



Mid-Term Evaluation of the Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project (UHRCEP) in Lamwo, Adjumani and Obongi Districts

April 2022

KOICA
Korea International
Cooperation Agency

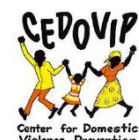


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Mid-Term Evaluation of the Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project (UHRCEP) in Lamwo, Adjumani and Obongi Districts

Mid Term Review 2021

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Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project (UHRCEP) in Lamwo,
Adjumani and Obongi Districts - Mid-Term Evaluation, April 2022
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CDO	Community Development Officer
CEDOVIP	Center for Domestic Violence Prevention
CfW	Cash for Work
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
CRRF	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DLGs	District Local Governments
DRDIP	Disaster Response Development Impact Program
EOP	End of Project
ERRS	Emergency Response and Refugee Strategy
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
IGA	Income Gendering Activity
ILO	International Labour Organisation
KOICA	Korea International Development Agency
LC	Local Council
MSMEs	Medium small and Micro Entrepreneurs
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ODK	Open Data Kit
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
OWC	Operation Wealth Creation
PDM	Parish Development Model
PM+	Problem Management Plus
REHOPE	Refugee and Host Population Empowerment
RP	Responsible Partner
RWC	Refugee Welfare Council
SACCO	Savings and Credit Cooperative Association
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SRH	Sexual Reproductive Health
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UHRCEP	Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USD	United States Dollars
VEDCO	Volunteer Efforts for Development Concern
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Associations
WFP	World Food Programme

Project Summary

Project Title	Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment
Project Overall Objective	To improve the socio-economic empowerment of communities with emphasis on women and youth in refugee hosting communities
Project Duration	January 2019 – December 2022
Project Donors	KOICA (US \$ 7 million), UNDP (US \$ 2 million)
Project Implementer	UNDP Uganda Country Office
Implementing Partners	World Vision Uganda, Save the Children International, CEDOVIP, VEDCO, Comboni Missionaries
Project Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency livelihoods through cash for work, and life skills training • Emergency livelihoods through small grants and business skills training for small enterprises • Institutional/Policy level support and development (for strengthening value chains)
Project Focus	Economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods of women and youth improved.
Project Areas	Adjumani, Lamwo, and Obongi refugee hosting districts located in Northern Uganda
Target Beneficiaries	Direct beneficiaries (7,200 individuals) and indirect beneficiaries (36,000 individuals) including refugees and the members of host communities in Adjumani, Lamwo, and Obongi refugee hosting districts.
Project Intermediate Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-economic gender equality in the context of livelihood improved • Enhanced capacities for mainstreaming gender equity/GBV prevention among key sub-national government agencies, communities, livelihood actors, and private sector.
Project Outcomes linked to program context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 2.1: Learning and skills development • Outcome 2.4: Addressing GBV and violence against children • Outcome 3.1: Natural resource management and climate change resilience • Outcome 3.2: Infrastructure, production and trade • Outcome 3.3: Employment.
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UNDP works through a resilience-based development approach to reduce vulnerabilities and contribute to individuals, communities, local and national institutions to be able to cope with and recover from large influxes of refugees. The resilience based approach complements, but is distinct from humanitarian support by focusing, amongst others, on: i) creating a basis to transition towards sustainable development and support self-reliance for the refugees wherever possible; ii) cooperation with and programme delivery through local partners (i.e. local capacity development, joint identification of project priorities and beneficiaries etc.); iii) a multi-sectoral livelihoods approach, addressing the impact of conflict across different livelihoods assets (i.e. financial, social, human); iv) programme implementation through an area based approach; iv) joint programme delivery with different partners.

Executive Summary

Introduction

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are implementing an area-based, gender responsive emergency livelihoods and economic recovery project (Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment (UHRCEP) Project) which focuses on implementing emergency employment and livelihoods opportunities, including inclusive value chain development in refugee hosting communities of Obongi Adjumani and Lamwo districts. UNDP is using the 3x6 approach it developed to help build resilience of affected communities in crisis situations and facilitate a rapid return to sustainable development pathways, which is a critical step towards building resilience at individual, household, community and local institutional levels.

The study adopted a mixed methods approach in a review process that was structured around the project results framework and evaluation matrix including a series of evaluation questions, data collection methods, data sources and a data analysis plan. The evaluation matrix used during the review process and that provided guidance during interviews, was organized around the five OECD/DAC evaluation criteria - relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact. Based on the evaluation matrix, the mid-term evaluation team developed data collection tools and ensured relevant sections are cross-referenced against the evaluation criteria, evaluation questions as well as the level of analysis in order to easily identify the main purpose of the requested information.

Key Findings: Relevance

The UHRCEP project directly contributes to the achievement of the UNDP Emergency Response and Resilience Strategy (ERRS) that is based on the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (REHOPE) Framework and aligned to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) action plan, the National Development Plan III and the new Parish Development Model (PDM). Before the project, assessments and surveys by UN agencies had reported that limited access to livelihoods or job opportunities and skills training are the most commonly expressed needs of both women-headed refugee and host-community households. While at the time, there were few short-term and low-skilled livelihood opportunities provided by UN agencies and NGOs in refugee hosting districts.

Emergency livelihoods support was relevant to promote immediate job creation, stimulate agriculture production and other income generating activities in order empowering individuals, communities, national and local authorities to cope with and recover from the impact of the refugee crisis. The access roads that were opened were already in subcounty development plans as unfunded priorities. The project also helped to link survivors of SGBV to livelihood opportunities and skills training to prevent the risks of engaging in harmful coping mechanisms. It was also logical to provide technical assistance that is designed to strengthen the capacity amongst district local government to mainstream gender in local economic development since several women's economic empowerment projects led by government and humanitarian agencies faced significant resource and capacity challenges.

Effectiveness

The overall goal of the UHRCEP project is to improve the socio-economic empowerment of communities with emphasis on women and youth in refugee hosting communities. The project

interventions were implemented effectively which contributed to the achievement of the expected outcomes as reflected in the performance of the outcome indicators. The percentage of persons benefiting from livelihood opportunities increased from 0% at baseline to 84.5% by March 2022, while persons who are members of VSLAs also increased from 53.5% at baseline to 84% by March 2022, against a set target of 100% for both indicators by December 2022. The proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care was found to be 19.2% by March 2022 against a set target of 30% December 2022.

As a result of gender transformative programming which involved capacity development of district-level officers and livelihoods actors, who replicated trainings at community level for refugee and host communities. There was an improvement in gender sensitive livelihoods indicators as shown by the increase in the proportion of time spent on unpaid and domestic and care work from (female 41.3%, male 28.7%) at baseline to (female 55.6%, male 35.2%) by March 2022 against the set targets for the period of (female 55%, male 35%) respectively. On the other hand, the percentage of women in the target communities with access to and control over land and other resources also increased from 13.2% at baseline to 30% by March 2022, and was within five percentage points of set target (35%).

The capacity building of local authorities, the district-level officers on gender responsive budgeting/planning, diversity management, women's human rights and economic empowerment resulted in improved understanding of GBV in the communities and increased awareness on GBV referral processes as demonstrated by the increase the percentage of young men aged 18-49 years who condemn GBV increased from 29% at baseline to 75.2% by March 2022, while the occurrence of child marriages in the target communities reduced from 33% at baseline to 17.4% by March 2022. Conversely, the proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and above who experience physical, sexual or psychological violence by current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months was at 20.9% by March 2022 and was lower than the national average of 35.6% (37.8% in West Nile, 64.9% in Acholi region)⁸, an indication that the project transformed the communities in the project area.

Efficiency

The UHRCEP project implementation, assurance, funding and regular monitoring activities are facilitated by UNDP while leveraging on its country office's operational services (finance, procurement, and administration) on a cost recovery basis. The close partnership established amongst the project teams and district officials has resulted in harmonized project implementation, close engagement of target beneficiaries and communities, as well as efficiency in the project management structure. Monthly coordination meetings are conducted to discuss key achievements and challenges, and are summarized into reports which are shared with stakeholders. However, the lack of joint-review meetings of annual and quarterly reports with project stakeholders, Limited flow of information between local leadership and the project implementors during sensitization campaigns, and restrictions due to the covid-19 pandemic compromised the efficiency of project management.

There is agreement amongst partners and stakeholders that the project's resources were managed in a transparent and accountable manner. Employing beneficiaries in the cash for work activities was cost effective during the opening of community access roads compared to the alternative of using machinery. However, the COVID-19 pandemic negatively affected the project management structure

and execution, since there was need to procure additional materials along with other requirements of the SOPs which the project had not envisaged from the beginning and led to disruption of training routines and activities involving sensitization on gender equity, GBV and protection in the communities. In terms of programme delivery, the UHRCEP project has achieved a good performance, with a cumulative expenditure rate of 94% (\$ 4,414,812 actual spend out of \$ 4,696,072 funds received) for the first three years of the project which reduces the risk of rushing project activities towards the end of the project period.

Sustainability

There are sustainability elements in the design of the UHRCEP project which adopted the UNDP 3x6 model which provides for sustainable employment creation and inclusive economic growth through strengthening of local government capacities and economic linkages between new businesses and market actors and contains activities that focus on sustainability in the third phase of implementation. The benefits of access roads rehabilitated and woodlots planted will continue to accrue to the target beneficiaries and communities even when the project comes to an end. However, it's expected that for the case of access roads, the district or sub-county local governments will develop monitoring and maintenance plans and include these in their annual workplans. However, the inadequate capacity of the local governments to raise funds for carrying out the road maintenance and the higher likelihood of groups disintegrating after the project pose a serious risk to cash to work interventions.





All livelihoods' interventions under the UHRCEP project encompassed an element of capacity building of target beneficiaries, local government officials and relevant actors or CSOs. The capacity building aimed to equip stakeholders with knowledge about the project interventions in order to enable them to conduct routine monitoring of activities that are directly linked with their respective district/sub-county development plans. However, the level of unfunded commitments in the district development plans is so high and it's unlikely that these activities shall be taken up and executed. Maintenance committees were formed with a responsibility ensuring that roads are kept in a good state and to manage the planting of woodlots. The sustainability of the project is hinged partly on the continued existence of these committees when the project comes to an end which will depend on the availability of support from the local government towards these committees.

Impact

All stakeholders reported some level of positive change that has occurred to target beneficiaries such as starting of own businesses, including; sell of second-hand clothes, small merchandise shops, selling fish, hairdressing saloons, soap making, carpentry, and making of energy saving stoves which have improved beneficiaries' livelihoods and resulted in a lifestyle change for women and youth. The trainings provided have enabled beneficiaries acquire good entrepreneurial skills which they have used to run their businesses effectively. The project is upheld for having created a mindset change amongst the beneficiaries especially the youth who now look for ideas and implement them. However, there were concerns that very few individuals benefited from business skills training and vocational skills training, and that the project did not utilize innovative practices but rather involved everyone in doing heavy manual labour during cash for work activities.

The project has helped to increase cohesion between refugees and host communities; by bringing together refugees and the nationals to work together during cash for work activities, through having joint trainings, and by creating partnerships with land owners during planting of woodlots. Participants in FGDs also reported an improvement in the levels of household savings, a great reduction in gender-based violence and a better understanding of child protection issues. In addition, refugee respondents revealed that they now feel dignified as it's better to work for an income rather than being given financial aid all the time and there were reports of beneficiaries who have integrated bee keeping in the woodlots to earn more income. However, despite all these changes, there is still need for institutions and individuals to learn more about the results of the UHRCEP project activities or evidence of its impact in order to collect ideas about projects and activities and best practices within the right frequency and timing using a well-developed communication strategy.

Overall Ratings for Review Criteria

	Relevance
	Effectiveness
	Efficiency
	Impact
	Sustainability
	Coordination/ Coherence

KEY: GA = GREATLY ACHIEVED; A = ACHIEVED; PA = PARTIALLY ACHIEVED

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Conclusions

The UHRCEP project has been instrumental in providing emergency employment and creating livelihoods opportunities for vulnerable women and youth in the refugee hosting districts of Adjumani, Lamwo and Obongi in West Nile and Northern Uganda. The project goal and objectives remain relevant to the achievement of the current UNDP Emergency Response and Resilience Strategy. The project has largely achieved its intended outcomes and results within the first 3 years of its implementation and still has potential to achieve the set target in the remaining one year. The project has been efficient in achieving its results and outputs except for a number of challenges faced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic that were not envisaged at the start of the project.

There is room for sustainability of project interventions since the UHRCEP project has built capacity of local government authorities at district and sub-county level who are expected to support continuity of the initiatives beyond the implementation period in coordination with the OPM, other stakeholders

and the community groups that were formed. However, sustainability of enterprises created will highly depend on the willingness of women and youth to continue operating in groups and the continued support from the local authorities to address access

Recommendations: Relevance

- Review the amount for start-up grants and wage pay to cash for work beneficiaries in view of increasing commodity prices and the reduction in food rations from UNHCR.
- Continue creating awareness on human rights amongst beneficiaries to address issues of child labour and denial of child education.

Effectiveness

- Scale-up the project activities to support more vulnerable women and youth in the target communities
- Provide more time for the implementation of inclusive value chain development.
- Design outcome indicators for measuring effectiveness of value chain development interventions.
- Continue with awareness creation interventions GBV prevention focusing on intimate partner violence and barriers affecting women's decision making on SRH issues.
- Support creation of financial and artisanal cooperatives in the refugees and host communities.

Efficiency

- Strengthen collaboration with local leaders and district technical teams from natural resources department and strike a balance between social and environmental safeguards.
- Procure tools used in cash for work activities through input dealers to avoid sourcing poor-quality materials.
- Review rationale for savings in human resource costs over the remain project period.
- Review and regularly update the logical framework matrix during the remaining project period.
- Arrange for joint-review or dissemination of quarterly and annual project reports with partners and stakeholders.
- Review the project risk management plan and update mitigation measures.

Sustainability

- Communicate the project exit strategy at all levels.
- Provide start-up kits to individuals who managed to establish enterprises.
- Support complete registration of VSLA groups beneficiaries.
- Provide refresher trainings to target beneficiaries on financial literacy and leadership skills.
- Lobby for passing of community by-laws or regulations to address environmental destructive behaviors.
- Link registered VSLA groups to existing microfinance institutions or banks.

Impact

- Develop a communication strategy to address the dissemination project outcomes and results.

Design innovative emergency employment options for beneficiaries in addition to road construction and planting of woodlots.

1. INTRODUCTION

The refugee population in Uganda is a product of complex political, social and economic situations in neighboring countries – with civil war in South Sudan and ethnic conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Somalia having forced the flight of hundreds of thousands in recent years. By end of June 2018, Uganda was hosting 1,470,981 refugees and asylum-seekers¹ and is the largest host country in Africa. The country has continued to receive large flows of refugees from South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. Uganda's refugee laws are among the most progressive in the world. Refugees and asylum seekers are entitled to work; have freedom of movement; and can access Ugandan social services, such as health and education. However, the refugee hosting districts in Northern Uganda are in the poorest, most vulnerable and least developed parts of Uganda, that is still recovering from 20 years of conflict.

Agricultural productivity in the refugee hosting districts is low due to environmental degradation, climatic conditions, and poor soil quality/overuse; social service delivery systems are weak; and economic opportunities are limited due to the remoteness of settlements and limited infrastructure. Furthermore, social service delivery systems in these refugee hosting districts are weak. Economic opportunities are also quite limited due to the remoteness of refugee settlements and limited infrastructure. Consequently, with the influx of South Sudanese refugees, both refugees as well as host communities experience higher occurrences of food insecurity, water stress, decreased access to education and health facilities, worries related to unemployment, lack of decent housing, discrimination, violence, victimization, and decreased access to health facilities.

Uganda's policy allocates land to refugees for agriculture. Host communities and refugees need support in terms of modernizing agriculture, value addition as well as other income-generating activities. There is therefore a need to provide opportunities for women and youth in a variety of income-generating activities. Women in refugee and host communities are disproportionately affected by changing livelihood patterns, conflict, natural disasters and climate change. There are disparities in access to financial services, land and property, which exacerbate these vulnerabilities. Displacement has changed the status of women.

It is worth noting that approximately 80% of refugees in Uganda are women and children² and 64% of all households are women-headed households³, with an average of 5 family members per household. Many women and children among the refugee population are exposed to protection risks such as gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices, such as intimate partner violence and early marriages. Many refugee women and girls have experienced some form of physical and/or SGBV before, during and after their displacement.⁴ SGBV has adverse effects on individual well-being and development and combined with being victims and/or witnesses of direct conflict. The victims of SGBV are both female and male but evidence shows that women make up the clear majority of those found to be suffering from psychological trauma. In the Ugandan society, the patriarchal system justifies discriminatory social

¹ As at 30 June 2018, based on data from Office of the Prime Minister

² https://cerf.un.org/sites/default/files/resources/18-UF-UGA-28526-NR02_Uganda_RCHC.Report.pdf

³ <https://www.nrc.no/expert-deployment/2016/2017/uganda-inadequate-response-for-women-and-girls/>

⁴ First-hand interview was conducted by UNDP on 28 July 2017 at the OPM's Department for Refugees office in Kampala, Uganda

values, beliefs and behaviours that reinforce the privileges of men and their roles in families, communities, and wider society.⁵

Refugee hosting presents increasing social, economic and environmental pressures on host communities that require integrated, yet targeted support. In the context of Uganda's refugee and host communities, creating development pathways to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is about ensuring a gender responsive and integrated approach that address the practical and specific needs of both genders equally. Ensuring gender equality also builds a foundation for effective and sustainable development at a later stage. Long term interventions are required to address the environmental degradation of settlement areas and ensure viable alternatives to energy sources. Such interventions include tree-planting and various strategies to provide energy access – such as; energy saving stoves, solar power and an extension of the electric grid. Providing energy sources also has long term benefits in education, health and livelihoods.

1.1 Background of the UHRCEP Project

With generous funding from Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been implementing an area-based, gender responsive emergency livelihoods and economic recovery project - Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment (UHRCEP) Project. The project focuses on implementing the cash for work interventions, cash for work: livelihood stabilization, vocational and skills training, start-up grants, inclusive value chain development, strengthening capacity of local authorities, and engagement of communities on GBV prevention. The three years project (2019-2022) is implemented using the 3x6 approach⁶, a model developed by UNDP to help build resilience of affected communities in crisis situations and facilitate a rapid return to sustainable development pathways, which is a critical step towards building resilience at individual, household, community and local institutional levels.

The project aims to support 7,200 direct individual beneficiaries and indirectly benefit over 36,000 people facing higher occurrences of food insecurity, water scarcity, decreased access to education and health facilities, high level of unemployment, discrimination, as well as violence/victimization implemented in the three districts of Lamwo, Adjumani and Obongi. The project focuses on building refugee and host community resilience for enhanced gender responsive livelihoods and environmental sustainability, ensuring communities and local municipalities have increased capacity to enable resilient livelihoods, employment opportunities, and delivery of basic services and security. Therefore, this project seeks to support the Government of Uganda to improve the socio-economic status of refugee hosting communities while taking the identified gender justice issues into account when responding to the large influx of South Sudanese refugees into Northern Uganda (Adjumani, Lamwo and Obongi refugee hosting districts). The project activities have been developed to specifically respond to and consider specific livelihoods impacts and vulnerabilities of men and women from both refugees and

⁵ UDHS 2016 According to the, 49% of women and 41% of men believe a man is justified in beating his wife in certain circumstances

⁶ The 3x6 is an innovative UNDP Programme approach promoting sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable and crisis-affected groups, such as those affected by disasters or conflict. The 3x6 approach uses skills, resources, and local expertise to support crises affected people to become financially independent and thus able to contribute to local economic recovery and the transition from an emergency response to a sustainable development path.

host communities. Two outputs of the project are: (1) Strengthened economic capacities of women in refugee settlements and host communities through livelihood opportunities, and (2) Capacity development of district-level officers, livelihood actors, and targeted communities to strengthen gender transformative programming.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of the Mid Term Review

The main purpose of this mid- evaluation is to provide the project partners with an independent review of the status, relevance and performance of the project as compared to the project document, identify and assess the basic results as to their sustainability. Accordingly, the main aim of this evaluation is to provide a mid term review of the UHRCEP project that analyses the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and possible impact, taking into account time and financial constraints.

The scope of the evaluation encompasses the successful removal of barriers to project implementation and facilitate the effective project delivery strategy/approach in three project districts in the planned project areas: i) enhancement/vitalization of the host and refugee communities' livelihood, ii) raising the awareness/capacity of the district local governments on community livelihood support and iii) GBV prevention, peaceful existence between host and refugee communities. To achieve the above objectives the mid term evaluation has addressed the following:

- Assessment of the project progress towards attaining its objectives and recommended measures.
- Assessment of the relevance of these objectives to the UNDP Regional Programme Document for Africa.
- Review of the appropriateness and clarity of the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and the level of coordination between them.
- Review of the project concept and design with respect to the clarity of the addressed problems by the project and soundness of the approaches adopted by the project to solve these problems.
- Assessment of the performance of the project in terms of timeliness, quality, quantity and cost effectiveness of the activities undertaken including project procurement: both experts and equipment, training programs, etc.
- Reviewed the logical framework matrix and the indicators to assessed their appropriateness for monitoring the project performance and to what extent they are being used by the project management.
- Assessed the prospects of the sustainability of the project outcomes and benefits and recommended measures for its further improvement.
- Identified and described the main lessons learned from the project performance in terms of awareness raising, strengthening of technical and financial capacity, efforts to secure sustainability and approaches and methodologies used.

1.3 Key Implementing Partners

The implementing partners include; World Vision Uganda, Save the Children International, CEDOVIP, VEDCO, and Comboni Missionaries and their responsibilities are as follows;

- Livelihood support and Gender responsive activities: World Vision, Save the Children, VEDCO
- Value Chain Assessment: JP management
- Gender Responsive market feasibility study and Market construction feasibility study: Save the Children
- Gender related advisory and technical support: CEDOVIP

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Overall Approach

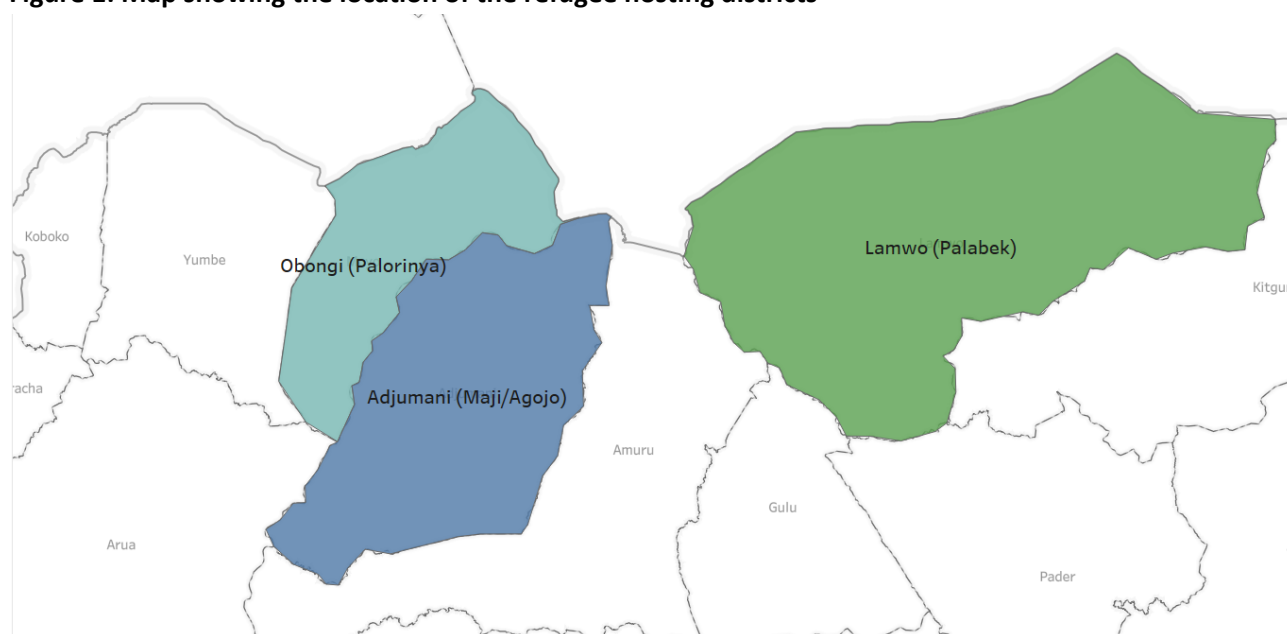
The mid-term evaluation survey adopted a mixed methods approach with a mix of quantitative and qualitative/descriptive methods based on primary and secondary sources of project information. The review process was structured around the project results framework and evaluation matrix including a series of evaluation questions, and accompanying data collection methods or tools, data sources and data analysis plan. The evaluation matrix used during the review process and that provided guidance during interviews, was organized around the five OECD/DAC evaluation criteria - relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact. Based on the evaluation matrix, the mid-term evaluation team developed data collection tools and ensured relevant sections are cross-referenced against the evaluation criteria, evaluation questions as well as the level of analysis in order to easily identify the main purpose of the requested information.

2.2 Data Collection Methods

The field data collection was conducted from 15th – 27th March 2022 using tools such as key informant interviews, a household survey, focus group discussion, observations and review of documents where appropriate.

- **Document reviews** – An initial review of selected key documents took place during the Inception Phase as documents were made available. The mid-term evaluation team carried out a second round of in-depth document review in order to generate information to answer evaluation questions as outline in each evaluation criteria. The documents reviewed include; the project design document, project baseline report, September 2020, project annual reports (2019 – 2021), project joint field monitoring mission report (Nov 2021), UNDP Global Toolkit on the 3x6 approach, and a market assessment for employment and income generating opportunities in Obongi Adjumani and Lamwo districts.
- **Household survey** – A survey of beneficiary refugee and host community households was conducted using structured questionnaires (see Appendix IV) to collect quantitative information in order to establish the mid-term status of key outcome indicators defined in the logical framework.

Figure 1: Map showing the location of the refugee hosting districts



The household survey targeted a sample of 608 (668 households with 10% attrition), a representative sample determined using Yamane formula or sample size calculator with a 99% confidence level ($Z_{\text{value}} = 2.576$) and 5% margin of error. This allowed capturing primary of data from 657 beneficiary households (463 refugees, 194 host community) who were selected with the support of community facilitators. Cluster simple random sampling was used to administer the survey across the three (3) refugee hosting districts with the household as the primary sampling unit.

- **Key informant interviews** – The mid-term evaluation team interviewed Responsible Partner staff and other stakeholders at all levels using a semi-structured interview guide with probing questions (see Appendix V) to obtain respondents perspectives on the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact of the UHRCEP project interventions. The mid-term evaluation team carried out most of the interviews face-to-face (during the field data collection exercise), and through phone/skype with key informants who could not be met during the field data collection. The complete list of interviewed stakeholders is attached in Appendix II.
- **Focus Group Discussions** – Focus group discussion (FGD) involving skilled moderators were used to elicit experiences, perceptions and preferences of the target beneficiaries about the project. The moderators followed a list of questions designed in line with the evaluation criteria as they guided discussions, ensuring all voices are represented, and kept the discussion on track. Due to COVID restrictions, small groups of about 6 participants were purposively selected from the targeted beneficiaries. The FGDs were gender and age disaggregated for women, youth and men in both the refugees and host settlements. Overall, 21 FGDs were conducted as shown in appendix III.
- **Observations** – Observation and pictorials were used to capture most significant change stories based on observations made during the field data collection. The beneficiaries were identified through consultation with local community leaders and community facilitators, and were asked brief questions about their situation before the project, how they have participated in the project, the benefited achieved or changes in their socioeconomic status they attribute to the project interventions as well as their households.

2.3 Data Quality Control

Prior to the actual data collection, a team of Research assistants were trained for 2 days with a focus on the understanding the various components of the evaluation as well the electronic data capture approaches. This was preceded by the field pre-test just before the final approval of the tools and after incorporating feedback from the pre-test.

The use of ODK central platform facilitated electronic data collection which was time savings and improved data quality through integration of consistency checks, skip logic and Geographical Positioning Systems (GPS). Collected data was sent wirelessly to a secure server at the end of each day of data collection and reviewed so as to ensure timely correction of anomalies before the next day's data is collected.

2.4 Data Analysis and Reporting

The quantitative data from the survey was analyzed using Stata and Tableau employing descriptive statistics. The results were compiled and triangulated with information from the documentation review and qualitative survey. Content analysis was used to analyze the data collected using key informant

interviews and focus group discussions based on condensation and abstraction of main themes. These were compiled in a Microsoft Word document and manually analyzed to understand trends in quantitative data and to answer the respective evaluation questions as per key evaluation criteria.

2.5 Ethical Considerations

All respondents to the evaluation survey received a verbal explanation of the study and its objectives. Enumerators were provided with a paragraph in their guide requesting consent from the interviewee. Beneficiaries were informed that the survey was confidential, and that their responses would not affect future select or benefits from the project. Participation was voluntary and household members had the right to refuse to answer any or all questions as well as take photographs.

The mid-term evaluation team committed to ensuring that survey participation was on a voluntary basis and that no inducements for participation were made. No compensation was provided for participation in the survey. However, participants in focus group discussions that lasted about 45 to 60 minutes were given refreshments (a soda, or bottle of water). The Team Leader ensured that all enumerators and supervisors were oriented and adhered to research ethics, safeguarding principles and child protection policy prior to commencement of data collection. Every information collected was treated with all the confidentiality that it deserves. No individual identifying information was shared in collected datasets or compiled reports.

2.6 Study Limitations

- **Language barrier** – The questionnaire was in English but in most cases, enumerators had to translate the question to the local languages and other times a translator from the local community was used. There is a chance of distortion or loss of the real meaning in translation, to overcome this the data collected was triangulated and validated for accuracy.
- **Covid-19 restrictions** – Due to COVID restrictions, small groups of about 6 participants were selected from the targeted beneficiaries. The modulators ensured that participants were not selected from one locality but represented the entire local community and also made efforts to achieve the expected number of FGDs per location. Other guidelines particularly social distancing, wearing of masks, hand sanitizing were all followed.
- **Potential biases** – Biases could have arisen from the sampling procedure adopted. Although enumerators were instructed to make all reasonable efforts to locate direct beneficiaries of the project, it's probable that a few respondents may not have been beneficiaries of the project thus biasing the data collected. To overcome these potential biases, we sought support of community facilitators to guide during selection of respondents. In addition, data was triangulated with qualitative responses for validity and accuracy.

3. FINDINGS

This section presents the study findings in form of answers to the evaluation questions outlined in the TOR and is based on thorough review of project documents, analysis of outcome indicators as well as analysis of feedback from key project stakeholders and beneficiaries. The socio-demographic profile of the target beneficiaries is provided as a start to provide a preview of the context.

3.1 Socio-demographic characteristics

Results in table 1 depict key parameters such as gender, age, marital status, education, as well as disability as these are some of the individual factors known to influence uptake of programmatic interventions.

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of the target beneficiaries

Project Location	Adjumani (Maji/Agojo)		Lamwo (Palabek)		Obongi (Palorinya)		Overall		
	Host	Refugees	Host	Refugees	Host	Refugees	Host	Refugees	Total
Total Beneficiaries	70	196	52	118	72	149	194	463	657
Gender									
Female	50%	68%	87%	81%	72%	70%	70%	73%	71%
Male	50%	32%	13%	19%	28%	30%	30%	27%	29%
Age Category									
Below 18 years			2%			3%	2%	3%	1%
18-30 years	40%	27%	67%	58%	31%	22%	46%	36%	36%
Above 30 years	60%	73%	31%	42%	69%	75%	53%	63%	63%
Marital Status									
Married	86%	63%	77%	66%	65%	64%	76%	64%	68%
Widower	4%	18%	6%	14%	15%	17%	8%	17%	14%
Separated	3%	15%	8%	8%	17%	13%	9%	12%	12%
Single	7%	3%	10%	12%	3%	6%	7%	7%	6%
Education									
Never been to school	9%	18%	12%	26%	14%	34%	11%	26%	21%
Did not complete primary	50%	40%	29%	35%	51%	38%	43%	38%	40%
Completed primary	30%	31%	23%	31%	15%	13%	23%	25%	25%
Completed secondary	11%	10%	29%	7%	17%	15%	19%	11%	13%
Completed tertiary level			8%	1%	1%	1%	5%	1%	1%
Completed university					1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Household Head									
Male Headed	70%	37%	81%	62%	68%	40%	73%	46%	53%
Female headed	30%	62%	19%	38%	32%	60%	27%	53%	47%
Household Size	6.9	7.2	6.1	7.1	6.8	6.1	6.6	6.8	6.8
Type of Disability									
Physical	75%	79%	100%	60%	67%	68%	81%	69%	74%
Mental	30%	52%				3%	30%	27%	28%
Visual	30%	11%		40%	33%	37%	32%	29%	24%
Deaf and Dumb	5%				17%	3%	11%	3%	2%



3.2 Relevance

- To what extent is the project in line with the regional development priorities, the Regional programme's outputs and outcomes, the UNDP Strategic Plan and the SDGs?
- To what extent does the project contribute to the theory of change for the relevant regional programme outcome?
- To what extent are lessons learned from other relevant projects considered in the project's design?
- To what extent does the project contribute to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights-based approach?

Relevance and Quality of Design

The project was designed to empower women and youth in refugee hosting communities of Adjumani, Lamwo and Moyo districts in West Nile and Acholi sub-regions of Uganda. The refugee hosting districts are located in the poorest and least developed parts of Uganda that are still recovering from over 20 years of conflicts. The social service delivery systems in these districts are weak, economic opportunities and infrastructure are limited, and these districts are characterized with high levels of unemployment, discrimination, as well as violence/victimization. Emergency livelihoods support was therefore relevant to promote immediate job creation, supported by initial capacity building, and to stimulate agriculture production and other income generating activities.

The 3x6 Approach consists of three organizing principles and six fundamental steps that are implemented in three distinct phases, which aims to support the transition from emergency development efforts (such as 'cash for work') to sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable population groups during transition or in crisis or post-crisis contexts (for example, conflict and disaster). The 3x6 approach considers participants as active partners in their own socio-economic recovery and development. This sense of ownership and choice is an essential element of the approach.



Box 1: 3x6 Overview

The project interventions that targeted individuals, communities and local authorities, included community asset creation through cash for work activities, life skills training, small grants and business skills training for small enterprises, value chain development, as well as building capacity of the local authorities and municipalities. The implementation strategy adopted the UNDP's Resilience Based Development Approach to stabilize and build diversified, sustainable and resilient livelihoods, with emergency livelihood interventions serving as a basis to develop longer-term strategies.

According to key informants interviewed during the mid-term evaluation the project activities were identified and validated with the support of the local government officials and all beneficiary needs were explored and aligned within the district development plans. For example, opening of roads in the community was conducted in close supervision of district officials thereby allowing the local government to take up the management of the community access roads. The project targeted the most vulnerable who had very limited sources of income therefore, when they engaged in cash for work activities, they were able to earn some incentives that enabled them to meet basic needs of their households. In general, opening of community access roads, vocational skills training, and starting income generating activities were perceived as the major needs of the project beneficiaries.

“Before the project interventions people couldn’t afford even the basic needs in their households due to limited income sources but now with the project activities, new businesses have been setup in the settlements using the business grants. This has allowed women and youth to have an improved lifestyle as they can now afford most of their household needs.” – Livelihoods officer, Palabek Refugee Settlement.

The project was implemented as part of the current UNDP Emergency Response and Resilience Strategy (ERRS) which is based on the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (REHOPE) Framework and aligned to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) action plan, the National Development Plan III and the new Parish Development Model (PDM). The project responded to and contributes to the three (3) strategic pillars of UNDP’s ERRS Programme (resilient livelihoods, SGBV prevention and response, and local governance enhancement) – developed in the wake of the recent South Sudanese refugee influx into Uganda – with the aim to strengthen resilience by empowering individuals, communities, national and local authorities to cope with and recover from the impact of the crisis. The results of the project are within the strategic framework of the UNDP Strategic Plan 2018-2022, UNDAF 2016-2020, UNDP Country Programme Document and contribute to the Uganda country refugee response plan July 2020 – December 2021.

The project interventions were implemented in the most relevant areas in the context of the impact South Sudanese refugee influx in Uganda and were in line with the needs and problems of the refugee and host communities of the project districts. A market assessment was conducted to identify barriers and opportunities in the local markets for micro, small and medium enterprises in order to explore current and future livelihood opportunities for women, youth and PSNs. Results of the market assessment informed the project about gender disparities with regard to employment status, level of education and access to financial services, and the most promising enterprises for engagement or self-employment.

In addition to their perception of the relevance of the UHRCEP project to the needs of beneficiary communities, key informants were asked to comment on how well the project design was tailored to address the priorities of beneficiaries. While no major gaps were identified, interviewees highlighted the need to increase the pay for the cash for work activity given the reduction in food rations from UNHCR and the need target individuals instead of groups with business grants as trained individuals tend to be more motivated and have a sense of ownership of the business which may not be the same with groups. In general, key informants pointed out notably that the project design was well tailored to address beneficiary priorities as it aimed at providing skills training, financial support and supporting farming activities which have yielded visible long-term benefits such as establishment of small shops in the refugee settlements, making of Lorena stoves, improved access to markets, establishment of savings groups and the fact that many of the beneficiaries are now working instead of staying idle at home.

Cash for work activities were developed based on assessments at the district level, while interventions were identified, tested and validated through a participatory approach involving representatives from both the refugee and host communities and in consultation with district leaders, implementing partners and other stakeholders. The need for long term interventions to address the environmental degradation of settlement areas and ensure viable alternatives to energy sources had been highlighted in the project proposal and this included tree-planting, energy saving stoves, solar power and extension of the electric

grid. This would provide long term benefits in education, health and livelihoods in the refugee hosting districts and further complement interventions aimed at improving resilience of the affected communities.

The key informants interviewed during the mid-term evaluation stressed that prior to implementation of project activities, consultations were made by project stakeholders, including the subcounty officials and the field facilitators to ensure that the priority needs of men, women and youth were addressed during the project design. The consultations were made during the project inception meetings at different district and subcounty levels where most people expressed their needs, concerns and sought guidance about the project implementation. Some of the project aspects focused on during the consultations include, income generating activities to be supported by the project such as hair dressing saloons, locations for tree planting, access roads for rehabilitation, selection of cash for work projects and vetting of different business partners. However, the vast majority participants in focus group discussions reported that consultations were not made to identify their needs, instead list of names were obtained from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) or in some cases, LC1 chair persons selected the beneficiaries without consulting the community at large.

According to many beneficiaries interviewed, the design of the project was not tailored to their priorities or needs. Some FGDs participants revealed that they were interested in livestock farming, poultry production but the project prioritized tree planting and road construction. Additional needs and problems mentioned by participants in focus group discussions can be summarized as follows; under woodlot planting, some of the trees are not good for the soil in the area; receipt of items and machines for value addition such as grinding mills that some beneficiaries were unable to operate; some have not managed to apply the business skills acquired; some beneficiaries did not like the support extended to groups when they preferred individual support; despite the VSLA beneficiaries' expectation to receive financial support, a savings box, books of accounts and a stamp to track their savings, these items were not provided.

Appropriateness of programme design

The community access roads that were constructed under cash for work are in the subcounty development plans but most of them were unfunded priorities. Other notable unfunded priorities reported in the districts five-year development plans (2015/2016-2019/2020) include; improvement of agricultural productivity and marketing, food security and household incomes; provision of sustainable and equitable use of natural resources, promotion of gender participatory planning, promotion of gender equity, capacity building training for local government staff, provision of tailor-made vocational training programs for poor individuals, diversification of income generation sources, as well as community services aimed at empowering target youth to harness their socio-economic potential and increase self-employment. All the above activities are linked to the National Development Plan III FY 2020-2021/2024/2025 whose objectives include, among others; to create jobs, to consolidate and increase stock and quality of Productive infrastructure, inclusiveness and well-being of the population.

According to stakeholders interviewed during this mid-term evaluation, majority agree that the project was relevant because it has supported opening of access roads to landing sites, schools and trading centers. They further revealed that the project contributed to subcounty development plans since some

of the project activities were already reflected in the development plans and the subcounty leadership, including the district engineer and the forestry officers, were heavily involved in most of the activities such as road opening and establishment of woodlots.

Before the project, assessments and surveys by UN agencies⁷ had reported that limited access to livelihoods or job opportunities and skills training are the most commonly expressed needs of both women-headed refugee and host-community households. While at the time, there were few short-term and low-skilled livelihood opportunities provided by UN agencies and NGOs in refugee hosting districts. Therefore, it was highly recommended to link survivors of SGBV to livelihood opportunities and skills training to prevent the risks of engaging in harmful coping mechanisms, such as marrying off girls as young as 14 years and/or engaging in transactional sex as a means of gaining income. It was also logical to provide technical assistance that is designed to strengthen the capacity amongst district local government to mainstream gender in local economic development since several women's economic empowerment projects led by government and humanitarian agencies faced significant resource and capacity challenges as well as relevant policy or guidelines on gender equality and GBV.

The project proposal highlighted underreporting of gender-based violence (GBV) cases as a major concern before the onset of the project due to a variety of factors including fear of stigma, shame, family reaction and dissolution, perception of GBV as a private matter, entrenched acceptance of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) against women, and the lack of confidence in reporting channels. In addition, it was further highlighted that prevention and response services were not adequate to effectively address the protection needs of a growing population, with many GBV survivors relying on community structures that often re-victimized them instead of serving their interest. Delays in accessing justice and limited human and financial resources were huge challenges to the provision of quality and effective services.

There was a notable increase in GBV cases reported from March to June 2020 amplified the gaps that existed prior to the COVID-19 emergency, funding constraints towards the existing community structures, limited capacity of the police to investigate cases and arrest perpetrators, low case manager to survivor ratio, and lack of protection houses. This necessitated establishment of more women centers and counselling centers; improvement of outreach to refugees to ensure identification and safe referral of GBV survivors and those at risk, as well as continued efforts to address root causes of GBV including cultural issues and social norms is essential.

The project is perceived to have contributed to gender equality and human rights according to the views of the key informants who pointed out notably that; beneficiaries within the community are always sensitized about gender equality alongside the financial support and this helps to reduce the occurrence of GBV; the project targets more women than men (60% women, 40% men) so as to empower women economically and reduce their dependence on men; women have taken up leadership positions and have become champions in passing on what they have learnt to their fellow women who are going through similar situations; initially women didn't know their rights but through trainings and capacity building, women now know their full rights and their voices are heard, and are being elected into leadership positions such as RWC chairpersons.

⁷ UN Resident Coordinator's Office (2017)

Mid-Term Evaluation of the Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project (UHRCEP) in Lamwo, Adjumani and Obongi Districts

“These are women that never thought they would become valuable members in the society as they had given up hope and all they thought was that their men were met to always lead them.”

- GBV and Mental Health Specialist, Lamwo

“For me these are very impactful changes, if somebody appreciates what they have learnt and they are able to hand it over to others, for example in Agojo, there was a man who was about to commit suicide, because of food scarcity, and the easiest people he reached out to were the group members and the women leaders, so this shows the women leaders are now empowered and the community is benefiting from their efforts.” -- GBV and Mental Health Specialist, Adjumani

According to participants in focus group discussions, the project created more awareness of human rights amongst beneficiaries by emphasizing what human rights abuses are while ensuring that when implementing project activities under-age children are not given hard work. Both women and men are involved in the leadership structures of the groups, with women being elected as group heads in some of the groups, women now participate in the decision making at their homes, and there is a reduction in misunderstandings amongst family members since both men and women attended the same training. Project activities such as cash for work and savings groups involved both men and women which brought unity and understanding amongst partners as some women started contributing or paying school fees for their children. However, a respondent in a focus group discussion in Lamwo reported that the human rights are still being disrespected as not much has been done to address the issue of child labour as teenagers are still being given heavy work which is exploitative and some are denied the basic human needs like education.

3.3 Effectiveness

- *To what extent is the project contributing to the country programme outcomes and outputs, the SDGs, the UNDP Strategic Plan and national development priorities?*
- *To what extent are the project outputs achieved?*
- *What factors are contributing to achieving or not achieving intended country programme outputs and outcomes?*
- *To what extent is the UNDP partnership strategy appropriate and effective?*
- *To what extent are project management and implementation participatory and is this participation contributing towards achievement of the project objectives?*
- *To what extent is the project contributing to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of human rights?*

The overall goal of the UHRCEP project is to improve the socio-economic empowerment of communities with emphasis on women and youth in refugee hosting communities. The project interventions were implemented effectively which contributed to the achievement of the expected outcomes. The status of outcome indicators shows that most of them were largely achieved at the time of the mid-term evaluation and are likely to meet their end of project targets (table 2). It is important to point out that the final year of the project will focus on implementation of value chain development interventions but no impact or poverty reduction indicators were set to measure their effectiveness. This needs to be addressed before the end of the project. For the outcome indicators that did not have set EOP targets, the evaluation team has made proposals based on the mid-term evaluation survey measurements and these should be reviewed for adoption by the project M&E team.

Table 2: Effectiveness of UHRCEP per outcome level and progress towards EOP targets

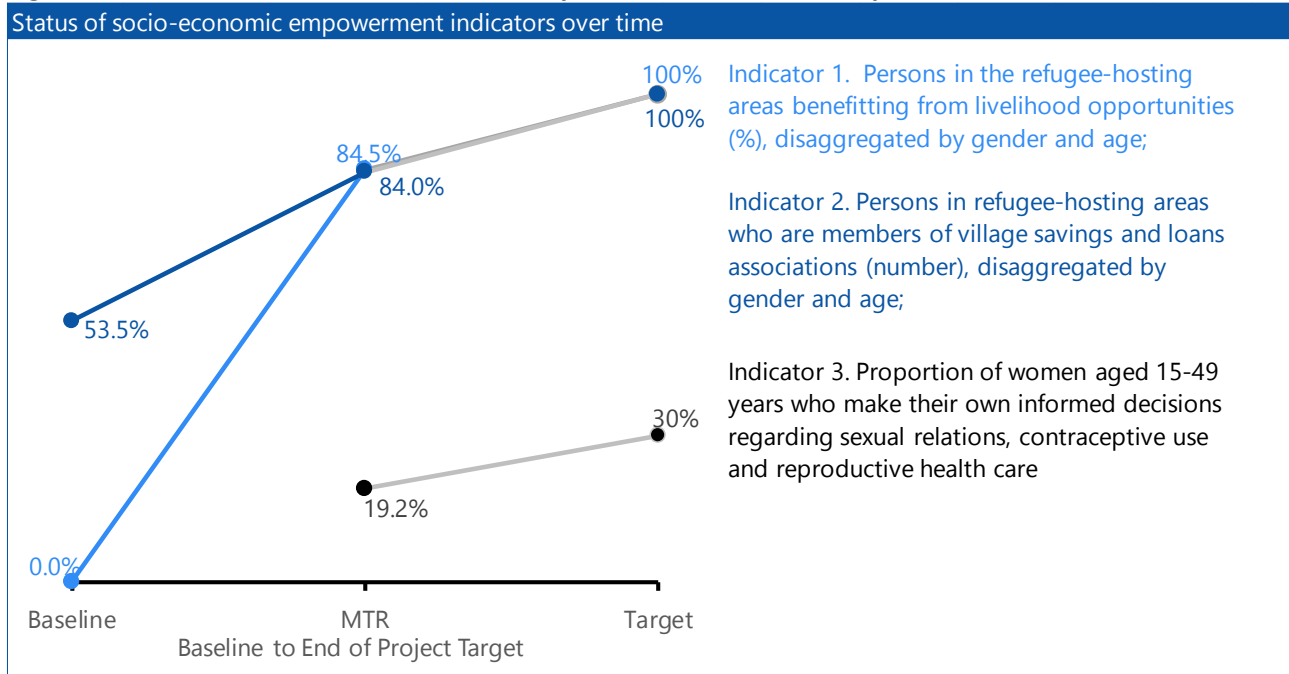
Invention Logic	Indicators	Level of achievement	Progress towards EOP target
Improve the socio-economic empowerment of communities with an emphasis on women and youth in refugee hosting communities	<i>1. Persons in the refugee-hosting areas benefitting from livelihood opportunities (%)</i>	Largely	Significant
	<i>2. Persons in refugee-hosting areas who are members of village savings and loans associations (%)</i>	Largely	Significant
	<i>3. Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care</i>	Partially	Moderate
Socio-economic gender equality in the context of livelihood improved	<i>1-1. Proportion of time spent on un-paid and domestic and care work</i>	Fully	Significant
	<i>1-2. % of women in target communities with access to and control over land and other resources</i>	Largely	Significant
Enhanced capacities for mainstreaming gender equity/GBV prevention among key sub-national government agencies...	<i>2-1. Number of Project, policy publications, training manuals published</i>	Partially	Minimal
	<i>2-2: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and above who experience physical, sexual or psychological violence by current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months</i>	Partially	Moderate
	<i>2-3. % of young men who condemn GBV</i>	Largely	Significant
	<i>2-4. Number (or %) of child marriages within refugee and host communities</i>	Largely	Significant

Socio-economic empowerment of women and youth

In order to improve the socio-economic empowerment of communities with a focus women and youth in refugee hosting communities, the UHRCEP project creates emergency jobs such as road work construction, wood lots planning, crops harvesting, construction of energy stoves construction and construction of rubbish pits through cash-for-work activities which enable beneficiaries to increase their income and savings. In addition, the project provides life skills training to beneficiaries followed by small grants, business skills training and financial literacy training to support start-up of micro and small businesses. Other interventions were designed to engage communities on GBV prevention, including support to GBV survivors and women to improve the decision-making process in their families.

During the review period, the percentage of persons benefiting from livelihood opportunities such as cash-for-work, business skills training, vocational skills training, start-up grants, tree planting, construction of energy efficient stoves, among others; increased from 0% at baseline in September 2020 to 84.5% by March 2022 (figure 2). Correspondingly, the persons in refugee-hosting areas who are members of village savings and loans associations also increased from 53.5% at baseline to 84% by March 2022. The indicators are steadily moving towards their set target of 100% by December 2022 and their improvement is attributed to project efforts towards emergency jobs creation and establishment of VLSAs. On the other hand, the proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care was found to be 19.2% by March 2022. Given that this indicator was not properly measured at baseline, it was not possible to determine whether it was improving towards the set target of 30% by December 2022.

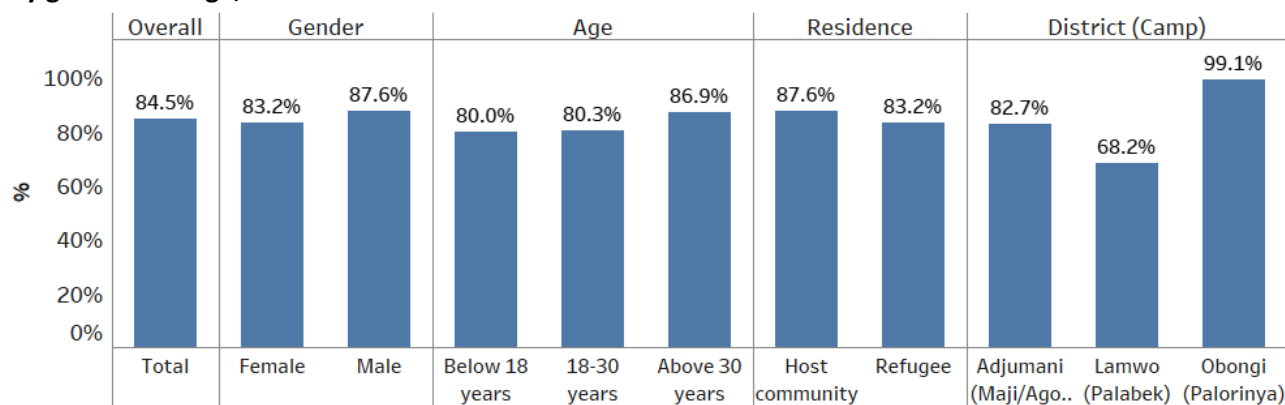
Figure 2: Trends in indicators for women and youth socio-economic empowerment



The analysis of the indicator on percentage of persons benefiting from livelihood opportunities shows relative differences across gender, age and location with more males (87.6%) compared to females (83.2%) confirming to be benefiting from livelihood opportunities (figure 3). In terms of age, 86.9% of persons above 30 years confirmed to be benefiting from livelihood opportunities compared to youth aged 30 years and below, while in terms of residential status, more respondents from the host

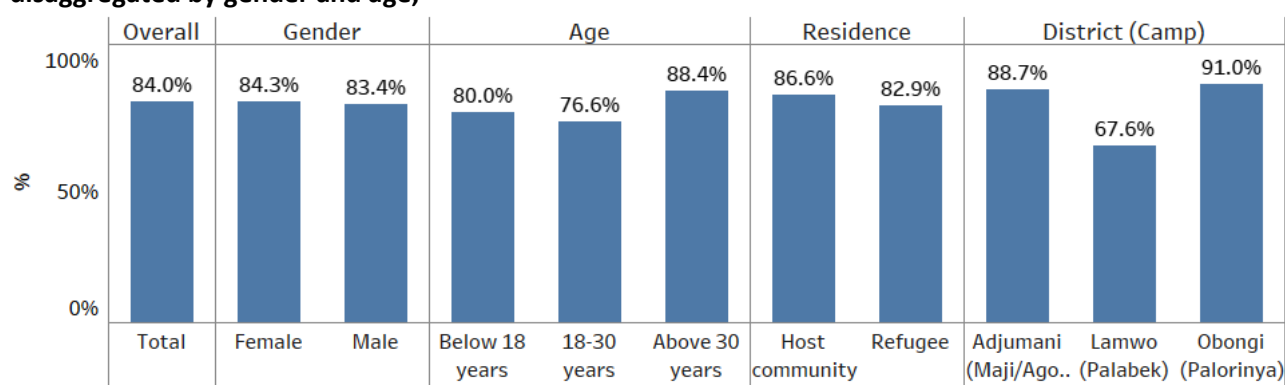
community (87.6%) compared to refugees (83.2%) confirmed to be benefiting from livelihood opportunities. By location, majority of the respondent from Obongi district (99.1%) confirmed to be benefiting from livelihoods opportunities, followed by 82.7% of the respondents from Adjumani district and 68.2% of the respondents from Lamwo district. Whereas the higher rates for male vs female and host community vs. refugees are not surprising, a higher rate for adults when compared to youth could indicate that the project is prioritizing the elderly as opposed to the youth as observed by focus group discussion participants in Zone 5B, Palabek settlement, who highlighted that most youth have not been able to enhance their lives because they are left out as the project prioritises the elderly persons.

Figure 3: Persons in the refugee-hosting areas benefiting from livelihood opportunities (%), disaggregated by gender and age;



The percentage of persons who are members of village savings and loans associations exhibited a similar trend to that of persons who benefited in livelihood opportunities (figure 4). This shows that majority of the beneficiaries who have participated in the UHRCEP project activities and benefited from the livelihood opportunities created by the project were able to join the VSLA groups that were established to instill the culture of savings amongst the beneficiaries.

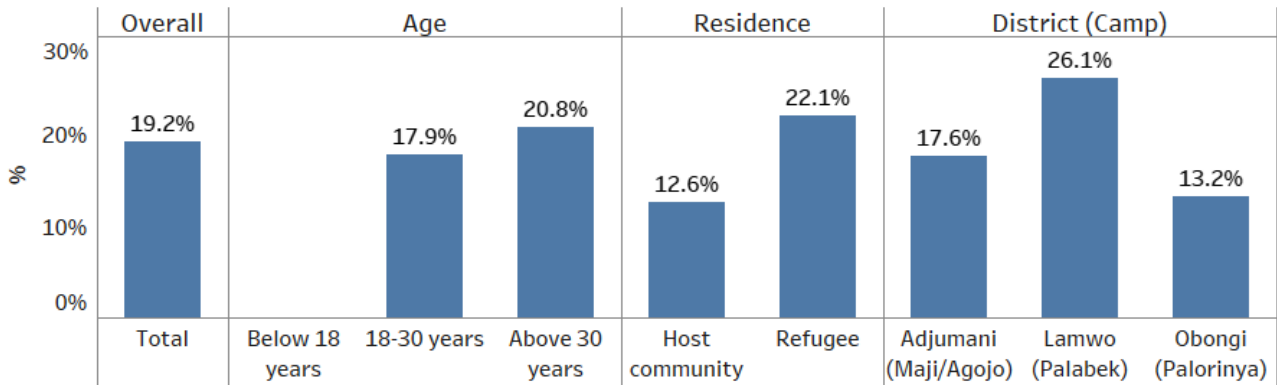
Figure 4: Persons in refugee-hosting areas who are members of village savings and loans associations (%), disaggregated by gender and age;



As regards empowerment of women to make their own informed decision regarding sexual reproductive health (SRH) issues, the study established that only 19.2% of the women aged 15-49 years make their own informed decision regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care. Results show that more adult women - above 30 years of age (20.8%) were making their own informed decisions regarding SRH compared to the female youth aged 18-30 years (17.9%), and by type of residence, more refugee women (22.1%) were making their own informed decisions regarding SRH compared to only 12.6% in the host community (figure 5). In general, results on the women's role in

decision making regarding SRH reveal that the project should continue with efforts to remove barriers affecting women’s decision making on SRH issues with a focus on youth and women in the host community in order to attain the end of project target of 30%.

Figure 5: Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care



The project partners and stakeholders consulted during the mid-term evaluation survey reported that some of the beneficiaries who participated in cash for work activities and earned money used it to start small businesses which help them to buy basic needs. On the other hand, the opening of roads, for example to the landing sites, has enabled people to do business and trade across the river Nile. Key informants also revealed that many project beneficiaries are now able to do small businesses in their capacity given the skills acquired during cash for work activities and business training and have also become food secure, especially those who received seeds for vegetables and beans. The poverty levels have also reduced as seen from annual incomes of refugees and people from the host community. However, it was highlighted that many beneficiaries have not yet achieved full economic empowerment due to a number of challenges, including the impact of covid-19 lock down, thefts and robberies that affected some of the small grant beneficiaries, existing constraints in the food value chains, and the fact that not all the vulnerable people were supported by the project.

In addition, many participants in focus group discussions confirmed that following their participation in VSLA groups and receipt of business grants, they are now able to borrow money, finance their business needs, and contribute to their household incomes. With the income earnings, beneficiaries are able to meet their family needs, pay school fees and buy uniforms for children, purchase or look after livestock (goats, pigs, chicken), improve lighting in their dwellings, build houses of their own, and also buy household items like mattresses and blankets thus improving their standards of living. However, a few participants in focus group discussions.

“During the rainy season, I was able to plant 3 cups of bean seeds and harvested three basins. I was even able to sell some of the beans to my fellow community members. Currently, people no longer buy greens especially during the rainy season.” – Female beneficiary, Agojo refugee settlement

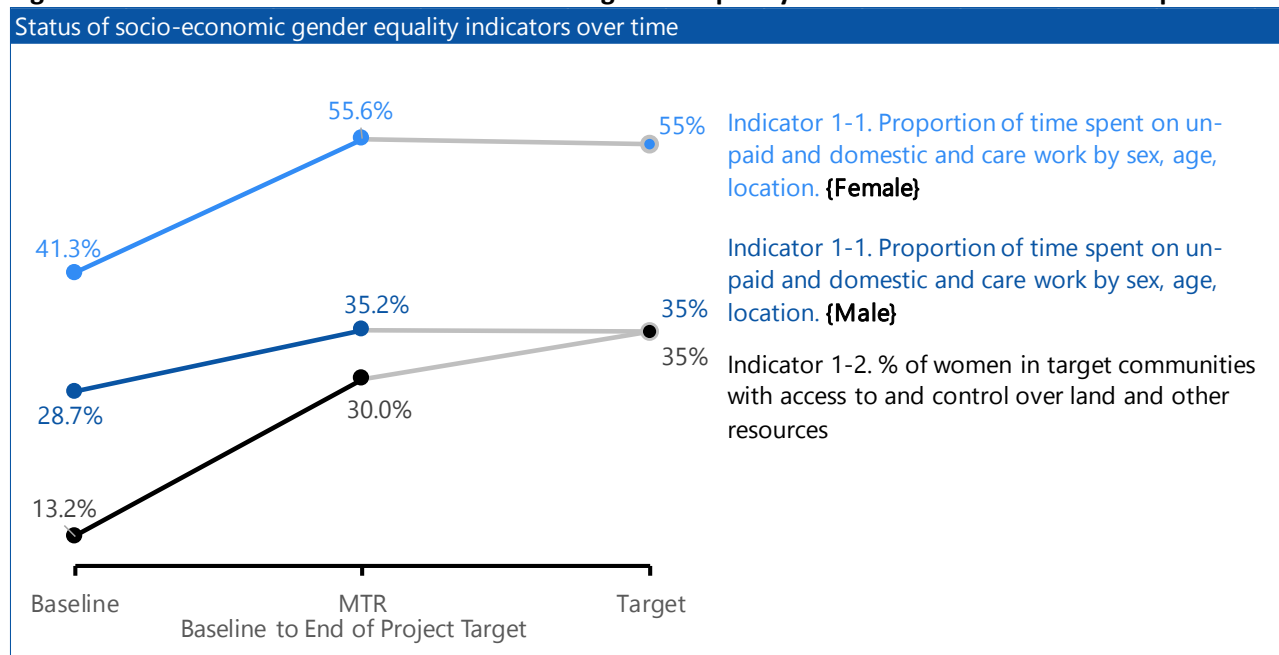
Socio-economic gender equality in the context of livelihood improved

In order to improve socio-economic gender equality in the context of livelihoods, the UHRCEP project embarked on gender transformative programming which involved capacity development of district-level officers and livelihoods actors, who replicated trainings at community level for refugee and host communities. In addition, gender responsive assessments were conducted to identify gender barriers and opportunities for women and youth's livelihoods, including barriers and opportunities for financial inclusion, and to provide recommendations to the project implementation in regard to socially inclusive livelihoods. Some of the gender responsive strategies adopted include; selection of at least 60% female beneficiaries, life skills training and sensitization on savings, women's human rights, and conflict resolution during cash for work and other project activities.

As a result of these strategies, gender sensitive livelihoods indicators improved from baseline as follows;

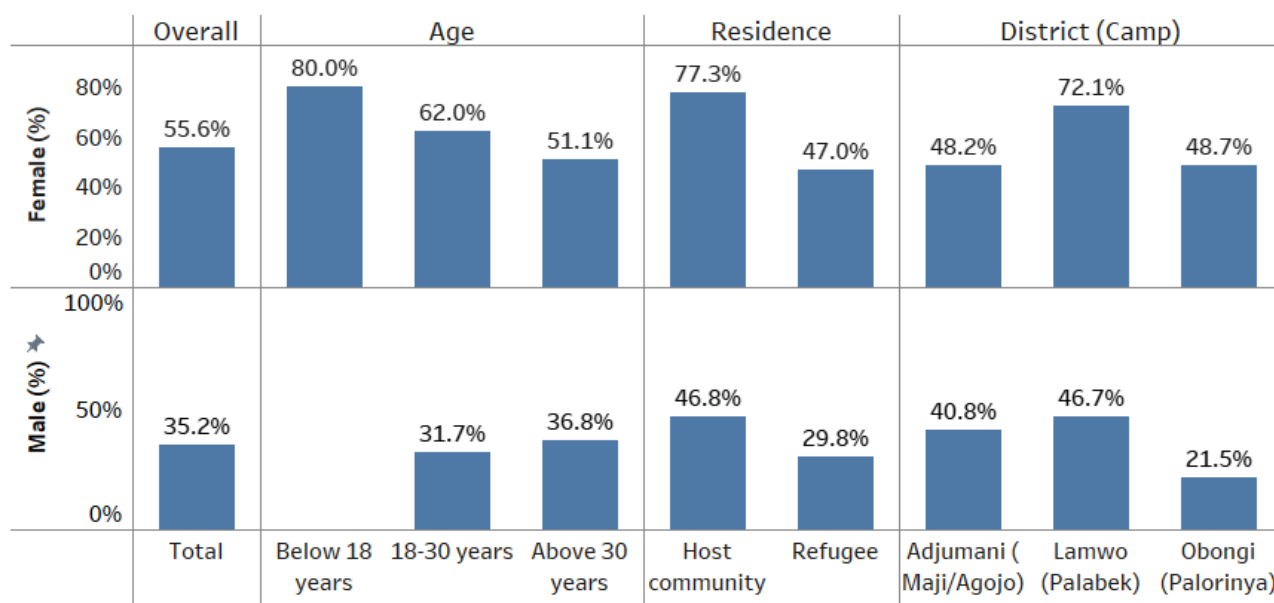
- the proportion of time spent on unpaid and domestic and care work increased from (female 41.3%, male 28.7%) at baseline (September 2020) to (female 55.6%, male 35.2%) by March 2022, thus reaching the set targets for the period of (female 55%, male 35%) respectively (figure 6).
- the percentage of women in the target communities with access to and control over land and other resources also increased from 13.2% at baseline to 30% by March 2022, and within five percentage points of the project set target (35%).

Figure 6: Trends in indicators for socio-economic gender equality in the context of livelihood improvement



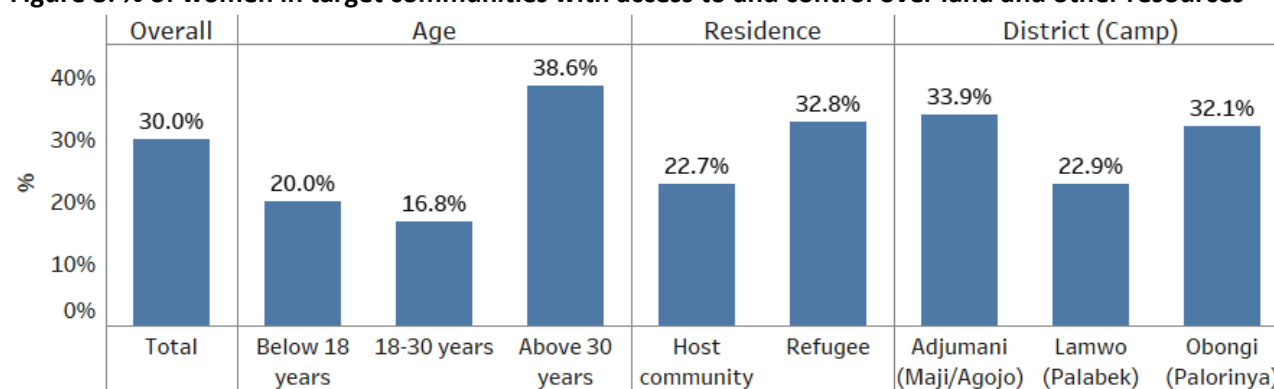
Further analysis of the proportion of time spent on un-paid and domestic and care work showed notable variations across age, type of residence and location, with more female youth spending more time on un-productive and domestic and care work compared to female adults above 30 years (figure 7). More beneficiaries from the host community spend more time on un-productive and domestic and care work compared to their refugee counterparts, while by location, more beneficiaries from Lamwo (Palabek) spend more time on un-productive and domestic and care work compared Adjumani and Obongi. The increased engagement in reproductive roles, especially by adult men who are above 30 years of age shows an increase in men's contribution towards the livelihoods and market activities in their households and can be attributed to the sensitisations and training provided by the project.

Figure 7: Proportion of time spent on un-paid and domestic and care work by sex, age, location



At the time of the mid-term evaluation (by March 2022) the percentage of women with access to and control over land and other resources had improved from 13.2% at baseline to 30%, more so amongst female adults above 30 years of age (38.6%) and female refugees (32.8%), figure 8. The improved access and control over land and other resources was attributed to an increased number of land owners in the host community who gave away over 20 acres of land to be used for planting of woodlots following the sensitization by the district local government and with support from the OPM. The land under woodlots is also intercropped with beans and rice which results into improved agricultural productivity and livelihoods of female headed households. Women beneficiaries of cash-transfers, cash for work activities and income generating activities have also managed to acquire productive assets such as savings, livestock, small shops, market stalls, saloons, among others.

Figure 8: % of women in target communities with access to and control over land and other resources



According to stakeholders interviewed during the mid-term evaluation survey, the UHRCEP project has enabled peaceful co-existence of the host community and the refugees which has in turn resulted in establishment of food markets that are accessible to both refugees and the host community. Peaceful co-existence has also been made possible by combining refugees and hosts in the cash for work activities as well as saving groups (VSLAs). Female beneficiaries have succeeded in using cash for work earnings

to buy livestock, starting bakery business, paying school fees for their children, and meeting basic needs such as clothes, medical bills, food and shelter. The women who were trained and provided with tailoring machines are now able to support themselves and their children without the help of their husbands. Many youths and women have acquired skills in various innovative practices like carpentry, hair dressing, charcoal brisket making, baking, merchandize businesses, among others. At the same time, their access to finance has improved due to formation of VSLAs.

“The project has enabled peaceful co-existence of the host community and the refugees for example both refugees and hosts now do trade in Agojo market which was established as a result of project activities. Women in the community started selling small items and slowly it has progressively turned to be a large market where both the host community and the refugees buy and sell their commodities.” - Project Manager, Adjumani- Lamwo

“The act of the host community offering part of their land to refugees for tree planting and allowing them to do agriculture (inter cropping) shows that there’s peaceful co-existence between the host community and the refugees.” - Forestry officer, Adjumani



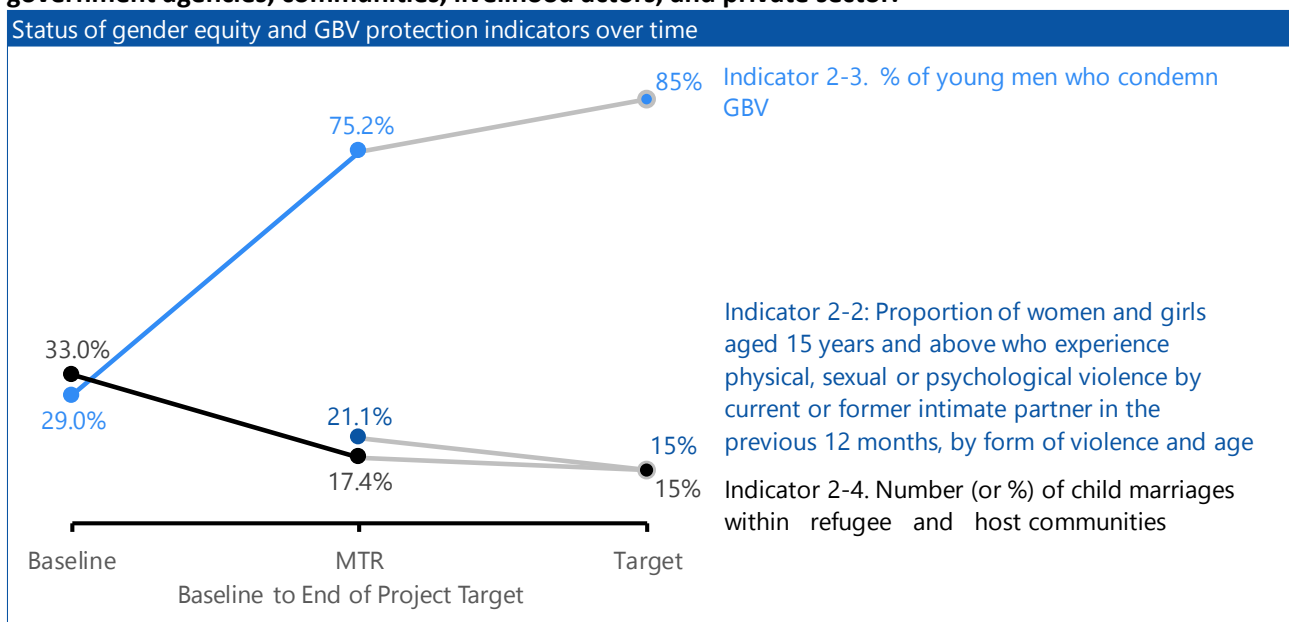
← A female beneficiary from Agojo refugee settlement. She was a beneficiary of CFW activities, cash grants and a member of VSLA. She borrowed Ugx 4.5 million from the VSLA to start a successful maize mill business.

Mid-Term Evaluation of the Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project (UHRCEP) in Lamwo, Adjumani and Obongi Districts

The UHRCEP project was designed to address the insufficient implementation of gender responsive district planning in the refugee hosting communities with a focus on strengthening capacity of district-level officers, local municipalities and livelihood actors to implement gender transformative programming. In order to strengthen capacity of local authorities, the district-level officers were trained on gender responsive budgeting/planning, diversity management, women’s human rights and economic empowerment. The local government officers later replicated the trainings at community level for refugees and host communities. The project further trained GBV actors on GBV prevention to strengthen their knowledge on the forms and types of GBV, root causes and the cycle of violence. This training was followed by GBV referral services, a safety mapping survey, a training of community gender officers, community dialogue sessions, and participation in the 16 days of activism campaign in Adjumani.

The above interventions resulted in improved understanding of GBV in the communities and increased awareness on GBV referral processes as demonstrated by the improvement in the outcome indicators below. Based on quantitative results from the mid-term evaluation survey, the percentage of young men aged 18-49 years who condemn GBV increased from 29% at baseline to 75.2% by March 2022 (figure 9). The indicator was within ten (10) percentage points from the end of project set target of 85% having made a significant progress from the baseline conducted in September 2020. On the other hand, the occurrence of child marriages within the refugee and host communities also reduced from 33% at baseline to 17.4% by March 2022 and was within two (2) percentage points from the end of project target of 15%. Survey results further showed that the proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and above who experience physical, sexual or psychological violence by current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months was at 20.9% by March 2022. Whereas this indicator was not measured at baseline, comparison to the national and regional measures for women aged 15-49 years who experienced physical or sexual violence in last 12 months of 35.6%⁸ (37.8% in West Nile, 64.9% in Acholi region) shows how the project has transformed the host and refugee communities in the project area.

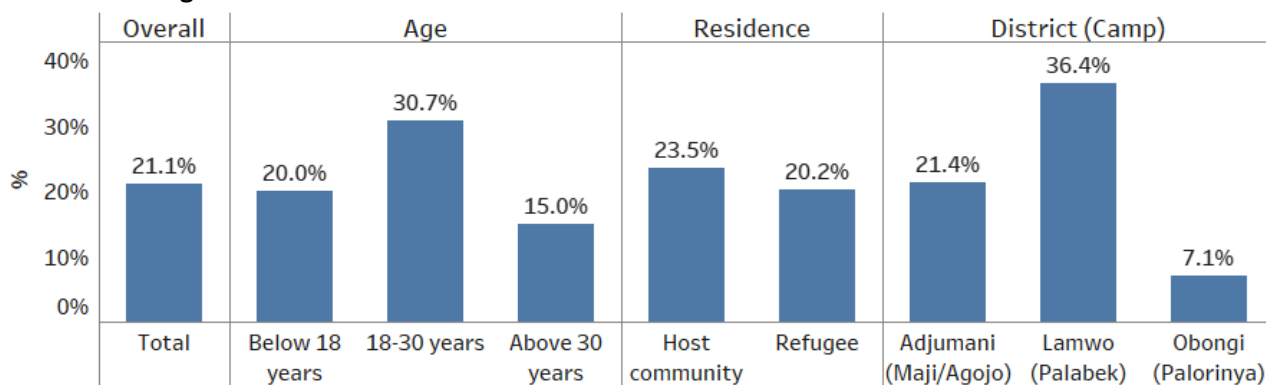
Figure 9: Trends in indicators for mainstreaming gender equity/GBV prevention among key sub-national government agencies, communities, livelihood actors, and private sector.



⁸ National Survey on Violence in Uganda-Module I: Violence Against Women & Girls, November 2021 [pg. 61]

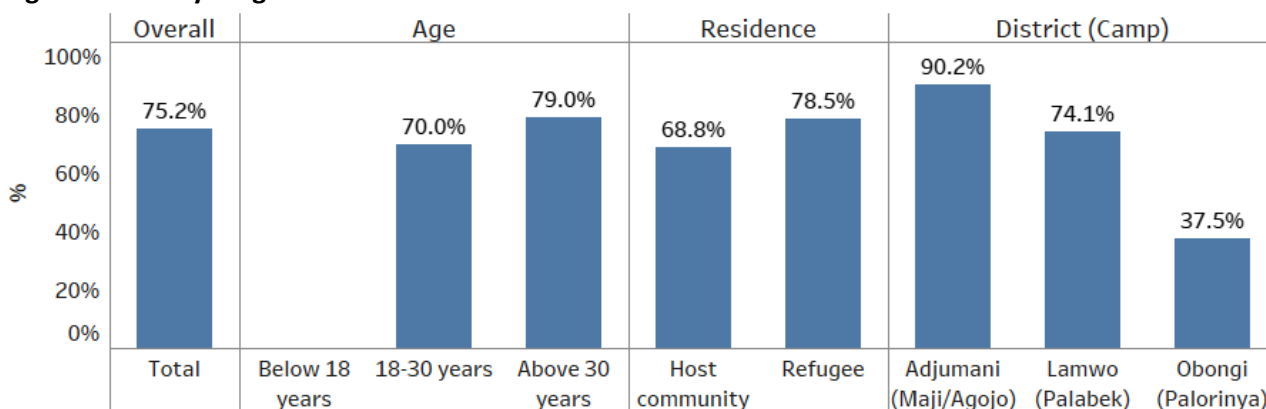
The mid-term evaluation survey results on proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and above who experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence by current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months showed variations across age and location as illustrated in figure 10 below. By age, more female youth aged 18-30 years (30.7%) experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence by current or former intimate partner compared to adult women aged above 30 years (15%). While by location, the highest percentage of women and girls who experienced intimate partner violence was recorded in Lamwo (36.4%) followed by Adjumani (21.4%) and Obongi (7.1%). The higher prevalence of current and former intimate partner violence in Lamwo in comparison to districts in West Nile could be as a result of contextual or cultural barriers that still exist in Acholi region as reflected in the regional differences published by UBOS, while the higher prevalence amongst the youth aged 18-30 years implies that this beneficiary category is still more vulnerable to intimate partner violence and will require more focus interventions during the remaining duration of the UHRCEP project.

Figure 10: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and above who experience physical, sexual or psychological violence by current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and age



When young men aged 18-49 years who responded to the mid-term evaluation survey were asked whether they agree to the statement; *“Sometimes disagreements result into conflict among people. Would you agree that violence is an acceptable way of dealing with such conflict?”*; over 75% disagreed or strongly disagreed that violence is an acceptable way of dealing with conflict (figure 11). There were notable variations across age, type of residence and location with more adult young men aged 31-49 years (79%) condemning GBV compared to the male youth aged 18-30 years (70%), while more refugees (78.5%) condemned GBV compared to young men from the host community (68.8%) and majority of the young men from Adjumani (90.2%) condemned GBV compared to Lamwo (74.1%) and Obongi (37.5%).

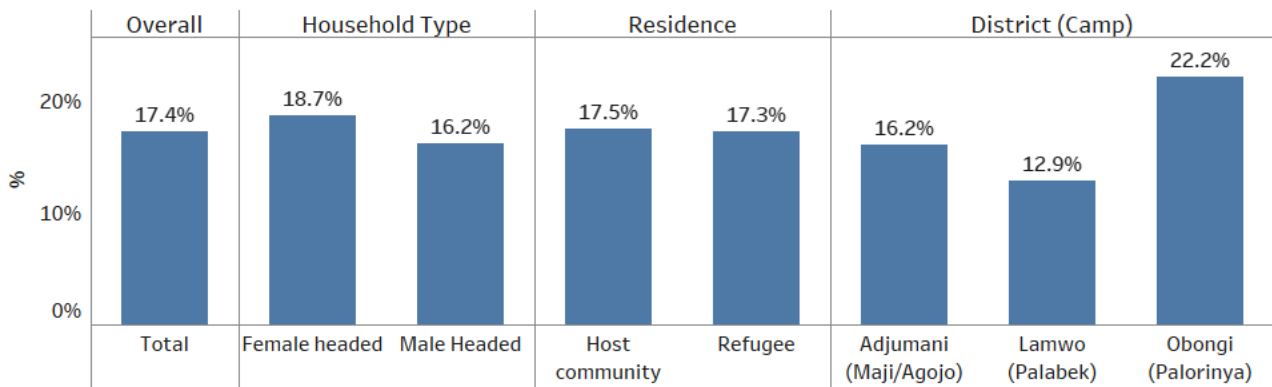
Figure 11: % of young men who condemn GBV



Mid-Term Evaluation of the Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project (UHRCEP) in Lamwo, Adjumani and Obongi Districts

The mid-term evaluation survey results on prevalence of child marriages within the refugee and host communities showed no differences between refugee and the host community, however, there were notable differences across household type and location (figure 12). A higher rate of child marriages was reported amongst female headed households (18.7%) when compared to male headed households (16.2%), while by location, the highest rate of child marriages was reported in Obongi (22.2%) followed by Adjumani (16.2%) and Lamwo (12.9%).

Figure 12: Number (or %) of child marriages within refugee and host communities



Based on the qualitative results from the mid-term evaluation survey, project coordinators, partners, and direct beneficiaries revealed a number of changes they have observed in actions, behaviours and practices in the refugee and host communities as a result of UHRCEP project interventions. Notable changes include; an increase in number of reported GBV cases, a gradual reduction in incidence of GBV in the communities, people now know where to report GBV cases when they occur, a reduction in beating of children and women during period of food shortage, better understanding of human rights amongst the community members, and women’s ability to work and make their own money, thereby reducing over dependence on men for food, child support and other household basic needs. From the respondents’ perspectives, the project interventions that are responsible for the above changes, include; the training of local leaders and community members on dangers of GBV, training on livelihoods improvement at household level, awareness and sensitization sessions on GBV during cash for work activities, beneficiaries’ participation in thematic days such as the 16 days of activism that was entirely an avenue for raising awareness on human rights

“Previously, the number of GBV cases reported was very few and the GBV referral pathways was not empowered. But when we worked hand in hand to trained the people at the subcounty, we realized that people now know what Gender Based Violence is, and they are able to report cases. Over time, there has been an increase in the number of cases reported.” – GBV and Mental Health Specialist, Palabek Refugee Settlement

“At first there were many incidences of GBV in the settlement but since the project began, occurrence of GBV incidences in most households has gradually reduced and the general standards of living in the households have also improved. Women are now able to work and make their own money, thereby not demanding men. The women are also now able to buy food for their children.” – Chairperson - Refugee Welfare Council, Agojo Refugee settlement

3.4 Efficiency

- *To what extent is the project management structure as outlined in the project document efficient in generating the expected results?*
- *To what extent is the UNDP project implementation strategy and execution efficient and cost-effective?*
- *Is project's strategy and execution efficient and cost effective?*
- *Are the monitoring and evaluation systems that project has in place helping to ensure that programmes are managed efficiently and effectively for proper accountability of results?*
- *To what extent are the project funds and activities being delivered in a timely manner?*
- *To what extent is the M&E systems utilized by UNDP ensure effective and efficient project management?*

Project management efficiency

The UHRCEP project implementation, assurance, funding and regular monitoring activities are facilitated by UNDP while leveraging on its country office's operational services (finance, procurement, and administration) on a cost recovery basis. A leaner project team comprising a Project manager, Gender specialist, M&E Specialist and three (3) district-level officers coordinates implementation of project activities with support of designated officers from the Responsible Partners (RPs) in each district. Project activities are implemented in collaboration with the OPM, UNHCR, UN Women, UNICEF, WFP and CSOs to avoid duplication of efforts, to build synergies with existing interventions and to ensure sustainability of results. The project activities, including beneficiary selection, are implemented in consultation with district/sub-county focal persons (engineers, forest officers, etc.) to ensure local ownership and sustainability of project impacts. The close partnership established amongst the project teams and district officials has resulted in harmonized project implementation, close engagement of target beneficiaries and communities, as well as efficiency in the project management structure.

In terms of programming, the UHRCEP project is guided by annual workplans which provide an adequate overview of the timeframe for activities to be carried out under each expected outcome/output, responsible parties and budget allocation. UNDP mentors the RPs through technical project meetings, review of weekly activity updates, bilateral meetings, review of finances, joint monitoring visits and feedback sessions with district/subcounty technical teams, and technical capacity building. According to key stakeholders interviewed during the evaluation survey, the project has always complied with donor requirements and delivered most of the interventions efficiently using the available resources and time. Monthly coordination meetings are conducted to discuss key achievements and challenges, and are summarized into reports which are shared with stakeholders. The project management structure includes community facilitators who link the project officers with the community and these have proved to be efficient in the delivery of services to target beneficiaries and communities. The community facilitators also support the flow of information from the top officials to the community and vis-as-versa.

Despite the commendations above, the evaluation team noted a number of issues that compromise project management efficiency arising from comments of key stakeholders, these include;

- The lack of joint-review meetings of annual and quarterly reports with project stakeholders especially at the district level.
- Limited flow of information between local leadership and the project implementors during sensitization campaigns.

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- The replacement of World Vision project staff during the second year of the project meant that some of the institutional memory was lost.
- The covid-19 pandemic that hugely affected the project workplan for the year 2020 and the fact that project inception coincided with the transition of RWC leaders.

Financial management and control

Drawing from various sources, including key informant interviews and the documents review, amongst others, there is agreement that the project’s resources were managed in a transparent and accountable manner. The strategy of employing the beneficiaries in the cash for work activities was cost effective relative to other options, especially during the opening of community access roads, alternatives of using machinery were more expensive and would have deprived the employment opportunities of very many beneficiaries. This strategy allowed the beneficiaries to gain skills on road rehabilitation and more so gained wage for their labour and generally improved the local economy. However, the COVID-19 pandemic negatively affected the project management structure and execution, since there was need to procure additional materials such as the personal protective gears along with other requirements of the SOPs, which were not considered at the beginning of the project, this disrupted the entire routine of trainings on some of the activities especially those involved in the sensitization of gender equity, GBV and protection in the communities.

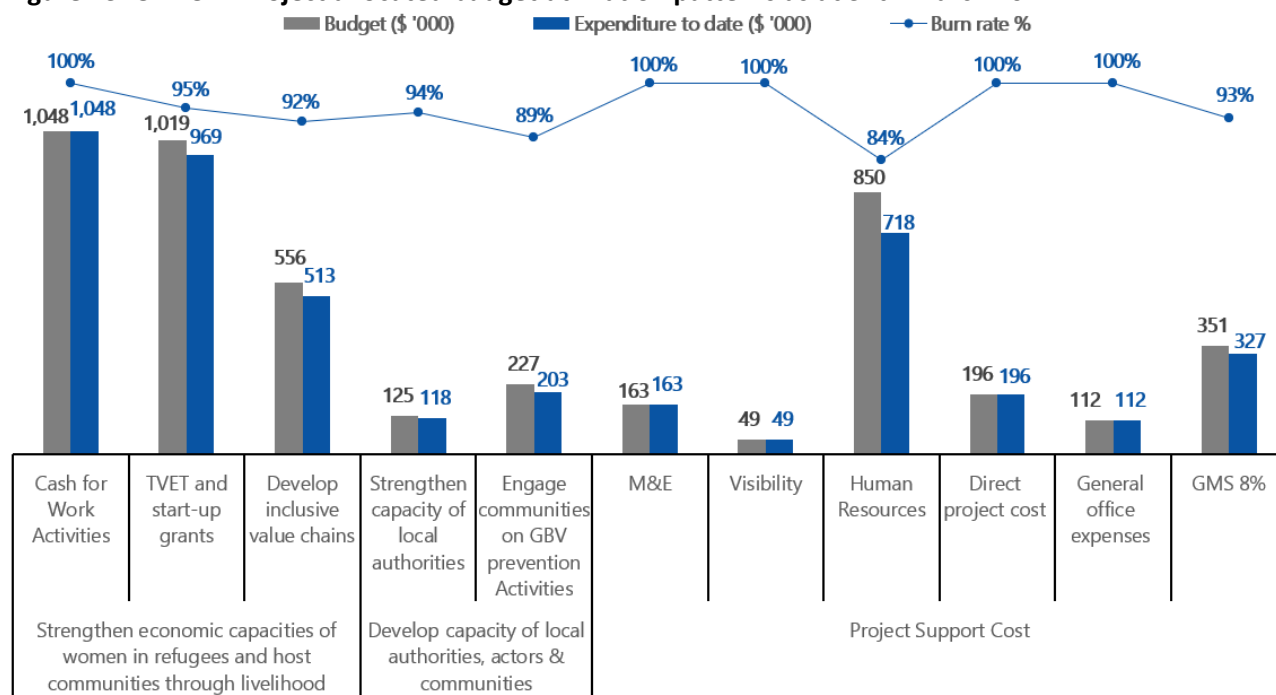
All financial information was provided by UNDP with figures as of 31st March 2021. In terms of programme delivery, the UHRCEP project has achieved a good performance, with a cumulative expenditure rate of 94% (\$ 4,414,812 actual spend out of \$ 4,696,072 funds received) for the first three years of the project, up to 31st March 2022 despite of the limitations and constraints of the covid-19 pandemic (table 3). The high budget utilization reduces the risk that project implementors may rapidly complete activities without proper attention to all relevant value for money aspects in the remaining project period.

Table 3: Breakdown of the project funding to 31st March 2022

	Installment (\$) (In accordance with Grant Arrangement)	Expenditure incurred (\$)	Balance (\$)	Expenditure Rate (%)	Cumulative Expenditure (\$)	
Year 1	382,327	233,258	149,069	61%	4,414,812	94%
Year 2	2,241,418	1,720,489	669,998	72%		
Year 3	2,072,327	2,461,064	281,260	90%		

Budget utilization patterns indicate that by 31st march 2022, all allocated costs related to cash for work activities, M&E, visibility and head office support costs had been fully utilized while most of the remaining budget lines had utilization rates of 90% or more (figure 13). Project annual reports provide explanations for budget versus actual spend for each expenditure category, thus implying that the project allocated financial resources for the period under review were utilized as efficiently as possible. However, the impact of recorded savings or low utilization rate in human resource costs (84%) arising from salaries of programme associate, field associates and drivers should be assessed to ensure that such savings do not compromise the quality of project implementation during the remaining project period.

Figure 13: UHRCEP Project allocated budget utilization patterns as at 31th March 2022



The breakdown of the budget by component as at 31st March 2022 shows that with the exception of project activities related to ‘develop inclusive value chains’ which fall in the third phase of the project and ‘engage communities in GBV prevention activities’, all other project activities’ remaining budgets were making up only 28% or less of the total project budget for each component (table 4). The remaining budget of USD 2,303,588 is only 26% (approximately one quarter) of the total budget of USD 9,021,987 and appears to be reasonable given the planned trend of project annual spending. It was further noted that the project has completed its third year of implementation and is currently in phase three (3) which focuses more on the value chains and market systems development.

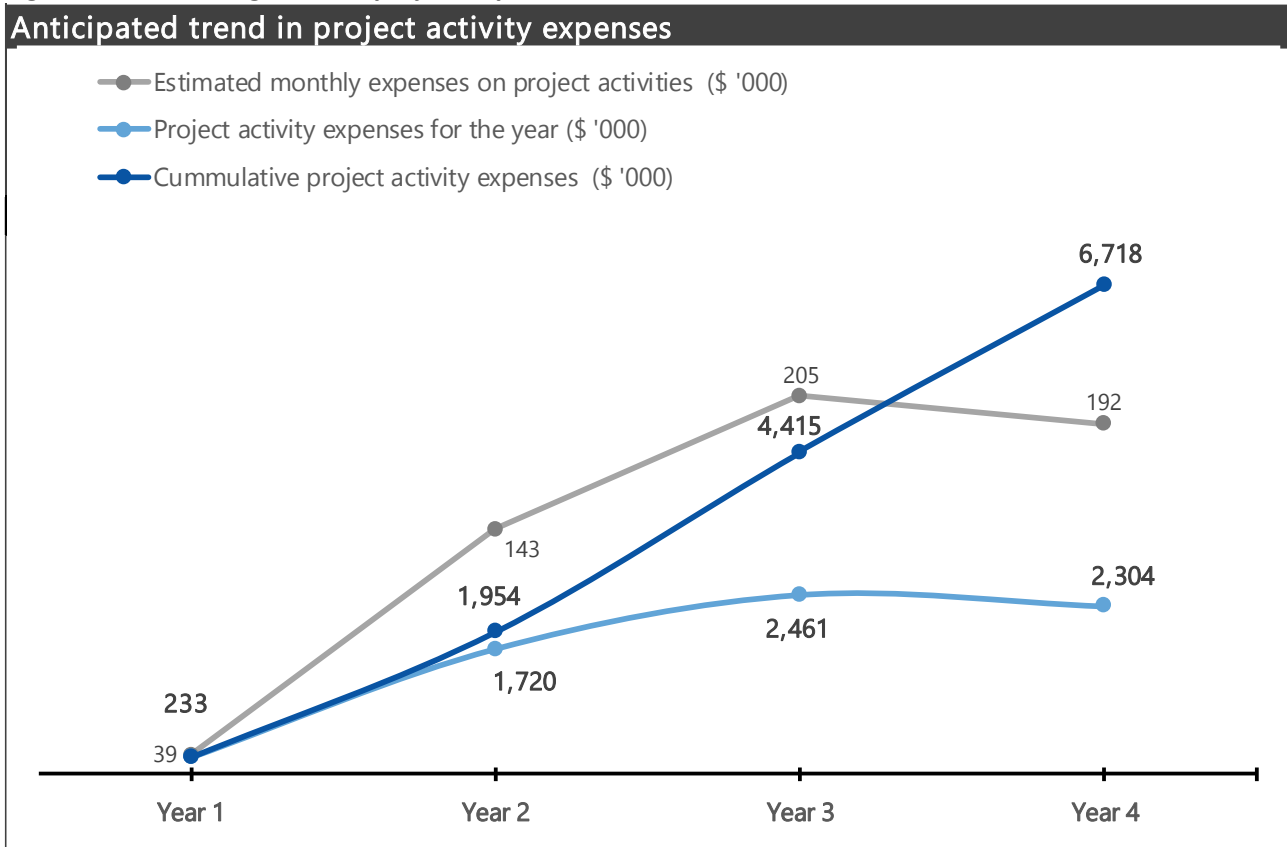
Table 4: Breakdown of remaining budget by component as at 31st March 2021

Project Activities	Total Budget (\$ '000)	Remaining Budget (\$ '000)	% of total
Cash for Work Activities	1,047,506	-	0%
TVET and start-up grants	1,739,017	384,905	22%
Develop inclusive value chains	2,296,130	891,709	39%
Strengthen capacity of local authorities	195,366	38,905	20%
Engage communities on GBV prevention Activities	575,204	186,325	32%
M&E	202,398	19,793	10%
Visibility	89,410	20,000	22%
Human Resources	1,620,489	451,431	28%
Direct project cost	405,980	104,750	25.8%
General office expenses	207,077	47,443	22.9%
GMS 8%	643,410	158,328	24.6%
Total	9,021,987	2,303,588	26%

Figure 14 below illustrates a reducing trend of project costs over the project life with a remaining budget of USD 2,303,588 (\$ 2,022,327 allocated budget and \$ 282,260 balance from year 3) that is available for

spending in the final year of the project. The trend of annual budget expenditure will reduce, so will the estimated monthly expenses, an indication that the project is left with a reasonable workload to finalize all activities by 31st December 2022. Since the annual project expenditure is expected to reduce from USD 2,461,064 in year 3 to USD 2,303,588 in year 4, the estimated monthly expenditure will also reduce from USD 205 to USD 192 respectively, therefore, the chances of rushing to complete project activities towards project close have been minimised.

Figure 14: A reducing trend of project expenses over time



According to selected key informants interviewed, the project has been able to provide funds in a timely manner because once the donor commitments are made, the implementing partners are able to start implementation of activities using a collective centre of resources as they wait for the funder to release the allocated funds. However, many beneficiaries of cash for work activities complained about a delay of their payments that some estimated to have taken about 14 days. This was attributed to the payment modalities adopted such as the mobile money that experienced delays in registration, validation of names and acquisition of sim card since many beneficiaries, especially refugees, did not have sim cards registered in their names.

Monitoring and evaluation

The mid-term evaluation team obtained evidence of periodic and regular monitoring and follow-up of project outputs and outcomes through a review of the project annual reports and the joint field monitoring mission report of November 2021. The project annual reports assess project progress towards its outputs and outcomes against set indicators, communicate key project achievements, challenges faced by implementing partners, and provide a way forward for the next year of project implementation based on key lessons learned. On the other hand, the joint field monitoring mission reports on key findings and observations made during mission visits by KOICA, UNDP and the district leadership aimed at providing onsite technical support, supervision and interaction with beneficiaries at the project sites. The mission report highlighted project progress updates as reported by the RPs, key observations made of target beneficiaries and in the communities, lessons learnt and key action points to be followed up by each RP or UNDP. A market assessment and baseline study were conducted; to advise the project on livelihoods sectors and opportunities, and to establish benchmarks for outcome indicators, respectively during the inception of the project.

The project design document included a robust intervention logic which clearly highlighted the desired development result, project outcomes and outputs, and a results framework mapping desired project outcomes and outputs to indicators, baseline values and targets, levels of disaggregation, means of verification and data collection methods. This mid-term review established that some of the set targets for key project outcome indicators appear to be unachievable for example, the end of project target for *'% of persons in the refugee-hosting areas benefitting from livelihood opportunities'* was set at 100% when the project supported a small percentage of the people in the target communities. It was also established that a number of indicators on GBV prevention did not have set targets, while the baseline measurement for *'Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care'* was inaccurate or not correctly measured.

According to key informants interviewed during the mid-term evaluation survey, each RP has an M&E technical person in each district who performs monitoring duties to ensure accountability and transparency in project implementation. They produce quarterly project briefs, participate in monitoring visits with district authorities along with the donors, and conduct post distribution monitoring after each funds disbursement. The M&E function at the district also organises community feedback meetings to interact with the target beneficiaries and communities to be able to provide feedback on the different interventions of the project. However, selected key informants expressed concern over the lack of joint-review meetings at district level to discuss issues in monthly or quarterly reports and the delay in some of the capacity building interventions.

"There are monthly and quarterly reports that show the accountability of the resources, however, there is no joint-review of the reports at the district level, and I'm also not certain whether this is done at the sub-county level." – Technical Officer, Adjumani District Local Government

Timelines

A majority of the key informants interviewed agree that the project activities were planned and executed on time, save for payments to cash for work beneficiaries and community facilitators that were not made in a timely manner due to the adoption of mobile money platforms. However, stakeholders and partners stressed that the use of mobile money ensured that payments were done in a transparency manner. The project's implementation was faced with a number of setbacks that affected the timely delivery of emergency livelihoods support. The key setbacks included; the absence of a local women's organization amongst RPs during the first year of the project, security challenges that arose from the presidential elections of January 2021, and the covid-19 pandemic which brought restrictions on travel and public gatherings. As a result, there were reported delays in the planting of woodlots, procurement of cash for work tools, rehabilitation of access roads and training of selected youth in vocational skills due to the closure of schools.

"Some roads and bridges were worked on but left incomplete which inconveniences the community." – Sub-county chief, Palorinya refugee settlement

Impact of Covid-19 pandemic

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic resulted into a complete lockdown and other public safety measures imposed by the government of Uganda which hugely affected timely implementation and monitoring of project activities. Households regardless of the population group, all experienced income losses and increased community-level tensions according to studies conducted in the period by the ILO⁹ and World Vision Uganda¹⁰. It was widely reported that the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic led to a rise in gender-based violence (GBV) especially domestic violence and intimate partner violence as GBV is typically strongly correlated with situations of crisis, such as conflict, natural disasters and public health emergencies. All project activities in the settlements were banned with exception of life saving interventions which were approved on a case-by-case basis.

A review of project documents shows that to counter the above restrictions, the project organized virtual discussions with RPs to front load activities once the lock down was lifted, including services for women subjected to violence. This was followed by the development of a covid-19 response plan, a staff self-care strategy, a direct adjustment in the project implementation strategy as well as modification of planned activities. The cash for work interventions became a highly important source of income in the second year of the project due to a reduction in food aid distribution and the negative social and economic impacts of COVID-19. According to partners and stakeholders interviewed during the mid-term evaluation survey, covid-19 led to increased project expenses through the buying of personal protective gears and had negative economic impacts on the target beneficiaries whose employment opportunities were eroded and had to rely on assistance from CSO to meet their basic needs.

⁹ Impact of COVID-19 on Refugee and Host Community Livelihoods | ILO PROSPECTS | Rapid Assessment in two Refugee Settlements of Uganda / 2021

¹⁰ WV Uganda, COVID-19 Rapid Assessment, "Documenting the Impact of COVID-19 on Livelihood in West Nile Region" (April 2020)

3.5 Sustainability

- *What is the likelihood that project interventions are sustainable?*
- *Are there any financial risks that may jeopardize the sustainability of project outputs?*
- *To what extent will financial and economic resources be available to sustain the benefits achieved by the project?*
- *Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outputs and the project's contributions to country programme outputs and outcomes?*
- *Do the legal frameworks, policies and governance structures and processes within which the project operates pose risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project benefits?*
- *To what extent do stakeholders support the project's long-term objectives?*
- *To what extent are lessons learned being documented by the project team on a continual basis and shared with appropriate parties who could learn from the project?*

The mid-term evaluation team established that there are sustainability elements in the design of the UHRCEP project which adopted the UNDP 3x6 model as it considers target beneficiaries as active partners in their own socio-economic recovery and development. The 3x6 approach provides for sustainable employment creation and inclusive economic growth through strengthening of national and local government capacities, policies and institutions, economic linkages between new businesses and regular market actors as well as development of productive capacities. Activities that focus on sustainability are contained in phase III (Inclusive Value Chain Development) of the UHRCEP project and mainly include; a market assessment to determine agricultural commodities with the greatest potential to grow income and employment of enterprises, training of district-level officials and livelihood partners on gender mainstreaming, a market construction feasibility study, and community dialogue sessions to increase awareness on GBV.

At the time of the mid-term evaluation survey, it was too early to observe lasting impacts of the project due to the fact that implementation of many phase III interventions was to be done in the last year of the project. Therefore, in our review of sustainability, we focussed on assessing the prospects of sustainability of project outcomes and benefits in view of the key project activities so far implemented as well as any observable technical, financial and institutional sustainability elements.

- **Cash for work activities** – Cash for work activities mainly involved opening of access roads and planting of woodlots as well as other activities like construction of energy saving stoves, rubbish pits and harvesting of produce. The benefits of access roads rehabilitated and woodlots planted will continue to accrue to the target beneficiaries and communities even when the project comes to an end. However, it's expected that for the case of access roads, the district or sub-county local governments will develop monitoring and maintenance plans and include these in their annual workplans and also adopt a combination of manual labour and mechanized road works as done by the project. The key risks to sustainability of these interventions include, the inadequate capacity of the local governments to raise funds for carrying out the road maintenance while on the side of woodlots planted, there is a higher likelihood of groups disintegrating after the project especially if the refugees are prevented from accessing the land by the private landlords.
- **Startup grants** – About eighty percent (80%) of the beneficiaries of cash for work activities were given startup grants which were preceded by mentorship, financial literacy and business skills training, VSLA group formation, business plans development as well as vocational skills training for a selected number of youths. The mid-term evaluation established that many of the beneficiaries of startup grants

have managed to start their own enterprises using the skills acquired, while many of the VSLAs are also saving and lending to their members. It was revealed by a key informant that most of the businesses started by the beneficiaries, especially in the refugee settlement, have already celebrated their first anniversary in operation, which is a clear indication of continued operations. Beneficiaries of start-up grants who participated in the focus group discussions also affirmed that they had acquired enough knowledge and skills to continue expanding their small businesses, improve their savings patterns and will use the skills acquired to carry out paid work such as construction of Lorena stoves.

“Normally small businesses do not celebrate a year of operation but most of the businesses set up in the settlement are now operating even after one year.” – Livelihood Officer, Lamwo District

“Yes, since members have attained the skills in the running of the businesses and there was cash that was provided to them which we’re currently still sustaining and growing in these small businesses.” – FGD participant, Maaji Refugee Settlement

- **Inclusive Value Chain Development** – District-level officials, GBV actors and UNDP partners have been trained to strengthen their knowledge on gender mainstreaming as well as GBV prevention and response. Following these trainings, the target beneficiaries and communities have been engaged on GBV prevention through community dialogue sessions to increase their awareness of the GBV referral processes. The capacity building nature of these interventions implies that the recipients will continue to use the knowledge to address barriers in their communities or when faced with GBV cases even after project closure. According to key informants interviewed, there are observable changes in actions, behaviors and practices towards GBV amongst the target beneficiaries which they will continue to exhibit even when the project comes to an end.

Technical sustainability

The district and sub-county local governments have been trained and are expected to support continuity of the initiatives beyond the implementation period in coordination with the OPM, other stakeholders and the community groups that were formed. The capacity building also focused on key technical personnel from the local governments with the intention to equip them with knowledge about the project interventions in order to enable them to conduct routine monitoring of activities that are directly linked with their respective district/sub-county development plans. All livelihoods’ interventions under the UHRCEP project encompassed an element of capacity building of target beneficiaries, local government officials and relevant actors or CSOs. It should be noted that trainings of VSLA groups, beneficiaries owning small business and other community members on financial literacy, record keeping, saving resource management, and transition strategies will possibly contribute to maintaining some of the results achieved in terms of livelihoods and resilience in the longer-term.

Partners interviewed during the mid-term evaluation survey indicated that some of the beneficiaries have the will and ability to continue with their income generating activities because they are making profits. It was also revealed that the local government seeks to support the beneficiaries in groups both technically and financially through trainings and by linking them to government programs such as OWC and the Parish Development Model. Beneficiaries who participated in focus group discussions confirmed

their willingness to continue with most of the income generating activities, including small shops, agriculture, carpentry, baking and hairdressing, using the skills acquired even if the UHRCEP project comes to an end. However, some of the participants in focus groups indicated that they require more training in financial literacy, leadership skills and on how to sustain their businesses.

“The local government officials have adopted some of the approaches taught in the trainings in their planning and monitoring, disaster management and data management.” – Subcounty Chief, Palorinya Refugee Settlement

“The beneficiaries in VSLAs are committed to continue making savings. There are groups in Zone 4, Palabek selling cassava cuttings. They came up with their own vision without anyone giving them the idea. They developed group policies and want to sell the cassava cuttings until when they have acquired tools for diggings. Each group has a vision and they are saving towards.” – GBV and Mental Health Specialist, Lamwo district

Financial sustainability

The sustainability of interventions is important to the project as it wishes to embed the budget and monitoring plan within the local government’s annual plans, which will allow the impact created by the project to continue serving the people in the participating districts. Funding remains critical to the realization of this objective even when the above outcome is realized. The level of unfunded commitments in the district development plans is so high given the local governments inability to secure additional funding to supplement their existing sources. As regards sustainability of women and youth led business enterprises, these are greatly affected by access to finance, social norms related to women’s economic participation, and their willingness to operate in groups.

The project has not yet supported registered groups to have access to existing microfinance institutions or banks in order to improve their access to finance, yet a great number of participants in focus group discussions highlighted a lack of working capital for acquiring more equipment and materials to be used in their businesses such as saloons and carpentry workshops. There is also a great risk the VSLA groups may dissolve when the project ends in the event that the same beneficiaries are recruited by other agencies who may have different agendas.

Institutional sustainability

The project has built capacity of structures at district, sub-county and community level to create ownership and sustainability of its interventions. The trainings at district level aimed at strengthening planning and social accountability and to sustain effective demand for accountability from district leaders. At community level, trainings focused on creating a mindset change amongst beneficiary households to improve awareness of their rights so that they are able to hold duty bearers accountable to deliver for the people in the refugee and host communities. Maintenance committees were formed with a responsibility ensuring that roads in the community are kept in a good state and to manage the refugees so that they effectively use the available space in the woodlots to grow their crops. The sustainability of the project is hinged partly on the continued existence of these committees when the project comes to an end which will depend on the availability of support from the local government and resources to facilitation of members during their meetings or activities.

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The partners interviewed during the mid-term evaluation survey revealed that local leaders including, local councillors, parish chiefs and clan leaders were present during the inception of the project and welcomed the interventions. The same leaders were; involved in mobilization of community members, actively negotiated with private landlords to request for land where the woodlots were established, and always coordinated with partners during the cash for work activities. It is therefore expected that the efforts of the local leaders will continue in the community and result in sustainability of project interventions. Partners and other stakeholders highlighted risks to sustainability, including; the environment destruction behaviour that is still widely observed in the target communities, the lack of established markets for women who are operating under trees, and existence of unregistered groups under the many supported. The respondents called for bye-laws to address the rampant bush burning and theft in their communities, construction of markets where women can sell safely, and support towards VSLA groups' registration and transitioning to SACCOs.

“We have positioned the local government authorities to handle the management of the project when the project comes to an end. We have deliberately involved the district authorities to keep them updated with the progress of the project especially with woodlots activity and engaged the district engineer during the opening of access roads. We're also considering the integration of our project activities with the government projects already in place such as DRDIP and PDM so as to allow joint management of common activities.” – Partner Project Manager, Adjumani & Lamwo

“We involved the local leadership at the sub-county so the sub-county will be responsible for the monitoring of the project in case World Vision exits. There is already regular supervision and technical advice rendered by the sub-county local government officials working closely with the district.” – Livelihood Officer, Palabek Refugee Settlement



Members of groups that received a tri-motorcycle to support movement of goods to markets in Zone 4, Block 6 – Palabek Refugee Settlement

3.6 Impact

- *To what extent is the project succeeding in achieving its intended outcomes?*
- *Are there positive, negative, intended, and unintended outcomes of the program?*

The project's 3x6 interventional approach focused on emergency employment and diversification of livelihoods opportunities in the first and second phases respectively during the period under review, while most of the interventions in the third phase focusing on long-term employment and inclusive economic growth will be implemented in the final year of the project. Therefore, it was not possible to observe measurable impacts of the project on target beneficiaries and communities. Nonetheless, our assessment of impact focused on qualitative data in relation to changes (positive or negative) that have occurred to the target beneficiaries and their communities as a result of the project activities so far implemented.

Impact on target direct beneficiaries

Stakeholders interviewed during the mid-term evaluation (implementing partners, local government, beneficiaries) have all reported some level of positive change that has occurred to target beneficiaries as a result of the emergency employment and livelihoods opportunities created by the project. Beneficiaries have been able to start-up businesses on their own such as; sell of second-hand clothes, small merchandise shops, selling fish, hairdressing saloons, soap making, carpentry, and making of energy saving stoves which have improved their livelihoods and resulted in a lifestyle change for women and youth. Some have managed to construct their own houses using the income generated from their businesses. The trainings provided have enabled beneficiaries acquire good entrepreneurial skills which they have used to run their businesses effectively.

Selected key informants upheld the project for having created a mindset change amongst the beneficiaries especially the youth who now look for ideas and implement them such as bricklaying as a source of income. However, some participants in focus groups expressed their concern that few members in the community were supported by the project with business skills training and vocational skills training and not many got the start-up grants. A few others complained that the project did not utilize innovative practices but rather involved them in doing heavy manual labour during cash for work activities, especially road construction.

“The fact that these people have been able to startup businesses on their own and others as a group shows that the project has had impact. There is a group in Agojo that deals in second hand clothes and in Maji 2 that bought a goat and each time the goat produces they gift it to another group member. They have gone ahead to start their own VSLAs without even being told us to keep in groups.” – Key Informant, Adjumani district

“The project has supported a few members in the community but not to everyone, especially those that received vocational trainings, business trainings and those that got grants to start their businesses.” – Female FGD participants, Palabek refugee settlement

“The project has not improved our access to and utilization of innovative practices but rather we were involved in doing heavy manual labor work in road construction, therefore the project has not brought us decent employment.” – Male FGD participants, Palabek refugee settlement

Impact on local community

The UHRCEP project through its 3x6 interventional approach has helped to increase cohesion between refugees and host communities by bringing together refugees and the nationals to work together during cash for work activities, especially during opening of access roads and planting of woodlots. The refugees and their hosts were also trained together during capacity building programs and created partnerships with land owners in the host community to cultivate their crops using the available spaces in the woodlots planted which promoted peaceful co-existence between the two target groups. Project reports showed that the opened community roads are being used by the refugees and nationals to access schools, health centres and for movements between the host community and the refugee settlements.

Stakeholders interviewed during the mid-term evaluation cited more ways in which the livelihoods interventions have contributed to enhanced economic opportunities for the target beneficiaries and communities as well as local community development. For example, as a result of project interventions in Agojo, a group of women started selling small items in the community and this area has progressively turned into a large market where both the host community and the refugees go to trade. The establishment of woodlots some covering an area of about 63 acres is seen to have an environmental impact and will therefore help the community to preserve the natural resources in order to influence climate change in the long run. It was reported that distances to markets have reduced as a result of the small shops that have been setup in the settlements, while the rampant cutting down of trees for firewood had reduced as result of adoption of energy saving stoves. However, a few participants in focus groups reported that the trainings on making of modern energy saving stoves were only provided to the refugees and not to the host community.

“The project has enabled peaceful co-existence of the host community and the refugees for example people now do trade in Agojo market, which was established as a result of the project. A group of women started selling small items in the community and slowly it has progressively turned to be a large market where both the host community and the refugees go to do trading. They all source the items they sell together and they sell to both the refugee and host community as well.” – Partner Project Manager, Adjumani District

“In 2016 before the project started, market access was hard and there were no small shops within the settlement, people had to always walk over 10 kilometers in order to buy sugar, soap and other items required at their homes. Currently, we have many small businesses that have opened up within the settlement and people no longer need to walk distances in order to buy essential items. Most of these businesses are for young people and the women, which has allowed them to be economically empowered, such as the hair dressing saloons, small business shops.” – RWC chairperson, Agojo Refugee settlement

Existence of project results not initially planned for

Qualitative results from the mid-term evaluation highlight project outcomes or achievements positive or negative that were not initially planned for, such as the introduction of different livelihoods models and cash transfers that led to a stimulation of the local market economy. It was also reported that bringing together refugees and hosts on cash for work activities did not only improve cohesion, but also made people to start looking at each other as colleagues and in some cases, intermarriages have happened between the nationals and the refugees. The refugees have lesser restrictions in the host community and can now collect firewood for cooking their meals as a result of the improved co-existence between the target communities. Refugee participants in focus groups also revealed that they now feel dignified as it's better to work for an income rather than being given financial aid all the time. While a key informant in Lamwo district cited some beneficiaries who have integrated bee keeping in the woodlots to earn more income.

According to participants in focus groups, the project contributed to the realization of human rights in the communities in a number of ways, first, under age children were not allowed to participate in cash for work activities and due to several trainings community members do not understand their rights and the rights of others, for example children below the age of 18 years are not allowed to work but rather go to school while PWDs have realized that the most vulnerable people can also do what the abled persons can do following their participation in tree planting, making of energy saving stoves, and agricultural activities, among others. As regards capacity building, there was cross-learning between the project teams and the district local government officials as project officers benefit from the existing knowledge in the district departments, especially in regard to natural resources management. However, key informants emphasized the need for the project to also focus on natural resources management by considering activities such as integrating bee keeping in woodlots, growing of fruit trees, fodder trees for feeding animals as well as species that can support the existing fuel needs (use of firewood for cooking meals).

Participants in FGDs also reported an improvement in the levels of household savings, a great reduction in gender-based violence and a better understanding of child protection issues like not beating a child. However, some of the stakeholders interviewed cited a few areas which might influence realization of project results, by indicating that the project has focused more on social safe guards and paid less attention to environmental safe guards by addressing issues or conflicts that are likely to arise between the landlords and the beneficiaries. It was also stated that less efforts have been put in building the capacity of the district local government and that the engagement of district technical staff was minimal in the operations of the project especially from planning, natural resources and production.

“Little focus has been put into the management of the natural resources, the project should go beyond planting of trees to establishment of management plans such as training (pruning), weeding and if possible, integrating of bee keeping. The project should also consider growing the tree species like fruits and fodder trees such that the livestock can also obtain feeds. There should be a deliberate effort on how the farmers can protect and allow regeneration of the land; such technologies have not been explored under this project.” – Natural resources officer, Adjumani district

Visibility of the project

The evaluation team sought to establish how the UHRCEP project increased opportunities for and efforts of UNDP, KOICA to assume a leading role in communicating national humanitarian issues in national and international forums. According to the interviews and the project documents reviewed, the key major avenues for creating visibility of the project were mass media, social media platforms, publications, websites, posters, t-shirts and other branding material used during events such as 16 days of activism, community sensitisation and awareness campaigns. UNDP conducts radio talk shows in the target districts to raise awareness about GBV, and uses mass media, social media platforms (UNDP Uganda social media account), publications and websites (UNDP Uganda website) to communicate updates about project progress. In addition, most of the projects accomplishments have signposts showing UNDP and KOICA as the donors, while the RPS also publish reports on their websites and have featured on local and national media stations at least annually to create publicity about the project activities.

KOICA and UNDP conduct joint field monitoring mission visits that bring together the donors, RPs, OPM, local government leadership at district and sub-county level, project participants and members of the community. The meetings are an opportunity to review progress of interventions, seek feedback from beneficiaries and partners and re-think strategies going forward. Reports from the field monitoring missions are shared across a wide range of agencies and are published on the UNDP social media account, together with key success stories from the annual reports. In addition, the project's coordination with the OPM, UNHCR, UN Women, UNICEF, WFP and CSOs has improved visibility of UNDP and KOICA. A communication plan was included in the project design to guide documentation and dissemination of good practices, innovations and approaches from project implementation. Whereas the quality and content of information shared using the existing mechanisms may be deemed appropriate, the frequency and timing would be better managed through a well-developed communication strategy.

The mid-term review finds it useful, for both institutions and individuals, to learn more about the results of the UHRCEP project activities or evidence of its impact in order to collect ideas about projects and activities and best practices. However, results from interviewed beneficiaries indicate gaps between the community and the RPs in terms of sharing the necessary information about the project as some respondents reported that RPs document project results but do not share reports with the communities.

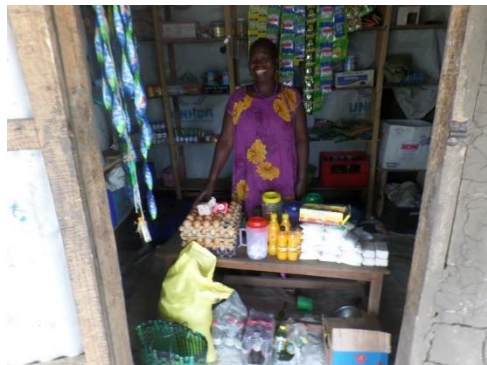
“Initially we used to be updated about how the project was fairing in our community but these days we no longer get communications from the project team.” – FGD participants, Palabek refugee settlements

Most Significant Change Stories

The following change stories were captured during field observations by the mid-term evaluation team. These stories provide a confirmation in a narrative way of how the project impacted some of the beneficiaries and communities that were visited during the mid-term evaluation survey.

- **Start-up grants: Female beneficiary, Zone 4 Block 4, Palabek Refugee Settlement**

A female beneficiary aged 41 years from Palabek Refugee Settlement, Lamwo District was initially unable to buy basic needs for her family and there were very few opportunities in the area where one could get money. She is now able to support her children through paying school fees and buying them basic requirements.



Beneficiary's Small shop

“When the project began in 2019, I got registered for a training with world vision, soon after the training they gave us business grants. Using the business grants, I started to do some trades such as selling of soap, eggs, biscuits, small fish and sodas. These trades have improved my income, since most people in the settlement now buy from me, instead of walking to the distant markets. My needs are not yet fully met because I still want to invest more in my business so that next time I can start to expand and also try out other IGAs.”

- **Start-up grants: Male beneficiary, Zone 5B Block 8, Palabek Refugee Settlement**

A male beneficiary aged 25 years from Palabek refugee settlement was trimming hair without most of the items required such as the mirror, machine and the chairs; he was using a pair of scissors and razor blades. With the proceeds from the barber shop, he can now afford good meals for his family, including milk for the little children.



Beneficiary's Barber shop

“When the project began, I registered and applied for a business grant; and it is through the business grant that I managed to purchase most of the items including the hair cutting machine. Now the business is attracting many customers from the entire settlement and I am making progress with an improved income.”

- **VSLA Groups: VSLA group members, Zone 5B Block 8, Palabek Refugee Settlement**

VSLA group members realized that people in their community did not have nearby places where they would do their grain milling and some had resorted to using local means such as motors and stones.



Group's milling machine

“After acquiring the milling machine through World Vision, we no longer walk long distances or use local means to mill our grains. We have also managed to save money monthly through the income that we earn from the milling machine. The project has changed our lives because we are now able to save money in our VSLA that was started by world vision.”

- **Inclusive value chains development: Zone 4 Block 6, Palabek Refugee Settlement**

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Initially, beneficiaries would experience challenges while moving their goods and items to and from the market. People used to walk long distances carrying heavy luggage on their head or backs.



Tri-wheel motorcycle in Palabek

“When World Vision gave us the tri-wheel motorcycle, that changed; We are now able to move our goods or items especially during food distribution. It has transformed the lives of the group members as we are now able to do savings in the VSLA groups. Members are also able to meet their basic needs and with time we believe that we shall be able to improve the lives of our families members.”

● **Start-up grants, Cash for Work: Female beneficiary, Agojo refugee settlement**

A female beneficiary aged 39 years in Agojo refugee settlement used to do stone quarrying and some farming but was earning little income as she couldn't even raise 50,000/= per month. She got involved in the cash for work activities and later applied for a small grant.



Maize mill in Agojo refugee settlement

“I applied for a loan of Ugx 4.5 million and used the money to buy a maize mill. Apart from maize mill which is now a profitable business, I also do other activities such as livestock farming and selling of blankets in the refugee market. I am now able to earn over 300,000/= per month and can afford to pay school fees for my children and also meet the basic needs of the household.”

● **Start-up grants: Male beneficiary, Chiforo Sub-county, Agojo Host Community**

A male beneficiary aged 32 years in Agojo Parish, Chiforo sub-County used to do only subsistence farming which could not provide enough income to afford basic needs of his family. Livelihood's interventions have enabled him to extend consumable items such as sugar, salt, powdered milk close to the community members and earns a steady income.



Beneficiary's Barber shop in Ebiangbwa Village

“I was involved in the cash for work activities and managed to accumulate 260,000/= over the period and on top of that I applied and received a start-up grant of 430,000/=. Using this money, I was able to start a small shop where I sell items such as sugar, soap, powdered milk, among others. I am now able to save a monthly income of 70,000/= from this shop. I now pay school fees timely and can pay for medical bills when they arise.”

3.7 Learnings from project implementation

The project implementation team documented a range of lessons learned or in some cases 'principles' for ways of working that have had a positive influence on the direction of the UHRCEP project. The mid-term evaluation team reviewed the lessons learned as documented in the project reports and augmented them with additional lessons captured through interviews with stakeholders and partners during the course of the mid-term evaluation survey.

Below are the lessons learned relevant to the project during the remaining implementation period as well as similar future projects:

- Early engagement of district local government technical teams and collaborative partnerships with UNHCR, OPM, district/sub-county leadership and CSOs creates a smooth operating environment for project implementation and leads to effective achievement of project objectives.
- Internal advocacy and capacity building are required from the beginning to establish a technically cohesive project management unit that can sustainably lead the process of social norm transformation in communities to ensure quality implementation of integrative interventions (livelihoods and GBV prevention). Internal advocacy should consider continuous information-sharing and communication of key GBV prevention messages and response activities through in-person communication where necessary (i.e., posters, flyers, radio, phone) while capacity building should focus on project management strategies.
- A combination of manual labour and mechanized road works are necessary in areas of floods and weak loam soil during access roads rehabilitation. Regular spot-checking by implementing partners should also be conducted at least bi-monthly.
- Safety planning before delivering PM+ sessions is key to ensure that person receiving the psychosocial support are checked on regularly and some PM+ beneficiaries should be handled privately to give beneficiaries enough time to disclose personal stories, rather than just answering questions.
- Cash for work activities enhanced peaceful co-existence of refugees and nationals. Relations between refugees and the host community were strengthened when they worked together and shared resources like firewood and land.
- Youth and women led communication conducted using megaphones and boda-boda talk was one of the avenues in spreading GBV cases awareness messages.
- Harmonization of cash for work SOPs with other operating partners and government was a strong sign of 'protecting local Labour market' for example cash rate had to be fixed close to average rate in the local market.
- Establishing clear communication channels with community leaders ensures smoothing coordination of monitoring activities and prevents abrupt notification of project activities such as meetings and spot-checks.
- Capacity building trainings require engagement of the Chief Administrative officer at the district for effective mobilization and engagement of different technical persons.
- Mixing of the sub-county leaders and the district officials during trainings caused a lot of intimidation from the officials at district level because sub-county leaders end up not contributing to avoid objecting to what their supervisors at the district were saying.
- Training financial literacy is important to create a mindset change amongst beneficiaries of emergency employment to instill financial discipline.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusions

The UHRCEP project has been instrumental in providing emergency employment and creating livelihoods opportunities for vulnerable women and youth in the refugee hosting districts of Adjumani, Lamwo and Obongi in West Nile and Northern Uganda. The 3x6 model developed by UNDP and adopted by the project has provided a structured approach to the implementation of strategies aimed at improving socio-economic empowerment of communities through engagement in community projects, supporting diversification of incomes and value chain development with an emphasis on inclusion, ownership and sustainability of the enterprises initiated.

The UHRCEP project goal and objectives remain **relevant** to the achievement of the current UNDP Emergency Response and Resilience Strategy (ERRS) which is based on the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (REHOPE) Framework and aligned to the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) action plan, the National Development Plan III and the new Parish Development Model (PDM). In terms of **effectiveness**, the UHRCEP project has largely achieved its intended outcomes and results, and made significant progress towards achievement of the set EOP targets for most of the set outcome indicators. There is still room for review of the indicators that may not meet the EOP targets as highlighted by the mid term review.

Financial **efficiency** of the project has been central in achieving the project objectives considering that 94% of the budget for the first 3 years had been utilised by 31st March 2022 in a transparent and accountable manner under the direct control and management of UNDP, except for a number of challenges faced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic that were not envisaged at the start of the project. There is room for **sustainability** of project interventions since the UHRCEP project has built capacity of local government authorities at district and sub-county level who are expected to support continuity of the initiatives beyond the implementation period in coordination with the OPM, other stakeholders and the community groups that were formed. However, sustainability of enterprises created will highly depend on the willingness of women and youth to continue operating in groups and the continued support from the local authorities to address access to finance, resource inputs and other barriers to women's and youths economic participation.

There are observable changes noted during the mid-term evaluation survey that show that the project has had **impact** on target beneficiaries and communities who benefited from emergency employment and livelihoods opportunities created, especially the beneficiaries ability to start their own small business which have improved their livelihoods, and the improved cohesion between the refugees and host communities. However, there is still room to communicate project activities and evidence of its impact to institutions and individuals at all levels to improve **visibility** of UNDP and KOICA.

4.2 Recommendations

In view of the study findings, the mid-term evaluation makes the following specific recommendations;

Relevance

- Review the amount for start-up grants and wage pay to cash for work beneficiaries, and lobby for an increased pay for cash for work activities across the sector in light of the increasing commodity prices and the reduction in food rations from UNHCR.
- Continue creating awareness on human rights amongst beneficiaries with a focus on child protection to address issues of child labour and denial of child education that are still happening in the target communities.

Effectiveness

- Scale-up the project activities to support more vulnerable women and youth in the target communities with emergency livelihoods and start-up grants while striking a balance between women and youth as well as refugees and the host community enrollment in all interventions.
- Provide more time for the implementation of inclusive value chain development that address all components of the selected value chains as one (1) year may not be sufficient for effective implementation.
- Design outcome indicators for measuring effectiveness of value chain development interventions, including impact or poverty reduction indicators such as; number of individuals who benefit financially, number of enterprises or individuals who get access to a new product created, or percentage change in income for value chain participants.
- Continue with awareness creation interventions GBV prevention with a focus on; reducing intimate partner violence especially amongst the youth in Lamwo, and removing barriers affecting women's decision making on SRH issues especially amongst women in the host communities.
- Support creation of financial and artisanal cooperatives in the refugees and host communities that will aggregate work of VSLAs groups and existing SACCOs and offer direct support in areas such as provision of farming inputs, marketing, financing, planting of tree nurseries, securing works contracts for road opening, among others.

Efficiency

- Strengthen collaboration with local leaders and district technical teams from natural resources department for effective planting and maintenance of woodlots in order to improve survival rate of trees. Efforts should be made to strike a balance between social and environmental safeguards.
- Procure tools used in cash for work activities such as gumboots, hoes, etc. through input dealers who can deliver to beneficiary prior to getting paid to avoid sourcing poor-quality materials, some of which may not be fit for purpose.
- Review actual versus budget human resource costs to ensure that recorded savings do not compromise the quality and effectiveness of project implementation in the remaining period.
- Review the logical framework matrix to ensure that all outcome indicators are effectively tracked and measured during the remaining project period.
- Arrange for joint-review or dissemination of quarterly and annual project reports with partners and stakeholders, especially the district local government officials, beneficiaries, and community leaders.
- Review the project risk management plan and update mitigation measures for potential risks that might cause delays in; payment of cash for work beneficiaries, procurement of project materials or inputs. Validate, classify, prioritize and take timely and appropriate action on identified project risks.

Sustainability

- Communicate the project exit strategy at all levels, including district/sub-county levels, community and household level to position target beneficiaries and communities to up responsibility of the project outcomes and results when the project comes to an end.
- Provide start-up kits to individuals who managed to establish enterprises such as hairdressing saloons, carpentry, charcoal brisket making, baking, among others using earning from cash for work and/or start-up grants to address the lack of working capital reported by many beneficiaries.
- Support complete registration of VSLA groups beneficiaries, including establishment of governance structures and constitutions to guard against groups disintegration when the project comes to an end and position them to benefit from available government programs.
- Provide refresher trainings to target beneficiaries on financial literacy and leadership skills and introduce mentorship programs by renown entrepreneurs to further build their capacity to run successful and sustainable enterprises.
- Lobby for passing of community by-laws or regulations to address environmental destructive behaviors such as bush burning, cutting of trees as well as thefts in the target communities.
- Link registered VSLA groups to existing microfinance institutions or banks in order to improve access to finance for women and youth led business enterprises.

Impact

- Develop a communication strategy that will enable institutions and individuals at all levels to learn more about the results of the UHRCEP project activities or evidence of its impact. This should also address the dissemination of quarterly reports at district, sub-county and local community level.
- Design innovative emergency employment options for engaging beneficiaries who may not be willing to engage in heavy manual labour that is contained in current cash for work activities.

Appendix I – Status of project indicators

Analysis of the progress of the project Indicators (as defined by the Logical Framework in the project design document) using the following scales of judgement:

Achieved	On track	Delayed	Not achievable
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- **Achieved** means that the indicator has been fully accomplished;
- **On track** means that the indicators is likely to meet its EOP target based on the in cumulative results up to Y3 (that corresponds to 2021);
- **Delayed** means that the EOP target is likely not to be achieved by end of 2022.
- **Not achievable** refers to the cases where there is insufficient evidence to hold confidence in obtaining some results by 2022.

Expected Outputs / Outcomes	Indicators	Baseline 2020	Mid-term 2022	Final target	Status Update
(Objective) To improve the socio-economic empowerment of communities with an emphasis on women and youth in refugee hosting communities (of Adjumani, Lamwo and Moyo districts)	Indicator 1: Persons in the refugee-hosting areas benefitting from livelihood opportunities (%), disaggregated by gender and age;	-	84.5%	100%	On-track
	Indicator 2: Persons in refugee-hosting areas who are members of village savings and loans associations (number), disaggregated by gender and age;	53.5%	84%	100%	On-track
	Indicator 3: Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care	--	19.2%	30%	Delayed
Outcome 1 Socio-economic gender equality in the context of livelihood improved	Indicator 1-1: Proportion of time spent on un-paid and domestic and care work by sex, age, location.	F: 41.3% M: 28.7%	F: 55.6% M: 35.2%	F: 55% M: 35%	Achieved
	Indicator 1-2: % of women in target communities with access to and control over land and other resources	13.20%	31.5%	35%	On-track
Outcome 2. Enhanced capacities for mainstreaming gender equity/GBV prevention among key sub-national government agencies, communities, livelihood actors, and private sector.	Indicator 2-1: Number of Project, policy publications, training manuals published	-	-	7	Delayed
	Indicator 2-2: Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and above who experience physical, sexual or psychological violence by current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and age	-	20.9%	15%	On-track
	Indicator 2-3: % of young men who condemn GBV	29%	75.2%	85%	On-track
	Indicator 2-4: Number (or %) of child marriages within refugee and host communities	33%	17.4%	15%	On-track

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Appendix II – List of Key Informants

No.	Name	Position	Institution	Location	Contact
1.	Grace Lwanga	Senior Programme Officer - CEDOVIP	CEDOVIP	Adjumani, Obongi, Lamwo	ngrace.lwanga@cedovip.org
2.	Mr. John Pasquale	Chairperson - RWC	Palabek Refugee settlement	Lamwo	johnudo255@gmail.com
3.	Mr. Giyaya Charles	Natural Resources Focal point	District Local Government	Adjumani	giyaya1@gmail.com
4.	Hope Yikiru	GBV and Mental Health Specialist	Palabek Refugee settlement	Lamwo	--
5.	Okello Jimmy	Livelihood Officer	Palabek Refugee settlement	Lamwo	okelloji@unhcr.org
6.	Mrs. Gisma Halima Ayub	Refugee welfare	Adjumani	Adjumani	-
7.	Mr. Omal Christopher	Local council	Lamwo	Lamwo	Omalchristopher1978@gmail.com
8.	Mutungirehi Juma	OPM Commandant	Adjumani	Adjumani	jmutungirehi@gmail.com
9.	Mr. Edema Yekonus Kenedy	Project Manager - World Vision	Adjumani and Lamwo	Adjumani and Lamwo	kenedyeyekonus@wvi.org
10.	Raeo Grace	Community development officer	Adjumani- Chiforo	Adjumani	-
11.	Vudra William		Itirikwa , Adjumani,	Adjumani	-
12.	Bhattarai Dhananjay	Head of Sub Office UNHCR	Obongi	Obongi	bhattard@unhcr.org
13.	Ederuku Pius	Sub County Chief Gimara	Gimara S/C	Obongi	-
14.	Ernest Nyango	Community Development officer	District Local Government	Obongi	-
15.	Julius Ssemambo	Project Coordinator	VEDCO	Obongi	juliusczah@gmail.com
16.	Thomas Moludrale	Sub County Chief	Palorinya	Obongi	tmoludrale@gmail.com
17.	Victoria Duite	Refugee Welfare Counsel	Ibakwe Village	Obongi	-
18.	Ismail Bashir	Program Livelihood Officer	Save the Children	Obongi	-

Appendix III – List of FGDs Conducted

No.	FGD	Target Group	No. of Participants	District	Location
1	FGD1	Men	7	Lamwo	Padwat, Palabek
2	FGD2	Men	6	Lamwo	Zone 4, Palabek
3	FGD3	Women	6	Lamwo	Appyetta Central - Women
4	FGD4	Women	6	Lamwo	Padwat (Women)
5	FGD5	Women	6	Lamwo	Zone 4, Palabek
6	FGD6	Women	6	Lamwo	Zone 5B Block 8
7	FGD7	Youth	6	Lamwo	Zone 5B Block 10 - Youth
8	FGD8	Youth	7	Lamwo	Zone 5B Block 10 - Youth
9	FGD9	Women	6	Adjumani	Chiforo, Agojo, Block: 11
10	FGD10	Men	7	Adjumani	Agojo Parish
11	FGD11	Men	6	Adjumani	Duba
12	FGD12	Women	6	Adjumani	Itirikwa, Ayiri, Block A
13	FGD13	Women	6	Adjumani	Itirikwa, Ayiri, Ayiri Central
14	FGD14	Youth	6	Adjumani	Duba
15	FGD15	Youth	7	Adjumani	Agojo Parish
16	FGD16	Youth	6	Obongi	Zone 1 Belamering
17	FGD17	Men	10	Obongi	Base Camp, Budri
18	FGD18	Women	12	Obongi	Palorinya Base Camp, Ibakwe
19	FGD19	Men	6	Obongi	Zone 1, Legu
20	FGD20	Women	12	Obongi	Palorinya, Palorinya West
21	FGD21	Women	6	Obongi	Zone 1, Pasu

Appendix IV – Household Survey Questionnaires

Date of interview	Date	Month	Year
Interview location			
ID no.			
Name of Interviewer:			

No.	Questions: English	Coding Categories	Response Type	Response	Logic filter
SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION					
1.1	Start time of survey: End time of survey Date of survey: Device ID:		Summary Information	__	
1.2	<p>I am....., here on behalf of UNDP Uganda and KOICA, who are jointly implementing the Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment (UHRCEP) Project in Lamwo, Adjumani and Obongi districts. The overall objective of this project is to improve the economic livelihoods of communities with an emphasis on women and youth in refugee hosting communities. We are currently conducting a mid-term evaluation which is expected to provide the project partners with an independent review of the status, relevance and performance of the project as compared to the project document, identify and assess the basic results as to their sustainability.</p> <p>Your household has been randomly selected to participate in this interview. Your participation in this study is voluntary and your decision to participate in this interview, or not, will in no way affect, either positively or negatively, your chances of receiving benefits from UNDP, KOICA or its partners.</p> <p>Note that if you agree to participate, the information that you provide will remain confidential, and will not be shared with anybody other than those involved in the study. Also note that it is your right to refrain from answering any question, or to stop the interview at any time.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE WILL BE TREATED WITH UTMOST CONFIDENTIALITY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thank you for your participation in this survey. This interview should take about 30 minutes.</p>				
1.1	Do you agree to take part in this study, and for the data to be processed anonymously?	1. Yes 2. No	Single	__	1 → Qn 1.2 2 → End
1.2	Do you agree to take part in the above study and to appear in the photographs and recordings?	1. Yes 2. No	Single	__	1 → Qn 2.1 2 → End
SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION					
2.1	District/Camp name:	1. Obongi (Palorinya) 2. Adjumani (Maji/Agojo) 3. Lamwo (Palorinya)	Single	__	
2.2	Location/Zone:	1. Ogili sub-county 2. Zone 5B 3. Zone 4 4. Maaji sub-county 5. Ciforo sub-county 6. Maaji II	Single	__	

No.	Questions: English	Coding Categories	Response Type	Response	Logic filter
		7. Agojo 8. Itula sub-county 9. Palorinya settlement			
2.3	Name of Household head	_____	Text	__	
2.4	Gender of respondent:	1. Male 2. Female	Single	__	
2.5	Age of respondent	_____ Years (Indicate the age of respondent in complete years)	Numeric	__	
2.6	Age in complete years	1. Below 17 years 2. 18-30 years 3. 30 and above	Single	__	
2.7	Type of Residence	1. Refugee 2. Host community	Single	__	
2.8	If response to QN is 1; What is your current nationality?	1. South Sudan 2. DRC Congo 3. Sudan 4. Burundi 5. Kenya 6. Somalia 7. Ethiopia 8. Eretria 9. Other specify	Single	__	
2.9	Type of Household Head	1. Male Headed 2. Female headed 3. Child headed	Single	__	
2.10	Education level	1. Never been to school 2. Did not complete primary 3. Completed primary 4. Completed secondary 5. Completed tertiary level 6. Completed university	Single	__	
2.11	Telephone contact(s):	_____	Text	__	
2.12	Marital status	1. Single 2. Married 3. Separated 4. Widow/er	Single	__	
2.13	Disability status	1. Yes 2. No	Single	__	
2.14	Type of disability	1. Physical 2. Mental 3. Visual 4. Deaf and Dumb 5. Others (specify)	Single	__	
2.15	How many individuals are living in this household? Indicate details by gender	Total: _____ No. of males: _____ No. of females: _____	Numeric	__	
SECTION 3: SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT					
3.1	Among the individuals living in your household, how many are currently working through wage, self-	Total: _____ No. of males: _____ No. of females: _____	Numeric	__	

Mid-Term Evaluation of the Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project (UHRCEP)
in Lamwo, Adjumani and Obongi Districts

No.	Questions: English	Coding Categories	Response Type	Response	Logic filter
	employment or run an income generating activity?				
3.2	Have you or any individual living in your household participated in any of the following project activities? 1. Cash for work activities 2. Business skills training 3. Life skills training 4. Start-up grants 5. Start-up kits 6. Long-term scholarships 7. Construction of energy efficient stoves 8. Construction of bio-latrines in public institutions 9. Tree planting 10. Other specify	1. Yes 2. No	Single	__	
3.3	What is the occupation of HH head?	3. Housewife 4. Employed (Formal) 5. Unemployed 6. Micro-enterprise 7. Business 8. Peasant Farmer 9. Casual labour 10. Religious leader 11. Large scale farmer 12. Elderly 13. Other Specify	Single	__	
3.4	Do you possess technical skills like mechanic, masonry, baking, hair dressing, etc.?	1. Yes 2. No	Single	__	
3.5	Have you been provided any special skills training?	1. Yes 2. No	Single	__	1 → Qn 3.6 2 → Qn 3.8
3.6	Who facilitated the skills training?	1. Self (including parents, relatives, friends) 2. The employer 3. Government 4. NGO	Single	__	
3.7	How was the training delivered?	1. On the Job training 2. Apprenticeship 3. Training workshop 4. Vocational training 5. Short skills training 6. Others Specify	Multiple	__	
3.8	Are you currently employed in a technical organisation, company government department or NGO?	1. Yes 2. No	Single	__	

No.	Questions: English	Coding Categories	Response Type	Response	Logic filter
3.9	How do you perceive your ability to engage in labour intensive work for income in your community?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not sure 2. Very Good 3. Good 4. Not good 	Single	__	
3.10	Where do you store your money for known expenses?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Home 2. VSLA 3. Bank account 4. SACCO 5. Mobile money account 6. Others (friends, etc) 	Multiple	__	
3.11	Are you a member of any association / VSLA, any farmer group or any social group?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No 	Single	__	
3.12	Does your household currently possess any of the following productive assets?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Radio 2. Mobile phone 3. Bicycle 4. Motor cycle 5. Car 6. Land for crop production 7. Other specify 	Multiple	__	
3.13	Does your household currently possess any of the following livestock?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cattle 2. Goats 3. Sheep 4. Pigs 5. Chicken 6. Ducks 7. Ox plough 8. Other specify 	Multiple	__	
3.14	Who owns the livestock?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Husband alone 2. Wife alone 3. Husband and wife 4. Children 5. Husband, wife and children 	Single	__	
3.15	<p>Do you spend any time of the day engaged in any of the following productive activities?</p> <p><u>Production Roles</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paid work 2. Self-employment activities 3. Subsistence production <p><u>Reproductive Roles</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Domestic work 5. Child or elderly care <p><u>Community participation and Politics</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Voluntary work 7. Decision making or representation on behalf for the community 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No 	Single	__	

Mid-Term Evaluation of the Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project (UHRCEP) in Lamwo, Adjumani and Obongi Districts

No.	Questions: English	Coding Categories	Response Type	Response	Logic filter																											
3.16	Roughly how many hours do you spend on the responsibilities mentioned above per day?	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>Hours per day</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2">Production Roles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1. Paid work</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Self-employment activities</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Subsistence production</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Reproductive Roles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Domestic work</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Child or elderly care</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Community participation and Politics</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Voluntary work</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. Decision making or representation on behalf for the community</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	Hours per day	Production Roles		1. Paid work		2. Self-employment activities		3. Subsistence production		Reproductive Roles		4. Domestic work		5. Child or elderly care		Community participation and Politics		6. Voluntary work		7. Decision making or representation on behalf for the community									
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3.17	Do you have access to land for production (cultivation, grazing or income generation)?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No 	Single	__	<p>1 → Qn 3.18</p> <p>2 → Qn 3.20</p>																											
3.18	Who owns the land that is used for production (cultivation, grazing or income generation)?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> OPM/ Government Husband Wife Both Husband and wife Children Rented from land owner Leased land 	Single	__																												
3.19	How many acres of land do you have access to?	_____ Acres	Numeric	__																												
3.20	Who make the primary decisions on use of productive resources within the household? Codes for household member: 1. Husband, 2. Wife 3. Joint decision	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>#</th> <th>Activity</th> <th>Who makes the primary decision?</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Allocation of land for agriculture</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Household labor use</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Purchase of inputs e.g. seed, tools</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Hiring in labor</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Sell out labor/ hire out</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Income from crop production or livestock</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Income earned by husband</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Income earned by wife</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	#	Activity	Who makes the primary decision?	1	Allocation of land for agriculture		2	Household labor use		3	Purchase of inputs e.g. seed, tools		4	Hiring in labor		5	Sell out labor/ hire out		6	Income from crop production or livestock		7	Income earned by husband		8	Income earned by wife				
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SECTION 4: HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND EXPENDITURE																																
4.1	What is the main source of income for your household?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> No source Casual labour Agricultural activities Petty trade Assistance from NGOs/ Aid Cash for work Support from relatives Carpentry Fishing 	Single	__																												

No.	Questions: English	Coding Categories	Response Type	Response	Logic filter																											
		10. Formal employment 11. Livestock 12. Other Specify																														
4.2	What is the average total income from all sources for your household in a normal month?	Indicate amount in Uganda Shillings	Numeric	__																												
4.3	How much income did you earn from the following sources in the last month?	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>#</th> <th>Income Source</th> <th>Amount (UGX)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Agriculture (e.g. crop, livestock, animal products)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Fishing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Unskilled wage labour/casual labour</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Skilled labour (e.g. artisan, handicrafts)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Formal employment (e.g. office, government position)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Petty trading (e.g. sale of firewood, charcoal, greens, brewing)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Remittances/ gifts/ assistance</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>Other sources</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	#	Income Source	Amount (UGX)	1	Agriculture (e.g. crop, livestock, animal products)		2	Fishing		3	Unskilled wage labour/casual labour		4	Skilled labour (e.g. artisan, handicrafts)		5	Formal employment (e.g. office, government position)		6	Petty trading (e.g. sale of firewood, charcoal, greens, brewing)		7	Remittances/ gifts/ assistance		8	Other sources				
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4.4	On which items did you mainly spend your income in the previous one month?	2. Food 3. Medical 4. School fees/ Education 5. Debt repayment 6. Business 7. Agricultural inputs 8. Buying animals 9. Household items 10. Transport 11. Firewood or charcoal 12. House rent 13. Clothes 14. Leisure 15. Water 16. Other (specify)	Multiple	__																												
SECTION 5: GENDER AND PROTECTION																																
5.1	Does your community have service where you can report case of suspected physical or sexual abuse against women/girls that you know?	1. Yes 1. No	Single	__																												
5.2	In this community, if you were abused as a woman/girl physically or sexually, would you feel safe reporting it?	1. Yes 1. No	Single	__																												
5.3	Do you agree to the statement "Violence against women has negative consequences not just for women, but for men and Children (boys and girls) as well."	1. Strongly disagree 2. Disagree 3. Neutral 4. Agree 5. Strongly agree	Single	__																												

Mid-Term Evaluation of the Uganda Host and Refugee Community Empowerment Project (UHRCEP) in Lamwo, Adjumani and Obongi Districts

No.	Questions: English	Coding Categories	Response Type	Response	Logic filter
5.4	Who do you contact for help when you face a security/ safety problem?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact no one - do nothing 2. Other family member 3. Fellow refugee 4. Police/local authorities 5. Religious leader 6. NGO staff 7. Lawyer 1. Other (optional text) 	Multiple	____	
5.5	Women who are abuse know when and where to access the following services; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Aid/Justice • Shelter • Medical care • Psychosocial support 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree 2. Disagree 3. Refuse to answer 	Single	____	
5.6	Do you agree to the statement “It is fine for a married man to have sex with his wife whenever he wants, even if she does not want to.”?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Strongly disagree 7. Disagree 8. Neutral 9. Agree 2. Strongly agree 	Single	____	
5.7	Do you agree to the statement “Men’s power over women is the reason why violence against women happens.”?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Strongly disagree 11. Disagree 12. Neutral 13. Agree 3. Strongly agree 	Single	____	
5.8	Sometimes disagreements result into conflict among people. Would you agree that violence is an acceptable way of dealing with such conflict?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strongly agree 2. Agree 3. Disagree 4. Strongly disagree 14. Don’t know 	Single	____	
5.9	In the last 12 months, have you experienced or been subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Yes 3. No 	Single	____	
5.10	In the last 12 months, have you experienced or been subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a person(s) other than your intimate partner, in the last 12 months	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No 	Single	____	
SECTION 6: SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS					
6.1	Currently, who in your family usually has the final say on the following decisions? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reproductive health care 2. Use of contraceptive 3. Saying “No” regarding sexual intercourse 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Myself ii. Husband/Partner iii. Joint decision iv. Other family member v. Decision not made vi. Don’t know 	Single		
SECTION 7: IMPACT OF COVID-19					
7.1	What were your	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 No source 	Multiple	____	

No.	Questions: English	Coding Categories	Response Type	Response	Logic filter
	household's sources of income before the COVID19 lock-down and restrictions? Multiple responses	2 Casual labour 3 Agricultural activities 4 Petty trade 5 Assistance from NGOs/ Aid 6 Cash for work 7 Support from relatives 8 Carpentry 9 Fishing 10 Formal employment 11 Livestock 12 Brewing 13 Other Specify			
7.2	What were your household's sources of income after the COVID19 lock-down and restrictions? Multiple responses	1 No source 2 Casual labour 3 Agricultural activities 4 Petty trade 5 Assistance from NGOs/ Aid 6 Cash for work 7 Support from relatives 8 Carpentry 9 Fishing 10 Formal employment 11 Livestock 12 Brewing 13 Other Specify	Multiple	____	
7.3	What were the negative effects of COVID-19 to your household?	1. No impact 2. Reduced income 3. Poor health of family members 4. Loss of family member(s) 5. Loss of employment/ jobs 6. Increased community tensions 7. Others specify	Multiple	____	
7.4	What were the positive effects of COVID-19 to your household?	1. No impact 2. Increased income 3. More aid from NGOs 4. Source of employment or jobs 5. More safety and security in the community 6. Others specify	Multiple	____	
7.5	How did COVID-19 affect your household income?	1. Remained the same 2. Increased 7. Decreased	Single	____	
7.6	Before COVID-19, on average what was your household's monthly income?	_____	Numeric	____	
7.7	After COVID-19, on average what was your household's monthly income?	_____	Numeric	____	
7.8	Take a picture of a scene depicting the AGYWs IGA or business environment; seek the permission of the respondent.			__	
7.9	Please collect the GPS coordinates of the interview location to an accuracy of 5 metres.			__	

END OF INTERVIEW
Thank you for your cooperation

Appendix V – Key Informant Interview Guides

1. Key informant interview guide for Project staff

Hello, good morning/afternoon. We are a team of evaluators who are here to obtain your views on the implementation of the UHRCEP project and to capture some lessons learned. The overall objective of this project is to improve the economic livelihoods of communities with an emphasis on women and youth in refugee hosting communities. We are currently conducting a mid-term evaluation which is expected to provide the project partners with an independent review of the status, relevance and performance of the project as compared to the project document, identify and assess the basic results as to their sustainability. The personal responses you provide will be confidential. We will write a report that will simply provide general recommendations without mentioning anyone’s individual responses. We thank you sincerely for your generous time and valuable thoughts.

General Information			
1	District name		
2	Location		
3	Name of Department	_____	
4	Name of Contact Person	_____	
5	Address	_____	
6	Phone	_____	
7	Email	_____	
		Name	Code
8	Enumerator	_____	
9	Supervisor	_____	

Background

1. What UHRCEP project activities have you observed or participated in, in this community

Relevance

1. Are the UHRCEP project **emergency livelihoods, small grants and business skills trainings, and local governance capacity building** intervention (objectives) relevant to the beneficiary district/sub-county development plans? If not, are there objectives that contradict the priorities in these development plans?
2. Were consultations carried out, in which the needs of men, women, boys and girls were identified to inform the design of these interventions?
3. How well is the design of the project tailored to the priorities beneficiaries identified in the needs assessment? If not tailored, why?
4. To what extent does the project contribute to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights-based approach?

Effectiveness

5. Would you say the UHRCEP has achieved its objectives?
If not mentioned, probe:
 - a. Has it enhanced host and refugee communities’ livelihood? If no, why? If yes, give some examples
 - b. Has it raised awareness/capacity of the district local governments on community livelihood support and GBV prevention?
 - c. Has it enhanced peaceful co-existence between host and refugee communities? If no, why? If yes, give some examples

Efficiency

6. Considering all the available service delivery options, would you evaluate the UHRCEP as efficient in its approach to service delivery? Where no, why? Where yes, give examples
If not mentioned, probe for:
 - a. The extent the project management structure as outlined in the project document is the best alternative for efficient delivery of the expected results?
 - b. The extent the project implementation strategy has used the most resource saving options?

- c. Are the M&E systems in place supporting interventions to save resources most and or to promote accountability of results?
- d. Are the project funds and activities being delivered in a timely manner?

Impact

7. Would you say the UHRCEP has achieved its targeted outcomes?

If not mentioned, probe:

- (a) Has the project strengthened capacity of institutions and people, especially the vulnerable and marginalized, to promote the delivery and adoption of integrated, innovative, equitable and inclusive strategies for improved productivity, value chain enhancement and market access? How, if yes? Why, if not?
- (b) Do people, especially women and youth, now have improved access to and utilize innovative practices, technologies, finances, natural and productive resources for decent employment and livelihoods as a result of this project? If no, why? If yes, give some examples
- (c) Has it strengthened capacity of public and private institutions and communities to sustainably manage natural resources and protect vital ecosystems? If no, why? If yes, give some examples
- (d) Has it led to increased and equitable access to and use of modern, renewable, and affordable energy sources and services? If no, why? If yes, give some examples
- (e) Has it strengthened capacity of government and non-government institutions to effectively plan, monitor and deliver public and private financing to social sectors in an equitable, gender responsive, accountable, and sustainable manner? If no, why? If yes, give some examples
- (f) Has it contributed to realisation human rights? If no, why? If yes, give some examples
- (g) Has it strengthened capacity of government and non-government institutions to effectively plan, monitor and deliver?

Sustainability

8. To what extent will the benefits realized from the UHRCEP interventions will continue even after closure of the project?

If not mentioned, probe:

- (a) Is there will and ability to continue with income generation activities and use of the acquired business skills once UHRCEP assistance come to an end?
- (b) What (economic, financial, project, skills-based, IGA etc) capabilities is there to continue without the UHRCEP project assistance?
- (c) What financial, economic, skills-based, social or political risks may jeopardize sustainability of the benefits from this project in this community?
- (d) How do the legal frameworks, policy frameworks and institutional frameworks that govern the project community pose risks to the sustainability of this project benefits? How do the legal frameworks, policy frameworks and institutional frameworks that govern the project area support the sustainability of this project benefits?
- (e) What stakeholder opposition or support to the project's long-term objectives is likely to impact on its sustainability?
- (f) How well is the project team documenting and sharing lessons on a continued basis with appropriate parties who could learn from the project?

Lessons Learned 13. What lessons can be learnt from the UHRCEP project implementation? In terms of; Increasing resilience and immediate income, Addressing the environmental degradation, improving livelihood opportunities and skill trainings, gender-sensitive interventions, cultural and structural challenges for women, and policy implementation14. What do you think were the key strengths of the during project implementation? How can the strengths be replicated or continued?

15. What were the main weakness of the during project implementation? Are there ways in which weaknesses can be improved?

16. What were the main challenges faced during the implementation of this project? How were these challenges overcome?

17. Are there any other comments or suggestions that you would like to share with us?

Appendix VI – Focus Group Discussion Guide

Introduction 1. Introduction of team member(s) present

2. Purpose of evaluation

3. Consent – may we confirm that those present agree to participate in the discussion?

4. Confidentiality – although we request names and gender of those present, notes of the discussion will be confidential and neither the community nor any individual will be quoted by name.

Background & Project Design

5. For How long has the UHRCEP project work been going on in this community?

6. What UHRCEP project activities have you observed or participated in, in this community?

Relevance

7. Are the UHRCEP project **emergency livelihoods, small grants and business skills trainings, and local governance capacity building intervention** (objectives) relevant you here? If not, are there any objectives that contradict your priorities as a community?

9. Were the people consulted to identify their needs for programming purposes in these interventions??

10. How well is the design of the project tailored to the priorities you raised in these consultations? If not tailored, what interventions contradict your priorities?

22. To what extent has the project contributed to gender equality, empowerment of women and human rights here?

Effectiveness

Have the **emergency livelihoods, small grants and business skills trainings, and local governance capacity building interventions** project interventions enhanced your livelihood? If no, why? If yes, give some examples

Have the **emergency livelihoods, small grants and business skills trainings, and local governance capacity building interventions** raised awareness/capacity of your district local governments on livelihood support and GBV preventiin in your community? If no, why? If yes, give some examples

Have the **emergency livelihoods, small grants and business skills trainings, and local governance capacity building interventions** enhanced peaceful co-existence between host and refugee communities here? If no, why? If yes, give some examples

Efficiency

11. In your view, is the project management structure the best for efficient delivery of services?

12. In your view, is the project implementation strategy the most resource saving options?

13. In your view, are the consultations the project teams have with you being utilised to make informed decisions on resource use or to promote accountability in these interventions?

14. Are the project funds and activities being delivered to you in a timely manner?

Impact

Has the project strengthened the capacity of vulnerable people and that of your institutions to promote the delivery and adoption of integrated, innovative, equitable and inclusive strategies for improved productivity, value chain enhancement and market access? How, if yes? Why, if not?

Do you now, especially women and youth, have improved access to and utilize innovative practices, technologies, finances, natural and productive resources for decent employment and livelihoods as a result of this project? If no, why? If yes, give some examples

Has the project strengthened capacity of your community to sustainably manage natural resources and protect vital ecosystems? If no, why? If yes, give some examples

Has it led to your increased and equitable access to and use of modern, renewable, and affordable energy sources and services? If no, why? If yes, give some examples

Has it strengthened the capacity of your government and non-government institutions to effectively plan, monitor and deliver public and private financing to social sectors in an equitable, gender responsive, accountable, and sustainable manner? If no, why? If yes, give some examples

Has it contributed to realisation human rights here? If no, why? If yes, give some examples

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Sustainability

Are you willing and able to continue with income generation activities and use of the acquired business skills once UHRCEP assistance come to an end?

What (economic, financial, project, skills-based, IGA etc) capabilities do you possess to continue without the UHRCEP project assistance?

What financial, economic, skills-based, social or political risks may jeopardize sustainability of the benefits from this project in your community?

How do the regulations that govern this community pose risks to the sustainability of this project benefits here? How do they support the sustainability of this project benefits in this community?

- (g) What stakeholder opposition or support to the project's long-term objectives is likely to impact on its sustainability in this community?
- (h) How well is the project team documenting and sharing lessons on a continued basis with appropriate parties who could learn from the project?