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**Gender Sensitive Conflict
Analysis and Mapping Report
for the Sustainable Ecosystem
Management Project Areas**

CEWARN/ ICPALD 2023 Assessment Report

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ABBREVIATIONS

CEWERU	Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Unit
CEWARN	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ICPALD	IGAD's Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development
SEM	Sustainable Ecosystem Management

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism of IGAD conducted an engendered conflict sensitivity assessment under the auspices of the Sustainable Ecosystem Management Project -SEM. The project is being implemented by the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD), in the cross-border areas of; Benishangul-Gumuz (Kurmuk and Sherkole) in Ethiopia, Kurmuk in the Blue Nile State of Sudan, Morungole subcounty in Kaabong district of Uganda, and Newsite, Kapoeta East County in South Sudan.

The Project is being implemented with three years funding from the Government of Sweden. The main objective is to enhance the resilience of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihoods through sustainable management and the use of shared rangelands in the selected cross-border areas of the IGAD region. The overall objective of the assessment was to conduct an engendered conflict sensitivity mapping of the target project implementation areas and to ensure some of the conflict and gender issues are mainstreamed as a way of mitigating likely and unintended negative impact.

The assessment also examined the gender sensitive conflict and socio-economic status or context in the beneficiary communities, which the project implementation was likely going to encounter and interact with, either negatively or positively, within the principals of “Do No Harm” – DNH. The DNH principal emphasizes that any interventions whether in the form of aid or development, will immerse itself and become part of the societal context where it is being implemented and has the capacity to enhance either peace or conflict. It is therefore crucial for any project implementors to undertake a conflict sensitivity assessment prior to implementation, to understand the context or its environment of implementation so as to integrate measures to mitigate any unintended negative conflictual outcomes.

According to the findings, the major problem and challenge the communities in the target areas face is the dire need for social services such as education, health, water availability and access both for livestock and domestic use and poor road infrastructure. These challenges affect mostly women and children who often have to travel long distances of more than 100 km from their homes to access the critical services. This poses a significant risk to mostly pregnant mothers, infants and children, many of who lose lives in the process.

Due to these challenges, the communities will likely view any interventional projects in the perspectives of a response to their predicaments. In terms of activity selection, they may prefer activities that are aligned with their demands for social services even

if the activities fall outside the scope of the project. This may result to some significant resistance and apprehensiveness towards the project.

One of the key conclusions was that it is important to ensure women inclusivity and participation by developing gender sensitive project implementation and management committees. This is due to the observation that women bear the greater burden of domestic responsibilities. This is attributed to the demographics which tips women over men due to the predisposing consequences of conflicts including higher male fatalities, and traditional norms and customs which limit a woman's role to domestic chores and less productive areas of livelihood including exclusion from land ownership.

Ethiopia: In Ethiopia, the area targeted are in Assosa zone of Benishangul region and include Kurmuk and Sherkole locations or administratively known as Woredas. In the conflict context, the regions do not experience any major conflicts except for the problem of Fallata, and unspecified Arab nomad pastoralists, who seasonally cross from Sudan to Ethiopia to graze along the border areas of Kurmuk and Sherkole during their dry seasons. They are said to be periodically causing mayhem to the communities, who also attribute the prevalence of some animal diseases like trypanosomiasis to the frequent incursions of the nomads. The other active and existing conflict is that of un-demarcated frontiers along the border of Sudan and Ethiopia at Gizzan, in Sherkole, which continues to create disharmony among these border communities. The contested land is located along one of the only fertile areas in the region. The political conflicts were found to be of latent nature with a propensity to reemerge, and potentially affecting project implementation since some of the triggers seemed to be lurking among the communities.



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The border trade restrictions that have been imposed at the border posts of Ethiopia and Sudan, specifically in Kurmuk and Sherkole, are hindering the potential for cross border trade, which would have acted as a major boost in enhancing the trade and business sector and general livelihood of the communities. As of now, the cross-border trade is restricted to selected items, with weekly \$40 limit worth of goods per individual. These restrictions have led to the proliferation of illegal trade routes and conflict with the authorities and could be a likely deterrent to any potential catalytic effect of the project intervention. The restrictions have largely been attributed to the lack of adequate administrative infrastructure to operationalize and manage immigration and customs controls.

Uganda: The target area in Uganda, is in Kaabong district Morungole sub-county. The major underlying conflicts in this area revolved around rampant cattle rustling and theft, as well as inter-ethnic tensions between the Ik and Dodoth communities, both of who live in the same area. There is a major territorial conflict between the Ik and the Dodoth regarding land ownership, with each group jostling to evict or outcompete the other at any opportunity, claiming aboriginal rights over the land. Other ethnic groups in the area include the Ng'porein, another distinct ethnicity from the Dodoth. Gender issues are rife, with women traditional accustomed to certain less productive chores and being most affected with the lack of services. They are also alienated from land ownership, which disenfranchises them from the control of resources. Issues of negative ethnic alliances are rife and involves alliances between the Dodoth with the South Sudan Toposa against the Turkana and sometimes their very own the Ik.

South Sudan: In South Sudan, the target area is in Newsite, Nadapal, Kapoeta East. The major security concern is cattle rustling between the Toposa and Didinga communities within South Sudan, and the Turkana of Kenya. However, there is an apparent vibrant alliance between the Toposa of South Sudan with the Dodoth of Uganda. This alliance is used negatively against the Turkana and Ik of Uganda. Conflicts arising from the un-demarcated and contested boundary areas at Nadapal along the Ilemi triangle, and the struggle over pasture and water are a common occurrence.

Following the principles of “Do no Harm”, the implementing actors validated the findings in a workshop in which the planned activities were assessed against the context viewed in terms of either as societal connectors or dividers and documented in the boxes 1- 5 (figs. 8-12).

It was then recommended that the project considers the fact that all the communities are in dire need of social services. In view of this, the objectives of the project may

not necessarily meet the expectations and priorities of the communities. It is therefore important that the expectations of the communities are well managed and some embedded and mainstreamed in the implementation of the project.

Interest should be taken into the demographic composition of the population, especially since it was discovered that the population of females is surpassing that of the males. The imbalance could affect some gender issues like increase in the high numbers of female headed households with limited livelihood options. It could also indicate underlying factors and unknown causes of higher flight rate or migration of the males—especially the youth from the areas, in search for better opportunities, or conscription into military service or non-state militia activity. The immediate ramifications include lack of labour for some of the intensive manual activities like agriculture. The activities should be gender sensitive to ensure they are friendly so as to encourage the involvement and participation of women, who appear to be demographically out tipping the men.

Given the remoteness of the areas, it is difficult to collect data on conflict events using the current conventional means of open and crowd sourcing via electronic media. It is crucial to establish a conflict data collection and analysis mechanism so as to continue with the monitoring of the conflict dynamics during project implementation.

1. Introduction



The IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) signed a three-year project contract with the Government of Sweden on Sustainable Ecosystem Management (SEM) for pastoralism in cross-border areas of the IGAD region. The major goal of the project is to enhance the resilience of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihoods through sustainable management and the use of shared rangelands in cross-border areas of the IGAD region.

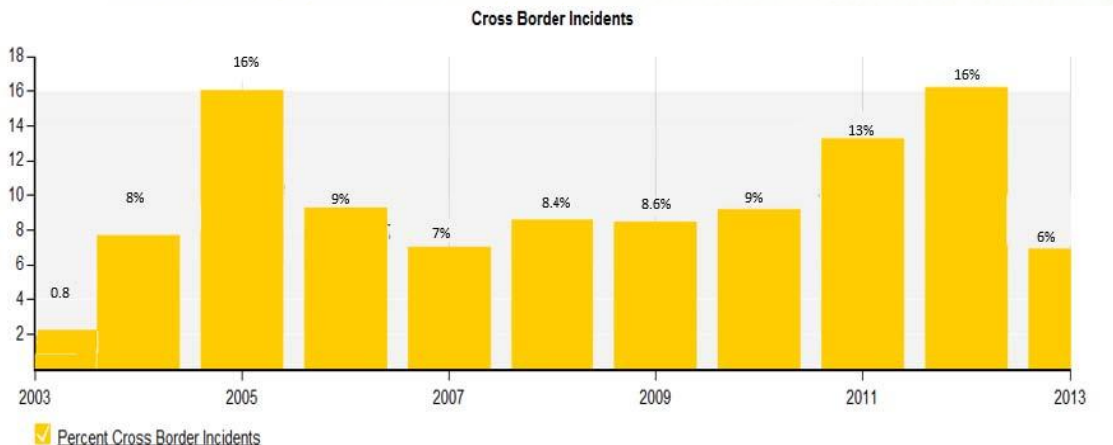


Figure 1: Percentage of cross-border incidents (IGAD-CEWARN Reporter)

Thus, accelerating sustainable economic and social development for the poor and marginalized members of the community, especially women and youth in the beneficiary cross border areas.

The project is implemented by ICPALD in collaboration and partnership with relevant government and specialized IGAD institutions like the Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism of IGAD -CEWARN, and non-governmental organizations.

1.2. Objectives

The major objective of the assessment was to conduct a gender sensitive conflict assessment with the aim of mainstreaming conflict sensitivity into the implementation of the SEM project.

1.3. Background

According to a 2022 study by the UNDP's Africa Borderlands Centre (ABC), which interviewed over 1000 agro-pastoralists, border communities across the Horn of Africa face complex, multi-dimensional-and interconnected challenges. The challenges range

from frequent droughts, food insecurity, livestock raiding, limited public services, and limited economic opportunities (UNDP 2022 Report). As such, the socioeconomic potential of borderland communities across the Horn remains underutilized. Besides, the endemic and persistent intercommunal conflicts in these areas does not make it any easier for the various interventions to register any remarkable progress in terms of improving the resilience of the borderland’s communities.

According to CEWARN’s data collection and analysis system - The Reporter, cross border incidents contributed up to 16% of the reported conflict incidents in certain years (figure 1 above). The incidents showed a cyclic nature of escalation and de-escalation, proving that interventional measures actually worked in certain years. It was just a question of sustainability (fig. 1 below). This therefore goes to show that sustainability in the project implementation is key.

Impacts in terms of human deaths varied depending on the year. The year 2006 recording the highest deaths (figure 2 below). Left without any interventions therefore, the conflicts have a propensity to have very high impact on the humanitarian wellbeing in the affected areas. The response intervention therefore provides an opportunity to alleviate some of the severe impacts of conflicts associated with livelihood and coexistence.

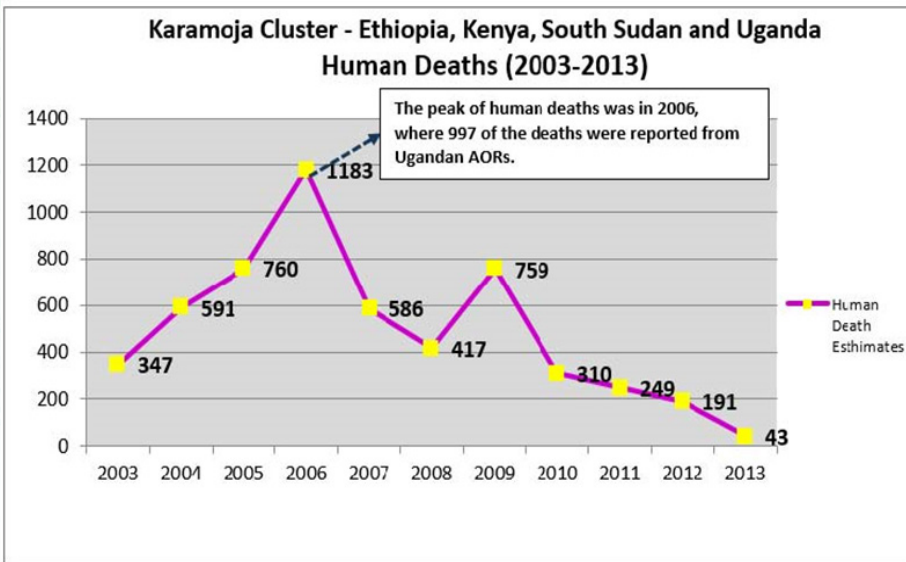


Figure 2: Human deaths as a result of intercommunal conflicts and raids in the Karamoja region between 2003-2013 (IGAD-CEWARN)

It is against this background that ICPALD engaged with CEWARN to carry out a gender sensitive conflict analysis and mapping baseline. The aim for the collaboration was to establish the conflict status of the communities and mainstreaming conflict sensitivity in project implementation.

2. Methodology



The study adopted the ‘Do No Harm’ (DNH) tool by the CDA-Collaborative Learning Projects as applied in conflict sensitivity assessments and analysis (cdacollaborative.com) was used as a guide in the assessment and analysis. This was juxtaposed with conflict assessment methodologies. The DNH according to the CDA rides on the hypothesis that ‘aid, whether development or peacebuilding, is capable of facilitating either conflict or peace.’ In view of these, conducting a conflict sensitivity analysis will enable the project implementing entities to;

- Understand the context or environment in which the project is operating;
- Understand the interaction between the intervention and the context; and
- Act upon the knowledge to mitigate the effects of any likely negative interaction.

The DNH tool does not only emphasis on peace and conflict issues, but also focuses on unintended consequences of the intervention. It rises on the understanding that the context or the environment with which the intervention interacts with, is characterized by both societal ‘connectors’ and ‘dividers’ and that the intervention will interact with these connectors and dividers in a manner that enhances either of peace or conflict in the beneficiary community. Understanding the context goes beyond just a conflict assessment but rather a situational analysis with gender and conflict at the forefront of the ‘dividers’ context.

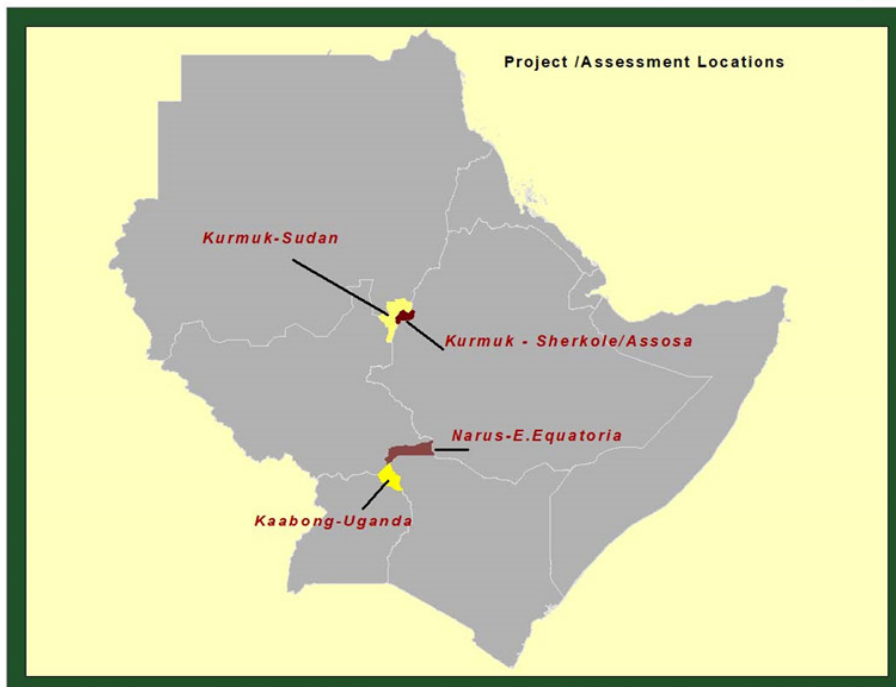


Figure 3: Locations of planned projects and areas of assessment (CEWARN).

2.1. Context Analysis

The assessment was conducted between 2nd -21st April by two analysts from CEWARN. The assessments were supported by the respective countries' Conflict Early Warning and Response Units -CEWERU representative, and a focal person of the project who clearly understood the local contexts of the area of implementation. The national CEWERU focal point provided support on national security perspectives of the local context.

The assessment team visited the planned project implementation areas of Assosa, Kurmuk and Sherkole in the cross - border areas of Ethiopia and Sudan; Kaabong District, Morungole sub county in Uganda at the cross-border areas of Uganda and South Sudan, and Kapoeta East region, Newsite, in South Sudan at the cross-border regions of South Sudan and Uganda (figure 3).

The assessment tools used included Key informant and focus group interviews using a set of questionnaire guides, and general observations captured pictorially. Altogether, up to 8 KI interview sessions and FG discussions were conducted in all the target areas. KIs were conducted for administrative level personnel while FGDs were carried out for the communities, ensuring gender inclusivity and participation and an average of 15 participants per group discussion. The interviews focused on profiling the contextual environment of the planned intervention areas as dividers or connectors in a context scoping assessment exercise. A validation workshop was then conducted to refine the findings and align them to the actual interventional activities. Conclusions and recommendations on suggested approaches to mainstreaming conflict sensitivity into project implementation were made based on the findings.

2.2. Key Context Areas

In order to have a clear understanding of the different contexts, data collection and analysis was conducted in a contextualized manner so as to have a more focused analysis and understanding of the different contexts. A summary of the contextualized analysis and justification is provided below.

- **Geographical Coverage:** This was important in understanding the geographic scope and limitations of the intervention - context interactions.
- **Population:** Population data is crucial in providing an in-depth view of the impacts of the interactions in terms of the affected and anticipated beneficiaries numbers.
- **Ethnic Diversity:** One of the demographic characteristics of the cross-border communities is ethnic diversity, which plays a key role in either fostering or undermining peace in a given region. This makes it a crucial aspect of the context to analyse.

- **Main and Alternative Livelihoods:** By targeting particular livelihoods, it is important that the different livelihoods are profiled with a clear understanding of whether or how they preserve or mitigate the existing conflictual situations. This will be crucial in designing projects that will not interfere in a negative way already existing livelihood related conflicts.
- **Social Services Including Education, Health and Markets:** The lack of or availability of basic social services is an underlying factor as a divider or connector between the communities and their governments. Lack of basic social services creates grievances among communities and often affect the implementation of other auxiliary and supplementary projects either in terms of operations or even choice and priorities. It is therefore important to understand the major social services that are crucial in terms of delivery of the project or as an influencer of choice of project.
- **Social Amenities Including Places of Worship:** Here, the main actors in the conflicts are mostly youth. Managing their mindset is important. It will help enshrine and mainstream conflict sensitivity to prevent conflicts. Social amenities such as places of worship and different forms of entertainment are important in shaping the minds of active youths and are great connectors to a large extent.
- **Gender Sensitive Conflict Mapping:** Conflicts are critical in shaping the contexts of intervention and usually act as major dividers. It is therefore important to identify conflicts and their nature or typologies in terms of whether current or latent; violent or non-violent -tensions or simply perceived conflict, Latent conflicts are particularly crucial and sensitive as they have the potential to emerge during implementation of the project with potential significant disruptive consequences. Causes of the conflicts were also established and categorized into either structural or proximate. The temporal aspect of the conflicts was interrogated to establish the seasonality of the conflicts and any associated drivers including climate. Some conflicts are persistent and endemic while others are occasional -random or isolated incidents.

Actor Mapping: Actor mapping was considered crucial not only in terms of a full conflict analysis, but also in generally understanding the potential connectors and dividers of the project during implementation. The questionnaire was designed to identify major actors in the conflicts in terms of their roles, interests and strengths/ capacities. This was for purposes of establishing avenues for intervention and response that requires targeting of certain actors who have influence in the communities.

3. Findings



3.1. Ethiopia: Ethiopia-Sudan Cross-Border Context

Benishangul Region Ethiopia

Context

The assessment covered Ethiopia's Kurmuk and Sherkole areas located in Assosa sub region of Benishangul Region and Kurmuk in the Blue Nile State of Sudan. The area in Ethiopia is ethnically diverse. It consists of Benishangul, Amhara, and Oromo as the major ethnicities, the dominant being Benishangul that make up over 90% of the population.

According to the statistics from the zonal office, Kurmuk has a total population of 47,174; 20,659 are males and 26,515 females. Sherkole has a total population of 40,033 with 19,616, male and 20,417 females. The demographics depict a higher population of females compared to males in these regions which is out of character of national demographics. This situation has been attributed to the general nature of births where the region is said to be experiencing more girl child births than boys. The imbalance could also be attributed to the high fatality rate of the males especially the youth due to the endemic conflicts and militarization of the regions as well as out migration of mostly male youths in search for other opportunities and labor. Nonetheless, it goes to show the importance of taking into consideration activities that will ensure more women participation not just as a case for affirmative action but the demographic dictates and status.

The major livelihood activities in the area includes subsistence agriculture, artisanal gold mining, livestock farming- mostly shoats, apiary and petty trade. Crop farming and gold mining were mentioned as the dominant livelihoods carried out interchangeably. Gold mining is said to be dominant during the dry season from December to May. Women are mostly engaged in the subsistence agriculture while the men undertake gold mining. Gold mining was said to be more lucrative and income generating as opposed to the subsistence farming which yields less income. There is therefore a tendency of relegating women to the less productive livelihoods which turns out to be a divider in the community.

Currently, the communities, especially in Kurmuk, do not experience any major form of active conflict other than lack of social services, and seasonal invasions by the Fallata and Arab nomads with its associated issues. Some of the conflicts mostly political have

since dissipated but remains latent with a potential of erupting anytime during project implementation.

The Assosa zone which includes Kurmuk, and Sherkole, suffered from a violent political conflict which erupted soon after the general election of 2020 and raged on during the TPLF -FDRE forces war. The main parties in the conflict were the BENIN Party, (Benishangul People Liberation Movement), a Gumuz people democratic movement, who felt aggrieved in the election because they were considered an illegal organization by the federal government. The Party contested against the ruling Prosperity Party and outrightly rejected the outcomes of the elections and descended into armed conflict against the elected government. The conflict led to destruction of property and infrastructure and loss of livelihood. While the conflict has since been resolved and has seen peace return in the area, there are concerns that it might re-emerging especially since it has a history of re-occurrence during and after elections, which are expected in the next 3 years. It therefore remains a potential source of disruption during project implementation and presents as a potential divider.

The areas are plagued with the rampant and seasonal 'Fallata pastoralist conflict.' The Fallata and Arab pastoralists are nomadic pastoralists who straddle the border areas of Sudan and Ethiopia in the areas of Kurmuk and Sherkole. The Fallata pastoralists are known to have migrated from Nigeria and Mali over 2 decades ago. They are now recognized as an ethnic tribe in Sudan and are considered natives of The Blue Nile state, which shares borders with Assosa-Benishangul in Ethiopia. They regularly cross into Ethiopia alongside another undescribed group of Arab pastoralists during dry season months of between January to June. The main issues arising from the presence of the nomads includes the destruction of food crops of the local communities by their large herds of cattle as they graze along; environmental degradation and destruction due to the large herds and tree cutting, which is often used to feed the herds, for construction and as a source of fuel. The Fallata are also said to be engaging in petty thefts and cause depletion of pasture and water during the dry months, hence creating a resource conflict with the locals. The Fallata, are considered a major security threat since they are said to be armed and have caused major livelihood setbacks and mayhem to the communities where they traverse. They are also known to be the source of animal diseases and partly responsible for the spread of the deadly animal Trypanosomiasis. Despite the conflicts, there is some symbiotic coexistence with the locals as they gain from the animal products including milk, beef and other products. The conflict is seasonal yet active. It is also a potential divider with regard to the project since it directly interacts with potential livelihoods such as apiary and livestock stocking.



Figure 4: Photo of bamboo bundles readied for sale both locally and across to Sudan

The area is host to refugees fleeing political insurgence and insecurities from both Sudan and South Sudan and are known to cross the refugee camps of Bambashi and Omosha. They are said to be conflicting with the host communities over competition for labour as they offer cheaper labour. They are also engaged in petty thefts and unregulated felling of trees, causing environmental degradation. The refugees are also said to be illegally engaging in gold mining which is a major source of income to the communities hence creating competition. This is mostly among the Kurmuk community and is a potential divider depending on the choice of intervention.

Key among the region's livelihoods is trade in the wild growing bamboo vegetation, one of the highly priced natural resources in the region. However, it has become a source of conflict, as communities from Sudan are known to cross and illegally harvest the timber for sale in Sudan due to high demand there. Some refugees were found to be involved in the illegal harvesting of the resource which is causing conflict between them and the community dwellers and is a potential divider.

The historical boundary conflict between Sudan and Ethiopia along some of the locations in Sherkole at Gizzan could be a major divider in the implementation of the project. The conflict is being occasioned by the non-delimitation of the frontiers between the two countries leaving the communities in conflict and violent contestations, both claiming the unmarked territories which also happens to be the most fertile area in the region.

The conflict is characterized by occasional violence and clashes between Ethiopia and Sudan, leading to fatalities and tensions. The insecurity makes livelihood activities a very risky venture around the fertile and contested areas when this happens, women are the most affected with fear of abductions and sexual abuse.

Although not directly linked to conflict, the structural and systemic factors contribute greatly to the more proximate causes of conflicts. They act as constraining factors in fully achieving the objectives of the project. Lack of social services for example was emphatically highlighted with the anticipation that any form of intervention or project should be geared towards addressing these endemic and structural issues. It was observed that the various interventions both previous and planned seldom meet with the expectations of the community which has created a sense of frustration among the communities.

Some of the structural issues include lack of social service such as education, which is in dire state. It was mentioned that most of the education facilities were last built in the communist regime and have since never been renovated which has left the communities in dire need of educational and health infrastructure and services. The education sector has particularly been greatly affected by the past 2 years of civil conflict. Health care and access roads add to the challenges and in some cases, the nearest health center for both communities being more than 100km. This has contributed to the high mortality rates especially of pregnant mothers and infants. Most of the primary health care units have since been closed and abandoned due to lack of facilitation



The other key service sector that is in a dire situation is the recurrent scarcity of water especially during the dry season (January to April) when most of the water sources which are supplied by seasonal rivers source dry out. Water can only be accessed from water holes along dry sand riverbeds. The little is shared with animals, a situation which has led to a high prevalence of diarrheal diseases. This situation greatly affected women, worsening their sanitary conditions. The scarcity of water greatly impacts the wellbeing of the community and causes conflicts between livestock breeders and the locals, especially women who do the water fetching.

Figure 5: A primary health unit hitherto constructed to provide basic health services closed due to lack of facilitation and care. There are many of such facilities in similar condition.

While the cross border brings along many opportunities, there are also illicit activities including trade across the porous border using illegal routes as a result of lack of a substantive customs administration at the border points. The local traders occasionally resort to trafficking contraband which sometimes includes narcotics like hashish said to be originating from Gambella region of Ethiopia. Unconfirmed reports also indicate that there was reported illicit flow of small arms from neighboring countries which



Figure 6: Photo of water supply in Sherkole depicting the dire water scarcity experienced by the communities

end up in the hands of dissident groups. This was experienced a lot during the political conflict but it has since dissipated. Though currently contained, the area is said to have a number of routes used for human trafficking and illegal immigrants seeking to go to their destinations through the Mediterranean. Most of these are latent in nature but are likely to reoccur and act as dividers.

Related to the problem of illicit trade is the limitation in the amount and value of goods that can be traded across the borders. This has led to a lot of anguish among communities especially with the trade limitation which is capped to less than \$40 per individual, per week and only limited to certain items. Traders are not allowed to cross the border with items more than \$40 at a time. This has greatly limited trade, which would have made a big difference in terms of income, revenue and general wellbeing of the communities. Trading big would definitely attracted large number of people who would have created diversity and caused general improvement of social services and wellbeing of the communities. The limitations are only promoting illegalities in the trade business including corruption and use of illegal routes.

There is a feeling and sense of marginalization in the communities with the presence of government or governance hardly felt. The failure to establish immigration and customs administration has led to a sense of marginalization more so on the Sudan border where the nearest administration is more than 80km. This partly is what has led to the trade restrictions as there is no form of customs control and administration at the border areas. On the Sudan side, there are strict immigration requirements that make access of the community through the Capital Khartoum and therefore there should be a plan

of acquiring clearances in advance if one is to engage with the communities there. For that reason, it was not possible to conduct the assessment with the Sudan communities.

Gold mining is an activity that is at the center of the economy in the region. It is a major alternative source of income for the residents. However, it comes with some significant challenges including its negative impact on education and its competing interests in the labour resource. Gold mining activity is said to be the leading cause of high -school dropouts. It is also seen as a supplementary source of income to the less paying subsistence farming with many opting to engage in mining and using the proceeds to buy food and staples instead of engaging in the less rewarding actual growing of the crops. Even if agriculture is the major source of livelihood, many youths are getting more into the gold mining activity at the risk of undermining agriculture and education. Any activity therefore that gets into the way of mining activity is likely going to have major setbacks. Gold being a finite resource, it is crucial that investments in the more sustainable sectors like agronomy, pastoralism and education and general service infrastructure like roads is encouraged. The activity is done by both men and women in equal proportions.



Figure 7: Mining camp in Sherhole. Such mining sites are very common in the area and is taking over as the major income earner

Animal Diseases such as Trypanosomiasis are prevalent in both Kurmuk and Sherkole. The disease has limited the rearing of cattle and is said to be spread by the Fallata animals which themselves are said to be resistant to the disease. This poses a threat to cattle keeping as a livelihood. Any interventions targeting livestock rearing or breeding should therefore take into consideration the issue of disease control and management.

The main actors that play significant roles in resolving conflicts are the elders; the chairperson of the Kebele; and the community and religious leaders, whom the locals consider with high regard. There are peace and reconciliation committees, including youth established up to Kebele level which is the lowest administrative level.

The Federal police and regional police have been very crucial in controlling illegal trade. Going forward, there is need to ensure gender parity in establishing these committees as they are essential in ensuring equity in resource sharing and distribution.

3.2. Uganda: Uganda–South Sudan Cross-Border Context

The assessment was conducted in Morungole subcounty in Kaabong district. Kaabong district has a total population of 168,000 according to the latest statistics. Morungole is inhabited by 2 ethnic groups comprising of the Ik and Dodoth with an estimated population of about 15,000. The community is challenged with lack of access to water, and basic health and education facilities. The nearest health facility is a health center II which has no doctor. The Uganda health care system only provides for a doctor at health center III and beyond. This leaves the community with the nearest hospital being over 41 km at the district headquarters in Kaabong. Similarly, the community has only 2 uncoded¹ primary schools, which lack teaching staff. Furthermore, the nearest secondary school is also over 41 km away.

The community has no form of formal Judicial system for arbitration with no police post in place. The community therefore relies on its existing communal systems headed and managed by elders to resolve disputes and conflicts. According to the area Parish Chief, the illiteracy levels stood at 90% while the poverty rate is at 65% as per the latest records. The main source of livelihood for the community is subsistence agriculture and wild fruit gathering for the IK community and pastoralism for the Dodoth. The 2 distinct and competing livelihoods within the same geographic area, and regularly portend conflicts among the communities, pitting pastoralist against agronomy livelihoods and remains a potential divider affecting mostly women since they are the ones mostly engaged in agriculture.

¹ Uncoded schools or institutions are not certified to administer national exams.

The communities also face rampant cattle raids and thefts. This has affected their general wellbeing and ability to engage in different productive activities.

Ethnic divides and alliances are rife in the communities and can be a major divider and propagator of other conflicts. Particularly, the Dodoth are in alliance with the Toposa against the other tribes. This further exposes the Uganda tribes against the adversaries of the Toposa from South Sudan because of the perceived alliances. It is a major divider that continues to disrupt productivity in the area. Relatedly, there is persistent and endemic jostling between the Ik and Dodoth over the original native belonging of the land with the Dodoth claiming original ownership over the minority Ik. There is therefore endemic conflict of dominance which extends to other occupational and livelihood aspects as well.

The proliferation of weapons is another driver of conflicts in the region. Weapons are acquired from South Sudan and to some extent Kenya. They are bartered with equivalent of animals or cash sometimes. Despite the successful disarmament on the Uganda side, the easily available and accessible fire arms across the borders continues to drawback the progress made in the disarmament. Women are particularly affected as they are used by both the perpetrators and security suitors who demand of them to give up information regarding their spouses on gun ownership.

The recent increase in raids in the area is primarily driven by economic gains rather than traditional cultural reasons. The commercialization of raids has made them more frequent and rampant and makes any livelihoods around cattle keeping a risky venture. Because of this, the raids have been associated with business men from the distant cities where the stolen animals are transported and sold.

Climate and environmental factor play a major role in the seasonal escalations of the conflict. The area is located in one of the most environmentally resilient zones in the ecosystem. This makes herders from Turkana to seasonally migrate into the area or pass through it to gain access to pasture and water during dry season on their side, which exposes the communities to various atrocities perpetuated by the migrating communities. This occurs mostly in the months of December to March when the Turkana herds arrive and expose themselves to thefts and livestock losses and upon the return of rains in their areas, the migrating kraals will then return but not without reprisal hence perpetuating the conflict.

The area is home to a natural forest called the Timu forest that provides a cool and favorable micro climate in the area to sustain its agronomic lifestyle. The forest is also in close proximity to a national game park. Unfortunately, the forest is facing rapid degradation due to tree cutting for charcoal and other uses. The situation has turned

conflictual as members of the community accuse each other and intruders for the degradation. The loss of the forest cover threatens to modify the climate of the area which will disrupt the existing livelihood status.

3.3. South Sudan: South Sudan–Uganda Cross-Border Context

The assessment was conducted in the target area of Lopua, Newsite, south of Narus town Kapoeta east. It has numerous ethnic tribes with the Toposa being the predominant ethnic group. The area borders Turkana of Kenya in the east, Karamojong of Uganda in the south and Didinga Ethnic group of South Sudan in the west. It is composed of nineteen sub- villages with about sixty percent (60%) of its population being women. The main livelihoods include livestock farming -cattle, and shoats. Other livelihood activities include subsistence agronomy the main crops being sorghum, cassava, onion, tomatoes, vegetables, maize, sesame and other cash crops. Casual work, charcoal burning, tree logging and artisanal mining are the other sources of livelihood.

One area of context that could turn out to be a major divider is the dire need for social services in the area mostly in education where there are no facilities at all at the community level, and only 1 primary health care unit for the entire Kapoeta, and a technical skilling training center at Narus offering technical training. Water scarcity is usually experienced during dry spells with the only access to water being boreholes, which still needs rehabilitation or completely non-functional. Inadequate funding for both drilling and rehabilitation of water points remains a constant cause of conflicts.

In terms of access to markets, there is only 1 market which is located in Narus that is serving the communities. The residents raised the issue of infrastructure connecting them across the common border with Kaabong district of Uganda as being of high priority for them. This they say, will help them to improve on their businesses through well-constructed transhumance roads and have access to external markets.



Photo by CEWARN Assessment team: Community meeting in Kapoeta

The main conflicts in Kapoeta East include rampant cattle rustling and thefts between the Toposa and Didinga of South Sudan and Turkana of Kenya. The conflict has dividers not just the neighboring indigenous communities, but also the cross-border communities especially with the formation of the alliances. Some Dodoth dissidents are known to associate with some Toposa to go and raid fellow Dodoth from Uganda.

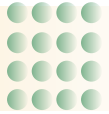
The un-demarcated border between South Sudan and Kenya around Nadapal and the ilemi triangle is a major divider in the coexistence of the communities and when it comes to sharing resources because each side claims ownership.

In line with this is the constant scramble for grazing land and water which usually escalates during the dry season. It also serves to add more fuel to the border conflicts as the different communities continue to claim the un-demarcated available grazing land. Child abduction cases are very common during raiding attacks which places especially the boy child in danger.

Gender based violence is a common vice in the community and involves early marriages and violence against women who are considered subjects of men. Women do not have any rights in decision making processes and ownership of property despite the fact that they constitute over 60% of the population. It is therefore important that women are considered useful in the intervention.

The main actors in the various contexts include elite officials, politicians, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, and opinion leaders. They are key actors in the various contexts including conflicts. Political elite, opinion leaders and officials are said to sometimes incite community violence for their own political gains. The recipients and most affected victims of the conflicts mentioned are mainly women, children and the elderly who constitute the crucial categories affected by the dividers. The actors are said to have different capacities to influence both the dividers and connectors depending on their societal rankings, strengths and support that they hold which could be usually financial, cultural or having a strong political base.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations



The assessment fulfilled its objectives except for the target areas in Sudan that could not be reached due to the prevailing insecurity. It is recommended that during the dissemination workshop, more participation should be extended to representatives of these areas so as to use that opportunity to fill in the gaps for the Sudan target areas.

Whereas most of the issues raised by the communities as their key concerns were out of the purview of the project, it is recommended that awareness and on the core objectives of the project be taken with high consideration to manage expectations of the beneficiaries with the key messages of “complementarity and comparative advantages” of different partner and government interventions. Failure to do so will continue to raise expectations that may be hard to be met hence be misconstrued as any likely achievements during evaluations. Some of the expectations such as access roads and construction of border posts are within the project objectives and can be considered. These kinds of investments benefit not only the target areas, but the wider community at large and resolves some of the concerns regarding selective interventions.

- In order to address some of the concerns and plight of the communities that may not be within the purview of the project, it might be prudent to bring some of the concerns to the attention of other initiatives within the different IGAD programs. For example, the issue of border trade limitations in Kurmuk and Sherkole should be brought to the attention of the Informal Cross Border Trade initiative and IDDRSI or the UNDP -Africa Border Commission (ABC) for their indulgence. Insecurity issues like the periodic presence of Fallata nomads can be brought up with CEWERU for inclusion in the various response programs. Other specific demands that can be raised with relevant authorities include the need to address the prevalence of Trypanosomiasis in Kurmauk and Sherkole areas, the need to invest in access roads especially between Kaabong and Kapoeta, which will further development and benefit more from the planned investments.
- Implementation of the project should take into account the existing livelihood activities in the community and the need for their moderation and sensitivity to the wellbeing and future of the communities. For example, in Kurmuk and Sherkole, gold mining is one of the leading economic activities for the community. However, it is negatively affecting other sectors like education and agriculture, with the communities registering very high school dropout rates and a tendency to rely more on the mine fields while paying less attention to agriculture. This will have future ramifications given that gold is a finite resource that will get depleted in the near future. It is therefore crucial to invest in sectors such as education, agriculture

and infrastructure that will eventually sustain the community once the gold resource is exhausted. Deliberate sensitization programmes on the need to moderate and balance livelihood activities for sustainability should be escalated. The alternative livelihoods interventions must be much more attractive than say goldmining which fetches quick and ready money.

- In areas such as Morungole in Kaabong District, Uganda, and Kapoeta East in South Sudan where interethnic tensions exist, the project implementation must take into consideration the issues of inclusivity so as to avoid exacerbation of the existing inter-ethnic conflicts. In Morungole for example, there are tensions between the IK and the Dodoth over ethnic dominance and inherent rights over the land. Therefore, any skewed enlisting of participants can easily be misconstrued as consenting to the dominance of a particular ethnic group, which will only serve to foment the conflict further.
- There are some specific demands that were expressed that may fall within the bounds of the project like the availing of technology to spur pasture production for supply to breeders. This was specifically raised in Kurmuk and Sherkole where some of the communities engage in agro-pastoralism and more have expressed interest in processing hay to sell to the pastoralist communities during times of scarcity. They also raised the need for gold processing machinery so as to increase on their outputs and dividends beyond simply provision of labour which pays less.
- The target areas are located in remote and inaccessible areas where there is less state presence and lack of basic services and amenities including media coverage and digital or electronic connectivity. As such, most of the crowd sourced and open-source conflict data which is mostly collected through electronic media is not representative of such remote areas. It is therefore recommended that a mechanism of collecting and analyzing conflict information on a regular basis is established so as to monitor the ever-evolving conflict dynamics.
- The project implementation has to be cognizant of the fact that some communities raised the issue of targeted intervention as being one of the main causes of conflict between beneficiary and non-beneficiary communities. Therefore, there has to be a mechanism of ensuring some form of inclusivity so that the non-beneficiary communities do not feel isolated and instigate conflicts. For example, whereas the project cannot cover everywhere, there are certain intervention activities such as infrastructural rehabilitation or construction of border posts which will be beneficial to the broader community and beyond. These can be emphasized and well articulated to the other communities who may not be well within the

geographical coverage of the specific projects so that they can still feel part of the overall intervention.

- Finally, the implementation should take into consideration the gender aspect in terms of demographics. In some areas, the population of women was found to be 60% in some areas and also affirmative action where women are traditionally disenfranchised from productive engagements and ownership of resources across all the areas of intervention. The areas afflicted by conflicts, which mostly draws in males end up suffering high fatalitie. Consequently, women end up constituting the larger proportion of the resident population and bare the greater burden of household responsibility. Therefore, special consideration needs to be taken to ensure their active participation by establishing engendered project management and implementation committees.

5. Workshop Validation



Two workshops were planned to validate the findings of the scoping against the actual intervention activities. The main purpose of the workshops was to disseminate the findings of the assessment and to validate the findings with inputs from the local actors who have practical knowledge of the contexts in line with the planned activities. The first workshop took place on 19th -21st March 2024 in Moroto Uganda for the Uganda–South Sudan contexts; while the second workshop to be held in Assosa Ethiopia, for the Ethiopia-Sudan context is yet to be conducted. This current version of the report therefore excludes the Ethiopia-Sudan context and remains a draft.

5.1. Workshop Methodology

The workshops were interactive and included local actors from the implementation areas of South Sudan -Uganda; and Ethiopia -Sudan. They involved presentation of the findings from the assessment, plenary reactions and inputs from the participants and group work exercises.

Participants were grouped in their respective areas of intervention and facilitated to understand the different contexts in terms of either ‘dividers or connectors’ and evaluate the nature of their planned interventions in terms of how they relate with the context as potential promoters of either of the context. The outcomes of the workshops are tabulated in the subsequent tabulations.

5.2. Uganda Activity – Context validation

Figure 8; Box 1: Uganda Activities

Planned Activities

1. Apiary
2. Agronomy
3. Water reticulation

Context: Ethnic Divides

Figure 9; Box 2: Apiary Context Analysis

Apiary:

1. Has gender exclusivity as a major divider because it is done majorly by men/boys, and excludes women/girls, while both do marketing.
2. It is a divider between Dodoth and IK because the IK practice it as a major livelihood while the Dodoth majorly practice livestock keeping hence competition for space for the livelihood.
3. As a connector because of the necessary alliances with other ethnic groups during marketing.

Mitigations:

- Need for sensitization and trainings on shared roles in the implementation of the activity.
- Need for training of both ethnic groups on Apiary.
- Promote collective cross boarder marketing for honey products.
- Promote market linkages with local organization e.g. Karatunga, B4R to limit the reliance of alliances.

Natural Resource Management and Livelihood Competition:

1. It is a divider in natural resource utilization and competition because of the practice and propensity of wildfires during harvesting of the honey and deforestation.
2. Potential destruction of hives by the migrating and raiding Turkana and source of their replenishment during migration and raiding.
3. Spraying of crops endangers the lives of the bees and compromises the quality of the pollen.

Mitigations:

- Practice land use planning and zoning for the bee hives to stay clear of the cropping and grazing areas.
- Sensitizations and trainings on environmentally friendly harvesting and handling methods like honey harvesting gear to reduce wildfires.
- Encourage environmental regeneration activities like tree planting, promotion of FMNR, Agro-forestry practices e.g. Nurseries.

- Advocate for security apparatus along the porous borders and areas of passage of the migrating communities.
- Trainings on chemical use to reduce on accidental instances of pollution and poisoning.

Agronomy: Involves land opening, inputs and input stores

Figure 10; Box 3: Agronomy interventional dividers.

Intervention Context Interactions

1. Interventional dividers
2. Gender divider in the land ownership which segregates women in the ownership.
3. Reduced crop yields due to degradation and over usage of the land which may affect incomes.
4. Competing livelihoods especially apiary and cattle keeping.
5. Environmental destruction arising from land clearance and cutting of trees to open up cultivation areas.

Mitigations:

- Promote dialogues on gender equitability in sharing of resources.
- Implement climate sensitive agriculture.
- Zoning of implementation areas.

Water Reticulation (Usake Stream)

Figure 11; Box 4: Water reticulation divider context

Intervention - Context Interactions

Potential escalation of land and water source ownership as a divider.

- Existing dividers include water source pollution like open defecation, riverbank encroachment, and sharing of water sources with animals
- Affected by environmental destruction at the catchment areas.
- Fears of vandalism of equipment.
- Competition for water with other livelihoods like mining.

Mitigations:

- Consider compensation of land owners.
- Formation and training of water user committees.
- Triggering communities on CLTS.
- Reinvigorate peace committees to encourage conflict resolutions through dialogues.
- Advocating for enhancement of security.
- Promote tree planting along riverbanks to improve on micro climate.

5.3. South Sudan: Activity - Context Validation

Apiary

- Positives include increases income for the households.
- Improves the Nutrition value.
- Increases women participation in productive livelihood engagements since they are more involved in apiary.
- There is a risk in increased gender-based violence.
- Encourage all genders to get involved in the activities, men harvest and women do the marketing as a mitigation.

Agronomy

- Increased risk for gender-based violence since women are not considered in land ownership.
- Mitigations
- Need for sensitization on equal participation and positive engagements by all genders.

Figure 12; Box 5: South Sudan interventions connector-divider contexts

- Asossa Peace Committee
- Kaabong District Peace Committee
- Morungloe Sub-county - Parish Chief
- Morungole Community
- Kapoeta East County
- Narus Community
- Assosa Zone Office
- Kurmuk Kebele Peace Committee
- Sherkole Kebele Peace and Security Committee
- Dizzan Community

6. Sources of Information



6.1. Institutions Visited

Ethiopia

Uganda

South Sudan

6.2. Literature

1. CDA: <https://www.cdacollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Do-No-Harm-DNH-Trainers-Manual-2016.pdf>.
2. Assosa statistics zonal office
3. CEWARN reporter -summary reports
4. UNDP: ABC Report



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