

STUDIES ON PEACE, ENVIRONMENT AND GENDER

Januray 2021

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

With support from the Embassy of Sweden in Uganda, Act Church of Sweden in partnership with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and Action Against Hunger (ACF) is implementing the Mutual and Inter-related Resilience Program (MIRP), a four-year (2019–2023) community resilience program that seeks to combine humanitarian, development and peace building initiatives in Kyangwali refugee settlement and Kikuube district to promote economic self-reliance, psychological well-being and peaceful coexistence between and among communities.

The MIRP focuses on four main overall objectives:

1. Enhancing sustainable livelihoods and nutrition-sensitive agricultural resilience of household refugees and host communities
2. Improving Literacy, Numeracy and Developing Skills for increased resilience and contribution to inclusive economic development in refugees and host communities
3. Increasing access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and Protection, including GBV prevention and response and access and utilization of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services
4. Improving sustainable use and protection of natural resources and Increasing access to sustainable energy

For more information, please contact:

Claire Mazin, MIRP consortium manager

Phone: +256 785 742 102 **E-mail:** claire.mazin@churchofsweden.org

www.mirp-uganda.com



1. PEACE AND CONFLICT IMPACT ASSESSMENT (PCIA)

Purpose and Methodology:

The PCIA examined the potential **drivers of conflict and exclusion** in Kyangwali settlement and host communities of Kikuube district. The team of CECORE carried out a field study in the areas of Kikuube in both the settlement and Host Communities in September 2020.

The target groups within each of these communities were the host and refugee communities, but it was extended to broadly include other key stakeholders such as: the leadership of Kikuube District; the leadership at Kyangwali settlement/Office of the Prime Minister (OPM); the MIRP consortium partners; Security agencies; local organizations working on refugee and host community issues, local/community leaders, among others.

The methodology included: Secondary Literature Review, Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions. Case Studies, Consensus Panel and observation methods were also applied across the study.

Summary of Findings & Recommendations:

- The relationship between host communities and refugees is generally good, but tension exists on issues relating to natural resources especially land. Therefore, by targeting optimization of available plot of land for both refugees and host community, the MIRP contributes to mitigating tensions, arising from the desire for more land for cultivation.
- Issues of inadequate clean water, poor education, livelihood challenges, and trauma are potential catalysts for conflict. However, community members suggested that urgent focus should be put on the environment due to pressure on natural forests for fuel (firewood and construction materials). MIRP programme contributes to reducing the causes for tensions.
- Gender Based violence (GBV) has recently worsened since the outset of the COVID- 19 pandemic and is the most common conflict in the communities. MIRP programme must intensify efforts to prevent and respond to GBV, through a community-based approach, involving men and key change agents.
- COVID-19 has reduced interaction between communities. The further one goes from the settlement, the less contact/interaction between nationals and refugees. MIRP programme must continue to promote dialogue within the settlement and between refugees as this will further promote co-existence between the refugees and host communities. Water sources, schools, places of worship, markets, gardens, casual work, saving groups were identified as the key peace connectors within the settlement but also between the refugees and host communities because they provide spaces where different people meet and get to interact.
- There is need to promote peace education in the refugee settlement, targeting communities and especially local leaders, GBV protection committee, LC structures and teachers, who are a key resource to mitigate conflict and tensions.
- Certain groups feel excluded: e.g. the south Sudanese and women feel excluded from the vocational skills training. Refugees in general feel excluded from job opportunities. The MIRP promotes mixed attendance from refugees and host communities, males and females, ables and disabled,

south Sudanese and Congolese, to skills training and other program activities to contribute to social cohesion in the communities. Hiring staff, teachers and volunteers from the communities with different background and speaking different languages also contribute to social cohesion.

Generally, MIRP is positively impacting the relations within the settlement, seeing as its interventions are addressing key drivers for conflict and encourage community interactions and discussions through a community-based approach. Ensuring regular feedback to the communities on the MIRP programme activities also contribute to social cohesion.

In fact, it was mentioned that LWF, through the MIRP, is “the first and only organisation focusing on refugees that has also engaged the host community on issues related to peace and conflict resolution”¹

2. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (ESMF)

Purpose and Methodology:

The ESMF assessed **environmental and social impacts** of the MIRP and identified mitigation measures when relevant.

The team of JBN carried out a field study in the areas of Kikuube in both the settlement and Host Communities in September 2020. Both qualitative and participatory methods were used to collect information from primary and secondary sources.

Under qualitative, the ESMF team applied focus group discussion (FGDs), Key informant interviews (KIIs), Direct Observation (DO), community meetings, brainstorming, semi structured interviews (SSIs) and photograph.

Participatory Learning & Action (PLA) methods that were used included transect walks, pairwise ranking, timelines and seasonal calendars. During public consultations a series of interviews were held with a range of stakeholders which included; OPM Kyangwali Settlement Commandant, the district technical staff team including the Kikuube District Natural Resources Officer, Community Development Officer (CDO), Ass. District Water Officer and Sub-county officers including the Sub County Chief/SAS and Parish Chiefs. In addition, the team met with officials from Oxfam, Windle International, Nsamizi Training Institute of Social Development (cluster heads for WASH, Education and Environment and Energy respectively), representative groups from the host communities and refugees.

Summary of Findings & Recommendations:

Overall, minimal environmental and social negative impacts are expected from the implementation of MIRP interventions. Most of the impacts are short-term and can be mitigated. The major impacts likely to arise are potential ground water contamination for agrochemicals, waste management at household level, risk of invasive species and use of pesticides from tree planting.

1. FGD with host communities in Kituti

IMPACT: in red major impact, in yellow moderate impact	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance
LITERACY, NUMERACY AND SKILLS ACQUISITION INTERVENTIONS			
Management of construction waste.	3	2	6
Loss of vegetation	4	3	8
LIVELIHOOD AND FOOD SECURITY INTERVENTIONS			
Potential contamination of nearby surface waters by pesticides.	4	4	16
Potential for wasting water	3	2	6
ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY INTERVENTIONS			
Improper pesticide and fertilizer usage	3	3	9
Risk of planting invasive species	3	2	6
Low acceptance of tree planting by the community.	2	3	6
WASH, PROTECTION AND SRH INTERVENTIONS			
Groundwater contamination	2	4	8
Conflict in access and usage of water.	4	4	16

Recommendations include:

- Synchronization of MIRP interventions to ensure full benefits and involvement of other implementing partners to avoid duplication as well as waste of resources.
- Involvement of Kikuube DLG in MIRP projects to gain support from the Government as well as benefit from their expertise.
- Establishment of a communication ladder to ensure that all stakeholders receive the appropriate information and in a timely manner.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (ESMF)

Purpose and Methodology:

The Multi-Dimensional **Gender-Based Context Analysis Study** was carried out in October 2020 by Adroit, in Hoima and Kikuube districts in the Western region of Uganda. The overall objective of the gender analysis study was to assess the gender equality and diversity in the MIRP programme. The study employed a mixed methods of data collection, including a total sample of 462 household questionnaire, 16 key informants interviews and 10 Focus Group discussions with an average of 8 respondents.

Summary of Findings & Recommendations :

- The findings of the gender study show the pertinence of ensuring inclusive programming (gender, age, able/disable, refugees and hosts) by ensuring interaction and dialogue as well as addressing social behavior through information and discussions.
- **Livelihoods:** The data revealed that the female respondents, and respondents in the host community were the most vulnerable to impacts such as loss of income or reduction income due to the

impact of the C19 lockdown. It was noted that the majority (61%) of the respondents who could not meet their basic needs at all – were female, due to their limited access to skills, resources and time.

Overall, the study findings revealed that there were negative perceptions towards equal gender participation in the different production's roles. While 33.55% of the respondents believed that decisions on household (HH) choice of livelihood should be made by the wife and husband together, a nearly equal percentage of 32.90% (55% male and 45% female) believed the decisions on HH choice of livelihood activity should be made by the husband alone. A similar percentage, 35.28% (of which 50% were male and 50% were female) believed that women should not be actively engaged in income generation.

- The study noted that the elderly (60.82%), children (51.73%), and PWDs (34.20%) were identified as the most vulnerable to food insecurity, both among refugees and host communities.
- **Vocational training:** The study highlighted that few girls access the vocational skills training opportunities that come up as they largely associate them with 'male' skills such as electrician, mechanic, etc. It was also noted that the social beliefs that favor boy child access to education limit girls' access to vocational skills training opportunities.
- **Water Sanitation and hygiene:** Nearly 20% of the respondents that participated in the study reported that sexual abuse was a threat and protection risk when accessing WASH facilities due to factors such as – limited access to gender disaggregated toilet and bathroom facilities at community level exposing girls and women to sexual abuse.

Overall, although the study identified some cultural beliefs and practices that lower the confidence of women and girls to use sanitary pads, the utilization of clean and safe menstrual products was to a large extent limited by access to financial resources and less by cultural norms and practices.

- **Protection, including sexual gender-based violence (SGBV), and sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR):**

The study revealed that a majority of respondents (59%) had never received information on SRHR and only 3.70% had received information on the appropriate management of rape. A closer look at the data revealed that the lack of SRHR knowledge cut across the divides of nationality and gender. The study revealed that the leading factor affecting access to SRH services was the limited access to SRH information (33.12%). The main sources of information on SRHR were: health facilities (44%), Caregivers (42.33%) and places of worship (33%).

A large majority 82.9% (of which 51% were female, and 49% were male) of respondents agreed that a woman should obey her husband and 62.1% (49% male, and 51% female) of the respondents agreed that a man should have the final say in all family matters. It was additionally noted that although most 47.41% (47% male, 53% female) of the respondents disagreed that when a woman is raped, she is usually to blame for putting herself in that situation; it should however be noted that a staggering 44.37% (45% male, and 55% female) agreed to the statement. These figures show the importance to address cultural beliefs and perceptions for both men and women when trying SRHR and SGBV.

What now?

The information derived from the baseline studies on Peace, Environment, Gender are being used to inform MIRP 2021 programming. Overall, the studies are showing a high relevance and need of the MIRP nexus programming and Community based psychosocial support approach.