



IN BRIEF



EVALUATION OF WOMEN LEAD AND BENEFIT FROM PEACE AND SECURITY PROJECT IN UGANDA (2018-2022)

Photo: Coalition for Action (CoACT)

Project description

The program supports the design and delivery of the third National Action Plan in Uganda on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, the UN's resolution on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Funded by the Government of Norway, the program ran for three years, with a budget of 3 million USD.

The program's target outcome is: *More commitments on women, peace and security are implemented by the government and the UN, and more gender equality advocates influence peace and security processes.*

The project delivered capacity building and support to government stakeholders, civil society organizations and community members at the national, district and community levels in Uganda.

Evaluation overview

The evaluation serves to enhance accountability and provide learning and recommendations to inform future programming. The evaluation applied the criteria of: Relevance; Effectiveness; Efficiency and Coherence; Sustainability; Human Rights and Gender Equality; and Impact. Data was collected in February 2022 from a total of 131 respondents.

Key achievements

The project supported the development and adoption of the costed NAP III on UNSCR 1325 in March 2021. This enhanced the normative framework for WPS, which is expected to support lasting peace. The project also supported the development of Local Action Plan (LAP) in six districts, which will be the basis for advancing the

WPS agenda. The project did this through the following achievements:

- Secured commitment from government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and from civil society organisations on WPS and equipped Members of Parliament and staff from justice, peace and security institutions with skills and tools on WPS legislation and programming.
- Strengthened capacities of community members, religious and traditional leaders on WPS and secured their support on WPS.
- Established peace committees which provided a platform for women to advance peace and security issues in their communities.
- Equipped 510 women from civil society organizations with skills and tools to advocate, monitor and report on the NAP implementation, and to participate in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and resolution initiatives as mediators, negotiators, and experts.
- Supported 68 Savings Cooperatives Societies with startup capital, which enabled 9,073 individuals (including widows and female combatants) to start a range of businesses.

Baraazas, community dialogue sessions

The program also supported *baraazas*, community dialogue sessions. Through these, communities managed to address land conflict issues and successfully advocated for the integration of land conflict issues in the Local Action Plan (LAP) on UNSCR 1325.

Conclusions

EFFECTIVENESS and SUSTAINABILITY

The program achieved good results that serve as a basis for advancing the WPS agenda in Uganda (see *key achievements*). However, the results need to be consolidated to be sustainable. This requires:

- strengthening accountability and resource mobilization for NAP III implementation; and
- reinforcing synergies with other stakeholders supporting peace and security efforts; and

RELEVANCE and GENDER & HUMAN RIGHTS

- The program was well designed, aligned to relevant policies and frameworks, and relevant to the context and national priorities.
- For the most part, the program targeted the underlying causes of gender inequality. However, change in the male dominated security sector was limited, as the program was unable to finalize the security sector gender policy with the government. The security sector still has very low female representation.
- The program did not integrate a do no harm approach and strategy to reach vulnerable groups.
- The Program aimed to raise awareness on WPS issues but failed to develop an advocacy strategy and plan.

COHERENCE and EFFICIENCY

- There was strong coherence at the national level, but the program failed to build on potential synergies at the districts and community levels, resulting in duplication and overlap.
- The program delivered most of its planned activities. However, resources allocated were insufficient given the program's level of ambition.

Lessons learned

The evaluation identified the following lessons with significance beyond the program:

1 Sustainability of peace-building projects is more likely when rights-holders are involved from the start, to analyze the context, set priorities and design the project, implement activities, and monitor results.

2 Complexity aware monitoring approaches are needed to track changes in conflict affected

contexts.

3 Active stakeholder engagement is critical to maximize UN Women's contribution to the national development process.

4 Structural issues such as SGBV affect WPS. It is important to work with relevant stakeholders, such as community organizations, to identify and address these structural issues.

Recommendations

OPERATIONAL – ALL PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION 1:

All UN Women projects implemented in conflict affected areas should involve a stakeholder workshop to integrate a *Do No Harm* approach and a *Leave No-one Behind* strategy. This will ensure the project is reaching vulnerable and marginalized groups.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

The Uganda Country Office should strengthen a results culture across all its programs and ensure better use of results information for course correction and reporting. Sub-offices need to be more involved in monitoring and evaluation.

STRATEGIC – WPS PROGRAMMING

RECOMMENDATION 3:

The Uganda Country Office should conduct a national mapping of all WPS stakeholders. This should be then used as a basis for a strategy to ensure greater coherence between its programming and those of other stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION 4:

The Uganda Country Office should consider funding follow-on activities:

- Localization and resource mobilization for the implementation of the NAP III;
- Strengthening district and community level coordination mechanisms;
- Building media capacity to report on WPS issues;
- Supporting the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs (MoDVA) to finalize its gender policy; and
- Gender-responsive approaches that address social norm change and vulnerable groups' specific needs in accessing justice.