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**YOUTH PERCEPTIONS  
ON ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITY IN  
NORTHERN UGANDA**

**Findings from Acholi  
and Lango**

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# YOUTH PERCEPTIONS ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN NORTHERN UGANDA

Findings from Acholi and Lango

September 2013

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# Contents

Tables and figures	4
Abbreviations	6
Executive summary	7
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>9</b>
1.1 Overview	9
1.2 Context of research	10
1.3 Survey scope	10
1.4 Social and demographic characteristics	12
<b>2. Education and training among war-affected youth</b>	<b>14</b>
2.1 Levels of education and training	14
2.2 Youth with formal qualifications	15
2.3 Youth without formal qualifications	18
2.4 Other training opportunities	19
2.5 Summary	20
<b>3. Economic opportunities for war-affected youth</b>	<b>21</b>
3.1 Perceptions of economic opportunities	21
3.2 Gender and economic opportunities	23
3.3 Youth incomes and economic activities	23
3.4 Preferred economic activities and limits to opportunities	25
3.5 Summary	27
<b>4. Peace, security and possibilities of conflict</b>	<b>28</b>
4.1 Security in communities	28
4.2 Occurrence of conflict in communities	29
4.3 Summary	31
<b>5. Access to assets, capital and credit</b>	<b>32</b>
5.1 Access to financial institutions and credit	32
5.2 Resources required to engage in economic activities	33
5.3 Government, donor and NGO responses to youth needs	35
5.4 Summary	37
<b>6. Access to social capital and networks</b>	<b>38</b>
6.1 Community support for youth	38
6.2 Selection of youth for support	38
6.3 Support and economic activities	40
6.4 Links to networks and other youths	40
6.5 Summary	42
<b>7. Conclusions and recommendations</b>	<b>43</b>

## Tables and figures

Table 1: Survey coverage by category of respondent, gender and region	11
Table 2: Who do you live with?	13
Table 3: Means of support	13
Table 4: Youth education and training	14
Table 5: Highest qualification levels	15
Table 6: Choice of training	16
Table 7: Impact of training on economic opportunities	17
Table 8: Reasons for poor impact of training on economic opportunities	18
Table 9: Reasons cited for lack of formal skills	18
Table 10: Other training opportunities	19
Table 11: Categories benefiting from other training	20
Table 12: Youth understanding of economic opportunities	21
Table 13: Existing economic opportunities	21
Table 14: Categories of youths unable to access economic opportunities	22
Table 15: How to expand youth opportunities	22
Table 16: Economic opportunities engaged in	23
Table 17: Average weekly incomes (UGX) from economic activities by category	24
Table 18: Average income (UGX) by category and district	24
Table 19: Limits to engaging in preferred economic activity	26
Table 20: Enhancing economic activities by category	26
Table 21: Enhancing economic activities by district	27
Table 22: Do you feel safe in your community?	28
Table 23: Is your community aware you are a former abductee, ex-combatant or IDP returnee?	29
Table 24: How to manage conflicts	30
Table 25: Potential sources of conflict	30
Table 26: Are there financial institutions in your community?	32
Table 27: Do you have access to credit facilities?	32
Table 28: Why don't you have access to credit facilities?	33
Table 29: How did you access required resources?	34
Table 30: What challenges do you face in accessing opportunity, capital and credit?	34
Table 31: How does government respond to youth needs for economic opportunities?	35
Table 32: What is missing from government efforts to increase economic opportunities?	36
Table 33: How does your community support youth?	38
Table 34: Who provides support?	38
Table 35: Categories receiving priority in beneficiary selection	39
Table 36: What gaps do you identify in support?	40
Table 37: How does support help you economically?	40
Table 38: What lessons have you learned on economic empowerment from networking with other youths?	41
Table 39: Have you ever gained economic opportunities from knowing persons of influence?	42

Figure 1: Distribution of youths with children	12
Figure 2: Youth with proof of qualifications	15
Figure 3: Impact of contribution to cost of training on performance	16
Figure 4: Positive impact of training on economic opportunities	17
Figure 5: School drop-out levels by category	19
Figure 6: Regularity of income by activity	25
Figure 7: Why is your community not safe?	28
Figure 8: Effects of former abductee/combatant/IDP camp returnee status on economic activities	29
Figure 9: Conflicts arising from former abductee, ex-combatant or IDP camp returnee status by district	30
Figure 10: Resources required to engage in economic activities	33
Figure 11: What support do you most need to enhance access to economic assets?	35
Figure 12: Government approval rating by district	36
Figure 13: Donor/NGO approval rating by district	37
Figure 14: Criteria for selecting beneficiaries for support	39
Figure 15: How do you link up with other youths?	41

## Abbreviations

<b>ACCS</b>	Advisory Consortium on Conflict Sensitivity
<b>FGD</b>	Focus group discussion
<b>IDPs</b>	Internally displaced persons
<b>KII</b>	Key informant interview
<b>LC</b>	Local council
<b>NAADS</b>	National Agricultural Advisory Services
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organisation
<b>PLE</b>	Primary Leaving Examination
<b>PRDP</b>	Peace, Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda
<b>UCE</b>	Uganda Certificate of Education
<b>UVQF</b>	Uganda Vocational Qualifications Framework



## Executive summary

*‘We go for training in certain skills, thinking that we will get jobs. When we complete [it] then we realise there are too many of us who have the same training and the work is not there for all of us.’*

FEMALE YOUTH, FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD), ORUM, KITGUM

Since the Juba talks ended in 2008, Uganda’s Acholi and Lango sub-regions have experienced economic growth, particularly in urban centres. The sub-regions have also reported a near completion of the return process for internally displaced persons (IDPs). While challenges remain, there is evidence that the government’s Peace, Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda (PRDP) has had an impact.

Generating employment to undo the generational challenges imposed on youth by over two decades of conflict has been recognised as a priority by the government, the private sector and development partners alike. However, this is particularly challenging in a context where the level of both formal and informal education remains low.

This report is based on a survey of 1,136 youths who fall under four main categories: IDP returnees, former abductees, ex-combatants and youths who were not displaced. Conducted between June and July 2011, the survey found that youth in Lango and Acholi perceive economic opportunities to mean: (1) having the skills to earn an income; (2) having an income that has a chance of growing; (3) having a livelihood.

According to the survey, while 63.8% of respondents had been schooled to primary level, 76.2% currently hold no formal vocational qualifications, despite vocational activities representing high weekly incomes for both sexes. Only 131 respondents had documentary proof of having undergone vocational training.

Of the 70.0% of youths who had received training, 50.75% were confident that they were better placed to take advantage of economic opportunities because they were “more skilful/competent at work” (53.9% and 47.6% of young men and women respectively). A further 21.85% felt that they were “more empowered economically” (24.7% and 19.0% of young men and women respectively).

That said, 50.0% of males who had received training were still not employed (16.7% for females) and 27.8% of both sexes found that the skills they had acquired were “inadequate or inapplicable”.

Farming accounted for the largest proportion of economic opportunities at 46.9%. It was followed by small businesses, ranging from roadside vending to shop work (23.6%). Despite average weekly incomes of UGX30,000,<sup>1</sup> males earn over three times (UGX50,000<sup>2</sup>) more than females (UGX15,000<sup>3</sup>), regardless of activity. Transport, the most economically rewarding opportunity of all, is an exclusively male activity. Formal employment contributed a negligible amount to youth incomes and, while vocational activities employed 19.1% of males, it employed just 3.7% of females.

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1 Approximately US\$12 as at May 2013.

2 Approximately US\$19 as at May 2013.

3 Approximately US\$6 as at May 2013.

Some 54.0% of respondents reported being aware of the existence of saving groups, micro-finance institutions and banks in their communities; however, 81.0% said there was no guarantee they could obtain access to credit. Respondents cited a lack of capital (39.6%), a lack of qualifications (20.2%) and a lack of skills (16.2%) as the main obstacles to their engagement in economic activities.

A worrying factor was the fact that 57.0% of respondents reported a lack of community support for youth. Insecurity is a major problem in rural areas, with “land wrangles” (30.0%), robbery (23.6%) and cattle raids (16.9%) contributing to deteriorating relations between communities and IDP returnees, ex-abductees and ex-combatants. The fact that youth who were never displaced are less likely to benefit from programme support than IDP returnees, ex-abductees and ex-combatants has exacerbated existing community tensions.

## Recommendations

- There is a tendency for reconstruction efforts to not directly link available economic opportunities with local expectations, giving rise to frustration among unemployed, restless or ambitious youths. Government or non-governmental organisation (NGO) programmes should be reviewed to establish proper inclusion guidelines for youth.
- The diversity of categories of war-affected youth requires mixed approaches which address the specific needs of each category, rather than strategies which embrace a “one-solution-for-all” approach. Programmatic actions must be embedded in the uniqueness of the situation in northern Uganda, whilst at the same time maintaining conflict-sensitive approaches given ongoing societal tensions.
- Job opportunities should be aligned within the Uganda Vocational Qualifications Framework to ensure the standardisation of curricula, examinations and certifications at the core of youth-orientated interventions in northern Uganda. It would be helpful to conduct current market needs assessments and skills surveys to reveal the real demand for new labour, feeding into a training needs review which avoids duplication, redundancy and the frustration currently experienced by trainees.
- Economic opportunities in northern Uganda, whilst limited overall, are heavily skewed in favour of male over female youth. It is recommended that youth access to micro-credit, particularly for females, must be improved to address the widely expressed need for start-up funds to commence economic activities.
- Interventions aimed at youth should incorporate elements of sustainability, including appropriate exit strategies and the prioritisation of continuity in affected communities. Efforts should be made to introduce rules to ensure that NGOs pre-plan exit options in consultation with beneficiaries over the future of their projects. NGOs should also be encouraged to establish constituencies of alumni who can serve as role models for youth beneficiaries long after operations have ceased in the area.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

Young people are one of the most neglected groups in northern Uganda. Over 21 years of conflict, whole generations have missed out on education, training, jobs and, by implication, the ability to become economically and socially empowered.<sup>4</sup> Unemployment is the worst problem facing youth in northern Uganda. According to the 2006 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey, the completion rate for primary school was 48.0% nationwide; however, in northern Uganda this was only 20.0%, and an even smaller proportion (5.0%) completed secondary school.<sup>5</sup>

Formerly displaced youths face great difficulties in finding work due to cultural practices, gender discrimination, low levels of education and skills, and limited opportunities to access productive resources, which leads to entrapment in a cycle of poverty.<sup>6</sup> Youths who lost their parents must care for younger siblings and cannot continue with their studies. Young abductees who missed education in captivity are unable to re-enter the school system. Few ever catch up and bridging programmes are scarce. The lack of economic opportunities drives many young people into illicit or ethically questionable means of obtaining money.<sup>7</sup>

While all young northern Ugandans have been affected by the conflict, those with physical, mental or emotional disabilities are highly unlikely to participate in recovery programmes. Furthermore, the customary basis of northern Ugandan society marginalises youth and minimises their access to social capital. For example, elders typically criticise young people as unwilling to cultivate or only waiting to sell off family land. This perception is often employed to deny youths access to the resources critical to their economic empowerment.<sup>8</sup>

*‘Many young people do not want to dig, yet they have money needs. The result is that they are becoming thieves ... they are frustrated there is no work ... but as you grow up you get responsibilities and you need money ... of course that is now a security problem.’*

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD), ORUM, OTUKE

In addition to the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda (PRDP), other programmes have been implemented to support economic empowerment for youth in line with the 2007 United Nations World Programme Action Plan for Youth. These include the Youth Entrepreneurial Scheme and the youth component of the Northern Ugandan Social Action Fund. The first was a loan scheme specifically for young entrepreneurs, while the second targeted all young people in conflict areas. The Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development also operates a pre-vocational training programme which provides young people with both physical and enabling tools on completion of their courses.

4 E. Baines, E. Stover and M. Wierda (2006). *War-affected children and youth in northern Uganda: Towards a brighter future*. MacArthur Foundation: Chicago. Available at [https://folio.iupui.edu/bitstream/handle/10244/852/UGANDA\\_REPORT.pdf](https://folio.iupui.edu/bitstream/handle/10244/852/UGANDA_REPORT.pdf)

5 Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2006). *Uganda Demographic and Health Survey*. Kampala, pp.25-33. Available at <http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR194/FR194.pdf>

6 International Labour Organization (ILO) (2007). *Uganda Decent Work Programme 2007-2010*. Geneva/Kampala.

7 Women's Refugee Commission (2007). *Listening to youth: Experiences of young people in northern Uganda: Contribution to Machel 10-Year Strategic Review*. New York. Available at <http://womensrefugeecommission.org/search?q=Listening+to+youth>

8 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) (2010). *Land or else: Land-based conflict, vulnerability and disintegration in northern Uganda*. Kampala.

*'I did not have my P7 certificate, yet they asked for it, if I were to be admitted ...'*

FEMALE YOUTH, FGD, LORO, OYAM

The Uganda Vocational Qualifications Framework (UVQF), passed in April 2008, is a modular training system which allows youth to complete a government-certified vocational training programme through a series of short courses over an extended period. The UVQF is an effort to ensure that certificates for graduates reflect a specific set of recognised standards. It is helping to overcome the financial and logistical challenges that three-year training programmes often pose to low-income or self-employed youth. Modular frameworks were developed in consultation with the business sector to ensure curricula, equipment and standards which would produce an employable workforce able to respond to a dynamic business environment.<sup>9</sup>

*'The problem is that youth is not consulted on things that concern it.'*

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW (KII), AMURU

While efforts to empower young people with skills exist, the extent to which young people participate in decision making on these efforts is less clear.

## 1.2 Context of research

Generating employment opportunities for youth in northern Uganda is a cross-cutting priority among government institutions, development partners, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the private sector; stakeholders recognise the challenges facing generations of young people, many of whom grew up in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, were abducted or were even combatants.<sup>10</sup> In a region where 50.0% of the population are aged under 15, this type of programming is a priority if underemployed and disaffected youth are not to resort to violence. As the PRDP enters its final phase, there is an opportunity to learn from practitioners and young people in order to influence government and development partners in planning follow-up interventions.

International Alert's Uganda programme has been working to promote the concept of "building a peace economy in northern Uganda" since the publication of a major policy report that reviewed the shift from emergency to recovery interventions in 2008.<sup>11</sup> Follow-up activities have included support for business leaders in developing peacebuilding strategies, advocating for conflict-sensitive approaches to recovery interventions, and wider community dialogue on investment, recovery and oil.

International Alert is also a member of the Advisory Consortium on Conflict Sensitivity (ACCS) project, which monitors the peace impacts of the UK Department for International Development's contribution to the PRDP – as well as the PRDP's wider impacts – in partnership with Saferworld and the Refugee Law Project. This study forms part of the ACCS project and complements other activities which review the overall impact on peace of interventions made under the PRDP to promote economic opportunities for young people.

## 1.3 Survey scope

This survey assumed that all young people in northern Uganda have been affected by the war. According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, the number of youths aged 14-24 in 2011 was

<sup>9</sup> Women's Refugee Commission (2008). *Youth and Sustainable Livelihoods: Linking Vocational Training Programs to Market Opportunities in Northern Uganda*. Uganda. Available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/48aa831f0.html>

<sup>10</sup> The Lord's Resistance Army is estimated to have abducted 66,000 children and youth during the 21-year conflict.

<sup>11</sup> Youth opportunities for the region's youth was one of six priorities identified (International Alert (2008). *Building a peace economy in northern Uganda: Conflict-sensitive approaches to recovery and growth, Issue No. 1 Investing in Peace*. London/Kampala. Available at [http://www.international-alert.org/sites/default/files/publications/building\\_a\\_peace\\_economy\\_in\\_northern\\_uganda.pdf](http://www.international-alert.org/sites/default/files/publications/building_a_peace_economy_in_northern_uganda.pdf)).

6,499,000, or 19.7% of the total population of 32,940,000.<sup>12</sup> Lango and Acholi have an estimated population of 3,442,600, of whom 678,192 are estimated to be aged 14-24. Table 1 below gives a breakdown of the respondents interviewed for the survey, according to the category and gender of the respondents in the different regions/districts covered.

**Table 1: Survey coverage by category of respondent, gender and region**

Distribution of respondents			Category of respondent				Total
			IDP returnees	Former abductees	Ex-combatants	Not displaced/with relatives	
Regions	Districts	Gender	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Acholi	Amuru	Male	65	7	-	6	78
		Female	65	10	-	6	81
		Total	130	17	-	12	159
	Gulu	Male	21	3	2	1	27
		Female	18	3	-	3	24
		Total	39	6	2	4	51
	Kitgum	Male	41	10	4	6	61
		Female	54	13	1	9	77
		Total	95	23	5	15	138
	Nwoya	Male	81	14	3	14	112
		Female	87	7	1	24	119
		Total	168	21	4	38	231
	Total	Male	208	34	9	27	278
		Female	224	33	2	42	301
		Total	432	67	11	69	579
Lango	Lira	Male	31	2	4	28	65
		Female	35	4	1	34	74
		Total	66	6	5	62	139
	Otuke	Male	88	16	1	10	115
		Female	83	9	-	24	116
		Total	171	25	1	34	231
	Oyam	Male	36	4	2	18	60
		Female	38	7	-	31	76
		Total	74	11	2	49	136
	Total	Male	155	22	7	56	240
		Female	156	20	1	89	266
		Total	311	42	8	145	506
Kampala	Kampala	Male	13	2	-	16	31
		Female	7	-	-	13	20
		Total	20	2	-	29	51
All	Total	Male	376	58	16	99	549
		Female	387	53	3	144	587
		Total	763	111	19	243	1,136

Youth populations in selected sub-counties were estimated through extrapolation, and the Krejcie and Morgan sample estimation table was used to establish plausible samples.<sup>13</sup> Further selection was made on the basis of: (a) the level of economic activity in the site; (b) the identification of satellite locations or concentrations of locations which may have housed IDPs in the return

<sup>12</sup> The youth age categories used by UNICEF are different from the categories used by UBOS in grouping data. The study used the UNICEF definition of youths and data from the UBOS 2010 statistical abstract in sample size determination (Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) [2010]. *2010 Statistical Abstract*. Kampala).

<sup>13</sup> R. V. Krejcie and D. W. Morgan (1970). 'Determining sample size for research activities', *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 30, pp.607-610. University of Minnesota: Duluth. Available at <http://people.usd.edu/~mbaron/edad810/Krejcie.pdf>

process and have since been dominated by youth populations; (c) unique attributes which made the location more relevant than others. Using the same criteria, two sub-counties of interest were pre-selected to balance rural and urban youths. The above criteria yielded the eight districts of Amuru, Gulu, Kampala, Kitgum, Lira, Nwoya, Otuke and Oyam.

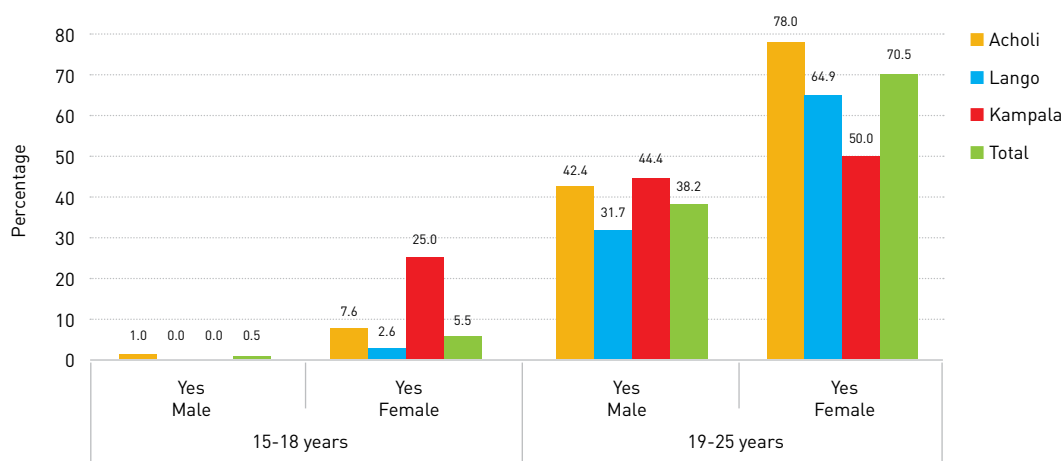
The survey covered 1,136 youths, of whom 587 (51.8%) were female. A total of 579 (50.9%) were from Acholi and 506 (44.5%) from Lango. The tracer component covered 51 youths from Lango and Acholi residing in Kampala. Among the respondents were 763 returnees from IDP camps (67.2%); 243 youths who were not displaced or lived with relatives (21.3%); 111 former abductees (9.7%); 19 ex-combatants (1.8%). The survey also included 24 other youths in two focus group discussions (FGDs) in Orum (Kitgum) and Loro (Oyam). Five key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted: three with community development officers in Kitgum, Nwoya and Lira (Amach); one with a district youth chairperson (Amuru); another with the proprietor of a vocational training school in Otuke district.

## 1.4 Social and demographic characteristics

- The results of the survey are based on a statistically representative sample of four categories of youths: returnees from IDP camps, former abductees, ex-combatants, and those not displaced or living with relatives in the areas which were selected for the survey.
- The dominant category was IDP returnees (67.2%) and the smallest was ex-combatants (1.8%).
- Some 74.0% of all respondents were unmarried; 30.0% were parents aged 17-21.

Of the 1,136 youths, only 49 (4.3%) had disabilities, of whom 26 were female. Although 845 of the youths were unmarried, 333 (29.3%) had children, of whom 19 (only one male) were aged 15-18. The 19-25 age range included 314 youths with children, of whom 179 (57.0%) were female. Figure 1 shows the gendered percentage of youths with children by age range and region. The average age at which the first child was born was 17 years for females and 20 years for males.

Figure 1: Distribution of youths with children



Most respondents lived with their close family (53.2%) or other relatives (21.1%) (Table 2). A significant proportion of youths (21.2%) also had their own families. Youths living with friends (0.5%) or on their own (4.0%) were relatively few. The proportion of youths with their own families was higher among former abductees (30.6%) and ex-combatants (42.1%), and can be seen as a proxy measure of their comparative financial autonomy.

Table 2: Who do you live with?

		Category of respondent				
		IDP returnees	Former abductees	Ex-combatants	Not displaced/with relative	Total
		%	%	%	%	%
Male	Close family	57.4	43.1	37.5	57.6	55.4
	On own/not in family setting	4.0	6.9	6.3	5.1	4.6
	Other relatives	19.4	24.1	12.5	14.1	18.8
	Own family	18.1	24.1	43.8	23.2	20.4
	With friends	1.1	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Female	Close family	52.5	43.4	33.3	50.7	51.1
	On own/not in family setting	2.6	5.7	0.0	4.9	3.4
	Other relatives	22.7	13.2	33.3	28.5	23.3
	Own family	22.2	37.7	33.3	15.3	22.0
	With friends	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Total	Close family	54.9	43.2	36.8	53.5	53.2
	On own/not in family setting	3.3	6.3	5.3	4.9	4.0
	Other relatives	21.1	18.9	15.8	22.6	21.1
	Own family	20.2	30.6	42.1	18.5	21.2
	With friends	0.5	0.9	0.0	0.4	0.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Over half (55.8%) cited family as their major source of support, and this was higher for females (62.7%) than males (48.5%). More ex-combatants (47.4%) supported themselves than other categories, as indicated in Table 3.

Table 3: Means of support

		Category of respondent				
		IDP returnees	Former abductees	Ex-combatants	Not displaced/with relatives	Total
		%	%	%	%	%
Male	Family support	48.7	43.1	25.0	54.5	48.5
	Own income	40.4	43.1	50.0	39.4	40.8
	Both	10.9	13.8	25.0	6.1	10.7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Female	Family support	60.2	60.4	33.3	70.8	62.7
	Own income	28.7	30.2	33.3	20.8	26.9
	Both	11.1	9.4	33.3	8.3	10.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Total	Family support	54.5	51.4	26.3	64.2	55.8
	Own income	34.5	36.9	47.4	28.4	33.6
	Both	11.0	11.7	26.3	7.4	10.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 2. Education and training among war-affected youth

### 2.1 Levels of education and training

Of 549 males, 172 (31.3%) had obtained a Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) certificate and 159 (29.0%) had no education or training at all (Table 4). Of 587 females, 191 (32.5%) had gained their PLE but 277 (47.2%) had no education or training at all. The percentage of males (12.2%) with the Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE), the requirement for most formal skills-training programmes, was almost twice as high as the proportion of females (6.5%) with this certificate.

Table 4: Youth education and training

		Acholi		Lango		Kampala		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	Certificate	33	11.9	14	5.8	6	19.4	53	9.7
	Degree	2	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.4
	Diploma	1	0.4	1	0.4	0	0.0	2	0.4
	No training at all	77	27.7	78	32.5	4	12.9	159	29.0
	Only informal training	10	3.6	21	8.8	0	0.0	31	5.6
	PLE	111	39.9	53	22.1	8	25.8	172	31.3
	Still at school (formal education)	4	1.4	3	1.3	1	3.2	8	1.5
	Still at school (vocational)	0	0.0	32	13.3	1	3.2	33	6.0
	UACE <sup>14</sup>	13	4.7	7	2.9	2	6.5	22	4.0
	UCE	27	9.7	31	12.9	9	29.0	67	12.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Female	Certificate	12	4.0	14	5.3	0	0.0	26	4.4
	No training at all	143	47.5	127	47.7	7	35.0	277	47.2
	Only informal training	12	4.0	15	5.6	3	15.0	30	5.1
	PLE	110	36.5	77	28.9	4	20.0	191	32.5
	Still at school (formal education)	2	0.7	1	0.4	0	0.0	3	0.5
	Still at school (vocational)	8	2.7	7	2.6	0	0.0	15	2.6
	UACE	2	0.7	4	1.5	1	5.0	7	1.2
	UCE	12	4.0	21	7.9	5	25.0	38	6.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Table 5 shows that 29.0% of males and 47.2% of females had no qualifications at all. Among males, former combatants (43.8%) had received the least exposure to education, a trend reflected among their female counterparts (66.7%). The PLE was the highest qualification for 31.3% of males and 32.5% of females. Only 12.2% of males and 6.5% of females had gained their UCE, awarded on the completion of secondary school. Males who were not displaced (19.2%) held the most UCEs.



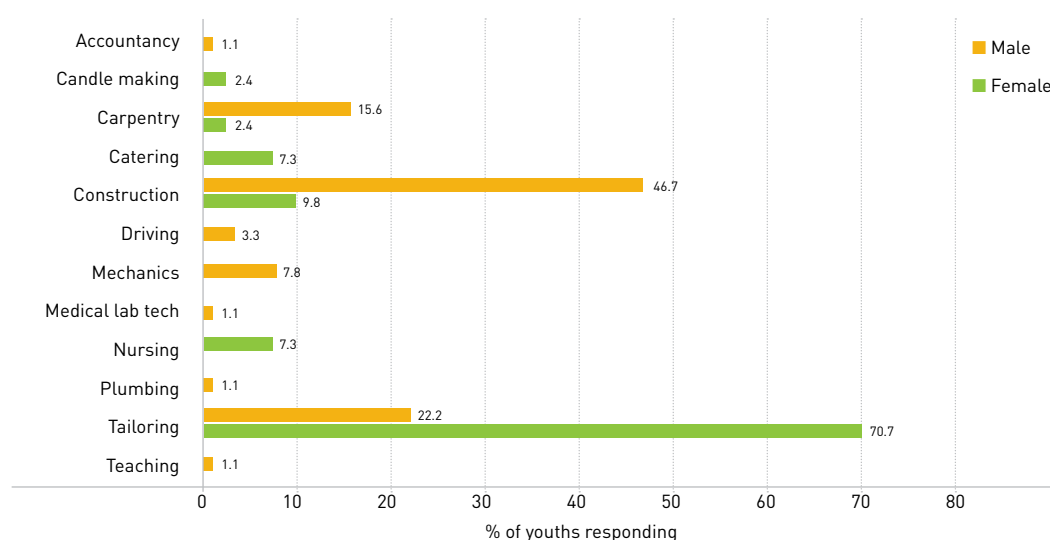
Table 5: Highest qualification levels

Highest qualification	Category of respondent									
	IDP returnees		Former abductees		Ex-combatants		Not displaced/with relatives		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Certificate (various skills)	9.6	3.9	12.1	0.0	18.8	33.3	7.1	6.9	9.7	4.4
Degree (various skills)	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
Diploma (various skills)	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0
No qualification at all	29.3	51.7	24.1	54.7	43.8	66.7	28.3	31.9	29.0	47.2
Only informal training	4.3	4.7	3.4	3.8	18.8	0.0	10.1	6.9	5.6	5.1
PLE	33.2	28.2	37.9	39.6	6.3	0.0	24.2	42.4	31.3	32.5
Still at school (formal education)	1.6	0.8	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.5	0.5
Still at school (vocational)	6.6	2.8	8.6	1.9	0.0	0.0	3.0	2.1	6.0	2.6
UACE	3.5	1.3	5.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	1.4	4.0	1.2
UCE	11.4	6.7	5.2	0.0	12.5	0.0	19.2	8.3	12.2	6.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 2.2 Youth with formal qualifications

Only 131 (11.5%) of 1,136 respondents had formally recognised skills (i.e. the documentation to prove they possessed them), of whom 41 (31.3%) were female. The most common specialisations for males were construction (46.7%), tailoring (22.2%) and carpentry (15.6%). Tailoring accounted for 70.7% of all formal qualifications among females (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Youth with proof of qualifications



Of the 131 youths with recognised skills, 23 (17.5%) felt that females did not enjoy equal access to training opportunities; however, 22 (16.7%) said that special arrangements had been made to create courses for people with disabilities. The average approval rating of the courses they had taken was 82.4%.

A higher proportion of females (31.0%) than males (23.0%) said that the training selected was not their first choice. For both sexes, the choice of course was determined by the need to find work to boost incomes or the wish to gain skills. The perception that the course selected was not

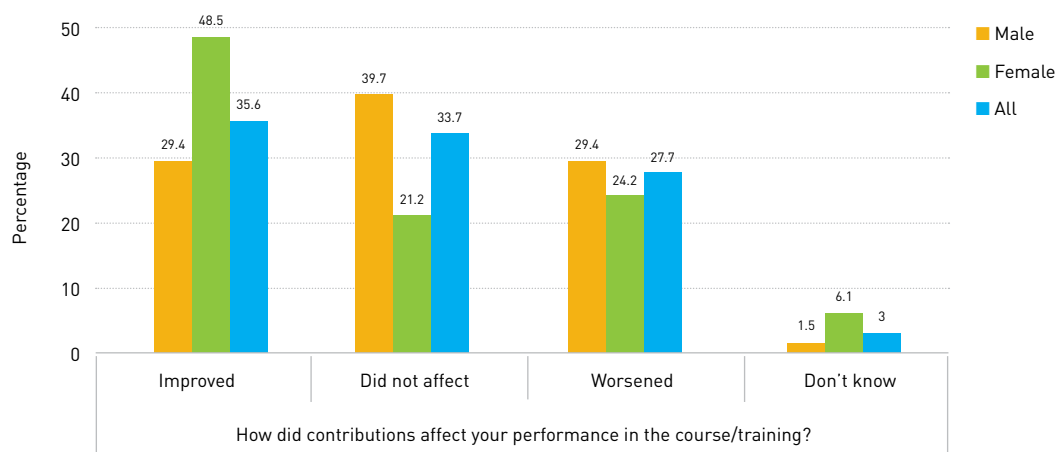
the preferred choice was influenced by the desire for more formal qualifications, the lack of other options, and the lack of fees (Table 6).

**Table 6: Choice of training**

Reasons for choice of course/training		Acholi	Lango	Kampala	Total	
		%	%	%	%	
Reasons why course was personal choice	Male	To boost income generation	17.9	31.4	16.7	24.6
		To excel in life	10.7	5.7	0.0	7.2
		To gain employment	21.4	31.4	66.7	30.4
		To start own business	17.9	5.7	16.7	11.6
		To support my community	3.6	2.9	0.0	2.9
		Wanted to acquire skills	21.4	20.0	0.0	18.8
		Was inspired by friends	7.1	2.9	0.0	4.3
		<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
	Female	To boost income generation	21.4	42.9		32.1
		To excel in life	0.0	14.3		7.1
		To gain employment	21.4	14.3		17.9
		To start own business	21.4	0		10.7
		Wanted to acquire skills	35.7	14.3		25.0
		Was inspired by friends	0.0	14.3		7.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>100.0</b>		
Reasons why course was not personal choice	Male	Failed O and A Levels	12.5	0.0		4.8
		Forced/only option available	50.0	58.3		57.1
		Lack of fees	25.0	33.3		28.6
		Preferred formal qualification	12.5	8.3		9.5
		<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>100.0</b>
	Female	Failed O and A Levels	16.7	14.3		15.4
		Forced/only option available	33.3	14.3		23.1
		Lack of fees	16.7	57.1		38.5
		Preferred formal qualification	33.3	14.3		23.1
		<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>		<b>100.0</b>

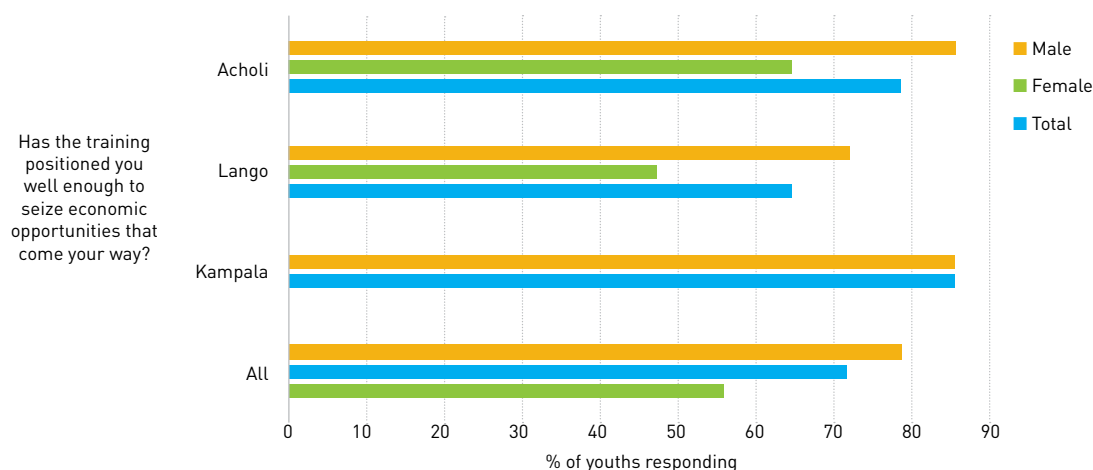
Contributing to the cost of training was considered normal by 101 (77.0%) of the 131 youths with formally recognised skills. The most common contributions were fees (55.6%), scholastic materials and equipment (31.5%) and food (11.9%). While females (48.5%) thought that contributions strongly improved performance, 39.7% of males thought that contributions had no effect on their performance, as shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3: Impact of contribution to cost of training on performance**



The survey sought to find out if youths with qualifications believed that they had an advantage over other youths. Over 70.0% felt that the training positioned them sufficiently well to take advantage of opportunities which came their way. Figure 4 shows the results according to region.

Figure 4: Positive impact of training on economic opportunities



Male youths perceived that qualifications made them “more skilful/competent at work” (53.9%) and “more empowered economically” (24.7%). The responses were less positive among females: less than half (47.6%) felt they were “more skilful/competent at work” and only 19.0% believed they were “more empowered economically”. Moreover, the percentage of females who felt that the qualification had not endowed them with any advantage (23.8%) was nearly twice the proportion for males (13.5%), as shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Impact of training on economic opportunities

Value of the skill or training		Acholi		Lango		Kampala		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	Am not any different	3	8.6	9	19.1	0	0.0	12	13.5
	Can/have engaged in self-employment	2	5.7	5	10.6	0	0.0	7	7.9
	More empowered economically	8	22.9	13	27.7	1	14.3	22	24.7
	More skilful/competent at work	22	62.9	20	42.6	6	85.7	48	53.9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Female	Am not any different	5	23.8	5	23.8	0	0.0	10	23.8
	Can/have engaged in self-employment	3	14.3	1	4.8	0	0.0	4	9.5
	More empowered economically	3	14.3	5	23.8	0	0.0	8	19.0
	More skilful/competent at work	10	47.6	10	47.6	0	0.0	20	47.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The reasons most commonly cited by males for considering training as ineffective in positioning them to take advantage of opportunities were that they were “not yet employed” (50.0%) and that “skills acquired were inadequate/inapplicable” (27.8%). For females, the most commonly cited reasons were that they had “yet to initiate own work” (44.4%) and that “skills acquired were inadequate/inapplicable” (27.8%), as shown in Table 8.

**Table 8: Reasons for poor impact of training on economic opportunities**

		Acholi	Lango	Kampala	Total
		%	%	%	%
Male	Acquired skills inadequate/inapplicable	20.0	33.3	0.0	27.8
	Lack of equipment/kits	40.0	8.3	0.0	16.7
	Not yet employed	20.0	58.3	100.0	50.0
	Yet to initiate own work	20.0	0.0	0.0	5.6
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Female	Acquired skills inadequate/inapplicable	28.6	27.3	0.0	27.8
	Lack of equipment/kits	14.3	9.1	0.0	11.1
	Not yet employed	0.0	27.3	0.0	16.7
	Yet to initiate own work	57.1	36.4	0.0	44.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 2.3 Youth without formal qualifications

The total number of youths without formally recognised skills (i.e. those who cannot provide documentary proof) was 1,005 (88.5%) of the 1,136 respondents. Of 459 males, the most frequent reason cited for not having qualifications was dropping out of school (61.4%), while only 46.9% of the 546 females in the sample gave this as a reason (Table 9).

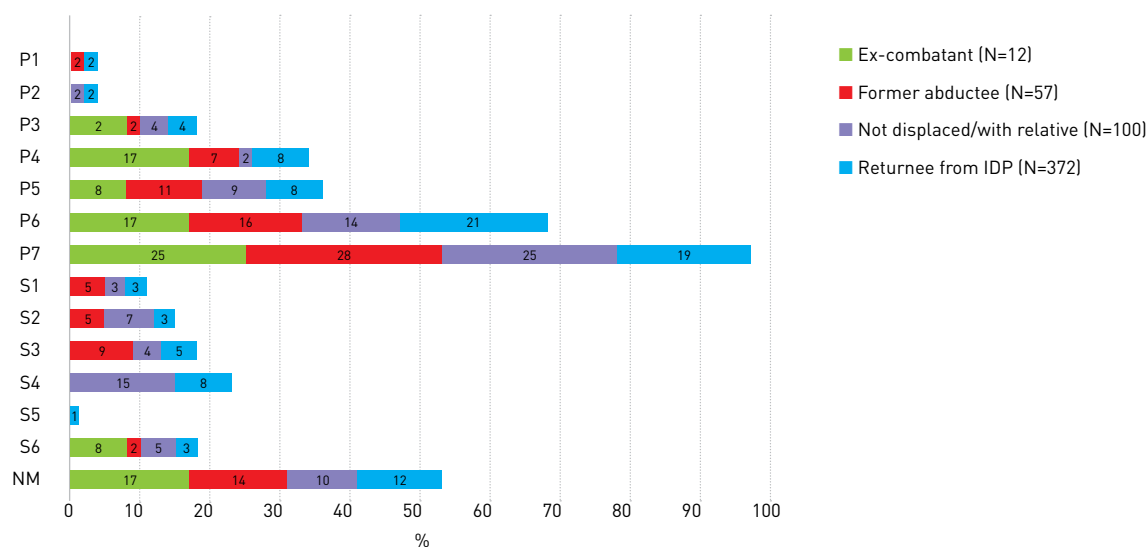
In addition to their lower drop-out rates, female youths tended to pursue education (46.0%) for longer than males (35.7%), as shown in Table 9.

**Table 9: Reasons cited for lack of formal skills**

Youth without skills		Acholi		Lango		Kampala		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	Dropped out of school	146	60.3	120	62.2	16	66.7	282	61.4
	Still in school (formal education)	91	37.6	66	34.2	7	29.2	164	35.7
	No opportunity to attend any school/training	5	2.1	7	3.6	1	4.2	13	2.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Female	Dropped out of school	113	40.2	128	52.2	15	75.0	256	46.9
	Still in school (formal education)	145	51.6	103	42.0	3	15.0	251	46.0
	No opportunity to attend any school/training	23	8.2	14	5.7	2	10.0	39	7.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Total	Dropped out of school	259	49.5	248	56.6	31	70.5	538	53.5
	Still in school (formal education)	236	45.1	169	38.6	10	22.7	415	41.3
	No opportunity to attend any school/training	28	5.4	21	4.8	3	6.8	52	5.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The class levels at which youths dropped out of school were the same for females and males, with the steepest incidence in primary 6 and 7. Figure 5 shows that drop-out rates in these two classes were almost equally distributed for all categories of youth, including those not displaced by conflict.

Figure 5: School drop-out levels by category



## 2.4 Other training opportunities

The survey revealed that 312 of those without formal qualifications had benefited from other training opportunities, the most common of which were: HIV/AIDS awareness (54.9%); peacebuilding (8.4%); guidance and counselling (7.4%); computer training (5.7%) and agriculture training (5.4%), as shown in Table 10. These courses were mostly offered by NGOs (91%) and the government (9.0%). Youths were recruited to these programmes through Local Council mobilisation (29.1%), schools (29.1%), group formation (10.1%) and health service providers (8.5%).

Table 10: Other training opportunities

Other opportunities	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture training	12	7.8	4	2.8	16	5.4
Animal husbandry	1	0.6	1	0.7	2	0.7
Computer training	8	5.2	9	6.3	17	5.7
Credit management	2	1.3	2	1.4	4	1.3
Crime prevention	10	6.5	3	2.1	13	4.4
Data collection	1	0.6	0	0.0	1	0.3
First aid	2	1.3	1	0.7	3	1.0
Girls education movement	0	0.0	1	0.7	1	0.3
Guidance and counselling	10	6.5	12	8.4	22	7.4
HIV/AIDS	79	51.3	84	58.7	163	54.9
Home-based care	8	5.2	6	4.2	14	4.7
Hygiene	1	0.6	2	1.4	3	1.0
Malaria prevention	2	1.3	4	2.8	6	2.0
Peacebuilding	13	8.4	12	8.4	25	8.4
Police training	2	1.3	1	0.7	3	1.0
Road construction	3	1.9	1	0.7	4	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>100.0</b>

More males (54.5%) reported benefiting from these programmes than females (24.2%). Most beneficiaries were former abductees and ex-combatants (78.9% for males and 65.4% for females). It is worth noting that 72.9% of IDP returnees and 76.5% of those not displaced/living with relatives did not benefit at all from the programmes, as shown in Table 11.

**Table 11: Categories benefiting from other training**

Whether youth has benefited from other training/education:		Category of respondent									
		IDP returnees		Former abductees		Ex-combatants		Not displaced/with relative		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male	Yes	111	29.5	24	41.4	6	37.5	29	29.3	170	31.0
	No	265	70.5	34	58.6	10	62.5	70	70.7	379	69.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Female	Yes	96	24.8	17	32.1	1	33.3	28	19.4	142	24.2
	No	291	75.2	36	67.9	2	66.7	116	80.6	445	75.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Total	Yes	207	27.1	41	36.9	7	36.8	57	23.5	312	27.5
	No	556	72.9	70	63.1	12	63.2	186	76.5	824	72.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1136</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The survey also investigated what motivated war-affected youth to become involved in informal training opportunities. Among males, the decision had been made mainly on their own initiative (29.0%) or on the advice of friends/peers (29.0%). Relatives had a stronger influence (22.0%) than parents (16.1%) in advising male youths to attend. A similar pattern was apparent among females, who were equally susceptible to self-motivation (30.0%) and the influence of friends/peers (30.0%); however, parents had a stronger influence (23.3%) than relatives (16.7%).

*‘My uncle did business education, so I think he saw its advantages and also forced me to take it up ...’*

MALE YOUTH, FGD ORUM, KITGUM

## 2.5 Summary

- Overall, 76.2% of war-affected youths have no formal qualifications, although the majority (63.8%) have obtained their PLE.
- A total of 88.5% of respondents, both male and female, dropped out of school in primary 6 or 7.
- Only 105 of the 1,136 respondents have obtained their UCE (12.2% of males and 6.5% of females).
- Some 131 youths possess documentary evidence of formal qualifications.
- Females account for only 41 of the 131 respondents with formal training.
- Some 312 of the 1,136 respondents, mostly former abductees or ex-combatants, had benefited from NGO or government training programmes.

### 3. Economic opportunities for war-affected youth

#### 3.1 Perceptions of economic opportunities

When asked what economic opportunity meant to them, respondents replied: having an income that has the possibility to grow (36.4%); having the skill to earn an income (27.0%); having a livelihood (10.9%), as shown in Table 12.

Table 12: Youth understanding of economic opportunities

		Male	Female	Average total
		%	%	%
When one talks of an economic opportunity, what does that mean to you?	Commercial farming	4.3	5.1	4.7
	Developing the community	2.1	1.6	1.8
	Doing a project	2.9	1.2	2.0
	Empowerment with resources	2.5	1.8	2.1
	Exploiting opportunities	5.8	6.3	6.0
	Exploiting talent	1.0	0.8	0.9
	Finding a job	5.2	7.5	6.3
	Increasing income	38.4	34.5	36.4
	Investing to be rich	5.6	4.6	5.1
	Making a livelihood	10.7	11.1	10.9
	Training for employment	4.1	2.2	3.2
	Using skills to make money	23.5	30.5	27.0
	Working in groups	0.8	0.2	0.5

Irrespective of region, most opportunities were claimed to exist in farming (56.4%), vocational skills like carpentry, mechanics and salon work (44.4%), and business (34.0%), as shown in Table 13. Formal employment was rarely mentioned as a viable opportunity.

Table 13: Existing economic opportunities

		Acholi	Lango	Kampala	Total
Economic opportunities that exist in the survey communities		%	%	%	%
Male	Business activities	26.9	34.1	37.5	30.4
	Casual work	25.1	27.0	37.5	26.5
	Farming (crops and livestock)	69.6	54.8	6.3	60.4
	Formal employment	0.0	0.8	6.3	0.6
	Transport (motorcycles and bicycles)	22.2	14.3	18.8	18.8
	Vocational skills activities	45.0	50.8	25.0	46.3
Female	Business activities	30.5	44.6	53.8	37.7
	Casual work	36.6	27.3	30.8	32.3
	Farming (crops and livestock)	57.9	50.4	7.7	52.5
	Formal employment	1.8	1.4	7.7	1.9
	Transport (motorcycles and bicycles)	9.8	13.7	7.7	11.4
	Vocational skills activities	42.1	45.3	15.4	42.4
Total	Business activities	28.7	39.6	44.8	34.0
	Casual work	30.7	27.2	34.5	29.4
	Farming (crops and livestock)	63.9	52.5	6.9	56.4
	Formal employment	0.9	1.1	6.9	1.3
	Transport (motorcycles and bicycles)	16.1	14.0	13.8	15.1
	Vocational skills activities	43.6	47.9	20.7	44.4

Those least able to access local economic opportunities were the most vulnerable (53.5%), as shown in Table 14. An interesting finding was respondents' identification of "those with vices" (38.3%) as being less able to access economic opportunities, a category which included being lazy or having a bad attitude. However, youths in Kampala did not mention this issue.

*'We need to study, otherwise economic empowerment at this time is why some young people like us are becoming thieves.'*

MALE YOUTH, FGD, LORO, OYAM

**Table 14: Categories of youths unable to access economic opportunities**

	Acholi	Lango	Kampala	Total
	%	%	%	%
Those with vices (thieves/drunks/gamblers)	42.9	36.2	0.0	38.3
Those without economic assets (poor/no capital/no land)	9.2	11.2	37.5	11.1
Those without skills (drop outs/never went to school)	18.5	24.1	25.0	21.4
Vulnerable youths (disabled/sick/orphans)	50.4	56.0	62.5	53.5

Where youths identified a lack of economic opportunities, the reasons they put forward included an absence of programmes for youth (22.1%), a lack of appropriate training (16.8%) and bad leadership (11.7%). Some respondents said there were simply no employment opportunities (10.2%) available for youth.

The respondents were asked their opinion on how economic opportunities should be expanded for youth (Table 15). The results showed that formal skills training was the most commonly perceived method for broadening opportunities (34.5%), followed by projects which focus on youth (21.1%), group formation (19.2%), the introduction of micro-finance (11.4%), and the provision of capital (10.8%).

**Table 15: How to expand youth opportunities**

	Acholi	Lango	Kampala	Total
	%	%	%	%
Connection/linking them to available opportunities	5.4	6.8	8.3	6.2
Do proper needs assessment and support	3.4	1.5	4.2	2.6
Don't know	0.9	0.2	0.0	0.6
Encourage group formation	22.7	16.2	8.3	19.2
Formal skills training	31.5	37.6	37.5	34.5
Informal skills training	4.9	2.2	2.1	3.6
Introduce micro-finance services	10.9	11.4	16.7	11.4
Opening projects for youth	19.9	24.1	6.3	21.1
Provide capital	10.9	9.4	22.9	10.8
Road construction	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.4
Sensitisation on available opportunities	3.4	5.7	8.3	4.6



## 3.2 Gender and economic opportunities

The survey revealed that 238 (20.0%) out of 1,136 youths were not involved in any income-earning activity at all. The proportion of females (67.7%) in this group was twice that of males (32.3%). A larger proportion of youth without income was from Lango (59.7%) than Acholi (40.3%).

Most economic activities were reported to be found in the farming sector (46.9%), followed by informal business (23.6%), as shown in Table 16. Vocational activities, including carpentry, tailoring and mechanics, provided work for 19.1% of males, but for only 3.7% of females. Formal employment played a very small role in male livelihoods (2.8%) and was nearly non-existent for females.

**Table 16: Economic opportunities engaged in**

		Category of respondent				
		IDP returnees	Former abductees	Ex-combatants	Not displaced/with relative	Total
		%	%	%	%	%
Male	Business activities	16.9	22.4	12.5	9.3	16.0
	Casual work	19.8	27.6	25.0	21.6	21.1
	Farming (crops and livestock)	59.8	65.5	50.0	33.0	55.3
	Formal employment	3.5	0.0	6.3	1.0	2.8
	Transport ( <i>boda boda</i> )	4.6	5.2	25.0	4.1	5.1
	Vocational activities	19.3	10.3	25.0	22.7	19.1
Female	Business activities	32.0	38.5	33.3	24.5	30.8
	Casual work	18.4	25.0	0.0	15.1	18.1
	Farming (crops and livestock)	43.0	50.0	33.3	23.7	39.0
	Formal employment	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7
	Transport ( <i>boda boda</i> )	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1
	Vocational activities	3.9	1.9	0.0	3.6	3.7
Total	Business activities	24.5	30.0	15.8	18.2	23.6
	Casual work	19.1	26.4	21.1	17.8	19.6
	Farming (crops and livestock)	51.3	58.2	47.4	27.5	46.9
	Formal employment	2.1	0.0	5.3	0.8	1.7
	Transport ( <i>boda boda</i> )	2.3	2.7	21.1	1.7	2.5
	Vocational activities	11.5	6.4	21.1	11.4	11.2

## 3.3 Youth incomes and economic activities

Among youths with an income, average gross weekly earnings, regardless of activity and gender, were UGX30,000 (Table 17).<sup>15</sup> However, the average weekly income for males, regardless of activity (UGX50,000<sup>16</sup>), was over triple that of females (UGX15,000<sup>17</sup>). Transport, especially *boda boda*,<sup>18</sup> was the most rewarding, recording weekly average earnings of UGX55,000.<sup>19</sup> This activity is exclusively male.

<sup>15</sup> Approximately US\$12 as at May 2013.

<sup>16</sup> Approximately US\$19 as at May 2013.

<sup>17</sup> Approximately US\$6 as at May 2013.

<sup>18</sup> Bicycle or motorcycle taxis.

<sup>19</sup> Approximately US\$21 as at May 2013.

Table 17: Average weekly incomes (UGX<sup>20</sup>) from economic activities by category

		Category of respondent				
		IDP returnees	Former abductees	Former combatants	Not displaced/ with relative	All youths
Male	Business activities	47,000	75,000	550,000	80,000	60,000
	Casual work	22,500	36,000	30,000	28,000	25,000
	Farming (crops and livestock)	60,000	81,500	30,000	50,000	60,000
	Formal employment	60,000	0	30,000	30,000	40,000
	Transport ( <i>boda boda</i> )	80,000	60,000	30,000	40,000	55,000
	Vocational activities	42,500	175,000	16,500	70,000	50,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>37,500</b>	<b>50,000</b>
Female	Business activities	18,000	7,500	200,000	16,500	15,000
	Casual work	10,000	5,000	0	11,500	10,000
	Farming (crops and livestock)	20,000	10,000	400,000	30,000	20,000
	Formal employment	5,000	0	0	100,000	52,500
	Transport ( <i>boda boda</i> )	0	0	0	0	0
	Vocational activities	20,000	7,000	0	10,000	20,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
All youths	Business activities	25,000	22,500	200,000	20,000	25,000
	Casual work	18,000	14,000	30,000	20,000	18,000
	Farming (crops and livestock)	40,000	54,000	30,000	34,500	43,000
	Formal employment	50,000	0	30,000	65,000	40,000
	Transport ( <i>boda boda</i> )	80,000	60,000	30,000	40,000	55,000
	Vocational activities	40,000	50,000	16,500	54,000	40,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>

Farming yielded a high average weekly income (UGX43,000<sup>21</sup>), but average earnings for males (UGX60,000<sup>22</sup>) were three times more than those for females (UGX20,000<sup>23</sup>), as shown in Table 17. However, it is important to note that earnings from farming are seasonal and that income is not spread evenly across the year. While farming, business and vocational activities displayed high weekly incomes among males, only formal employment offered a comparable income among females.

Table 18: Average income (UGX<sup>24</sup>) by category and district

			Category of respondent				
			IDP returnees	Former abductees	Ex-combatants	Not displaced/ with relative	Total
District	Amuru	Male	70,000	60,000	0	10,900	60,000
		Female	20,000	7,000	0	15,000	15,000
	Gulu	Male	35,000	100,000	32,500	60,000	50,000
		Female	8,000	25,000	0	5,000	8,000
	Kampala	Male	47,500	64,500	0	30,000	40,000
		Female	47,500	0	0	20,000	20,000
	Kitgum	Male	52,000	40,000	125,000	71,000	52,000
		Female	12,500	8,500	200,000	18,000	15,000
	Lira	Male	17,500	0	30,000	23,000	20,000
		Female	2,500	7,500	0	11,500	5,000
	Nwoya	Male	55,000	273,000	17,500	22,500	60,000
		Female	25,000	10,000	400,000	22,500	20,000
	Otuke	Male	30,000	22,000	25,000	200,000	30,000
		Female	11,000	3,500	0	10,000	10,000
	Oyam	Male	70,000	135,000	25,000	50,000	50,000
		Female	21,000	7,000	0	20,000	20,000
	Total	Male	<b>48,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>37,500</b>	<b>50,000</b>
		Female	<b>15,000</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>300,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>

20 As at May 2013, US\$1 equals UGX2,600.

21 Approximately US\$17 as at May 2013.

22 Approximately US\$23 as at May 2013.

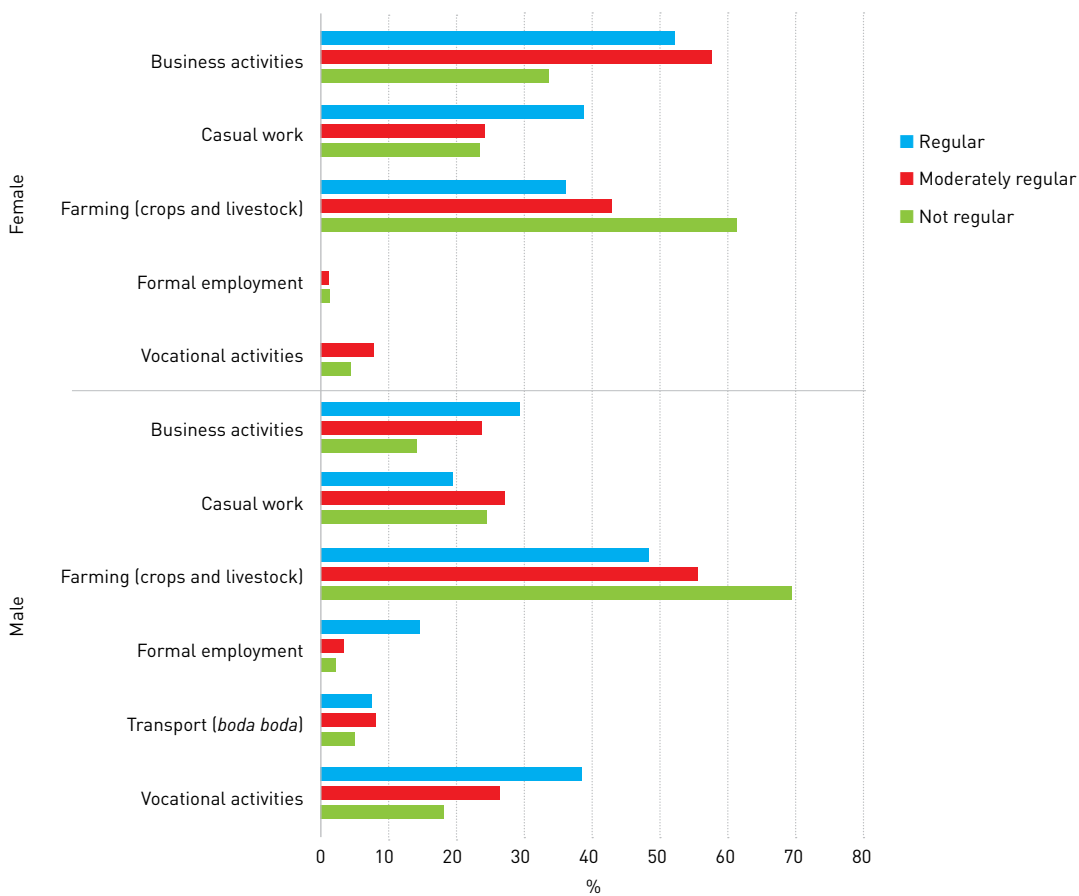
23 Approximately US\$8 as at May 2013.

24 As at May 2013, US\$1 equals UGX2,600.

Comparing incomes by respondent category shows that ex-combatants enjoy a much higher income than others (Table 18) and that it commonly comes from business. Ex-combatants have benefited from resettlement packages which include money, an advantage not available to other youth categories.

Irrespective of gender, 62.1% of respondents rated their incomes as irregular; 8.9% said they were regular; 29.0% said they were moderately regular. Farming offered the most irregular incomes for both males and females, but the latter enjoyed a second, moderately regular income from business, as illustrated in Figure 6.

**Figure 6: Regularity of income by activity**



### 3.4 Preferred economic activities and limits to opportunities

The results showed that 54.1% of youths with economic occupations were not engaged in their preferred profession; more females (60.4%) than males (48.5%) had this perception. However, with some variations in gender, the reasons were the same: a lack of capital (39.6%), a lack of skills (16.2%) and a lack of qualifications (20.2%), as shown in Table 19.

Table 19: Limits to engaging in preferred economic activity

Why are you not engaged in your preferred economic activities?		Category of respondent				
		IDP returnees	Former abductees	Ex-combatants	Not displaced/ with relative	Total
		%	%	%	%	%
Male	Lack of capital	46.2	42.1	42.9	34.5	44.1
	Lack of employment opportunities	4.4	0.0	28.6	6.9	5.2
	Lack of skills	17.1	15.8	0.0	24.1	17.4
	Marital conflict	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
	No qualifications	17.7	21.1	0.0	13.8	16.9
	Still at school	13.9	21.1	28.6	20.7	16.0
Female	Lack of capital	34.8	37.5	0.0	37.3	35.4
	Lack of employment opportunities	4.3	8.3	0.0	5.9	5.1
	Lack of skills	15.5	20.8	0.0	11.8	15.2
	Marital conflict	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
	No qualifications	24.2	12.5	0.0	25.5	23.2
	Still at school	20.5	20.8	100.0	19.6	20.7
Total	Lack of capital	40.4	39.5	37.5	36.3	39.6
	Lack of employment opportunities	4.4	4.7	25.0	6.3	5.1
	Lack of skills	16.3	18.6	0.0	16.3	16.2
	Marital conflict	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
	No qualifications	21.0	16.3	0.0	21.3	20.2
	Still at school	17.2	20.9	37.5	20.0	18.4

The survey sought to understand what youth thought could be done to help them engage in their preferred economic activities. Table 20 shows that the main perceived requirements were improved skills training (47.5%), access to capital (34.0%) and the continuation of formal schooling (18.4%). These perceptions were largely similar for both males and females.

Table 20: Enhancing economic activities by category

What can be done to get you to engage in your preferred economic activities?		Category of respondent				
		IDP returnees	Former abductees	Ex-combatants	Not displaced/ with relative	Total
		%	%	%	%	%
Male	Continue with studies	15	20.8	0.0	18.4	15.7
	Need capital	36.4	33.3	71.4	24.5	35.0
	Need land	1.5	4.2	0.0	2.0	1.7
	Training	48.1	45.8	28.6	57.1	49.0
Female	Continue with studies	22.5	12.9	100.0	15.7	20.3
	Need capital	32.4	41.9	0.0	33.3	33.2
	Need land	2.8	6.5	0.0	0.9	2.5
	Training	46.2	38.7	0.0	50.0	46.4
Total	Continue with studies	19.2	16.4	22.2	16.6	18.4
	Need capital	34.2	38.2	55.6	30.6	34.0
	Need land	2.2	5.5	0.0	1.3	2.2
	Training	47.1	41.8	22.2	52.2	47.5

In order to seek out information on possible interventions to enhance economic opportunities, the survey invited suggestions from respondents. Three specific proposals emerged: improve access to agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilisers (48.3%); target financial services for youth (39.1%); improve skills at community level (14.2%). The distribution of these opinions by gender and region is shown in Table 21.

*‘Training institutions are few; youths have to walk long distances to get to where the opportunity to train is.’*

KII, NWOYA

**Table 21: Enhancing economic activities by district**

		Acholi	Lango	Kampala	Total
		%	%	%	%
Male	Improve access to agricultural inputs	58.8	48.8	19.0	52.6
	Improve access to capital and the terms of credit	31.5	33.7	57.1	33.7
	Improve access to economic assets like land	1.9	0.6	0.0	1.2
	Improve rural infrastructure (roads, markets, communications)	6.0	10.5	4.8	7.8
	Provide access to more/better skills training	15.7	16.3	19.0	16.1
	I don't know/have no suggestions	0.5	1.2	0.0	0.7
Female	Improve access to agricultural inputs	45.6	43.2	9.1	43.5
	Improve access to capital and the terms of credit	44.1	45.3	63.6	45.2
	Improve access to economic assets like land	0.5	3.4	0.0	1.7
	Improve rural infrastructure (roads, markets, communications)	6.9	4.7	9.1	6.1
	Provide access to more/better skills training	12.3	11.5	18.2	12.1
	I don't know/have no suggestions	1.5	3.4	0.0	2.2
Total	Improve access to agricultural inputs	52.4	46.3	15.6	48.3
	Improve access to capital and the terms of credit	37.6	39.1	59.4	39.1
	Improve access to economic assets like land	1.2	1.9	0.0	1.4
	Improve rural infrastructure (roads, markets, communications)	6.4	7.8	6.3	7.0
	Provide access to more/better skills training	14.0	14.1	18.8	14.2
	I don't know/have no suggestions	1.0	2.2	0.0	1.4

### 3.5 Summary

- Youth in Lango and Acholi perceive economic opportunities as: (i) having the skills to earn an income; (ii) having an income that can grow; (iii) having a livelihood.
- A total of 57.0% of the respondents agreed that economic opportunities did exist in their communities, but that access was restricted for youths with disabilities or those who were sick or orphaned, as well as those with vices.
- Some 238 of the 1,136 respondents were not involved in income-generating activities (67.7% of them female).
- Most opportunities for youths lie in farming (46.9%), followed by business (23.6%) and vocational trades (19.1%). Formal employment makes a negligible contribution to youth incomes.
- Income streams vary in frequency, with the majority of respondents referring to them as “irregular” (62.1%), 29.0% “moderately regular” and only 8.9% as “regular”.
- Ex-combatants have higher incomes than other categories thanks to resettlement packages that included start-up capital.
- The most lucrative activity is transport, with average weekly returns of UGX55,000;<sup>25</sup> however, this is an exclusively male domain. Farming showed the highest average weekly earnings for both genders (UGX43,000<sup>26</sup>), but is seasonal.
- Gross weekly income across activities averages at UGX30,000,<sup>27</sup> but males earn three times (UGX50,000<sup>28</sup>) more than females (UGX15,000<sup>29</sup>), regardless of activity.
- Respondents identified improved access to farm inputs (48.3%), targeted credit for youth (39.1%) and more/better skills training (14.2%) as the best ways to enhance access to employment opportunities.

<sup>25</sup> Approximately US\$21 as at May 2013.

<sup>26</sup> Approximately US\$17 as at May 2013.

<sup>27</sup> Approximately US\$12 as at May 2013.

<sup>28</sup> Approximately US\$19 as at May 2013.

<sup>29</sup> Approximately US\$6 as at May 2013.

## 4. Peace, security and possibilities of conflict

### 4.1 Security in communities

The survey investigated respondents' perceptions of conflict dynamics in their communities and of the prospects for the emergence of new conflicts. The largest proportion of respondents (45.3%) had lived in their communities for no more than five years; 26.3% for 11-20 years; 11.5% for 20-30 years.

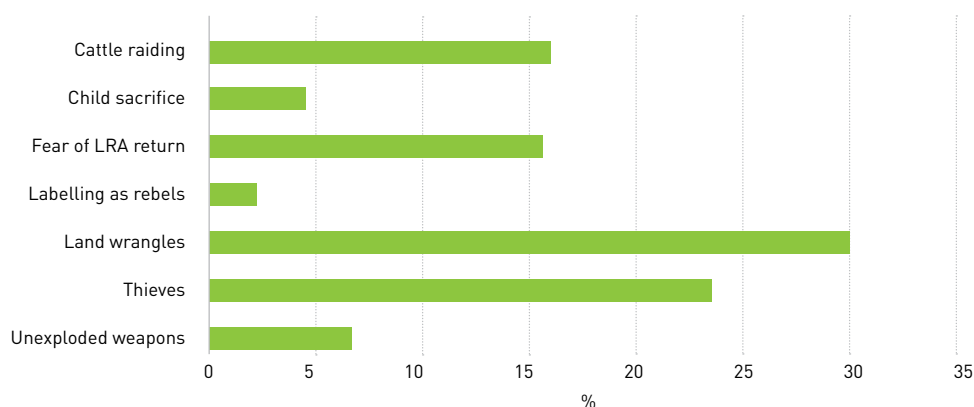
The majority (1,047) felt safe in their communities, even those in Kampala (Table 22). Residents in Nwoya, Lira, Amuru, Kitgum and Otuke felt less secure.

Table 22: Do you feel safe in your community?

Districts	Yes		No		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Amuru	144	13.75	15	16.85	159	14.00
Gulu	48	4.58	3	3.37	51	4.49
Kampala	51	4.87	0	0.00	51	4.49
Kitgum	123	11.75	15	16.85	138	12.15
Lira	123	11.75	16	17.98	139	12.24
Nwoya	214	20.44	17	19.10	231	20.33
Otuke	217	20.73	14	15.73	231	20.33
Oyam	127	12.13	9	10.11	136	11.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1,136</b>	<b>100.00</b>

As Figure 7 shows, the main causes of insecurity were land disputes (30.3%), robbery (23.6%) and cattle raiding (16.9%). A small number (2.25%) felt unsafe because of allegations that they were members of the Lord's Resistance Army.

Figure 7: Why is your community not safe?



*'People were saying that it is the ex-combatants who are thieves; it is true, some were but many of the thieves are not ex-combatants ... many of us went through re-integration training. We cannot be thieves and people know us.'*

KII, AMURU

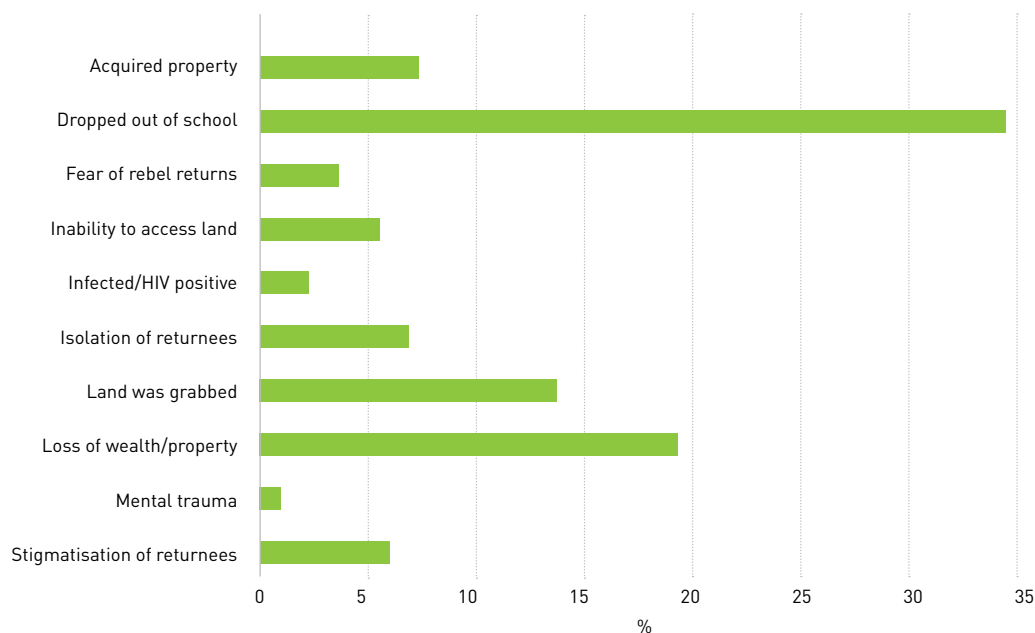
Respondents' backgrounds as former abductees, ex-combatants or IDP returnees were well known by neighbours in 87.1% of cases, although respondents' histories in Kampala were unknown in 62.9% of cases (Table 23).

**Table 23: Is your community aware you are a former abductee, ex-combatant or IDP returnee?**

Region	Yes		No		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Acholi	472	90.25	51	9.75	523	100.00
Lango	331	87.34	48	12.66	379	100.00
Kampala	13	37.14	22	62.86	35	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>87.09</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>12.91</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>100.00</b>

A third of former abductees, ex-combatants and IDPs (34.4%) said their status had influenced them to drop out of school; 19.3% reported a loss of wealth; 13.7% said their land had been stolen (Figure 8). All of them said these setbacks had affected their ability to participate in economic activities.

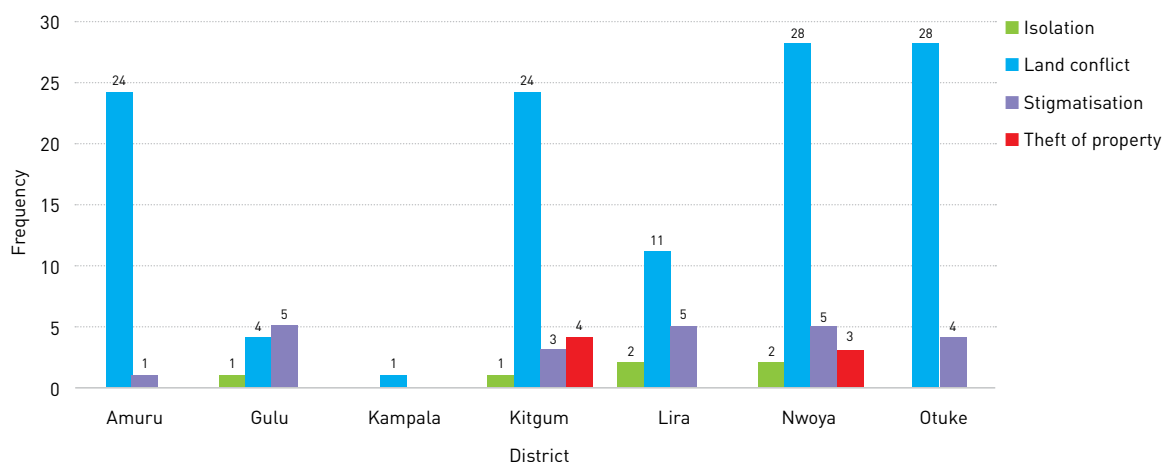
**Figure 8: Effects of former abductee/combant/IDP camp returnee status on economic activities**



## 4.2 Occurrence of conflict in communities

The largest number of conflicts arising from respondents' statuses as former abductees, ex-combatants or IDPs was reported in Acholi (110) and Lango (71); there was only one in Kampala. Otuke and Nwoya reported the largest proportion of land conflicts (28 each), followed by Kitgum and Amuru (24 each), Lira (11), Gulu (4) and Kampala (1), as shown in Figure 9. Theft of property was reported in Kitgum (4) and Nwoya (3).

**Figure 9: Conflicts arising from former abductee, ex-combatant or IDP camp returnee status by district**



Cases of deliberate isolation were reported in Lira, Nwoya, Gulu, Kitgum and Oyam. Stigmatisation was reported in Gulu, Nwoya, Oyam and Lira (5 each), as well as Otuke (4) and Amuru (1).

In terms of managing conflicts, over a third of respondents (37.0%) thought that formal land demarcation would remedy property disputes; 27.2% said community sensitisation would help to manage conflicts; 31.8% recommended law courts (Table 24).

**Table 24: How to manage conflicts**

Solution	No.	%
Acquiring skills	5	2.89
Community sensitisation	47	27.17
Land demarcation	64	36.99
Law courts	55	31.79
Withdrawn	2	1.16
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>100.00</b>

In terms of potential sources of conflict, nearly half of the 218 youths who considered their communities unsafe said that the most likely source of conflict was disagreement in the community; 38 cited attacks from other communities as a more likely cause; 22 said that rebel attacks were most likely to cause conflict (Table 25). The largest number who felt community that disagreements would lead to conflict (25) lived in Nwoya.

**Table 25: Potential sources of conflict**

District	Disagreements within the community		Attacks from other communities		Attacks from rebels		Others		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Amuru	14	13.59	2	5.26	3	13.64	8	14.55	27	12.39
Gulu	3	2.91	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	3.64	5	2.29
Kampala	3	2.91	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.82	4	1.83
Kitgum	14	13.59	20	52.63	1	4.55	9	16.36	44	20.18
Lira	16	15.53	1	2.63	4	18.18	5	9.09	26	11.93
Nwoya	25	24.27	0	0.00	6	27.27	19	34.55	50	22.94
Otuke	17	16.50	14	36.84	6	27.27	5	9.09	42	19.27
Oyam	11	10.68	1	2.63	2	9.09	6	10.91	20	9.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>100.00</b>



### 4.3 Summary

- Of the 1,136 respondents, 1,047 feel safe in their communities, compared with 89 who do not.
- Land disputes (30.3%) and theft (23.6%) are the most common sources of community insecurity.
- Some 87.0% of former abductees, ex-combatants and IDPs in Lango and Acholi believe neighbours are aware of their backgrounds.
- War-affected youth blame their personal histories for dropping out of school (34.4%) and a loss of wealth (19.3%).
- Respondents considered land demarcation (37.0%), community sensitisation (27.2%) and the use of law courts (31.8%) as the most effective remedies for community conflicts.

## 5. Access to assets, capital and credit

### 5.1 Access to financial institutions and credit

Over half of respondents (54.4%) reported the presence of financial institutions in their communities, compared with 45.6% who said there were none, as shown in Table 26.

**Table 26: Are there financial institutions in your community?**

Region	District	Yes		No		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Acholi	Amuru	79	49.7	80	50.3	159	100.0
	Gulu	27	54.0	23	46.0	50	100.0
	Kitgum	83	60.6	54	39.4	137	100.0
	Nwoya	117	51.5	110	48.5	227	100.0
Lango	Otuke	105	45.9	124	54.2	229	100.0
	Oyam	97	73.5	35	26.5	132	100.0
	Lira	60	43.5	78	56.5	138	100.0
Kampala	Kampala	42	84.0	8	16.0	50	100.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>610</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>1,122</b>	<b>100.0</b>

A large percentage (62.4%) reported the presence of village saving groups in their communities; 20.2% said there were micro-finance institutions; 17.4% knew of local banks. However, most respondents (81.0%) had no access to credit facilities, although access was better in Gulu and Kitgum (25.5% and 25.4% respectively) than in other districts (Table 27).

**Table 27: Do you have access to credit facilities?**

Region	District	Yes		No		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Acholi	Amuru	30	18.9	129	81.1	159	100.0
	Gulu	13	25.5	38	74.5	51	100.0
	Kitgum	35	25.4	103	74.6	138	100.0
	Nwoya	34	14.7	197	85.3	231	100.0
Lango	Lira	22	15.8	117	84.2	139	100.0
	Otuke	38	16.5	193	83.6	231	100.0
	Oyam	32	23.9	102	76.1	134	100.0
Kampala	Kampala	12	23.5	39	76.5	51	100.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>216</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>81.0</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Otuke had the highest number of saving groups (32), followed by Amuru (29) and Nwoya (25). Kampala had the fewest saving groups (4) but the most banks (7), followed by Kitgum (6) and Oyam (4). Twelve youths in Oyam reported using micro-finance institutions as a source of credit, followed by 10 in Nwoya; no one in Gulu reported using micro-finance institutions.

Table 28: Why don't you have access to credit facilities?

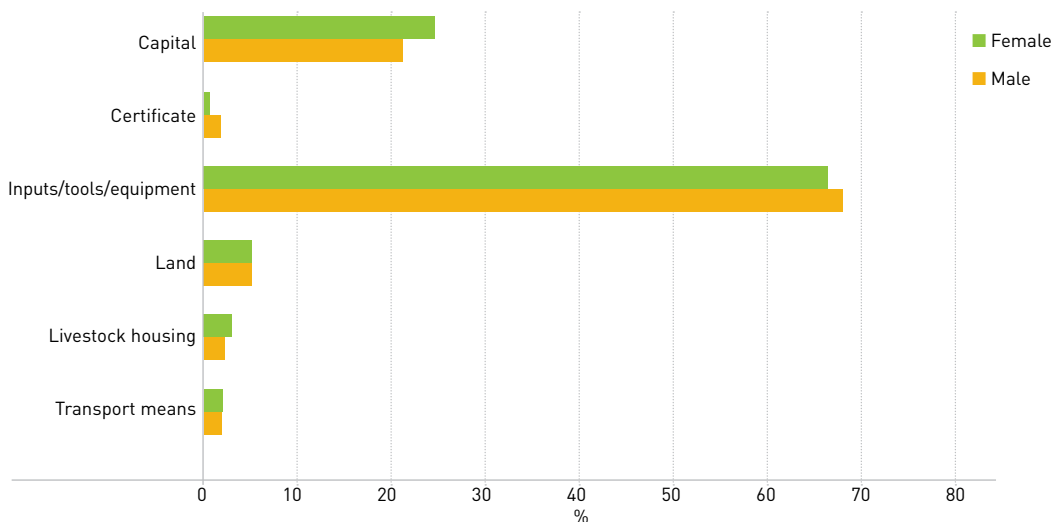
Region	District	No credit facility in the area		Lack of security		No users of credit		No credit facility/ lack of security		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Acholi	Amuru	41	32.5	40	31.8	13	10.3	32	25.4	126	100.0
	Gulu	9	25.7	14	40.0	5	14.3	7	20.0	35	100.0
	Kitgum	15	14.3	48	45.7	19	18.1	23	21.9	105	100.0
	Nwoya	57	29.8	70	36.7	27	14.1	37	19.4	191	100.0
Lango	Lira	39	32.2	38	31.4	27	22.3	17	14.1	121	100.0
	Otuke	50	26.0	65	33.9	50	26.0	27	14.1	192	100.0
	Oyam	19	19.0	49	49.0	10	10.0	22	22.0	100	100.0
Kampala	Kampala	2	5.3	23	60.5	3	7.9	10	26.3	38	100.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>232</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As shown in Table 28, more than a third (38.2%) of respondents had no access to facilities because of poor security; 25.6% said there were no credit institutions in their area; 19.3% reported a combination of poor security and no credit facilities. High insecurity was cited as a key factor in all districts, including Kampala.

## 5.2 Resources required to engage in economic activities

Respondents stated that inputs,<sup>30</sup> tools and equipment were the resources most needed to engage in economic activities. Two thirds of males but slightly fewer females required them, as shown in Figure 10. More females (24.6%) than males (21.21%) wanted capital before engaging in economic activities. Comparatively few male and female youths expressed a need for land.

Figure 10: Resources required to engage in economic activities



A large proportion of respondents (36.1%) had invested their own money to be able to engage in economic activity; 21.0% depended on their family for support; 19.3% had taken out loans. Only 7.8% received support from NGOs and 0.5% from the government, as shown in Table 29.

<sup>30</sup> Inputs in this context refer to knowledge, labour and skills.

**Table 29: How did you access required resources?**

	No.	%
Borrowed	152	19.3
Bought	284	36.1
Family support	165	21.0
Government support	4	0.5
Hired	33	4.2
NGO support	61	7.8
Own intervention	88	11.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>100.0</b>

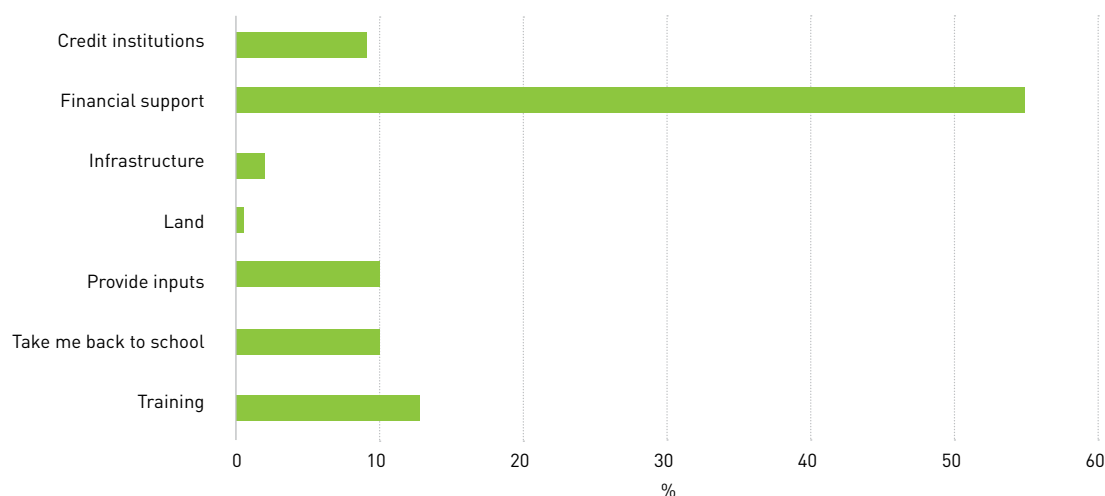
As shown in Table 30, the main obstacle to accessing opportunity, capital and credit, according to 29.2% of respondents, was a lack of security, mostly cited in Lango (111) and Acholi (105). The next biggest challenge was a lack of capital (23.4%). Other hindrances included a lack of credit institutions (6.6%), poor loan management (4.2%) and a lack of skills (4.1%).

**Table 30: What challenges do you face in accessing opportunity, capital and credit?**

Challenging issues	Acholi		Lango		Kampala		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Age issues	8	1.8	9	2.7	0	0.0	17	2.1
Committed in school	15	3.5	4	1.2	1	2.5	20	2.5
Health problems	14	3.2	11	3.2	1	2.5	26	3.2
High interest rates	7	1.6	12	3.5	1	2.5	20	2.5
Illiterate	11	2.5	7	2.1	0	0.0	18	2.2
Lack of capital	110	25.4	72	21.2	8	20.0	190	23.4
Lack of cooperation	6	1.4	4	1.2	1	2.5	11	1.4
Lack of credit institutions	33	7.6	21	6.2	0	0.0	54	6.6
Lack of credit knowledge	17	3.9	17	5.0	0	0.0	34	4.2
Lack of equipment	10	2.3	6	1.8	0	0.0	16	2.0
Lack of markets	6	1.4	18	5.3	0	0.0	24	3.0
Lack of security	105	24.2	111	32.7	21	52.5	237	29.2
Lack of skills	18	4.2	13	3.8	2	5.0	33	4.1
Means of transport	14	3.2	4	1.2	0	0.0	18	2.2
Never tried	16	3.7	5	1.5	1	2.5	22	2.7
Poor loan management	21	4.8	12	3.5	1	2.5	34	4.2
Resettlement process	3	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.4
Segregation by leader	4	0.9	3	0.9	3	7.5	10	1.2
Subsistence farming	6	1.4	2	0.6	0	0.0	8	1.0
Underpayment	8	1.8	6	1.8	0	0.0	14	1.7
Unreliable rainfall	2	0.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.3
Unstable prices	0	0.0	2	0.6	0	0.0	2	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>100.0</b>

As shown in Figure 11, over half of all youths (55.0%) said they needed credit to enhance their access to economic assets (64.2% if those who wanted credit institutions are factored in). A further 12.9% needed training, 10.1% needed inputs, and 10.1% wanted to return to school.

Figure 11: What support do you most need to enhance access to economic assets?



### 5.3 Government, donor and NGO responses to youth needs

Of the young people who felt that the government was responding to their needs, 39.7% identified the National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) as a key institution; 33.7% considered free education as a form of government support for their economic aspirations (Table 31).

Table 31: How does government respond to youth needs for economic opportunities?

Government response	Acholi		Lango		Kampala		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Employment	6	5.9	1	1.3	1	16.7	8	4.4
Free education	38	37.3	20	26.3	4	66.7	62	33.7
Increased access to SACCOs*	16	15.7	11	14.5	1	16.7	28	15.2
Infrastructure	7	6.9	4	5.3	0	0.0	11	6.0
Programmes like NAADS	35	34.3	38	50.0	0	0.0	73	39.7
Security	0	0.0	2	2.6	0	0.0	2	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* SACCOs refer to youth saving and credit cooperatives organisations, also referred to as "saving and credit cooperatives associations" and sometimes "saving and credit cooperatives groups". These loose associations have been used by community-based organisations and youth themselves as an entry point to raise awareness about peace, livelihoods, good moral standing in society, etc.

*'They say NAADS is supposed to help people run farming as a business ... when you look at people who benefit from NAADS they are all very old. There is nothing for us young people, yet we are the ones with the energy to do farming ...'*

MALE YOUTH, FGD, ORUM, KITGUM

Nearly a quarter of respondents (23.5%) said the government had no youth programmes in their areas; 15.2% said that the government did not provide employment opportunities, as shown in Table 32.

Table 32: What is missing from government efforts to increase economic opportunities?

What is missing?	Acholi		Lango		Kampala		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Control prices	1	0.2	2	0.6	0	0.0	3	0.4
Education loans	22	5.4	22	6.6	2	6.5	46	5.9
Employment opportunities	66	16.1	37	11.1	15	48.4	118	15.2
Infrastructure	22	5.4	12	3.6	0	0.0	34	4.4
Mobilisation	12	2.9	14	4.2	0	0.0	26	3.4
Money	0	0.0	1	0.3	0	0.0	1	0.1
No farm tools	12	2.9	7	2.1	0	0.0	19	2.5
No financial institutions	40	9.8	35	10.5	3	9.7	78	10.1
No youth programmes	93	22.7	87	26.1	2	6.5	182	23.5
Not seen any	57	13.9	51	15.3	2	6.5	110	14.2
Poor service delivery	37	9.0	17	5.1	2	6.5	56	7.2
Skills training	25	6.1	19	5.7	3	9.7	47	6.1
Technical schools	23	5.6	30	9.0	2	6.5	55	7.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Figure 12 shows how youth responded to the statement ‘Are government programmes responding effectively to youth employment needs?’ Overall, respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed: Lira and Otuke had the highest percentages of youths (41.0% and 38.0%) who strongly disagreed with the statement. However, levels of agreement were high in Amuru (34.0%), Nwoya (27.0%) and Kampala (27.0%). The highest percentage of respondents who strongly agreed was 14.0% in Oyam and 13.0% in Amuru and Kitgum. Notably, no youths in Kampala strongly agreed with the statement.

Figure 12: Government approval rating by district

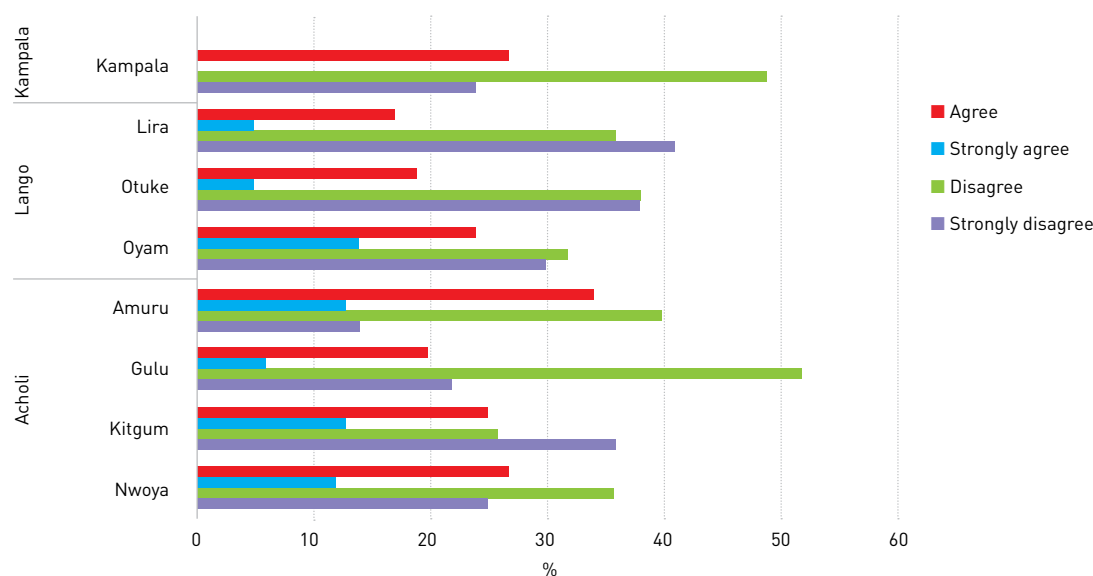
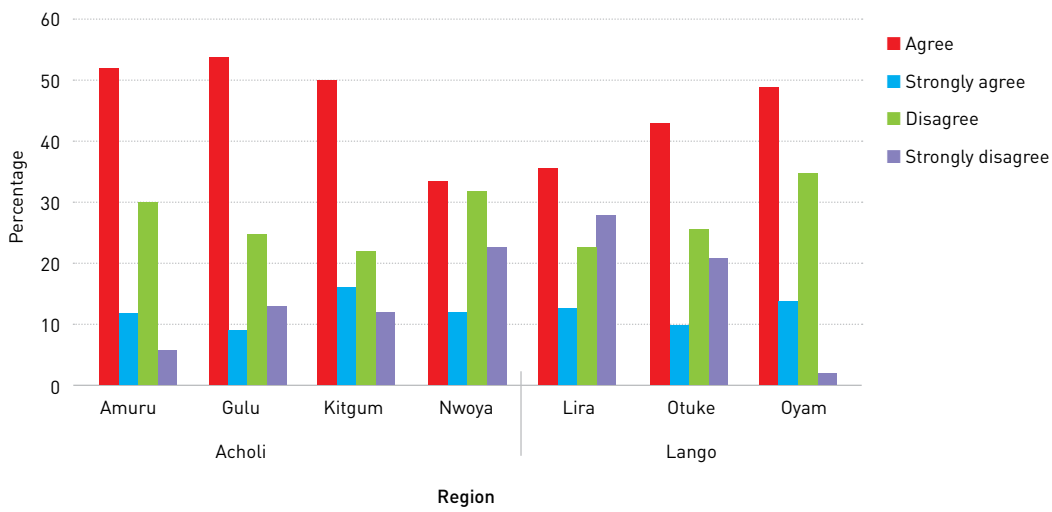


Figure 13 shows how youth responded to the statement ‘Are donor/NGO programmes responding effectively to youth employment needs?’ Large percentages of the respondents agreed with this statement in each district. Gulu demonstrated the highest level of agreement (54.0%), followed by Amuru (52.0%) and Kitgum (50.0%).

Figure 13: Donor/NGO approval rating by district



## 5.4 Summary

- Over half (54.4%) of the respondents reported the presence of village savings groups, micro-finance institutions and banks in their communities; however, 81.0% said they had no access to credit.
- Young people's main requirement for engaging in economic activity is inputs/tools/equipment (68.1% for males and 66.4% for females).
- Some 80.0% of youth felt that government was not responding to their economic needs. However, donors and NGOs were widely perceived as responding effectively, with the highest rates of approval in Kitgum, Gulu, Nwoya and Amuru.

## 6. Access to social capital and networks

### 6.1 Community support for youth

The survey investigated the value of social capital and networks in helping youth to engage in economic activities. Table 33 illustrates the range of support provided by communities to war-affected youth. A large share (56.6%) of respondents said they received no help at all from their communities.

**Table 33: How does your community support youth?**

	Acholi		Lango		Kampala		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Support provided								
Animals	17	2.9	11	2.2	0	0.0	28	2.5
Built houses	8	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	0.7
Capital	21	3.6	5	1.0	0	0.0	26	2.3
Credit access through SACCOs	6	1.0	3	0.6	1	2.0	10	0.9
Farm tools	51	8.8	30	6.0	0	0.0	81	7.1
Free education	88	15.2	53	10.5	1	2.0	142	12.5
Household utensils	27	4.7	26	5.2	2	3.9	55	4.9
Iron sheets	3	0.5	3	0.6	0	0.0	6	0.5
Motorcycles and bicycles	4	0.7	1	0.2	0	0.0	5	0.4
No support	268	46.3	328	65.1	46	90.2	642	56.6
Other training	9	1.6	2	0.4	0	0.0	11	1.0
Sponsorship	28	4.8	16	3.2	1	2.0	45	4.0
Vocational training	49	8.5	26	5.2	0	0.0	75	6.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>1,134</b>	<b>100.0</b>

A significant proportion (12.5%) of those who received government support identified free education as a community benefit, as shown in Table 33. In addition, youths said they had received farm tools (7.1%), vocational training (6.6%), household utensils (4.9%) and sponsorship (4.0%).

**Table 34: Who provides support?**

	Acholi		Lango		Kampala		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Government	80	26.8	59	36.2	1	20.0	140	30.0
NGOs	217	72.6	103	63.2	4	80.0	324	69.4
Traditional leaders	2	0.7	1	0.6	0	0.0	3	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>100.0</b>

NGOs were identified as the largest providers of support, according to two thirds of respondents; 30.0% identified the government as their main provider of support (Table 34).

### 6.2 Selection of youth for support

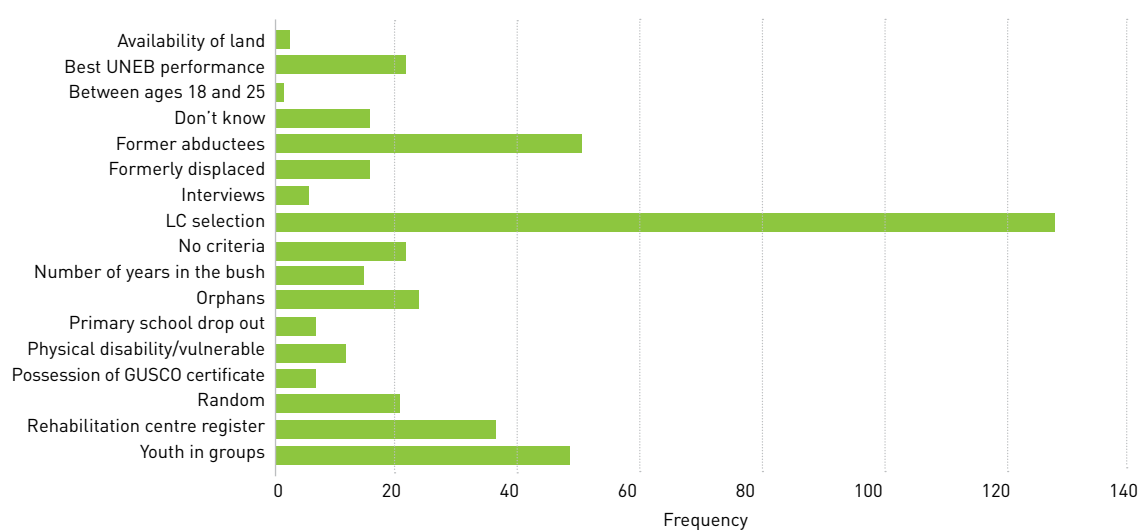
As shown in Table 35, those benefiting the most from special programmes were former abductees (42.2%), followed by orphans (14.1%) and those with disabilities (11.5%). However, 10.6% reported that there were no specific criteria to qualify for support.



**Table 35: Categories receiving priority in beneficiary selection**

Category	No.	%
Child mothers	4	0.9
Youths with disabilities	50	11.5
Elders	13	3.0
Existing businesses	5	1.2
Former abductees	183	42.2
Former child soldiers	7	1.6
Former IDPs	10	2.3
Girls	6	1.4
Groups	25	5.8
HIV/AIDS victims	5	1.2
Literate	10	2.3
No criteria	46	10.6
Orphans	61	14.1
People with connections	1	0.2
Single parents	6	1.4
Unemployed youth	2	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Local Councils (LCs) were identified as the most influential sponsors for potential beneficiaries by 128 respondents, as shown in Figure 14. However, 50 respondents reported that being a former abductee was the most important criterion for selection, while 48 said that membership of a youth group was the strongest qualifying factor.

**Figure 14: Criteria for selecting beneficiaries for support<sup>31</sup>**

A large share of respondents (32.2%) said that there was an overall lack of support for youths' economic needs. However, 29.6% could not identify any particular gaps in the support system. That said, "segregation by local leaders" (18.5%) and "corruption among leaders" (10.9%), when combined, highlighted youths' disenchantment with local administrations, as shown in Table 36.

*'Youth are suspicious of their leaders, they think they are too corrupt and diverting resources meant to help them.'*

KII, KITGUM

<sup>31</sup> UNEB refers to the Uganda National Examination Board. A GUSCO Certificate is a vocational training certificate offered by the Gulu Support the Children Organisation (GUSCO).

**Table 36: What gaps do you identify in support?**

Gaps identified	Acholi		Lango		Kampala		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Corruption among leaders	31	12.5	12	8.5	0	0.0	43	10.9
Former IDPs not supported	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.3
Funding stopped	3	1.2	3	2.1	1	25	7	1.8
Lack of alternative training	2	0.8	2	1.4	0	0.0	4	1.0
No programme follow-up	6	2.4	6	4.2	0	0.0	12	3.0
None	65	26.1	51	35.9	1	25.0	117	29.6
Not every need is supported	86	34.5	41	28.9	0	0.0	127	32.2
Not fully supported	4	1.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	1.0
Segregation by local leaders	46	18.5	25	17.6	2	50.0	73	18.5
Starter kits not provided	5	2.0	2	1.4	0	0.0	7	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### 6.3 Support and economic activities

Youth who felt that existing support did not help them were more numerous than those who benefited, particularly in Acholi (68.5%) and Lango (68.0%). In Kampala, opinions were evenly divided. Table 37 shows how beneficiaries used support to aid their economic activities. Nearly half (41.7%) started small-scale businesses, 29.2% acquired skills and 29.1% invested in farming or animal husbandry.

**Table 37: How does support help you economically?**

How support helps	Acholi		Lango		Kampala		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Acquired skills	22	31.9	12	25.0	1	33.3	35	29.2
Aided farming	16	23.2	11	22.9	1	33.3	28	23.3
Started goat rearing	3	4.4	4	8.3	0	0.0	7	5.8
Started small-scale business	28	40.6	21	43.8	1	33.3	50	41.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.0</b>

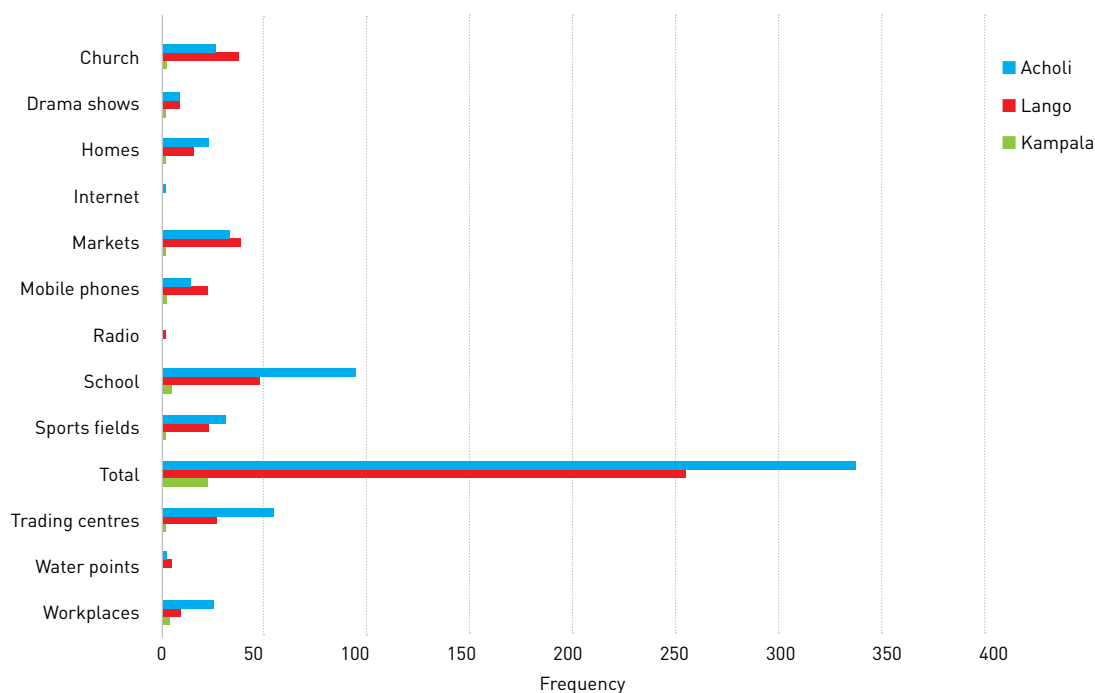
### 6.4 Links to networks and other youths

More than half (54.0%) of respondents reported opportunities to network with other youths. Figure 15 shows how this occurs in reality. School was the most important avenue for networking in Acholi and Lango, followed by trading centres and markets. The small number of respondents who used mobile phones (21 in Lango, 13 in Acholi and just 2 in Kampala) as a networking device was a curious anomaly.

*‘Working in the gardens is not something young people like, they want things that yield instant cash, that is why many are thieves ... they are also getting responsibilities a lot quicker, that’s why they are very impatient ...’*

YOUTH FGD, ORUM, OTUKE

Figure 15: How do you link up with other youths?



A third of respondents said that networking had helped them to share ideas (Table 38). A further 23.4% said that they had derived no benefits, while 20.3% reported that they had learned about better business methods.

Table 38: What lessons have you learned on economic empowerment from networking with other youths?

Lessons	No.	%
Advice on better business methods	125	20.3
Buying and selling	13	2.1
New methods and strategies	105	17.1
No lessons	144	23.4
Security issues	18	2.9
Share ideas	210	34.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>100.0</b>

More than half of the respondents (58.0%) knew persons of influence in their communities, but only 143 out of the sample of 653 claimed to have derived some economic benefit from that relationship (Table 39).

*‘Those with relatives in Kampala and other towns that are bigger with many people have gone away from the village and seem to have work where they went. But for us who remained here there is nothing else to do but some farming ...’*

FEMALE YOUTH, FGD, ORUM, KITGUM

**Table 39: Have you ever gained economic opportunities from knowing persons of influence?**

Region	District	Yes		No		Total	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Acholi	Amuru	14	12.5	98	87.5	112	100.0
	Gulu	5	20.8	19	79.2	24	100.0
	Kitgum	16	20.8	61	79.2	77	100.0
	Nwoya	28	19.4	116	80.6	144	100.0
Lango	Lira	18	25.7	52	74.3	70	100.0
	Otuke	34	29.1	83	70.9	117	100.0
	Oyam	21	25.6	61	74.4	82	100.0
Kampala	Kampala	7	25.9	20	74.1	27	100.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>143</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Nearly a fifth (19.1%) of youths advised peers to work in groups if they wanted to get ahead. A further 16.1% recommended hard work and 12.9% said skills acquisition was the most valuable goal.

## 6.5 Summary

- NGOs are the largest providers of support, according to 69.4% of respondents.
- Beneficiary selection is often conducted by LCs and mostly prioritises former abductees (42.2%), orphans (14.1%) and people with disabilities (11.5%).
- Some 29.4% of respondents hold local leaders responsible for corruption and the segregation of beneficiaries.
- More than half of the respondents access networks with other youths, mainly through schools, trading centres and markets.
- Only 36 of the 1,136 respondents said they use mobile phones to access social networks.
- Knowing a person of influence only benefited 143 respondents in terms of accessing economic opportunities.

*'It was important to give us the capacity to manage things on our own ... nobody trained us [on] how to build beneficial relationships ... sometimes you find yourself with friends who have the same problem but there is nobody to approach.'*

MALE YOUTH, FGD, LORO, OYAM

## 7. Conclusions and recommendations

### Key socio-economic factors and demographics

*‘The needs of youths pursuing vocational training are different, the needs of youths pursuing formal education are different, and the needs of youth who have dropped out of school are different ... yet we want them all to go through the same process for empowerment.’*

KII, OTUKE

The demographic characterisation of youth in northern Uganda is uniform, but there are diverse categories of experience arising from displacement, abduction or involvement as combatants. The survey uncovered a new, unaddressed category: “individuals born in the bush in the course of abduction, the majority of whom are street children, living alone and surviving on odd jobs”. Because of this growing complexity, targeting youth under the PRDP requires **mixed approaches** which avoid a “one-solution-for-all” strategy. This entails the elaboration of **more flexible programming for different categories**, without excluding emerging classifications. The conceptualisation and implementation of activities for war-affected youth must be informed by such complexities and embedded in the uniqueness of the northern Ugandan situation, whilst **maintaining conflict-sensitive approaches and advocacy**.

### Education and skills training

The survey results showed strong linkages between formal qualifications and access to economic opportunities; however, most youths only have informal skills with no qualifications. The literature reveals an initiative to **bring informal skills-training centres into the formal arena** under the 2008 UVQF, whereby youths can receive **formal certification** for their skills. However, this initiative has not gained traction in northern Uganda and **current enrolment conditions are limiting the participation of informal training centres**. As a result, youths from these centres still have no UVQF certificate, which limits their economic opportunities. More broadly, there is a **misalignment between the needs/opportunities of the labour market and the training courses on offer**, mirrored in the number of youths with **duplicate skills** chasing a dwindling number of jobs.

*‘We cannot just say the tailoring business is good, and that people should learn tailoring, when we do not know how many tailors are needed ... so we are just training tailors who may or may not get work, let alone [get access to] sewing machines.’*

KII, KITGUM

It is imperative that vocational training curricula, examinations and certifications in northern Uganda are **standardised in line with the UVQF goals**. Furthermore, a **needs assessment and skills survey** are required in order to understand the **demand side of the labour market**, which can then be translated into **more targeted training provision**. In parallel, young people need **improved career guidance** in their choice of training to be more relevant to labour-market needs after graduation. Lastly, a conscious effort must be made to **ensure the equal enrolment of males and females** in all skills and training courses across northern Uganda.

*‘Many youths are just loitering. There is no one to guide them on what form of income-generating activities, business options or even just to talk to them about what to do to create or identify an economic opportunity in their communities.’*

KII, AMURU

## Economic opportunities

All categories of youth said that economic opportunities were limited throughout northern Uganda, particularly for those with disabilities or for sick or orphaned youths. Even the few which did exist, especially in the lucrative sectors of farming, business and services, were skewed in favour of males. **Income for males is three times higher than that for females**, who also have the least regular income streams. Most youth acknowledge **challenges in identifying and starting income-generating activities**, except ex-combatants, who have received a boost through resettlement packages. Youth commonly express a **need for improved access to micro-credit** to provide start-up capital for income-generating activities, or to purchase tools and inputs for farming.

*‘We are still young. The people we stay with have a responsibility to take care of us and also to educate us.’*

FEMALE YOUTH, FGD, ORUM, KITGUM

As dependants, youths aged 15-18 tend not to recognise employment issues as their key concern. It would make sense to advise them in a better informed manner on their choices of future career and the opportunities available in their communities in order to align future job-market needs with young people’s employment aspirations. This would provide guidance on recovery planning and **sensitisation**, and also **embed a level of consciousness among youth about what economic opportunities exist**, how they can be detected and, most importantly, the **resilience required to take advantage of them**.

## Conflict and security in communities

*‘Land wrangles are everywhere, there is no day that passes without hearing that people have problems with land ... this is becoming a security issue.’*

KII, AMACH

Reconstruction efforts which do not tie economic opportunities to local expectations can lead to anti-social activity (frequently associated with chronic unemployment) and the potential breakdown of communities. “Land wrangles” are triggered by the **scramble for limited productive resources**, and youth, an emerging producer group, is engaged in this struggle. Community expectations from the reintegration of war-affected youth have not allayed their innate fear of how the latter may behave in **times of scarcity or stress**, hence their frequent use as scapegoats for violations of community peace. This dynamic may have a catalytic effect when youths are targeted and isolated by their communities. It is imperative that **advocacy efforts** be devoted to **addressing community expectations** with regard to war-affected youth. The goal is to create tolerance and foster the understanding that civil society and the government are aware of communities’ plight as they engage in post-conflict reconstruction.

## Access to assets, capital and credit

Access to credit or financial resources is limited by youth’s lack of collateral or savings. Most require additional resources, such as inputs/tools/equipment, if they are to engage successfully in meaningful economic activity. Conventional empowerment measures which hinge on building capital and accessing credit may not work. After two rounds of the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund and the current PRDP, there is little sense that youth are being included in these programmes. It is recommended, therefore, that **all social action programmes be reviewed to establish proper inclusion guidelines** for all vulnerable members of the community.

## Access to social capital and networks

*‘Initially we had support. As members of the organisation, we would meet regularly and help each other through sharing ideas ... now that does not happen anymore. The NGO just left. We tried to meet a few times but it did not work.’*

FEMALE YOUTH, FGD, ORUM, OTUKE

Social capital and social networks which exist for youth in northern Uganda are weak. This is in part due to local customs, but also due to the abrupt departure of NGOs which used to focus on building youth groups. NGOs would have enhanced the value of such networks by **crafting more considered exit strategies**. Sudden withdrawal without adequately preparing beneficiaries has rendered many youth groups unsustainable. Efforts should be made to constitute regulations that compel NGOs – and indeed the government – to plan and implement exit strategies in consultation with youth beneficiaries, and to create constituencies of alumni to serve as role models for local youth after an agency’s departure.











**International Alert.**

346 Clapham Road, London SW9 9AP, United Kingdom

Tel +44 (0)20 7627 6800, Fax +44 (0)20 7627 6900

[info@international-alert.org](mailto:info@international-alert.org)

[www.international-alert.org](http://www.international-alert.org)

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