces
- Fight impunity and end conflicts through creating good international relations especially in the great lakes region.
- Provide good education through better facilities and providing free primary education.
- Revise the period given for the DDR process to at least 2years so that to ensure that the children are fully reinserted in the community.

**The NGOs, civil societies, and institutions in charge of children should;**

- Ensure good counseling of former child soldiers so that they can change their attitudes towards the DDR process.
- Conduct permanent lobbying actions towards the government in order to take good measures and actions against whoever uses child soldiers.
- Encourage programs and initiatives capable of enforcing security and contributing to peace and sustainable development in the region.

**The community should;**

- Accept and welcome the former child soldiers as members of the community and provide a conducive environment for their effective integration in order to contribute to community development.
- Work hand in hand and collaborate with the government to fight insecurity and stop the use of child soldiers in armed forces by denouncing the recruiters of child soldiers.

**5.4 Areas for further research**

Further research should be carryout on;

- The nature of relationship between conflict, insecurity and community development in DRC.
- Motivation of armed forces on children recruitment
- The role of government, and community in conflict resolution and peace building in DRC

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**OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE DEAN  
POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH**

Date:-----

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**RE: BINGWA MUDERHWA ROGER REG. NO. MAD/20001/82/DF**

The above mentioned is a bonafide student of Kampala International University pursuing a Masters of Arts in Development Administration and Management.

He is currently conducting field research and the title of the Research Project is **"Impact Assessment and Mitigation of Children Enrolment in Armed Forces on Sustainable Development in D.R. Congo; Case Study of Bukavu (1996-1998)"**. As part of his studies(Research work) he has to collect relevant information through questionnaires, interviews and other relevant reading materials.

Your institution has been identified as valuable source information pertaining to his research project. The purpose of this letter is to request you to avail him with the pertinent information he may need.

All and any information shared with him will be used for academic purpose only and we promise to share our findings with your institution.

Any assistance rendered to him will be highly

Yours truly,

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL  
SCIENCES

*Roseann Mwaniki*

**DR. ROSEANN MWANIKI**

**ASSOC. DEAN SCHOOL OF POST GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH**



## APPENDIX II: RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

### A. QUESTIONNAIRE

#### A QUESTIONNAIRE TO BE ADDRESSED TO NGOs, CBOs, AND GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN CHILDREN PROTECTION, DDR OF CHILD SOLDIERS AND DEVELOPMENT IN BUKAVU.

Sir/Madam! My name is BINGWA MUDERHWA Roger student of Kampala International University pursuing a master's degree in Development Administration and Management. I am carrying out a research to find out the impacts of children enrollment in armed forces on Sustainable development and its way forward, with the title: *Impact Assessment and Mitigation of Children Enrollment in Armed Forces on Sustainable Development in D.R. Congo. Case Study of Bukavu (2003-2008)*. And you have been selected among the few key respondents that have been chosen for this research back up. Would you please give a small portion of your time to answer few questions in this research honestly?

This is not a test; all information obtained shall be used purely for academic purposes and not otherwise and your responses will be treated with a high level of confidentiality.

**Q1. Did you record any case of child soldiers recruited in armed forces or groups during the periods of war in Bukavu?**

Yes

No

**Q2. If yes what are their number at Bukavu during the following periods.**

2003.....

2004.....

2005.....

2006.....

2007.....

2008.....

**Q3/A. What was the minimum and the maximum age of the child soldiers concerned about your action?**

Minimum.....

Maximum.....

**/B. What was their age? In which range does their age vary among the following**

1/ 1 to 3

2/ 3 to 6

3/ 6 to 9

4/ 9 to 12

5/ 12 to 15

6/ 15 to 18

**Q4. Why did you show a particular attention on these children?**

Direction: Please tick the option that suits your most preferred answer

1/ Because they are children

2/ Because of child protection therefore instruments implementation

3/ Because they are vulnerable group

4/ Because they have expressed themselves the need to be demobilized

5/ Because they need special protection for their development and growth

**Directions:**

**For questions 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, please chose only one option that suits your level of agreement or disagreement by ticking one case for each of the following:**

**A= Agree, D= Disagree, SA= Strongly Agree, SD= Strongly Disagree**

**Q5. Problems faced by child soldiers in the military service?**

Statements	A	D	SA	SD
Face problem of diseases (HIV, Malaria,...) during military life				

Most of them die on battles during war time				
They are sexually abused				
They face problem of physical handicap				
They contract marriage at young age				
They use drugs and other narcotics				
They are used to criminal acts or slaughter acts				
Failure in their education process				
Most of them are used to aggressiveness and bandits acts				

**Q6. What would these problems constitute as consequences on the rest of the life these children**

Statements	A	D	SA	SD
Poor health due to diseases after rehabilitation				

Death in case of poor assistance after DDR				
Aggressiveness culture after DDR				
Precocious responsibility( former child soldiers are condemned to take care of their own families)				
They are poorly educated				
Hard adaptation in civil society if not totally failing				
Most of them are traumatized and have psychological problems				
They are used to gratuitousness culture or habit of easy gain				
Failure to integrate and adapt in social life or community life				
Some of them have become physically and mentally handicapped				

**Q7. Do you face some particular challenges while trying to integrate child soldiers into the civil life?**

1/ Yes

2/ No

**Q8. If yes what are they?**

Statements	A	D	SA	SD
Changes in the way of living ( pretend to be old and adult)				
Former child soldiers find it difficult to start and complete a program of studies				
The will of former child soldier to return back to armies or join streets				
Attitude of independency ( they do not want to be controlled of guided)				
Used to easy life ( they want to get things easily even freely				
Developed love of money that they want to get even without working				
Use of violence as a mean to make life				
Stubbornness and obstinacy				
Lost of brotherhood or fraternity and social cohesion				

Used to drugs and other narcotics				
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**Q9. What are the attitudes of child soldiers towards the DDR process?**

Statements	A	D	SA	SD
All child soldiers consent with the DDR process				
Some child soldiers consent with the DDR process				
All child soldiers reject the DDR process				
Some child soldiers reject the DDR process				
All child soldiers are indifferent towards DDR process				
Some child soldiers are indifferent towards DDR process				

**Q.10 These attitudes can be explained by the following facts:**

Statements	A	D	SA	SD
Child Soldiers reject DDR because of fear to be judged and punished for their acts				
They refuse DDR because they join army deliberately				

Child soldiers refuse DDR because they were sent in by their parents to defend their families				
Child soldiers avoid DDR because they have been victims of many abuses especially girls then they fear to be ashamed and disgraced				
They deny DDR because they think they won't be able to integrate the society				
They keep memories of the small grant they were getting				
They ran away from DDR because of disappointment reported by other former child soldiers who rejoined armies after being disappointed and failing to integrate the community				
They believe they won't be welcomed and well thought in their respective families and communities, then they refuse DDR process				
Child soldiers accept willingly the DDR process because they were forcibly recruited				
They join deliberately the DDR process to flee the different abuses and atrocities that they undergo in armed				

forces/groups				
Child soldiers do not either reject or consent to DDR simply because they think have got a job and that to serve armies was another way of living despite their age				

**Q11. You as organization working at Bukavu for the sustainability of development through investment in children, what are the consequences of the use of children in armed forces/groups on sustainable development in Bukavu?**

Statements	A	D	SA	SD
The Bukavu district will suffer at a certain time from lack of qualified manpower in all sectors, and the impact will be on the production rate.				
At a given time the district of Bukavu will have a high level of illiteracy which will have in turn a significance impact on the human resource.				
The use of child soldiers has lifted and still lifting the level of insecurity in Bukavu				
The use of child soldiers has increased the number of thieves and bandits in Bukavu.				
Most of former child soldiers who fail their rehabilitation and others deserters have become a real source of harassment and insecurity in Bukavu district.				

**Q12. How do you measure the magnitude of child soldiers impact on socio-economic development in Bukavu**

Impacts	Very high level	High level	Low level
Insecurity and local population harassment			
Lack investment			
Criminalities and slaughters cases on local population			
Poor production therefore poverty			
Youth manipulation			

**Q12. According to you what can be done (as best solution) to halt the recruitment and use of child soldiers in armed forces/groups?**

	A	D	SA	SD
To fight impunity				
To fight poverty				
To alleviate the conditions of life of all Congolese				
To lighten the condition of studying by giving facilities and rendering free of charge the primary education				

Make public awareness of the problem of child soldiers utilization and its impact on the society				
To assure good education of children in their families as well as in the all country				
To inform everybody about the human rights of children and the necessity to be protected				
To conduct permanent lobbying action towards government in order to take good measures and strict rules to punish whoever uses child soldiers				
To work out laws and rules on soldiers recruitment				
To insure good implementation of laws and rules especially on children rights protection, advocacies on account of children rights should be furthered by NGOs, Civil Societies and Government institutions				
Small armed groups or forces should be destroyed				
To reinforce security measures on borders or frontiers to facilitate the control of illegal traffic of guns and weapons				
To create good relations with the great leak region				

To encourage initiatives that can lead or help to build sustainable peace and solve conflicts				
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**Q13. To mitigate the consequences of the children utilization as child soldiers on development in order to achieve sustainable development, the following measures can be taken:**

Statements	A	D	SA	SD
Effective and sustainable actions of child soldiers' DDR should be well organized				
The government should raise public awareness on DDR of child soldiers				
Appropriate and sustainable actions of social rehabilitation of former child soldiers must be taken				
Insure good counseling of former child soldiers				
NGOs, Churches, and civil societies should work hand in hand to execute effective effectively and efficiently the NPDDR of child soldiers and fight the proliferation of small armed groups				

Provide medical and psycho-social support for former child soldiers				
Socially reintegrated children associated with armed forces/groups should be financially and socially supported				
To control the movement of guns and weapons during war time as well as peace time				
Availability of centers of transit and assure good orientation and reintegration of former child soldiers				
Monitoring on reintegrated former child soldiers should be done for at least two years to assure their integration and rehabilitation				
Create vocational schools for those who can cannot adapt in formal schools for one or other reason				
Undertake actions which do not relay or depend on projects due to their limited time				

## **B. INTERVIEW GUIDE**

### **SECTION A: QUESTION FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN PROTECTION IN EVERY ORGANISATION AT BUKAVU**

#### **Self Introduction**

1. Does the army have an impact on children development?
2. If yes, what is it?
3. How do you their serving the army have affected their life?
4. Is there any particular problem that you notice while integrating child soldiers in the civil life?
5. Do you think these problems can have a significant impact on the rest of their life?
6. According to your observation how do you think the use of child soldiers has affected the community life in Bukavu?
7. What are the impact of children utilization as soldiers on sustainable development
8. According to you what is the best solution to stop the use of child soldiers and combat their impact on sustainable development in Bukavu?

**SECTION B: QUESTION FOR FORMER CHILD SOLDIERS IN THE  
PROCESS OF DDR MET AT BUKAVU**

**Self Introduction**

1. What did you do before you are recruited in the army and how were you living?
2. How did you come to join the armies?
3. What kind of life were you living in the army
4. What kind of work or jobs were you doing in the armies?
5. How your serving the army has influenced your life?
6. How do you appreciate your current life (out of army) compared with your past life while serving armies?

**RESEARCHER'S CURRICULUM VITAE****❖ PERSONNAL PROFILE**

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**❖ EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

**2006-2007** : Degree in Philosophy and Social Sciences at PHILOSOTAT ISIDORE BAKANJA, Archdiocese of Bukavu, DRC.

**2000-2001** : A' Level, State Diploma in Technical Social Education at MURHESA HIGH SCHOOL, Bukavu DRC.

**1998-1999** : O' Level at MURHESA HIGH SCHOOL, Bukavu DRC.

**1993-1994** : P' 6 and End Primary School Certificate at MURHESA PRIMARY SCHOOL, Bukavu DRC.

❖ **OTHER SKILLS**

**February 2006 – April 2006:** Professionnal Training in automobile Driving, with a Clean Driving License.

**3<sup>rd</sup>/April – 3<sup>rd</sup>/ July/ 2008:** VISION EDUCATION CENTER, Kampala Uganda. Certificate in English Training.

**28<sup>th</sup>/April – 10<sup>th</sup>/May/ 2008:** MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, Institute of Adult and Continuing education. Certificate in Computer Applications.

❖ **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**From June 2010:** Deputy Director and in charge of Programs and lobbying at League of Advocates for People (LAP) / Kampala in Kampala Uganda.

