



With funding from



Baseline Report: Strengthening conflict and gender sensitive community resilience in protracted crisis in Northern Uganda and Central Equatorial, South Sudan (2021-2024)

July 2022

Content

- Executive Summary
- Criteria for selection of the study area
- The process of the baseline study
- Key highlights of the study
- Limitations of the study
- Observations and recommendations
- Table 1: Indicator table and method applied to determine the baseline.
- Table 2: The project log frame indicators and baseline data
- **Appendix 1:** Interview guide for focus group discussions.
- **Appendix 2:** Interview guide for key informants

Abbreviations

OPM: Office of the Prime Minister

RWC: Refugee Welfare Committee

SDG: Sustainable Development Goal

VSLA: Village Saving and Loans Association



1.0 Executive Summary

This report presents the results of a baseline study conducted for the project “Strengthening conflict and gender sensitive community resilience in protracted crisis in Northern Uganda and Central Equatorial, South Sudan (SCCR)”, funded by the Austrian Development Agency for the period 2021-2024. The expected project outcomes are:

- ❖ Strengthened conflict sensitive community resilience in protracted crisis in Northern Uganda (Bidi Bidi and Imvepi refugee settlements) and Central Equatoria (Kajo Keji County), South Sudan, in particular of women and girls.
- ❖ Root causes addressed and impact of forced displacement in Northern Uganda (Bidi Bidi, Imvepi) and Central Equatoria (Kajo Keji County), South Sudan, mitigated.

The baseline study was conducted in Imvepi (Zone 2: Point E, Village 11 and 15), Bidi Bidi (Zone 1, Village 7, 9 and 12), host communities of Jue adjacent to Imvepi settlement, and communities of Kiri and Gboro in Romogi Sub-County hosting Bidi Bidi settlement.

2.0 Criteria for selection of the study area:

- ❖ Zone 2 for Imvepi is the area selected by OPM for Uganda Red Cross to implement the project.
- ❖ Zone 1 for Bidibidi is the area allocated by OPM for CARE to implement the project.
- ❖ Both CARE and Red Cross have implemented initiatives in the same zones in the past.
- ❖ The population of Zone 1 for Bidi bidi forms 21% of the total population for the settlement.
- ❖ The population of Zone 2 of Imvepi forms 46.6% of the total population for the settlement.
- ❖ There are other actors in the zones who are implementing peacebuilding interventions that provide opportunity for leverage.

3.0 The baseline process

The baseline process was conducted in combination with a conflict analysis for the project area. The conflict analysis report is presented independently as a separate report and the stakeholder mapping is presently separately as an independent document. The process involved literature review so that the responses were collated with existing documentation or treated as new findings validated through triangulation. The methods used to collect information were both qualitative and quantitative. The collection of data therefore involved the following methods:

Transect walk: Observation of 7 community settlements was conducted in Zone 2 Imvepi and Zone 1 Bidi bidi. Additional transect walks were conducted in the host communities in Jue adjacent to Imvepi and Kiri I Romogi Sub County adjacent to Bidi Bidi.

Focus group discussions: Using a focus group discussion guide, a total of 9 focus group discussions were conducted and comprised of 147 participants of whom 43 are males and 104 females.

Purposeful random sampling: A cross section of refugee and host communities that constituted the study sample was selected purposefully. These include Refugee Welfare Committees (RWC 1 & 111) in one Zone of Bidi Bidi and two Zones of Imvepi, for specific groupings of men, women, boys and girls.

Key Informant Interviews: There was a KII guide attached; Appendix 1 that guided engagements with strategic stakeholders.

4.0 Highlights of the baseline:

The findings are both qualitative and quantitative. The baseline figures provide values and qualitative narration of the variables for measurement to track project progress. It also explains current levels of key performance areas that the project intends to measure across the implementation period. Furthermore, the report provides suggestions to improve the log frame and particularly some of the indicators. These indicators shall be measured as follows:

- ❖ The numbers can be measured during the quarterly reporting and the progress of beneficiaries reached becomes cumulative.
- ❖ Other indicators can be measured mid-way through a structured survey during the midterm evaluation and end line survey.

Climate Resilience: A number of households estimated at 15% are engaged in VSLA activities; at least 53% of the refugees have had access to energy cook stoves.

Women’s participation in leadership roles: The women leadership stands at 23% in formal structures and some informal structures. For instance, out of the 157 leaders (Refugee Welfare Committee) RWC 1 and block leaders in zone II Imvepi Only 36 representing 22.9% are females. However, the results from Bidi Bidi indicate a progression whereby women representation on formal structures RWC I has a total of 182 persons of whom 47% are women, RWC II has 33 members of whom 45 % are women and RWC III has 11 members of 45% are women. Therefore, the women leadership interventions in the settlements should be distinct with more emphasis in Imvepi.

The table below summarizes the findings:

Stakeholder programmes/structures	Number of members in the group	Number of women on the leadership structure	Percentage	Villages
NURI, implementing both women savings group and mixed savings group in their different projects.	Usually 30-35	3-4	11%	All
WORLD VISION, implementing both savings and agriculture programmes	33	7	21%	All
DRC, offering protection services through community based workers in women centers	Open to all women and children		100%	All
RWC, community leaders	13	3	23%	All
W-HUNGER, livelihood projects	30	6	20%	All
RWC 1 zone II Imvepi	187	36	22.9%	
RWC 1 zone 1 (Bidi Bidi)	182	85	47%	
RWC II zone 1 (Bidi Bidi)	33	15	45%	
RWC III zone (Bidi Bidi)	11	5	45%	

Capacity-building for peacebuilding: 4 out of 8 staff for project partners have received conflict sensitivity training.

Existence of peacebuilding and management structures: Every village has at least 4 peacebuilding structures that include RWC I, neighborhood watch and any other 2 supported by development agencies.

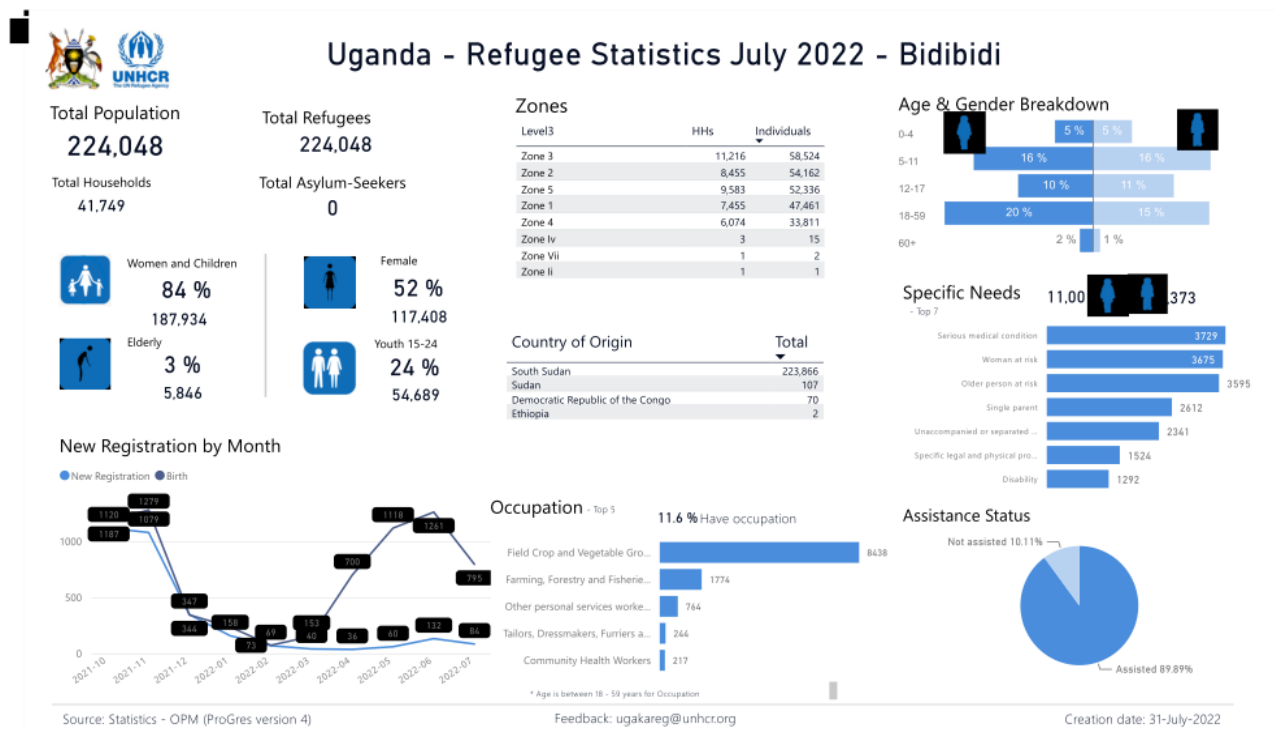
Participation in conflict resolution and mediation activities: At least 30 persons representing 20% of the refugee communities interviewed confirmed that they have participated in peacebuilding activities and/or are represented in peacebuilding structures at the local level.

Performance of referral pathways for conflict resolution: At least 3 cases are resolved by the police monthly depending upon the nature of the cases.

Limitation of the study: The data was basically collected through focus group discussion and conducting semi-structured interviews from purposefully selected random respondents and key informants. The absence of household interviews posed limitations including that some information collected was difficult to quantify e.g., the percentage of households involved in climate resilience activities. Using a semi-structured questionnaire, information came in at different times thus delaying the reporting.

Observations and recommendations: The project indicators are SMART and do align with the national programmes and policy objectives. It is important to disaggregate the data in terms of gender and age. At the time of the assessment, both refugee settlements were validating the population figures. As of July 2022, Imvepi refugee population was 53% female, composed of 85% women and children, 21% youth and 3% elderly. This means that women should be encouraged to take on leadership positions.

To promote climate resilience activities, the project should promote growing tree species for fuel wood which is the main source of energy in the project areas. Other resilience activities should include kitchen gardening, economic empowerment activities such small scale businesses and social networking to develop the social capital of groups. There were no community tree nurseries in the settlements and tree planting was only promoted by Dan Church Aid.





Uganda - Refugee Statistics July 2022 - Imvepi

Total Population
60,290

Total Households
14,502

Total Refugees
60,283

Total Asylum-Seekers
7

Women and Children
85 %
51,513

Elderly
3 %
1,698

Female
53 %
32,167

Youth 15-24
21 %
12,903

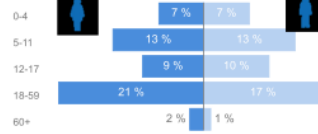
Zones

Level3	HHs	Individuals
Zone I	9,221	31,793
Zone II	7,435	28,167
Zone III	3,176	11,544
Zone IV	749	1,896
Zone V	1	6
	1	1

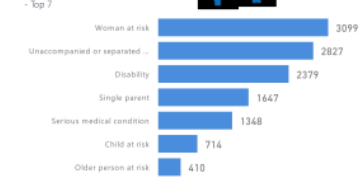
Country of Origin

Country of Origin	Total
Central African Republic	1
Ethiopia	1
Rwanda	1
Senegal	1
United Republic of Tanzania	1
Sudan	22
Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,989
South Sudan	58,274

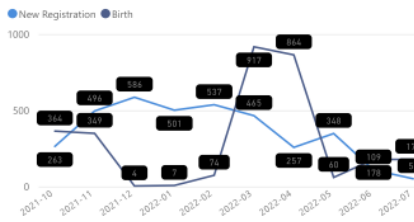
Age & Gender Breakdown



Specific Needs



New Registration by Month

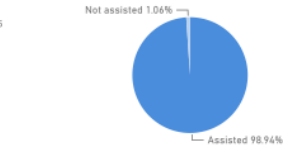


Occupation - Top 5



* Age is between 18 - 59 years for Occupation

Assistance Status



Source: Statistics - OPM (ProGres version 4)

Feedback: ugakareg@unhcr.org

Creation date: 31-July-2022

Using the outcomes from the focus group discussion, key informant interviews, semi-structured engagements, and literature review, baseline values have been established and proposals made to the project log frame as presented below in tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Indicators, baseline and method applied

Indicators as used / modified by the consultant	Baseline ^[2]	Methodology applied to determining baseline values
Impact		
To contribute to achieving gender equality and to empower all women and girls and to promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies in Uganda and South Sudan		
Outcome Indicators		
% Of households taking part in resilience activities	15% of HH	Each of the 147 respondents represented a household, 15% of them confirmed participation in resilience activities.
% Of people who undertake resilience initiatives following project intervention (disaggregated by sex)	0	At the time of the study the livelihood activities by the SCCR project had not commenced. Data to be derived from the SCC project activities through tracking the number of people adopting resilience initiatives Vs. those reached with interventions.
# Of men, women, girls, and boys participating in conflict resolution and mediation activities.	30	Individual confirmations from 30 of the 147 participants who attended FGDs comprising both host and refugee communities, this represents 20% of the respondents.
Number of functional, representative, and inclusive, conflict resolution and peace building structures.	4 groups / structures	FDGs with a cross section of men, women and youth confirmed of inclusive structures namely, neighborhood committees, peace mediators and VSLAs and peace committees established by agencies and RWC I

Percentage of females holding key positions in conflict resolution and mediation organs/structures.	23% (Imvepi) 45% (Bidi Bidi)	Key Informant Interviews with 23 respondents drawn from OPM and CSOs
# Of local actions initiated and implemented that address SGBV, Human rights and women peace and security during the project period.	0	No Evidence Found
Output Indicators		No Evidence Found
# Of recommendations implemented or taken into active consideration from the rapid gender analysis.	0	No Evidence Found
# Of recommendations implemented or taken into active consideration from peace and conflict analysis.	0	No Evidence Found
# Of project staff and volunteers demonstrating increased capacities in conflict and gender sensitive humanitarian and development programming do no-harm and resilience building mechanisms.	4	From the capacity assessment of partner staff only four out of 8 who responded said they had knowledge on <i>Do no harm</i> or conflict sensitive programming
# Of women and girls actively participating in formal and informal decision-making.	0	No Evidence Found
# Of people who attest access to food beyond food aid as a result of adapting good agronomic practices, agroforestry to increase food production, adapted alternative IGA or accessing land without conflicts.	0	No Evidence Found
Percentage of people who are accessing and using energy saving products (briquettes, improved cooking stoves and wonder bags (or similar products).	53%	Adopted from secondary data: Rapid Assessment of Natural Resource Degradation in Refugee Impacted Areas in Northern Uganda Technical Report June 2019 World bank /FAO
# Of disputes reported and resolved by authorities as a result of project participants, peace monitors and groups.	3 -10	Cases reported resolved by police depending upon the nature of cases

# Local conflict mediations conducted	0	No Evidence Found
# Of people who access SGBV response services (disaggregated by sex) (in total 300 persons)	17 (16F, 01M)	Cases reported resolved by police depending upon the nature of cases
# Of local conflict mediations conducted	0	No Evidence Found
# Of men participating in raising awareness and advocacy activities to prevent SGBV.	0	No Evidence Found

Table 2: Proposed amendments to the log frame indicators and baseline data

Logical Framework – Updated Definitions						
	Objectively verifiable indicators of achievement from project proposal	Definitions	New / modified indicators	Intended value of the indicator; including # of beneficiaries of the project		
				Baseline ^[2]	Annual/intermediary targets (28 February 2023)	Target at end of project
Impact						
To contribute to achieving gender equality and to empower all women and girls and to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies in Uganda and South Sudan						
Outcomes (including contribution to SDG target(s) ^[5] and Gender Action Plan (GAP) III objectives ^[6])						

<p>1. Strengthened conflict sensitive community resilience in protracted crisis in Northern Uganda (Bidi Bidi, Imvepi) and Central Equatoria (Yei River County, Kajo Keji County), in particular of women and girls</p> <p>SDG 5, in particular SDG 5.2. / SDG 16, in particular SDG 16.7.</p>	<p>1. # of people taking part in resilience activities (disaggregated by sex and age)</p>		<p>% Of households taking part in resilience activities</p>	<p>15% of HH</p>	<p>1. 250</p>	<p>1. 750 (60% f, 40% m)</p>
	<p>2. % of people with increased resilience capacities (disaggregated by sex and age)</p>		<p>% Of people who undertake resilience initiatives following Project intervention (disaggregated by sex)</p>	<p>0</p>	<p>2. 50 %</p>	<p>2. 75%</p>
<p>2. Root causes addressed and mitigated impact of forced displacement in Northern Uganda (Bidi Bidi, Imvepi) and Central Equatoria (Yei River County, Kajo Keji County)</p> <p>SDG 5, in particular SDG 5.5. / SDG 16, in particular 16.1</p>	<p>1. # of people participating in conflict prevention, resolution and mediation activities (disaggregated by age and sex)</p>		<p># Of men, Women, girls and boys participating in conflict resolution and mediation activities.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1. 300</p>	<p>1. 700 (60% f, 40% m)</p>
	<p>2. % of women and girls represented in conflict prevention, resolution and mediation initiatives (linked to UN</p>		<p>Number of functional, representative and inclusive, Conflict resolution and peace building structures.</p>	<p>4 Groups/structures</p>	<p>2. increase of 5 %</p>	<p>2. increase of 20 %</p>

	resolution 1325) (disaggregated by age)		Percentage of females holding key positions in conflict resolution and mediation organs/structures.	23% (Imvepi) 45% (Bidi Bidi)		
	3. % of people with increased awareness and knowledge of human rights, women peace & security and/or SGBV. (Disaggregated by age and sex)		# Of Local actions initiated and implemented that address SGBV, Human rights and women peace and security during the project period	0	3. increase of 5 %	3. increase of 20 %
Outputs						
1.1 Strengthened conflict and gender sensitivity in humanitarian and development assistance through joint programming	1. # recommendations implemented from the (rapid) gender analysis		# Of recommendations implemented or taken into active consideration from the rapid gender analysis	0	1. 1	1. 3
	2. # recommendations implemented or taken into active consideration from the peace and conflict analysis		# Of recommendations implemented or taken into active consideration from peace and conflict analysis	0	2. 1	2. 3
	3. % of project staff and volunteers with increased capacities in conflict and gender sensitive humanitarian and development programming (disaggregated by age		# Of project staff and volunteers demonstrating increased capacities in conflict and gender sensitive humanitarian and development programming do no-harm and resilience building mechanisms	4	3. 50 %	3. 75%

	and sex)					
1.2 Increased female leadership and empowerment of women and girls by fostering climate resilience and economic self-reliance	1. # of women and girls actively participating in formal or informal decision-making spaces (disaggregated by age)		. # Of women and girls actively participating in formal and informal decision-making	0	1. 50	1. 250
	2. % of people decreased their level of food aid dependence (disaggregated by sex and age)		# Of people who attest access to food beyond food aid as a result of adapting good agronomic practices, agroforestry to increase food production, adapted alternative IGA or accessing land without conflicts	0	2. 50%	2. 75 %

	3a. % of people who apply climate resilience knowledge (disaggregated by sex and age) 3b. % of people with increased access to energy saving products (disaggregated by sex and age)		Percentage of people who are accessing and using energy saving products (briquettes, improved cooking stoves and wonder bags (or similar products).	53%	3. 30%	3. 70%
2.1 Improved conflict resolution capacity and community mediation processes	1. # of dispute reported to authorities by project participants, peace monitors and groups		# Of disputes reported and resolved by authorities as a result of project participants, peace monitors and groups.	3 -10	1. 3 2. 4 3. 0	1. 7 2. 8 3. 25 %
	2. # local conflict mediations conducted		# Local conflict mediations conducted	0		
	3. % of local peace mediations leading into a sustained local mediation process		Indicator dropped			

2.2 Protecting women's rights and preventing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)	1. # of people who accessed SGBV response services (disaggregated by sex and age)		# Of people who access SGBV response services (disaggregated by sex) (in total 300 persons)	17 (16F, 01M)	1. 100	1. 300 (80%f, 20%m)
	2. % of increase in legal aid activities by project in target locations		# Local conflict mediations conducted	0	2. increase of 5 %	2. increase of 20 %
	3. # of people participating in awareness raising and/or advocacy activities		# Of men participating in raising awareness and advocacy activities to prevent SGBV.	0	3. 2.000	3. 5.000

Appendix 1: Interview guide for the Focus Group Discussions

These questions were used during FGDs in settlements and host communities.

- Conflict dynamics and trends¹,
 - What are the types of conflict that exist among the refugees, host and migrant communities?
 - Use the score card to rank the most prevalent conflict
 - How do the conflicts manifest?
 - Draw an illustration of the mentioned conflicts, identify whether the conflicts are increasing or decreasing.
 - List or draw a map indicating areas that are most prone to conflicts in the settlement and the host communities.
- Identify conflict causes, trigger factors
 - Using a conflict tree, identify the root causes of the conflicts, the triggers, and the effects
 - Map out who is affected most and in which ways.
- Assess the potential for positive peace at community level.
 - List existing peace building initiatives existing in your community.
 - How successful have they been in achieving peace?
 - What can be improved to make them better?
- Map the conflict resolution mechanisms at community and administrative levels.
 - What are the conflict and peace resolution mechanisms existent at community level?
 - Are they functional?
 - How effective are the mechanisms?
 - Are the structures for conflict and peace building perceived as fair and representative?
 - Are the structures for peace building and conflict resolution accessible?
 - What are their strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities?
 - Who the players/stakeholders are involved in conflict resolution and peace building?
 - What exactly are they doing?
 - Who is their target?
- What are conflict coping mechanisms: (list)
- What are the mechanisms of communication that support awareness on conflicts, laws and regulations, (community radio available, sensitization materials,
- For natural resource-based conflicts: Assess the type of natural resources existing in the area, access rights, type of conflicts triggered by natural resources and resolution mechanisms².

¹ Understand perceptions whether there is any change in conflicts since 2018 to date in terms of land, access to services between refugees and host communities, land rights, access to firewood and GBV.

- Are there incidences of conflicts resulting from the scramble for energy between refugees and host communities? (How do they manifest and the effects to the conflicting factions)
- Are there incidences of conflicts resulting from the scramble for land between refugees and host communities? (How do they manifest and the effects to the conflicting factions)
- Are there incidences of conflicts resulting from the scramble for water between refugees and host communities? (How do they manifest and the effects to the conflicting factions)
- Are these conflicts increasing or reducing?
- What are the existing gender sensitive community climate resilience activities in the area (*economic, social, natural and physical*)?
- What are the Natural resources Management/governance structures existent in the settlement and host communities?
- What is the proportion of women representation on the NRG structures?

Guiding question(s) for Baseline Survey

- To what extent are the females represented on formal and informal structures³?
 - Identify the formal and informal structures in the host communities and refugee settlement.
 - What is the composition of the committees by gender? (*What proportion of the structures are women? Addresses the indicator XX in the log frame*)
 - If a woman is interviewed, we shall find out whether they feel, they are influencing decisions of the structures? she will mention the challenges they face in participation and influencing decisions?
- What are the referral pathways for SGBV, how effective and accessible are the referral pathways⁴?
 - What are the GBV referral pathways that exist in the community
 - Are they known?
 - Are they accessible?
 - What services do they offer?
 - How effective, efficient, and transparent are the structures?

³ This question aims at assessing indicator 1 output 2 of the log frame

⁴ This question shall collect data for output 4 indicator 1

Appendix 2: Interview guide for Key Informants:

The targeted key informants are District Police Community Liaison Officer, Settlement Commandant, Chairpersons and Secretaries for Gender and Persons with Special Needs (PSNs) and CDOs, in the host community at sub county level, selected leaders of CSOs and religious communities.

- What kind of conflicts have occurred in Bidi Bidi and Imvepi refugee settlements and surrounding communities in the last five (5) years?
- On average how many cases/ conflicts does your office receive on a weekly basis?
- How do you handle the above cases?
- What are the conflicts triggers in your view?
- In what ways and who have been affected most by the conflict?
- What initiatives have helped the affected persons/communities to cope with the conflict(s)?
- In which ways have conflicts been resolved?
- What are the existing Peace and conflict Management Structures?
- What are the mechanisms of communication that can support awareness on conflicts and or laws and regulations, rights, and referrals?
- What is your role in peace building and how have you exercised your mandate?
- What challenges do you face in delivering the services?
- For natural resource-based conflicts: Assess the type of natural resources existing in the area, access rights, type of conflicts triggered by natural resources and resolution mechanisms.
- Who are the existing stakeholders present in the project area (local, national, state, non-state) and their contribution towards peace building and conflict resolution?
- What recommendations do you have for this project?