![Women's International Peace Centre logo] **Women's International Peace Centre** — Amplifying Women's Voice and Power
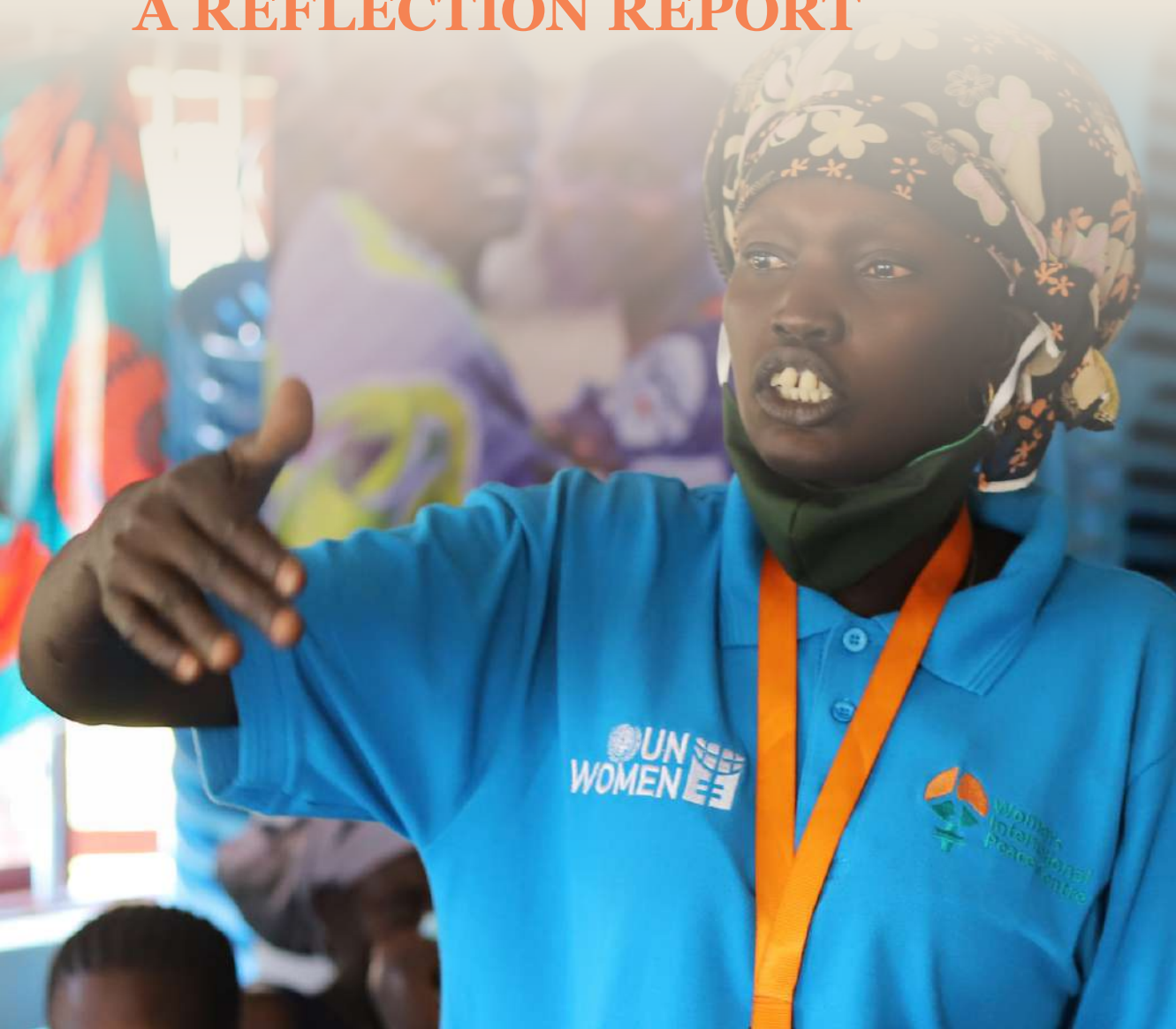
WOMEN LEADING MEDIATION IN UGANDA

Holistic approach to building peace in Refugee Settlements and Host Communities of Adjumani, Kotido and Yumbe, Uganda

A REFLECTION REPORT

Acronyms

CEWERU	Conflict Early Warning and Early Response-Uganda
CoACT	Coalition for Action on 1325
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease-19
DPC	District Peace Committee
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EWER	Early Warning and Early Response
GISOs	Gombolola Internal Security Officers
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GoU	Government of Uganda
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Inter-Government Authority on Development
Isis-WICCE	Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange
LDU	Local Defence Unit
MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Adaptation and Learning
NSC	National Steering Committee
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PMT	Project Monitoring Team
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UPDF	Uganda People's Defence Force
VAW	Violence Against Women
WIPC	Women's International Peace Centre
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

Contents

Glossary of Terms

Collaborate	To partner strategic groups in decision making, development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution
Community Engagement	The process of involving the public in the decision making about issues that affect them. This includes techniques that facilitate an informed dialogue amongst participants, and encourages shared ideas and opinions for decision-making.
Consult	To obtain community feedback on analysis, possible alternatives and decisions
Early Warning	Processes of monitoring, recording, analyzing and transmitting information about escalating conflict to enable responses to avert or mitigate destructive consequences.
Empower	To place final decision-making in the hands of the target community by providing knowledge, skills, information, resources, spaces and tools.
Engagement	The overarching process of involving the community in decision making processes
Inform	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the need or problems, in order to provide possible alternatives and generate solutions.
Involve	To discuss with community and ascertain that their concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.
	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered. (UN Women goal for the project)

Mediation	A form of conflict management where a skilled or third party acts a go-between to facilitate communication between conflict parties to bring about partial solution or settlement.
	When a third person (who is not involved) helps two sides to solve a problem
Peace Building	long-term preventive, pre-hostility strategies or measures to remove internal causes of a conflict and strengthen structural stability in a country against threat of civil war.
Rights-Based	When everything that is done and said is in line with the principles of human rights (the principles of dignity and equality)
Vulnerable Populations	Individuals and groups of people who may face barriers in participating fully in society and who have increased susceptibility to negative health outcomes or other harm as a result of inequitable access to the resources they need. Vulnerable populations include economically disadvantaged individuals, ethnic minorities, children, seniors, the homeless, those with chronic health conditions or mental illness.

Most definitions adapted from Thesaurus and Glossary of Early Warning & Conflict Prevention Terms (Prof Schmid A.P, 2000) & International Association for Public Participation framework

Overview

This is a Reflection Report of the project, 'Promoting Women's effective participation in peace building in the Refugee Settlements and Host Communities of Adjumani, Kotido and Yumbe districts in Uganda'. It is a story of efforts to achieve Inclusive Peace and Security. The report presents women's resilience, activism, leadership and influence on systems and structures to promote the women, peace and security Agenda.

The initiative ran from June 2019 to December 2021 spearheaded by Women's International Peace Centre, with the development support of UN Women. The project had key support mechanism of the National Steering Committee, District Peace Committees, Women's Peace Committees, Peace Mediators, Conflict Analysts, UN Beneficiaries and Monitors. The partners set out to work with national peace and security response mechanisms (Centre for Early Warning and Early Response, UNHCR), in addressing the priorities and needs of women and children who form the majority of the South Sudan refugee population in Uganda.

Section 1 covers the context of the refugee crisis in Africa, the effect it has on neighbouring countries, and the need for gendered representation in political decision making in refugee settlements and host communities. **Section 2** outlines the Project Implementation Framework. It outlines project strategies and partnerships and how they worked to bring about change in the living conditions of women in host communities and refugees in the receiving community and in South Sudan-their country of origin. The framework embraced consultations, empowering of the work-force, collaborations, involvement in order to achieve influence on policies, systems and structures for peace. **Section 3** identifies the milestones and practical changes accruing from project implementation. Key successes were:

Strengthened capacity to influence systems and structures that promote the women, peace and security agenda

a.   Enhanced commitment to inclusive peace and security by Government of Uganda and United Nations

b.   Increased leadership and representation of women in conflict management

c.   Strengthened community-led initiatives for peace and security.

d.   Contribution to the achievement of key International Commitments and Institutional Goals:

The range of conflict transformation responses emphasize; peace embedded in justice, inclusive and gendered peace strategies, building of healthy relationships, social structures, and increased communication to address the complex realities of refugee migrations and host communities. The changes accruing from the project were guided by: the project logical framework; the gender discourse on peace and security- UNSCR 1325; as well as the national policies and legislation for Uganda and South Sudan. Changes were political, structural, socio-cultural, communal and personal. The Reflection Report concludes with lessons learned in supporting communities in fragility while leaving no one behind, adaptations made during the project and future entry points in building sustainable peace and security.

We call upon you to:

- Further support The Peace Centre in the noble cause for inclusive peace and security towards development and prosperity of communities in Africa. This can be through gender sensitive planning of initiatives for peace, additional resource investment and technical assistance to refugee settlements and to women leaders in countries of origin. Institutional, communal and individual agency in mitigating war in Africa are ever welcome.
- Work with us in developing new pathways for the many gaps that still stand out in promoting justice, durable peace and equitable development.

The Peace Centre is grateful to the UN Women for investing efforts to find durable solutions to gender-specific needs of refugees and host communities. The Peace Centre is also grateful to the various institutions and individuals to make contributions to the project.

Together we make a difference.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 About Women's International Peace Centre

Women's International Peace Centre (The Peace Centre) seeks to ignite women's leadership through amplifying women's voices and deepening their activism to re-create peace. Founded in 1974 as Isis-WICCE, the institution was rebranded the Peace Centre in 2019. The Peace Centre, that is feminist in nature, takes lead promoting peace and security informed by commitments in UNSCR 1325:2000 and Sustainable Development Goals. The institution works with partners in conflict and post-conflict contexts across Africa and Asia, using its home-grown model to catalyze women's power for peace by integrating research, workforce development as well as advocacy.

The Peace Centre has a 5-year Strategic Plan (2019-2022) that guides implementation of work, targeting countries in fragility, including Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda. The key outputs of the Strategic Plan which have been in part contributed to by this project as indicated throughout this reflection report, are:

- Enhanced technical expertise to participate in peace processes;
- Information available for women to influence decision making peace processes;
- Deliberate attempts to claim space and influence peace processes at all levels.

The Peace Centre identified and worked with regional bodies, bilateral agencies, government and academic institutions, civil society and community groups to run the project to '…promote women's effective participation in peace building'. The project ran from June 2019 to December 2021, with a focus on improving living conditions and leadership potentials for refugees and host communities in Uganda.

This project contributes to the Peace Centre's overall goal of enhancing gender equity, justice, inclusive political, social and economic development by contributing to sustainable peace (WIPC, 2019). The project was run with the development support of UN Women in response to its Strategic Plan and Program (2019-2022) on addressing women's effective participation in decision making in the consolidation of peace and humanitarian assistance. Funded by Norwegian Embassy.

1.2 **Project Context**

New United Nations data shows that 79.5 million people were forcibly displaced by end of 2019 owing to war, violence, persecution and other emergencies (ICR, 2019). And, whilst the trend of refugees and internally displaced persons is a global phenomenon, research shows that Africa remains the continent with the highest number of people displaced due to conflict (Tendaiwo P.M, 2010). Just like Internally Displaced People (IDPs), refugees are also a product of nationalist conflict, ethnic hatred, ideological wars, election and governance deficits, poverty and brutal ambitions for power.

Several countries in Africa have gone through political tensions, with many instances leading to warfare and mass movements. This has resulted in the Sub-Saharan Africa region being the least on the 2010 Global Peace Index (Institute for Economics & Peace, 2010).

Refugee Population in Uganda by March 2020

Others
9%

DRC
29%
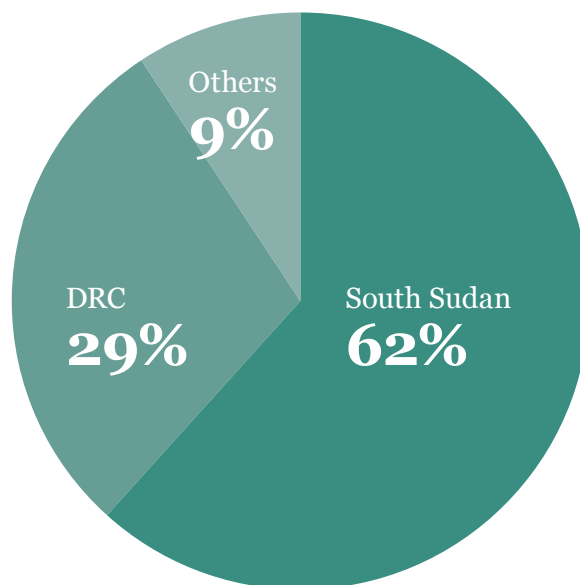
South Sudan
62%

Graphic 1: Refugee population in Uganda by March 2020, with the highest number registered from South Sudan

Northern Uganda experiences influx of refugees and migrants induced by political conflict and pastoral movements from its neighboring countries. For instance, militarized tensions led to war violence, forcing South Sudan to secede from Sudan and become an independent state in July 2011. The instability forced many South Sudanese to seek refuge in Uganda. Political tensions in South Sudan between President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar in December 2013 arose into internal militarized violence starting. There are also pastoral related conflicts in the cattle keeping communities that lead to the rustling of cows and tensions over grazing of animals in Karamoja areas. These and other disagreements continue to cause insecurity and trigger displacement of families to neighbouring Uganda. By March 2020, Uganda had a recorded 1,423,377 political refugee population, with South Sudan contributing the majority (61.8%), DRC (29.1%) and 9.1 from other countries (Uganda Refugee Portal, UNHCR, March 31st 2020).

Northern Uganda districts have a disproportionate burden of the growing refugee influx and asylum seekers totaling to 1,582,892 in 2021. Yumbe and Adjumani districts which are project sites host the highest number of refugees, with Yumbe at 246,312 followed by Adjumani district with 244,014. (Source - Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR, Government of Uganda Comprehensive Refugee Response portal as of 31st December 2021)

Despite the significant number of South Sudan women and children in West Nile refugee settlements (with 85% refugees being women and children), gender-specific concerns are not sufficiently represented in leadership nor in community management structures (UNHCR, 2018). The minimal representation of 10% women in refugee leadership forums has implications on decision-making and resulting welfare, peace and development. Tendaiwo (2010) notes that in countries that are challenged with the huge refugee influx, the high scale of displacement makes it simply unrealistic to plan for a peaceful future for the country without incorporating the needs and active participation of displaced women. Hence, the project's focus is on improving the living conditions and leadership of women in Adjumani, Kotido and Yumbe refugee settlements in Uganda.

1.3 The Need for Gender Representation in Refugee Settlements & Host Communities

Gendered solutions for displaced communities are inevitably linked to achieving durable peace for countries in fragility. Women and children face differentiated burdens of war and displacement making it viable for their inclusion in decision-making and peacebuilding. If those communities remain excluded from normal life, they will remain a source of tension and pressure politically and socially. Tendaiwo (2010) affirms this by stating that interest groups such as female refugees need to be included in negotiations for sustainable peace since their exclusion creates disgruntled groups of people who may return to cause chaos in the long-run. Inequalities that are intensified by unequal gender and power relations create discriminatory decisions on access to public resources that would have favoured the majority poor who are women and children. For as truly stated, power is a property of a group (Makerere Univ. & Isis-WICCE-2015). Durable solutions cannot be achieved if there is a lack of inclusive security and conditions for sustainable solutions for reconciliation between refugees and host communities; reconstruction and rule of law, and legitimate government.

Uganda has a number of measures and actors to address the plight of refugee populations with policy and legal enforcement.

This project identified and worked with such diverse actors with measures to address the plight of refugee populations with policy and legal enforcement. Project partners and policy frameworks have been summarized below:

Civil Society & Academic Institutions	Bilateral	Government Bodies & Institutions	Key Policy Frameworks which Support the Project
Women's International Peace Centre-WIPC (Project Lead)	UN Women	District Local Government	2006 Refugee Act
Makerere University - Department of Women & Gender Studies	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees-UNHCR	Office of the Prime Minister- OPM	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework- CRRF
CoACT 1325	World Food Programme-WFP	Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development-MoGLSD	Refugee Response Plan
Women's Situation Room		Ministry of Environment	National Development Plan II- Uganda settlement transformative agenda
Eve Organisation for Women in Development	<u>**Regional Bodies**</u>	Ministry of Water and Sanitation	National Gender Policy - 2007
	African Union-Conflict Early Warning & Early Response (AU-CEWER)	Electoral Commission	Draft National Peace building & Conflict Transformation Policy
	Gender is My Agenda Campaign-GIMAC	District Peace Committees & Women Peace Committee	National Transitional Justice Policy
		Ministry of Internal Affairs- CEWERU	UN Development Assistance Framework

Table 1: Range of Actors on inclusive peace and security in the project site, that the project worked with.

Section 2
THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

Theory of Change

If we strengthen women's leadership competencies and provide them opportunities/platform to utilize their potential; then women will create movements to advocate for responsive interventions and policies towards peaceful world.

This section outlines the implementation framework and strategies of the project.

The project run its community engagements using a customized framework to suit its Women, Peace and Security Agenda. The customized framework closely aligns with engagement processes and principles outlined by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), where stakeholders have a voice in decision-making, increased transparency and accountability, with focus on common good. The Project responded to three specific outcomes:

a. Number of institutions of the justice and security sectors with strengthened capacity to mainstream gender perspectives and promote the rights of women and girls in conflict, post conflict and other crisis situations.

b. Conflict Resolution: Representatives and leadership of women is increased in formal and informal peace processes and negotiations.

c. Peace building and recovery: The socio-economic recovery and political participation of women and girls are promoted in conflict and post conflict situations.

The project framework, theory of change, partnerships and efficient coordination were fundamental in realising project results. Below is the project engagement framework and explanatory brief of how it was used as a tool for social change to achieve desired results:

Project Engagement Framework for Women, Peace and Security

Theory of Change

More commitment on women, peace & security are implemented by GoU & the United Nations and more gender equality advocactes influence peace & security processes

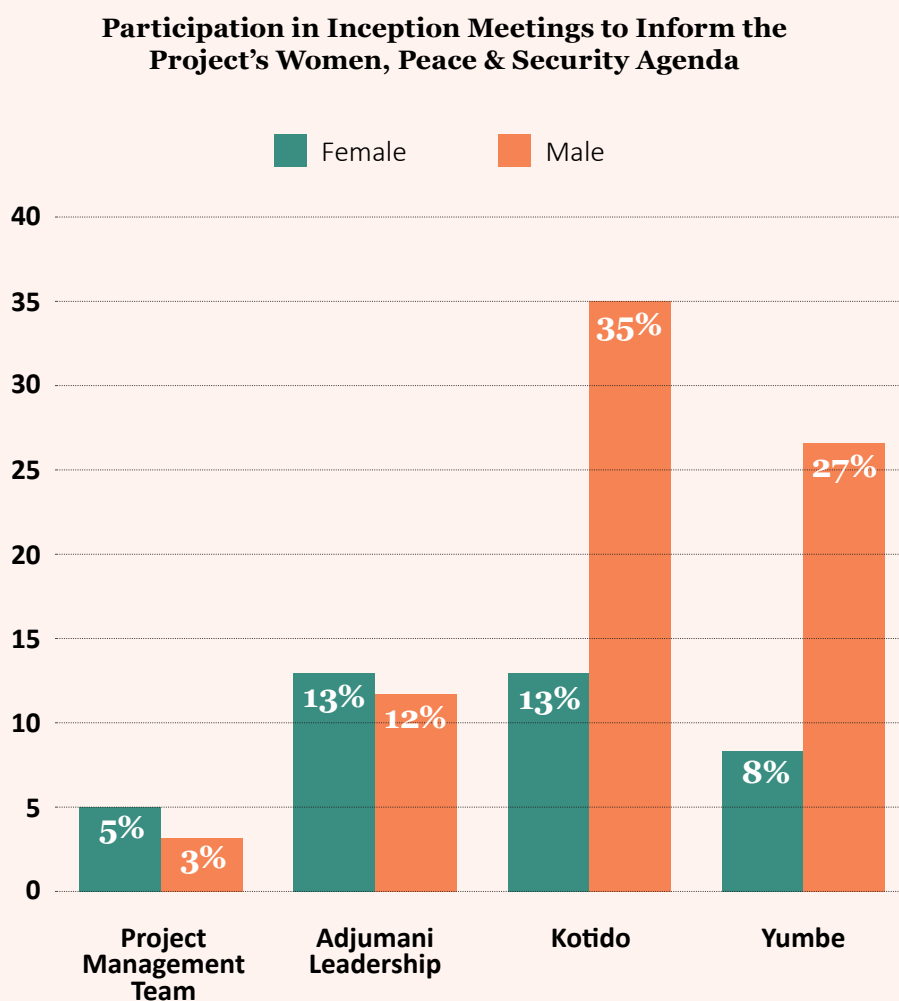| Project Investment	1. Pre, During & Post-Assessment	2. Workforce Development	3. Active Response Mechanisms	4. Enabling Systems & Structures
Project Targets	Leaders & refugee communities in Adjumani, Kotido & Yumbe Districts	Peace Monitors, Analysts, Women Peace Advocates, refugee women	At district, sub-county levels & refugee settlements	National Steering Committee
Strategy	i. Baseline Assessment- Field study ii. Monitoring and review iii. Evaluation& Learning- End of project study	i. Training / knowledge & skills transfers; ii. Community Awareness sessions; iii. Learning Exchange Visits in Uganda & S. Sudan	i. Set up Women Peace Committees; ii. National Steering Committee for Peace	Data collection for advocacy

Project Investment	1. Pre, During & Post-Assessment	2. Workforce Development	3. Active Response Mechanisms	4. Enabling Systems & Structures
Utility	a. Affirm project relevance; b. Inform project imterventions; c. Adaptation of early warning indicators; d. Identify knowledge gaps / training needs & identify relevant training modules; e. Adaptation & earning - Are activities & strategies effective	a. Collect early warning indicators; b. Generate monthly reports; c. Influence Peace Committees; d. Establish grassroots Women's Mediators Network; e. Link refugee voices & priorities to current peace building processes in South Sudan	a. Support lobbying & decision making at monthly meetings; b. Strengthen systems & structures for peace building	a. Influence policy changes & implementation; b. use data from early warning reports at National Peace Forums; c. Stimulate national response to issues from district& refugee settlements & national level
Community Empowerment Target	Performance	People	Practice	Policy
Involvement Level	Consult	Empower / Inform	Collaborate / Involve	Influence

Below is a brief description of the Project Engagement Framework; how project strategies were used with the involvement of strategic partners and stakeholders, to achieve project goals.

2.1 **Consult**

Consultations were held through the Baseline Assessment and the three Inception Meetings held in the year 2019. Views, alternatives and perspectives of the varied stakeholders were taken into consideration to map the project. One hundred eight (108) Stakeholders who were consulted at baseline are indicated in the graph below:

Participation in Inception Meetings to Inform the Project's Women, Peace & Security Agenda

Female   Male

- Project Management Team: Female 5%, Male 3%
- Adjumani Leadership: Female 13%, Male 12%
- Kotido: Female 13%, Male 35%
- Yumbe: Female 8%, Male 27%

Graphic 2: Stakeholder involvement in project implementation

Three Consultative Meetings were held with:

- Project Management Team under the leadership of the Peace Centre included CoAct 1325 and Makerere University-Centre for Conflict Studies. Through Inception Meetings, the PMT negotiated Memorandums of Understanding to establish working relationships on the project.

Project Management Team		
The Peace Centre	CoAct 1325	Makerre University Centre for Conflict Studies

- National Steering Committee: NSC is a body that is mandated to coordinate all peacebuilding initiatives in the country as per the Inter-Governmental Authority -IGAD guideline that Uganda is using. It has representations from; Office of the president, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Unit (CEWERU), National Women's Council (NCW), Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), Electoral Commission, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), National Research Institute, Makerere University, Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF), Uganda Police Force, Uganda Prison service.

National Steering Committee		
Office of the Prime Minister	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Conflict Early Warning & early Response Unit CEWERU
National Women's Council (NCW)	Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)	Electoral Commission
Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	National Research Institute	Makerere University
Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF)	Uganda Police Force	Uganda Prison Service

- District Local Governments in the 3 project sites of Adjumani, Kotido and Yumbe districts.

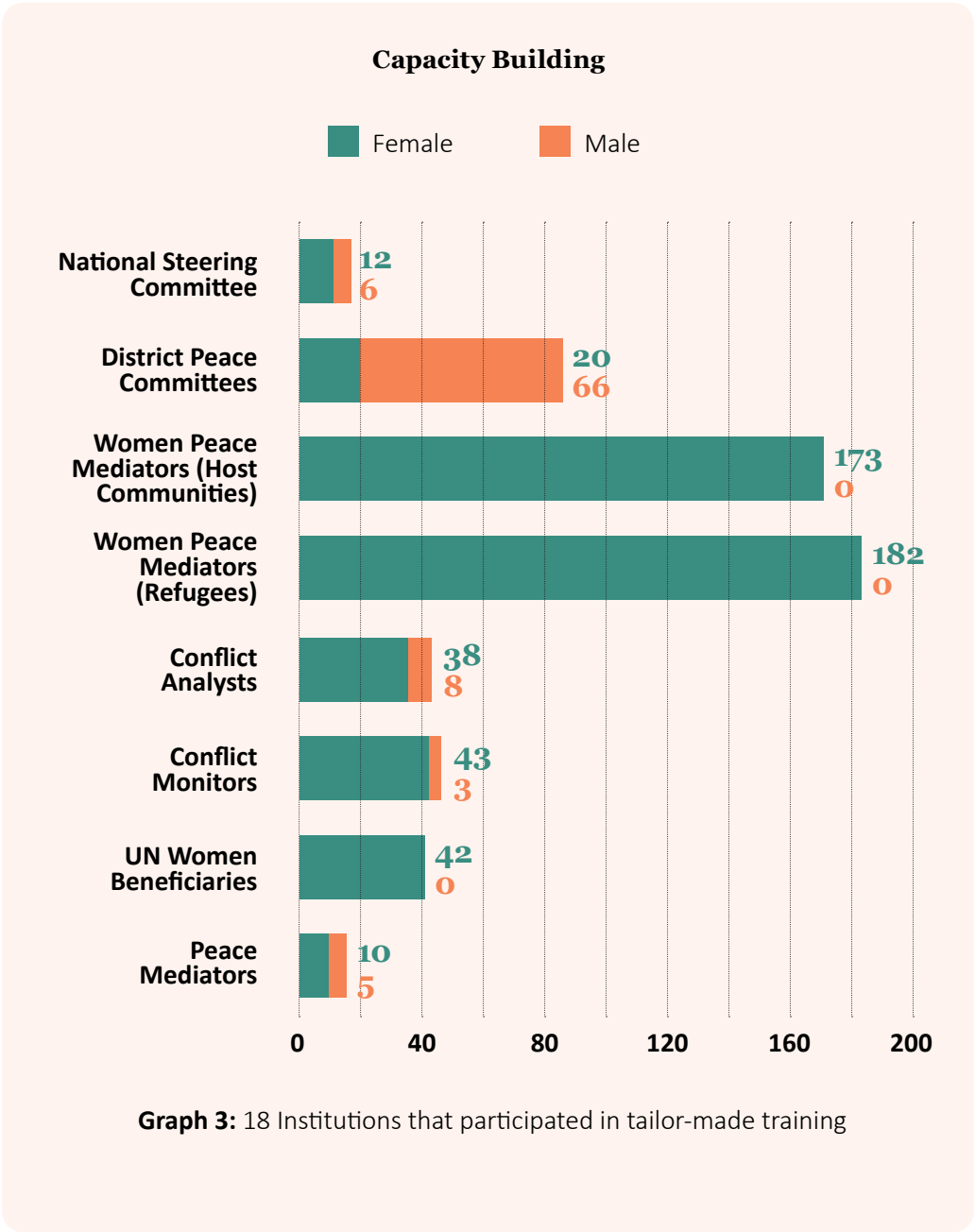| District Local Governments in the 3 Project Sites		
Adjumani District	Kotido District	Yumbe District

Stakeholders at the Stakeholder Meetings made decisions and suggested alternatives to project implementation. They prioritized key areas of coverage in the refugee settlements and host communities, nominated community leaders who would be included in implementation, identified local community needs and made decisions on the appropriate interventions to generate the desired changes. This process increased shared leadership and ownership of the project, but also determined performance measures of the project as the consultation feedback led to identification of key project indicators, project strategies and deliverables.

The project also ran Monitoring, Evaluation, Adaptation and Learning (MEAL) processes to review effectiveness of project activities with stakeholders. The feedback was used for reporting and making timely changes to strategy and implementation. For instance, monitoring and evaluation feedback resulted in the inclusion of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) responses in project sites.

2.2 Empower / Inform

During **Empowerment Phase**, the Peace Centre structured skills-based engagements and outreaches with Peace Monitors, Analysts, Women Peace Advocates and refugee women. Workforce development targeted the key constituents in awareness sessions, training and learning exchange visits to Uganda and South Sudan. These strategies contributed to the assimilation of new skills and practices, and the sustainability of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda as it pertains to refugee women and children. Balanced and objective information was relayed through training to support them to understand refugee complexities in order to generate alternatives and solutions. Trainings provided knowledge and skills to identify and analyze conflict from a gender perspective; mediate conflict-related cases; conduct advocacy; conduct early warning and early response work, monitor and report election-related violence.

Community groups were empowered to have decision-making power and take action on changing the status quo where women's needs have been neglected in formal decision making in refugee settlements. *Strengthened capacity of 18 institutions to mainstream gender perspective to address priorities and needs of women.*

Capacity Building

Female   Male

Institution	Female	Male
National Steering Committee	12	6
District Peace Committees	20	66
Women Peace Mediators (Host Communities)	173	0
Women Peace Mediators (Refugees)	182	0
Conflict Analysts	38	8
Conflict Monitors	43	3
UN Women Beneficiaries	42	0
Peace Mediators	10	5

Graph 3: 18 Institutions that participated in tailor-made training

83% (328) women and 27% (68) men from eighteen institutions indicated in Graph 3 were provided skills in conflict analysis, mediation, peacebuilding, conflict early warning and early response, monitoring and advocacy. The strengthened capacity for both female and male leaders aimed at improving the environment for achieving women, peace and security commitments.

Institutions in the justice and security sectors should have adequate skills and competencies. They should also be supported with appropriate data to integrate women-specific priorities into their lobbying and advocacy work. Justice and peace are key pillars of reconciliation, and a just system generates alternatives with durable solutions. Therefore, the strategic engagement of these key categories on the project yielded results that aimed at building sustainable institutions with systems and structures for inclusive peace.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) emphasizes the importance of peace education, such as the intensive workforce development on this project, towards promoting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNESCO underscores the *...relevance of community-based non-formal education and informal learning, especially those not-in-education or from marginalized or disadvantaged parts of society*. UNESCO further notes that these approaches must be recognized and fostered in every country of the world if the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (*incl goal 5- gender equality; goal 16-peace, justice & strong institutions*) are to be met.

2.3 **Collaborate**

Strategies for **Collaboration and Involvement** were made for individuals, groups and community-level mechanisms to develop joint alternatives that would work for and be supported by those affected by the decisions.

The Peace Centre mobilized and worked with the Project Management Team (PMT) and National Steering Committee (NSC) to strategize, share roles, build alliance and be the support structures for the project agenda. The project relied on experience, influence, resources, information, negotiating power of PMT and NSC to converge individuals and institutions towards realization of the project goal. Partnerships remain critical to addressing the multiple consequences of war for survivors, refugees and receiving communities.

The project also made efforts to activate community response mechanisms such as Women Peace Committees. This was with aim of fostering collaboration for social action on gendered responses to the needs of women and children in the three project sites. Work processes ensured that gender issues, concerns and priorities were understood and considered by high level policy structures.

Project implementation was successful because of the support and collaboration from the three District Local Government (Adjumani, Kotido, Yumbe), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Ministry of Internal Affairs, Centre for Early Warning and Early Response (CEWERU), Peace Mediators, Conflict Monitors and Conflict Analysts, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

2.4 Influence

The project attached value to **Influence** by investing in gathering data. The Peace Centre mobilized, coordinated trained activists and Peace Committees to access decision making structures to influence bye-laws and policies to become more accountable to refugee communities.

The Peace Centre provided functional support mechanism through formal training, community awareness sessions, and learning exchange visits to Uganda and South Sudan. Women leaders were supported to:

● Work together as a consolidated women's agency to understand and acquire skills for conflict monitoring, analysis, negotiation and mediation to address gaps in women's participation. The 504 (488 females and 16 males) (from refugees and host communities) were later to work directly with the public to ensure that community issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.

● Document and synthesize key community conflict issues and concerns, and to prepare reports for presentation at District Peace Committee (DPC) Meetings.

● Acquire customized tools such as: gendered early warning data collection tool; reporting template, conflict analysis tools. The project tools promoted standardization, consistency and accuracy in reporting community violence, evidence of which was used for early warning, lobbying DPCs.

● Run monthly meetings with Peace Monitors and Analysts to articulate priority issues as they pertain to refugee communities.

The project linked grassroots to policy, facilitating connections between refugee women in Uganda with their counterparts in South Sudan to ensure that implementation framework for peace agreements and transitional justice processes are gender responsive. This aimed at influencing policy, decision making and resource allocations, so as to have a culture of peace that is gendered naturally to take on needs and aspirations of refugee and host communities.

Section 3
PROJECT RESULTS
Changing Lives and Contributing to a Culture of Peace

Project Goal

...more commitments on women, peace and security are implemented by GoU and the UN, and more gender equality advocates influence peace and security processes.

This section outlines key results accruing from project implementation and their ultimate benefit to target communities and the future of women, peace and security.

Summary of project successes at a glance

3.1 Strengthened capacity to influence systems and structures that promote the WPS Agenda

Reflected through 18 institutions of justice & security sectors

3.1.1 Project Management Team- PMT

3.1.2 National Steering Committee (Incl OPM, CEWERU & Offices of RDCs)

3.1.3 District Peace Committees

3.1.4 Women Peace Committees

3.2 Enhanced commitment to inclusive peace and security by the Government of Uganda (GoU) & the United Nations (UN)

Project activism with successes in

3.2.1 The Transitional Justice Policy formulation

3.2.2 Efforts leading to the Joint Memorandum of Understanding

3.2.3 The Co-existence Taskforce at UNHCR

3.3 Increased representation & leadership of women in conflict management

This was achieved through:

3.3.1 Mainstreaming gender perspectives in decision making within the refugee community management & peace building oversight structures

3.3.2 Voluntarism and risk-taking abilities of women: a reflection of true leadership.

3.3.3 Strengthened work of Eve Organisation for Development in South Sudan, to participate in recovery planning & peace building

3.3.4 Capacity to integrate refugee needs and priorities into programming

3.4 Strengthened community-led initiatives for peace and security:

Results were seen through women's work on:

3.4.1 Conflict Mediation

3.4.2 Advocacy work to Promote Public Awareness and Accountability

3.4.3 Nurturing working Relationships Across Communities

3.4.4 Case Management and Referrals

3.5 Contribution to the achievement of key International commitments and Institutional goals:

The project contributed to:

3.5.1 Achievement of the UN Women's Strategic Plan & Programme (2019-2022-Impact area 4)

3.5.2 Achieving the UNSCR 1325:2000 pillars

3.5.3 Contribution to fulfilment of the Peace Centre's Strategic Plan

3.5.4 Inclusivity and 'Leave-no-one-behind' stipulated in Sustainable Development Goals

Representation of leaders and project partners at the project-end learning workshop, Nov 2021

Project results were informed by a clear roadmap that started off with a Project Baseline Assessment. Project interventions benefited from periodic monitoring, review, adaptation and adjustment of implementation strategies. Broad successes areas are:

3.1   Strengthened capacity to influence systems and structures that promote the women, peace and security agenda

3.2   Enhanced commitment to inclusive peace and security by Government of Uganda and United Nations

3.3   Increased leadership and representation of women in conflict management

3.4   Strengthened community-led initiatives for peace and security

3.5   Contribution to the achievement of key International Commitments and Institutional Goals:

Each of the success areas has been explained in detail below.

3.1 Strengthened capacity to influence systems and structures that promote the women, peace and security agenda

The Peace Centre established and strengthened partnerships and mechanisms for improving the peace and security environment through forging partnerships. Workforce development and brokering of partnerships were made with 18 key structures that were foreseen to improve the environment of women, peace and security commitments. Specific structures were strengthened and others established to foster peace and security for refugee and host communities.

Successes were registered in the gendered composition of the structures; increased attention to gender needs and quality of decision making in the following justice and security sector institutions and bodies:

- **Project Management Team – PMT**

- **National Steering Committee (Incl. OPM, CEWERU, Offices of RDCs)**

- **District Peace Committee (DPC)**

- **Women Peace Committees**

Key results from 18 security sector and justice institutions/ bodies influencing systems and structures to promote women, peace and security

3.1.1 **The Project Management Team-PMT** under the leadership of the Peace Centre was the decision-making structure through which project implementation, integration and sustainability were fostered. Through Inception Meetings, the PMT negotiated memorandums of understanding to establish working relationships on the project. Partnerships were strengthened through signing of memorandum, involvement in planning and implementation of activities; joint planning and accountability for project results. These engagements:

- Led to securing of political commitment for implementation of the project;

- Coalesced key partners to the project and secured entry into refugee settlements;

- Promoted project accountability through regular reviews, monitoring and evaluation;

- Supported to maintain focus of the project to peace and security agenda, and

- Supported management of project risks.

3.1.2 **The National Steering Committee-NSC** was established, launched and functionalized. This body is composed of GoU institutions in charge of monitoring, coordinating and responding to conflicts in the country and needs in refugee settlements. The NSC members are included in 2.1 above. The NSC is a project sustainability mechanism and a strategy for institutionalizing gender and women's rights in interventions in Uganda.

The project committed resources to strengthening the NSC, leading to a number of successes in promoting inclusive peace and security in areas of the project, indicated below:

National Steering Committee

Key Success Area	Action by National Steering Committee *(esp OPM, CEWERU, Offices of RDCs)*
1. **Political will leading to project impact**	• NSC provided tools and operational guidelines to the project. • CEWERU & RDCs offered the Peace Centre the mandate to spearhead the establishment of two District Peace Committees-DPC in Adjumani and Yumbe, and strengthen the peace committee in Kotido district.

Key Success Area	Action by National Steering Committee *(esp OPM, CEWERU, Offices of RDCs)*
	• Functionalized DPCs, which led to fast-tracking of project implementation as DPCs are a foundational structure for mainstreaming gender perspectives and promoting rights of women and girls in vulnerable communities of refugees and host communities. District Peace Committees (DPCs) are an early warning and early response mechanism that feeds into CEWERU and IGAD- Early warning system. • Intensive advocacy and community engagement work of DPCs led to healing communities, coexistence and tolerance of diversities, the inclusion of women's priorities and needs, conflict resolution, conflict prevention and social justice.
2. Support for Early Warning & Early Response	• CEWERU conducted community assessments and shared conflict-related issues with its partners to inform their response activities. Key conflicts issues highlighted which informed project activities are: land conflicts; domestic violence, alcoholism, male chauvinism, polygamy, conflict over the use of wetlands and natural resources, unemployment and poverty • Engendering conflict indicators for early warning and early response system. • Strengthened the capacity of CEWERU to track and respond to gender-sensitive conflict indicators by operationalizing the Uganda Early Warning and Response System to address key women, peace and security threats. • CEWERU initiated Rapid Response Fund (RRF) to support local peace actors to curb escalating conflict in the Karamoja region based on early warning reports. • CEWERU sensitized stakeholders on the RRF to ensure participation, April 2021.

Key Success Area	Action by National Steering Committee *(esp OPM, CEWERU, Offices of RDCs)*
3. Inclusive peace & security	• CEWERU participated in and reinforced partner activities for people with disabilities. • CEWERU oriented peace committee members in Adjumani and Yumbe districts • Adjusted operational guidelines developed for the pastoral communities to be inclusive of other conflict situations within and between districts
4. Policy influence	• Operationalized peace structures including at district, sub county, parish and village levels • CEWERU influenced outcomes of the regional stakeholder consultation meeting on harmonizing and integrating the EACWARN to support East African Community Member States to establish and operationalize Early Warning Centres. This took place on June, 2021 in Dar-es Salaam, Tanzania.
5. Favourable Systems and structures	• OPM established place platforms for women to directly report their issues. Structures put in place for this are suggestion boxes, toll-free lines and information support centres. • CEWERU made deliberate efforts to engender the peace structures by providing quotas for women's representation to influence policy platforms. CEWERU tasked institutions to appoint women representatives to the DPCs. • OPM has mainstreamed gender at all levels. Refugee Welfare Council Leadership structures were improved in 2021 to cater for women.

Key Success Area	Action by National Steering Committee *(esp OPM, CEWERU, Offices of RDCs)*
6. Promoting women's human rights	• Increased monitoring and reporting on conflict hot spots in the country. A case in point, CEWERU increased its capacity to integrate gender needs in its operations through rapid assessment for Karamoja, and monthly COVID-19 assessments with a focus on its effect on women and children.
7. Replication effect of the project	• The success on this project led to CEWERU rolling out more DPC structures in Budaka, Butaleja, Rukungiri, Mayuge, Bugiri, Namatumba, Ntungamo Busia, Kanungu, Kamuli and Luuka. Revived 4 Local Peace Committees in the sub counties of (Hima & Kyabalungira) in Kasese district (Bubukwanga & Bwendera) in Bundibugyo district in Uganda. These DPCs will increase more institutions and justice and security sectors that mainstream gender perspectives and promote rights of women and girls.

3.1.3 **The District Peace Committees-DPCs** were skilled through the project trainings to ensure that gender perspectives are prioritized in their deliberations and decision-making. With the support of Mediators, the DPCs improved response to women, peace and security concerns.

Some of the outstanding outcomes from their engagements are indicated below, by Project site/district:

Adjumani District Peace Committee

Key Success Area	Action by Adjumani DPC
1. **Relatioship building**	• OPM Adjumani supported the return of South Sudan refugees who had been displaced to Nyumanzi refugee settlement after fleeing Rhino camp due to a violent conflict in 2020. This promoted relationships and co-existence.
2. **Conflict mitigation**	• Reduced and mitigated conflicts between refugees and host communities over the use of scarce resources such as sharing of water sources, stone quarry, grazing and farm land in Nyumanzi, Agojo, Maaji, Harere and Boroli. • Responded and resolved border conflict between Pakele and Itirikwa, • Addressed post-election violence through radio talk shows, airing out massages of peace and development, • DPC effected a crack-down on children selling items on the streets in the night to curb crime and violence. • Detectives removed the booms following the report of boom blasts within Adjumani. • Regulated night discos and associated crimes • Provided emergency response and mitigated a tribal conflict between the Nuer and Dinka in Maaji refugee settlement.
3. **Sensitisation of key stakeholders**	• Involved the district judicial system in the peacebuilding programs, the committee engaged the judiciary into understanding the role of peace mediators, analysts and conflict monitors. • Ran 16 Community Awareness and Accountability Sessions for police, religious, cultural, political and technical leaders in Nyumanzi, Maaji III, Maaji I, Agojo Refugee Settlement, Dzaipi, Ciforo Sub County, Adjumani and Pakele Town Council reaching a cumulative total of 965(673 females and 292 males) i.e. 520 (404 females and 116 males) reached in December 2020 and 445 (269 females and 176 males) reached in September 2021.

Key Success Area	Action by Adjumani DPC
	• Ran refresher training for 30 Conflict Monitors and Analysts, and 125 peace mediators in 2021, thereby increasing peace actors on the ground.
4. Policy formulation	• Established a drug enforcement law against the use of "Mairungi", identified as the root cause of youth-centred violence in both refugee settlements and host communities.

Kotido District Peace Committee

Key Success Area	Action by Kotido DPC
1. Women's participation in decision making	• Made Resolutions to prioritize women's participation in peace committee meetings, which led to the recruitment and deployment of four female Gombolola Internal Security Officers (GISOs). These GISOs coordinate security in the sub-counties.
2. Conflict mapping	• Carried out conflict mapping of Kotido to inform key stakeholders of trends of conflict in the district.
3. Control cattle rustling	• Engaged UPDF in Kotido in activities to curtail and control the escalation of cattle rustling in the Karamoja sub region • Advocated for a helicopter gunship to facilitate tracking of stolen animals, which was provided. • DPC provided protection during mediation dialogues

Key Success Area	Action by Adjumani DPC
4. Response to women, peace & security needs	• DPC convened 30 Intra and inter district peace dialogues in Lolelia, Kabong, Kakamar, Lopei, Sidok, Kabong, Loroyor, Locilang, Rengen, Kaceri, Nakapelemoro, Moroto, Napak, Kitgum where women's participation in peace building was scaled up, resolutions were made and animal raids reduced and 36 guns were recovered. • Convened 5 dialogues with parents, boys and girls to address the issue of teenage pregnancies. • 16 Child protection cases were referred for judicial and medical response. • Arrested and prosecuted a group of pata potea (gamblers) who used to grab money from the locals in the courts of law. • District Community Liaison Officer trained local peace committees, kraal leaders, opinion leaders and other sub-county security committees on conflict mediation process.
5. Justice	• Advocated for the compensation of a peace committee member who was killed by unknown gunmen. The family received compensation of Ugx 10,000,000 (ten million shillings).
6. Peace dialogues	• A total of 1,633 (649 females and 984 males) reached with peace massages from July to November 2021 through 4 peace mediation dialogues within Kotido at Kotido Municipal in Lucedemeo Kraal, Panygara, Nakapelemolu Sub County, Rengen Baracks with 389 males & 280 females and 3 inter district peace mediation dialogues between Kotido and Moroto, Napak, Kabong and Turkana reaching 964 (369 females and 595 males). • 757 (380 females and 377 males) were reached with peace massages within Kotido in February 2021

The Yumbe District Peace Committee

Key Success Area	Action by Yumbe DPC
1. Women in decision making	• The DPC lobbied for increase of women into district elective positions, with more district committees headed by women. Currently, Yumbe district has 3 of its 5 Committees headed by women.
2. Health	• Improved health services at Barakala HC III. In order to enhance community access to the health care, the DPC resolved on zoning of the available ambulance service, which led to improved ambulance access in the community. • Lobbied the OPM's office in response to women's concerns by providing an ambulance to ease the transfer of pregnant mothers to health care facilities during emergencies to Bidi-Bidi Zone 3 in Yumbe district. This success contributes to reduction of maternal-related deaths as pregnant women are now more able to access timely healthcare services. • Sought support to hand over 8 health centres that were being run by partners such that staff are absorbed in government payroll to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services delivery to communities.
3. Conflict resolution	• Resolved over 500 conflict cases presented to the DPC by Women Peace Mediators. The DPC also referred cases that were specific to other authorities in the district. • Provision of security and protection to the peace mediators to both host and refugees, radio airtime that facilitated discussion on women's role in conflict resolution which guaranteed their involvement in post conflict peace processes. • Resolved issue of the Bush Fire boys and integrated them into a group.

Key Success Area	Action by Yumbe DPC
4. Resources conflict	• Water & sanitation: Addressed water and health challenges by allocating more boreholes as a mean of resolving conflicts among women at water points. • Resolved land-related issues by enforcing mutual understanding in handling and utilization of shared resources such as stone quarrying. • The DPC addressed inter-district land conflicts, with many cases referred to the Ministry of Local Government to handle • Land conflicts across borders between communities in Uganda and South Sudan have been forwarded to the Central Government for resolution.
5. Sensitisation of key stakeholders	• Ran 16 Community Awareness and Accountability Sessions for police, religious, cultural, political and technical leaders in the 5 Zones of Bidibidi Refugee settlements, Town Council, Kululu and Rumogi Sub Counties reaching a cumulative total of 1076 (652 females and 424 males) i.e. 512 (376 females and 136 males) reached in December 2020 and 564 (276 females and 288 males) reached in August 2021.
6. Policy formulation	• Made regulations and policies tailored towards reducing the escalation of Violence Against Women in the district- for instance, • The DPC passed an ordinance against witch crafts to legislate against witch doctors sexually abusing women who go to seek their services in handling polygamous families.
7. Disarmament	• The DPC worked with OPM crack down illegal guns making way into the community through the porous borders, leading to a number of youth surrendering guns.

The role of DPCs was appreciated in strengthening systems and structures that promote women, peace and security on this project. Mr. Albert Alepere, Chairperson peace actors, acknowledges that...

"

... the District Peace Committee has played an instrumental role in addressing cattle rustling which is very rampant in Karamoja sub region. Following numerous discussions with the UPDF, the Ministry of Security and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Karamoja region was allocated three gunships as a mechanism to curb cattle rustling ...

"

The District Peace Committee made remakarble improvements in gender composition of their committee structure. By the beginning of the project in 2019, it was found that Yumbe and Adjumani did not have DPCs, Kotido had but it was male dorminated and not functional. The three districts only had security committees which were all-male, a manifestation of historical gender injustice. But with project interventions, strides were made to include women in the decision making structure, as indicated below:

District Peace Committee	Gender representation at DPCs in 2019	Gender representation at DPCs by 2021	
	Male	**Female**	**Male**
Adjumani	100%	10 (36%)	12 (54%)
Kotido	100%	5 (23%)	17 (77%)
Yumbe	100%	5 (23%)	17 (77%)
Total	100%	**20 (30%)**	**46 (70%)**

Table 5: gender representation in District Peace Committees in 2019 and 2021

Increased capacity through project training and subsequent involvement of women in decision-making forums led to more women being at the forefront in the search for peace. For instance, in Kotido, women showed increased leadership and influence with their involvement in peace mediation dialogues between Jie, Matheniko, Dodoth, Bokora and Turkana in June and October 2021. They were able to assess the root cause of the escalation of raids and insecurity. Peace mediation dialogues led to recommendations to establish joint grazing kraals during the disarmament process to reduce raids between the conflicting communities.

All the above responses by the leadership of DPCs reflect an increased willingness to include women leaders and to mainstream gender perspectives in conflict management. These results reflect a strengthened capacity to influence systems and structures that promote women, peace and security.

3.1.4 **Five networks of Women Peace Committees-WPCs** were formed by the project and linked to District Peace Committees to influence and engender district decision making processes using data from Analysts.

- The strategy led to community-driven development as WPMs are involved in the planning and management of sustainable development and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles.

- The Peace Centre supported the crafting of a strategy for women leaders serving dual roles on peace structures as NSC, WPC, DPC, Analysts, Mediators and Counsellors. The strategy reinforced mechanisms for women articulating gender perspectives and human rights observation in several decision-making structures.

- Currently, more female members of peace structures are in leadership positions as Local Councilors at sub-county and district level after trainings and capacity enhancement by the Peace Centre.

"

I campaigned to join politics after empowerment by The Peace Centre. I went through because my votes were protected by women who were observing elections. They took trouble to escort the ballots to Electoral Commission. However, in the process my male opponent connived with the presiding officer to alter figures in the election declaration forms. Women requested for a physical recount and I was declared the winner. I am now the speaker of Kotido Municipality.

"

— **Akello Vicky**
Conflict Analyst

The Women Peace Committees (WPCs) are the foundational platform for securing incidences of violence, and community needs and issues, which are later forwarded to DPCs for action. The impact of the work on WPCs is reflected in the decisions made at DPC Meetings indicated in 3.1.3 above.

Conclusion

Through workforce development for the above mentioned peace structures indicated in 3.1.1 - 3.1.5, and subsequent successes, the justice and security sector bodies depict developed capacity to hear and engage the voice of identity and relationships. Their varied conflict response mechanisms reflect an adherence to conflict transformation through improved human relationships, community access to basic human needs, maximising people's participation in decisions that affect them, building trust and harmony, a true reflection of peace building alluded to by Lederach J.P(2017).

establishing, partnering and strengthening different structures that promote women, peace and security, the project promoted sustainable mechanisms for continuity and sustainability of project gains. The structures indicated in this section are distinct in focus but all interlinked in purpose, they mutually reinforce each other to achieve inclusive peace and security. The structures are deeply rooted in systems, working in the region with political power and government level resources. The project led to favorable change in structure, change in composition and shift in policy discourse, with increased attention to gendered needs of refugee communities.

The structures are distinct in focus but all interlinked in purpose, they mutually reinforce each other to achieve inclusive peace and security.

3.2 Enhanced commitment to inclusive peace and security by Government of Uganda (GoU) and the United Nations (UN)

Major policy discourses were engaged by The Peace Centre to increase commitment to promotion of social economic recovery and political participation of women and girls. This was through participation and influence in high level decision-making platforms at GoU and United Nations levels, indicated below with details of influence:

- **The Transitional Justice Policy formulation in Uganda**

- **Efforts leading to the Joint Memorandum of Understanding between Uganda and Kenya**

- **The Co-existence Taskforce at United Nations High Commission for Refugees-UNHCR**

3.2.1 **The Transitional Justice Policy** for Uganda was approved in June 2019, following intensive engagements by many institutions including The Peace Centre. Major areas of input by The Peace Centre were informed by realities from grassroots, information from groups living in conflict, migration, transition and refugees. The policy provides a framework for addressing human rights violations, accountability, justice and reconciliation. This framework provides mechanisms for preventing violence and protecting survivors of sexual violence and building a culture of peace. The policy forms part of the systems for social-economic recovery for special interest groups including women and children.

3.2.2 The Government of Kenyan and Uganda signed the **Joint Memorandum of Understanding** on September 12th 2019 to address cross-border programs for sustainable peace and social-economic transformation among pastoral communities in Karamoja, the Turkana and West Pokots.

3.2.3 **The Co-existence Taskforce at UNHCR** to continually integrate social-economic recovery needs of refugee women. The information used by The Peace Centre in the several Taskforce Meetings of UNHCR is derived from the project information and reports from refugee settlements.

The above high-level policy engagements and successes provide for political will for peace and security, with inclusivity for the needs of different interest groups. The policies also inform resource allocation, which will have a trickle-down effect on the wellbeing of women and girls.

3.3 Increased Leadership and Representation of Women in Conflict Management

Women's leadership is critical to fostering durable solutions to conflict. When women become leaders, they bring skills, structural and cultural variations that drive effective decision making. With their different perspectives and a sense of awareness, women investigate finer details to assess what is going on underneath the conflict circumstances.

The project invested in building the human capital of women leaders, thereby enhancing gender-equal participation and contributing to peace. Women trained from the host communities and refugee settlements depicted increased leadership through:

- **Mainstreaming gender perspectives in decision making within refugee community management and peacebuilding oversight structures:**
- **Voluntarism and risk-taking abilities of women- a reflection of true leadership.**
- **Increased political participation of women in leadership and decision making**
- **Strengthened work of Eve Organization for Development, South Sudan, to participate in recovery planning & peace building**
- **Capacity to integrate refugee needs and priorities into programming**

3.3.1 Mainstreaming gender perspectives in decision making within refugee community management and peace building oversight structures

The Peace Centre strengthened mechanisms for women's participation through establishment and functionalization of five WPCs in refugee and host communities of Adjumani, Kotido and Yumbe to promote gendered-participation in peace processes. This project sustainability mechanism of Committees had Five hundred four (504) peace mediators selected from a broad spectrum of political, religious, ethic, age and physical ability, with representation of both refugee and host communities.

The mediators held 14 Peace Committee meetings in which they identified, documented incidences, managed, referred and prioritized key conflict issues that affect women, peace and security. The peace mediators, monitors and analysts interfaced with a total of 1,401 conflict cases. 85.6% (1,199 – One thousand one hundred ninety-nine thousand cases were resolved through counselling and mediation. 14.4% (202 – Two hundred two cases were referred to other authorities). The cases documented are categorized below:
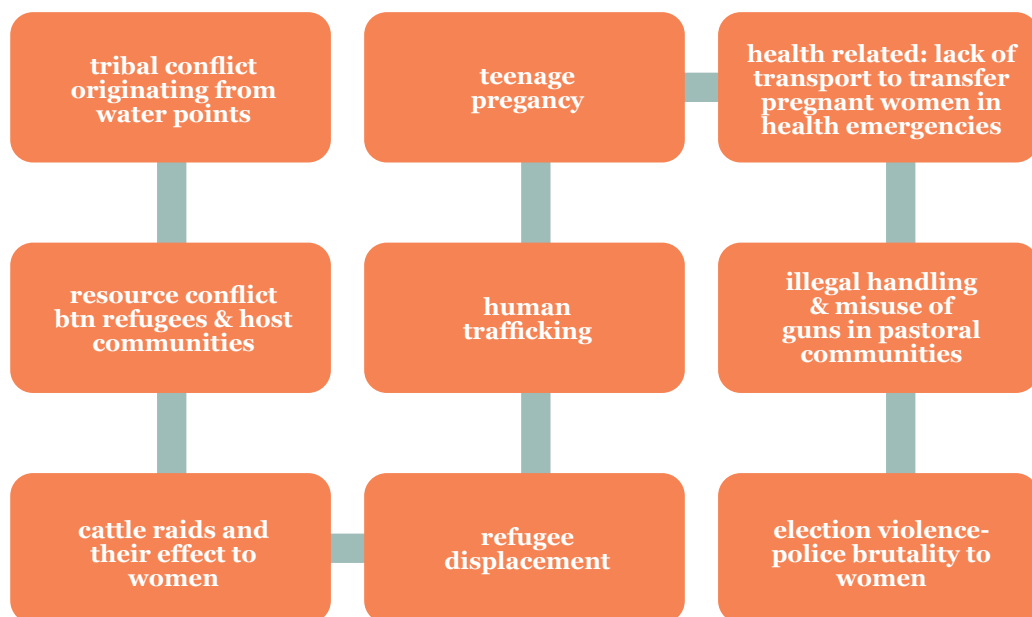
Graphic 4: Summary of gender-specific conflicts identified by women peace mediators, and prioritized for actions with the DPCs

- The women leaders generated data from documenting cases of the disputes in graphic 4, for submission at DPC Meetings to find lasting solutions. Decisions, resolutions, commitments, actions and referrals were made by the DPCs.

- Women Peace Committees lobbied for mainstreaming of gender perspectives in decision making within refugee community management and peace building oversight structures. Below is a summary of successes on gender specific conflicts and needs:

In **Adjumani**, Women Peace Mediators contributed to mainstreaming gender perspectives in decision making, with the following achievements:

i. Contributed to restoration of peace in conflict hot spots of Nyumanzi and Maaji, leading to reduction in the number of cases most of which affect women.

ii.   Increased participation of women in leadership. Newly elected Refugee Welfare Council positions are now at 56% women and 44% men. Women took up positions which were formally considered male domain.

iii. Supported ten women peace mediators who succeeded in joining higher positions in District Council.

iv.   Supported their pregnant colleague who was beaten by her husband. They intensified case management, which resulted in the district leadership jailing the abusive husband at Olia prison.

v.   Improved relationship between the host and refugees in Nyumanzi. They also advocated for women's space in Maaji.

vi.   Increased media awareness on teenage pregnancy, forced marriage, COVID 19 at water points, markets and on food rationing.

vii. Supported the formation of new women peace groups including Jonglei Women Association and Refugee's Champion of Change youth group.

In **Kotido**, Women Peace Monitors contributed to mainstreaming gender perspectives indecision making, by lobbying the District Peace Committee with the following achievements:

i.   Resolved to avail security to Nameijo kraal, increasing protection and security for families, residents and their livelihoods.

ii.   Resumed and reinforced the voluntary disarmament program in 2020, in which thirty-six (36) guns were recovered within Kotido. The response was a huge security relief to communities of women who become targets of violent conflict through rape and increasing roles of nursing the wounded.

iii. Improved community action to address women peace and security concerns. They walked on foot from Nakapelimolu Sub-County to engage their counterparts from Turkana in search for peace. They negotiated for peace and reduced intensity of cattle raids by the Turkana.

iv.   Eighty-seven (87) conflict cases largely involving women as victims were mediated at village level.

v.   Participated in 6 radio talks and conducted 6 dialogues with leaders, sensitizing communities on the disarmament programs and its effect on women. They mobilized their men and boys to voluntarily handover the guns.

vi.   Community Development Officers integrated peace massages in their activities. They held dialogues with children and adolescents, followed up and referred child protection and GBV cases more effectively.

vii. Advocated for compensation of the family of the Late Aboka Mugur, a renowned peace activist. Government compensated the family with Ugx 10,000,000/=.

viii. Some of the GBV perpetrators who were reported by the WPM were arrested and prosecuted.

ix.   Made referral and follow up of three rape cases to police and health centres, where refugee women victims received further support in 2021.

x.   Conducted a peace crusade with Karamoja Members of Parliament at Moruitit where some peaceful resolutions were agreed upon.

The prevalence of ethnic conflict (as is the case with Kotido) has proven that ideological differences are no longer the major cause of conflict, but rather ethnic identity and the distribution of resources are today's main sources of violence (Lederach, 1995).

In **Yumbe**, Women Peace Monitors contributed to mainstreaming gender perspectives in decision making, by lobbying the District Peace Committee with the following achievements:

a.   Ran a conference on 'Women Championing Peace, achieving an equal future in a COVID 19 World' held March 2021.

Volunteering our time, resources and taking risks is a humble act of leadership!

The above successes on inclusive and gendered peace work were a result of intensified advocacy and lobby work of women peace mediators. They influenced decision making within refugee community management and peace building oversight structure. The above successes arose from the peace building efforts undertaken by the trained Mediators, Analysts and Monitors. Availability of data on human rights violations and conflict incidences supported prioritization, and decisions on appropriate intervention mechanisms such as mediation, negotiation, preventive diplomacy, sanctions. Documentation is critical in providing data that justifies need to mainstream gender perspectives and inform decision making on equitable distribution of resources.

3.3.2 Voluntarism and risk-taking abilities of women: a reflection of true leadership!

It is worth noting that the Women Peace Mediators are serving voluntarily to promote co-existence and community healing as an act of voluntarism. Following the strengthened capacity of the monitors by the Peace Centre, women leaders took on tasks often at the expense of their personal security to broker peace in communities.

An excerpt of Igira Rosemary's story of Kotido WPC's effort to foster peace. In her own words:

"

We decided to go for peace dialogue in Moroto following an intensive cattle raid. Men on the team feared to travel with us for fear of their lives. The women took the risk to have their car lead the convoy, with very few men on the team. We used the peace building skills to negotiate for the return of 80 stolen cows. After the peace meeting, we camped

overnight at Panyagara, educating fellow women on dangers of performing rituals to bless husbands into cattle raids and admonishing men who desist from cattle raids. We concluded the discussions with a cultural ceremony of sharing local brew amongst the conflicting communities to promote healing.

"

At personal level, Vicky Akello, peace mediator tells her story:

"

A kraal was relocated near my home. My garden was destroyed and family security was at risk of being attacked by raiders since the kraal was raided of 105 animals on 30th May 2020. I led women whose homes had been taken over by the Kraal in advocating for security. Despite the challenges that come with leaving at the Kraal, I took lead to reach out to the shepherds and herdsmen in the Kraal. As the sun sets at 5.00 p.m when shepherds (children/Karacuna) bring back the animals to the Kraal and the herdsmen (Adults) gather to watch over the animals by night, Vicky is there to talk to them about peace. I urged the adults to send children to school instead of delegating them the responsibility of taking care of the animals. I also worked with my colleagues to step up awareness on peace up to the kraals, where we engaged herds men and shepherds in discussion on peace and COVID-19 pandemic.

"

Such approaches of voluntarism and bravery show levels of maturity women have taken on to promote a culture of peace.

Sarah reports how traditional methods of reconciliation were used to bring her family back together.

"

My father left me heir to the family land and gave me all the land documents before he died. He told me to take care of the land and make sure nobody sells it. My brothers connived with my mother and they wanted to sell the land, they asked me to sign and I refused. On return from the project peace training, I found my things thrown out of home. My brother chased my mother away and sold one plot of the land to three different people. He got involved in an accident and died. The clan members convinced me to bury him. I picked two cows and they slaughtered for his burial. Worried that my mother has remained alone, I asked my uncles and LC 1 to go and convince my mother to forgive me and allow me to go back home but she refused. I know that my brothers got wasted and died because my mother would never correct them whenever they were getting astray. I now sleep at my shop, as I find ways of mediating talks with my mother.

"

"Worried that my mother has remained alone, I asked my uncles and LC 1 to go and convince my mother to forgive me and allow me to go back home but she refused."

— Sarah

Women's leadership to promote peace using cultural symbolism is similar with strategies used by Burundi women to reconcile communities that had been torn apart by conflict. As an outstanding initiative, Burundi women under the Search for Common Ground fostered community healing with drinking local brew from a common pot would symbolize renewal of friendship (Isis-WICCE, 2005).

3.3.3 Increased political participation of women in leadership and decision making.

Increased participation was realized with 50% of seats on the Refugee Welfare Committee seats in Adjumani district won by women in the June 2019 elections.

Charity Farida a peace mediator and new council leader narrates her story:

> **"**
>
> *The Peace Centre trained me in December 2019, and this gave me the confidence to stand for and become the District Speaker for Yumbe District Council. In Council meetings, my focus is more on women's priorities, rights and peaceful communities.*
>
> **"**

Asio Alice also went through as a Parish Councilor.

> **"**
>
> *She rallied with women in saving groups, market places, churches. A skill she got from the Peace Centre. I learnt to be financially empowered because the politics of today is commercialised and most women can't afford. My opponent was the wife to the LC 1. People were fearing to line up behind me as the LC 1 would and probably mistreat them. I did mind losing in my village in the interest of peace between the LC 1 and the community. I put much efforts in the other villages. I lost in my own village because LC 1 and his wife were also present there. But I went through in the rest of the villages*
>
> **"**

"I learnt to be financially empowered because the politics of today is commercialised and most women can't afford."

— Asio Alice

But seating in Councils is not an easy road. Geria Olwa reported that....

"

I had a problem with the Chairman of the Refugee Welfare Council where I was a leader. Whenever I would request for the key for the community centre, he would refuse to give it to me. We started meeting

under the tree. I was so annoyed with him. We were not even talking to each other. After the training, I picked a phone to call him but I decided to go and meet him personally at his home. He asked why I had followed him, and I replied with a smile and told him, we needed to settle our difference that day and move on. We ironed out our issues and we are now relating well and doing our work better than before.

"Whenever I would request for the key for the community centre, he would refuse to give it to me. We started meeting under the tree. I was so annoyed with him. We were not even talking to each other."

— Geria Olwa

ensuring equal participation of both men and women in political decision-making provides a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society.

Women leaders in Kotido reported other issues that challenged women from joining political leadership. They raised issues such as: excessive use of force to disperse people during political party campaigns, commercialization of politics, bribery and vote rigging, use of hate speech, and election related violence against women.

Regardless of these challenges, women should be supported to join public leadership as done by the Peace Centre. By virtue of their nurturing roles, women bring differentiated value to the peace table, with focus on community interests. Increasing and ensuring equal participation of both men and women in political decision-making provides a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society. Otieno A.O (2014: pg 88) affirms that increasing women's participation enhances the legitimacy of political processes by making them more democratic and responsive to the concerns and perspectives of all segments of society.

3.3.4 Strengthened work of Eve Organization for Development in South Sudan, to participate in recovery planning and peace building

The Peace Centre partnered with Eve Organization in convening the conference for refugees titled, The South Sudan Peace Process: The role and prospect for refugee women held in Adjumani in February 2020. Conference had 105 refugees (84%f, 16%m), with the following key outcomes:

- The Outcomes Statement of the conference demanded for: complete disarmament in South Sudan; reassurance of safety and protection of women on return; and sustainable peace to achieve the Revitalized Peace Agreement. The Statement was circulated to key stakeholders in the South Sudan peace process for action, including government departments, Embassies (Sweden, The Netherlands and Norway) and civil society organizations.

Embassies resolved to stop funding of return-home programs until measures for safety and security of women are guaranteed in South Sudan Sudan.

- Lobbied Embassies in South Sudan to ensure gender parity and inclusiveness in security were taken on by Eve Organization. Key result is the commitment from the Embassies was to stop funding of return-home programs until measures for safety and security of women are guaranteed in South Sudan.

- The conference also reunified women across refugee camps and enabled a few to nurture broken relationships.

3.3.5 Capacity to integrate refugee needs and priorities into programing.

Refugee women were also supported to dialogue with the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security on key issues affecting refugee women. This was during the Learning Exchange visit of 50 refugee women in October 2020, with focus on *'Grassroots Women Peacebuilding and Resilience' as it relates to UNSCR 1325'*.

The recommendations made by the refugee women featured in the Call to Action for the first African virtual forum on Women, Peace and Security held in November 2020.

With the above engagements, women challenged traditional peace building structures. They broke through the glass ceiling to politically challenge the status quo to contribute to improved living conditions.

3.4 Strengthened Community-led Initiatives for Peace and Security

Track I Diplomacy (State to State on high level diplomacy) is often complemented by Track II Diplomacy initiatives by middle level and grassroots leadership. The Peace Centre supported middle level and grassroots leadership to make interactions and develop strategies to influence policy level, public opinion, and also organize human and material resources to contribute to conflict resolution. Mapendere, J (Pg.68) acknowledges that Track II provides a platform for the socially, economic and politically disenfranchised groups to air their views on how peace can be achieved in their own communities.

For the duration of this project, successes were achieved, including:

- **Conflict Mediation**
- **Advocacy Work to Promote Public Accountability**
- **Nurturing Working Relationships across Communities**
- **Case Management and Referrals**

3.4.1 Conflict Mediation

Women worked with local leadership and the support of the Peace Centre to mediate in conflict. Forty-four Community Awareness and Accountability Sessions were held with 1615 beneficiaries from the three project sites throughout the project life cycle. Notable among the mediations undertaken were:

- In May 2020, there was a mediation in the tribal conflict between Nuer and Dinka youth in Maaji refugee settlement, where two refugees were killed, several injured and with tension over looming potential for revenge. The WPC intervened and engaged youth to cease the revenge fight, and appealed to the Settlement Commander to deploy Uganda Police Defense Forces (UPDF) for security. The women leaders also referred the incidence to RDC, LC5 and OPM for higher level interventions on Maaji III. The interventions created relative calmness and also strengthened the referral pathway case management for the project.

- In the midst of resource conflict over restricted grazing between Karamojong and Turkana in 2020, the women leaders worked with the Peace Centre to mediate the conflict. Women Leaders went on foot to meet the counterparts from Turkana and negotiated for security and equitable use of resources. Engagements led to provision of more valley dams, assignment of more forces on ground from government, and the recovery of animals back to the owners.

- Nakere trained 15 District peace members, 180 sub county peace committee members and 75 peace analysts, mediators and monitors in conflict mediation. These skills have enabled the working teams to influence peace in communities. Jesca Aata who works with Nakere acknowledges that...

"

The Peace Centre gave us skills on leadership and capacity to amplify our voices before communities. I was able to participate in district peace committee activities. We also meditated in cases, and I participated in the disarmament process where we encouraged more than 100 warriors to surrender their guns, I have travelled to other places to seek knowledge and share my experience, I feel prepared to do the work that I do.

"

"I was able to participate in district peace committee activities. [...]and I participated in the disarmament process where we encouraged more than 100 warriors to surrender their guns..."

— Jesca Aata

- At personal level, Moriba Mary at Maaji II camp reports that project training has enabled her to have influence through conflict mediation.

> "
>
> *I found myself in a terrible marriage, peace lasted in our home for only two months. In five years I already had 3 kids. After the war broke up in South Sudan we came here in Uganda in 2016 where I started getting exposed to some trainings by the partners. Mediation training was the best training I ever had because it gave me practical skills in resolving conflicts which is the major issue in life. I now handle problems right from the root cause. I also helped my neighbors who had separated beds for over two years because of domestic violence. I applied the mediation skills. Engaged each of them separately and later on brought them together they identified the issues, agreed on way forward and are now living peacefully*
>
> "

- While Daniel Chol a conflict monitor from Nyumanzi monitored and successfully handled a case involving two Dinka girls, whose parents received their dowry from some rich men from South Sudan.

> "
>
> *Both Dinka girls were below 18 and still in school. The parents received over Ugx70,000,000 and 29 cows for their bride price. They were withdrawn from school and taken by the men to South Sudan. When I learnt about it, I took interest in the case. I followed up. Convinced parents and the people who paid the bride price to at least let the girls finish school. The two parents made a written commitment to have the girls finish school. The girls are now back in school.*
>
> "

"Mediation training was the best training I ever had because it gave me practical skills in resolving conflicts which is the major issue in life."

— Moriba Mary

3.4.2 Advocacy work to Promote Public Accountability

Yumbe District Local Government and OPM provided radio airtime for the Peace Monitors to widen community awareness, advocate for policy and social change, and public accountability. The WPC in Yumbe used this resource in July 2020, with radio talk shows to alert, engage, dissuade communities from violence, community intolerance to refugees and resource conflicts. Success stories are:

- The LC 5 Chairperson engaged all LC III Chairpersons in Refugee Camps in the district to discuss and find solutions on how refugees and host communities can enhance resource sharing. This action was in response to the radio program which alluded to land owners grabbing farm produce from refugees who had hired land from them, in Romogi sub-county, Zones 1 & 5.

"Both Dinka girls were below 18 and still in school. The parents received over Ugx70,000,000 and 29 cows for their bride price."

— Daniel Chol

- Worked with the DHO's office to sensitize community on parenting roles and responsibilities. This action was in response to the report from WPC on the rampant increase in teenage pregnancies, early marriage, drug abuse, witchcraft and prostitution among youth who were in lockdown from the COVID 19 pandemic.

Radio is an effective form of communication and has far reaching sensitization, awareness and behavioral change effects. The radio call-in session enabled communities to dialogue, challenge and provide alternatives to the different forms of insecurity within refugees and hosting communities.

The initiatives and results from activities by WPC promoted local absorptive capacities for refugees, where host communities became more empathetic and tolerant to refugee needs, thereby promoting coexistence.

3.4.3 **Nurturing Working Relationships across Communities**

When conflict and violence occur, the first casualty is breakdown in relationships. Enmity arises and increases misunderstandings. In the case of project sites such as the Karamoja region, cattle rustling soured relationships as it involved property loss and damage, with harm to vulnerable community of women and children. The mediators on the project contributed to nurturing of relationships by using their early warning data to engage the DPC over an intensive cattle raid. The mediators engaged in discussions between communities and with leadership for amicable solutions.

- An outstanding example of interventions that led to improved relations was nurturing of relationships between the Jie and Matheniko in May 2020, which led to protection of vulnerable communities and promoted coexistence. Using information from the mediators, the DPC in Kotido mediated between the two conflicting parties. The dialogue resulted in: an agreement to keep all animals belonging to Kabong and Kotido in one kraal; the peaceful recovery of guns from Kotido.

Project beneficiaries also reported on their improved interpersonal relations following project training and sensitization activities.

- Dominica reports a personal story of change and improved relations with her husband:

"

Before the training I would beat my husband. Counseling did not help. The Peace Centre's training really changed my behavior, now we have mutual respect with my husband. A lot of changes has come in my family and we are able to plan together most of the things in the house than before when I would not respect him at all and also any problem in the village am able to handle to them.

"

Trans-boundary and trans-community conflict on access, control and encroaching on resources is a huge impediment to peace.

- And Mindra also notes that:

> *I have battled with the problem of alcoholism for so long. My husband has been a serious drunkard, who keeps cheating and not even providing for us. After the training, I took the initiative to sit him down and we started sharing our feelings about each other in a polite manner. He responded positively, he is now humble though he is still drinking. The training changed my changed my character because I was in my own world. I would not interact with him in a good way. We kept barking at each other. I changed my approach and now he is able to provide food for us. I was also able to form a group of people who are living with HIV/AIDS in my community where we meet, discuss about positive living, save some little money together on weekly basis. I believe that I will touch many lives within a year with the peace massage.*

This back-and-forth communication indicated in the community stories of change aimed at nurturing relations, and reaching agreement that is mutually acceptable with others when some of the interests are shared and some are different (Saferworld, 2014). This standard diplomatic technique used to harmonize interests by taking into account the differencing needs and power potentials of parties.

Peace building work lays emphasis on relationship building across ethnic, racial and religious divides. Trans-boundary and trans-community conflict on access, control and encroaching on resources is a huge impediment to peace and security. Leadership as well as functional systems and structures are needed to continue protecting refugee communities from being victims in new societies they find themselves in.

From the above project working practices, the Peace Centre and project partners contributed to nurturing relationships and bridging the peace gap thereby promoting UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security.

3.4.4 Case Management and Referral

The trained Peace Mediators:

- Handled and successfully resolved one thousand one hundred ninety-nine (1199) cases of human rights violations presented to them by peace monitors, thereby increasing reconciliation and peaceful coexistence among refugee and host communities. Cases handled were in areas of GBV, conflict between refugees and host communities, election related violence.

Case Management at Project Sites

- Cases Resolved
- Cases Referred
- Total Cases Managed in the 3 sites
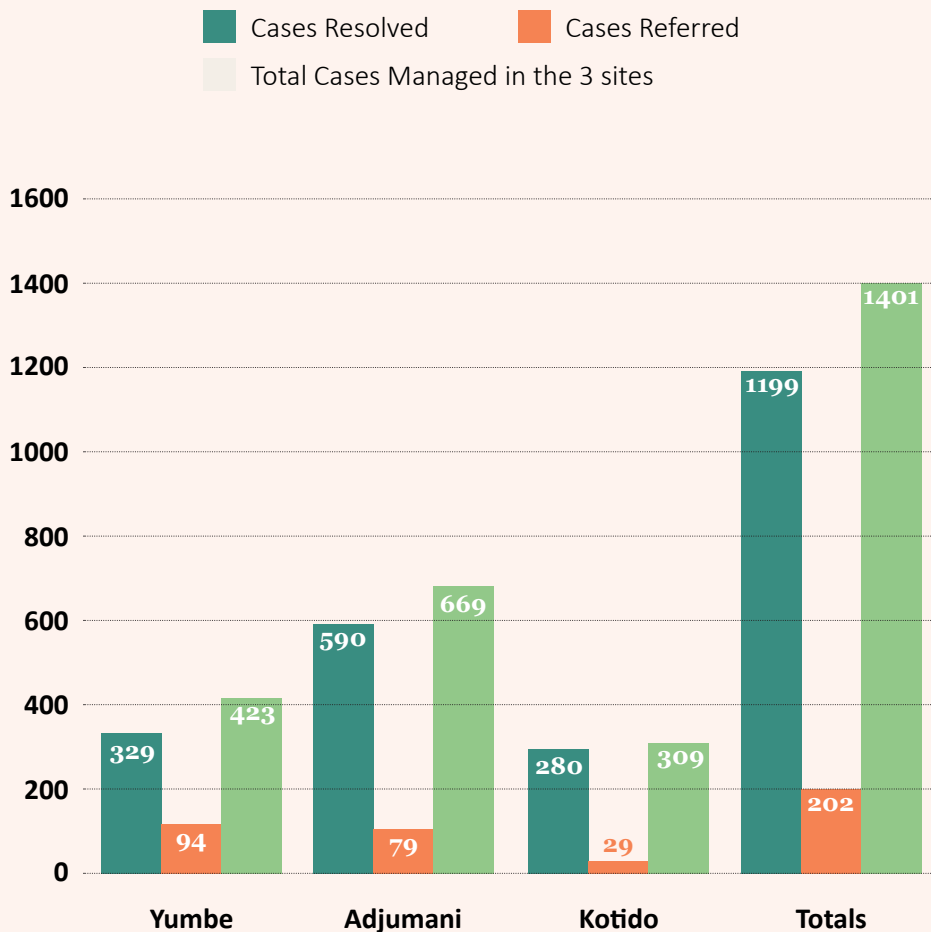
Graph 5: cases managed and referred by peace mediators

The peace mediators, monitors and analysts interfaced with a total of 1,401 conflict cases. Resolved 85.6% (1,199 – One thousand one hundred ninety-nine thousand cases through counselling and mediation). Referred 14.4% (202 – Two hundred and two) cases to other authorities such as police, CAO's office and health centres.

- Angua Irine affirms that training gave them the confidence to mediate conflicts.

"

The training gave me strength to talk and advocate for our rights at all levels. It was hard for me to speak before people but now I can. I was taken to Kampala to represent the voice of the refugees in a very high-profile meeting. I was interviewed about how the refugees are managing life. I explained everything clearly without any panic. In handling issues as a Refugee Welfare Councilor, I know the procedure to report conflict incidences in our community and we will be the very people to go back and change South Sudan.

"

"I was interviewed about how the refugees are managing life. I explained everything clearly without any panic."

— Angua Irene

"*I learnt how to speak in public, advocate for the community and address issues happening in the community.*"

— Molly Anjoye

- Molly Ajonye, Peace Mediator and Vice Chairperson RWC II, Village 2, Zone 2, gives an account of the extensive work she has carried out on the project:

> " *I handled 24 Cases from 6 Domestic Violence, 7 SGBV 5 perpetrators are in prison two are out, 2 cases on stray animals, 2 theft cases. Before, I was not like this. I learnt how to speak in public, advocate for the community and address issues happening in the community. It builds my confidence, I learnt to keep the cases I handle confidentially. During community dialogues I also encouraged men to report cases to me. One woman was also taken to police. Counselled 2 families that had issues, they are now holding family meetings. I use to receive two GBV cases in a week but now I receive 1 in month. I saved and bought 16 leaves of iron sheet and 8 bags of cement to improve my housing.* "

- Increased capacity of mediators in documenting, reporting and referring conflict cases in communities. These mediators used the acquired skills to engage peace building and recovery planning processes where they articulated the gaps, needs and priorities of South Sudanese refugee communities with the African Union Special Envoy on Peace and Security in November 2020.

As indicated above, community led initiatives promoted community power where people expressed their own viewpoints on issues that affect them; and engaged grassroots and middle leadership in finding lasting solutions to conflict.

3.5 Contribution to Achievement of key International Commitments and Institutional Goals

Through the different activities and achieved results, the project:

3.5.1 Contributed to the UN Women's Strategic Plan and Programme (2019-2022- Impact area 4) *….to address women's effective participation in decision making relating to the consolidation of peace and humanitarian assistance.* The UN Women sought to contribute to closing real and perceived gaps between often-isolated grassroots and refugee women with the larger national level women's rights organizations in Kampala and in Juba engaged in advocacy related to key peace building processes.

Through its technical support to the project and the outstanding results indicated in 3.1 to 3.4, UN Women shows a true reflection of its outstanding work in Uganda and other global refugee settings to promote Gender, Peace and Security.

3.5.2 The project results are in line with and have contributed to achieving the UNSCR 1325:2000 pillars on:

- **Participation**, which calls for increased participation of women at all levels of decision-making in mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict in peace negotiations and in peace operations…

- **Protection**, which calls for protection of women and girls from SGBV, including in emergency and humanitarian situations, such as in refugee camps….

- **Prevention**, to improve intervention strategies in the prevention of VAW… prosecuting those responsible for violations of international law; strengthening women's rights under national law; and supporting local women's peace initiatives and conflict resolution processes.

- **Relief and recovery**, which calls for advancement of relief and recovery measures to address international crises through a gendered lens, including by respecting the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps, and considering the needs of women and girls in the design of refugee camps and settlements.

3.5.3 Project achievements are in fulfilment of the Peace Centre's Strategic Plan, where the project contributed to its key outcomes for:

- Enhanced technical expertise to participate in peace processes;

- Information available for women to influence decision making peace processes;

- Deliberate attempts to claim spaces and influence peace processes at all levels.

This project results contributed to realizing the promises entailed in the organization's strategic plan.

3.5.4 Efforts to promote women and refugee effective participation in peace building is an attempt by the project to 'Leave-no-one-behind' in response to Sustainable Development Goals. The project made deliberate effort to involve a range of actors, ranging from regional bodies, policymaking in Uganda, bilateral agencies, district leaderships, community level structures, CSOs, individuals to realize the goal of the project.

More intently, the project centered refugee women and girls in Uganda and linked them with their counterparts in South Sudan. The project also focused on and worked with host communities to promote integration and absorptive capacities for refugees.

This range of actors learned from the project but also brought their own strength on-board. These among other strategies, will contribute to project sustainability and assimilation of similar strategies for future engagements that address cross-border issues and refugee crisis.

Section 4

CHALLENGES AND HOW THEY WERE TRANSFORMED TO BUILD PROJECT MILEAGE

- The national lockdown by Government of Uganda following outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, affected implementation of activities for over 3months. The disease prevention regulations limited the number of people that could physically engage in project activities. Part of project adaptation and learning was integration of this health crisis into the project, given the overcrowding in refugee communities, lack of resources to access amenities for disease-prevention and lack of community awareness.

- Desired changes and staying current to the true meaning of peace: The project integrated COVID-19 pandemic awareness raising session in their peace building work, with five hundred four (504) peace mediators, monitors and analysts providing soap, sanitary pads, sanitizer and face masks to combat spread of the disease in the refugee settlements and host communities. The mediators used this gesture to enforce sanitation and create awareness on the global pandemic, they also took the initiative to enforce quarantine and isolation of new refugee arrivals.

- Between January to March 2020, desert locusts invaded Uganda through Karamoja region destroying food production and livelihood. Locust invasion further prejudiced an already fragile region that was battling with violent raids, climatic change, famine, diseases, poverty   and after effects of violence. The project actors mobilized for response to food security in the region, which led to provision of fundamental human needs to communities.

- Ethnic conflict outbreaks between Dinka and Nuer in Maaji refugee settlements, and increased cattle raids in Kotido during COVID-19 lockdown season threatened a roll- back of project gains. The district leadership in this partnership was regularly updated of crisis issues which enabled leadership to take timely interventions.

Others challenges with pending solutions:

- High increase in use of abusive substances among the youths i.e. Chewing of cad (mairungi) in trading centres has increased mental illnesses and violence.

- Arms trafficking and disarmament is still a challenge due to the existence of porous borders, making it difficult to control flow of arms and illicit trade.

- Lack of a comprehensive disarmament has escalated insecurity, killings and animal raids in Karamoja, Teso and West Nile regions. There is need for massive and complete disarmament program in all the Karamoja Districts to address illegal guns in civilian possession.

- The Peace Policy has not yet been passed. The lack of a clear legal framework makes it difficult for government institutions to effectively support peace building processes.

Section 5
LESSONS LEARNED AND THE FUTURE

- Peace is a process, not an event. More investment is needed to follow up, intensify and sustain engagement for durable peace and security among refugees and host communities.

- Effective peace building processes should have engagements of varied stakeholders. Many strategies with different partners are needed to realize durable peace. There is need for coordination, constituency building, resources, power to challenge and inform processes, grassroots mobilization, advocacy and coalition building that are needed to address the consequences of war damage and displacement. Moreover, voices of conflict affected women and children are needed in peace building for ownership and sustainability of processes, as well as healing.

- There is need to build resilient communities to reduce their vulnerability to shocks associated with food insecurity, climate shocks.

- Trauma is a huge challenge for refugee and host communities who are exposed to myriads of challenges and shocks. Investment is needed to deal with war trauma if communities are to effectively participate in development.

- There is need to combat further migrations that expose refugees to human trafficking. Early warning and early response mechanisms are needed to avert conflict, prevent violence, hostility and war outbreaks globally.

- Efforts must be made to integrate economic empowerment in peacebuilding activities. Poverty increases vulnerability to trafficking, crime, prostitution and to HIV/AIDs.

Conclusion

This Reflection Report, deliberates on the project resilient mechanisms to break through systems and structures to challenge social constructions that hinder women's participation in formal political and leadership processes. The Reflection Report details efforts undertaken by the Peace Centre to mobilize and consult partnerships, build community power to participate in issues affecting them, and sustainability of choice, voice and influence. The report has documented changes and results that have accrued from project implementation guided by a clear implementation framework to contribute to UNSCR 1325:2000. Through this project, the Peace Centre demonstrates true meaning of inclusion and durable peace, by: supporting establishment and strengthening functional systems for inclusive peace; fostering women's participation and influence in decision making; lobbying for redress to differentiated needs of women and children; focusing on perspectives that are key to building long term visions for peace. The UN Women made a strategic investment in resourcing and providing technical support to the Peace Centre to *'...increase the commitment of GoU structures to implement women, peace and security commitments, with more gender equality advocates influencing peace and security processes.'* The Peace Centre remains committed to using its long-standing experience and convening power to address the global crisis of militarism and insecurity, and promote inclusive peace.

Summary of project successes at a glance

3.1 Strengthened capacity to influence systems and structures that promote the WPS Agenda

Reflected through 18 institutions of justice & security sectors

3.1.1 Project Management Team-PMT

3.1.2 National Steering Committee (Incl OPM, CEWERU & Offices of RDCs)

3.1.3 District Peace Committees

3.1.4 Women Peace Committees

3.2 Enhanced commitment to inclusive peace and security by the Government of Uganda (GoU) & the United Nations (UN)

Project activism with successes in

3.2.1 The Transitional Justice Policy formulation

3.2.2 Efforts leading to the Joint Memorandum of Understanding

3.2.3 The Co-existence Taskforce at UNHCR

3.3 Increased representation & leadership of women in conflict management

This was achieved through:

3.3.1 Mainstreaming gender perspectives in decision making within the refugee community management & peace building oversight structures

3.3.2 Voluntarism and risk-taking abilities of women: a reflection of true leadership.

3.3.3 Strengthened work of Eve Organisation for Development in South Sudan, to participate in recovery planning & peace building

3.3.4 Capacity to integrate refugee needs and priorities into programming

3.4 Strengthened community-led initiatives for peace and security:

Results were seen through women's work on:

3.4.1 Conflict Mediation

3.4.2 Advocacy work to Promote Public Awareness and Accountability

3.4.3 Nurturing working Relationships Across Communities

3.4.4 Case Management and Referrals

3.5 Contribution to the achievement of key International commitments and Institutional goals:

The project contributed to:

3.5.1 Achievement of the UN Women's Strategic Plan & Programme (2019-2022- Impact area 4)

3.5.2 Achieving the UNSCR 1325:2000 pillars

3.5.3 Contribution to fulfilment of the Peace Centre's Strategic Plan

3.5.4 Inclusivity and 'Leave-no-one-behind' stipulated in Sustainable Development Goals

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