



Unseen Conflict, Unnoticed Victims: The Critical Assessment of Government and Non-State actors Response to the effect of ADF Cross-border Violence on Children and Youths in Kasese District of Rwenzori Region of Uganda.

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Disclaimer:

This document represents part of the author's study programme while at the Institute of Social Studies. The views stated therein are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Institute.

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Aknowledgement

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Dedication

Am filled with honor to dedicate this piece of work to the innocent lives of Youth and Children who lost their lives during the ADF insurgency (R.I.P), the surviving victims in Kasese- Ruwenzori region, the government of the Republic of Uganda and all the Non-State actors who played a great role during after the insurgency in attempt to restore peace and security in Kasese district and Uganda as a whole.

List of Acronyms

ADF	Alliance Democratic Force
CRD	Community Resilience Development
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DFID	Department for International Development
FCDE	Foundation for Community Development and Empowerment
KRRC	Karabole Resource and Research Centre
LRA	Lord Resistance Army
LRDP	Luwero Rwenzori Development Program
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
NSPPI	National Strategic Programme Plan of Interventions
NAYODE	National Youth Organization for Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OVC	Orphan and Vulnerable Children
UN	United Nations
YAC	Youth, Adolescent and Children

Abstract

In the dominant discourse, the locus of war and conflict in Uganda is in the north that involves the Joseph Kony Lord Resistance Army. Despite the fact that the impact of ADF rebellion in the West is equally devastating compare to that of LRA in the North. ADF conflict relatively remains “an unseen conflict” with “unnoticed victims” that has been abandoned. This study explained why?, most importantly the reason why government intervention programs to alleviate the suffering of children affected by the conflict have little impact in comparison to that of the non-state actors on the children and youths affected by the conflict in Rwenzori region. We critically analyse various agencies’ and actors’ responses to young people’s vulnerability and needs following the ADF rebellion in Western Uganda, Kasese in particular. The various actors considered include international and local NGOs, and Ugandan government bodies. Using resilience and vulnerability and targeting as ‘frames’ through which the NGOs and government and other actors view young people in conflict, the study end up to show why intervention in Kasese District has been relatively lacking, and has attracted little or insignificant attention. Before this assessment of the intervention policies, however, the procedure used by government and NGOs as a response to the plight of children and youths in conflict was put to test by drawing on the toolkits for facilitating Transitions for Children and Youth in conflict zones by the Post-Conflict Funds Project (PCF). In Conclusion, I argued that for any successful intervention, there is a need for a community based approach that prioritized the beneficiary’s voices and participation in the designing of the intervention program

Relevance to Development Studies

This study is of great relevance to development studies in many ways. It bring to the fore the impact of a less documented and forgotten conflict on children and youths that have been abandoned for more than a decade in Rwenzori region. The study show whether the programs of intervention is appropriate or not and why support has sometimes failed to materialize in spite of the need, and why at other times it has appeared not to succeed. Academics will benefit in the form of getting direction for further research studies, considering the existing dearth in knowledge about the ADF conflict in the region. Moreover, the study will give direction to the intervention programmes required in tackling the various problems associated with war wounded children

Keywords

ADF, LRA, Rwenzori region, Uganda Government, Kasese, Conflict; Youth, Children, Vulnerability, Resilience, FCDE, NAYODE, NGOs, Intervention

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Chapter 1: The Undocumented Rebellion

Introduction

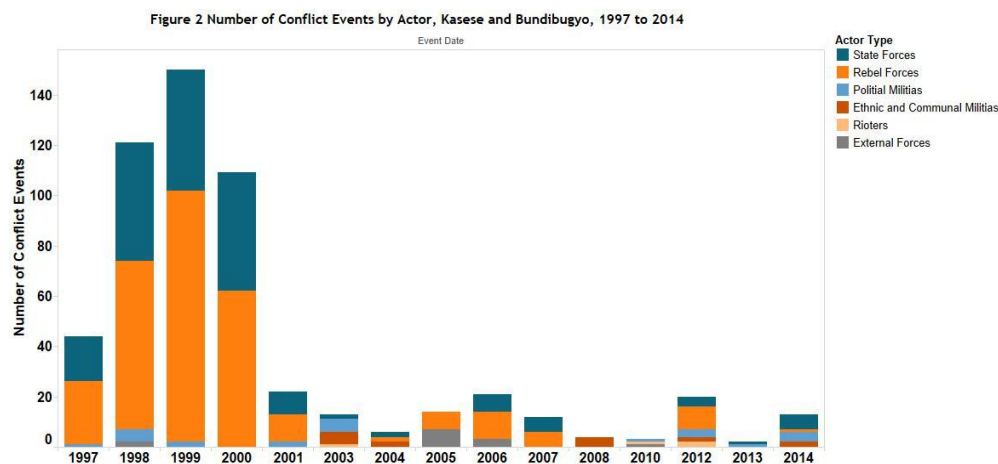
In the dominant discourse, the locus of war and conflict in Uganda is in the north that involves the Joseph Kony Lord Resistance Army (Boås and Jennings, 2008: 160). For so long, the ADF rebellion in the Rwenzori region received much less publicity and very little national and global humanitarian support (Muhumuza, 2014: 117). Generally, ADF-NALU conflict in the west of Uganda is considered as a lost rebellion due to their repeated losses to the Uganda army that forced them to retreat into the Rwenzori Mountain in the 1990s. Despite this, the ADF occasionally come out from the mountain to stage attacks on civilians. For example, in 2007 and 2010 (International Crisis Group, 2012: 4-7), the Uganda army had to restore order in the Kasese region. According to Hovil and Werker (2005), the violence that has taken place during and after the purported defeat of ADF rebellion is almost undocumented in mainstream scholarship. They argued that only African Rights did extensive documentation of the war in 2001, with Oxfam and the German Development Service in 2002 emphasizing the situation of ex-combatants and IDPs. “The lack of analysis on the conflict is compounded by the fact that the war has received so little national and international attention. Only major massacres in the region tended to make it into the press” (Hovil and Werker, 2005: 9-10). Hovil and Werker also maintain that the inconspicuousness of the conflict has added to the dearth of accessible sources on the war. Regrettably, the once-moribund Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) returned to life by taking a series of small towns in the region near the border with Uganda before launching an assault on the larger center of Kamango. This attack displaced over 60,000 Congolese streaming into Uganda in July 2013.¹ The need to understand the impact of this resurgence of violence, and community and wider responses to it, is what informs this study.

Since their establishment, the ADF has mainly used the Rwenzori Mountains as the focal area of its operations. The ADF successfully destabilized, among other districts, the Kasese district in Rwenzori region of Western Uganda. And the ADF was also responsible for the displacement of a huge number of local people. Out of those displaced, a considerable number are children and young people (Titeca and Vlassenroot, 2012: Scorgie, 2011). Besides this, the ADF rebel group also recruited young people as soldiers in their armed struggles with the Ugandan government and armed forces. Similarly to in Northern Uganda, when youths were abducted they were often forced to kill their colleagues who tried to escape or were too weak to move along with the rebel forces. Noticeably, the government of Uganda habitually downplayed the significance of ADF rebellion in the country, in turn undermining the possibility for organizing any significant response to the needs of young people affected by the ADF conflict in Rwenzori in Western Uganda.

¹ <http://www.unhcr.org/51e3d7f89.html>

Arguably, it is unlikely for anybody to invest resources to address a problem that is not fully acknowledged politically as a burning issue; an issue that is not on the political agenda. The government has always maintained that ADF is a past event in Uganda, and that their rebellion against the Ugandan state is now over, and has become a DR Congo problem that needs to be dealt with by their neighbouring government, since ADF are viewed as being based in DRC territory. The Ugandan government continues to boast about its military successes against the rebel group, and warns: “ADF killers [who] are in Congo...If they dare to attack Uganda, they will suffer the consequences” (Museveni quoted in African Reports, 2013).² Despite such threats, ADF continues to carry out attacks in Western region, in particular, within the border districts of Kasese and Budiniyo.

Meanwhile, the Rwenzori region in Western Uganda has a long history of ethnic conflicts and political instability, a traditional alibi for the government to refuse in recognizing attacks as ADF motivated; rather than linking such attacks to the rebel movement, the government tends to view local violence as arising from ethnic-based conflict. Yet since 1997, it could be argued that only a very minor element of the violent occurrences in Western region can be credited to activities of local ethnic militia groups in the Kasese and Bundibugyo districts of Rwenzori region. “The vast majority of political violence has been due to rebel groups such as the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), who were concentrated in the region in a campaign against the Ugandan government” (ACLED, 2014).³ Thus, even though Western region may have a history of ethnic conflict, Figure 1 below shows that since 1997, at least, ADF attacks have remained a constant feature of the conflict landscape in Rwenzori region.



Source: Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)⁴
<http://www.crisis.acleddata.com/an-examination-of-recent-ethnic-violence-in-the-rwenzori-region-of-uganda/>

²<http://www.theafricareport.com/East-Horn-Africa/uganda-rebels-in-drc-recruit-child-soldiers.html>

³<http://www.crisis.acleddata.com/an-examination-of-recent-ethnic-violence-in-the-rwenzori-region-of-uganda/>

⁴ ibid

The Figure above shows that although violence has diminished, especially in the years since 2003, there have been resurgences of rebel killings and attacks, especially in 2005-7 and in 2012. The data does not yet show the attacks of 2013, which displaced so many in Rwenzori, since the figures in the table for 2014 are only for the first few months of the year. Regardless of this, coupled with the fact that ADF has continued to kidnap and recruits children as child soldiers both from DR Congo and Uganda, it seems the ADF rebel movement is not yet defeated.⁵ ADF atrocities and activities have generally gone unnoticed by donors and conflict management actors. Notwithstanding, according to one of the few recent studies, the ADF has in some ways been a more “determined and focused force than the LRA. It had an urban wing, a website, strong international connections. . . It has had the capacity to use a double-pronged approach of guerrilla warfare and urban terrorism and could generate resources internally and externally” (Scorgie, 2011: 80).

Regardless of the insignificant publicity given to the conflict, the ADF insurgency has had a visibly catastrophic effect, socially, economically, politically and culturally, on the general public in the region (Muhumuza, 2014: 121). The only significant intervention for post-conflict recovery has been to try and address the plight of young people affected by cross-border violence in Northern Uganda. This exclusive focus has left those in Western Uganda more vulnerable as a result of inadequate attention. The plethora of scholarships for those working on the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) and its impact on young people in Northern Uganda combines with the massive presence of International agencies and donors to support government programs call for serious attention to post-war settlement in the North. Intervention by the ICC has also focused on the situation in the North more than in the Western part of Uganda. But what is it that makes so many international actors fail to consider the ADF’s impact on young people in Western Uganda, or to consider it less significant than the impact of the LRA in Northern Uganda? What kinds of criteria are being used to assess the relative risks involved for young people who are affected by cross-border conflicts?

On the whole, Government and NGOs are expected to play a significant role in the process of helping children and youth towards recovery from the after-effect of wars and conflict situations. As such, both government and NGOs should bring about various intervention programs that enable children and adolescents to recover from stressful events, following the conflict. Many of such intervention programs were and are still being implemented in Northern Uganda due to the severity and importance attached to the threat of LRA led by Joseph Kony . Not until July 2013 when the ADF again launched a major attack in eastern DRC that draw the attention of the international community, was there attention also in Uganda to the situation of local people, and young people and children in particular. I am certain that, one way to seek support for international aid and attention towards the region is to incessantly highlights the problems facing children and young adults in the relatively neglected conflict-affected areas in Western Uganda.

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIQ6tBHvTnE>

The aim of the study is to critically analyse various agencies' and actors' responses to young people's vulnerability and needs following the attacks in Kasese in particular. The various actors considered include international and local NGOs, international agencies and government bodies. Rather than following the path of most studies focusing on Northern Uganda, this study took a different direction by focusing on the impact of cross-border conflicts on youths in Rwenzori region of Western Uganda. Using, resilience and vulnerability as 'frames' through which the NGOs and government and other actors view young people in conflict, the study aims to show why intervention in Kasese District has been relatively lacking, and has attracted little or insignificant attention. Most importantly the study asks whether the few government intervention programs intended to improve the overall situation of young people in the region who have been badly affected by the violence. The study asks whether government intervention can yield more positive result, or not. Considering that there has been almost three decades of fighting, the vast majority of the children and young people, or youth, now living in Kasese have been affected by the conflict since early childhood. The study focuses on children and youths that fall between the ages of 15-24 years according to the definition of the United Nations. Even though many Ugandans define youth to be somebody between the age of 14 and 30 (Anna et al, 2006: 3), I have decided to focus on this age group of 15-24 because interventions from UN agencies and International donors are most often informed by the UN definition rather than any other.

1.2.1. Cross-border Conflict

Unsurprisingly, perhaps, cross-border armed conflicts violate the most basic rights of children and youth, and obliges them to bear the brunt of the violence and atrocities perpetrated (Spitzer and Twikirize, 2012). Cross-border conflicts have diverse dynamics. There can be conflicts over and across borders, but in some cases the dynamics can flow across several states and quasi-states, besides across numerous levels connecting international, regional, national, and local or provincial⁶. In many of 21st century wars, including in the Great Lakes region of Africa, violence is in part rooted in and perpetuated by by cross- border regional conflict dynamics. Compared with the prevalence of conflicts throughout the world, Sub-Saharan Africa can be considered as the most conflict-affected continent of all. However, Okumu (2010) suggested that it was evident there could be more cross-border disputes in East Africa in future, along similar lines to the boundary war between Ethiopia and Eritrea in 1998. More recently, for example, one can consider the emerging standoff between:

“Kenya and Uganda over the ownership of Migingo Island in Lake Victoria, the 2008 border incident between Eritrea and Djibouti, the continuing Somali nationalism in the region, and border skirmishes between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) over the oil-rich Lake Albert region; all indicate that border disputes are on the rise” (Okumu, 2010: 279).

⁶ <http://www.c-r.org/resources/paix-sans-fronti%C3%A8res-building-peace-across-borders-policy-brief>

Without a doubt, domestic instability within one region of a country can escalate into inter-state hostilities that involve various actors playing active or passive roles in relation to the violence, including in the cross-border. As was witnessed in 1998, and as Nathan (2004:6-7) notes, the call of Kabila to members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) for military support to crush the rebellion of the *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie* (Congolese Rally for Democracy) with the support of Rwanda and Uganda was a game changer in cross-border conflicts in the Great Lakes region. While Zimbabwe, Angola, and Namibia responded in support of Kabila, Burundi deployed troops to support the rebellion that eventually led to the continent's biggest war, involving nine countries. Nathan maintained that each state got involved in the cross-border conflicts for various reasons of their own (Nathan, 2004). While some countries' involvement came to be prolonged and influenced by hunger for DRC mineral resources, such as Rwanda, Uganda, Angola, and Burundi, overall the primary initial motivation was related to National Security. For example, "each of them was subject to attacks by rebel groups based in the DRC: the Interahamwe and other forces responsible for the Rwandan genocide; the Ugandan guerrilla movement, the Allied Democratic Forces; the Angolan rebels, Unita; and the Burundi rebels, the *Forces Pour La Defense De La Democratie*" (ibid:7).

Fundamentally, war has little or no respect for political or territorial boundaries and often tends to be associated with a regional conflict system with complex cross-border dynamics involving rebels, refugees and civilians, as well as several governments. For instance, refugee flows, nomadic armed groups like the Lord Resistance Army (LRA) and Alliance for Democratic Force (ADF), narcotic or criminal networks, blood diamonds are all elements that influence the dynamics of cross-border violence in Uganda. The heterogeneous and close relations of tribes in different countries make them responsible for looking after each other as well, whether politically, economically or in terms of security. People from northern Uganda, north-western Kenya, south-eastern Sudan, and south-western Ethiopia share a common language, culture, and geographical location (Lefft, 2000: 190).

Of all civilians vulnerable to these complex forms of cross-border violence, young people are perhaps the most vulnerable, both as perpetrator and as victims, or both. Young people are especially exposed to risks of physical harm and exploitation resulting from violence and military aggression, as well as being disproportionately directly involved in wars as (mostly forcibly recruited) combatants and logistical support. Children are often viewed as being on the peripheries of violent conflict, but this does not fit the reality of Kasese, where they have become central and yet have great difficulty in securing access to their most basic rights, including education. According to a General Assembly report to the United Nations Security Council in 2014, armed conflict continued to have a disproportionate effect on children worldwide as well. Haphazard attacks on non-combatant areas and attacks directly targeting civilians, through explosive ordinances, air strikes and terror campaigns, took a worrisome toll on children (UN, 2014:2).

1.2.2. The Context of Uganda

It is unquestionable that armed conflicts entail devastating effects for the people of countries involved in wars. The African continent has been plagued by unrelenting warfare, ethnic and regional based conflicts which contributed for large number of human suffering, displacement of families, violence, economic instability and destruction of infrastructural facilities (Albertyn et al. 2003). Following independence in 1962, ethnic conflicts have been pervasive in Uganda (Rohner et al. 2013). Since 1985, Uganda has been under the rule of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) led by President Yoweri Museveni. Despite his initial popularity, his administration soon encountered massive opposition and armed confrontation in different parts of the country. Notably, in the “Acholiland” region of Northern Uganda where the LRA remained active till 2006, close to the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), an ADF force was active till 2004 (ibid).

In the year 2001, the US Patriot Act declared the LRA and the ADF terrorist organizations. In fear of revenge, the ruling Sudanese National Islamic Front that had provided both sanctuary and military support to the LRA until then, abandoned its assistance to the insurgent armed force. Museveni’s regime seized this opportunity to embark on an armed attack on rebel armies along different fronts, principally in the regions neighbouring Sudan, where the LRA had lost the necessary support for its bases located inside Sudanese territory. The ADF was also defeated and notable military activity within Uganda appeared to have come to an end by 2004. March 2002 marked the beginning of military action against the LRA, when the Ugandan army launched “Operation Iron Fist” against rebel bases in South Sudan. The LRA reacted in turn, by attacking villages and government forces in Northern Uganda. This heightened military action and retaliation reached its peak in 2003. By 2005, the LRA moved its bases to the DRC, while the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for its leader Joseph Kony. With the mediation of the autonomous government of South Sudan, hostilities between the LRA and the government of Uganda came to an end, and a cease-fire agreement was signed on September 2006.

1.2.3. ADF Rebels in perspective

Although little discussed, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebellion in Western Uganda has led to the displacement of more than 180,000 people and resulted in thousands of deaths (KRRC, 2004). The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) is a Ugandan rebel group, where most members are Islamic and some want to establish Shari'a law in Uganda. The ADF was formed around 1998 by the merger of various streams of discontented sectors of Ugandan society which felt alienated after the overthrow of Idi Amin. “The ADF insurgency took advantage of local political disgruntlement to organise and launch insurgency in the Rwenzori region (Muhumuza, 2014:121). The group appears to be

receiving external funding from unknown sources.⁷ As also mentioned before, this rebel group operates in the western parts of Uganda, in the districts of Kasese and Bundibunyo. With bases in the Mountains of Rwenzori, mountains which straddle the borders of DRC, Uganda, they launch occasional attacks on civilians in both countries⁸. Although the initial conflict was between the Ugandan government and the ADF rebels, innocent civilians, in particular the children and youths were very often targets of the horrifying attacks of the rebels. It is noteworthy that, the civilians, in particular in most cases have no direct or indirect contribution or participation in the conflict. The ADF has committed a series of atrocities, and in particular lots of children (although difficult to ascertain their numbers based on dearth of documentation on the conflict) were abducted and forced to become child soldiers for the rebels, a similar approach to that of Joseph Kony LRA led rebellion against the Uganda government in the North (KRRC, 2004: 1-12). Kampala on the other hand, has historically found it useful to present the LRA as a greater threat to national security than the ADF, and the Ugandan government has maintained its presence in Eastern DRC, claiming this is because of legitimate security concerns.

The ADF has been responsible for the excessive violent military activities at the district of Kasese in the Rwenzori region especially during the second half of the 1990s and now again since 2012. Although the rebel movement was originally Ugandan, it moved to the DRC and has remained based there for most of its existence. The violence, hence, mainly disrupted the stability of the Congolese side of the Rwenzori Mountains. Despite the downfall of ADF in later years, the wounds of the conflict are far from healed. The ADF insurgency contributed to traumatic experiences of victimized children and youth and the ways of supporting them through their recovery is the main focus of this study. To recover from those traumatic experiences which massively affect displaced people, some agencies try to help young people put back in place elements of their previous lives, under changed circumstances. The development of young people is hugely damaged by such violence and its after-effects, and steps to counter this are urgently needed. For instance, children and young adults who are exposed to abandonment, to forced soldiering, are displaced, have health problems, experience severe poverty and hunger including during and after the conflict itself, need help (Albertyn et al. 2003, Wessells 1998). Some consequences of cross-border conflicts for young adults are highlighted in Chapter 2 of this paper.

1.3. Struggling to recover from the effects of War

In warfare across the globe most especially in Uganda, children and young adults have witnessed the mass round-ups of fathers and brothers, rape of brothers and sisters, bombings and ambushes, the use of heavy artillery and helicopter gunships in civilian areas. The bulldozing of homes can in no small measures harden many children in the belief that violence is an acceptable way of resolving disputes. It is not only an abuse but also assault on the fundamen-

⁷ <http://monusco.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=10727&>

⁸ <http://www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/uganda/conflict-profile/>

tal human rights of children and young adults, as well as their criminal exploitation and targeting by armed rebel groups, of children in conflict. They are thus denied the basic opportunity to grow up in an atmosphere of trust, tolerance and justice, and unless this is resolved, prospects for stemming war over succeeding generations are dim indeed. While the government's swift and ferocious response to the ADF attacks in Uganda successfully drove the rebels back into DR Congo and incapacitated the group, preventing it from carrying out any successful attacks in Kasese and other districts in the Rwenzori region, for some years, this relative peace and stability has not lasted.

Even in 2002, "there were no sufficient considerations of rebuilding the lives of residents in terms of resettling them, providing livelihood and psychosocial support given that the conflict had destroyed their economic bases and affected them psychologically" (Daily Monitor, November 26, 2011).⁹ Even today, when the re-establishment of security and legitimate state control are the priority for the Ugandan government, lesser attention is paid to humanitarian interventions that can facilitate community rebuilding and development (Muhumuza, 2014: 117). It is noteworthy in this respect that it took the government more than 11 years after the successful stamping out of ADF from Uganda to DR Congo, to come up with the Luwero-Rwenzori Development Programme (LRDP). The LRDP was specifically designed to address the effect of the liberation war and ADF rebellion on the civilian population as a whole. However, corruption and misappropriation of funds meant that resources were not available to improve the economic capacity of households, their education, health, and to ensure drinking water and other necessities of life. Indeed, Kasese residents struggled to recover from the effects and impact of the war, and were relatively neglected.¹⁰

In the main, there is a problem of intervention from the government and actors that are supposed to guarantee the safety of children and youth. According to Boyden (1994), there are limited models of childhood, and of children's positions in conflict and relief, models which regulate most humanitarian interventions targeting children in conflict areas. The categorization (orphans, child combatants and refugees) are relatively hard-and-fast, not allowing for those other children that do not fall into this typology, and thus making those children more vulnerable. The LRDP framework put in place by government did not explicitly address the impact of war on the children and youths, but just recovery from the war in general, judging from the achievement report of 2011¹¹. For good reason, the Luweero-Rwenzori Development Programme was initiated by President Museveni as a response to the "arising complaints from civilians who provided food, shelter and information to the NRA rebels in the bush and army veterans" (Daily Monitor, November 9: 2013). The government praises her successful intervention program to alleviate the impact of war in Kasese and the other part of the region. What one needs to ask, howev-

⁹<http://www.monitor.co.ug/SpecialReports/-/688342/1279274/-/veo1sr/-/index.html>

¹⁰<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Police-uncover-new-Shs60b-scam-at-OPM/-/688334/2065870/-/ju4iwt/-/index.html>

¹¹<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Police-uncover-new-Shs60b-scam-at-OPM/-/688334/2065870/-/ju4iwt/-/index.html>

er, is how the criteria used for intervention affect children, and also why children are not specifically targeted by the LRDP program. Even though the government laid claim to having designed a highly successful program which was then implemented, it was also common knowledge that the government had struggled even to raise the funds to start the LRDP,¹² which was designed for the purposes of addressing the effect of war in Rwenzori region.

Several programs have targeted the North, including the Northern Uganda Reconstruction Programme (NURP) from 1992–1996, the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF 1) from 2003–2009 and NUSAF 11 from 2010–2014. Together, these interventions form a fairly all-encompassing package. For example, “NUSAF 1 project was funded by the World Bank to the tune of US \$133.5 million while NUSAF 11 has attracted US \$100 million from IDA and £24 million from DFID. These funds are targeted at improving the livelihoods (particularly reducing the absolute poverty) of the victims of the LRA insurgency” (Muhumuza, 2014:118). Muhumuza maintained that Rwenzori region was relatively speaking deprived of special post-conflict reconstruction programmes or financial commitments comparable to those in LRA-affected Northern region as a result of the lack of interest exhibited by the international community.

This study seeks to understand the rationale behind the government neglect of the region and the late intervention program to help the children and young adults affected by cross-border conflicts in the Kasese district of Rwenzori region that have suffer series of attacks by ADF rebels. While assessing the government response, the study will look at the role of non-state actors in addressing the impact of the conflict on children and youths. Most importantly, engage in the analysis that will help to examine why interventions from both governments and NGOs have succeeded or failed.

1.4. Research Objectives

Substantially, it has been established that the ADF rebellion in Western Uganda was relatively undocumented; therefore the impact of the conflict on young people and the residence of the affected region is unlikely to be recognized. The main aim of this study is to draw the attention of various stakeholders and actors to the predicament of children and youths in the Rwenzori region ravaged by the ADF rebellion for many years. In order to achieve this goal, the study critically looks into the programs designed by the Ugandan government and by non-state actors as forms of intervention that can facilitate the region’s recovery process, helping people and communities to recover from the after-effects of conflict. While bringing to the fore, the impact of the rebellion on young people, the study intend to juxtapose the effectiveness of the interventions with the needs of young people affected by the rebellion of ADF in Rwenzori region.

¹²<http://www.monitor.co.ug/SpecialReports/-/688342/1279274/-/veo1sr/-/index.html>

The objective of the study is to show whether the intervention is appropriate or not and why support has sometimes failed to materialize in spite of the need, and why at other times it has appeared not to succeed. The context is the children's reality, which involves living on a daily basis and long-term with cross-border violence and insecurity resulting from conflict. It is the intention of this study to establish how vulnerable children and young adults in Rwenzori region are coping, especially since the majority of children and youths are still profoundly affected by conflicts. Having been abandoned for years after losing their families, having had to deal alone with severe trauma, and to cope with disabilities as a result of physical harm to their bodies and minds, including through sexual abuses among others, it is imperative to assess the effectiveness of the intervention programs by both the government of Uganda and NGOs in the region.

1.5. Research Question

- What are the prospects of failure and success for intervention programs designed by the Ugandan government and by non-state actors to address the impact of cross-border conflict in the Rwenzori region of Uganda, especially in relation to young people affected by the conflict?

1.5.1. Sub Questions

- Why does the ADF cross-border conflict in Rwenzori region remain largely undocumented and attracted lesser attention in comparison to LRA rebellion in the Northern part of Uganda?
- What are the impacts of cross-border conflict on children and youths in Rwenzori region?
- What are the criteria's for a successful intervention program in dealing with the impact of conflict and violence on children and youths in the region?

1.6 Structure of the paper

In order to allow the reader to understand the flow of arguments presented in this paper, the paper is divided into five sections. The first chapter has given an overall background of the research; it presented the research problem and why it is a problem, research objectives and questions, and limitation of the study. In this chapter, I discussed the context of cross-border conflict in Uganda; this is done to help the reader understand why the impact of ADF rebellion on the community especially on young people should not go unnoticed. In chapter two, the method and approach to the research was presented, the research was based on secondary data collection and details of the collected data were presented in detail. While in the third chapter, I discussed the theoretical approach that was used to make sense of how the NGOs and government respond to the plight of young people in conflict areas. I employ the concept of vulnerability and resilience from the different perspectives. What is resilience and vulnerability, how can it be measured, and who is vulnerable are

duly brought to the fore in the analysis. This chapter also accommodated the impact of cross-border conflicts on the children and youths. It was presented in the last section of the chapter so as to allow the reader to follow the flow of the argument in this paper before going to chapter four where the data analysis was presented.

Chapter four assessed the government and the NGOs response to conflict in term humanitarian assistance. The chapter discusses the pros and cons of their interventions programs designed for negating the impact of the cross-border conflicts in the region on young people. We put to test the Government and selected non-state actor's intervention program with the toolkits for facilitating Transitions for Children and Youth in conflict zones by Post-Conflict Funds Project (PCF). Chapter five draw a general conclusion and suggest recommendations that are relevant to the process of rebuilding the communities in Rwenzori region, in particular how to support the young people affected by the war. In this chapter, I proposed a further area of research which other scholars can venture into, building on the outcome of this research

Chapter 2: Methodology

2.1. Introduction

Due to limited time and insecure conditions which made it highly risky to conduct fieldwork in the forms of interviews or focus group discussions, for example, as had originally been planned, this study has had to rely on resources provided through local organisations, and a range of secondary data. These include, among other things, various reports, published journal articles by scholars, web-based sources and second-hand information gathered from different sources and contacts, including through informal discussions and the researcher's own work experiences. The first step for exploring pre-produced texts as suggested by O'Leary (2010) is planning. This include creating a list of the relevant texts, identifying how to access them, recognizing and dealing with biases, knowing exactly what to look for, and being aware of credibility issues and any ethical dilemmas that may be inherent in the study. O'Leary elucidates further by describing the importance of accessing the authenticity and the credibility of the text and identifying the biases that may be present in a text. This requires the researcher to investigate the background of the author and the purposes of any specific text (O'Leary, 2010:222). Generally, all the points raised by O'Leary were considered in preparing for and carrying out this study. I first recognized and dealt with my own subjectivity, and I will discuss this later. I made use of various search engines, including Google scholar, to find relevant data for this study. The texts used were closely related to the research questions and topic and the credibility and authenticity of the source of text were carefully considered.

2.2 The choice of Kasese

The region is not an alien to conflict before the emergence of the ADF rebellion. Recently, starting from 2008 till date, the region has also experienced a wave of tribal conflicts, conflicts that involved different tribes: For example, Baamba/ Babwisi, Batooro, and the "Bafuruki" Basongora, Banyabindi, Baturuku, Bakonzo. This event at time give the Uganda government reasons to ignore the damages of ADF rebellion has inflicted on the region . Yet the region had been relatively peaceful aside from the Rwenzururu revolt in 1962, up until the late 1990s when the rise of the ADF Rebellion took place, along with the NALU uprising (AISRGD, 2014: 1-4). Although, the conflict affected the whole region, a particularly dishonorable attack in 1998 on Kicwamba Technical Institute in Kabarole district where 80 students were locked inside their dormitory and burnt to dead, and where over 200 civilians were also abducted, most of them children, marked a peak of hostilities and the effects of violent warfare on children (Hovil and Werker, 2005: 8). The attack not only resulted in the highest number of fatalities that Kasese has ever known, the area also became the most affected district in the region, with a lot of the IDPs and casualties being within Kasese itself. What needs to be understood better is how effective government and non-state actors intervention program in rebuilding the communities, especially when it comes to supporting the recovery of young people.

2.3. Selection of Materials

The core of this study is based on a critical analysis of the effects of the Luweero-Rwenzori Development Programme (LRDP), whose principal objective has been to recompense the population of the area for the damaging socio-economic effects of previous conflict in the region. I examine the official website of the program under the Office of Prime Minister; I review the overall objectives and policy documents in relation to the effect of the cross-border conflict in Rwenzori region, especially on young people.¹³ In particular, I will review four key documents found on the website, the achievements of the program for the financial year 2010/2011 and the planned activities for financial year for 2011/ 2012, the Office of The Prime Ministerial Policy Statement issued in December 2012, and the National Development Plan 2010-11 to 2014-15 . While the last two documents focus on a wider range of issues across the country with Renzworri region included alongside others, the first two documents speak specifically on response of the government to the effect of ADF conflict in the region. In order to have a clear understanding of the factors that influenced government response to children and young people's vulnerability, I reviewed the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) National Strategic Programme Plan of Interventions for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children 2011-12 to 2015-16. These documents are treated as key information vital to data collection, as O'Leary (2010, 221-222). Before this assessment of the LRDP and MGLSD policies, however, the procedure used by government as a response to the plight of children and youths in conflict was put to test by drawing on the toolkits for facilitating Transitions for Children and Youth in conflict zones by the Post-Conflict Funds Project (PCF). This report, supported by the World Bank, and led by Rahim Aly, and Peter Holland is one of the most suitable texts I found in relation to paying explicit attention to the need to help young people to recover from violence and armed conflict's effects. This makes it appropriate in the assessment of both government and NGO intervention programs in relations to children and youths affected by armed conflict. Although this document by Rahim and Holland is not the only ones that we used in the study, all other documents were critically analysed to eliminate biases.

In as much government is not the only actor saddled with the responsibility of addressing the effect of cross-border conflict in the region, there is a need to bring out the responsibilities also of non-state actors such as NGOs, churches and other actors. . The non-state actors selected for the purpose of this study are two NGOs, both working in Kasese in the task of rebuilding the community and assisting in their movement towards recovery from the war and from violence. I selected one International NGO with a field office in Kasese and one local NGO based in Kasese. Both NGOs have one thing in common; both have been working in Kasese before, during, and after the de-

¹³<http://www.opm.go.ug/resource-center/policy-archive/opm-reviews-luweero-rwenzori-development-programme-operations.html>

feat of ADF rebels by Uganda government and still work in Kasese to date. Uganda has numerous such local NGOs.

As an international NGO with a local field office, I selected the Foundation for Community Development and Empowerment (FCDE), an organization based in Idaho USA.¹⁴ Its main aim and objectives are to collaborate with local NGOs in building their capacity and support their communities through the delivery of training, skills transfer, grants, resources, and technical assistance to help them promote sustainable community development and cultivate local leadership.¹⁵ FCDE has been present in Kasese since 2004 after the Uganda army first defeated ADF. FCDE sees its task as being to help local NGOs address post conflict issues related to the effects on health, education, and economic development of the violence that took place. The Kasese field office of FCDE collaborates with about 25 vetted local NGO partners that their work includes; HIV services, small business development, women's empowerment programs, education, and social justice issues. Apparently, FCDE is one of the most active of the few International NGOs left in Kasese. Since the 1990s, the majority of International donors and NGOs have shifted to focus mainly on the LRA, and on recovery from its impact in Northern Uganda.¹⁶

The second NGO that was assessed is National Youth Organization for Development (NAYODE).¹⁷ NAYODE is a youth-oriented organisation that works with and for the Development of the youth. NAYODE's work targets the youth, children and adolescents; indeed its activities are 70% aimed at Youth, Adolescents and Children (YAC) and 30% aimed at adults and focusing on the marginalized groups¹⁸. NAYODE uses advocacy and rights based approaches in implementing programmes, and advocates for rights of the poor and of marginalized groups, including YACs. The NGO NAYODE uses advocacy and lobbying to speak on behalf of the YAC with the aim of empowering, inspiring, informing, involving them and improving their livelihoods. Although, NAYODE started in 1998 as a community based organisation, it was however, fully registered as an NGO in 2003 and since then it has been an integral part of community rebuilding till the time of this study¹⁹.

3.4. Subjectivity

I struggled to deal with my biases on this significant topic because of my personal experience and I am sure the reader will understand why it is difficult after reading about my experience. I was born in Kasese into an agrarian family; of course, the most common occupation in Kasese. I schooled in Kasese, grew up in Kasese and all the activities of my life (till coming to study in The Hague) have been in Kasese and in Rwenzori region. I grew up with stories of inter-tribal and ethnic conflicts; most importantly I was in Kasese throughout the ADF rebellion. Even though I did not lose any close family

¹⁴ <http://www.internationalcommunitydevelopment.org/>

¹⁵ <http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/sustainable-ugandan-development-by-fcde/>

¹⁶ <http://www.internationalcommunitydevelopment.org/>

¹⁷ <http://projects.tigweb.org/YES-Uganda>

¹⁸ *ibid*

¹⁹ *ibid*

member or properties as a result of the rebellion, I have seen family friends that have suffered great losses, been traumatized and been reduced to abject poverty and destitution. I witness firsthand how Kasese was highly militarized by the presence of 'protective' Ugandan army troops, especially after the massacre of 1998 that had left 80 school children dead and many houses burnt from attacks by ADF rebels.

I have joined search teams on many occasions to look for missing boys and girls just to discover that they have been abducted by ADF fighters, presumably for the purpose of working as sex slave or child soldiers, porters and cooks. For many years, many families could not celebrate with fireworks because they sound too much like machine guns. Even going to the stream or the river for washing or a sunbath was tantamount to walking into Death Valley and could result in being shot, raped or captured by rebels. The whole town of Kasese lives in perpetual fear, and it becomes so difficult that people started to suspect the person living next to them, or even that their friends or family members might be ADF agents or spies sent to pass on information about people in the city to the rebels. Looking at the town from outside, one could see a town that appeared calm, yet coming closer to the town one would quickly realize the extent of damage done by the cross-border conflict, which has inflicted hardship and suffering especially on the young.

Despite a decade since the ADF was formally defeated by the Ugandan army, sometimes it does seem that very little help has come to alleviate the suffering of the young people in Kasese and the rest of the community. The majority of families that lost their home were confined to living in camps set up by the government. Those bold enough to go back were left alone to rebuild by themselves. Sometimes it almost seemed to local people that Kasese and other district in the Western region were not viewed as fully part of Uganda.

2.5. Dealing with Subjectivity

However, doing a research of this significance, it is highly imperative to deal with the biases and subjectivity that my personal experience might bring to the research, thus affecting the credibility of the study. With the purpose of dealing with credibility issue, O'Leary (2010:114-115), suggest that the researcher must look for readings of a situation that is beyond superficial level. Also, it is important to use more than one source of data to confirm authenticity of each source, and build a rich and diverse understanding of the situation by accepting that what we see depends on where we look. In order follow this path suggested by O'Leary, I search extensively for documents, articles and government policy interventions to address the impact of the cross-border conflicts in Renzori region, making use of Google and Google scholars.

By playing around with the literature, I decided to follow O'Leary (2010:77) when he suggested that: "if you keep playing around with ideas, concept, and variables, you are bound to build a solid literature base". This approach produced two different results; while the on-line searches produced tens of thousands of articles on Impact of cross-border conflicts in Uganda, vulnerability and resilience, as well as on young people on the one hand. Yet almost all these studies were found to be focused on the LRA rebellion in Northern Uganda. Since this study focuses on Renzori region, I tried several

times to find material on cross-border conflict and its impacts in the Renzwori region, including on young people. The results were a rather shocking lack of existing research. Thus in Google Scholar there were only 11 relevant or related articles in total, and Google produced around 66 sources, but most were from national Ugandan dailies and blogs. In fact, phrasing it in one way, one search on cross-border conflict in Renzwori region produced only 3 relevant sources.

Frustration of lack of documentation about the conflict start to get hold of me and I almost dump the idea of writing on the impact of the cross-border conflict in Renzwori region on children and youths. The thought of writing on the easy one, the popular cross-border conflict of LRA in Northern region with its overabundance sources of data and robust research, started to cross my mind. However, something told me that, if I followed my thought, I would end up like others who simply ignored the Western region to follow the easy part of readymade data. The thought that this was an almost unique chance to speak for the forgotten people, the chance to join the few that are interested in alleviating the critical conditions of the children and youths as a result of the effect of the conflict.

2.6. Limitations of this Study

The inability of this study to make use primary data is the main limitation of this study. First of all the study was unable to get the voice of the children and youths affected by the ADF rebellion in Kasese district. This is a great limitation to analyzing the impact of the conflict, in particular, understanding the coping strategies adopted by children and young adults in cross-border conflict of Renzwori region. While the study fail to investigate the impact of the conflict and the coping strategy of the affected children and youths, it also fail to have in-depth access to government policies documents in relation to government response to the effect of ADF rebellion in Western Uganda. Although, I was able to make up for this challenges from the non-state actor intervention analysis. The dearth in statistics and documentation of the conflict is evidently still a colossal challenge to the success of this study

Chapter 3: Vulnerability and Resilience: A Necessity in Designing Intervention Programs.

3.1. Introduction

Clearly, the vulnerability and adaptation to the undesirable environment of children affected by cross border conflict varies, and the various coping strategies and mechanisms they adopt in order to survive also vary. In order to have a critical understanding and perhaps answer some of the questions raised in Chapter 2, this study's engagement will follow the theoretical perspectives around resilience and vulnerability. In this chapter, we look at the importance of the concepts of vulnerability and resilience in designing programs that militate against the negative effect of cross-border armed conflict on children and young people. This is highly germane to the understanding of why some children and youths are considered vulnerable and others are not based on their resilience capacity to conflict situations. Over the years, there is an increase in the significance attached to the use of both vulnerability and resilience measures in the assessment of the effectiveness of intervention programs and mediating mechanisms (Peltonen & Palosaari, 2013: 267). Resilience and vulnerability are not only opposites, but are also closely related, suggesting: "A state of the art on 'vulnerability analyses' can't ignore the proximity of the concept of 'vulnerability' with the one of 'resilience'" (Heesen et al, 2014: 4). The first part of this chapter discusses vulnerability, while the second part focuses on resilience and the importance of the two concepts in addressing the impact of armed conflicts on children and young adults. The third part looks at the impact of cross-border conflict on children and young adults, connecting the lines between resilience and vulnerability.

3.2. Vulnerability: Who is Vulnerable?

For a long time in scholarly development studies research, vulnerability was a term extensively used in relation to poverty but without a strong distinction between material deprivation and other forms of vulnerability. Although, there has been an increasingly sophisticated understanding over the past decades of the distinctive input that vulnerability analysis can give to our efforts at improving wellbeing (Lucas et al, 2013:16). Heesen et al (2014) posit that, the concept of vulnerability emerged within diverse fields (disaster mitigation, famine, and development, for example) with the understanding of the probability for a social or physical structure to suffer harm in case of certain events. Although, the definition of vulnerability is ardently disputed within scientific and economic groups (Adger, 2006; Yamin et al, 2005). Most studies in economics concentrate on more exact definitions and measurements of vulnerability, and on suitable measurement methods for assessing it. Studies focus also on the outcomes of shocks on the wellbeing of children; the most immediate or measurable shock often being related to violence of some kind (Lucas et al, 2013:17). The study departs from "A rather simplistic view, which defines vulnerability as the probability that a social, ecological, or physical reference unit will suffer harm in the case of a certain event". This is contrasted with

many other notions of vulnerability, including those that include: “further interdependent influencing factors and means of protection referring to different time scales, spatial references, and so forth” (Voss, 2008 cited in Heesen et al, 2014: 75).

However, there is some common agreement on how this should be done. In principle, “everyone is exposed to shocks but not everyone is vulnerable to unacceptable levels of wellbeing loss; many will have the means to ensure some form of consumption smoothing” (Lucas et al, 2013: 17). Even though, many definitions of ‘vulnerability’ exist, in this study it is generally and broadly defined as the possibility to be harmed (Rossignol et al, 2014: 1-2). As such, vulnerability may have both negative meanings – the possibility to be harmed, for instance – and positive meanings – the prospect to learn and adapt, for example (Bijker et al, 2014 cited in *ibid*).

3.3. Resilience

In the literature, those who bounce back from hardship and continue with their lives apparently having made a full, or nearly full, recovery are generally referred to as resilient. “Resilience is contingent on individual and group strengths and is hugely affected by the cooperative components of the broader environment” (Boyden and Mann 2005). According to McCubbing (2001: 3), in an attempt to identify, define, and measure the capability of a person to endure undesirable circumstances and ability to recovery from harsh conditions, the behavioral sciences have advanced the construct of resilience in part to support this line of scientific inquiry. McCubbing maintained that, “resilience has become a popular construct encompassing many different variables including personal characteristics, coping processes, development of other associated constructs such as hardiness and sense of coherence and risk and protective factors” (*ibid*: 4). The term Resilience has been largely defined by scholars (Luthar & Zigler, 1991: Garnezy, 1993: Werner & Smith, 1992: Masten et al, 1990 etc.) as the ability to bounce back, to overcome adversity or adapt, as Norman (2000) has described it. Haines (2009: 498) note that resilience for example, “can be considered as ability to absorb external stresses, capability to create foresight, to recognize, to anticipate, and to defend against the changing shape of risk before adverse consequences occur, ability and adaptive responses of systems that enable them to avoid potential losses”. Also, Luthar et al (2000: 543) define resilience as a “dynamic process encompassing positive adaptation within the context of significant adversity”.

To put it simply, resilience as it is defined in the literature usually contains two major elements: (i) exposure to danger or hardship and (ii) despite this, the attainment of a positive adaptation and outcome. This explanation coupled with Leipold & Greve’s (2009, 41) argument helped to give helpful insights into how children and young people can be affected by cross-border violence in difficult circumstances that lead to successful positive development outcome. Generally speaking, the display of resilience by people enduring violent conflict differs from each other, some do well to survive, and others do not. Drawing from Justino (2012:2) argument, “levels of resilience depend on a series of factors both within and outside of the control of those affected by conflict. These factors can be grouped into: (i) the magnitude and duration of the effects of violence; (ii) the type of coping strategies that people are able (or al-

lowed) to access; and (iii) the effectiveness of the strategies adopted to cope with the effects of conflict and violence”.

To access the impact of armed conflict on children and young adult affected by violent conflict from resilience point of view. Masten (2001:228) argued that, weather current or past; there must be a demonstrable risk that is capable of derailing normative development. However, it has been established that children affected by cross border conflict in Uganda suffer from stress, trauma, physical harm, health and malnutrition, poverty among other difficulties and challenges that are capable to inhibit the development of these children. Although, Laprie (2008:8) literally described resilience as the ability to successfully accommodate unforeseen circumstances. Nevertheless, as discussed earlier, resilience is not homogenous, the process at which individual responds to adversity or hardship is different because the impact of the cross border conflict on each child varies.

3.4. Intervention through Resilience and Vulnerability lenses

In reference to Brown and Liao (1999) argument, assessing the impact of the intervention required examination of the differences in developmental trajectories, both within a well-defined population and across time. In their proposition, they argued that, intervention must be directed at risk and protective factors in an attempt to change the targeted population developmental trajectories. They maintained that for a successful intervention, there is a need for evaluation across risk level and context (Brown and Liao, 1999 cited in Peltonen & Palosaari, 2013: 267). Agreeing with Boyden (1994), “appropriates interventions must engage with the wide variety of indigenous coping mechanisms involving children and not simply replicate a standard package of relief interventions in every emergency, based on simplistic and universalist interpretations of children's experience of conflict” (Boyden, 1994: 254). Boyden and Mann supported this argument by emphasizing that children encountered difficulty in war in many ways that did not qualify them into the categories targeted by intervention programs. Children and young adults are affected through social or political strife among other residual effects of conflicts which can include family problems, environmental degradation, and exploitation, all rising to unprecedented levels, have deepened concern internationally for the protection of children (Boyden & Mann, 2005:3). Although children and youth experience devastating odds during and after wars, some of them may recover from the risks and adversities later on (Boyden and Mann 2005, Schaffer 1996).

As a result of violent conflict, thousands of civilians are killed or injured and majority of these victims are children, not merely bystanders, but targets. In wars waged by adults, no less than two million children have died in the previous decade, with many targeted as non-combatants or killed in action as soldiers²⁰. Three times that number were disabled or seriously hurt, with suffer-

²⁰http://www.oecdobserver.org/news/archivestory.php/aid/701/Children_are_wars_greatest_victims.html

ing from sickness, underfeeding, sexual violence, and displaced from their homes. Countless children struggle with the anguish of losing their homes and virtually every aspect of a child's development is damaged in such conditions, and the mental toll of carrying weapons is incalculable. – According to United Nations Report on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children by Graca Machel,

“...millions of children fall victim to a general onslaught against civilians or die as part of a calculated genocide. Many children suffer the effects of sexual violence or the multiple deprivations of armed conflict that expose them to hunger or disease. Just as shocking, thousands of young people are cynically exploited as combatants”²¹ (UNICEF, 2001)

All wars have casualties. Unfortunately, in modern warfare it is the civilian population that suffers and struggle for survival, most especially the children. According to Albertyn et al (2003) “slaughter of children has resulted in an estimated international total of 2 million children already killed in battle, 6 million left disabled, 12 million homeless, 1 million orphaned or separated from their families and 10 million children suffering from psychological trauma as a result of their exposure to armed conflict” (Albertyn et al, 2003: 227). Albertyn and others remarked that children have become easy target to get them involved directly in armed conflict with an estimated 120,000 – 200,000-child soldiers. Albertyn and associate maintained that children between the age of 5–16 years and in some cases 4 years are active in Africa as child soldiers. To put it simple, any child is a potential recruit as child soldier. This is evident from the 90% of LRA that consist of children aged 13–16 years, “forced by the need for food, shelter and medical attention, voluntarily join army or rebel, abducted from schools or villages or forced at gunpoint” (ibid-228).

There are numerous effect of cross border violence on young adults, this include but not limited to physically harm, forced into child soldier, trauma, high mortality, poverty, sexual exploitation and gender based violence Infection and Malnutrition, and displaced from their homes (Abbetny et al, 2003: Wessells, 1998: Dodge, 1990: Blattman & Annan, 2010, Spitzer, & Twikirize 2013). Apart from the fact that Children and youth in war-torn areas sustain bullet, machete, and shrapnel wounds, burned or sustain injuries related to motor vehicle accidents, which in some cases lead to amputation. Abbetny et al (2003:229), also note that more than 95% of children died as a result of illness or starvation and as many 37% losing their parents. They argued “the drastic cuts in health care in favour of military spending, the destruction of hospitals, loss of medical equipment and supplies, and the killing of medical personnel has a profound impact on child health, especially amongst displaced populations”. While, Wessells (1998: 637) opined that children represent half of the 27.4 million refugees and 30 millions of displaced people. Spitzer, & Twikirize (2013), maintained that a significant number of children are forced to involve in military activities and gender violence in Uganda.

The conflict instigated by ADF in the border land of Rwenzori has left the majority of children and young adults helpless. The violence has tremendously

²¹http://www.unicef.org/graca/a51-306_en.pdf

affected the young population. For instance, ADF appears to have a policy of young adults and children abduction similar to the LRA. The emotional and psychological trauma created as a result of abduction poses a serious threat to recovery among the previous abductees. Furthermore, displacement has been a significant effect of the cross-border conflict as far as the youth and children are concerned. Diverse surviving strategies such as community resilience have been applied by war wounded young people in their struggle to bring bright future. In fact, the presence of supportive care-givers has tremendously benefited children and young adults in the face of adversity

- A.** Child soldiers: children and young adults are increasingly involved in various conflicts. Aiming at securing basic needs, voluntary involvement of youth in warfare is growing at an alarming rate (Albertyn et al. 2003). Besides, some are conscripted and forced to join armed forces (Wessells 1998). Such participation, however, has resulted in a death of most young people.
- B.** Displacement: due to the disorders resulted from cross-border conflicts, large number of young adults are separated from their parents (Luster et al, 2008). The majority of them may end up leading a homeless life. In particular, unaccompanied young people are mainly vulnerable to sexual violence, exposure to attack and disease (Lammers, 2006: Mann 2012).
- C.** Sexual Exploitation and Gender based Violence: young girls are exposed to rapes during armed conflicts (de Berry, 2004: Hopkins and Hill 2008). Moreover, other gender related violence like prostitution and sexual humiliation exist during war times (UN, 1996). During and following conflicts, failure to fulfill the basic needs might drive young girls to prostitution. However, “vulnerabilities are highly variable for forcibly displaced youth, depending on the underlying inequalities at work in their situation” (Hardgrove et al, 2014:28)
- D.** Health and Nutrition Problems: cross-border violence may entail hazardous condition in an economy with the tendency to aggravate poverty, disrupt transportation, damage health facilities and intensify hunger (UN 1996). Consequently, children and young adults may experience malnutrition and various deadly diseases.
- E.** Psychosocial Effects: such effects involve both psychological and social. In fact, some scholars (Wessells, 1998: Betancourt et al, 2013, Vindevogel, et al, 2014) have argued that, armed conflicts undoubtedly inhibit physical, mental and emotional aspects of children and youth development. Most children and young adults suffer from problems of mental health and psychosocial execution. Such problems are likely to persist for long periods after the end of conflicts and impair the future prospects of youths. Children and youth are increasingly suffering from violence and atrocities owing partly to their lack of social power. War affected children and adolescents may react differently to the stressful events. Trauma is an acute psychological disruption which can be linked with the problems of flashbacks, nightmares and sleep disturbances, and getting rid of individuals and circumstances that remind the stressful occasions. The presence of care-givers who can offer emotional support is critical for children in the face of stress.

F. Collapse of Education: Owing partly to the inevitable reduction of the education budget during conflict times, it is difficult to maintain educational services to students in general and children and young adults in particular. Furthermore, a large number of armed conflicts demolish numerous schools and collapse the formal educational approaches (Hart, 2008: 7).

Armed conflicts are dramatically changing the lives of people in the world. They are the main sources of excessive chaos and loss of human life. Survivors are expected to deal with harsh situations and difficulties associated with the collapse of economic, health, social and education facilities (Albertyn et al. 2003). Particularly, the young population is heavily exposed to armed conflicts. Abduction, displacement, sexual exploitation and forced soldiering are among the consequences of violent conflicts in general and cross-border conflicts in particular as far as young people are concerned. The future prospects of children and young adults, thus, may be undermined

Chapter 4: Applying a Model for Intervention Assessment.

4.1. Introduction

Throughout the last decade, donors have linked increasing importance to providing substantive and appropriate support to post- conflict recovery and peace building. In this chapter, we discuss the need for young people to take the lead in constructing their own future. Including children and youths in the project phases will help develop and inspire emerging youth leaders to acquire, to lead, and to recognize areas that may be of concern. In addition, involving youth in project design and execution provides youth with the confidence, connection to peers and communities and a constructive self-identity, all of which lessen the vulnerability to join violent groups. The most effective youth programs acknowledge these elements and give young people a substantial role in planning and executing programs with the leadership and backing of adult advisors. However, this chapter is divided into six parts, the first part present the model suitable for assessment of intervention programs in relation to post-conflict recovery of children and youths affected by arm conflict. In the third, fourth and fifth part, the procedure used by government and two NGOs as a response to the plight of children and youths in conflict was put to test by drawing on the toolkits for facilitating Transitions for Children and Youth in conflict zones by the Post-Conflict Funds Project (PCF). This toolkit was however, presented in the second part of this chapter in detail. The last part of this chapter gives an overall summary of the chapter

4.2. A model for Assessing Intervention to Support Youth out of Vulnerability.

Children and youth residing in war affected areas encounter an array of problematic and exigent needs. In the present day, more than 300 million young people under the age of 25 reside in countries affected by armed conflict and violence. This represent almost a fifth of the whole children and youth world's population. Undeniably, "people under the age of 25 are consistently the majority group in populations afflicted with the world's bloodiest war" (Rahim and Holland, 2006: ii). In order to ensure quality interventions in conflict-affected countries, the pre-eminence of circumstances cannot be overstated. Regardless of the dearth of literature on evaluated post-conflict programs. Rahim and Holland (2006) argued that the limited documentation of previous experiences can offer valuable direction for actors who are tasked to ensure the successful implementation of intervention programs by learning from failures of such program in the past. They however, proposed a good practice toolkit for effective intervention based on post conflicts assessment of four countries (Sierra Leone, DR Congo, Pakistan and Comoros. This includes "(i) voice, inclusion, and community participation; (ii) demobilization and reintegration of underage ex-combatants; (iii) employment generation and livelihoods; and (iv) emergency education" (Rahim and Holland, 2006: 2-3).

On the whole, the above highlighted good practice by Rahim and Holland is not a substitution for a nuanced understanding of the multidimensional and exceptional circumstances that any individual may encounter in conflict situation. Rather, it should be viewed as a complement for a successful intervention programs. In order to draw usable lessons from the good practice propounded by Rahim and Holland, one must be conscious of context in analysing any program. This approach remains the crux of any successful program. For example, facilitating children and youths transition from Eastern Uganda – which has a small-scale, low-intensity rebellion conflict – is not certainly appropriate to, for example, Syria. This chapter focused on the assessment of the intervention program of the Government and NGOs in Uganda, working towards the recovery of the children and youths affected by cross-border conflict in Rewzonri region. Intervention programs for war affected children and young adults are undoubtedly beneficial in the process of recovery, in particular when such program is supported by Government in collaboration with NGOs. In this chapter, using the four functional areas posited by Rahim and Holland (2006), we shall examine the program effectiveness and perhaps the possibility of failure and success of such program. The first part discusses the four functional areas mentioned above, while the second part will look critically if the Uganda government intervention program follows these functional areas. The third part discusses both the FCDE and NAYODE intervention programs in Kasese and Renzworri region as a whole. In the fourth part of this chapter, we discuss the reasons why the government intervention program seems not to effective compared to that of the non-state actors towards the recovery of children and youths affected by the cross-border conflict in the Western Uganda.

4.3. Good practices for Intervention

Children voice, Inclusion, and Community Participation is the first step that should be considered before the design of any intervention program. However, children and youths in generally, are deprived of the opportunity to be part of the process in which the adults in the society voice their interest. In particular, on the process of making decisions that have impact on their needs (Boyden and de Berry, 2004 cited in Rahim and Holland, 2006:3). Boyden and de Berry argument was substantiated by Lowicki (2002). Lowicki argued that, adolescents have experienced the duties bestowed on adults in the society by thrusting through conflict situation. For example, many becomes head of households, mothers and fathers, soldiers, principal wage earners, husband and wives just to mention a few (Lowicki 2002:34). For Lowicki, the idea of excluding war-affected adolescents in the decision making on issues that affect them directly is “absurd and belittling” (Lowicki, 2002:33).

According to Rahim and Holland (2006), actors that are responsible in the delivery of children and youths projects in conflict affected areas must be ready to pay attention and accommodate inputs from children and youths for the purpose of effective implementation. They maintained that, “most societies discount the inputs of young people when they clash with presumably sounder views held conventionally by older members of society” (Rahim and Holland, 2006: 3). The idea of adults in the society deciding on the needs of children and youths should be challenged because such idea definitely negates the prior-

ities the children and youths might identify as a result of direct bearing on their development. Which are in most cases, are in poles apart to those of the adults. A community comprises of both the adults and the young ones, designing a program of intervention that did prioritize the perception of the affected children in terms of their vulnerability and resilience capacity is an effort in futility.

The United Nation 2014 report shows that enlistment and usage of children in conflict is a widespread phenomenon. In 2013 alone, United Nations documented over 4,000 cases, however thousands more children are likely to have been drafted and used for combat. Impunity for severe abuses against children, to be precise sexual violence, is common to numerous situations and aggravates the vulnerability of children even further (UN, 2014:2). Normally, demobilization and reintegration is the next phase after disarmament in post-conflict situations. Although, it tend to be male-dominated due to the reality of the gender-discriminatory structure that views female combatants generally as sex slaves. In this scenario, women are likely to reintegrate naturally by returning directly to their societies without going through authorized channels (Mckay and Mazurana, 2004: 35-37). It is imperative that intervention programs are gender sensitive, taking into consideration that girls in rebellious forces are rendered obscured and disregarded during and after conflict, even though they are deeply significant to armed groups (Denov, 2007: Coulter et al., 2008). In general, the reintegration program should be able to provide meaningful needs, focus on psychological assessments and begin family tracing. "Family tracing and community-based support should be central to the demobilization and reintegration process, and should emphasize psychosocial support, education, and economic opportunities (Rahim and Holland, 2006:4). They suggest that other vital services such as health services, rehabilitation of social skills and community sensitization should be precede the reintegration process. Several studies have identified the relevance of education to the successful implementation of post-conflict recovery programs for children and youths.

However, it is fundamental for reintegration programs to maintain a balance between the necessity to recommence schooling and earn income. These may well consist of flexible hours in school attendance, bursary/scholarship support, and primary/secondary classes reserved for older students (Sommer, 2002 cited in Rahim and Holland, 2006:5). Many reintegration programs tend to follow the path of organizing skills and vocational training for the war affected children and youths, Rahim and Holland contend that it is important to understand the boundaries of straightforward vocational training. They maintained that, "traditional vocational training programs have had an inconsistent record in helping young ex-combatants to enhance their skills and increase their income" (Rahim and Holland, 2006: 5), even though there is a need for more experience and lessons before one can draw a definite comment.

Uplifting the source of revenue of young non-combatant and ex-combatants in post-conflict situation can help to nurture stability in war affected societies. As I discussed earlier, several intervention programs tend towards equipping young people with skills and livelihoods in order to secure employment. However, Rahim and Holland (2006) suggest that, for effective implementation of the programs, "approach to employment generation programs should capitalize on pre-existing assets, including skills" (Rahim and Holland, 2006:6). Shipler (2004 in Rahim and Holland, 2006:6) recommends

that, it is crucial for drivers of recovery programs in post-conflict areas to consider skills (leadership, entrepreneurial skills and taking initiative) children and youths might have acquired during the conflict period in designing their programs. For instance, girls that acquired cooking skills (because girls are traditionally relied on to cook) during conflicts can be empowered to the capacity in which they can cook for larger group to earn reasonable income. Above all, Often the process of determining what types of skills training or general assistance to provide is overly needs based, both in terms of what the community is lacking, and what individuals might aspire to. Though this deficit focus may ensure that the response is adequately grounded in the local context, it may risk an overemphasis on what is lacking in the communities, and overlook skills that are already present and could potentially be built upon.

4.5. Government of Uganda Intervention Program. The Luwero Rwenzori Development Program (LRDP)

The Government of Uganda initiated the Luwero Rwenzori Development Programme (LRDP) in an attempt to redress the socio-economic effects of past conflicts within the region. The programme, which is scheduled to be completed by 2015, targets 40 districts in the north and west of the country. In the implementation of the programme, children and youth are expected to be among the special interest groups that get priority consideration. So that young people may heal the psychological disturbances occurred during the conflict. Likewise, The National Strategic Programme Plan of interventions (NSPPI) for orphans and other vulnerable children was initially set up in 2004. The programme targets at directing the supply of sustainable quality services that are aimed at reducing vulnerability of children to various adversity. Indeed, the programme offers vulnerable children the right to live in a good physical shape and drive them into becoming responsible citizens.

Analysing Luwero Renzworri Development Program (LRDP) under the Office of the Prime Minister in Uganda. The Ministerial policy statement that highlighted the planned activities for the year 2011/2012²² focused on the generic plans to develop the region document, none of the planned activities really focused on children and youths affected by the conflict that has ravaged the region. In its place, it address the lack of basic amenities such as road construction, power supply, water supply, improve health facilities, construction of low cost house, and support programmes to enhance household income. Yet “priority is given to child development and, in particular child soldiers and children living in internally displaced camps in Northern Uganda” (Stavrou, 2005: 96). Only the construction of government aided primary and secondary schools in the Luwero Renzworri region is closely beneficial to children and youths affected by the conflict. Even though, there is no other documents that can attest to the successful implementation of the 2011/2012 plans outside government channel.

²²http://opm.go.ug/assets/media/resources/7/OPM-MINISTERIAL-POLICY-STATEMENT-2011_12.pdf

The Ministerial Policy statement of 2013/2014²³ achievements and highlighted programs of actions did not seek to facilitate the transition of children and youths affected by armed conflicts, rather it follow the path of reducing poverty in all regions of Uganda. Assessing the government intervention programs to address the predicament of children and youths affected by armed conflicts in Uganda, it is rather unfortunate that the LRDP that was established for such purpose relegated the vulnerability of children and youths. Instead, it was the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) National Strategic Programme Plan of Interventions for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children 2011/12—2015/16 that is closely empowered to bring succour to the children that suffers from war effect. Though, I will examine further in the next session of this study the MGLSD, if the program, despite the closeness to alleviating the suffering of children affected by the ADF rebellion has succeeded in doing so.

However, according to the 2010 DFID guidelines for policy makers in youth and development, successful intervention programs should be viewed from three different lenses, youths as beneficiaries, partners and leaders. Although they are not mutually exclusive, however, it is imperative for practitioners and institutions to start considering all three the lenses in their program designs. The LRDP program failed to treats children and youths affected by the ADF rebellion as beneficiaries or partners in the design of their programs of interventions, rather its response to the effect of the conflict in the region was lumped together into one big box. The DFID guidelines give are clear definition of a good intervention for young people as beneficiaries, this “implies they are a target group and are adequately informed; explicitly focuses on youth issues through documentation; can prepare the ground for working with youth as partners” (DFID, 2010: 3). Although, the successes of this approach depend on the local context, the different lenses may be adopted for various groups of young people in the course of an intervention/initiative. For example, youth leaders may be used to reach out to new groups of children and youths as targets (ibid).

Clearly, there are many ways children and youths affected by war can be targeted for intervention programs, most especially the younger ones that rely on their surviving parents. Unfortunately, the LRDP left out the Widows in Kasese district. I need to emphasize that the program is designed at improving the livelihoods of communities which were affected by both NRA guerilla war of 1981-1986 and the ADF rebellion of 1996-2003. Despite the fact that, vast majority of the widows in the district find it difficult to take care of their children, resides in mud and wattle houses with leaking roofs and some cases sleep on dry banana leaves because they can't afford a mattress. The widows in the district maintained that, the government need to they cannot educate their children or buy food, says that there is a need for government to re-design the programme and include the widows because a number of of them lost husbands who volunteered to fight the rebels or died at the hand of the rebels

²³<http://www.opm.go.ug/assets/docs/OPM%20MPS%20Merged%20Thursday%2030PM.pdf>

(Uganda Radio Network, December 8th, 2011).²⁴ There is a need for flexibility in program of intervention design because children and youths are affected by conflict in different ways. “Projects aimed at youth are complex by nature, given the psychosocial differences encountered in young populations, even in the same age group, and given the evolving needs of young people along the life span of a project” (Rahim and Holland, 2006: 14).

Rahim and Holland recommends that the choice of beneficiaries must be carry out in a systematic and all-inclusive manner. The design must center on needs and essentials or other shared characteristic as opposed to age group, to guarantee effective delivery of any programs of intervention. On the other hand, the conflict surroundings provides one-of-a-kind challenges for targeting mechanisms, which must function effectively in situations where there is a substantial shortage of data and other traditional tools that can guide the selection of beneficiaries. While all-encompassing targeting of beneficiaries that cut across the demographics structure may be appropriate for projects or intervention programs that targeted general services, for example, education. However, specific targeting may be required to provide particular assistance to distinctive and challenged groups such as ex-combatants (Rahim and Holland, 2006: 15). The government of Uganda need to adopt a new strategy that will redirect the focus of the LRDP towards young people in the region because available evidence point to the significance of broad based supports that apply to all the children impacted by conflict and disaster. This supports might include continuous access to resources such as shelter, food, health care, livelihood, education, and as well as the provision of care or facilities that stimulate a sense of normalcy, safety, self- and community effectiveness, connectedness and hopefulness (Hobfoll et al., 2007 cited in Boothby, 2012: 715).

In order to achieve this, the impact of ADF rebellion in Rwzonri region must equally be prioritized, considering the fact the region has been neglected for more than a decade after the defeat of ADF rebels. Without a doubt, child development has attracted serious attention in Uganda, most especially within the international agencies (Stavrou, 2005: 96). Nevertheless, Ebata et al and colleagues note that, although international agencies and donor have come to the recognition of young people significance in participation in project implementation, unfortunately the gap between policy and practice is extensively large. Particularly in countries affected by conflicts, inadequate levels of youth participation in programs in most cases, contributed to the deficiency to attain long-term and sustainable effect (Ebata et al., 2005: 111). They maintained that “It is important to adopt multi-sectorial approaches, which support links between programmes directly targeting youth and those for which youth are indirect beneficiaries” (ibid).

²⁴ <https://ugandaradionetwork.com/a/story.php?s=38902>

4.6 MGLSD Program assessment

The MGLSD in Uganda is saddled with the responsibility to address the plight of Orphan and vulnerable children (OVC) conducted a study that includes the voice of the children. It has been established that children and youths vulnerability is not homogenous; they are vulnerable to different event in various ways. However, the voice of the children represented in the report has nothing to do with those affected with cross-border conflicts in Uganda. All the children voice that was presented in the study tends towards vulnerability of a child in relation to parents poverty, lack of medical facilities and disability. Also, children views were presented on their fundamental human rights to education and future aspiration. In summary, “children understood their vulnerabilities as situations where their rights including the right to food, shelter, education, health and protection is not assured” (MGLSD, 2011: 7). Arguably, the effect of cross-border conflicts on children and youths highlighted in chapter two of this study is consonant with the voices of children expressed above. Nonetheless, it is imperative to note that all the challenges expressed through the children voice can also occur in non-conflict situations. Many natural disasters (famine, flood, earthquakes, wildfire, etc.) and other factors (Parental abuse, harmful cultural practices, diseases and plagues) can still make the children vulnerable. Moreover, the effect of these challenges that make a child to be vulnerable depends on the casual factor. Even though, the MGLSD identified major causes to child vulnerability as HIV and AIDS, armed conflicts, poverty among others (MGLSD, 2011:5), the voice of the children affected by armed conflicts both in the north and westerner Uganda are evidently missing from the report.

On paper, the MGLSD National Strategic Programme Plan of interventions (NSPPI-2) appears to suit the model of intervention for vulnerable children youths most especially those affected by arm conflict, using a comprehensive, coordinated and multi-sectorial approach on the one hand. On the other hand, apart from excluding the young adults (age above 18), it marginalized quite a lot of children that did not fall into the MDGLS definition of “critically and/or moderately vulnerable children. “The plan targets 51 percent of the children considered critically and/or moderately vulnerable.....along 7 strategic intervention areas, which have key implications for addressing vulnerability among children in Uganda in a sustainable manner” (MGLSD, 2011: xii). How the government came about who is vulnerable and who is not remain an issue of great concern. Even though, It is not impossible that this definition of vulnerability might have influenced the decision of the government to focus more on Northern Uganda and abandon those in Rwenzori region because they are considered to be less vulnerable. “Insufficient data on the nature and extent of children’s vulnerability in Uganda has challenged government and donors in priority setting, resource allocation and developing effective approaches to improve well-being” (Kalibaba et al., 2012: 295).

Obviously, the dearth in statistics of children affected by ADF rebellion as a result of less documentation of the conflict means the attention of government and international actors will be shifted to the impact of LRA impact in Northern Uganda that is well documented. As I discussed in chapter three of this study, children and young people are affected by conflict in many ways, the use of the operational term “OVC” is insufficient to address the impact of

cross-border conflict in Rwenzori region. Orphan hood does not necessary means a child is vulnerable, According to Kalibaba and others a child can be vulnerable even before the loss of his/her parents death. They maintained that “there is little consensus on what defines a “vulnerable” child or household, eligible for receipt of support services”.(Kalibaba et al., 2012: 296). This necessitate the need for Uganda government to widen their net of intervention programs to accommodate the diversity of children affected by arm conflicts in order to achieve positive outcomes.

4.7 Two NGO Intervention Responses Assessed

As a ground-breaking non-profit development organization and emerging leader in the field, FCDE keeps with the principles of good practice in intervention that I discussed earlier which is crucial in the international development arena. In particular, FCDE follow the path driven by researched based approaches that are embedded in grassroots and community support, and principles of empowerment. As suggested by Castelloe and others, grassroots approach centers on the provision of a wide-range of essential services to the local communities. It includes “grassroots organizing, formal and informal leadership training, organizational capacity-building, peer-to-peer networking, on-site technical assistance and occasional grant making” (Castelloe et al, 2002: 28). This makes participation of the beneficiaries a critical element of any intervention program. In relation to young people affected by conflict even though it is applicable to any context, participation can be defined as the process “involving young people as active participants in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of sustainable, community-based initiatives” (UNICEF, 2003: 3). FCDE subscribes to this brand of development practice since it has been established to increase the strengths of the community and help build the capacities of local people and organizations.



Fig 2: Source: FCDE²⁵

Through the process highlighted in figure 2 above, FCDE offer multi-faceted supports to help facilitates project development and assist in initiating

²⁵ <http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/sustainable-ugandan-development-by-fcde/>

new activities. When addressing the structural challenges, alongside fundamental needs, in a comprehensive and collective manner, communities should have the capacity to organize and use their benefits and assets deliberately and reasonably. This approach helps FCDE, through local partners, to effectively respond to the negative effect of ADF rebellion on children and youths in Kasese district. Involving local youth to carry out monitoring and evaluation undertakings can have a lot of benefits. “Local youth bring a context-specific expertise that even first-rate international experts may lack. The inclusion of young local consultants helps to deepen the domestic absorption capacity for development assistance, and directs scarce resources into the domestic economy, while enabling the participating individuals to engage in professional development early on in their careers” (Rahim and Holland, 2006: 15).

FCDE partners with local organizations that demonstrate capacity and visions to effectively impact meaningfully on their communities through programs they have initiated or identified. Although, there are more than 25 local organizations partners that are collaborating with FCDE, a brief glance at the profile of the local partners explains why FCDE is an emerging leader in the field of intervention in conflict affected areas. Some of their local partners are Kasese People's Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCO)²⁶, a local organization that empower low income women through credit saving began as a means to eradicate poverty while preserving culture. The main vision of this organizational is helping to establish a society that will ensure the actualization of the economic rights principles of the marginalized and poor people of Kasese. While both Kasese District Youth Focus on Aids (KADYFA)²⁷ and Young and Powerful Initiative (YAPI)²⁸, are supported by FCDE to improve services for the young people's reproductive health. Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu's (OBB), a local organization that focuses on conflict reconciliation, peace building with mission to invoke a shared identity and cultural allegiance so as to raise the quality of life is also a major partner of FCDE.

Also, Rwenzori Integrated Wildlife Management (RIWM)²⁹ focus on the environmental challenges in the communities, Rwenzori Rural Health Services (RRHS)³⁰ provides health care services, while New Eden Christian Foundation³¹ makes use of advocacy to rally members of the community to lobby for services that are needed in the community from the local government in Rukoki. In reference to Ebata et al and others, “in countries recently emerging from years of conflict, there is an extreme lack of resources and skills to address the distinct and diverse concerns of youth” (Ebata et al., 2005:98). The

²⁶<http://internationalcommunitydevelopment.org/sites/default/files/SACCO%201.pdf>.

²⁷http://internationalcommunitydevelopment.org/sites/default/files/how_we_do_it/KADYFA%201.pdf

²⁸http://internationalcommunitydevelopment.org/sites/default/files/how_we_do_it/YAPI.pdf

²⁹http://internationalcommunitydevelopment.org/sites/default/files/how_we_do_it/RIWM%201.pdf

³⁰http://internationalcommunitydevelopment.org/sites/default/files/how_we_do_it/RRHS%201.pdf

³¹http://internationalcommunitydevelopment.org/sites/default/files/how_we_do_it/New%20Eden%201.pdf

emergence of FCDE approach to development filled the vacuum that the dearth in skills to tackle the adverse effect of conflict in Kasese district on children and young adults would have created. FCDE has taken holistic approach by allowing the local partners to identify areas of priority of interest to them. Moreover, the people of the community are in the best position to say where help is most needed. This is why FCDE employ local Ugandans so as to facilitate a peer-based approach towards capacity building activities. Analyzing FCDE programs of intervention, the impact and effectiveness to deliver positive outcomes, I found out that this approach embarked on by FCDE is more effective in identifying challenges, skill transfer and working toward sustainability of programs.

Similarly to FCDE line of action, NAYODE, a youth-oriented organisation main focus in youths and grassroots collaboration the Development of the youth, in particular the marginalized and those affected by conflict in Kasese. Meaningfully, NAYODE was able Increased awareness, knowledge and skills among the Youth, children and Adolescents to appropriately respond to HIV/AIDS/HR challenges: Improved livelihoods of communities living in and adjacent to protected areas in Kasese district, empowered the marginalized through equity, rights, responsibilities and policy advocacy. The analysis of NAYODE programs of actions and achievement³² shows that, the organization was able to enhanced capabilities of the youth and the marginalized in conflict resolution and management for purposes of creating harmony and co-existence for sustainable development. Apart from enhancing youth livelihood through increased access and utilization of Information and Communication Technology, Psychosocial Support through Community Resilience Development. Youth, Adolescents & Children Participation was used to strengthened support mechanisms that will improve the livelihoods of those affected by conflict as well as the promotion of children rights and support services in Kasese District. NAYODE began execution of the Community Resilience Development³³ plan in 2002 executing a project titled: “Strengthening psychosocial support to individuals affected by conflict associated violence in Kasese District”³⁴. NAYODE goal is to achieve the social integration of people that are suffering from the impact of violent conflict through consolidation of chosen communal support structures to identify and respond appropriately for their needs.

The Community Resilience and Dialogue (CRD) have been pivotal in the provision of psychosocial rehabilitation, conflict resolution and HIV/AIDS services to the victims of conflicts. The CRD, in collaboration with various NGOs, facilitates the tasks of district authorities, community based groups and national agencies in the process of addressing the needs of those individuals victimized by conflicts. Children and youth are at the heart of this intervention. During and after the ADF rebellion in Rwenzori region, there was break down of communities, families, injury, individuals were living in displaced camps, food production was quite low, tourism down and folks were living on

³² <http://projects.takingitglobal.org/YES-Uganda>

³³ <http://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/migrated/resources/crd-newsletter-2.pdf>

³⁴ <http://projects.takingitglobal.org/YES-Uganda>

handouts. Now, however, communities have resettled back for their communities, all IDP camps were closed, agro based company is booming, schools are operating normally as well as the district is investing in infrastructure i.e. building of feeder roads and schools. Nevertheless, there is a limitation to what NAYODE can offer in relation to the overall response to the impact of conflict on children and youths in the region without adequate support and collaboration from government and international actors. Even though, NAYODE partners with various organization such as Save the Children in Uganda (SCiU), CARE International, and International Rescue Committee (IRC), just to mention a few.

It is not a surprise that NAYODE recorded more achievement in their effort to tackle the impact of conflict in Kasese compared to the government intervention approach. The response of NAYODE is in consonant with the toolkits for facilitating Transitions for Children and Youth in conflict zones by the Post-Conflict Funds Project (PCF). Rahim and Holland (2006) have already highlighted the importance of young professionals in delivery of intervention programs, and in the situation where there is lack of young professionals or local youth expertise, training of local staff will suffice to increase the sustainability of intervention program or project. This approach is central for effective intervention because “young professionals can extend an initiative beyond the life of the international project, spurring follow-up efforts through professional, governmental, and non-governmental channels. Insights gained from locally based monitoring and evaluation also helps to enhance civic awareness and increases the ability of communities to assess and influence governmental and non-governmental activities (Rahim and Holland, 2006: 15).

Chapter 5. Conclusion

5.1. My Concluding Reflection

During the time of conflict, what dominate the news headlines are children and youths being killed and injured by the grenades, bombs, missiles and ammos of war. However, when the heat of the war is over, the effect it has on the victims lingers on for many years. Besides the physical harm that is visible, children and youths suffered rape and sexual abuse, psychological trauma, and other indirect physical consequence of conflict. The psychological and psychological upheaval caused by war continues to be commonly researched recently, the effects on impressionable and vulnerable children and youths can be far more than worse. Considerably, it's been proven by this study that the ADF revolt in Western Uganda was not fairly documented; and so as the effect of the conflict on children and youths is highly impossible to be recognized by actors in the field of conflict intervention and post-conflict recovery. The ADF insurgency has resulted in the death of many people and left others mutilated and abducted. Even though, the sustained attacks provoked by the ADF rebels on the indigenous people of the Rwenzori region since 1996 resulted in the displacement of people exceeding 150,000 (Kyanddondo et al. 2002). This study's has been able to unmasked the hidden victims of ADF forgotten rebellion in order to attract the interest of various stakeholders and actors towards the situation of youths and children within the Rwenzori region ravaged from the ADF revolt for several years.

Although, in the process of getting the effect of the revolt on young adults, towards the forefront of international discourse, the study was able to juxtapose the effectiveness of the government and non-state actors intervention programs aimed at alleviating the suffering of children and youths affected by the revolt of ADF in Rwenzori region. The study explain in details why assistance has occasionally didn't appear regardless of the urgent necessity for intervention program. It is no more news that, requirement and if the treatment is appropriate, and just why at additional occasions it's seemed to not succeed. I contend that the intervention programs of the Uganda government, which was late in the first place, is too generic, inappropriate, and might be misleading to outsiders, making them believe that the government is really concern about the children and youths affected by ADF rebellion. Not only Luwero Rwenzori Development Program failed to target children specifically, the National Strategic Programme Plan of Interventions for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children 2011/12—2015/16 initiated by Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development also failed to address the effect of ADF rebellion on Children and Youths. The government selection criteria (the critically and/or most vulnerable) of beneficiaries is flawed, the refusal of the government to understand that effect of conflicts and children and youths is not homogenous explain why government intervention is not effective. How to measure vulnerability when it comes to the impact of conflict still remain a matter of debates and that is why it is pertinent to start thinking towards the grassroots participation.

However, the non-state actors filled the vacuum left behind by government with their approach which is tantamount to marginalization of several

children and youths affected by war. FCDE and NAYODE are important actors that did not fit positively into the toolkits for facilitating Transitions for Children and Youth in conflict zones. While the government of Uganda did not prioritize participation and beneficiaries voice as a key component to intervention programs designs, FCDE and NAYODE performed better with ground-breaking recorded achievement. In Conclusion, I argued that for any successful intervention, there is a need for a community based approach that prioritized the beneficiary's voices and participation in the designing of the intervention program.

5.2. Proposal for future study

This study would have benefit immensely by using the primary data collection by conducting a field study. Getting the voice of the children that are affected directly, parents and other actors will contribute to the knowledge vacuum in the scholarship on the conflict. It is imperative to emphasize that research that involves the children call for "recognition of and reflection on the multiple contexts that shape children's lives and experiences, and inform and influence research involving children, both implicitly and explicitly" (Graham, 2013: 13). Since the research is about children and young adults, it is crucial to make the research participatory in order to benefit the children involved.

During this process, I will suggest that studies are conducted to investigate what are the adopted coping strategies that Children and Young adult affected by cross- border conflict violence employed to survive in the Rwenzori region? What are the processes and how affected children and young adults developed the resilience to adapt to the situation? Finally, what are the government and NGOs interventions programs aimed at variety of indigenous coping mechanisms involving children and Young adults affected by cross border conflict. I have a fervent conviction that if the voice of the victims can be echoed out through other studies, invisible war affecting the forgotten people of Rwenzori region will become more visible.

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