

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN NORTHERN UGANDA
A CASE STUDY OF BAR-DEGE DIVISION GULU MUNICIPALITY
GULU DISTRICT

BY
NAKISAAZI EVELYN
LLB/36300/113/DU

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DECLARATION

I NAKISAAZI EVELYN, hereby declare that the contents of this research are the result of my own study, efforts and findings except where stated, and to the best of my knowledge, they have never been presented for any Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma, Degree or any professional award in any Higher Learning Institution or University.

Candidate Names: NAKISAAZI EVELYN

Signature..... N.e.

Date..... 13th - November - 2013

APPROVAL

This report is submitted to the School of Law of Kampala International University with my approval as University Supervisor.

Name: Mr. Luwalira Lubowa

Signature:.....

Date:.....

25/11/13

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my five sisters Nabateesa Mabel, Mirembe Christine, Namutebi Anne Marion, Namubiru Leticia and Nansubuga Joan, not forgetting my mother **NALUMU SARAH MAGRET**, who is the reason for my academic success. My sweat is your pride and my toil is meant to give lasting confidence and inspiration.

GOD BLESS YOU

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the role of women in conflict resolution in northern Uganda case study of bar-dege division Gulu municipality Gulu district. The study specific objectives were to find out the role women in conflict resolution in northern Uganda. A descriptive research design was applied because it enabled the researcher to describe how political, social and economic contribution of women towards the prevailing peace.

The research includes literature from various authors for the purpose of easy comparison with literature review information and analysis on role of women in conflict resolution in northern Uganda case study of bar-dege division Gulu municipality Gulu district.

Data was analyzed and presented in tables and graphs. Sampling techniques were selected that included purposive sampling and volunteering sampling.

The results of the study revealed that the major contributing factor to role of women in conflict resolution in northern Uganda case study of bar-dege division Gulu municipality Gulu district. Other causes included establishment initiatives by women in the post conflict in bar-dege division Gulu municipality, Gulu district, the results concluded that the major sections in the study is political, social and economical contribution of women towards the prevailing peace, the development initiatives by women in the post conflict and the roles of women with in the household development in bar-dege division.

In relation to objective three.. The study revealed that full and equal participation by both women and men in political decision making provides a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society, and may as such enhance the legitimacy of political processes by making them more democratic and responsive to the concerns and perspectives of all segments of society.

The Major findings and conclusions were given. Government of Uganda should encourage and promote to support women's participation in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction by strengthening women's representation in local, national and international bodies for the resolution of conflicts; this may be through national legal systems, where it has not yet been done, provisions penalizing all forms of violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

1.0. Introduction

Chapter one introduces the study in relation to the background and gives a full significance of the background of the Northern Uganda civil war, the areas that were affected by this war , and all operational terms will be defined in this chapter . It will also give the problem statement and purpose and objectives of the study, research questions, scope of the study, conceptual frame work .

1.1. Background to the Study

Uganda has gender systems which ascribe specific roles to men and women. Different responsibilities and priorities result in different time allocation patterns for men and women. Men and women participate in the productive sector of the economy as paid workers and in the reproductive aspect as parents and caretakers of the family. However, the latter is relatively more significant for women than for men. Women tend to spend relatively more time than men as mothers and primary caregivers to their families. This has important implications for the ability of each group to engage in paid economic activity making it more difficult for women to enter into certain aspects politics, leadership, economic development and conflict resolution.

Although, the Ugandan constitution provides for equal rights for men and women, and there exists a national gender policy, gaps are evident in the legal status of women in Uganda that affect the rights and protections afforded to women by law. Since independence, Uganda has suffered from continuing cycles of civil conflict that have in their wake, generated untold suffering to millions of people. Some of these conflicts include but are not limited to the Holy Spirit movement led by Alice Lakwena, Allied Democratic force (ADF) in Western Uganda and Karamojong conflict in the North Eastern Uganda. To date the longest dating from 1986, most visible and widespread has been the conflict between the Lords' Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of Uganda (GoU).

Over 1.7 million people were displaced, tens of thousands killed, raped or abducted among which a significant number of these being children and women. It should also be noted that the impact of this conflict has not been restricted to only Northern Uganda but is international. The LRA has continued to cause unrest in the neighboring countries of Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Southern Sudan. The current impunity of the LRA massacre of innocent civilians has caught the eye of international community to denounce their barbaric acts. This conflict has adversely affected the whole of Northern Uganda in all dimensions that is to say economically, socially and politically and if the residents there psychologically, lead to the entire social system completely broken down. Many health facilities were ransacked, schools destroyed and households abandoned as people were forced into squalid Internally Displaced camps (IDPs). The whole scenario painted a grim picture to people of Northern Uganda. Poverty, disease, hunger and lawlessness became the best description of the area.

Furthermore access to basic facilities such as clean water medical services especially for women, food and latrines became difficult. After several attempts to end this conflict in futility, relative peace has returned to northern Uganda with the government succeeding by adopting a two pronged approach of both military action and peace talks and formerly taking an upper hand and pushing the rebels out of the country and weakening them decisively. People have left IDP camps and, resettling in their homes and starting life afresh in homes they have not lived for over 20 years.

"Recognizing that this sub region has substantially been left behind in the development process as a result of the continuous armed conflict a number of development initiatives have been designed by both the government and other development partners to kick start the post conflict reconstruction and development process. There is increased special budget allocation for this region and specific Government Programs to this effect. Some of these programs are but not limited to Northern Uganda Reconstruction Program, Northern Uganda Social Action Fund. Most of these Development Programs are intended to develop the social and economic structures such as roads, education, health plus income boosting through agriculture and creating an enabling environment that will attract investments such as industries and commercial farming to the region thus providing employment and alternative sources of income. Women have not left

themselves behind in this noble cause. Working tirelessly from the back yard women have not only been critical in the conflict process but also in kick starting the development process.

In Uganda, Northern Region has experienced civil war for the last twenty three (23) years since 1986 in districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Apac and Lira. The people living in Northern Uganda have been exposed to wide spread of human rights violations.-Women, children and youth have carried the greatest burden of the suffering. They are usually the target of abduction, murder, defilement, torture, rape among others. World Health Organization (2005) a study on conflict reveals that intimate partner conflict is the most common form of conflict in women's lives much more than assault or rape by strangers. The study reports on the enormous toll physical and sexual conflict by husbands have on the health and well being of women around the world and the extent to which partner's conflict is still largely hidden.

Every day around the world women and girls suffer brutal domestic conflict, honor killings, rape, bride burnings, conflict as a weapon of war, and other atrocities. Conflict is a confrontation between house hold members or families involving sexual assault, physical harm. Family or house hold members includes spouses or former spouse, those in or (formally in) dating relationship, those who have a biological or legal parent child relationship, adult related by blood or marriage. Conflict destroys the homes, nobody deserves to be abused, and the responsibility for the conflict belongs to the abuser. It is not the victim's fault; conflict is the most common form of gender based conflict.

In December, 1993, the United Nations Declaration adopted the declaration on the elimination of conflict against women, which addresses conflict against women as a human right violation women's right to be free from conflict is also set out in general. Recommendations No.19 of the committee on the elimination of Discrimination against women. Regional treaties and agreements prohibiting conflict against women have also been drafted and adopted by many governments in the world and included in the constitution of the republic of Uganda. Acts of conflict against women in conflict are prohibited by international Humanitarian law including the Geneva conventions which applies to be the conduct of all parties to armed conflicts whether internal or international. Despite the efforts made by various actors in addressing domestic conflict, worldwide conflict is still recognized as a major issue on the international, national and local human rights agenda today. A study conducted by women of Uganda network (1995) found

that 31% of women surveyed admitted to having been physically assaulted by a husband or boyfriend.

Addressing conflict in most cases is neglected as the priority shifts to humanitarian aid like shelter, psycho-social support, food, water and sanitation, clothing. In such settings immediate survival takes precedence before conflict and the traditional structure of justice are eroded as individuals and families live in congested areas or sleep on streets. Levels of knowledge on human rights are very low in communities. This is further complicated by the fact that such communities in the Gulu district do not have easy access to education on conflict thus making the internally displaced people to be neglected. Conflict is the leading cause of injury to unmarried and married women between the ages of 18 years and 55 years in Uganda, and the Federation of Uganda Female Lawyers (FIDA), a local umbrella organization that brings together female lawyers, estimates that a woman is beaten every 15 seconds. National studies estimate that 3-4 million women are beaten each year in Uganda.

To solve the conflict in northern Uganda specifically in Gulu the association of women called Gulu Women for Peace, Reconciliation and Resettlement (GUWOPAR) was established in 1999 initially to run a campaign termed "door to door peace" against the abduction of innocent children women. This campaign was started after realizing the great numbers of children that were being abducted by LRA had turned into fighters or soldiers' wives. GUWOPAR's main objectives are to sensitize the communities on peace building and to mobilize, monitor and evaluate the participation of women in peace building processes.

Through the efforts of GUWOPAR, about 1,650 children came out of the bush voluntarily, others escaped from the rebel territories, and young girls came back with children fathered by the rebels. As a result of GUWOPAR's sensitization efforts, the communities have accepted the returnees and the hostile attitude displayed by communities towards returnees have drastically changed. The campaign greatly contributed to the end of the abduction and recruitment of child soldiers. GUWOPAR carries out skills building activities focusing on income generating activities. As a result, 30 women were trained in skills like making jewellery, bangles and ear rings while 30 women were trained as trainers of trainees (TOT) in tailoring, bakery and handicraft work. The TOTs have been training others. This is helping women to be self reliant. As a result of the work of GUWOPAR, the formerly abducted children and the women whose

children were abducted are active peace activists in the district. "Bringing sustainable peace requires a lot of things and to be a peace activist, you need to be tolerant, patient, and flexible and team work spirit is paramount". 3 Women building peace and good neighborliness in the great lakes region, 2008 is the way through to solve the conflict affecting them in the family. In order to address this gap, this study applies gender analysis to the specific power relations between women involving in conflict resolution.

1.2 Problem Statement

Women were the major target for the LRA through the entire conflict period. Many were raped or abducted, forced to marry or to forced to become rebels, for example Girls from a School in Apach District In Northern Part of Uganda called Aboke Girls were abducted in 1997 some of them were killed , others raped and some were forced to get married to the high ranking officer within the Rebel army. Women who survived the physical wrath of the rebels remained in charge of their households and families providing food and other basic necessities. This was based on the fact that most of the men were either forcefully conscripted into the rebel ranks or killed or joined the village protection units an initiative of the government. This placed the women in a complex scenario amidst the ever mounting challenges from providing shelter in the squalid camps to providing food to the families at home. Moreover, as women they faced limited access to sanitary and health facilities.

According to the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) 2006, more than two thirds of the Ugandan women experience conflict from their homestead (partners) and the communities around them. Sixty eight (68%) had been harassed or beaten by their partners during the 12 months preceding the survey and the way to solve the conflict is still not clear. Methods used involves pushing, dragging, beating, forced sex, threatening, arm twisting, insulting and choking. Despite of the above challenges faced by women in northern Uganda (Gulu) less has been talked on how women are involved in conflict resolution. This study will therefore, aim at examining the role of women in conflict resolution in northern Uganda taking Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu .district as a case study.

1.3. Purpose and objectives of the Study

The aim of the study was to assess the role played by women in the peace building process and development of Northern Uganda.

1.4 Study Objectives

- 1) To find out the Political, social and economic contribution of women towards the prevailing peace Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu district.
- 2) To establish the development initiatives by women in the post conflict in Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu district.
- 3) To find out the roles of women within the Household development in Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu district.

1.5. Research Questions

This study was guided by the following research questions

- 1) What are the Political, social and economic contribution of women towards the prevailing peace Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu district?
- 2) What are the development initiatives by women in the post conflict Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu district?
- 3) What are the roles of women within Household development in Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu district?

1.6 Scope of the Study

1.6.1 The Geographical Scope

The study was conducted in Bar-dege division Gulu Municipality, Gulu District located in northern Uganda. The study was conducted in the four parishes of Bar-dege division: Kasubi, Bar-dege, Forgodi and Kayangoga parishes.

1.6.3 The Content Scope

The study focused on the role of women in conflict resolution in northern Uganda: A case study of Bar-dege division Gulu Municipality, Gulu District.

1.6.2 The Time Scope

The study has been guided by the time frame between the year 2000 and 2008 in order to determine the rate of conflict increase under that time duration. According to the I.C document report of Kasubi village on the cases of conflict in 1995 and 1999, the study found out that about 30%-40% of the population suffers from conflict yearly. In 2000-2008 the cases of conflict increased by 50%-70% yearly and this clearly showed that the cases of conflict are still common in Bar-dege division. Time frame will be used in order to determine the magnitude of the current cases of conflict so as to come with realistic data at the end of the study. This showed that the cases of conflict are still common and women being the major victims. There are still urgent needs to address the problem of conflict in the community.

1.7 Significance of the Study

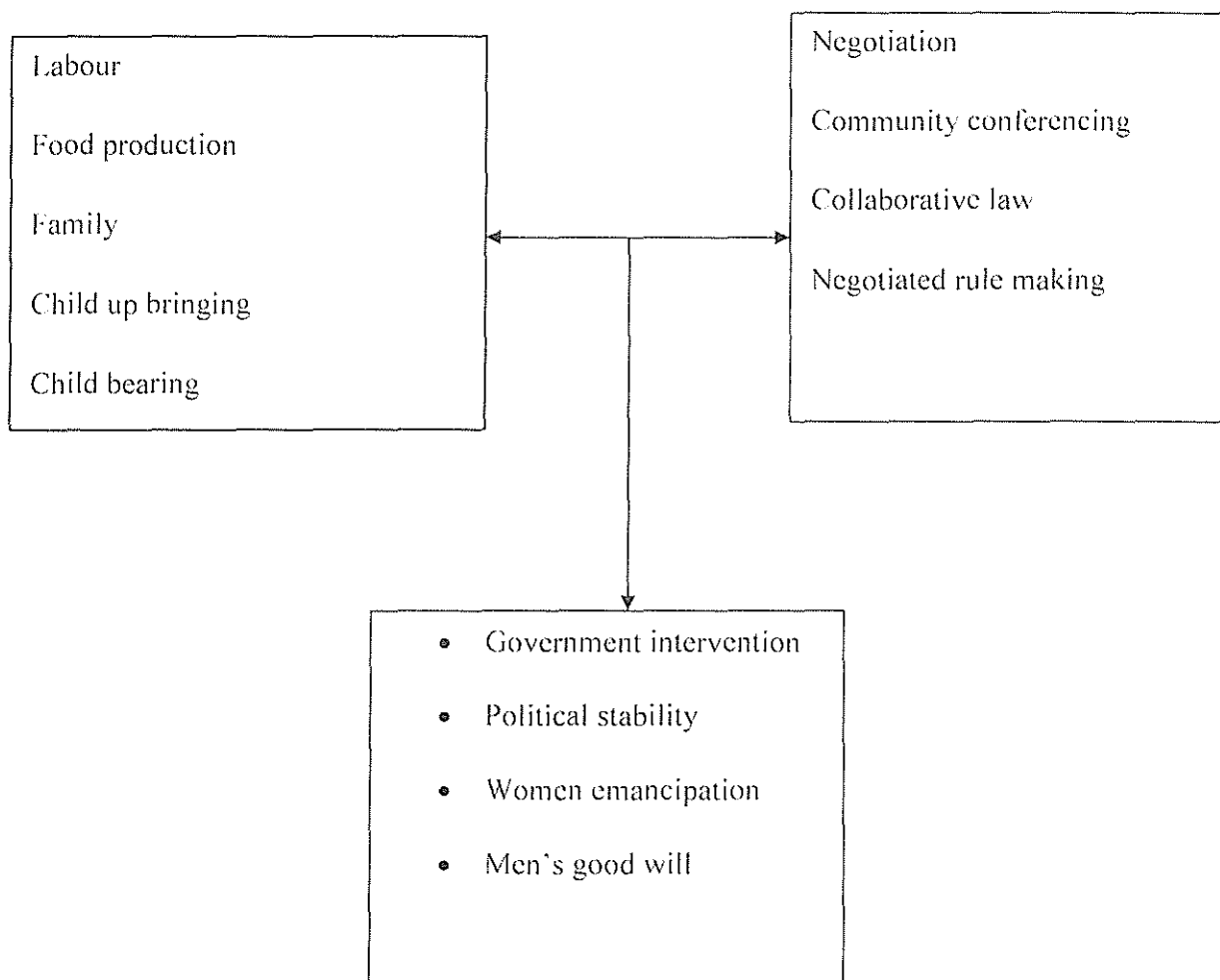
The study of Bar-dege division Gulu Municipality will sought to get the way forward that may contribute to the formation of strategies that can help or solve the problem of conflict in the community. The study will help those academicians interested in carrying out further study on conflict and its implication on women.

This study may help to provide an insight on the contribution of women in the peace process, which has not been very visible and in most cases men are the most pronounced but this study might show what women have contributed towards the peace process.

Furthermore this study may alert the role of women in kick staring development programs women in one way or the other have led to development but their roles go unnoticed. this study might bring out clearly the roles of women towards development than looking at men only as the main contributor towards development.

This study may help to inform the government and other stakeholders on policy and development issues and how best to involve women in peace building, conflict resolution as well as development in the post conflict period.

Conceptual Framework



Source: Researchers model 2012

1.8 Theoretical Framework of the Study.

This study was premised on three grounds relating to the war that had lasted over two decades in Northern Uganda. it should be remembered that the LRA war had far reaching effects on all people. Women having been behind the scenes they have faced the wrath of the effects of the war more than any other gender. Mindful of their struggles to bring bread on table, they also had

to ensure that other basic needs are met after their husbands had either been killed or abducted to join rebel ranks. Despite all efforts by women there is little documentation to this effect. Women have silently been engaged in resolving this long running conflict behind the scenes to mitigate the after effects both at household level and community level. An example of how women have participated can be got from the post genocide Rwanda where women actively participated in post conflict reconstruction particularly in the truth and reconciliation process and household development. This scenario has been given prominence by arguments of Edward Azar's theory on protracted social conflict which directly links people's well being to conflicts. He cites issues like poverty and economic leverage as key to peace building initiatives. To this end, women are a key dimension to achieve lasting peace since they are critical in household transformation and reconciliation processes.

Through their unseen efforts, they have generated momentum that has greatly contributed to the prevailing peace. Now with relative peace and calm back in the sub region, concerted efforts are now focused at re-orienting Northern Uganda back on the development path. Women are still taking a significant step in leading the development drive through various avenues. Tracking these efforts forms the basis of the study and effectively forms a concrete foundation for long term aspirations for peace and development. People are now returning to their ancestral homes and beginning life afresh. Available statistics show women to provide over 60% participation in income generating activities and small scale businesses implies that they are strong enough to be involving the post conflict resolution in the selected area of the study.

1.9 Definition of Operational Terms.

1.9.1 Conflict

According to Galtung [1996] conflict could be viewed as a triangle with structure, attitudes, and behavior as its vertices. By structure, he means the conflict situation, the parties, and the conflict of interest among them. Conflict arises where the parties come to have incompatible interests, values or goals

- **Relationship conflicts** occur because of the presence of strong negative emotions, misperceptions or stereotypes, poor communication or miscommunication, or repetitive negative behaviors. Relationship problems often fuel disputes and lead to an unnecessary escalating spiral of destructive conflict.
- **Interest Conflicts** are caused by competition over perceived incompatible needs. Conflicts of interest result when one or more of the parties believe that in order to satisfy his or her needs, the needs and interests of an opponent must be sacrificed.
- **Structural Conflicts** are caused by forces external to the people in dispute. Limited physical resources or authority, geographic constraints (distance or proximity), time (too little or too much), organizational changes, and so forth can make structural conflict seem like a crisis. It can be helpful to assist parties in conflict to appreciate the external forces and constraints bearing upon them.
- **Value Conflicts** are caused by perceived or actual incompatible belief systems. Values are beliefs that people use to give meaning to their lives. Values explain what is "good" or "bad," "right" or "wrong," "just" or "unjust." Differing values need not cause Conflict.

1.9.2 Conflict Resolutions

According to Robert Gardner (2003) Conflict Resolutions are ways to resolve conflicts - surrendering, running away, overpowering your opponent with violence, filing a lawsuit, etc. The movement toward Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), sometimes referred to simply as conflict resolution, grew out of the belief that there are better options than violence or going to court. Today, the terms ADR and conflict resolution are somewhat interchangeably and refer to a wide range of processes that encourage nonviolent dispute resolution outside of the traditional court system. The field of conflict resolution also includes efforts in schools and communities to reduce violence and bullying and help young people develop communication and problem-solving skills.

- **Negotiation:** is a discussion among two or more people with the goal of reaching an agreement.
- **Mediation:** is a voluntary and confidential process in which a neutral third-party facilitator helps people discuss difficult issues and negotiate an agreement. Basic steps in

the process include gathering information, framing the issues, developing options, negotiating, and formalizing agreements. Parties in mediation create their own solutions and the mediator does not have any decision-making power over the outcome .

- **Community Conferencing:** is a structured conversation involving all members of a community (offenders, victims, family, friends, etc.) who have been affected by a dispute or a crime. Using a script, the facilitator invites people to express how they were affected and how they wish to address and repair the harm that resulted.
- **Collaborative Law:** refers to a process for solving disputes in which the attorneys commit to reaching a settlement without using litigation.
- **Negotiated Rulemaking:** is a collaborative process in which government agencies seek input from a variety of stakeholders before issuing new rules. Conflict has got various causes and for this Particular research, the following were the causes of armed conflict in Northern Uganda .
- **Inequality:** Inequality between groups is probably the foremost cause of conflict in Africa. It is inequality between groups rather than individuals that increases the prospects of violent conflict. It exists on three mutually reinforcing levels: economic, social and political. In countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone and Rwanda, political power and its benefits were monopolized by one group. Similarly in Northern Uganda Unequal access to power perpetuated a similar lack of access to resources and revenue. Where group inequality occurs there is also differential access to education (as the case in Burundi).

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This section presents a review of related literature written by various authors, researchers and analysts. It has provided information related to the role of women in conflict resolution had been drawn from several sources.

2.2 The Concept of Conflict

The chambers World Finder (1975) describes Conflict as referring to “Any acts of harassment that occurs between members of the same family or house hold. This also implies to girlfriends or boyfriends abuse, hostile behavior between members of the family that result in injury, aggressive harm and humiliation and sometimes death. The behavior includes rape, physical abuse, and deprivation of basic needs and destruction of properties”.

Conflict has become part of life in many families and many women in Uganda accept conflict as part of male-female relationship, where women suffer from physical, sexual and psychological coercion by their intimate partners (Conan B 2007).

Conflict has only recently been treated as specific legal issues in very few African countries which include South Africa which enacted the South Africa conflict Act in 1998. The south African conflict Act in 1998 Defines conflict as: “Physical abuse, emotional, sexual abuse, verbal and psychological abuse, economic abuse, intimidation, harassment, stalking, damage of property, entry into complaints, residence without consent where the parties do not share residence or other controlling or abusive behavior towards complaint where such conduct harms or may cause imminent harm to the safety, health or wellbeing of the complainant”.2.2. The Role of Women in Peace Building and Conflict Resolution.

2.3 Conflict facing women in northern Uganda Gulu that needs to be solved

According to Michelle Rice (2000), Conflict is defined as the use of threat or use of physical, emotional, verbal or sexual abuse with the intention of inflicting fear, intimidation and

controlling behavior. Conflict occurs within the context of an intimate relationship and may continue after the relationship has ended. The following are the forms of domestic conflict.

Women are forced to have sex against their will, be handled roughly during sex or raped by their partners. In many countries unfortunately, conflict in sexual relations within the couples is not considered as rape in the criminal sense of the term. A few countries are beginning to accept that rape within the couples is a crime, while others consider that husbands have the right to unlimited sexual access to their wives (Michelle. R, 2008).

Economic conflict exists when women are deprived of resources of essentials despoiled or kept under strict control. Economic abuse is when the abuser has complete control over the victim's money and other economic resources usually for example salary of small earnings, this involves putting the victim on a strict allowance with holding the money at will and forcing the victim to beg for money until the abuser gives them some money. It is common for the victim to receive less money as the abuse continues. This also includes (but it is not limited to) preventing the victim from finishing education or obtaining employment (Rao, 1997).

The human rights Watch (2003) puts it that psychological conflict within the couple is equally unbreakable for the women exposed to it. Unfortunately this is the least visible kind of conflict and therefore the hardest to detect. Verbal abuse, threat, harassment, humiliation and confinement can be more harmful than physical attacks in so far as they seriously undermine the victim's mental health. The victim loses all self confidence and subsequently finds it difficult to take care of herself. Physical conflict is the most visible kind, as it often leaves marks. The aggressor punches, strangles, and beats his partner to vent in rage, slaps, sometimes using objects such as fire arms, knives and axes. Physical conflict can result in murder and often leads to serious physical injury. Physical conflict may also be directed against the couples, children, and the violent partner subjecting the children to all sorts of abuse.

Sexual conflicts/abuse is linked to physical abuse which occurs after about the physical abuse including forcing someone to participate in unwanted, unsafe or degrading sexual activity, sexual assault.

Sexual harassment includes sexual exploitation such as forcing someone to look at pornography, ridiculing another to try to limit their sexuality or productive choices or forcing someone to participate in pornographic films making (Dobash, 1979).

Stalking is harassment of or threatening another person, especially in a way that haunts the person physically or emotionally in a repetitive devious manner. Stalking of an intimate partner can take place during the relationship with intense monitoring of the partner's activities. Stalking can also take place after a partner or spouse has left the relationship. The stalker may be trying to get their partner back or they may wish to harm them (Nduna et al, 1997).

Structural conflict is often underestimated as it is less obvious and less direct than physical conflict. It includes the situation where women are demeaned simply for being women, when they are deprived of their most fundamental rights for example such as the right to work, to have her own bank account among others. Inequalities such as these simply encourage men to behave violently towards women (Dutton, D. G, 1988).

2.4 The Role of Women in Peace Building and Conflict Resolution

Mathey, M.J et al. (2003), explains that the role of women in development is directly related to the goal of comprehensive social and economic development and is fundamental to the development of all societies. Development means total development, including development in the political, economic, social, cultural and other dimensions of human life, as well as the development of the economic and other material resources and the physical, moral, intellectual and cultural growth of human beings. It should be conducive to providing women, particularly those who are poor or destitute, with the necessary means for increasingly claiming, achieving, enjoying and utilizing equality of opportunity. More directly, the increasingly successful participation of each woman in societal activities as a legally independent agent will contribute to further recognition in practice of her right to equality. Development also requires a moral dimension to ensure that it is just and responsive to the needs and rights of the individual and that science and technology are applied within a social and economic framework that ensures environmental safety for all life forms on our planet.

According to Porter, (2003). Peace depends on the prevention of the use or threat of the use of force, aggression, military occupation, interference in the internal affairs of others, the

elimination of domination, discrimination, oppression and exploitation, as well as of gross and mass violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Peace includes not only the absence of war, violence and hostilities at the national and international levels but also the enjoyment of economic and social justice, equality and the entire range of human rights and fundamental freedoms within society. It depends upon respect for the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international covenants and the relevant international instruments on human rights, upon mutual co-operation and understanding among all States irrespective of their social political and economic systems and upon the effective implementation by States of the fundamental human rights standards to which their citizens are entitled.

M Juma (2005) asserts that despite the limited documentation on the contribution of women in peace building and conflict resolution a number of scholars have tried to highlight a number of achievements in this area. Some of these scholarly works are highlighted below, in the ongoing discussion:

At the national level, educated women have, in turn, been at the forefront of debate and discussion about the return to peace and have highlighted the essential role that women must play. A rising tide of awareness has therefore provided the impetus for the founding of large numbers of voluntary organizations run by women to help other women in displacement camps, by providing them with food, clothing and medicines and by setting up income-generating activities.

At the regional level, women, especially in the countryside, moved by feelings of solidarity with their sisters from other ethnic groups, have come to their aid, at times putting themselves at risk. Cases were reported to us of women sheltering orphans and breastfeeding very young children whose mothers had been killed, and of some women hiding others to protect them from harm.

Further still, Lihamba, (2003) reports that as bearers of life, women can offer a special perspective and experience which will help to overcome prevailing life-destroying methods of dealing with human problems and conflicts. A reliable system to safeguard peace is the inclusion of women in all stages of the peace process becomes imperative.

2.5 Political and Socio- Economic Contribution of Women towards the Prevailing Peace

Becker, (2003) revealed that African women have been actively involved in conflicts as combatants or service providers as in Angola, Eritrea, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Uganda (Bennett et al. 1995). In Africa, "many liberation movements claimed women's liberation as an integral part of their overall struggle for social justice and women's issues were included in the political agenda." (Nzomo 2000: 7). While men are away for war, women also gain new economic roles through income-generating development programs and social responsibilities as 'temporary leaders' of their households and communities, bestowing on them greater self-confidence and independence. Some scholars (Baden 1997; Byrne 1996) believe that this change in gender roles during conflict might transform social patterns and promote gender equality after the conflict. There is an assumption that war would weaken patriarchal social structures, and this, along with post-conflict foreign interventions that promote democratization, might give women and men an opportunity to transform gender relations.

Historically, Porter, (2003) mentioned that, women's participation in politics and decision-making has been insignificant, specifically in high echelons although in the pre-colonial period, women played an important role in the country's governance. For instance after the destructive genocide of 1994 in Rwanda, there was a great need to mobilize and guide the population to reconstruct its own lives as well as their communities and country. Women in different positions of leadership played critical roles in mobilizing fellow women to live together and to find common solutions to their own problems and those of their country. . Examples of Unity club, forum of Rwandan Women Parliamentarians.

A case in point is that women have been entrusted and given responsibility of rebuilding the nation by appointing them to all positions of leadership and responsibility in society. For example, women are serving in the executive, legislative and judiciary arms of the government in the country. In the last ten years women have stood as exemplary leaders at policy level as well as community level. The mere presence of women in cabinet, parliament, judiciary, and all spheres of life served as role models and also helped to develop confidence among women and this opened up women's role in decision making (Schmidt, 1997).

Women have worked together to forge solidarity, and unity among themselves as the first step forward mobilization of other women for example the Unity Club as a forum of top women leaders and spouses of top leaders in government aimed at creating unity among themselves; and then be able to preach the message of unity and reconciliation among the communities. They conducted concrete activities such as helping orphans, fostering them, supporting victims of famine and flood and always championing unity as their goal. The forum of Rwandese women leaders' caucus also started as a caucus that brings women from different backgrounds together. They were able to lobby together and influence enacting of laws that protect and promote the rights of women. For example the inheritance laws, the law on the rights of the child, the rights of women at the place of work. (Ngongo-Mbede, 2003).

Women parliamentarians were able to advocate for women rights and gender equality and also mobilized grass root women to contribute to the making of the constitution so that the issues of gender equality takes centre stage and at the same time monitor the budget and ensure that the budget addresses the needs of women and men. Women leadership was demonstrated by the setting up women structures, which came to be known as National women councils. National women councils provided platform to enable women gain visibility and be able to contribute to national debate and influence policy development and democratic processes of the country. For example mobilize fellow women to participate in Gacaca courts, decentralization, poverty reduction processes, fighting HIV/AIDS pandemic and dealing with the consequences of the 1994 genocide.

Schmidt, H. (1997) Research shows that women can influence peace and reconciliation if they are empowered to participate and taking major decisions at community, local, national and international levels. The government of Rwanda has in the last ten years put in place several measures to ensure that women are given chance to fully participate in decision making in different organs. The government has put in place a legal framework facilitating national women councils to provide a forum through which women exchange views on national issues and the overall development of the country. Through these councils, women have been able to make input into national policies and programmes. These include Vision 2020, PRSP, the decentralization policy, the national Land Bill, the land policy, the Succession law, the

traditional participatory system of justice (Gacaca courts) and many other areas of critical importance to peace building including the new constitution.

Mathey, M.J et al. (2003) asserts that it is worth noting that decentralization favors the representation of women at the various administrative levels: a department in charge of gender issues has been set up at the district and provincial level; likewise, women's representatives become automatic members of the consultative committees at the level of the sector and cellule. It is worth noting that the President of the Supreme Court of Rwanda is a woman and the minister of justice is also a woman, as well as the executive secretary of the Gacaca courts. Of the 12 judges in the Supreme Court, 5 are women or a representation of 41.7%. Further, at the local administration level, under the decentralization arrangement, women occupy 26% of the posts on the executive councils of each province.

2.6 The Development Initiatives by Women in the Post Conflict Resolutions

Bouta, T. et al. (2005) revealed that the strategies contained in the World Plan of Action and in the Programme of Action were important contributions towards enlarging the perspective for the future of women. In most areas, however, further action is required. In this connection the General Assembly confirmed the goals and objectives of the Decade - equality, development and peace - stressed their validity for the future and indicated the need for concrete measures to overcome the obstacles to their achievement during the period 1986-2000.

According to Cecil, C. and Rasmussen, K. (2009), the Forward-looking Strategies for the advancement of women during the Period from 1986 to the Year 2000 set forth in the present document present concrete measures to overcome the obstacles to the Decade's goals and objectives for the advancement of women. These strategies reaffirm the international concern regarding the status of women and provide a framework for renewed commitment by the international community to the advancement of women and the elimination of gender-based discrimination. The efforts for the integration of women in the development process should be strengthened and should take into account the objectives of a new international economic order and the International Developments.

Mathey, M.J (2003) In the 'peace negotiations' in progress, the women in the official delegations (if at all present) are regarded as 'stopgaps' or tokens, when they should instead be essential

partners. There is a current of female opinion that holds that women, like men are worthy of honour, should be appointed too, so that they can speak for those who have no say and thus make a real contribution to laying the foundations of a peaceful society. That being said, women today are determined, in cooperation with other parties concerned, to find peaceful, just and equitable solutions to the socio-political crisis that has rocked the country. To do so, there is a need to reinstate the values associated with reinforcing peace and social harmony characteristically embodied by women in traditional societies, since these genuinely offer some possible answers to the crisis.

Ranger, T. (1992) says that a return to communal education and reinstatement of the values that women traditionally embodied within their homes and communities would appear to be the only way forward towards building a healthy society, at peace with itself, and able to find appropriate responses to the massive peace and security challenges facing Burundian society today. 'While recognizing that reviving the values essential for conflict resolution and prevention by women today is obviously the right path, it is, however, no easy task to determine where to begin and how to proceed. Possibly, there is a need, as Liboire Kagabo would argue, to work on what really counts -- that is to say 'reason'. When faced with the challenge of the 'deterioration in values', Kagabo suggests 'the question is therefore how to make Burundian society see reason'.

Schmidt, H. (1997) explained that Women have also been leaders in efforts to draw international attention to the conflict. When the LRA abducted girls from St. Mary's School in Aboke in October 1996, the Concerned Parents Association was formed to campaign for their release. With the school's Deputy Headmistress, Sister Rachele Fassera, they initiated a high profile advocacy campaign that received attention worldwide and influenced the agenda in negotiations around the conflict. The strategy for the release of the Aboke girls has had some criticism, as the thousands of children abducted before 1997 received no such attention. The strong government support for the campaign has in fact helped to strengthen popular belief in a 'conspiracy of silence' and a lack of political will to end the conflict in northern Uganda.

2.5. The Roles of Women within the Household Development

McGrew, L., et al. (2004) reveals that the need for women's perspective on human development is critical since it is in the interest of human enrichment and progress to introduce and weave into

the social fabric women's concept of equality, their choices between alternative development strategies and their approach to peace, in accordance with their aspirations, interests and talents. These things are not only desirable in them but are also essential for the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Decade.

He further sighted that care of children ought to be of essential concern to modern Burundian women. It would be preferable for it to follow the pattern of traditional society. In that society, boys and girls trod a well-defined, admittedly rigid, educational path, but one that guaranteed harmony within the family and their integration in the community. A boy or girl seeking to depart from the straight path was punished. Such sanctions acted as safeguards, preventing children from going further astray and enabling them to correct their course whenever necessary. Nowadays, even though there have been changes to our way of life, making it impossible for modern women to be with their children constantly, it is essential that the inculcation of positive values should play a significant part in a child's upbringing.

Ntahobari, J. and Ndayiziga, B. (2003) reports that Women in traditional Burundian society were typically non-violent, compassionate and even less-tempered, highly responsive to their children and knowledgeable about caring for them. Once those values are restored, present day women may well feel more deeply involved in the peace process and better able to suggest innovative ways of resolving the crisis that do not involve the use of weapons or force. The reinstatement of such traditional virtues can be achieved only by means of a collective, concerted search for solutions, genuine political will and sustained work on education for peace.

Similarly, UNESCO (2003) asserts that in Northern Uganda women played a big role for example in 1989, the Gulu District Women's Development Committee mobilized other women in a peaceful demonstration at a time when no other groups dared to speak out about the war. Wearing rags and singing funeral songs, the women marched through Gulu town demanding an end to the violence. At the same time, many from the LRA gave up fighting and returned home. Although there are no available statistics to substantiate the outcome of the demonstration, a period of relative calm followed which provided an opportunity for various agencies to resettle displaced populations in Gulu.

Disapproval of the LRA's behavior, Acholi women have organized to try to influence government policy and the practices of UPDF troops in the region. Realizing that simple moral appeals to the fighting forces could not stop the war, in 1996 a delegation sought an audience with the President of the Republic of Uganda, army commanders and top government officials to articulate their concerns and demand a peaceful solution to the conflict and prevention of further violence. An audience with Museveni was denied but the more positive responses of military authorities, Local Councils (LCs), and the Resident District Commissioner for dialogue and development of joint strategies have greatly improved civil-military working relationships. Women have tried to prevent the excesses of UPDF soldiers by monitoring and reporting violations. Acholi women have also served on the LC committees in an effort to demand that their concerns are taken seriously. These leadership roles have demanded extra courage because of the high risk of reprisals from LRA fighters and, paradoxically, risk of the UPDF claiming that high profile women are LRA collaborators.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODS AND PROCEDURES

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the research design, description of the study population, sampling procedure, sample size, research methods, research instruments, data analysis and the justification of variables in the model and their measurements.

3.1 Research Design

The study employed many techniques in gathering information about the views, attitudes and opinions of the respondents pertaining to the performance of women ventures.

Most information was gathered through **interactive sessions** which I had with some of the women as I lived and worked within **Bar-dege division** (Gulu Municipality-Gulu District) for a period exceeding one year under the employment of USAID through our partnership with Gulu Women Peace Reconciliation and Resettlement (**GUWOPAR**).

The objective of these interactive session and sometimes personal discussions was to get the personal experiences of the women during our studies, and also to find out their attempts, successes and failures in conflict resolution.

During the USAID study, a total of 100 respondents were selected, for an in depth study to better understand their experiences in developing conflict resolutions. The focus was on their experiences, facilitating and limiting factors, as well as strategies that they use in conflict resolution. The main method of research used in these sessions was the **Focus Group Discussion** which was conducted before administering of questionnaires and this gave the researcher an opportunity to share experiences with the women at a personal level and make necessary adjustments to the interview process and questionnaires given later. However other methods of research like interview guide were also employed, as will be discussed later.

3.2 Area of Study

The study was conducted in Bar-dege division Gulu Municipality, Gulu District. The study was conducted in the four parishes of Bar-dege division; Kasubi, Bar-dege, Forgod and Kayangoga parishes.

3.3 Population of the Study

Women in Gulu Municipality, Gulu District were selected because the area has women who had been affected by war particularly in Bar-dege division. The study population therefore is comprised of women who have roles in business, politics, economic development and conflict resolution in Bar-dege division Gulu Municipality, Gulu District. Since the study examines the role of women in conflict resolution in northern Uganda and all the women who have roles related to conflict resolution were all examined regardless of the years they have spent in conflict resolutions.

3.4 Sample frame and Sampling procedure

3.4.1 Source list

Generally, there is no comprehensive and disaggregated list of the roles of women in conflict resolution in the study area from which a sampling frame could be drawn. The first step was to develop a list of potential respondents. This was drawn from Gulu Women Peace Reconciliation and Resettlement (GUWOPAR). The chairperson of women association in the area was also examined because she was knowledgeable with the number of women involved in business, politics, economic development and conflict resolution in Bar-dege division Gulu Municipality, Gulu District.

3.4.2 Purposive sampling

The following respondents were purposively selected because they were believed to have reliable information about the role of women in conflict resolution in northern Uganda. They include the Public Relations Officer of women in Bar-dege division Gulu Municipality and Gulu Women Peace Reconciliation and Resettlement.

3.4.3 Stratified sampling credited

Stratified random sampling was used for selecting a sample in such a way that the identified subgroups in the population are represented in the sample in the same proportion that they exist in the population. Morris Hansen et al (1953:40), maintains that stratified sampling ensures that, different groups of the population are adequately represented in the sample so as to increase their level of accuracy when estimating parameters. In this case, respondents that were chosen by stratification included women in business, politics, economic development and conflict resolution in Bar-dege division. However, the list did not show the number of years the women had been in conflict resolution, which was a key selection criterion of all involving all the women regardless of years in business, politics, economic development and conflict resolution in Bar-dege division Gulu Municipality, Gulu District.

3.5 Sample size

The sample size was determined by the financial outlay and accessibility of the subjects. The study sample size comprised of 100 women vendors, followed by a Focus Group Discussion of a smaller group of women especially women representatives from different departments in business, politics, economic development and conflict resolution in Bar-dege division. Women at the study area were selected as following the basis of the role they play in the conflict resolution case in the study area.

3.6 Research methods

The study employed the interview method to collect data.

3.6.1 Interview

During the study findings respondents were subjected to a face-to-face interview as key informants. These included: spokes person of women in Bar-dege division, Business development officer in Bar-dege division, and Gulu Women Peace Reconciliation and Resettlement. Interviews were used to obtain data that could not be easily obtained using questionnaires this according to Lunderberg, (1981). Interview by use of Questionnaires were employed to collect data from key respondents.

3.7 Research instruments

The researcher employed questionnaires as a research instrument to collect the relevant data to answer the research questions which were earlier discussed.

3.7.1 Questionnaire

Questionnaires were used to collect data from 100 respondents who included the women ventures in the vegetable and fruits sector. This instrument was used because of its suitability in reaching respondents in a large sample and to enable respondents give information free of influence (Abrahamson 1983). The questionnaire translated the research objectives into specific questions whereby answers to those questions provided the data for answering the research questions. The questionnaire contained both close-ended and open-ended questions. Close-ended questions were used for collecting data for quantitative analysis while open-ended questions were used to enable the respondents' express their attitude and opinion about the role of women in conflict resolution in Bar-dege division Gulu Municipality, Gulu District. Open-ended questions in the questionnaire made it possible to capture qualitative information as well.

3.8 Data analysis

After collecting the questionnaires and conducting of interviews, data was coded for the purposes of analysis. Responses were captured, analyzed and categorized in frequency tables and cross tabulations using the STATA Package. Analysis was done by tracking common themes, experiences and evidence on strategies, approaches, processes, opportunities, and barriers which have facilitated or hindered women's business upward mobility. In this study, the findings of the interview analysis from key informants were integrated with the field study results.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents and discusses the findings of the study on the role of women in conflict resolution in northern Uganda: A case study of Gulu District whose objectives were to;

- 1) To find out the Political, social and economic contribution of women towards the prevailing peace in Northern Uganda.
- 2) To establish the development initiatives by women in the post conflict Northern Uganda.
- 3) To find out the roles of women within the Household development.

Findings are based on the questionnaires that were given out and interviews conducted among households in Gulu district. This chapter is divided into two parts, first is for presentation analysis and discussion of findings obtained by aid of questionnaires while the second part is for the findings from the interview schedule to respond to the research questions so as to enable the researcher to establish the role of women in conflict resolution in northern Uganda: A case study of Gulu District. The data was analyzed numerically and descriptively basing on the research questions with support of SPSS and frequency tables as presented from below.

4.1.1 Responses from Questionnaires

A total of 120 questionnaires were distributed to the sample of 120 women in Gulu district, out of the 120 questionnaires a researcher managed to get 100 questionnaires back. A total of 100 filled and returned questionnaires giving a response rate of 83.3% and all questionnaires were filled properly and hence all used in this analysis. Forty three (43) which were equivalent to 43% were female and fifty seven (57) which is equivalent to 57% were male. Below is the figure indicating equal respondents' representation for both sexes of the target population respectively.

4.2 Demographic Descriptions of Respondents

Table 4.1: Demographic Descriptions of Respondents

VARIABLES	LEVELS	NO.	%
Sex	F	82	82
	M	18	18
Age	18-25	40	40
	26-29	24	24
	30-35	27	27
	36-40	9	9
Education	Never went to school	14	14
	Primary	46	46
	Secondary	23	23
	Tertiary	13	13
	University	04	4
Marital status	Single	24	24
	Married	31	31
	Widowed	5	5
	Divorced	5	5
	Cohabiting	27	27
Current occupation	Civil servant	13	40
	NGO Self employed	21	27
	Unemployed	46	9

4.2.1 Findings on Sex Distribution of the Respondents

Table 4.1: above, 18% of the respondents were male and 82% of the respondents interviewed were female. This was of the implication that both male and female views in regard to the subject of research were sought. This is because in most households, it is women who are the majority. This is attributed to culture and polygamy where in a house hold men have a right to marry more

than one woman thus a ratio of 1:4 men and women respectively. It was very important for me as a researcher to be gender sensitive and avoid sex imbalance. The researcher had to know the sex of the respondents who had participated in the research study so as to ensure that the information obtained cut across all categories of service beneficiaries. Table 4.1 above indicates that majority of the respondent were female.

4.2.2 Findings on age Distribution of the Respondents

Following 4.1: above, 40% of the respondents were between 25 years and below, 27% were between 30-35 years, 24% were between 25-29 and 9% were between 40-44 years. This implies that respondents of the appropriate age brackets were interviewed to respond on the key issues on the role of women in conflict resolution. It is fundamental for the researcher to know the age of the respondent who participated in the research study. This is because the age of the respondent is a strong tool in knowing the level of knowledge, experience and maturity of the respondents the researcher is collecting data from so as to avoid using inappropriate age which eventually may alter the information that may mislead the research findings. In this case, the fact that 18-25 years a according to Uganda constitution such a person has a right to participate in politics, business, social economic development and can also involve in resolutions of post conflict they were married and people of responsibility who can be in struggle for post conflict resolution.

4.2.3 Findings on the education levels of the respondents

Table 4.1 above, primary level had response rate of 46% coming out as the highest of all the total responses this is because of poverty that children after primary seven cannot preceed to secondary. Also political instability in the area has created room for adapt ness thus little time for school. Besides, secondary level had 23% response rate coming out as the second highest of the total responses, because still due to poverty and perhaps lack of career guidance stopped them from going beyond secondary education. Whereas those who had never gone to school, tertiary and university levelers came out as the least responses whose response rate was 14%, 13%, 04%. it is because the 14% (never went to school) were due to backwardness even poverty since they could not afford scholastic materials while the 13 who were tertiary levelers was because they would not afford money for university where as those at university level had the lowest response

rate because of poverty and poor performance at secondary to enable them raise tuition and entry points for university respectively. The level of education is a very significant attribute of background information that enables the researcher to obtain information from well-diversified and exposed informants. Level of education was used to determine how knowledgeable and experienced respondents were in providing relevant data pertaining important issues that arise in their environment in this case the role of women in post conflict resolution.

4.2.4 Findings on Marital Status distribution of the respondents

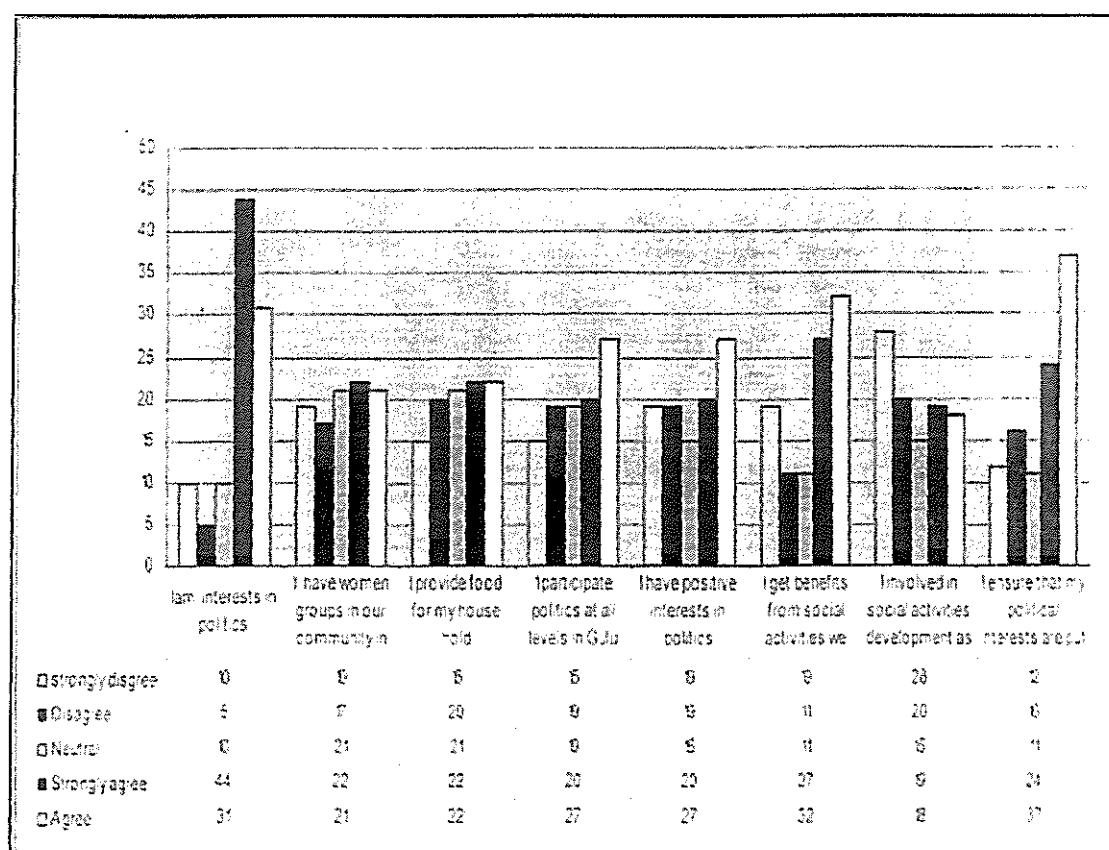
From the study 4.1: above indicated that, 31% of the respondents were married, 24% singles, 5% divorced, 5% widowed, and 27% were cohabiting (marriage not yet known to parents of either side). This indicated that the views of respondents cutting across all marital status were considered in the study at different levels. Marital status is a very important component of background information that enables the researcher to know the level of maturity, knowledge and experience of the respondent since it is argued that the marital status of the respondent indicate their level of maturity, knowledge and the kind of information that they give indicate how responsible they are. The researcher considered this as very important parameter because it has a direct impact on the study findings. Table 4: indicated that majority of the respondent who took part in this research study were married and responsible in post conflict resolution because they are eye witness and mostly affected during the war in the northern region of Uganda (Gulu).

4.2.5 Findings on Current occupation of the respondents

Table 4.1: above, unemployed response rate of 46% coming out as the highest of all the total responses. This is because majority of the respondents were not educated and therefore had no qualifications to work with either government or private agencies. Some of these households were retired officials and others did not have interest to work with government. Besides, NGO occupants had 21% response rate coming out as the second highest of the total responses. This is because most of these had trained in social courses that necessitates them work with non government organizations. Whereas government and self employed occupants had a response rate 13% and 20% respectively coming out as the lowest response rate.

4.3 The Political, socio and economic contribution of women towards the prevailing peace in Northern Uganda.

This part deals with various aspects of your response as a resident of this area. Please use the scales given to indicate how much you agree and disagree to each of the following statements.



The results from the figure indicated that respondents strongly agreed (44%) that women in Bar-dege division in Gulu are interested in politics the reason being, both women and men were equally affected by conflicts in different ways. Therefore, Peace-building activities must be taken account of these differing needs. This indicated that the women in the selected area in Gulu concentrated on how to join politics and help them to involve in conflict resolution in their area.

Because the Concerned Parents Association was formed immediately after the Lord's Resistance Army abducted 139 school girls from secondary schools in October 1996. The LRA used to abduct children on a daily basis but parents and communities did not know how to respond due to negative interest in politics.

However, a small percentage of respondents (5%) indicated that they neutrally disagreed that women are not interested in politics because they are pressed by their husbands and majority of them, 46% of the interviewed women were primary drop outs as evidenced in table 4.1 on the section of education level, hence hard for them to participate in the politics of Uganda with less education levels,

From the study 22% strongly agree and 21% disagree respectively of the interviewed women disclosed that women at the selected area of the study ensure that their political interests are put forward in struggle for conflict resolution on post conflict in northern Uganda particularly in Bar-dege division in Gulu district. This is because post conflict in northern Uganda limited both women and men in the region from accessing resources, power and decision making before, during and after conflicts. The experience of women and men in situations of tension, war, and post-conflict reconstruction is significantly different hence limited them from taking lead in conflict resolutions.

However, 19% and 17% respondents indicated that the women in the selected area in Gulu district were not stressing the idea of political interests put forward. This is because they are not considered in politics and if they are considered according to the academic qualification to join politics is favoring them and hence remains without interest in politics. Although a small percentage 21% of the respondents did not respond to the statement. This implies that the role of women in conflict resolution is not known because the respondents did not show their responses.

Respondents were asked whether they provide food for their household in Gulu district. The results from figure 1: show that the majority 22% of the respondent strongly agreed and agreed respectively with the statement that they do provide food for their household in Gulu district. This is because after the war majority of women were empowered to participate in the development of the economy through joining politics, carrying out business and involve in conflict resolution. The study also revealed 21% of the interviewed respondents were neutral.

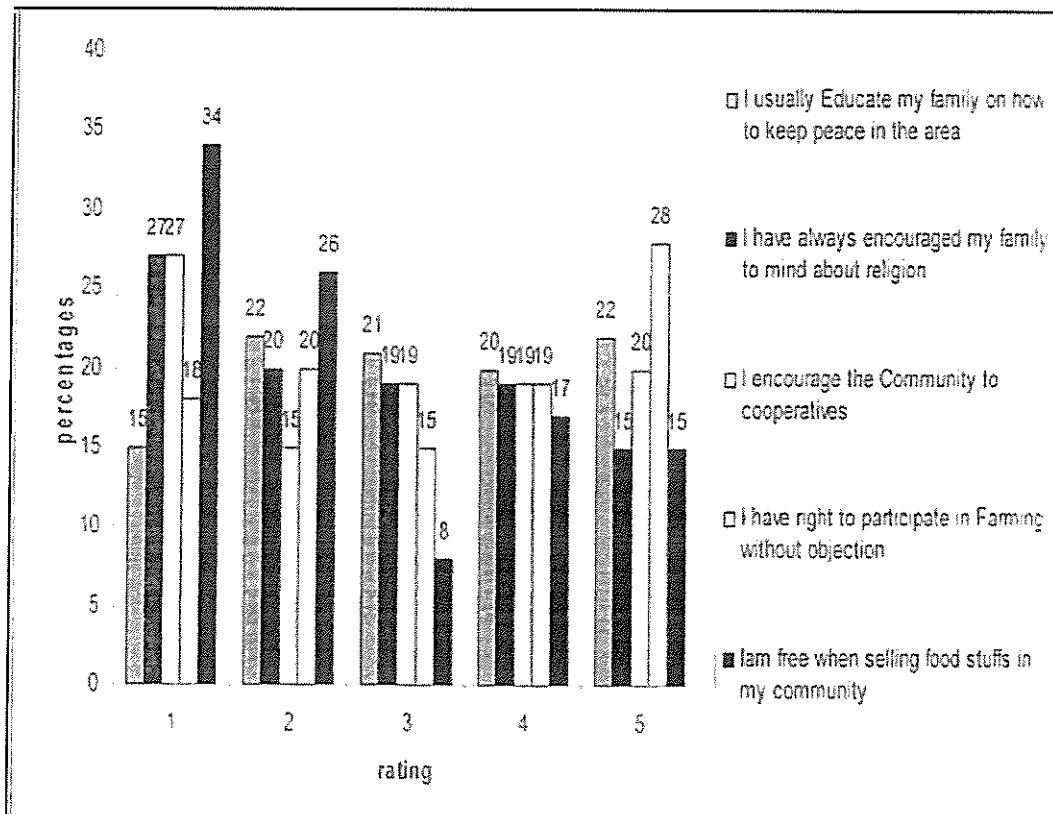
whereas the (20) disagreed and 15% strongly disagreed with the statement that women in Gulu district do not provide food for their households. This is because the women in this district are very poor and majority of them depend their husbands, others do not have husbands, they are widowed ladies. This implies that the role of women in conflict resolution is not defined because women are poor that they do not manage to provide food to their families.

Respondents were asked whether women participate in politics at all levels in Gulu District. The figure 1: above shows that the majority in the percentages of 27% and 20% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that women participate in politics at all levels in Gulu District. This implies that women also participate in conflict resolution because being in politics is the main source of conflicts resolution. It was also revealed that 19% of the interviewed respondents were neutral. Finally 19% and 15% strongly disagreed with the statement that women do not participate in politics at all levels in Gulu District. This implies that they are often taken as powerless to prevent them and excluded from the negotiations when it comes to their resolution and confined to a marginal role in the post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation efforts.

The researcher also interested in knowing whether women have groups in their community in Gulu District, get benefits from social activities involved as a family and socio activities involved in the district contributed to conflict resolution in our family and the community at large. Majority of the respondent agreed with the statements as indicated in figure 1 above.

4.4 The development initiatives by women in the post conflict in Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu district

This part deals with various aspects of your response as a household in this area. Please use the scales given to indicate how much you agree and disagree to each of the following statements. Circle the item which best indicates your opinion about each of the following statements:



From the study, it was revealed that 22% agreed and 22% strongly agreed that they usually educate their family on how to keep peace in the area. Although, 21% were neutral and they did not agree nor disagree with statement. Whereas 15% disagreed and 20% strongly disagreed that usually educate their family on how to keep peace in the area. This implies that the women in the selected area are interested in support education to the family on how to keep peace in the area to help in post conflict resolution.

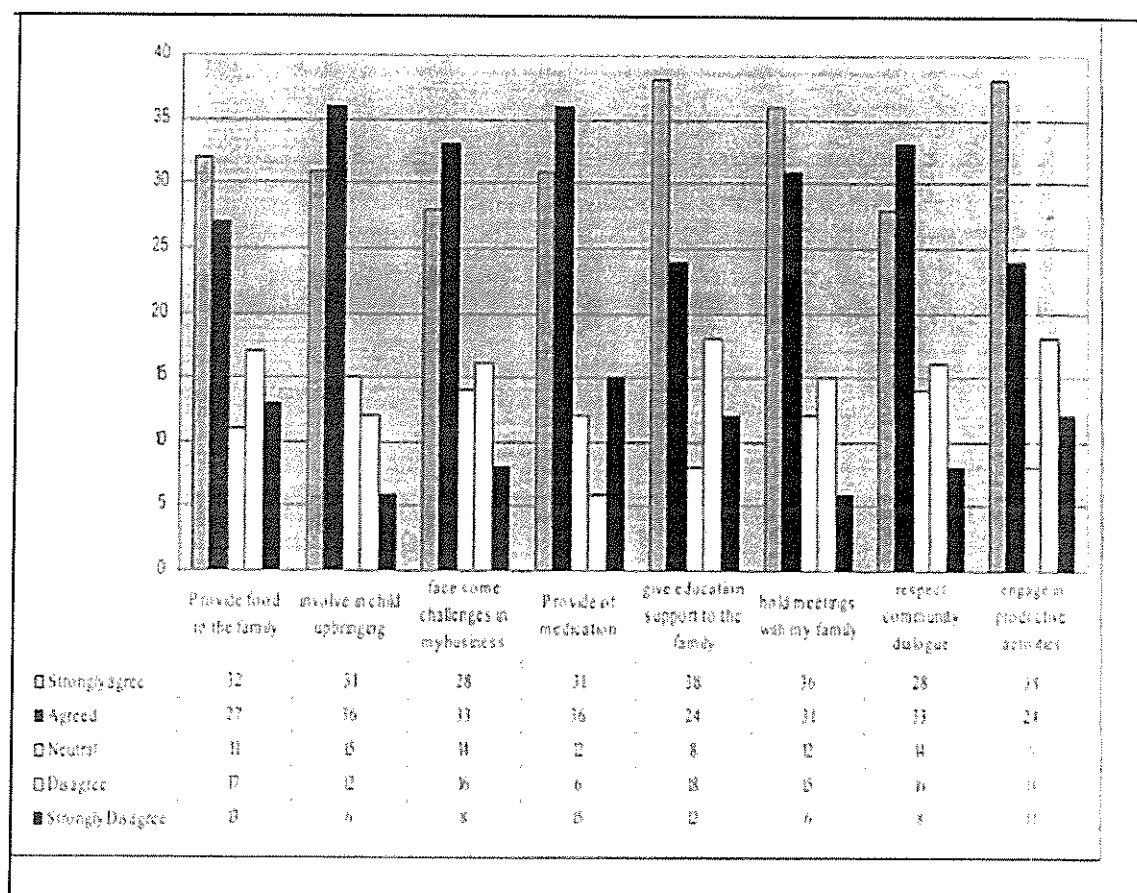
Respondents were asked whether women in the selected areas have always encouraged their family to mind about religion the results were then compiled on the figure 2, where by 31% strongly agreed and 28% agreed with the statement that they have always encouraged their family to mind about religion. Although 7% were neutral to this statement, whereas 17% and 17% respectively disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. This therefore shows that women have interest in encouraging their family to mind about religion in the selected area to keep peace'after the war in the region.

Concerning, the statement about whether women encourage the Community to cooperatives, the following results were revealed; 42% and 23% strongly agreed and disagreed respectively with the statement that women in Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu district encourage the Community to cooperatives. 8% remained neutral and they neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement. Comparatively, 11% strongly disagreed and 16% disagreed that women do not encourage the Community to cooperatives in Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu district as presented from figure 2 above.

4.5 The roles of women within the Household development in Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu district as a case study.

The results obtained from the data collected indicated that there were 100 respondents that are involved in responding to the study and the table below shows their summary representation.

Figure 3:



From the study, it was revealed that 32% strongly agreed and 27% agreed that women in Gulu district provide food to the family this is because after LRA in the region most of the women started small scale businesses that supported their living and enabled them to provide food to the family. The graph shows that, 11% were neutral and they did not agree nor disagree with statement. Whereas 17% and 13% disagreed and strongly disagreed that women in Gulu district not provide food to the family because they are poor and at the same time they cannot manage to raise the food for the family. This implies that women in the selected area are poor and have limited effort in post conflict resolution.

Respondents were asked whether they involve in child upbringing in Bar- dege division Gulu municipality, Gulu district. The results were then compiled on the figure 2: where by 31 % strongly agreed and 36% agreed with the statement that they involve in child upbringing.

15% were neutral to this statement, whereas 12% and 67% respectively disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement. This implies that women in Bar- dege division Gulu municipality play the role in child upbringing hence have an upper hand in post conflict resolution.

Concerning, the statement about whether the women in Bar- dege division Gulu municipality, face some challenges in their business. The following results were revealed: 28% strongly agreed and 33% agreed respectively with the statement that the women in Bar- dege division Gulu municipality face some challenges in their business. However 14% remained neutral and they neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement. Comparatively, 16% strongly disagreed and 8% disagreed that woman in Bar- dege division Gulu municipality, do not face some challenges in their business because Uganda under NRM government everyone has a right of movement, expression and economic development like business.

Figure 3: above, respondents were further asked whether women in Bar- dege division Gulu municipality Provide medication to the family. The results indicated, 31% strongly agreed, 36% agreed, 12% were neutral and finally 6% and 15% disagreed and strongly disagreed with the statement that women in the selected area provide medication to the family. This indicated that, women are responsible to their family after the war in northern Uganda.

The researcher was further interested in knowing whether women in Bar- dege division Gulu municipality give education support to the family, hold meetings with their family, respect

community dialogue , engage in productive activities. Provide food and shelter to the family. The results indicated, 38%, 36, 28% and 28% respectively strongly agreed with the statements and 24%, 31%, 33% and 24% agreed with the statements. And small number of 18%, 15%, 16% and 8% disagreed with the statements as reveled from figure 3: above.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS, PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0 Introduction

This chapter consists of five sections. The first section is concerned with the discussion of the results, while the second is concerned with the summary of the findings, the next with the practical implications from the survey. The last section is concerned with conclusions and recommendations of the study.

5.1 Discussion

5.1.1 The findings on the Political, social and economic contribution of women towards the prevailing peace in Northern Uganda

From the findings as presented in chapter four, the researcher found out that women's organizations in Gulu goes back to 1988, when the Gulu Women's Association was formed to raise political and social awareness among women and to protest against the government's refusal to give women some rights. Subsequently, however, the king's subversion of the democratic system to an autocratic regime suspended all civil society organizations and their activities between 1970 and 1980. This is in conformity with the writings of (Lihamba, 2003) who ascertained that the demand for increased women's participation in political decision making has been a key topic on women's organizations' agendas throughout the post conflict period in Gulu.

According to the issues of women's Political, social and economic contribution of women towards the prevailing peace in Northern Uganda over 3,000 women qualified to take up positions of responsibility related to the peace and electoral process, and was handed out to all of the political leaders to convince them that there were plenty of competent women to take nonpolitical tasks. Women's organizations also organized weekly street demonstrations with banners demanding women's representation in the peace process, handed over petitions to the government, and organized signature campaigns calling for 33% women's representation in

political institutions. This was noted by Ngongo-Mbede (2003) who asserted that, since 2006 elections, the activities of Gulu's women's organizations have been more fragmented, but some endeavours to further promote the participation of women in politics and other socio economic development have been made. For instance, in 2009 Gulu Women for Peace, Reconciliation and Resettlement (GUWOPAR) and the Inter Party Women's Alliance launched a campaign called 'Mission 50 --50,' aimed at ensuring equal representation and more meaningful participation of women at all levels of the state.

Many women's organizations have engaged in Political, social and economic contribution towards the prevailing peace in the struggle to end gender discrimination in Gulu's legal framework. Although the Ugandan Constitution sets out to guarantee fundamental rights of speech, association and political participation and to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sex, ethnicity or religion, Northern Uganda particularly Gulu district still has several customary laws that discriminate against women. the study revealed that, a good number of women's organizations have thus specialized in the promotion and protection of women's rights, and have called for reform of discriminatory laws and regulations, as well as recognition of women's human rights, equal inheritance rights, equal citizenship rights, rights for widows and single women, redress for crimes committed against women during the civil war, and sanctions against human trafficking and gender based violence against women. This was similarly noted by Ranger. T, (1992) who revealed that in 2009, an umbrella organization for local women's groups, Women Acting Together for Change (WATCH), organized a procession with participation of over ten thousand rural women in the Kathmandu Valley, where they presented 120 demands for the constitution drafting process to members of the Constituent Assembly's committees in Denmark.

Women in Gulu are also characterized by deeply ingrained gender inequality, in which the low status of women manifests itself in a number of ways that affect their ability to participate in politics and other economic development arena. In this region, women are more affected by poverty than men, and as political campaigns are expensive and require solid financial backing for success, women's lack of access to sufficient financial resources limits their opportunities for both political engagement and advancement. Women's household burdens further limit their ability to participate effectively in politics. This finding is in line with that of Schmidt, H. (1997)

who stated that women in developing countries are expected by their husbands to uphold their traditional roles as wives and mothers, and for female politicians the dual burdens of domestic tasks and professional obligations limit the time that they can allot to political activities.

5.1.2 The development initiatives by women in the post conflict Northern Uganda

Basing on the development initiatives by women in the post conflict Northern Uganda, the constitution of Uganda do not specify any required minimum for the level of women's representation in other government institutions, including local government. Yet, the numbers of elected women also increased somewhat at the local level, although not to the same extent as in the national institutions. Similarly, Mohamed A.M. (2003) noted that lack of economic independence, time constraints due to dual domestic and professional responsibilities, and limited education and training are other factors that inhibit women's effective political

The finding revealed that female politicians in Bar- Dege Division Gulu Municipality, Gulu District are expected by their husbands to uphold their traditional role as wives and mothers, conflicting domestic and political responsibilities make it difficult for them to spend as much time on politics as their male counterparts, and on many occasions women are obliged to leave political discussions to take care of their domestic duties. This was similarly noted by Becker, H. (2003) that influences development initiatives by women in the post conflict of the country, civil Society is a contrastingly effective arena in which to create space for women's participation in public and political life. The expansion of women's public roles and responsibilities during armed conflict laid the ground for the establishment of an array of women's organizations and networks.

5.1.3 The roles of women within the Household development.

The finding revealed that women constitute 50% or more of the population and their contribution in post conflict decision-making can be essential for fostering a broad popular mandate for peace and democracy. The study revealed that full and equal participation by both women and men in political decision making provides a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society, and may as such enhance the legitimacy of political processes by making them more democratic and responsive to the concerns and perspectives of all segments of society. This was similarly noted by Jarrar (2002) that through their different experiences, insights, approaches and

points of view, women can contribute to broadening political debates by redefining political priorities and providing new perspectives on political and economic development.

The study revealed that 32% and 27% strongly agreed and agreed that women in Gulu district provide food to the family this is because after LRA in the region most of the women started small scale businesses that supported their living and enabled them to provide food to the family. Although, 11% were neutral and they did not agree nor disagree with statement. This was similarly noted by Jarrar (2002) that the roles of men is taken by and given to women during a post conflict process may set the stage for women to gain experience and visibility that can be used in political institutions in the future, thus enhancing the gender inclusiveness of the regime.

By the time that the peace process started in Gulu, women's organizations had already been mobilizing for peace for several years. In response to the civil war that began in 1994, women came together on a multi ethnic basis, created a number of groups and associations, and lobbied for peace both at the grassroots and at the national level. In northern Uganda bring together diverse women's groups. These women's networks have also been crucial for the mobilization of women's organizations throughout the peace and post conflict process. The umbrella organizations have also been important for establishing contact between women at the grassroots and national levels, and made it easier for women's organizations to influence public opinion in favour of women's rights and women's participation in conflict-resolution.

The finding disclosed that where by 31% strongly agreed and 36% agreed with the statement that they involve in child upbringing. Today, there are a number of women's organizations operating in northern Uganda. Most of these have their head office in the capital, but many organizations also operate in the provinces, reaching out to women at the grassroots level. Armstrong (2000) similarly noted that women's organizations adopt variety of strategies to push for their issues of concern.

5.2 Conclusions

First

To provide a background for the importance of women's participation in post conflict resolution, the report begins with a brief overview of former findings and existing international policies on the topic." The role of women in conflict resolution in northern Uganda taking Bar- Dege Division Gulu Municipality, Gulu District as a case study. The following the three sections in the study that is the Political, social and economic contribution of women towards the prevailing peace, the development initiatives by women in the post conflict and the roles of women within the Household development in Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu district. First in each section starts with a background on the political status and role of women in post conflict resolution. . An account of the nature, extent and influence of women's involvement in political conflict resolution. Discussing women's participation and influence in formal politics, and then examining their political participation through civil society, which provides an alternative channel for political influence.

Second

It is clear to give a conclusion that civil society in Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu district has been an important arena for women's mobilization and action throughout the post conflict period. Women's organizations such as Gulu Women for Peace, Reconciliation and Resettlement (GUWOPAR) have created space for women to engage in public and political life. the organization have also played a key role in bringing up issues related to women's rights on the political socio and economic development agenda. and have raised awareness and openness around issues of particular concern to women. As mentioned, lobbying by women's organizations (GUWOPAR) was instrumental in the introduction of a constitutional quota for women's representation in national political bodies in 2005, and owing to continued pressure a provision for 30% women's representation in political institutions at the local level was also incorporated in the electoral code in September 2009. Key lessons from the two case studies are then presented, before the report ends with some concluding the above remarks and a set of recommendations for how national and international actors may support and promote women's

participation in political conflict resolution in Bar-dege division, Gulu Municipality, Gulu district and other places in northern similar cases in northern Uganda.

Third

In my humble opinion, women can influence peace and reconciliation, if they are empowered to participate and taking major decisions at community, local, national and international levels. Suggestions move to the government to put in place a legal framework facilitating women highly through national women councils, which will create a forum through which women exchange views on national issues and the overall development of the country. A case in point is that women have been entrusted and given responsibility of rebuilding the nation by appointing them to all positions of leadership and responsibility in society. For example, women are serving in the executive, legislative and judiciary arms of the government in the country. In the last ten years women have stood as exemplary leaders at policy level as well as community level. The mere presence of women in cabinet, parliament, judiciary, and all spheres of life has served as a platform of role models and also helped to develop confidence among women and this opened up women's role in decision making.

Fourth

The role played by both women and men in the northern Ugandan conflict situation, deserves great appreciation. However, it is pertinent to note that this region needs reconstruction in terms of provision of good infrastructure to improve access to media and communication technologies, which could also be a forum for improving peace, security and political stability in the region. Since prevention is better than cure, the government should increase public awareness of security issues to reduce on conflicts situations. This can be done through public awareness campaigns through the media, or by promoting education on peace and stability at all educational levels plus seminars and conferences organized on peace and security.

5.3 Recommendations

One

Government of Uganda should encourage and promote to support women's participation in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction by strengthening women's representation in

local, national and international bodies for the resolution of conflicts; this may be through national legal systems, where it has not yet been done, provisions penalizing all forms of violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Two

There is need to encourage research focused on women and their peace-building activities and the impact they have on peace processes and make the results of this research widely known and used in designing domestic and regional policies. This may provide to provide sustained funding to women's non-governmental organizations dealing with peace issues.

Three

The government should increase public awareness of the importance of gender mainstreaming in peace-support operations and provide training in gender equality at an early stage in the training of military personnel so that respect for women becomes a matter of course and an atmosphere which reflects this respect prevails in the army; this may be through introduction of education on human rights, peace and gender equality in school curricula at all levels:

Four

The Government of Uganda should increase the access of women to media and communication technologies so that gender perspectives, women's expertise and women's media can influence public discourse and decision making on peace and security. This may be through training of editors and journalists to eliminate gender bias in reporting and investigative journalism before, during and after conflict situations and to promote gender equality and perspectives:

Five

The government should empower local women and women's groups Bar- Dege Division Gulu Municipality, Gulu district where conflict is brewing and to support their strategies aimed at

avoiding armed conflict. The government may do this by encouraging the appointment of women to regional, national and international posts relating to conflict prevention.

Six

There is need to increase the percentage of women in delegations to national, regional and international meetings concerned with peace and security, as well as in formal peace negotiations in Bar- Dege Division Gulu Municipality, Gulu district. This can be done by promoting education in peace in all curricula beginning from primary school level up to the level of professional training in order to develop a spirit of and respect for peace in society.

Seven

There is need to facilitate the input of women's peace groups and organisations into key peace conferences at all levels through systematic consultation with them, ensuring that their problems and priorities are reflected in the official peace process. This can done by including gender experts and expertise in all levels and aspects of peace operations, including in technical surveys, the design of concepts of operation, training, staffing and programmes.

Eight

There is need to train women as mediators in Bar- Dege Division Gulu Municipality, Gulu district to be involved in peace missions, conflict resolution and peace support operations. It may possible by providing personal security to women through the police forces, protecting them from all forms of sexual and domestic violence.

Nine

The government should give the opportunity to refugee and internally displaced women in Bar- Dege Division Gulu Municipality, Gulu district to play a key role in camp planning, management and decision making so that their interests are taken into account in all aspects, especially resource distribution, security and protection. This can be done by granting at least temporary refugee status to women who have been raped or have been subjected to other forms of sexual violence during armed conflict.

Ten

There is need for government to introduce measures that give local women in Bar- Dege Division Gulu Municipality, Gulu district priority in recruitment during emergencies and post-conflict reconstruction. This can be done by adopting constructive measures to guarantee women's socio-economic rights including employment, property ownership and inheritance during post-conflict reconstruction.

Eleven

There is need for government of Uganda to conduct a gender-oriented budget analysis of humanitarian assistance and post-conflict reconstruction in Bar- Dege Division Gulu Municipality, Gulu district to ensure that women benefit directly from resources mobilized through multilateral and bilateral donors. this can be done by granting at least a temporary residence permit to women who have been raped or have been subjected to other forms of sexual violence following armed conflict.

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APPENDIX 1

QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE WOMEN

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of USAID (Uganda Chapter), we are carrying out research about the role of women in conflict resolution in northern Uganda: a case study of Bar- Dege Division Gulu Municipality, Gulu District". Please respond to the following questions and your contribution will lead to the successful completion of this study. Results of this study will be treated confidentially and for purely research purposes.

SECTION A: Background Information

Please fill in your personal Information in the gaps provided below:

1 Name of the respondents.....

2 The village you come from/stay.....

3 What is the highest level of your education? (Please tick the highest)

a) Primary ☐

b) Ordinary ☐

c) Certificate ☐

d) Diploma ☐

e) Degree ☐

f) Others specify.....

4. Your Sex

a) Male ☐

b) Female ☐

5. What is your age range?

a) Below 25

b) 25-29

c) 30-34

d) 35-39

e) 40-44

f) Above 44

6. Marital status

a) Married

b) Single

c) Widow

d) Divorce

e) Cohabiting

f) Others specify

7 Current occupation

a) Civil servant

b) Self employed

c) NGO

d) Unemployed

e) Others specify

8) How long have you been staying in this area?

a) 0-2 years

b) 3-5 years

c) 6-7 years

d) Over 8 years

9) Others specify

SECTION B: Political, socio and economic contribution of women towards the prevailing peace in Northern Uganda.

This part deals with various aspects of your response as a resident of this area. Please use the scales given to indicate how much you agree and disagree to each of the following statements. Circle the item which best indicates your opinion about each of the following statements:

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/50-50	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

During the execution of your response on political, socio and economic give your opinion about the following

		Responses				
1)	I am interested in politics	1	2	3	4	5
2)	I ensure that my political interests are put forward	1	2	3	4	5
3)	I provide food for my house hold	1	2	3	4	5
4)	I participate politics at all levels in Gulu District	1	2	3	4	5

5)	I have women groups in our community in Gulu District	1	2	3	4	5
6)	I am involved in social activities development as a family	1	2	3	4	5
7)	We get benefits from social activities we involve as a family	1	2	3	4	5
8)	The socio activities involved in the district contributed to conflict resolution in our family and the community at large	1	2	3	4	5
9)	I have positive interests in politics	1		3	4	5

SECTION C: The development initiatives by women in the post conflict

This part deals with various aspects of your response as a household in this area. Please use the scales given to indicate how much you agree and disagree to each of the following statements.

Cycle the item which best indicates your opinion about each of the following statements:

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral/50-50	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

During the execution of your response on the development initiatives by women in the post conflict give your opinion about the following

		Responses				
1)	I usually Educate my family on how to keep peace in the area	1	2	3	4	5
2)	I have always encouraged my family to mind about religion	1	2	3	4	5
3)	I encourage the Community to cooperatives	1	2	3	4	5
4)	I encourage my family to follow their Culture every time	1	2	3	4	5
5)	I am free when selling food stuffs in my community	1	2	3	4	5

6)	I am free to participate in small scale businesses in my area	1	2	3	4	5
7)	I get and give equal support from relatives in my community	1	2	3	4	5
8)	I equally get Casual labour in my area	1	2	3	4	5
9)	I have right to participate in Farming without objection	1		3	4	5

SECTION D: Roles of women within the House hold

This part deals with various aspects of your response as a resident of this area. Please use the scales given to indicate how much you agree and disagree to each of the following statements. Circle the item which best indicates your opinion about each of the following statements: I would like you to indicate how you feel about the roles of women within the House hold

		Responses				
1)	I Provide food to the family	1	2	3	4	5
2)	I involve in child upbringing	1	2	3	4	5
3)	I face some challenges in my business	1	2	3	4	5
4)	I Provide of medication	1	2	3	4	5
5)	I give education support to the family	1	2	3	4	5
6)	I hold meetings with my family	1	2	3	4	5
7)	I respect community dialogue	1	2	3	4	5
8)	I engage in productive activities	1	2	3	4	5
9)	I provide shelter to my family	1	2	3	4	5
10)	I Provide food to the family	1	2	3	4	5