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

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Acknowledgement and Disclaimer

About the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and conflict Resolution

The Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) was founded in 1982 by Dr. Gerald Mader and other like-minded people. His work has earned the Centre the status of UN “Peace Messenger” and a UNESCO “Prize for Peace Education”. The ASPR is an independent, non-profit and non-partisan organization. It is engaged in research, education/training and practical conflict transformation.

The ASPR research agenda provides policy makers, practitioners and negotiators a balanced form of information that shapes the outcomes of the peace building and conflict resolution mechanism.

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Disclaimer: The content of the study is a result of the outcomes from the consultations in the settlement of Imvepi and Bidi bidi, the host communities and key stakeholders. In no way is the study reflecting the opinion of the consultant.

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List of Acronyms

ADRA	Adventist Relief Agency
CBF	Community Based Facilitators
CDO	Community Development Officer
CECI	Community Empowerment for Creative Innovation
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTEN	Community Technology Empowerment Network
DCA	Dan Church Aid
DCDO	District Community Development Officer
DLG	District Local Government
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GOU	Government of Uganda
HI	Humanity International
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
IRC	International Rescue Committee
KII	Key Informant Interviews
LAP	Local Action Plan
LC I	Local Council One
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psycho-social Support
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NR	Natural Resource
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PACRO	Peace and Conflict Resolution Organization
POC	People of Concern
RICE WN	Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment West Nile
RWC	Refugee Welfare Committees
SCI	Save the Children International
TPO	Trans cultural Psycho-social Organization

UNHCR	United National High Commission for Refugees
UPF	Uganda Police Force
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Association
WIPC	Women's International Peace Centre (The Peace Centre)
WPS	Women Peace and Security
YSAT	Youth Social Advocacy Team

1.0 Executive Summary

The report provides outcomes from the conflict analysis study that looked at conflict dynamics and trends, with a particular focus on Ugandan-South Sudanese cross-border and displacement dynamics and assessed the potential for positive peace at community level. The analysis generated recommendations for conflict-sensitive humanitarian and development programming in the project target locations in Northern Uganda.

A mixed methods approach was applied during collection of the data. Qualitative and quantitative data collection methods included literature review, Key Informant Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussions (FGD); transect walks, collection of opinions and case studies. A total of 147 (43 male and 104 female) participants were engaged in FDGs, and 23 respondents were engaged in KII. Ten (10) Engagement Meetings were conducted with CSOs, Government agencies and UNHCR. Transect Walks and Observational Analysis were conducted in 7 communities of Zone 2 (*villages 9, 15, and 11*), and Zone 3 in Imvepi, zone 1 (*cluster 3, Village 1*) in Bidi Bidi and Host communities of Jue and Kiri. Three (03) meetings were conducted with Red Cross and CARE staff.

1.1 Key Study Findings and Conclusions

The nature of conflicts can be categorized in 2 ways: **Refugee vs host community:** Conflicts over access to land for cultivation by refugees from landlords; conflicts over resources like firewood, construction poles, grass for thatching water points, and conflicts over stray animals. **Refugee vs refugees:** These conflict over aid especially the food ration reduction; tribal conflicts; conflicts related to hate speech and polarization which lead to witchcraft allegations; and at household level where husband and wife conflict over resources leading to domestic and gender based violence. Tribal conflicts are not that recent; they were largely experienced in 2017, 2018 and 2019¹. All conflicts affect mainly women and girls in many forms although vulnerable men are affected as well. The actors for or against peace are: refugees, landlords, Ugandan nationals, neighbours, relatives/clan members, husband and wife, the leadership that sometimes behave or portray unfair ethics, ethnic leaders belonging to Kakwa, Kuku, Aringa, Lugbara, Dinka, Nuer, Murle

Cross Border Conflict Dynamics: The porous borderline between Uganda and South Sudan continues to aid unregulated, unrecognized arrival of persons in refugee settlements in Northern Uganda, thus increasing levels of suspicion, trauma, rumor in the settlements and the situation is not helped by recruitment of boys from refugee settlements into armed conflict in South Sudan.

The conflicts and trends in Conflict: Conflicts within refugee settlements and host communities have neither reduced nor increased but seemingly static over the recent 5 years. From the findings and the literature review, conflicts in the refugee settlement and host communities rotate around land conflicts, access to natural resources (firewood, water, grass for thatching and grazing), unmet promises from government agencies, unequal service delivery in refugee settlements and host communities and Domestic violence.

Land Conflict: The faces of land conflicts include (a) heavy degradation of forest and vegetation cover to meet the refugees' immediate wood fuel needs, (b) fraudulent land transactions between

¹ there was a tribal conflict between Dinka and Kakwa in 2017 and 2018 which took place at the food distribution point in village 4, a tribal conflict within Nuer and Nuer took place in 2019 when two Nuer clans clashed after a boy from one clan impregnated a girl from another Nuer clan; there was a tribal conflict between an Acholi and a Nuer at a water point and the conflict was later turning into an inter tribal conflict between Acholi and Nuer tribes; there was a tribal conflict between the Kakwa tribe and the Nuer tribe.

refugees and host communities, and (c) stray and uncontrolled animals that destroy neighbors' crops in the fields who are either refugees or host communities.

Competition for Access to Natural Resources: The scramble for wood fuel, water and grass remains the top cause for conflicts. Largely, women and girls are more affected by natural resource-based conflicts and have been predisposed to a danger and harm as a result of scramble to access firewood, water, poles, and grass for thatching. These conflicts are escalated by Climate vulnerability and Impaired Livelihoods as hazards such as drought and strong winds that have impacted negatively on productivity and production of food.

Unequal distribution of social services to refugees and host communities: The host communities complain that social service delivery by NGOs and OPM is preferential, unequal and unfair, whereby refugees are given better services and handouts living out host communities. While the host communities perceive the service delivery as an unfair, the Refugee and host population empowerment strategic framework (ReHOPE) provides for 70%:30% apportionment of benefits between refugees and host communities respectively. The unfairness therefore can be interpreted as a result of a policy that is not pro host communities. The NGOs and OPM are therefore implementing the interventions within the remit of the policy. This is coupled with limited policy information by host communities and this percentage allocation of benefits has fueled conflicts to some extent.

Unmet expectations and needs of the host communities: Host communities expected benefits to accrue in compensation or appreciation of the land provided to the refugees for settlement. According to the landlords interviewed, there is preferential treatment provided to the refugees in form of services and benefits. While the landlords and host communities are unsatisfied with the rewards, the Office of the Prime Minister felt the landlords have been rewarded as per expectations.

Patriarchal Norms Fueling Conflict: Limited male engagement in care and provision of support to the family is a source of conflict at household levels. Due to dependence on relief supplies, women and youth centered programming; unilateral decision making at household levels and limited participation of women in leadership were cited as drivers of conflict in both refugee settlement and host communities.

Gender Based Violence (GBV): GBV incidences resulting from abuse of resources at household level, limited or no participation of women at household level remain high. There were reported cases of early marriages, defilement, assault and domestic violence. *GBV is common in post conflict since cases of infidelity resulting from poverty manifest at household levels*². Women and girls are more affected by GBV, though exclusion of men in development programmes by partners was reported yet men experience heavy demands and expectations from their spouses and children.

Mechanisms for resolving the conflicts: Conflict resolution mechanisms have revolved around established structures such as the Refugee Welfare Committees (RWCs) which handle cases that are not criminal in nature and this structure is supported by the policy. There are structures established by partners such as: Child Protection Committees (CPCs) that handle child related cases, and Neighborhood Watch that are charged with community security, Peace building and conflict mitigation committees that are responsible for mediation, and community leaders such as religious leaders, and opinion leaders who offer counseling, conciliation and reconciliation support. Despite the existence of the structures, there are many in place; each structure feels

² Gender-based violence in conflict and displacement: qualitative findings from displaced women in Colombia 11 July 2014

independent and powerful. Therefore, roles of the RWCs are downplayed at times. The paralegals were singled out as a structure that feels powerful and portrays themselves as lawyers. Paralegals are refugee-based structures trained by NGOs particularly Uganda Christian Lawyers Fraternity in aspects that require knowledge of legal concepts. In principle a paralegal is a professional who performs tasks that require knowledge of legal concepts but not the full expertise of a lawyer.

From the focus group discussion and interaction with Key informants, there are limited resource capacities in Do No Harm among partner staff, key government agencies and like-minded CSOs.

Existing Coping Mechanisms: To cope with the existing challenges, communities have put in place modalities such as constituting neighborhood committees to enhance security, exchanging food for firewood and surviving on one meal a day, engaging in livelihood activities like Village Saving and Loans Associations (VSLAs), provision of casual labor to earn a living, women selling onions, fish, and greens among others in the market to earn. While majority of the refugees have coped with the existing harsh conditions, this study established cases of some refugees that have failed to cope and opted to return to South Sudan.

Un-sustainability of programmes that lack a clear exit strategy. NGOs have implemented initiatives that are short term, and the impact is not easily realized, there have been scattered projects on engaging men, but little has been done to create impact. There is **no clear exit strategy** for NGOs, limited coherence and coordination that create no continuity. When projects end, the structures remain hanging or inactive due to funding.

1.2 Recommendations

General recommendations

- ❖ Consider incorporating an advocacy component in the SCCR project by lobbying government agencies to increase the budget for the Uganda Police Force (UPF) in refugees' settlement and host communities: **for instance**, the refugees appreciate the services of the UPF, though the police post at Imvepi does not have a vehicle.
- ❖ The agencies working on energy should consider investment in the host communities. 85% of the host communities' use the 3 stone type³ of stove for cooking compared to 53% of the refugees in Bidi bidi, this is largely attributed to distribution of the energy saving stoves to the refugees. In addition, the partners should invest in learning best practices and scale them up such as solar cooker.
- ❖ Develop an inclusive programme to address land rights e.g. compact/info packs on land rights, access rights to land, posters that defines or outlines key useful information.
- ❖ Strengthen the Association of Land owners. The land owners (Landlords) association should be a platform to air out their needs. They need to understand their rights and benefits that accrue from hosting. This will reduce the expectations and address the emerging demands from host communities.
- ❖ Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, form and support green clubs to sustain environment management activities. This also includes; undertaking sensitization of refugees on best practices in Natural Resources Management (NRM) and change of attitude in sustainable resource utilization.

³ 3-stone cooking fires or 3-rock cooking fires are fires which, unlike open fires, have the cooking vessel placed very close to the fire itself, limiting excessive waste of heat. With 3-stone cooking fires a superheated space is effectively formed between the cooking vessel and the fire.

- ❖ Expand on economic choices: This should be through skilling and exploring unique areas that can add value to the youth and adults in reproductive age.
- ❖ Sensitize the Persons of Concern (POC)⁴ to consider securing justice from LC III courts and improve women's protection and empowerment and prevent gender-based violence by increasing access to justice. The justice from LC III is nearer, quicker and easily accessible. However, this may come with a small cost yet the current justice system is free but costly in the long run
- ❖ There should be increased coordination with the District Local Government (DLG), this would ensure linkages of the initiatives in the refugees and host communities with plans and programmes implemented by government. Currently the DLG have not mainstreamed activities that are intended to support refugees, for instance when some projects close, the CSOs do not work with the DLG to uptake or continue with the interventions, hence un sustainability.
- ❖ Invest in more agriculture extension services for host communities. The host communities have land and there is shortage of food in the region generally as a result of increased population. With the upcoming Parish Model and support to large farmers, efforts should be geared towards supporting farmer groups into producer associations with support of micro irrigation kits.
- ❖ There is an opportunity for increasing access to opportunities by using the VSLAs as entry points for economic development. In every zone of the refugee settlement there exist VSLA groups initiated by a development partner.

Specific Recommendations

- ❖ Build capacity of the project staff and partners in conflict sensitive programming and DO NO HARM; the skills recommended are: Conflict sensitivity, developing a do no harm guide, early warning and monitoring, building resilience from an asset based model. The details are reflected in section 6.12.
- ❖ The NGOs have organized cultural galas, sports events, and cultural food competitions during world international days such as International Women's Day, World Refugees Day, and World Environment Day etc. as a way of uniting the refugees. This practice should continue and more innovations around joint activities should be thought about that involve both refugees and host communities.
- ❖ The Peace building and conflict resolution structures should be inclusive taking the model of Peace and Conflict Resolution Organization (PACRO). The structures should be representative of refugees and host communities, men, women and ethnic tribes in the settlement. These should work alongside the block leaders and the RWCs with female representatives to help solve the most pressing female problems.
- ❖ Stakeholders, OPM, CSOs, DLG and others should reflect on the REHOPE strategy 70:30 to either review it towards 50:50 as a DO NO Harm strategy or repackage the delivery model of Humanitarian assistance that is perceived as fair and inclusive.
- ❖ The SCCR project partners should map out like minded organizations and engage them in collaboration; this can be on identifying areas of synergies and learning, uptake of previous

⁴ A person of concern is any person whom the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency, considers a refugee, internally displaced person (IDP), asylum-seeker, or stateless person, with some additional persons not fitting these criteria

structures that were established by previous projects for instance the peace committees established by International Women Peace Centre in Romogi and Kululu.

- ❖ Develop a medium term strategy to address natural resource based conflicts. Clearly the top-line findings point to conflicts between refugees and host communities revolve around land and access to wood fuel, charcoal and water resources.
- ❖ Build the capacity of the RWCs on peace building. This will strengthen the RWC I and II empower them to perform their functions. The formation of numerous committees that are parallel to RWCs is not sustainable since they are tagged to the NGOs projects.
- ❖ Provide psycho-social activities such as: establish/activate social networks and in age-friendly spaces, facilitate the relax and de-stress activities; music, dance and entertainment, counseling, provide mentor-ship, early warning and identification of trauma signs, re connection with culture, engagement with survivors, develop leaflets on dangers of suicide, integrating awareness on effects of conflicts and implications in programming. Undertake community dialogues and offer mutual support on topic issues that cause stress, implement alternative livelihood options. Promote communication between community groups, encourage religious practices. Foster cultural traditions that foster people's identity. Strengthen mental health service provision through advocacy.

2.0 Introduction

This conflict analysis report provides findings from the literature review, outcomes from the Focus Group Discussions (FGD), Key Informant Interviews and transects walks.

The outcomes are presented in the following sections:

- ❖ Section 1: The executive summary encompassing key findings and recommendations.
- ❖ Section 3: Highlights the methodology for the study.
- ❖ Section 4: The back ground to the study and the legal, social and political framework for refugees and host communities in Uganda.
- ❖ Section 5: Illustrates findings from literature review,
- ❖ Section 6: Presents study findings, while
- ❖ Section 7: Highlights the study conclusions,
- ❖ Section 8: Highlights general and specific recommendations,
- ❖ Section 9: Provides a list of desk study references and
- ❖ Section 10: Presents appendices to the report.

3.0 Methodology of the study

A mixed methods approach was applied during collection of the data. Qualitative and quantitative data collection methods included Key Informant Interviews (KII), Focus Group Discussions (FGD), Transect Walks, collection of opinions and case studies.

Below is the summary of the methods and the reach out.

Table 1: Summary of Data Collection Methods Applied

Data Collection Method	Data Collection Tools Used	Numbers reached by the Method
09 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with 147 project beneficiaries of who 43 were males and 104 females.	Focus Group Discussion Guide and conflict tree.	a) 147 (43 male and 104 female) b) 85 Refugees and 62 host community members c) 02 FGDS with host communities in Romogi and Jue Villages respectively in Yumbe and Terego Districts. d) 07 FGDS with refugee's community (4 in Imvepi and 3 in Bidi bidi zone 1.
Key Informant Interviews:	Key Informant Interview Guide	23 respondents described in section 5.2 below
Stakeholder engagement meetings	Checklist of the stakeholder engagements	10 Engagement Meetings with TPO, Care Uganda URCS, OPM, DCDO, CDO and UNHCR
Desk / Document Review	Document Review Checklist	Various reports and publications as amplified in the references section.
Transect Walks and Observational Analysis	Observation Checklist	7 communities in Zone 2 (<i>villages 9, 15, and 11</i>), and Zone 3 in Imvepi and zone 1 (<i>cluster 3, Village 1</i>) in Bidi Bidi. Host communities of Jue and Kiri
Reflection Meetings	Checklist	#03 meetings with Red Cross and CARE staff

3.1 Description of methods applied

Conducted literature Review: This entailed:

- a) reviewing programme documents to contextualize project objectives, activities and indicators,
- b) reviewing the humanitarian policy protocol and programmes by ASPR, Austrian Red Cross, Uganda Red Cross, and any other work related to conflict and peace building, CARE Austria and Uganda as well as Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan 2022-2025 and REHOPE strategies and
- c) Identified reports, research works and publications on conflict dynamics around refugee settlements in Uganda and the great lakes region.

Purposeful random Sampling: A cross section of refugee and host communities that constituted the study sample was selected purposefully and targeted. These include Refugee Welfare Committees (RWC 1 & III) in one zone of Bidi bidi and two (2) zones of Imvepi, for specific groupings of men, women, boys and girls. Purposeful random sampling involves identifying and selecting individuals or groups of individuals that are especially knowledgeable about or experienced with a phenomenon of interest (Cresswell & Plano Clark, 2011).

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

Focus Group Discussions: A FGD guide used (Appendix II) to engage with the respondents with a cross section of refugees and host communities entailed: 1) verifying if one is dealing with a conflict, 2) determining the conflict system boundaries, and deeper probing was done 3) using conflict analysis tools (presented below):

Conduct a Conflict Tree: This tool was employed as a data collection and analysis tool to determine the types of conflicts, actors, root causes, triggers, and dynamics of conflicts in Bidi Bidi, Imvepi refugee settlements and surrounding areas, targeting refugees, host and migrating communities. The step-by-step approach to application of the tool entailed:

- a) Drawing a picture of a tree, including its roots, trunk and branches – on a large sheet of paper or a flip chart.
- b) The consultant guided respondents to state a word(s) indicating important factors of the conflict as they would see it.
- c) The consultant thereafter wrote on the tree and clearly positioned the roots if respondents mentioned root causes; on the trunk if they highlighted a manifest issue and on the branches, if they identified a dynamic factor influencing the conflict.
- d) The consultant moderated the discussion of the links between root causes and dynamic factors and how to address them.

Figure 1: Christine from URCS facilitating an FGD



Figure 2: Kandole Annet Balewa Engaging with Participants in Village 12 Imvepi

3.2 Characteristics of Respondents

- a) **Gender Composition:** A total of 147 respondents dis-aggregated in 104 women and 43 men were interviewed and constituted a cross section of 85 refugee and 62 host community members.
- b) **Settlement Leadership Organs:** Interviewed the Chairman RWC III for Imvepi and Chairman RWC I, Village 9 Zone II and Secretary for Health Village XV in Imvepi and RWC II village 6 Cluster 1 Bidi Bidi.
- c) **International and National CSOs respondents:** UNHCR as an entity mandated to register and coordinate refugee activities was represented by two (02) staff including the focal persons for Conflict Resolution and Peace building & Sexual and Gender Based Violence; TPO is a lead partner for psycho social support and was represented by two staff; Care Uganda and Uganda Red Cross Society as local partners of ASPR were represented by 5 staff (one online and 4 face to face) and 4 staff respectively;
- d) **Central Government Institutions:** OPM was represented by the Deputy Settlement Commandant for Bidi Bidi and the Community Liaison Officer for Imvepi. Uganda Police was represented by the District Community Liaison Officer, OC Imvepi Police Post, OC Romogi Police Post and OC Bidi Bidi.
- e) **District Local Government Institutions:** Terego district was represented by the District Community Development Officer (DCDO) and Community Development Officer (CDO)

for Odupi Sub County while Yumbe District was represented by DCDOs and the Gender Officer in addition to the CDO for Romogi and Omugo Sub counties.

- f) **Other respondents:** Interviewed are the representatives of PACRO peace building CBO in zone 1 in Bidi-Bidi.

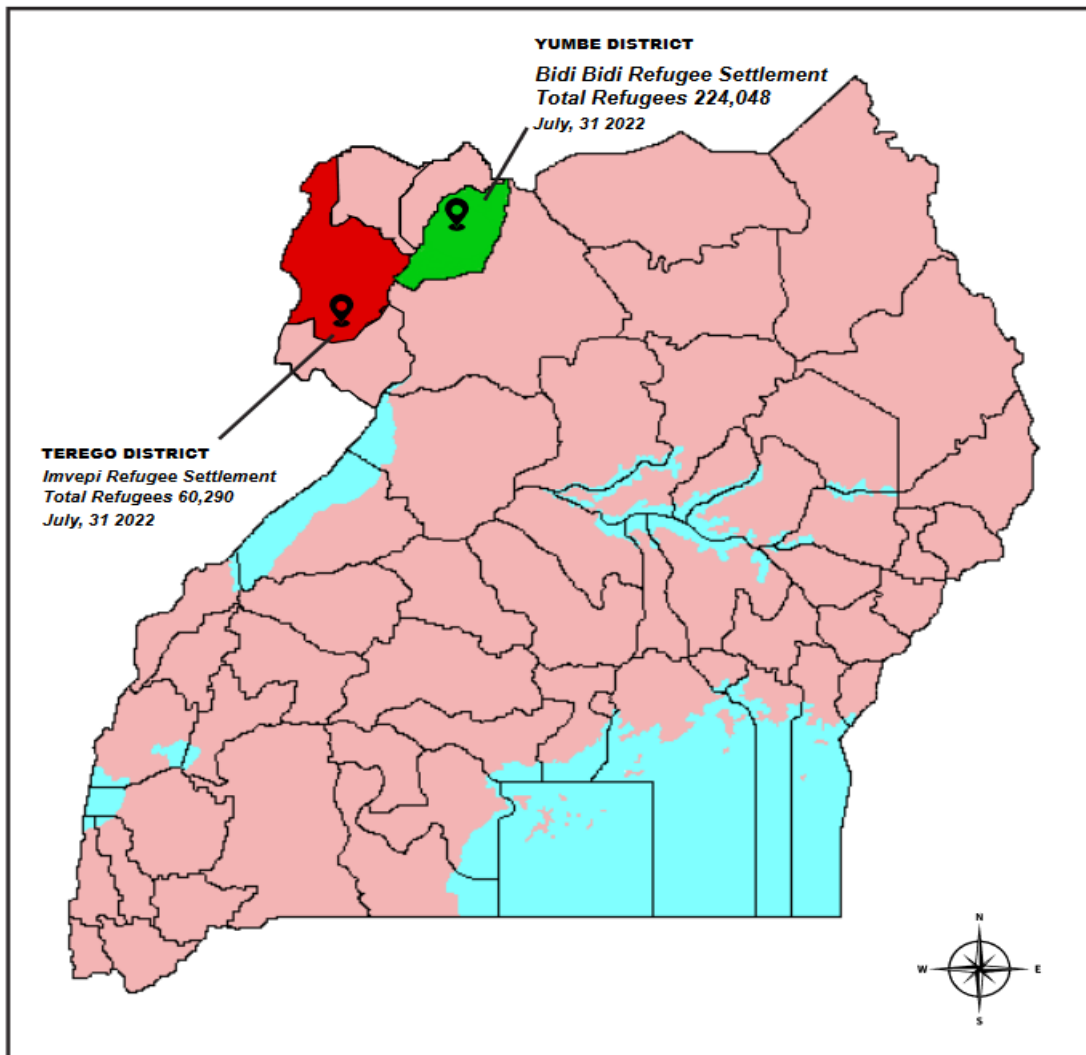
4.0 Background to the study

Austrian Red Cross, the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR), and CARE Austria are working in a consortium to implement a project “*Strengthening conflict and gender sensitive community resilience in protracted conflict in Northern Uganda and Central Equatorial, South Sudan*” project (the “SCCR Project”) funded by the Austrian Development Agency. The local project partners are the Ugandan Red Cross Society, CARE Uganda, Palm Corps, and the Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO) in South Sudan. The project duration is 30 months, from December 2021 to May 2024, with an inception phase lasting until end of May 2022. The implementation geographical area is South Sudan (Kajo Keji, Yei River counties) and Northern Uganda (Bidi Bidi and Imvepi refugee settlements and surrounding areas), targeting refugees, host and migrating communities.

The conflict analysis study was conducted in Bidi Bidi and Imvepi refugee settlements and host communities. The hitherto small village of Bidibidi⁵ in Yumbe District was turned into a refugee settlement effective **August 2016**. Since then, the Uganda Government and other NGOs have worked to create a settlement rather than a camp to host and contain the influx of the growing number of the asylum seekers from South Sudan. **Imvepi Refugee Settlement** is a refugee camp in Terego District that was established in February 2017 to accommodate South Sudanese asylum seekers fleeing the war in their country. As at July 31st 2022 the population of Bidi bidi stood at 224,048 while Imvepi stood at 60,290 see details below:

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bidi_Bidi_Refugee_Settlement

THE MAP OF THE STUDY AREA FOR THE CONFLICT ANALYSIS



4.1 Social and political framework for refugees and host communities

Coordination of the refugee protection and response system in Uganda is led by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), while operational response is co-led by the OPM and UNHCR, supported by UN agencies and partners. The **Refugee Act (2006)** and **Refugee Regulations (2010)**, provide for an inclusive approach, granting refugees freedom of movement and the right to work, establish business, and access public services as nationals. The **National Development Plan (NDP III)** provides for refugee management and protection.

The **Settlement Transformation Agenda (STA)** provides for socioeconomic development in refugee-hosting areas. Through OPM, the World Bank is implementing a comprehensive agenda for refugee host districts called Development Response to Displacement Impact Project (DRDIP) programme. This project has supported Infrastructure development for instance Urunga and Ubero Primary Schools have been given 2 blocks with 3 class rooms each. These schools were struggling as children studied under trees. Additionally, the **Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE)** strategy tackles service delivery by addressing environmental degradation in refugee-hosting areas through improved natural resource management and energy access.

There are a number of working groups (WGs) that will directly relate to the SCCR project particularly focusing on **Energy and Environment** ('WorkGrEEen'), protection WG, Sexual and Gender Based Violence WG.

"Strengthening conflict and gender sensitive community resilience in protracted conflict in Northern Uganda and Central Equatorial, South Sudan" project (the "SCCR Project") will contribute towards achievements of the objectives in the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2022-2023. The project objective is to contribute to gender equality, to empower women and girls, and to promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies in Uganda and South Sudan. The Project aligns with SDG 5 and SDG 16 and further aligns with the CRRF pillars (i) Admission and Rights, (ii) Emergency Response and Ongoing Needs, (iii) Resilience and Self-reliance and (iv) Expanded Solutions. The project further aligns with the national gender policy 2007.

The specific project outcomes are twofold:

- 1) Strengthened conflict sensitive community resilience in protracted crisis, particularly of women and girls, and
- 2) Root causes addressed, and impact of forced displacement mitigated in Northern Uganda and Central Equatorial, South Sudan.

At the output level the project is expected to achieve:

- 1) Strengthened conflict and gender sensitivity in humanitarian and development assistance through joint programming,
- 2) Increased female leadership and empowerment of women and girls,

The Vision of the Uganda 2022-2023 UCRRP is a coordinated, accountable and sustainable refugee response for socioeconomic transformation of refugee and host communities. The vision will be guided by the following impact statements

- a) Uganda's asylum space is maintained and unhindered; access to territory is preserved; and international protection standards are adhered to;
- b) Life-savings humanitarian needs of refugees and asylum-seekers are met, with attention to any specific needs;
- c) All Persons of Concern in refugee hosting districts benefit from a healthy natural environment, and improved social services, including health, education, water and sanitation, and social welfare, provided through national systems where possible;
- d) All Persons of Concern in refugee hosting districts live peacefully with each other, and progressively attain self-reliance in a conducive environment for livelihood opportunities.

- 3) Improved conflict resolution capacity and community mediation processes, and
- 4) Protecting women's rights and preventing sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

5.0 Literature Review:

Cross Border Conflict Dynamics: The porous and long borders between Uganda and South Sudan have aided movement in and out of Uganda by individuals involved in the civil war, and the relative freedom of movement for refugees. Refugee settlements are visited by armed conflict actors from both government and opposition groups in South Sudan and generate fear amongst refugees, many of whom have already been victimized by these groups. This has also facilitated arms trafficking by refugees and to refugee settlements⁶. Host community members are also afraid of being caught up in any incident⁷. The high levels of suspicion, trauma and rumors in the settlements, unsurprisingly lead to accusations and counter accusations of individuals by fellow refugees of being government spies and/or plotting against refugees who sympathize with the opposition.

Available literature reveals the existence of recruitment of boys from refugee settlements in Uganda by South Sudan's key conflict parties notably government forces, the SPLM-IO and NAS. Reports further indicate that recruitment officers have been arrested and arraigned before the court martial in Gulu. Quite often, the recruitment officers return to South Sudan or disappear off the official radar⁸. In 2022, the researchers were not informed of the recruitment, this being highly secretive, it's important to monitor the alleged returnees to South Sudan.

Trends in Conflict: Conflicts within refugee settlements and host communities are neither reducing nor increasing but seemingly static over the recent 5 years. Majorly, programming for conflict management has emphasized short term solutions to address long term needs. This is evidenced by most partners' activities that have projects ranging from 3 years or even less without clear exit strategies. Secondly the vulnerabilities have not changed and finally critical issues such as land conflicts do not have many players other than OPM. This is evidenced by the various research findings below:

CARE Uganda: Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) conducted 2019 pointed to: Mass deforestation is undermining the capacity of both refugees and hosts to adapt to increasing temperatures and increasingly erratic rainfall, There are increasing levels of hostilities between hosts and refugees, with host blaming refugees for the exploitation of natural resources and resulting into degradation (weakening capacities of the host communities to adapt to climate change). Additionally, hosts seem aggrieved that refugees appear to receive services like water (mechanical pumps), solar for irrigation, energy saving stoves, medical facilities, free schooling and sanitation. Refugees, for their part, are aggrieved that they have no land, and are not given access to land by hosts. The challenge of competition for Natural resources featured prominently in the assessment.

ZOA, DRC, DDG SCI et al. Contested Refugee: The Political Economy and Conflict dynamics in Bidi Bidi Uganda's Refugee Settlement 2018: Points to 3 major findings: the competition over natural resources particularly firewood, grievances of the host communities over land allocation and contestation over aid resources resulting from unmet promises.

⁶ E. Biryabarema, "Rebels say South Sudan's use of Uganda territory could spread instability" in Reuters, 30 August 2017, available at <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-southsudan-uganda/rebels-say-south-sudans-use-of-uganda-territory-could-spread-instability-idUSKCN1BA216> (accessed on 11 June 2022)

⁷ IRRI: *Understanding conflict dynamics around refugee settlements in northern Uganda*, 2019 (Pg 35);

⁸ IRRI: *Understanding conflict dynamics around refugee settlements in northern Uganda*, 2019 (Pg 37).

World Vision: Building Social Cohesion with Children West Nile 2018: has got main findings related to: Tensions within host communities and are largely seen as tribal in nature and driven by disagreement over land rights. Tensions within refugee communities are largely carried over from South Sudan and include conflict between ethnic groups aligned with rival political factions. Competition over limited resources and general misunderstandings due to cultural differences is fanning tension between host communities and refugees. Conflict often arises over collection of firewood or materials for construction, concern over land degradation and animal grazing rights.

International Refugee Rights Initiative (IRRI): Understanding Conflict Dynamics around refugee settlements in Northern Uganda August 2019: The conflict most often highlighted by refugees was competition over natural resources, especially firewood for cooking and grass for thatched roofs. The host communities accused refugees of environment degradation other possible issues of contention include water and livelihood activities.

In 2021: Baseline Survey Report for the Project 'Response to Increased Environmental Degradation and Promotion of Alternative Energy Sources in Refugee Hosting Districts' (RED) conducted by Environment Alert for Save the Children Uganda: found out that competition to firewood was the main source of conflict between refugees and host communities as well as a driver for GBV.

Conflict causes and trigger factors: From the literature, when refugees arrive in new communities there are likely risks of security problems of different nature both between refugees and with the host community. Such conflicts vary over a broad spectrum including local crime and violence, clashes between refugees and the local community, organized crime, drug smuggling, human trafficking amongst others⁹. The arrival of refugees in an area also creates competition for the existing natural resources between the refugees and the host communities. If unattended to, this can spark tensions and physical conflict between the two parties. It is not uncommon to find tensions building between host and refugee communities in instances where the former feel neglected in provision of social services such as safe water, improved sanitation, Agriculture programs, and economic empowerment programs¹⁰.

For refugee adaptability and peaceful co-existence to be realized, the government and development partners must be available and established under national law; which should include being financially viable, sustainable, and responsive to conditions; the government needs to be clear on its stance towards local integration and not give off mixed messages in that regard. In particular, clear guidelines for implementing local integration, including readily available information for refugees¹¹.

Conflicts related to Natural Resources: From 2001 to 2021, Uganda lost 967kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 12% decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 438Mt of CO₂ emissions. Uganda continues to lose the forest, wetlands as a result of poor agriculture practices and increase in population. According to Baseline Survey Report for the Project 'Response to Increased Environmental Degradation and Promotion of Alternative Energy Sources in Refugee Hosting Districts' (RED) dated 13th August, 2021 conducted by Environmental Alert for Save the Children Uganda, there exists conflicts between refugees and host communities as a result of scramble for

⁹ Doreen Basemera et al: *Adaptability on the Peaceful Coexistence with the Host Communities. A Case of Rwamwanja Refugee Camp, Uganda, 2021.*

¹⁰ Harden A, et al: *Applying systematic review methods to studies of people's views: An example from public health research, 2004. J. Epidemiol. Community Health* 2004, 58, 794–800. [CrossRef] [PubMed].

¹¹ Doreen Basemera et al: *Adaptability on the Peaceful Coexistence with the Host Communities. A Case of Rwamwanja Refugee Camp, Uganda, 2021*

energy resources. The report further states that 18% of the respondents interviewed confirmed occurrence of conflicts resulting from scramble for energy sources among the host and refugee communities. However, the extent of the conflicts can vary from one district and settlement to another depending on the rate of environment and natural resources degradation in terms of tree and forest cover loss. These conflicts are reported in most parts of the settlement and were reported in Bidi-bidi Zone 5: Ombechi cluster, village 13 where the participants at the FGD said rape over firewood and physical assaults exist¹².

The increased population in West Nile has significantly increased loss of forest cover as a result of land clearance for settlement of refugees, and increased demand for firewood¹³. The Conflict often arises over collection of firewood or materials for construction, concern over land degradation and animal grazing rights¹⁴. CARE Uganda indicated that mass deforestation¹⁵ is undermining the capacity of both refugees and hosts to adapt to increasing temperatures and increasingly erratic rainfall thus increasing levels of hostilities between hosts and refugees.

6.0 Study Findings

The nature of conflicts can be categorized in 2 ways;

Refugee vs host community: Conflicts over: access to land for cultivation by refugees from landlords; resources like firewood, construction poles, grass for thatching water points, and stray animals.

Refugee vs refugees: These conflict over aid especially the food ration reduction; tribal conflicts; conflicts related to hate speech and polarization which lead to witchcraft allegations; and at household level where husband and wife conflict over resources leading to domestic and gender based violence. Tribal conflicts are not that recent; they were largely experienced in 2017, 2018 and 2019¹⁶. All conflicts affect mainly women and girls in many forms although vulnerable men are affected as well. The actors for or against peace are: Refugees, Landlords, Nationals, Neighbors, relatives/clan members, husband and wife, leaders who make decisions that are unfair and unethical, Ethnic leaders among Kakwa, Kuku, Aringa, Lugbara, Dinka, Nuer, Murle. During the assessments the findings point to the conflicts below:

6.1 Land conflicts

Conflicts over access to land for cultivation erupt when the landlords offer land to the refugees for cultivation but later withdraw the land; the conflicts over resources are attributed to scarcity of these resources, and the conflicts over stray animals are attributed to negligence by persons owning them. The quest for land results from the small size of land that measure 15mX20m allocated to refugees that is not sufficient for agriculture production, besides the land in Bidi Bidi

¹² Baseline Survey Report for the Project 'Response to Increased Environmental Degradation and Promotion of Alternative Energy Sources in Refugee Hosting Districts' (RED) conducted by Environment Alert for Save the Children Uganda

¹³ <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/620681548863607633/pdf/Rapid-Assessment-of-Natural-Resources-Degradation-in-Areas-Impacted-by-the-South-Sudan-Refugee-Influx-in-Northern-Uganda.pdf>

¹⁴ Building social cohesion with children West Nile, Uganda 2018 World Vision.

¹⁵ Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) of Host Communities and Refugees in Bura Parish, Omugo Sub-County and Akino Parish in Uriama Sub-County, Arua District 2018;

¹⁶ there was a tribal conflict between Dinka and Kakwa in 2017 and 2018 which took place at the food distribution point in village 4, a tribal conflict within Nuer and Nuer took place in 2019 when two Nuer clans clashed after a boy from one clan impregnated a girl from another Nuer clan; there was a tribal conflict between an Acholi and a Nuer at a water point and the conflict was later turning into an inter tribal conflict between Acholi and Nuer tribes; there was a tribal conflict between the Kakwa tribe and the Nuer tribe

and Imvepi is rocky and non-productive. In the desire by refugees to access diversity of food, increase production and house hold incomes, the refugees enter into an understanding with host communities to rent land for cultivation or charcoal burning. The refugees find themselves dealing with unscrupulous landlords and or fall into dealing with dishonorable transactions.

There are 2 conflict scenarios around land:

- *The refugees said; that once land is hired, it's their right to use all the natural resources on the land.*
- *Landlords comprising the host community contend that the feeling of entitlement on the part of refugees is a recipe for conflict.*

In all the FGDs, cases of fraud and harassment involving nationals and refugees were reported as a big issue across all refugee settlements. The faces of land conflicts are:

- Interviews with host communities in Jue village in Imvepi, Terego District and Romogi, Yumbe district revealed that whenever land is hired out to a refugee, the refugees heavily degrade the forest and vegetation cover to meet the immediate wood fuel needs whilst continuing with land tilling for crop production. Conflict emerges when the lessee (refugee) benefits on the trees and burns charcoal degrading the farmland.
- The refugees feel they are here for a short time, when land is hired to them, they do not think of leaving trees for tomorrow. They clear everything leaving the land bare and unproductive.
- Landlords obtaining money by false pretense: Some community members allege to be landlords, obtain money from unsuspecting refugees for land hire and later disappear.
- After the landlords have offered land they change goal posts/terms after the refugees have opened up land for cultivation, which process is labor intensive, sometimes the landlords chase them after one harvest season or during the process.
- The stray and uncontrolled animals by landlords in case of hired land: refugees cultivate hired fields and the stray animals destroy the fields, the landlords don't want to be held accountable. Much as the issues of stray and uncontrolled animals also exist between refugees and host communities, it also exists with the refugee settlements as a source of conflict.
- There is no binding agreement between refugees and landlords therefore the informal agreement does not support any mechanism of redress when the landlord and refugee disagree.
- There is limited awareness among the refugees about land access rights, institutions and channels of dispute resolution related to land.

Corroboration of land conflict by tenants (refugees)

“I hired out land from a national, prepared it up to the level of planting but the owner took it away without even compensating my labor nor refunding back my money for hiring”

Words of a refugee from Zone 2 in Village 9

“I paid 100,000 Uganda shillings for charcoal burning to the landlord in the host community, the man later denied me access to the field, I lost the money, and I have seen the man several times, he does not even greet me”, said a female participant in Village 6 Cluster 1 zone 1 Bidi Bidi.

“I paid 90,000 shillings to cultivate ground nuts, No sooner had I planted the ground nuts than the landlord changed his mind. He alleged that I had cut trees in the farmland, in the verbal agreement; we had agreed to 1.25 acres, he

changed the boundaries. Along the way I was kicked out of the land, I reported the case to OPM but I was not helped. I lost the money and I have not hired again”, said a youth from Village 12 zone 1 Imvepi.

- From the landlord perspective, sometimes refugees go beyond the agreed upon plot of land since there are usually no clear demarcations or measurements for plots rented out to the refugees;
- Landlords expect a portion of the harvest from the tenants (refugees) on their land. However this has most times not happened and usually not agreed upon at the time of hiring out the land. Landlords end up chasing away the tenant(s);

Some refugees unfairly make allegations about the landlords to attract attention and continue getting favor “if we were bad people, we would not have offered land for them to settle, and they would not be coming over to rent land. Some of the disagreements are brotherly but blown out of proportion, every society has conflicts” said one respondent at Jue host community.

Whereas land conflicts exist between the refugees and host communities, not many CSOs have programme related land rights and land issues. They are exclusively worked on by OPM. According to OPM, the reporting of cases is adhoc, so there is no clear record though OPM estimated about 10-20 cases per month. The police and CSOs reported to be getting cases during community dialogues. There is a landlords association at sub county level that meets periodically to discuss key issues for engagement with OPM. According to the landlords there is more that stakeholders need to do to address the expectations. Land has now gained value more than before i.e. the period they offered land for refugees’ settlement. While there is a landlord association, a number that was talked to, do not belong to the association; some say they hear about it on radio while others don’t believe it’s genuine.

6.2 Competition for access to natural resources

6.2.1 Women and girls exposed to danger and harm

Conflicts over natural resources hinge on levels of access to firewood, construction poles, grass for thatching, grazing areas and water points. The conflicts manifest through scramble for access to fire wood between refugees and host communities as owners of the natural resources. At an FGD in zone 1 of Imvepi, it was reported that a well identified person from the host community had raped a girl while collecting firewood in Point C of the Refugee Settlement¹⁷. Following the reporting of the rape case to the authorities, the offender remained on the run and justice was yet to be delivered.

These conflicts to a large extent affect women and children, although in some cases the men are affected. Beyond the conflict between refugees and host communities regarding firewood, there exists conflict at household level resulting from firewood. However, the conflicts at households are not about access and utilization of energy but rather the impact of absence of firewood that burden women and girls.

Physical violence towards women and children reportedly erupts at times whenever they fail to cook food for the households on account of firewood deficiency. For instance, the female

¹⁷ It should be noted that women fear to report rape because of the social stigma around rape, therefore number of rape cases are difficult to ascertain.

respondents in Bidi bidi said, *“the conflicts at household level are due to; food not being cooked on time, lack of fire wood, lack of income generating activities and collecting fire wood from long distances bring conflicts especially when men ask for food on time.”* The findings are similar to the study conducted by Environmental Alert in 2021 in Zone 5: Ombechi cluster, village 13 (Yumbe).

According to the RWC III chairperson in Zone I of Imvepi Settlement, not all the harassment that happens in the host community during collection of firewood is perpetrated by the nationals. *“We have youthful gangs in the settlement that put on hoods to disguise and they commit crimes as well to girls looking for firewood”*. It is evident that some cases are never reported owing to frustration posed by inaction from community structures and lack of transport incentive for Police to effect crime investigations.

6.2.2 Exposure of refugees and host communities to conflict with local and national laws

More than 70% of the respondents reported to have experienced a conflict between the refugees and the host communities as a result of firewood collection. The conflict arises when the refugees access wood fuel without permission of the land owners. The host communities chase the refugees from pocket forests denying them collection of firewood. While POC accused host communities, some members among the refugee communities accused their own of cutting trees indiscriminately without consideration of the landlords' needs. One respondent said: *“when you come to my field and cut a planted immature Eucalyptus, what do you expect?”* Access to firewood was the most rated conflict between refugees and host communities. They further said some POC disrespect the host communities by breaking their fences and or want to fetch firewood without consent.

In one of the FGDs, refugees wondered why they are denied access to a God given natural resource like firewood. This feeling of entitlement on the part of refugees is a recipe for conflict. Further disclosure pointed to refugees from the distant Morobi village that moves to cut trees from Gboro village. The local authorities are making efforts to save the environment by establishment of bylaws; Romogi Sub County has put in place a bylaw against bush burning and stray animals. If implemented, these bylaws will reduce resource based conflicts. The refugees are not aware of the local environment laws and efforts by partners are limited to tree planting and distribution of cook stoves¹⁸.

6.2.3 Vulnerability to Climate disasters and Impaired Livelihoods

Transect walks revealed that the land is rocky and not productive thereby making food security a challenge for both the host communities and refugees. With reduction of food rations for refugees, FDG participants noted existence of competition for the little food in the market. Transect walks further established that households in the refugee communities have planted vegetables for instance Okra, cassava, ground nuts and keeping goats and chicken.

Considering that the refugees and host communities have different sets of resources upon which livelihoods are based, hosts and refugees have different experiences of hazards. Whilst host communities indicated that the hazard with the biggest impact on their livelihoods is drought impacting negatively on productivity and production of food, refugees indicate that strong winds had the most impact on their livelihoods. According to the refugees in village 12 zone 1 Imvepi

¹⁸ The locals mentioned that distribution of improved cook stoves is limited to refugee settlements not host communities; some host communities were trained in construction of stoves though the programme was at minimum scale.

settlement, deforestation is undermining the capacity of both refugees and hosts to adapt to increasing temperatures and erratic rains.

In line with the National Policy on establishment of tree nurseries, it had earlier been agreed with agencies (OPM and UNHCR) that NFA would be supported to establish quality tree nurseries to provide quality tree seedlings. Nevertheless, study findings established nonexistence of tree nurseries in any of refugee settlements under the study.

Both refugees and host communities attest the poor rainfall patterns in the last 6-7 years is affecting agriculture activities,. The refugees through the FGDs said they are not accessing weather and climate information to ably predict the planting season, as a result low productivity is experienced hence they are making loses from the hired land. The decline in natural resource base particularly fuel wood and water resources and competition for water resources during dry seasons is affecting both refugees and host communities. There are limited coping mechanisms since forest regeneration takes time and tree planting is being adopted at snail rate. The main coping mechanism for fuel wood is the use of improved cook stoves made of clay and bricks.

6.2.4 Promising Practices for environment Conservation

Amidst the continued energy challenges, Community Integrated Development Initiative (CIDI) has been implementing a solar scheme the ECO PESITHO cooker. Currently Mercy Corps is implementing the scheme in zone 3&4. The cost of the unit can be negotiated as follows: Upfront payment of 700,000 Uganda Shilling, or the beneficiary has an option of paying in installments as follows 200,000 upfront payment and a monthly pay of 27,000 per month for paid in 2years amounting to 848,000 UGX), **alternatively**; 200,000 UGX paid upfront and a monthly pay of 52,000 per month amounting to 824,000 UGX paid in one year. This energy solution is seen as expensive yet the partners are subsidizing the kits. The same kit is sold at 2,000,000 million UGX for nationals who are not residing in the host communities. This initiative provides a viable solution to addressing energy needs. All other solutions for energy such as the improved cook stove still use firewood and charcoal. The refugees however reported that the solar cooker is expensive for an average or poor household. Therefore, the uptake of the innovation is low even when the solution is subsidized by CIDI and Mercy Corps.

DCA as a main partner for environment and livelihood is distributing tree seedlings for planting in partnership with UNCHR and NFA. RICE West Nile was also reported to be promoting tree planting in the refugees and host communities. DCA and WV were reported to be distributing improved cook stoves to Persons with Special Needs (PSNs).

6.3 Unequal distribution of social services to refugees and host communities:

Social services in the settlements are better than host communities e.g. education and health. Therefore, the children of host communities prefer to study from the settlements because of better services, and there is congestion at health centers. The hosts communities contend that service delivery is preferential, unequal and unfair, where by refugees are given better services and handouts such as food ration and cash incentives. The host communities on the other find themselves at cross roads competing for resources and have opted to access some of the services particularly health from the settlements. This contention is arising the implementation of the REHOPE strategy that provides for 70%:30% apportionment of benefits between refugees and host communities respectively.

From the FGDs in Jue and Romogi, the host communities reportedly have not realized the 30% from Agencies save for few areas where 5 water facilities (bore holes in Romogi Sub County are attributed to partners and a good school established by Save the Children International (SCI). This was validated by the listing of agencies that work in refugee settlement but little or nothing is known about their services in the host communities.

According to the leaders at District and Sub County levels, the 30% allocation is on paper and not in action. This is reflected in a statement by one District Official who asked; “30% of what? We don’t have a platform for lobbying the benefits”. There is observable limited coordination between partners and LGs, “.....NGOs are not reporting, we don’t know their budget and in some cases the plans. We only receive what is availed to the Sub County”. While the DLG accuses the OPM and partners for non-disclosure and poor coordination, the S/C leadership has a feeling that the District is aware of the partners work.

Staffs from different organizations have a different response; according to one agency staff interviewed (*name withheld*.) the 30% is small to be realized. It is even worse with organizations that implement activities such as awareness raising or training whose 30% is hard to ascertain. However, it was noticed that some staff require training in conflict sensitive communication, for instance one staff said: “*the host community are greedy, they feel entitled*”. This can be a source of conflict and portrays a negative perception that can perpetrate unfairness as described by the host communities.

From the FGDs and key informants, there is a recommendation that policy agencies should consider reviewing current 70:30% as defined by the REHOPE strategy and implementation of the strategy should take into consideration a DO NO Harm approach, the host communities feel unfairly treated especially when it comes to benefit sharing. A number of examples were sited such as cash for education where by refugees are provided with 279,000 while the host communities are given 50,000 Uganda Shillings. This programme is implemented by Save the children Uganda as one of the Cash Transfer Programmes. The use of cash transfer programmes (CTP) has risen in recent years to become an integral element of poverty reduction and social protection strategies in the humanitarian sector and has more lately been adopted¹⁹.

¹⁹ <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/child-outcomes-cash-transfer-programming-synthesis-evidence-a>

The frustration is reflected in the response by the District Community Development Officer - Yumbe who said: *the 30% is not enough and sometimes it's not given, a case in point is other villages within a sub county don't benefit.* In addition, a sub county staff said *"there is no transparency in the manner the 30% is implemented, to begin with 30% of what, the partners do not disclose the resource envelope, and some partners pick one beneficiary as a demonstration of 30%. However, other agencies have fulfilled their obligation for instance SCI constructed a school in the host community of Romogi among others".*

Both the sub county leadership and the host communities claim to have no response from the OPM to compel agencies deliver upon the 30%. It should be noted that the beneficiaries for the 30% are not aware about the entities that should hold the Organization accountable. Both the District and the sub county expressed inability to hold organizations accountable.

6.4 Unmet expectations and needs of the host communities:

The majority of refugee settlements are located near host communities whose residents resemble the refugees in their extreme poverty, lack of basic infrastructure and social programs, and frequent experiences of food scarcity. A national from Lobulucu village, Bidi-bidi Parish in Romogi Sub County reported that the LC V Chairperson persuaded nationals to provide land for refugees in anticipation of getting "some reward" from either Government or the development partners (CSOs). In absence of such expected benefit, conflict is bound to result in form of chasing away the refugees from land despite efforts to cultivate the given land. It was reported that while nationals provided land in Lobulucu village, there is no evidence of a social amenity to the community by government like a school, a water source or a health facility in appreciation of the good gesture of providing land for refugees by the locals.

However, surrounding villages in Romogi are aware of their right to the 30% benefit arising from hosting the refugees. Cases cited include job opportunities availed to the host communities, schools like Kurunga Primary School in Bidi Bidi parish, health centers and 5 water sources constructed by partners; who were seen as isolated cases. However, the majority of host communities interviewed cited unmet expectation and needs as a source of conflict with the refugee communities.

Despite the unmet expectations, a section of host communities stated that refugees have created market for products as a result of increased population. The health services have improved; there are good facilities in the refugee settlements and one facility in host communities though people prefer accessing services from the refugee settlement. The settlement has HC III, while the host has health center II that has reduced on the distance for walking to access services.

According to the landlords interviewed; there is unequal treatment provided to the refugees in form of services and benefits. While the landlords and host communities are unsatisfied with the rewards, the Office of the Prime Minister felt the landlords have been rewarded as per expectations. According to OPM the host communities expected benefits to accrue in compensation or appreciation of the land provided to the refugees for settlement and that has been done. Box 1 and 2 are the responses of OPM and the Landlords respectively;

BOX 1

- According to OPM the landlords expected infrastructure in terms of health, education facilities I.e. schools, water, roads and Jobs.
- All the above have been provided, further to that in zone 1, 2 & 5 of Bidi bidi settlement each landlord received 2 cows and the landlords are 35, while zone 4&5 each landlord received 35 iron sheets. The skilled jobs are competence based; however, their sons are being employed as casual laborers.
- There has been extension of water services to the host communities. OPM acknowledges that there are landlords who keep emerging. In Imvepi OPM gave 1 to 2 goats per landlord 3 years ago. According to OPM, the challenge is the landlords keep emerging/coming and it's difficult to satisfy all of them.



Figure 1 Land degradation in the settlement

There is need to undertake a comprehensive assessment on land issues, identify the dynamics around issues affecting landlords. Beyond land conflicts with refugees, there are household conflicts related to land utilization. There are cases where the siblings are not agreeing upon who is the rightful landlord and to whom should benefits accrue, there are cases of wife not consenting to land give away to OPM, in fact according to OPM, all the landlords are all males pointing to a process that is gender blind. According to RWC III and OPM, the landlords keep emerging and there is no clear register of landlords. *Despite the current land challenges, OPM is currently securing land for agriculture for refugees.*

BOX 2

- **The Landlords Perspective:** Land in West Nile is largely communally owned, therefore, the 2 goats in Imvepi for example were divided among family beneficiaries and were not sufficient, and according to one landlord sharing the 2 goats was a big challenge.
- While there is **some** infrastructure established in the host communities, in some areas it's not there. In most cases, our children and women walk to the refugee settlement for education and health services. That comes along with challenges, at times there is discrimination, since the refugees get preferential treatment. One landlord said "I am not aware of the 30% in form of infrastructure, even the jobs are not given on affirmative action for landlord's children as portrayed by OPM".
- In Kiri Romogi Sub County the Landlords denied having received any support from OPM. According to the respondents, the chairperson LCV Yumbe convinced them to offer land as a good gesture from national communities to host the brothers who were suffering, there was no agreement between landlords and OPM, and therefore it's difficult to hold OPM accountable since there was no agreement. In village 6 cluster 1 zone 1 Bidi bidi, the landlords say they were not given any incentives for land offer. OPM gave one cow to the people who were squatting on land and they agreed to relocate.

6.5 Patriarchal Norms Fueling Conflict among refugees

Key Informant Interviews held with the Imvepi Police, revealed that domestic violence as the modal²⁰ reported conflict ostensibly triggered by patriarchal norms at household level as amplified below:

6.5.1 Disenfranchised Refugee men due to dependence on relief supplies:

Men feel they are natural providers to the families, the male refugees feel they are not fulfilling the roles of care and provision for their families since both women and men are dependent on support from OPM and UNHCR. Male refugees reported that the emphasis is on women as a more vulnerable group by UN agencies and development partners has been a major source of conflict. During the FGD, male participants reported that women tell them that they are all wives of OPM and UNHCR. Women have a lot of benefits in form of women groups, livelihood programs targeting women etc., and men have neither, thus resorted to seek solace from bars and ultimate violence. There is reported late coming to homes by women especially on market days. This has been construed as disrespect by men from women on account of failure to provide for the family by the man.

FGD with women further confirm that it is true as a result of the conditions, hard work; unbecoming manners of their spouses and environment, women have lost interest in sex. According to the men, marriage gives them a legal right to expect reasonable sex thus sex denial is not expected, this attitude therefore has resulted into conflict between husband and wife. On the other hand, men want to use sex as stress relief and demand it as a right. In village 6 cluster 1 zone 1 Bidi bidi, women responded by saying “*men don't want to work*” while a woman is innovative and ensures food is put on the table. Moreover, women refugees reportedly walk long distances to collect firewood as husbands champion lamentations while idling away. Women’s interest in sex only develops when at ease something that isn’t understood by men.

The male refugees further reported being discriminated by programmes implemented by partners. “*We are on our own said the male participant at the FGD in village 7, cluster 6 zone 1 Bidibidi; “ a number of agencies are targeting youth 18-30 years and or women, yet the men above 30 years are fathers, husbands expected to provide support to homes. NGOs have supported establishment of women safe spaces, youth safe spaces; where are spaces for men? Our spaces are in the bars*”. The statement was re-echoed by the RWC III Chairperson Imvepi who said; there is little engagement of men as most programmes are targeting women and youth. “*As a result men are disengaged from society; you find a father has stolen a solar panel, a goat from the neighbor and others to fulfill his family obligations.*”

6.5.2 Unilateral Decisions on Family Planning for Host Families:

At the FGD in Jue the women reported family planning as a source of conflict. Men don’t want family planning yet the burden of care of a family is largely on women. Both refugee husbands and nationals were reported to be against family planning. Among the host community, the majorities are Muslims and alleged that the values of their faith are not compatible with family planning, while in the refugee settlement, there is a perception that some children have died as a result of poverty resulting from displacement and war and therefore need to be replaced.

6.5.3 Lack of joint decision making at household level for both refugees and host families:

Women and men have different choices for instance a woman may want to secure food for her household while a man wants to sell food for school fees. This was reported at the FGD in Jue,

²⁰ Out of the 37 cases reported at Imvepi Police Station in May 2022 by refugees, 32% (12 cases) were linked to domestic violence.

among the refugee community, the man may take cash to buy alcohol and the woman needs money for food or self-care. This was seen as a source of conflict by both women and men, there is perceived little transparency and participation in decision making at household level. Participants have examples of the secrecy whereby women have been supported with business start-up by partners leaving out men. In times when women fail to pay back loans acquired from VSLA, men are always put task to pay the loans, infact the participants at the FGDs gave examples where a husband was compelled to pay a VSLA loan that he had no knowledge yet the wife had gotten it.

6.5.4 Limited participation of women in leadership:

According to OPM Imvepi settlement, Out of 100% of the total refugee population, 85% of the refugees are women and children, 3% elderly, 53% female and 21% youth. Despite women forming over 53% of the refugee population, the leadership positions for block leaders and RWC are male dominated. Whereas Refugee Settlement guidelines provide for one specific position of Secretary for women affairs and that at least 3 members on the 13 members committee should be women, study finding revealed no consistency in complying with these guidelines. **In village 12 zone 2 of Imvepi, the women representation on RWC is 23% while in zone 1 Cluster 1 village 6 Bidi Bidi, women representation stood at 38%.** FGDs revealed that discriminatory social norms have caused gender-based inequalities that have deprived women of equal opportunities in assuming leadership positions, excluded them from taking part in decision making even in matters that concern them hence brewing conflict.

It was noted that women representation is skewed to the agency championing the cause for instance some development partners are promoting women in leadership. The table below shows a sample of committees in Imvepi and Bidi Bidi settlement.

Table 2: Proportion of women in leadership positions among organs of selected partner organizations and RWCs in Imvepi and Bidi Bidi settlements.

Stake holders programme	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 for every woman and children		100%	All
RWC, community leaders	13	3	23%	All
W-HUNGER, livelihood projects	30	6	20%	All
RWC I Zone II Imvepi	187	36	22.9%	
RWC I Zone I (Bidi Bidi)	182	85	47%	
RWC II zone I (Bidi Bidi)	33	15	45%	
RWC III zone (Bidi Bidi)	11	5	45%	

From the above table it's evident that women representation is still below 30% in Imvepi as defined in the national gender policy. There is need to increase capacity of women to take up leadership positions. However, the scenario is different for Bidi Bidi where women representation on RWC committees stands at 45% this means that interventions for women leadership should concentrate in Imvepi settlement.

Barriers that hinder women to undertake economic activities: Empowerment has social and economic dimensions; the study investigated key barriers to women's economic advancement; below are the findings that can inform programming;

- In Romogi Sub County where the community is dominated by Muslims, the culture of polygamy puts the burden of care on women, these coupled with deeply entrenched patriarchal system was reported to be barriers for women to undertake economic empowerment activities;
- The geographical location of the host community also disadvantages the women in accessing financial services;
- The capacity for women to appraise a viable business is limited; the refugees in particular have limited social networks;
- The savings from the VSLAs are small and the loans are not sufficient to support reasonable businesses.
- Government programmes have a lot of requirements in some cases that hinder women participation considering the low literacy levels.

6.6 Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV):

The consultant understands that gender analysis has been undertaken separately, however, the study highlights that the key SGBV drivers to conflict reported during the study are; unmatched expectations, abuse of resources at household level, limited or no participation of women at household level. Early marriages and teenage pregnancy remain high in Terego for instance there were 3200 teenage pregnancies in 2021 during COVID 19²¹, while Yumbe had 3973 pregnancies. 16 cases of teenage pregnancy in Romogi Sub County between January-May 2022, 10 cases of forced marriages between January-May 2022, all arising from cultural acceptance of early/arranged marriage. Poverty is partly the problem since the communities want to solve the problems on their own despite such conflicts being a mandate of courts of laws. This is coupled with the culture of early marriages being accepted by the communities. The authorities only get to know when families have disagreed over the modalities of settling the case. There is sexual/physical assault and emotional abuse. There are a number of partners particularly CSOs who have supported refugees before and currently implementing projects that address GBV.

²¹ KII with the District Community Development Officer Terego

NATIONAL STATISTICAL MONTHLY CRIME REPORT

DATE: 31st MONTH: May YEAR: 2022 POLICE UNIT/POST: Imvepi Pol. Station

OFFENCE CATEGORY	TOTAL NO.	POSITION			
		UNDER INQUIRY	FORWARDED TO CS TREGO	CONVICTED	DISMISSED
MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	01		01		
THEFT	01				01
ASSAULT	04	03			01
INTENTIONAL VIOLENCE	01	01			
STEARLING CASES	01	01			
CRIMINAL RECORDS	01	01			01
Total	09	06	01		

REFUGEE STATISTICAL MONTHLY CRIME REPORT

DATE: 31st MONTH: May YEAR: 2022 POLICE UNIT/POST: Imvepi Pol. Station

S/N	OFFENCE CATEGORY	TOTAL NO.	POSITION			
			UNDER INQUIRY	FORWARDED TO CS TREGO	CONVICTED	DISMISSED
1	Domestic Violence	09	05	02		
2	Intentional Violence	03	02	01		01
3	ASSAULT	12	08	01		03
4	THEFT	05	01	01		02
5	Rape	01	01			
6	Abuse	01	01			
7	DEFILEMENT	01		01		
8	STEARLING A VEHICLE	02	01			01
9	TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	01				01
10	BURGLARY AND THEFT	01		01		

Photo 1: Cases reported by nationals

Photo 2: Cases reported by refugees

The above records were obtained from Imvepi police post and reflect the extent of violence within the refugee community i.e. refugee vs. refugee. Notably there is rape, defilement, assault and domestic violence. In the 4 police stations visited; defilement, assault and domestic violence topped. Notably there were more crime cases in refugee settlement reported that are SGBV related than nationals. As reported in section 6.5.1 above, men feel discriminated by programmes and this should trigger a whole discussion around project beneficiaries, men are left out while there are demands and expectations from their spouses and children.

There was reported substance, drug and alcohol abuse among the youth due to unemployment. **Drunkenness is another driver of GBV**, According to the FGD and the interview with RWC III, the laws in Uganda are soft on alcohol sale, and alcohol is sold all day. The committee proposed a bylaw to regulate sale of alcohol but was not supported by OPM on the pretext that it will antagonize with the national laws.

Alcohol still remains a big challenge to refugees and is one of the biggest drivers of GBV.

There are scattered efforts of engaging men, through activities of organizations though there is not much impact because the projects are short term. The projects also lack clear coordination mechanisms and exit strategies. There are GBV ambassadors, role model men and drama groups that are not engaged because of lack of funds.

Insufficiency and mis-allocation of resources and food relief supplies: During FGDs, women reported food relief supplies getting sold by their spouses to buy alcohol which resulted into GBV. It was reported that violence escalation is further occasioned by the reduction of food rations from a monthly 12kgs of maize to 6Kgs, 2 kgs of beans to 1.2 Kgs per person in a household. I December 2020, the World Food Programme announced the cut of food ration to refugees in Uganda due to funding shortfall. The food ration to refugees in Uganda was reduced to 40 percent due to funding shortages. Thus the FGD with refugees reported that; in the last two years, domestic violence has been rife which sometimes leads to marriage breakdowns due to food related issues.

Other forms of SGBV manifest in form of abuse that is subjected to women who walk long distances to fetch firewood exposing them to the risk of rape and assault, in addition when women delay out while collecting firewood, they face the wrath of intolerant men. Of recent malicious allegations have come up victimizing women, there have been 2 cases between January-May 2022 where women have been chased from their homes on allegations that they are witches.

Other than food ration, the SGBV drivers within the Host Community, is not different from refugees, it is all about economic choices, joint decision making over resources at household levels, Among others.

Land related conflicts contributing to GBV: According to OPM all landlords are men, this point to a process that is gender blind and needs to be addressed. Beyond the men and women relations, there are power issues surrounding the host communities that lead to GBV; *Aliwaku Robert 46 years and Ulega Karimelo 48 years from the host communities who received 2 goats each, testified that it was difficult to share the 2 goats among family members.* In the case of land one sibling may offer the land to OPM for refugee settlement without consent of the others creating a misunderstanding within the family considering that the returns are not sufficient to be shared across.

6.7 Mechanisms for resolving the conflicts

The structures for peace building have been established though more are in the settlement than host communities. A number of organizations have established peace building committees to mitigate and mediate conflicts. RWCs handle cases that are not criminal in nature; other structures that handle conflicts are religious leaders, opinion leaders, Child Protection Committees (CPCs) RWCs paralegals, neighborhood watch that is charged with security, and others²². Both refugees and nationals are involved in national and local functions such as cultural galas and sports events. These events and forums are avenues for preaching peaceful co-existence and inclusion.

The Uganda Police offer protection and is mandated to protect people and property thus involved peace building. According to the FGD, the police are a preferred referral pathway for reporting cases. The police are swift and respond on time save for the few incidents when they are reported to have run out of fuel. The participants expressed dissatisfaction for other structures that they accused of delayed or no response. The other structures provide counseling and do not provide solutions. One participant said: *“when you report a case to the other structures, they take 2 years to come, an expression of disappointment in the structures”. Secondly these structures can only provide counseling but no action because they don’t have any legal mandate said the participant.*

The other referral pathways are the block leaders who are the first point of reporting and later the RWCs I. The List of stakeholders (reported as a separate report) provides the actors involved in peace building and their activities. There are mobile court services that have been offered by GOU to the settlements with support of the Uganda Christian Lawyers Association. It was noted that the refugees are still not clear of the mechanisms for reporting, for instance, some cases that are reported to OPM are referred back to local leaders and protection partners leading to the survivor losing interest in the case. The GOU has further established the LCIII courts and actors have been trained but the POC are reluctant to seek services in those courts because they are not free. The POC should be sensitized about operations of local courts. OPM and UNHCR together with partners can consider working with LC III courts which will make justice more and easily accessible.

In the host community of Omugo Sub County, DCA is training communities in land rights, undertaking sensitization on conflict analysis and gender issues among others. Safe World and TPO have Community Action Groups (CAG) that is sensitizing communities on GBV and early marriages. CARE has been training role model men, women mentors and SASA groups. These and

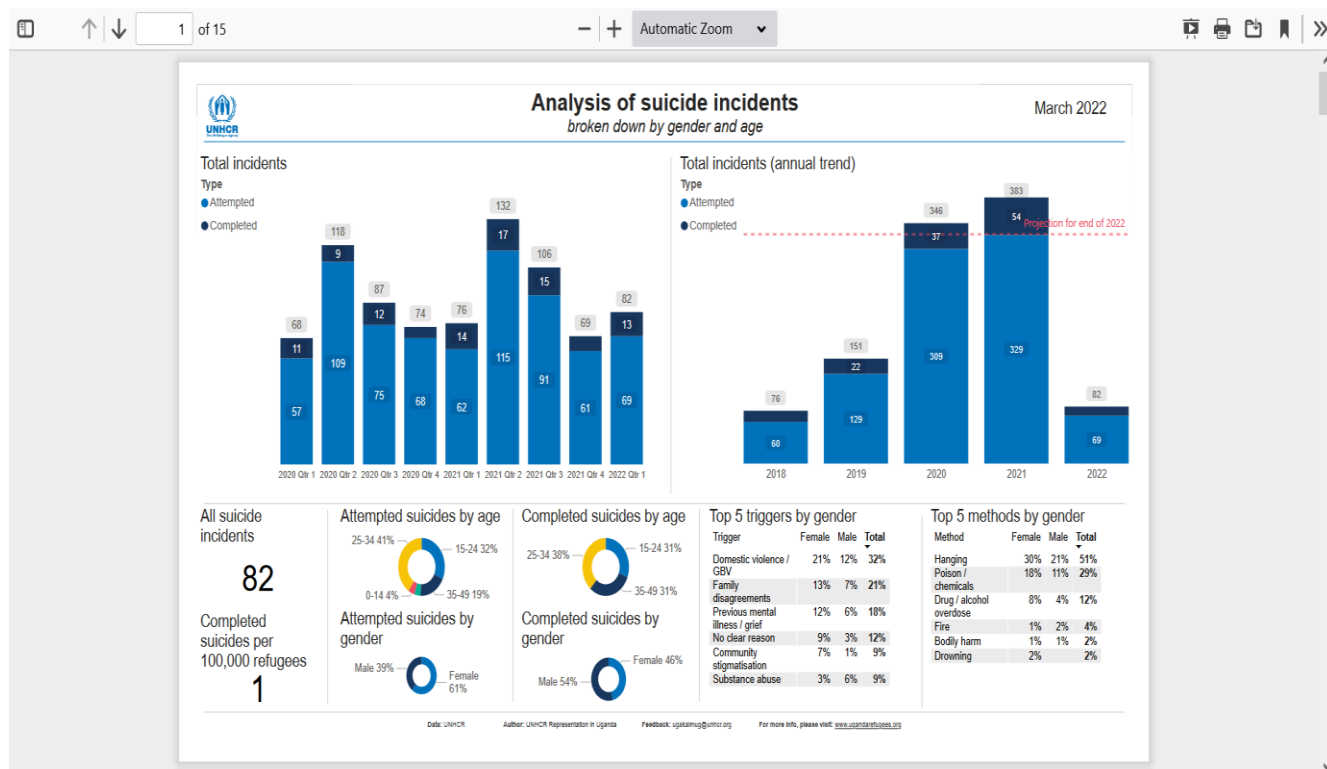
²² See list of actors

other partners such as NRC are involved in mediation activities, DRC supporting in carrying GBV survivors for medical examination and sensitizing communities. The list of stakeholders provided as a separate report has got details of functions for agencies involved in peace building and conflict resolution.

The RWCs and LC I have been organizing dialogues between refugees and host communities. The challenge is that sometimes parties agree to the outcomes verbally but do not implement them. The Protection partner desk is managed by IRC the protection partner has been involved in supporting the process of mediation. With funding from the UNWOMEN, the Women Peace Centre has established peace mediators in selected Sub counties of Romogi and Kululu and Romogi Town Council. This project started in 2019 and ended 2021. The Uganda Society of Disabled Children (USDC) has promised to continue working with the structures. The feedback from the host community is the emphasis on peace committees that has been more in the refugee settlement than the host. **It's recommended that peace committees should be inclusive of women, men, refugees and host communities.**

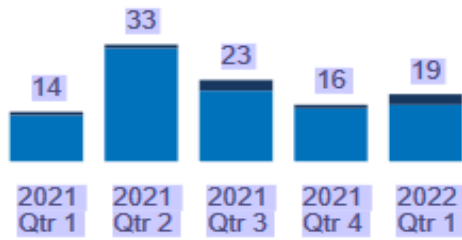
6.8 Effects of the conflicts

Suicide: According to the KIIs, and the Uganda Police, there is an emerging challenge of suicide. Twenty (20) suicide cases (10 male & 10 female) were registered between January- March 2022 and these comprised 1 national and 19 refugees. Of the recorded suicide cases, 16 attempted suicide and 04 denoted the number of deaths. Methods used in committing suicide were grouped into: hanging by rope (13 cases), use of chemicals (2 cases), use of drugs from hospital (1 case), a combination of all 3 methods (1 case that resulted into severe burns and death) and other methods (03 cases).



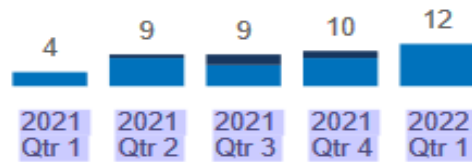
Bidibidi

Type ● Attempted ● Completed



Imvepi

Type ● Attempted ● Completed



The top most cause of suicide among both gender is domestic violence / GBV accounting for 32% followed by family disagreement at 21%. These statistics tally with the cases reported at police as mentioned in the Section 6.6 above. Death by suicide is increasingly being recognized by the government since it's not only affecting refugees but also nationals. The Ministry of Gender and Social Development has initiated a programme to build capacity of DLGs so as to offer psycho-social support. Another example was reported that a man had died of consuming poisonous yams in village 5, in Zone 1 of Imvepi settlement due family disagreement.

Family abandonment and child neglect: Some men have resorted to returning to South Sudan due to perceived stress and lack of engagement in the settlement. This was reported during the FGD that men found moving back to South Sudan easier to reduce tension between husband and wife, avoid the temptation of increased GBV and family disagreement. The men further stated that they believe they can adapt to the economic survival rather than be idle in the settlement. This leaves households with single mothers and female households, further increasing vulnerabilities of children and women.

Food and Nutrition Insecurity: there is disruption of food intake or eating patterns because of lack energy resources as a result of scramble for fuel wood. It should be noted that households cannot be food secure if they are energy insecure. Both refugees and host communities are facing food insecurity due to a number of factors, limited household incomes, poor food production, and lack of access to diversity of food and nutrient supplements and poverty. The hosts reported that the reduction of food ration and introduction of cash for food has increased competition for food in the markets. *Therefore, the reduction of food ration has to some extent disadvantaged the nationals according to the FGD in Jue. The refugees are exchanging food for firewood and eating one meal.* Due to energy insecurity (lack of fuel wood) the refugees are eating one meal²³.

6.9 Ethnic Tensions

Although the ethnic tensions were not reported in the last 1 year, from the FGD with Refugee Welfare Committee (RWC) leaders, the refugees are shifting their mindset from what is happening at the community level in the settlements to the big picture across the Uganda-South Sudan borders. The refugees and host communities' fear that another conflict can emerge considering that 70% of the peace agreement has not been implemented in South Sudan.

The Uganda-South Sudan borderline has been active with movements of people across the borders which are manned by security, immigration and customs agencies. There are however, porous areas along the borders that illegal traders use for smuggling. Given the freedom of movements by refugees, some of them cross back to South Sudan through porous points while some unregulated

²³ However, the reduction of food ration further re-inforce the eating of one meal due to lack of food, therefore the one meal may not entirely be tagged to the conflict over firewood

individuals who use non gazzeted boarders sneak into Northern Ugandan and access refugee settlements close to the borders. This has caused insecurity in the refugee settlements and host communities. Currently, there is no major influx of refugees from South Sudan, except few who are fleeing because of cattle rustling and formally received at Elegu²⁴. There are agencies supporting the fleeing South Sudanese such as MTI, LWF and WFP. The challenges faced at the transit point include crowding of shelters and inadequate WASH and health care.

6.10 Existing Coping Mechanisms

Refugees returning to South Sudan: Some men have resorted to unofficially returning to South Sudan due to reported hopelessness in the settlement as reported under section 6.9 on family abandonment.

Constituted neighborhood committees: In contrast to the bureaucratic systems, refugee communities have constituted neighborhood committees which serve as disciplinary committees composed of religious leaders, male youth and the elderly for purposes of resolving internal village matters. The foregoing disclosure was made during an FGD with a cross section of women, men and youth in zone 2 village XI of Imvepi refugee settlements. The male youth on the neighborhood committees are mandated to administer corporal punishments to charged offenders following indictment by the neighborhood committees²⁵.

Exchanging food for firewood and surviving on one meal a day. Some of the negative coping mechanisms to address the challenges of firewood scarcity are refugees are exchanging food for firewood and surviving on one meal a day.

Exchanging sex for Firewood: During the FGDs instances were reported that women exchange sex for firewood and or are raped during firewood collection. This finding is confirmed by the findings by the Global Women's Institute; The George Washington University and IRC Uganda *Policy Brief January 2020, that state; when collecting wood; women and girls also travel far out of the settlements to collect firewood, leading to confrontations or sexual exploitation and abuse by the host community men who offer access to land with firewood in exchange for sex. Since women and girls are in far-off locations, they have even less access to help.*

Capacity building for peace mediators: Women peace mediators and male engagement champions were trained and commissioned in village 1, cluster 3 zone 1 of Bidi Bidi refugee settlement, under the auspices of Women International Peace Center and Refugees Law Project respectively to champion peace building at family level and liaising with RWCs. Members hailing from Village 2 confirmed existence of such resources, there was unanimity of nonexistence for the said resources by FGD members from villages 1 and 3.

Existence of economic empowerment groups: There are economic empowerment groups such as VSLA, these provide soft loans and are meeting avenues for sharing, learning, connecting with peers who at times provide counselling.

Undertaking climate resilience activities: The land is rocky therefore not productive; food security remains a challenge for both the host and refugees. With reduction of food ration for refugees, the participants noted competition for the little food in the market. At the moment resilience activities undertaken are; planting trees, distribution of energy saving stoves, formation of VLSA groups, provision of causal labor to earn a living, women sell onions, fish, greens in the market to earn a living. There is a complaint from women that; men don't want to work, whereas

²⁴ Disclosures recorded during Key Informant Interviews with OPM Officials.

²⁵ Although this is accepted by the refugee community, this is illegal in the Ugandan context and seen as abuse of human rights.

men say they are willing to work, there are no available opportunities. Most of the Climate vulnerabilities affect women and girls. Women are caregivers thus the burden of care makes them more vulnerable than men.

The refugees are renting land although the associated challenges of fraud have demoralized them. As earlier stated, the refugees are renting land for agriculture from nationals as well as planting vegetables on their small pieces of land.

6.11 Potential for positive peace at community level:

Communicating Peace and development: The partners are promoting sports galas, cultural events as tools for peaceful co-existence. Some partners use radios in Arua to sensitize communities about peace building, livelihood and development. In Village 12 zone 1 Imvepi settlement, there are 2 functional community radios and the third is faulty. In village 6 Cluster 1 zone 1 Bidi Bidi settlement there is one Community radio. The rest of villages that the team visited had no community radios. The refugees however mentioned that they listen to radio stations from Arua. These could be entry points for the SCCR project to engage with.

Existence of peace building structures: In cluster 1 village 6 Zone 1 Bidi there is a peace building organization called Peace and Conflict Resolution Organization (PACRO) that works in zone 1 in Bidi bidi. The Organization is registered as a CBO at Sub County level, comprised of 15 men and 15 women of whom 15 are refugees and 15 nationals. PACRO provides an opportunity in peace building, they offer; counseling, mediation, and sensitization services. According to the participants at the FGD, PACRO is acceptable because the membership is inclusive, all tribes are represented in CBO and it is approachable. Despite being trained by DRC, PACRO is currently challenged by resources. PACRO is provided with support to start up an office and a public awareness system; they will improve upon service provision.

There are other peace building structures established by UNHCR and Community Technology Empowerment Network (CTEN) that offer an opportunity for the SCCR project with and scale up or build onto the initiative. Other peace committees that provide opportunity to SCCR project are the peace committees in the host community established by the Women's International Peace Centre.

Some youth are eager to nationalize: In Village 12 some youth say they are providing casual labor to nationals and the money earned is being saved to buy land. In this case such young people can seek legal literacy to understand constitutional provision of procedure for citizenship under the constitution of Uganda.

Sharing returns from land resources: In village 6, cluster 1, Zone 1, Bidi bidi, the refugees are mining stones and crushing them for construction. The refugees have agreed with the landlords that for every truck of 120,000 UGX, the landlord shall be given 10,000 UGX. Such case studies can be used as examples of peaceful co-existence. It's important as well to identify peace ambassadors among youth, men and women.

6.12 Impact of COVID 19 on the refugee settlements (Bidi Bidi and Imvepi)

Uganda had the longest period of lock down for COVID 19 where by schools, transport, public gatherings were restricted from March 2020, though relaxed in beats lasting till August 2021. The main impact that was reported were the closure of schools that meant there was no safe space for girls. Both refugees and host communities were affected by teenager pregnancies, forced marriages, and negative food based coping strategies. The most cited negative coping strategies are relying on less preferred and cheaper foods, limiting portion size and reducing the number of meals per

day. According to the MONITOR published Wednesday, June 16, 2021 Female headed households were more likely to use negative food based coping strategies reflecting 65% for female against 56% for males, BidiBidi 79%, Imvepi 76% and Adjuman 69% had the highest proportion of households that resorted to the use of negative food based coping strategies during COVID 19 pandemic. According to the DCDOs Yumbe and Terego, the Districts had 3973 and 3200 teenager pregnancies during January to September 2021 of whom some are refugees. The refugees pupils and students could not access education tools such as television and online classes.

During the FGD at Imvepi zone 1, the participants reported that the economic situations are hard hitting and even the performance of VSLA groups has declined. The restrictions on movements during COVID 19 affected small businesses thus the owners ended up using up the small capital for household needs. This concern was re-echoed at zone 1 Bidi Bidi village 7 where the women requested for **start-up capital and grants** to be provided through VSLAs. The restrictions further created separation of families where by some children were separated from their care givers thus increasing their vulnerability. In the same period of COVID 19, the World Food Programme announced reduction of food ration as a result reduced funding. There were reported cases of increased GBV, drunkenness, substance and drug abuse. In this case the programme needs to work towards addressing economic shocks resulting from COVID 19 pandemic.

6.13 Practical understanding of Do No Harm

One of the fundamental principles of delivering humanitarian assistance is not to do harm and to guard against unintentionally exasperating current and potential conflicts. Since the 1990s, Do No Harm has gradually emerged as a standard practice for humanitarian actors to avoid inadvertently fueling conflict in delivering aid in a wide range of humanitarian contexts. The aim of the Do No Harm approach is to ensure any assistance provided to communities does not create or exacerbate tension, but rather connects men and women, girls and boys as well as groups of different ethnic or religious backgrounds.

It is a puzzle to define interventions and every activity should be scanned against conflict sensitivity and do no harm. Examples of activities that are intended to uplift livelihoods of refugees but have caused conflicts are: According to the FGD in Imvepi, **Goats within the settlement** that have become a mess, they were offered by development partners yet the land is small and no space for grazing. Some refugees are reckless thus goats are a source of conflict. **Cash intervention:** According to the FGD in cluster XX village 6 Imvepi, cash has caused misunderstanding between husband, wife and children. The man disappears with the money to drink alcohol or satisfy personal needs whereby the wife and children feel his priorities do not benefit them. A number of areas that the study identified were relating to whether the partners undertake a Do No harm analysis and 12 respondents from partners attested to **not** undertaking a conflict assessment at the design of the projects and or do no harm analysis.

Considering that SCCR has a central focus on conflict sensitive programming and DO NO Harm, the study conducted a capacity gap analysis among the partners and below is the findings:

Table 3: Assessment for available capacities in Do No Harm June 2022:

Assessment area	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Provide Evidence	Rating: RED = (Not Knowledgeable), YELLOW= Has some basic Knowledge GREEN=

								Understands Fully
Organization	URCS		CARE		PALM CORPS			
What is your role under the programme							<p>URCS: Coordination, implementation, documentation and reporting</p> <p>CARE: working in partnership with Palm Corps to implement Climate resilience activities.</p> <p>Palm Corps planting trees for Peace, through community celebration of International days. Implementing partner of CARE for livelihood and peaceful coexistence</p>	
Number of staff implementing the programme							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● URCS: One project officer and 10 volunteers. ● CARE: Have 2 full time staff on the project with support from the programme Managers and advisors. ● Palm Corps: 2 full time and 4 support 	
What are the key capacities of project staff and volunteers in your organization in conflict analysis, Do no harm, gender transformation							<p>URCS: The staff and volunteers have basic knowledge in conflict analysis, do no harm and gender transformation.</p> <p>CARE: One of the front line staff got training in peace building 3 years back.</p> <p>Palm Corps: Only one staff has been exposed to Do No harm as humanitarian standard 3. The staff was trained by OXFAM.</p>	<p>Yellow</p> <p>RED</p> <p>RED</p>
What actions are you implementing in the field of conflict and peace building programme?							<p>URCS: Capacity building on peace and conflict resolution, land management, gender diversity, VSLA and kitchen gardening.</p> <p>CARE: Planned Conflict Sensitive training in June for</p>	<p>Yellow</p> <p>Yellow</p>

							CARE staff and Partners. Palm Corps: Has a gender policy in place, there is a clause on conflict.	Yellow
Our staffs have complete knowledge on do no harm approach to conflict and peace building.	Yes			No		No	URCS: Most of the activities are with PoCs guided by the sphere standards. CARE: Not sure whether the Organization has a Do NO harm or Peace and conflict sensitive handbook/Manual in place. Palm Corps Only One staff has been exposed to Do No harm	Yellow Red Red
The organization has developed and implements mechanisms that prevent conflict and GBV as a result of our activities and initiatives	Yes		Yes		Yes		URCS: has an approved policy that guides all the staff on conflicts mostly regarding sexual harassment. CARE: Do No harm specific content embedded in PQL adopted as a principle of CARE. Palm Corps: We use the sphere standards of Humanitarian and Do NO Harm is one of the modules. Although we cannot fully claim expertise	Green Green Yellow
The organization undertakes assessment of likely harmful practice under the project, Using the 7 step approach to Do NO Harm	Yes			YES		No	URCS The PMER department takes lead in this. CARE: There is No prior assessment like a using a conflict sensitive marker. Although CAUT believes the assessment was done the field staff had no idea. Palm Corps: CARE has planned a capacity building in conflict sensitivity we shall arrange for the assessment if resources are availed	Yellow RED RED
The organization has trained the staff in Do no harm approach	Yes			No		NO	URCS: It's an entry point for all staff taking the position. CARE: No training for staff yet except for one key staff who had training in peace building 3 years ago.	Yellow

							PALM Corps: No training for staff. 1 staff only attended relevant training in a previous project 3 years ago	RED
The Organization constantly assesses her programmes, activities with a do harm lens and re strategize	Yes			Yes		Yes	<p>URCS: With support from PMER, quarterly assessments are done throughout the year.</p> <p>CARE: The project is at inception phase. A rapid gender analysis has been conducted.</p> <p>CARE Austria: We engage local leaders + consult project participants when planning activities; we monitor the project implementation with support of local structures and feedback mechanisms</p> <p>Palm Corps: The organization does undertake mid-term and periodic reviews of programmes, with the right tools, of Do Harm the assessment shall be done.</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>Yellow</p> <p>Green</p> <p>Yellow</p>
Transparency and the creation of safe spaces can reduce tension and suspicion, encourage open dialogue and the sharing of potentially sensitive information.	Yes		YES			NO	<p>URCS: In most case, URCS acts as a mediator taking their auxiliary role with the support of the saver access department</p> <p>CARE: Safe spaces exist though not active where women meet and discuss freely</p> <p>Palm Corps: At the time of assessment in June activities were not implemented yet though the peace building activities are embedded such as trees for peace.</p>	<p>Yellow</p> <p>Yellow</p> <p>Yellow</p>
In the light of the conflict analysis, are the organization interventions working on the right issues in this context at this time?	Yes		Yes			YES	<p>URCS: Most projects target both host and PoCs</p> <p>CARE : the project shall target 60% women and 40% men</p> <p>Palm Corps: The activities are largely focusing on climate change adaptation and rights issues are</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>Yellow</p>

							embedded.	
Does the intervention appear to address relevant key causes and drivers of conflict	Yes		Yes			YES	URSC: There has been much of the complains from the host of not benefiting from project but with the inclusive projects, some of the key causes are being addressed CARE: The project will work with Peace Monitors. Palm Corps: the project will work with Peace Monitors	Yellow Yellow Yellow
Does the organization address the behaviour of key driving constituencies of the conflict?	YES		YES		YES		URCS: This is based on the mandate of the organization as some may not be handled by them. CARE: Peace Monitors will be trained in PSHEA and GED Palm Corps: Gender issues will be considered and social inclusion	Yellow Yellow Yellow
Please suggest any training needs that you require in line with Do NO harm, Conflict sensitive programming and SGBV							-detailed training on do no harm -peace and conflict resolution -land policy guidelines -gender equality and diversity -Conflict sensitivity, early warning and monitoring. -Building resilience -Business incubation and management (with a focus on Water and environment resources)	

From the assessment, four areas have been categorized as RED including the fact that some of the front-line staff has not got specific training in conflict sensitive programming and Do No Harm. There were also cases where partner staffs were not sure if their organization had manuals in place. Although some of the staff has attended short training in conflict analysis, their responses pointed to the requirement for refresher training. Several areas were yellow whereby some partner staff has basic knowledge. **The assessment recommended the following areas for skilling:**

- Conduct a detailed training on do no harm and avail a manual/ guide to staff on the approach for reference.
- Undertake capacity building in peace and conflict resolution, conflict sensitivity, early warning and monitoring for partner staff and collaborators or allies.

- Train partner staff, Community based facilitators, Peace monitors and peace building committees established by the project in land policy.
- Refresh staff at the front line with skills in gender equality and diversity. Often strengthening capacities of women is seen as promoting gender equality and equity, from the assessment, partner staff need to be as sensitive to men needs as to women; i.e. engaging men to empower women.
- Training staff in building resilience to enable them understand the interconnections of environment, physical, natural, social and economic assets.
- Rethink the economic empowerment model to consider Business incubation and management with a focus on Water and environment resources.

According to the staff from the Organizations, the trainings in Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Harassment and abuse (PSHEA), Do No Harm, Conflict Sensitivity, and the Humanitarian and Development Programming (HDP) Nexus had been planned for in July and August.

7.0 Conclusions

There is need to engage men as partners and agents of change to reduce the negative impacts of the programmes: As part of the DO NO HARM, partners need to critically look at targeting and involving men and boys as well as women and girls. While a number of partners subscribe to respecting diversity, gender, all ages, men, women, boys and girls, the practice is different. There is a loud voice on absence of men in project activities. Even when they are involved they are few in groups. During an interest group of men in Bidi Bidi, male participants said *“because of our inability to provide for the families, the global agenda on women empowerment, most activities are targeting women and youth. Men are providers but not recognized as vulnerable, the women have become powerful and we are watching and waiting for them when we return to South Sudan”*. This is an art of latent anger and that the partners need to focus on *planning for post conflict scenarios alongside implementation of the peace agreement and response*. These futuristic scenarios should be embedded in the current programming.

Save for tribal conflicts that seem to have reduced, **the natural resource-based conflict**, unmet/unfilled promised, land rights and unequal distribution of resources from aid remain unresolved issues, therefore the conflicts within refugee settlements and host communities are neither reducing nor increasing but seemingly static over the recent 5 years. **Domestic violence and GBV**, alcoholism, drug abuse and mental health are among the many issues effecting the refugees and host communities.

Whereas land is central to the comfort of refugee settlement, it is also the central point that can potentially create a hostile environment for the settlement of displaced communities. There is need to invest in securing a favorable environment for refugees and host communities to negotiate and agree amicably on renting land for agriculture for the benefit of both.

OPM is in process of supporting refugee efforts to secure land for farming. This should be coupled with OPM and CSOs working with the Sub County land committees to undertake land registration sensitize nationals and refugees on land rights, procedures of access and be parties to the negotiation of land transactions to give the transactions legitimacy. Considering the importance of natural resources in the livelihoods of refugees and host communities, **there is need**

for long term programming around GBV and Natural Resources Management for refugee settlement and host communities.

While the REHOPE strategy is clear on the modalities of service delivery, the implementation remains a painful thorn in the minds of communities. It is viewed as discriminating host communities, preferential treatment to refugees' class. During the FGD one respondent said: "the 30% is on paper and was an enticement for nationals to accept hosting refugees; our LC leaders have in some cases followed up with agencies and the feedback has always been we shall come. This was affirmed by the youth leader in Imvepi settlement Moses Lubarria who said some host communities are as vulnerable as refugees. According to Moses the REHOPE framework should be reviewed to reflect a 50:50. In this assessment the 70:30 was reported to undermine the do no harm principle, and some other activities even when intended to promote cohesion, seemed to breed conflict for instance sports. In fact it was reported that every sports event culminated into a fight.

GBV programmes should take into consideration sustainability of the interventions. The abrupt ending of the projects without a clear strategy, pose challenges and in some cases women activists against GBV are cited as vulnerable. They are victimized as agents against cultural norms; in addition some structures established by programmes remain hanging and or unattended to.

OPM as part of her mandate is providing protection, advising stakeholders and coordinating with agencies to ensure safety of refugees. OPM is implementing a world bank project Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP) in refugees and host communities that is focusing on environment restoration, livelihoods improvement among others. That project shall leverage on partners efforts on environment restoration. There is need for the *strengthening conflict and gender sensitive community resilience in protracted conflicts in Northern Uganda and Central equatoria, South Sudan Project* to initiate strong discussions around land equity and benefits and engender the discussions on land access. The referral pathways for reporting land related conflicts could be looked into through a dialogue with intention of empowering refugees, landlords and sub county land boards to building consensus around critical issues.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 General Recommendations

- ❖ Consider incorporating an advocacy component in the SCCR project by lobbying government agencies to increase the budget for the Uganda Police Force (UPF) in refugees' settlement and host communities: the refugees appreciate the services of the UPF, though the police post at Imvepi does not have a vehicle. The post has got a motorbike and relies on UNHCR and OPM to undertake some operations. In some cases, they are supported by agencies to transport the GBV survivors to referrals even when some agencies have unfavorable conditions such as Guns are allowed in the vehicle.
- ❖ The agencies working on energy should consider investment in the host communities. 85% of the host communities' use the 3 stone type of stove for cooking compared to 53% of the refugees in Bidi bidi, this is largely attributed to distribution of the energy saving stoves to the refugees. Although natural resource depletion is a concern for GoU and partners, there are few organizations working on environment and energy-related activities in refugee-affected areas. Those organizations that do so generally operate at a small scale on 12-month budget cycle. To ensure a more effective and harmonized approach with appropriate technical expertise and adequate resourcing, there is a need for a coordinated package of interventions implemented on a multi-year basis through a multi-agency program. This would effectively

address environmental degradation associated with the presence of the refugees and ongoing local drivers

- ❖ Develop a compact/info packs on land rights, access rights to land, posters, that defines or outlines key useful information. The info pack could include information such as prior consent to increase women voices in household decision making and reduce conflicts between refugees and host communities.
- ❖ Strengthen the Association of Land owners. The land owners (Landlords) association should be a platform to air out their needs. They need to understand their rights and benefits that accrue from hosting. This will reduce the expectations and address the emerging demands from host communities thus reducing land related conflicts. Although the land owners association is comprised of largely men, there should be a deliberate attempt to understand gender issues and engender the platform to promote peaceful co-existence. *Refugees entering into agreement with nationals to secure land for agriculture should have user agreements with landlords in the presence of the sub county/area land committees. Such transactions should be witnessed to avoid fraud and exploitation of both parties.*
- ❖ Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Entrepreneurship, form and support green clubs to sustain environment management activities. This also includes undertaking sensitization of refugees on best practices in Natural Resources Management (NRM) and change of attitude in sustainable resource utilization.
- ❖ Expand on economic choices: make briquettes to help on reducing firewood problem, tailoring, saloon and hair dressing, soap making both liquid and bar soap, catering and hospitality; to help them generate an extra income.
- ❖ Create and promote opportunities for engagement with host community members that enable refugee women to build and expand their social support networks to reinforce ongoing learning and explore potential markets.
- ❖ Sensitize the POC to consider securing justice from LC III courts and Improve women's protection and empowerment and prevent gender-based violence by increasing access to justice.
- ❖ There should be increased coordination with the DLG, this would ensure linkages of the initiatives in the refugees and host communities with plans and programmes implemented by government. Furthermore, the coordination presents a chance for DLG to integrate the refugees' activities and learning into their development plans.
- ❖ Invest in more agriculture extension services for host communities. The host communities have land and there is shortage of food in the region generally as a result of increased population. With the upcoming Parish Model and support to large farmers, efforts should be geared towards supporting farmer groups into producer associations with support of micro irrigation kits.
- ❖ Improve Coordination between CSOs, DLG and Partners through improved reporting and periodic learning.
- ❖ There is an opportunity for increasing access to opportunities by using the VSLAs as entry points for economic development. In every zone of the refugee settlement there exist VSLA groups initiated by a development partner. These can be building blocks for economic empowerment and an assessment of their capacities can be carried out to ascertain the gaps

and the programme builds on that. There exist about 100 groups of VSLAs in Romogi Sub County that can be mobilized.

8.2 Specific Recommendations

- ❖ Build capacity of the project staff and partners in conflict sensitive programming and DO NO HARM; the skills recommended are: Conflict sensitivity, developing a do no harm guide, early warning and monitoring, building resilience from an asset based model. The considers physical, economic, environment and social assets and further looks conditions for individual and community resilience.
- ❖ There is need to undertake a comprehensive assessment on land issues, identify the dynamics around issues affecting landlords.
- ❖ The NGOs have organized cultural galas, sports events, and cultural food competitions during world international days such as International Women's Day, World Refugees Day, and World Environment Day etc. as a way of uniting the refugees. This practice should continue, and more innovations around joint activities should be thought about that involve both refugees and host communities.
- ❖ The Peace building and conflict resolution structures should be inclusive taking the model of PACRO. The structures should be representative of refugees and host communities, men, women and ethnic tribes in the settlement. These should work alongside the block leaders and the RWCs with an emphasis of female representatives to help solve the most pressing female problems.
- ❖ Stakeholders, OPM, CSOs, DLG and others should reflect on the REHOPE strategy 70:30 to either review it towards 50:50 as a DO NO Harm strategy or repackage the delivery model of Humanitarian assistance that is perceived as fair and inclusive.
- ❖ The SCCR project partners should map out like minded organizations and engage them in collaboration; this could be on identifying areas of synergies and learning, uptake of previous structures that were established by previous projects for instance the peace committees established by International Women Peace Centre in Romogi and Kululu.
- ❖ Develop a medium-term strategy to address natural resource based conflicts. Clearly the top-line findings that point to conflicts between refugees and host communities revolve around land and access to wood fuel, charcoal and water resources.
- ❖ Build the capacity of the RWCs on peace building. This will strengthen the RWC I and II empower them to perform their functions. The formation of numerous committees that are parallel to RWCs is not sustainable since they are tagged to the NGOs projects.
- ❖ Based upon the Do NO Harm assessment, the following recommendation are suggested:
 - Conduct a detailed training on do no harm and avail a manual/ guide to staff on the approach for reference.
 - Undertake capacity building in peace and conflict resolution, conflict sensitivity, early warning and monitoring for partner staff and collaborators or allies.
 - Train partner staff, Community based facilitators, Peace monitors and peace building committees established by the project in land policy.
 - Refresh staff at the front line with skills in gender equality and diversity. Often strengthening capacities of women is seen as promoting gender equality and equity, from

the assessment, partner staff need to be as sensitive to men needs as to women; i.e. engaging men to empower women.

- Training staff in building resilience to enable them understand the interconnections of environment, physical, natural, social and economic assets.
 - Rethink the economic empowerment model to consider Business incubation and management with a focus on Water and environment resources.
- ❖ Provide psycho-social activities such as: establish/activate social networks and in age-friendly spaces, facilitate the relax and de-stress activities; such as music, dance and entertainment, provide counseling or build capacity of peer counselors and mentors, provide mentor-ship for survivors and those that show early warning and identification of trauma signs, re connection with culture, engagement with survivors. Additional psycho-social support activities can include develop leaflets on dangers of suicide, integrating awareness on effects of conflicts and implications in programming. Undertake community dialogues and offer mutual support on topic issues that cause stress and implement alternative livelihood options. In partnership with the psycho-social support lead partner (TPO) and UNHCR, key entry points could be identified for support.

9.0 References

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10.0. Appendices

Appendix 1: Interview guide for the Focus Group Discussions

(These questions will be used during interest groups FGD in settlements and host communities; we shall request that the organizers get communities and structures differently) The FGD we would like to interview are: 2 RWCs II, 2 for RWCII, 2 random community groups from zones that are perceived as hot spots, 2 special interest groups for women and youth in the settlement, and 2 in the host community)

- Conflict dynamics and trends²⁶,
 - (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 strength, weaknesses and opportunities?
 - Who the players/stakeholders are in 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,

²⁶ 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.

- For Natural resources based conflicts: Assess the type of natural resources existing in the area, access rights, type of conflicts triggered by natural resources and resolution mechanisms²⁷. (Map existing tree Nursery groups as per request from PALM CORPS).
 - 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 (Based on the available data assess the status of each of the Project's indicators?

- To what extent are the females represented on formal and informal structures²⁸?
 - 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*)
 - *In the event that we get a woman, (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 pathways²⁹?
 - 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?

²⁷ There have been conflicts resulting from access to firewood in Bidi bidi between refugees and host communities. As reflected in the baseline Survey Report for the Project 'Response to Increased Environmental Degradation and Promotion of Alternative Energy Sources in Refugee Hosting Districts' (RED).

²⁸ This question aims at assessing indicator 1 output 2 of the LOGFRAME

²⁹ 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 resources based conflicts:** Assess the type of natural resources existing in the area, access rights, type of conflicts triggered by natural resources and resolution mechanisms³⁰. (Map existing tree Nursery groups as per request from PALM CORPS).
- 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 programme?

³⁰ There have been conflicts resulting from access to firewood in Bidi bidi between refugees and host communities. As reflected in the baseline Survey Report for the Project 'Response to Increased Environmental Degradation and Promotion of Alternative Energy Sources in Refugee Hosting Districts' (RED).

Appendix 3: Interview guide for CSO partners:

(Red Cross, CARE, CEPO, PALM CORPS):

My Name is Kandole Annet Balewa the Independent Consultant Undertaking a Conflict Analysis, Baseline Study and Stakeholder Mapping under the Project for Strengthening conflict and gender sensitive community resilience in protracted crisis in Northern Uganda and Central Equatoria, South Sudan (2021-2024). Kindly provide responses below and distribute the questionnaire to all staff implementing the programme to fill it and return by Friday 12th June.

- What is your role under the programme
- What actions are you implementing in the field of conflict and peace building programme?
- What are the key capacities of project staff and volunteers in the organization in conflict analysis, Do no harm, gender transformation?
- Please tell us the number of staff implementing the programme

Assessment understanding of staff on Do NO harm and conflict sensitive programming

Assessment area	Yes	No	Provide Evidence	Rating: RED =(Not Knowledgeable), YELLOW= Has some basic Knowledge GREEN= Understands Fully
Our staffs have complete knowledge on do no harm approach to conflict and peace building.				
The organization has developed and implements mechanisms that prevent conflict and GBV as a result of our activities and initiatives				
The organization undertakes assessment of likely harmful practice under the project, Using the 7 step approach to Do NO Harm				
The organization has trained the staff in Do no harm approach				
The Organization constantly assesses her programmes, activities with a do harm lens and re strategize				
Transparency and the creation of safe spaces can reduce tension and suspicion, encourage open dialogue and the sharing of potentially sensitive information.				
The extent how the intervention may have				

contributed to an increase or decrease in tensions				
In the light of the conflict analysis, are the organization interventions working on the right issues in this context at this time?				
Does the intervention appear to address relevant key causes and drivers of conflict				
Does the organization address the behaviour of key driving constituencies of the conflict?				
Please suggest any training needs that you require in line with Do NO harm, Conflict sensitive programming and SGBV				

- What studies or documentation do have in place regarding peace building and Do no harm from the programme area?
- What are the climate vulnerability that community face that can trigger conflicts?
- What natural resources management structures exist in the refugee settlement and host communities?
- What is the proportion of women representation on the structures?
- What mechanisms of peace building exist in the refugee and host communities?
- What are the resilience activities/ options/coping mechanisms that are implemented by your organization.
- What recommendations do you propose for peace building in the programming for Humanitarian and development in West Nile.

Appendix 4: List of Key informants interviewed

No	Function	Institution
1		Austrian Red Cross
2	Triple Nexus Manager - Climate Justice CARE Uganda	CARE Uganda
3	Programme Manager	CARE Uganda
4	Manager	Red Cross Uganda
5	District Community Development Officer	Terego DLG
6	Inspector of Police	Uganda Police Imvepi
7	Community Liaison Officer	OPM Imvepi
8	Refugee Welfare Committee III	Imvepi Settlement
9	Community Development Officer Omugo	Terego District
10	Sub County Chief Romogi	Yumbe District
11	District Community Development Officer	Yumbe District
12	Senior Gender Officer	Yumbe District
13	Community Liaison Officer Uganda Police	Yumbe
14	Peace Building Focal Person	UNHCR
15	Executive Director	PALM CORP
16	SGBV Focal Person	UNHCR
17	Deputy Settlement Commandant- Bidi Bidi	OPM Bidi Bidi
18	Psychologist	TPO
19	Land Lord	Cluster 1 Zone 1 Bidi Bidi
20	Project Coordinator	TPO
21	Land Lord	Host Community Imvepi
22	Land lord	Host Community Imvepi
23	Land lord	CARE Uganda

Appendix 5: Programme for the study, 19th May – 30th June 2022

Date	Activity	Notes, Materials uses and Comments
22 nd -25 th May 2022	Writing Inception report	
29 th -1 st June 2022	Undertaking Literature Review	
2 nd -5 th	Filed Mobilization for meetings	URCS and CARE Uganda Mobilized for meetings.
7 th June 2022	Travel to Arua	Transport from Kampala to Arua
8 th June 2022	Meet with The District Community Development Officer (DCDO) Terego.	Hired transport to the field. Photocopying Material for use (tools), procured stationary I.e. Flip chart One piece, One packet of Markers, Masking tape, printing of Materials.
	Meeting with the Sub County Chief Omugo.	Accommodation for the consultant.
	Meeting with Chairperson Refugee Welfare Committee III.	
	Meeting with the community Liaison Officer OPM.	
	Hold a discussion with the RD CROSS focal person (Jimmy Asea).	
9 th June 2022	Meeting with Persons of Concern in Imvepi; I.e. 2 Focus Group Discussions in the settlement.	Transport hire to Imvepi. Accommodation for the consultant
10 th June 2022	Meeting with 3 Focus Groups: 2 for the host communities and 1 for POC.	Transport hire for Participants. Accommodation for the consultant
	Meeting with the Officer in Charge of Police in Imvepi	
	Meeting OPM to validate additional information based upon FGD.	
11 th and 12 th June 2022	Triangulating the information on existing groups and women representation Basic documentation	(Partners could not organize meetings for Saturday and Sunday) Accommodation for consultant.
13 th June	Key informant interviews in Yumbe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Police Liaison officer ● District community Development officer. ● Sub County Chief Romogi ● RWC III Chairperson ● CARE focal Person Yumbe ● Team leader PALM CORP 	Transport hire to various places. Accommodation for the consultant
14 th June 2022	Meeting with POC in Bidi Bidi 3 focus groups in zone 1-3 3 groups Meeting with TPO Meeting the Gender Officer Yumbe Meeting OPM Settlement Commandant	Transport hire to the field. Accommodation for consultant Refreshments for Participants. 9 cartoons of soda and biscuits
15 th June 2022	Meeting with Host communities in Yumbe 2 groups.	Accommodation for consultant. Transport Hire Transport for consultant back to Kampala
18 th - 30 th June 2022	Data synthesis and report writing	