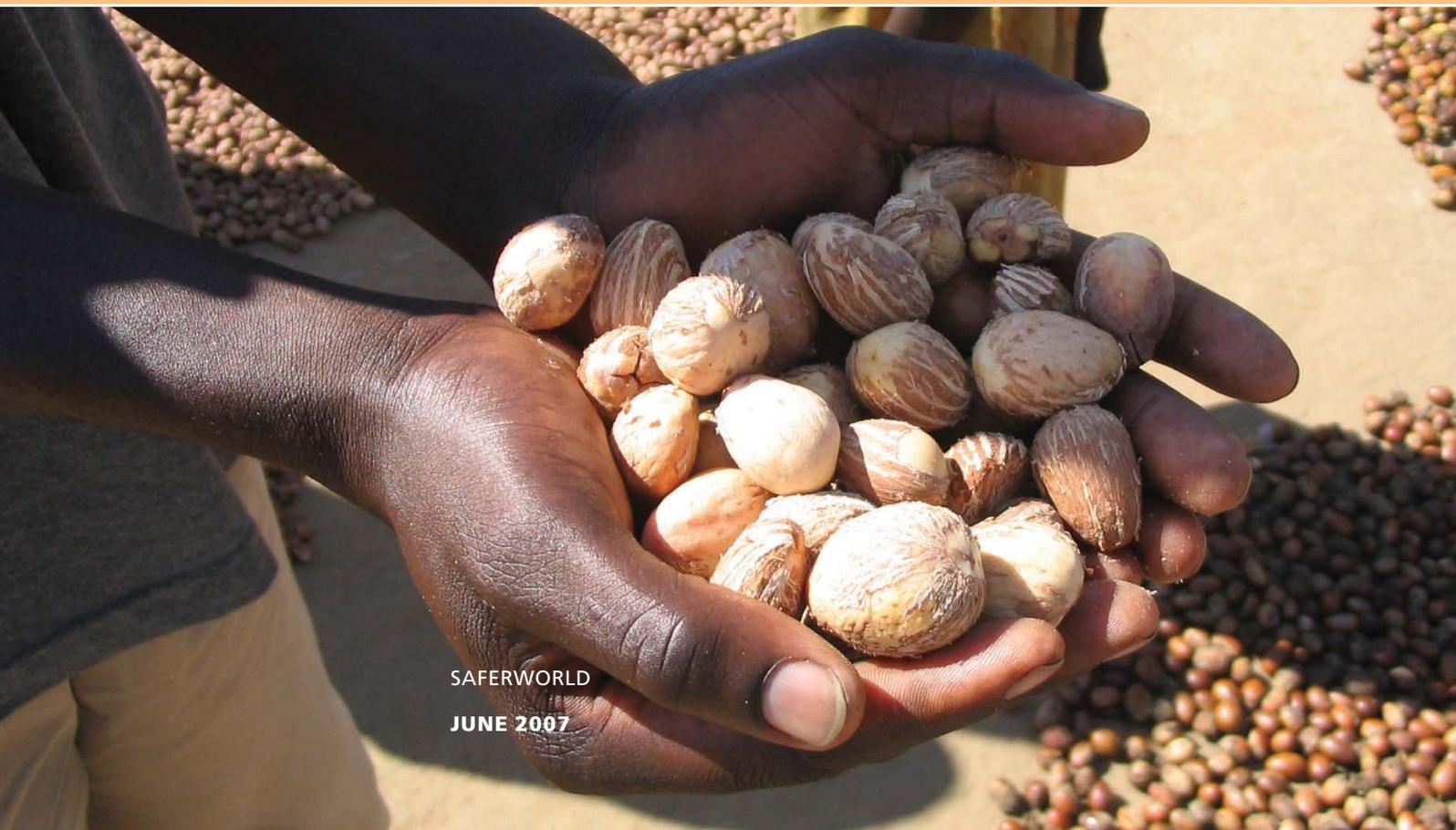


The experience of the Northern Uganda Shea Nut Project



SAFERWORLD

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COVER PHOTO: Shea nuts. © EPOPA.

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1

Introduction

“Conflict has lasted 20 years. Our children have been killed and abducted, our houses burned, properties looted, children with diseases, and we are left there suffering in the camps ... if the peace talks come to success I think there will be business because we can be free to move without fear.”

Field Officer, Rwot Ber Women's Association

The relationship between conflict and development is a highly complex one. Experience over the last decade has shown that development and humanitarian programmes impact positively or negatively on armed violence, whether intended or not. Misplaced humanitarian and development assistance can sometimes inadvertently fuel existing and potential conflicts. Alternatively, effective assistance can help reduce the potential for violent conflict.

In countries affected by conflict, development practitioners need to have a thorough understanding of the causes and dynamics of conflict so that they can design their programmes and projects in a way that addresses these and contributes to peace. Failure to do this can result in development programmes fuelling violent conflict. The need to make development assistance conflict-sensitive applies to all types of funding mechanisms, from macro-level instruments, such as direct budget support through national poverty reduction strategies, through to supporting localised or focused projects and programmes.

Conflict sensitivity is the ability of an organisation to:

- Understand the context in which it operates
- Understand the interaction between its intervention and the context; and
- Act upon the understanding of this interaction, in order to avoid negative impacts and maximise positive impacts.

Note: the word 'context' is used rather than 'conflict' to make the point that all socio-economic and political tensions, root causes and structural factors are relevant to conflict sensitivity because they all have the potential to become violent. 'Conflict' is sometimes erroneously limited to macro-political violence between two warring parties.

Saferworld and partners have been working with donor organisations, governments and international and local organisations to help them assess how their interventions may have an impact on conflict in a particular area, and help ensure that their work contributes to peace.

In Northern Uganda, Saferworld and the Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) have been engaged in a one-year process of assessing the impact of an organic exporting project, the Northern Ugandan Shea Nut Project (NUSP), on the conflict and peace dynamics in Lira district, and of the impact of those conflict dynamics on the NUSP. The overall aim of this process has been to support the project to ensure it is conflict-sensitive. This paper outlines the process of undertaking the evaluation and summarises its key findings and recommendations.

The Northern Uganda Shea Nut Project

The Northern Uganda Shea Nut Project (NUSP) is implemented by the Export Promotion of Organic Products from Africa (EPOPA) with support from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). The project exports organically grown shea nuts and is based mainly in the Otuke county of northern Lira district. This is an area badly affected by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) conflict and where up to 350,000 people have at various times lived in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps. Poverty levels are very high and economic opportunities are limited. Social conditions within the camps have been very difficult, with high levels of alcoholism, domestic violence, prostitution and sexually transmitted diseases. Water and sanitation are inadequate and education facilities are completely overloaded. Despite the poor conditions, women in the camps have continued to engage in the few available income-generating activities including collecting shea nuts and selling them locally. The NUSP project aims to make this activity more profitable for local communities by exporting shea butter as a certified organic product to a niche market in the cosmetics industry in Europe and other markets in East Africa.

ALCODE staff advising on shea nut quality. →
EPOPA



The project involves an association of approximately 1500 women shea nut collectors (Rwot Ber), who sell the collected nuts to ALCODE, a processing non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Lira town, where the nuts are processed into shea butter. An import/export company in Kampala, KFP Ltd, is responsible for exporting the shea butter. The project is committed to paying a fair price for the product to help increase household income. The dilemma facing the project is the difficulty of encouraging development and livelihood activities in a conflict environment where people's security is uncertain and the supply of the product may be interrupted. In addition, the way in which the activities are implemented must not fuel the conflict. There has been particular concern that the women nut collectors, most of whom are based in the northern part of Lira district, are at risk from attacks by LRA rebels and Karamojong cattle rustlers when they go out to collect the nuts.

“If the peace goes well, people will grow crops and sell and send children to school when they go back to villages... If the peace comes and we move home we shall collect shea nuts without fear, we shall dig without fear. If it fails I don't know what we will do.”

Rwot Ber Women's Association member

2

Approach and methodology

The basis for assessing the peace and conflict impact of any project is to begin with a conflict analysis in order to generate a thorough understanding of the context of the project. This enables the identification of the issues that divide people and cause conflict, as well as the issues that bring people together and promote peace.

What is a conflict analysis?

Conflict analysis is the systematic study of the profile, causes, actors, and dynamics of conflict. It helps development, humanitarian and peacebuilding organisations to gain a better understanding of the context in which they work and their role in that context. Conflict analysis can be carried out at various levels (e.g. local, regional, national, etc) and seeks to establish the links between these levels. Identifying the appropriate focus for the conflict analysis is crucial: the issues and dynamics at the national level may be different from those at the grassroots.

For the NUSP project assessment, the conflict analysis methodology used was based on Sida's conflict analysis approach (see Sida, Division for Humanitarian and Conflict Management *How to Conduct a Conflict Analysis*, November 2004, updated as *Manual for Conflict Analysis* January 2006 – see **Bibliography**).

A conflict analysis usually includes several components of analysis, namely:

- **the profile** this is the general situation of the area, including for example which parts of the country are conflict-affected, whether there is a history of conflict, but also what the key economic, social, political, security and human rights context is
- **the causes of conflict** these are the issues that are causing division and conflict, and we can distinguish between structural causes (pervasive, institutionalised or systemic factors),

proximate causes (accelerating or escalating factors) and triggers (single key acts or events that set off violent conflict)

- **the actors involved in the conflict** both those who have the power to influence the conflict and those who are affected by the conflict
- **the conflict dynamics** these are the overall trends resulting from the interaction between the above (profile, causes and actors).

The next step in the process is to review the project itself – its objectives, the actively involved parties (the ‘stakeholders’), the processes of implementation and how the project will be monitored and evaluated. This enables an assessment of how the project is impacting – or can impact in future – on the conflict and peace dynamics of the communities where it will be implemented. Any necessary adjustments or revisions can then be made to make sure the project contributes to peace.

The NUSP project is a small and locally focused project, and as such has a relatively limited impact upon conflict dynamics. The assessment of the NUSP project is consequently small in scope and does not pretend to provide a detailed analysis of the LRA conflict or the violence caused by Karamojong cattle rustling activities in Lira district.

Assessment process and activities

The process of supporting the NUSP project to be more conflict-sensitive involved the implementation of a number of key activities over a one-year period from November 2005 to November 2006.

An initial conflict analysis and review of the NUSP’s impact on the conflict dynamics was undertaken in November 2005 through desk- and field-based research. This involved reviewing existing literature on the situation in Northern Uganda and the NUSP project, as well as conducting focus groups and interviews with project stakeholders and other relevant actors, including government officials, civil society members, international NGOs and donors in Lira and Kampala. The draft report was presented to project and external stakeholders in Lira in December 2005 for their feedback, and joint recommendations were developed for making the project more conflict-sensitive. Following this meeting, Saferworld and CECORE produced a final report (*Conflict and peace analysis report for the Northern Uganda Shea Nut Project in Otuke county of Lira district*).

In January 2006, a training workshop on conflict-sensitive development was organised for project staff and others working on private sector development. This workshop gave participants the opportunity to develop their skills on these issues and brought together different actors in the same field of work to share experiences on how their work is affected by – or can affect – conflict dynamics.

During July/August 2006, an update of the original conflict analysis was carried out and a further report produced (*Update of conflict and peace analysis for the Northern Uganda Shea Nut Project in Otuke county of Lira district*). A local consultant with experience in dealing with abuses against women also conducted focused work with Rwot Ber women members in order to identify the main security threats they face, and ways to address these threats.

In November 2006, Saferworld and CECORE conducted a final assessment visit to Lira district and produced a final evaluation report (*Evaluation of the conflict and peace impact of the Northern Uganda Shea Nut Project in Otuke county of Lira district*) which aimed to provide an overall evaluation of the conflict and peace impact of the NUSP over the one-year timeframe.

Overall, this evaluation reinforced the assessment team's previous findings that the NUSP project is having a small but generally positive impact in Lira district. The original assessment report (December 2005) identified some potential impacts of the conflict dynamics on the NUSP project and of the NUSP on the conflict dynamics, and made a number of recommendations for how the project could maximise its potential positive impacts and mitigate some of the potentially negative ones. The final evaluation report reviews these potential impacts and the extent to which project-related recommendations have been implemented.

Community consultation in
Otuke, Lira. →
EPOPA



Background of the area

The conflict in Northern Uganda between the LRA and the Government of Uganda (GoU) has been going on for 20 years, stemming originally from a rebellion against President Museveni's National Resistance Movement (NRM) when it took power in 1986. However, it soon transformed into violence perpetrated on civilians in Northern Uganda, with the LRA abducting boys and girls to increase their force numbers and to provide 'wives' to LRA commanders. Various attempts by the GoU to attain a decisive military victory failed, as did a number of peace talk initiatives. At the worst point of the conflict, between 1.9 and 2 million people were displaced, most of whom ended up in badly designed, under-equipped and insufficiently protected IDP camps. This situation has had a very destructive effect on society in the North and has contributed to severe levels of poverty. Although the worst and most persistent violence has been perpetrated in Acholi, neighbouring areas like Lango, Teso and West Nile were also seriously affected.

Lira district is in the Lango region, with Otuke county bordering on the Acholi districts. People in Lira were displaced into IDP camps from about 2003, where they had to rely on emergency food and other assistance. Camp life has also been very destructive – both in terms of physical conditions (poverty levels, health conditions etc) and in terms of the social impact of camp living, which undermined many of the community coping structures and traditional community values. Opportunities for people to earn an income or to access their fields in order to produce food became very limited, as for a long period curfew hours were in place.

Current situation in Lira district

Since August 2006, there has been a significant improvement in the security situation in Lira district, as a result of a new round of peace talks between the LRA and the GoU in Juba, and the signing of a ceasefire agreement. By December 2006, no LRA activities had been reported in Lira district for the preceding six months. IDPs have started returning to their homes and there has been an increase in farming activities, indicating the increased ability of people to move outside of the camps to cultivate their land. Overall return trends have been greater in the southern counties of Lira. The pattern of the return process is influenced by a number of key factors:

- **Security situation** Areas considered safe have attracted a greater number of returnees.
- **Karamojong cattle rustling** Karamojong cattle rustlers are considered a serious security threat, reportedly killing and assaulting people, and thus in the sub-counties bordering Karamoja, there have been less returnees than in other areas.

- **Changes in security provision** Police are gradually becoming the main security provider and police posts have been established throughout the district. On the whole, this has been perceived as a positive development, and as a factor contributing to people's increased confidence to return. However, some allegations persist of sexual and gender-based violence by members of the security providers (including police, Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) and local defence units).
- **Landmines and unexploded ordnance** Fear of landmines, unexploded ordnance and weapons caches has been identified as an obstacle to people returning.
- **Perceptions of safety and security** People's perceptions of security, which are influenced by the violence they have experienced or witnessed, determine their confidence about returning.
- **Uncertainty about the Juba peace talks** Until a comprehensive peace agreement is signed, and the future is more certain, many people do not have the confidence to return permanently.
- **Distance** People living in camps closer to their homes have been more likely to return, while others still prefer to sleep in the camps at night.
- **Humanitarian assistance and social services** Access to social services, health care, water and education at home in comparison to that available in the camps also contributes to how likely people are to return home.

3

Key findings

Impact of the NUSP on peace and conflict dynamics and vice versa

The following issues emerged as the most important ones for the NUSP project to monitor and act on in order to ensure that the project can create maximum benefit for project stakeholders, despite the conflict-affected environment. The assessment process generated some recommendations for doing this – some of which have already been implemented and some which will require further follow-up.

1. The safety of the women while collecting the shea nuts

A particular challenge for the project has been the safety of the women shea nut gatherers and to what extent the project was putting them at risk. At the start of the project, the women were at serious risk of attack by the LRA and had to restrict their movements to non-curfew hours, often accompanied by Amuka militia or UPDF soldiers. Since the start of the peace talks, the risk of LRA attacks has almost disappeared. However, the shea nut collectors continue to be at risk of direct attack from cattle rustlers and of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) from armed members of the police, army, Amuka militia as well as from unarmed ordinary men from their own communities. Risks of attack are heightened by the fact that the best time to collect the nuts is early in the morning when it is still dark.

In the past year, the NUSP project supported the women to increase their safety, to take all possible precautions and to discuss these issues with each other and with professionals who could help them mitigate this risk. In particular, the women have started travelling in groups, using torches, and sometimes taking some of their husbands along when collecting. They have also started building relationships with local leaders and local law enforcement officials.

Specialised anti-stock theft units (ASTUs) have also been deployed along the border with Karamoja to stop cattle rustling incursions. Given that their deployment is recent, it remains to be seen how effective they will be.

The NUSP project staff have also decided to spend more time on monitoring the security situation and ensuring that all project stakeholders are kept updated on developments. In addition, they now have the opportunity to work with the local consultant who had done some work with the Rwot Ber members as part of the assessment process, on their safety and the sensitive issues they face. Rwot Ber should also continue to develop good contacts with the new police posts as an important step to mitigate the risk of SGBV – especially since all the new police posts now being established in Northern Uganda are supposed to include units focusing on women’s and children’s safety (e.g. domestic violence, child abuse etc).

As the security situation improves, this issue is transforming into one of general vulnerability to SGBV rather than one relating to the armed conflict only. Helping the gatherers to address these issues has to remain a key concern for the project to help them rebuild their lives post-conflict.

2. The return process can have a positive and negative impact on the project

As the violence subsided, people have started returning to their homes. This can be positive for the project as the project stakeholders will be back in their homes, their movements will be safer, the supply and production of shea butter more predictable and other project activities more consistent and able to progress. However, this situation will remain fluid until a comprehensive peace agreement is signed and peace takes root. Even then the Karamojong cattle raids will remain a destabilising factor. The return process can also have a negative impact on the NUSP project, as some potential local-level conflicts may emerge, for example around land ownership and use. There is a risk that, with trees having been felled and the existence of camps having changed the appearance of the landscape, arguments over land boundaries may arise once people begin to return. This may result in the shea nut gatherers facing greater difficulties in accessing the trees than during or before the conflict, when people could collect from any tree in a communal area.

The project will have to remain mindful of these issues and support project stakeholders to help resolve them, together with the local leaders and other community members who are already supportive of the project. The issue of stopping the cutting of shea trees for charcoal and supporting tree planting is tied very closely to this.

3. By stimulating some positive economic activity, the project can contribute towards addressing the perception and reality of marginalisation

One of the drivers of the conflict is the economic and political marginalisation of the North. The NUSP project has started – and has the potential to continue to make a small but positive contribution to peacebuilding and recovery in the North. The project has already

**Rwot Ber and ALCODE staff
drafting recommendations
for the NUSP project.**

HESTA GROENEWALD, SAFERWORLD



provided the women shea nut gatherers with an income-generating activity that will be likely to have positive benefits for the whole family, lessen the poverty they face and help them recover from the effects of conflict. Even though the export market has been slow to develop, some economic benefits have started materialising from the NUSP as the women are investigating local market opportunities. It is crucial, however, to get the international market off the ground to ensure that the project has a significant economic impact on the NUSP project stakeholders.

The women shea nut gatherers are also strengthening their business skills and learning about new areas. For example, since the start of the assessment process, Rwot Ber members have received additional training in organic agriculture, storing nuts and tree planting. This aspect can be further strengthened by the project through additional capacity-building on issues like budgets, entrepreneurial skills, saving schemes, new product development etc. Project staff, including Rwot Ber members, have already come up with some ideas in this regard.

4. Forming groups or associations of women in conflict zones can generate important building blocks for peace and the potential for social recovery from the conflict

Probably the strongest positive impact that the NUSP has had is the support that it has given to the women gatherers to organise themselves, develop their professional skills, knowledge and life skills, which will help them recover from the conflict in the long term. In the process,

the women have also begun to share their problems (including on sensitive issues like domestic violence and HIV/AIDS) and support each other more. This has strengthened existing social networks and helped the women to cope with difficult circumstances together.

During the assessment process, the Rwot Ber members identified specific areas where they wanted to gain more knowledge and skills. In addition to the economic skills outlined above, some social issues have also been raised and most were addressed by the project, including a workshop on HIV/AIDS and SGBV. The project can continue to support such initiatives in order to ensure maximum benefit to the Rwot Ber members – ultimately benefiting their families as well – in their efforts to recover from conflict.

The assessment also raised a number of aspects relating to the broader relationships with the communities where the shea nut gatherers live. One step taken as a result of these discussions was the formal registration of Rwot Ber as an NGO in the district. This opens the door to increased support from local authorities and potentially other external donors. Another emerging discussion is to consider allowing men as (minority) members in Rwot Ber – this seems to be important in some cases to retain community support. However, it is crucial that this should not undermine the clear benefits of empowering the women to organise themselves and support each other.

At the same time, working together in a formal association has also brought its challenges. In the last months of 2006, some divisions emerged within Rwot Ber. This seems to relate partly to the return process, in that some members feel that those who had fled to the towns during the conflict had not suffered as much as those who had stayed behind. The process of registering Rwot Ber has also given rise to internal disputes about their constitution and who the key leaders are – those based in Otuke or those in Lira town. As peace takes root and people return home, the potential of Rwot Ber and the NUSP project increases. This also means that the potential gain of involvement – and hence the importance of who controls what and who benefits – will become more important. Rwot Ber will therefore need to be supported to grow as an internally accountable and productive institution that can ensure maximum benefit for its spread-out membership.

5. Protecting the shea nut trees

The NUSP continues to face the threat of the continued felling and burning of shea trees in order to sell them as fuel. One of the outcomes of the assessment process was a more active role for the Rwot Ber members and other project beneficiaries to raise awareness within their communities about the value of the shea trees and collaborating with local leaders on this issue. The establishment of tree nurseries and tree planting activities have created further opportunities for protecting the future of the shea trees, including by providing more alternative firewood from other tree species. These activities should continue.

Shea nuts growing in
Otuke, Lira. →
EPOPA



6. The expectations of the women and their families need to be managed realistically

Particularly in conflict-affected environments, any external interventions can create high expectations among communities that may prove unrealistic given the difficulties of operating in such areas. For the NUSP project, this is a challenge and, if expectations are not managed realistically, it may undermine the benefits derived from the project and fuel mistrust between project stakeholders and their communities. In this regard, the slow progress in developing an effective international export market for the shea butter is particularly important. If this does not materialise, more effort will need to be put into developing alternative markets in order to ensure tangible economic benefits for the project stakeholders. Efforts to do this are already underway and thus far the NUSP project managers have been very supportive.

In addition, over the course of the assessment process, the NUSP project has made efforts to enhance communication between different project stakeholders in order to mitigate the risk that unmet expectations create mistrust and division. In particular, clear channels of communication are essential to enable the shea nut gatherers to know what their market opportunities are, what they can expect to gain from the project and what other project stakeholders and partners will be gaining. During the November 2006 assessment mission, it became clear that some communication problems still existed between project stakeholders. ALCODE and Rwot Ber agreed to meet to improve communication between them and iron out existing problems.

7. Contributing to creating a culture of accountability among project stakeholders and towards those not involved in the project

The NUSP project can contribute in a small way to creating a culture of accountability among project stakeholders and between them and external actors in their communities. This is important in starting to turn around some of the key drivers of conflict in the North (and in the rest of the country) relating to unaccountable leadership. By ensuring that project decisions are transparent, project spending is justified and fair, and that people in positions of power (relative to the project) are held accountable, the foundations can be laid for a culture of mutual accountability. Given how severely governance institutions were affected and weakened by the conflict, this is crucial for the recovery of society in Northern Uganda.

Conclusion

Overall, the evaluation reinforced the assessment team's previous findings that the NUSP is having a small but generally positive impact in Lira district.

The greatest challenge the project has faced has been the ongoing conflict that affected Otuke county and how this affected the women shea nut gatherers in particular. Now that the LRA threat is receding, the main threat of violence emanates from the unpredictability of the LRA/GoU peace talks and the periodic Karamojong cattle rustling attacks in Otuke county. The context is set to remain fluid until these issues are resolved, and as people return fully or partially to their homes. The project will therefore have to continue monitoring levels of violence in particular, together with the general social and economic situation facing the project stakeholders, as this will influence the NUSP project and the benefits it can bring.

In more general terms, the NUSP illustrates the difficulties of implementing development projects in conflict-affected contexts and highlights some of the key issues that often emerge in these situations. Firstly, the end of political violence can often give birth to, or create the conditions for an increase in SGBV. As SGBV is not considered a mainstream political conflict, it is likely to be given less attention than other post-conflict issues, and is often left to be dealt with as a purely 'social' issue. It is however, imperative that donors, police and government address SGBV as a priority post-conflict issue.

Secondly, the displacement of people as a result of political violence often creates conditions for renewed communal conflicts around land. It is essential that attention is given to this issue, and that steps are taken to mitigate the risk of local conflicts around land emerging, such as establishing conflict management committees made up of the government, police and respected community members.

Thirdly, particularly in Horn of Africa countries, resolving the issue of cattle raiding and pastoralist needs remains fundamental to addressing violent conflict and ensuring that the impact of development projects on conflict is positive.

In terms of security provision, the police play an important role in post-conflict societies, reclaiming their place in protecting the rule of law and providing safety and security alongside the military. To ensure that the police can effectively manage new emerging post-conflict issues like land disputes, SGBV and continuing violence from cattle rustling, it needs to adopt a community-based or democratic policing approach. At the same time local militias or defence units, often created as additional security providers during conflict, need to be brought under control and given alternative livelihood options. Experience across the globe has shown that, if left unaddressed, these groups often become generators of further violence after the political conflicts have ended.

Overall, supporting development programmes in conflict-affected contexts can have strong benefits, but can also face serious challenges. Ongoing violence puts staff and beneficiaries at risk, complicates programme planning and timing, and necessitates a high level of flexibility to adapt to conditions on the ground. In addition, any benefits from the project become exponentially more important due to the poverty and suffering conflict-affected people are already subjected to, requiring careful management and a lot of support. For the same reason, managing expectations can be quite challenging, and being aware of existing and shifting power dynamics – and how this relates to both the causes of conflict and the programme – is crucial. Although the space for implementing development programmes is very limited in conflict-affected contexts, with careful management, some clear benefits are possible. The difficulty lies in weighing up these benefits against any potential increase in risk to programme beneficiaries or unintended aggravation of conflict drivers. And that will remain the key challenge.

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The Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) is a not-for-profit NGO founded in 1995 to promote alternative and creative means of preventing, managing, and resolving conflict. Above all, CECORE seeks to empower individuals, communities, institutions and organisations to transform conflict through alternative and creative means in order to establish a culture of active tolerance and peace.

CECORE's area of focus is Uganda, the Great Lakes Region, and the Greater Horn of Africa, though her services and involvement have been requested and provided beyond these areas and indeed to the rest of the world.

CECORE's programme activities include training in conflict prevention, transformation and resolution (CPTR) and peace-building; 'Building Bridges': Creating links between parties in conflict for dialogue and reconciliation; Research, documentation and information dissemination on sources and types of conflicts; Networking and advocacy. The major partners are government departments, the parliament, regional bodies, international agencies, international and local NGOs, CSOs, selected community members and the media, in an effort to build a society where a culture of peace, tolerance and human dignity prevail.

Export Promotion of Organic Products from Africa (EPOPA) aims to initiate and facilitate the export of organic products from Africa in order to increase the income of small-holder farmers. The programme is supported by the **Swedish International Development Agency (Sida)** and is implemented by Agro Eco (Holland) and Grolink (Sweden). Through technical and other support, EPOPA has enabled 35 companies, working with over 40,000 farmers, to begin organic production and trading. Through the low input organic technologies, and the premium prices paid for organic products in the global market place, small-holder farmers are able to earn more income from the crops they grow – at least 20% more, but at times up to 300% more. As well as facilitating the organic market chain, EPOPA has also supported the development of the organic sector within the countries in which it operates, especially the national organic movements and local certification companies.

Saferworld is an independent organisation that works to prevent armed violence and create safer communities in which people can lead peaceful and rewarding lives. It aims to empower local partners with the skills to become more effective and sustainable. Saferworld develops and carries out programmes with a range of governments and international, regional, national and local organisations. Through a combination of research, advocacy and training, Saferworld works to develop integrated security sector reform and access to justice strategies that are able to enhance safety and security for local communities, as one of its core activities. Saferworld has programmes in Africa, Europe and South Asia.

The relationship between conflict and development is complex. Sometimes, well-meaning development programmes can inadvertently lead to conflict because of a lack of understanding of the issues involved. On the other hand, well-designed projects can have a positive impact on armed violence, addressing the causes of conflict and contributing to peace. In countries affected by conflict, it is therefore essential that a conflict-sensitive approach is integrated into all development and humanitarian projects and programmes.

Saferworld works with development agencies, governments, donor organisations and civil society to make sure development increases peace and security by offering technical and practical advice to help organisers carry out their work in a conflict-sensitive way.

Saferworld and partners in Northern Uganda have been assessing the impact of an organic exporting project on the conflict and peace dynamics in Lira district, with the overall aim to ensure the project is conflict-sensitive. This publication outlines the process of undertaking the evaluation and summarises its key findings and recommendations.



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