



*Romanian international UN Volunteer, Gheorghe Panait
Bauma camp, Kisangani, DR Congo*

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Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo: In 2015, I joined the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO) as a UN Volunteer for the Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement (DDRRR) section. After working several years for the Romanian Armed Forces in my country, I decided to completely change my career perspective and work in a more challenging environment while making a difference. There are dozens of active and illegal foreign armed groups operating

in eastern Congo and my role in the mission aims at facilitating their voluntarily repatriation to their respective countries of origin. I mainly work at the Bauma camp located near Kisangani where combatants decided for various reasons to leave their armed groups and await integration into civilian life. When you work in a highly sensitive section like DDRRR and collaborate with many institutions and organizations, each day is never the same. In addition to the logistics support we are providing to the camp such as food, medicine and fuel for running the generators. We are also using different sensitization mechanisms such as radio, video or face to face interaction to ensure that illegal armed groups are sensitized

to the DDRRR processes and benefits they will accrue when they voluntarily enter the DDRRR process.

I will always remember the day my team safely repatriated to Rwanda an ex-combatant and his dependents who have spent several years in the bush living a life punctuated by violence and lack of medical assistance.

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