

**AIDS and the military: implications of demobilisation.**

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**Abstract:** Issue: About 50,000 UPDF (Uganda Peoples Defence Forces) soldiers have been demobilised-some of them because they are people living with HIV/AIDS. What are the implications in terms of the spread of HIV/AIDS?Project: Soldiers. many of them people living with HIV/AIDS, have been retrenched from the army over the last two years - and returned to their home villages. But a positive sero-status was a major criteria for demobilisation: hardly any counselling/social education was undertaken to prepare demobilised soldiers on how to live responsibly - avoiding risk behaviour - as they reintegrate with civilian society. There are now fears that this may compound the spread of HIV/AIDS - especially in rural areas to where most of the demobilised soldiers return. Results/Lessons Learned: Considering the high incidence of HIV/AIDS in the military-and that one's sero status is a major consideration in retrenchment, there is urgent need to inaccurate a dimension on HIV/ AIDS and responsible living when preparing soldiers for demobilisation and a return to civilian life. And not only in Uganda, but in all other parts of Africa where demobilisation is taking place or due to start.