

**CONFLICT OVER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: TENSIONS BETWEEN
REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN ADJUMANI DISTRICT, NORTHERN
UGANDA**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, hereby declare that this research is my original work, and has not been submitted to any other university for examination.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	ii
APPROVAL.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS	xii
LIST OF ACRONYMS.....	xiii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
ABSTRACT.....	xiv
CHAPTER ONE	1
GENERAL INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background to the Study.....	1
1.1.1 Policy and Governance Framework.....	3
1.1.2 Conceptual and Contextual Background	4
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	7
1.3 Purpose of the Study	8
1.3.1 Specific Objectives	8
1.4 Research Questions.....	9
1.5 Theoretical Frameworks	9
1.5.1 Resource Scarcity Theory (Thomas Homer-Dixon, 1999).....	9
1.5.2 Environmental Peacebuilding Theory (Ken Conca & Geoffrey Dabelko, 2002).....	10
1.5.3 Integration of the two Theories.....	11
1.6 Conceptual Framework.....	11
Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework Diagram	12
1.7 Scope of the Study	13

1.7.1 Geographical Scope	13
1.7.2 Time Scope.....	13
1.7.3 Content Scope	14
1.8 Justification for the Study	14
1.9 Significance of the Study	14
CHAPTER TWO	16
LITERATURE REVIEW	16
2.0 Introduction.....	16
2.1 Uganda Refugee Response Plan (2022–2025): A Critical Review	17
2.2 Refugees and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) Framework (2017).....	19
2.3 Factors Contributing to Environmental Resource-Related Tensions and Conflicts Between Refugees and Host Communities.....	21
2.3.1 Global Perspective on Environmental Resource-Related Tensions.....	21
2.3.2 Environmental Resource Conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa.....	22
2.3.3 Environmental Resource Conflicts in East Africa	23
2.3.4 Environmental Resource Conflicts in Uganda.....	23
2.3.5 Environmental Resource Conflicts in Northern Uganda	24
2.3.6 Environmental Resource Conflicts in Adjumani District	25
2.4 Socio-Economic Impacts of Environmental Resource-Related Conflicts on Refugees and Host Communities	26
2.4.1 Global perspective on the Socio-Economic impacts of Environmental Resource Conflicts.....	26
2.4.2 Socio-Economic impacts in Sub-Saharan Africa.....	27
2.4.3 Socio-Economic impacts in East Africa	27
2.4.4 Socio-Economic impacts in Uganda.....	28
2.4.5 Socio-Economic impacts in Northern Uganda	29
2.4.6 Socio-Economic Impacts in Adjumani District	30
2.4.7 Synthesis and Knowledge Gap	31

2.5 Policies and Interventions addressing Environmental Resource-Related Conflicts Between Refugees and Host Communities.....	31
2.5.1 Global Policy Frameworks for managing Environmental Resource Conflicts.....	31
2.5.2 Regional interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa and East Africa	32
2.5.3 Uganda’s National Policies and Interventions	33
2.5.4 Humanitarian and Development interventions in Northern Uganda	34
2.5.5 Policies and interventions in Adjumani District	35
2.5.6 Synthesis of the Literature and Knowledge Gap	36
CHAPTER THREE	37
THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	37
3.0 Introduction.....	37
3.1 Research Philosophy.....	37
3.2 Study approach and Research Design.....	38
3.3 Study Setting.....	38
3.4 Study Population.....	39
3.5 Sampling Procedures	40
3.5.1 Data Saturation.....	40
3.5.2 Sampling techniques/strategies	40
3.5.3 Sampling Process/Procedure.....	40
Fig 2: Sampling Process Summary	42
3.6 Eligibility Criteria	42
3.6.1 Inclusion Criteria	42
3.6.2 Exclusion Criteria	43
3.7 Data Collection Methods	43
3.8 Data Collection Instruments/Tools	44
3.9 Quality control methods.....	45
3.9.1 Data Quality	45

3.9.2 Trustworthiness of the Study	45
3.9.3 Data Management	46
3.10 Data Analysis Method.....	46
3.11 Ethical Consideration.....	47
3.12 Research findings dissemination Plan	48
3.13 Limitations of the study	49
CHAPTER FOUR.....	50
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	50
4.0. Introduction.....	50
Fig 3: Respondent Demographic Summary.	51
Fig 4: Gender breakdown of Study’s Participants.	51
4.1 Factors Contributing to Environmental Resource-Related Tensions and Conflicts	52
4.1.1 Competition over scarce natural resources	52
4.1.2 Environmental degradation and inadequate resource management.....	58
4.1.3 Inadequate awareness, language barriers and cultural misunderstandings.....	60
4.2 Socio-Economic and social impacts of Environmental Resource-Related Conflicts	62
4.2.1 Disruption of livelihoods and increased poverty	63
4.2.2 Food insecurity, aid reduction and household vulnerability	65
4.2.3 Strained social cohesion, identity and trust.....	66
4.2.4 Safety concerns and gender-based violence.....	67
4.2.5 Education, youth participation and intergenerational relationships.....	68
4.3 Existing Policies, Programmes and Interventions: Strengths and Gaps	69
4.3.1 Government, OPM and the refugee policy framework.....	70
4.3.2 United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the refugee response.....	71
4.3.3 Lutheran World Federation: environment, WASH, energy, livelihoods and peacebuilding	72
4.3.4 Danish Refugee Council: protection, legal assistance and conflict management.....	73

4.3.5 World Food Programme (WFP): food security, self-reliance and livelihoods.....	74
4.3.6 FAO: Agriculture, food systems and environmental sustainability	74
4.3.7 Community-based conflict resolution and peacebuilding.....	75
4.3.8 Environmental restoration and sustainable resource management	76
4.4 Social Dimensions of Refugee-Host Relations.....	78
4.4.1 Shared communities and everyday interaction	78
4.4.2 Gender relations and women’s participation.....	78
4.4.3 Cultural interaction, language and belonging	79
4.5 Policy implementation gaps and limited inclusivity	79
4.6 Researcher’s critical reflection and interpretation	80
4.7 Overall discussion of Interventions and their Effectiveness.....	82
4.8 Synthesis of findings in relation to the Study Objectives	83
CHAPTER FIVE:	84
CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS	84
5.0 Introduction.....	84
5.1 Conclusion	84
5.1.1 The Policy-Implementation Gap.....	85
5.1.2 Re-evaluating humanitarian and development interventions.....	85
5.2. Limitations of the Research.	86
5.3 Implications for Policy, practice, and future research.....	86
5.3.1 Policy Implications	86
5.3.2 Practical Implications.....	87
5.3.3 Implications for future research	90
Dynamics of resource competition and social relations	90
Indigenous and community-based resource management	91
Gender-Specific vulnerabilities and coping strategies.....	91
Cumulative environmental effects of settlements.....	91

Policy alignment and Local Governance	91
References.....	91
LIST OF APPENDICES:	100
Appendix 1: MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING ADJUMANI DISTRICT	100
Appendix 2: MAP OF ADJUMANI DISTRICT SHOWING AYILO (1&2) REFUGEE SETTLEMENT	101
Appendix 3: BUDGET	102
Appendix 4: WORKPLAN:	103
Appendix 5: RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS/TOOLS, VERSION 2.0.	105
APPENDIX 6: PHOTO GALLERY	138
APPENDIX 7: CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS	140

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework Diagram	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Fig 2: Sampling Process Summary	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Fig 3: Respondent Demographic Summary.	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Fig 4: Gender breakdown of Study's Participants.	Error! Bookmark not defined.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Environmental resources: In line with my research topic, these are natural elements like land, water, and forests (wood fuel, and building materials) that sustain life and support human activities like agriculture, industry, and energy. The well-being and survival of refugee populations and their host communities are directly impacted by environmental resources such as water, land, and forests.

Conflict: In line with my study, conflict referred to the social conflicts arising from unequal access to or distribution of environmental resources or from the unequal burden of environmental degradation.

Tension: In this research, tension referred to heightened anxiety, conflict, or competition over scarce resources (water, land, energy) between refugees and host communities, leading to arguments and social strain.

Refugee: According to the UNHCR Convention (1951), a refugee is any person who “*owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his/her nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail him/herself of the protection of that country, or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it*”.

The OAU Convention (1969) further expand the definition of a refugee to include: “*every person who, owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or the whole of his country of origin or nationality, is compelled to leave...*”.

Host Communities: These are Residents in areas sheltering refugees or local communities within 15km radius in Adjumani district that have received and accommodated refugees. They share resources and services, yet often lack control over refugee settlements, potentially affecting integration efforts (UNHCR, 2022).

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADLG -	Adjumani District Local Government
ALC -	Area Land Committee
AU -	African Union
CDO -	Community Development Officer
CRRF -	Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework-UNHCR
DISO -	District Internal Security Officer
FAO -	Food and Agricultural Organization
GCR -	Global Compact on Refugees
LC I -	Local Council One
LCII -	Local Council Two
LCIII -	Local Council Three Chairperson
LCIV -	Chairperson Local Council Five
LG -	Local Government
LWF -	Lutheran World Federations
NDP3 -	National Development Plan3-Uganda
OPM -	Office of the Prime Minister
PDM -	Parish Development Model- Uganda
RDC -	Resident District Commissioner
RDO -	Refugee Desk Officer
ReHoPE-	Refugee and Host Population Empowerment
RWC -	Refugee Welfare Committee
S/CTY -	Sub County
SCs -	Settlement Commandants
T/C -	Town Council
UNHCR-	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UN-SDGs-	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
URHCE -	Uganda Refugee and Host Communities Empowerment
USAID-	United States Agency for International Development

ABSTRACT

This study analysed the complex dynamics of environmental resource-related conflicts between refugees and host communities in Adjumani District, Northern Uganda.

Its general objective was to analyse the extent to which the influx of South Sudanese refugees had created these tensions. Specifically, the research aimed to investigate the factors that contributed to these conflicts, assess their socio-economic impact on both refugee and host populations, and analyze the effectiveness of existing policies and interventions designed to address them.

The study employed a qualitative research design. Data were accurately collected through 8 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), 2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and 31 household interviews conducted with both refugee and host community members. The primary data was complemented by a comprehensive review of relevant secondary literature and policy documents.

Data analysis utilized a thematic approach, incorporating verbatim quotes to capture the real lived experiences and perspectives of the participants.

Findings revealed that intense competition over increasingly scarce environmental resources, particularly land, water, and firewood, exacerbated by environmental degradation and inadequate resource management, significantly fuelled tensions. These conflicts had profound socio-economic consequences, including disrupted livelihoods, increased poverty, strained social cohesion, and heightened safety concerns, particularly for vulnerable women and girls. While various conflict resolution mechanisms and environmental restoration efforts were in place, the study identified critical gaps in policy implementation, resource limitations, and a notable lack of equitable host community involvement, which often led to further resentment.

The study concluded that environmental resource conflicts in Adjumani were complex and deeply affected both refugee and host populations, indicating that current interventions, despite their good intentions, were often insufficient or inequitably applied.

It recommended the urgent need for more inclusive and context-specific policies, equitable resource management practices, and strengthened community-based conflict resolution mechanisms that meaningfully engaged all stakeholders.

A limitation of this research was its specific geographical focus on Adjumani, which might limit the direct generalizability of findings to all refugee-hosting contexts. Future research could explore quantitative measures of resource depletion or long-term impacts of specific policy interventions to build upon these insights.

Keywords: Environmental resources, Conflict, Tension, Refugees, and Host Communities

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter examines the complex dynamics of refugee-host community relations regarding environmental resources in Adjumani District, Northern Uganda. As global forced displacement reaches historic levels due to conflicts and climate disasters, the pressure on hosting environments has intensified (UNHCR, 2025). By analyzing the historical, theoretical, and contextual dimensions of this displacement, this study explores persistent tensions arising from competition over land, water, and forests.

The sudden arrival of large refugee populations creates significant socio-economic and environmental pressures on rural communities. In districts like Adjumani, where both refugees and host communities depend directly on natural ecosystems for survival, resource-based friction has become a critical challenge (UNHCR, 2024; World Bank, 2023). This study analyzes how these tensions affect livelihoods and community relations while assessing existing environmental policies and humanitarian interventions. Ultimately, by tracing refugee settlement history and applying relevant theoretical frameworks, this analysis provides insights to promote sustainable coexistence and equitable resource sharing.

1.1 Background to the Study

Uganda is internationally recognized for its progressive refugee policies, welcoming individuals fleeing conflict and persecution in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa regions (UNHCR, 2024; World Bank, 2023). Unlike countries that restrict refugees to closed camps, Uganda's settlement approach allows refugees to live in open settlements, move freely, access employment, start businesses, and utilize public services alongside hosts (UNHCR, 2024; World Bank, 2023). The government also allocates small plots of land for shelter and subsistence cultivation to promote self-reliance (World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2024). This model has been praised internationally for fostering peaceful coexistence and integration (UNHCR, 2024; World Bank, 2023). However, implementing this model has placed heavy pressure on environmental resources (UNHCR, 2024; World Bank, 2023). In Northern Uganda, both host populations and refugees depend heavily on local forests, water bodies, and agricultural lands, leading to severe ecological strain (UNHCR, 2024; World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2025).

Globally, forced displacement has reached unprecedented levels. By the end of 2024, over 122 million people were forcibly displaced due to conflicts, including refugees, asylum seekers, and IDPs from nations like Syria, South Sudan, and the DRC (UNHCR, 2025). Approximately 73 percent are hosted in developing countries, placing immense pressure on limited resources and fragile ecosystems (UNHCR, 2025). When refugees settle in rural areas, they integrate into landscapes where local hosts depend directly on forests, water, and agricultural lands for survival (UNEP, 2023). The sudden arrival of large populations increases resource demand, resulting in environmental degradation, localized resource scarcity, and local competition (UNEP, 2023). While humanitarian interventions provide immediate relief, they can unintentionally damage ecosystems if long-term environmental sustainability is not integrated into response programs (UNEP, 2023).

Uganda's historical position as a regional haven dates back to World War II, when it resettled approximately 7,000 Polish refugees between 1942 and 1945 in Koja, Masindi, and Nyabyeya (UNHCR, 2023). This legacy continued post-independence with inflows from Rwanda in 1959, Sudan in the 1960s-1970s, and subsequent conflicts in the DRC, Burundi, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia (UNHCR, 2023). The arrival of Eritrean and Somali refugees in the early 1990s introduced a significant urban dimension (UNHCR, 2023). Eritreans fled indefinite military conscription and political repression, while Somalis escaped the collapse of their central government in 1991. A substantial portion settled in urban areas, particularly Kampala and surrounding municipalities like Nansana in Wakiso District, establishing businesses and integrating into the metropolitan economy. This urban refugee experience contrasts with rural, settlement-based displacement, as urban refugees compete primarily for housing, employment, and municipal services rather than agricultural land and forest resources (World Bank, 2023). Nevertheless, both rural and urban refugee populations continue to shape Uganda's socio-economic and environmental landscape (World Bank, 2023).

Uganda's refugee population grew exponentially following the outbreak of civil war in South Sudan in December 2013 (World Bank, 2023). The conflict erupted from political disagreements between President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar, which rapidly escalated into widespread ethnic violence between the Dinka and Nuer communities (World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2025). This violence displaced millions of South Sudanese both internally and across borders (UNHCR, 2025). Due to proximity, open-border policies, and an established protection framework, Uganda became the primary destination (UNHCR,

2025). Between 2013 and 2025, more than one million South Sudanese refugees entered Uganda, making South Sudan the largest source country of refugees in Uganda (UNHCR, 2025). Fleeing armed attacks, killings, sexual violence, destruction of property, and severe food insecurity, refugees arrived in Uganda with virtually no belongings (UNHCR, 2025; OPM, 2024). The majority entered through border points in Adjumani, Lamwo, Koboko, Moyo, and Yumbe districts (OPM, 2024). To accommodate this massive influx, the OPM and humanitarian partners rapidly established settlements, including Ayilo I, Ayilo II, Nyumanzi, Pagirinya, Boroli, Maaji, and Palorinya, transforming Northern Uganda into one of the largest refugee-hosting regions in Africa (OPM, 2024).

By the end of June 2026, Uganda was hosting approximately 2 million refugees and asylum seekers, representing the largest refugee population in Africa and ranking among the top five globally (UNHCR & OPM, 2026). South Sudanese refugees constituted the majority (52.5%), followed by refugees from the DRC (32.8%), Sudan (4.7%), and smaller populations from Somalia, Eritrea, Rwanda, Burundi, and Ethiopia (UNHCR & OPM, 2026). These populations are distributed across thirteen refugee settlements and several urban centers, with Northern Uganda hosting the heaviest concentration due to its direct border with South Sudan (UNHCR & OPM, 2026; World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2024).

1.1.1 Policy and Governance Framework

Uganda's refugee governance framework is widely regarded as a global benchmark (World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2024). The Refugees Act of 2006 and the Refugees Regulations of 2010 guarantee refugees extensive rights, including freedom of movement, the right to work, start businesses, own movable property, and access national health and education services (World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2024). Furthermore, Uganda became one of the first nations to implement the Global Compact on Refugees by adopting the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in 2017 (World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2024). This framework promotes the systematic inclusion of refugees within national development planning and advocates for integrated service delivery that benefits both refugees and host communities (World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2024).

Under Uganda's settlement-based approach, refugee families receive designated plots of land for housing and subsistence farming (World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2024). Rather than being segregated, refugees share public infrastructure with host communities, attending the same schools, utilizing the same health centers, and sharing local roads and water supply systems

(World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2024). To sustain this model, the government's Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) Strategy encourage humanitarian and development organizations to invest concurrently in both refugee settlements and adjacent host communities (UNHCR, 2024).

However, translating this progressive policy into practice reveals major resource-related challenges (UNHCR, 2024). The continuous, large-scale arrival of refugees has placed an unsustainable demand on the limited natural resources of hosting districts (UNHCR, 2024). Crucially, the land allocated for refugee settlements is held by local host communities under customary land tenure systems (UNHCR, 2024; UNEP, 2023). Shared water points must supply both populations, while local forests serve as the primary source of firewood, charcoal, construction timber, and medicinal plants (UNEP, 2023). This combined demand has accelerated environmental degradation, resulting in water scarcity, rapid deforestation, soil erosion, and biodiversity loss (UNHCR, 2024; UNEP, 2023). As these vital environmental resources degrade, competition between refugees and hosts intensifies, increasing the risk of localized social conflict (UNEP, 2023; FAO, 2024).

1.1.2 Conceptual and Contextual Background

Environmental resource conflict provides a vital framework for understanding refugee-host friction (UNEP, 2023). It refers to disputes, competition, or social tensions that emerge when two or more distinct groups compete over access, ownership, use, or control of natural assets, such as arable land, freshwater sources, forests, grazing areas, and wetlands, which are essential for survival and livelihoods (UNEP, 2023). In hosting areas, these conflicts are driven by mutual dependence (UNEP, 2023). Both populations rely on the same local ecosystems for survival—using land for food production, forests for wood fuel and shelter construction, and groundwater for drinking and sanitation (UNEP, 2023). As the refugee population expands, demand grows exponentially, placing heavy pressure on fragile ecosystems (UNEP, 2023). Consequently, natural resources become a primary source of survival, but also a flashpoint for conflict when access is perceived as unequal, unfair, or destructive to long-term livelihoods (UNEP, 2023; Ide, 2023).

Scholars emphasize that resource scarcity alone does not generate conflict (Ide, 2023). Instead, environmental conflict emerges when scarcity interacts with structural vulnerabilities, including weak local governance, inequality, poverty, historical grievances, and unequal distribution (Ide, 2023). Hosts may feel that humanitarian agencies favor

refugees with superior infrastructure and direct livelihood support (Ide, 2023). Conversely, refugees often perceive host communities as exploitative, restricting access to customary land and forests (Ide, 2023). These competing perceptions create mistrust and erode social cohesion (Ide, 2023).

Understanding these conflicts requires analyzing both physical resource availability and the social, political, and institutional structures governing access. Natural resources are the bedrock of rural livelihoods in Northern Uganda (UNEP, 2023). Arable land supports farming and livestock, forests provide fuel and timber, and water resources sustain domestic needs and local commerce (UNEP, 2023; FAO, 2024). Resource degradation leads to reduced agricultural yields, food insecurity, and economic vulnerability, linking environmental security directly to human security (UNEP, 2023; FAO, 2024).

Conversely, the environmental peacebuilding perspective suggests that shared resources can foster cooperation (UNEP, 2023; FAO, 2024). Inclusive governance and joint resource committees can transform environmental challenges into opportunities for dialogue and trust-building (UNEP, 2023; FAO, 2024). In contrast, exclusionary decision-making and weak institutions increase the risk of disputes over land boundaries, forest harvesting, and water access.

Across Sub-Saharan Africa, refugee settlements are often established in fragile rural areas, leading to resource conflicts in countries like Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda (UNEP, 2023). In Ethiopia's Gambella, competition over farmland and forests has sparked recurring disputes (UNEP, 2023), while Kenya's Kakuma Camp has experienced deforestation and friction with Turkana hosts due to firewood demands (UNEP, 2023). Climate change exacerbates these dynamics by causing droughts that force communities to rely heavily on dwindling forests and water, combining with poverty to trigger complex crises (UNEP, 2023; IPCC, 2023).

East Africa highlights this intersection, as nations like Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia host millions of refugees while facing severe land degradation and climate variability (IPCC, 2023). Consequently, regional policies have shifted from short-term aid to integrated approaches combining refugee protection, conservation, and sustainable development (IPCC, 2023; World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2024). Uganda's progressive framework under the Refugees Act of 2006 and the CRRF exemplifies this shift (World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2024). However, while allocating land promotes self-reliance, it also strains customary

resources, highlighting the tension between progressive policies and local ecological limits (World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2024).

This pressure is particularly intense in Northern Uganda, which is still recovering from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency (Human Rights Watch, 2005). The LRA conflict displaced nearly two million people into IDP camps, causing extensive deforestation, soil erosion, and water depletion (Human Rights Watch, 2005). Although communities eventually returned to their ancestral lands, environmental recovery remains slow (Human Rights Watch, 2005). The subsequent arrival of South Sudanese refugees after 2013 introduced a new wave of population pressure, compounding local ecological vulnerability (Human Rights Watch, 2005).

Due to proximity and cultural ties, West Nile became the primary destination for South Sudanese refugees. Refugees from ethnic groups such as the Madi, Dinka, Nuer, Kakwa, Bari, and Acholi crossed into districts like Adjumani, Moyo, and Yumbe (OPM, 2024). Although cross-border connections eased initial reception, they complicated customary land governance (OPM, 2024). Since land in West Nile is held under customary tenure, allocation for settlements requires extensive negotiations between customary leaders, local governments, OPM, and humanitarian agencies (OPM, 2024).

Adjumani District represents the direct context, hosting approximately 230,000 refugees across settlements like Ayilo I, Ayilo II, Nyumanzi, and Pagirinya (Adjumani District Local Government, 2024). These refugees live alongside hosts whose livelihoods rely on farming, livestock, and forest products, creating daily interactions and mutual dependence on shared ecosystems (Adjumani District Local Government, 2024).

The rapid establishment of these settlements has dramatically transformed land use in Adjumani District. Large areas of customary land have been cleared for shelters, roads, schools, health facilities, and farming. While many host families willingly provided land through customary arrangements, the continuous growth of the refugee population has raised serious concerns regarding land ownership, lack of compensation, shrinking farm sizes, and future inheritance rights (World Bank, 2023). As arable land becomes scarce, disputes over boundary markers, land-borrowing arrangements, and resource ownership have become more common (World Bank, 2023).

Forests and water resources are major friction points (World Bank, 2023). High demand for firewood by refugees and charcoal production by hosts drives rapid forest loss (World Bank, 2023; UNEP, 2023; WHO, 2024). Similarly, shared water points experience intense pressure during dry seasons, causing water shortages, borehole breakdowns, and disputes (UNEP, 2023; WHO, 2024). Women and children are disproportionately affected, spending more time collecting water and firewood, which exposes them to protection risks and reduces school attendance (UNEP, 2023; WHO, 2024).

While government and humanitarian organizations have implemented interventions—such as tree planting, energy-saving cookstoves, water infrastructure expansion, and community peacebuilding committees—challenges remain (RRP, 2025). The coverage of these programs is uneven, and some communities perceive an unequal distribution of aid and infrastructure between refugees and hosts (RRP, 2025). Recent research argues that sustainable coexistence requires integrated environmental governance that addresses the needs of both communities through inclusive decision-making, equitable resource sharing, and joint environmental management (Ide, 2023; World Bank, 2023). This study examines how resource competition contributes to tensions between refugees and hosts in Adjumani District, and explores pathways toward peaceful, sustainable resource management (Ide, 2023; World Bank, 2023).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Uganda's progressive refugee policy, granting freedom of movement, the right to work, and land, has won international acclaim. By 2026, the country hosted approximately 2 million refugees and asylum seekers, primarily fleeing conflicts in South Sudan, the DRC, Sudan, Somalia, and Eritrea (UNHCR & OPM, 2026). While this policy has successfully supported refugee self-reliance, it has placed an enormous and unsustainable burden on local ecosystems in hosting districts, particularly in Northern Uganda (UNHCR & OPM, 2026).

Adjumani District is among the areas most heavily impacted by the prolonged influx of South Sudanese refugees (UNHCR & OPM, 2026). The rapid growth of settlements has dramatically increased the demand for customary land, water, and forests (UNHCR & OPM, 2026; World Bank, 2023; UNEP, 2023; FAO, 2024). This sudden pressure has resulted in widespread deforestation, severe land degradation, critical water shortages, and declining farming productivity (World Bank, 2023; UNEP, 2023; FAO, 2024). These environmental changes threaten the livelihoods of both host communities and refugees, leading to rising

social tensions, eroding mutual trust, and undermining peaceful coexistence (World Bank, 2023; UNEP, 2023; FAO, 2024).

Although previous research has analyzed Uganda's national refugee policies, refugee livelihoods, and the broad socio-economic impacts of displacement, little attention has been paid to the localized environmental resource conflicts that occur within these hosting communities (Ide, 2023; World Bank, 2023). Existing literature tends to focus on high-level policy implementation and macro-level humanitarian logistics, leaving a gap in our understanding of how daily competition over land, forests, and water shapes everyday relationships and conflict dynamics at the community level (Ide, 2023; World Bank, 2023). Furthermore, there is a lack of qualitative evidence on how local resource governance systems and community coping strategies influence conflict management. This study addresses this knowledge gap by examining environmental resource conflicts between refugees and hosts in Adjumani District, generating localized evidence to inform policies that promote equitable resource governance, peaceful coexistence, and sustainable development.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The primary purpose of this study was to analyze the extent to which the influx of refugees has created environmental resource tensions and conflicts with host communities in Adjumani District.

1.3.1 Specific Objectives

To achieve this purpose, the study was guided by the following specific objectives:

- i. To investigate the specific factors that contribute to environmental resource-related tensions and conflicts between refugees and host communities in Adjumani District.
- ii. To assess the socio-economic impact of environmental resource-related conflicts on both refugees and host communities in Adjumani District.
- iii. To analyze the effectiveness of existing policies and interventions in addressing environmental resource-related conflicts between refugees and host communities in Adjumani District.

1.4 Research Questions

This study sought to answer the following research questions:

- i. What are the key factors contributing to environmental resource-related tensions and conflicts between refugees and host communities in Adjumani District?
- ii. What are the socio-economic impacts of environmental resource-related conflicts on refugees and host communities in Adjumani District?
- iii. What are the existing policies and interventions for addressing environmental resource-related conflicts between refugees and host communities in Adjumani District?

1.5 Theoretical Frameworks

This study is grounded in two complementary theoretical frameworks: Resource Scarcity Theory and Environmental Peacebuilding Theory (Homer-Dixon, 1999; Conca & Dabelko, 2002). Together, they provide a comprehensive lens to analyze both the drivers of resource conflict and the opportunities for cooperative, sustainable resource management.

1.5.1 Resource Scarcity Theory (Thomas Homer-Dixon, 1999)

Thomas Homer-Dixon's Resource Scarcity Theory, detailed in *Environment, Scarcity, and Violence* (1999), argues that the scarcity of critical natural resources can drive social instability and violent conflict (Homer-Dixon, 1999). Homer-Dixon (1999) identifies three distinct forms of resource scarcity:

Supply-induced scarcity: Occurs when renewable resources are degraded or depleted faster than they can regenerate.

Demand-induced scarcity: Occurs when population growth or increased consumption drives up demand for a constant resource supply.

Structural scarcity: Arises from unequal resource distribution, where a dominant group controls access, leaving marginalized groups with insufficient resources.

As these forms of scarcity interact, they cause resource capture (where powerful groups seize control of remaining resources) and ecological marginalization (where the poor are forced to

migrate to ecologically fragile areas). This process intensifies competition, lowers agricultural yields, restricts livelihoods, and increases social friction and localized conflict.

This theory has been widely used to study the links between environmental degradation, forced migration, and local conflict. For instance, Barnett (2000) notes that environmental stress reduces human security, forcing displacement and increasing competition between displaced people and hosts, particularly when local institutions are weak (Barnett, 2000; Klare, 2001). Similarly, Klare (2001) argues that competition over scarce natural resources has become a primary driver of modern conflicts, especially in developing regions where local economies depend heavily on natural ecosystems (Barnett, 2000; Klare, 2001).

In this study, Resource Scarcity Theory explains how the sudden, massive influx of South Sudanese refugees into Adjumani District has driven demand-induced and supply-induced scarcity of land, water, and forest resources. This explains why resource depletion has led to competition, mutual mistrust, livelihood insecurity, and rising social tensions. However, Homer-Dixon's theory is often criticized for being overly deterministic, focusing on conflict while ignoring community cooperation and local capacity for peaceful resource management (Conca & Dabelko, 2002). This limitation highlights the need for a complementary framework.

1.5.2 Environmental Peacebuilding Theory (Ken Conca & Geoffrey Dabelko, 2002)

To address the limitations of Resource Scarcity Theory, this study also utilizes Environmental Peacebuilding Theory, developed by Ken Conca and Geoffrey Dabelko (2002) (Conca & Dabelko, 2002). This theory argues that shared environmental challenges should not be viewed solely as sources of conflict; instead, they can serve as valuable opportunities for cooperation, trust-building, and sustainable peace. Conca and Dabelko (2002) explain that because ecosystems transcend political and social boundaries, managing them effectively requires collaborative action. Shared environmental stress can encourage local communities, governments, and humanitarian organizations to establish joint management structures, facilitating dialogue and cooperation.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, 2009; 2023) supports this perspective, arguing that environmental peacebuilding integrates resource management directly into peace processes to address the root causes of conflict. Rather than merely responding to the

symptoms of tension, this approach promotes the sustainable, equitable use of land, forests, and water, while strengthening local institutions responsible for resource governance.

In various refugee-hosting contexts, environmental peacebuilding programs, such as community forestry, joint watershed management, and shared agricultural projects, have successfully improved relations between displaced populations and local host communities (UNEP, 2009, 2023).

This theory is highly relevant to Adjumani District, where the Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR, LWF, DRC, FAO, World Vision, and other partners have introduced interventions like community woodlots, shared water committees, and joint livelihood programs. The framework helps explain how collaborative resource governance can reduce tensions and build social cohesion.

1.5.3 Integration of the two Theories

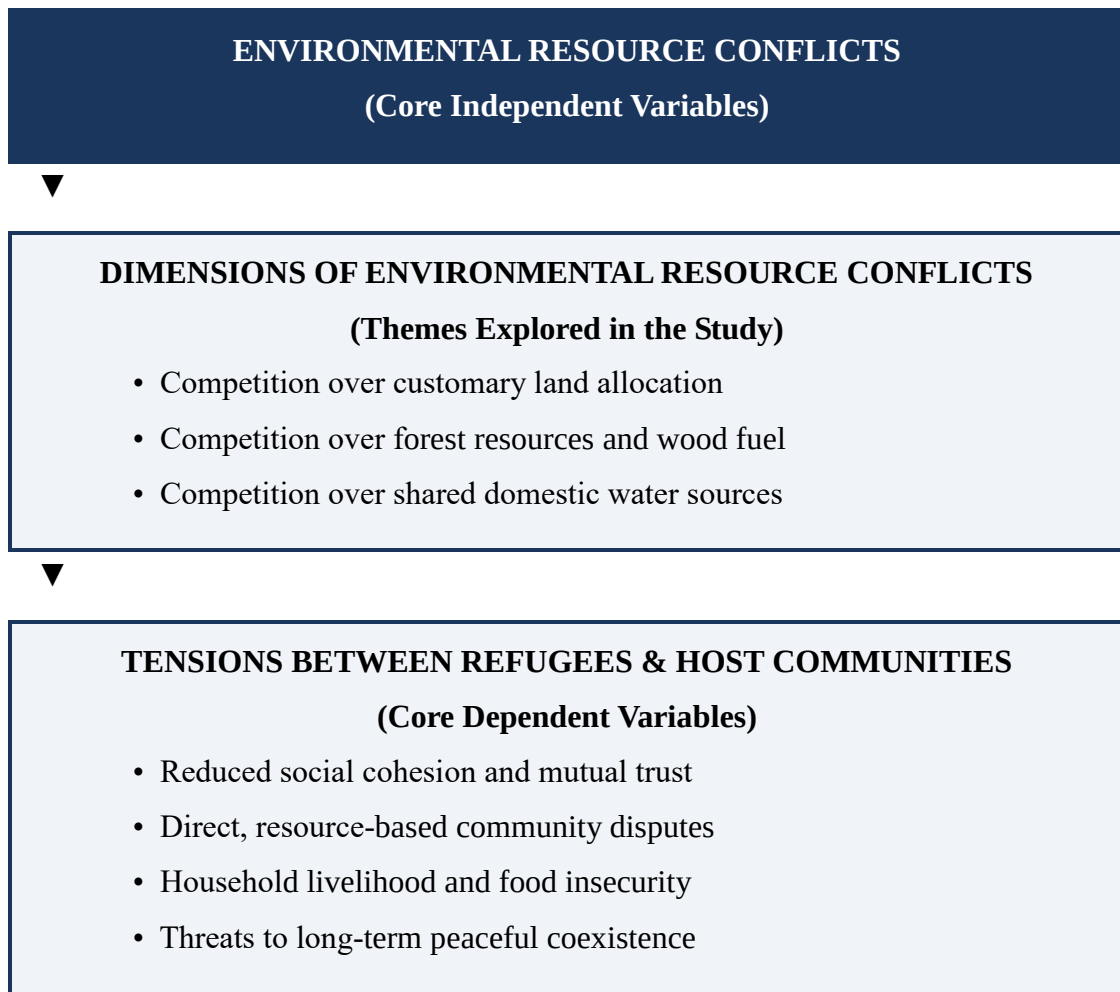
These two theories complement each other, forming a robust analytical framework for this study. Resource Scarcity Theory explains the drivers and causes of environmental resource conflicts, helping to identify how and why competition over land, water, and forests emerges.

On the other hand, Environmental Peacebuilding Theory explains the processes and strategies for managing and transforming those conflicts, focusing on collaborative resource governance and joint peacebuilding initiatives. Together, they enable a holistic analysis that covers both the emergence of resource-based tensions and the pathways toward sustainable, peaceful coexistence in Adjumani District.

1.6 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework maps the relationship between the independent variable (environmental resource conflicts) and the dependent variable (tensions between refugees and host communities) in Adjumani District. This framework is directly informed by the integration of Resource Scarcity Theory (Homer-Dixon, 1999) and Environmental Peacebuilding Theory (Conca & Dabelko, 2002).

Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework Diagram



Source: Researcher's Conceptualization (2024); Adapted from Thomas Homer-Dixon (1999) and Ken Conca & Geoffrey Dabelko (2002).

Explanation of the Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework explains the direct link between environmental resource conflicts and refugee-host tensions in Adjumani District. Environmental resource conflicts serve as the independent variable, analyzed through three primary dimensions: competition over land, competition over water, and competition over forests and wood fuel. These three dimensions represent the core environmental challenges experienced by both populations, serving as the basis for the study's empirical data collection.

The framework posits that as competition across these three dimensions increases, it directly drives the dependent variables representing social tension. These tensions are expressed through reduced social cohesion, increased resource-based disputes, heightened livelihood and food insecurity, and threats to long-term peaceful coexistence. When resources become

scarce or are perceived as unfairly distributed, relationships between refugees and hosts become strained, undermining local stability. The framework guides the study by providing a clear lens to analyze participants lived experiences of resource friction and the institutional factors that shape local conflict dynamics.

1.7 Scope of the Study

To ensure a comprehensive and in-depth analysis, this study focuses on a specific geographical, temporal, and thematic scope, choosing to examine illustrative cases rather than attempting a superficial district-wide survey.

1.7.1 Geographical Scope

The research was conducted within Adjumani District in Northern Uganda, focusing specifically on the Ayilo refugee settlement (comprising Ayilo I and Ayilo II) located in Pakele Sub-County. Established in 2014 in response to the South Sudanese civil war, Ayilo was selected because it is one of the oldest and most densely populated settlements in the district, making it an ideal micro-environment to study long-term resource-based friction.

Prior to the 2014 influx, Pakele Sub-County possessed extensive savanna grasslands and dense woodlands, alongside fertile soils managed under traditional fallow systems and abundant clean surface water. Today, the high concentration of refugees has led to severe environmental degradation: tree-cutting for firewood and shelter construction has drastically reduced forest cover, continuous farming on small plots has degraded soil fertility, and heavy demand on local aquifers has lowered water tables, leading to drying boreholes and frequent disputes at water points.

1.7.2 Time Scope

The study covers the period from 2011 to 2025, which encompasses three key phases of displacement in the district: The pre-expansion phase (2011–2014): Captures the baseline conditions and early response structures before the massive influx. The major influx period (2015–2017): Reflects the peak of South Sudanese arrivals and rapid settlement expansion. The post-expansion stabilization phase (2018–2024): Examines ongoing integration efforts, policy adjustments, and resource management interventions. This comprehensive timeframe allows for a detailed analysis of both the immediate impacts of mass displacement and the long-term trends in resource relations and social coexistence.

1.7.3 Content Scope

Focusing on Ayilo I and II settlements in Adidi Parish, Pakele Sub-County, the study investigated how competition over vital environmental resources, specifically arable land, forest products (for energy and building materials), and water exacerbates social tensions between refugees and host communities. The study aimed to identify the primary resource stressors to support sustainable, conflict-aware approach to local resource governance.

1.8 Justification for the Study

This study was urgently needed because escalating competition over land, water, and forests in Adjumani District directly threatens local stability and ecological resilience. As prolonged displacement puts unprecedented pressure on local ecosystems, traditional coping mechanisms are reaching a breaking point, raising the risk of deeper social division and irreversible environmental damage.

Waiting to address these friction points could lead to more severe conflict and environmental degradation. This research provides vital, timely empirical data to inform localized peacebuilding and sustainable resource management, directly supporting the strategic priorities of Uganda's Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) and the Parish Development Model (PDM). Ultimately, the study offers evidence-based solutions to prevent escalating conflict, protect fragile ecosystems, and support peaceful coexistence.

1.9 Significance of the Study

The expected contributions of this study operate at academic, policy, and practical levels:

Academic level: The study enriches peace and conflict literature by providing detailed empirical insights into environmental resource friction in displacement settings. It serves as a valuable resource for future research, baseline studies, and curriculum development at the Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies, Gulu University.

Policy level: The findings can inform actionable strategies aligned with global frameworks, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 10, 13, 15, and 16), the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Global Compact on Refugees, and the UNHCR Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

National and Practical levels: The research directly supports national priorities under Uganda's Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) regarding peace, security, and environmental sustainability, while offering practical guidelines for local economic and ecological interventions under the Parish Development Model (PDM). By highlighting both refugee and host perspectives, the study contributes to equitable resource sharing, improved climate resilience, and lasting social cohesion.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviews and critically analyses literature related to environmental resource conflicts between refugees and host communities. The review is organised around the specific objectives of the study and examines empirical, theoretical, and contextual evidence from global, Sub-Saharan African, East African, Ugandan, Northern Ugandan, and Adjumani District perspectives (Adjumani District Local Government, 2024; UNHCR, 2024). It also critically analyses key refugee policy frameworks that guide refugee protection and resource management in Uganda, evaluating their strengths, limitations, and operational gaps (UNHCR & OPM, 2026). By comparing findings, identifying areas of agreement and disagreement, and highlighting persistent knowledge gaps, this review explains how the current study contributes to the existing body of knowledge on refugee-host community resource relations and local conflict dynamics (World Bank, 2023).

The chapter begins by examining Uganda's Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) Framework because these policy instruments provide the legal and structural foundation for refugee governance, integrated service delivery, and peaceful coexistence in Uganda (Office of the Prime Minister, 2024; UNDP, 2017). The review then transitions into a systematic discussion of environmental resource-related conflicts, exploring their multiple dimensions and contributing factors (UNEP, 2023). This is followed by a critical analysis of the socio-economic implications of these conflicts on both refugee and host populations, highlighting their differential impacts on livelihoods, food security, and social cohesion (FAO, 2024; WHO, 2024). Finally, the chapter evaluates existing national, regional, and international policies and interventions used to manage natural resource tensions, assessing their effectiveness and sustainability at the grassroots level (UNHCR, 2024). Throughout the discussion, close attention is paid to how environmental resources act as both drivers of conflict and opportunities for environmental peacebuilding, social integration, and sustainable development in rural displacement contexts (Ide, 2023; UNEP, 2023).

2.1 Uganda Refugee Response Plan (2022–2025): A Critical Review

Uganda's Refugee Response Plan (RRP) is one of the country's most comprehensive policy frameworks for managing refugee protection, humanitarian assistance, and development programming. The Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (UCRRP) is jointly implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UNHCR, United Nations agencies, international and national non-governmental organisations, refugee-led organisations, and district local governments (UNHCR, 2024). The plan adopts a whole-of-society approach that seeks to address the needs of both refugees and host communities through integrated service delivery and sustainable development interventions (Office of the Prime Minister, 2024). The current framework covers the period 2022–2025, with updated detailed planning for 2024–2025 to respond to changing refugee dynamics and increasing humanitarian needs (Refugee Response Plan, 2025).

The UCRRP is built around five strategic objectives: maintaining Uganda's asylum space, providing life-saving protection and assistance, improving access to public services, strengthening peaceful coexistence and self-reliance, and pursuing durable solutions for refugees (UNHCR, 2024). Unlike emergency refugee responses that primarily focus on humanitarian relief, Uganda's RRP deliberately integrates refugee protection with national development priorities and district planning systems (UNHCR, 2025). This reflects Uganda's commitment to implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), both of which encourage shared responsibility between humanitarian and development actors (World Bank, 2023).

A notable strength of the Refugee Response Plan is its recognition that refugee-hosting districts require investments beyond emergency assistance. The plan supports improvements in education, health, water, sanitation, livelihoods, environmental protection, and infrastructure in refugee-hosting communities (UNHCR, 2024). This integrated approach attempts to reduce inequalities between refugees and host populations while strengthening local government capacity (World Bank, 2023). Recent implementation reports show that refugee response programming increasingly invests in district-level systems rather than parallel humanitarian structures (UNHCR & OPM, 2026).

The RRP also recognises environmental sustainability as a priority area within Uganda's refugee response. It acknowledges that most refugee settlements are located in environmentally fragile areas where forests, wetlands, and customary land face increasing

pressure because of population growth and dependence on biomass energy (UNEP, 2023). Consequently, the plan promotes tree planting, sustainable energy technologies, environmental restoration, watershed management, and climate resilience programming within refugee settlements (FAO, 2024).

Although these environmental commitments are commendable, several scholars argue that the RRP does not adequately address the structural causes of environmental resource conflicts. Environmental interventions remain heavily project-based and are often implemented through humanitarian partners with limited long-term sustainability (UNEP, 2023). UNEP (2023) argues that tree planting programmes alone cannot compensate for the rapid rate of deforestation where refugee households continue to rely predominantly on firewood for cooking. Similarly, the World Bank (2023) notes that environmental restoration efforts have not matched the increasing demand for land and forest resources in refugee-hosting districts.

Another important limitation concerns land governance. The Refugee Response Plan encourages access to land for refugee self-reliance but provides limited operational guidance on customary land governance, compensation arrangements, and long-term land tenure security (Ahimbisibwe, 2020). In Northern Uganda, where land ownership is predominantly customary, land allocation often depends on agreements between host communities, cultural leaders, district authorities, and humanitarian agencies (World Bank, 2023). Studies show that these arrangements can generate disputes when land becomes scarce or when communities perceive unequal compensation or inadequate consultation (Ahimbisibwe, 2020; World Bank, 2023).

The literature further reveals differences between policy intentions and implementation realities. While the RRP promotes peaceful coexistence, evidence from West Nile indicates that refugee-host tensions continue to emerge over water points, forests, grazing land, agricultural land, and humanitarian assistance (FAO, 2024; UNHCR, 2024). UNHCR implementation reports acknowledge that environmental degradation and energy insecurity remain significant protection risks within refugee settlements (UNHCR, 2024).

A further weakness identified in the literature is that the RRP places stronger emphasis on livelihoods than on conflict-sensitive natural resource governance. Livelihood programmes encourage agriculture, livestock production, and income generation, yet relatively fewer interventions address local mechanisms for resolving disputes over shared environmental

resources (Ide, 2023). Scholars argue that livelihood interventions can unintentionally increase competition where agricultural land and water resources are already limited (Ide, 2023; UNEP, 2023).

From the researcher's perspective, the Refugee Response Plan represents an important policy framework because it moves refugee protection beyond humanitarian relief towards sustainable development. However, its effectiveness depends largely on how environmental governance is implemented at the local level. This research examines these micro-level negotiations in detail to bridge the gap between policy design and implementation.

2.2 Refugees and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) Framework (2017)

The Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) Framework was introduced in 2017 as Uganda's development-oriented strategy for implementing the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) (UNDP, 2017). Unlike humanitarian programmes that primarily target refugees, ReHoPE promotes integrated development interventions benefiting both refugees and host communities simultaneously (UNDP, 2017). The framework seeks to strengthen resilience, improve livelihoods, enhance access to public services, promote peaceful coexistence, and reduce inequalities between refugee and host populations through district-led development planning (UNDP, 2017). This shift acknowledges that sustainable solutions to displacement require a transition from short-term relief to long-term development (UNDP, 2017).

The ReHoPE Framework emerged from a growing recognition that refugee-hosting districts bear significant, long-term development costs associated with hosting large refugee populations (UNDP, 2017). Shared public infrastructure such as schools, health facilities, water supply systems, roads, and environmental resources serves both populations, necessitating strategic investments that extend far beyond traditional humanitarian budgets (UNDP, 2017). ReHoPE therefore encourages collaborative programming among government institutions, humanitarian agencies, development partners, civil society organisations, and local communities to foster social cohesion and sustainable development (UNDP, 2017).

Several studies identify ReHoPE as an innovative framework because it shifts attention from refugee dependency toward community resilience and local economic integration. Jacobsen (2015) argues that integrated refugee-host programming reduces host community perceptions of unequal assistance, creating opportunities for shared economic growth and reducing the

risk of local resentment. Similarly, Betts and Collier (2017) contend that refugee inclusion in local economies can generate substantial development benefits when investments target both refugees and host communities simultaneously.

These interventions aim to reduce resource competition while improving livelihoods and strengthening community resilience. By encouraging joint participation, these projects attempt to build mutual dependency and trust.

Despite these achievements, evidence regarding ReHoPE's effectiveness remains mixed across hosting districts. Recent evaluations indicate that implementation differs considerably because of varying funding levels, institutional capacity, and local governance structures. In some settlements, infrastructure investments have significantly improved access to water, schools, and health facilities for both communities, fostering goodwill.

The literature also questions whether ReHoPE adequately addresses environmental governance. Omata (2017) observes that land-sharing arrangements remain highly sensitive because refugees cultivate land that ultimately belongs to host communities under customary tenure systems. Without clear mechanisms for managing competing claims, long-term expectations, and historical grievances, development interventions alone cannot eliminate underlying resource-based tensions.

Water resource management presents another area where ReHoPE demonstrates both strengths and weaknesses. Investments in boreholes, piped water systems, and rehabilitation of water infrastructure have improved physical access in several refugee settlements. However, recent studies indicate that increasing refugee populations continue to outpace infrastructure expansion, particularly during dry seasons when water demand exceeds supply (WHO, 2024).

Social cohesion interventions remain one of ReHoPE's strongest components. Joint community dialogues, peace committees, joint livelihood groups, and environmental management committees encourage interaction and shared responsibility between refugees and host communities (UNHCR, 2024). Ager and Strang (2008) argue that social cohesion develops through shared participation, trust, and meaningful interaction rather than physical proximity alone.

Nevertheless, the literature reveals that social cohesion initiatives often overlook existing power relations within communities.

From the researcher's perspective, the ReHoPE Framework is a significant shift towards integrated refugee-host development and aligns well with Uganda's progressive refugee policy.

2.3 Factors Contributing to Environmental Resource-Related Tensions and Conflicts Between Refugees and Host Communities

This section critically reviews these factors from global, Sub-Saharan African, East African, Ugandan, Northern Ugandan, and Adjumani District perspectives.

2.3.1 Global Perspective on Environmental Resource-Related Tensions

Globally, literature consistently demonstrates that environmental resource conflicts are common in areas hosting large refugee populations. Early scholarship by Whitaker (1999) argued that sudden refugee influxes frequently increase demand for land, water, forests, and public services, creating immediate and direct competition between displaced populations and host communities. Although this argument remains relevant, more recent studies show that refugee presence alone does not automatically lead to conflict. Instead, conflict emerges where environmental scarcity combines with weak local institutions, widespread poverty, social inequality, and inadequate resource governance systems (Ide, 2023).

Recent global evidence suggests that climate change has become an important driver of environmental resource tensions in refugee-hosting areas. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2023), climate variability has intensified droughts, floods, land degradation, and declining agricultural productivity across many refugee-hosting regions. Similarly, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, 2023) argues that environmental degradation and forced displacement increasingly reinforce each other, creating cycles of vulnerability and conflict.

Several international studies also demonstrate that humanitarian interventions can unintentionally contribute to environmental pressures. As a result, forests surrounding settlements are rapidly depleted unless alternative energy and environmental restoration programmes are implemented (UNEP, 2023). This observation is evident in refugee settlements across East Africa, the Middle East, and the Sahel region. However, some scholars challenge the assumption that refugees are the primary cause of environmental degradation. Black (2022) argues that environmental degradation often predates refugee arrival and reflects long-standing governance failures, population growth, and unsustainable

land use practices. Similarly, Betts and Collier (2017) argue that refugees can contribute positively to local economies through labour, entrepreneurship, and agricultural production when appropriate investments are made in host communities. These contrasting perspectives demonstrate that refugee-host tensions cannot be explained solely through environmental scarcity.

This creates a need for context-specific studies such as the present research in Adjumani District.

2.3.2 Environmental Resource Conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa

Refugees from South Sudan, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Burundi, and Ethiopia are predominantly hosted in neighbouring African countries where livelihoods rely heavily on agriculture, forests, fisheries, and grazing land (UNHCR, 2024).

Research across Sub-Saharan Africa identifies competition over land as one of the leading causes of refugee-host community tensions. Jacobsen (2002) argues that agricultural land becomes highly contested because both refugees and host communities depend on it for food production and income generation. More recent evidence from Ethiopia, Chad, Sudan, and Uganda confirms that shrinking farmland, customary land tenure disputes, and unclear land allocation arrangements frequently generate disagreements between refugee and host populations (World Bank, 2023).

Climate-induced environmental degradation has also become increasingly important in explaining refugee-host conflicts in Africa. Ide (2023) argues that droughts, unpredictable rainfall, and declining soil fertility reduce resource availability and increase livelihood insecurity, particularly among farming communities. Studies from the Sahel region further show that weak governance institutions increase the likelihood of environmental conflicts. In many refugee-hosting countries, local governments have limited capacity to regulate land use, environmental conservation, and water management, creating governance gaps that are often filled by project-based humanitarian interventions which do not always strengthen long-term community resource governance (UNEP, 2023). Nevertheless, literature from Sub-Saharan Africa also identifies positive examples of cooperation. FAO (2024) reports that joint environmental management committees, community woodlots, watershed restoration, and climate-smart agriculture have reduced tensions in some refugee-hosting communities by encouraging shared responsibility for natural resources.

This limits our understanding of how communities negotiate access to environmental resources in districts such as Adjumani.

2.3.3 Environmental Resource Conflicts in East Africa

Kenya's Dadaab and Kakuma refugee settlements have received considerable scholarly attention. Studies show that prolonged refugee presence has increased pressure on forests, grazing land, and water resources, resulting in disputes between refugees and Turkana host communities (Jaji, 2019). Humanitarian agencies responded by introducing solar energy, tree planting, and integrated livelihood programmes, although environmental degradation remains a significant challenge.

Similarly, research from Ethiopia's Gambella Region demonstrates that South Sudanese refugee settlements intensified competition over agricultural land, forests, and fisheries. Fekadu and

Feyissa (2020) found that environmental conflicts were closely connected to ethnic identity, historical grievances, and weak land governance. Refugee-host tensions therefore reflected both environmental scarcity and broader political dynamics. Recent regional literature increasingly emphasizes climate security. According to the IGAD Support Platform (2024), climate change has become a threat multiplier in East Africa because environmental degradation increases displacement, food insecurity, and conflict simultaneously. Refugee-hosting areas therefore require integrated approaches combining humanitarian response, climate adaptation, and peacebuilding. Regional cooperation has also emerged as an important intervention. The East African Community and IGAD encourage member states to strengthen cross-border environmental management, refugee protection, and resilience-building programmes in refugee-hosting communities (IGAD, 2024). However, implementation remains uneven because countries have different governance capacities and refugee policies.

However, Uganda's settlement model differs significantly from Kenya's camp-based approach and Ethiopia's evolving refugee policy.

2.3.4 Environmental Resource Conflicts in Uganda

Refugees receive land for settlement and cultivation and share services with host communities, creating opportunities for integration but also increasing pressure on local

environmental resources (UNHCR, 2024). Recent studies show that land has become the most contested environmental resource in Uganda's refugee-hosting districts. Ahimbisibwe (2020) argues that customary land tenure creates uncertainty because refugee settlements depend on land voluntarily provided by host communities. As refugee populations increase and settlements expand, communities increasingly question land ownership, compensation, inheritance, and future land availability.

Forests also remain under considerable pressure. UNEP (2023) reports that biomass remains the primary cooking energy source in refugee settlements, accelerating deforestation in districts such as Adjumani, Yumbe, Lamwo, and Moyo. Environmental degradation affects both refugees and host communities because forests provide energy, construction materials, medicinal plants, and ecosystem services. Competition over water has similarly increased. WHO (2024) reports that shared boreholes and water systems experience increasing demand during dry seasons, creating long queues, infrastructure breakdowns, and occasional disputes between refugee and host households. Women and girls bear disproportionate burdens because they spend more time collecting water and firewood.

Several scholars also identify perceptions of unequal humanitarian assistance as contributors to environmental tensions. Host communities sometimes perceive refugees as receiving more services, infrastructure, and livelihood support than surrounding villages (World Bank, 2023). These perceptions may increase resentment even where programmes intentionally target both communities. However, some literature highlights positive outcomes of Uganda's refugee policy. Betts et al. (2021) argue that refugee inclusion has stimulated local markets, increased agricultural production, improved infrastructure, and created employment opportunities in several refugee-hosting districts. This suggests that refugee presence produces both opportunities and challenges.

Researcher's critical opinion: The Ugandan literature provides strong evidence regarding policy achievements and environmental challenges.

2.3.5 Environmental Resource Conflicts in Northern Uganda

Districts including Adjumani, Yumbe, Lamwo, Moyo, Koboko, and Obongi have experienced rapid population growth following refugee arrivals since 2013. Research consistently identifies forests, firewood, grazing land, and agricultural land as major sources of tension in Northern Uganda. Hovil and Lomo (2015) found that increased demand for firewood

contributed to deforestation while grazing activities sometimes damaged crops cultivated by host communities. Recent studies continue to report similar environmental pressures despite investments in environmental restoration programmes.

Environmental degradation is particularly evident around refugee settlements where tree cover has declined because of construction materials, fuelwood collection, and charcoal production (FAO, 2024). Soil erosion and declining soil fertility have also affected agricultural productivity in surrounding communities. Another emerging issue is livelihood competition. Refugees and host communities increasingly compete for casual labour, agricultural markets, and natural resources. According to World Bank (2023), these competitions are intensified where poverty levels are already high and development opportunities remain limited. Community dialogue mechanisms have been introduced across Northern Uganda to reduce tensions. Although these mechanisms have improved communication, their effectiveness depends on community participation and institutional support.

This represents an important gap addressed by this study.

2.3.6 Environmental Resource Conflicts in Adjumani District

Adjumani District represents one of Uganda's most significant refugee-hosting districts and provides a suitable context for examining environmental resource conflicts. Refugees live alongside host communities that depend primarily on subsistence farming, fishing, livestock keeping, and forest resources. Existing studies identify competition over agricultural land as the most visible environmental conflict in Adjumani. Refugees cultivate allocated land to supplement food assistance, while host communities depend on customary land for food production and inheritance. Increasing population pressure has reduced available farmland and increased disputes over cultivation boundaries and borrowing arrangements (Akumu, 2020; World Bank, 2023).

Women and children often travel longer distances to collect water, increasing household vulnerability and occasionally leading to disputes at communal water points (WHO, 2024). Forests surrounding settlements have experienced significant degradation because refugees and host communities depend on firewood, charcoal, and construction materials. Humanitarian organisations have introduced community woodlots and energy-saving stoves,

yet demand for biomass energy continues to exceed environmental restoration efforts (UNEP, 2023).

Researcher's critical opinion and knowledge gap: The reviewed literature clearly demonstrates that Adjumani experiences increasing pressure on land, water, and forests because of the prolonged refugee presence.

2.4 Socio-Economic Impacts of Environmental Resource-Related Conflicts on Refugees and Host Communities

This section critically analyses these socio-economic impacts from global, regional, national, and local perspectives.

2.4.1 Global perspective on the Socio-Economic impacts of Environmental Resource Conflicts

Recent literature demonstrates that climate change, environmental degradation, and forced displacement reinforce one another, creating cycles of poverty, insecurity, and social instability (IPCC, 2023).

Betts and Collier (2017) argue that refugee presence produces mixed socio-economic outcomes. On one hand, refugees contribute labour, entrepreneurship, market expansion, and agricultural production. Similarly, the World Bank (2023) reports that refugee-hosting areas can experience both economic growth and increased vulnerability depending on governance capacity and resource availability.

Recent studies have also highlighted the relationship between environmental insecurity and human security. According to UNEP (2023), degradation of forests, wetlands, and water catchments reduces ecosystem services that communities depend upon for food production and income generation. However, scholars disagree on whether refugee presence necessarily creates negative socio-economic outcomes. Black (2022) argues that many environmental pressures attributed to refugees reflect pre-existing structural inequalities, weak environmental governance, and climate-related vulnerability rather than refugee settlement alone. This perspective encourages researchers to examine local contexts rather than assuming a direct relationship between refugee presence and socio-economic decline.

Researcher's critical opinion: The global literature provides balanced evidence that refugee-host interactions generate both opportunities and challenges.

2.4.2 Socio-Economic impacts in Sub-Saharan Africa

Refugees often settle in rural districts where agriculture, livestock keeping, fishing, and forest resources are the primary sources of livelihoods. Consequently, environmental resource conflicts have profound socio-economic implications for both refugees and host populations (UNHCR, 2024).

One major impact identified in the literature is declining livelihood security. FAO (2024) explains that competition over land and water reduces agricultural productivity by limiting access to fertile farmland, irrigation opportunities, and grazing areas. Refugee-hosting communities therefore experience declining crop yields, food shortages, and reduced household incomes, particularly during prolonged dry seasons. Another important impact is increased household poverty. Lischer (2015) argues that competition over scarce resources weakens traditional livelihood systems and reduces opportunities for income generation. Recent studies further indicate that environmental degradation forces households to travel longer distances to collect firewood and water, increasing labour burdens and reducing time available for productive economic activities (UNEP, 2023).

Gender inequalities are also evident across refugee-hosting communities. Women and girls bear the greatest burden of collecting firewood and water, exposing them to protection risks, gender-based violence, and reduced educational opportunities (WHO, 2024). Environmental resource scarcity therefore has unequal socio-economic consequences across different social groups. At the same time, some studies highlight positive economic interactions between refugees and host communities. Refugees create demand for local goods and services, establish businesses, and contribute labour to agricultural production, creating new markets in refugee-hosting districts (Betts et al., 2021).

Researcher's critical opinion: Literature from Sub-Saharan Africa demonstrates that environmental resource conflicts affect livelihoods beyond immediate resource competition. These dimensions are particularly important in qualitative research.

2.4.3 Socio-Economic impacts in East Africa

East African refugee-hosting countries provide important evidence regarding the socio-economic consequences of environmental resource conflicts. Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda have experienced increasing pressure on natural resources because of prolonged refugee displacement and climate variability. Studies from Kenya's Kakuma and Dadaab

settlements show that competition over water, pasture, and forests has disrupted traditional livelihoods among host communities, particularly pastoral households (Jaji, 2019). Water scarcity has increased livestock mortality, reduced agricultural production, and intensified household poverty. Similarly, Ethiopia's Gambella Region has experienced declining food security and social instability because of competition over agricultural land and fisheries between refugees and local communities (Fekadu & Feyissa, 2020).

Regional literature increasingly links environmental conflicts with food insecurity. The IGAD Regional Refugee Response Strategy (IGAD, 2024) notes that refugee-hosting areas experience reduced agricultural productivity because of climate shocks, environmental degradation, and increasing population density. Food insecurity therefore becomes both a cause and consequence of environmental resource conflicts. Education and healthcare systems have also been affected. Increased refugee populations increase demand for schools, teachers, health workers, medicines, and sanitation infrastructure, creating service delivery challenges where investments remain insufficient (World Bank, 2023). However, development partners have increasingly adopted integrated service delivery models that benefit both refugee and host populations.

Researcher's critical opinion: East African studies demonstrate that socio-economic impacts extend beyond natural resources to affect broader development systems. However, many regional studies focus on humanitarian programming rather than examining how communities experience these pressures within their daily lives. This creates an opportunity for qualitative studies to explore lived experiences more deeply.

2.4.4 Socio-Economic impacts in Uganda

Uganda's refugee settlement policy creates unique socio-economic interactions because refugees live alongside host communities rather than in isolated camps. This policy promotes integration and self-reliance but also increases competition over shared environmental resources and public services. Recent literature identifies livelihood insecurity as one of the most significant socio-economic impacts in Uganda's refugee-hosting districts. World Bank (2023) reports that increasing refugee populations have reduced average land holdings among host households in some settlements, affecting agricultural production and household food security. Refugees also cultivate relatively small plots that often produce insufficient food because of declining soil fertility and unpredictable rainfall.

Environmental degradation further affects household incomes. UNEP (2023) reports that declining forest cover reduces access to fuelwood, charcoal production, timber, and non-timber forest products that support local livelihoods. As environmental resources become scarce, households spend more time collecting resources instead of engaging in productive activities. Competition for employment opportunities has generated mixed outcomes. Refugees contribute to local markets through entrepreneurship, casual labour, agriculture, and small businesses, stimulating economic activity in some districts (Betts et al., 2021). However, host communities sometimes perceive refugees as competitors for limited jobs, humanitarian employment opportunities, and local markets.

Another important socio-economic impact is pressure on public services. Refugee-hosting districts have experienced overcrowded schools, increased patient loads in health facilities, water shortages, and sanitation challenges (WHO, 2024). Although humanitarian investments have expanded infrastructure, population growth continues to outpace service expansion in several settlements. Social cohesion also emerges as an important socio-economic outcome. Ager and Strang (2008) argue that peaceful coexistence depends on trust, participation, and equitable access to opportunities. Studies in Uganda indicate that perceptions of unequal humanitarian assistance sometimes weaken trust between refugees and host communities even where programmes intentionally target both populations (World Bank, 2023).

Researcher's critical opinion: Ugandan literature provides substantial evidence regarding livelihood and service delivery impacts. This study addresses that limitation through qualitative inquiry.

2.4.5 Socio-Economic impacts in Northern Uganda

Northern Uganda has experienced prolonged environmental and socio-economic vulnerability because of historical conflict, displacement, and climate-related challenges. FAO (2024) reports that shrinking farmland and declining soil fertility have reduced agricultural productivity for both refugees and host communities.

Environmental degradation has also affected household resilience. Increased firewood collection has accelerated deforestation, while soil erosion has reduced the productivity of cultivated land. These environmental changes contribute to food insecurity, declining incomes, and increased dependence on humanitarian assistance (UNEP, 2023). Gender dimensions remain particularly significant. Women spend more time collecting firewood and

water because nearby resources have become depleted. Longer collection distances expose women and girls to safety risks while reducing opportunities for education and income-generating activities (WHO, 2024). Community relations have similarly been affected. Competition over natural resources, casual labour, humanitarian assistance, and social services have increased mistrust between some refugee and host households. However, community dialogue mechanisms and shared livelihood initiatives have also strengthened cooperation in several settlements (UNHCR, 2024).

Understanding these lived experiences is essential for conflict transformation research.

2.4.6 Socio-Economic Impacts in Adjumani District

Studies conducted in Adjumani identify declining agricultural productivity as a major consequence of land competition. Increased demand for farmland has reduced cultivation space, increased borrowing arrangements, and generated disputes over land boundaries and customary ownership (Akumu, 2020; World Bank, 2023). This has affected food production and household incomes for both communities.

Water scarcity similarly affects livelihoods and household wellbeing. Shared boreholes and water systems become overcrowded during dry seasons, increasing waiting time and reducing water availability for domestic and agricultural use (WHO, 2024). Water shortages particularly affect women and children because they are primarily responsible for water collection. Environmental degradation has also contributed to increasing poverty. Forest depletion reduces access to fuelwood and construction materials while increasing the distance households travel to collect natural resources (UNEP, 2023). These environmental pressures reduce household resilience and increase dependence on humanitarian support.

The literature further identifies weakened social cohesion as an important socio-economic consequence. Competition over land, forests, and humanitarian resources sometimes creates mistrust, negative perceptions, and occasional disputes between refugees and host communities. Nevertheless, community dialogue, shared livelihood groups, environmental committees, and local mediation structures have helped reduce tensions in some communities (UNHCR, 2024).

Researcher's critical opinion and knowledge gap: Existing literature demonstrates that environmental resource conflicts have significant socio-economic impacts in Adjumani District.

2.4.7 Synthesis and Knowledge Gap

The reviewed literature consistently shows that environmental resource-related conflicts have multidimensional socio-economic impacts on refugees and host communities.

However, an important gap remains. This study addresses this gap by generating context-specific qualitative evidence from refugees, host community members, local leaders, and humanitarian actors.

2.5 Policies and Interventions addressing Environmental Resource-Related Conflicts between Refugees and Host Communities

Environmental resource-related conflicts in refugee-hosting communities cannot be addressed through emergency humanitarian assistance alone. This section critically analyses global, regional, national, and local interventions and identifies the knowledge gaps that inform this study.

2.5.1 Global Policy Frameworks for managing Environmental Resource Conflicts

The international refugee protection system has increasingly shifted from emergency humanitarian response towards integrated development and peacebuilding approaches. The framework emphasises environmental sustainability, social cohesion, livelihood opportunities, and the systematic inclusion of refugees in national services (UNHCR, 2018).

Recent UNHCR implementation reports indicate that countries implementing the GCR have increasingly integrated environmental conservation into refugee response programming through afforestation, watershed restoration, and clean energy initiatives (UNHCR, 2024). Another important global intervention is the United Nations Environment Programme's Environmental Peacebuilding Framework. UNEP (2023) argues that environmental governance should become part of peacebuilding because competition over natural resources often fuels conflict in displacement settings.

Similarly, the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide an important policy foundation for refugee-hosting communities. Goals 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 13 (Climate Action), 15 (Life on Land), and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) collectively encourage sustainable management of environmental resources while promoting peaceful societies and inclusive institutions (United Nations, 2015). These goals are particularly relevant to refugee-hosting districts because they emphasise balancing

humanitarian assistance with long-term environmental sustainability. Despite these comprehensive global frameworks, scholars argue that implementation remains uneven. Betts and Collier (2017) observe that international commitments are often stronger than financial support provided to refugee-hosting countries.

Similarly, World Bank (2023) notes that many refugee-hosting districts continue to experience inadequate investment in environmental restoration despite increasing pressure on natural resources.

Researcher's critical opinion: Global policy frameworks provide strong guidance for integrating refugee protection with environmental sustainability. However, they are largely normative and depend on national governments and humanitarian agencies for implementation. They provide limited guidance on how local communities negotiate environmental resource governance under customary systems, making context-specific research necessary.

2.5.2 Regional interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa and East Africa

At the regional level, African institutions increasingly recognise that displacement, climate change, and environmental degradation require coordinated responses. The African Union Kampala Convention provides an important framework for protecting displaced populations while encouraging durable solutions and sustainable resource management in affected communities. Although the Convention primarily addresses internally displaced persons, its principles have informed broader approaches to displacement governance across Africa (African Union, 2012).

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has also developed regional strategies linking refugee protection with climate resilience and environmental governance. The IGAD Support Platform encourages member states to strengthen environmental restoration, climate adaptation, livelihood resilience, and cross-border cooperation in refugee-hosting areas (IGAD, 2024). The strategy recognises that environmental degradation and forced displacement increasingly reinforce each other across the Horn of Africa. Kenya provides an important regional example through the Kalobeyei Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme (KISED). Unlike traditional refugee camps, KISED promotes integrated development for refugees and Turkana host communities through shared

infrastructure, livelihoods, environmental restoration, and private sector investment (UNHCR, 2023).

Ethiopia's implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) similarly promotes refugee inclusion within national development systems. Refugees receive increased access to education, employment, and livelihoods while host communities benefit from investments in infrastructure and public services (World Bank, 2023). However, studies from Gambella indicate that environmental conflicts continue where land governance remains weak and refugee populations continue to grow (Fekadu & Feyissa, 2020).

Researcher's critical opinion: Regional frameworks demonstrate increasing recognition that refugee protection and environmental governance should be integrated. However, implementation experiences differ significantly across countries because refugee policies, governance systems, and customary land institutions vary. Uganda's settlement model therefore requires context-specific analysis rather than direct comparison with Kenya or Ethiopia.

2.5.3 Uganda's National Policies and Interventions

These legal provisions distinguish Uganda from many refugee-hosting countries that maintain restrictive camp systems (UNHCR, 2024). The CRRF encourages whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches by integrating refugee response into national development planning, district development plans, and sectoral policies (Office of the Prime Minister, 2023).

The Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan (2022–2025) operationalises these commitments by supporting refugee protection, environmental sustainability, livelihoods, education, health, water, sanitation, nutrition, and peaceful coexistence (UNHCR, 2024). ReHoPE supports agricultural production, financial inclusion, vocational skills development, infrastructure improvement, environmental restoration, and community resilience (UNDP, 2017).

These structures provide opportunities for mediation, dialogue, and participatory decision-making. Nevertheless, several studies identify important implementation challenges. Ahimbisibwe (2020) argues that customary land tenure remains one of the weakest areas within Uganda's refugee governance system because agreements between host communities and humanitarian agencies are often informal and inadequately documented. Similarly, World

Bank (2023) reports that refugee-hosting districts continue to experience funding gaps that limit environmental restoration and infrastructure expansion. Another challenge concerns balancing refugee self-reliance with environmental sustainability. While refugees receive land for cultivation, declining soil fertility, shrinking farm sizes, and unpredictable rainfall reduce agricultural productivity and increase dependence on forests and humanitarian assistance (FAO, 2024).

Most policies acknowledge environmental sustainability, yet environmental governance receives less attention than humanitarian protection and livelihoods. This suggests that policy success should be evaluated through community experiences rather than policy intentions alone.

2.5.4 Humanitarian and Development interventions in Northern Uganda

Several organisations implement interventions aimed at reducing environmental degradation while strengthening peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities. Recent programming includes community woodlots, forest restoration, renewable energy promotion, climate adaptation, and environmental awareness campaigns (UNHCR, 2024).

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) coordinates refugee settlement management and collaborates with district local governments in land allocation, conflict mediation, environmental management, and implementation of the Refugee Response Plan (OPM, 2024). Other humanitarian organisations implement complementary interventions. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) promotes sustainable agriculture, environmental restoration, peacebuilding dialogues, and community resilience. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) supports conflict resolution, natural resource governance, livelihoods, and protection programming. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) promotes climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, soil conservation, irrigation, and farmer training (FAO, 2024).

Community-based interventions have become increasingly important. Environmental committees involving refugees and host communities jointly manage tree nurseries, woodlots, and watershed restoration activities. Peace committees facilitate dialogue over land boundaries, water use, grazing rights, and environmental disputes. Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) strengthen livelihoods and reduce dependence on unsustainable natural resource extraction. Despite these interventions, literature indicates that environmental pressures remain significant. UNEP (2023) reports that tree planting

programmes often fail to replace trees harvested for fuelwood because household energy needs remain high. Similarly, FAO (2024) observes that climate-smart agriculture has improved resilience in some communities but remains limited by inadequate irrigation infrastructure, land availability, and climate variability.

Researcher's critical opinion: Humanitarian interventions in Northern Uganda increasingly recognise environmental sustainability as part of peacebuilding. However, many interventions remain donor-funded projects with limited sustainability after project completion. Long-term environmental governance requires stronger local institutions and community ownership rather than dependence on external actors.

2.5.5 Policies and interventions in Adjumani District

Government institutions, humanitarian agencies, local organisations, and community structures collaborate to strengthen environmental management and peaceful coexistence. One important intervention is the establishment of community environmental committees composed of refugees and host community representatives. These committees oversee tree planting, environmental awareness, protection of communal forests, and mediation of disputes related to natural resources. Literature suggests that joint environmental governance improves communication and encourages shared responsibility for environmental conservation (UNHCR, 2024).

Tree planting and community woodlots have become common environmental restoration strategies. Refugees and host communities participate in nursery establishment, distribution of tree seedlings, and restoration of degraded areas. Species planted include eucalyptus, grevillea, mango, neem, and indigenous tree species depending on local environmental conditions. Energy-saving cooking stoves have also been introduced to reduce dependence on firewood. These stoves consume less fuelwood than traditional cooking methods and reduce pressure on surrounding forests. Studies indicate that adoption has improved in some settlements, although affordability, cultural cooking practices, and limited awareness affect wider uptake (UNEP, 2023). Water interventions include construction of boreholes, piped water systems, water user committees, and rehabilitation of damaged water infrastructure (WHO, 2024). These interventions reduce walking distances and improve access to safe water for both refugees and host communities. However, seasonal water shortages and infrastructure maintenance remain significant challenges.

These interventions aim to reduce dependence on natural resources by diversifying household income sources (FAO, 2024). However, literature reveals several implementation gaps. Akumu (2020) argues that land conflicts persist because customary ownership arrangements remain unclear in some communities. Community environmental committees often lack financial resources and technical support to sustain conservation activities. Furthermore, women and youth remain underrepresented in some local resource governance structures despite bearing disproportionate environmental burdens. This limits understanding of whether interventions produce sustainable peace.

Nevertheless, existing literature focuses largely on programme achievements rather than community experiences of intervention effectiveness.

2.5.6 Synthesis of the Literature and Knowledge Gap

Global frameworks such as the Global Compact on Refugees, regional strategies developed by IGAD, and Uganda's CRRF, ReHoPE Framework, and Refugee Response Plan all emphasise environmental sustainability, social cohesion, and refugee self-reliance.

However, the literature also reveals important gaps in depth.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The chapter explained the methodology for that study, which clarified the research approach, research design, research setting and participants, data collection methods, data analysis procedures, and ethical considerations. The study employed an exploratory qualitative research approach prioritizing comprehensive exploration and descriptive research design, aiming to investigate thoroughly the dynamics of environmental resources and conflicts within refugee-host relationships for a detailed understanding. The research activities captured a range of perspectives by utilizing diverse study settings and detailed sampling techniques such as purposive, convenience, and snowball sampling. The primary data collection methods employed were in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions (FGDs) and document review for secondary data, which facilitated the collection of rich data. In-depth interviews enabled the researcher to gain rich detailed insights into individual perspectives, experiences, feelings, and beliefs regarding the study topic. Document reviews helped the researcher to analyze existing written or reordered materials such as reports, articles, letters, memos, photographs, and videos to understand past events, trends, policies, and perspectives. Focus group discussions (FGDs) with detailed qualitative analysis techniques were employed to identify patterns and themes, with ethical principles guiding the protection of participants' rights. That methodological section strengthened the research approach, enabling a precise examination of the complex characteristics of environmental resources and conflicts within refugee-host relationships.

3.1 Research Philosophy

This study was guided by the interpretivist research philosophy, which seeks to understand how people make meaning of their lived experiences within a specific social context. Interpretivism was appropriate because the study explored refugees' and host communities' perceptions, experiences, and interpretations of environmental resource conflicts in Adjumani District. Rather than measuring objective realities, the philosophy enabled the researcher to understand participants' views, relationships, and interactions regarding competition over land, water, forests, and other environmental resources through their own voices and experiences (Creswell, 2014; Denzin & Lincoln, 2018).

3.2 Study approach and Research Design

This study employed an exploratory qualitative research approach grounded in the interpretivist research philosophy and guided by the Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) design. The qualitative approach was appropriate because it enabled the researcher to explore and understand the lived experiences, perceptions, and meanings that refugees and host communities attach to environmental resource conflicts in Adjumani District. The exploratory design provided flexibility to investigate a complex social phenomenon without relying on predetermined hypotheses (Creswell, 2009). The study used in-depth interviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and document reviews to collect rich and contextual data from diverse participants. Separate and mixed FGDs for refugees and host communities enhanced triangulation, credibility, and a deeper understanding of the social, economic, and environmental dynamics shaping refugee-host coexistence and conflict.

3.3 Study Setting

This study was conducted in Adjumani District, located in the West Nile sub-region of northern Uganda. Adjumani is one of Uganda's major refugee-hosting districts because of its strategic location along the Uganda–South Sudan border. The district covers approximately 3,128 square kilometres, of which about 46.8 square kilometres are water bodies, while much of the land is suitable for agriculture and settlement (Adjumani District Local Government, 2024). Geographically, Adjumani is bordered by Moyo and Obongi Districts to the north, South Sudan to the north-east and east, Amuru District to the south-east, Nwoya District to the south, Arua District to the west, and Yumbe District to the north-west (Uganda Bureau of Statistics [UBOS], 2024; Adjumani District Local Government, 2024). Its location makes it the first point of entry for many refugees fleeing conflict in South Sudan.

The study specifically focused on Ayilo I and Ayilo II refugee settlements located in Adidi Parish, Pakele Sub-county. These settlements host a large population of South Sudanese refugees, predominantly from the Dinka, Madi, Nuer, Bari, and other ethnic communities, who live alongside the indigenous Madi-speaking host communities (Office of the Prime Minister [OPM], 2024; UNHCR, 2024). Both refugees and host communities depend on shared environmental resources, including land, forests, water sources, and wetlands, for agriculture, domestic use, fuelwood, and livelihood activities.

Adjumani District was purposively selected because it experiences significant environmental pressure resulting from the prolonged refugee influx since 2013. The district therefore provided an appropriate setting for examining how competition over environmental resources contributes to tensions, affects social cohesion, and influences peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities in Northern Uganda (World Bank, 2023; UNHCR, 2024).

3.4 Study Population

The study population comprised both refugees and host community members living in Ayilo I and Ayilo II refugee settlements in Adidi Parish, Pakele Sub-county, Adjumani District, Northern Uganda. The population was selected because both communities depend on shared environmental resources, including land, water, forests, and wetlands, for their livelihoods and daily survival, making the area appropriate for investigating environmental resource-related tensions and conflicts.

According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS, 2024), Adjumani District hosts 228,295 refugees, of whom approximately 38% are adults aged 18 years and above, while the host community population stands at 300,590 people, giving the district a combined population of 528,885. The study specifically focused on Ayilo I and Ayilo II settlements, which host 23,644 refugees living in 5,003 households. The surrounding host community consists of 3,299 people living in 756 households (UBOS, 2024).

The target population included adult refugee and host community members aged 18 years and above who had lived in the study area long enough to understand the environmental resource challenges and relationships between the two communities. The study also included key informants drawn from institutions and community leadership structures, including Local Council (LC) leaders, Parish Chiefs, Refugee Welfare Committee (RWCs) members, Block Leaders, religious leaders, Office of the Prime Minister officials, District Officials, and representatives of humanitarian organisations working in the settlements. These participants were considered knowledgeable because of their direct involvement in environmental resource management, refugee governance, conflict resolution, and community development.

3.5 Sampling Procedures

3.5.1 Data Saturation

This study employed thematic data saturation to determine the adequacy of the qualitative sample size. Data saturation is reached when additional interviews or focus group discussions no longer generate new themes, concepts, or insights relevant to the research objectives (Guest, Bunce, & Johnson, 2006; Saunders et al., 2018). Throughout data collection, the researcher continuously reviewed emerging themes from in-depth interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). Saturation was achieved when participants began providing similar responses and no substantial new information emerged. This approach ensured sufficient depth, diversity, and credibility of the findings while capturing the lived experiences and perspectives of both refugees and host communities regarding environmental resource conflicts in Adjumani District (Creswell & Poth, 2018).

3.5.2 Sampling techniques/strategies

The study employed a non-probability purposive sampling method, which was appropriate because qualitative research prioritizes depth over statistical generalizability. Investigating complex environmental conflicts requires selecting “information-rich cases”—participants with specialized knowledge and firsthand experience of local resource dynamics (Patton, 2002; Creswell, 2014). By integrating maximum variation, homogeneous, and typical case sampling strategies, the study effectively captured diverse refugee and host perspectives while isolating shared community challenges (Palinkas et al., 2015). Furthermore, sampling until thematic saturation ensured data adequacy, guaranteeing that data collection ceased only when no new insights emerged (Saunders et al., 2018). This targeted approach provided the context-specific clarity needed to understand host-refugee resource interactions, which random probability sampling could not achieve. The study had anticipated approximately 60 participants, but ultimately used 55 respondents from KIIs, FGDs, and Household interviews, providing comprehensive insights into the dynamics of resource use and interaction between refugees and host communities.

3.5.3 Sampling Process/Procedure

The sampling process followed a structured, ethically approved protocol starting with administrative clearances from the Adjumani Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), the Refugee Desk Officer (OPM), and the Pakele Sub-County Chief. Following these

endorsements, OPM Senior Protection and Community Service Officers facilitated entry by introducing the research team to the Assistant Settlement Commandant, local leadership, and key operational partners, including UNHCR and LWF.

Participants were selected through a multi-tiered purposive sampling procedure across three distinct respondent categories:

Key Informants (KIs): Strategically selected based on institutional roles and community oversight, comprising district officials (LCV, District Resource Officer), sub-county leadership (LCIII, CDO), civil society (Adjumani District Elders Forum), OPM representatives, partner agencies (UNHCR, LWF), and settlement leaders (RWC Chairs and Women Leaders).

Household Respondents: Purposively sampled across Ayilo 1 and 2 settlements and adjacent host villages to capture localized resource-use perspectives.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): Conducted with host and refugee community members, including local leaders (LCIIs, LCI, male and female refugees/host and traditional chiefs). Although four FGDs were initially planned, sampling concluded after two groups (eight participants each) upon reaching thematic saturation.

Fig 2: Sampling Process Summary

The table below outlines the categories of participants, the sampling techniques used, and the specific locations where data was collected.

Participant Category	Type of Sampling	Location	Description/Remarks
District Officials (CAO, District Natural Resource Officer, LCV)	Purposive Sampling	Adjumani District Headquarters	Provided district-level policy and environmental management insights.
Sub County Leaders (LCIII,)	Purposive Sampling	Pakele Sub County	Offered perspectives on local governance and coordination with settlements.
Partner Organizations (LWF, UNHCR, OPM Officers)	Purposive Sampling	OPM, UNHCR, and LWF Offices in Pakele Town Council	Shared operational experiences in managing refugee programs and resource use.
Refugee Welfare Committee (RWC) and Women Leader	Purposive Sampling	Ayilo I & II Settlements	Represented community perspectives from refugee leadership structures.
Household Respondents (Refugees and Hosts)	Purposive Sampling	Ayilo I & II Settlements and Host Villages	Selected based on involvement in environmental resource use and livelihood activities.
Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Participants	Purposive Sampling	Ayilo I & II Settlements	Two FGDs held; participants included men and women discussing shared challenges.
Local Leaders (LCII, LC1s, Local Chiefs)	Purposive Sampling	Host Communities (Parishes and Villages near Ayilo)	Provided local-level experiences on resource-based tensions and coexistence.

3.6 Eligibility Criteria

3.6.1 Inclusion Criteria

The study's inclusion criteria stated that refugees residing in Ayilo (1 and 2) who exhibited sound mental health were eligible to participate. Additionally, members of the host communities living in villages surrounding Ayilo (1 and 2) were also considered for inclusion. Both refugee and host community participants were required to have established residency within the study area for at least one year. Furthermore, all prospective study participants needed to have voluntarily signed a consent form, demonstrating their informed agreement to take part in the research. These criteria aimed to ensure a focused and meaningful investigation into the experiences and perspectives of individuals who met the specified demographic and temporal parameters within the designated study region.

3.6.2 Exclusion Criteria

The study's exclusion criteria defined specific conditions that made individuals ineligible for participation. This included refugees previously registered in Ayilo Refugee Settlement who had subsequently been reintegrated into urban settings, as their experiences and perspectives were considered to differ significantly. Individuals who had resided in the refugee settlement for less than one year were also excluded, as their limited duration in the community might not provide a comprehensive understanding of the prevailing dynamics. Host community members who had acquired land within the past year and settled within the study area were not considered for participation. Furthermore, both host community members and refugees classified as visitors, having arrived to visit acquaintances or relatives, were not included in the research. These exclusion criteria were designed to refine the participant pool, ensuring the study captured the experiences of individuals with a more established and continuous presence in the designated area.

3.7 Data Collection Methods

Data collection utilized a qualitative, multi-method approach comprising Household Interviews, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), and Documentary Review. The study employed multiple qualitative methods facilitates data triangulation, enhancing overall study credibility and trustworthiness (Creswell & Creswell, 2018; Patton, 2014). Fieldwork was supported by two multilingual, gender-balanced Research Assistants experienced in Ayilo's cultural context.

Household Open-Ended Interviews

Face-to-face interviews were conducted with 31 household heads (20 refugees; 11 hosts). This method captured micro-level, domestic experiences regarding daily resource usage, water access burdens, and localized friction over fuelwood and land.

Key Informant Interviews

In-depth sessions were held with 8 institutional actors, including district officials, OPM officers, UNHCR/LWF partners, local leaders, and the Adjumani District Elders Forum. KIIs gathered expert insights into resource governance, administrative challenges, and macro-level policies.

Focus Group Discussions

Two FGDs of 8 participants each (16 total participants), comprising village leaders, youth, and women from both communities, were conducted before reaching thematic saturation.

Group interaction highlighted shared social norms, collective grievances, and inter-community dynamics.

Documentary Review

Secondary qualitative data were systematically retrieved from statistical reports, policy frameworks, and intervention documents from OPM, UNHCR, and local government offices to establish historical context and validate primary field observations.

3.8 Data Collection Instruments/Tools

To operationalize the qualitative data collection methods, four core research instruments were designed: Household Interview Guides, Key Informant Interview Guides, Focus Group Discussion Guides, and Documentary Review Checklists. Tailored research instruments guarantee content validity, thematic consistency, and systematic inquiry across distinct stakeholder levels (Bryman, 2016).

Household Interview Schedules

Structured with open-ended prompts, this tool enabled systematic yet flexible exploration of individual household energy needs, agricultural land pressure, water point disputes, and personal coping strategies (Denzin & Lincoln, 2018).

Key Informant Interview Guides

Designed with semi-structured, expert-level questions targeting policy implementation, institutional coordination between OPM and local governments, and structural gaps in environmental management (Rubin & Rubin, 2012).

Focus Group Discussion Guides

Developed using interactive, conversational prompts to stimulate collective reflection and group debate surrounding shared natural resources, environmental degradation, and community-led peace initiatives (Stewart & Shamdasani, 2014).

Documentary Review Checklists

Formulated to guide the systematic extraction of contextual baseline data, historical policy shifts, and institutional reporting metrics from secondary publications.

Supplementary data collection equipment included field notebooks for recording real-time non-verbal behaviours, contextual observations, and analytical reflexivity memos.

3.9 Quality control methods

3.9.1 Data Quality

Data quality in the study was ensured through close attention to trustworthiness. Credibility was established via prolonged engagement, persistent observation, and member checking for transcript accuracy. Transferability was addressed by providing detailed descriptions of the research context, which allowed readers to assess applicability elsewhere. Dependability was ensured through a comprehensive audit trail documenting the research process. Confirmability was established by maintaining a reflexive journal, acknowledging researcher biases, and demonstrating a clear connection between interpretations and data. Finally, triangulation, using multiple data sources and methods (interviews, FGDs, document review), further enhanced trustworthiness, with rigorous data management maintaining overall data integrity.

3.9.2 Trustworthiness of the Study

In this study, trustworthiness was used instead of validity and reliability to ensure the quality of the findings. Credibility referred to how well the findings represented the real experiences of the community. This was achieved through thorough training of research assistants and data collectors to ensure accurate and ethical data collection. Interviews and discussions were conducted carefully to allow participants to freely express their views. Dependability, which relates to the consistency of the research process, was ensured by using a standardized interview guide and document review to capture data consistently and reduce errors. In addition, a rapporteur documented both verbal and non-verbal communication in verbatim form, providing detailed and accurate records.

Confirmability was strengthened by keeping clear records of interview transcripts, and field notes to ensure that findings were based on participants' views rather than researcher bias. Finally, transferability was supported by providing a clear description of the study context and population, allowing readers to judge the applicability of the findings to similar settings.

3.9.3 Data Management

The study implemented rigorous qualitative data management and manual thematic analysis protocols to preserve contextual richness and ensure data security, following Braun and Clarke (2006). Raw data collected from interviews and focus group discussions, alongside detailed field notes, were systematically organized, manually coded, and categorized into key themes based on recurring patterns of resource friction. Verbatim written transcripts captured essential non-verbal cues and emotional emphasis to maintain analytical fidelity. To guarantee participant confidentiality and data integrity, all field notes and raw text files were encrypted, password-protected, and backed up on secure storage throughout the research lifecycle according to Creswell (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

3.10 Data Analysis Method

Data analysis was conducted using manual thematic analysis, following the foundational framework established by Braun and Clarke (2006). Manual thematic analysis was chosen as the most appropriate method for this study due to its inherent flexibility and suitability for detailed, exploratory qualitative inquiry into complex social interactions. Given the delicate nature of refugee–host resource tensions, this hands-on analytical approach allowed the researcher to maintain deep immersion in the dataset, capturing subtle contextual nuances, emotional tone, and localized meanings that automated software might overlook (Saldaña, 2021). Though initially planned for acquisition of ATLAS.ti data analysis software for qualitative research, the funding under the BSU4 limited it.

The analytical process followed a systematic sequence:

Data Preparation: Field notes and raw text data were manually transcribed into Microsoft Excel, followed by thorough data cleaning and verification against original records to ensure accuracy.

Familiarization: The researcher repeatedly read through the cleaned transcripts to gain a comprehensive overview of the qualitative material.

Coding and Theme Generation: Open manual coding was applied directly to the text, grouping similar concepts to identify recurring patterns, core themes, and divergent perspectives surrounding resource management.

Contextual Integration: Direct verbatim quotes were retained within final thematic categories to preserve participants' authentic voices, ensuring high credibility and interpretive trustworthiness.

3.11 Ethical Consideration

The study was conducted in strict adherence to ethical principles and guidelines for research involving human subjects. Prior to commencing data collection, a research proposal was submitted to the Gulu University Research Ethics Committee (GUREC) for review and approval. Subsequently, ethical clearance was also sought from the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST). This dual approval process ensured compliance with both institutional and national ethical standards.

All participants were provided with comprehensive informed consent forms detailing the study's purpose, procedures, potential risks and benefits, and their rights as research participants. These rights included the right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty, the right to refuse to answer any question, and the assurance of confidentiality and anonymity. Written informed consent was obtained from each participant before any data collection procedures, such as interviews or focus group discussions, were conducted. The consent form was provided in both English and the dominant local language spoken by both the refugee and host communities to ensure understanding.

Upon receiving ethical approvals, the approval letter (research permit from GUREC) was presented to relevant authorities in the study areas. These authorities included, but were not limited to, the Adjumani Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Refugee Desk Officer (RDO), UNHCR representatives, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), LCIII officials, the Community Development Officer (CDO), relevant implementing partners, and Refugee Welfare Committees (RWCs). This process ensured transparency and facilitated collaboration with local stakeholders.

The researcher was committed to respecting and adhering to the cultural norms and sensitivities of both the refugee settlement and host communities. To ensure cultural appropriateness, research assistants were recruited from individuals who possessed a deep understanding of the local cultures and customs. Furthermore, data collection schedules were carefully planned to avoid conflicts with important community events, such as food

distribution days, community meetings, verification exercises, or cash-for-work programs. This practical approach minimized disruption and maximized participant availability.

Research assistants were engaged through formal contract agreements that clearly outlined their responsibilities and expected deliverables. They received a lump sum compensation of 70,000 UGX per person per day, which included a daily allowance (40,000 UGX), transportation allowance (20,000 UGX), and meal facilitation (10,000 UGX). To acknowledge participants' time and contribution to the study, time compensation was provided. Participants in household interviews received 10,000 UGX per person. Key informant interviewees (KIIs) received 20,000 UGX per person. Focus group discussion participants received a 10,000 UGX transportation facilitation and a 2,000 UGX refreshment token per person. These compensations were intended to cover expenses and demonstrated appreciation for their involvement in the research.

3.12 Research findings dissemination Plan

Dissemination of this research will prioritize reaching diverse audiences to maximize impact. Initial findings will be shared with participants and their communities through accessible summary reports in local languages through the authorities from both refugees and host communities, fostering local ownership and feedback.

Policy briefs summarizing key findings and recommendations will be disseminated to relevant government agencies like OPM, Adjumani district local Government, NGOs, and international organizations like UNHCR working in the study area.

One dissemination workshop will be held in collaboration with BSU4 Project attracting International and national audience like funders of BSU4 and the stakeholders from Adjumani District ore especially the district technocrats, OPM, and UNHCR.

Finally, collaboration with local media outlets will facilitate sharing research insights with the wider public through news articles and radio broadcasts, promoting public awareness and dialogue on the research topic. This multi-faceted approach ensures that the research findings reach diverse stakeholders and contribute to both academic understanding and practical application.

3.13 Limitations of the study

Despite the careful planning, this research encountered some limitations, though fewer than initially anticipated, which were effectively mitigated.

While access to data and participants in refugee settings like Adjumani could have posed security concerns, language barriers, or participant reluctance, the researcher's prior experience working with refugees during the 2016 influx, including in the establishment of Ayilo2, proved to be a significant advantage. Existing relationships and trust within the community were leveraged, and collaboration with community leaders, elders, and local organizations was essential in gaining access and ensuring a comprehensive understanding.

Regarding ethical challenges, although informed consent allowed some few withdrawals, frequent withdrawals were minimized by ensuring clear communication and offering flexibility to revisit sensitive questions.

Data validity and reliability were strongly addressed through triangulation, utilizing multiple data collection methods such as interviews, FGDs, and document analysis, which identified patterns and convergences.

Language and cultural barriers were effectively overcome by engaging local translators and interpreters with relevant cultural knowledge and language proficiency, ensuring accurate and sensitive data collection.

Minimal data bias and selection issues were observed due to the implementation of stratified sampling techniques, which ensured adequate representation of distinct groups.

Finally, stakeholder resistance was largely avoided through proactive engagement, clear communication, and collaboration throughout the research, fostering acceptance of the findings. By acknowledging these potential challenges and implementing these mitigation strategies, the research produced robust and reliable data, effectively informing solutions for this complex issue.

CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.0. Introduction

This chapter presents, analyses and discusses the findings of the study on conflict over environmental resources and tensions between refugees and host communities in Adjumani District. The chapter draws primarily on the experiences and perceptions of refugees and host community members in Ayilo I and Ayilo II refugee settlements and the surrounding host communities in Pakele Sub-County. Evidence was generated through 31 household interviews, eight key informant interviews and two focus group discussions involving refugees, host community members, local leaders, government officials, refugee leaders, civil society actors and representatives of humanitarian organisations. The study therefore sought not only to document the occurrence of environmental resource-related tensions, but also to understand the social, economic, cultural, gendered and institutional processes through which these tensions are produced, experienced and managed.

The chapter is organised around the study objectives. The first section examines the factors contributing to environmental resource-related tensions and conflicts, with emphasis on competition over land, water, firewood and other environmental resources, environmental degradation, inadequate resource governance, limited legal awareness and cultural misunderstandings. The second section discusses the socio-economic and social consequences of these tensions for refugees and host communities, including livelihood disruption, poverty, food insecurity, weakened social cohesion, safety concerns, gender-based violence, youth experiences and changes in social relationships. The third section analyses existing policies, programmes and interventions, including those implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other humanitarian and development actors. Particular attention is paid to environmental restoration, energy, water and sanitation, livelihoods, peacebuilding, legal assistance, gender and social protection.

The demographic composition of the study was deliberately balanced to capture diverse experiences. The study involved 55 individuals across the household interviews, key informant interviews and focus group discussions, comprising 29 males and 26 females.

Household interviews included 20 refugees and 11 host community members, while key informants included district officials, representatives of OPM, UNHCR and LWF, civil society actors, refugee leaders and local leaders. This diversity was important because environmental conflict is experienced differently depending on whether a person is a refugee or host, male or female, farmer or livestock keeper, youth or elder, local leader or ordinary community member. The resulting evidence therefore demonstrates that refugee-host conflict cannot be adequately understood as a simple contest between two homogeneous groups. Instead, both refugees and hosts contain internal differences in power, wealth, gender, livelihood, social status and access to institutions.

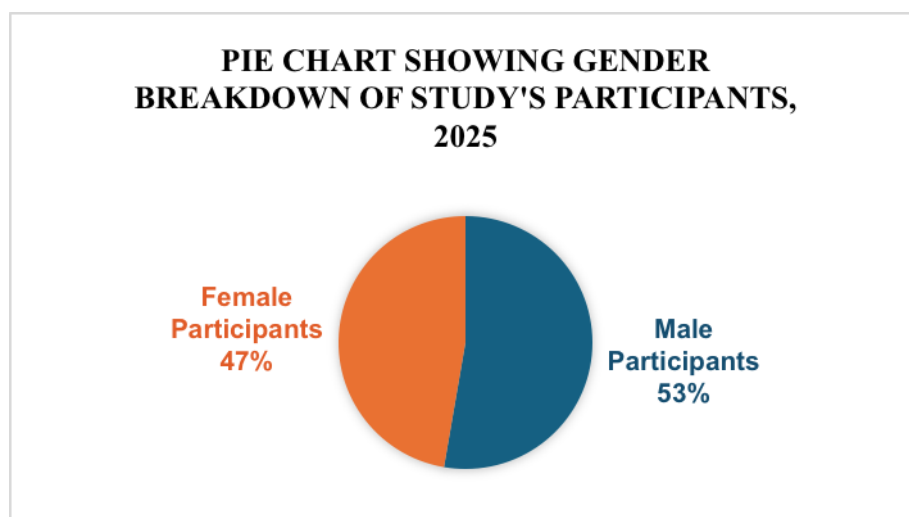
Fig 3: Respondent Demographic Summary.

Data Collection Method	Total Number (n)	Respondents Breakdown (Refugee/Host)	Gender Breakdown (Male/Female)
Household Interviews	31	Refugee: 20 / Host: 11	Male: 16 / Female: 15
Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)	8	<i>Roles:</i> Technocrats, District Leaders, Partner Reps (UNHCR, LWF, OPM), CSO, Refugee/Host Leaders	Male:5 /Female: 3
Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)	16	Refugee / Host (Representatives from both groups)	Male: 8/Female: 8
Secondary Data Review	N/A	<i>Sources:</i> OPM, UNHCR, District Local Government, Pakele Sub County, CSO	N/A
Total Individuals Interviewed/FGD	55	Refugee: 20+ / Host: 11+/KII:8+/FGD:16	Male: 29+ / Female: 26+

Data Source: Transcribed Study Data, 2025.

Fig 4: Gender breakdown of Study's Participants.

A nearly equal gender split (47% female, 53% male) in this study implies a conscious effort toward gender balance in recruitment. This suggests the research aimed to gather and compare the diverse experiences and perspectives of both men and women, ensuring one gender wasn't overwhelmingly dominant in the data.



Data Source: Transcribed Study Data, 2025.

4.1 Factors Contributing to Environmental Resource-Related Tensions and Conflicts

The first objective of the study sought to establish the factors contributing to environmental resource-related tensions and conflicts between refugees and host communities. The findings identified five closely interconnected dimensions: competition over scarce natural resources; environmental degradation and inadequate resource management; livelihood and economic pressures; inadequate awareness and cultural misunderstandings; and institutional weaknesses in the management of shared resources. These factors rarely operate independently. Rather, one pressure frequently reinforces another.

4.1.1 Competition over scarce natural resources

Competition over land, water, firewood and grazing space emerged as the most visible and immediate driver of conflict. Participants from both refugee and host communities described situations in which increasing demand collided with declining availability. The situation was particularly pronounced around settlements where agricultural land, grazing areas, woodland and water points are simultaneously used by refugees and surrounding communities.

Land as an economic, social and political resource

Land emerged as one of the most sensitive issues in refugee-host relations. Refugees require land to cultivate food, rear livestock and generate income, while host communities depend on the same resource for farming, grazing, housing, inheritance and cultural continuity. Refugee households reported that limited land availability and high rental costs had made agricultural

production increasingly difficult, particularly following reductions in food assistance. HH001/ROP (2025) explained:

“When UNHCR said they will stop giving food to people who have stayed in the settlement for more than seven years, I went and rented extra land to dig and grow food. But later, I found out that the same land was given to another person too. This brought a big fight between me and the land owner, and he refused to pay me back.”

Similarly, HH002/RWM (2025) reported:

“A land conflict happened between a male refugee and members of the host community after both parties claimed ownership of the same piece of land.”

From the host community perspective, the pressure was equally evident. HH0022/HR.R (2025) observed:

“Conflicts about land, water, and food come up because the population is growing fast, but the land is limited.”

Male refugee participants further explained that land rental was increasingly unaffordable:

“The cost of renting land is high and unaffordable” (FGD007/AMK, 2025).

Another participant referred to the shortage of space in the settlement:

“insufficient space provided by UNHCR, which is inadequate for both grazing and farming” (FGD001/1DD, 2025).

The same participant described the settlement as:

“congested” nature “inside and around the settlement” (FGD001/1DD, 2025),

while KII006 (2025) stated:

“Land crises and fighting between the host communities and refugees have occurred especially in areas near the settlements.”

These findings indicate that land scarcity is not merely a problem of physical availability. It is a governance problem involving ownership, boundaries, rental arrangements, customary authority, settlement planning and perceptions of entitlement. A refugee may understand land access in terms of a livelihood necessity, whereas a host may understand the same land as

family or clan property. Consequently, disputes may occur even where both parties believe they are acting legitimately.

Recent evidence from Adjumani strengthens this interpretation. Whyte and Vusso (2025) demonstrate that land used for refugee settlements in Adjumani was historically provided by local kin groups through processes that involved both sharing and exchange. In some cases, hosts regarded their provision of land as an expression of solidarity; in others, it represented an exchange with government for expected development benefits. Over time, increased demand for land by refugees has contributed to its commodification. This interpretation is highly relevant to the present findings because the evidence suggests that relationships around land are shifting from relationships of social obligation towards increasingly commercialised rental relations.

The findings also reflect earlier research showing that land-based refugee self-reliance is simultaneously an opportunity and a source of tension. Uganda's refugee model gives refugees access to land where available and permits them to engage in agriculture and commerce, but scholars have cautioned that access to land does not automatically create secure livelihoods because land availability, tenure arrangements and local power relations remain important.

The researcher interprets this as an important distinction between *access to land* and *secure land rights*. A refugee may technically access land but still face insecurity if the arrangement is informal, expensive, contested or subject to multiple claims. Likewise, a host may own land but experience economic pressure that encourages renting it out, sometimes at prices refugees consider excessive. The problem therefore cannot be solved simply by providing more land to refugees. It requires transparent land governance, clear boundaries, accessible dispute-resolution mechanisms and protection against fraudulent or multiple allocation of plots.

As a researcher, these findings also changed my understanding of land as an environmental resource. Land is not simply soil on which crops are grown. In the context of Adjumani, land represents identity, inheritance, social belonging, household survival and future security. When a person loses access to land, the consequences extend beyond lost income to include loss of dignity, food security and social status. The testimonies therefore demonstrate the need for participatory land-use planning that recognises both refugee livelihood needs and the historical claims and legitimate concerns of host communities.

Firewood, forests and thatching materials

Access to firewood and other forest products was another major source of tension. Refugee households, particularly women, explained that they depend heavily on surrounding natural resources because affordable alternative energy sources are limited. HH001/ROP (2025) reported:

“There is a time where we the refugees’ women are not allowed to fetch firewood for domestic cooking while there is no alternative source of fuel we can use.”

HH004/RCA (2025) described a dispute concerning thatching grass:

“They refused to let me cut grass in their area, yet that is the only material we refugees use to roof our huts because there is no grass inside the settlement.”

These experiences demonstrate that environmental conflict is closely connected to gender and household responsibilities. Women are often responsible for preparing food and collecting cooking fuel. Consequently, when forests become inaccessible or depleted, women experience the environmental crisis directly through increased time, cost and physical risk.

Host communities, however, perceive the same forests in terms of ownership, conservation and livelihood rights. One host respondent explained:

“You see, some problems come up because of people, like some of the refugees, cutting down trees. These are not their trees, and they didn’t even ask us. They just go and chop down many, many trees, for building their homes or to make charcoal to sell. That’s where the trouble starts” (HH0025/HCL, 2025, HH0029/HDRM, 2025).

This quotation is particularly significant because it reveals the symbolic nature of environmental conflict. The phrase *“these are not their trees”* expresses not only concern about environmental degradation but also a claim concerning local authority, ownership and belonging. For hosts, unauthorised extraction may be viewed as disrespect for customary authority; for refugees, access to firewood may be understood as necessary for survival.

KII001 (2025), a local council leader, observed:

“Refugees collect firewood even from community gardens, and this creates fights. We have received reports of confrontations almost weekly.”

Female refugees further described being:

“Chased away when collecting firewood” and being: “denied access to collect firewood”.

These findings demonstrate that environmental resources can become boundaries through which membership in the community is negotiated. Refugees may be physically close to host communities but still excluded from certain resources. This challenges an assumption that geographical proximity automatically produces social integration. This are consistent with recent evidence from Uganda showing that firewood remains a central source of household cooking energy among both refugee and host communities. Kyomuhendo et al. (2025), in their study of Rhino and Imvepi refugee settlements, found that firewood was the dominant cooking fuel, reported by 96% of host households and 97% of refugee households. The study further established that refugee women and children experienced greater difficulties in accessing firewood, while poverty, socio-cultural practices, weak policy enforcement, inadequate skills and limited awareness contributed to unsustainable woodfuel use and environmental degradation (Kyomuhendo et al., 2025). These findings closely correspond with the present study, in which refugee women reported being denied access to firewood and being “chased away when collecting firewood,” while host community members expressed concern about unsustainable tree cutting. The convergence suggests that household energy insecurity is not only an environmental issue but also a gendered livelihood and social-relations issue.

Similarly, Anywar et al. (2023) examined the potential of fast-growing exotic tree species as alternative sources of fuelwood for refugee and host communities in Northern Uganda. Their study, conducted in Lamwo District, responded to increasing pressure on slow-growing indigenous trees used for construction and household energy. The authors found that selected fast-growing species had potential to provide alternative fuelwood while reducing pressure on indigenous tree resources. This evidence supports the present study’s finding that community woodlots, tree planting, nursery development, briquettes and energy-saving technologies could form part of a more sustainable response to fuelwood scarcity and environmental degradation in Adjumani (Anywar et al., 2023).

Lutheran World Federations (LWF’s) experience in refugee-hosting areas is particularly relevant. Its environmental programming has included tree planting in both refugee settlements and host communities and training on energy-efficient technologies and practices

through mixed refugee-host groups. The significance of such interventions is that they address the environmental resource problem while simultaneously creating spaces for cooperation between the two populations.

The researcher therefore argues that energy interventions should be treated as peacebuilding interventions as well as environmental interventions. A briquette programme, community woodlot or energy-saving stove can reduce demand for natural forests, but its social value becomes greater when refugees and host communities jointly manage, produce or benefit from it. Conversely, interventions that provide alternative energy to refugees only may reduce pressure in one location while reinforcing host perceptions that refugees receive preferential assistance.

Water access and borehole conflicts

Water points emerged as another regular site of daily confrontation. HH016/RYK (2025) stated:

“Conflicts at water points are the most common”

and further explained that there was:

“a high demand for water, as the population size exceeds the capacity of the available water sources.”

Host community participants described:

“Our women arguing with the South Sudanese women over whose turn it is at crowded boreholes” (HH0027/HA.A, 2025; HH0028/HOR, 2025).

Water scarcity was also linked to environmental degradation and resource extraction. HH0028/HOR (2025) reported that refugees were digging:

“pits for sand near our farms, spoiling land and making it dangerous.”

Male refugees noted:

“Water access has worsened due to closure of some facilities” (FGD005/1JKA, 2025),

while female refugees stated:

“Water resources don’t meet population needs” (FGD004/1ALO, 2025)

and: *“Water points are contested by both groups”* (FGD002/1FB, 2025).

These findings illustrate the practical consequences of insufficient water infrastructure. Water points are not simply technical infrastructure; they are social spaces where people queue, negotiate turns, observe one another and sometimes reproduce broader tensions. Women are especially exposed because they are frequently responsible for collecting water for domestic use. Consequently, competition at boreholes may generate arguments between individuals, but these interpersonal disputes can acquire a wider refugee-host dimension.

LWF's historical WASH interventions in Adjumani illustrate that humanitarian actors have long recognised this pressure. LWF-supported water infrastructure in settlements including Ayilo II was introduced partly because existing wells and hand pumps were insufficient for the refugee population, producing long queues and dependence on water trucking. The persistence of water-related tensions in the current findings nevertheless demonstrates that infrastructure expansion alone does not automatically resolve conflict. Governance, maintenance, equitable access and meaningful participation are also critical.

The current refugee response architecture continues to recognise WASH as a central priority. Uganda's Refugee Response Plan (RRP) includes WASH interventions alongside protection, livelihoods, environment and energy, demonstrating that these sectors should be considered interconnected rather than isolated.

As a researcher, I therefore interpret water conflict as an example of how technical shortages become social conflicts. Two communities can share a borehole peacefully when capacity is adequate and access rules are accepted. The same infrastructure can become a conflict hotspot when supply is inadequate, users perceive discrimination, or the governing committee is not trusted. Consequently, more boreholes are necessary but not sufficient. Water governance must incorporate joint management committees, transparent access rules, maintenance arrangements, grievance mechanisms and representation of both refugee and host users.

4.1.2 Environmental degradation and inadequate resource management

Environmental degradation emerged both as a consequence of refugee presence and as a factor that subsequently intensifies competition. KII004 (2025) observed:

“Since the arrival of refugees, trees are being cut daily. This is not sustainable and is affecting both communities.”

This statement highlights a central finding of the study: environmental impacts are shared. Forest degradation does not stop at settlement boundaries. Soil erosion, loss of vegetation, declining availability of firewood, reduced grazing areas and pressure on water sources affect both refugees and nationals.

However, assigning environmental degradation exclusively to refugees would oversimplify the problem. Host households also use forests for charcoal production, construction, farming expansion and firewood. Environmental pressure is therefore better understood as the result of population increase, poverty, energy dependence, livelihood strategies, institutional gaps and weak environmental enforcement. The recent Ugandan evidence on household cooking fuels confirms that environmental degradation associated with energy use is driven by multiple interacting factors, including economic hardship, socio-cultural norms, weak enforcement and limited awareness.

An additional problem is the inadequate coordination of interventions. KII003 (2025) reported:

“Sometimes NGOs dig boreholes in host areas but prioritize refugee access, which angers local people.”

Male FGD participants similarly reported:

“Cutting trees for fuelwood requires permission and fees” (FGD005/1JKA, 2025).

These findings raise an important issue concerning the unintended conflict effects of humanitarian assistance. A project can be technically successful but socially divisive if its beneficiaries are perceived as unfairly selected. A borehole may improve refugee access to water but increase host resentment if hosts living beside it are excluded. Similarly, a rule requiring permission and fees to collect forest products may be necessary for conservation but can be perceived as exclusionary when affected households have few alternatives.

This issue is important in the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). The CRRF is explicitly designed around a whole-of-society approach involving government, refugees, host communities, NGOs, UN agencies, private-sector actors, civil society and other stakeholders. The implication is that the process through which interventions are designed matters almost as much as the physical outputs they deliver.

As a researcher, I therefore argue that humanitarian intervention should be assessed using a “do no harm” lens that incorporates intergroup relations. Environmental projects should ask not only, “How many trees were planted?” or “How many boreholes were constructed?” but also, “Who participated?”, “Who benefits?”, “Who is excluded?”, “Do beneficiaries perceive the intervention as fair?” and “Does the intervention strengthen or weaken relationships between communities?”

This perspective is particularly important because funding constraints can encourage humanitarian actors to prioritise measurable outputs over difficult social outcomes. Yet a borehole that contributes to conflict because of perceived exclusion may have undermined part of its intended social benefit. Environmental restoration therefore needs to be combined with social accountability, participatory planning and conflict-sensitive implementation.

4.1.3 Inadequate awareness, language barriers and cultural misunderstandings

The study also identified limited awareness of land rights, language barriers and cultural differences as important factors contributing to tensions. KII003 (2025) observed:

“Awareness meetings and sensitisation have not yielded fruits. Many people don’t understand land rights clearly.”

Male FGD participants identified:

“unclear land ownership” as a major cause of tension (FGD008/1KA, 2025).

These findings suggest that legal and institutional arrangements may exist without being effectively understood at community level. Confusion concerning land ownership can create opportunities for exploitation, fraudulent transactions and competing claims. This is particularly problematic where customary and statutory systems overlap.

The Refugees Act, 2006 provides refugees with substantial rights, including the ability to engage in agriculture, commerce and employment and to access property rights subject to applicable law. It also expressly recognises integration as interaction and peaceful coexistence between refugees and nationals. Yet the existence of rights in legislation does not automatically translate into practical security. Recent refugee policy analysis in Uganda identifies continuing challenges around housing, land and property, economic opportunity, gender and social inclusion, despite the country’s strong legal framework.

Language constituted another significant barrier. A female refugee in FGD003/1JK (2025) explained:

“The conflict started because some refugees did not understand the language spoken by the host community. They thought the hosts were talking badly about them. This misunderstanding caused tension”

HH004/RCA (2025) similarly stated:

“Language barriers make it hard for refugees and host community members to understand each other. This sometimes leads to mistrust, misunderstandings, and even conflict between them.”

These quotations illustrate how a communication problem can rapidly become an identity problem. A statement whose meaning is unclear can be interpreted as an insult or threat. Such misinterpretation is more likely when there is already mutual suspicion. Ager and Strang (2008) identify social connections, language, culture, employment, housing, education and rights as interconnected dimensions of integration. Integration therefore involves more than physical settlement; it requires opportunities for meaningful interaction and the removal of structural barriers to communication.

Cultural differences also shaped perceptions of social relationships. Participants reported that some host community members considered interaction or marriage with refugees inappropriate (FGD008/1KA, 2025). Female refugee participants described:

“Some host people say, ‘How can you walk or marry with these refugees when we do not know their ways?’ so both sides just stay far apart, looking at each other with deep mistrust in their hearts.”

where:

“Host community sees refugees as wasteful and wealthy; refugees view hosts as unkind and selfish” (FGD005/AJA, 2025).

This is an important social dimension of the conflict. It demonstrates that environmental conflict is not only about trees, land and water; these resources become arenas in which existing social stereotypes are expressed. When a refugee is viewed as wealthy because of aid, land renting may be more expensive. When hosts are perceived as selfish, refugees may

become less willing to negotiate resource use collaboratively. HH003/RJK (2025) captured the perceived aid imbalance:

“The host community say that refugees are rich because they receive free things like food and other support. So, they feel refugees should not be allowed to benefit from their land.”

HH007/R B.A (2025) added:

“The host community charges us (refugees) too much money when we rent land because they think we have plenty of money.”

These findings are especially significant in the context of declining food assistance. Nanfuka et al. (2025), in a study of refugee and host communities in Kyangwali and Kyaka II settlements in Southwestern Uganda, found that food insecurity and limited coping resources contributed to negative coping practices, mistrust, aggression, resentment and weakening of cooperation between refugees and host communities. Their findings demonstrate that reductions in food assistance can have consequences beyond household food security by undermining social cohesion and increasing tensions between refugees and hosts. This closely resonates with the present study, where participants associated reductions in food assistance with increased pressure to secure agricultural land and other natural resources. The implication is that declining humanitarian assistance may indirectly intensify competition over environmental resources when adequate livelihood alternatives are not available.

The researcher therefore concludes that social cohesion should be understood as both a cause and an outcome of resource conflict. Where trust is strong, people are more likely to negotiate resource disputes peacefully. Where mistrust is already high, even minor disputes can become evidence of broader group hostility. Interventions should therefore integrate language learning, cultural exchange, legal awareness and dialogue with environmental and livelihood activities rather than treating them as separate sectors.

4.2 Socio-Economic and social impacts of Environmental Resource-Related Conflicts

The second objective examined the socio-economic and social consequences of environmental resource-related tensions for refugees and host communities. The findings demonstrate impacts across five major dimensions: disruption of livelihoods and increased poverty; food insecurity and declining household welfare; erosion of social cohesion and

trust; protection and gender-related risks; and pressure on education, youth participation and everyday social interaction.

4.2.1 Disruption of livelihoods and increased poverty

Livelihood disruption was one of the most direct consequences of resource conflicts. The household findings show that conflicts over land, livestock, trees and water interfere with farming, animal production and household expenditure. HH001/1DD (2025) connected environmental conflict to:

“When these quarrels over land and water start, our cows are chased far away and the young children grow thin and sick without milk. We are too afraid to go out to the fields to dig the garden, so the granaries stay empty and our harvest becomes small, small. Now the money for the home is finished, and the children suffer because the farm produces nothing”.

“HH006/RMA (2025) reported that lack of accessible firewood produced direct economic pressure, while a female host respondent stated:

“Because the host people block us from gathering wood, we cannot cook for our families unless we spend the little money we do not have. Without access to the trees, our pots sit cold while the market prices for firewood drain every coin from our pockets.”

FGD006/1AM (2025) further noted:

“When the host community poison or killed our cattle during the conflict, we lose the only source of milk and money we relied on to survive. Losing our livestock leaves our hands empty, with no income left to feed our children or buy basic needs.”

These findings demonstrate how the environmental and economic spheres reinforce each other. A household that loses access to land may produce less food. Reduced food production increases dependence on markets. Increased market dependence raises household expenditure. Higher expenditure reduces resources available for education, health and other needs. This may then reinforce poverty and increase dependence on humanitarian support.

Recent research on Uganda’s refugee and host populations supports this interpretation. Malevolti and Romano (2024) found evidence of a structural poverty trap affecting refugee

and host households and identified access to land, social cohesion, household characteristics and education as significant correlates of asset dynamics. The authors further found that refugees tend to converge towards a lower asset equilibrium than host households.

Economic integration research similarly demonstrates that economic integration between refugees and host communities can generate both opportunities and tensions. Oliver, D'Errico, and Winters (2024) found significant economic integration in Uganda, with refugees providing goods and services that benefited surrounding communities. However, market interactions also generated competition and were associated with lower host labour participation and crop-production earnings. These findings suggest that refugees contribute actively to local markets, production and consumption, but the benefits of integration are unevenly distributed, particularly where access to employment and productive resources remains unequal.

The study findings also indicate that economic inequality exists within refugee communities themselves. Female refugees noted:

“There is competition between refugee women over grazing space because the available grazing land is not enough for everyone, and this sometimes causes tension among us.” (FGD002/1FB, 2025).

Another female refugee explained that money was becoming an important factor in accessing land, creating tension among people who could not afford the rising rental costs:

“Land renting causes tension because those with more money access land faster, while those who do not have enough money struggle to get land for farming and grazing.” (FGD002/1FB, 2025).

This is an important refinement of the refugee-host conflict narrative. The study shows that resource scarcity generates competition both between and within groups. Refugee households with more financial resources may obtain better land, leaving poorer refugees more vulnerable. Host households also differ in their capacity to benefit from renting land, selling produce or participating in humanitarian programmes. The research therefore cautions against treating refugee and host communities as internally equal groups.

As a researcher, I interpret livelihood conflict as a question of resilience and opportunity. Where both communities possess viable economic alternatives, environmental scarcity is less

likely to produce direct confrontation. Where households have few alternatives, every acre of land, tree or water source assumes greater importance. Livelihood diversification is therefore not simply a development objective; it is a conflict-prevention strategy.

4.2.2 Food insecurity, aid reduction and household vulnerability

The relationship between humanitarian food assistance and natural resource conflict was particularly important in the study. Refugees explained that reductions in food assistance increased their need for agricultural land. This created a chain of effects in which humanitarian funding decisions could influence environmental pressure and refugee-host relations.

This finding is consistent with Nanfuka et al. (2025), who found in Kyaka II and Kyangwali refugee settlements that food insecurity following food-aid reductions contributed to negative coping practices, mistrust, aggression, social tensions and fragmentation between refugees and host communities. The study therefore shows that inadequate food assistance can indirectly weaken social cohesion and increase pressure on livelihood resources (Nanfuka et al., 2025).

The World Food Program's (WFP's) recent programming similarly demonstrates the importance of linking food assistance with self-reliance. In 2025, WFP announced support for income-generating activities targeting refugees and host communities, explicitly linking food security with livelihood opportunities and self-reliance. WFP's broader Uganda strategy also combines food assistance, agricultural and market support, asset creation, financial inclusion and climate resilience.

The significance of this for Adjumani is that food assistance and environmental management should not be planned separately. Abrupt reductions in assistance without adequate livelihood alternatives can increase demand for agricultural land, firewood and other resources. Conversely, livelihood interventions that are well designed can reduce pressure on natural resources by enabling households to obtain income from diversified activities.

The researcher therefore sees food insecurity as a potential *conflict multiplier*. Food shortages do not automatically produce conflict, but they increase dependence on contested resources and weaken households' ability to cope with shocks. For refugee-host settlements, a transition from food assistance to self-reliance must therefore be gradual, evidence-based and supported by land, market, skills, finance and social protection measures.

4.2.3 Strained social cohesion, identity and trust

Environmental resource conflict had major effects on social cohesion. HH001/ROP (2025) stated:

“When the host community call us, refugees! It affects our interaction with them (host communities) in a negative way.”

HH002/RWM (2025) attributed increased tension to:

“Their different ways of life and beliefs.”

HH006/RMA (2025) described the perception that hosts no longer:

“Support us anymore” and that they: *“chase us away.”*

KII007 (2025) provided an example of severe mistrust:

“My cattle were poisoned because they grazed near a refugee area. We have lost trust in each other.”

The consequences extend beyond individual disputes. KII008 (2025) observed:

“Joint participation in benefit-sharing of projects created peaceful co-existence. When it fails, communities become divided.”

FGD008/1KA (2025) similarly reported:

“Social tension makes it hard to interact with hosts.”

These findings provide one of the clearest social explanations of the conflict. When resource disputes become associated with group identities, the problem is no longer simply who gets a plot of land or who uses a borehole. Each new incident is interpreted through existing narratives about “refugees” and “hosts.”

Ager and Strang (2008) emphasize the central role of social connection and shared belonging in integration. Their framework suggests that employment, housing, education, rights and social relationships are mutually connected. Recent Ugandan research similarly finds that social cohesion is associated with asset dynamics and that weakening relationships can increase the vulnerability of both refugee and host households (Malevolti & Romano, 2024).

The present findings suggest that identity labels themselves can become sources of exclusion. Referring to an individual primarily as a “refugee” may emphasise difference even after years of residence. Such labelling may obscure the fact that refugees and hosts frequently share markets, schools, churches, roads, water points and agricultural spaces. The result can be a contradiction in which people are neighbours in everyday life but remain socially separated in how they imagine one another.

As a researcher, I reflected that peacebuilding must therefore move beyond formal meetings. A community may have a peace committee while ordinary people continue to avoid one another, distrust one another or use derogatory labels. Sustainable peace requires repeated everyday interaction that allows people to recognise each other as neighbours, business partners, classmates, farmers and members of the same wider community.

4.2.4 Safety concerns and gender-based violence

The findings revealed important gendered dimensions of environmental conflict. Women and girls were particularly affected by the need to travel long distances to collect firewood and water, often in locations where relations with host communities were tense. HH001/ROP (2025) reported that women were:

“Not allowed to fetch firewood for domestic cooking”.

HH013/RMG (2025) and HH014/RJA (2025) referred to situations in which:

“Women from host community still attack us while collecting firewood”.

A women’s leader stated:

“Girls go deep into the bush and are at risk of rape. These problems were less before refugees arrived.” (KII008, 2025).

Another finding linked environmental conflict with household conflict:

“Tensions within households, leading to GBV” (HH001/1DD, 2025; FGD001/1DD, 2025).

The findings should, however, be interpreted carefully. The study documents participants’ perceptions and reported experiences; it does not establish a causal statistical relationship between refugee presence and rates of GBV. Rather, the qualitative evidence indicates that resource scarcity and the search for environmental resources can create conditions in which women and girls experience increased vulnerability.

This interpretation is consistent with recent protection analysis in Uganda. Norwegian Refugee Council’s (NRC’s, 2024) assessment identifies land and property insecurity, livelihood constraints, access to services and gender dynamics as interconnected protection concerns for refugees and host communities. UNHCR’s protection and Gender Based Violence (GBV) response structures similarly identify GBV prevention and response as integral parts of the refugee response.

Importantly, the Ugandan Refugees Act contains explicit protections for women refugees and requires equal enjoyment and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Yet the existence of formal protection does not eliminate exposure to risk in remote areas. This illustrates once again the gap between rights on paper and lived realities.

The gender dimension also extends beyond physical security. Women bear significant unpaid care and resource-collection responsibilities. When firewood becomes scarce, women spend more time searching for it, purchase wood fuel at higher prices or adopt coping mechanisms that expose them to danger. Women may also be excluded from natural-resource decision-making even though they are among the principal users of those resources.

A recent Ugandan assessment specifically found that women's participation in energy, environment and climate decision-making is undervalued, despite the gendered impacts of natural-resource scarcity (UN Women, 2023). This strongly supports the present study's recommendation for gender-responsive environmental governance.

From my personal interpretation as a researcher, this is a major warning against treating environmental interventions as gender neutral. A tree-planting project designed without women may be less effective because women are major users of household fuel. A water project designed without women may overlook queue management and collection responsibilities. A peace committee without meaningful female participation may miss the forms of insecurity experienced outside formal community meetings.

4.2.5 Education, youth participation and intergenerational relationships

Youth emerged as both a vulnerable group and an important resource for peacebuilding. The study found that social interaction through education and sport can reduce group boundaries.

KII005 (2025) stated:

“Children are sent to integrated schools and youths play football together. It's helping to build unity and reduce conflicts.”

A host community participant, HH0027/HA.A (2025), described:

“My own brother, he plays football with the refugee boys every evening; they are even learning some of each other's words... Those moments, they really help us see each other, not just as ‘them’ and ‘us,’ but as neighbours here.”

This evidence demonstrates that youth programmes can create spaces in which identities are renegotiated. Young people may enter relationships without carrying all the historical assumptions held by older generations. Sports, music, education and skills training can therefore function as informal peace infrastructures.

The role of youth should not, however, be romanticised. Young people can also be affected by unemployment, limited land access, inadequate skills and frustrations arising from perceived exclusion. Where youth lack productive opportunities, environmental conflict can become another arena for expressing economic dissatisfaction.

International Labour Organization's (ILO's) experience in Uganda illustrates the value of youth-centred integration. Its programmes have used youth centres, skills development, arts and community engagement to promote social cohesion and economic empowerment among refugees and host communities.

The researcher therefore views youth engagement as a strategic rather than supplementary intervention. Youth should participate in environmental restoration, sports, community dialogue, entrepreneurship, vocational training and early warning systems. Their participation can simultaneously reduce idle time, strengthen skills and develop relationships across refugee-host boundaries.

4.3 Existing Policies, Programmes and Interventions: Strengths and Gaps

The third objective examined existing policies and interventions intended to address environmental resource-related conflict and improve refugee-host relations. The findings show that substantial interventions exist. These include community dialogues, peace committees, joint development activities, woodlots, tree planting, nursery beds, energy-saving technologies, livelihood programmes, water systems, legal and protection services, market support, food assistance and youth activities.

The central finding, however, is that the existence of interventions does not necessarily guarantee their adequacy or equitable impact. The implementation environment is shaped by funding shortages, population growth, competing priorities, institutional coordination challenges and perceptions of unequal treatment.

4.3.1 Government, OPM and the refugee policy framework

Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) plays a central role in Uganda's refugee response. The Comprehensive Refugee Response Frameworks (CRRF) formally provides a multi-stakeholder architecture in which government leads, UNHCR facilitates and multiple actors contribute to humanitarian and development objectives. The framework recognises both refugee and host-community needs and seeks to reduce pressure on host countries, strengthen self-reliance and promote development.

The Refugees Act, 2006 provides the legal foundation for many aspects of Uganda's refugee policy. It protects refugee rights and recognises access to agriculture, employment, education, property and social services. It also defines integration in terms of interaction and peaceful coexistence between refugees and nationals.

These policies constitute a major strength of Uganda's approach. Unlike restrictive approaches that isolate refugees, Uganda's legal framework attempts to integrate refugees into local economies and public services. This creates opportunities for refugees to become economically active and for host communities to benefit from infrastructure and markets.

Nevertheless, the study reveals that the effectiveness of these policies is limited by implementation challenges. KII006 (2025) observed:

"We have good policies, but enforcement is very weak, especially on tree-cutting and grazing boundaries."

This finding is particularly important because environmental conflicts often occur at the local level, where statutory rules interact with customary practices and informal arrangements. A national law may specify rights, but actual resource use is frequently determined by local leaders, landowners, refugee leaders and community norms.

The researcher therefore argues that Uganda's policy challenge is not primarily a lack of progressive frameworks. It is the capacity to translate these frameworks into predictable and equitable local governance.

4.3.2 United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the refugee response

UNHCR plays a central role in protection, coordination, service delivery and support to self-reliance. The Uganda refugee response is multi-sectoral, covering protection, livelihoods, environment and energy, WASH, education, shelter, health and social cohesion. The 2024–2025 Refugee Response Plan, for example, identifies socio-economic vulnerability, WASH, education, health, energy and environment, and protection as interconnected dimensions of refugee response.

The study participants specifically connected UNHCR with land allocation, food assistance, water infrastructure and other settlement arrangements. Some perceived shortcomings in these interventions, particularly inadequate land and reductions in assistance. At the same time, it would be inappropriate to interpret participant concerns as evidence that UNHCR is solely responsible for the resulting conflicts. Refugee settlements operate through a broader system involving OPM, UN agencies, NGOs, local government, donors and communities.

A critical issue identified by the study is that refugee assistance may create unintended perceptions of inequality. Host communities can see humanitarian projects as investments made for refugees even where those projects are physically located within their communities.

This concern is recognised in Uganda’s current response architecture. The government’s Comprehensive Refugee Response Frameworks (CRRF) approach explicitly seeks to address refugee and host needs together, while current response plans increasingly emphasise area-based and integrated approaches.

The researcher therefore recommends that UNHCR-supported interventions should make visible the benefits accruing to host communities. Where possible, water facilities, schools, health centres, livelihoods programmes and environmental projects should be designed to serve both communities. Such an approach can transform refugee presence from being perceived principally as a pressure on resources into an opportunity for local development.

4.3.3 Lutheran World Federation: environment, WASH, energy, livelihoods and peacebuilding

LWF has been particularly important in Adjumani and other refugee-hosting districts. Its programmes have historically covered WASH, livelihoods, environmental management, community services, protection, psychosocial support and peacebuilding. In Adjumani, LWF has supported water infrastructure in response to shortages and long queues, while its environmental programming has included tree planting, energy-efficient technologies and mixed refugee-host training.

This broad programming portfolio is important because the study demonstrates that environmental conflict is multi-dimensional. Environmental restoration alone cannot solve livelihood insecurity. Livelihood programmes alone cannot solve water shortages. Peace committees alone cannot solve firewood scarcity. The strength of an integrated actor such as LWF lies in the ability to connect environmental, social and protection interventions.

The study's participants recognised community woodlots and nursery beds as useful interventions. KII001 (2025) emphasised:

“Community woodlots for wood fuel, nursery beds for tree seedlings, and local environment committees.”

FGD004/LJO (2025) similarly recommended:

“Tree planting campaigns”

while FGD008/BA (2025) proposed:

“Providing energy-saving stoves”.

An NGO representative, KII002 (2025), reported:

“We trained some refugee families in briquette use and tree nursery management.”

These interventions have multiple potential benefits. Woodlots reduce pressure on indigenous forests; nursery beds provide local sources of seedlings; energy-saving stoves reduce household demand for fuelwood; briquettes provide alternatives to traditional firewood and charcoal; and mixed community training can create opportunities for refugees and hosts to cooperate.

LWF's reported 2025 programme reach across Uganda demonstrates continued emphasis on integrated humanitarian and development programming, including protection, legal assistance, GBV response, WASH, energy and environmental interventions. In 2026, LWF

also launched integrated food and livelihoods programming in Adjumani and Palorinya, combining food assistance, nutrition and livelihood strengthening for refugees and host communities.

The researcher interprets this evolution as evidence that humanitarian programming is increasingly moving from a narrow emergency model towards integrated resilience. However, sustainability depends on communities being able to maintain the interventions after project funding ends. A woodlot established through a project is valuable only if communities have clear management arrangements. A water system is sustainable only when spare parts, maintenance and accountability arrangements exist. A peace committee needs legitimacy, resources and continuous engagement.

4.3.4 Danish Refugee Council: protection, legal assistance and conflict management

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) provides another important dimension to the refugee response, particularly around protection, legal assistance and community-based protection. DRC's Uganda programming includes child protection, legal aid and GBV prevention and response, while its wider work also supports cash assistance and collaborates with local actors.

Although the present study did not identify DRC as the central actor in every intervention in Ayilo I and II, its programming is relevant to the conflict dynamics identified in the research because many environmental disputes are ultimately legal and protection disputes. Land conflicts, for example, involve questions of ownership, use rights, contracts, compensation and mediation.

DRC's ASPIRE research in Uganda (Degett et al., 2024) also demonstrates the importance of recognising the coexistence of statutory and community-driven dispute-resolution systems. The research indicates that refugees may navigate different options for resolving disputes and may seek solutions involving customary actors (Degett et al., 2024). This finding resonates strongly with the present study, where local council leaders and refugee welfare committee leaders jointly resolved disputes. HH003/RJK (2025) described such an experience:

“The village’s LC1 leaders teamed up with their RWC leaders. They all sat together and talked it through. That’s how that big land problem got sorted out peacefully, right here in the community.”

HH004/RCA (2025) similarly stated that a:

“Dispute arose over grass, which led to a conflict, but it was peacefully resolved.”

The lesson is that legal assistance should not replace local institutions but should strengthen their capacity and connect them with formal legal mechanisms. Community mediation can be faster and more accessible, while formal legal institutions are necessary when local processes fail or when rights violations are serious.

4.3.5 World Food Programme (WFP): food security, self-reliance and livelihoods

WFP’s role is particularly relevant to the relationship between food assistance and environmental pressure. The study indicates that reduced food assistance contributed to greater dependence on agricultural land and other natural resources. WFP’s response therefore matters not only for food security but also for refugee-host relations.

WFP’s Uganda programming combines emergency food assistance with livelihoods, market support, climate resilience, financial inclusion and asset creation. Its recent partnerships have specifically targeted refugees and host communities and aimed to increase self-reliance and income-generating opportunities.

This integrated model corresponds well with the study findings. If households can produce food, access markets and generate income, pressure to extract natural resources unsustainably may decrease.

However, the transition to self-reliance must account for differences between households. Some families have land, labour, tools, capital and skills, while others do not. A uniform livelihood approach can therefore inadvertently exclude the most vulnerable.

As a researcher, I therefore recommend that WFP and livelihood partners combine food-security interventions with market development, household asset support, agricultural extension, climate-smart practices and financial inclusion, while also maintaining appropriate social protection for the most vulnerable households.

4.3.6 FAO: Agriculture, food systems and environmental sustainability

Food and Agricultural Organization’s (FAO’s) work is important because agricultural livelihoods form one of the main points at which land, food security, environmental sustainability and refugee-host economic relations intersect. FAO and UNHCR have developed a strategic framework for Uganda focused on refugee and host livelihoods, self-reliance, environmental and energy issues and durable solutions.

This approach reflects a major shift from seeing refugees primarily as recipients of food and humanitarian assistance towards recognising them as agricultural producers and economic actors.

The study's findings support this perspective. Refugees seek land because they need food and income, not simply because they wish to occupy host land.

FAO's involvement is therefore potentially significant in supporting climate-smart agriculture, soil restoration, improved farming technologies, livestock management and value chains. Environmental sustainability can be improved when households obtain greater productivity from smaller areas of land and reduce pressure to clear new forests.

The researcher argues that agricultural interventions should nevertheless include host farmers, because excluding hosts may reproduce the very resource inequality that causes tensions. Joint farmer groups, demonstration plots, shared extension services and market linkages can turn agriculture from a contested resource into a platform for cooperation.

4.3.7 Community-based conflict resolution and peacebuilding

The study identified functioning local mechanisms for conflict resolution. These include Local Council leaders (LCs), Refugee Welfare Committees (RWCs), traditional leaders, religious leaders, police, water committees and community dialogue structures. HH0028/HOR (2025) described:

"Collaborative management" where:

"Our village leaders and refugee leaders now sit together, sharing ideas on how to manage things like boreholes or firewood."

KII005 (2025) reported:

"They've supported community dialogues and peace committees, and formed groups that include both refugees and host community members... block farming, VSLA groups, and integrated schools are bringing unity."

Male FGD participants proposed:

"Stakeholder dialogues," "friendships," "shared markets," and:

"Engagement with religious leaders" (FGD001/1DD, 2025).

These findings demonstrate that social cohesion is often built through institutions and activities that have a practical purpose. A peace committee becomes more meaningful when it deals with real disputes over land or water. A joint farming group creates incentives for cooperation. A shared market creates repeated interaction. A school creates opportunities for children to form friendships regardless of nationality.

Sports were also identified as a practical peacebuilding mechanism. KII004 (2025) stated:

“Games and sports jointly organised have brought youth together practically.”

The importance of sports is that interaction occurs in a relatively informal environment. Young people cooperate, communicate and compete without the immediate burden of formal discussions about conflict.

Traditional leaders also remain important. KII008 (2025) observed:

“Intervention by elders and promotion of shared projects between host and refugees has de-escalated tensions.”

Female FGD participants identified:

“Tree planting and group discussions” (FGD006/AM, 2025) and:

“Formation of water management committees with both host and refugee representatives” (FGD003/JK, 2025).

The combination of traditional authority, local government, refugee leadership and practical joint projects is therefore a major strength of the existing response.

The researcher argues that these local mechanisms should be strengthened rather than displaced by external structures. International agencies provide resources, technical expertise and institutional support, but local legitimacy is crucial for conflict management.

4.3.8 Environmental restoration and sustainable resource management

Environmental restoration interventions identified in the study included community woodlots, nursery beds, tree planting campaigns, energy-saving stoves, briquettes and environmental committees.

Participants also proposed stronger community ownership. HH003/RJK (2025) stated:

“Both refugees and hosts should be involved in managing and owning shared resources like water, land, and forests, so everyone feels respected and included.”

Others called for restoration of assistance because:

“It will reduce conflict and help us live peacefully together” (HH006/RMA, 2025; HH007/R B.A, 2025).

HH015/R AD (2025) emphasised:

“Sharing equally all resources”.

Participants also demanded:

“agree[ing] on clear community rules to guide how we use and protect our shared resources” (HH004/RCA, 2025).

while HH020/HAM (2025) noted:

“Living in peace means forgiving one another and respecting the rules we all agreed to follow.”

Some participants recommended punishment for people who cause conflicts (HH009/R AG), while others emphasised reporting incidents to leaders (HH014/RJA, 2025; HH018/R AM, 2025).

The findings show that communities do not lack ideas for environmental governance. The major challenge lies in implementation, enforcement, sustainability and scale. Uganda’s current Environment and Energy response continues to focus on restoring natural environments and increasing access to safe and affordable energy for refugees and host communities.

The 2026 response reports continued establishment of woodlots and other environmental activities.

The significance of such programmes is reinforced by the recent evidence on cooking fuel scarcity and environmental degradation. The challenge is ensuring that environmental interventions are not treated as stand-alone technical projects. They must be integrated with household energy needs, livelihoods, gender and local governance.

The researcher therefore argues that environmental restoration in refugee-hosting areas should be designed around three principles: restoration, access and ownership. Restoration without access may protect forests but leave households without energy. Access without sustainability can accelerate degradation. Restoration and access without community ownership may produce interventions that collapse after donor funding ends.

4.4 Social Dimensions of Refugee-Host Relations

A major contribution of the present study is its demonstration that environmental conflict cannot be adequately understood without examining social relationships. The conflict occurs within communities that share markets, schools, health facilities, religious institutions, roads, water sources and economic systems.

4.4.1 Shared communities and everyday interaction

The findings demonstrate considerable interaction between refugees and hosts despite tensions. They trade, farm, attend schools, access services, participate in religious activities, and engage in sports. These interactions create key opportunities for cooperation. This coexistence challenges a binary portrayal of refugees and hosts as permanently separate groups. Instead, both populations occupy a shared social environment where relationships continuously fluctuate between cooperation and competition depending on the resources involved.

This finding aligns directly with groundbreaking research on refugee-host interactions in Uganda, which demonstrates that refugees actively participate in local economies and transform settlements into vibrant economic hubs connected to surrounding markets (Betts et al., 2017).

Consequently, the researcher suggests that policy should focus less on maintaining artificial boundaries between refugee and host programming and more on identifying shared spaces where both populations can benefit jointly.

4.4.2 Gender relations and women's participation

Women are not simply victims of resource scarcity; they act as active economic actors, caregivers, resource managers, and potential peacebuilders. However, findings show that their daily responsibilities expose them disproportionately to environmental and social risks. This gender dimension is particularly evident during firewood and water collection, where women experience direct exposure to conflict. Yet, women actively participate in community discussions, VSLAs, environmental initiatives, and water management structures.

The Ugandan refugee response increasingly recognises gender as a cross-cutting priority (UN Women, 2023). Recent policy analysis and environmental programming explicitly call for

expanding women's participation in energy and natural resource governance (UN Women, 2023).

Regarding the above, my central argument is that participation must be meaningful rather than symbolic, ensuring women exercise tangible influence over decisions concerning water-point management, forest access, fuel alternatives, livelihood groups, land dispute resolution, and community protection.

4.4.3 Cultural interaction, language and belonging

Cultural interaction is another significant social dimension. The presence of South Sudanese communities alongside Ma'di-speaking host communities creates opportunities for cultural exchange but also misunderstandings. Language learning emerged repeatedly in the findings. Participants recommended:

“Cultural exchange visits to understand each other better” (HH004/RCA, 2025; HH005/ROB, 2025; HH0021/HBJ, 2025; HH0022/HR.R, 2025; HH0024/HAE, 2025; HH0026/HAN, 2025; HH0028/HOR, 2025; HH0029/HDRM, 2025; HH0030/HA.C, 2025), and:

“Offering language classes so that people can understand each other better” (HH002/RWM, 2025; HH0023/HS.L, 2025).

These recommendations should be taken seriously. Language programmes can improve access to markets and services while simultaneously reducing misunderstanding. Cultural exchange can help communities understand differences in family practices, ceremonies, livestock management, food, dress and social norms.

I therefore view cultural integration as a practical peacebuilding intervention rather than merely a social activity.

4.5 Policy implementation gaps and limited inclusivity

Despite the range of interventions, the study identified continuing policy and implementation gaps.

KII002 (2025) stated:

“funding is limited.”

Female FGD participants warned:

“Refugees’ diminishing support will overburden local resources, increasing environmental stress” (FGD002/FB, 2025).

Most importantly, a Host Community Elder (KII003, 2025) stated:

“Projects target refugees more than us, yet we also suffer. We need equal support.”

This quotation captures one of the central tensions in refugee-hosting environments: the difference between *targeting based on vulnerability* and *perceptions of fairness*. Humanitarian programmes may legitimately target refugees because they have refugee-specific needs. Nevertheless, host communities may experience similar poverty, environmental pressure or service shortages. When they see neighbouring refugees receiving assistance that they cannot access, resentment can develop even where the programme itself is justified.

Current policy developments increasingly acknowledge this concern. The CRRF explicitly focuses on both refugee and host-community needs, while recent government initiatives have emphasised climate-smart agriculture, financial inclusion, sustainable livelihoods, energy-saving technologies and support for women and communities in refugee-hosting regions.

The researcher therefore argues that equity should not necessarily mean identical assistance. Rather, it should mean that interventions are transparent, justified by need, responsive to both groups and designed to minimise perceptions of exclusion. Some refugee-specific assistance will remain necessary because refugees have displacement-related vulnerabilities. At the same time, area-based development should ensure that host communities benefit from infrastructure, livelihood opportunities and environmental investments.

4.6 Researcher’s critical reflection and interpretation

As a researcher, the findings challenged some of my initial assumptions about refugee-host relations. I initially viewed refugees primarily through the lens of humanitarian vulnerability and assumed that host communities were mainly resource providers experiencing the negative consequences of refugee presence. The evidence showed a much more complex reality.

Refugees are not passive recipients of assistance. They farm, trade, rear livestock, participate in markets, form community organisations and contribute to local economies. Host communities are not uniformly hostile to refugees. Many continue to support, trade with and socialise with them. At the same time, both groups experience real economic and environmental pressure.

This complexity was particularly evident in the land findings. Refugees need access to land for survival, while hosts depend on land for their own livelihoods and cultural identity. Both claims can be legitimate at the same time. The conflict is therefore not necessarily between a “*right*” group and a “*wrong*” group. It emerges from a structural situation in which resources are limited, rights overlap and institutions are not always strong enough to manage competing claims.

My understanding of environmental conflict was similarly broadened. Before examining the empirical evidence, it would have been easy to conceptualise deforestation as a technical environmental problem that could be solved through tree planting. The findings demonstrate instead that forests are connected to household energy, gender roles, culture, ownership, livelihoods and social status. Consequently, an environmental programme that ignores these dimensions will probably have limited impact.

The findings also challenged an overly top-down understanding of conflict management. Community members already possess significant knowledge about their resources and have developed local mechanisms for resolving disputes. Local Council leaders, refugee leaders, elders, religious leaders, women and youth all contribute in different ways. External organisations should therefore support local capacity rather than assume that peacebuilding must always be designed externally.

The evidence additionally demonstrates the importance of distinguishing between conflict and hostility. Not every disagreement between refugees and hosts represents deep social antagonism. Some disputes are ordinary disagreements over scarce resources and can be resolved through dialogue. Problems become more serious when repeated disputes reinforce group stereotypes, violence and institutional distrust.

In my interpretation, the most significant risk facing Adjumani is therefore not environmental scarcity alone. It is the possibility that persistent scarcity will gradually transform everyday competition into durable social divisions. Preventing that outcome requires interventions that simultaneously address material needs and social relationships.

4.7 Overall discussion of Interventions and their Effectiveness

Taken together, the evidence suggests that interventions in refugee-hosting areas of Adjumani have produced important benefits but have not completely addressed the structural drivers of environmental conflict.

First, interventions have helped reduce pressure on some natural resources through woodlots, tree planting, nursery beds, briquettes and energy-saving stoves. These measures are consistent with the broader environmental response in Uganda.

Second, water infrastructure has expanded access to safe water, but population pressure, facility closures, maintenance challenges and competing users continue to create conflict. This means that WASH interventions require sustained investment rather than one-time infrastructure development.

Third, livelihood programmes have expanded opportunities for both refugees and hosts. WFP, FAO, LWF and other actors have increasingly promoted self-reliance, agricultural production, market access and resilience. Nevertheless, livelihoods remain constrained by land availability, capital, market access and limited employment opportunities.

Fourth, peacebuilding interventions such as dialogue, peace committees, sports, joint farming, VSLAs and shared markets have demonstrated positive potential. The findings suggest that the most successful interventions are those that create repeated opportunities for practical cooperation.

Fifth, legal and protection interventions remain important because many conflicts involve rights and justice issues. Housing, land and property problems, GBV risks and disputes cannot be resolved solely through environmental interventions. Recent protection assessments in Uganda reinforce the importance of legal assistance, HLP rights, livelihoods and gender-responsive programming.

However, the interventions face four persistent challenges.

The first is funding insufficiency. Programmes may begin successfully but become difficult to sustain when donor financing declines. This is particularly problematic in protracted refugee situations where humanitarian needs persist while international attention may shift elsewhere.

The second is scale. Establishing a limited number of woodlots or energy-saving stoves cannot fully address environmental degradation when demand is generated by large populations. The same applies to water systems, livelihoods and peacebuilding structures.

The third is coordination. Where multiple actors operate simultaneously, interventions may overlap, leave gaps or create inconsistent rules. Coordination through OPM and the refugee response structures is therefore important.

The fourth is inclusion. Host communities must perceive development and humanitarian interventions as relevant to them. Otherwise, even well-intentioned refugee programmes can reinforce perceptions that refugees receive preferential treatment.

4.8 Synthesis of findings in relation to the Study Objectives

The first objective established that environmental resource-related tensions are driven by intense competition over land, water, firewood and grazing resources, compounded by environmental degradation, population pressure, poor coordination, inadequate legal awareness, language barriers and cultural misunderstanding. The evidence suggests that environmental scarcity becomes conflictual where access rules are unclear, resources are insufficient and social trust is weak.

The second objective demonstrated that these conflicts have consequences far beyond the environment. They disrupt farming and livestock production, increase household expenditure, contribute to food insecurity and poverty, weaken social cohesion and expose women and girls to increased protection risks. The effects also extend to children and youth through pressures on education and limited social opportunities.

The third objective showed that Uganda has an extensive policy and intervention framework involving OPM, UNHCR, LWF, DRC, WFP, FAO and other organisations. Interventions include food assistance, agricultural and livelihood support, environmental restoration, energy alternatives, WASH infrastructure, legal aid, GBV prevention, peace committees, community dialogues, sports, joint activities and social cohesion programming. These interventions have generated important benefits but remain constrained by funding, scale, coordination and perceived inequality.

The findings consequently support a shift from a narrow concept of “environmental conflict management” towards an integrated model of environmental governance, livelihood resilience, protection and social cohesion.

CHAPTER FIVE:

CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter synthesizes the study's key findings to draw a comprehensive conclusion regarding environmental resource-related conflicts in Adjumani District and proposes actionable recommendations for promoting sustainable peaceful coexistence and informing future research.

5.1 Conclusion

This dissertation has systematically investigated the complex dynamics of environmental resource-related conflicts within Adjumani District, Uganda. The empirical findings establish that inter-communal tensions between refugees and host communities do not stem from environmental pressures in isolation, but rather from the intersection of resource scarcity and social relations. The sudden influx of displaced populations into an ecologically sensitive landscape has undeniably exacerbated stress on land, surface water, fuelwood, and grazing territory, resulting in noticeable deforestation, land degradation, and localized water deficits. However, a critical insight of this research is that physical scarcity alone does not render conflict inevitable. Instead, violent or non-violent disputes materialise when communities perceive resource allocation as structurally unfair, institutional rules as ambiguous, or local dispute-resolution bodies as ineffective or biased.

Furthermore, this study demonstrates that the ramifications of resource competition are deeply multidimensional, extending far beyond immediate environmental degradation. The consequences cascade across household economics, food security, socio-cultural cohesion, and gender relations. Women and young girls face disproportionate physical and protection risks due to their gendered roles in fetching water and collecting firewood across contested territories. Conversely, youth inhabit a complex position: while socio-economic marginalisation and livelihood insecurity leave them vulnerable to recruitment into resource-based friction, they simultaneously hold immense potential as grassroots agents of peacebuilding and environmental stewardship.

5.1.1 The Policy-Implementation Gap

A central contribution of this research is the critical analysis of Uganda’s refugee governance landscape. While Uganda’s policy framework, frequently praised globally through instruments such as the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) is normatively progressive, a substantial divide persists between policy formulation and ground-level execution. Multi-sectoral strategies, including the Uganda Refugee Response Plan (2022–2025) and the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) framework, set ambitious targets for integrated development.

Yet, empirical evidence from Adjumani district reveals that weak institutional enforcement, fragmented coordination among humanitarian and development actors, and inadequate financing mechanisms often stall these intentions.

Where formal institutions fail to consistently apply rules governing land tenure, wood fuel, and water access, micro-conflicts escalate. Local government structures and customary institutions such as Local Councils (LC1s) and Refugee Welfare Committees (RWCs) frequently operate under severe resource constraints, limiting their ability to enforce resource agreements or mediate complex land disputes authoritatively.

5.1.2 Re-evaluating humanitarian and development interventions

While humanitarian agencies (such as UNHCR, WFP, DRC, and LWF) have implemented substantial environmental restoration, alternative energy, and peacebuilding interventions, their long-term efficacy remains constrained when implemented through short-term emergency modalities. Community-based initiatives, including joint peace dialogues, mixed-community Voluntary Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), and participatory tree-planting projects demonstrate significant promise in lowering inter-group hostility. However, these grassroots mechanisms are frequently hampered by project-based funding cycles and a lack of institutional institutionalisation.

Crucially, when host communities perceive that humanitarian aid disproportionately benefits refugees while indigenous infrastructure deteriorates under environmental pressure, structural resentment builds. Sustainable peacebuilding requires moving past the paradigm of hosts as passive hosts requiring “*compensation*” and refugees as perpetual “*aid recipients*.” Both

demographics are active, interdependent stakeholders who co-inhabit a shared socio-ecological landscape and trade within the same local market networks.

5.2. Limitations of the Research.

This study, while providing rich qualitative insights, had several limitations that should be considered when interpreting its findings.

Firstly, its geographical scope was specific to Adjumani District, focusing on Ayilo 1 and 2 settlements and their immediate host communities. This particular context, with its unique environmental conditions, ethnic dynamics, and aid interventions, meant that the findings might not be directly generalizable to all refugee-hosting areas across Uganda or globally, which often presented different socio-ecological landscapes and policy environments.

Secondly, the research employed a qualitative design, relying on in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and household interviews. While this approach allowed for a profound understanding of lived experiences and comprehensive perceptions, the sample sizes (8 KIIs, 2 FGDs, 31 HH interviews) did not permit statistical generalization to the entire refugee and host populations of Adjumani. The findings reflected the perspectives of the participants interviewed, which were subjective and might not have captured every objective reality or the full spectrum of experiences.

Furthermore, the study captured conflict dynamics within a specific timeframe; environmental conditions and socio-political factors were constantly evolving, meaning the findings represented a snapshot rather than a long-term trend.

Finally, despite its holistic approach, the study might not have encompassed every detailed contributing factor or consequence related to resource-based conflicts, given the inherent complexity of such many-sided issues.

5.3 Implications for Policy, practice, and future research.

Policymakers must mandate; implementers must adapt; and future researchers must deepen understanding of long-term environmental conflict dynamics.

5.3.1 Policy Implications

The primary policy takeaway is that good intentions are not enough; the critical gap lies in translating Uganda's otherwise progressive refugee laws into meaningful action.

Institutionalising Environmental Peacebuilding

Policy frameworks must integrate natural resource management directly into conflict resolution strategies. Shared infrastructure such as solar-powered water systems and joint woodlots must be governed by mixed refugee-host management committees with clear legal standing and equitable access protocols.

Policy must fund local institutional strengthening

Policies like the Refugee Response Plan (RRP), and international donors must explicitly mandate and fund local government authorities (Adjumani District), and customary dispute structures strengthening rather than just focusing on aid distribution. This means empowering local governments and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) with the legal clarity, resources, and accountability mechanisms needed to consistently enforce rules on land use, grazing, and tree cutting for everyone. Without this practical enforcement muscle, national policies remain noble ideas on paper while tensions escalate on the ground.

Shift from a refugee-centred approach to a shared vulnerability approach

Policy must fundamentally shift from a refugee-centred approach to a shared-vulnerability approach. This requires a binding policy directive that makes equitable benefit-sharing and host community involvement non-negotiable from a project's inception. Policy documents must clearly define host communities as primary stakeholders and ensure that joint decision-making, for instance, in formalized land dialogue frameworks and local governance bodies is a requirement for all funding. This policy change will directly address the root cause of resentment by giving host communities a genuine stake and sense of ownership in the development and peace process.

Adoption of a long-term resilience focus.

Policies addressing the refugee situation must adopt a long-term resilience focus that integrates humanitarian and development concerns. Instead of merely managing crises with temporary aid, national and donor policies must prioritize sustainable resource solutions, like funding large-scale community woodlots, briquette production, and energy-efficient stove distribution, for both refugees and hosts. This strategic policy investment in environmental restoration and sustainable energy reduces the underlying competition for natural capital (firewood, land), which, in turn, lessens the daily conflict drivers and buys time for social cohesion initiatives to take root and succeed.

5.3.2 Practical Implications

To transition from emergency conflict management to long-term socio-ecological resilience in refugee-hosting districts, this study highlights several overarching priorities:

Formalize land policy dialogue Frameworks.

Facilitate continuous community dialogues with participation from landlords, refugee leaders, and government actors to formalize transparent land rental agreements. This will address the “*unclear land ownership*” and “*high rent costs*” identified as key drivers of tension.

Formalized land policy dialogues are essential for promoting stability and reducing land-related conflicts in displacement-affected areas like Adjumani as a refugee hosting District.

Enhance enforcement of environmental policies.

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and partners should strengthen the enforcement of policies on land use, tree cutting, and grazing boundaries, which are currently “*very weak*”. This includes ensuring that rules guiding resource use are clearly communicated and agreed upon by both the refugees and host communities.

Include Refugee-host representation in Local Governance.

Integrate refugee-host representatives into local planning and decision-making bodies to ensure their voices are heard in resource allocation and environmental initiatives. This will address the perception of “*limited host community involvement*” by fostering mutual participation.

When people are represented and listened to, it builds respect, empathy, and ownership, turning divided communities into partners working together toward peace, sustainability, and shared progress.

Scale up sustainable energy interventions.

Expand access to alternative fuels, such as briquettes, and promote the widespread use of energy-saving stoves in both communities. Implement intensified tree planting campaigns and establish community woodlots to provide sustainable sources of wood fuel, reducing pressure on natural forests and mitigating conflicts over firewood collection. From my personal reflection, scaling up sustainable energy feels both a practical and compassionate approach. It tackles environmental degradation while restoring dignity and safety, especially for women and children who travel long distances for firewood. I believe that when communities come together to plant trees, make briquettes, and share energy solutions, they not only protect nature but also rebuild trust and harmony. Such initiatives give people a sense of shared responsibility and hope for a greener, more peaceful future.

Reinstate and stabilize humanitarian aid

Consider reinstating or stabilizing food and non-food item aid where feasible, as the reduction in rations has directly increased pressure on land and natural resources, leading to higher rent prices and conflicts. The “Do No Harm” framework also warns that when aid is

withdrawn or unevenly distributed, existing inequalities are amplified and social fracture deepens.

Support intercultural peacebuilding activities

Expand support for community sports leagues, intercultural festivals, and other joint social activities that bring youth and adults from both communities together. Research on sport-for-development shows that structured, inclusive leagues create routines of cooperation and mutual respect among youth (Coalter, 2013).

Engage Traditional and Religious Leaders.

Actively involve elders, religious leaders, and cultural heads in structured peacebuilding forums and conflict resolution mechanisms, leveraging their influence to de-escalate tensions and promote mutual understanding as their voices are being respected in both refugee and host community's context. In various refugee-hosting contexts, such as in South Sudan and Kenya, elders and faith leaders have successfully mediated disputes, promoted dialogue, and encouraged reconciliation (Hovil, 2018; Ager & Strang, 2008).

Promote language and cultural exchange.

Offer language classes for refugees and host community members to learn each other's languages, such as Madi, Acholi, Arabic, or Dinka, helping to break communication barriers and foster understanding. Encourage cultural exchange visits to build trust and challenge negative perceptions. Many refugees praised the neighboring Acholi from Amuru for kindly allowing land use for farming and grazing, often for a small, agreed-upon fee, unlike some host communities in Adjumani.

Strengthen coordination mechanisms.

Enhance coordination between the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UNHCR, local governments, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to avoid duplication of efforts, ensure comprehensive and inclusive programming, and address resource management challenges systematically. Coordination is the heartbeat of successful refugee response. When agencies, government bodies, and local actors work together, communities benefit more meaningfully.

Implement equitable program planning.

Ensure equitable participation and benefit-sharing in all development projects for both refugee and host communities to prevent marginalization and resentment. This requires transparent communication and joint decision-making processes from the outset.

Ensuring Meaningful, Gender-Responsive Inclusivity

Interventions must shift from symbolic inclusion to substantive decision-making power for women and youth. Given their primary role in resource utilization, women must occupy leadership positions in water-point committees, land mediation boards, and forestry management initiatives.

Reimagination of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System.

Practitioners or implementers on the ground; NGOs, UNHCR, and local project managers must immediately reimagine their M&E (Monitoring and Evaluation) systems to be tools for learning, not just compliance. This means moving away from rigid reporting to flexible, adaptive programming. Practically, this requires setting up simple, real-time feedback loops involving host and refugee representatives to track emerging conflict drivers (like new grazing boundary disputes) and quickly adjusting the intervention strategy before tensions boil over.

Joint livelihood and social cohesion programs

Aggressively invest in and expand joint livelihood and social cohesion programs to foster daily interaction. This means funding initiatives like block farming, inter-community sports leagues, and VSLA groups where refugees and hosts are required to work, save, and play together. The focus here is not just economic benefit, but on creating routine, face-to-face contact that humanizes the other, building social capital and mutual respect that can withstand environmental shocks and resource competition.

Implementation of conflict-sensitive and prioritization of most vulnerable group

Implementation must be conflict-sensitive and prioritize the safety of the most vulnerable, especially women and girls. Practically, this involves specific protection measures, such as providing safe escort routes and intensifying the distribution of alternative fuels (briquettes) and energy-saving stoves in both refugee settlements and host villages. By mitigating the risks women face while collecting essential resources, implementers not only ensure safety but also reduce a key source of daily friction and distress, thereby strengthening the community's overall resilience and stability.

5.3.3 Implications for future research

Dynamics of resource competition and social relations

Future research should further explore how specific mechanisms of competition for limited resources (land, water, forests) directly influence the evolving social relationships and

interactions between refugee and host communities in Adjumani District and beyond. This could include longitudinal studies tracking changes in social cohesion.

Indigenous and community-based resource management

Investigate the role and effectiveness of indigenous and existing community-based resource management practices in mitigating or exacerbating conflicts over environmental resources. This could identify locally relevant and sustainable solutions.

Gender-Specific vulnerabilities and coping strategies

Examine how resource scarcity and environmental degradation differentially affect men and women in both refugee and host populations, with a specific focus on gender-specific coping strategies, vulnerabilities, and the prevalence of gender-based violence linked to resource collection.

Cumulative environmental effects of settlements

Analyze the long-term cumulative environmental effects of refugee settlements on Adjumani's or any other refugee-hosting district's ecosystems, considering deforestation, water depletion, and soil degradation, and their implications for long-term sustainability and future conflict potential.

Policy alignment and Local Governance

Assess the alignment between national refugee policies (e.g., Uganda's Refugee Act, RRP), local governance structures, and humanitarian interventions in addressing resource-based conflicts. The focus should be on practical implementation challenges, community participation levels, and the long-term viability of these frameworks in fostering peaceful coexistence.

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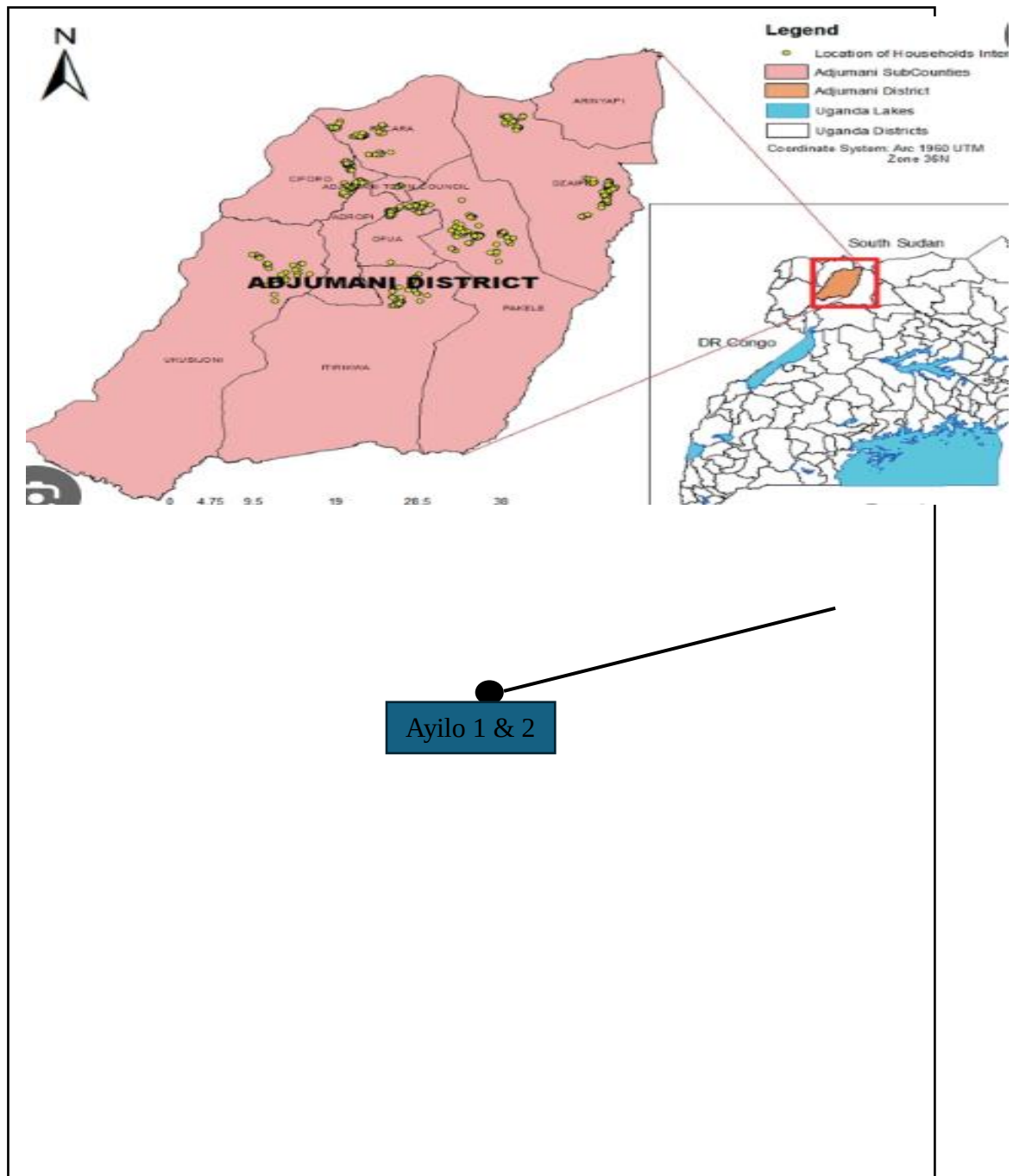
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LIST OF APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING ADJUMANI DISTRICT



Appendix 2: MAP OF ADJUMANI DISTRICT SHOWING AYILO (1&2) REFUGEE SETTLEMENT



Appendix 3: BUDGET

S/No	Particulars	Amount in UGX	Justifications
1	GUREC Clearance	102,700/-	Clearance for Gulu University Research and Ethics Committee (102,700)
2	Research Materials	746,000/-	Stationeries (446,000), audio recorder (150,000), and Backup hard drive (150,000).
3	Fieldwork Expenses and Analysis	4,110,000/-	Hire of 2 Research Assistants (RAs)/Repertoire x 10 days (800,000), Training of RAs/Repertoires (200,000), Transportation cost for fieldwork (400,000), Lunch facilitation for field workers (200,000), Participant's reimbursement cost (510,000), FGDs participant's transport refund and Refreshment (360,000), PI's travel expenses and accommodation (500,000), Meeting with officials/key informants (240,000), and Data processing/analysis (900,000).
4	Printing and dissemination of research	500,000/-	Photocopying, printing, and bindings (200,000), and dissemination cost (300,000)
5	Contingency	200,000/-	To cater for any unforeseen expenses
	GRAND TOTAL	5,658,700UGX	

Appendix 4: WORKPLAN:

S/No	Timeframe	Activities
1	Dec 2023-3 rd week Feb 2024	Developing a first draft Research Proposal
2	4 th week Feb 2024	Initial research proposal presentation to a panel of Senior Lecturers responsible for student research. Assignment of Research Supervisors.
3	1 st week June-4 th week Sep 2024	Individual consultations with research supervisors to ensure compliance with proposal feedback
4	1 st week October -4 th week October 2024	Preparation of final research instruments and ethical protocols. Approval of research proposal by the supervisors from the Institute/Faculty.
5	1 st week November -2 nd week March 2025	Obtaining requisite research approval from the Gulu University Research and Ethics Committee (GUREC).
6	3 rd week March 2025- 4 th week March 2025	Assemble the research team (Research Assistants/Repertoires/guides), conduct training of Research Assistants/Repertoires, allocate roles, and identify critical stakeholders for interviews
7	1 st week April 2025-4 th week April 2025	Commence data collection procedures, encompassing surveys, interviews, on-site observations, and document reviews. Ensure adherence to ethical research protocols.
8	1 st week May-4 th week May 2025	Comment with data entry and analysis. Identify preliminary patterns and themes in the collected data.
9	1 st week June- 3 rd week June 2025	Final data analysis and recommendations. Final report writing and dissemination with fellow students, involving external examiners.
10	4 th week June 2025	Review and finalize the research report. Submit the research report to the relevant authorities.
11	3 rd week of August 2025	Presentation of Research Findings and corrections
12	February 2026-July 2026	Submission of final dissertations and clearance for marking (Plagiarism Certificate, Financial Clearance, and Submission of book for marking, and publication of two articles in peer-reviewed journals)
13	August 2026-September	Final Viva Voce and corrections for final printing.
14	September 2026-November 2026	Printing and submission of books, graduation clearance, and graduation.

Appendix 5: RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS/TOOLS, VERSION 2.0.

OPEN-ENDED INTERVIEW GUIDE:

This study uses open-ended questions to gather data from a large, representative sample of refugees and host communities in Ayilo 1 & 2 settlements (Adjumani). This will allow for comparisons of experiences and the establishment of a baseline understanding of both groups. Approximately thirty-one (31) participants (Refugees 20{10M, 10F}, and Host communities 11{6M, 5F}) shall be interviewed taking approximately thirty to forty minutes (30-40 minutes).

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, am a graduate student at Gulu University pursuing a Master's degree in Conflict Transformation Studies. I am conducting a research entitled "Conflicts Over Environmental Resources: Tensions between Refugees and Host Communities in Adjumani District, Northern Uganda". I would be grateful for your responses to the following questions pertaining to this study. Please be assured that your responses will be treated with confidentiality and utilized exclusively for academic purposes.

Section 1: Demographic Information

1.1. Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐ Other ☐ specify_____)

1.2. Age: Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55 and over ☐

1.3. Education Level: No formal education ☐ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐

Vocational/technical training ☐ College or university ☐

1.4. Ethnicity: Madi ☐ Dinka ☐ Bor ☐ Lulubo ☐ Acholi ☐ Others_____

1.5. How long have you lived in the area? (in years_____)

Section 2: Personal Background

2.1. Can you tell us about your experiences living in this area and any significant events related to environmental resource competition or conflict between refugees and host communities?

Section 3: Resource Access and Competition

3.1. Please describe any instances or examples of environmental resource-related conflicts in which you have witnessed or been involved.

Follow up Question: What were the main issues behind the environmental resource-related conflict, and how was it resolved?

Section 4: Perceptions and Attitudes

4.1. How do you perceive the cultural and social differences between refugees and host community members, and how do these perceptions affect interactions in our community?

4.2. Share your experiences about any incident or event that has significantly influenced your attitude towards refugees or host communities.

4.3. What strategies would best promote dialogue, understanding, and shared prosperity between refugees and host communities?

Thank you!

DALIL TA MUQABALA MAFTUH: (ARABIC VERSION)

Bahs da bit lo istakdim su'al maftuh lo jamma malumat min grup kabir ta laajileen wa nas ta istidaafa fi makanin ta Ayilo 1 & 2 (Adjumani). Da bit lo sa'id fi mulaja tajurba wa san'a mafahim asasiyah fi itnen grup. Takriban salas wa wahid (31) mushrikeen bit lo amil muqabala – Laajileen 20 {10 rigil, 10 mara} wa nas ta istidaafa 11 {6 rigil, 5 mara}. Muqabala bit lo juzu takriban salasin ku arba'in daqiqa (30-40 daqiqa).

Sayid/Sayida al kareem,

Ami, **Okello Moses Rubangangeyo**, talib ta graduate fi Gulu University, bit lo qara lo master's degree fi Conflict Transformation Studies. Ami bit lo amil bahs bit title 'Mushkilaat fi Mawaared Albee'a: Tawaatur bain Al-Laajileen wa Mujtamaat Al-Istidaafa fi Mantigat Adjumani, Shamāl Uganda'.

Ami bit lo shukur lek law bit lo jawaab lo su'al ta hon fi bahs da. Kun mutma'in, kol jawaab ta lek bit lo tamal bi sirr wa bit lo istakdim fi shuqul Ta'limi bas.

Qism 1: Malumat Ta Demografiya:

1.1. Jins: Rigil ☐ Mara ☐ Tani ☐ Haddid _____)

1.2. Amrak: ta' tahta 18 tana ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55 and over ☐

1.3. Mustawa ta Ta'leem: Mafi ta' leem rasmi ☐ Ta'leem asasiy ☐ Ta'leem thanawi ☐

Ta'leem mashru/fanni ☐ jamia ☐

1.4. Qabila: Madi ☐ Dinka ☐ Bor ☐ Lulubo ☐ Acholi ☐ hadidid _____

1.5. Kam sana intay lo aish hina? _____)

Qism 2: Khataar Shakhsi:

2.1. Inti mumkin tijiib lana 'an tajurbatak fi al'aysh fi hadha al-makan wa ay waaqi' muhimma ta'alluq bi mushkilaat mawaared albee'a aw tasaruf bain al-laajileen wa nas ta istidaafa?

Qism 3: Wasool ila Mawaared Albee'a wa Musharika Fiha:

3.1. Min fadlik wasif lana ay amthila aw hawaadith ta mushkilaat murtabita bi mawaared albee'a il bit lo shaahid aw wasil fiha.

Su'al Mutaba'a: Aish kanu al-masail al-ra'isiya wara' mushkilaat mawaared albee'a, wa kayfa itahallalat?

Qism 4: Fahim wa Mawaqif:

4.1. Kayfa bit shuuf al-farq al-thaqafi wa al-ijtimai bain al-laajileen wa nas ta istidaafa, wa kayfa al-fahim da bit aamil fi al-tawaasol fi mujtama'na?

4.2. Sharikna tajurbatak 'an ay haditha aw waaqi' illi atharat shidda fi mawaqifak nojooh al-laajileen aw nas ta istidaafa.

4.3. Ay istiraatiyyat bit lo sa'id fi tashjee' al-hiwar, al-fahm, wa al-rafaah al-mushtarak bain al-laajileen wa nas ta istidaafa?

Shukran!

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD) GUIDE:

These convene diverse stakeholders in Ayilo 1 & 2 for a structured examination of experiences. This includes representatives from Refugee Welfare Committees, Local Councils, refugees (male & female), host community members (male & female), spiritual leaders, and opinion leaders. This methodology facilitates in-depth discussions and a comprehensive understanding of both communities' perspectives. Each FGD will comprise of 8-10 participants taking approximately sixty minutes (60 minutes).

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, am a graduate student at Gulu University pursuing a master's degree in Conflict Transformation Studies. I am conducting research entitled "Conflict over Environmental Resources: Tensions between Refugees and Host Communities in Adjumani District, Northern Uganda". I would be grateful for your responses to the following questions on this study. Please be assured that your responses will be treated with confidentiality and utilized exclusively for academic purposes.

Section 1: Introduction and Icebreaker Questions:

We kindly request that participants introduce themselves and share their backgrounds and experiences within this community.

First, describe any recent situations or events in which tensions or conflicts related to environmental resources have been observed in this area.

Section 2: Environmental Resource Access and Competition:

2.1. How do we perceive our community's availability and distribution of environmental resources like land, water, and forests?

2.2. Are there enough resources for everyone, or is there competition for these environmental resources like land, water, and forest?

2.3. Can we share specific examples of instances where refugees and host community members have had to compete for the same environmental resources as land, water, and forest?

Follow up Question: What types of environmental resources were involved?

2.4. How do these environmental resource-related tensions affect day-to-day life in the community, including livelihoods and social interactions?

Section 3: Perceptions and Attitudes:

3.1. What are the main factors contributing to environmental resource-related tensions or misunderstandings between refugees and host community members?

3.2. How do our perceptions of refugee and host community identities influence interactions?

3.3. Can we share any stories or tales illustrating how perceptions and attitudes have escalated or resolved conflicts in our community?

Section 4: Conflict Resolution and Peace building:

4.1. What initiatives, strategies, or practices have been implemented in our community to address environmental resource-related conflicts or promote peace between refugees and host community members?

4.2. What conflict resolution methods bring peace, and why do others fail?

4.3. Given the power to design a peacebuilding program, what specific activities and dialogues would promote community conflict resolution?

Section 5: Sustainable Environmental Resource Management:

5.1. Are there any practices or approaches that could help sustainably manage environmental resources in our community and reduce conflicts?

5.2. How do we think environmental resource management can be improved to benefit both refugees and host communities while safeguarding the environment?

5.3. Are there any concerns or hopes regarding the future of environmental resource management and coexistence between refugees and host community members in this area?

Section 6: Conclusion:

6.1. Notably, what are the most important takeaways from our discussion today?

6.2. Based on our conversation, is there a message or a recommendation you would like to share with policymakers, organizations, or the broader community?

Thank you!

DALIL MUNAKASHA JEMA'IYA (FGD)_(ARABIC VERSION):

Shuqul da bit lo jemma nas ta aham fi Ayilo 1 & 2 lo malaja tajurba ta hun. Hinna bit lo dukhul nas min Refugee Welfare Committees, Local Councils, laajieen (rigil wa mara), nas ta

istidaafa (rigil wa mara), ruwwat ta diin, wa nas ta ra'i. Tarika da bit lo sa'id fi munakasha amik wa malum fi nazar ta itnen mujtama.

Kol munakasha jema'iya (FGD) bit lo andu 8-10 mushrikeen, bit lo juzu takriban sittin (60) daqiqa. Su'al bit lo andu takriban 18 su'al, maqam fi 6 juza'. Shuqul da fi lo ikhtiyari, wa bahis bit lo da'a mushriki lo hurriya. Lakin, law mushriki hasas ta atash wala waham, hinna bit lo mkan ku kuru bar.

Sayid/Sayida al kareem,

Ami, Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, talib ta graduate fi Gulu University, bit lo qara lo master's degree fi Conflict Transformation Studies. Ami bit lo amil bahs bit title 'Mushkilaat fi Mawaared Albee'a: Tawaatur bain Al-Laaajeen wa Mujtamaat Al-Istidaafa fi Mantigat Adjumani, Shamāl Uganda'.

Ami bit lo shukur lek law bit lo jawaab lo su'al ta hon fi bahs da. Kun mutma'in, kol jawaab ta lek bit lo tamal bi sirr wa bit lo istakdim fi shuqul Ta'limi bas.

Qism 1: Mukadima wa Su'alat Taftarig:

Min fadlik, atmana al-mushrikeen yu'arrifoon nafsahum wa yasharikoon malumat ta ta'arif wa tajurbahum fi hadha al-mujtama.

Awwalan, wasif lana ay waaqi'at aw halaat haditha illi shufna fiha tawaatur aw mushkilaat murtabita bi mawaared albee'a fi hadha al-makan.

Qism 2: Wasool ila Mawaared Albee'a wa Musharika Fiha:

2.1 Kayfa bit shuuf mujtama'na fi wasool wa taqseem mawaared albee'a zay al-ard, al-maaya, wa al-ghaabat?

2.2 Fi mawaared kafi li kol waahid, wala fi musharaka fi mawaared albee'a zay al-ard, al-maaya, wa al-ghaabat?

2.3 Momkin nisharik amthila khasah ta halaat illi fiha laajjeen wa nas ta istidaafa idah kumu bit musharaka fi mawaared albee'a nafsaha zay al-ard, al-maaya, wa al-ghaabat?

Su'al Mutaba'a: Ay anwa' min mawaared albee'a kanu masharik fiha?

2.4 Kayfa tawaatur mawaared albee'a bit aamil fi al-haya al-yawmiya fi al-mujtama', zay al-maa wa al-tawaasol al-ijtimai?

Qism 3: Fahim wa Mawaqif:

3.1. Aish kanu al-'awamil al-ra'isiya illi bit sa'id fi tawaatur aw tafahum khata' fi mawaared albee'a bain laajjeen wa nas ta istidaafa?

3.2. Kayfa fahimna li-huwiyyat al-laajjeen wa nas ta istidaafa bit aamil fi al-tawaasol?

3.3. Momkin nisharik ay qisas aw hikayat illi tusawar kayfa al-fahim wa al-mawaqif bit tatawwar aw bit hal mushkilaat fi mujtama'na?

Qism 4: Tahallul al-Mushkilaat wa Bina' al-Salam:

- 4.1. Ay mubadaraat, istiraatijiyyat, aw 'amaliyaat bit ti'amalu fi mujtama'na lo hal mushkilaat murtabita bi mawaared albee'a aw li-taqwee al-salam bain al-laajieen wa nas ta istidaafa?
- 4.2. Ay tariqa ta tahallul al-mushkilaat bit jibu al-salam, wa leish ba'd tariqa bit fashil?
- 4.3. Iza indina qudra lo san'a barnamaj bina' al-salam, ay anwa' min ansha'a wa hiwar bit na'amalu lo tatawwar tahallul al-mushkilaat fi mujtama'?

Qism 5: Idarat Maawaared Albee'a Mustadama:

- 5.1. Fi ay 'amaliyaat aw tareeqat bit sa'id fi idarat mawaared albee'a fi mujtama'na wa taqlil al-mushkilaat?
- 5.2. Kayfa bit shuuf idarat mawaared albee'a bit bit ahsan lo manafi' li-laajieen wa nas ta istidaafa wa fi nafs al-waqt li-hifz al-bee'a?
- 5.3. Fi ay mushkila aw amal li-mustaqbal ta idarat mawaared albee'a wa al-ta'awun bain al-laajieen wa nas ta istidaafa fi hadha al-makan?

Qism 6: Khulasah:

- 6.1. Fi al-khulasah, aish aham al-nata'ij illi tala'na min al-munakasha ta'na al-yom?
- 6.2. Binasbat li-hadithna, fi risala aw tawsiya bit lo sharikha ma' al-siyasiyin, al-munathammat, aw mujtama' al-'aam?

Shukran!

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW (KII)GUIDE:

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) will provide more comprehensive insights. The researcher will conduct individual discussions with key figures in Ayilo 1 & 2 and Adjumani district. These include district officials, Office of the Prime Minister-In charge of refugee , local leaders, refugee leaders, opinion leaders (Adjumani District Elders Forum), and NGO representatives (UNHCR, LWF, IRC). Selecting individuals with specialized knowledge facilitates focused exploration of specific topics and enhances the study's understanding of the situation. Nine (09) participants shall be identified purposely and the interview will last between thirty to forty minutes (30-40 minutes).

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, am a graduate student at Gulu University pursuing a Master's degree in Conflict Transformation Studies. I am conducting research entitled "Conflicts over Environmental Resources: Tensions between Refugees and Host Communities in Adjumani District, Northern Uganda". I would be grateful for your responses to the following questions pertaining to this study. Please be assured that your responses will be treated with confidentiality and utilized exclusively for academic purposes.

Section 1: Demographic Information

1.1. Gender: Male ☐ Female ☐ Other ☐ (please specify_____)

1.2. Age: Under 18 ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55 and over ☐

1.3. Education Level: No formal education ☐ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐

Vocational/technical training ☐ College or university ☐

1.4. Ethnicity: Madi ☐ Dinka ☐ Bor ☐ Lulubo ☐ Acholi ☐ Others_____

Section 2: Resource Access and Competition:

2.1. Describe recent situations or events where tensions or conflicts related to environmental resources (land, water, and forests) have been observed in your area.

2.2. Does your community have enough environmental resources like land, water, and forests for everyone, or is there competition for them?

2.3. Can you describe situations where refugees and community members competed for environmental resources like water, land, and forest?

2.4. How do environmental resource-related tensions affect day-to-day life in the community, including livelihoods and social interactions?

Section 3: Perceptions and Attitudes:

3.1. What cultural, social, or historical factors contribute to tensions between refugees and locals?

3.2. How do labels like “refugee” and “local” affect interactions in your community?

3.3. Can you share any stories or tales illustrating how perceptions and attitudes have escalated or resolved conflicts in our community?

Section 4: Conflict Resolution and Peace building:

4.1. What initiatives, strategies, or practices have been implemented in your community to address environmental resource-related conflicts or promote peace between refugees and host community members?

4.2. What successful or unsuccessful strategies have you seen for building peace between refugees and host communities?

4.3. If given the power to design a community conflict resolution or peace-building program, what specific actions or activities would you recommend?

Section 5: Sustainable Environmental Resource Management:

5.1. Are there any practices or approaches that could help sustainably manage environmental resources in your community and reduce conflicts?

5.2. How do you think environmental resource management can be improved to benefit both refugees and host communities while safeguarding the environment?

5.3. Do you have any concerns or hopes regarding the future of environmental resource management and coexistence between refugees and host community members in this area?

Thank you!

INFORMED CONSENT FOR KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW (KIIs) PARTICIPANTS

Study Title: “Conflicts Over Environmental Resources: Tension between Refugees and Host Communities in Adjumani District, Northern Uganda”.

Sponsor (s):

This research has been partially funded under the “Master Completion Grant” offered by the “Building a Stronger University Project (BSU-IV) of Gulu University for a period not exceeding one academic year to support the completion of the research.

Principal Investigator: Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, MA in Conflict Transformation Studies (Refugee, Displacement, & Migration) student.

Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies (IPSS), Gulu University, Ug.

Reg. No. 22/U/1209/MAC/PS

Telephone Contact: 0779566799/0705749180

Email: mosesr.okello@gmail.com | rubmoses@gmail.com

Supervisors: Dr. Stella Laloyo Apecu (PhD), Principal Supervisor.

Ag. Chief, Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies, Gulu University, Uganda.

Ms. Acio Esther (PhD Scholar), Co-Supervisor.

Lecturer, Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies, Gulu University, Uganda.

INTRODUCTION:

I, Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, hereby extend an invitation for your participation in a research study titled “Conflicts Over Environmental Resources: Tension between Refugees and Host Communities in Adjumani District, Northern Uganda”. The objective of this study is to investigate the extent to which the influx of refugees has generated environmental resource tensions with host communities in the Adjumani District. This research is being conducted solely for academic purposes as a fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a master’s degree of Arts in Conflict Transformation Studies. This informed consent document provides a comprehensive explanation of the study. Upon full understanding and willingness to participate, you will be requested to sign the consent form. All information provided will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and anonymized.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

This research investigates resource-related tensions between refugees and host communities in Adjumani, Uganda. It aims to explain the underlying causes of environmental resource conflict, assess its social and economic impacts, and evaluate existing interventions. Through analysis of the experiences of both groups, the study will identify areas of strain and assess how environmental resource management and humanitarian efforts address these tensions. This research aligns with Uganda’s Refugee Policy Framework (2017), which describes Uganda’s approach to hosting refugees, emphasizing peaceful coexistence and self-reliance for both refugees and host communities.

It endeavors to inform policymakers and organizations working towards peaceful and sustainable solutions in areas hosting displaced populations. Understanding the nexus between environmental resources and social dynamics is crucial for promoting social cohesion and collaboration within both refugee and host communities, not only in Adjumani but globally. The study will employ qualitative methods, including household surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and document reviews. Ethical approval will be obtained from the Gulu University Research Ethics Committee (GUREC).

PROCEDURE:

Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) will comprise of nine (09) key figures purposely selected from the study area with specialized knowledge focused on exploration of specific topics to

enhances the study's understanding of the situation to bring comprehensive insights. These include district officials, Office of the Prime Minister-In charge of refugee, local leaders, refugee leaders, opinion leaders (Adjumani District Elders Forum), and NGO representatives (UNHCR, LWF, IRC). The interview will last between thirty to

forty minutes (30-40 minutes) to complete the interview comprising approximately seventeen (17) questions, divided into five (5) sections. This exercise is voluntary, and the researcher encourages free participation; however, participants may withdraw at any time if they experience discomfort or unease.

WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY?

You have been purposely selected as a resourceful person in this community based on your experience of refugee-host community relationships.

RISKS/DISCOMFORTS:

There is no foreseeable risk of harm or discomfort that will arise from your participation in this study. However, discussing sensitive topics related to environmental resource conflict may evoke emotional discomfort in some Key Informants. Remember, you can skip any questions that cause distress and is free to withdraw from the study at any point.

BENEFITS OF THE STUDY TO THE PARTICIPANTS:

Your participation directly contributes to the formulation of more effective policies and interventions for environmental resource conflicts between refugees and host communities in Adjumani district and beyond. This research explains the complex relationship between environmental resources and social tensions within refugee and host communities. By understanding these dynamics, we can develop solutions that foster social cohesion and collaboration, not only in Adjumani but also in comparable contexts globally.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Your identity will not be revealed to anyone as the researcher shall only use codes to identify participants. Information obtained will only be accessible to the research team. Soft copies of the data will be protected by password and hard copy files will be kept under lock and key. Confidential information will only be accessed by the principal investigator. The data on this

study can be requested by GUREC and Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) whenever necessary.

ALTERNATIVES:

You do not have to participate in this study if you are not interested. You will not lose any benefit if you choose not to participate.

COST AND REMUNERATION TO PARTICIPANTS:

There will not be any additional cost incurred because of participating in this study. To acknowledge participants' time and contribution to the study, time compensation of 20,000UGX will be provided. I appreciate your contribution.

QUESTIONS:

For inquiries related to your participation as a research subject, you may contact the principal investigator, Mr. Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, via telephone at 0779556799 or email at mosesr.okello@gmail.com . Regarding matters concerning your rights and participation in the study, please contact the Gulu University Research Ethics Committee (GUREC) Chairperson, Dr. Julaina A. Obika, at Tel: +256772964491 or Email: j.obika@gu.ac.ug . For administrative matters pertaining to the study, contact the Gulu University Research Ethics Administrator, Mr. Robert Kiduma, at Tel: +256 776812147.

STATEMENT OF VOLUNTARINESS:

Participation in the research study is voluntary and you may join on your own free will. You have a right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

STATEMENT OF CONSENT:

I has read and understood what is going to be done, the risks, the benefits involved, and my rights as a participant in this study. I understand that my decision to participate in this study will not affect me in any way. In the use of this information, my identity will be concealed. I am aware that I may withdraw at any time. I understand that by signing this form, I do not waive any of my legal rights but merely

indicate that I have been informed about the research study in which I am voluntarily agreeing to participate. A copy of this form will be provided to me.

Name of Participant: Signature/Thumb print
.....Date:.....

Name of Witness.....Signature.....Date
.....

Name of
interviewer.....Signature.....Date.....

Thank you for your help.

INFORMED CONSENT FORM FOR HOUSEHOLD INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS

Study Title: **“Conflicts Over Environmental Resources: Tension between Refugees and Host Communities in Adjumani District, Northern Uganda”.**

Sponsor (s):

This research has been partially funded under the “Master Completion Grant” offered by the “Building a Stronger University Project (BSU-IV) of Gulu University for a period not exceeding one academic year to support the completion of the research.

Principal Investigator: Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, MA in Conflict Transformation Studies (Refugee, Displacement, & Migration) student.

Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies (IPSS), Gulu University, Ug.

Reg. No. 22/U/1209/MAC/PS

Telephone Contact: 0779566799/0705749180

Email: mosesr.okello@gmail.com | rubmoses@gmail.com

Supervisors: Dr. Stella Laloyo Apecu (PhD), Principal Supervisor.

Ag. Chief, Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies, Gulu University, Uganda.

Ms. Acio Esther (PhD Scholar), Co-Supervisor.

Lecturer, Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies, Gulu University, Uganda.

INTRODUCTION:

I, Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, hereby extend an invitation for your participation in a research study titled “Conflicts Over Environmental Resources: Tension between Refugees and Host Communities in Adjumani District, Northern Uganda”. The objective of this study is to investigate the extent to which the influx of refugees has generated environmental resource tensions with host communities in the Adjumani District. This research is being

conducted solely for academic purposes as a fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a master's degree of Arts in Conflict Transformation Studies. This informed consent document provides a comprehensive explanation of the study. Upon full understanding and willingness to participate, you will be requested to sign the consent form. All information provided will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and anonymized.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

This research investigates resource-related tensions between refugees and host communities in Adjumani, Uganda. It aims to explain the underlying causes of environmental resource conflict, assess its social and economic impacts, and evaluate existing interventions. Through analysis of the experiences of both groups, the study will identify areas of strain and assess how environmental resource management and humanitarian efforts address these tensions. This research aligns with Uganda's Refugee Policy Framework (2017), which describes Uganda's approach to hosting refugees, emphasizing peaceful coexistence and self-reliance for both refugees and host communities.

It endeavors to inform policymakers and organizations working towards peaceful and sustainable solutions in areas hosting displaced populations. Understanding the nexus between environmental resources and social dynamics is crucial for promoting social cohesion and collaboration within both refugee and host communities, not only in Adjumani but globally. The study will employ qualitative methods, including household surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and document reviews. Ethical approval will be obtained from the Gulu University Research Ethics Committee (GUREC).

PROCEDURE:

This study will use open-ended questions to gather data from a large, representative sample of refugees and host communities in Ayilo 1 & 2 settlements (Adjumani). This will allow for comparisons of experiences and the establishment of a baseline understanding of both groups. Approximately thirty-one (31) participants (20 refugees {10M, 10F}, and 11 hosts {6M, 5F}) communities shall be interviewed taking approximately thirty to forty minutes (30-40 minutes) to complete the interview comprising approximately eleven (11) questions, divided into four (4) sections. This exercise is voluntary, and the researcher encourages free

participation; however, participants may withdraw at any time if they experience discomfort or unease.

WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY?

You have been purposely selected as a resourceful person in this community based on your lived experience of refugee-host community relationships.

RISKS/DISCOMFORTS:

There is no foreseeable risk of harm or discomfort that will arise from your participation in this study. However, discussing sensitive topics related to environmental resource conflict may evoke emotional discomfort in some participants. Remember, you can skip any questions that cause distress and is free to withdraw from the study at any point.

BENEFITS OF THE STUDY TO THE PARTICIPANTS:

Your participation directly contributes to the formulation of more effective policies and interventions for environmental resource conflicts between refugees and host communities in Adjumani district and beyond. This research explains the complex relationship between environmental resources and social tensions within refugee and host communities. By understanding these dynamics, we can develop solutions that foster social cohesion and collaboration, not only in Adjumani but also in comparable contexts globally.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Your identity will not be revealed to anyone as the researcher shall only use codes to identify participants. Information obtained will only be accessible to the research team. Soft copies of the data will be protected by password and hard copy files will be kept under lock and key. Confidential information will only be accessed by the principal investigator. The data on this study can be requested by GUREC and Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) whenever necessary.

ALTERNATIVES:

You do not have to participate in this study if you are not interested. You will not lose any benefit if you choose not to participate.

COST AND REMUNERATION TO PARTICIPANTS:

There will not be any additional cost incurred because of participating in this study. To acknowledge participants' time and contribution to the study, time compensation of 10,000UGX will be provided. I appreciate your contribution.

QUESTIONS:

For inquiries related to your participation as a research subject, you may contact the Principal Investigator, **Mr. Okello Moses Rubangangeyo**, via telephone at 0779556799 or email at mosesr.okello@gmail.com. Regarding matters concerning your rights and participation in the study, please contact the Gulu University Research Ethics Committee (GUREC) Chairperson, **Dr. Julaina A. Obika**, at Tel: +256772964491 or Email: j.obika@gu.ac.ug . For administrative matters pertaining to the study, contact the Gulu University Research Ethics Administrator, **Mr. Robert Kiduma**, at Tel: +256 776812147.

STATEMENT OF VOLUNTARINESS:

Participation in the research study is voluntary and you may join on your own free will. You have a right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

STATEMENT OF CONSENT:

I has read and understood/has been described to me what is going to be done, the risks, the benefits involved, and my rights as a participant in this study. I understand that my decision to participate in this study will not affect me in any way. In the use of this information, my identity will be concealed. I am aware that I may withdraw at any time. I understand that by signing this form, I do not waive any of my legal rights but merely indicate that I have been informed about the research study in which I am voluntarily agreeing to participate. A copy of this form will be provided to me.

Name of Participant.....Signature/Thumb print
.....Date:.....

Name of Witness.....Signature.....Date
.....

Name _____ of _____
interviewer.....Signature.....Date.....

Thank you for your help.

**ISTIMARA MA' AFAQA MUFAHHAMAH LI MUSHTARIKIIN FI MUHADATHA
AL-BEIT_ARABIC**

**Inuan al-deresa: “Mushkilaat fi Mawaared Albee’a: Tawaatur bain Al-Laajileen wa
Mujtamaat Al-Istidaafa fi Mantigat Adjumani, Shamāl Uganda.”**

Al-dahamid:

Da bahs da jabu lu guzo bit juzu fi taka ‘Master Completion Grant’ il mona Gulu University
fi ‘Building a Stronger University Project (BSU-IV)’. Hinna kejo lo kuru sana wahid
akademik sana ku kumulu bahs.

Al muhakik al-reis: Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, Majistiir fi al-funun fi dirasat tahwil al-sira (Al-Lajiin, Wa-al-tashrid, Wa-al-hijrah) talib.

Mahad al-salam wal-derasaad al-istretezia Jama Gulu, Uganda.

Arqam tusezil. 22/U/1209/MAC/PS.

Arqam at-Tilifun: 0779556799/070574980

Email: mosesr.okello@gmail.com / rubmoses@gmail.com

Musharifin: Dr. Stella Laloyo Apecu (PhD), Al-musharif al-rais

Ra'ees bil-niyaba, mahad al-dirasat al- istratijiyya wa-I-salam, Jami'at Gulu, Uganda.

Ms. Acio Esther (Darisat Al-dictoora), Al-seida.

Muhadir, ma'had al dirasat al-istratiyya wa-I-salam, Jami'at Gulu, Uganda.

Isim al-musarik..... Umur.....Tarik____/____/____

Yawm, Shahr,

Sana

AL-MATKAL:

Ami, Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, da bedit bit di lo mushriki fi bahs fi title “**Mushkilaat fi Mawaared Albee’a: Tawaatur bain Al-Laaajeen wa Mujtamaat Al-Istidaafa fi Mantigat Adjumani, Shamāl Uganda**”. Maksud ta bahs da hu ku malum jurat ke akele lo laajjeen garab mushkilaat fi mawaared albee’a ma nas ta istidaafa fi mugata Adjumani.

Bahs da fi la academic fi lo tamam talab ta master’s degree fi Conflict Transformation Studies. Da waraqa ta mafeem alwafi fi dayir ku sharah fi bahs. Lo tukul mafeem malish fi mushriki, dayir ku kato waraqa ta afu. Kol malumat il bit di lo bugujo bi sirr wa hinna kejo lo b editu.

MAKSAD TA BAHS:

Bahs da bit lo mulaja mushkilaat ta mawaared bain laajieen wa nas ta istidaafa fi Adjumani, Uganda. Hinna dayir ku sharah sabab ta mushkilaat fi mawaared albee'a, malum fi asar ta bah fi mujtama wa iktisad, wa bugujo lo hal ta mawgud.

Lo malaja tajurba ta itnen gruup, bahs da bit lo mulaja mahal ta da'aya wa malum kayfa idara ta mawaared albee'a wa shuqul ta insani bit lo fitin mushkilaat da. Bahs da fi lo gwanda ma Refugee Policy Framework ta Uganda (2017) il bit sharah kayfa Uganda bit lo itia laajieen, bit lo da'a salam wa istiqlaal fi laajieen wa nas ta istidaafa.

Hinna dayir ku bujugu la nas ta siyaasa wa munazama il bit lo shuqul lo hal ta salam wa hal ta mustaqbal fi makan ta laajieen. Malum ta rabt fi mawaared albee'a wa hal ta mujtama hu muhim fi da'a salam wa ta'awun bain laajieen wa nas ta istidaafa, lo Adjumani wa fi kol makan.

Bahs da bit lo istakdim tariqa ta tafsir, zey survey ta bait, munakasha jema'iya, interview ma nas ta muhim, wa takriir taqreer. Izin ta akhlaq bit lo katu min Gulu University Research Ethics Committee (GUREC).

TARIKA:

Dyi bahis hayistakhdim su'alat maftuha li jama' al-ma'lumat min 3 sample kabeer wa mumathil min al-laji'in wa al-mujtama'at al-mistakbila fi Ayilo 1 wa 2 (Adjumani). Hada hayisahim fi muqaranah al-tajarib wa ta'yeed fahm asasi li al-mujtama'at al-ithnayn. Huwal mushtarik fi al-bahis huwa 31 mushtarik (20{10M, 10F} laji'in), wa (11{6M, 5F} mujaama'at mistakbila) wa hayisiru al-musahhamat bi-istighraq taqreeban 30-40 daqiqa li itmam al-muhadatha al-lati tata'addad fiha 11 su'al, maqsuma ila 4 qism. Hada al-tamareen iradi, wa al-bahis yashajji' al-mushtarakah al-hurrah; walakin al-mushtarikiin mumkin ansahib fi ayyi waqt law haso bil-inqirad aw al-hafid.

MINU BIT LO MUSHRIKI FI BAHS?

Hinna kato lek bi qasd mashak nas ta fi mafaada fi mujtama da, bigir tajurba ta hun fi alaga bain laajieen wa nas ta istidaafa.

MAKHATIR/WAHAM:

Mafi khatar wala waham il bit lo ju min mushriki fi bahs da. Lakin, munakasha ta mawdue hassas fi mushkilaat ta mawaared albee'a mumken lo sabbab waham ta nafsi fi ba'd mushrikeen. Zukr, inti bit lo takozi ay su'al il bit lo sabbab atash, wa fi lek hurriya lo kuru bar min bahs ay wakıt.

FAIDA TA BAHIS LO MUSHRIKEEN:

Mushriki ta lek bit lo sa'id fi san'a siyaasa wa hal il bit lo amil tamam fi mushkilaat ta mawaared albee'a bain laajjeen wa nas ta istidaafa fi Adjumani wa makan ta tani. Bahs da bit lo sharah rabt il bit lo wasit bain mawaared albee'a wa mushkilaat ta mujtama fi laajjeen wa nas ta istidaafa. Law malum hal da tamam, mumken lo san'a hal il bit lo da'a salam wa ta'awun, mafi Adjumani bas, laki fi makan il bit lo andu nafsi mushkilaat fi kol dunia.

SIRIYA:

Asanak ma fishar li ayyu nas, la'an al-bahis bas bistakhdım kod a'shan yi'arif al-mushtirikiin. Al-ma'lumat al-bagibuha bas gruop ta bahis fi yumkin yishufuha. Fail fi computer ta waraga bi-kun fi kalimat sir, wa waraga maktab bi-kun tahta kuful wa miftah. Al-ma'lumat al-sirriya bas Al-bahis al-raıs fi yumkin yishufuha. Al-ma'lumat fi dyi bahis mumkin GUREC wa Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) yitalubuha law fi haja.

BADAL:

Ma fi lazım takun fi dyi bahis law ma andak ragba. Ma bitfugat ayyu faida law takhtar ma mushtarık.

KILIMATA WA JU'A TA MUSHTIRIKIIN:

Ma fi ayyu kilimata zyada bisabab mushtaraka fi dyi bahis. A'shan nashkur zaman wa musharaka ta mushtirikiin fi bahis, hina binaddi kompanseishin ta zaman 10,000 UGX. Ana bashkurukum kiteer fi musharakatukum.

SU'ALAT:

Ka andak su'al gati mushtarak fi bahis, mumkin min fadlik Al-bahis al-raıs, Mr. Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, fi telefun 0779556799 wala email mosesr.okello@gmail.com . Lo su'al gati hakukum wa mushtarak fi bahis, min fadlik Ra'eesa ta Gulu University Research Ethics Committee (GUREC), Dr. Julaina A. Obika, fi Telefun: +256772964491 wala Email:

j.obika@gu.ac.ug . Lo su'al gati admin ta bahis, min fadlik Gulu University Research Ethics Administar, Mr. Robert Kiduma, fi Tel: +256 776812147.

TAFSEER TA IRADIYA:

Mushtaraka fi bahis al-bahis hiya iradiya, wa mumkin tisharuk bi-iradaik al-khassa. Andak haq an takhruj min al-bahis fi ayyi waqt bidoon ayyi uqubah.

TAFSEER TA MA'AFAQA:

Ana qara'it wa fhamt/wasafat li ma hayisaru wa al-makhatar, wa al-fawa'id al-musharika, wa huquqi ka mushtarik fi dyi bahis. Ana fhamt inno qarari an mushtarik fi dyi bahis ma hay'athir 'alayya fi ayyi tariqa. Fi istikhdam al-ma'lumat di, idhati hatikoon makhfiya. Ana 'arif inno mumkin ansahib fi ayyi waqt. Ana fhamt inno bi-tawqi'i hadha al-istimara, ma atarek ayyi min huquqi al-qanuniya, bas fi ishara inno ana mufahham 3an al-bahis al-musharika fiho wa anni mutafiq an mushtarik fi dyi bahis iradiyan. Nuskha min hadha al-istimara hatitawwar li.

Ism al-mushtarik: Tawqi'i / Imsha' Tarikh:.....

Ism al-shahid: Tawqi'i Tarikh:.....

Ism al-musahhim: Tawqi'i Tarikh:.....

Shukran li musaadatik.

INFORMED CONSENT FORM FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION PARTICIPANTS

Study Title: “Conflicts Over Environmental Resources: Tension between Refugees and Host Communities in Adjumani District, Northern Uganda”.

Sponsor (s):

This research has been partially funded under the “Master Completion Grant” offered by the “Building a Stronger University Project (BSU-IV) of Gulu University for a period not exceeding one academic year to support the completion of the research.

Principal Investigator: Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, MA in Conflict Transformation Studies (Refugee, Displacement, & Migration) student.

Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies (IPSS), Gulu University, Ug.

Reg. No. 22/U/1209/MAC/PS

Telephone Contact: 0779566799/0705749180

Email: mosesr.okello@gmail.com | rubmoses@gmail.com

Supervisors: Dr. Stella Laloyo Apecu (PhD), Principal Supervisor.

Ag. Chief, Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies, Gulu University, Uganda.

Ms. Acio Esther (PhD Scholar), Co-Supervisor.

Lecturer, Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies, Gulu University, Uganda.

INTRODUCTION:

I, Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, hereby extend an invitation for your participation in a research study titled **“Conflicts Over Environmental Resources: Tension between Refugees and Host Communities in Adjumani District, Northern Uganda”**. The objective of this study is to investigate the extent to which the influx of refugees has generated environmental resource tensions with host communities in the Adjumani District. This research is being conducted solely for academic purposes as a fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a master’s degree of Arts in Conflict Transformation Studies. This informed consent document provides a comprehensive explanation of the study. Upon full understanding and willingness to participate, you will be requested to sign the consent form. All information provided will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and anonymized.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY:

This research investigates resource-related tensions between refugees and host communities in Adjumani, Uganda. It aims to explain the underlying causes of environmental resource conflict, assess its social and economic impacts, and evaluate existing interventions. Through analysis of the experiences of both groups, the study will identify areas of strain and assess how environmental resource management and humanitarian efforts address these tensions. This research aligns with Uganda's Refugee Policy Framework (2017), which describes Uganda's approach to hosting refugees, emphasizing peaceful coexistence and self-reliance for both refugees and host communities.

It endeavors to inform policymakers and organizations working towards peaceful and sustainable solutions in areas hosting displaced populations. Understanding the nexus between environmental resources and social dynamics is crucial for promoting social cohesion and collaboration within both refugee and host communities, not only in Adjumani but globally. The study will employ qualitative methods, including household surveys, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and document reviews. Ethical approval will be obtained from the Gulu University Research Ethics Committee (GUREC).

PROCEDURE:

This exercise will convene diverse stakeholders in Ayilo 1 & 2 for a structured examination of experiences. It will include representatives from Refugee Welfare Committees, Local Councils, refugees (male & female), host community members (male & female), spiritual leaders, and opinion leaders. This methodology will facilitate in-depth discussions and a full understanding of both communities' perspectives. Each FGD will comprise of 8-10 participants taking approximately 60 minutes to complete the exercise comprising approximately eighteen (18) questions, divided into six (6) sections. This exercise is voluntary, and the researcher encourages free participation; however, participants may withdraw at any time if they experience discomfort or unease.

WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY?

You have been purposely selected as a resourceful person in this community based on your lived experience of refugee-host community relationships.

RISKS/DISCOMFORTS:

There is no foreseeable risk of harm or discomfort that will arise from your participation in this study. However, discussing sensitive topics related to environmental resource conflict may evoke emotional discomfort in some participants. Remember, you can skip any questions that cause distress and is free to withdraw from the study at any point.

BENEFITS OF THE STUDY TO THE PARTICIPANTS:

Your participation directly contributes to the formulation of more effective policies and interventions for environmental resource conflicts between refugees and host communities in Adjumani district and beyond. This research explains the complex relationship between environmental resources and social tensions within refugee and host communities. By understanding these dynamics, we can develop solutions that foster social cohesion and collaboration, not only in Adjumani but also in comparable contexts globally.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Your identity will not be revealed to anyone as the researcher shall only use codes to identify participants. Information obtained will only be accessible to the research team. Soft copies of the data will be protected by password and hard copy files will be kept under lock and key. Confidential information will only be accessed by the principal investigator. The data on this study can be requested by GUREC and Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) whenever necessary.

ALTERNATIVES:

You do not have to participate in this study if you are not interested. You will not lose any benefit if you choose not to participate.

COST AND REMUNERATION TO PARTICIPANTS:

There will not be any additional cost incurred because of participating in this study. To acknowledge participants' time and contribution to the study, time compensation of 10,000UGX will be provided in addition to a 2,000UGX refreshment token due to length of the discussion. I appreciate your contribution.

QUESTIONS:

For inquiries related to your participation as a research subject, you may contact the Principal Investigator, **Mr. Okello Moses Rubangangeyo**, via telephone at 0779556799 or email at mosesr.okello@gmail.com . Regarding matters concerning your rights and participation in the study, please contact the Gulu University Research Ethics Committee (GUREC) Chairperson, **Dr. Julaina A. Obika**, at Tel: +256772964491 or Email: j.obika@gu.ac.ug . For administrative matters pertaining to the study, contact the Gulu University Research Ethics Administrator, **Mr. Robert Kiduma**, at Tel: +256 776812147.

STATEMENT OF VOLUNTARINESS:

Participation in the research study is voluntary and you may join on your own free will. You have a right to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

STATEMENT OF CONSENT:

I has read and understood/has been described to me what is going to be done, the risks, the benefits involved, and my rights as a participant in this study. I understand that my decision to participate in this study will not affect me in any way. In the use of this information, my identity will be concealed. I am aware that I may withdraw at any time. I understand that by signing this form, I do not waive any of my legal rights but merely indicate that I have been informed about the research study in which I am voluntarily agreeing to participate. A copy of this form will be provided to me.

Name of Participant: Signature/Thumb print
.....Date:.....

Name of Witness.....Signature.....Date
.....

Name of
interviewer.....Signature.....Date.....

Thank you for your help.

**FOOM TA MAFEEM ALWAFI LEL MUSHRIKEEN FI MUNAKASHA
JEMA'IYA_ARABIC**

Inuan al-deresa: “Mushkilaat fi Mawaared Albee’a: Tawaatur bain Al-Laajileen wa Mujtamaat Al-Istidaafa fi Mantigat Adjumani, Shamāl Uganda.”

Al-dahamid:

Da bahs da jabu lu guzo bit juzu fi taka ‘Master Completion Grant’ il mona Gulu University fi ‘Building a Stronger University Project (BSU-IV)’. Hinna kejo lo kuru sana wahid akademik sana ku kumulu bahs.

Al muhakik al-reis: Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, Majistiir fi al-funun fi dirasat tahwil al-sira (Al-Lajiin, Wa-al-tashrid, Wa-al-hijrah) talib.

Mahad al-salam wal-derasaad al-istretezia Jama Gulu, Uganda.

Arqam tusezil. 22/U/1209/MAC/PS.

Arqam at-Tilifun: 0779556799/070574980

Email: mosesr.okello@gmail.com / rubmoses@gmail.com

Musharifin: Dr. Stella Laloyo Apecu (PhD), Al-musharif al-raais

Ra’ees bil-niyaba, mahad al-dirasat al-istratijiyya wa-I-salam, Jami’at Gulu, Uganda.

Ms. Acio Esther (Darisat Al-dictoora), Al-seida.

Muhadir, ma’had al dirasat al-istratiiyya wa-I-salam, Jami’at Gulu, Uganda.

AL-MATKAL:

Ami, Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, da bedit bit di lo mushriki fi bahs fi title “**Mushkilaat fi Mawaared Albee’a: Tawaatur bain Al-Laaajeen wa Mujtamaat Al-Istidaafa fi Mantigat Adjumani, Shamāl Uganda**”. Maksud ta bahs da hu ku malum jurat ke akele lo laajeen garab mushkilaat fi mawaared albee’a ma nas ta istidaafa fi mugata Adjumani.

Bahs da fi la academic fi lo tamam talab ta master’s degree fi Conflict Transformation Studies. Da waraqa ta mafeem alwafi fi dayir ku sharah fi bahs. Lo tukul mafeem malish fi mushriki, dayir ku kato waraqa ta afu. Kol malumat il bit di lo bugujo bi sirr wa hinna kejo lo b editu.

MAKSAD TA BAHS:

Bahs da bit lo mulaja mushkilaat ta mawaared bain laajeen wa nas ta istidaafa fi Adjumani, Uganda. Hinna dayir ku sharah sabab ta mushkilaat fi mawaared albee’a, malum fi asar ta bah fi mujtama wa iktisad, wa bugujo lo hal ta mawgud.

Lo malaja tajurba ta itnen grup, bahs da bit lo mulaja mahal ta da’aya wa malum kayfa idara ta mawaared albee’a wa shuqul ta insani bit lo fitin mushkilaat da. Bahs da fi lo gwanda ma Refugee Policy Framework ta Uganda (2017) il bit sharah kayfa Uganda bit lo itia laajeen, bit lo da’a salam wa istiqtaal fi laajeen wa nas ta istidaafa.

Hinna dayir ku bujugu la nas ta siyaasa wa munazama il bit lo shuqul lo hal ta salam wa hal ta mustaqbal fi makan ta laajeen. Malum ta rabt fi mawaared albee’a wa hal ta mujtama hu muhim fi da’a salam wa ta’awun bain laajeen wa nas ta istidaafa, lo Adjumani wa fi kol makan.

Bahs da bit lo istakdim tariqa ta tafsir, zey survey ta bait, munakasha jema’iya, interview ma nas ta muhim, wa takriir taqreer. Izin ta akhlaq bit lo katu min Gulu University Research Ethics Committee (GUREC).

TARIKA:

Shuqul da bit lo jemma nas ta aham fi Ayilo 1 & 2 lo malaja tajurba ta hun. Hinna bit lo dukhul nas min Refugee Welfare Committees, Local Councils, laajieen (rigil wa mara), nas ta istidaafa (rigil wa mara), ruwwat ta diin, wa nas ta ra'i. Tarika da bit lo sa'id fi munakasha amik wa malum fi nazar ta itnen mujtama.

Kol munakasha jema'iya (FGD) bit lo andu 8-10 mushrikeen, bit lo juzu takriban sittin (60) daqiqa. Su'al bit lo andu takriban 18 su'al, maqсам fi 6 juza'. Shuqul da fi lo ikhtiyari, wa bahis bit lo da'a mushriki lo hurriya. Lakin, law mushriki hasas ta atash wala waham, hinna bit lo mkan ku kuru bar.

MINU BIT LO MUSHRIKI FI BAHIS?

Hinna kato lek bi qasd mashak nas ta fi mafaada fi mujtama da, bigir tajurba ta hun fi alaga bain laajieen wa nas ta istidaafa.

MAKHATIR/WAHAM:

Mafi khatar wala waham il bit lo ju min mushriki fi bahs da. Lakin, munakasha ta mawdue hassas fi mushkilaat ta mawaared albee'a mumken lo sabbab waham ta nafi fi ba'd mushrikeen. Zukr, inti bit lo takozi ay su'al il bit lo sabbab atash, wa fi lek hurriya lo kuru bar min bahs ay waklit.

FAIDA TA BAHIS LO MUSHRIKEEN:

Mushriki ta lek bit lo sa'id fi san'a siyaasa wa hal il bit lo amil tamam fi mushkilaat ta mawaared albee'a bain laajieen wa nas ta istidaafa fi Adjumani wa makan ta tani. Bahs da bit lo sharah rabt il bit lo wasit bain mawaared albee'a wa mushkilaat ta mujtama fi laajieen wa nas ta istidaafa. Law malum hal da tamam, mumken lo san'a hal il bit lo da'a salam wa ta'awun, mafi Adjumani bas, laki fi makan il bit lo andu nafi mushkilaat fi kol dunia.

SIRIYA:

Asanak ma fishar li ayyu nas, la'an al-bahis bas bistakhdim kod a'shan yi'arif al-mushtirikiin. Al-ma'lumat al-bagibuha bas grup ta bahis fi yumkin yishufuha. Fail fi computer ta waraga bi-kun fi kalimat sir, wa waraga maktab bi-kun tahta kuful wa miftah. Al-ma'lumat al-sirriya bas Al-bahis al-rais fi yumkin yishufuha. Al-ma'lumat fi dyi bahis mumkin GUREC wa Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) yitalubuha law fi haja.

BADAL:

Ma fi lazim takun fi dyi bahis law ma andak ragba. Ma bitfugat ayyu faida law takhtar ma mushtarik.

KILIMATA WA JU'A TA MUSHTIRIKIIN:

Ma fi ayyu kilimata zyada bisabab mushtaraka fi dyi bahis. A'shan nashkur zaman wa musharaka ta mushtirikiin fi bahis, hina binaddi 10,000 UGX kompanseishin ta zaman, ziada 2,000 UGX lo ju'a bisabab tool ta munakasha. Ana bashkurukum kiteer fi musharakatukum.

SU'ALAT:

Ka andak su'al gati mushtarak fi bahis, mumkin min fadlik Al-bahis al-raisa, Mr. Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, fi telefun 0779556799 wala email mosesr.okello@gmail.com . Lo su'al gati hakukum wa mushtarak fi bahis, min fadlik Ra'eesa ta Gulu University Research Ethics Committee (GUREC), Dr. Julaina A. Obika, fi Telefun: +256772964491 wala Email: j.obika@gu.ac.ug . Lo su'al gati admin ta bahis, min fadlik Gulu University Research Ethics Administar, Mr. Robert Kiduma, fi Tel: +256 776812147.

TAFSEER TA IRADIYA:

Mushtaraka fi bahis al-bahis hiya iradiya, wa mumkin tisharuk bi-iradaik al-khassa. Andak haq an takhruj min al-bahis fi ayyi waqt bidoon ayyi uqubah.

TAFSEER TA MA'AFAQA:

Ana qara'it wa fhamt/wasafat li ma hayisaru wa al-makhatar, wa al-fawa'id al-musharika, wa huquqi ka mushtarik fi dyi bahis. Ana fhamt inno qarari an mushtarik fi dyi bahis ma hay'athir 'alayya fi ayyi tariqa. Fi istikhdam al-ma'lumat di, idhati hatikoon makhfiya. Ana 'arif inno mumkin ansahib fi ayyi waqt. Ana fhamt inno bi-tawqi'i hadha al-istimara, ma atarek ayyi min huquqi al-qanuniya, bas fi ishara inno ana mufahham 3an al-bahis al-musharika fiho wa anni mutafiq an mushtarik fi dyi bahis iradiyan. Nuskha min hadha al-istimara hatitawwar li.

Ism al-mushtarik: Tawqi'i / Imsha' Tarikh:.....

Ism al-shahid: Tawqi'i Tarikh:.....

Ism al-musahhim: Tawqi'i Tarikh:.....

Shukran li musaadatik.

APPENDIX 6: PHOTO GALLERY



Caption: A distant view of Ayilo I and II from Olua I Refugee Settlement's main road shows a seemingly deserted yet densely settled area, with only a few large trees remaining, highlighting the stark loss of the area's once-forested landscape. **Photo Credit:** Mr. Okello Moses Rubangangeyo (Principal Investigator) , 2nd May 2025.



Caption: The Principal Investigator at the heart of Ayilo I Settlement (left), and enjoying tea at a local café in Ayilo II (right). **Photo Credit:** Mr. William Makol, (Research Assistant), 5th May 2025.



Caption: Photo taken during a women-only Focus Group Discussion in Ayilo II Refugee Settlement. One Research Assistant facilitated in Arabic/Ma'di, another took notes, while I recorded and noted key points. **Photo Credit:** Mr. Okello Moses Rubangangeyo (Principal Investigator), 5 May 2025.

**APPENDIX 7: CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION IN PEER-REVIEWED
JOURNALS**



**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC AND MANAGEMENT
RESEARCH**
ISSN: 2581-6888

Certificate of Publication

Date: 30/06/2026

Dear Author,

Okello Moses Rubangangeyo & Stella Laloyo Apecu

Thanks for your contribution to the research, we are pleased to inform you that your manuscript:

Title: Common Ground, Shared Soil: An Evaluation of Policies and Multi-Stakeholder Interventions in Managing Refugee-Host Environmental Conflicts in Adjumani District

Has been published in Volume 9 Issue 6 June 2026 Page: 34-50

Here offered the link: - https://ijsmr.in/doc/ijsmr09_25.pdf

DOI - <https://doi.org/10.37502/IJSMR.2026.9603>

Congratulations!

With Regards

R Venkatesan

Editor-in-Chief

International Journal of Scientific and Management Research

Amanxo Publication

www.ijsmr.in



**APPENDIX 8: GULU UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (GUREC)
CLEARANCE**

GULU UNIVERSITY

P.O. Box 166, Gulu (U)
Website: www.gu.ac.ug
Email: gurec@gu.ac.ug



Tel: +256 471 432 096
Fax: +256 471 432 913
Mob: +256 772 964 491
+256 776 812 147

RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

03/03/2025

To: Moses Okello

0779556799

Review Type: Initial Review



Re:GUREC-2024-925: CONFLICTS OVER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: TENSION BETWEEN REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN ADJUMANI DISTRICT, NORTHERN UGANDA

I am pleased to inform you that the Gulu University REC, through expedited review held on **17/10/2024** approved the above referenced study.

Approval of the research is for the period of **03/03/2025** to **03/03/2026**.

As Principal Investigator of the research, you are responsible for fulfilling the following requirements of approval:

1. All co-investigators must be kept informed of the status of the research.
2. Changes, amendments, and addenda to the protocol or the consent form must be submitted to the REC for re-review and approval **prior** to the activation of the changes.
3. Reports of unanticipated problems involving risks to participants or any new information which could change the risk benefit: ratio must be submitted to the REC.
4. Only approved consent forms are to be used in the enrollment of participants. All consent forms signed by participants and/or witnesses should be retained on file. The REC may conduct audits of all study records, and consent documentation may be part of such audits.
5. Continuing review application must be submitted to the REC **eight weeks** prior to the expiration date of **03/03/2026** in order to continue the study beyond the approved period. Failure to submit a continuing review application in a timely fashion may result in suspension or termination of the study.
6. The REC application number assigned to the research should be cited in any correspondence with the REC of record.
7. You are required to register the research protocol with the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) for final clearance to undertake the study in Uganda.

The following is the list of all documents approved in this application by Gulu University REC:

No.	Document Title	Language	Version Number	Version Date
1	Document Review Checklists	English	Version 2	2025-02-26
2	Informed Consent forms	Arabic	Version 2 Arabic	2025-02-26

3	Informed Consent forms	English	Version 2 English	2025-02-26
4	Informed Consent forms	Arabic	Version 2 Arabic	2025-02-26
5	Informed Consent forms	Arabic	Version 2 Arabic	2025-02-26
6	Informed Consent forms	English	Version 2 English	2025-02-26
7	Data collection tools	English and Arabic	Version 2_English and Arabic	2025-02-26
8	COVID-19 & EBOLA risk management plan	English	Version 2	2025-02-26
9	Community Engagement plan	English	Version 2	2025-02-26
10	Protocol	English	Version 2	2025-02-26

Yours sincerely,



Julaina A. Obika (PhD)
For: Gulu University REC

APPENDIX 9: ADMINISTRATIVE CLEARANCE FROM ADJUMANI DISTRICT

Okello Moses Rubangangeyo

MA Conflict Transformation Studies (Refugees, Displacement & Migration)

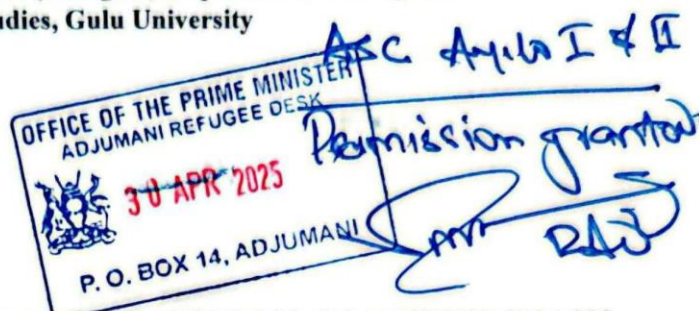
Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies, Gulu University

29th April 2025

To:

The Refugee Desk Officer (RDO),
Adjumani District.

Dear Sir/Madam,



RE: ADMINISTRATIVE CLEARANCE FOR PROTOCOL V 2.0 “GUREC-2024-925 - CONFLICTS OVER ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: TENSIONS BETWEEN REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN ADJUMANI DISTRICT, NORTHERN UGANDA”

I respectfully seek administrative clearance to conduct the above-mentioned academic research in Adjumani District. The study aims to investigate how the influx of refugees has influenced environmental resource tensions with host communities. This research fulfills part of the requirements for the award of a Master of Arts in Conflict Transformation Studies at Gulu University and is partially funded under the “**Master Completion Grant**” from the “**Building a Stronger University Project (BSU-IV)**” of Gulu University.

The study will explore the causes and impacts of environmental resource conflicts, evaluate current interventions, and contribute to informing policy and programming aligned with Uganda’s Refugee Policy Framework (2017). Understanding these dynamics is vital for promoting peaceful coexistence and sustainable solutions in displacement-affected areas.

The research will employ qualitative methods including household surveys, focus group discussions (FGDs), key informant interviews (KIIs), and document reviews. A total of 40 participants will be involved: 9 Key Informants, 20 refugees, and 11 host community members. Two-three FGDs will involve 8–10 participants each.

Ethical approval was granted by the Gulu University Research Ethics Committee (GUREC) on 17th October 2024, effective from 3rd March 2025 to 3rd March 2026 (see **attached approval from GUREC**). Administrative endorsements will be sought from the CAO, the Refugee Desk Officer, and the Sub-County Chief of Pakelle (see **attached Community Engagement Plan**).

There is no foreseeable risk to participants, though discussions may occasionally cause emotional discomfort. Participants retain the right to skip questions or withdraw at any time. Participation benefits include contributing to better policies addressing environmental resource conflicts, thereby fostering social cohesion.

Confidentiality is assured; participant identities will be coded, and data securely stored. Only the principal investigator and authorized bodies such as GUREC and the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) may access the data if required.

Participants will receive modest compensation: 20,000 UGX for KIIs, 12,000 UGX for FGDs, and 10,000 UGX for household interviews.

For inquiries, participants may contact the Principal Investigator, Mr. Okello Moses Rubangangeyo, at 0779556799 or mosesr.okello@gmail.com. For ethical concerns, they may contact the GUREC Chairperson, Dr. Julaina A. Obika, at +256772964491 or j.obika@gu.ac.ug, and for administrative matters, the GUREC Administrator, Mr. Robert Kiduma, at +256776812147.

I look forward to your favorable consideration and support.

Yours faithfully,



Okello Moses Rubangangeyo

BDVS-GU, PGD PPM-GU, PGD SML-USHG, MA Conflict Transformation Studies-GU
(Student)

Tel: 0779556799 | Email: mosesr.okello@gmail.com

Okello Moses Rubangangeyo
MA Conflict Transformation Studies (Refugees, Displacement & Migration)
Institute of Peace and Strategic Studies, Gulu University
28th April 2025

To:
The Chief Administrative Officer,
Adjumani District.



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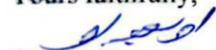
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(Student)

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APPENDIX 10: PLAGIARISM CERTIFICATE

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Name: OKELLO MOSES RUBANGANGEYO(Mr.)

Personal File No.(staff) Reg. (student). REG. 22/U/1209/MAC/PS

Faculty/Institute: INSTITUTE OF PEACE AND STRATEGIC STUDIES, GULU UNIVERSITY

Department: PEACE AND SECURITY STUDIES

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4. I have not allowed, and shall not allow anyone to copy my work with the intention of passing it off as his/her own,
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