

## 2. Methodology

The methodology consisted of three dynamics:

- i. Document review
- ii. Qualitative survey
- iii. Analysis

The study benefits from a comprehensive document review that is shared for the whole set of studies conducted for the World Bank and the AC. The document review included three categories of documentation: (i) project documentation; (ii) comparative research and evaluation for TDRP countries, and (iii) comparative studies across DDR particularly those pertaining to reintegration.

### 2.1 Sample and community characteristics

This study's sample of reporters was purposively selected from the 410 reporters surveyed by NCG Dk for the quantitative study: Reporter Reintegration and Community Dynamics, which was conducted concurrent with this qualitative study. The quantitative study gauged the degree to which reporters are reintegrated nationally and the experience of their communities in the processes of return and reintegration of reporters. It surveyed reporters and community members across the following dynamics of reintegration: (i) basic demographic indicators; (ii) housing, food security and personal security; (iii) economic issues; (iv) social capital, and (v) experience of DDR processes. For the purposes of selecting a sample of reporters that represented successful, moderately successful and unsuccessful reintegration, 23 reporters were selected

primarily by their responses to questions in the quantitative survey about: (i) their economic reintegration; (ii) their social reintegration, and (iii) their perceptions of their own reintegration.

The sample from this study was drawn from the following locations:

Town/ Settlement	District	Region	Sub- Region
Kitgum	Kitgum	Northern	Acholi
Gulu	Gulu	Northern	Acholi
Koboko	Koboko	Northern	West Nile
Yumbe	Yumbe	Northern	West Nile

All locations are in the Northern Region where the main rebel groups have been the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the West Nile Bank Front (WNBFB). As noted above, in development parameters the northern region is severely challenged. It is generally accepted that the region remains trapped in a disparity in poverty and development with the rest of Uganda, and that the legacy of abductions, violence and internal displacement continues to challenge the health and development of the communities there.

Interviews were conducted over a two weeks period (19th August 2011 to 4th September 2011) in Kitgum, Gulu, Koboko and Yumbe districts in Uganda (see 2.1.2). A total of 23 reporters were interviewed – 12 males and 11 females. Interviews were semi-structured, lasted between 45-120 minutes and a female interpreter translated during the interview. In a quarter of the interviews, return interviews were conducted for verification purposes and to explore issues of experiences during conflict and family problems after return with a focus on barriers to reintegration.

The first part of the interviews was recorded and focused on the reporters' description of their process of demobilization and obtaining their Amnesty Certificate, escape and returning home, reception by families and neighbors, feelings at different periods since obtaining amnesty and their positions as member of families and communities. During the second part of the session, there was no digital recording and the interview took the form of a more open conversation touching upon delicate issues such as sexual violence and abduction. The interviews highlight differentiated processes of reintegration across the 23 interviewees. The reporters have faced and continue to face diverse challenges influenced by their age, gender, former armed group and disability (both physical and psychological) and their reintegration is constrained by structural lack of economic development and conditions of profound poverty in the areas of settlement.

## 2.2 Armed groups

It is important to draw attention to key characteristics of the sample group and next situate the group within the context of key characteristics of the communities in which the reporters live. The sample consists of roughly one third WNBF reporters and two thirds LRA reporters.

For many WNBF reporters the path to amnesty has been long and has mainly consisted of a pattern of formal demobilization followed by receipt of amnesty 10 to 15 years later during the AC's work to reach demobilized reporters without amnesty during the UgDRP (2008-2011). Most WNBF reporters volunteered to join the armed group, and were on the whole older than the LRA reporters when joining, hence they were further along their life trajectory when enlisting. This implies the life trajectory was more clearly defined, hence easier to return to. In addition to this, the idea of volunteering implies the time of joining is

controlled by the reporter so they are able to put their family and economic affairs in order before joining up or in some cases take their families with them. This enables a systematic approach for the maintaining of the kinship, social relations and economic affairs during their absence, which makes it easier to return to the homestead when leaving the conflict. These decisions could affect the capital available for sustaining the reporter upon return. For instance, surplus livestock could be sold, decisions to store seed rather than plant seed could be made and acreage of land cultivated could be reduced.

WNBF reporters engaged with the formal amnesty process after sensitization from community leaders and it appears that some were motivated by the principle of amnesty and some by the prospect of obtaining reinsertion payments.<sup>4</sup> Field team interactions with WNBF reporters were characterized by well-functioning information channels, and turn-out by entire families of WNBF reporters to attend the consultations for all studies. These observations and the findings from other reintegration surveys indicated that that in general WNBF are well reintegrated in their community. As such for WNBF reporters many of the indicators of imperfect social and economic reintegration are more symptomatic of development challenges than of failed reintegration.

All LRA reporters are spontaneously self demobilized or captured by the UPDF or DRC forces during military exercises against the rebel group. At some time all of the LRA reporters consulted during the survey have engaged in battles and ambushes with the UPDF, in Uganda, DRC or Sudan. LRA reporters tend to carry the physical and psychological sequels of the war experience, which for some are sufficiently invalidating that conducting regular livelihood activities is compromised. The LRA reporters in our sample were children when they were abducted and incorporated into the rebel group. Around half of the sample stayed in captivity for a prolonged period and the brutality of the fighting has left several with severe physical sequels. These characteristics match findings from other studies.<sup>5</sup>

4 The UgDRP Phase II contained a reinsertion component which sought to give amnesty and reinsertion assistance to reporters who demobilized between 2006 and 2008 and had spent the requisite minimum time in rebellion.

5 For example, SWAY 2006

Half of the LRA reporters had returned between 2003 and 2005, and the other half more recently in 2009-10. All have gone through formal demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration process upon return. LRA reporters tend to be particularly fearful of re-abduction and some have been abducted multiple times by the rebel group. This has lasting effects on the perception of safety and trust by the reporters.<sup>6</sup>

## 2.3 Environment

As seen above, the sample was drawn from the reporters in the towns of Kitgum, Gulu, Koboko and Yumbe; however these are not the points of residence of all the reporters. The location of the home of the reporters (and the migration pattern if any) are contextual issues that can affect the reintegration of reporters. The sample in this study does not have a significant migration pattern. Only 6 of the 23 reporters migrated and only once each but it is evident that that the migration rates are higher in the unsuccessfully reintegrated reporters. Thus 17 of the 23 reporters ended up in the original area (most likely the homestead) from which they departed when volunteering or being abducted. Regarding place of residence, it is documented that reporters in peri-urban and urban locations near Kampala present particular indicators of poor social and economic reintegration and have the lowest social capital of any group of reporters when collated by location. However, it is also documented that reporters in isolated rural homesteads have greater difficulty becoming financial stable than reporters in peri-urban locations where, for example, challenges such as access to markets and the condition of transport links are not as significant.<sup>7</sup> Some of the sample reflects this analysis but the challenges or drivers to their reintegration are more complex and multifaceted than location alone. However there is a correspondence between location and successful reintegration.<sup>8</sup> The remainder of

the sample consists of two reporters resident in towns (both Kitgum) who had never shifted, one reporter resident in a peri-urban location (on the outskirts of Gulu) and eighteen who live in rural settlements.

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6 It is documented that 66.8% of reporters have high trust in people in their community compared to 66.7% of community members. 13.7% of reporters identify low trust compared to 17.3% of community members. This is the biggest variance across the assessment of trust and solidarity. For female reporters, 54.8% of them trust people to a high degree, compared to 58.8% of female community members. When examined by mean score, LRA and ADF reporters trust people in the community least, a finding which corresponds to the tendency for LRA and ADF to socialize less with people outside their gender and age, suggesting that these groups of reporters have trust issues affecting their wider reintegration. This is also a behavioral symptom of trauma following prolonged conflict. NCG 2011 (b) *Reporter Reintegration and Community Dynamics Survey*. Dr. Anthony Finn et al.

7 (ibid)

8 Of the sample two reporters are resident in isolated rural homesteads, one male LRA reporter near Pukonyo Oguru in Gulu district and the other a female LRA reporter in Ladek Okwok in Agago district. Both of these reporters are encountering difficulties reintegrating. In the case of the male reporter who returned to where he grew up his economic reintegration challenges are related to limited kinship networks and to restricted access to assets including traditional knowledge. This reporter spent his entire reinsertion assistance on hired labor to build him a hut because as he identified, he was abducted at such a young age he had not received the traditional knowledge from his family on how to build a dwelling. In particular this 27 year old male is dependent upon his father who lost most of the family land through unregulated division. His social reintegration is challenged by an absolute lack of trust in the community, continuous fear for his personal safety including a fear of his neighbors and a perception that he has no future prospects in employment, education or reintegration as he defines it. The female reporter is highly marginalized and her economic reintegration challenges include very limited and dysfunctional kinship networks, chaotic personal life and significantly changed life circumstances while in captivity as a result of trauma and exclusion because of time in the bush. Her social reintegration is restricted because of the nature of the restrictions on her economic reintegration and chaotic personal life with multiple partners and four children from different fathers. It is also challenged by her history of stigmatization and identification branding as being 'Chen' (possessed, in this instance by a river spirit but 'Chen' can also be understood as a cultural signifier that her behavior is not befitting the cultural norm or the social moral code). Identification as possessed suggests that the reporter may have dissociative symptoms and experienced multiple traumatic events, which is likely in this individual and constitutes a further barrier to reintegration. See for example Duijl et al (2010) for further examination of possession and mental health.