



Government of the Republic of Uganda (GoU)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Project



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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Enhancing peace and security through a reduction in Sexual and Gender Based Violence among war-affected communities in the conflict affected districts of Northern Uganda

Brief description

Northern Uganda is beginning to emerge from a protracted civil war marked by high levels of internal displacement. As the humanitarian challenges brought about by this war diminish, early recovery strategies must urgently be put in place to ensure the region's successful transition to peaceful and sustained development. Including women in the creation of a security and development framework suitable for peacetime is an important means to ensure that early recovery interventions advance the promotion of gender equality, as called for in SCR1325 (2000).

The violence of the past twenty years negatively impacted on the advancement of women, challenging Uganda's capacity to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the goals set in the national PRSP (the PEAP), most specifically under Pillar III (Security, Conflict resolution and Disaster-management) and Pillar V (Human Development). In the crisis affected regions of the north, women and girls are, due to the dynamics of violent conflict, internal displacement, cultural practices, and extreme poverty, extremely vulnerable to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). Due to the same dynamics, men and boys exhibit multiple types of anti-social behaviour and have become socialized to see violence as an acceptable expression of the frustration accompanying long-term displacement. SGBV is perpetrated in the intimacy of the household, within local communities, by the parties to the conflict (both insurgents and UPDF), and it has a corresponding effect on increasing the prevalence rate of HIV/Aids in the region, which is higher than the rest of the country. As the peace process advances, there is a clear need to reduce SGBV as a means to enhance the human security of the population and create conditions conducive to sustainable reconciliation, peace and development.

Within the framework of the UN inter-agency Early Recovery network, the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons and the IASC approach to humanitarian action, this project directly contributes to addressing the challenges of SGBV among the war-affected communities in Northern Uganda. The project aims to develop holistic strategies to address SGBV through **three key objectives**: (i) promoting women's participation in peace and security matters including SGBV prevention; (ii) enhancing capacities for better prevention and response to SGBV; and (iii) ensuring effective and efficient implementation of the SGBV Project.

The overall **goal** of the SGBV project is to contribute to human security and promote conditions for recovery and development. The immediate goal of the SGBV project is to create a strong basis for interventions to address SGBV, and by this means, to contribute to the creation of a protective environment that supports the realization of the rights of girls, boys and women in war-affected or post-conflict districts to protection from sexual violence, sexual exploitation, and other gender-based forms of violence. A **cross-cutting objective** is to mainstream HIV/ AIDS prevention and response into all SGBV prevention initiatives.

SIGNATURE PAGES

Country: UGANDA

UNDAF Area of Cooperation: Facilitating the transition from relief to recovery in conflict areas

UNDAF Outcome: People affected by conflict and disaster, especially women, children and other vulnerable groups, effectively participate in and benefit from planning, timely implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes

UNDAF Country Programme Outcome Girls, boys and women in war-affected or post-conflict districts live in a protective environment that supports the realization of their rights to protection from sexual violence and/or sexual exploitation. Men are empowered to challenge and resist the existing culture of SGBV against women and children.

MYFF entry point: GOAL 4: Crisis Prevention and Recovery

National Executing Agency: Ministry of Finance, Planning & Economic Development (ALD)

National Implementing partner: Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

Other Partners Key line government ministries include: Justice; Internal Affairs; Health; Education; Disaster preparedness and Refugees, Local Government, Lands, Water and Environment, Agriculture among others. UN Agencies, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, District Local Governments; Civil Society Organisations; and bilateral donors

Programme Period:	July 2007 – June 2008
Programme Component:	Reduction in SGBV, enhance Peace and Security
Project Title:	SGBV Intervention among war-affected communities in the conflict affected of Northern Uganda.
Project Code/ID:	00042004

Project Duration:	12 months
Management Arrangement:	National Execution
Overall Budget:	440,889USD
Donor:	UNDP

On behalf of:

Signature

Date

Name/Title

Government of
Uganda

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21/8

Permanent Secretary/
Secretary to the Treasury
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, PLANNING
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Executing Agency

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21/8/07

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and Social Development

Implementing Agency

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29/08/07

DLR (P)

UNDP



Uganda

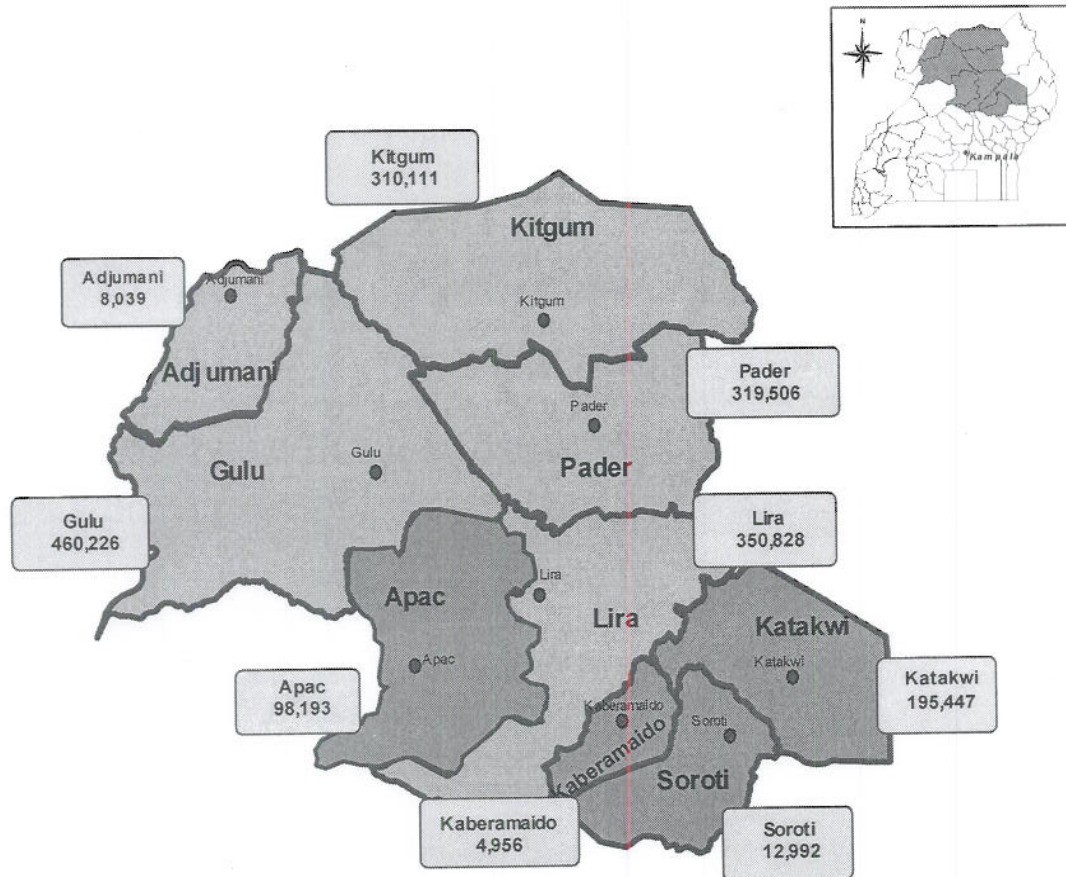
MAP OF UGANDA



OCHA - UGANDA

IDP Population in the conflict affected districts

1,760,298 as of July 2005



IDPs numbers re-validated by WFP - 1,448,710

IDPs numbers estimated - 311,588

Map elaborated by IMU-OCHA in collaboration with DDPCs, UN agencies and organizations partners working in the districts and OCHA sub-offices
Map and distances not in scale

IMU - OCHA Uganda - If you need a copy of this map, please refer to this code: IDP200507v2
Organizations are most welcome to provide new information to update this or any other map - please send your comment to ocha-uganda@un.org

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AC	Amnesty Commission
ALD	Aids Liaison Department
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CAT	Convention Against Torture and Other Inhuman and Degrading Treatment and Punishment
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CDO	Community Development Officer
CEDAW	Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CMOCs	Civil and Military Corporation Centers
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DDMC	District Disaster Management Committee
DRB	Domestic Relations Bill
DTG Narc	Donor Technical Group on Northern Uganda, Amnesty and Recovery
DTC	District Technical Committee
GoU	Government of Uganda
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome
IDP(s)	Internally Displaced Person(s)
IDY	Internally displaced Youth
LC	Local Council
LG	Local Government
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoD	Ministry of Defense
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoH	Ministry of Health
MJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
MUK	Makerere University
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NUSAF	Northern Uganda Social Action Fund
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SIDA	Swedish International Development Assistance
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
UN	United Nations
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UNAIDS	United Nations programme on AIDS
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UNOHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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Situation Analysis

Uganda's success story from the mid-80s to date in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction has been seriously undermined by conflict, insecurity and the internal displacement of entire communities in Northern Uganda. The resultant effect has been a governance and humanitarian crisis in the north, and stark regional disparities between this region and the rest of Uganda. According to almost all MDG indicators, Northern Uganda lags behind compared to other parts of the country. Not only is poverty highest in the North (2003 figures say 63% compared to 38% in the rest of the country), death rates are four times higher than in the non-conflict affected areas of the country, and HIV/AIDS prevalence is significantly higher compared to the national average. The democratic governance structures in place in the rest of the country have been replaced, in IDP camp settings, with militarized and unaccountable camp management structures. Without concerted targeted efforts to erase these disparities, it may not be possible for Uganda to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which GoU has committed itself to, or to achieve the goals it set out as its national priorities in the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), which is the Ugandan national development framework and medium term planning tool¹.

The protracted violent conflict in Northern Uganda² between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of Uganda, which mainly affects the districts located in the Acholi and Lango sub-regions, has for over 20 years terrorized and brutally violated communities. Since 1994, over 30,000 persons have been abducted, 25,000 of whom are children used as child soldiers, sex slaves and porters. Those left behind were mutilated and or killed, leaving both physical and psychological scars. 1.7 million people were displaced into IDP camps, causing a situation that UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Jan Egeland, described as "**among the worst humanitarian disasters in the world**". The conflict has led to the development of local defense units and other militarized groupings. Social protection mechanisms have been eroded and democratic governance militarized.

However, the ongoing peace talks in Juba, Sudan, are offering IDPs hope that a return home may soon become possible. Indeed, those regions furthest away from the conflict (Lira) are seeing such large-scale, rapid returns, that humanitarian actors are unprepared. An early recovery strategy on SGBV, located within the broader Early Recovery Cluster, must be unrolled as a matter of urgency.

To further the UNDP Administrator's guidance note on joint leadership on gender equality and women's empowerment, UNDP and UNIFEM commissioned a field study to assess reported cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Northern Uganda. The joint study forms the basis for this project document, as it clearly shows that an essential contribution to recovery is the development of a mechanism to tackle the extraordinarily high levels of SGBV prevalent in

¹ PEAP is the local equivalent of a Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The latest version was revised in 2004.

² The term Northern Uganda is used to describe the cluster of 18 districts from West Nile to Karamoja. Each of those 18 districts is at different stages in their struggle for peace and security. For instance, West Nile rebels have laid down their arms and are accessing peace dividends, whilst hope is unfolding from the Juba peace talks for the Acholi and Langi regions. For purposes of this project, the North is defined as the districts of Acholi and the Lango, which are most adversely affected by the LRA conflict with resultant internal displacement of the populations.

the north. The project's entry point is the current IDP Policy which, under its "General Provisions", attempts to decrease the vulnerability of war-affected communities to SGBV by providing a framework of policy objectives, strategies, and implementation structures. As peace becomes more likely, it should be possible to move from this IDP-focused SGBV prevention response, which is appropriate for a state of humanitarian emergency, to an early recovery strategy which is positioned to support long-term prevention goals, including through building the capacity of police, the judiciary, and local governance structures, and promoting women's greater participation in all matters related to peace and security.

In line with international commitments (as reflected in SCR1325), and with national priorities (as reflected in the Constitution, the PEAP, the National Gender Policy, the Internally Displaced Persons Policy, and the Draft National Strategy on SGBV), with the MDGs (specifically the goals of poverty, gender equity and empowerment of women, maternal health, and HIV/AIDS), and with the country specific goal of addressing SGBV for UN engagement in Uganda, as expressed in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2006-10, UNDP recognizes the need for a common inter-agency strategy, particularly involving UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA and OHCHR who already have SGBV programmes at field level in conflict-affected areas.

Forms of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) being perpetrated in Northern Uganda

According to UNHCR 2003 *guidelines on prevention and response to SGBV against refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons*³, the most common forms of SGBV in crisis areas can be grouped into the following five categories:

1. **Sexual Violence**, encompassing rape, marital rape, child sexual abuse, forced sodomy/anal rape, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, forced prostitution, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation as a weapon of war and torture.
2. **Physical Violence**, including physical assault, trafficking slavery amongst others.
3. **Emotional & Psychological Violence**, ranging from abuse and humiliation to confinement.
4. **Harmful Traditional Practices**, such as female genital mutilation, early marriage, forced marriage, honor killing and maiming, infanticide and/or neglect, widow inheritance, denial of education due to gender, amongst others.
5. **Socio-Economic Violence**, through discrimination and/or denial of opportunities and services, social exclusion, and obstructive legislative practice.

All these forms of violence are being perpetrated in northern Uganda. In a recent in-depth study of SGBV in Pabbo IDP camp, which is the largest camp in Gulu district,⁴ and hosts a population of approximately 63,000 people, it was found that;

1. SGBV occurs on a **daily basis**;
2. There is a culture of **impunity** in response to certain forms of SGBV which are culturally accepted and not understood to constitute any violation of the rights of women and girls;

³ Guidelines on prevention and response to SGBV against refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, UNHCR 2003

⁴ Gulu district has since been split and Pabbo now lies in Amuru district