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## **(Re)Building Men, Building Peace: Masculinities through DDR in the Kivu Region.**

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Within the last 30 years, the Kivu region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been a focal point of conflict, massacre, displacement, and humanitarian catastrophe, with these events often affecting and involving its neighbouring states of Rwanda, Uganda, and Burundi. The insecurity felt within this region has had horrific gendered effects, with sexual violence, gender-selective killings, and abductions which haunt those who live there. In my major research paper, I aim to discuss and outline the effects of gender on peacebuilding processes throughout the region. Specifically, I focus on the effects of masculinity (and its various constructions) on DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration) programs, and how it helps or hinders the willingness for combatants to lay down their arms and enter civilian life, and further, how it may drive ex-combatants to return to conflict.

Word Count: 137