



Women carrying mangoes to the market in Gulu

## 2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Data sources and types

Primary and secondary data were collected and utilized in this study.

Primary information was collected from a total of 121 ex-combatants who had migrated, 20 other ex-combatants, and four community focal points (CFPs) that serve as a local resource and advisor to returning ex-combatants. Additional primary data was collected as part of a concurrent, but separate, study on children associated with fighting forces in Uganda also commissioned by the TDRP/World Bank, and used to inform and validate the questionnaire and analysis for this study.

Secondary data was collected from print or electronic versions of journals, books, reports or other published sources. The secondary sources yielded information and statistical data on:

- Theoretical dissertations on the causes of migration amongst war-affected populations globally;
- Reports from organizations that conduct work in the field of war and migration;
- TDRP scoping study on migration of ex-combatants conducted in March 2011;
- Interview schedules from studies conducted in Uganda and on related topics in other regions;
- Official documents covering government policies related to war and migration; and
- Websites regarding war and migration in the Great Lakes Region and around the world.

### 2.2 Research setting

Interviews were conducted in five of the six districts in which the Ugandan Amnesty Commission (AC) had active Demobilization and Resettlement Team (DRT) offices, which facilitated sample formation. Final sample distribution of ex-combatant migrants was as follows (Table 1):

Table 1 - Sample distribution of ex-combatant migrants (actual) by DRT/Sex

DRT Region	Male	Female	Total
<i>Arua</i>	14	0	14
<i>Gulu</i>	3	8	11
<i>Kampala (Central)</i>	56	18	74
<i>Kitgum</i>	3	4	7
<i>Mbale</i>	11	4	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>121</b>

### 2.3 Study population

The target population for this study was ex-combatants who had migrated away from their community of origin since demobilization. The Ugandan Amnesty Commission refers to ex-combatants that have completed the Amnesty process as “reporters” and thus that terminology was used in the study.

## Migration of Ex-Combatants in Uganda

Inclusion criteria for participants:

- 18 years of age or older
- Registered and verified ex-combatant with the Ugandan government (possessing proof of status of “reporter”<sup>1</sup>)
- Relocated on a permanent, long-term temporary, or long-distance oscillating/commuting basis to a community other than an individual’s community of origin (including either their community of birth or the community in which they were recruited/abducted prior to mobilization).

The sample represented seven rebel groups, which had operated in Uganda including the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), West Nile Bank Front (WNBF), Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF), Uganda National Rescue Front 2 (UNRF II), Force Obote Back Army (FOBA) and the National Resistance Army (NRA)

Four CFPs were also interviewed for the purposes of building background and context, and data verification.

### 2.4 Sampling, size and methods

The sample design included interviews with ex-combatants representing a variety of rebel groups, regions and both genders. To achieve this, a total of 145 interviews were completed in five regions across Uganda. This included 141 ex-combatants, with 20 interviews excluded from the final sample as the individuals’ migration trajectory was later determined not to match the sample criteria, leading to a final sample of 121 ex-combatant migrants. The research team encountered difficulties in some regions in finding qualified participants, especially in Gulu and Kitgum towns where instances of migration among available ex-combatants was much lower than in other regions. Gulu and Kitgum numbers were additionally impacted because several ex-combatants had joined their family in an IDP camp immediately upon their return, and have since moved with their family back to their original communities. It was determined by the research team that this movement should not be included in the sample as migration. Occasional miscommunication among staff, volunteers, interviewees and researchers regarding this study’s migration criteria also played a role in diminished usable sample numbers.

Table 2 (below) lists the distribution of all interviews from each of the DRT regions:

**Table 2 – Total interview distribution by DRT**

<b>DRT Region</b>	<b>Ex-combatant migrants</b>	<b>Ex-combatant non-migrants</b>	<b>Community Focal Points (CFPs)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<i>Arua</i>	14	2	-	16
<i>Gulu</i>	11	8	1	20
<i>Kampala (Central)</i>	74 (3 of whom were also CFPs)	4	-	78
<i>Kitgum</i>	7	6	3	16
<i>Mbale</i>	15	-	-	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>145</b>

In order to locate eligible participants for this study, the research team utilized the resources and expertise of AC staff in the above five regions, who in turn, relied upon CFPs in outlying communities to identify and retrieve eligible participants. Transport costs were reimbursed to all participants, including CFPs.

### **2.5 Data collection techniques**

Primary data was obtained using qualitative methods, namely structured interviews. Interviews were conducted face-to-face by two World Bank consultants conducting the research in English or through an interpreter. Interpreters were CFP volunteers, Amnesty Commission staff, or other reporters. A semi-structured questionnaire was administered to all 141 participants, the first nine of which were pilot interviews but included in the final sample given that the content of the questionnaire was not significantly altered. Interviews were conducted at Amnesty Commission offices in Gulu, Kampala, Kitgum and Mbale, and at an ex-combatant association in Arua.

Each of the face-to-face interview sessions lasted 30-45 minutes for English speakers, and 45-60 minutes for translated interviews. Each interview began with the completion of a short worksheet to collect biographical data, which was also used in determining eligibility for this study. The interview schedule itself was structured to follow the natural migration trajectory of ex-combatants in Uganda, beginning at demobilization, moving through the various locations the individual had resided, and ending with present circumstance and future aspirations.

The questionnaire can be found in *Appendix B* of this report.

### **2.6 Data analysis techniques**

Study participants were identified by an assigned number, not by name or any other personal characteristic. This participant number was used to track paper and computer interview data.

The interviewer took a loose transcript of responses during each interview session. The interviewer was careful to record any key quotes verbatim. In fact, most interviews were transcribed entirely verbatim. Audio devices were found to be largely distracting and consequently were not used.

Following each session, the research team populated a central matrix in Microsoft Excel® with questionnaire responses. Qualitative data was coded and the matrix was expanded to include emerging themes and issues throughout the data collection process, such as push and pull factors for migration. Key quotes were also included in a dedicated column within the matrix. Concurrently, the research team edited a working outline of the report based on new information gathered.

After all data had been collected, the research team used SPSS Statistics 17.0<sup>ii</sup> to run descriptive statistics and produce frequency tables and means reports. The aim of performing the additional quantitative analysis was to validate existing findings and support initial analyses made from this study's qualitative data.

## **2.7 Limitations and other challenges**

### **2.7a Date/time of interviews**

Interviews were mostly conducted on weekdays during business hours. Participants often had to wait for up to several hours to get interviewed and then received a small stipend to cover the cost of transport to and from the interview. As a result, those who had steady employment might have been less likely to be: a) free to travel and wait many hours for this study, b) interested in telling their story, or c) still in contact with the AC if they are economically and socially reintegrated.

### **2.7b Single-source coordination of interviews**

The Amnesty Commission organized all interviews. Therefore, it is presumed that these individuals are still in touch with the Commission to some extent, which might increase the percentage of the sample who are spending time near the Commission waiting for additional assistance to become available. It might also be assumed that those harboring significant fear of the government may be less likely to interact with the Amnesty Commission, a Ugandan governmental office.

### **2.7c Single-source recruitment of participants**

To collect interviewees, Amnesty Commission staff contacted the CFPs who identify and retrieve participants. While very efficient, this method of recruitment may have significantly limited the pool of potential participants, and consequently, the breadth of interview responses.

### **2.7d Non-reporters**

As of August 2011 in Uganda, there were reportedly thousands of ex-combatants who had not yet reported or may never report to the Amnesty Commission, due to a number of reasons such as no perceived net benefit of reporting, deep distrust of government, strong desire to completely disassociate themselves with their rebel past, fear of consequences of people knowing, etc. While this study focused on the migration experiences of ex-combatants whose status could be documented, there remains a potentially sizable population of ex-combatant migrants whose experiences are unrepresented and unaccounted for in this study.

### **2.7e Location of interviews**

All interviews were conducted in major cities or large district capitals limiting access of those living elsewhere.

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<sup>i</sup> To receive *reporter* status in Uganda, an individual must have participated in an armed rebellion from 1986 to the present, renounced and abandoned all involvement with that rebellion, registered with the pertinent government agencies, and be 12 years of age or older. Some reporters included in this study had not yet reported at time of interview but were subsequently registered and verified by the Uganda Amnesty Commission following the interview.

<sup>ii</sup> (2010). IBM SPSS Data Collection 17.0. Chicago, IL: IBM, corp.