

1. Overview of the Analysis of Reporters and Community Reintegration

Reporters and civilians in Uganda are successfully reintegrated. This outcome is central to the efficacy of complex multi-dimensional peace and stability interventions in Uganda and is a foundation upon which effective development programming can be implemented in the future. In DDR programming the lens of four dimensions of reintegration (factional, political, economic, and social) can be applied to assess whether or not there has been successful demobilization and reintegration.

- The factional dimension requires that command structures have been broken down. The degree to which this has occurred is measured through the extent to which reporters have broken social ties to their commanders and co-fighters and by examining the nature of those ties.
- The political dimension requires that reporters have acquired faith in democracy and in the democratic structures of the state. The degree to which political reintegration has occurred is measured through the extent to which reporters resort to democratic or civil means for resolving disputes and the degree to which they have faith in the workings of the state in principle.
- The economic dimension requires that reporters can successfully generate income or a livelihood through legitimate means. The degree to which economic reintegration has occurred is measured in depth through the extent to which reporters can engage in le-

gitimate economic activities and their level of income and food security.

- The social dimension requires that reporters and community are reconciled. The degree to which it has occurred is measured through an analysis of the acceptance of reporters and an in depth analysis of aspects of social inclusion and social capital.

The *degree of success* of all four dimensions is measured through the comparative analysis of demographic, factional, political, economic and social indicators of reporters and community members. The findings of the study that there is successful reintegration of reporters and civilians is not just a broad programmatic achievement; rather it is also testimony to the resilience, receptiveness, and inclusiveness of communities and families and the fortitude and persistence of reporters to integrate on their return.

The reintegration of reporters and communities has had considerable successes but still faces some challenges. A core success is the good social reintegration of reporters and community that can be observed across a wide spectrum of indicators ranging from social inclusion to stigma, from social capital to acceptance and empowerment. A key challenge is that overall reporters still lag behind the community in economic wealth and activity however, this is not equal with concluding that economic reintegration has not occurred.

The study methodology of surveying reporters and community members has allowed some at risk sub-

groups to be identified and profiled within both reporter and community samples. Within the reporter sample, the vulnerable sub-groups are female reporters. When cross-tabulated across armed groups, the vulnerable sub-groups are LRA female reporters and youth. Within the community sample, the vulnerable sub-group is female community members.

The cross analysis of female reporters and female community members reveals important dynamics of vulnerability and social exclusion. Female reporters, while vulnerable in the reporter group, have benefited significantly from reintegration activities, particularly education and training, to the extent that in many economic indicators they outperform their female counterparts in the community. Women in the community are a vulnerable sub-group and are constrained by familial structures and their roles in the family. They have a diverse set of livelihood strategies to address the everyday challenges of supporting their families that exceeds those of female reporters. Nevertheless they are constrained by education and training in a manner in which female reporters are not. The disparity in favor of female reporters over female community members is absent from the understanding of both the reporter and community sample. This makes the political, social and economic challenges faced by female community members unusual in this study: these challenges appear specific to them and go unrecognized by all other respondents in the survey.

The study also tracked the achievements of the 31-40 year old subgroup of reporters and community members, which includes individuals who ought to be most economically established and economically productive. By comparatively analyzing the achievements of this sub-group, it is clear that the principal challenge to reporters and community as outlined above (that overall reporters still lag behind the community in economic wealth and activity) is a symptom of the extent to which reporters are challenged with economically catching-up with the community after the lost years in rebellion. Reporters are consistently below community members concerning basic indicators of poverty and wealth (food security, housing, clothing, household finances) as captured in the self perception of reporters and community members when they measure their own placement between the poorest and most wealthy in society (annex 1 - table A33). On a nine step ladder where the first step represents

the poorest and the ninth the richest, reporters place themselves somewhere between step two and step three in all indicators. Community members place themselves between step three and four. Furthermore this reporter self perception accurately reflects the understanding of the community and reporters of where each other stand, and of the shared understanding of the challenges facing reporters as they work to make up the time lost and regain economic parity with the community.

The study is a snapshot of factional, political, economic and social reintegration. It is based on an understanding of reintegration as a dynamic process that continues after conflict, security and stabilization and into the wider development context. Consequently the process of reintegration persists longer than the DDR process and is not complete at the end of the DDR process. The reintegration in DDR concentrates on dealing with the immediate post-conflict security problem, i.e. potential instability when reporters are without economic opportunities on a level far worse than other community members. The reintegration process builds on disarmament and reinsertion, and supports reporters to become participants in society and in peace building, and as such is a foundation for building sustainable communities. This study documents how the reintegration challenges are a point of transformation where the marginalization and development issues of vulnerable sub-groups are most likely to be addressed by strong programs of income generating activities (IGA), livelihood, urban poverty and community driven development that are unilaterally available, but which target the vulnerable sub-groups in this study. As such 'reintegration' is transitioning from being part of a DDR process to being a development issue based principally on economic development and ensuring the social inclusion of marginal groups in the Ugandan society.

Unique challenges: female community members and female reporters

Throughout the study female reporters and female community members are consistently the more disadvantaged gender. The study finds that in comparison to male community members and across most demographic, social and economic indicators, female community members seriously underperform and are more at risk of isolation and social exclusion. The

study also finds that female reporters fare similarly when compared to male reporters. When comparing female community members to female reporters however, female reporters often outperform female community members in some key development areas (i) land ownership; (ii) vocational training; (iii) household finances including breaking-even at the end of each month, and (iv) social networks. A major conclusion is that female reporters have been effectively targeted by vocational training since demobilization and that they are more skilled than their female community counterparts (see Section 5). Both healthy and disabled female reporters aged 18- 30 years are receiving skills training more than any other gender-age cohort, including all males. Female reporters in this category show the highest level of training and outperform their community counterparts.

Regarding land ownership, just under half of female reporters identify that they have a title deed or proof of ownership for their own land compared to one third of female community members. Regarding food security, female reporters are more prone to hunger than their counterparts in the community; however they do not represent a large proportion of the total group.⁵ In literacy, female community members outstrip female reporters: fully literate female community members are twice the proportion of female reporters. However, as noted above female reporters are far more skilled than their equivalent female community members. This is reflected in how female community members consider education or lack of skills as their main barrier to reintegration whereas half as many female reporters identify this barrier. Female reporters are more concerned by health and access to credit. Re-

garding personal credit and savings nearly all female community members belong to savings associations compared to just over half of female reporters.

As is seen throughout the study, female community members are more likely to be the functional household head than female reporters with responsibility for feeding the household. They engage in credit and savings as essential strategies to ensure that family needs are met. However, this indicates the degree to which female community members are combining frequent borrowing and saving to maintain the lowest level of food and income security in the sample. In household finances female community members are far less likely to break even than female reporters. If a small proportion of female reporters has money left at the end of the month, no female community members do. This builds a picture of female community members' relative disadvantage to male community members and their financial disadvantage to female reporters.

Women in the community participate less in formal gatherings than males. They are more isolated and more at risk in terms of personal security, and so more conscious of safety and security issues than males. Despite having similar social network challenges to female community members, female reporters are likely to be more secure socially, economically and in how they perceive the security of the external environment.

5 See also Section 2.3