



KRC-UGANDA MID-TERM EVALUATION FINAL REPORT

ADVANCING PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AMONG REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN UGANDA

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April, 2023

Contents

Contents2

LIST OF ACRONYMS.....3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY4

INTRODUCTION.....6

Background to the project.....6

Specific Objectives.....7

Contextual Issues addressed by the project.....7

Scope of the Mid-Term Evaluation7

Project Theory of Change8

Project Outcomes.....8

METHODOLOGY8

PRESENTATION OF THE FINDINGS.....9

THE APPROPRIATENESS AND RELEVANCE OF THE APPROACHES16

RELEVANCE OF THE THEORY OF CHANGE TO THE PROJECT.....19

THE LEVEL OF COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PARTNERS19

THE EXTENT TO WHICH CROSS CUTTING ISSUES20

KEY INSIGHTS AND LESSONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING21

RECOMMENDATIONS22

CASE STORIES23

LIST OF ACRONYMS

1. ADR Alternative Dispute Resolution
2. CAO Chief Administrative Officer
3. CESCRA Centre for Economic and Social Cultural Rights Africa
4. CRS Catholic Relief Services
5. DCDO District Community Development Officer
6. DEO District Education Officer
7. DISO District Internal Security Officer
8. CPK Community Peace Keepers
9. EU European Union
10. HEKS EPER Swiss Church AID
11. IRC International Rescue Committee
12. KRC Kabarole Research and Resource Centre
13. NGO None Government Organisations
14. RDC Resident District Commissioner
15. TPO Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation
16. WORUDET Women and Rural Development Network

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report highlights the findings of the mid-term evaluation for the **Advancing Peaceful Co-Existence and Respect for Human Rights among Refugees and Host Communities in Northern Uganda Project**. It points out the general context in which the project is being implemented, the status of progress towards achieving the desired outcomes, lessons learnt, challenges and recommendations for improvement in the remaining project period.

This mid-term evaluation had two forms of scope namely; the physical/geographical coverage and the thematic area of area of coverage. Geographically, the study was conducted in Yumbe district – specifically Bidi Bidi refugee settlement in Yangani and Abirimajo Zones, Terego and Madi-Okollo districts in Omugo 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Arianze 1 & 2, Odoibu 1&2 for Rhino camp and, Lamwo District – Palabec settlements, zones 8, 5A, 5B, &7. Demographically the project targets Citizens/refugees and Host communities, Paralegals/Community Peace keepers, Elders/women leaders/RWCs/LC leaders, OPM/Police/UNHCR/Protection partners, duty bearers who include technical and political leaders at sub county level including RWCs.

The evaluation aimed to achieve 11 objectives which included; the review of the contextual analysis and baseline report/ data to examine the extent to which project outcomes have been achieved, examine the extent to which project interventions have contributed to project outcomes, examine the appropriateness and relevance of the approaches used to deliver project results, examine the project assumptions, risks and challenges and the extent to which they affected the project outcomes, document key insights and lessons and how they can inform future programming, review the relevance of the theory of change for the project, assess the level of collaboration with other partners and its relevancy to achievement of project results, suggest practical recommendations in relation to approaches and interventions that can contribute to achievement of Project outcomes.

From the midterm evaluation, a snapshot of the findings indicated hereunder presents that there is increased knowledge on legal, human rights, peace, resiliency and response to psychosocial stress particularly among the paralegals as compared to the refugees and host communities where 50% of the refugees and host communities reported relative peace and reduced violence at community from 35% at baseline. However, little attention was given to the psychological aspects/effects of violence and human rights violations in the design and implementation.

There are more documented cases by the paralegals in the refugees' settlements than there was before commencement of the project with 21.1% at baseline and 25.1% at midterm of the beneficiary's sought justice for any forms of human rights abuses.

There is increased access & use of mediation & local/traditional conflict resolution strategies for community-based since there more cases that are settled though family courts and elder's councils than those addressed through litigation with 80% of project beneficiaries acknowledged to having their cases resolved through mediation and other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the host and refugee communities at mid-term.

Findings revealing that 37.9% of beneficiary at midterm acknowledged in participation in leadership, decision making and policy development against a baseline of 16.5%.

Furthermore, on the appropriateness of the approaches towards implementation of the project, the findings show that the approaches are appropriate because they help the implementers reach out to a much wider audience, it can even reach those who do not physically participate in meetings through the radio. However, capacity building approaches for some topics are rather ineffective because there is little time allocated to the training sessions, with hardly any time to practice what the participants are taught in mock sessions which would enable the trainers to assess the acquisition, retention and application of knowledge and skills before they are released to go out and experiment in the communities.

During the evaluation, key insights and lessons from the context that might have a lasting impact on the project include; change of food rationing poses a potential trigger for conflicts and violence within the refugee settlements and has increased demand for land by refugees. The project geographical scope is quite limited to very few zones in each of the settlements but this is based on the resource envelop and the site location by the OPM. Targeting leaders is very instrumental for community mobilization and implementation of project activities. Community-refugee informal relations greatly contribute to peaceful coexistence and harmony. The use of existing community structures is very beneficial to the success of the project, its sustainability and ownership after the funding period.

The evaluation mad a number of recommendations that would improve the project implementation **which include**; consideration of the land question in the next phases of the project, integration of more on-the-ground community members like middle-age women and men alongside the youth and elected leaders in the capacity building activities, extension the intervention to more spaces both within the zones, capacity building interventions to strengthen the knowledge and skills, increasing the number of initiatives that encourage and facilitate informal interactions between refugees and host communities, promotion of gender equality among the resource persons, inclusion of a component for cross-cultural communication in the intervention, establishment of easily located offices for the paralegals, improved visibility of the project and increased support to sports activities which easily facilitate interaction among the youth.

INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the findings of the mid-term evaluation for the *Advancing Peaceful Co-Existence and Respect for Human Rights among Refugees and Host Communities in Northern Uganda Project*. It points out the general context in which the project is being implemented, the status of progress towards achieving the desired outcomes, lessons learnt, challenges and recommendations for improvement.

Background to the project

The project is implemented by three (3) consortium organizations; KRC UGANDA, Centre for Economic Social Cultural Rights in Africa/CESCRA & Women and Rural Development Network/WORUDET. For over 50 years, Uganda has hosted many refugees from neighboring countries due to endless conflicts in Eastern and Central Africa regions. This has been due to flexible policies around refugees' response and efforts to ensure refugees easily settle, integrate within the system and host communities are warm towards refugees. Uganda's integrated refugee response incorporating host communities has been named as a model for the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), adopted in 2016 (UNOCHA, 2017). Currently refugees total to over 1.4 million (UNHCR, 2020) 61.8 % of these are from South Sudan & settled in Northern Uganda Districts of Yumbe, Adjumani, Lamwo, Arua, Koboko, & Obongi (UNHCR, 2020). 60 % of refugees in Uganda are below 18 years and in need of appropriate protection services (UG Gov., 2019). Despite feeling safe, secure and access same basic services as locals, 48% of refugees live in grim conditions and endure poverty, compared to 17% of the host population (WB, 2019). Mostly Bidibidi ,Rhino and Palabek settlements are located in remote, marginalized & underserved populations of these districts. Generally, there are glaring gaps in conflict sensitivity due to competition for land, resources as firewood, and water and building materials with host populations.

The sought to address the problem of lack of knowledge on rights and policies among refugees and host communities, psychosocial support, persisting violence including gender based violence and lack of access to justice for women, girls, youth and other refugee communities. Refugees are excluded from both the formal and informal justice systems. The action is addressing the problem of lack of localized conflict resolution, tensions between host communities and refugees over access to social services and natural resources like land, water and energy sources. The action has established strong networks and local platforms in the refugee settlements and host communities to respond to challenges of refugees as they struggle to adjust to new environment and recover from traumatizing conflict experience leading to the need to flee their original homes, lands and social networks.

Overall Objectives: To increase well-being, peaceful, safe, resilient & secure environment for women, girls, youth & families of refugees & host communities realizing their human rights.

Impact: Increased well-being, peaceful, safe, resilient & secure environment for women, girls, youth & families of refugees & host communities realizing their human rights

Specific Objectives

- 1) To increase knowledge & local capacities on legal, human rights, peace, resiliency & response to psychosocial stress among refugee & host community leaders
- 2) To increase documentation and litigation for human rights violations and abuse cases among refugees and host communities.
- 3) To increase access & use of mediation & local/traditional conflict resolution strategies for community-based resource conflicts among refugee & host communities.
- 4) To strengthen local structures, collective voices & response leading to increased participation of leadership in decision-making & policy engagement.

Contextual Issues addressed by the project

The project focuses on conflicts amongst the refugee population, then between refugees and host communities. The key elements include: psychosocial problems due to traumatic experiences from country of origin, human rights violations, including gender-based violence, lack of access to justice, frictions between refugees and host communities, and disputes between individuals on a range of issues. Psychosocial interventions for trauma survivors require particular attention, especially for refugees who were directly or indirectly exposed to extreme violence, lost family members or witnessed the destruction of their homes. The project also targets refugees that face significant challenges in accessing justice, especially in remote areas where the presence of the Judiciary and Police is limited or non-existent. Settlements have inadequate number of Police officers to respond to the needs of an increasing population, and total lack of female police officers, which implies a barrier for female refugees to open up on SGBV related experiences thus affecting their access to justice generally.

Scope of the Mid-Term Evaluation

This mid-term evaluation had two forms of scope namely the physical/geographical and the thematic. Geographically, the study was conducted in Yumbe district – specifically Bidi refugee settlement in Yangani and Abirimajo Zones, Terego and Madi-Okollo districts in Omugo 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Arianze 1 & 2, Odoobu 1&2 and, Lamwo District – Palabec settlements, zones 8, 5A, 5B, &7. Demographically the project targets Citizens/refugees and Host communities, Paralegals/Community Peace keepers, Elders/women leaders/RWCs/LC leaders, OPM/Police/UNHCR/Protection partners, Duty bearers who include technical and political leaders at sub county, district and ministry levels. Content scope focused on a range of issues namely: the extent to which project outcomes have been achieved, interventions have contributed to project outcomes, the project assumptions, risks and challenges, relevance of the approaches, document key insights and lessons, the relevance of the theory of change, the level of collaboration with other partners, the level of networking and partnership with local authorities, the extent to which cross cutting issues of Refugees and host communities, youths, women, PWDS have been integrated in the project work, the level of participation of the citizens for ownership and sustainability, Suggest practical recommendations.

Project Theory of Change

The project is driven by the theory of change which states that: The action will improve the situation of the target group and final beneficiaries by increasing knowledge and skills on human rights, legal rights, and gender-based violence, conflict management as it will raise community awareness through meetings, radio-talk shows, sensitization using drama/ puppet theatre/mobile cinema, school debates and publish & disseminate simplified information materials. The project will build capacities of beneficiaries and target groups by training duty bearers & leaders on rights, gender, & gender-based violence, women & girls' rights, land rights, laws & policies and build the capacity of traditional and local council courts. Further, the project will increase best practices of documentation, referrals and litigation of human rights violations and abuses among the refugees and host communities by identifying, training & supporting community paralegals and pro-bono lawyers to organize bi-annual hearings & legal clinics on cases & legal questions by paralegals, investigate and document cases of violations, offer legal support to individuals whose rights are violated and abused and referral and follow up on cases to different state agencies. The project will increase access & use of mediation conflict and local/traditional conflict resolution strategies for community-based resource conflicts among refugee & host communities by conducting participatory conflict analysis to understand the conflict dynamics and patterns, conduct reflection and reviews amongst actors and stakeholders, provide mediation & counselling, organize peace dialogues for refugee & host communities. These will discuss the prevailing conflict situation and design concerted response and collaborate with the project activities. Lastly, the project will strengthen local structures, voices & networking leading to increased participation in leadership, decision-making & policy engagement by conducting quarterly stakeholders 'meetings, organize interagency coordination meetings, organize relevant sector meetings and interface meetings between leaders and representatives of refugees & host communities on key issues.

Project Outcomes

- 1: Increased knowledge and local capacities on legal, human rights, peace, resiliency and response to psychosocial stress among refugee and host communities
- 2: Increased documentation, referral and litigation of human rights violations and abuses among refugees and host communities.
- 3: Increased access & use of mediation & local/traditional conflict resolution strategies for community-based resource conflicts among 4,140 refugee & host communities.
- 4: Strengthened local structures, collective voices and response to critical concerns by leaders in refugees and host communities

METHODOLOGY

The approach used to conduct the evaluation included *review of project documents* particularly, of the project proposal, activity reports, quarterly reports, case stories, baseline report, contextual analysis report and existing relevant literature to analyse information on service delivery and participation of target groups such as women, youth and local leaders from both refugees and Host Communities. *Stakeholder consultations*, particularly concerning their participation in workshops organized by project staff and selected partners, reviewing

the theory of change, implementation strategy, expected results and their relevance to context and approaches used. At least one stakeholder meeting was conducted in every settlement/zone visited by the consultant and project staff during the evaluation exercise. *Focus group discussions (FGDs)* were conducted with community leaders such as Paralegals, RWCs, LCs and caretakers of cultural institutions. The discussions focused on the project activities conducted, the manner in which they were carried out in relation to the contextual needs of the people and the communities. The FGDs were also used to examine the extent to which project interventions have contributed to project outcomes including insights, challenges and lessons emerging from their participation. The consultant further employed *Key informants' interviews (KIs)* with stakeholder representatives from the communities, local leadership from both the refugees and host communities and representatives of humanitarian organizations undertaking peacebuilding related interventions in the settlements. This helped to obtain their independent opinions of the project's progress in regard to the spelled-out project outcomes. *Case studies* were also identified from the respondents' presentations and documented as success stories. This helped to corroborate the responses obtained from other techniques for data collection and this further helped to verify the achievements and successes registered so far in as far as achieving the project outcomes is concerned.

PRESENTATION OF THE FINDINGS

This section presents discussions of the findings of the mid-term evaluation exercise in respect to the terms of reference thus the extent to which project interventions have contributed to project outcomes. The project has four outcomes which are discussed below:

Outcome1: Increased knowledge and local capacities on legal, human rights, peace, resiliency and response to psychosocial stress among refugee and host communities

In the three settlements of Palabek, Bidi Bidi and Rhino, this capacity was built by the partner organizations of WORUDET, KRC and CESCRA respectively both within refugee settlements and adjacent communities to the respective settlements. It was done through conducting training workshops, awareness raising through drama, community meetings and Radio talk shows. Basing on the indicators of violence and violation of human rights, specifically quarrels, sexual assault, fighting, murder, rape, labelling and injuries; the prevailing statistics show that there was considerable reduction in the number of cases of violence and human rights violations reported, see the table of indicators below:

Knowledge of human rights, resilience and response to psychosocial stress indicators among refugees and host communities	Baseline				Mid Term			
	Host		Refugee		Host		Refugee	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Insults	42	16.1	26	8	26	22.2	8	3.3
Quarrels	33	12.6	23	7	23	19.7	5	2
Sexual assault	129	49.4	109	33.3	57	48.7	86	35.1
Fighting	68	26.1	54	16.5	30	25.6	32	13.1
Murder	195	74.7	227	69.4	71	60.7	157	68.9
Rape	163	62.5	156	47.7	66	56.4	126	51.4
GBV	93	35.6	28	8.6	33	28.2	56	22.9
Labelling	109	41.8	39	11.9	59	50.4	86	35.1
Injuries	76	29.1	87	26.6	51	43.6	64	26.1
<i>Average</i>	101	38.7	83	25.4	46	40	69	27

Considering the statistical data above which is a representation of what was captured at the baseline and at the mid-term evaluation stage of the project implementation; for example, the number of sexual assaults in the host communities reduced from 129 to 57 in the host communities, while that of the refugees reduced from 109 to 86 respectively. This represents a reduction rate of 84% in the host communities and 30% in the refugees respectively. Besides, the rate of murder cases reduced by 63% in the host communities and by 30.8% in the refugee settlements. *From the findings*, the overall average of respondents reporting no cases of violence was at 38.7% in Host communities and 25.4% in the refugee communities. At midterm, the 50% refugees and host communities reported relative peace and reduced violence at community level addressing indicator 1.

Cases of human rights violations	Occurrence of human rights violations					
	Mid Term			Baseline		
	Less often	Often	Not at all	Less often	Often	Not at all
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Murder	51.1	3	49.5	21.9	2.2	75.9
Fighting	50	42.5	7.5	51	15.3	33.7
Rape	58.3	6.9	34.8	42.9	12.3	44.8
Sexual assault	40.3	30.7	29	48.3	23.2	28.5
Quarrels	60	38.1	1.9	22.6	74.2	3.2
insults	56.4	41.4	2.2	24.5	72.6	2.9
Injuries	43.9	33.7	22.4	40.5	35	24.5
Labelling	42	28.7	29.3	32.5	45.9	21.6
Sexual based violence	45.9	43.7	10.5	30.8	59.2	10

These figures indicate a remarkable change in a time period of two years when the intervention has been implemented. This change is attributed to the activities of awareness raising on radio and the communities, training leaders to be able to sensitize the community population on conflict prevention and helping to resolve some of the conflicts before they reached the violent stage. The consultations and discussions with the stakeholders by the consultant could not detect the level or state of resilience of the trauma affected project

beneficiaries because of the needs that are more of tangible than software that the project is pursuing. It is important to note that the project design gives emphasis to the psychological aspects/effects of violence and human rights violations in the design and implementation. What is more evident currently is the physical and social indicators but the psychological ones are fairly hidden both at the indicator level and implementation level.

Outcome 2: Increased documentation, referral and litigation of human rights violations and abuses among refugees and host communities.

The paralegals, also referred to as community peacemakers in the project communities were found responsible for recording/ documenting cases in the communities. They are also responsible for advising the case parties whether the case needs referral to the police, courts of law or other actors within the settlements. During the evaluation exercise, the consultant interfaced with the paralegals in all the settlements where the project is being implemented. It was established that they are actively on ground not only in documenting the cases but also guiding the parties on the course of action depending on the nature of the case in question.

Besides documentation and referral of cases, the paralegals often address conflict cases by way of mediation thus leading to reconciliation of the conflicting parties. For example, one of the paralegals interviewed testified that he intervened in a case between a community member and a widow who was almost lynched. “The skills I have acquired from the trainings conducted by the project on case management through mediation and counselling have enabled me to conduct mediations, community dialogues and counselling people with cases. *A case in point is where I saved a widow whom the community had decided to kill on suspicion that she was involved in the death of her husband when the man had actually committed suicide. As a local leader, and the paralegal in this community, I managed to intervene to stop the mob justice against this woman. The family and community members were not aware of the cause of the issues that led the man to commit suicide. I was able to calm them down and mediate the family and community members about stoning the woman and the commotion ceased.* Following this intervention, the case was referred to police to intervene in the matter because the man had committed suicide. The police took charge of the case and performed their duty as required by law. The other related issue to land was after the host communities have rented the plots of land to the refugees, after the growing their crops, the host communities release their animal’s cows and goats to their gardens, this has been a direct source of conflict among the host communities and the refugees. “ *it has really been a sad situation after hiring a plot of land where even the price is doubled and someone has to struggle to grow their crops, members from the host communities release their animals to our gardens which are destroyed completely. In most cases, the animals that are released to our gardens are for those family members who rented us the plot of land, it has also be conflicting that after renting the plot of land for a period of one year, one will come and take the land way from you when the period of tenancy is not yet over.....*”. (Refugee from Palabek).

In Yangani and Odo bu settlements where conflicts relating to land access had been previously common, it was reported that the intervention of paralegals has significantly reduced the number of such cases. Mechanisms have been put in place to have landlords negotiate with the refugees seeking land for food growing without the risk of being evicted by the relatives of the landlords. It was reported that the issue of tenants being evicted after payment for the land has been addressed by the parties – landlord and tenant getting into agreement for land

rent in the presence of whole family members of the landlord, thereby they act as witnesses to the agreement and there cannot be reason for the relatives, who are now witnesses cannot turnround and make the tenant pay twice for the same land or even lose the crops they have already planted as was a common occurrence before the intervention of this project.

Before KRC started these interventions, there were a lot of conflicts originating from the land issues where family members would not agree before renting land to the refugees. This could lead to multiple renting by the same family members. Given that, KRC and her partners have conducted a number of dialogue meetings that involved both members from the host communities and the refugees have been able to come out with measures to reduce the conflict. It was observed from on respondent from the refugee communities that, “ *it was indeed heart breaking that family members from the host communities were mistreating us by charging us double price on the plots of land then after paying other members of the family would demand to be paid as the rightful owners of the plot of land. As result of having dialogue meetings with the host communities, it has given us the opportunity of being able to share about these issues and find solutions. For instance, we thank KRC, that the meetings are continuing, for instance, at the moment through dialogue meetings were coming to understanding with the members of the host communities that before the sale of the plot of land all family members should present at the time renting. During the renting of the plots of land we encouraged that local leaders from both sides should be present but also now through dialogue meeting were able to agree that plot renting agreements should be made among the two parties both the refugees and the members of the host communities that rent the plot of land to us refugees.*” (Refugee from Yangani Settlement, Zone 5). For indicator 2, at least 60% of refugee & host communities including women, youth, men, elders, leaders utilizing the knowledge and skills to confidently demand for services on legal, human rights, peace & justice, resiliency & response to psychosocial stress. There was an increase is seeking for justice with 21.1% at baseline and 25.1% at midterm of the beneficiary’s sought justice for any forms of human rights abuses.

Service sought	District			
	Period	Lamwo	Terego madiokolo	Yumbe
Counselling	Baseline	29.4	20,3	34.7
	Mid-term	45.6	19.6	30.7
Mediation	Baseline	23.9	22.3	27.3
	Mid-term	42.1	20.3	30.7
Arbitration	Baseline	4.0	13.3	10.6
	Mid-term	4.1	11.4	16.8
Negotiation	Baseline	28.4	17.6	27.3
	Mid-term	33.9	25.6	29.7
Clan/family courts	Baseline	16.3	27.1	22.7
	Mid-term	34.5	18.4	29.4

Elders courts	Baseline	16.3	27.1	22.7
	Mid-term	14.6	18.0	27.5

Outcome 3: Increased access & use of mediation & local/traditional conflict resolution strategies for community-based resource conflicts among 4,140 refugee & host communities.

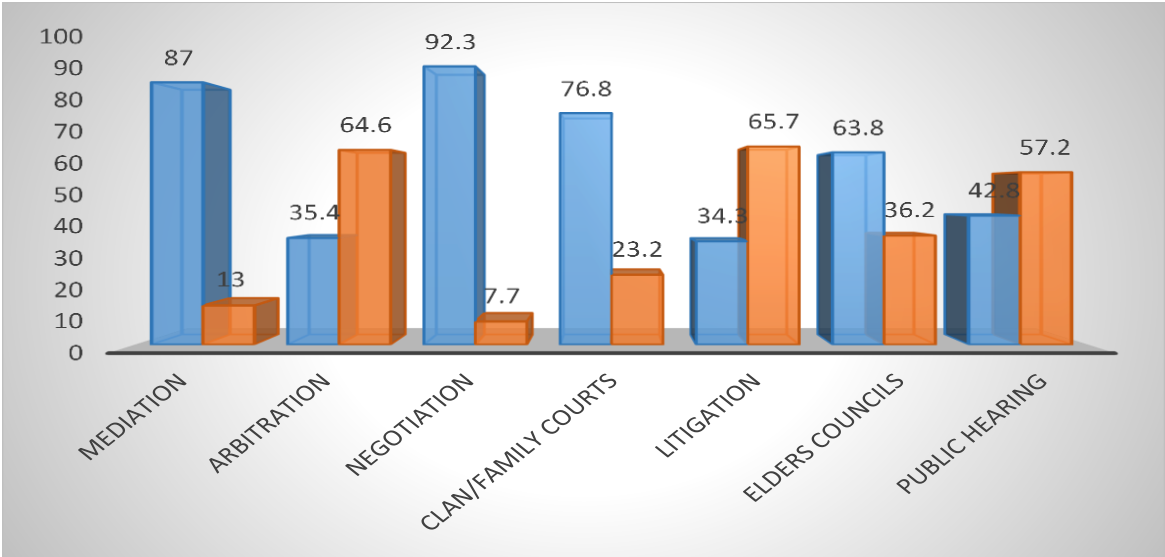
The offered platform where the paralegals are able to mediate cases have improved evidenced by coexistence among host communities and refugees. Before the project, members of the both communities did not have flexible platforms where they can ably share their differences, conflicts and challenges. The response that came as a result of lacking platform were conflicts could be resolved by fighting or even revenge. Today, paralegals mediate land cases and most cases have been resolved. For instance, one of the paralegals given the trainings that were given to them she has acquired the experience that she has been able to mediate the land cases that were existing before the implementation of the project by KRC. She has been able to mediate at least 47/48 land cases between the refugees and the host communities. It is only one cases that needed referral to other authorities which she followed up.

The project has proved a platform for leaders to have dialogues with their communities specially to dialogue on issues that have been the source of conflict for so long. In the dialogues that were conducted by KRC brought local leaders together specially to share information and/or dialogue on a number of issues that have been sources of conflicts in the communities. The dialogue meetings have provided platforms where leaders from both the host communities and refugees have been able to share information concerning the emerging conflict rotating around land issues. As a result, now, leaders from both communities are able to engage each other in handling and resolving the land cases. It was also realized that the local leaders are sensitizing the public on land issues by using the radio talk show, one of the local leaders in Palabek Ogil reported. One of the respondents reported that; *“the land issues are very sensitive, as a result through the interventions by KRC, us as the local leaders both communities, elders and RWCs, church leaders are now able to be invited and involved in land negotiations. As we speak now land conflicts among our communities are reducing. However, we need more trainings as leaders especially on how to mediate more on the complicated issues in our communities.”*

The other related issue to land was after the host communities have rented the plots of land to the refugees, after the growing their crops, the host communities release their animal’s cows and goats to their gardens, this has been a direct source of conflict among the host communities and the refugees. *“ it has really been a sad situation after hiring a plot of land where even the price is doubled and someone has to struggle to grow their crops, members from the host communities release their animals to our gardens which are destroyed completely. In most cases, the animals that are released to our gardens are for those family members who rented us the plot of land, it has also be conflicting that after renting the plot of land for a period of one year, one will come and take the land way from you when the period of tenancy is not yet over.....”*. (Refugee from Palabek).

The project offered platforms where the paralegals are able to mediate land and other cases that have improved the instance of coexistence among the two communities of the host communities and refugees. Before the project, members of both communities did not have flexible platforms where they could ably share their differences, conflicts and challenges

Access and use of Mediation and other traditional conflict resolution strategies



According to the above chart, negotiation takes the lead at 92.3% as the highest tool used to assess conflict followed by mediation at 87%, these tools are mainly applied in resource related conflict especially land and building materials. Such cases mainly involve the refugees negotiating with the host communities over hiring land for agriculture, land accessing fuel resources as well as housing construction local materials like poles and grass, it was in such cases that the paralegals and local leaders intervene either to mediate or facilitate negotiations amongst the parties. The litigation appears to be the least on the chart at 34% while family courts and elder’s councils are somewhere in the middle at 76 and 63% respectively. This is not to be interpreted that litigation is more popular among the refugee and host communities but rather, there are quite a number of criminal cases which are by law required and were captured through the referrals. In some cases, families desire that their conflict issues are not exposed to the outside world thus the apparent low record of family courts and elders’ councils. Findings revealed that 80% of project beneficiaries had their cases resolved through mediation and other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in the host and refugee communities against a target of 90%.

Levels of satisfaction in the management of cases at community level

From the table below, the findings show how the project interventions will be aimed at addressing levels of satisfaction on case management led to Levels of satisfaction increase from 16.75% at baseline to 30.9% at midterm against an impact target of 40%.

Nature of cases	Ratings	
	Baseline	Mid term

	Less satisfied	Not satisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied	Less satisfied	Not satisfied	Satisfied	Very satisfied
Murder	16.3	54.85	14.2	14.6	24.6	43.6	12.2	19.6
Fighting	32.5	19.85	30.7	7.9	42.3	8.3	29.3	20.2
Rape	33	38.15	17.8	11	40.6	28.5	15.7	15.2
Sexual assault	39	32.5	22.3	6.25	42.5	15.7	25.4	16.3
Quarrels	44.9	14.6	30.95	9.5	35.1	7.5	32.6	24.9
Insults	38.65	17.55	33.4	10.4	37.0	6.6	37.6	18.8
Injuries	41.35	29.95	24.6	4.1	41.4	17.7	21.5	19.3
Labelling	41.8	27.95	22.9	7.35	30.9	30.9	16	22.1

Outcome 4: Strengthened local structures, collective voices and response to critical concerns by leaders in refugees and host communities

The project has provided a platform for leaders to have dialogues with their communities especially to dialogue on issues that have been the source of conflict for so long. In the dialogues that were conducted by KRC brought local leaders together specially to share information and/or dialogue on a number of issues that have been sources of conflicts in the communities. The dialogue meetings have been platforms where leaders from both the host communities and refugees have been able to share information concerning the emerging conflict rotating around land/ stray animals. As a result, leaders from both communities are able to engage each other in handling and resolving the land cases. It was also realized that the local leaders are sensitizing the public on land issues by using the radio talk show, one of the local leads in Palabek Ogil reported. One of the respondents reported that; *“the land issues are very sensitive, as a result through the interventions by KRC, us as the local leaders both communities, elders and RWCs, church leaders are now able to be invited and involved in land negotiations. As we speak now land conflicts among our communities are reducing. However, we need more trainings as leaders especially on how to mediate more on the complicated issues in our communities.”*

Findings revealed that 37.9 % of beneficiary at midterm acknowledged the participation of structures in participation in leadership, decision making and policy development against a baseline of ...% with the overall project target of 50%.

Local Structure strengthened to collectively engage in addressing critical concerns		Types of Engagements			
		Consultation for decision making	Involvement in leadership	Involvement in policy review and development	None
Media	Baseline	14.8	3.85	11.3	70.05
	Mid term	9.7	8.3	24.0	58.0
Probational lawyers	Baseline	5.15	10.4	4.45	79.95
	Mid term	5.5	9.4	3.9	81.2
Religious leaders	Baseline	28.4	29.45	7.75	34.95
	Mid term	25.1	41.7	8.3	24.9
Cultural institutions	Baseline	24.8	14.45	10.55	50.15
	Mid term	31.2	29.6	5.2	34.0
NGOs	Baseline	41.4	17.55	15.6	25.45
	Mid term	32.3	33.4	10.2	24.0
RWCs	Baseline	23.3	21.85	10.5	44.35
	Mid term	21.1	39.8	3.3	35.1
Local governments	Baseline	13.4	13.95	25.05	35.1
	Mid term	22.7	23.5	18.5	51.7

The existing local structures include Local councils, Refugee welfare councils, cultural leaders, religious institutions, media, professional associations like Probational lawyers as well as paralegals who are referred in the project as community peace keepers. The manner of their empowerment took the form of training in conflict resolution skills, human rights education, case documentation, case referrals and advocacy for peaceful coexistence. The project attempted to bring these structures together during trainings and community sensitization and awareness raising meetings so that they could work together, appreciate the need for collective voices in promoting human rights, fight human rights violations, gender-based violence and other forms of injustices. This has helped a great deal in availing both refugees and host communities in the project areas to enjoy human rights, access conflict resolution services and experience peaceful coexistence. It should also be noted that despite the existence of collaborative meetings organised by OPM and UNHCR, the inter-agency, security and political leaders are always brought together through the partner meetings.

THE APPROPRIATENESS AND RELEVANCE OF THE APPROACHES

In order to realise the desired outcomes, the project adopted a multi-pronged approach towards implementation of activities. Each result was pursued with mixed approaches, which helped to respond to the various needs of the stakeholders in the community. Under Result 1; ***Increased knowledge and local capacities on legal, human rights, peace, resiliency and response to psychosocial stress among refugee and host communities***, Community awareness meetings were conducted whereby the project staff shared information about human rights, resilience, psychosocial stress among others so that local people could get to understand the different contexts and appreciate the fact that they are existent among them.

They also used radio talk shows on different radio stations in the region that had a wider coverage such as Pacis Radio and Rabbit FM, besides the use of radio and community meetings, they also used puppet theatre and printed leaflets with information about human rights, conflict and resilience among others.

As far as information dissemination is concerned, the above approaches are appropriate because they reach out to a much wider audience, it can reach those who do not physically participate in meetings through the radio and those who are around the centres where the awareness meetings take place can hear what is being said as they go about their business.

The Capacity building approaches worked well for the leaders and paralegals through the trainings and not for the rest of the communities because the trainings involved learning which relents into acquisition, retention and application of knowledge and skills. It is rather difficult to equip masses with skills by mere talking on radio or in big gatherings. In such meetings, it is difficult to enforce practical exercises for experimentation of skills and it becomes a challenge to monitor and measure acquisition and application of such skills but this was noticed for those who underwent trainings. Drama shows were very attractive to the communities and very efficient in addressing issues of domestic violence, relationship between host and refugee communities. These were often sited because even passers by would stand to watch and pick lessons and interests. The drama groups required more trainings and support inform of costumes and other materials.

Furthermore, issues like psychosocial stress and conflict analysis cannot be treated by only listening to the radio or attending meetings. Rather, they need application and experimentation of such skills that require a personal touch between the trainer, counsellor or facilitator and the affected person. They involve a lot of sharing and deep listening, sharing scenarios using different tool so that the affected person is able to recover and be skilled/empowered to help other people undergoing similar experiences. These were reached through the counselling sessions and drama. KRC can adopt sports for peace as another approach to appeal to those who are psychologically affected. It is therefore imperative to note that in the future, the project implementers consider training in trauma healing, conflict analysis among others in order to build the capacity of both the trainers and the affected persons so that the affected are able to heal, live peaceful lives and have the ability to help others undergoing similar situations.

Result 2: *Increased documentation, referral and litigation of human rights violations and abuses among refugees and host communities.* The approach used in pursuant to this result was trainings of paralegals in legal knowledge, human rights and human rights violations, gender-based violence, judicial referral pathways, case handling & documentation. This was appropriate because it helps the paralegals to document cases properly so that they can be easily followed up by those parties meant to address them. Secondly, in case of referrals, the referee can easily trace the facts if the case has been properly profiled even if it has taken a long time since its occurrence. What needs to be given attention by the project implementers in this case is to include the local leaders such as the Local councillors, counsellors, RWCs and project officers from other organizations who are concerned with case handling at

different levels and even police officers. A case is as good as the record of the facts about it. In many circumstances, cases are merely mentioned in passing without capturing the details. A case whose detailed facts are missing can be very difficult to handle even by the most experienced conflict resolution experts or counsellors. It is therefore important that the paralegals are equipped with the documentation tool kit that include a camera/recorder, note book and a bag. If funds allow, let them be availed with electronic gadgets and data be centrally collected/ synthesized.

Result 3: *Increased access & use of mediation & local/traditional conflict resolution strategies for community-based resource conflicts among 4,140 refugee & host communities.* Pursuant to this result, a participatory conflict analysis was conducted, reflection and review exercises were conducted amongst actors and stakeholders as well as peace dialogues were conducted in the communities. Apart from the participatory conflict analysis which can lead to mutual appreciation of the Mediation approach which employs more analysis than judgment of cases, and could therefore inspire those who attended to adopt it for handling conflict cases, the other approaches employed here support more of awareness than access to the use of mediation.

Secondly, a number of actors were trained in using mediation in settling disputes including conflict resolution such as the LCs, RWCs, Religious leaders and enforcement officers hence the reason why the approach is the most used in the community. There are a number of them with the skills and cicurated in the different sectors. This approach of not limiting the training to a specific group is the reason for increased management of conflicts at that level.

However, a lot of awareness needs to be done about the approach, training for the relevant stakeholders conducted, and all are encouraged to adopt the practice of employing mediation when handling disputes and proper documentation. When the community members like it, the leaders responsible for conflict resolution like it and it is made easy for them to apply it by way of training, it will be easily accessed because there will be demand for it as well as availability of its supply.

Result 4: *Strengthened local structures, collective voices and response to critical concerns by leaders in refugees and host communities.* Pursuant to this result, District based quarterly stakeholders' meetings have been conducted involving the local actors operating in the different zones, inter agency meetings were conducted with the relevant organizations in the refugee settlements, Bi-annual Interface meetings between leaders and representatives of refugees & host communities on key issues have been held in Rhino camp and Bidi Bidi refugee settlements. Such meetings are very appropriate in strengthening local structures because they encourage synergy building and they create spaces for collective voices on issues concerning the different stakeholders. What needs to be added here is encouraging joint analyses of the different issues for purposes of building common understanding and using a common voice and approach when addressing certain crosscutting issues.

RELEVANCE OF THE THEORY OF CHANGE TO THE PROJECT

A theory of change clearly states the desired change at output and outcome level to the impact. It should show how this desired change will be arrived at i.e., the specific categories of people that activities target and why such categories are targeted. The chronological flow of information from one mainstream to the other brings out the following aspects of the theory of change which include; **Knowledge;** The implementation brings out the key aspects of knowledge change through the awareness sessions, drama, debates in schools and radio talk shows. The evaluation also found out that the dialogues were also a means of passing knowledge to the communities. The trainings also provided the knowledge and skills of the structures to engage with the different stakeholders. **Spaces for interaction:** A number of interface meetings/ dialogues were a means that a number of stakeholders like OPM, livelihood partners, security took active roles in. The leaders spoke very profoundly of the interface meetings where they are able to provide clarity to the community members both the refugees and host communities. **Collaboration;** Apart from the three partners on the project, there was evidence of interaction at interagency coordination level, sector specific meetings and district meetings. Partners include; OPM, UNHCR, IRC, HEKS-EPER, Uganda Police and UNRA for the works.

THE LEVEL OF COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PARTNERS

The implementation of the project involves three key partners namely: KRC, WORUDET and CESCRA. This partnership builds on a combination of the strength of each organization. The distribution of the three primary partners: WORUDET in Palabek, KRC in Bidi Bidi and CESCRA in Rhino helps them to build synergies and implement a great deal of work within the project timeframe. It is also helpful in enabling the concerned partners to concentrate their focus on a fairly smaller and manageable area. This was a very good strategy for it helps the partners in avoiding effects that come with overstretching of project staff and organizational programs. However, there areas that need to be improved because the beneficiaries tend to associate the partner organizations with specific domains. For example, it came out rather prominently that beneficiaries in Palabek associated WORUDET with GBV, KRC in Yangani and Abirimajo with Conflict resolution and Human rights while CESCRA in Rhino is more associated with Psychosocial support. On one hand, this suggests that the different organizations concentrated on areas where they had the most expertise at the expense of other major components of the project; while on the other hand it makes the project beneficiaries think that those areas which are given the most focus are the only areas while ignoring the other components thus missing out on the bigger part of the project. This should be improved to see that all the project objectives and their respective components are equally felt in all the project settlements. Apart from the three core project partners, it was observed that during implementation, the partners work closely with other relevant stakeholders such as local government councils, RWCs, sector organization whose focus is closely related to the project were very supportive. There were good relationships noticed which were exhibited in collaborative community mobilization, resource sharing in times of need through referrals as well as human resource use when it came to facilitators and other resourceful people needed in the implementation of project activities.

THE EXTENT TO WHICH CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

During implementation of the project, a number of cross-cutting issues were integrated in the project such as environmental protection and HIV/AIDS. It was also observed that when it came to environmental protection, all the respondents whether from refugees or host communities, were aware that wherever one found a tree marked with a given colour paint, it was meant for preservation and one would neither cut it for firewood nor construction. This was observed across all the settlements. These efforts were not directly by the project but rather attributed to the efforts of other partners. Furthermore, there was clear evidence of work at the protection centres in the settlements.

On Gender, there was a noticeable imbalance on the issue of Gender. In Palabek for instance, most of the groups we interacted with whether as community meetings or FGD were dominated by women by more than 75%. On the other hand, those we met in Bidi Bidi and Rhino settlements were predominantly men. This points to or rather suggest an aspect of gender imbalance regarding involvement of community members across the settlements. In brief, WORUDET tended to work more with women than men in implementation of the project. Secondly, when it came to Paralegals or community peacekeepers as they are locally referred to in the project communities, the majority were men with less numbers of women. This could pose a challenge in future when there are peculiar cases relating to women's affairs which are not culturally supposed to be handled by men. There is need for balancing representation. Another scenario related to gender was the limited involvement of elders, especially men in training for conflict resolution. In the community contexts around the settlements, men are the ones traditionally considered to constitute councils of elders who are entrusted with the duty of resolving conflicts at the family level and the community. Again, this was more visible in Palabek as compared to the other settlements of Bidi Bidi and Rhino where elders commonly participated in the evaluation activities. Their exclusion in capacity building initiatives puts the project at the risk of closure with the project time frame with no structures for continuity since the community embraces the traditional set up of men elders.

Participation of the citizens in the project implementation

The level of citizen participation in project implementation is at 100% because they have been involved at every stage of the project. The citizens from the host communities as well as the refugees from the target settlements were involved in the baseline study and provided data on the status of the issues considered by the project for attention. They have actively participated in community sensitization meetings, dialogues and radio talk shows. Therefore, regarding involvement of both citizens and refugees is not questionable, albeit the 30:70% ratio during small activities like training workshops. The approach of their involvement is highly commendable for it gives high prospects for sustainability and greater impact on the communities.

Ownership and sustainability

The use of existing local structures in the identification of project activity participants, mobilization, building referral networks creates a strong ground for community ownership and sustainability after the partner exit. This is because their involvement in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities where they suggest appropriate

recommendations for better performance; when such recommendations are taken into account, the community members feel proud of them and find it easy to identify with the resultant activities, which they can ensure continuity.

The engagement with the local leaders in both the refugee and Host communities; this proved sustainability of the efforts based on the efforts by the local leaders in responding to the issues being raised by the communities. There was evidence of harmonised planning and discussions between the community structures and the leaders.

KEY INSIGHTS AND LESSONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING

- The change of food rationing from the able bodied to the elderly and disabled was done without adequate preparation and is more likely to trigger conflicts and violence within the refugee settlements due to theft, frustrations of failure for the majority young adults and youth to find employment among others.
- The change of food ration has significantly increased demand for land by refugees. The pressure on host community landlords to provide land for agriculture to the able-bodied refugees is first mounting and is potential for crisis in the refugee hosting communities.
- The project geographical scope is quite limited that it covers only but a few zones in each of the settlements where it is being implemented. There are more cases of the effects of violence and post-traumatic disorder within the refugee settlements and the adjacent communities but the project cannot extend the services to them due to the scoping limitations for the obvious reasons. In the event that the intervention is not extended to the other areas in need, there may arise intercommunity conflicts over what may be perceived as 'selective' treatment.
- Targeting leaders is very instrumental for community mobilization and implementation of project activities. However, most of the leadership positions are elective and may change faces over a short period of time. Relatedly, most of the paralegals were refugees or youth who can change residence anytime, especially given that even the livelihood has changed in the refuge settlements owing to the food policy. A deeper thought should be given to the constitution of these local structures for long-term sustainability and desired impact.
- Community-refugee informal relations greatly contribute to peaceful coexistence and harmony. For example, it was found out that refugees who privately sought to befriend community members could easily find land for cultivation, some of them for free as it was given on friendly grounds.
- The use of existing community structures is very beneficial to the success of the project, its sustainability and ownership after the funding period. This is was observed as the leaders in the beneficiary communities in all the three settlements testified that either KRC, WORUDET, or CESCRA have helped them a great deal in understanding human

rights, gender-based violence and conflict resolution. This was a good sign that the concept of using existing structures during implementation was considered paramount.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider addressing the land question in the next phases of the project because with the change of the food policy concerning refugees, especially now that those who are not physically disabled or elderly cannot be given food, they will look for where to grow food and this will increase pressure on land in the refugee hosting communities.
- Integrate more on-the-ground community members like middle-age women and men alongside the youth and elected leaders in the capacity building activities. This will help in ensuring sustainability even if the youth or elected leaders change residence owing to mobility factors.
- Extend the intervention to more spaces both within the zones where it is being implemented and the adjacent ones where there is need. This will help to avoid potential inter-zonal conflicts or inter-community conflicts whereby some communities will feel marginalized by beneficial interventions.
- Give the beneficiaries further training especially the paralegals and local leaders. Specifically, more capacity building is needed in conflict resolution and trauma healing, because the paralegals who participated in the FGDs testified that they needed more skills in dealing with complicated conflicts and psycho social cases.
- Increase the number of initiatives that encourage and facilitate informal interactions between refugees and host communities for purposes of relationship building so that they feel and experience the benefits of community building.
- Promote gender equality especially among the resource persons whose capacity the project is trying to build. Particularly, increase the number of men in Palabek as well as increasing the number of women in Bidi Bidi and Rhino in all project activities.
- There are more refugees coming in every other time and they are bound to experience cultural shocks. There is need to include a component for cross-cultural communication in the intervention, specifically designed to prevent cultural shocks and easily integrate in the communities.

CASE STORIES

The following are some of the stories shared by the project beneficiaries from across the project settlements:

1. “The trainings that I attended by KRC and YOLUDET in CASE management, mediations, conducting community dialogues and attaining counselling skills, have enabled me to deal with one of the complicated cases in my community here at Palabek Gem. The issue was concerned with gender-based violence in the family. One man, among the host communities committed suicide as a result of misunderstandings with his wife over money access. It so happened that the woman was earning money from sale of agricultural produce and sometimes provided manual labour for pay and she earned some money. Her husband on the other hand would not work hard but liked alcohol. He therefore often asked his wife to give him money so that he could go and take some alcohol in the company of other men. His wife unfortunately consistently declined to honour the man’s request. Consequently, the man habitually quarrelled with his wife over her refusal to give him money for taking alcohol. The man would never the less regularly visit the bar and take alcohol after all. Unfortunately, at one time man drunk a lot of alcohol and later committed suicide. Given that the neighbours always heard them quarrel, they concluded that it was this woman that had led her husband to commit suicide so they wanted to kill her too. As a local leader, and the paralegal in this community, I managed to intervene to stop the mob justice against this woman. The woman had disclosed to me the real source of the conflict between her and her husband. The source of the conflict between her and her husband as the money she had kept away from him for drinking. After the woman refused to give him the money, he was too angry and he went to drink and later because of anger and too much drinking he committed suicide. The family and community members were not aware of the cause of the issues that led the man to commit suicide. I was able to calm them down and mediate the family and community members who were bent on stoning the woman and the commotion ceased. At this time, we were able to call the police to intervene in the matter because the man had already taken his life. The police took charge and later the man was buried. I managed to convene a mediation meeting for the clan leaders, family members and some key community members to be able to dialogue and resolve the matter. The woman was given the opportunity to express herself among the clan leaders and family members about the source of the conflict. The matter was resolved amicably and the woman now the widow remained in the home. From this background, as women from this community we are able to begin an association known as, BER BEDO EYEKUC (PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE). The association is using drama to sensitize the communities around about peaceful coexistence, gender-based violence among other issues concerning the host communities and refugees. (Alice from Palabek Gem)
2. Before KRC started these interventions, there were a lot of conflicts originating from the land issues where family members would not agree before renting land to the refugees. This could lead to multiple renting by the same family members. Given that, KRC and her partners have conducted a number of dialogue meetings that involved both members from the host communities and the refugees, we have been able to come

out with measures to reduce the conflict. “It was indeed heart breaking that family members from the host communities were mistreating us by charging us double price on the plots of land then after paying other members of the family would demand to be paid as the rightful owners of the same plot of land. As result of having dialogue meetings with the host communities, it has given us the opportunity of being able to share about these issues and find solutions. We are thankful to KRC that the meetings are continuing because these dialogue meetings help refugees to come to understanding with the members of the host communities that before the sale of the plot of land, all family members should be present at the time of renting the land. During the renting of the plots of land we were encouraged that local leaders from both sides should be present but also now through dialogue meetings, we were able to agree that plot renting agreements should be made among the two parties both the refugees and the members of the host communities that rent the plot of land to us refugees.”(Refugee from Yangani Settlement, Zone 5).

3. The project offered a platform where the paralegals are able to mediate land cases, which has improved the instance of coexistence among the two communities of the host communities and refugees. Before the project, members of the both communities did not have flexible platforms where they could share their differences, conflicts and challenges. The response that came as a result of lacking platform were conflicts which would not be resolved. Today, paralegals are doing a great work in both the communities and refugee settlements to mediate land cases, and most of the cases have been resolved. For instance, one of the paralegals has been able to mediate the land cases that were existing before the implementation of the project by KRC. She has been able to mediate at least 47/48 land cases between the refugees and the host communities. It is only one cases that needed referral to other authorities which she and follow up is being made to resolve it.
4. The peaceful coexistence project by KRC has proved a platform for leaders to have dialogues with their communities, especially to dialogue on issues that have been the source of conflict for so long. In the dialogues that were conducted by KRC involving local leaders together to share information and/or dialogue, a number of issues have been identified as sources of conflicts in the communities. The dialogue meetings have been platforms where leaders from both the host communities and refugees have been able to share information concerning the emerging conflict rotating around land issues. As a result, now, leaders from both communities are able to engage each other in handling and resolving the land cases. It was also realized that the local leaders are sensitizing the public on land issues by using the radio talk show, one of the local leads in Palabek Ogil reported. One of the respondents reported that; “the land issues are very sensitive, as a result through the interventions by KRC, the local leaders both communities, elders and RWCs, church leaders are now able to be invited and get involved in land negotiations. As we speak now, land conflicts among our communities are reducing. However, we need more trainings as leaders especially on how to mediate more on the complicated issues in our communities.”

5. My name is **Agwabu Animu**, I am **78 years**, I come from Odranga Village, Okoyo Parish, Ariwa Sub County, and we are neighboring Yangani Refugee settlement. I am one of the members from the host communities, I have benefited from the community dialogue meetings that have been conducted by KRC especially encouraging us to live together in peace with the refugees who are our brothers and sisters who are homeless. In the meeting that I attended we were taught on how we need to have respect for humanity, this teaching touched my heart and I was filled with mercy. From that time, I decided to give my land for free to the refugees to do some farming where they can grow food to feed their families. As you can see, I am an old woman and I have a big piece of land which I cannot manage to cultivate now, so I decided to give this land to the refugees to grow their crops. At the moment, 30 refugee families are growing their crops in my land. We normally share with the refugees, they informed me on how the food ration from OPM was giving them has reduced, I was filled with mercy. Sharing my land with the refugees gives me happiness in my heart as an old woman and for me this is real coexistence that KRC was teaching us in the meeting. As a point of appreciation, refugees also share with me food after receiving their food ration but also when they harvest, they also give me some food. As a result of this act, other members from the host communities have started emulating me to also give land for free their land to the refugees to grow food such that they can be able to feed their families since the food rations are reducing from time to time.