

3. Though adult males, adolescents and young boys were found to be vulnerable to SGBV, the vast majority of SGBV victims were **women and girls** between the age group of 12-30 years; and,
4. **No comprehensive measure to prevent nor respond to SGBV** was in place.

The data generated on SGBV from Pabbo IDP camp⁵ which does not differ from the other camps in terms of chronic poverty, insecurity, congestion, and culture, gives one a good picture of what to expect in the many other IDP camps spread over LRA and Karimojong affected districts. In Pabbo IDP camp, the three most common forms of SGBV were:

1. **Sexual Violence**, especially rape and marital rape, and child abuse,
2. **Physical Violence**, in the form of assault by husbands, and
3. **Harmful Traditional Practices**, in particular early and forced marriages.

Within a short period of five months (April – Aug 2004) Pabbo Police Station and Pabbo Health Centre recorded a total of **382** cases of SGBV (rape, defilement, assault and domestic violence). However, this is likely to represent only a small minority of assaults perpetrated, as the reporting rates on SGBV are very low.

The findings of the SGBV study in Pabbo IDP camp are reconfirmed in a more recent study undertaken among the Internally Displaced Youth (IDY) in Gulu district. In this study, the destructive impacts of long-term militarization were clearly indicated. 70% of the IDY respondents stated that SGBV is one of the major threats they face, and, that it occurs on a regular basis.⁶ In the study, **“All males present in camps were identified as potential violators: the UPDF, older men, school teachers, LCs, and male youth, as well as the LRA. However 61% of the informants noted that UPDF soldiers are most likely to be involved in these types of crimes”**.⁷ This statement is particularly distressing because, despite the level of harm they cause, adult males are only about 20% of the people in IDP camps.

These reports are a stark indication that the IDP Policy's intention that **“Government and Humanitarian Agencies shall collaborate and put in place special measures to prevent sexual violence [and] early marriage”** is simply not being realized.⁸ While the Policy notes that security organs should be sensitized on SGBV and on other relevant policies as a means to assist **responses** to such crimes, it fails to recognize that **security organs can themselves threaten the war-affected communities**.

To date, there has been endemic sexual abuse of women and girls by the LRA during captivity, by national soldiers in the near-by encampment, by local defense units and other armed militia. Rape rates by civilian men are also high. The escalating number of rape cases reported indicates that the security crisis faced by women and girls is likely to continue even if peace

⁵ *A Study of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Pabbo Camp, Gulu District, Northern Uganda*, commissioned by Gulu District Sub-Working Group on SGBV, researchers Ms Akumu Christine Okot, Ms Amongy Isabella, and Mr Otim Gerald, September 2004,

⁶ *A Generation At Risk: Acholi Youth in Northern Uganda*, Liu Institute for Global Issues and Gulu District NGO Forum, October 2005.

⁷ *A Generation At Risk: Acholi Youth in Northern Uganda*, Liu Institute for Global Issues and Gulu District NGO Forum, October pg. 25, 2005

⁸ IDP Policy, pg 21, 2004.

does come to the north unless immediate and far-reaching policies and programmes are put in place to change the culture of tolerance and impunity for SGBV which currently prevails. The camp set-up itself appears to provide a conducive environment for abuse since camps were constructed without taking into account the safety concerns of women and children. To mention two of the security weaknesses in the camps; (i) there is insufficient policing in general, but in particular along the hot-spots for SGBV against women and girls such as their routes to gather fuel and fire-wood; and, (ii) there is no lighting around toilet areas or around the camps.

However, as the camps disband, and clans and families move back to much more isolated locations, women's and girls' security may continue to deteriorate. One reason for this is the continued insecurity surrounding the peace talks in Juba: people are extremely sceptical that these will succeed. The daily uncertainty of the situation is exacerbated by high rates of alcoholism (and drug abuse) by men, leading to domestic violence. But because of a lack of alternatives livelihoods, women and men are now locked in a cycle of violence in which women, lacking other options, brew alcohol which men purchase (sometimes by violently appropriating and selling WFP food rations managed by women).

Chronic poverty and extreme survival strategies force many into high-risk occupations, whether as voluntary conscripts, as sex workers or as slave labourers for the different fighting forces. Poverty is the main factor increasing vulnerability, as confirmed in the SGBV study in Pabbo IDP camp, in the study among IDY, and in numerous consultations with IDPs in Northern Uganda. During district consultations undertaken by UNIFEM in January 2006 and UNDP in June 2007, women peace workers and district officials from Gulu, Lira and Kitgum districts confirmed that sex can be bought at a price of Ug shs. 200-1,000 in the camps.

That women and girls are desperate enough to sell themselves for such tiny amounts of money is evidence that another commitment made under the IDP policy relating to the food security of IDPs is failing: the commitment states that **"Government ... shall establish and maintain adequate grain stores for IDPs"**.⁹ However, food security is a major problem for the IDPs of the Acholi sub-region, and to a certain extent those in Lira district, because of a complete dependence on food aid.¹⁰ Food security remains a major problem also during processes of transition from internal displacement to return and resettlement, as seen in some parts of Lira, and most of Apac districts – and this problem is actually worsening in the early recovery stages as people try to restart their agricultural activities on land that has long lain dormant.

Even in the peaceful parts of Uganda, a close link has been noted between women's lack of control of productive resources, powerlessness in the face of SGBV, and the increasing spread of HIV/AIDS¹¹. This situation is far worse in the IDP camps. The stigma associated with sexual violence and the culture of impunity prevailing in war-affected communities has discouraged many women and girls from reporting cases to authorities. Their fearful silence is a result of cultural norms and attitudes that discourage open discussion of rape because of stigmatisation – of the individual, family and community. Marital rape is not even recognised as a crime: it is

⁹ IDP Policy, g. 26, 2004

¹⁰ Consultations with IDPs and other stakeholders in Lira, Apac and Gulu districts, January 2006, UNIFEM Uganda, Pg 10

¹¹ The Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Process / Second Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Process (UPPAP / PPA2).

seen as a husband's right and entitlement to force sex on a wife whether she agrees or not, as is evident in the following quotation from an elder in Pabbo camp: **"Anyaka, lim pud ki tero atera doo. Wek wodwa ocam dek"**, meaning "young girl, the bride price was delivered just recently, let our son eat food". This traditional and patriarchal mind-set is not only a challenge at the local level, but permeates the national level, where highly urbanized and educated Ugandans are also struggling to accept the changes in the proposed (but hotly contested) Domestic Relations Bill regarding bride price, marital rape, and polygamy, amongst other things.

Finally, having experienced SGBV and being exposed to the risk of SGBV on a daily basis, war-affected women feel intimidated and disheartened by the weak legal process currently in place, in which culture combined with corruption makes access to justice an impossible thought. In the face of such systematic oppression, women are reluctant to follow official channels of action, and SGBV remains a silent problem borne by its victims.

What is being done

While far more needs to be done to address the endemic SGBV perpetrated by men against women in the conflict zones of northern and east Uganda, UN agencies and I/NGOs, notably UNICEF, UNFPA and CARE, are already supporting district authorities and NGOs in Lira and Gulu districts to implement comprehensive integrated programmes to respond to survivors in some parts of these districts. UNICEF has developed a comprehensive inter-agency response to violence, exploitation and abuse against children in IDP camps and war-affected communities that involves setting up commonly-owned inter-agency protection mechanisms that identify children exposed to violence and abuse, provides frontline response and refers children to more specialized technical services as required. These mechanisms, which are led by the district authorities and supported by NGOs, integrate remedial services for survivors of sexual violence.

Inter-agency SGBV working groups are active in Gulu and Lira districts and are training locally deployed medical, legal and police personnel. Local NGOs and CBOs provide what support they can, with very limited resources. The problem of girls (especially girl mothers) escaping from abduction by the LRA is still under-addressed, and will need to be strengthened as reporters return when the juba peace process comes to an end. UNDP will support locally defined and led initiatives and with UNIFEM leading on policy-related issues, will support implementation of pro-women and girl policies and legislation, and will also lead on innovative new programmes to combat the problem, especially those that empower men to resist using violence. As cluster lead on Early Recovery, UNDP will encourage all actors to work within an already existing framework that enhances coordination, avoids duplication and creates synergies between different areas of programming.

An additional concern, as returns begin, is that gender-based violence will escalate in response to disputes over land claims (there are anecdotal reports of widows being murdered to prevent them claiming land). The murder of unaccompanied women because of accusations of witchcraft is also being documented. Deeper analysis to both these instances of gender-based violence must urgently be undertaken so that proactive prevention strategies can be developed.

Project Strategy

The SGBV Project shall be implemented in accordance with the newly adopted UN Inter-agency cluster approach. In line with the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings¹², this project recognizes a clear need for a multi-sectoral response to SGBV and its impact on an increasing prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS. The project aims to build lasting capacity for women to challenge and change their systematic exclusion from peace and security decision making, by promoting the tenets of SCR1325. The response will take into account the multiple dimensions of the problems which cause and cement the different forms of sexual and gender based violence experienced in situations of violent conflict, poverty and internal displacement of war-affected communities. The SGBV Project shall identify what activities are already taking place, implemented and supported by which agencies, and will identify, in coordination with other actors, gaps in capacity and response. As part of a coordinated inter-agency response this is likely to include building of partnerships with the health sector, the justice sector, the security sector, water and sanitation sector, agriculture and environment sectors amongst others, and laying the foundation for subsequently either contributing directly with technical and/or financial assistance, or indirectly in terms of information sharing and development of inter-sectoral partnerships on SGBV prevention and response. This project shall be lodged under the Early Recovery cluster but shall have linkages with the SGBV Sub-cluster.

Further in line with the IASC guidelines, the project adopts a two-pronged strategy aiming at both prevention of, and response to, SGBV. The interventions must address immediate physical protection and access to justice issues alongside problems of medical treatment and shelter, whilst it also has a longer time perspective of contributing to changes in cultural practices which permeate SGBV and aim at empowering men to change their pro-violence behaviours and attitudes. Interventions shall cover protection of vulnerable populations against SGBV, care for SGBV survivors, develop better means to identify and punish perpetrators, and advocate for systemic change.

The most appropriate strategies for addressing SGBV will have to be determined in each locality, based on the different levels of insecurity, with direct implications for poverty and internal displacement, return and reintegration of internal displaced persons in different communities / camps within districts, and between the war-affected districts. At the same time the situation is dynamic and constantly changing. The SGBV Project shall therefore be flexible to addressing SGBV differently according to the context specific dynamics. At the same time the SGBV Project shall take into consideration the fact that interventions undertaken must be relevant not only to the current situation of internal displacement into camps, but also during phases of return and early recovery.

¹² Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings – Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies, Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 2003.
<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/publications/asp>

It is important to note that this SGBV Project directly feeds lessons learned into a long-term UNDP Crisis Prevention and Recovery Programme Support Document. The SGBV Project shall focus on facilitating an in-depth understanding of the subject matter through systematic tracking and support documentation on SGBV, analysis of capacities to respond and intervening in areas identified as key to the occurrence of SGBV. Further to this the project shall initiate the strengthening of district capacities for prevention and response through provision of technical assistance to the districts.

The SGBV Project takes a thematic focus on SGBV and related HIV/AIDS infections among the war-affected communities in the LRA conflict affected districts of the Acholi and Lango sub-regions of Northern Uganda. The project targets four main categories, i.e. (1) SGBV survivors; (2) women and girls vulnerable to SGBV; (3) potential male SGBV perpetrators; and 4) police and judiciary, to build capacity to respond to SGBV. Within the second group, the project emphasises four vulnerable groups within the age-bracket of 12-35 years: (2.1) female reporters and other returnees; (2.2) female and child headed households; (2.3) disabled women and children; and (2.4) adolescent girls. The third category emphasises: (3.1) special groups such as the local defense units (LDU), UPDF, LCs, police, male teachers; and (3.2) civilian males, adult and adolescent. The different categories of target groups are included in various components of the project, e.g. SGBV survivors receive medical treatment, whilst potential perpetrators are approached as potential partners opposed to SGBV. These groupings are intended as guidelines, but project beneficiaries are seen as a dynamic group which will be defined clearly in the beginning of the project implementation according to the specific needs prevalent in each of the chosen project locations.

UNDP and GoU have prior experience in engaging with war-affected IDPs, which will be built upon and expanded in the implementation of this project. Experience has been acquired through support to; (i) the development and ongoing implementation of the National IDP Policy at both national and district levels; (ii) the establishment and operations of Private Sector Development Centers at district level through Enterprise; and (iii) close partnerships with other UN agencies on related issues in northern Uganda, e.g. UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNOHCHR, UNAIDS, UN OCHA, WHO, which is in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and provides good opportunities for achieving effective inter-agency collaboration on SGBV, as seen necessary in the IASC guidelines on GBV, and envisioned through the adopted UN cluster leadership approach.

Project Management

In UNDP, the SGBV Project shall be managed by Crisis Prevention and Recovery (CPR) Unit. The project will be nationally-executed and lodged with the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development as implementing agency.

Roles and Responsibilities

UNDP

UNDP shall be responsible for the overall management of the project. This entails:

1. Participation in monitoring, review and evaluation missions of the project together with MGLSD and ALD.
2. Support human resource development of the project.
3. Ensure timely release of funds to carry out project activities.
4. Co-chair and effectively participate in the quarterly Steering Committee meetings.
5. Provide necessary technical backstopping for execution and implementation of the project in accordance with the approved work plans.
6. Receive, review and expeditiously approve quarterly substantive and financial reports from MGLSD through ALD and timely disburse directly the requested funds to MGLSD.
7. Arrange for sharing of, access to, any management information reporting facility that may be developed within UNDP's ATLAS resource management and accounting framework.

Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD)

This is the Implementing Agency of the Project. The Ministry shall:

1. Be accountable to UNDP for the project resources under Government Management (through ALD).
2. Provide an overall guidance and coordination to Project implementation.
3. Chair the Steering Committee meetings, provide secretariat to this committee and to the inter-ministerial policy forum.
4. Participate in monitoring, review and evaluation missions of the project together with UNDP and ALD.
5. Carry out procurement of goods and services using National Execution Guidelines.
6. Develop Project quarterly and annual work plans in consultation with UNDP and ALD and deliver them to UNDP through ALD.
7. Prepare and maintain appropriate books of accounts for reporting and audit purposes.
8. Subcontract through ALD.
9. Deliver the Project to the targeted beneficiaries in line with the approved annual work plan, while involving the targeted beneficiaries as much as possible.
10. Prepare annual/quarterly substantive and financial reports and submit them to UNDP through ALD.

Aid Liaison Department, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED)

This is the Executing Agency of the Project. It is responsible for the following:

1. Overall delivery of the project and ensuring government ownership and responsibility over project activities as well as financial accountability for the achievement of the expected outputs and outcomes of the project.
2. Convene and co-chair the Steering Committee meetings, review and approve annual work plans and sign the plan on behalf of government.
3. Undertake substantive and financial monitoring and evaluation of project activities.

4. Receive and expeditiously approve quarterly substantive and financial reports from MGLSD.
5. Support audit and implementation of annual work plans and ensure implementation of audit recommendations.
6. Ensure that the UNDP portfolio is included in sector wide planning.
7. Forwarding approved work plans and budgets and financial reports to UNDP.

UNIFEM

UNIFEM is a partner to the project. It is responsible for the following:

1. UNIFEM's primary responsibility is the continued development of national policy on SGBV.
2. UNIFEM is offering technical support to the Juba Peace Process to ensure that gender concerns are tabled, including SGBV, as suggested in SCR1325.
3. Provide technical support to the project.

The project shall establish a project steering committee which is the overall policy-making body. This Committee is comprised of ALD, UNDP, MGLSD, local government and civil society organizations. It is chaired by MGLSD and co-chaired by ALD and UNDP.

The steering committee shall:

1. Advice on project implementation
2. Meet once every quarter to give advice on implementation modalities
3. Among other things the committee shall discuss quarterly work plans and reports
4. Participate in monitoring and evaluation missions of the Project together with UNDP, ALD and MGLSD
5. MGLSD would provide secretariat to the steering committee

As implementing agency, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) shall be responsible for provision of overall guidance and coordination to project implementation as chair of Project Steering Committee.

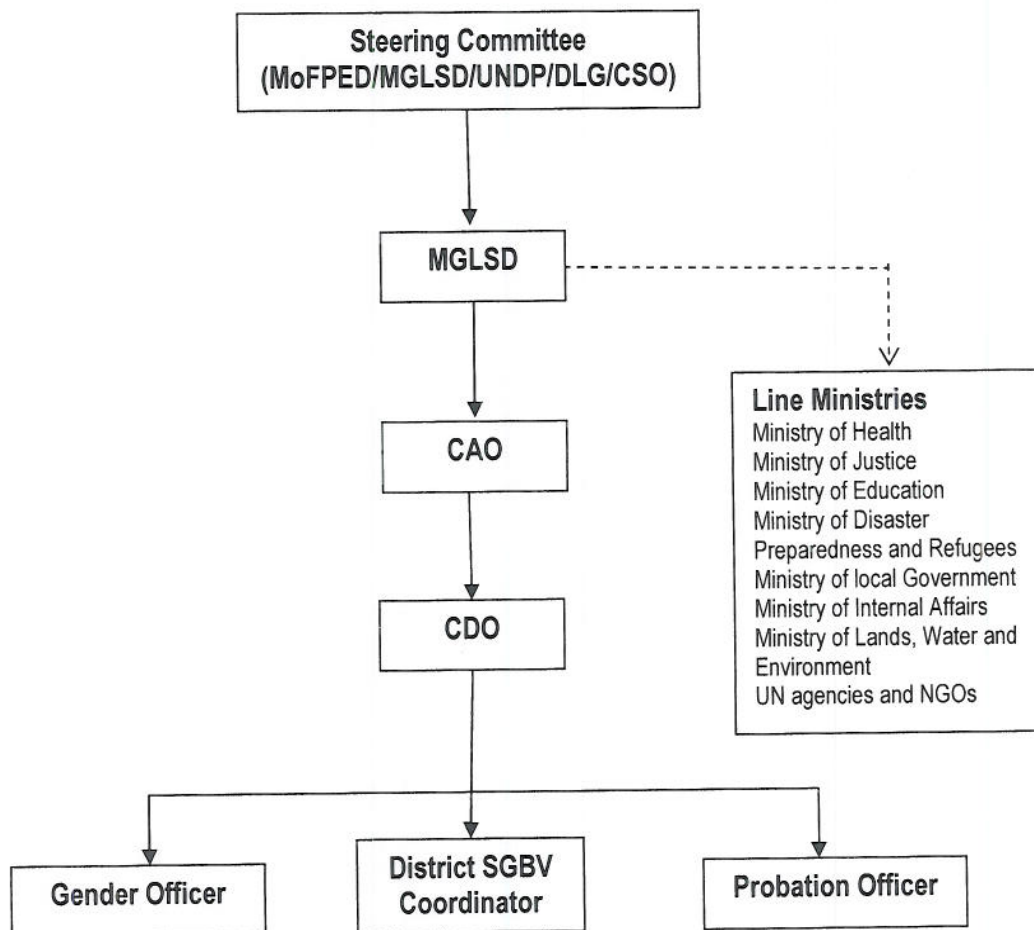
While the Project locates itself within the MGLSD at a national level, it seeks collaboration with other line agencies (through their respective gender focal points), district local governments, civil society, and other relevant UN agencies.

At district and lower levels, it will make use of the decentralized structures of governance and service delivery in Uganda. Operating within the framework of the DDC and DDMC and its associated structures, under the district community development department, the project shall advocate for the implementation of the provisions not only on the physical representation of groups vulnerable to SGBV but also on the representation of issues key to SGBV prevention and response. The DDC and the DDMC, which are sub-groups of the District Technical

Committee (DTC), increases the opportunities for mainstreaming SGBV into medium and longer term district development planning.

The SGBV district coordinator placed in the community development office shall work very closely with the staff in this department particularly with the district probation officer and the district gender officer. He/she shall submit SGBV activity work plans to the district community development officer who will present it to the district technical committee. SGBV Coordinator shall report to the CAO through the CDO. All reports submitted to the CAO should be copied to MGLSD Project Focal Point and the UNDP National SGBV Specialist who provides overall technical and administrative support and coordination to the project.

Implementation Structure



The project is furthermore closely coordinated with interventions by other UN agencies through the inter-agency SGBV working groups. The SGBV specialists on this project at both national and district levels, will also work closely with UNHCR, UNFPA, WHO, WFP, UNICEF the IASC sub-cluster leader for child protection/SGBV, which have child protection/SGBV officers in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira, and in Kampala.

UNDP shall work with other UN interagency partnerships guided by the UN cluster leadership approach and aid effectiveness guidelines. UNDP will work with sister agencies and national stakeholders to articulate a common strategy and implementation plan, as required under the cluster approach. Partnerships will therefore include information sharing, creation of synergies, joint implementation of programmes, and division of labour based on mandates, capacities and competencies.

The district based coordination, as well as the UN inter-agency coordination at both district and national levels, is to enhance synergies and avoid duplications of interventions. At national level the project shall furthermore seek to work and coordinate closely with other development partners operating in Northern Uganda. This shall mainly be through the sharing of information and discussing of ideas during the project implementation within DTG Narc and the sub-group on human rights, and within the Donor Coordination Group on Gender.

The effort to create and utilize opportunities for synergies between various interventions and UNDP programming, shall be taken further to include national capacities and resources in the field of SGBV within; (i) GoU (line ministries relevant to the project, such as MGLSD, MoH, Ministry of Justice and others); (ii) within LGs, such as the established DDMC which are already receiving UNDP support; (iii) within constitutionally enacted human rights institutions, such as the UHRC; (iv) among Ugandan research institutions, such as the Universities of Makerere and Gulu; (v) national CSOs, such as the Coalition of CSOs promoting the DRB; and (vi) strategic actors within the local war-affected communities. This shall ensure a higher degree of ownership and create opportunities for synergies between various interventions thereby enhancing UNDP programming.

While much of the proposed programme will focus on the LRA conflict-affected areas in the north at the camp and district levels, it is an explicit strategy of the project to link efforts at the local level and within the field of service delivery to the national level and the field of advocacy for development and change of policies key to SGBV. As such, information and experience generated locally shall feed directly into advocacy for policies sensitive to SGBV at the national level. Therefore, the project shall work to; (i) engender the National IDP Policy; (ii) support the advocacy around the Domestic Relations Bill, the Sexual Offense Bill, the whole area of Defilement, amongst others; (iii) support the development and implementation of a National Strategy on Sexual and Gender-based Violence, and ultimately the Poverty Eradication Action Plan 2004 - 2008.

Strategic Principles

As is evident from above, this project builds on several strategic principles, such as:

- **The project places national development plans at the centre** by supporting Government of Uganda in achieving the Millennium Development Goals through the implementation of the nationally defined and owned Poverty Reduction Strategy, in Uganda, the PEAP. This project shall therefore directly contribute to the realization of the PEAP (protection of women and girls against sexual violence and exploitation are integral components of human development – PEAP Pillar 5, Pg 103 and 109)

- **The project aims to strengthen national capacities** by making capacity building an integral part of the project, and through the provision of technical and financial support to national strategic actors to enable these respond more effectively to SGBV in Uganda
- **The project uses and strengthens national systems** by not only recognizing their existence in the development of its programme response on SGBV, but making it an explicit strategy to partner with these and build their capacities in the implementation of the project.
- **The project is embedded within the UNDAF (2006-10)**, which is the overall strategic framework for UN engagement in Uganda (Areas of Cooperation Three *The promotion and protection of human rights* and Five *Facilitating the transition from relief to recovery in conflict areas*). The UNDAF is the framework for ensuring inter-agency collaboration, sharing of knowledge and pooling of resources (Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness). And embedded within the **UNDP CPAP (2006-2010)** ensures that this project is an integral part of a longer term UNDP programme response to SGBV in Uganda.
- **Working in Partnerships** with existing interventions and other development partners to ensure there is no duplication of resources, there is a maximization of synergies, and that project interventions remain relevant and targeting at addressing identified gaps. Specific mention of partners within the UN are; (i) UNICEF; (ii) UNAIDS; (iii) UNFPA; (iv) UNCDF; (v) UN OCHA; (vi) UNHCR; and (vii) UNOHCHR (viii) WHO.
- **Close linkage between service delivery and advocacy with an aim to influence policies.** While the project aims to work at a local, camp, level with affected communities to address SGBV and related HIV/AIDS transmission, it also aims at creating strong linkages between activities undertaken and knowledge generated locally, and, advocacy targeting national policies.
- **Strategic Partnerships between Men, Boys, Women and Girls** to address SGBV jointly. SGBV is often the violent expression of how culture and society defines different sexes and their relations to one another. To address SGBV there is therefore a need to bring the likely perpetrators and the likely victims closer to a mutual redefined understanding of one another's roles, rights and responsibilities, and how to relate to one another without violating the other being. The project shall make an explicit strategy of forging innovative partnerships between men and women in addressing SGBV.
- **To promote and implement SCR1325 on the inclusion of women in all aspects of peace and security.** Security Council Resolution 1325 on peace and security re-affirms the important role of women in the prevention of and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stresses their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution. It also emphasises the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts. On the

question of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, the resolution calls on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict.

Policy Framework

The principal guide to all development activities of GoU is the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP). The PEAP, in its third pillar on security, conflict resolution and disaster management identifies the following as one of the core four challenges:

- **The conditions of internally displaced persons, including long-term reintegration and psychological recovery.**

This SGBV intervention shall directly contribute to addressing this challenge, and the intervention is embedded within the strategic framework for UN agencies in Uganda, as outlined in the UNDAF (2006-2010), wherein GoU objectives in this area is translated into development area of cooperation No. 5, Facilitating the transition from relief to recovery in conflict areas. The UNDAF has, under development area of cooperation No. 5, defined one of its country programme outcomes (no 5.2) to directly address SGBV in conflict and post-conflict zones as follows:

- **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.**

At a higher policy level, both the UN system and the GoU are obliged to adhere to the standards set by the CEDAW and the CAT regarding women's rights and torture respectively. These have been further built upon in an increased understanding of the violations of women's rights in situations of violent conflict in the UN Security Council's Resolution 1325, and within the African context in the recent Kigali Declaration of the Great Lakes Regional Women's Meeting in Oct 2004, which specifically expresses concern by *the increase of sexual and gender based violence, and especially the use of rape as a weapon of war and the repeated victimization of women through the physical, social and economic violations that result from these brutal acts.*

This SGBV Project shall provide support both to; (i) an improved understanding of the sexual and gender dimensions of violence experienced in Northern Uganda, and opportunities for applying a holistic approach to addressing SGBV; and (ii) undertake interventions in identified areas key to the protection of persons affected by SGBV.

The project is closely linked to, and shall contribute further, to the existing UNDP support in creating an enabling environment for the implementation of GoU National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDP Policy), which was launched on 24th Feb 2005. The IDP policy outlines guidelines on upholding the rights and entitlements of the IDPs and thereby affording them protection and assistance. The IDP policy does however not make explicit mention of women's

rights and particular needs, though it states that CEDAW 1979, is one of the international human rights instruments, it bears reference to. This project shall therefore endeavor to feed positively into engendering the implementation of the IDP policy.

Project Goals and Objectives

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 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 and / or sexual exploitation.

The SGBV Project aims to achieve its immediate goal through implementation of three key objectives:

1. Promoting women's participation in peace and security matters including SGBV prevention
2. Enhancing capacities for better prevention and response to SGBV
3. Ensure effective and efficient implementation of SGBV Project

And one cross-cutting objective to:

1. Mainstream HIV/AIDS responses among SGBV survivors into the Project.

1. Objective One: *Promoting women's participation in peace and security matters including SGBV prevention.*

Women and children account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements. Despite this, women rarely participate in nor are their views heard in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

Key activities

- a) **Empower women to participate in violence prevention, peace processes and conflict resolution.**
 - (i) Training of women in peace building, negotiation and conflict resolution skills.
 - (ii) Establish peace clubs in communities and in schools.