WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION IN BURUNDI

A CASE STUDY OF NGOZI SUBCOUNTY

BY

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A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A BACHELORS DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

JUNE, 2015.

DECLARATION

I, **Haringanji Aime Valery** declares that this is my own original work and has never been submitted by anybody else for the award of a Degree in any university or other institutions of higher learning.

Sign...

Date ... 10th July 2015 .....

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this research report written by Haringanji Aime Valery under the topic "*women participation in conflicts management and socio-economic transformation in Burundi a case study of Ngozi province*" has been under my supervision and is now ready for submission to the department of Social work and social administration of Kampala international University.

Sign.......................... Date: 14th/07/2015

    Ms. Kampogo Mary

      Supervisor

DEDICATION

This research report is dedicated to my lovely parents Mr SEGAHORE Gaspard and Mrs BAMBONEYEHO Bibiane for loving me, my big sister Alice Sibomana ,my second beloved Dad Dave Holson and the Ageno foundation for taking of care of me, sponsoring my education and being very supportive in my entire life.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

During the process of carrying out my research and through the production of this report, many people have assisted me. I therefore wish to express my sincere gratitude to all those who helped me materially and morally.

Let me start by thanking my parents. This is in appreciation of their honesty, moral, physical and financial support.

Secondly I thank my supervisor Madam Kampogo Mary for all the efforts she has put to ensure that I finish this research report. This work would not have been successful without her knowledge and guidance.

Thank you all and God bless you.

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ABSTRACT

This study focused on women's participation in conflict management and socioeconomic transformation in Ngozi subcounty, Ngozi Pronvice, Burundi. Three specific objectives were based on to collect data, these included; to examine the role of women in conflict management in Ngozi sub county; to analyse how women's participation in conflict management influence socio-economic transformation and, to examine the challenges women face in managing conflicts. The researcher employed both descriptive and exploratory research designs. A sample size of 70 respondents was used to collect information.

Findings on objective one showed that there could be an opportunity loss of not involving women before, during and after conflicts as a conflict management approach because women's involvement through mediation, conflict resolution and transformation initiatives. Women are also excellent actors in peace building and decision making as they normally have brilliant ideas to calm conflict situations. This does not only restore peace but also significantly leads to national development.

Looking at the second objective, findings showed that in the process of managing conflicts, women share ideas, get networks and contacts which they eventually use for economic benefits like employment opportunities - this largely determines their families' standards of living. Successful management of conflicts enables women to aggressively participate in modernized agriculture and now are they are also in international trade which leads to socio-economic transformation and food security that eventually brings national development. Similarly participation of women in conflict management leads to their social improvements and improved quality of life for self and family since conflict management influence them into better decision making by promoting greater social cohesion, peace, trust in social institutions, democratic participation, and appreciation of diversity in gender, ethnicity, religion and social class.

It was however established that although women's contributions in conflict management is very important, they experience various challenges in the due course -these included; limited financial resources to effectively run their conflict management projects, exclusion from male-dominated decision-making forums, cultural rigidities and ties, security risks as they normally experience threats from conflicting parties, among others.

The study therefore recommends that the Reconciliation Commission in Burundi should advocate for gender mainstreaming at both national and community level, involve women in conflict management and warning systems, and train women in mediation, facilitation and alternative dispute resolution if the country is to achieve social, political and economic transformation and development.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The main purpose of this study is to find out the role of women in conflict management and socio-economic transformation in Ngozi province of Burundi.

Conflict has been defined variously by scholars. To Holsti (1983:350) conflict is a particular relationship between states or rival factions within a state which implies subjective hostilities or tension manifested in subjective economic or military hostilities. Coser (1998) on his part views conflict as a struggle over values and claims to scarce status, power and resources in which the aims of the conflicting parties are to injure or eliminate their rivals.

Conflict management is the process of limiting the negative aspects of conflict while increasing the positive aspects of conflict. The aim of conflict management is to enhance learning and group outcomes, including effectiveness or performance in organizational setting. Properly managed conflict can improve group outcomes.

In most conflict situations in the world, women constitute more than 50 percent of the adult population and are more affected. Therefore they should actively engage in peace-building while addressing the basic survival needs of their families and communities (Mwende, 2011). The President of the Security Council in 2004 asserted that, "If we want to do justice to peace, we must do justice to resolution 1325." (Mwende, 2011 p. 6). This UN Resolution requires: i) enough participation of women at all levels of peace promotion relating to the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, and ii) adherence to international law and adoption of measures protecting women by disputants (UN, 2002; Villellas, 2010).

Other international human rights instruments designed to promote women political empowerment ideally relevant for their participation in peace building include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (UN, 2002). In addition, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), under Article 18 calls on all State Parties to eliminate any discrimination against women. The principle of promoting gender equality is also enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union (CAAU) as well as the NEPAD. Particularly, Articles 9 and 10 (1) of the Protocol to the ACHPR on the rights of women give them the right to participate in politics and promotion or maintenance of peace, respectively (African Union, 2003). As such, Article 11 of the 2012 Provisional Constitution of Somalia recognizes equality of all citizens, and article 3(5) requires that women must effectively be included in all national institutions, particularly the three branches of government; the executive, judiciary and the legislature, as well as in National Independent Commissions (FRS, 2012).

Women in the horn of Africa like the rest of Africa and world are faced with the dire reality of violent conflict in the Sub region, the Somali civil war (Afyare, 2010). Many women in this civil war have found themselves at the centre of conflicts fought between their sons, husbands and other male relatives. For the sake of their families many women particularly in Mogadishu have shown the desire for active participation in peace building (Jama, 2011).

The case studies on Burundi and DRC, which reviewed women's participation in the official peace processes in Arusha for Burundi and

in the inter-Congolese Dialogue at Sun City in South Africa, concluded that, despite their low level of representation in these processes, Burundian and Congolese women nevertheless managed to have provisions for women's rights and gender equality included in the 2000 Arusha peace accord and the 2002 Global and All-inclusive Agreement for DRC. However, the wording of the principle of gender equality was kept very general, particularly regarding women's representation in governing political bodies. This partly explains the difficulties and/or slowness in implementing most of these provisions. In Burundi, a quota of 30 percent representation for women at the highest level of governance was finally enshrined in the constitution adopted in March 2005, five years after the signing of the Arusha peace accord. It took another four years before the quota of 30 percent representation for women was added to the electoral code following its reform in 2009 (The Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women(EASSI), 2012).

Conflicts in Burundi have not differentiated gender, indeed women may have suffered more of the burden from the war given their social position and responsibilities. However their participation in peace building has not been enough! The first decade of the conflict era, twelve reconciliation conferences were held. Participation of all those conferences was limited to the warring political factions based on ethnic affiliations. There were no single women participated (Badiyoow, 2002). During this time emerged civil society institutions which brought together women intellectuals with the support of United Nations fund for Women. Fortunately, in 2000 peace conference held in Djibouti women who participated took a new approach of gender equality and this was successful because it promoted women's rights with women got twenty five member representation than ever before (UNIFEM, 2007). This shows that there has been increasing efforts to include women in all sphere of

life particularly conflict issues. However, not enough research has been done to ascertain what role women have played in conflict management and socioeconomic transformation in Burundi a country infested with a lot of conflict. Since women are a majority and occupy a central position in socialization of the population, socioeconomic transformation is less likely if they are not involved. It is therefore important to know how they might be contributing towards conflict management and socioeconomic transformation. This study aims at shading light on this crucial subject.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Since October 2000, only marginal progress has been made with regard to the number of women in formal peace processes or the design and conduct of peace talks in ways that would give greater voice to women, particularly from civil society. Over the same period, a limited number of provisions addressing women's human rights have been incorporated into peace agreements. In a Conference held by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN, 2012) women representatives from Burundi submitted that "We, the women of Burundi, participants and observers to this conference... deplore the fact that women of Burundi were not included in the negotiations until this very late stage."

Despite the fact that it has been almost two decades since the peace building option was first introduced it remains uncertain because it is prone to breakdowns and any related attempts seldom proceed as planned (Dawn, 2010). This is most likely be due to discrimination of women in conflict management and peace building processes yet according to the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR, 2000), they are the most affected by conflict and can equally contribute to practical solutions for sustainable peace and socio-economic development. It should be noted that conflict and development or the

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lack thereof, is closely interlinked. Most violent conflicts stem from deeply rooted social and economic injustices often related to identity politics and extended periods of targeted deprivation. Steps to involve women at all levels are key to the success of peace building and socioeconomic transformation. This study therefore seeks to examine women's participation in conflict management and socio-economic transformation in Burundi, taking Ngozi Sub County which is found in Ngozi Pronvince as a case study.

1.3 Purpose of the study
To examine the role of women in conflict management and socioeconomic transformation

1.4 Specific objectives
i.   To examine the role of women in conflict management in Ngozi sub county
ii. To analysis how women's participation in conflict management influence socio-economic transformation
iii. To examine the challenges women face in managing conflicts

1.5 Research questions
i.   How has women do women in Ngozi sub-county participate in conflict management?
ii. How does women's participation in conflict management influence socioeconomic transformation?
iii. What challenges do women face engaging in conflict management and socioeconomic development?

1.6 Scope of the study
1.6.1 Geographical scope
The research will be conducted in Ngozi subcounty. The subcounty is found within Ngozi pronvince located in north of Burundi. It is located

130 kilometers from Bujumbura and bordered by Muyinga province in the east, Kirundo province in the north east and Gitega in the south. The researcher chose this place because it is his area of origin and for purposes of accessibility, it was easier due to familiarity to the some women groups basically having conflict management related programs.

1.6.2 Content scope

The research will mainly concentrate on women participation in conflict management and how this contributes to socio-economic transformation in Burundi specifically, Ngozi province.

1.6.2 Time scope

The research will be carried out for six months from February 2015 to July 2015 depending on the timeframe of the university.

1.7 Significance of the study

The study is likely to add to the already existing literature on the influence of participation of women in conflict management in the spheres of economic development in Ngozi province and Burundi at Large.

The research may provide useful information to students, development studies and ministry of Gender who may eventually realize the benefits of using women in conflict management to ensure everlasting peace and stability.

The research may be relevant to policy makers and NGOs working with Women in Ngozi Province to come-up with better ways of boosting women participation in conflict management.

The research will finally help the principal researcher to attain a bachelors' degree of Development studies of Kampala International University.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews literature from different previous authors whose information is related to the topic. The literature has been arranged according to the study themes i.e. forms of conflicts, women's participation in conflict management and challenges they experience.

2.1 Conflicts in Burundi

A great number of Africans: young, old, male, female, civilians and military men alike, have lost their lives to various wars and conflicts on the country. In Burundi, the Burundi civil war claimed over 200,000 lives as at the year 2000. Similarly in Rwanda the 1994 genocide about 800,000 Rwandans were reportedly massacred. It is disheartening to note that this unprecedented loss of lives in Africa is as a result of wars and conflicts is having debilitating impact on human resources available to Africa. The services of the departed souls whom God has endowed with great skills, talents and potentials are no longer available to be harnessed for the countries socio-economic development.

2.1.1 Forms of conflict management
1. NEGOTIATION.

Negotiation is a "communication for the purpose of persuasion" Negotiation is a process in which parties to a dispute discuss possible outcomes directly with each other. Parties exchange proposals and demands, make arguments, and continue the discussion until a solution is reached, or an impasse declared. In negotiations there are three approaches to resolving the dispute, each with a different orientation and focus – interest-based, rights-based, and power-based – and they can result in different outcomes.

2. MEDIATION.

Mediation A process of conflict management, related to but distinct from the parties' own efforts, where the disputing parties or their representatives seek the assistance, or accept an offer of help from an individual, group, state or organization to change or influence their perceptions or behavior, without resorting to physical force, or invoking the authority of the law.

The mediators, who are hired, appointed, or volunteer to help in managing the process, should have no direct interest in the conflict and its outcome, and no power to render a decision. They have control over the process, but not over its outcome. Power is vested in the parties, who have control over the outcome: they are the architects of the solution. Mediation is a voluntary process (except where there is a law of mandatory mediation in place). The parties agree to the process, the content is presented through the mediation, and the parties control the resolution of the dispute.

3. ARBITRATION

Arbitration is a method of resolving disputes where parties argue their case (with or without legal representation) and the arbitrator renders a decision or award. Arbitration differs significantly from mediation. While the arbitrator is a neutral third party, the parties to the public-private partnership both argue their side of the dispute in arbitration, rather than working together to come to a solution, as is the case in mediation. The arbitrator then renders a final binding decision as to the solution to the dispute (unless the partners have agreed otherwise beforehand).

4. LITIGATION

Taking the case to court is the least preferred option – it increases the acrimony; it turns the conflict into a situation where the final outcome is a win-loss one; and pursuing legal action can be a drain on time and resources.

5. OFF RAMPS

Rather than taking the other party to court, it might be better for all concerned to realize that things aren't going to be resolved and to fall back on the "off ramp" clauses that the contract contains to formally dissolve the partnership.

2.2 Women participation in conflict management

In Burundi and DRC women developed strategies in order to influence the talks of conflict management. For instance, the group of women with observer status at the Arusha talks, after working closely with the few female members of the official conference delegations, submitted written contributions on all matters under discussion, as well as on the different versions of the agreement. The strategy chosen by the Congolese women was to set up a women's caucus in Sun City, which regrouped all women attending the conference as official delegation members, as well as the women from civil society women's organisations, who had been invited to attend as experts. Therefore, the two groups were able to work together in the caucus in order to influence the debates and the content of the agreement.

Both the texts of the Arusha Peace Agreement and of the Global and All-inclusive Agreement set forth the idea of correcting imbalances in terms of male and female participation in all areas of public life. However, the wording of this principle was kept very general, particularly in terms of governing political institutions. As a

consequence, it is not surprising that the women's very specific request for a 30 percent female representation quota in decision-making bodies was not accepted in either country (Simonovits, 2009). In the case of Burundi, it is noteworthy that most of the propositions which women made to ensure greater consideration of gender equality in the Burundi institutional system, and which were rejected, could be found in the agreement's Protocol II, which defined the terms and conditions of the transitional period as well as of power sharing between the various negotiating parties. The principle of gender equality is more explicitly stated in other sectors such as public administration and the judiciary. Both agreements also make reference to CEDAW and to its integration into each country's constitution. However, the request of the Burundian women to have acts of rape perpetrated during the war be recognised as crimes against humanity and to have them punished as such were rejected by the Arusha negotiators (Sapil, 2006).

Nonetheless, 60 percent of the propositions made by Burundian women were incorporated into the Arusha peace agreement, which, along with the Guatemala peace agreement signed in 1996, is considered to be one of the most successful peace treaties in terms of the promotion of women and gender equality-related issues. It seems that, besides the impact of women's activism, in both cases this success should also be attributed to the United Nations' influence on negotiations, as well as to the role played by mediators and, in the Burundi case, by Nelson Mandela, to ensure the inclusion of a gender dimension in the negotiated peace agreements (Sapil, 2006).

Political change opened the door to radical economic reforms to replace the system of central planning, however economic restructuring requires more time than revolutionary political upheaval. Only a few Eastern European countries realised how challenging this process

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would be (Somogyi, 1993). The major problems of perfecting market economy were the unemployment and the capital shortage in these countries. At that time (before the first free election) Hungary had several favourable reforms laid down in advance, such as an almost complete price liberalisation, the Companies Act4 and the Transformation Act5and an evolving spontaneous privatisation (Csaba, 1995). Since several reforms were implemented there was no need to apply a big bang approach for the transition. Hungary is often picked up as an example of gradualism, however for example the bankruptcy law of 1992 represents a classical case of big bang approach and even the big bang approach advocates of some sort of gradualism (Carmignani, 2003).

Hungary is often cited as a prime example of gradualism (Condon – Dervis, 1993) based on the lack of shock therapy compared to countries like Poland, Bulgaria or Russia. In the context of post-socialist transition gradualism was applied to avoid political conflict, it was equaled to timidity and unwillingness to change (Csaba, 2011). The overall unique feature of the Hungarian transformation can described as "transformation without stabilisation" (Csaba, 1995:195). To link Hungary's experience to the debate on the speed of the transition Benzes (2011) claim that the gradualist character of the Hungarian transformation was not the result of a conscious decision of the freely elected government, but a historically determined path dependent outcome of a two-decade long reform process which culminated in the political change of 1989. The early years of the Hungarian transformation, however, were burdened with ambiguity and a lack of coherence in policy decisions.

2.3 Women participation in economic transformation

The issue of economic power is central to the analysis of women's participation in conflict management. The lack of access to resources and control thereof has been identified as one of the major obstacles to the participation of women in conflict management and it is often argued that an increased empowerment of women from an economic perspective would play a role in increasing their participation in the political sphere.

The war, which destroyed a large portion of the region's economic and social fabric, lead to important changes in the sexual division of labour and the economic activity of women. Before the war, there was a fairly clearly defined sexual division of labour, which confined the economic activities of women to the narrow framework of the domestic economy. Indeed, in the rural areas in which most women lived they primarily dealt with food crop production for family consumption from a subsistence economy perspective. A small portion of this production was sold in local markets in order to earn a little money with which they could buy basic products such as salt, oil or soap. Women living in urban areas were more involved in small trade, but here also only to satisfy the family's needs. One of the other rare products commercialised by women was the local beer they would brew themselves. Cash crops, on the other hand, especially cotton and tobacco farming, which generated most households' monetary income, lay entirely in the hands of men. Despite the fact that women would participate as family labour in production processes, they did not play any role in the commercialisation process of cash crops, which was exclusively controlled by men.

In a struggle for women to ensure peace and stability, one of the major changes was women's progressive involvement in activities generating monetary income, which they needed in order to fulfil their new roles as family providers. They began to commercialise fruits and vegetables, which were traditionally not commercialised, but were very much needed in the camps. They continued to brew and sell the local beer, which became their main source of income. Some of them got involved with catering, opening canteens, while others developed kiosks selling various products or supplying services to the building sites within the camps. Tontine systems developed in the camps allowed women to obtain small loans they could reinvest in their businesses. The difficult living conditions in the camps contributed to the development of new kinds of relatively lucrative commercial activities, such as selling humanitarian aid products (corn flour, beans, oil and cooking utensils), in which women got involved.

With the return of displaced populations to rural areas, women returned to their agricultural activities in practically the same proportion as during the pre-war period. However, the great novelty was their considerably increased participation in the trading sector. They now account for the majority of merchants in markets and have transformed the nature of commerce in the region by launching the commercialisation of food crops, which did not exist before the war, when only cash crops such as cotton and tobacco were commercialised. They control the trade of food crops in high demand, such as cereals, fruits and vegetables, as well as fish and second hand clothing. They are also involved in cross-border commerce and sell their products in Juba, South Sudan, and in Tanzania. Women also added a new dimension to their commercial activities by establishing joint ventures, allowing them to increase the size of their businesses, to reduce

operating costs and to be in a better position to compete for calls for tender as well as to gain access to credit.

Burundi is one of the African countries most deprived, with a high level of poverty, especially in rural areas. The majority of women using their income to address family needs and to pay for their children's tuition fees rather than to develop the necessary influence networks required to get involved in politics live in those rural areas. Various programmes for the region's reconstruction and development were set up at the end of the war by the government, international development agencies, the private sector and international NGOs. However, most of these programmes marginalise women and do not take into account the key role they play in the region's economic recovery. The long-term development initiatives set up by the "Peace, Recovery, and Development Plan" (PRDP), which is the Ugandan government's flagship programme for the rehabilitation of northern Uganda, are primarily aimed at men. The PRDP did not integrate the national and international instruments available to promote gender equality such as the Ugandan national gender policy, CEDAW or the Beijing Platform. Women are still considered in its programmes as a "vulnerable" group, which limits the extent and the impact of the initiatives dedicated to them. This may not be very different from what happens in Burundi atleast as far practical implementation of policy is concerned. Information therefore regarding women role in conflict management and socioeconomic development is very crucial if successful peace building and development is to be achieved. This study comes to contribute towards filling this gap.

2.4 Challenges women face while participating in conflict management

In Burundi, for instance, the women's movement was deeply divided in terms of how to deal with the economic embargo on the country, which had been imposed by neighbouring countries. The embargo had turned into a highly political issue, which deeply divided Burundian politicians. The divides between women occurred on similar political and ethnical bases to those dividing the political class.

The dialogue to develop a common programme for peace, which had been initiated between women living within the country and those in exile (for what were often political reasons), had not been easy to carry out. The Burundian women's multi-party conference mentioned above was held in a tense atmosphere. A study by Schweickert (2013) constituted a real challenge due to the ethnic, political and social heterogeneity of the groups of women present, even though it finally could be held. There were sometimes deep divergences among the women due to differing political opinions. The women representing political parties tended to align themselves on the positions of their respective political groups. It ended up taking a lot of patience, know-how and intelligence on behalf of the conference's organisers to facilitate communication between the women and bring them to agree on the issues uniting them'.

The mistrust between civil society women's organisations and women in political decision-making bodies contributes to reducing the latter's margin for manoeuvre. The research report showed that relations between the two categories of women are informal, fragile and episodic. Most women active in conflict management which is directly related to politics have not been able to develop solid and consistent influence networks in women's organisations from civil society, even though

these are necessary for their work in parliament. Indeed, it appears that it is only when both categories of women collaborate that they are able to make progress in terms of the promotion of gender equality in peace and stability programmes.

In summary, it is well known that conflicts in Burundi are found almost in every province of the country, no research has been carried out in reference to women's role in conflict management particularly in Ngonzi Subcounty, Ngozi province hence this study sought to bridge that gap.

CHAPTER THREE
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This study is designed to assess the role of women participation in conflict management and socio-economic transformation in Ngozi province Burundi. In this chapter, the researcher describes the methods of data collection that will be used in the study. The elements captured here are design, and approach, sample population and size, the instruments of data collection, and data analysis procedures.

3.2 Research overall approach

This study adopted both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Qualitatively, the study involved establishing the reality on the ground resulting from in-depth interviews that resulted in non- numerical data. The respondents were free to express their ideas and views in regard to the problem. Quantitatively, it also involved measuring the problem situation.

3.3 Research design

To achieve the purpose of this study, the researcher employed both descriptive and exploratory research designs. The descriptive aspect of the design helped the researcher in establishing facts on the ground in relation to the phenomenon of interest (i.e. women participation in conflict management and socio-economic transformation). At the same time, exploratory design was instrumental in demonstrating how women are involved in conflict management and the impact on social economy. This gave the researcher an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how women are involved in managing conflict and transforming Ngozi community socially and economically.

3.3 Study area and population and sample size

The research was be conducted in Ngozi subcounty, Ngozi Pronvice in Burundi. The population consisted of various categories of needed responded and these included; Local people particularly women, local leaders and staff of selected NGOs specifically in the area of conflict management. The area was basically chosen because the researcher is familiar with the area and is able to speak the most common languages in the area of the study.

3.4 Sample size

The sample consisted of *70* respondents from which the researcher got resourceful data. These included *35 local* women, 09 Local leaders and 6 Staff of non-government /Community based organization working with women empowerment groups and conflict management, and 20 community members.

3.4.1 Women

A total of (35) women were engaged in the study and this comprised of the women above 18 years since it's believed that they are the biggest population most affected and are also responsible for, they were very instrumental in giving pertinent information relating to the effects of conflicts.

3.4.2 The local leaders

A total of (9) local leader was engaged in the study and this comprised of the local council members. Since it's believed that the LC's are the most immediate leaders and are also responsible for settling local disputes and overseeing security issues in the community, they were very crucial in giving pertinent information relating to the study.

3.4.3 The staffs of non-governmental organizations in women empowerment and conflict management

These included both national and international NGOs in the composition of (06) staffs. Since some of these organizations have been majorly carrying out activities related to conflict management for quiet some times and also carrying out humanitarian activities related to peace keeping, they were very credible source of information for this study.

Table 1: Showing sample population and size

S/No	Respondent categories	Frequency	(%) Percentages
01	Women and local people	49	70
02	Local leaders	15	21
03	Staffs of NGO's	06	9
Total		70	100%

(**Source:** The researcher's proposed sample size 2014).

3.5 Sampling procedure

The researcher adopted both simple random and purposive sampling design. Purposive sampling was preferred in this study because it enabled the researcher to purposely choose key informants who were in the best position to provide/give the required information for the purpose of this study.

3.6 Data collection.

Two sources of data were used namely; primary source and secondary source of data.

3.6.1 Primary source of data.

The researcher went to the field and gather first-hand information directly from the respondents and the area of study itself. This was done by means of questionnaires, interviews, and interview guide.

3.6.2 Secondary source of data

Here, the researcher made use of all sorts of data which were collected, processed and stored by other scholars and researchers in the area of conflict management. Such information was used to supplement and back up the primary data collected. The secondary sources of data included among others text books. NGO reports, Journals etc. with related information.

3.7 Instruments of data collection.

In the course of the study, a number of instruments were used to collect the necessary data.

3.7.1 Questionnaires.

This instrument of data collection was administered to the staffs of NGOs and Women groups and local leaders in which structured and unstructured sets of questions were designed and administered to them. In these questionnaires, the respondents were expected to give the necessary information on women participation in conflict management and socio-economic transformation. The respondents were given appropriate instructions on how to fill the questionnaires.

For example they were required to either tick in the boxes provided or make the appropriate explanations. The researcher was confident that the use of questionnaires was very convenient and time saving.

3.7.2 Interviews.

This tool was precisely used to generate information from the local community members and involved the researcher asking questions and getting the responses from the respondents in a face to face mutual conversation. The researcher made provision for unstructured interviews which allowed the respondents to fully provide all the relevant information and these interviews were translated in the local language which both the researcher and the respondents were well conversant with to give detailed information.

3.7.3 Use of documents.

Information from published documents was sought to back up primary data collected through interviews, questionnaires. Documents used include international publications by scholars, the research done by students and organizations were all considered useful sources of information for this study. The researcher therefore combed through them as well.

3.8 Data analysis.

During the process of data analysis, the researcher engaged in organizing or coding and interpretation of data collected from the field using Microsoft Excel statistical computer package.

Tables, Graphs and pie charts were made use of in analyzing quantitative data. In the analysis of qualitative data, the researcher used Microsoft Excel statistical computer package.

3.9 Ethical considerations and procedure

The Researcher observed all ethical considerations during the period of this research. At every level where necessary, the Researcher had to acquire permission from the relevant authorities. This helped in a way that enabled him to collect the needed information for the study. The Researcher assured the respondents of maintaining confidentiality to any information which requires such treatment and following any other regulatory requirement as it was deem necessary.

Additionally the researcher obtained a letter of introduction from the faculty of Humanity and social Sciences- Kampala International University. He then contacted the local authorities in Ngozi province and Ngozi subcounty to allow him conduct the study in the area without any inconveniences. He then with the help of local leaders identified the appropriate respondents and accordingly administered questionnaires and also conducted Interviews.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents data presentation, analysis and discussion of the findings. Data was collected, analyzed and processed to make it useful and understandable. Data was collected, tabulated and then analyzed.

4.1 Socio-demographic Characteristics

4.1.1 Age of the respondents

Respondents were asked questions related to their age and the results are shown in the table below:

Table 1: Showing age distribution of respondent

Age group	Frequency	Percentage
25 – 29	15	21
30 – 39	18	26
40 – 49	25	36
50 – above	12	17
TOTAL	**70**	**100**

Source: Primary data, 2015

Figure 2: Showing age distribution of respondent
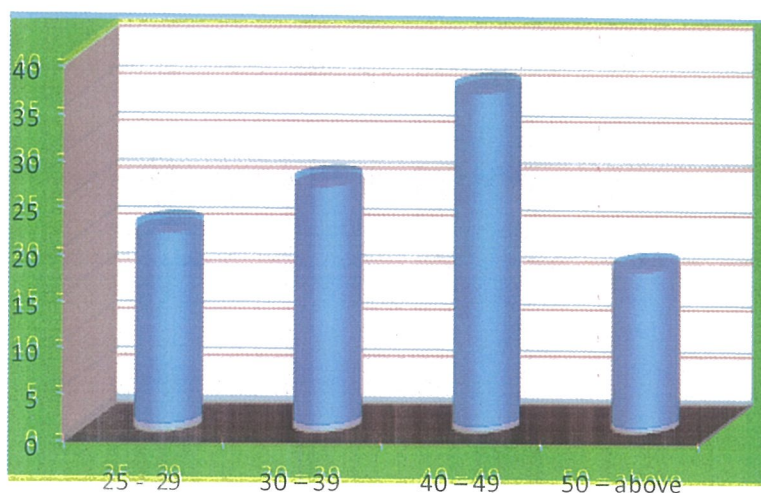
Source: Primary data 2015

Results in Table 1 and figure 2 above show that majority of the respondents were aged between 40-49 years as represented by 36%. This was followed by those between 20-25 years with a percentage of 21%, others were between30-39 years (26%), and 17% were above 50 years. This implies that majority of the respondents were adults with sound mind with responsibilities in matters concerning socio-economic status and had some knowledge on conflict management.

4.1.2 Marital Status of the respondents

Another variable which was important in respect to the situation of the people in the area was marital status. Information regarding marital status of the respondents was obtained by asking them whether they were married, single, widowed or widowers.

Table 2: Showing marital status of the respondents

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	40	57
Single	18	26
Widows	12	17
Total	70	100

Source: Primary data 2015

Figure 3: Showing marital status of the respondents
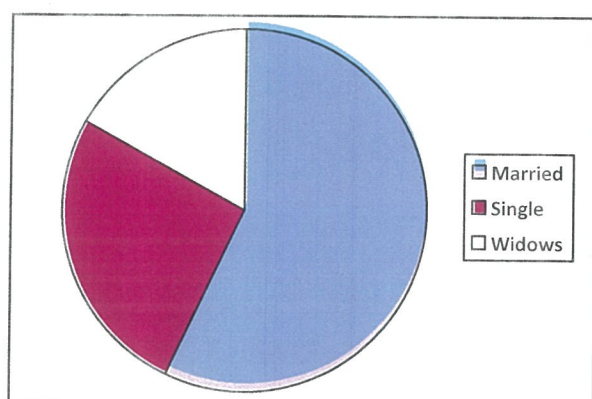
Source: Primary data 2015

Table 2 and figure 3 above show that out of 70 respondents, 40(57%) were married, 18(26%) were singles while 12(17%) were widows. Results implies that majority of the respondents were married with responsibilities in their families. This implies most respondents had families and a family background is an important element as regards conflicts and socio-economic transformation.

4.1.3 Gender of the respondents

Gender was also another factor which was considered during the study. This is because the researcher was interested in finding out the number of females and males in the whole study sample and compares the percentage composition of the two.

Table 3: Showing gender of the respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Female	50	71
Male	20	29
Total	70	100

Source: Primary data 2014

Figure 4: Gender of the respondents
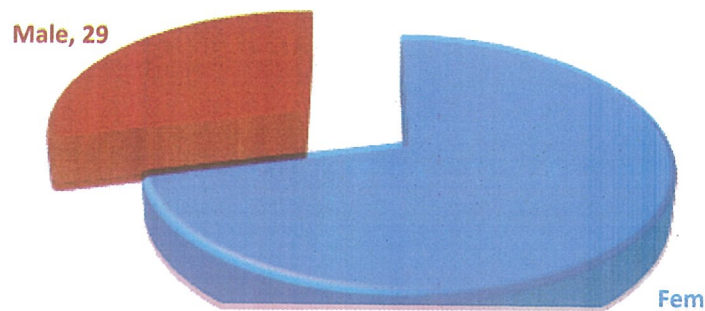
Source: Primary data 2014

Results in table 3 and figure 4 above show the gender of the respondents and it was found that 50 out of 70, representing 71% of the respondents were females and only 20 out of 70, representing 21% of the respondents were males. This therefore means that the majority of the respondents was females and generally was mostly the targeted population for this study purposes.

4.1.4 Educational status of the respondents

Respondents were asked questions related to their educational status, their responses are shown in the table below;

Table 4: Showing Educational level of the respondents

Education levels	Frequency	Percentage
Uneducated	20	29
Secondary	25	36
University	15	21
Tertiary	10	14
Total	**70**	**100**

Source: Primary Data 2014

Figure 5: Showing Educational level of the respondents
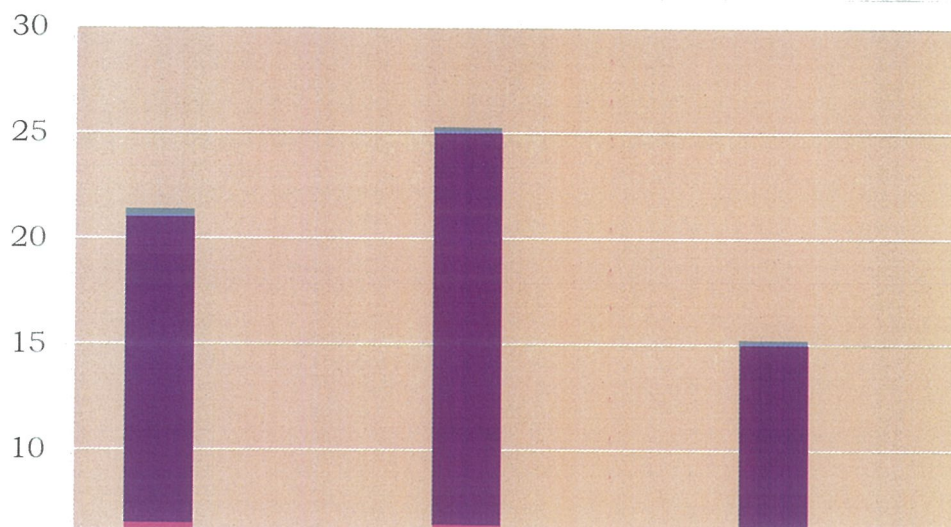
Source: Primary data 2014

Table 4 and figure 5 above show the educational levels of the respondents. Results showed that (29%) of the respondents had no education, 25(36%) had secondary education, 15(21%) had university education and only 10(14%) had tertiary education. This means that majority of the respondents were educated and could respond to the questionnaires. Similarly, categories of respondents that were considered in this study such as staff of NGOs were automatically expected to have been educated hence different education qualifications accordingly.

4.2 The Role of women in conflict management in Ngozi Pronvince- Burundi.

The researcher was interested in investigating the role women in conflict management in Ngozi province; the results were analyzed and presented in the table below;

Table 5: Role of women in conflict management

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Mediation	21	30
Conflict transformation	12	17
Peace-building	14	20
Conflict resolutions initiatives	12	17
Participation in decision making	11	16
Total	**70**	**100**

Source: Primary data 2015

According to the findings, women participate in mediation processes as a strategy to management of conflicts, this was attributed to 30% of the respondents, and respondents further pointed out that women get engaged in conflict transformation as cited by 17%. In addition, 20% of the respondents said that women's role in peace-buildings helps to enable conflict management, 17% also said that women have established conflict resolution initiatives and participation in decision making (16%). It was established that women have achieved all this by holding the government of Burundi to accountable for their actions by acting as a check on the state's power especially in times of conflict or political unrest. This implies that women encourages transparent governance, undertakes advocacy, public participation, for example engaging in consultations or negotiations during a peace process and mediation between different groups in a conflict. Results align with those of Saper, (2007) whose findings established that women have been seen to have an alternative way of making sense of the world and acting within it, based on social care and relationships. Women tend to discuss issues in more depth, express feelings and concerns more openly, and use more conciliatory or problem-solving strategies to resolve conflicts. While men on the other hand use more rational, linear

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language to talk about their conflicts and are less likely to express their feelings. They are likely to talk more about issues of justice and fairness and adopt a more competitive approach to managing conflicts. The findings seems to suggest that Women often organize themselves at the grassroots level in order to promote activities for conflict management and peace, but they do not get access to the negotiation table in the formal peace process.

4.3 How women's participation in conflict management influence socio-economic transformation

Results in the graph below shows responses on how women participation in conflict management has contributed to their socio-economic development. Results are summarized in graph below;
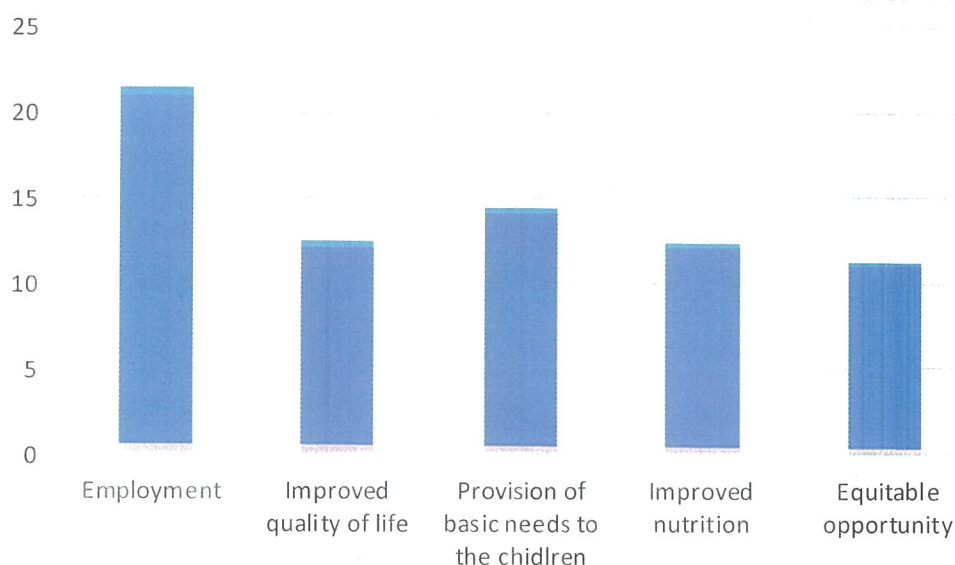
Source: Primary data 2015

The findings in the above graph revealed that participation of women in conflict management created networks for them which consequently led to employment opportunities especially some rural women who had attained some education qualifications as showed by majority (26=30%) this is because in processes of conflict management, women meet with

fellow women, share ideas and contacts which results into economic benefits. The practice of women participation in conflict management is a direct influence on national productivity, which largely determines standards of living.

In addition 12(17%) of the respondents noted that women participation in conflict management leads to their social improvements and improved quality of life for self and family since conflict management influence them into better decision making by promoting greater social cohesion, peace, trust in social institutions, democratic participation, and appreciation of diversity in gender, ethnicity, religion and social class. Even issues related to domestic violence are reduced hence improved quality of life.

Furthermore, 14(20%) of the respondents noted that participation of women in conflict management leads to improvement in the provision of basic needs especially to the children and the extended relatives (extended family). Women in conflict management through expanded networks, earn an extra income that helps them to meet household responsibilities like provision of food, clothes, scholastic materials for their children and paying school fees.

Similarly, 12(17%) of the respondents submitted that women participating in conflict management has led to their socio-economic development through improved nutrition and food security in their families as majority of them have gotten back their farm lands and are now practicing commercial agriculture due to improved security in their areas. In regard to this, respondents explained that family members especially children tend to suffer from malnutrition due to lack food because some of them had been displaced due to conflicts. However, women in conflict management has led to improved security, leading

them to participate in the production of enough food which improves the nutrition status of family members and the implication for this is a healthy family that will rarely suffer health problems hence saving money that would have been spent in the hospital to treat poor nutrition related problems.

The remaining 11 (16%) of the respondents noted that women when get involved in conflict management promotes equitable opportunities, empowerment and helps to bridge the gap in the gender dimensions. Women who participate in conflict management are generally problem solvers, coming with positive emotions and decision making and others. It was also revealed that women's work in conflict management generally through reconciliation and mediating in localized conflicts within families (such as husbands rejecting their wives after rape, or disputes between siblings over inheritance), bringing estranged communities together, and supporting mechanisms to resolve inter-communal conflicts has a great impact on socio-economic transformation of the community.

Generally, results imply that Women add a new dimension to their commercial activities by establishing joint ventures, allowing them to increase the size of their businesses, to reduce operating costs and to be in a better position to compete for calls for tender as well as to gain access to credit.

Findings connect with those of Schweickert (2013) when he mentioned that women when successfully engage in conflict management, they return to their agricultural activities in practically the same proportion as during the pre-war period. And their great novelty was their considerably increased participation in the trading sector. In post conflict periods in Tanzania, they now account for the majority of merchants in markets and have transformed the nature of commerce in

the region by launching the commercialisation of food crops, which did not exist before the war, when only cash crops such as cotton and tobacco were commercialised. They control the trade of food crops in high demand, such as cereals, fruits and vegetables, as well as fish and second hand clothing. They are also involved in cross-border commerce and sell their products in Juba, South Sudan, and in Tanzania.

4.4 The challenges women face in managing conflicts in Ngozi Pronvince.

Investigating the challenges faced by women while participating in conflict management was the third objective for this study. Results obtained are presented below.

Table 4. 1: Challenges women face in managing conflicts in Ngozi Province

Kind of Credit	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of funding	16	27
Exclusion from male-dominated decision-making forums	11	16
Exclusion from formal peace-building processes	16	23
Resistance to changing cultural traditions	12	17
Security risk	10	14
Lack of consensus among diverse groups	5	7
Total	70	100

Source: Primary Data, 2015

4.4.1 Insufficient funds

The findings in table 4.10 revealed that insufficient funds is the major challenge facing women in conflict management as submitted by 21(30%) of the respondents. It was explained that women tend to form groups intended for peace-building and conflict management but due to lack enough funding to finance their peace building projects, their intended goals are not achieved and this explains why peace has not been fully restored in Burundi because that women's organizations have often argued that conflict management is more than the absence of war.

4.4.2 Exclusion from male-dominated decision-making forums

This was attributed by 11(16%) of the respondents. They mentioned that women are generally excluded from the major decision making forums which influence most of the policies against conflicts. Implying that exclusion of women affects effective conflict management.

4.4.3 Exclusion from formal peace-building processes

This was submitted by 16(23%) of the respondents. Exclusion of women from formal peace –building processes hinders effective conflict management because women have strong positive influence that bring separated communities together, and supporting mechanisms to resolve inter-communal conflicts. Women engaged in formal peace negotiations often bring a non-partisan, process-oriented approach to bear, ensuring that the needs of a broad range of stakeholders, rather than just, the previously violent protagonists, are on the agenda.

4.4.4 Resistance to changing cultural traditions

Respondents 12(17%) said that another challenge facing women in conflict management is resistance to changing cultural traditions which does not allow women to participate in decision making. This does not only affect capacity but also their abilities to bring together families which are the grassroots points where conflicts escalate from. Many women's organizations which promote the role of women in community-level reconciliation and dialogue view their work as having a secondary but important outcome of enhancing popular perception of women's potential contribution, leading to greater acceptance of women's empowerment generally.

4.4.5 Security Risk

10(14%) of the responses were that women are so much concerned about safety and security of their families and children in particular. Sometimes threats from conflicting groups due to lack of consensus among the diverse groups therefore security risk for women's life and their families is another challenge affecting them while participating in conflict management.

Findings of this section correlate with the works of Saper (2007) in the literature review that most concepts and approaches to conflict management and peace-building have either ignored or marginalized issues of gender and women. Taking up a gender perspective therefore, challenges the notion of gendered peace building and conflict management. It also sheds a light on how women's activities and new experiences in the course of a conflict may have social, political and economic consequences for the post-conflict settlement and peace-building process.

CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter was concerned with the summary of the study, conclusion and recommendations. The research was carried out to find out the role of women participation in conflict management. It was conducted in Ngozi Province, Burundi. The research was guided by three specific objectives which were to examine the role of women in conflict management in Ngozi Province; to analysis how women's participation in conflict management influence socio-economic transformation and to examine the challenges women face in managing conflicts.

5.1 Summary of the study

On the role of women in conflict management, results showed that women have an active role in conflict management through mediation, conflict transformation, peace–building, participation in decision making and establishment of conflict resolution initiatives. Women both as individuals and groups, have often drawn moral authority from their role as. mothers, but they have also been able to step outside traditional roles during conflict situations, taking up public roles in relief and political organizations. This showed that women's role in reconciliation, peace-building awareness raising mechanisms, and other initiatives like coalition-building and networks, combining traditional and modern approaches in local decision-making processes were found among the best practice in conflicts management and resolution at community level.

In addition to that the study also found that among the existing skills and capacity of women who participate in peace building processes,

were problems solving, coming with positive emotions and decision making among others.

It was further established that women's involvement in conflict management leads to socio-economic development through expansion of their networks that puts them to another level of employment leading to income stabilities of their families and it was documented that women's conflict management activities encompass a wide range, and indeed what women do for peace is sometimes said to expand the view of peace building itself. Women's work in conflict management also includes reconciliation and mediating in localized conflicts within families (such as husbands rejecting their wives after rape, or disputes between siblings over inheritance), bringing estranged communities together, and supporting mechanisms to resolve inter-communal conflicts.

Women engagement in formal peace negotiations often bring a non-partisan, process-oriented approach to bear, ensuring that the needs of a broad range of stakeholders, rather than just, the previously violent protagonists, are on the agenda. Many women's organizations which promote the role of women in community-level reconciliation and dialogue view their work as having a secondary but important outcome of enhancing popular perception of women's potential contribution, leading to greater acceptance of women's empowerment generally.

Besides, women in abusive relationships tend to have a harder time meeting financial demands and experience more difficulty providing for the basic needs of their families than women who are not in abusive relationships. It is not unusual for victims to have trouble paying utilities, experience food insecurity or face eviction or foreclosure on their housing.

In line with the third objective, it was however noted that among the challenges faced by women in community in peace building initiatives included; exclusion from male-dominated decision-making forums, lack of funding and resistance to changing cultural traditions.

5.2 Conclusions

Basing on the findings, the researcher thus concludes that women participation in conflict management is an important element in socio-economic transformation. Results showed that there is opportunity loss of not involving women before, during and after conflicts, as their involvement leads to national development as well. Women have brilliants contribution to calm conflicts situation. Women involvement in conflict management leads to income stabilities of their families as they aggressively participate in agriculture hence leading to food security and national development. However, exclusion of women in peace building forums, excluding them from decision making and lack of funding were the major hindrances to their success. Specifically women face challenges of security risk as at times women who are actively involved in conflict management are threatened by conflicting groups, lack of consensus of diverse groups and cultural rigidity which in most cases does not allow women to participate in decision making hence affecting their capacity and abilities to bring together families yet they are the grassroot points where conflicts escalate from. Therefore, the study concludes that women play a very significant role in calming and managing conflicts but their roles have not been fully recognized since they still face a lot of challenges as mentioned earlier.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the study findings and discussion I would wish to recommend the following areas for consideration by the concerned authority:-

Based on study findings, the researcher recommends that Reconciliation Commission in Burundi should advocate for gender mainstreaming at community level, involve women in conflict warning systems and train women in mediation, facilitation and alternative dispute resolution.

The researcher recommends that human right protecting bodies should investigate the human right violation and provide support to the victims and the perpetrators being pursued.

More support should be given to women initiatives, NGOs as well as CBOs to calm conflicts situations.

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APPENDIX I

RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondents,

This questionnaire is designed to collect data on women participation in conflict management and socioeconomic transformation in Burundi. A case of Ngozi Pronvince. It is purely for academic purpose as a prerequisite for the partial fulfillment of the award of Bachelor's Degree in social work and social administration at Kampala International University, thus it has nothing to do with other businesses. Please answer all questions in this questionnaire with all confidence. Your responses will be treated with all confidentially.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

Please put tick in the bracket provided where suitable to indicate the correct answer of your choice;

1. **Gender;** (1) Male [   ] (2) female [   ]

2.**Age;** (1) 18-25 [   ] (2) 26-35 [   ] (3) 36-45 [   ] (4) 46-55 (4) [   ]
   56-65 [   ] (5) 66 above [   ]

3.**Marital status;** (1) married [   ] (2) Single [   ] (3) widowed [   ] (4) divorced [   ]

4. **Education level;** (1) primary [   ] (2) Secondary [   ] (3) University [   ]
   (4) Others, please specify.....................................

5. **Occupation;** (1) farmer [   ] (2) herder [   ] (3) unemployed [   ]
   (4) Others, please specify...

SECTION B: CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

6. Can you please explain the nature of conflicts experienced in your area

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....

7.What has been done to manage and resolve those conflicts?

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....

8. Do you think women are actively involved in the conflict management processes in Ngozi Province?

Yes   No.

9. If the answer is yes, please explain how, if no, why

....

....

10. What do you think has been achieved by involving women in conflict management?

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11. What are the social and economic benefits of involving women in conflict management?

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12. What challenges do women face while participating in conflict management?

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13. What do you think should be done to address the challenges facing women who participate in conflict management?

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14. What other strategies can be implemented to encourage women participation in conflict management?

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15. Please add any other information in regard to women participation in conflict management and socio-economic development.

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Thank you