

BASELINE STUDY REPORT

AMPLIFYING WOMEN'S AGENCY FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

"I believe that Black has been oppressed by White, female by male, peasants by the landlord and worker by the lord of capital. It follows from this that the black female worker and a peasant is the most oppressed. She is oppressed on account of her colour like all black people in the world, she is oppressed on account of her gender like women all of the world and she is exploited and oppressed on account of her class like all workers and peasants in the world. Three burdens she has to carry. Those who want fight for people in the nation and in the world must struggle for the unity of the working class in their own country, must fight against all discrimination based on race, ethnicity, colour and belief systems, they must struggle against all gender based inequalities and there fight for the right of women in the home, the family, the nation and the world..."

Extract from the Novel: Wizard of The Crow by Ngugi wa Thiong'o

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACCORD	AFRICAN CENTRE FOR THE CONSTRUCTIVE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES
ADCO	ASSISTANT DISTRICT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
ADHO	ASSISTANT DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER
AIDS	ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME
CAO	CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS
CEDAW	CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
CEWIGO	CENTRE FOR WOMEN IN GOVERNANCE
CoACT	COALITION FOR ACTION ON UNSCR 1325
CSBAG	CIVIL SOCIETY BUDGET ADVOCACY GROUP
CBO	COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS
CSOs	CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS
DCDO	DISTRICT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
DV	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
DRC	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
FAWE	FORUM FOR AFRICAN WOMEN EDUCATIONALISTS
FDC	FORUM FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE
GFATM	GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS TB & MALARIA
GAVI	GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR VACCINES & IMMUNIZATIONS
FGDs	FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS
FGM	FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION
FY	FINANCIAL YEAR
HC	HEALTH CENTRE
HIV	HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS
GOU	GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA
KALI	KARAMBI ACTION FOR LIFE IMPROVEMENT
LAP	LOCAL ACTION PLANS
LRA	LORDS RESITANCE ARMY

IDF	INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT FUND
ICC	INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT
IGG	INSPECTOR GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT
ICGR	INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GREAT REGION
KIIs	KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS
MGLSD	MINISTRY GENDER LABOUR AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
MOH	MINISTRY OF HEALTH
NAADs	NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY SERVICES
NAP	NATIONAL ACTION PLAN
NDP	NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN
NGOs	NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS
NRM	NATIONAL RESISTANCE MOVEMENT
NUWODI	NATIONAL UNION OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES OF UGANDA
ODA	OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
OWC	OPERATION WEALTH CREATION
PEAP	POVERTY ERADICATION ACTION PLAN
PWDs	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
RDC	RESIDENCE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER
SDGs	SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
SGBV	SEXUAL GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
TPO	TRANSCULTURAL PSYCHOSOCIAL ORGANISATION
UGANET	UGANDA NETWORK ON LAW ETHICS ON HIV/AIDS
UGP	UGANDA POLICE FORCES
UGX	UGANDA SHILLINGS
UNHCR	UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
UNSCRs	UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS
UNICEF	UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN FUND
UN	UNITED NATIONS
UNRF	UGANDA NATIONAL RESCUE FRONT

UPF	UGANDA POLICE FORCES
UWONET	UGANDA WOMEN NETWORK
WPS	WOMEN PEACE AND SECURITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Context of the Project

Amplifying Women's Agency for Peace building is a fifteen-month project to be implemented by Coalition for Action on 1325 to promote an enabling environment for implementation of Women Peace and Security commitments in Uganda. The project will be implemented in the 5 districts of Kasese, Yumbe, Kitgum, Amuria and Kaberamaido. The project will utilize Localization strategy, a bottom up approach to finding lasting solutions to local issues that undermine women peace and security.

The CoACT programme is aligned to UN Women's strategic outcome 4.2 on an enabling environment for implementation of women, peace and security commitments, with specific output 4.2.1 Strengthening Government Capacity to adopt a quality WPS accountability framework, which meets emerging threats and challenges.

The immediate outputs of the programme are:

- Strengthened capacity of local governments to adopt a quality Women Peace and Security accountability framework, which meets emerging threats and challenges
- Strengthened capacity of selected CoACT Members and CSO partners to advocate and demand for accountability from their leaders for the implementation of the NAP

A) Baseline Objectives

The purpose of this baseline study is to establish the existing situation of women, peace and security in the target districts and to provide information and data against which project progress will be tracked and project impact measured.

Specifically, the study aims to achieve the following objectives

- a) Establish the conflict issues in the target districts and the issues that undermine women's participation in leadership, conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes
- b) To establish the level of implementation of women, peace and security by District Local Governments
- c) Establish the Knowledge, Awareness and practices of District Local Government staff of the women, peace and security agenda, and specifically UNSCR 1325 and the NAP.
- d) Establish the capacity of District Local Governments to effectively implement the women, peace and security agenda
- e) To establish the level of women's participation of women in leadership and governance in the district governance structures,
- f) Establish the levels of women's participation in conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes

B) Methodology

Qualitative quantitative collection methods were used, including a literature review, focus group discussions (FGDs) and key informant interviews (KIIs). Districts and sub counties were purposively selected.

Key Informant Interviews

KIIs were carried out with district leaders, sub county leaders, heads of CSOs, Cultural and religious leaders. In total we had 16 key informant interviews. Most of the key informant were held at the respective district headquarters.

Focus Group Discussions

We carried out 4 FGDs, 2FGDs with 22 women leaders and 2 FGDs with 22 youth leaders. Each FGD was held in each sub county. In Kasese district, the sub counties were Kitswamba and Karusandara while in Yumbe district, the sub counties were Kululu and Ariwa. Research Assistants were recruited from Kasese and Yumbe were trained on data collection, research ethics and how to procure and interview.

Sampling

The baseline study employed qualitative sampling. The districts, the sub counties, respondents were all purposively selected. Kasese district being a conflict prone area. Kasese had implemented LAP thus it was selected to provide the research rich information and data on localization of UNSCR 1325. The sub counties selected for study were Karusandara and Kitswamba. These sub counties had highest cases of early pregnancies, domestic violence and other GBV related issues. Yumbe district was selected because it is a refugee district thus a good district to learn and experience women, peace and security issues in its original settings and study the social relationship between the host communities and the refugees. In total 26 KIIs were held.

Baseline study respondents were also selected. The key informants were people who had right hand information on issues, policy and data regarding women, peace and security. These included, district leaders, district councillors, leaders of CSOs/FBOs/CBOs and leaders of institutions that enforce the rule of the law.

Focus Group Discussions were held with women leaders from sub counties of Kitswamba and Ariwa. While young women were from Karusandara and Kululu sub counties. In total 42 women participated in FGDs

Key Findings

All two districts, apart from the constitutional approved mechanism for women to participate, like affirmative action, there wasn't any concrete action or mechanism in place to strengthen and encourage women to participate in decision making. In Yumbe district, it is the women district councilors who formed the women district councilors caucus, it is through this caucus that women

influence the budget and district plans. All 3 district committees are headed by men. The highest position held by a woman is that of the district speaker. Yumbe has two sub county chiefs. Midigo and Lodonga sub counties are headed by women. In Yumbe still women were vice chairpersons for two committees (finance and social Services). The highest ranked woman in Yumbe district is the district speaker.

In Kasese district women held 2 executive positions out of five. They headed production and social services. The secretary for social services also holds the record for being the longest serving woman for a committee (4 years) and she had survived three impeachments.

The factors for very few women in key and high positions according to interviews with key informants, women leaders and young girls during FGDs were: low education level of women, cultural and religious factors, low economic powers, women jealousy of fellow women, male intimidation, low awareness of women rights and roles in democratic processes by community members among others.

Whereas the legal provisions are very clear on the women peace, security and very specific on women's rights, findings from the baseline indicated that a small percentage of the women understood and appreciated the meaning of women rights as; right to life, own property, to take decisions that directly affect their lives such as having an income, sexual rights, education, a right to work, right to a violence free life, and a right to form an association or groups. From the study findings, it was clear that there were misunderstandings about women's rights and their responsibilities. In some discussions some respondents referred to women's rights as acquired from their husbands.

Women's and girls' perception of peace was when their daily needs are met. When they have adequate food, children are going to school, had bumper harvest, when the husband wasn't drinking, husband accompanied to health facility, had new clothes for religious festivals and every year, she could save with village saving scheme. That was the majority perception of a home and village with peace.

On the other hand, lack of peace at home was when, the daughters got pregnant while at school, land wrangles with the immediate neighbors, when a husband marries the second/third/fourth wife, dry season, alcoholism in the family, early pregnancy (12-14 years), early marriage (forced), refugees stealing and cutting their firewood and grass. Majority of the women leaders and some young girls acknowledge increased violence against women.

The causes of abuses/violence against women were complex and multifaceted with political, economic, legal, social and cultural dimensions. These causes could be categorized as underlying and contributing factors. The underlying causes (these are also sometimes referred to as "root causes", of all forms of violence like in the gender-based inequalities in society, which place women in a subordinate position in relation to men. These included; unequal power relations between

men and women, the socialization process, experience of family violence as a child, societal myths and traditional sayings about women's rights, failure to fulfill family responsibilities, existing community norms and practices, low levels of education among women, the divide between the domestic and public spaces and institutional level factors.

The study findings also revealed that most perpetrators of abuse against women were men. This was majorly attributed to alcoholism, drug abuse, polygamy, and unemployment, ignorance about women's rights and cultural and religious beliefs and norms. Polygamy being a practice among the people of Yumbe being Muslim district (76%)¹. In Kasese district being a border district, there is a lot of cross border trade that attracted children who drop out of school to join the trade both girls and boys. Women being abandoned in homes by husbands especially in the border sub counties of Mpondwe, Bwera and Karabmbi for case of Kasese while in Yumbe husbands left their wives to go to Juba, Arua and Gulu, where they expected to earn more than in their home district of Yumbe². Some women and their daughters are said to have resorted to prostitution as a means of survival and source of income for their families.

¹ According to the district Speaker (During Key Informant with the district Speaker)

² Interview with district elected leader

1.0. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE ASSIGNMENT

1.1. Introduction

The Coalition for Action on 1325 (CoACT) is an alliance of 42 member organizations. The members of CoACT are women's organizations that work on gender equality and women empowerment, ranging from conflict prevention, peace building, promoting social accountability and inclusive governance, and women's economic empowerment. Established in 2014, arose out the need to go beyond producing reports of findings of the annual monitoring of the implementation of UNCR 1325, which would gather dust after they were launched, to tracking the adoption of and action on the recommendations of the reports and going beyond awareness raising on 1325 to well-coordinated policy engagement that would lead to concrete action for impact. CoACT envisions a world in which human rights including the rights of women are respected by all, enabling women to reach their full potential. CoACT works to make Uganda's International and regional commitments as well as national laws and policies that promote gender equality and women empowerment fully implemented at all levels of governance.

The organisation was established to build the capacity of the public institutions, women's CBOs, members and partners to fully implement UNSCR 1325, network and develop partnerships with peace oriented groups around the world and will people of goodwill towards peace building a culture of peace, undertake and engage in such activities as may be deemed relevant or incidental to or connected and consistent with objectivities herein above contained, defend and protect women's rights through elimination of gender based violence and any form of discrimination against women and promote & implementation of gender responsive political, economic and social policies

1.2. THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA

1.2.1. United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR 1325)

UNSCR (United Nations Security Council Resolution) 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security addresses the impact of war and conflict on women and calls for increasing women's role in conflict resolution and peacemaking. It was adopted by the Security Council in 2000 to highlight the different experiences that women and men have of conflict and the need for gender perspectives to be incorporated into peace building, peacekeeping and post conflict reconstruction. The resolution applies to all 198 UN member states including the Uganda.

1.2.2. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5 and 16

On Goal 5, it calls for Women and girls, everywhere, must have equal rights and opportunity, and be able to live free of violence and discrimination. Women's equality and empowerment is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, but also integral to all dimensions of inclusive and sustainable development. In short, all the SDGs depend on the achievement of Goal 5.

On Goal 16, it calls for promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Advances in ending violence, promoting the rule of law, strengthening institutions and increasing access to justice are uneven and continue to deprive millions of their security, rights and opportunities and undermine the delivery of public services and broader economic development. Attacks on civil society are also holding back development progress. Renewed efforts are essential to move towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16

1.2.3. CEDAW Recommendation 30

The CEDAW Committee's General recommendation no. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations is a landmark document giving authoritative guidance to countries that have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on concrete measures to ensure women's human rights are protected before, during and after conflict. The general recommendation makes clear that the Convention applies in all forms of conflict and post-conflict settings and addresses crucial issues facing women in these settings, including violence and challenges in access to justice and education, employment and health. It gives guidance on States parties' obligation of due diligence in respect of crimes against women by non-State actors. The general recommendation affirms CEDAW's linkages with the Security Council's women, peace and security agenda³.

1.2.4. Uganda National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the Goma Declaration

The Government of Uganda is committed to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 & 1820 and the Goma Declaration as instruments of strengthening Women's participation and involvement in the promotion of peace and security within the context of conflict prevention and resolution, eradicating Sexual Violence and ending impunity prone situations. In 2008 the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD), as the national machinery responsible for initiating, implementing and coordinating policies and programmes that support women's empowerment and advancement, developed an Action Plan as a guide for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 and the Goma Declaration. The Action Plan defines a systematic framework for national actions and monitoring systems to assess progress and impact of interventions at all levels. The Plan had initially been developed in line with Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) which was transformed into National Development Plan (NDP) 2010/2011 – 2014/2015. However, the plan had many indicators which could neither be monitored nor attained. This therefore necessitated review and prioritization in line with the National Development Plan as well as enhance implementation, monitoring and evaluation of actions within the specified period of five years. The revised NAP therefore serves as a guide to all actors implementing actions on UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the Goma Declaration.

1.2.5. The Great Lakes Regional Action Plan (ICGLR-RAP) for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325(2000) for period 2018-2023

Member States of the Great Lakes region and the Secretariat of International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), through its various organs, have strived to ensure the spirit and vision of UNSCR 1325 is achieved through the development of National action plans. These plans recognize that women’s meaningful involvement in resolving the deadly conflicts that directly affect their lives, contributes to sustainable peace for all and the advancement of society as a whole. Extensive efforts have been made to listen and hear their voices, and in ensuring their contributions are recognized and promoted. ICGLR Member States have demonstrated an increasing commitment in protecting the rights of women to be free from violence by signing various instruments, such as the Protocol for Eradication and Prevention of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Against Women and Children and the Kampala Declaration on Combating Sexual Violence.

2.0. Introduction to the Project

CoACT, in partnership with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and UN Women is implementing a project entitled “**Amplifying Women’s Agency for Peace and Security**” in five districts of Uganda (Yumbe, Kitgum, Amuria, Kaberamaido and Kasese district). The project is aiming at increasing the capacity of district local authorities, CSOs and other stakeholders in each district to institutionalize and customize the Uganda’s National Action Plan (NAP) on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 to address issues that undermine women’s peace and human security at family, community and national levels.

It is against this background that CoACT is implementing a project entitled **Amplifying Women’s Agency for Peace building** to promote an enabling environment for implementation of Women Peace and Security commitments in Uganda. The project two main objectives that is, The strategies that CoACT will use to implement the project will include: a gender-sensitive conflict analysis to establish cultural, political, social, economic and security dynamics that contribute to violence, instability and perpetuate gender inequalities within and across groups, localization strategy to increase the capacity of District Local Authorities, CSOs and other stakeholders in each district to institutionalize and customize the NAP so they can address the issues that undermine women’s peace and human security at family, community and institutional levels as well as involving men is critical to changing the power dynamics of peace and conflict.

2.1. Project Outcomes and Expected Results:

Project outcome is an enabling environment for implementation of Women Peace and Security commitments is created

The Project has two results;

- Strengthened capacity of local governments to adopt a quality Women Peace and Security accountability framework, which meets emerging threats and challenges
- Strengthened capacity of selected CoACT Members and CSO partners to advocate and demand for accountability from their leaders for the implementation of the NAP

2.2. Project Target Population

The primary target of the project are women who live in refugee host district of Yumbe and the conflict district of Kasese, and post conflict districts of Kitgum, Amuria and Kaberamaido, where the negative impact of 20 years of armed conflict is still felt. in the target districts. With this project, CoACT will reach at least 2 million women, men, boys and girls through awareness activities and 8,400 women and girls including men from Local governments, CSOs and institutions of learning will acquire knowledge on WPS and prevention of conflict. The key partners will include; District Local Governments (DLGs) particularly the departments of Community Development and the Child and Family department in the police, CSOs, CBOs and the media. COACT is requesting for UGX. 1,282.841 to implement the programme in the 5 target districts.

2.3. Project Geographic Area

Amplifying Women’s Agency for Peace and Security” is being implemented in five districts of Uganda. The districts include; Yumbe, Kitgum, Amuria, Kaberamaido and Kasese.

2.4. The Purpose of the Baseline Study

The purpose of this baseline study is to establish the existing situation of women, peace and security in the target districts and to provide information and data against which project progress will be tracked and project impact measured.

2.5. Specifically, the study aims to achieve the following objectives

- g) Establish the conflict issues in the target districts and the issues that undermine women’s participation in leadership, conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes
- h) To establish the level of implementation of women, peace and security by District Local Governments
- i) Establish the Knowledge, Awareness and practices of District Local Government staff of the women, peace and security agenda, and specifically UNSCR 1325 and the NAP.
- j) Establish the capacity of District Local Governments to effectively implement the women, peace and security agenda
- k) To establish the level of women’s participation of women in leadership and governance in the district governance structures,
- l) Establish the levels of women’s participation in conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes

2.6. Scope of the study

The baseline study was conducted in two districts of Kasese and Yumbe. In Yumbe district, the FGD with women leaders was held in Ariwa sub county while FGD with young women was held in Kululu sub county headquarters. In Kasese district, the FGD with women leaders was held in Kitswamba while for young women was held in Karusandara sub county.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Description of the Study Area

Location: *Yumbe District* was established in 2006 when Aringa County was split off Arua District and renamed *Yumbe District*. The people in the district are still suffering from the effects of the civil war, which lasted about twenty years (1980–2000). The peace agreement between UNRF2 and the Government of Uganda was signed in the year 2000 in Yumbe. The majority (89%) of the people in the district are ethnic Lugbara. The Lugbara in Yumbe District speak a dialect called **Aringa**, which has no written form; it is only spoken. Other ethnicities include the Kakwa, Madi and the Alur. The Acholi are scattered along River Nile and mainly engage in fishing and hunting, along the river.

Kasese District has a total land area of 2,724 square kilometres (1,052 sq. mi), of which 885 square kilometres (342 sq. mi) is reserved for Queen Elizabeth National Park and 652 square kilometres (252 sq. mi) for Rwenzori Mountains National Park, leaving 1,187 square kilometres (458 sq. mi) for human habitation and economic utilization. Kasese District is part of the Rwenzururu Kingdom, which is conterminal with the Rwenzururu sub-region. The sub region consists of Bundibugyo District, Ntoroko District, and Kasese District. Kasese is a multi-ethnic district with many people of different ethnic backgrounds. The main languages and ethnic groups that dominate the area are Rutooro and Rukonjo, the languages of the Batooro and the Bakonjo people respectively. However, there are other ethnic groups in the district who include the Banyankore, the Basongora the Bakiga and the Baganda. There is also common usage of English and Swahili.

Population: According the 2014 Uganda National Population and Housing Survey, the population of Yumbe district was 484822, of this, 254,196(52.43%) were female while 230626 (47.56%) were male while Kasese's population is to an estimated 750,000 inhabitants in 2002, according to the national census conducted that year

Research Approaches

There are three research approaches, namely quantitative research approach, qualitative research approach and mixed research approach. The quantitative approaches use statistical measurement and facilitate numerical data during research process (Theam, 2014). This approach can produce objective verifiable unit and reliable output. It is philosophical base is positivism. It requires short time frame for administrated survey. However, it is difficult to use for examining human perceptions, beliefs and practices since those are not measured numerically.

Qualitative research uses to interpret social reality from people's believes and practices (Berg, 2001). It is consistent with constructivist paradigm. It explores meaning, purpose and realities. Realities are subjective, multiple and socially constructed by its participants.

Through qualitative research it is possible to discover and understand the experiences, perspectives and thought of the participants (Bryman, 1998).

In qualitative approach the researcher often makes knowledge claims based primarily on constructivist perspectives (i.e., the multiple meanings of individual experiences, meanings socially and historically constructed with an intent of developing a theory or pattern) or advocacy/participatory perspectives (i.e., political, issue-oriented, collaborative. or change oriented) or both (Creswell, 2003). When the research uses both quantitative and qualitative approach together the approach is called mixed and its philosophical underpin is pragmatism.

This study explored the truth, beliefs, experiences and realities from the participants. It understood opportunities and challenges of women's participation in decision making in leadership, security, conflict prevention, resolution and management from the participants' perspectives. Thus, the research approach was basically a qualitative research. This approach involves the gathering of qualitative information which is non-numerical and detailed and in-depth understanding about the research topic.

Research Design

The research design employed case study. Robson (2002) refers to a case as the situation, individual, group whatever it is that one interested in. And a case study refers to research that focuses on a single issue. In addition to this case study is a particular suitable design to examine the issues and process of what happen and to understand the problem on the other hand (Merriam, 1998).

Thus, this design is preferable to understand the cases that challenges women's participation in decision making. In addition to this, it enables the researcher to investigate what opportunities are put by stakeholders to initiate women's participation in decision making.

Sampling Procedure

In this study non-probability sampling, namely, purposive sampling and chain referral sampling employed to select the participants of the study. The researcher selects non-probability purposive sampling design which is reliable and appropriate for this study. Since the research is qualitative and its goal is seeking to examine what is and more concerned with deeper understanding of the research problem rather than generalization, purposive sampling is used.

Researchers select participants purposively when they believe that those participants are key informants and especially important to articulate a view (Nosrat, 2010). In purposive sampling researchers use their special knowledge or expertise about groups and individuals to select subjects who may represent the population (Berg, 2001). The researchers will select participants through chain referral sampling when they believe that the participants are likely to know the other participants who share the characteristics that make them eligible for inclusion in the study. Further the chain referral sampling is advantage for the researcher to include people in the research that they would have not known and find easily (Platt et al, 2015).

Purposive sampling applied to identify interviewees with stakeholders: district Speaker; well experienced district and sub county women Councilors. And also purposive sampling used to make interview with religion and cultural leaders to understand religions and culture orientation toward women's participation in decision making and security.

Purposive sampling also applied to identify participants for the FGD which were classified in 2 categories: FGD 1 encompassed participants who were selected purposively from active Women leaders. The researcher selected those participants since they are active members in women leaders in their communities (councilors, midwives, nurses, teachers, women trainers of trainees among others) and they come from different background and experiences opportunities and challenges toward women's participation in decision making.

FGD 2 embraced active young women purposively because through participants' information and observations it was possible to know more women participants in women issues at both district and sub county level. From them it was possible to know the very challenges women have experienced before and during decision making participation and the opportunities that increase their decision-making participation.

Those women were interviewed as they could provide rich, accurate and helpful information. They were well-experienced, observed and knew how women are challenged from the corner of their family to the corner of their society toward participation in decision making process.

Sources of Data

The data were collected through primary and secondary sources.

Primary sources: Primary data were collected from interviews and FGDs. This research used semi-structured interviews where the interviewer is prepared to be flexible in terms of the order in which the topics are considered and to let an interviewee develop idea

and speak more widely on the issues raised by the researcher (Denscombe, 2007). The possibilities of updated and controlling interview tools based on the emerging data also enable the researcher to access the needed data and to avoid bulky information.

Through FGD it is possible to explore attitude, perception, feelings and ideas about a specific topic (Denscombe, 2007). The rationale of the researcher to use FGD is that participants are organized together, homogeneously from different background for the same purpose. Homogeneity of participants for the same purpose enables the researcher to explore issues which directly or indirectly related with them.

Secondary sources: The study collected secondary sources of data from published and unpublished documents, journals, books, magazines and newspapers which have direct relations to the study. The data through collected was mostly quantitative data.

Method of Data Analysis

Data collection and data analysis must be a coincident process in qualitative research and data analysis is taking place throughout the data collection process (Cresswell, 2003). Data collected from the interviews of participants were recorded and transcribed. Every interview was recorded before the end of conversation to ensure that the recording was done. Dealing with the focus group, important concepts of the discussion recorded before the end of the meeting. The data which was collected from interview and FGD were organized based on the objective of the study and analyzed through thematic analysis. Thematic analysis is a type of qualitative analysis used to analyze classification and present themes (patterns) that relate to the data (Zagreb, 2012).

Ethical Issues

Ethical clearance considered in the process of the study. Informed consent gained from participants before conducting interviews. Key informants and Focus groups informed to discuss and speak the truth about what they know issues related with the women's participation on decision making. The researcher secured identity and confidentiality of the participants.

The researcher used code to report the finding from the study. Information of the participants and their identity related to the information they gave are kept. Data collected have been used exclusively for the purpose of this study.

Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness is the way of being sure the accuracy of finding from researcher and participants. To ensure the trustworthiness of the research the researcher employed

triangulation method after which the findings were correlated. The researcher used simple language and description to convey the findings. The researcher also used peer examination. The researcher also employed multiple sources of data.

BASELINE FINDINGS

3.0. BRIEF BACKGROUND YUMBE AND KASESE DISTRICTS

3.1. conflict issues in the target districts and the issues that undermine women's participation in leadership, conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes

3.1.1. Conflict in West Nile general and Yumbe specifically

Yumbe is located in West Nile region. West Nile is located in the north-west corner of Uganda. It borders South Sudan to the north and the DRC to the east. The region's ethnic groups include the Lugbara, Alur, Kakwa and Madi. Political instability in the DRC and South Sudan has a direct impact on the region. The multi-ethnic profile of the area creates conflict in terms of cultural difference, intermarriages and migration to urban satellite towns. For over 20 years, West Nile was cut off from the rest of Uganda, due to the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency in Northern Uganda and the Uganda National Rescue Front II (UNRF II), which ended with the signing of a peace treaty between UNRF II and the Government of Uganda in 2002 in Yumbe District. The conflict mainly affected the districts of Yumbe, Koboko Arua and Moyo⁴ until late 2000. West Nile was home to thousands of South Sudanese refugees, who returned after the signing of the comprehensive peace agreement between Sudan and South Sudan in 2005

Violent conflict in South Sudan from 2013 to 2016 forced over 977 746 refugees to flee to Uganda, according to statistics from the UNHCR⁵. Some 86% of those who fled were women and children, with children making up more than 60% of all refugees. The majority of these refugees were settled in the West Nile region of Northern Uganda. Unfortunately, violence continued in South Sudan. According to the Inter-Agency Regional Analysts Network⁶ 350 000 refugees from South Sudan crossed to the West Nile region between January and October 2017. Because of the high influx, nine new settlements were opened, with Bidi Bidi as the largest⁷ sheltering over 285 000 South Sudanese refugees, predominantly from the Equatorial region. Most of the refugees were women. In 2017, Bidi Bidi was described as the largest refugee settlement in the world⁸ and it is located in Yumbe district.

1.3.1. Emerging issues in Yumbe district include;

Firewood and Environmental Challenges: The conflict issue that is most significant between the host communities and the refugee population is the issue of firewood. Collection of firewood around Bidi Bidi with undefined access rights to both communities. The daily negotiation triggers hostilities, tensions and perceptions of insecurity. Refugees must negotiate daily for

⁴ Mischnick, Ruth and Bauer, Isabella (2009) *Yumbe Peace Process*. Kampala: Fountain Publishers, 1–2.

⁵ UNHCR (2018) 'Refugees and Asylum-seekers from South Sudan, February 2018', (<<http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/southsudan?id=1378>>)

⁶ Inter-Agency Regional Analysts Network (2017) 'Bridging the Gap: Long-term Implications for South Sudanese Refugees in West Nile, Uganda

⁷ Hodgson, Camilla (2018) 'Satellite Images Show How the Tiny Ugandan Village of Bidi Bidi Became the World's Largest Refugee Camp', *Business Insider*, 23 January, 2018

⁸ Ibid.

access to gather firewood in the surrounding land. There are no formal land rights granted to the refugees, so there is a constant risk of violence, assault and extortion on an already traumatized population.

This firewood problem is multilayered. First, there is no designated area for the refugee community to access firewood. According to interviews, the problem is complicated by refugee women's fear of the Aringa men from the host communities, accusing them of gender-based violence. Yet the Aringa women said the problem arise as result of language barriers.

Second, environmental degradation: Refugees are considered by the host communities to be temporary visitors, who do not respect the land or care about sustainability. Some host community members call the refugees "insensitive". Top district official in the district in the district confirmed during interviews that the refugee presence has increased Yumbe's population by 50%. The host communities are also concerned about the grass, which is needed to feed livestock and thatching their houses is being depleted. A senior Ugandan official remarked during an interview⁹

The environment has been degraded. It's been massive. The community needs mitigation measures to rehabilitate the environment, which is now out of control. It will cause a lot of problems. Environment has many components. There were issues of bush burning. It can destroy grass, and destroy trees. It can also cause pollution in the atmosphere. We want a comprehensive approach to be taken to mitigate issues related to the environment (Acting Ariwa Sub county chairperson)

Competition for Resources

There is disagreement among the levels of local government over control of anticipated and actual aid resources that the host communities are to get 30%. The UN and Office the Prime Minister had set a condition that all implementing partners that some for benefits the host communities. Representatives of all levels of local councils (Kululu & Ariwa) interviewed in Yumbe district all argued that the "30%" of aid projects destined for the host communities should be targeted to, and controlled by, the hosting village, sub-county and district respectively. The ambiguity of, and lack of transparency in, the "30% rule" has created more overt conflict over these resources. There needs to be clarification on who is entitled to what at all levels of implementation, to avoid the escalation of conflicts.

HIV

Almost all the district leaders interviewed were worried over the increasing of HIV infection in the district especially in Yumbe town council and the sub counties that host the refugees. Surprisingly, they are not pointing a finger at the refugee rather the staff of the many international and national

⁹ Key informant Interview with a Yumbe Local government Chairperson.

NGOs and their drivers. They have a lot of money and they use to allure young girls into early sex and the result is HIV explosion in Yumbe district¹⁰

Too Much Traffic for Simple Roads

Our roads are known as district roads, there is no difference between our roads and feeder roads connecting sub counties. The culvert we used to construct then where not for this kind of traffic. Most the rivers are breaking down, the roads are filled with pot holes. From here (Yumbe town council to Ariwa should take you at least take you an hour, since you are going there, you will tell me!! (KII with LC Chairperson Yumbe district). It took us five hours from Yumbe town council to Ariwa and come back minus 45 minutes of FGD with women leaders and some refugees.

Pressure social institutions (health and Education)

Though there are additional schools and health facilities built as result of inflow of refugees into the district. The number of children accessing the schools is too much to handle. In some schools, you find the pupil population of 7000 in a single school. You can imagine the teachers and heads of such schools can handle? Remember these schools are located in rural areas, where very few teachers are looking forward to working. The same applied to health facilities. Although the government double the number of the health staff in the district, the number of refugees is too big. For instance, a clinician, a good day or bad day, on minimum per day, sees over 80 patients. Now you can imagine on a bad day or good day!! (KII informant interview with Midwife at Ariwa HC III)

1.3.2. Conflict in Rwenzori and specifically Kasese district

During violence in July 2014, over 100 people were killed in the Rwenzori region on the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in western Uganda. The violence was started by small groups, mainly youth, of the Bakonzo ethnic group, which attacked police and army posts in three districts. This in turn led to revenge attacks by members of other ethnic groups, and to brutal counter-security operations against the Bakonzo (Human Rights Watch 2014). After the February 2016 general elections, clashes in the wider region left more than 50 dead, hundreds of homes razed and thousands displaced (Human Right Watch 2016). Government explanation in both instances focused on the clear ethnic overtones of the clashes, and in 2016 prominently singled out alleged ethno-nationalist mobilization among the Bakonzo, the majority ethnic group in the region, as responsible for the violence. The range of conflict drivers is similar to those of the rest of communities across Uganda. They revolve around competition over the use and ownership of land, access to public office, natural resource exploitation, and a burgeoning youth population in the face of development challenges, and are fueled by to larger extent patronage politics, especially in the context of electoral contests.

¹⁰ Key informant interviews with LCV, District Speaker, Assistant District Health officer, Sub county chief Ariwa and CDO Kululu Sub County.

1.3.3. Major issues in Kasese district

Land conflict

One way in which the majority–minority tensions have historically been defined is through competition over the use and ownership of land, particularly between the agriculturalist Bakonzo and the Basongora herders. The ‘traditional ‘tensions between the pastoralist Basongora and cultivating Bakonzo are aggravated by unclear land titles and a general scarcity of habitable land and grazing grounds (New Vision 2007). The gazetted areas of Rwenzori and the Queen Elizabeth National Parks cover large swathes of the district. For a long time, the national parks have been sources of contention between the people neighboring them, the encroachers and the government authorities (CARE 2009). Moreover, tensions around perceived preferential treatment of particular groups in the area contribute to a mutual sense of marginalization of both minority and majority ethnic groups. The minority Basongora feel marginalized and dominated by the Bakonzo majority, while many Bakonzo harbor a sense that the Basongora cattle- keepers are favored by the government in land allocation and development projects (Cross Cultural Foundation of Uganda 2014a, 10). Such situations have led to violent clashes between the Basongora and the Bakonzo. For example, in 2008 over 80 Basongora houses were set on fire, and over 500 cattle killed following the eviction of Bakonzo cultivators from a disputed 200-hectare area of land (Musinguzi et al. 2014, 4).

Today, Kasese is the fifth most populous district of Uganda, aided by a stream of migrants and immigrants in the region¹¹. The combination of historical tensions between cultivators and cattle-keepers, rapid population growth, and the scarcity of habitable land make fierce competition over land inevitable. Moreover, in recent years, oil prospects in the Albertine Rift have led to speculative land deals and a sharp rise in cases of land-grabbing (Kabarole Research Centre and Rwenzori Forum Peace Justice 2012, 21).

Government vs the Kingdom:

National political calculations came to play a central role in this situation, and further fuelled the tensions. Crucially, since the re-establishment of multiparty elections, the region has been an opposition stronghold. In this situation, the recognition of kingdoms and the creation of districts has become hard currency in (strategies of) vote winning for the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government: given that both institutions kingdoms and districts –create a whole range of public jobs and guarantee financial transfers from the national level, they have become central elements in President Yoweri Museveni’s regime’s patronage politics. It has been widely shown how the creation of districts has traditionally been used for electoral reasons (Green 2010), and the recognition of kingdoms has been used in a similar manner. As we will show below, instead of solving existing tensions, the creation of new districts and the recognition of new kingdoms

¹¹ The Pragmatic Imperative of Pursuing Victims’ Justice in the Rwenzori Region, Dec 12, 2016

have instead further entrenched and fuelled them: ethnic identities have become further crystallized, and tensions between majority and minority groups have increased

Land degradation

Kasese is so overpopulated and the land is becoming less and less. The population depend on agriculture for their livelihood. They keep on going up into the mountains. The result has been disastrous as the flooding and mudslides had been burying, displaying masses. The largest part of the district 65% is under National Parks (Queen Elizabeth and Mt. Rwenzori National) and the rest is covered by water Lake George, Katwe and Kazinga Channel. Women are largest workers in agriculture thus they suffer far more, thus they had tried to invade the National Park and this led constant conflict with park rangers. Some people have lost lives on both side (the park rangers and civilians)

Electoral related Violence

Kasese is not a stranger to electoral violence. During 2016 over 100¹² people were killed. Majority were killed by the security forces. The youth were chief culprit, who ambushed security officers and the leaders who had won the elections but belonged to opposition. The violence was erupted in most towns in the district but the most violence was in Kasese municipality and Hima town council.

1.3.4. Other conflict issues in the districts of study are:

Defilement

In Kasese the district had registered only five defilement cases in October 2019, there was a sharp rise of over 500 percent as the district registered 29 cases. According to KII with Rwenzori East Regional Police spokesperson, the rise could be attributed to the fact that in November students had started returning to their homes for holidays and parents were not giving them enough attention. However, a number of school-going children were also defiled and impregnated while at school. For instance, in secondary schools in Bukonzo East Constituency, at least 16 girls were impregnated in third term. At Hima Public Primary School, nine girls were impregnated in a space of not more than twelve months. One of the victims was a thirteen-year-old in P.4. (KII with the school head teacher), attributed the early pregnancies to poverty among the families. She also cited broken families as one of the major reasons for the early pregnancies within the school. The parents were not doing much to ensure that their children attain the best guidance and that some of them prefer to get dowry from the culprits' report cases to the police.

Domestic violence

In Yumbe district, most the reported cases of the DV was high in districts that hosts refugees, these sub counties include, Ariwa, Romogi, Kululu, Odravu and Polygamy

¹² <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/10/10/uganda-no-justice-2016-kasese-massacre-security-forces>

Negative culture

In interview with Yumbe District Chairperson, he remarked thus; "***Culture is holding us as slaves. There are good and bad things with our Culture like men say they can't fetch water and women shouldn't eat the gizzard of a chicken; all these aspects make us go backwards. The girls are marrying at an early age and bad things are happening in the society because of Culture,***". "***Where is it written that a man can't cook, wash children, carry water and sweep the compound? Is it a grantee that all duties are to be done by women while men are at trading Centre's drinking alcohol***" (KII with Kasese Secretary for Community Based Services)

1.3.5. Interventions to resolve these conflicts

In Yumbe district, on poor road network, the UNCHR is helping the district by constructing and maintaining Access roads to the and within the camps.

On environment, especially tree and grass cutting by the refugees, the UNICEF and UNCHR are promoting use of energy saving stoves in addition to promotion of tree planting in partnership with Office of Yumbe District Khadhi and clan leaders. For burning of grass to clear land for cultivation, the district environment office is still doing sensitization but looks people are not heeding the message

In Kasese district, the office of the DCDO, they carryout sensitisation campaigns in school

In Yumbe, UNHCR in coordination with OPM, the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) and IRC conducted mobile court sessions in Yumbe Zone 1. The court was presided over by Yumbe Magistrate of Yumbe district and attended by 98 refugees (31F/67M). The mobile court sessions helped mitigate challenges of witnesses not appearing in court and reduction of backlog hence promoting expeditious adjudication of cases¹³.

In Yumbe, IRC facilitated reintegration of 2 (Male) discharged prisoners to the settlement. In addition, relatives of 17 inmates (10F/7M) were supported to visit refugees in detention through family detention visit initiative

In Yumbe, refresher training was conducted for 609 (384F/225M) community-based paralegals in Bidibidi and Yangani village. The training sought to build the capacity of paralegals on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms with emphasis on mediation, refugee rights, record keeping, documentation, procedures and laws of Uganda

IRC provided 800 file folders to law enforcement institutions in Yumbe. Additional material support including soap (12 Boxes), blankets (50) and (06) plastic sheeting were also provided to

¹³ Key informant Interview with DCDO, Yumbe district.

improve the welfare of detainees at the detention facilities; (KII with Associate Protection Officer Associate Protection Officer, UNCHR).

In Kasese district, the leaders re-introduced and fully implemented Nyumba Kumi has led to the birth of a savings group in Kinyamaseke trading centre to ensure economic empowerment to support children's needs. They believe in economic strengthening as well as social in order to meet children's needs as well as observing their rights. This has made it easier for them to afford scholastic materials, food, clothing and other necessities for their children. From their mobilization of parents, 50 children have been taken back to school by the Nyumba Kumi efforts. These are 15 children in Kayanza where 2 girls were brought back after they had been married off, 6 in Ihandiro, 9 in Isango, 12 in Kinyamaseke and 8 in Mpondwe primary schools. 27 cases have been identified by the Nyumba Kumi, ranging from defilement at Kayanzi primary school where 2 girls were defiled and impregnated, 5 child labour cases in Kinyamaseke town council, and others include domestic violence, child neglect cases and denial of education. Of these 14 cases were successfully handled in their own sittings by counselling and mediation and 6 cases reported to Police.

4.0. KNOWLEDGE, AWARENESS AND PRACTICES OF DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF OF THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA

4.1. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Uganda NAP identified four laws addressing GBV issues as bench marks for its implementation. Mechanisms for effective implementation include developing regulations and translation into local language to operationalize the International Criminal Court (ICC) Act, Domestic Violence Act (DVA) and the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act. Advocacy and sensitization workshops to increase awareness of the Marriage and Divorce Bill (2009) and presentation of the Bill to parliament are some of the strategies that were to be undertaken for the passage of the Bill into law.

International Criminal Court Act (2010)

The ICC Act for the first time allows Ugandan courts to try crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide defined under the Rome Statute. However, the Act only provides two main provisions for victims in Ugandan courts protection before the courts as a witness and the enforcement of orders for victim reparation made by the ICC. These provisions in themselves do not offer victims much access to redress before Ugandan courts either through participation or reparation. The study established that the Government of Uganda put in place structures and personnel to prosecute any case that may arise. For example, the setup of the War Crimes Division within the High Court, the war Crimes Investigation Unit of the Uganda police and training of judges and magistrates on war crimes and the appointment of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) to prosecute war crimes suspects are meant to realize provisions of the Act. According to the findings of the study, while the ICC Act has been in place since 2010, no deliberate efforts have been made to develop regulations to operationalize its implementation.

Implementation of this law is further hampered by lack of community activism. The perceptions and opinions of district leaders who were interviewed in Kasese district revealed that total amnesty would lead to lasting peace, reconciliation and rehabilitation in the district.

The Domestic Violence Act (2010)

The Act provides for the protection and relief of victims of domestic violence; remedies for the punishment of perpetrators of domestic violence; procedures and guidelines to be followed by courts in relation to protection and compensation of victims of domestic violence. It also provides for the jurisdiction of courts including the issue of protection orders and enforcement of orders made by the court, and for empowering the family and children's court to handle cases of domestic violence and for the protection and relief of victims. The study established that the Act's Regulations are in place and were developed in a more participatory process with both regional and national level consultations.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act (2010)

The FGM Act defines FGM as all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia. It criminalizes discrimination against females that have not undergone FGM. Persons who carry out FGM on self or on others, procure, aid, induce, threaten or fail to report the practice are guilty of committing FGM and are liable to imprisonment, a fine or both. The study revealed that the draft regulations to operationalize the FGM were in place. The declaration against FGM among the Pokot was signed in July 2011. An analysis of the available literature revealed that the Pokot of North Eastern and Sabiny of Eastern Uganda still value FGM and most of the girls who cherish the practice cross the border to Kenya for the practice where the enforcement of the FGM law is still weak. In both districts where the baseline study was held, these practices was not practiced, ***“though some tribes in South Sudan practice it. Since they are refugees here, you know, it could be already be practiced in our district especially in those refugees’ camps and settlement. I guess have to pay attention to the detail the Act.”***, Key informant with the district official

The Marriage and Divorce Bill (2009)

The Bill seeks to provide a comprehensive law that addresses injustice and discrimination in all family relationships including marriage and at its dissolution. The study found that in Yumbe district, majority of the key informants did not support though they are government workers and policy makers. The women leaders and young girls had no hope that it would be received in the district. ***“Men and even women got wrong information about the bill, the officials who should be explaining to the masses the actual contents of the bill do not support it, thus people in this district and even whole of West Nile region do not want to hear about it”*** Key informant and a member of the district Women Caucus. The key informants were asked the objectives/purpose of these bills and it was only the gender officer Kasese district who knew of the 16 district officials interviewed. Surprisingly, the police officers and the CSOs people knew the objectives of the Bills related to women, Peace and Security.

4.2. WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

Participation, is primarily about the inclusion of all women in decision making at decision making. UNSCR 1325 makes numerous references to the need for more female representatives in order to expand the role of women in peacekeeping. It also talks of the need to expand gender-sensitive training to aid in all future long-term participation, as well as increase funding for women's groups. More importantly, UNSCR 1325 'urges member states to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict' and recognizes that women's 'full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security'¹⁴

In spite of these seemingly wide boundaries for participation that are clearly focused on long-term peace building, *What Women Say* has brought to light that "participation" is often reduced to the simple addition of women or women with no ties or credentials in either peacekeeping or women's rights movements. It becomes a matter of ticking the box, rather than consideration of the qualitative issues', and quota systems became an easy option rather than the start of a process¹⁵. The main problem of doing this is that it can actually limit wide scale participation. Women are included, but only up to a certain point and a certain stage of conflict resolution. Consequently, the positive impact that occurs from involving women, impacts is not felt.

What Uganda has been doing to increase the number of women in all level of decision making is traced into the 1995 constitution of Uganda that provided for equal participation by women and men in decision making and leadership position. Participation of women in public sphere is greatly enhanced by affirmative action that provide for a slot for a woman member of parliament in each district and one third women presentation in local government councils in Uganda embedded in the following legal frameworks; the 1995 Constitution of Uganda, the Local Government Act 1997, Uganda Gender Policy (UGP) 2007, which underpin affirmative action with a requirement for representation of women at all levels of leadership Good governance and the effective participation of citizens in politics increases ownership of government policies and programmes. Historical imbalances created discrepancies in the levels of effective participation of women and men in politics and development indicated in Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC Act, 2013). In an effort to address these socio-cultural challenges, the 1995 Constitution and EOC Act, 2013 underline the importance of increased participation of women in leadership. Women's political participation is critical to ensure inclusive democracy, women's direct engagement in public decision-making, sustainable peace, as well as to safeguard accountability to women.

¹⁴ United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325: S/Res/1325, (2000), at (last accessed 15/07/2014): <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/1325>.

¹⁵ Anderlini, Sanam Naraghi and Tirman, John, 'What the Women Say: Participation and UNSCR 1325: A Case Study Assessment', *The International Civil Society Action Network and the MIT Centre for International Studies*, (10/2012), at (last accessed 13/08/2014): web.mit.edu/cis/pdf/WomenReport_10_2010.pdf, p.10.

As the results of these efforts, Uganda boasts of woman Speaker of the Parliament number of women in key and top position in the government. These include, the Inspector General of Government (IGG), the Director General of Medical Services, Minister of Energy and Minerals, Commissioner General of Uganda Revenue Authority, Minister trade and Cooperatives, Minister of Education and Sports, Minister of Transport and Works, Minister of Health, Executive Director of Uganda National Drug Authority, General Secretary of the Ruling Party, the Leader of the Opposition Government Chief whip, Editor in chief of the Country's largest New Paper (The New Vision). Women headed most import and key ministries, which shows the government is recognize women management and leadership potential. The ministry of Health is the only ministry in Uganda that has gotten all female ministers and a permanent secretary.

The three branches of government, it only the legislature that is head by a woman. Judiciary and executive are headed by men. However, none of the six topmost government executives is a woman- The President, Vice President, Prime Minister and all the three Deputy Prime Ministers are men. This is because women rarely stood for open seat during 2016 general elections as seen on below

4.2.1. Females who stood in 2016 race

Post	No. females	No. males	% age female who were in the race
President	1	7	12.5
Open MP seat	83	1,223	6.8
District/City chairperson	7 ¹⁶	372	1.9
Total	88	1,602	5.5

¹⁶ Two women are standing on one seat – LCV Chairperson Kole District

4.2.2. ¹⁷Composition of the Local Government, 2016

Position	Women	Men
District Chair persons	2	92
Sub-county / Town Council / Municipal Division Chairpersons	2	99
Directly elected District Councillors	2	98
District Women Councillors	100	-
Directly elected Municipal Division Councillors	2	98
Municipal Division Women Councillors	100	-
Directly elected Sub-county / Town Council / Municipal Division Councillor	1	99
Sub-county / Town Council / Municipal Division Women Councillor	100	-

Source: *women and men in Uganda: Facts and Figures*

Composition of ministerial positions Representation of women in ministerial positions is lower than that of men. Women cabinet ministers account for 36 percent and state ministers account for 30 percent, compared to 64 percent and 70 percent, respectively, for men. On the shadow cabinet, representation of women is much lower (21 percent) than that of men (79 percent).

4.2.3. Women in Local Councils

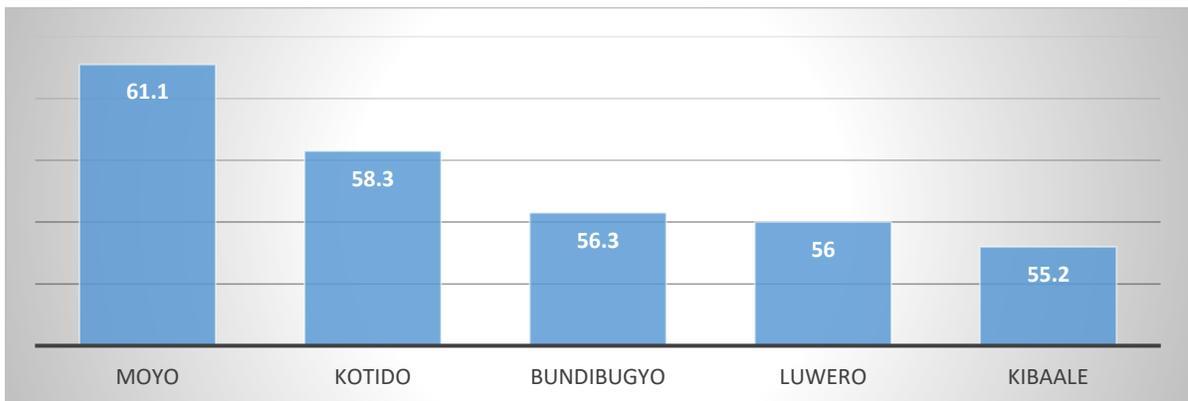
Over the years, the number of women in local councils has been increasing and this is attributed to the affirmative action policy and the increase in the number of districts. While about 40% of councilors across the country are women, regarding top leadership, the index of women remains low. While each district council is comprised at least 30% women, regarding top leadership (Chairpersons, Speakers and Chief Administrative Officers, the numbers of women dwindle. Women in the top district administrative posts of the Chief Administrative Officers (CAO), the Resident District Commissioners (RDC) and their deputies stand at 17. Chairpersons are political heads of their respective LGs with vested powers to appoint the executive, budgeting, policy formulation and council procedures. (LG Act, 1997 CAP 243 as amended). This position is open to both qualified women and men and subjected to universal adult suffrage. The total number of chairpersons for both higher and lower LGs was 1,568 out of whom 16 were women (1.0%). Out of the 111 elected district chairpersons, one (1) was a woman (Kumi district). The proportion of women chairpersons at municipality and sub-county levels was 6.0 % and 0.9% respectively in 2016, as shown in table below

Local Government council	Number			Percent			
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	
District Council	1916	1364	3280	58.4	41.6	100	
Municipality/Municipality Council	Division	745	537	1282	58.1	41.9	100
Sub county/Town council		12412	10781	23193	53.5	46.5	100
Total		15073	12688	27755	54.3	45.7	100

Source 4: Electoral Commission, 2016

From the chart above proportion of women was the highest (46.5%) in Sub-Country Council which was gradually decreased to District Council (41.6%). The representation of women in LGs confirms the extent of participation in elective politics. All the districts have attained the mandatory 33 percent women representation in local government councils although some districts (13) have representation above 50 percent. While the chart below displays top 5 districts with more than 50% representation respectively

4.2.4. Best performing District in terms of women representation

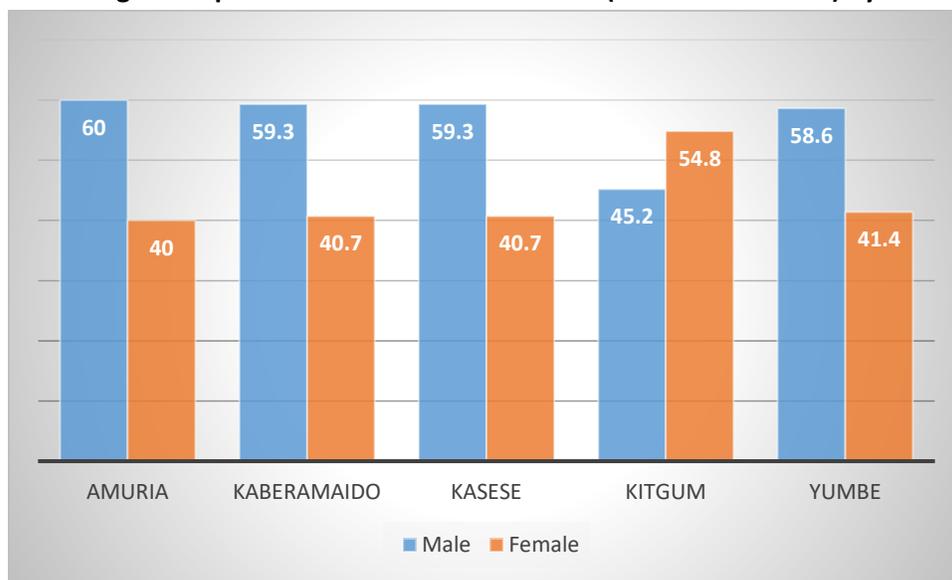


Source 6: Women in Local Government: Baseline Statistics for local Council Levels III-V in Uganda

Top 13 districts with Women Representation above 50%: Moyo, Kotido, Bundibugyo, Luweero, Kibaale, Kiboga, Kapchorwa, Hoima, Moroto, Masindi, Kabale, Kalangala, Masaka. Kasese and Yumbe were ranked 59 and 96 respectively when to come to women representation out 112 districts. 22 districts in Uganda have 50% representation in district council

4.2.5. Women Participation in Project Districts.

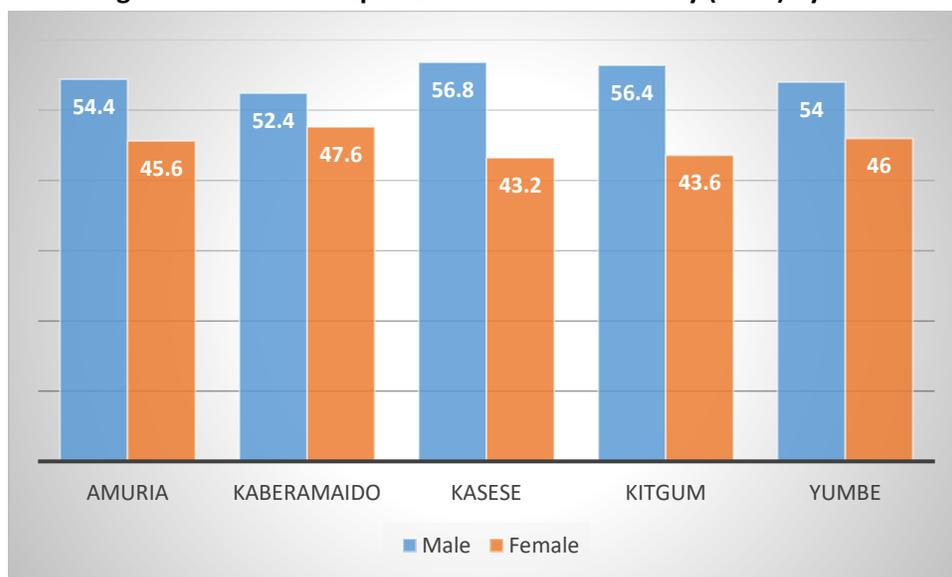
Percentage of Representatives of Local Council V (district Councilors) by sex and district, 2016



Source: *Women in Local Government: Baseline Statistics for Locals III-V in Uganda, July 2017*

From the chart above, women make up 43% of the district councilors. Kitgum has the highest number of councilors at 55%, the reason for this, is the special groups where youth, female councilors were at 66.7% and PWDs at 66.7% as well, while Amuria had the least women district councilors at 40%.

Percentage Distribution of representatives of Sub County (LC-III) by sex and Districts

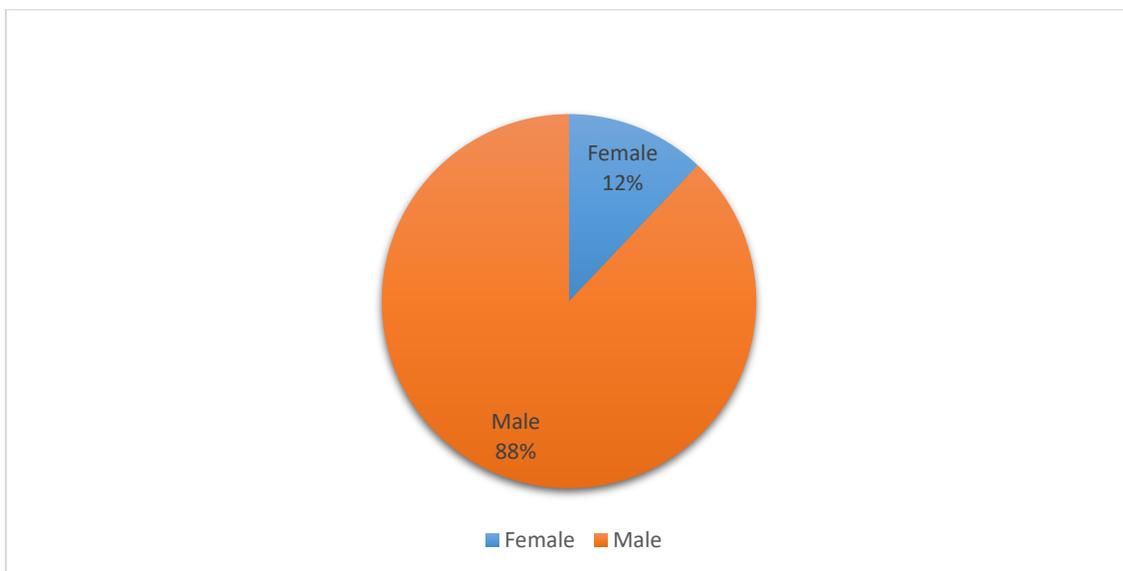


Source: *Source: Women in Local Government: Baseline Statistics for Locals III-V in Uganda, July 2017*

At the sub county level, the Female seemed to had gained more ground on men but still fell short of 50-50 threshold. With Yumbe and Amuria having the highest percentage of women councilors at the sub county level at 46% and had the least percentage of women district councilors at 43%.

In study districts, major position was held by men, in Kasese district, out of 73 top position both technical and elected position excluding district councilors, 73 in number, women held only ten, thus women hold 14% of top position in Kasese district. The women leaders included Secretary for Community based services, head of service commission, deputy district community development officer, Assistant district health officer, Assistant Engineering officer, fisheries officer, Finance Officer (Revenue) district Inspector of Schools, water mobilizer in water sector and environment officer.

Women district leaders in Kasese district



Source 1: Kasese.go.ug/administration

In Yumbe district, the men hold almost all the power both in political and technical positions. In political section, heads of executive committees are men, women are assistants for Finance and Community based services. Notable women leaders in Yumbe are; the district speaker, the secretary for social services, chairperson for Yumbe Women district councilor Caucus, sub county chiefs Lodonga and Midigo. Yumbe being predominately a Muslim district, women never got a chance to attend high education and the religion has for long discouraged them for participating in electoral process.

4.2.6. Constraints women participation in decision making, were:

Historical negative cultural beliefs and norms that women have to submissive and only follow decisions made by men. Women were not allowed participate in public arena because culturally, women were considered to brain weak and emotional to make a key judgement call. The cultural beliefs that women cannot keep a secret thus, can't be trust with the secret of public office. This

state of affair kept women behind closed for many years. Still men think even today a woman should not hold a very sensitive post. It is from this background that women are kept away from high or key position in the army, police, religious posts and even the family and clan systems and were/are denied education and technical skills to make them compete with men.

Lack of ownership of resources especially land, in Yumbe and Kasese where the issue of culture is still very immense and treasured, and culture allows women to access land through the man (husband or father) but not own it. ***“Here, if a woman buys her own piece of land or plot that marks the start of the end of a “peaceful” marriage. The man will no longer provide for his family, no more school fees, no more medical assistance, the family is now left to the woman since she has got a lot of money to the extent of buying land”*** (a youth councillor, Karusandara Sub county, Kasese District), then. Men who mostly own resources and are considered ‘rich’ are listened to hence influence decisions. This is not the case for women.

Women have no time to listen, to read current information, they are so busy with home running or in their gardens to listen to the radio, and in the evening which is perfect time to watch TV, they are preparing supper and when they are free to watch T.V, the male are watching their soccer and the women have little information and knowledge on current affairs in their village, sub county, district and even their country, they have no information on the existing laws and policies. If that women is a councillor, you can now understand why they are always quite in council sessions, (district gender officer, Kasese district)

Low levels of education since education is most preferred to boys than girls, hence there are many uneducated women in Yumbe, during KI with the Yumbe District Speaker, she has this to say ***“almost 80% of women in Yumbe who are 40 years and above are illiterate, they never had any education apart from few Quran recitation they learnt from their fathers or mothers and perhaps a few hours at the mosque, when they were very little(5-10 years), they were not allowed to go very far from home in school of education, since most of the schools were in Arua, by then it was a very distance and dangerous. We are still struggling to get female teachers to post to all schools in the district, you find a school with 25 teachers’ only one female teacher who just joined in three to five years ago. We want every school to have a female teacher or two. Just take a walk around the Town (Yumbe Town) you will confirm what am saying, you only see women on Friday when they are going and coming from prayers. In Western region, am seen as social and religious rebel for being a speaker of whole district”***. And when it comes to decision making, people who have attained a certain level of education (mostly men) are respected and listened to. This excludes women in decision making.

Religious beliefs where the preaching is always ***“women, be submissive and humble before your husbands for they are the heads of the family. one your body, does the head works alone? These men are hiding behind the bible but the bible teaching is different from the teachings of these men. You go and read, Ephesians 4:16”*** (KI with Secretary for Community Based Services, Kasese District). ***The Quran has the whole chapter about the Women. If these men can read it all, instead of picking one verse. The Quran tells us that woman must be treated as if she is the***

princess, give her whatever she wants so long as you can afford it. Marry a second wife if you can JUSTIBLY be able to love your women equally. That is the Quran am quoting. If you follow the teaching of the Quran, no man in Yumbe would be able to afford a second wife. But take a good look around you, a man who can't even afford to buy a button for his torn shirt has four wives, really? They are marrying the women such that they prove their manhood and perhaps as source of labour in their gardens and other business (KI, Women district councillor Caucus).

In a key informant interview with a district official in Kasese district, it was reported that during council meetings, women councilors tended to keep silent most of the time due to lack of confidence and limited knowledge of the subject being discussed, out of 17 women councilors only four(4) occasionally participate in council deliberations. ***“They are scared that they would offend men, we had a very articulate and vocal vice district chairperson. She would stand and demand women respect during budget process and even convince fellow women councilors not support the budget unless, issues of women concern were included in the district budget. And what happened to her? Men united against her and impeached her and she lost her position as a vice chairperson but she remained a thorn. During 2016 election, the men came together and campaigned against her and she lost. They made her a living example. In fact, they were two ladies, they all lost. So, you can imagine the fear in these current female councilors. I myself, I have survived three impeachments and am sure the fourth one is coming because I sent a man to jail for repeatedly raping her daughters”*** (district women councilor, Kasese local government) The women in councils fear backstabbing once they become visible so they would rather keep a low profile to keep the peace.

Lack of support from fellow women and family

During the KIIs with district and sub county level leaders, it was revealed that women prefer to be led by women instead of having fellow women. Women in FGDs said that women attain power, they tend to aloof and arrogant, ***they don't want to associate with us anymore. They even change church; they go at the Diocese where other big people pray from. That is why we don't like them that much. For men, they stop when they meet and give you a lift,*** participant during FGD in Kululu sub county, Yumbe district.

Large constituency

Male councilors at the sub county represent one parish, while a female sub county represent two parishes, male member of parliament represent a constituency while a woman district represent three or even five constituencies. This makes to expensive for women to even think of standing for election as this will require a lot of resources that majority of women do not have.

4.2.7. Effect of having women leaders (the roles they play in their communities)

On a positive note, women chair the council committees responsible for social services in both districts. The study also found that women's participation in leadership has been beneficial to women on the ground.

The women councilors have mobilized women in the community to form village savings groups and to engage in income generating projects. These groups help women to save for a future and money at fair interest to start to boost their business. This had led to women economic empowerment in their families and communities.

A number of them were reported to have educated communities on government programmes such as the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) and operation wealth creation (OWC) and how to access finances and seed provided under the two programmes.

In Yumbe district, women councilors formed the District Women Councilors caucus where issues that affect women are discussed and agreed upon. During the district planning and budgeting, they make sure their issues are included. For their efforts, every school both primary and secondary has a female teacher to look after girls especially those who are puberty. Women who were being harassed to bring their husband during antenatal visits by withholding their maternity cards, were now free. Whether they bring their husbands or not, they will access services and their cards no longer being withdrawn.

“We are also passed a resolution, that every school has a changing room for girls. The changing room is built as an extension of the toilet such other pupils or students wouldn’t notice and disturb the girl who is going to use the room” KI-District Speaker, Yumbe Local government.

In most of the FGDs it was reported that the female councilors were more useful to community as they tended to reach out to the community more than the male counterparts, and that their participation had strengthened the retention of girls in school because they carryout school visits to motivate and mentor the girl child to finish her studies before marriage

5.0. Mechanisms are in place for increased participation of women in decision making

women caucus in Yumbe district, where issues affecting women are discussed, agreed upon and a common ground is reached by all district women councilors regardless of the party or religion. They influence the district budget and plan. As the result of the Women Caucus;

- ✓ Every school in Yumbe has female teacher/senior woman to look after the girl child needs.
We are trying to see an increase of girls completing their education. We an educated population of girls, we will have confident young women taking over when we retire.
- ✓ Women no longer skip antenatal visits because they husbands do not want to accompany them. They can go alone and get the services though they encourage them to convince they husband to go with them such they can be screened together for HIV and other STIs

In Kasese district, the re-introduce Nyumba Kumi literally meaning “ten neighbouring households was introduced as a way to encourage participation in smaller familiar groups and ensuring that the Human rights message reaches the final person. Ten houses are clustered into groups, in the

same neighbourhood to make an organized group. They then elect the chairperson of their cluster, secretary and mobilizer who organizes the venue, date and is responsible for reminding the rest on the dates agreed. The Nyumba Kumi ensures that all members in the households are represented. These include the father, mother and children. This is because all these are responsible for promoting children's rights, right away from home to the school. More so, they all have a responsibility to fulfil in the fight for the children's rights. As result the following has been achieved;

- ✓ Nyumba Kumi has led to the birth of a savings group in Kinyamaseke trading centre to ensure economic empowerment to support children's needs. They believe in economic strengthening as well as social in order to meet children's needs as well as observing their rights. This has made it easier for them to afford scholastic materials, food, clothing and other necessities for their children.
- ✓ From their mobilization of parents, 50 children have been taken back to school by the Nyumba Kumi efforts. These are 15 children in Kayanza where 2 girls were brought back after they had been married off, 6 in Ihandiro, 9 in Isango, 12 in Kinyamaseke and 8 in Mpondwe primary schools
- ✓ -27 cases have been identified by the Nyumba Kumi, ranging from defilement at Kayanzi primary school where 2 girls were defiled and impregnated, 5 child labour cases in Kinyamaseke town council, and others include domestic violence, child neglect cases and denial of education. Of these 14 cases were successfully handled in their own sittings by counselling and mediation and 6 cases reported to Police.

5.1. The challenges to women's participation in decision making

Lack of resources support campaigns during election time meant few women stood for election compared to men. Though inadequate financial resources affect both women and men, women have had a bigger challenge due to the gaps in access to resources between men and women in Uganda. For instance, at presidential level, Ms. Maureen Kyalya postponed her campaigns due to lack of funds three weeks into the campaigns for presidential candidates which began on November 9, 2015. It's important to note that the Presidential Elections Act was amended raising the nomination fees from 8 million to 20 million for presidential candidates. In addition, the law removed the provision for a vehicle for each presidential candidate and a modest contribution of 20 million Uganda shillings to the presidential candidates' campaigns.

Women represent a big area compared to men, for instance a woman the whole district compared a man who represent only a constituency for a Parliamentary seat, and the district level most cases, a woman district councillor represents two sub counties. This put pressure on women would be councillors.

Negative cultural and religious norms attitudes still persist. For instance, the marital status of women candidates and questions relating to why they are not moving with their husbands (for

those who are married) on their campaign trail are being asked while their male counterparts are not tasked to respond to these questions. In addition, some women are standing in areas where they are married but not born. This has become an issue of contention for some voters who think women should stand where they are born. In addition, some voters still believe women should not stand on the open seats. These challenges women candidates are facing having a greater impact on their access to leadership than their male counterparts. ***“People want to know if you are married, if you have children, where is your husband, if you are born in the area or married. They will never ask such to men but only to us. Instead of asking what we are going to do if elected, they are just interested in personal life”*** FGD with Women leaders in Ariwa Sub county. When a woman stands for direct seat, she is abused for being greedy and over ambitious.

Low levels of education and Exposure. In the district of study, it was confirmed that low levels of education among women contribute to low confidence, self-esteem among women that it was impossible for a woman to contemplate about standing against a man. ***“since education before Universal primary and secondary was a privilege of boys unless the family never produced boys. But here, the good schools were in Arua and the distance and journey were tough for girls. Most the girls stopped in primary schools and those who finished secondary education, they joined primary teachers’ college or nursing thus, they joined public services. They cannot leave they stable jobs for this dirty gable. Though are in politics are desire to join, made money and they think they need power, but they are not educated and people here never respect though who don’t have a diploma or degree unless you are man”***, KII with Midwife at Ariwa HC III in Yumbe.

Too much burden of home care: it was established that women have less time to stand or get involved in public office since the chores at home were immense. They were busy attending to the gardens since they are chiefly responsible for feeding the family in country side. They are also burdened by reproductive obligations that almost every 2 years, the woman is pregnant, and this is the prime age when she should be advancing her career and social standing. ***To stand for public office you need more time, more resources and my support from you family. If these three components are not available, you will fail at your job or your family will break up. And for me, the family is the greatest gift I have. I rather sit back and look after children until they old enough to be on their own, then I can think of holding a big position in the district***, FGD participant, in Yumbe district.

Women do not support from women: ***the population of Uganda is almost 51% of the total population. It is so surprising when cannot outvote men. If women unit, there would be the need for even affirmative action. Affirmative action would be for men the minority. Women, everywhere in Uganda they are always behind the backs of the oppressor when time voting comes, and after, same women start begging men to support women cause? Really? We have failed to learn our lessons over and over. Until then, we will be under the mercy or side-lines as men shape our fate. Even in council, there are times when even men would have supported us but some decide to be with men. We had wanted to upgrade Isule HC III to Health Centre IV such that it can have 2 medical doctors and a theatre to reduce the number of women losing their***

lives. We needed just 7 votes but surprising five women never supported the idea and we lost by 3 votes. These are women voted by women for women causes. Women in Maliba sub county continue to lose their lives because they are some women who cannot support a resolution brought by a fellow woman, there isn't anything you can do to such women. They are educated, they know that, that hospital will save a lot of women's and children's lives if upgraded but, they don't want support its upgrade to level 4, District women councillor, Kasese district.

6.0. WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION, MANAGEMENT AND PEACE BUILDING

While entire communities suffer the consequences of conflict, women and girls are particularly affected because of their status in society and their sex. Available statistics indicate that approximately 80% of civilian casualties in armed conflicts are women and that 80% of all refugees and internally displaced people worldwide are women and children¹⁸. Moreover, women find themselves in a catch 22 situation, while they are the main civilian victims of conflicts, they are often powerless to prevent them, are often excluded from negotiations when it comes to their resolutions and confined to a marginal role in the post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation efforts. The women are particularly affected by its short- and long-term effects.

During the Juba Peace Talks between the government of Uganda and Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), women participated in peace talks as gender advisers, mediators, facilitators and delegates: The goal was to ensure the inclusion of adequate gender-related provisions in the text of the agreement. The UNIFEM (now part of UN WOMEN) gender adviser to the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the LRA-Affected Areas in Uganda was able to play the double role of influencing the Special Envoy and the other parties to the negotiation on the one hand and, on the other, aiding the women's peace coalition to conduct consultations and develop women's protocols for each subject to accompany the accords. The multiple agreements yielded by the Juba peace talks contain a number of gender-equality provisions. There is a striking difference in the language of the agreements between the earlier accords and the later ones, dating from the point at which the women's coalition had begun to be able to articulate and communicate their views to the parties. Unfortunately, the final peace agreement was never signed by the LRA, but the network of women's organizations has continued to act in unison by tracking the implementation of the Peace and Reconstruction Development Plan for Northern Uganda.

Even after the end of conflicts, women still crucial stakeholders in peace building and democratic reform and yet they are too often side-lined because of entrenched gender biases that continues to uphold gendered socio-cultural inequalities. The reasons for the lack of female participation in both peace building and conflict resolution is multifaceted, yet largely based around general structural, religious and cultural biases against women acting in the public sphere. This is exemplified by the fact that in most societies' women have suffered long-term exclusion from education, financial independence and politics. Consequently, women often lack the experience in diplomacy to be considered an appropriate representative for their communities.

¹⁸ Conflict prevention and resolution, the role of women; Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Report, 2004

6.1. CHALLENGES AFFECTING WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN FORMAL CONFLICT PREVENTION, RESOLUTION AND MANAGEMENT

Domestic responsibilities, that leave women with no time to participate in public arena. Women have the greatest burden of home care that they have no time to participate in formal meetings that have strict time lines. ***I have got my daily schedule, daily routine of work I have to do no matter what. Failure to perform these duties, they house will in disarray. Two weeks away from home set back my annual plans 4-5 months backwards*** Young Woman, Kululu Sub county.

Prevailing cultural attitudes regarding the roles of women in society to behind closed. The oppressive and obsolete cultural norms and attitudes that women cannot sit among men to decide the fate of war, public decisions for the clan or even family make women contribution invisible.

Lack of support from family, from the husbands, in-laws and even children. The whole family especially in African setting is built around the woman. She is the pillar of the family and every member of the family is counting on her. ***it is not that men do not want to us to participate in public arena, it is just they are afraid of what will happen to them, to the children and family business. It us women that support the family and responsible for it smooth running, now if am to go to Ituri forest(the forest is in DRC) to negotiations peace with ADF, or high up the mountains to negotiations peace with Mutima Gwa Rwenzururu fighters, my family is just scared of my life mostly important what will happen to the family if I do not return,*** KIs with women Leader, Maliba Sub county, Kasese district.

Lack of confidence due to low levels of education and this prevents those (women) from participating at any level. ***“Personally, I work for an organization and when we go somewhere, I feel I’m obliged to say something in a meeting which cannot be done by someone not having education”*** (FGD youth leader, Kitwamba Sub county, Kasese District).

Lack of finances for most women, especially in rural areas do not own land which is the most source of income in Uganda. Since the land in most cases belongs to the family or husband, everything that is grown there, every resource that is on the or in the land belongs to the family. It for this the reason, why domestic violence is high during harvest time according the official from the office of the Police Spokesperson for Rwenzori region, whatever is produced on the land belongs to the whole family. The little surplus is saved for hard times or the man sells to get money that he spends on alcohol

Table 1: Women number and Percentage in Uganda Police Force (High Ranking Officers)

S/NO	RANK	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% MALE	% FEMALE
1	IGP	1	0	1	100	0
2	DIGP	1	0	1	100	0
3	AIGP	19	3	22	87.5	12.5
4	SCP	29	2	31	93.9	6.1
5	CP	48	5	53	90.6	9.4
6	SCP	92	11	103	89.3	10.7
7	SSP	151	19	170	88.8	11.2
8	SP	420	60	480	87.5	12.5
9	ASP	1480	419	1899	77.9	22.1
10	C/ASP	871	251	1122	77.6	22.4
11	IP	790	143	933	84.7	15.3
12	AIP	2012	404	2416	83.3	16.7

source 2: Uganda Police Force; Statistical Abstract, 2015

6.2. The importance of having women participation in security Forces

I told you that Yumbe suffered under different rebel groups until 2002, most of the men died in the bush. They are so many women in the district compared to me. Thus, we should have a lot of women police, prison wardens and judicial to cater for this huge number of women, District woman leader, during KIIs, Yumbe District.

We have different needs, quite different from men. We feel safe talking to fellow women especially when the conversation is too sensitive like rape. How do you expect to share it with male police officer? FGD participant, Kitswamba sub county, Kasese district.

Having women in security, it will act as a deterrent against the violence we suffer at the hands of men. When they know that women have allies at the police, prisons even the in judicial system, they will think twice before beating us. They beat us knowing fellow men with be lenient, KIIs with sub county CDO, Kululu sub county, Yumbe district.

Women in security will also inspire young women to join security forces. But now, how can they join the security sector? How will they be treated during training? Who do undress Infront of man, where will she report in case she is bullied by men? FDG participant, Karusandara Sub county, Kasese district.

6.3. Women importance in Participation in peace talks

When you negotiate peace and women are empowered negotiators, the quality of the negotiated peace is better. Women sit at the table not to settle scores, but to seek genuine reconciliation. Women want reconstruction to be about clinics that heal, schools that teach, agriculture that feeds the village, etc. They want reparations that benefit the community. For peace to be

sustainable, it must be inclusive. Women form at least 51% of the population of Uganda and they are majority in both districts, in Kasese women account for 51.3% of the total population while in Yumbe district is 50.7¹⁹% of the total district population, they bear the brunt of conflict and they need to have room to put forward their needs and priorities. They need to have their needs and issues adequately captured and represented when negotiating peace. Women have been under represented on negotiation table as reflected on the percentage of women during Juba Peace talks of 2008.

Women representation on Juba Peace Agreement (2008)

Women Signatories	Women Mediators	Lead Women Witnesses	Negotiating Teams
0%	0%	20%	9%

source 3: *women's in Peace Negotiations: Connections between Presence and Influence, UN Women, 2012*

As a result, women have been consistently underrepresented in formal peace processes²⁰. This is particularly important because in post-conflict societies the peace processes and peace agreements that stem from them set the precedent for how societies will function; 'peace agreements have a distinctive quasi constitutional quality...they operate as "power maps"²¹'

As a result of women being absent from negotiations, women's concerns are rarely voiced and are often left out entirely from many peace agreements. This is particularly significant, for as research conducted by the NoVo Foundation, United Nations Foundation and the Coalition for Adolescent Girls has demonstrated, that girls and women are more effective at lifting themselves and their families out of poverty²²

This is an argument enforced by Anderlini, whose writings have shaped the women and peace policy discourse: ***'they [women] tend to be the sole voices speaking out for women's rights and concerns, often forging coalitions based on women's shared interests that transcend political, ethnic, and religious differences, and bringing a better understanding of social justice and gender inequality to peace negotiations'***²³

So did former General Secretary of UN, Ban-Ki Moon stated in 2013, ***'women must be involved at every stage of efforts to reassert the rule of law and rebuild societies through transitional justice'***²⁴.

¹⁹ Uganda National Population and Housing Census 2014

²⁰ Statement by the President of the Security Council S/PRST/2005/52 (2005),

²¹ Peace Agreements or Pieces of Paper? the Impact of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Peace Processes and their Agreements by Christine Bell and Catherine O'Rourke

²² 20The Girl Effect, at, :<http://www.girleffect.org/why-girls/#&panel1-1>

²³ 21 Anderlini, Sanam Naraghi (2007), 'Women Building Peace: What They Do, Why it Matters', Lynne Rienner, London

²⁴ 22 'Women's Participation, Leadership Crucial to Peace Processes – UN Security Council', *UN News Centre*,

7.3. Peace according women in Yumbe and Kasese districts

During the FGDs with women leaders and female youth, one of the questions was what Peace meant to them? Both responses of women in Yumbe and Kasese were remarkably almost the same following were their responses:

- ✚ When all children are going to school
- ✚ When they plan and implement family development with their husbands/partners
- ✚ When there is enough food to eat
- ✚ When there have fees/
- ✚ Money for medical care
- ✚ When the do not suffer the shocks of climate change (drought for Yumbe and flooding for Kasese)
- ✚ When the husband or sons do not drink alcohol
- ✚ When she is able to save in village SACCOs or groups
- ✚ Her husband accompanying to health facility for maternal health
- ✚ Clothing, uniform for children, pads for girls, pocket money and clothing for religious festivals.
- ✚ When there is adequate medicines and drugs at health centre
- ✚ Having a good neighbor
- ✚ Enough land to do agriculture (2 acres Kasese)

6.4. Major types of conflict in Kasese and Yumbe districts

Sexual related violence: violence against women was the most mentioned violence both in Kasese and Yumbe district. Sexual was reported to committed both by the relatives, husbands and strangers. ***A man comes home very drunk, vomiting alcohol and he wants to sleep with, without bathing. Sometimes I feel.... God us,*** FGDs Ariwa sub county. There a lot sexual violence in homes, especially among teenagers. ***You bring children of your brothers and they want to start using your daughters. You chase them away, then you become a black in family. That you don't like your relatives. You do not want them to become successful like you,*** a participant with Women leaders in Kitswamba sub county Kasese district.

Electoral violence: In Kasese district, the major form of violence was along the party lines, that is Forum Democratic Change (FDC) VS National Resistance Movement (NRM). Kasese had for long period shifted from NRM to opposition stronghold especially to FDC. Most of the MPs in the district belong FDC and majority of the district councilors subscribe to FDC. The youth normally are chief culprits of violence as it was witnessed in Hima town council where the gang of youth attached police on patrol and they were shot and five young men lost their lives²⁵..

²⁵ https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1419390/seven-shot-dead-fresh-kasese-post-election-violence

Domestic violence was higher in refugees sub counties and it was attributed to refugee settlements. In refugee camps, women who earning by buttering with women from host communities. *Refugees sell food stuff in exchange for firewood, charcoal, sim sim and Enyasi (karo). When being unemployed in camps what to resale sim sim and Enyasi brough by women, such that get some in their pockets. That would not be a problem. The problem is when man does not provide for the family instead drink all the money the woman had gone through the needles eye to earn.*

Early Marriages

The girl child faces a big challenge of breaking out of hostile culture. Men in Karusandara, Maliba and Bwesumbu sub counties were marrying off their young daughters to get dowry. *Girls as younger as 12 years old are being snatched from school and marry them off*, FGD with youth in Karusandara sub county, Kasese district. In Yumbe, the majority of refugees' homes are headed by women, the mothers are finding it difficult looking after the families thus girls are starting their families to reduce the burden on their mothers. Some girls are being preyed on by men who have money and enough food.

Wife/window inheritance is practiced in Kasese district, where by the brother or even father in law try to marry the wife his late brother or son. When the woman refuses, then the family try to take away her land and belongs. Sometimes the window is chased are away with her children when she refuses to inherited. ***By the way, this window inheritance was done in such way that you will never realize that you have been taken over. The brother of the deceased will look after you and the children. He treats the children as his own. He you give you everything you need, during Christmas, he will buy you meat, clothes and the children with be dressed in new clothes. He will never want you or children to miss the deceased. In turn, you feel safe with him and before you know it, you are in love or you have grown in love with him. Since he is good man, children love him, you just let him be your guardian. It is not like it is done today, whereby the brother of the deceased with give you conditions before you even have buried your husband. There is too much distortion of culture, this is not the way it was done***, FGD with women leaders in Kasese District.

Resource conflicts: there is conflict between Yumbe and Arua district over the border where it is believed there is oil²⁶. ***When the leaders do not agree on the boundary, it us the people on the ground who picks hoes and pangas to cut our neighbors from the other district. It is very stupid and un African. It is very serious down in Odravu sub county. The leaders will come back again driving posh cars to check on the injured. That is all. Then you wonder, why are we killing each other?*** FGD in Kululu sub county Yumbe district. In Kasese it is the park, the pastorists can access but the cultivators cannot even enter the park to harvest honey

²⁶ 'Arua and Yumbe Fight Over Area Suspected to Contain Oil Deposits', Uganda Radio Network, 23 January 2009, ugandaradionetwork.com, accessed 15 October 2012; 'Yumbe Leaders Petition Museveni over Border Dispute', Uganda Radio Network, 20 July 2012, ugandaradionetwork.com, accessed 15 October 2012

Girl child drop out school

In most families, where the resources sometimes are hard to come by, the education of a girl child suffers. When resources are meagre, the girl child is the first to miss a term or year. When a woman intervenes by paying the school fees for her for that term or a year, the man decides that he will not paying for school fees for that girl again. ***I want my girls to go university and work in bank or hospital, they are even far more intelligent than the boys. Why my husband wants a girl who is already S.5 to drop out of school for a boy in S.2, is beyond my understanding. Am going to pay school fees for the girls until they finish or when my husband's income stabilizes again,*** FGD with women leaders, Ariwa Sub county.

6.5. Major effects conflicts on women

The conflicts have proud effect on women's live, the lives of the children and the family at large and these included:

Widows headed families: In conflicts were men lost lives in the Kasese massacre and the subsequent arrest and detention of royal guards and supports, women are left widowed and many children are orphaned. Women struggle to sustain livelihoods for their children with little resources available. This put pressure on women who suffer a range of mental diseases such as depression, chronic fatigue among others. ***Sometimes sit there and wait for my husband to return home. I still believe that my husband will one day return. He left home to buy home supplies in Hima Town Council and in the evening my sister in law called to inform that my husband has gone to be with Lord. I asked how did he do that? he was shot by the Police along with four his colleagues. They alleged that they wanted to take the guns from the police. I smiled, I laughed, then I called her and told her that I forgave her and I hung up. Around 5 p.m. the following day. the police can with casket containing my husband. I buried him but up to know I think I buried wrong man,*** FGD with women leaders in Kitwamba sub county, Kasese district.

Economic hardship. Husbands normally are the heads of family business. They have loans, savings, properties in different sub counties and districts that women do not know. In case of untimely death, life comes to immediate halt. Children drop from schools; family properties are attached by the financial services ***and everyone is turning up demand money and they end up taking family properties***²⁷. By time the woman but the home into order, some of the children have already dropped from school, girls married to escape hardship. This destroys the family.

Low women participation public arena: in conflicts times, it is the woman to put the house in order, she is bread winner, the head of the household and this leaves no time for her to participate in public decision making. She cannot allow herself to be away from home for 2 weeks. This

²⁷ Deputy head teacher in Ariwa Sub county, During FGD

constrains the woman from participating in peace negotiations, electoral processes among others. She has got enough responsibilities.

Sexual violence: ***When a widow is raped in the village, very few people will know about it apart from the priest. If someone just touches a woman who has the husband, the whole district will know. She will tell the husband and the husband will try to teach a lesson to a man who disrespected his wife. The police and CSOs will be involved. But for widows, it is the other way around, if the widows report the rape to village leaders or police, they say it was her idea and now she wants to extort money from the man, such that she can look after her orphaned children. Being a widow here is a second tragedy,*** A Nurse at Isule Health Centre III, Maliba Sub County, Kasese district

6.6. WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION, PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

Family level

Among the Aringa, we have a saying, a man builds house and the woman builds the home. How does she do that? Well, you have your or you had wife or mother, you should be having a clue. A woman is the peace maker in the home. The husband²⁸ confides in his wife, the sons whether or married or not, confides in a mother, daughter talk to their mothers whatever is happening to their lives, daughters in law, talk to mother in law. To make sure that everyone is free to talk to you, you must be a good listener and very objective when giving advice, good at keeping secrets and work very hard to make sure, whoever has asked for intervention, assistance is helped and sees change. That is the role of a mother. To us mother, peace means, children are fine, husbands are fine, in harmony with relatives, in harmony with neighbours. Believe me, this takes skill, courage, patience, prayers and determination to accomplish, FGD participant, with Women leaders, in Yumbe District

Community

The women play a very big roles in maintaining and keeping or restoring peace. ***We know men's weakness and we know their strength. For them it is who blinks first. This does not bring peace. Women prefer to sleep on it, to pray and wait on God. One day, my husband came home fuming and the eyes were so red, I asked him what could be troubling him and he said his best friend called him a coward. Why, I asked, that I left Masereka (neighbour) took the piece of my land? So, what are going to do? Asked him, am not going to be witness on the sale agreement. His best friend was buying this contested land from Masereka and they were going to be neighbours. I kept quit and, in the morning, I prepared him a good meal and we had a chat and I told him, you will be a coward if you do not sign on the land sales agreement. He is you friend, he could foolish and impolite but he is still your friend. Sign on that agreement and tell him when you are signing that this is how friend treat each other, he will wake up! When time for***

²⁸ She says if the Husband is sensible

buying he told Masereka that he is not going to buy the land, he told him that he is not going to buy the land unless he agrees to pay my husband for that small contested piece of land and Masereka agreed. My husband was paid, he forgave his friend, his friend learnt key element of friend and Masereka is no longer our neighbour, Participant in an FGD in Kitswamba sub county, Kasese district.

District level

According the district Speaker Yumbe, the women were responsible for the end on UNRF II. *When life became so complicated and very hard, children dropped of school, the woman went into the bush to convince their husbands, brothers, fathers, that it was no longer worth to fight. That they families are in free fall, poverty, hunger and children were being to lost drug and substance abuse. The men agreed to talk peace. Then the district and regional leaders came in and peace talks and negotiations started. And who took the limelight the men. Who stopped the war the women? Women have the power to start, escalate and end war. But we are always invisible,* KII with District official

In Kasese, it is the women who have the last say, a man needs a blessing from his mother and wife before going for war. He must have the blessings of his two women. If the man has more than 2 wives, it is the first wife that counts. In case, the mother refuses, the wife's blessings will not protect him. It is worse if the mother curses him. They think he will not return in case he goes ahead and go to wage war.

7.6. AVAILABLE FORUM FOR WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

Women District Caucus

In Yumbe district, the women district councilors have a forum, where issues that concern women in their respective sub counties are discussed, assessed and agreed upon. Then they are put on the floor of the Council looking for intervention. With full support of all women councilors across the parties and religion, they normally get worked on. They normally call experts in case their opinion is need for instance it about health centre they the doctor. If the issue is on GBV, they normally call in the police and a lawyer and see how to proceed.

The members of the caucus also carryout sensitization meetings in schools on GBV as well as domestic violence. In case there are cases at the school, they go and talk to the parents and counsel them along with their children. If the cases are about defilement, incest and rape, then they call the lawyer and police to do their work. The lawyer is normally paid by the councilors themselves but sometimes the district supports them or some CSOs come in help.

Women mentors: CARE International trained a group of women (10) per village to help in health education, monitoring children health and pregnant mothers as well report all forms of GBV in

families within their sub counties. But they most important job is to the first door, women or children are facing domestic violence. If the case is not grave, they offer family counselling and when the case involves bodily injury or harm, they escort the survivor to the local council or police to report. This has led to reduction of wife battering in five sub counties²⁹ where they are women mentors

Nyumba Kumi

In Kasese, the platform for women participating in conflict prevention, resolution and management is the Nyumba Kumi. The Initiative of the Independent Development Fund (IDF), the Nyumba Kumi has been re-introduced, reorganised in Kasese district. The Wife, husband and children (a boy and girl) must attend the meeting and share any information related to their lives, share issues that of concern to them as family and as homes (10 Households (. It is in this forum that, the school children report to the leaders what is happening or happened to their colleagues, if there is an issue of concern, especially defilement, rape, early marriage or pregnancy. the members of the committee then go in search for girls and report to the police. Until the girl or child is found, it is the responsibility for every member of Nyumba Kumi to keep searching whether at school, garden, market place or the church. And the culprit is brought to face justice whether in form of formal or informal justice depending on gravity of the crime. Women in Nyumba Kumi, normally do counselling to teenager first mothers and the newly married who are having issues in the new lives.

²⁹ The sub counties include, Ariwa, Romogi, Kululu, Odravu and Kei.

7.0. PREVENTION AND PROTECTION OF WOMEN AGAINST GBV

Gender based violence continues to be a major national scourge. Millions of girls and women in Uganda suffer from this form of violence and its consequences because of their gender and their status in communities which believes are inferior to men and boys. Violence against women (often called gender-based violence) is a serious violation of women's human rights. Yet little attention has been paid to the serious health consequences of abuse and the health needs of abused women and girls.

The UNHCR Uganda: Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Thematic Report (August 2018) states that a total of 552 (50M, 502F) new incidents were identified, managed and reported bringing the cumulative number of reported incidents to 4054 in 2018. Consequently, It is important to note that much as the reported number of early marriages is low, cases could be much higher given the fact that reporting is hampered by negative cultural norms. This further compounded by the fact that most of the perpetrators are caregivers of the survivors. Annually, Uganda loses 77.5bn Uganda Shillings in profits and expenses related to GBV³⁰. Sexual abuse and teenage pregnancy are leading contributors to vulnerability accounting for more than half of all causes of girl child drop out of school in Uganda. Ending child marriage today could generate up to \$2.7 billion by 2030³¹ in annual benefits simply from lower population growth and a reduction in rates of under-five mortality and stunting for young children. Yet, too many continue to sanction beliefs, attitudes and behaviors that justify wife-beating and sexual violence towards women and girls. These beliefs impact women's rights and the level of respect they are shown. Women who have experienced physical, sexual, or psychological violence suffer a range of health problems, often in silence. They have poorer physical and mental health, suffer more injuries, and use more medical resources than non-abused women³². Females of all ages are victims of violence, in part because of their limited social and economic power compared with men. Furthermore; leaving an abusive situation when pregnant or with other dependent children can be very difficult since women have to consider whether or not they will continue the pregnancy as well as their health, money, shelter, family and support. For women who have experienced abuse, whether it is from an intimate partner, a friend or a family member, a lack of choice can be disempowering and re-traumatizing since it does not allow her to move away from the violence and move forward with her life³³.

Health care workers have the opportunity and the obligation to identify, treat, and educate women who are being abused. Health care institutions can make significant contributions to

³⁰ EVALUATION OF UNFPA SUPPORT TO THE PREVENTION, RESPONSE TO AND ELIMINATION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HARMFUL PRACTICES

³¹ <http://www.cedovip.org/index.php/news-events/latest-news/149-fighting-gender-based-violence-should-be-everyone-s-concern>

³² Investing in Mental Health: World Health Organization, 2003

³³ Domestic and Family Violence and its Relation to Child Protection: Practice paper, April 2018, Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, Australia

addressing violence against women by supporting clinicians and clients. Developing and institutionalizing national health-sector policies, protocols, and norms about violence call attention to the problem of gender-based violence, and help ensure quality care for survivors of abuse.

Sexual and reproductive rights are truly important because they lead to broader choices in life and to empowerment. They can have a direct impact on one's education, employment, relationships, etc. For example, if a woman becomes pregnant at a very young age, there are chances that she will not be able to pursue her education. This will restrict her employment options and her socioeconomic status. She might also be forced to marry early.

7.1. Legal framework on GBV in Uganda

On legal framework, Uganda had made Legal progress includes; Passing of laws to support the family and community values. They include; The Domestic Violence Act, 2010 which seeks to protect victims of domestic violence and to punish perpetrators. It is not only limited to physical harm, but also economic, emotional, verbal, sexual violence and psychological abuse which has previously gone unnoticed.

The Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Act 2007 that criminalizes the practice of FGM, prosecution of offenders and protection of victims.

Land (Amendment) Act 2010. Following this, drafting of a national Land Policy and national consultations are ongoing. However, the research team noted that there are other critical laws that are still pending which would enable the majority of people in Uganda to attain family justice and also help in the implementation of Women Peace and Security and these include:

The Marriage and Divorce Bill, the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill 2015, the Penal Code (Amendment) Act - to take into consideration the issue of criminal adultery,

The Succession (Amendment) Bill 2018 – to take into consideration aspects of equal inheritance between men and women and the Community Mobilization and Empowerment Bill.

The research findings from the in-depth interviews with key informants fairly noted that knowledge of the existence of laws did not always translate into thorough awareness of the specific content of the laws: ***“I don't know about the Domestic Violence Act (2010) in detail. I have to look that up in the book”***, district official Kasese Local Government.

7.2. Most common forms of Gender Based Violence against Women in the districts

According to In-Charge of Isule HC III, the most received GBV cases is the pregnancies. Teenage pregnancy rates in Maliba sub-county are alarming. He said from June to Oct 2019, the facility registered 41 teenage pregnancies, an increase from the 36 recorded in previous months. ***“On the issue of teenage pregnancies, we have seen scenarios where girls aged 13, 14 and 16 years***

deliver at our facility. I think teenage pregnancies is caused by rampant poverty in rural communities,” he stated. He said sections of people in communities look at girls as source of wealth so when a girl gets pregnant, they connive with male’s family to give them money. Other forms of GBV in Kasese district included; defilement, rape, adultery, child neglect, forced marriage, denial of wealth, human trafficking, widow inheritance and sexual harassment according to Assistant District Development Officer (gender) Kasese

7.3. The major causes of GBV

There is no single, simple explanation for GBV during baseline study although a number of causes have been identified from the research findings. Changes to social and cultural norms over time as a result of conflicts (Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF I and II) for Yumbe and Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in Kasese have created fertile ground for exploitation and violence.

Idleness, redundancy and unemployment among the people especially the youth coupled with high level of frustration and boredom are believed to expose women and girls to vulnerable situations. In Bakonzo culture for instance, where men’s identity and pride were based largely on their roles as warriors and protectors, young men no longer have outlets for their sexual aggressions, which were available to them during traditional times. These included warfare, long initiation rituals, formal preparations for manhood, arduous hunting trips park and the Mountain, regular courting rituals. These are to be replaced by sexually stimulating and or violent material and to seek an out let through sexual violence, thus a cause of sexual and gender-based violence. Additional specific threats have been identified. These include:

Difficult living conditions, low standard of living and high levels of poverty in these districts especially in Yumbe district also contribute to violence against women. For instance, in settlement camps most people depend on relief food and can’t afford to access other necessities like clothes, soap, and medical care. This results in young girls using sex to barter for these items. People can’t carry out any serious farming activities, from which they could earn money to supplement their budgets; the high population makes the relief by WFP inadequate to meet all the needs of the people, which results into parents forcing their young girls into marriage so as to get men who can provide for them and their families.

Ignorance and lack of understanding of the rights, roles and duties of women, children and men, plus ignorance on the concepts on gender, which results in their violation and thus GBV.

women leaders told the study with significant concern that “provocative dressing” especially among the female youth’s compounds the problem of GBV especially defilement and rape.

Lack of understanding between the husbands and wives as a result of lack of communication and coordination of ideas and plans plus the promotion of women’s rights and equality, has left the men insecure and looking for other ways to reassert themselves. One main way is through violence against their wives mainly through wife battering and marital rape.

The influence of mass media, for instance pornographic literature and magazines with illicit pictures, movies [blue movies] have had a great impact on the sexuality of the youth in these district courtesies of smart phones. In that because the youth are constantly idle and the movies are relatively cheap and easily accessible, they over indulge in this and the only outlet of this sexual stimulation is through sexual assault/violence.

Night discos act as a ground for the youth to indulge in illicit sexual acts likes fornication, defilement, while under the influence of alcohol and drugs like marijuana. Since they are not under the supervision of any elders.

8.5. The effects of GBV on women, children, family, and sub county and district development

Abused women and girls suffer from health and psychological problems. They have significantly higher levels of anxiety, depression and psycho-semantic complaints than women who have not suffered such abuse do. They may often be paralyzed by the terror and under stress from ever-present threats of attack, emotional trauma especially as a result of wife battery, rape, defilement, extramarital affairs, incest etc.

Defilement, child molesting, mother's battery among retards the emotional development of the young girls and children

There is stigmatization of survivors who have experienced GBV in the community, which results into the person's loss of confidences, isolation from the community plus lack of increased lack of reported incidents. This had led to the girl child dropping out of school due to the stigmatization and thus low level of education and low attendance of the girl child especially in Kitwamba, Bwesumbu, Maliba, Mukunyu, Kisinga, Bwera, Mpondwe, Buhuhira and Kilembe sub counties in Kasese while in Yumbe, the sub counties were Kululu, Kei, Romogi, Odравu and Ariwa for instance in lower primary school there are usually more girls than the boys (P.1 to P.4), but the number of girls goes on dropping due to verbal abuse by the boys, their parents etc, for this year there are only 20 girls to 76 boys in P.7. at

Loss of respect and poor image of the victim and her family as a result of GBV like rape

Early pregnancies for instance, Medical records at Kitwamba health III centre showed that 17 teenage mothers aged between 12 and 19 years came for antenatal care in July. A total of 11 teenage mothers were recorded in August and 10 in September. This indicates that in a period of three months, 38 teenage pregnancies and subsequently, early marriages were registered in Kitwamba Sub-county alone

Violence leads to physical injuries ranging from bruising to death a result of assault, for instance wounds, damage to sexual organs etc. it may eventually lead to death either as a result of injuries or disease contracted.

Miscarriages and abortion especially among young girls; it was discovered that there were 18 cases of abortion handled by the health center in Isule Health Centre III, between the month of June and October 2019 amongst the youth of between 12-17 years, due early marriages, forced marriages, defilement among others

High risks and transmission of HIV\AIDS and sexually transmitted infectious STIs due to forced and early marriages, extra-marital affairs and forced wife inheritance especially among the youth and girl child. There were 14 cases of STI reported at Kitwamba health centre III between the month of June and August amongst girls less than 18 years. Isule registered 41 births of girls below 18 years out of 80 births. Early and unwanted pregnancies among adolescents as a result of defilement, early and forced marriages, which puts girls' lives in danger as their bodies are not fully grown to cope with such development.

Some survivors because they do not share their experiences, they suffer in silence and sometimes resulted into loss of lives as results of suicide, for instance in case of incest for example in Ariwa sub county, a young man had a sexual relationship with a lady and committed suicide upon realizing that the lady in question was his mother

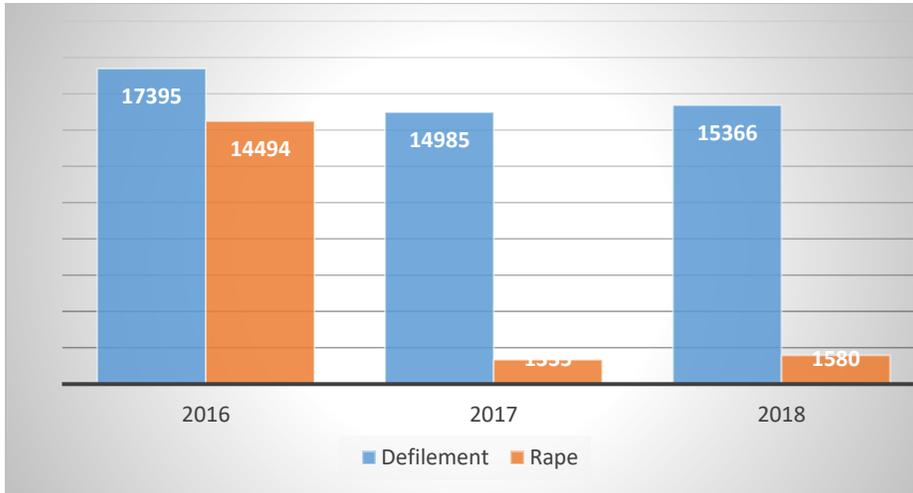
Hatred and attitude of revenge especially in case of rape e.g. when a girl was raped her brother revenged upon the family by raping the boy's younger sister in turn. Exclusion and Discrimination:

Beyond the enormous personal cost associated with GBV, are the social and economic costs of the individual plus the family, social isolation and the temporary or chronic economic and psychological dependence of family members on welfare systems.

Low literacy level also results into low female adult literacy rates and inequalities in the division of labour and women employment in work that reflects their traditional reproductive roles and thus prone to unemployment.

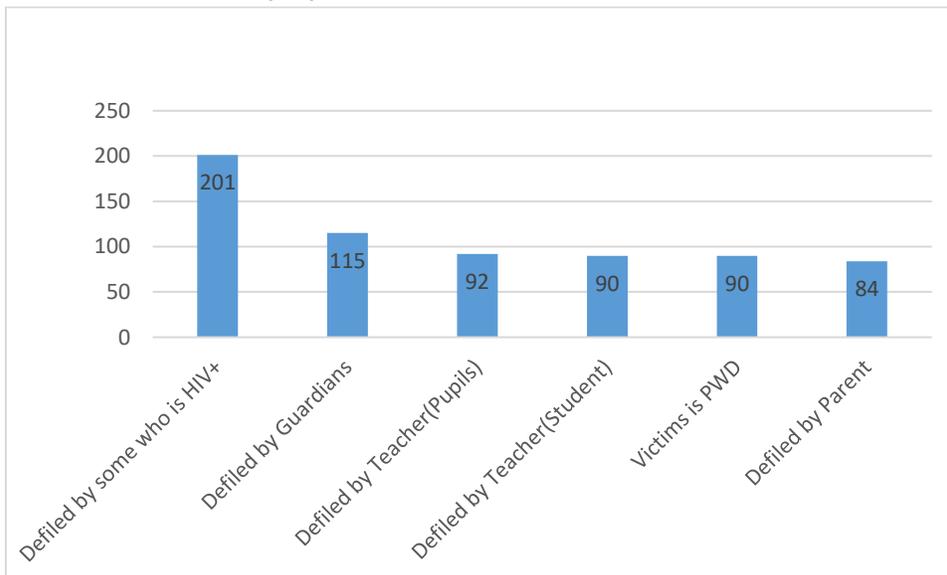
The adverse consequences of violence in the family are not confined to the victim of abuse only the abuser himself may suffer the consequence of his behavior, as he may be imprisoned, stigmatization in the community.

Defilement and Rape cases for three years running



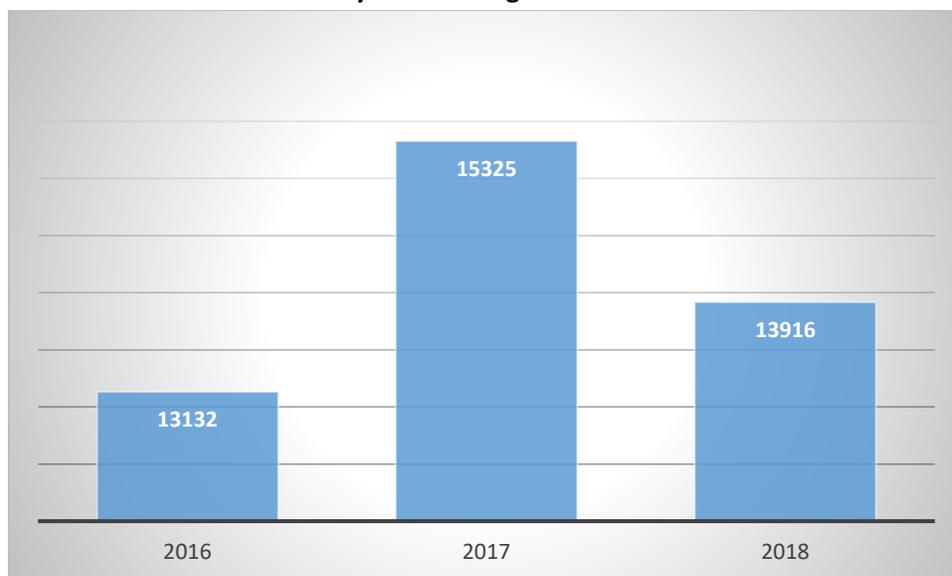
From the chart above, the cases of defilement are decreasing slightly while for rape are increasing. The defilement cases are decreasing, they are still so high. Keeping in mind, that most of the cases both rape and defilement are not reported. The perpetrators and the families of the victims tended to solve issues informally according to information obtained from FGDS.

The chart below GBV perpetrators



From the chart above, it is showed that children are defiled by persons that were supposed to be their guardians. Worryingly, the highest number of children were defiled by persons living with HIV. While teachers were highest perpetrators. The people with disabilities suffered twice, being the disabled and being defiled, shattering the already wretched souls.

Domestic Violence for three years running



8.6. Constraints that Impede Reporting of Cases Of GBV

There are an overwhelming distrust of the authorities and the police by the local community who are conservative and prefer to settle the cases of GBV themselves, like defilement, rape without the involvement of the police or local authorities. This distrust is as a result of the level of corruption and nepotism associated with the police and local authorities.

Fear of stigmatization impedes the report of GBV cases. There is a strong tendency among the women of Ariwa and Kitwamba sub counties to deny that one is 'a survivor' of SGBV, because the survivors are often perceived as being "losers", are thought somehow to be deserving of the abuse or to have encourage it somehow or particularly in cases of defilement, wife inheritance, wife battery, polygamy, marital rape, are not seen as being really severe or damaging. Married women feared to report marital rape for fear of being divorced by their husbands. ***"You look confused and stupid before the clan leaders reporting your husband, while still wearing "his" ring on your finger that he raped you last night. Why can't you come here and tell us when he hasn't raped then they would tease you,"*** Key informant (district official) Yumbe district

Harsh investigations of GBV cases cause further psychological and sometimes even social injuries to the victims. Court negotiations last a number of months even years during which the victim's name and all of the details of her personal life is made public, causing her repeated social damage, so to avoid this lack of confidentiality, the victims don't report the cases.

The 'blurred boundary' between what is recognized and defined as GBV and what used to be considered simply normal interaction between men and women tempers the reaction of many women and constraints the reporting of cases of GBV for example defilement (15 above years), wife inheritance are not considered as GBV cases, because they are culturally acceptable. Women

hesitate to identify sexually harassing behaviour as inappropriate. For example, women may consider pushes, slaps unwanted touches, and sexual remarks about body parts to be insignificant and fail to mention or report them. Most of the women leaders and the youth were unaware and ignorant of the GBV policies and the procedure to follow when reporting the offences.

The low number of police and law enforcement personnel in also hampers GBV victims from reporting.

The victims or the community is discouraged from reporting to the police or LC court because of the costs involved. For instance, due to lack of resources, the police demand a fee of 20,000Shs to transport the perpetrators from Ariwa Sub county to Yumbe Town [Central Police Station], and the LC courts demand anon refundable fee of 5,000 for one's case to be heard. But because of the levels of poverty in the camp the cases are thus not reported and are instead solved traditionally through some cleansing rituals(incest).

The police in Maliba don't have a women's desk to help in specific gender roles; in that the issue of GBV is very sensitive and thus victims or those who have been assaulted may feel more comfortable talking to a female officer than a male; but because there are only male officers, the victims are thus discouraged from reporting GBV cases. Besides that, the police are not trained and are thus unaware of how to handle GBV issues and what roles they are supposed to play in such cases, which greatly impede the reporting of GBV cases, as they are not competent and well equipped to deal with such issues.

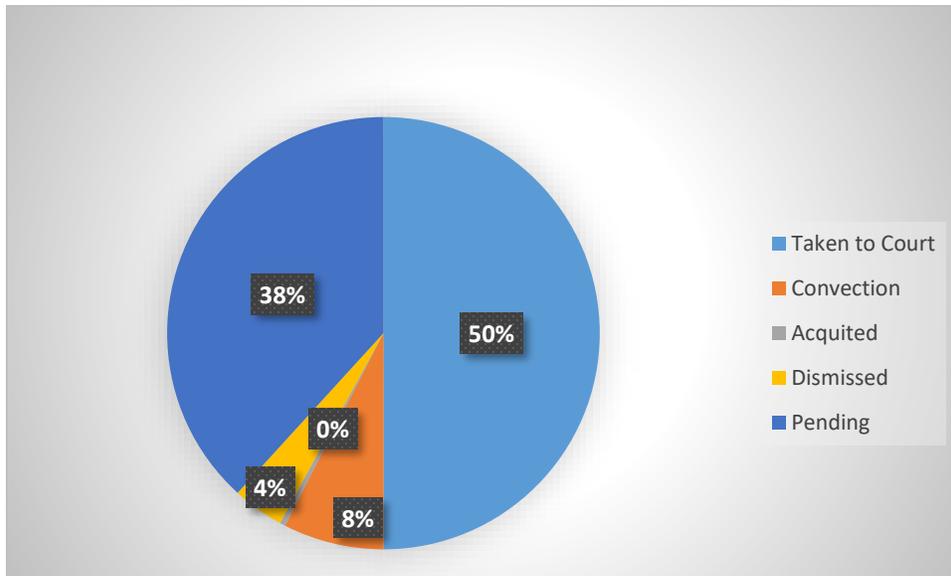
Girls fear that if they report cases of defilement, ***no one will ever be interested in marrying such a girl, no one will ever look at her again, she just becomes an outcast in the community. The only option she has got is to relocate to Town either to Gulu or Kampala but not in Yumbe Town Council or Arua, she will always meet people from her home area and they will keep rubbing salt in her wounds, especially when they found out that she has become successful***, (FGD youth participant, Kululu Sub county), while children that are defiled are threatened by the perpetrators with death.

Even if the victim wins the trial and the offender is sent to jail, she will still fear that after his release he will attempt to revenge himself or his friends upon her for having him convicted; thus, fear of revenge impedes the reporting of SGBV cases. ***'If you want to involve police, I will pay the police and I will shift to another Town to continue my business, who will take care of you and your pregnancy? If you want to go to police, be prepared to commute from here to Mbarara district for I will make sure the file is transferred to Mbarara high court'***, (Student leader, during FGD in Kasese)

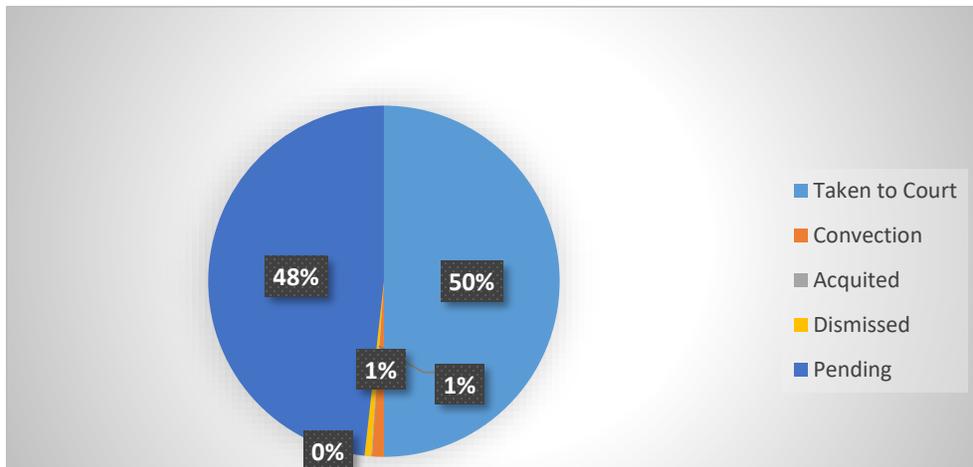
Defilement Cases prosecuted

According to Annual Police Crime Report of 2018, a total of 13,916 cases of Domestic Violence were reported 2018 compared to 15,325 cases in 2017 giving a 9.2% decrease. 1,146 cases were taken to court, out of which 317 cases secured convictions, 35 cases were acquitted, 317 cases were dismissed and 620 cases were still pending in court while 5,143 cases were still under investigations. 14,450 people were victims of Domestic Violence, of whom 2,873 were male adults, 10,478 were female adults, and 541 were male juveniles and 558 female juveniles³⁴.

Total number of Defilement cases taken to court and the number that secured prosecution



Number of Rape Cases reported, taken to court and Prosecuted



³⁴ Annual Police Crime Report 2018

8.7. Improving the legal and policy framework for GBV prevention, response and management

We are working with police to make sure the culprit of aggravated defilement heavily punished. We give all the support to the family of the survivors through the office of the probation and community development.

in Kasese district, the office of the Community development, secretary for Community based services and the district police carryout unannounced visit to hot spot of the GBV in the district. The purpose of the visits is to apprehend the police officers who are corrupt and undermining the fight against GBV and to get unreported cases among the community members. The meeting also serves as a follow up on progress of the reported cases at particular police post. ***We work with police on community policing, whereby we visit sub counties with a lot of GBV cases like Bwera, Mpondwe, Karambi, Bwesumbu, Buhuhira, Kitwamba Nyakiyumbu, Bugoye, Maliba, Munkunyu and Kisiga T.C. these sub counties some on border with Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have a lot of economic activities and cross border trade. Boys and men have some disposal income and they use it to fool girls into early sex, which leads to early pregnancies, unsafe abortions and early marriages. Since the culprits are rich, they tend to compromise the investigations with local police. To mitigate this, we carryout abrupt visit with police officers from the district Police headquarters track and check the progress of reported cases and meet with local community to get GBV cases that have not been reported.***

In Yumbe district, the fight against GBV is being spearheaded by the international NGOs and local CSOs. They work with the police, district community development office, the district Khadhi's office and local CSOs to follow up on the cases by providing logistics support. They have even built police posts especially in refugee settlements and some in refugee hosting communities. The organisations that on forefront against GBV are UNFPA, UNICEF, World Vision, Action Aid, CARE, TPO, UNCHR among others. GBV cases are high in sub counties of Kululu, Ariwa, Romogi, Odravu since these counties host the largest refugee settlement in Africa, they a lot of GBV going within the settlement and outside the settlement.

8.8. Different actors of actors involved in combating GBV

In Kasese district, the office the district chairperson, the office of community development (gender and probation) and the office of the secretary for community-based services work with NGOs and CBOs to reduce the GBV in the district. The district provides all the moral and physical

support by assigning district staff to work with CSOs, liaise with the police in case the police is needed to go any part the district to address the GBV. ***“for us any credible NGOs or CBO is given the full support and cooperation to work in reduction of the GBV in Kasese district. GBV has dragged our efforts to make Kasese one of the most developed districts in the country. We have natural resources; we have staff but effects of GBV on community and our budget is huge. People here pretend to be backward but they are not, we are not going to allow a child of 12 to get married, we are not going to allow a child of 9 to get pregnant. That is why we welcome any organisation, we support any organisation working on women rights, girl child education, community mobilisation for development among others. Organisations that working the district to reduce the effect of GBV included: ACCORD, UWONET, CSBAG, FAWE, NUWODI, UGANET, CEWIGO, KALI”***

8.9. Access to health facilities, medical treatment and psycho-social services for GBV survivors

In Kasese district health sector is composed of 105 health unities of these 3 are hospitals, 5 are health Centre IV, 42 are Health Centre III, and 69 are health Centre II. Each health sub district has got a health unit implying a well distributed health services related maternal, infant and child feeding services. In addition, these health units have been used as referral centres by VHTs, and relevant stakeholders

However, there is need to build the capacity of the different stakeholders, the VHTs, Health workers to respond to Gender Based Violence. The secretary for health services told the study team that, though different organisations have trained health workers on how handle GBV victims, the number trained is very little. The trained staff were from major hospitals that is Bwera hospital, Kagando Hospital and Kilembe mines Hospital

Kasese district with a population of 702’029 and with expected pregnancy of 5% per year³⁵, these hospitals are not enough. According to the in-charge of Isule Health Centre III in Maliba sub-county: ***“8/10 of all mothers who delivery from our facility either camp here two-three weeks to giving birth or stay at neighbours place nearby. Those who haven't done it in previous cases have had issues of delivering on the way which comes with associated challenges.”*** According to him 30-49 women deliver from Isule Health Centre III on monthly basis but the facility has only three midwives who are at times strained by the work. He appealed the Government to have more midwives posted to the facility to handle the overwhelming numbers of women during delivery time. the facility’s midwives said: ***‘The facility has only one stretcher used while taking pregnant women for delivery. She says Gov't should at least buy them more stretchers or even get them an ambulance.*** She noted that due to limited means of transport, some women deliver on the way which comes with its associated effects. ***“They face challenges of travelling long***

³⁵ <http://kasese.go.ug/departments/health/>

distances, where this is the only facility we have here. As a result, they deliver on the way to the health centre," she said.

nutrition related issues

Strengthening capacities of community based and state institutions at, district and lower local levels to work against all forms of GBV

In Kasese, UNFPA trained health workers from Bwera, Kagando, Kilembe Mines Hospital and staff from offices of DHO and CDO on GBV management. It was a three days training covering areas of identifying GBV, referral, treatment (physical and social treatment(counselling)

In district, United Nations High Commission for Refuges Conducted Mobile courts in Yumbe to help the survivors to access justice nearer home.

In both district, district leaders are working with Police in Community Policing to reach areas where there is a lot of GBV and sensitize the community on the dangers of GBV on children, women's health and family relations.

8.0. M&E and Reporting

9.0. BUDGET ALLOCATION

While the proportion of the budget allocated to the health sector has stagnated at around 8% of the total budget, the proportion of the budget allocated to roads and works and energy and minerals increased from 18.7% to 23% of total budget within the same period. Although general government budget has been increasing over the years, allocations to the health sector have not matched with this increase. For instance, while the health budget has increased by 93 per cent over the 5 years (FY 2010/11-2015/16) from UGX 660 billion (FY 2010/11) to UGX1, 271 billion (2015/16), total government budget increased by 148 per cent from UGX 7,377 billion (FY 2010/11) to UGX 18,311 billion (FY 2015/16). It is important to note that the growth in the health budget has been mainly driven by increased external resources (e.g. the share of donor support to the health budget increased from 14 % (FY 2010/11) to 42 % (FY 2014/15)). The health sector budget as a percentage of total government budget has been declining in the last five years

Table 1: Total GOU Budget and Health Sector Budget (FY 2010/11-2015/16) Year		Billions (UGX)		Health as % of total budget	
Health Budget	<i>growth</i>		Total Government Budget	<i>growth</i>	
2010/11	660		7,377	8.9	
2011/12	799	21%	9,630	31%	8.3
2012/13	829	4%	10,711	11%	7.7
2013/14	1,128	36%	13,065	22%	8.6
2014/15	1,281	14%	14,986	15%	8.5
2015/16	1,271	-1%	18,311	22%	6.9

In the short to medium term, external resources are expected to remain important for some sectors such as health. These external resources include both grants and loans. With regards to the latter, Uganda debt is still at sustainable levels, as per the established benchmarks for debt sustainability. For instance, for FY 2013/14, Uganda's total public debt as a percentage of GDP was estimated at 24.6%, which is less than macroeconomic convergence criteria (i.e. less than 50 percent of GDP). Better management of resources from both grants and loans will improve their effectiveness in contributing to the achievement of country goals as expressed in the National Development Plan. This is particularly important for the health sector.

An interesting factor to note is the fact that while Official Development Assistance (ODA) as a proportion of the total Government budget has been decreasing, the reverse has been observed in terms of donor resources as a proportion of total health expenditure. Specifically, while the contribution of ODA to total government budget has declined from 25% in FY 2010/11 to 18% in FY 2014/15, the proportion donor resources contributing to total health budget increased from 14% to 42% within the same period. The increase in this period is attributed to increased contribution of Global Health Initiatives specifically, Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and

Malaria (GFATM) and Global Alliance for Vaccines Initiative (GAVI). The most recent National Health Accounts estimates show that external resources were the dominant source of health expenditure contributing 47% of total health expenditure (FY 2011/12)³⁶.

The recent proliferation in the number of districts has been a challenge on decentralized health service delivery. This has aggravated the challenges faced at district level which include: low levels of local revenue in the district, limited flexibility in planning as most of the central funds are earmarked, inadequate financial and human resource capacity. Furthermore, with regards to the Health Sub Districts, while notable progress has been made, the majority of the 214 HSDs have also encountered bottlenecks in meeting policy expectations because of inadequate funding and lack of human resources including managers at this level.

While the estimated *total per capita health expenditure* reported by the NHA (2011/12) was \$50.1, the *per capita public expenditure* was only \$9 (in 2012/13). Previous reviews of health financing in Uganda have shown that there are still challenges in aligning revenue from other sources towards providing the essential minimum health care package³⁷. The low per capita public expenditure when compared to the health spending estimates levels of up to \$86 per capita (2012), as recommended by High Level Task force on Innovative International Financing for Health³⁸ shows that resources for financing Uganda's essential here care package are currently inadequate. Resource inadequacy for Uganda's health sector has been made worse by failure to organize all the available resources towards providing the essential health care package. Inefficient use of ODA resources in the past, which included big scandals of corruption, resulted in mistrust between the government and its development partners. This has largely fuelled the current challenge of effective coordination and harmonization of ODA. OOP payments are still very dominant in Uganda, contributing a significant proportion to total health sector expenditure

Lastly, it is worth noting that although the health infrastructure has expanded, a vast majority of health facilities are not fully functional, lack equipment, staff, and are poorly maintained. There is also inequity in the distribution of the functional health service providers with these located mainly in urban and peri-urban areas. GBV is recognized as a public health problem and is part of the minimum health care package. The research study was informed that services for survivors of GBV are provided using an integrated approach and therefore teasing out specific funds allocated to address it was not easy. The MOH however receives funds from development partners to implement GBV programmes across the country; capacity building for Health Care workers to manage and respond to survivors of GBV and production of policy, guidelines, protocols, data collection materials all of which come from.

³⁶ Health Finance Strategy, 2015/16-2024/25

³⁷ MOH. Health Financing Review.2010.

³⁸ McIntyre D and Meheus F. Fiscal Space for Health and Other Social Services. 2014

9.1. The Percentage of Budgetary allocation for specific activities targeting designated GBV programmes in the priority sectors (health, Education and community development)

The study established that there was an increased percentage in the 2017/18 budget where specific amount of money used on outputs that address gender equity is currently over 40 billion Ugandan shillings with an aim of ensuring that there is gender and equity responsive outputs planned in the ensuring year such as the protection of the rights of women and girls through provision of LGs; develop, review and disseminate regulatory framework on labour productivity and employment¹¹. This includes UGX 11.6 billion for the empowerment, Support, Care and Protection of Vulnerable Groups Planned mechanisms.

Kasese Budget Allocation toward GBV

1	Uganda Women Empowerment Programme	300,00,000
2	GBV Community Health	2,350,000
3	Training of Girls on Vocational skills	999,353,00
4	GBV Data Collection	13,801,300

Source: Primary Data (District Community Development Office, Kasese District)

the funds allocated to community outreach & data collection is still very dismal as compared to the tasks available for the Gender Officers. 2018/19 budget, areas of increased funding were to support 349 women groups (targeting 4,627 women beneficiaries) with women Enterprise funds worth Shs1,708,725,080 start income generating activities. Kasese received 300,000,000 million UGX. More funding was also targeted to support monitoring, technical support supervision and backstopping services at 1.187bn to facilitate more travel to LGs to monitor the implementation of the GBV Policy

General recommendations towards design and successful implementation of an all-inclusive Localized women, peace and security strategy for the district?

10.0. FOR KASESE DISTRICT (LOCALIZED UNSCR 1325)

Lessons did you learn from the implementation of the LAP

Trained elected leaders and almost 60% lost the elections. Very few know LAP

Implementation was just 2 years, it should have been for 5 years

Working with different stakeholders (police, cultural, religious, elected leaders and technical) made the work appear easy. Everyone was on the same page

Whom did you work with during the implementation?

We worked with all key stakeholders including the Police, district and sub county councilors, CSOs, and Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu

Tangible/change/ results from LAP implementation on UNSCR 1325

Development of the LAP led to quipping duty bearers from the district like the police, medical officers, gender officers, religious and cultural leaders with knowledge and skills on how to handle women peace and security issues.

Led to the birth of Community peace builders who helping the district leaders in solving conflicts at home, village and sub county level

The development of LAP attracted funders like UNFPA working with community development officer, Kingdom in conducting community sensitization meetings in all sub counties on effects of GBV

Led to re-introduction of Nyumba Kumi to compliment the work of peace builders

Increased awareness of issues that concern women by the district officials and the community members

Challenges did you face during implementation of LAP on UNSCR 1325

Inadequate funds to implement and evaluate the success of the localization

Lack of monitoring and evaluation committee or unit to track the progress and impact of localization

The main focus was GBV and peace building was given much attention yet it is should be the main focus if GBV is to wiped out of the district

A lot of work, documentation was done by CEWIGO, we do not had much information on the process of localization

Recommendations would give to a district in a process of developing and implementing localized UNSCR 1325?

- ✚ Include cross border issues since Kasese is at the border with DRC
- ✚ Separate budget for implementation of LAP

- ✚ Trained all staff at the district such that when the elected are gone, the technical can conduct refresh courses for new leaders

- ✚ Build the capacity of police and judicial to make localization easier, do not target the family and children department alone

- ✚ Train all staff of CBOs in the district such they can train and sensitize the masses at the local levels

11.0. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1. CONCLUSION

Conflict transformation focuses on relationships between parties. To achieve this, there is a need for a clear mechanism for conflict transformation such as dialogue focusing on shared interests and resources, since the conflict seems to be focused mostly on resources such as land use and access to firewood collection. The aid resources serve to bridge, but also divide, the host and refugee populations. There are also widening gaps around the politics and grievances of hosting refugees, which could widen if left unaddressed.

However, these challenges could also be an opportunity to lay the groundwork for longer-term stability and peaceful relations, with a view towards a likely long-term refugee presence in Yumbe district. The government and implementing partners should focus on clarifying their position with the host communities on land use, to avoid the host communities blaming the refugees.

There is also a need to train refugees on Ugandan laws governing land and conflict management. Special attention must be paid to women most of the refugees are women, and issues that affect their daily lives must be prioritised

There is a small-scale butter trade going on between the refugees and host communities, especially between the women. Refugee women exchange food for charcoal or firewood from the host community women. This creates a sense of common need for women, which can further improve relationships.

Primary data and secondary data from Baseline study showed that women are still lagging far more behind men in participation in decisions making at all levels. At the sub county level women numbers are higher than those of women representatives at the district level, and the numbers of women representatives at the Parliament are less than those at the district. The findings showed that women are participating more at low levels compared at high level. Though women are small in numbers, they impact in decision making is visible at least at the district and sub county level. Increased girl enrolment in Yumbe was as a result of district women caucus resolution to have every school has gotten a female teacher to look after the girl child. The causes worked with district council to have a changing room at each school for girls who have reached puberty such they can change pads instead of doing it in latrines.

On women participation in conflict prevention, resolution and management is so immerse yet invisible. According to women district leaders during KIIs and FGDs, they all echoed that the women were responsible for the beginning of the peace talks between The Uganda National Rescue Front II ended in peace agreement on Dec 24th 2002. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was alleged to have been halted when the mother of its leader threatened to curse him if he did not stop the war and the suffering his own people. In Rwenzori region, it was revealed that women were key backers of the conflict by blessing their sons and husband before going to war. When the women started losing their children and families, they withdrew their blessings thus the end of the Rwenzururu guerrilla war. At the household and family level, women play the role of

mediators, negotiators between the parties in disputes. They settle marital conflicts, conflict between families and give counsel to the clan leaders in case of GBV and DV.

On Gender based violence, the vice is widespread in both the districts and national level according to primary and secondary data. Most forms of GBV is rape, defilement, Incest. The most causes of GBV are cultural and religious negative norms that held women in submissive roles, behind closed doors and at the service of man's needs. Other were poverty, drug abuse, conflicts, alcohol and corrupt security and judicial systems. GBV has led to increased teenage pregnancies, early marriages, traumatic fistula, poverty, girl child school dropout among others

There low understanding and acknowledgement of Women Peace and security by the district and sub county leaders. This manifested in lack or localised strategies on implementation of NAP on UNSCR 1325, did not even know that NAP on UNSCR 1325 existed, low or even lack budget allocation to GBV related issues, lack of Monitoring and Evaluation unit on GBV. Little information on GBV is available, it is scattered all over the departments, some in family and probation, some in Gender office, some data can be obtained from Health departments or health facilities.

There are partners working along with the districts' leadership to highlight and solve some of the issues that affect women participation in leadership positions at all levels, in security and conflict prevention, resolution and management. United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA: Women participation, conflict resolution and prevention), UNWomen (conflict, women leadership and GBV), World Vision(GBV, Education and Health), Care International(building capacity of district level institutions on GBV and Women participation), America Refugee Committee(building of district, health, security and judicial officers on GBV), International Rescue Committee(women resilient and capacity building of district levels leaders on Climate change adoption strategies), Mercy Corps, Plan International(girl child education, building girls friendly facilities at schools and health centres, equipping child and family protection of the police), Compassion international. Apart from international NGOs, there |National and district level or regional level CSOs working on these issues such CEWIGO (on capacity building of district and capacity on WPS, Uganda Women Net equipping women on leadership skills and working on GBV issues, Forum for Women in Democracy(working on women capacity in leadership and engendering the districts workplans and budget, Coalition for Action on UNSCR 1325 (building the capacity of districts leaders and CBOs on WPS among others.

11.2. RECOMMENDATION

Development Partners

1. Increase and sustain Financial Support to CSOs working on WPS, such that women CSOs can cover a large geographical area, increase programmes and take capacity at lower level.
2. Work with government institutions to develop GBV budgets and Monitoring and Evolution units at the district level. The Aid to government especially related to health and education should be tied to these units functional and funded
3. The need of more programme related financial support to reach out women as they are the majority in their locality. It is also required to increase allowances given to women leaders (sitting allowance should be increased from 15000 usually got).

CSOS

1. Continued and sustained Capacity building training for district, sub county and social institutions: There is need of capacity development trainings e.g. trainings on building confidence, community mobilization, public speaking and communication, planning and budgeting, economic empowerment, report writing and financial mobilisation, climatic change adoption and GBV advocacy.
4. Included climate change adoption in peace building, conflict prevention, resolution and management as the climate change is becoming the key driver in conflict both at the family and wide society.
5. Work with media to show women's participation is vital in leadership positions
Women in Local Government, 2017

Government

1. Work on the promise or promised compensation for lord lands who gave their land for refugee settlements in Yumbe. Show that you still value and appreciate clans and landlord otherwise, there is likely to be conflicts between the clan's heads and the community members who the government gave appreciation token and they ate it alone
2. Address the issue of using or accessing the parks in Kasese district. One part can access the park while another cannot. This has created mistreat between two major ethic groups and it is becoming fertile ground for youth radicalization.
3. Reduce Coverage of service area (Geographical): The geographical scope of women councilors should be reduced from governing two parishes to governing one parish to create positions for posts to other women.

Security Organs

1. Equip every police post with GBV first aid and female officer to assist the GBV, DV survivors.
2. Make sure every parish has police to reduce the distance travelled by women trying to access assistance
3. Equip more police officers on issues that affect women health and participation in public decision making like DV, GBV and other forms of violence against women

District leadership

1. The need to strengthen endeavors to promote girl child education to create consciousness for their own life and to have more future women leader
2. Awareness creation: District Community development Office must always organize periodic seminars, workshops and training for women to have awareness about equality, rights, to stand for decision making and decision-making position.
3. In addition to this it should also give education and training for the society to change negative cultural perception toward women.
4. Parallel to this, it is necessity to go down grassroots and create awareness on women about men violation, equality and rights.

Cultural and religious institutions

1. Sensitizing men on poor cultural perspective on women leadership

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