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**GBUKUTU SUB-WARD RESOURCE MAP-KOBOKO-ARUA**

## ACRONYMS

ACAO	Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
BKU-2	Gbukutu
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
CBO	Community Based Organization
CCG	Classroom Completion Grant
CEFORD	Community Empowerment for Rural Development
DANIDA	Danish International Development Association
DEO	District Education Officer
DLC	District Local Council
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
FINCA	Foundation for International Community Assistance
ICRC	International Committee of Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IGA	Income Generation Activities
KPM	Koboko Prosperous Mothers
KTC	Koboko Town Council
KUWA	Koboko United Women Association
LC	Local Council
LGDP	Local Government Development Project
MOE/S	Ministry of Education and Sports
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NRM/A	National Resistance Movement/Army
OPD	Out Patient Department
OPEC	Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries
PAF	Poverty Action Fund
PHC	Primary Health Care
PLA	Participatory Learning Action
PPA	Participatory Poverty Assessment
PMA	Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
PTA	Parents and Teachers Association
PWD	People with Disabilities
RDC	Resident District Commissioner
SAWA	Sudanese Active Women Association
SFG	School Facility Grant
SMC	School Management Committee
SPLA	Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army
SRS	Self Reliance Strategy
SRPS	Special Revenue Protection Service
TB	Tuberculosis
TMA	Tukaliri Multi purpose Association
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Education Fund
UPE	Universal Primary Education
UPPAP	Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Project
URA	Uganda Revenue Authority
WENWA	West Nile Women Association
WFP	World Food programme
WNBF	West Nile Bank Front
RPS	REVENUE PROTECTION SERVICE

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**1.0 Introduction**

This report presents the process and findings of the Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA II) process carried out in Gbukutu sub-ward, Koboko Town Council in October/November 2001. In this chapter, we provide the objectives to the participatory poverty assessment (PPA II) process, background to the study, objective of the study and the site profiles respectively.

**1.1.1 Objectives of PPA II process**

The second Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment (PP II) process focuses on two main areas or Research Themes, these are:

- a. Deepening the understanding of Poverty and Poverty trends.
- b. Understanding people's experiences with selected Government policies.

To meet the above objective, UPPAP is working in partnership with donors, development agencies, local research and development NGOs, academic institutions and Government. In this case, the local partners Community Empowerment For Rural Development (CEFORD) and Arua District Authority are mainly charged with the duty of conducting the PPA II in Arua District especially in five sites including Gbukutu Sub-ward – Koboko Town Council, Koboko County.

**1.1.2 Background of the Study:**

This research asks question of whether border dynamic with influx of people (refugees, internally displaced persons, due to insurgencies, immigrants etc) impact and constrains on the host community local resources, livelihood, social services and infrastructure, and their experience with government policies. Border location experiences cross border dynamics and interactions among many people of different ethnic, social economic and nationalities. This could be due to war and insurgencies and socio-economic factors.

Gbukutu Sub-ward, Koboko Town council a host to self-settled refugees and other immigrants was selected to enable PPA II achieve the objectives mentioned earlier.

**1.1.3 Objective of the Study:**

The main objective of the study is to “ assess refugees, with focus on self-settled refugee, settlement constraint on host community, resources and services; and people's experience with selected government policies in the Case study of “Koboko Town council”. In no way does the study blames and / or support influx of refugees, IDP and immigrants into area, and the problems associated with the process, but it attempts to deepen the understanding on poverty and poverty trends and people's experience with selected government policies.

Especially the study attempts to establish:

1. Poverty perception and poverty dynamics (trends)
2. Constraint on livelihood, trends, factors behind changes, shocks, coping mechanism and impact.
3. Constraints on access, use, and quality of social services and infrastructure and other resources.
4. Views on governance, accountability and effects.
5. People's experience with selected government policies.
6. Efforts made by other institutions in poverty reduction (institutional support) and people's recommendations.

## **1.2 Koboko Town council Profile:**

### **1.2.1 Location:**

Koboko Town Council is located 56 kilometers North of Arua Town. It is 19 kilometers from the Sudan border Town of Kaya, and about 2 kilometers from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – border. Koboko is 560 kilometer from Kampala,

### **1.2.4 Climate:**

Koboko receives between 1500mm and 1750mm of rain per annum with maximum rainfall between April and October, with peaks in June – August, September and October.

### **1.2.4 Population:**

Before the insurgencies, Koboko Town had a population of 7,500 people. At present, its population is 24,000 people, one third of this population comprises of displaced people and Sudanese refugees.

### **1.2.5 Administrative Set up:**

The Town Clerk is the head of the Town Council Administration. There exists the Treasury Department headed by the Finance Officer. The Works Department headed by Senior Superintendent of works.

Health and Environment is headed by an Health Inspector. Other important sections within the department include tax section headed by Tax Officer, and Law Enforcement section headed by a Law Enforcement Officer.

### **1.2.6 Political Set up:**

Koboko Town Council consists of two wards and four sub-wards. Sub-wards were split up to 20 and wards into 4 (four) for easy administration and mobilization. The Town Council is on political line headed by the LC III in accordance with Government Policies of Decentralization. Koboko Town council became decentralized in 1997. However, during 1970s Koboko was also designated as Town Council, and development took place at very fast rate.

During the 1979 war, development in Koboko stopped and the already existing infrastructure were either destroyed (or halted) indiscriminately as the residents fled across to Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), to become refugees.

Throughout 1980s Koboko had virtually ceased to exist as an urban center. It was not until 1989 that life started coming back to Koboko.

In December 1996 Koboko Trading Centre was elevated to an autonomous Town Council, and in May 1999, it approved its three-year Development Plan (KTCDP). This is a rolling plan. It is annually reviewed to take note of the changing circumstances, identify new areas that require attention, what was achieved, the implementation challenges and determine the future course of action.

## **1.3 PPA II Exercise Site Profile**

PPA II Exercise in Koboko Town Council was conducted in Gbukutu Sub-ward. The sub-ward was newly created by the district/town council local government. According to the local authority, Western Ward was formerly under Midia Sub County, Koboko County. When Koboko town became a Town Council, Western Ward 'B' became Apa Ward and the Sub-Wards were Teremunga and Gbukutu.

Further still during the recent Local Council 1 elections before research work was completed, Gbukutu Sub-ward became Apa Ward and Teremunga Sub-ward became Teremunga ward.

The new Apa Ward where the research took place has now been divided into four (4) villages known as: Gbukutu, Mondukudu, Anzirigo and Central villages. The PPA II research covered the whole new Apa Ward in Koboko Town Council, and is located in the western part of Koboko Town Council.

The total number of households in the new Apa Ward including Gbukutu sub-ward was about 725 households according to the local leaders.

#### **1.4 Conclusions:**

The community has identified job creation by their leaders to overcome the problems. There is need for community sensitization/capacity building for all categories of the people such as youth, women, widows, men and the disabled people.

## CHAPTER TWO

## METHODOLOGY:

### 2.1 Introduction:

The chapter describes the research process, the methods used for data collection and analysis and the limitations of the PPA II process.

### 2.2 Research Process:

The research process was divided into five (5) major stages namely, Developing Research Plans and work plan, Sites selection, Consultation with Local District Authorities on the Research Plan (Protocol pre-visits) Analysis, Synthesis and Report Writing.

#### 2.2.1 Developing Research Plan and Work Plan.

Initial developing of research plan and work plan started in Mbale during the PRA training. The process continued to the districts and was modified progressively.

#### 2.2.2 Site selection

The site selection exercise was done in Mbale at the end of PRA training course attended by district and core team members in September / October 2001. All the districts and partners were given a certain parameters to guide them in the selection of five representative sites.

The sites selected previously Onyere Village, Luba Parish Rigbo sub-county – Madi Okollo county was replaced with Gbukutu sub-ward, Koboko Town Council, Koboko County, by the team and District Authorities.

The Criteria used to select Gbukutu sub-ward Koboko Town Council include; presence of semi-settled (self-settled) refugees, constrains on resources and services, high population density a growing town (urbanization), booming trade, insecurity and culture dynamics.

#### 2.2.3 Consultation with Local District Authorities (Protocol Pre-visits):

Having selected the five sites, pre-visits were organized in order to consult the Local District Authorities on the Research Plan and site selection, and to make preparations for the actual research exercise in the district, Town Council and the village (ward).

The District Local Authorities accepted and agreed with the Research Plan and site selected and the criteria used. The Koboko Town Council authorities, LC III Chairperson's office and the lower LCs took responsibility of mobilization of the communities and other people for the PP II Process exercise.

#### 2.2.4 PRA Community Meetings:

Prior to each community meeting, the PRA team planned the method and exercise(s) to be conducted. In the first week(s) of the exercise the planning process was weak but it improved with arrival of "process technical support" in the field.

Specific roles for facilitators, interpreters, recorders and observers were discussed and allocated to respective team members. Facilitation and interpretation were done of various languages; Arabic (for refugees), and local language – Kakwa. The two languages were translated into Lugbara first to the team before recording. The urban youth used mainly Kiswahili to discuss their views.

Daily exercise report analysis was not done regularly by the team due to overload of work, and this later created more problems and workload at the time of site report analysis and synthesis and report writing.

Community meetings began with a brief statement of aims and objectives of the exercise. However, due to rain and agriculture production season, community meetings delayed and constrained the process frequently.

## 2.2.5 Methods and Tools used:

Both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis were used in the PPA II process. A wide range of PRA / PLA tools and other participatory methodologies were used depending on the data and time requirements. Most team members had long time experiences with PRA Tools and techniques, and this seemed to propel them to use more of them.

This happened for the PRA / PLA which was not previously planned for by the team. The result was that too much information was collected on certain particular topics or issues than expected, which caused trouble in organization, analysis and synthesis of the site report.

Table 2.1: - Methods and areas explored in Gbukutu Sub-ward Koboko Town Council

PRA TOOL	ISSUE (S) EXPLORED
Resource / Service Mapping	Used to identify resources and services available in the community and problems associated with them, service delivery issues.
Mobility Mapping	Used to identify and analyze where and for what purposes, when and how frequently the various social groups (Youth, Women and Men) go within and outside the village / Sub-ward and Koboko Town Council, Problem and Policy issues.
Time Line and Matrix	Used to identify and list all the key events that happened from the period memorable to most community members and how these events have impacted on the community and poverty situation.
Institutional / Venn Diagramming	Used to identify local and external institutions working with community in poverty reduction, their aims and objectives, policies and activities, their importance to the community and how they link to one another; service deliverers and policy issues.
Daily Routine Profile	Used to identify and analyze all activities the different social groups (Youth, Women etc) undertake from morning to bedtime and their implications on poverty.
Trend Diagram Analysis	Used to determine how various poverty dimensions and community problems (Lack of clean water sources, education, Insecurity etc) have changed over time (i.e. Poverty trends) and what it means for poverty (i.e. reduction and increasing).
Livelihood Analysis (i.e. Income and Expenditure) (Analysis Tree)	Used to identify and analyze income sources and expenditure outlets of households, problems, access, control and benefits and implications on poverty and Government policies.
Ranking (Well-being and Pair wise)	Used to rank causes of poverty, categories of well-being of the community households / individuals and general priority areas.
Case Studies	To follow up and gain in depth views of individual households, problems, single headed household, poor household, PWD household etc.
Focused Group Discussions	Explore and verify several pieces of information on poverty perception, livelihood, social services, governance, institutional support and experiences with selected Government Policies.
Key Information Dialogue /	To gain in depth knowledge of specific issues;

Discussions / Interviews.	poverty perception, roles, service delivery and government policies implementation and outcome.
Causality Flow Charts	Explored local perception of problems on settlement of self –refugees in Koboko Town Council.
Problem Tree Analysis	Explored local perception on root causes and effects of poverty and inadequate income (low income).
Transect Work	Explored local resources, land use, settlement patterns and development, conditions of the community and the area (Gbukutu Sub-ward)
Active Listening and card sorting	Used during site report synthesis.

### 2.3 Limitations:

Some process and limitations in methodology are discussed below:

- ? ? Poor response of men for community meetings: Men did not attend community meeting until the last two / three days of the exercise because they go very early to town to search for money. But some women who are engaged in petty businesses left community meetings earlier for their businesses.
- ? ? Research fatigue in the community: In addition to lack of time for community members engaged in businesses, community members informed the team that they are tired of many research exercises done without any benefits to community.
- ? ? High expectations: The local council (LC Is) had high expectations on higher allowance payments for their participation i.e. mobilization of the community. This affected the PPA II exercise for about one week.
- ? ? However, the team sought and had special meetings with the men and explained in details the aims and objectives of the PPA II exercise. This enabled the men to understand and respond by the end of the exercise.
- ? ? The team also planned and followed women / men and youth wherever they were involved in their businesses and leisure respectively, and conducted exercises with them. But most of the limitations stemmed from the perception that the team and Government have taken long to attend to biting poverty of the community.

## CHAPTER THREE POVERTY PERCEPTIONS AND POVERTY DYNAMIC

### 3.0 Introduction:

This chapter deepens our understanding of poverty among the poor in Koboko Town council. It follows peoples' perceptions on poverty, challenges why people are poor, processes that enable some people to move out / or stay in poverty and understanding trend of poverty in the study area.

### 3.1 What is Poverty?

Discussing the deep scourge of poverty in Koboko Town Council, poverty is widely perceived by community as "deficit relative to need for human survival". These needs are both material and immaterial needs that must be fulfilled.

Different categories of people defined poverty as:

- ?? ***"Poverty is a state of inadequacy or lack of resources to acquire basic need of life such as land, medical care, food, housing, income, clothing, animals, education and clean water"*** (Refugee youth).
- ?? ***"Poverty is a state of having nothing and being helpless. A person who cannot do anything over her situation / need"***. (Adolescent Girl - FGD).
- ?? ***"Poverty is a state of powerlessness, helplessness and defenseless during war affecting ability to function or do something"*** (KII - District)
- ?? ***"Poverty is ignorance of not knowing the past, present and future. It is associated with lack of capacity to think, plan and finance"***  
(Koboko Town Council -KII)

#### Analysis

As from the issues coming out of the voices in definitions, equity is taken to mean "access to resources and opportunities". Persons or groups whose equity is compromised in any way become vulnerable to aspects of their equity of life span which are endangered.  
Some communities are more vulnerable to poverty than others.

### 3.2 The Causes of Poverty

This section is an overview of the major causes of poverty, which were identified by the people of Gbukutu sub-ward in Koboko Town council.

The community is aware of the close relationship between impact of the self-settled refugees, internally displaced persons, other foreigners on the host community resources and social services, which is causing poverty to the people of Gbukutu.

Using problem tree, focus and community discussions, the participants discussed the factors that cause poverty in Gbukutu-Koboko town council. They identified and categorized causes of poverty into major groups and analyzed them further under: economic, social and political factors. The 11 major groups causes of poverty were categorized into include:

Economic factors

Lack of resources

- ?? Constraints to means of livelihoods
- ?? Inadequate services

- ?? Lack of knowledge and skills
- ?? Unemployment
- ?? High taxes and too many taxes
- ?? Low incomes
- Social and cultural factors
  - ?? Increased population
  - ?? Lack of justice and
  - ?? Unequal opportunities
  - ?? Illiteracy
  - ?? Bad cultural practices
  - ?? Social ills
  - ?? Lack of support/assistance from external
- Political factors
  - ?? Insecurity

### **3.2.1 Economic factors**

The economic factors that cause poverty include:

#### **3.2.1.1 Lack of resources**

Lack of resources such as land and adequate income has caused poverty for individuals and households both nationals and self-settled refugees. These factors of poverty were expressed by the men and hardly by women and youth.

#### **3.2.1.2 Constraints to means of livelihoods**

The factors that cause poverty and fall under constraints to means of livelihoods include: lack of income and land for individuals, households and the community. URA staff control of cross-border trade, smuggling and confiscating goods was responsible for causing poverty. Other factors that cause poverty include: lack of markets and high competitions, low prices for agricultural products, inability to tame the environment and misuse of resources.

#### **3.2.1.3 High and too many taxes**

High and too many taxes were considered to be one of the major causes of poverty by the community. The local council, private contractors managing public utilities such as markets, parks etc, the town council and district authorities and the central government through the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) all levied various types of taxes on one business man/woman. This affected the major livelihood of the community – trade where profits are reduced and other people are driven out of the only livelihood – trade.

#### **3.2.1.4 Low incomes**

Low households income was one of the causes of poverty according to the community members. This was due to limited asset base and livelihoods for the community. The poor households lack adequate income to meet their basic needs: food supply, safe water, health and education services. This has resulted into poor health and malnutrition especially among children.

#### **3.2.1.5 Unemployment**

The communities consider un-employment to be one of the causes of poverty. People that qualify for formal employment did not have the job opportunities and therefore lack adequate

incomes. The communities complained that the private sectors prefer to employ their relatives even though they are illiterate. The private firms and NGOs come along with their own staff instead of recruiting locally. An example was given of Mugoya Constructions Limited, a private Kenyan firm constructing roads in Koboko and West-Nile region which brought along their staff from Kenya .

### **3.2.1.6 Inadequate services**

To the nationals and self-settled refugees communities lack of adequate services such as health and especially lack of drugs for treatment was a cause of poverty. Poor health conditions (sicknesses) and death of individuals and members of the households cause more poverty as it depletes resources and weakens the body to produce effectively. To the refugees lack of transport was one of the causes of poverty.

### **3.2.1.7 Lack of knowledge and skills**

Lack of knowledge and skills in planning has led to poor planning at individual, household and community levels. This has caused poverty at all levels. The community members reported that they lacked knowledge and skills in business which was the main livelihoods means. This has led to low income and sometimes collapse of businesses and consequently poverty.

#### **Analysis**

Most people in community suffer from economic poverty (lack of income, lack of business etc). Lack of savings and investment is perhaps the major economic causes of poverty for the categories of poor.

Because some one is poor s(he) survives by scratching here and there for the next meal or next income. It becomes difficult to support too many children in a family, especially so when poverty has led to inadequate or lack of cash for girl children.

Too many people failed to save in order to invest and reinvest, too many fear or lack the skills to invest in new productive enterprise

Credit and grants are some one else's savings, which have conditions and obligations, which are difficult and must be fulfilled by the poor people. FINCA for example, unless terms of conditions are softened cannot reduce poverty, ENTANDIKWA are believed to be softer loans. But the only genuine source of capital is own personal and corporate savings from surpluses created by production, trade and agricultural production.

There are too many poor people / individuals who are locked into dependency thinking. They expect, the government, aid agencies (UNHCR, WFP, ICRC) and Researcher UPPAP to develop them. Saying bring loans, food, agriculture inputs, supply of water, supply of drugs, schools, electricity, roads etc, people are suffering from Aid induced dependency syndrome.

## **3.2.2 Social and cultural factors**

The social and cultural factors that cause poverty are discussed below:

### **3.2.2.1 Increased population**

Increased population has caused poverty for households and the community. It has led to lack of land and constrained social services such as safe water points, health and education. The population increase was due to influx of refugees, immigrants and population growth. The nationals community was more concerned with this factor as a cause of poverty. (see the details in livelihoods and social services chapters).

Presence of refugees was regarded by nationals as a cause of poverty and a blessing at the same time. The self-settled refugees presence constrained available resources (land, food and services etc) that would have been enough for the local people. But, they are a blessing because their presence has led to establishment of good looking permanent residential and commercial buildings in Koboko town council and business boom. The community benefited from UNHCR , ICRC, ZOA and other institutions support because of the presence of refugees.

#### **Analysis**

Too many poor people lack objective planning, therefore they lack sense of direction to their future. They believe poverty is in born / by birth. Poor planning is closely linked with economic causes of poverty.

The poor also lack skills and knowledge relating to improved methods of production, disease and hygiene, business / investment analysis etc.

### **3.2.2.2 Lack of Justice**

Lack of Justice was a factor causing poverty for in the community. The self-settled refugees were mainly concerned with this factor as a cause of their poverty. Examples of injustice sighted by the self-settled refugees was the lower LCs courts which favoured the nationals more than the self-settled refugees when there was conflict at safe water sources among the women.

### **3.2.2.3 Illiteracy**

The communities (nationals and self-settled refugees) identified and analysed illiteracy as a cause of poverty. Illiteracy has caused many problems at individual, household and community levels. For example, it has led to poor planning, unemployment and some illiterate people do not value education, hence do not send and support their children in schools.

#### **Analysis**

Because majority of people generally lack skill and engage in daring enterprise, this causes poverty. The poor widows and youth (boys and girls) do not have skills of maximizing benefits and improving business. Very few understand the connection between savings and investment. Too many people are afraid and lack skills to invest in new productive enterprises.

### **3.2.2.4 Social ills**

The social ills causing poverty include: neglect and lack of commitment to work (laziness), and disunity at household levels. Some of the community members have less commitment to work and engage in unproductive activities such as drinking and being idle. Disunity in the households among the household's members causes poverty in that it affects production of the individuals and households.

### **3.2.2.5 Lack of support/assistance from external**

Lack of support to groups' initiatives and assistance of food to self-settled refugees have caused poverty. The nationals' community was concerned more of lack of support to groups. Meanwhile, the self-settled refugees women were more concerned about lack of food assistance.

### 3.2.2.6 Unequal opportunities

Unequal opportunities for women and girls in the community were one of the factors causing poverty. The women in the households culturally did not have ownership and control over resources and other assets. The girl child was segregated against by male heads of households when giving priority in paying school fees or supporting the children. The school fees of a boy child were paid first and then of the girl child later.

### 3.2.2.7 Bad cultural practices

The factors that caused poverty under bad cultural practices include: having large families and many illegitimate children and lack of support to girl child from parents. The culture of extended family depleted households resources and caused poverty. Forcing girl child into early marriages by parents and misuse of resources are also some factors causing poverty in the households and community.

Lack of ownership and control over assets by women and girls was another causing poverty. An example of negative aspects of the local culture was illustrated by the community member in a voice below

#### **Case study**

“My husband died in January 1983 of diabetes. We had ten children (4 girls and 6 boys), but four of the children died. After the burial of my late husband, I was ordered by his relatives to bring everything in our houses before them including a sewing machine, clothes, utensils, bedding, farm tools to mention a few. Everything was collected; I was left with barely nothing to look after the orphans. When the two girls got married, my brother in-laws went and collected the dowry and did not give me any thing” **(Widow, Koboko Town Council)**.

#### **CASE STUDY:**

##### *Bad Culture makes one poorer:*

A story narrated by Dusman Lingo-a widow,

“ My husband died in January 1983 of diabetes after being sick for 2 weeks in the sickbed. We had 10 children with him, 4 girls and 6 boys,. Two children died in his lifetime, and 2 died after him.

After the burial of my late husband, I was ordered by his relatives to bring everything in our houses before them including a sewing machine, clothes, utensils, beddings and farm tools, to mention a few. Everything was collected; I was left with the 8 children to suffer without food.

I started making mats to be sold for food. Because of poor health I lost two children. The friends of my late husband saw the misery of the children, took three children with them and yet I have brother in-laws.

When the two girls got married, my brother in-laws went and collected the dowry not giving any single thing to me. I am now left with three children one boy who dropped out of school in S.2 and 2 girls. The eldest child who died in 1998 left 4 children with me .The wife was also sent away. Meaning I am now caring for seven children by selling mats and charcoal

According to Kakwa culture when a man dies, the relatives collect every thing and the wife is left with the children or sent away with the children, but the children still belong to them. The information was from 13 widows and confirmed by the elders and the town agent (Parish Chief).

#### **Analysis:**

Ethnic conflict would underrate inter and intra ethnic cooperation which takes place within different ethnic groups. Intermarriages have taken place between the Kakwa and Lugbara and Kakwa of Sudan, Congo and Uganda. For example Fatuma Caroline a refugee, is married to Ugandan

Ethnic wars were fought long time ago, what exists is the resource struggle for daily livelihood. The prolonged civil wars, which devastated Uganda during the past two decades was not the work of ethnic groups or their bonafide leaders, but it is engineered and perpetuated by greedy, self-appointed politico-militant (leaders) craving for authority and power.

What is seen in the study is relational since Kakwa organization is based upon a segmentary patrilineal system. The system confers upon them a high status of just being a man and head of household. The men have to maintain this prestige. In spite of the economic hardship they may face, it is at expense of their women generally including daughters, female relatives and in specific their wives and widows.

This was clearly expressed by girls, that usually the boys are preferred as they are clan makers.

### **3.2.3 Political factors**

The main political factor identified by community as a major cause of poverty was insecurity.

#### **3.2.3.1 Security**

The forms of insecurity experienced by the community members in the area include: international wars, insurgency within the country, robbery and theft and domestic violence at household level. It was found that insecurity affected the people at individual, household and community levels. Much of insecurity is already discussed in chapter six (Governance), section 6.2

### **3.3 Social Mobility:**

#### **3.4**

The community members discussed social mobility down-ward the categories of well-being. The reasons for falling down the Well-being ladder from rich to poverty include:

#### **3.3.1 Death:**

The community members gave an example of a household that depended solely on the family male head and when he died the family descended into poverty. The various civil wars in Koboko, Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo led to deaths of some heads of families and spouses in the community. The households in addition lost property and other assets such as livestock and money.

#### **3.3.2 Insecurity**

Civil wars have led to people to lose everything they had and became poor from rich. Insecurity in terms of robbery and theft also led to some people to become poorer from rich.

#### **3.3.3 Marrying many wives:**

Lead to someone to become poor. One male community member confessed that he became poor when he married four wives and produced twelve children. The testimonies of the local people on how they fell down-wards from rich to poor in the social mobility:

**Case Study**

"Now, I am poor than I was before the wars. In 1979 I ran into exile into Sudan. Then war broke out in Sudan and I lost some of my assets. I ran into Zaire (the present DRC) again war broke out and the Mobutu soldiers fleeing from the war and the Uganda rebels WNBF based in DRC and Sudan looted all the assets I possessed". " While in exile , I started coffee business, I made much profits and became well-off and lived an easy life. I married four wives and produced twelve children (4 girls and 8 boys). But now, I am poorer than I was". **(Male Household head, Household Interview )**

**Case Study**

During the war when we fled into exile in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) my father had resources (vehicles, money, animals etc). The major source of these resources was back home at the border trading center Oraba where my father had a shop. But after a short while, we used these resources and they got finished while still in exile. We became poor because the source of the livelihood was left behind at home in Uganda." **(Male Household Head , Household Interview)**

The reasons for up-ward social mobility of community members up-ward the ladder from poverty to rich include:

**3.3.4 Employment opportunity:**

Among the refugees there were people who were poor but managed to climb up the ladder to become rich after getting employment with good salaries with the local government, NGOs and private firms.

**3.3.5 Engaging in businesses and petty trade.**

Engaging in gainful employment has made some people in the community to become rich or climbed up-wards from poverty. Some members of SAWA, a refugees women local organization, revealed that they have moved away from poverty to up-ward well-being ladder by engaging in petty trade.

Testimonies of the local people on their up-ward social mobility from poverty to rich:

***"Between 1976 to 1979 war periods, I was engaged in fish mongering business. I moved from buying small volume of fish to vehicle load. This led to increased profits and my movement away from poverty"*** (Man, Gbukutu, Koboko TC)

It was evident that, the self-settled refugees major reasons for down-ward social mobility from rich to poverty was civil wars where many people lost everything they had in life. Meanwhile, the nationals' main reasons was death of the head of a household and insecurity whereby the wealth of a rich person is robbed, stolen or destroyed. There are many examples of down-ward social mobility than up-ward movement because the well-off people in Koboko town council were mainly immigrants that the local people did not know what they did to become rich.

### A Case: Social mobility from rich to poor

Mr. Idi Lemeru is a household head who was in exile in Congo since 1979. " Before he went to exile he had been a fish monger from 1976 up to 1979. His net profit per day was 1,000= . He used to purchase fish from Rhino camp by hiring a pick up vehicle packing it full alone. This 1,000 per day profit was a lot of money during Amin's Government. He did this business at a young age .

In 1979, Amin's government was overthrown, and in 1982 everyone in Koboko was forced into exile. While in exile he started coffee business, his purchases and overhead expenses added up to 75,000 Ushs. During this time he married 4 wives with 12 children (four girls and 8 boys). I lived easy life in exile due to good income source.

Now I am poor compared to the earlier conditions of living, the main root cause to my poverty.... war broke both in Sudan and Congo where in Congo. Mobutu was overthrown from his government. Rebels of West Nile Bank Front (WNBF) looted all my assets, when they made their base in former Zaire now Congo. Others were looted by the remnants of Mobutu soldiers when he was overthrown" .Idi Lemeru

### 3.4 Categories of Poor:

There are some groups of persons within the community who are more vulnerable to poverty than other. However, during the discussion with both refugees and nationals' community members each considered the following categories of the poor according to their well-being / to their asset base.

*Table 3.1: - Well being ranking*

Category	Persons	Criteria
The Rich (Kworonit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// Business men and women</li> <li>/// Professionals, Doctors, teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// Have money about Ushs 1 million and above</li> <li>/// Have about 50 heads of cattle and above.</li> <li>/// Have about 100 goats and above</li> <li>/// Has Bicycle or car</li> <li>/// Is employed and earns salary.</li> </ul>
The poor Lemeru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// Majority of men and women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// Have something to eat</li> <li>/// Have some money 1,000 to 50,000= earned seasonally and by chance</li> <li>/// Live from hand to mouth.</li> </ul>
Fairly Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// Children, Elderly</li> <li>/// Youth (School)</li> <li>/// Dependants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// People who are dependants</li> <li>/// Have nothing but live with relatives and friends.</li> </ul>
Very poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// Orphans</li> <li>/// Widows</li> <li>/// Elderly</li> <li>/// Widower</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/// Sell their labour on daily basis to survive</li> <li>/// People whose conditions are worse off than even the dependants.</li> </ul>

The Rich (Koreini)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progressive traders and farmers (men and women) who are immigrants.</li> <li>Members of community are not in category</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People with over 20 heads of cattle</li> <li>Over 15 goats</li> <li>Over 30 chicken</li> <li>Over 5 million shillings</li> <li>Permanent house</li> <li>Eats very well</li> <li>Good houses for rent</li> <li>Dresses very well</li> <li>Vehicle / or motorcycle / bicycle</li> <li>Have shops to operate business</li> </ul>
Fairly rich (Alu bunga)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some of them are among this group.</li> <li>IDP e.g. Mr. Damai</li> <li>Land Lords</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Able to take tea every morning</li> <li>Able to take lunch and supper</li> <li>Has over 10 goats</li> <li>Has land for cultivation</li> <li>Over 2 heads of cattle</li> <li>Have sugar cane</li> <li>Garden of bananas</li> <li>Tobacco</li> </ul>
Fairly Poor (Alemeri Toru)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land Lords</li> <li>Elderly men</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have land for renting</li> <li>Sell land</li> <li>Have crops fields</li> <li>Have lunch and supper</li> <li>Dresses well</li> </ul>
The poorest (Alemeri dho dho)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widows</li> <li>Orphans</li> <li>Street kids</li> <li>People with Disabilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have no income</li> <li>Stay with relatives</li> <li>Feed once (no lunch or supper) .</li> <li>But feeds by chance.</li> <li>Live from hand to mouth</li> <li>Sell their labour.</li> </ul>

### 3.5 Effects of Poverty

#### 3.5.1 For Nationals

- To the community of Gbukutu poverty manifests itself in very many ways. Poverty is seen in type of dressing (in rags), housing, type of food being eaten, health of a person and asset base of an individual or households (in numbers or size)
- To District, some one is poor when she or he survives and supports the family by scratching here and there for the next meal or next income to meet school fees.
- Some other people in the community thought because they are poor they are unable to cope with life. Other are traumatized and debilitated by the experience, affecting their ability to function in their daily life as narrated

***“ I am 16 years Old. I became lame when I was 14 years due to sickness. I used to look for my own money for my own basic needs. Now I feel helpless over my situation which has made me poorer than when I was at school”***

(Adolescent with Disability – FGD).

- The effect of poverty has been mentioned by female youth (the adolescence), the lack of support is causing anxiety leading to lack of concentration in class due to critical times when they experience biological stress (menstruation). This may propel them to be out of class for 3 to 5 days and stay mainly in the dormitory to overcome this stress. They therefore do not catch up in class and later be blamed to be slow learners.

- ✍ To most of the households, struggling with food deprivation has led people to resorting to eating once a day while children are given very light items such as potatoes or fresh cassava for lunch. As a result there is high malnutrition among children.
- ✍ It is worst observed in Female headed household. As a result of the above happening, child malnutrition was reported prevalent (Health Center October 2001).
- ✍ Since food access is a problem in some homes, food is controlled so strictly by men, “a thing, which has never happened in the past. Because “men buy from the market themselves, poverty has come to stay”, commented women in the community. In spite of all that is happening, one will always keep hoping from source of remittance and when it is not forthcoming, one falls back more in poverty

### **3.5.2 For Refugees**

- ✍ To the refugee men and women, generally lack of means of economic activities is the main cause of poverty. There is lack of land to adequately cultivate food for them. That unemployment and illiteracy are strongly associated with income, which are cross cutting issues to nationals and refugees. There are very many people who have low income due to lack of unemployment /job opportunities.
- ✍ Daily conflicts over clean water sources especially during dry seasons are mentioned as indicators of poverty. This conflict ends up with women at local courts where fees are charged expensively to increase the degree of poverty in the households.
- ✍ Accordingly, the effect of poverty is seen as congested grassed thatched wattle and mud huts, that are vulnerable to dry season house fires. As a result, household and individual properties are lost. One has no assistance received during such community shocks.
- ✍ Sickness and ill health and deaths of the individual household are poverty indicators and shocks that have been mentioned by both refugees and nationals. Widows suffer in the face of bad culture

### 3.6. Summary of Poverty Indicators

Table 3.2: - Poverty indicators in Gbukutu

Women	Men	Youths	Town Council	District
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Starvation, malnutrition in children and adults</li> <li>☞ Hunger in the home</li> <li>☞ Children staying at home</li> <li>☞ Orphans</li> <li>☞ Scramble over land</li> <li>☞ Disease outbreaks</li> <li>☞ Inability to pay fees</li> <li>☞ Low income</li> <li>☞ Poor Health (ill health)</li> <li>☞ Shortage of food supply</li> <li>☞ Unwanted pregnancies</li> <li>☞ Abortion</li> <li>☞ Collapse of business</li> <li>☞ No capital</li> <li>☞ No income</li> <li>☞ Drinking dirty water</li> <li>☞ Water point dry up</li> <li>☞ HIV /AIDS due to prostitution</li> <li>☞ Too many children to care for</li> <li>☞ children falling sick</li> <li>☞ Death due to malaria</li> <li>☞ Early marriages</li> <li>☞ High population</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Land shortage due to over population</li> <li>☞ Collapsed business</li> <li>☞ Lack management skills.</li> <li>☞ Hunger/ starvation</li> <li>☞ Shortage of food</li> <li>☞ Unmet budgets due to lack of income</li> <li>☞ Using dirty water</li> <li>☞ Rampant diseases</li> <li>☞ Idleness</li> <li>☞ Not enlightened</li> <li>☞ Illiteracy</li> <li>☞ Women &amp; children suffering</li> <li>☞ Orphans</li> <li>☞ Domestic violence</li> <li>☞ Extra Marital affairs</li> <li>☞ Poverty</li> <li>☞ Lack of faith</li> <li>☞ High levels of theft and robbery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ No money</li> <li>☞ Idleness</li> <li>☞ High level of illiteracy</li> <li>☞ Sectarianism</li> <li>☞ Theft and robbery</li> <li>☞ Corruption</li> <li>☞ Running away from taxes</li> <li>☞ Poor standard of living</li> <li>☞ Persistent sickness</li> <li>☞ Imprisonment of many youths.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Low income</li> <li>☞ Poor Sanitation</li> <li>☞ Rampant disease</li> <li>☞ Contaminated water</li> <li>☞ Negative attitudes</li> <li>☞ Hard to mobilize</li> <li>☞ Few clean water points</li> <li>☞ Ignorance</li> <li>☞ Inadequate school facilities</li> <li>☞ Increasing HIV / AIDS</li> <li>☞ Lack support to health facilities</li> <li>☞ Inadequate drug supply</li> <li>☞ Incapable lower LCs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ High population of refugees</li> <li>☞ Not enlightened</li> <li>☞ Low income</li> <li>☞ Reduced revenue</li> <li>☞ Drop out girls</li> <li>☞ Early marriages</li> <li>☞ Early pregnancies due to early sex</li> <li>☞ HIV / AIDS</li> <li>☞ Cheating of the local poor people.</li> </ul>

Table 3.3 : - Household well-being Indicators by communities (Nationals and Self-settled Refugees)

	Materials	Non-materials
Nationals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>?? Having livestock (cattle, goats, chickens etc)</li> <li>?? Having money.</li> <li>?? Having a house for the renting.</li> <li>?? Having land</li> <li>?? Having land for selling.</li> <li>?? Having gardens with crops such as cassava, bananas and sugarcane.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>?? Being able to have all meals required in a day (B/fast, lunch and supper).</li> <li>?? Having a business.</li> <li>?? Owning land i.e being a land lord.</li> <li>?? Having income source</li> </ul>
Self-settled refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>?? Having money.</li> <li>?? Having livestock (cows, goats etc)</li> <li>?? Having bicycle(s).</li> <li>?? Having vehicle(s) sometimes.</li> <li>?? Having assets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>?? Having employment.</li> <li>?? Earning salaries.</li> <li>?? Not living from hand to mouth.</li> <li>?? Not dependent on other people for living.</li> <li>?? Not selling own labour to survive.</li> </ul>

Many community women suffer from widowhood, when husband / a breadwinner dies especially when children are young, misery is experienced. This happens especially when

they are deprived of all household properties including land. After the loss they are subjected to poverty

***“ My husband died, I came to my brother, they have also died, I am left with seven children (Orphans) I am in misery my state of widowhood is my poverty”*** (Widow –Focus Group Discussion)

#### **A Case of a Widow**

“My husband died some 10 years ago. All my children died except one boy (who is sick) whom I am staying with. You can see for yourself. I have no clothes. I put on rags. I have asthma and yet I have to sell water in order to buy food for our survival.

#### **Analysis**

Indicators of Poverty are seen as poor health services, expressed poor nutrition/shortage of food, lack of capital and asset base, poor service delivery and increasing population (natural as well as influx of population).

They are unaware of the options and opportunities for improvement. The poor are unaware of their rights and responsibilities especially to demand for accountability of their taxation, and thus creating a room for the myriad forms of poor governance, corruption and plundering of public funds (As seen in chapters 5 & 6)

The poor lack awareness of social and economic costs and consequences of their own misdirected priorities (attitude change, bad behavior towards prostitution, insurgency, negativity towards meetings, workshops etc.)

If Government is to assist in reducing poverty, it has to come up with programs to address the above indicators

### **3.7 Poverty Trends:**

#### **3.7.1 Seasonality and Poverty Shock:**

Disease incidences are experienced in Koboko Town Council, for example cough, eye disease, malaria etc, are associated with dry season. It also happens that in dry months of January, February and May there are shortages of food supply (due to low productivity and production, and unreliable weather conditions). This has resulted into famine (starvation) and seasonal hunger which in turn weakens the body and increased sickness (mortality) for people. High death rates in households and shocks of poverty

Water borne disease incidences / epidemic is experienced in Koboko Town council, e.g. Typhoid fever, intestinal worms, cholera, and malaria affect people both in dry season, where low yields of clean water sources is experienced and many poor households who cannot afford the 500/= Ush. water user, fee drink dirty unprotected water. During rainy season, the clean water sources are contaminated and this problem is most experienced in the months of April, July, to November.

Heavy rainfall season affect food supply negatively. Especially in the periods of July to November which result in hailstorms, water logging, high incidences of crop diseases and pests. There is food shortage in the homes as most second season crops are still in the garden / fields.

### **3.7.2 Changes in Poverty Dimension for Nationals 1970 – 2001:**

- ~~///~~ Insecurity, malaria, drought, shortage of clean water sources has been increasing since 1980s in Koboko Town council.
  - ~~///~~ Food shortages have been decreasing since 1980s due to food supply from far distant areas fore example, district of Mbale, Kampala etc.
  - ~~///~~ Lack of drugs has been experienced at constant magnitude since 1980s.
  - ~~///~~ Over population has been experience since the second half of 1980s, but the bad situation remained the same since 1990 to present due to influx of refugees and natural increase in population and more people have been attracted to Koboko for business and Sudan war.
  - ~~///~~ Unemployment situation was worst in 1980s, the time most people return from exile. The problem decreased in early 1990s but later started increasing up to now in 2001.
- In conclusion, it can be said that poverty has been increasing for the nationals since 1985. There has been increasing population due to refugee influx, and internally displaced persons who have refused to go back. There are settlement of people from other parts of the counties of the districts country, and other nationals (Kenya, and DRC) and rural urban migration of people has resulted into constraining on the available resources and social services rendered to Koboko Town Council.

### **3.7.3 Changes in Poverty dimension for Refugees 1990 - 2001:**

The refugees started moving to Arua District from 1990

- ~~///~~ Water shortages, high cost and low education and insufficient health services have been increasing since 1990 till now.
- ~~///~~ Insecurity was greatest in the second half of 1990, but began to reduce by the end of the decade until now.
- ~~///~~ Unemployment situation was worse in the beginning of 1990, when most of the refugees arrived at Koboko and were in the camps but it reduced when local authority allowed them to access employment opportunity and trade in the second half of 1990s.
- ~~///~~ Shortage of land has been constant since refugees fled into Uganda from Sudan in early 1990.

In conclusion the poverty dimensions (shortage of clean water sources, high and unaffordable costs of education, insufficient health services) have been increasing since 1990 when refugees entered into Uganda till the present time.

Unemployment situation was worst when the refugees entered Uganda and were in the camps, but by the second half of 1990 the situation improved, whereby many refugees got job opportunities with institutions and others self employed (business).

Problem of shortage of land has been constant since refugees entered Uganda till now. Therefore considering the above priority problem for the refugees, poverty has been increasing since 1990 when they came into Uganda due to the wars. It is only security that has improved since the came Koboko Town Council.

## **3.8 Community Priority problems**

The different categories of people in the community (men, women, youth boys and girls) and the different communities (nationals and self-settled refugees) raised their concerns and problems as shown in the Table 3.4 and Table 3.5 as indicated below:

*Table 3.4: - Priority problems of women and youth (nationals)*

Women	Youth	
	Boys	Girls
?? Insecurity.	?? URA control of cross-border trade and URA staff corruption.	?? Lack of school fees and scholastic materials.
?? Malaria incidences.	?? Unemployment.	?? Lack of good clothing, sanitary pads, toilettes, and body oil).
?? Unemployment.	?? Insecurity.	?? Lack of good diet foods.
?? Lack of clean water sources.	?? Disease incidences(e.g typhoid).	?? Lack of income.
?? Poor health services(e.g lack of drugs, inadequate facilities).	?? Heavy taxation (e.g various types on one person, high market dues).	?? Inadequate support from fathers and guardians.
?? Expensive and unaffordable health services especially child delivery).	?? Poor health services (e.g inadequate drugs supply and facilities, harassment of patients by staff, congestion-long waiting time).	?? Inadequate clean water sources and expensive safe water.
?? Expensive and unaffordable education cost.	?? Lack of safe water sources.	?? No drugs in health centre.
?? Drought.		?? Bad roads.
?? Overpopulation.		
?? Seasonal petty business and profits.		
?? Unemployment for youth.		

Source: - Field Work

*Table 3.5 : - Priority problems by men, women and youth boys (Self-settled refugees)*

Men	Women	Youth boys
?? Lack of land for cultivation	?? Expensive children education.	?? Unaffordable education.
?? Lack of food supply	?? Lack of education for girl child and women.	?? Lack of training programs (e.g credit).
?? Inadequate health services	?? Early marriages of girl child.	?? Unemployment.
?? Expensive and lack of school fees	?? Insecurity	?? Poor health services.
?? Shortage of clean water sources	?? Lack of adequate health services e.g lack of drugs.	?? Lack of external support for groups.
	?? Expensive drugs in private clinics.	
	?? Inadequate maternity services.	
	?? Lack of income (e.g to pay house rent).	
	?? Inadequate safe water sources.	
	?? Poor relationship between men and women in the households.	

Source: - Field Work

***Summary Priority problems for the community***

Summary Priority problems for the community are: Insecurity / insurgencies, Many mosquitoes and Malaria incidences, Unemployment, Shortage of clean water, Poor health services and lack of drugs, Drought, Food shortage and Population pressure (increased population).

### 3.9 Concerns of the community

The community members were concerned of the followings:

- ?? The absence of electricity and water supply in Koboko Town council which used to serve the community and provided employment opportunities for people in small scale cottage industry during the rule of former President Amin in 1970's.
- ?? The absence of adequate help rendered to the self-settled refugees and the local community by the government, UN agencies and NGOs when the available resources and services are constrained by increased population.
- ?? Absence of adequate support in the decentralization process to the communities that suffered long period of insecurity by the central government.
- ?? Continued insecurity in form of robbery and theft that was a threat to livelihoods (e.g. trade), property and lives. It has caused psychological fear among the community.

### 3.9 Trends in poverty

In poverty trends, the community considered seasonal changes of poverty (seasonal shocks) experienced in the short term and how the poverty situation changed over time (the long-term trends in poverty). These seasonal and long term trends of poverty varied from individual to individuals and household to households.

#### 3.9.1 Seasonally of poverty (seasonal shocks)

Table 3.6 and 3.7 give visuals of seasonal shocks of poverty for both Nationals and Self-settled Refugees.

The seasonal shocks or seasonal poverty for individuals, households and community are low in some months and high in others. For example, the community members experienced peak of poverty in the months of November, December, January, February and March in the dry season when safe water is scarce and prices of safe water has risen high. In this period, poor women and girls experienced peak of poverty when they traveled long distances to search for clean water.

Seasonal poverty was high in the months of April and July to November during rain season. This was the time people suffered from sicknesses mainly water borne diseases (typhoid fever, cholera and intestinal worms, cholera) and malaria. Due to inadequate drugs supply, the poor people suffered from these sicknesses without treatment.

Seasonal poverty was at the peak because the Income levels of households are at the lowest in this period due to low level of businesses. The poor people are not able to afford basic needs: drugs in private clinics, food, education etc.

Seasonal poverty was high in these same months because food supply was at the lowest because of heavy rain. This period households lack adequate food and children are malnourished. Food becomes expensive when there is no money. The seasonal trends of poverty (the seasonal shocks) in the community is illustrated in the matrices below:

Table 3.6: - Seasonal calendar by community of Gbukutu, Koboko TC

<b>Income</b>	000 000 000 0	000 000 00	000 000 000 0	000	000 000	0	00	000 0	000 000 0	000 000 0	000 000 0	000 000 0
<b>Food Availability</b>		000 00	000	000 0	000 00	000 000 000	000 000	00	00	000	000 000 00	00
<b>Disease incidences</b>	000 000 000	000 000 00	000 00	000 000 000 0	000	000 000 0	000	000 000 00	00	000	000 000 000 0	000 000 000 0
<b>Safe water availability</b>	000 000 00	000 000	000 0	000 0	000	000 000	000	00	00	0	000 00	000 000 0
<b>Rainfall</b>	-	--	000 0	000 00	000	000 00	000 000 00 000 0	000 000 000 000 0	000 000	000 000	000 000	0
	J	F	M	A	MA	J	JU	A	S	O	O	D
<b>Source :</b> 19 women. <b>Date :</b> 14/11/2001. <b>Location:</b> Gbukutu, Koboko TC. <b>PRA Team :</b> Aluma Micheal, Caroline Arubako and Jeff Mungu												

### Analysis

Long term trends in poverty can be analyzed from and before the 1979 war that ousted Amin from Government, there was no much poverty in Gbukutu-Koboko town council according to the community. There was electricity power, employment opportunities, water supply, drugs supply and adequate food supply for the households. But, after that the 1979 war till to date poverty situation has been increasing and worsening. For nationals and self-settled refugees communities, insecurity was the factor in poverty trends and it was closely related to increased population and constraints on resources and services (land, food supply, safe water, health, education etc).

Table 3.7 : - Time trend analysis matrix scoring diagram: By national community.

Years	Insecurity	Malaria	Unemployment	Lack of Safe water	Lack of Drugs	Drought	Shortage of Food	Overpopulation
<b>1970-74</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>1975-79</b>	000000000000 0000000000	Exile	Exile	Exile	Exile	Exile	Exile	Exile
<b>1980-84</b>	0000	0000000000 0	0000000 0000000 000000	Exile	Exile	Exile	Exile	Exile
<b>1985-89</b>	000	0000	0000000 0000000 000000	00	00000 00000 00000	000	000000000 000000000 00	000000000 000000000 00
<b>1990-94</b>	00	000000000 0	0000000	00000	00000 00000 00000	0000000 0000000 000000	000000000 0000000 000000	000000000 000000000 00
<b>1995-01</b>	0000000000	000000000 000000000 00	0000000 0000000 0	0000000 0000000 0	00000 00000 00000	0000000 0000000 0	000000000 000000000 0	000000000 000000000 00
<b>Source :</b> National participants . 14 women and 16 men <b>Date :</b> 6/11/2001. <b>Location:</b> Gbukutu, Koboko TC. <b>PRA Team :</b> Aluma Micheal, Caroline Arubako and Jeff Mungu								

Source : - Field Work

*Table 3.8: Time trend analysis matrix scoring diagram: -by self-settled refugees community.*

Years	Lack of Safe water	Education Costs	Health care costs	Insecurity	Land shortage	Unemployment
1990-93	0000	0000	000	00	000000000 0	000000000
1994-97	000000	0000000	00000000	0000000000	000000000 0	00000000
1998-01	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000	00000	000000000 0	00000000

**Source : Refugees participants .** 14 women and 16 men **Date :** 6/11/2001. **Location:** Gbukutu, Koboko TC. **PRA Team :** Aluma Micheal, Caroline Arubako and Jeff Mungu

Source : - Field Work

### 3.9.2 Coping Mechanisms during seasonal poverty (seasonal shocks)

The community members survived the periods of shocks by the following coping mechanism:

- ?? In the time scarcity of food supply for the households during wet season or long drought, the adults forfeited certain meals for the children and the sick. The adults had only one meal in a day.
- ?? Households seek help financially and materially from relatives and friends in times of shocks. The poor categories such as some PWDs, widows , orphans beg from other people.
- ?? The poor people sell their labour to earn income to access food, health, safe water, and education services. The poor that could not afford buying drugs from private clinics stayed at home without treatment. The children also drop out of schools or did not go to school when there was no money for school fees.
- ?? The youth engaged in social ills such as robbery, theft and joining rebel activities as coping mechanism for shocks (lack of income etc). The youth girls engage in prostitution for survival.

### 3. 10 Conclusions and Recommendations

The chapter discussed the community's perceptions on poverty and poverty dynamics. Poverty was defined as lack of resources (land, capital, livestock etc), freedom and justice, inability to access basic needs, illiteracy and defenselessness. The community perceptions and descriptions of poverty definitions, poverty indicators, well-being indicators, causes of poverty, effects of poverty and community problems all seemed to be similar with small variations according to different sexes (men and women), age (adults and youths) and communities (nationals and refugees). These means the factors in the dynamics of poverty are related to one another. For example insecurity was identified as the root cause of poverty and at the same times an effect and a community problem. This was no mistake because the communities know their problems better and the problems vary from one group or category to another.

In the case of Gbukutu Koboko town council, the root cause of the poverty was insecurity. The community members identified the root cause of insecurity to be poor international relationships between Uganda and the neighbouring countries that made them to recruit the poor people into rebel activities against one another. The other causes of poverty and reasons for joining the wars by poor people include: limited livelihoods means, unemployment and lack of income to meet the basic needs (food, health care, education etc). Poverty was also caused by lack of resources (land, capital, knowledge and skills etc) and services ( education, health , clean water sources, electricity etc), illiteracy, wastage of resources, poor planning and negative cultures.

### 3.11 Researcher recommendations for poverty reduction

- ✍ Human capacity building is a process in which individuals and households develop self-respect, confidence, tolerance, and determination. They become innovative and enterprising, they develop skills of cooperation. This can be achieved through helping the individuals and households to become aware of costs of misdirected plans and of their opportunities to self-improvement. To develop skills and acquire knowledge to eliminate the dependency thinking; and to learn the skills of cooperation.
- ✍ To help individuals and households, the people need training so as to mobilize and manage the factors of production; especially capital in form of savings and credit and invest these factors in productive activities to increase income, some of which must be reinvested in order to ensure sustainability. Then individual or households poverty reduction can be achieved through development of savings and investment mentality. This can be achieved through development of unity and cooperation.
- ✍ In this way people will come forward to develop their own social services, to pay for taxes, education, health, roads markets etc. To help the people of Bk-2, the community feel they should have participate in decision-making
- ✍ The community should elect strong representatives to assist in development decisions, and ensure accountability is increased, and corruption is eliminated.
- ✍ The community members (both refugees and nationals) recommended Functional Adult Literacy and Family Life Education be programmed to help improve the conditions at the household level and community.
- ✍ To the community, the government and the private sectors should open up more investments for employment opportunities to help people reduce poverty
- ✍ To the district, alternative business avenues for the OPEC youth should be initiated to avoid clash between the youth and URA

The District recognized the problems of the youths. They are concerned with the high rate of drop out from schools. That without vocational training institution will not solve the problem quickly in the district, but alternative ways of income generating activities could be initiated by the leaders at all levels.

Vocational training institute should be open for youth to develop their skills in order to take up self-help projects to reduce poverty.

## CHAPTER FOUR

## CONSTRAINTS ON LIVELIHOOD:

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the livelihood means, indicating the sources of income, expenditure and problems faced at household level by various ethnic groups of different categories of people, refugees, nationals, business immigrants, men, women, youth - both boys and girls.

There are constraints on economic resources caused by the presence of refugees, nationals, and internally displaced persons and business immigrants.

According to the community, livelihood of both refugees and nationals depends mainly on trade and limited subsistence farming to supplement business incomes while others are involved in service delivery. Other sources of livelihood means include employment, sale of labour, remittances, carpentry, food processing, appropriate technology, commissions, prostitution etc. which are all discussed below.

### 4.2 Resources

In the resource and service mapping the community identified natural and man-made resources available in the community and their uses.

In the access, ownership and control of the resources discussions with the community, it was found that women have control over some of the resources. They have control over their own income (money) from petty trade. They participated in the decision making for the use of smaller assets such as chicken in the household. They have control over food items in the households. But, some women argued that some men have control over food they have bought for the family. Women also have full control over their jobs and education.

Women did not have control over assets such as land, livestock (cows, goats etc). Even the assets brought by them to the men's homes are owned and controlled by the men. Household assets are taken away from the widow by the relatives of a man when he dies. The women also have no control over their labour. For example men sometimes refuse for women to get out to work or carry out businesses.

The men have control over household's assets such as land, livestock etc. The youths have control over their time use; but they have access to households resources. (See Appendix III).

In division of labour in the households, women have the least leisure time than men and youth. The youths have the greatest leisure time. (See appendix I).

In the Gender Activity Profile exercise carried out with the community, it was found that women have more work load than men and youths. They undertake productive, reproductive and community work. Men are only involved in productive activities and community work. (See Appendix II).

#### 4.2.1 The natural resources

The natural resources include: land, wetland, trees and quarry.

##### 4.2.1.1 Land

Land was a scarce resource in Gbukutu Koboko town council. Shortage of land was due to influx of IDPs, immigrants and self-settled refugees. Lack of land was identified as a cause and indicator of poverty by the communities. The land size owned by households varies from household to households according to ability to afford or inheritance from father. according to

the community members an average land space per household was the size that can only fit the construction of a grass thatched hut with hardly space for sinking latrine and shelters. On the hand, the commercial and residential plots surveyed size average was (20x30) meters land size per household.

#### 4.2.1.2 Land tenure and acquisition

The common land ownership was a traditional type where land belonged to the traditional land owners. The family land was inherited from fathers by the sons. With the establishment of a town council, leasehold type of land ownership was introduced. These types of land ownership were for land plots allocated for commercial and residential buildings and public facilities (churches, health centers etc.) plots.

But, in the community, land can be acquired by any community member, be it self-settled refugees, immigrants or IDPs, provided that one can afford. Land was acquired through buying, renting and lending. The landlord and the land buyer negotiate the price for buying and renting land and the LCs act as witnesses.

The price of renting small piece of land was about 30,000/= . Meanwhile, the price of a plot of size (30x20) meters in town council costs about 300,000/= . The land lease holder was expected to pay annual ground rent to the local town council authority.

#### 4.2.1.3 Problems associated with land

- ?? Land was a scarce resource and was constrained by increasing population. Land acquired by a household is not big enough to build grass thatched huts for shelter, bathing shelter and sinking a latrine. This has caused poor sanitation.
- ?? Land conflicts are common in the community. For example, the poor households that rented small piece of land temporary (squatters) are required to quit the land as soon as land developers have bought the pieces of land or the landlord was unhappy with the family. They are not compensated for their assets as they quit.
- ?? Land on which community clean water springs source, Teremunga primary school and Ombaci Integrated Refugees school were located was reclaimed by the traditional land owners.
- ?? Some households were displaced without compensation in Gbukutu ward when the health center was extended and the perimeter fenced off.
- ?? The traditional land owners are selling land at faster rate for money and are increasing encroaching on the wetlands.

#### 4.2.1.4 Effects of selling Land

Land conflicts among community members have been reported to the team. A small village in Gbukutu Sub-wards was removed, the tenants were asked by the landlord to leave. There was no way out, they had to leave because they occupied the land temporarily. Though this was legal, it affected the poor, who had to leave without being compensated.

The town council has found it difficult to open urban roads as very many households would be affected and yet it is difficult to raise funds to meet the costs for compensating those affected.

***“ Opening of roads in the Town Council has become a burden as we cannot afford to pay off those affected”*** said the Town Engineer.

No land for crop production except very limited sizes in the valleys used for livelihood survival

#### **4.2.2 Wetland**

The wetland areas are important natural resource to the community because it provided livelihood for some households. The wetland was used for horticulture to earn incomes by some households. Wetland water was fetched by women and girls and sold to building sites in town to earn income.

The major problem in conservation of wetlands was encroachment of people's settlement due to high rate of land sale to earn money.

#### **4.2.3 Man made resources**

The man made resources identified were social services (churches, health center, water springs, prisons, etc), roads, shop and residential buildings and trees planted. The chapter: social services discussed in detail the use and problems of the services. (see appendix for man made resources and their uses to the community, the Resource and Service maps and Service and Opportunity maps)

The trees resources planted were depleted by the population. However, some of the tree resources were conserved because they provided shade for community, served as meeting place and provided fruits for eating. The Wisdom trees in the middle of the town council and mango trees in the centre of Gbukutu were good examples community meeting places.

### **4.3 Livelihood Means**

#### **4.3.1 Trade**

Trade commodities are both manufactured and food produce coming from outside of the Town Council. Sale of labour is both within and outside of the Town Council. Remittances are mainly to refugees from where their relatives and friends are located in Uganda, Sudan, other countries in Africa, Europe and America. Some nationals also do depend on remittances.

There are several carpentry workshops operating within the town council that have employed some youth to earn their living.

Food processing is one of the major activity that has employed women and where child labour is much used particularly groundnut processing.

Appropriate technology is another livelihood means of survival where some households are engaged in manufacture of charcoal stoves, iron boxes, knives etc.

#### ***Commission Agents***

Few youth and adults are engaged in this kind of business, mostly idlers who are mostly school dropouts. They wait to sell items for new business men/women mainly visitors and refugees, and earn commission on what they sell for their livelihood.

#### **4.3.2 Men both nationals and refugees involved in trade.**

Most men are involved in retail trade, with some few dealing in wholesale business involving minimal cross border trade between mainly DRC (Congo) and Sudan. Men said, "We buy from Malaba market in Congo (DRC) clothes to sell in Koboko Town Council".

Primary commodities for groups, refugees and nationals are essential commodities like salt, soap, and other merchandise. Few sell in shops, while the sells in the open market.

Traders with large capital obtain their goods direct from Kampala and sell in Koboko town and others proceed with their goods to Sudan and Congo.

Produce buying is mainly Ground Nuts and sell in Kampala, while Cassava flour which currently had high market due to the recent past long drought is brought from Mbale, Palisa etc.

Achievements by men in trade have been attributed to increase in population by the influx of refugees and internally displaced persons. Due to high demand, there is market for most of the available commodities.

Though population increase has constrains on other social services, it impacted positively on trade. People were able to construct commercial buildings, which has resulted in the expansion of the town, giving it town council status. *“Business is booming in Koboko town as a result of self settled refugees and internally displaced persons,”* said a man.

However, national said “ we are unable to compete in business with foreign businessmen because they have large capital, resulting in throwing some of us out of business” said a butcher.

The implication is that some foreign traders go direct to Kampala to purchase goods meant for Sudan, when reaching Koboko they off load and sell cheaply, as they don't pay taxes on goods on transit, traders alleged.

The other point was raised by butchers that *“Dinkas bring large number of heads of cattle from Sudan and are issued with License to do legal trade in butchering throwing us out of butcher business because we do not have many cattle”* said Chairman Butcher Association. Because of trade and remittance from relatives some refugees have acquired land for settlement and cultivation.

#### **4.3.3 Women both nationals and refugees involvement in petty trade.**

Women in Koboko town are mainly involved in petty business in the market, mainly selling food items like greens, cassava flour, millet, tomatoes, onions etc. They also deal inessential commodities like salt, soap, cooking oil, tea, hotel etc. Women also do minimal cross border trade.

“We take fish to Malaba market in DRC (Congo) for sale and bring and bring back beans, charcoal, clothes etc. Meanwhile, in Koboko town council we are engaged in petty trade in the market with the youth, both boys and girls. The market operates daily with three major market days in the week, Monday, Thursday and Saturday” said a woman. “We cut and sell grass, buy charcoal, firewood, clean water and sell to earn income” said both refugees and national women.

As there is high demand for food items in Koboko, food stocks come from Congo and Sudan. Women in the market buy from farmers and other businesswomen who bring food stocks in the market.

There are other group of women who benefited from Micro-Finance Institution –FINCA. FINCA offers a minimum of 50,000 and maximum of 150,000= in loans. Women benefited in the different amounts according to their income base. Afisa Iddi was loaned 150,000= the maximum credit limit which she is using to purchase fish from Panyimur in Nebbi District and sell in Koboko market–Arua District.

However, the community generally complained that FINCA credit system drains women's income bringing more poverty. They informed the research team that, some women have run away from Koboko to unknown places due to not paying back the loan. A woman who benefited from this credit system had this to say. "FINCA should change its policy of loan repayment from weekly to 2 weeks i.e. two times in a month". Giving the reasons that this will give time to make better profits. That the weekly repayment finds you have not made any profit and you find yourself paying back the loan. Leading to loss of capital and defaulting, and finally, that the credit limit be increased to 250,000= from the current 150,000=.

The community generally concluded that FINCA should provide grace period to its credit scheme due to seasonality of trade commodities. Women have Associations in Koboko Town Council such as, KUWA, SAWA, KPM, (Widows Association) etc. SAWA is for Sudanese Women. Women, in pursuit of improvement in their means of livelihood have formed all these associations.

#### **4.3.4 Livelihood among the Youths:**

The youth, both refugees and nationals, male and female have different livelihood means from that of the adults.

##### ***Female Youth:***

The research team learned from both refugees and national girls that many are involved in selling tea along the streets and disco / video places. During daytime they are in streets while at night they are in video and disco places. This has caused many girls to get involved in prostitution. Other girls go for prostitution as a coping mechanism, this is attributed to visitors and locals.

It was alleged to the team by a youth that "HIV / AIDS" is becoming an epidemic in Koboko town council. Another cause to this has been linked to most parents' lack of money to support girls; especially secondary school girls have priority needs such as school fees, scholastic materials, food, pads, clothing and pocket money.

##### ***Male Youth:***

Youths in Koboko town council are involved in heavy load duties. This could reduce their life span. The cause to this has been lack of employment opportunities. The employers require experience, therefore in the areas where youth lack experience they do not get employment. This has resulted into causing more poverty for the youths.

"Unless our parents who have experience and employed, while others though experienced are not working, all die, then we will have no chance of getting employment. The employers will have no where to get the experienced people" said a youth in Koboko town council. The team has been informed by the youth that most of them spend six hours each day idle.

"Some of us remain at home, sit at roadside, others go for business, while others go looking for manual work but not available at times" a boy (national) said in Koboko town council.

The team also learnt that the youth spend 2 hours mainly in the afternoon for football matches, Volleyball, Netball, playing cards and other games,

Smuggling cross border business:

OPEC business has been identified as major illegal business. The URA confiscates such goods when discovered. The youth who are nationals said, restriction of OPEC is due to government efforts to increase its revenue collection. The youth alleged that in the process of revenue collection they are harassed.

***“Instead of educating the OPEC youth (boys) the government (URA) instead confiscate our goods and harass us, loss of our business items leads to more poverty for us”*** (A youth in Koboko town council – FGD)

During the triangulation discussion with URA, it was noted that Koboko Town Council and the local people are not developing. This was because they mainly engage in business in contraband goods which are sometimes impounded/confiscated by Revenue Enforcement Forces, Police, Special Revenue Protection Services (SRPS) commanded by an Officer under President Office and Revenue Protection Service (RPS) under URA

According to the URA official, the government has authorized that the URA officials should not over charge and restricts cross border trade so that the local border community benefits. The URA reported that it was mainly youths who are interested in making quick money.

The URA advised the local border community to take up legal cross border trade in goods such as agricultural implements (pangas, ploughs, tractors, cycles etc) which has no tax.

#### **4.3.5 Common problems faced by all categories of traders.**

Insecurity makes it difficult to carry out business to earn income to support families. There have been cases reported of theft, robbery, and killings etc that create fear in business operations.

Co-existence with relatives caused pressure on household resources making it difficult for poor households to pay school fees, medical services buy, clean water and meet medical referral cases, sometimes resulting to death.

Seasonality of trade commodities lead to traders moving far for goods, and this temporarily halts the produce buying and selling business. Malaba in Congo traders go for beans, charcoal, clothes. To Keri they go for millet, groundnuts, beans, cassava, pigeon peas etc. To Nyadri in Maracha county they go for onions, beans, tomatoes while nothing is got in Koboko Town Council, unless they buy from farmers who bring their produce direct to the market (see Figure 5.1 page 61).

##### **Analysis**

The livelihood means in Koboko town council has changed from mainly agriculture to trade due to pressure on land by influx of refugees, internally displaced persons and business immigrants. This has prompted traders to move to rural areas that are outside Koboko town council to cultivate crops to a limited extent

#### **4.3.6 Widows and Persons With Disabilities most disadvantaged Groups:**

Widows have rotational savings but with little income while some sell their labour (leja-leja) and sell water to earn a living for their children, where income varies from 500= to 1,000= a day.

As widows have no supported most of their children are of poor health, many die and most are out of school. “ All my children died only one left and I have Asthma and yet I have to sell water to earn a living” said a widow.

##### **Analysis**

Majority of the poor depends on sale of labour for their livelihood. Women use the benefits from their petty trade to contribute a lot to the household survival and specifically widows have not been targeted by any government programmes

#### 4.3.7 Summary of Livelihood Income and expenditure

The Figure 4.1 and Table 4.1 all below present summary of typical households income and expenditure patterns. It shows livelihood means in Gbukutu sub-ward in Koboko Town Council.

**Figure 4.1: - Livelihood sources of income:**

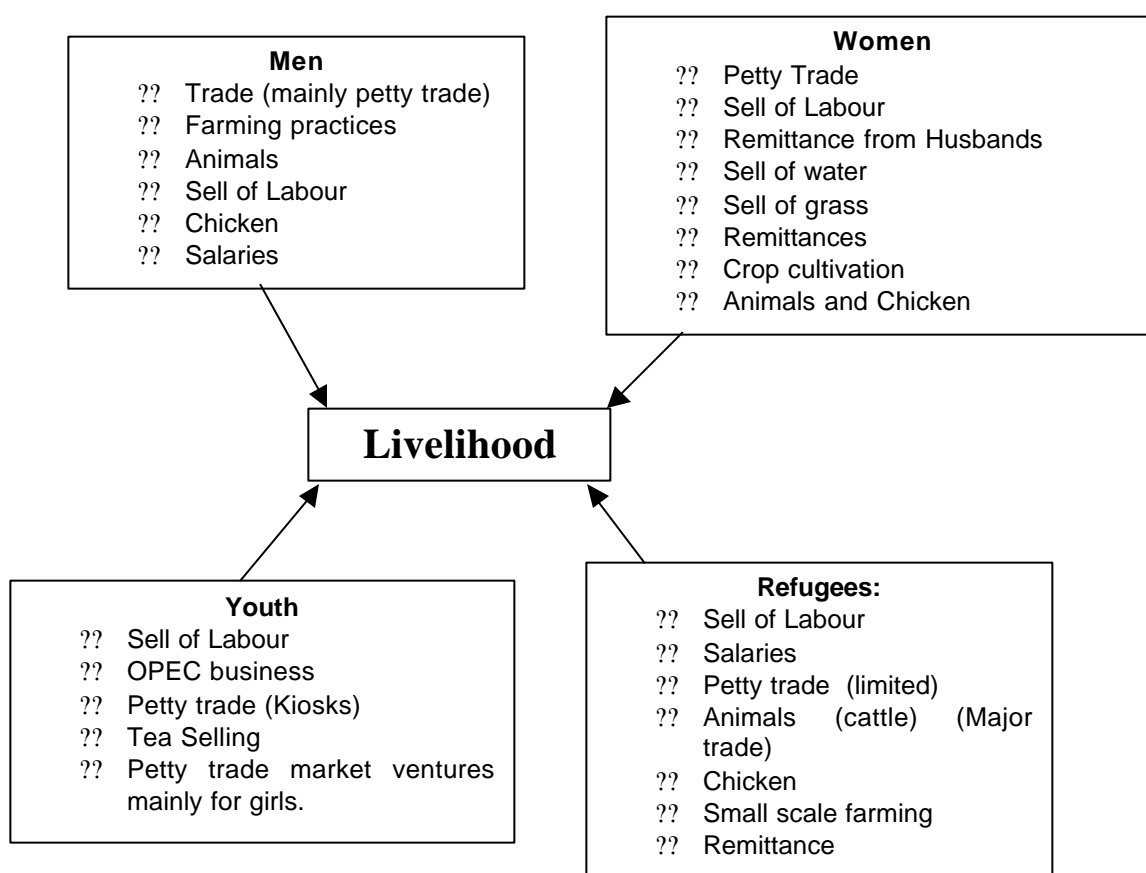


Table 4.1: - Expenditure areas for different categories:

MEN	WOMEN	BOYS	GIRLS
☞ Clothes	☞ Clothes	☞ Clothes	☞ Clothes
☞ Food	☞ Food	☞ Shoes	☞ Scholastic materials
☞ Health	☞ Soap	☞ School fees	☞ Health
☞ Social Life	☞ Charcoal	☞ Soap	☞ School fees
☞ Labour hiring	☞ Sugar	☞ Oil	☞ Soap
☞ Transport	☞ Tea leaves	☞ Paraffin	☞ Oil
☞ Sugar	☞ Health	☞ Books	☞ Pads
☞ Salt	☞ Salt	☞ Video	☞ Pants and Petty
☞ Soap	☞ House Rent	☞ Disco	☞ Shoes
☞ Marriage	☞ Oil	☞ Girl Friends	☞ Paraffin
☞ School fees	☞ Business Investment	☞ Social Life	☞ Food
☞ Housing/ Rent	☞ Pads		☞ Fruits
☞ Dependants	☞ Pants / Petty		☞ Sweets
☞ Body lotion	☞ Utensils		
☞ Investment	☞ Water		
	☞ Transport		
	☞ School Fees		
	☞ Labour hiring		
	☞ Dependants		

**Analysis:**

?? The major livelihood means of nationals are trade and farming while for refugee are sale of labour and employment. Trade is mainly in cattle where almost all the meat eaten in Koboko including other parts of Arua comes from refugees.

?? It has also been found that women contribute a lot to household survival. It is mainly women who feed the family from their petty business e.g. Iddi Lemeru does not buy food except other things. Food comes mainly from the FINCA loan beneficiary women who sell fish.

**4.3.8 Trend on Livelihood Incomes:**

Increased income occur in December, January and March because during this period farmers (tobacco growers are paid their money and there is availability of second season harvest food in the market, coupled with big days like Christmas and Iddi Al Fitir).

In May the people of Koboko Town Council experience increased incomes due to hunger where majorities of the men eat in hotels. (Lugbara – Baba ni nya jebasi) and (Kakwa – Baba nyosu ku jeba) both means “ *Father eats from pocket*”. Heavy rainfall seasons affect food supply negatively. Here crops are destroyed in the field resulting to low harvest, low food supply reducing incomes.

In 1970s there was no problem of unemployment as there was electricity power being generated in Koboko Town Council. This had promoted availability of small-scale industries in the town, which had started creating jobs in the late seventies.

However, the 1979 war to overthrow of Amin's Government destroyed every infrastructure, reducing people's livelihood back to square one.

**Analysis:**

Government should note that idleness and redundancy can induce people to commit atrocities coupled with empty promises made in areas of job creation e.g. electrification of West Nile Region.

**4.3.9 Sale of labour**

Sale of labour is the major income base for those community members not involved in direct trade. Many men, youth, and women sell their labour in areas of:

- ~~///~~ Construction activities
- ~~///~~ Cleaning / clearing
- ~~///~~ Digging latrines
- ~~///~~ Loading and offloading stock of materials.
- ~~///~~ Working in small hotels.

Construction activities – many of them perform piece work (leja –leja)

Some household members clear and cleans around other rich households compound to earn income.

Digging latrines is a means of livelihood for some individuals.

Loading and offloading – mostly youth go to town and wait on roadside to see if they can get such job to do.

Girls mostly sell their labour working in hotels where they are paid on daily basis (i.e. 500= every day after closing business).

**Child Labour**

Child labour was employed by poor households in various activities to earn money to help families cope with poverty. Children were used to shell and grind groundnuts paste and to sell it. They fetch water for sale, cleaned homes for money, work as baby sitters for payment and sell in eating houses/hotels and petty trade items for the families in the market and on the streets. At household levels they perform the same mentioned activities but not for payment. Child labour hindered access to education as they are engaged in work rather than attending schools. Heavy workload affected child healthy growth.

**4.3.10 Copying Mechanism**

The poor categories of people that lacked asset base and physical capital to engage in gainful livelihood such as trade have developed strategies for survival. The poor people's coping mechanisms are discussed as below: -

In the community and focus group discussions and key informant and household interviews it was reported that prostitution was a copying mechanism for livelihoods for women and some girls who target mainly the visitors. According to the refugees, lack of support to some of the self-settled refugee widows and girls are forced into prostitution to earn income so as to support their families.

Due to land shortage, because of increased population, agriculture is practiced outside of the town council. Hence the next section discusses agriculture in detail.

**4.4.0 Agriculture:**

**4.4.1 Horticulture**

In Gbukutu –Koboko town council some households livelihoods depended on horticulture. Horticulture was practised in the wetland areas to earn income. The horticultural crops grown

are: green vegetables, tomatoes, bananas, potatoes, and sugarcane. The wetland areas were fertile and productive but the wetland faced problem of degradation as more of it is reclaimed for settlement.

#### 4.4.2 Far distance agriculture

Far distance agriculture as a livelihoods means some households practiced outside Gbukutu-Koboko town council to survive on. The women mainly traveled long distances into the rural areas to cultivate crops. Some households rented land in the rural areas and in DRC for this activity. The households that practiced far distance agriculture as a livelihoods were mainly IDPs.

#### 4.4.3 Challenges

The Far distance agriculture is faced with some challenges. They are:

- ?? Far distances traveled to undertake the livelihoods; as a result it was the women that are left with more workload than the men and the youths.
- ?? Lack of agricultural inputs such as implements, tools, improved seeds, fertilizers, and cash credit.
- ?? The crops and the livestock are stolen by thieves as the owners stay very far in town.

#### **A case Study:**

Damai Amos who is businessman said, " I have no land to cultivate in the town, but I cultivate in the village as part of livelihood to supplement the income from the business.

Tobacco is the major source of income from other activities; I do it in the village. I plant trees, cassava, potatoes etc.

Most households take meals once a day because they lack food as a result of over population, which has constrained negatively on land for crop production. This has lead to move far for cultivation as explained above.

Another constraint of crop production is drought, which leads to poor crop yields consequently resulting to food shortage.

#### **Analysis**

Farming is the main livelihood means of the people. Government should note that for people to increase production, for sustainable Plan for Modernization of Agriculture is only if value is added through Agro processing accessible to the community.

When prices go up people increase production due to increased benefits.

#### 4.5.0 Conclusions and recommendations on livelihoods

##### 4.5.1 Conclusions

The major livelihood of the community was becoming increasingly petty trade and followed by selling water, selling firewood, selling labour. The women and youths are engaged in the less viable livelihoods such as selling water, firewood and selling labour compared with men wholesale businesses. The asset base of the community has remained static, while the population continues to increase. The community lacked land and other natural resources, capital, knowledge and skills. In this women and youths have no ownership and control over these assets. However, the community has abundant unskilled labour and social safety

networks - groups to help members in times of shocks (lack of income, sicknesses, lack of food etc).

#### 4.5.2 Recommendations

Possible recommendations for improvement include:

- ?? Establish a program to promote women and youth and the poor to have ownership and control of assets such as land, livestock, houses etc. There is opportunity for Gender policy to change the attitude of custodians of cultures such as the elders through gender issues education and sensitisation. Land Act has opportunity to provide security for assets of the poor including the women and Functional Adult Literacy to empower the poor community.
- ?? Design pro-poor credit facilities for the urban poor whose livelihoods have changed increasingly from agriculture to trade as they lost resources and other natural resources vital for livelihoods due to increase in populations. There is available opportunity for the Government credit scheme "Entandikwa" to promote micro and small enterprises for women and youth in the urban area.
- ?? Provide training in micro-enterprise, agribusiness and micro-finance training to the urban poor because trade was what they survive on and yet they lack adequate knowledge and skills in operating the businesses. The SME policy (being formulated) has an opportunity to promote this area.
- ?? Provide a conducive investment environment to the private sector so that they create formal job opportunity to widen the livelihoods means of the community. For example establish quality social services and infrastructure (good roads, electricity, water supply and communications).
- ?? Strengthen the structures and regulations to guide stability (security, proper licensing and taxation etc). Insecurity destroys community livelihoods and lack of regulations leads to collapse of livelihoods.
- ?? Knowledge and skills development through promotion of education and training should be undertaken by the government to produce knowledgeable and skilled people who can sell them as their livelihoods even if the resource base of the community has diminished. The Education Reform Program and UPE have opportunities to promote this strategy.
- ?? Structures and regulations should be developed more through reviewing existing policies that provide favourable conditions, protect and guide communities' and society's efforts in livelihoods. The policy geared to conflict resolutions internationally with neighbouring countries DRC and Sudan and resolving insurgencies within the country should be given priority to ensure peace and stability necessary for livelihood.
- ?? The researchers' suggested for policy that PMA has an opportunity to pull back home the Internally Displaced People to their homes as peace returns and insurgencies subside. But, first the IDPs need to be provided free agricultural inputs (implements, improved seeds etc ) to start with and catch up with others not disturbed by wars. Then, later they can be mainstreamed in the PMA program. PMA will be able to "pull home" the IDPs and decongest overpopulated areas such as Gbukutu-Koboko town council and reduced the constrained on the available resources and social services

### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter attempts to discuss issues in social services: Health, education, water and sanitation in Gbukutu sub-ward. It focuses mainly on Use, Access, Quality and Relevance of the services. The problems faced in social services and service providers are also discussed. At the end of the chapter are the community recommendations and conclusions.

### 5.2 Health Service

There is only one Government Aided and one mission Aided health dispensary in Koboko Town Council according to Koboko Town Council Three-Year Development Plan 2001 /2004. The Health Center serves as a center for other smaller four health units.

There is a total of 16 medical staff in the health unit. The staff structure consists of a Doctor who has gone on study leave, two Clinical Officer, a Registered Midwife, three enrolled Nurses, three enrolled Midwives, four Nursing Assistants, a Health Inspector and a Laboratory Assistant

The health Centre still requires more than five staff according to the Koboko Town Council Development Plan 2001 / 2004.

Population growth in Koboko Town Council is estimated to have increased from 7,500 before the insurgency to 24,00 people, comprising of Displaced people and Sudanese refugees (source: Koboko Town Council Three Year Development Plan 2001/2004). The increased population and increased number of patients visiting the health center as a result of abolition of cost-sharing has led to shortages of drugs, congestion and increased workload for health workers.

The Health Center future plans are to build two more wards. The stakeholders such as the Government, District and Town Council Authorities are expected to build at least one of the two wards. There is also plan to start community education using participatory learning process with the help of UNICEF.

#### 5.2.1 Health services providers and the use

The major health service provider in Gbukutu and Koboko Town Council is the Government. Other health service providers in the area are the private individuals and institutions such as the church. The private individuals operate clinics and drugs shops, meanwhile the church mission operate a dispensary. For referral cases patients travel to hospitals in Yumbe, Maracha and Arua.

Both communities (nationals and refugee) link the poor health condition to poverty, local leaders and the technocrats. For instance, refugees women, men and youth regarded ill health as a cause, indicator, and an effect or consequences of poverty. Leading illness conditions in the area that health treatment is provided for are: Malaria, Darrhea, Typhoid fever, Pneumonia, Cough / TB, Cholera, Bilharzia, and Intestinal worms.

#### 5.2.2 Quality of Health Services

Quality of health services in Gbukutu Koboko Town Council has declined since cost sharing was abolished. The quality of health services is discussed by the community in terms of types of treatment provided, numbers of staff and their qualifications , additional fees charged, availability and conditions of facilities as below.

### ***Types of services provided and conditions of facilities are still poor***

Koboko Town Council Health Center provides to the community various health services such as Out Patients Department (OPD), Maternity, Treatment, Antenatal, Immunization and Referral. There is Ambulances hire to Maracha, Yumbe, and Arua hospitals. The unit lack specialized equipment and Doctors to handle such cases. The only Doctor that used to serve the people in the Health Center went back for further studies.

The services and facilities conditions vary in the unit. The Health Centre has two Admission Wards, Out Patients Department, Minor Theatre, and Isolation Ward. The General Ward accommodates all categories of patients (male, female and children) regardless of the kinds of diseases. The General Ward is usually congested and sometimes patients are placed along the corridors and veranda, according to the Medical staff.

The Pediatric Ward provides health services to the children, but the condition is not good as the number of children admitted outstrip the facilities available. Children are admitted together with adults in the same ward. This situation may expose more children to serious diseases from the adults.

Maternity ward provides health services mainly to women. Every month an average of 60 babies are delivered. Mothers with normal birth deliveries leave rooms for new entrants. The labour suit space is inadequate with only five beds.

Out Patients Department lacks adequate space. There are two small rooms that are used for consultation and treatment of patients. Very many women, children, men and youth are placed in a small waiting room to wait seeing the only two staff available.

The Minor Theatre was newly constructed by assistance from UNHCR. The theatre is not operational because there is no doctor to manage it. Therefore, patients with major complications are referred to Maracha and Yumbe Referral Hospitals.

Isolation/ TB Ward was recently built with the assistance of UNHCR. At the time of the research there were only two TB patients.

Staff houses are in poor conditions, and are very close to the wards and Out Patients Department. This exposes the health staff and their families to communicable diseases.

Logistics and transport are in poor conditions. All vehicles were grounded except the ambulance which is used now for all other work than what is approved to do.

Women, both refugees and nationals, complained that diagnosis is done in open. Privacy is not considered. This makes some women feel ashamed. Sometimes they fear to go for health services in the unit. The women now go to private clinics.

The space in the laboratory is inadequate for staff, equipment and even for the patients. There is no generator to supply electricity to run the refrigerators. There is no facility to handle and diagnose diseases like typhoid, according to the health staff.

### ***Drugs supply is not enough for the increased number of patients***

There is not enough drug supply to serve the increasing population in the area and patients in the unit. Patients are usually referred to buy drugs from private clinics and drug shops by health staff. The problem of lack of drugs in the health centre was expressed by all social groups met including refugees and national youth, men, women and People With Disability (PWDs).

### ***The Conditions of the Health Centre facilities has been declining***

The abolition of cost sharing in the Health Center has led to increased number of patients visiting the center especially the poor who used not to access health services because of lack of money. Some patients come as far as Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Sudan to access health service. Women and children visit the unit in greater number than the other group of people. The wealthier households access health services directly from the private clinics and health centers.

***Number of patients per day that visit the health centre has been increasing***

The Health Centre currently serves over 200 patients per day according to the Clinical Writer (Medical Assistant). The increase in number of patients visiting the unit has caused problems such as increased workload for the staff, constrains on facilities and congestion, and has led to long delay for patients before they receive treatment. The patients who suffer most are the women and children. For instance, out-patient attendance of the month of October 2001 shows that there were 734 children of the age 0-4 years and 1283 people of 5 and above years old, diagnosed in the unit. The leading diagnosis was malaria (0-4 years was 292 children and 5 and older was 443 people) and followed by ARI-Pneumonia (0-4 years was 124 children and 5 and above was 31 people).

According to Medical Assistant some patients after waiting for a long time in OPD, they return home without receiving treatment. In this situation the medical staff identify serious cases in the line and select them for medical treatment. The rest of the patients would go home without treatment. The community especially women informed the team that patients take longer period to access health treatment especially in Out patients Department (OPD).

**Analysis**

Abolition of cost-sharing has led to increased number of people (patients) demanding health services, therefore the Government should consider increasing funds for provision of more health facilities and equipment. Special attention, facilities and equipment should be provided to cater for the needs of the children and their mothers. The efforts to increase number of health workers should be given more attention at this point of time.

**5.2.3 Access to health services**

Access to health services is limited by high costs, long time taken, distance and mental costs (e.g. insults). Cost sharing abolition has increased demand of the poor to health services. The abolition of cost sharing or user's fees in health units by the Government at the beginning of the year 2001 has resulted into an increased number of patients especially the poor in the Health Centre. The number of patients continues to increase in the town council due to influx of refugees, Internally Displaced People and immigrants involved in businesses. These immigrants include people from other parts of Uganda, Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

***Additional charges has replaced abolition of cost-sharing***

Additional charges have replaced abolition of cost sharing in the health unit. For instance the health staffs hire out the unit's ambulance to take patients to referral hospitals, Maracha, Arua or Yumbe. Patients are required to refund 10 litres of fuel. The patients who suffer most with additional costs are the women with maternity and surgical complications in need of specialised services. The women complained bitterly on this development and demands for interventions of government if abolition of the cost sharing is to benefit the poor.

The in-charge health unit informed the team that referral is expensive and yet the government scraps off cost sharing, they then find themselves charging patients for referrals. The district

local council leadership was amazed by this information and wondered what the Koboko Town Council Authority does with Central Government PAF sent for health sector; and how the medical staff manage to fuel vehicles for their own travels and not ambulance for referral services.

***Abolition of cost sharing has led to lack of motivation of health workers and decline of hygiene and cleanliness in the health unit***

Abolition of cost sharing has led to lack of motivation of health workers and decline of hygiene and cleanliness in the health unit as illustrated by the case study below.

**Analysis**

**Cost-sharing abolition – Koboko health Centre case study:**

Cost sharing abolition in health units has led negative effects according to the health centre staff. During the cost sharing period service delivery was good. Health workers were motivated by certain percentage of the money from which they used to benefit. With the absence of financial motivation from the cost sharing the health staff are now demoralised.

There was not much money got from cost sharing before its abolition. The little, which was got, was used to pay for health centre cleaning and supplement health workers salaries according to the Medical staff. When the cost sharing was abolished, or waived it saved the poor people who used not to access health services because they could not afford cost sharing reported the medical staff.

With absence of cost sharing, the Town council has been attempting to assist the health unit, but with reduced tax revenue there is nothing much they can do, said the health staff.

By: Health Staff – Koboko Health Centre Nov. 2001.

***Costs in terms of distance traveled to access health services is less for the community except for referrals, mental disturbance, drugs and waiting time***

Community members do not have to travel long time to reach the nearest health unit in Koboko Town council. The health center, which is the major unit in Koboko, is located in Gbukutu Sub-ward. It takes less than ten minutes to reach the center. The patients therefore, incur less cost in terms of time and cost of transport. Patients incur more costs to access referral services, which are more than 15 kilometers away from Koboko Town.

Medical staff mistreatment, non-respect for privacy, insults, and harassment increases costs of health services mainly for women and prevents them to seeking the services. Community members both refugee and nationals alleged that medical / health staff in Koboko Health Center sometimes harass patients, there is also no adequate space in the Health Center. Patients are packed all together. For instances, diagnosis of patients at Out Patients Department (OPD) is done in a congested place where both men and other people are, women said they feel ashamed because of lack of privacy.

Some medical staff are accused by women of harassing and insulting them in presence of everybody in the ward. All these have increased mental costs of health services to the women and hampered access to health services. Those who can persevere the trauma pay more in costs.

Community members (nationals and refugees) complained of medical staff demanding for papers from the patients for prescriptions. The Health center does not provide free medical forms for patients. Some community members claimed that the health staff sometimes accept money and provide the medical forms. The case studies below illustrate the community complaints.

**Case Study: Additional charge in Koboko Health Center**

One day on 27/10/2001, I accompanied my friend Ayite to Koboko Town council Health Center for treatment. Ayite was suffering from typhoid fever. She was asked by the medical personnel for paper for prescription but she had none and so had to pay Shs 500= for the medical form.

The problem continued when we went to the laboratory. Ayite was asked to pay Shs. 2,000= but she had no money. In the end she was given some chloroquine and panadol tablets as treatment for typhoid. My friend Ayite was not treated for typhoid and is sick till now.

Story narrated by Araba, a schoolgirl. "You buy drugs, syringes and you are required to pay for admission forms and money for laboratory tests. This thing happened to my little brother who suffered from malaria" said Florence, school girl, Koboko Town Council.

With abolition of cost sharing in health units, numbers of patients have increased tremendously. This has led to shortage of drugs. Patients are therefore referred to private clinics and drug shops to buy drugs. These drugs are very expensive and unaffordable to the poor according to both nationals and refugees communities. The District Director of Health Services also accepts that drugs are expensive in private clinics and drug shops. He explained further that most of the private practitioners are after money only. For example, they over diagnose certain diseases in order to extort money from the poor.

***Community participation is mainly limited to mobilization of local resources for health unit***

Community members of Gbukutu participate to some extent in the realization of health service in the area. For example, in the construction of Koboko health center theatre block, the community contributed 5000 burnt bricks. The bricks were bought using the LCs 25% tax retention funds. The greater part of support in the construction of the theater block came from UNHCR.

The Town Council Health Management Committee and LCs also represent the community on health issues. These institutions are supposed to represent the interests of the community but their performances leave a lot to be desired.

***Planning, Monitoring and supervision of performances is still poor***

District Directorate of Health Services informed the team that planning is conducted at health unit level. Meanwhile, the health sub-district is responsible for monitoring, and supervision of health services at the lower level. The directorate also follows the same channels and systems to send down information, drugs and equipment to the lower levels. The directorate, however, complained of lack of adequate information/data from the lower levels, which was affecting proper planning at the district level.

The Health Management Committee plans together with the health staff to improve facilities, drugs supply and welfare of workers. The committee is also charged with responsibility of monitoring and supervising operation of the unit. They control budgets, allocate funds for proper use, provide proper accommodations for staff and ensures good performance of the workers. They can then advise or recommends to the health authorities. For example, the committee took disciplinary actions and recommended transfers of one female nurse who harassed and insulted a patient.

On the allegation that health staffs receive money from patients for medical forms and laboratory services, the committee denied the allegations. This issue has not come to the attention of the Health Management Committee.

### **5.2.5 Trend (Changes) in the factors in Health Services in the area.**

There have been changes over time in the health services delivery, they are:

- ?? Between 1970 –1979 drugs supply was in abundance and health services quality very high.
- ?? Inadequate health service delivery and constraints on the sector began to be experienced within / during wars and influx of refugees.
- ?? In 1991 Koboko Health Center provided health services to over 83,000 people, but currently (2001) the unit is serving about 110,000 people according to Medical staff in-charge of the Center. This is due to the influx of refugees and other people in Koboko Town Council.
- ?? The seasonal shocks experienced in health conditions of the people include; increased incidence of worms, infection, cholera, and diarrhea diseases, which are alleged due to eating contaminated ripe mangoes.
- ?? There is hunger and Kwashiorkor for children in the months of May and June. Refugee influx was also blamed of bringing cases of strange new diseases such as guinea worms among many others.

### **5.2.6 Community's recommendations:**

The following recommendations were made by the community:

- ?? Government / District authorities should increase funds and supply more drugs to serves the increasing number of patients.
- ?? UN Agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF etc) should assist refugees and their children by supplying the health center with drugs and other facilities.
- ?? The Government / District authorities should invest more resources in Primary Health Care, while the Health Center addresses the problems of curable disease.
- ?? Government should establish different wards for children (Pediatric), Maternity and male wards.

## **5.3 Education Service**

### **5.3.1 Introduction**

In Koboko Town Council, there are two Government aided primary schools (Teremunga and Nyarilo Primary Schools). There is one major government aided secondary school (St. Charles Lwanga Secondary School). There are two other Community aided primary schools (Ombachi Integrated Self-help and Abele Private Primary Schools). There are also two church funded nursery schools and one "Madarasa". School. But within the Town Council, there are seven private secondary schools including Ombachi self-help Secondary School for refugees, Koboko Modern Secondary School among many others.

Gbukutu sub-ward has no school in the area. The children cross to other sub-wards for schooling, such as Teremunga and Nyarilo Primary Schools. Some other children go the community funded primary schools among many others.

Government aided primary schools have most qualified teachers. For example, Teremunga Primary School has 38 trained teachers and only one (1) untrained. Nyarilo Primary School has 32 qualified teachers and only one untrained. While private primary schools have mostly unqualified teachers. For instance, Ombaci Integrated School, which is a private school, has

only seven trained teachers and nine untrained. Abele has only two qualified staff and eight untrained.

This year (2001) Teremunga Primary School has the highest enrolment with 1640 male and 1537 female pupils. According to the Koboko Town Council Development Plan Document 2001-02/ 03-04, Nyarilo Primary School has enrolment of 1313 male and 1085 female pupils. Future plans of Koboko Town Council is to provide more classrooms, sanitation facilities, clean water sources in schools, support schools in acquiring more land space for extension, support in-service training for teachers, motivate teachers who are not on pay-roll and support local examinations for post primary education.

### **5.3.2 Provision of Education Services**

Government, private institutions & NGOs, community and individuals provide formal education services to children in Koboko Town Council. But Adult Education is mainly provided by Community Based Organizations (who do not cover Gbukutu). These include Koboko United Women Association and Tukuliri Multi-purpose Association.

Refugee youth informed the team that there are unequal opportunities in education for refugees women/girl to men/boy, whereby priority and support is given to refugee man/boy. They youth further revealed that, since refugees entered Uganda a decade ago, no one refugee girl or lady had reached/achieved a university education level in Koboko Town Council. This bad situation is blamed on negative culture that favor boys/men in education and not women/girls.

#### ***Community participation & Institutional support for education service***

Institutional support for education service is further discussed below:

- ?? UNHCR improved education services by constructing more class rooms buildings. It also provided support such as teaching materials for both primary and secondary schools. This was provided during the time there was increase in population due to influx of refugees.
- ?? According to the local authority, UNHCR concentrated more on building dormitories and supporting refugees with school fees, rather than supporting primary education. They feel more help should be channeled to primary education because there are more children of refugees, nationals and immigrants from other countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo. This has constrained the limited facilities available, according to the local leaders.
- ?? Refugees' community established own school, Ombaci, to serve the refugees children. In 1977 the school had reached primary seven levels. It relies entirely on local collection from refugee and school fees payments.
- ?? Koboko Town Council authority assisted Ombaci refugees school with sports and games equipment/materials (footballs, netballs and sports wears). They also assisted the school with water tank at the cost of Shs 0.5 million, not cash but In-kind.
- ?? LC I assisted Ombaci refugees school with Ush: 30,000/=, and Arua District Authority promised to provide UPE funds for the school but this has not been fulfilled according to the school management.
- ?? Refugees community and parents of Ombaci schools (Primary & Secondary) contributed local materials and unskilled labour when ZOA /UNHCR provided support to the schools in terms of seven classrooms, staff houses and office block constructions.
- ?? The Church supports refugee children education by paying school fees. They also sensitize children and youth on the importance of education and religious education.
- ?? In Teremunga primary school, PTA funds (Development and Building) paid by both refugees and nationals, was used as parents contributions of local materials for construction of classrooms, administration block and latrines. In Gbukutu ward a Parent's Nursery School has been established called "Madarasa school" to serve

mainly Moslem children to read and write Islam. The school has about 200 children according to one teacher.

#### 5.3.4 Access to education service, attendance and alternative solutions

The refugee community initiated their own primary schools in order to enable their children access education at affordable costs. The costs of education in national schools are very high and unaffordable. The many refugee parents can not pay. Still, due to low income earned by most parents, many refugee children are not attending schools.

Many of nursery school aged children do not attend school because of high school fees charged by the private nursery schools. Also the distant the nearest primary schools from Gbukutu village prevent young children from going to school To Teremunga school management, enrolment has been increasing in the school due to good performances in primary leaving examinations.

Access to education is affected by school fees, additional costs such as development funds, and expenses for other non-school fees items.

Refugees community informed the team that parents pay school of about Ush: 11,000/= per child per year for P.1 – P.3 and between Ush: 15,500/= - 20,000/= for P.4 – P.7. The nationals do not pay tuition fees except other payments such as PTA Building and Development Fund of Ush. 6000.

##### Analysis

Poor parents, both refugees and nationals cannot afford school fees and the additional payments. The Income and Expenditure analysis conducted with the various households revealed that payment of education costs was one of the major expenditures of some households with children in primary and secondary education levels. Children and youth from poor households dropout of schools.

Refugees are against the idea of paying primary school fees. They argued that their presence enabled community in Koboko Town Council to benefit from support of UNHCR and other agencies. They complained that their children should not pay school fees in UPE schools because they also pay “Graduated Tax” and other taxes like any other Ugandans who are benefiting from free primary education.

***“We refugees live in the same environment /area and share similar problems with the nationals. But, our children are required to pay more school fees, which we are unable to afford. Our children cannot attend and many children are dropping out of schools” said a man.***

##### Analysis

The decisions to set school fees for refugees and PTA funds and examination fees on parents were taken by the parents, school management and the local leaders. The Town Council Authority informed the team that they did not take the decision themselves. The District Local Council leadership however, supported the school management, Community and Local Leaders decisions on school fees for refugees. The Political Leadership argued that, the Government does not cater or budget for refugees in allocation of UPE funds, and therefore they need to pay school fees. Assistant District Education office differed on the issue of refugee children paying primary education school fees with other offices. They explained that under Geneva Convention it is the responsibility of the host country to provide basic education for the refugees and that the Government was signatory to this agreement.

That the “school local funds collected are used in local development such as construction of office block, some teachers (1/3 of the total) incentives, and contribution to classrooms construction.

To the Teremunga Primary School management, additional charges and other non-school expenses are paid by both refugee and national parents. Additional costs for the education of their children for example for P.1 to P.2 pupils required to pay Ush. 600, P.3 to P.4 pay Ush 1000, P5 to P.6 pay Ush 1500 and P.7 pays Ush 2000 per child per year, as examination fees. The indigenous community complained of the additional charges in education as below:

***“Although there is no tuition fees in primary education, additional payments demanded from parents exceeded tuition fees paid by the government for every child under UPE policy. We feel that the government has removed the burden of expensive fees payments for poor in primary education” said a woman, Koboko Town Council.***

The community, both nationals and refugees complained that the school management demand for parents to provide uniforms, scholastic materials and sometimes foot wears for the children while in school. However, it was noted that the poor child who cannot afford these non-school fees items dropout of school. According to the community, orphans and other poor households’ children are affected most by this extra education costs.

#### **Analysis**

Additional costs in primary education prevent poor children to have access to education. The government has assisted the poor to access education through UPE policy, whereby not only four children per household was benefiting, but all children. The government now, needs to reconsider guiding and sensitizing the citizens and local government authorities on setting up of non-tuition fee payment and UPE policy. The issues of self-settled refugee children not accessing primary education because of expensive school fees should also be considered in the government Refugees Policy in the making.

### **5.3.5 Quality of education**

Quality of education service is discussed here in terms of enrolment, availability of facilities, materials, numbers and qualifications of staff and their motivation.

Enrolment in primary schools in Koboko Town Council has increased tremendously in recent years. The two tables below compare enrolment in Teremunga Primary School in the 1996 and 2001, before and after the introduction of the UPE policy respectively.

*Table 5.1: - Teremunga Primary School Enrolment 1996 (Before UPE Policy)*

<b>YEAR 1996</b>			
<b>CLASS</b>	<b>BOYS</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1	127	106	233
2	112	93	205
3	96	88	184
4	92	77	169
5	83	59	142
6	81	43	124
7	65	32	97
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>1,154</b>

**Source:** Teremunga Primary School

Table 5.2: -Teremunga Primary School Enrolment 2001

GENERAL ENROLMENT				U.P.E			NON- UPE			SPECIAL NEEDS		
Cl.	B	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	327	378	705	300	345	645	27	33	60	18	14	34
2	237	252	489	207	212	419	30	40	70	15	18	33
3	343	340	683	306	320	626	37	20	57	19	21	40
4	295	283	578	267	253	520	28	30	58	34	35	69
5	214	198	412	180	172	352	34	26	60	08	01	09
6	224	141	365	171	113	284	53	28	81	22	07	29
7	166	80	246	136	64	200	30	16	46	05	03	08
Tot.I	1806	1672	3478	1567	1479	3046	239	193	432	121	99	220
G/T	3478			3046			432			220		

**Source:** Teremunga Primary School (General Purpose Record Book) and Head Teacher, 14/11/2001.

Key: cl = Class, B = Boys, Tot. = Total, G/T= Grand Total

- ?? From the two tables: Teremunga Primary School enrolment 1996 and 2001, it can be seen that enrolment of boys increased from 656 to 1,806 pupils which is 63.7% increase. The enrolment of girls increased from 498 to 1,672 pupils, an increased of 70.2%.
- ?? The percentage increase of girls in the school was higher (70.2%) than of boys (63.7%) over the years.
- ?? What has not changed much over the years is the fall in enrolment of both boys and girls as they progress to higher classes. Their number (the enrolment) decrease as they reach primary seven level.
- ?? The school management informed the team that the reasons for high percentage were as a result of UPE policy of free education, influx of self-settled refugees and nationals. Another reason given was good performance of the school.
- ?? The school enrolment also included general enrolment, UPE, Non –UPE in Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE).
- ?? Non UPE pupils are mainly refugees and immigrants children which are 432 pupils (boys – 239 and girls – 193).
- ?? The special needs pupils are children with impairment that needs special attention in education for instance, hearing and talking impairments. They are 220 special needs pupils (boys 121 and girls 99)
- ?? Refugees reported that low enrolment of refugees children in both primary and secondary schools was a sign / an indicator of poverty that some parents can not afford education of children as required by local people in Koboko Town Council.
- ?? Ombaci refugee school is an integrated school of Sudanese, Congolese and Internally Displaced Persons of Uganda children, according to the school management. Therefore, the enrolment was affected as some IDPs started to return to their rural areas as security has improved.

**Availability of education facilities /materials.**

Teremunga primary school is a grade I school with the following facilities: Twenty usable classrooms. Parents constructed ten classrooms. Red Cross constructed six classrooms. Eight classrooms were constructed by using Completion Grant (CCG).

- ?? There are 460 desks in the classrooms.
- ?? There are three latrine blocks for boys (with 22 stances) and two blocks for girls (with nine stances).
- ?? There is also one water tank used to harvest clean water during rainy season.
- ?? All the above facilities serve a total of 3,478 pupils (i.e.1806 boys and 1,672 girls) enrolled in Teremunga Primary School by November 2001.

- ?? There are 17 staff houses, which include 7 roofed with iron sheets and 10 grass thatched huts, that serve 17 teachers of out of 37 teachers. The rest of the teachers rent houses outside and pay for them with their meager salaries, according to the Headmaster.
- ?? The school has an administrative block consisting of offices for Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster, staff room, and for Senior Woman Teacher (constructed by parents).

**Analysis:** The school facilities are still not adequate in comparison to the increasing enrolment in Koboko Town Council schools. Government needs to give attention to more classrooms construction grants to areas and schools with special problems such as Koboko Town Council, whose education service is constrained by increase in population due to influx of self-settled refugees and immigrants.

*Table 5.3: -Number and Qualifications of staff*

Primary School	Grade V		Grade III		Untrained		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Teremunga	3	2	17	15	0	0	20	17
Ombaci	0	0	2	1	15	2	17	3

Source: Teremunga Primary School

**Analysis**

Inadequate number of staff and qualifications affect the quality of education. The government is making every effort to improve qualification of teachers through teacher and In-service training. Government through the local government authorities is recruiting more teachers. But, now the government needs to give more attention to areas with constrains in education service such as Koboko Town council. The qualifications of teachers in private schools seemed to be worst compared to the government aided schools, and this requires government attention.

**5.3.6 Performances in Primary Living Examination**

According to Teremunga Primary School management, the school academic performances in Primary Leaving Examinations of recent years have improved. The reasons for improvement include:

- ☞ The teachers' commitment to teach the pupils adequately. The headmaster, in addition to administrative duties also engage in teaching pupils.
- ☞ The school management provided adequate facilities, equipment and teaching materials that made work easier and improved performances. For instance, the school has a duplicating machine, typewriter, school radio, furniture, textbooks, adequate classrooms and latrine facilities.
- ☞ The Teremunga PLE performances for the years 1994 – 2000 are displayed in the Table below:

*Table 5.4: -Teremunga Primary School P.L.E Results Analysis*

Year	DIV. I		DIV. II		DIV. III		DIV. IV		DIV. X		DIV. U		TOTAL
	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	
1994	12	00	37	11	14	04	10	07	14	01	22	01	133
1995	14	00	64	06	21	03	31	07	12	02	42	01	202
1996	24	00	59	17	09	06	05	05	00	00	00	04	106
1997	15	00	60	29	09	11	06	03	01	01	00	02	136
1998	33	04	68	31	14	09	18	13	07	04	01	01	190
1999	21	03	86	32	19	14	11	07	11	01	04	03	203
2000	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	161

Source: Teremunga Primary School – November 2001.

The analysis of the table above reveals that there are fluctuations in the performances. For example, the performance of girls has been very poor until 1998 when four girls passed in Grade one. This reduced to only three girls in 1999. The number of pupils that pass Division II and III have been increasing since 1996. The number of boys increased from 59 to 86 in 1999 (i.e. 31.4% increase), and numbers in other divisions have also been increasing as shown in the Table.

The increasing number of pupils passing PLE in division II, III and the rest showed that performance is dropping in PLE in the school. The total numbers of pupils enrolled for PLE have increased from 133 pupils to 202 pupils in 1999 (i.e. 34.2% increase). Therefore to achieve high performances, the school needs to have more number of pupils passing PLE in Division I and reduced numbers in Division II, III and the rest.

According to Teremunga Primary School authorities, fluctuations in performances in PLE have been affected by:

- ✘ Over enrolment of pupils which led to congestion in classrooms
- ✘ Teacher/Pupils ratio is very high which affects effective teaching
- ✘ UPE has encouraged enrolling pupils who are below standard in academics. UPE policy is not to fail pupils from one class to another.
- ✘ Good line up teachers who are qualified
- ✘ Bad town environment not conducive to pupils' studies and lack of text books to serve all or most of the pupils

The Town Council Authority informed the team that, most children pass to go to secondary education level, but dropout because their parents lack school fees. High level of secondary school dropouts is attributed to ignorance of people who believe that secondary education was also free as UPE.

#### **Mode of payment of staff**

The teachers in government aided schools are paid salaries and allowances by Central and Local Government Authorities. For example, in Teremunga primary school, one third ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) of about 40 teachers receive incentive payment from school management PTA funds- paid both by refugees and nationals. But the refugee parents contribute about 50% of these PTA funds.

For the private schools, school management pays teachers from local revenue sources of the school such as tuition fees and additional charges. For example, Ombaci refugee school pays its 20 staff (17 male and 3 female) monthly salaries from fee collection. The teachers are paid low salaries. The classroom teacher receives Ush: 35,000/= and the administrator Ush: 40,000/= only.

#### **Analysis**

The low salary and allowances payment to teachers by some private schools is a major reason why mainly unqualified teachers are attracted to these schools and not the qualified ones. Low qualifications as seen above in this section affects quality of education service. The primary schools that have set up additional school dues payment such as Teremunga in Koboko town council are able to provide additional financial incentives for their teachers. The different mode of staff payments in the primary schools demoralize the lowly paid teachers and this affect quality of education service. The government needs to increase its effort to provide a living wage for the teachers as their workload has increased due to increased enrolment because of UPE policy. The minimum wage policy for workers by government would also go a long way to provide an acceptable wage level for teachers in private schools. This would in the end, attract qualified teachers and improve quality of education.

### **Secondary school education**

Households with children studying in secondary school levels have more problem of school dues payment than those with children only in primary education levels. The parents also complained of increased school fees in secondary education and this is illustrated as below:

***“ In secondary school before the wars (that began 1979), we used to pay lesser fees. As much as the Government wished to turn secondary schools in today schools, the burden will still be shifted more on the poor households. We wish the secondary school fees was only between 10,000/= and 25,000/= per child that we can afford”*** said a man – Koboko Town Council.

#### **Analysis**

The high school payment in secondary school education has resulted into high rate of school dropout in Gbukutu sub-ward and Koboko town council as a whole. The UPE graduates have no future in secondary education unless the Universal Secondary Education policy is also developed, and the Polytechnic and Vocational Centres per sub-county/county is implemented as soon as possible.

### **5.3.7 Relevance of education to the community**

Some community members regarded education to be important and without it poverty will continue to increase. The refugee women ranked lack of education/inability to afford education of children as a leading refugee priority problem. The importance of education is illustrated as below:

***“ Our children education is very important, but some of the refugees children are not going to school because the parents can not afford the high fees”*** said a refugee woman – Koboko Town Council.

According to political leadership in Koboko Town Council, education has lost its value among the community. For example, there are very many youth who are not attending school. The parents have not bothered to pay for their education, even though some of them could afford.

There is high rate of drop out of school after UPE (i.e. after primary seven levels) according to the community and local leaders/technocrats. Some parents do not put much emphasis on education of children and fail to provide the non-tuition fees payments for the children. The children therefore sit home and engage in social ills such as theft, idleness, etc.

### **5.3.8 Trend/changes over time in Education in the Area**

There was no problem with education services for refugee children when they were in camps between 1990 – 1993. UNHCR catered for education of refugee children. They started to experience problem of educating their children between 1994 – 1997 when rebel activities displaced many refugees to Koboko Town Council from the camps.

The situation became worst from 1998 to present (2001) when the local people in Koboko Town Council demanded that refugee children pay school fees to study in UPE in Uganda. But, UPE is free in Uganda as a policy – according to the refugees. In a nutshell, trends in low education and unaffordable education for refugee children are greatest at this current period (1998 – 2001). By 1990 – 1997, then least between 1990 – 1993, when UNHCR was responsible so, it is clear that the problem of education for refugees children has been increasing since 1994 till now.

In the 1970's the community has more asset base, for instance livestock (cows, goats etc) that could be sold off to pay school fees for children according to DLC leadership. But, decline in household asset base has led to problems whereby some parents cannot afford school fees payment for their children.

Increased income levels of household in 1970s enabled many parents to afford school fees payments for their children. This led to increased education level and employment of people. But, things changed between 1979 – 1984 when there was liberation war by Tanzania and insurgencies in the area. Education level declined because schools were destroyed and people fled into exile in Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo.

By 1989, the Government, NGOs and UNHCR began rehabilitation programme on education infrastructure to serve both the nationals that have been forcefully repatriated (i.e. forced to return because of rebel SPLA attack on Ugandan refugee camps in Sudan and DRC).

The Sudanese refugees also followed Ugandans due to civil wars in Southern Sudan. Between 1994 – 1997 during the insurgency in Koboko and West Nile region, the refugees moved from camps in Sudan into Koboko Town Council, which led to increase in population and constraints on the limited education facilities. Since then, the continued civil wars in Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo, IDPs and immigrants continued to increase the problem of education of children.

### **5.3.9 Problems related to education**

There are constraints on education services as a result of increased numbers of refugees and national children. Increase in population is brought about by influx of refugees and other people in Koboko Town Council. The constraints on education services was expressed by all the people met (refugees and nationals).

Due to increased children enrolment in primary schools there is congestion which has led to lack of space. The classrooms are not enough to accommodate the increasing number of pupils.

Koboko Town Council leadership is also worried that the quality of education was dropping. The refugee girl-child lack adequate education. They do not attend or dropout of school at earlier age because they get married when they are still young. The refugee girl-child fathers also lack school fees. The fathers who have some money to pay school fees, give priority for boy-child because they are regarded as "home makers", according to one girl child.

### **5.3.10 Gender issues in Education;**

The community, local leaders and school management highlighted some of the gender issues in education in Koboko Town council. For example Ombaci refugees school management informed the team that:

- ?? Girl child education is still low in Koboko Town Council – because there is no role model to encourage them in education.
- ?? Girl child dropout early from school due to early marriages and pregnancy.
- ?? Mother uses girl child to earn household incomes and food by selling tea in Town Council.
- ?? The girl child is looked at as source of wealth by some parents.
- ?? The process of selling tea, girl child is exposed to men who lure them into early sex.
- ?? Some parents keep girl child at home to do domestic work. The girl child, therefore, do not attend school regularly which affect their performances in school. The girls were said to be most active in extra curriculum activities such as music, drama, sports and games.
- ?? Boy child was also said to be dropping out of school to search for food for the family through "boda boda" business (i.e. bicycles and motorcycle transport business).

- ? ? In discussions with schoolgirls, they reported that some of them stay at home and do not go to school to carry out household chores. Some mothers prevent their schoolgirls to stay home and assist with work, as they are busy in the market or selling food in town.
- ? ? The girls revealed that many of them are involved in petty business such as produce buying and selling, selling local beers for other women and cooking and selling food in hotels. These activities do not allow girls to attend school. For instance girls involved in produce buying and selling have to move from place to place to buy cheaper food stuff to retail in town. Some girls sell water at construction sites and clean water for money during dry season.
- ? ? During holidays some schoolgirls engage in foodstuff selling (tomatoes, onions etc) and small business to earn money to complement parents' school payment. Some of the girls travel up to Democratic Republic of Congo to buy the items to sale in Koboko Town Council. In the process they are exposed to men who lure them into sex and have inadequate time to concentrate on education.
- ? ? Secondary school girls priority needs are school fees and scholastic materials to aid them in education. They face a lot of problems in addition to difficulty in getting school fees. Their parents lack adequate incomes to afford secondary school education, which range between 60,000 – 80,000/= per term per child.
- ? ? In some households, priority in payment for school fees is given to a child/children who has/have performed well, regardless of the sex. The children who perform well in education are those who are bright and hardworking according to one household member.

#### **Analysis**

The Government has embarked on mainstreaming gender into all sectors, departments and ministries. But, at the district/sub-county/town council/parish local government levels, more gender mainstreaming is needed. The Gender Department at the district local government is constrained by lack of adequate personnel and logistics. The sector has never been identified as one of the priority areas for development and hence receives little funding. It is likely that all other sectors will fail to reduce poverty if negative gender issues and concerns are not addressed at all levels, including lower Local Government and the community. This is the challenge for all actors involved in poverty reduction.

### **5.3.11. Recommendations**

Refugee Women realised that most of them were illiterate due to lack of education for girl child at earlier age. They, therefore recommends that Functional Adult Literacy programme be established for the women.

Refugee women are illiterate and lack adequate skills and knowledge, and low income. They recommend that various training services be provided for the women and particularly in tailoring and leadership skills.

Refugee communities especially men strongly recommends that their children should be allowed to access free UPE as Ugandans, because they also pay "Graduated Tax" and other forms of taxes. They argue that their presence resulted into institutions such as UNHCR and other NGOs constructing local schools facilities and providing material support.

## **5.4 Water and Sanitation**

### **5.4.1 Introduction**

This section discusses water and sanitation in Gbukutu sub-ward and Koboko Town Council as a whole. It attempts to highlight uses, quality and access to the services by the community.

In Gbukutu there are three protected springs (functional) and two are seasonal. They include Gbukutu 1, Gbukutu 2, Dikasinga and the two seasonal, Lokolo and Kerila. Generally, in Koboko Town Council, there are seven boreholes (3 serving institutions and 4 community). There are eleven protected water springs and four not protected. There is also one non-seasonal stream and one river within Koboko Town Council.

In terms of latrine coverage in Gbukutu– Apa sub-ward, Gbukutu has 183 households, out these about 42 (23%) households are without pit latrines. Anjirigo/Central has 149 households, out of which about 17 (11.4%) households are without pit latrines. Mundukudu has about 332 households, out of which about 82 (25%) households are without pit latrines.

From the above data (Source: Koboko TC Three Year Development Plan 2001/2004) it is evident that the three protected clean water sources in Gbukutu – Apa are not enough for the increasing population, and the sanitation conditions is bad with poor pit latrine coverage. These problems have led to increase in water borne diseases such as dysentery in the town.

Koboko Town Council future plans are to carry out environment awareness promotion through seminars, sensitise community on PHC and obtain equipment for proper refuse management.

#### **5.4.2 Use of water services**

Clean water was regarded as important in human life by the community especially the refugees. The problem of clean water was reported to be acute mainly during the dry season. Refugees and nationals identified shortage of clean water as a community priority problem.. The town council authority also regards clean water shortages as acute problem in the Gbukutu sub-ward and the whole town. The District Planning office on their part informed the team that rural/urban Water and Sanitation Sector is one of the priority areas where the Central Government need to send funds for to the District/Town Council.

For proper use of water, clean water sources are opened to the community at certain intervals of time. It is opened in the morning from 8:00 – 11:00a.m then closed, and later opened in the afternoon at 4:00p.m to 7:00p.m. The clean water points are opened at intervals to enable the yields to increase. The in-charge of one borehole reported that when water is pumped out for long period of time, the water levels falls. Leaving it to rest for a while makes the water level to rise, and the yields increase.

#### ***Types of water sources and the providers***

In Gbukutu sub-ward, Koboko Town Council, there are various types of water sources. There are protected water springs (3 in number). The protected water springs in Gbukutu include - Mundukutu, Gbukutu and Ajouroma borehole. There are also borehole (2 in number by ICRC), but one borehole lies within the parameters of the Prisons' compound and so is not accessible to the community.

Maji Muzuri serves the town community on eastern side. The poor households use the flowing river streams in the town council because they cannot afford the user fees. Health, Water, Sanitation and Environment section the Town Council sensitises the community on the importance of clean safe water and good sanitation. It also undertakes monitoring, supervision and surveillance of waterborne diseases and other water related problems. For example, the department identified 147 worm-infected people due to water contamination in Gbukutu by October/November 2001. It also advises community not to sink latrines near to the catchment area of clean water sources.

### 5.4.3 Quality of water service

Quality of water service is reflected and discussed in terms of clean water sources yields, availability of facilities, hygiene and number of users

Yields of protected clean water sources are affected by variations in seasons (dry and wet season). In wet seasons, the protected springs and boreholes yields are high. The high water yields are experienced in the months of July, August, September and October. Rain is heavy in this period.

In dry season clean water yields decline, and in the peak of dry season especially in last year 2000/1 in months of November, December, January, February and March, the yields of water sources reduce considerably.

During this time, the people have to travel to river Apa to fetch unclean water for home use. The women informed the team that they go in search of clean water two kilometres away from the village.

***“ We don’t sleep at home during dry seasons, as we go out day and night long looking for clean water”*** (Community woman).

#### ***Water Points facilities maintenance and the hygiene***

The Community, especially women complained of lack of maintenance of the clean water points. For instance, water taps were missing in some of the protected spring points. The spring sources protected by Town Council Authority are not well maintained. For instance, Gbulukunga water source site is bushy. Unprotected water well “Maji Muzuri” is unclean, open and unprotected, and yet it serves the centre of the town.

The sites of the ICRC protected springs sources are kept clean by the community. The caretakers, landlords and LCs also participate.

The community complain that they pay a lot of money as user fees that should have been used for maintaining the clean water sources, but a few people take the money for their own use

The Town council authority informed the team that they are planning to intervene in the maintenance of water sources, as it used to be using their technical team. The team had intervened and chlorinated the water sources when they were contaminated and there was water borne diseases outbreak. It plans to re-activate the water committees whose work has been taken up by LCs and some landlords where water sources are located.

Household sanitation facilities, mainly pit latrines coverage in Gbukutu is very low. People use polythene papers to dispose human waste and this contaminates the clean water sources, including the protected water springs.

Poor households such as the single woman headed families suffer most from lack of clean water and lack of adequate incomes to buy clean water or pay clean water user fees.

Poor households expressed the problem of poor sanitation due to congestion. Latrines and bathing shelters are all squeezed in a small land space.

The number of people and households using the few clean water sources has increased over time with an increased population in Koboko Town Council. Refugee women for example, informed the team that they frequently have quarrels and conflict with national at the water points. Some of the community members blamed the shortage of clean water on influx of the refugees, and therefore, refugee women are pushed behind the lines at water points. Even at

local LCs courts, to solve the conflicts, refugee women are not given fair justice. Usually, the LCs court favours the nationals, alleged the refugee women

#### **5.4.4. Access to water services**

Access to water services is analysed in terms of user fees, travel time taken, and distance, waiting time and mental costs.

In Gbukutu sub-ward and Koboko Town Council, households pay user fees for accessing clean water sources. The payment is Ush: 300/= per month per household in wet season, and Ush: 500/= in dry season. The user fees for borehole is Ush: 500/= per household per month.

The collection of user fees varies from one water source to another. In some instances the LCs collect the user fees from the households on monthly basis, and pass it over to LC III offices/Town Council.

At other water points, the landlords, water committee and the LCs collect the water user fees. LC III chairperson office informed the team that, user fees help in maintaining water points. But this is not true as some water points lack even water taps.

The LC III office also is bothered by ignorance of some individuals who claimed to own clean water sources that are located on their previous traditional land and collect user fee for themselves. Such people inform the community that the money is passed over to the local council.

The LC III Leadership, however, accepted that the way user fee is collected is not systematic – both in Gbukutu and the whole of Koboko Town Council.

The long waiting and searching for clean water for women and girls limit their time for other productive activities. The girl child is asked to stay at home and not go to school to assist in this domestic core such as searching for and waiting for a long time to fetch clean water.

Domestic violence is on increase between wives and husbands as the men are suspicious of long stay of women till night time, lining for clean water for the family. Some community members in Gbukutu – Koboko Town Council agreed that some women take advantage of shortage of clean water and go out and stay sometimes late in the night for other things and not clean water.

Refugee women are marginalized at clean water sources in Gbukutu – Koboko Town council. They are made to suffer the blame on refugees that they are the cause of shortage of clean water in the area.

The national women, girls and boys chase away the refugee the water sources when there is congestion. This situation frequently caused quarrels, fights and conflicts between the refugees and the nationals.

Refugee women informed the team that they are abused, harassed and sometimes beaten at clean water points. Worst still when they report the case to LC courts they receive unfair justice. The nationals are favoured by LCs court to the refugee women.

These are the mental costs refugee women have to pay in accessing clean water. Some of them fear to go and fetch clean water for fear of harassment and insult

In addition to payment of monthly user fees for accessing clean water points by Gbukutu households, they are required to contribute cash money to the amount required for maintenance spare parts. These additional charges are demanded only when they breakdown at the water point that needs repair and maintenance.

### **Analysis**

Additional charges for clean water for repairs and maintenance affect the poor more. The poor households are not able to access clean water. This makes the poor most vulnerable to the waterborne diseases such as typhoid fever. Dues to shortage of clean water, and exorbitant user fees and other charges, the poor people drink dirty water. Therefore, there is need to provide more clean water, which will solve the above problems. The Government had increased funds for provision of clean water due to the findings of PPA1, which revealed that a shortage of clean water was a leading community problem. There is need also to identify the communities that needs the clean water most at the district/sub-county/town council local government levels.

#### **5.4.5 Sanitation problems**

Increasing population due to influx of refugees and other people in Gbukutu and Koboko Town Council has led to poor sanitation conditions. The sanitation condition is deteriorating because of different cultural practices of various people. This has led to increased morbidity and demand for drugs to treat various diseases.

Many people do not use pit latrines, and there are very few households who have sunk latrines. The village and Town council is littered with soiled polythene bags (Kavera) and these contaminate water sources. The effect of this poor sanitation is that there are frequent outbreaks of waterborne diseases as reported by the community and local leaders

#### **5.4.6 Trends (change s in availability of clean water sources)**

##### ***Seasonal shocks***

According to the community the worse water shortages is experienced in the months of February, March, November, December and January. The greatest shortage is in the months of February and March. Water shortages is also experienced in the months of April, May and June. Water shortage is due to low rainfall pattern during these months and increased population of nationals, refugees, IDPs and immigrants into the area that all use the limited water sources.

The water source yields however increase in the months of July, August, September and October, when rainfalls are heavy. But during this wet season, the water sources are contaminated and this results into water borne epidemics. The rainfall washes down the "soiled" polythene bags from households without pit latrines, filled up latrines, waste water from bathing shelter and other solutions that contaminate the water sources.

##### ***Long term shocks***

In the trend analysis of availability of clean water in Gbukutu and Koboko Town Council, the community revealed that in 1970s there was no problem of clean water. In the second half of 1970s Koboko Town council had a water supply infrastructure that was destroyed in the war of 1979.

Between 1980 – 1984, there was rebel activities in the area and clean water points and other infrastructure were destroyed or abandoned, as people fled into exile in Sudan and DRC. Between 1985 – 1989 some people began to return to the area from exile. The government, NGOs, and UNHCR undertook renovation and construction of old and new clean water points respectively in the area. Even though refugees from Sudan followed the host community, the problem of water was still not big.

Between 1990 – 2001 the insurgencies in the area and continued influx of refugees from Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Internally Displaced Persons and immigrants into the area led to increased population which have constrained the limited clean water sources.

#### **5.4.7 Conclusions on constraints on social services (Health, Education and Water & Sanitation)**

In conclusion, the population has been increasing in the town due to influx of self-settled refugees and internally displaced people due to civil wars in southern Sudan, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and insurgencies in Koboko and West-Nile in the 1980s and 1990s. Additional increase in population was due to people that migrated into the town from DRC, Kenya and other parts of Uganda to engage in trade.

The increased population has led to constraints on health services. Drugs supply, health facilities, equipment and staff are not enough to meet the demand of the increasing population. The number of patients visiting health centre has increased, some come as far as Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan in addition to the self-settled refugees who access free services due to abolition of cost sharing by the government.

Abolition of cost sharing has led to the charging of additional costs by health units to the patients. For example patients are required to hire ambulance for referrals cases by refunding fuel. This has created more problems for the poor who cannot afford. Women and children suffer most from not accessing health services with this new development.

Education service has also been constrained. For example, enrolment has increased to the level whereby the school facilities and teachers are not adequate. The school management and local authorities decided to make refugees pay tuition fees and development fund because they are not planned for by central and local governments in the budgets. This has resulted into many refugee children not accessing education services. The nationals and the refugees are required to pay additional costs as development funds, exams fees etc. Illiteracy and lack of importance of education to some parents make them not support the education of their children. All these have led to increased number of children not attending and dropping out of school. This has created more problems of high rate of crimes and lack of formal employment and income that has forced the children and youth to join rebel activities.

It is a fact that there is shortage of safe water in Gbukutu and Koboko Town Council as a whole. The above problem of clean water shortages has created more problems. The number of the users has increased tremendously. User fees were established for household to access clean water. The poor are unable to afford and therefore are forced to drink unsafe water. This has resulted into increased frequency of waterborne diseases in Koboko and high costs of medication. The women meet the costs of long waiting, insults and harassment, especially of refugee women.

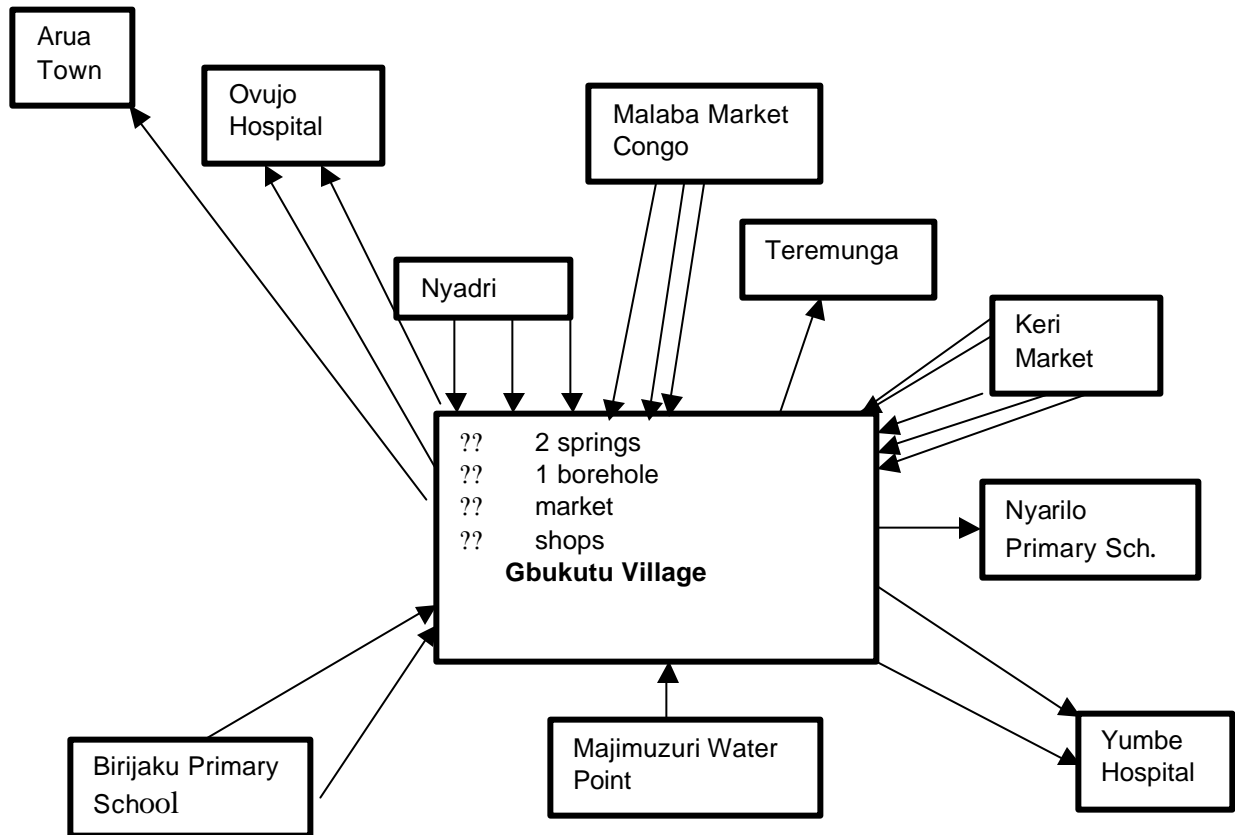
The management of clean water sources is confused. The LCs and Landlords are involved in the collection of user fees instead of water committee. The landlords are also claim the water sources.

The ICRC provided support to this sector in the 1990s by protecting three springs. The town council authority also protected two in 2001. But still, more clean water sources are needed to meet the demand of the increasing population.

Sanitation situation continues to deteriorate as pit latrine coverage reduces more due to increasing population, and clean water sources are contaminated due to poor waste management in the town.

Review of time line and Discussion of opportunities/services with the community

**Figure 5.1 Opportunities and Service Mapping, Koboko Town Council – ARUA**



**Participants:** Women 27 men 7 total 34  
**Date:** 31/10/2001  
**Location:** Gbukutu

**Facilitators:** Jackson Okuaye  
 Aluma Michael Bayo  
 Jeff Uwor Mungu  
 Caroline Arubaku

**6.1 Introduction**

This chapter describes the governance of the people. The local community needs good leadership at all levels from the grass root to central government to achieve development, possibly to eradicate poverty among themselves.

The leaders both politicians and civil servants talk of quality service delivery to bring the local community out of poverty. The community in Koboko town council informed the team that there are problems of:

Insecurity, poor Information flow in government systems and corruption. These were three points were talked of at various levels in the process of information collection.

**6.2 Insecurity:**

Community members identified insurgencies as the leading priority problem, which they alleged still exists, while for the refugees it is improving. Security for refugees improved as rebels forced them out from camps to Koboko Town Council.

According to the community, insurgency is caused by lack of adequate food supply that is causing people to go to bush for rebel activities. Poverty is said to make people to become harsh and force them to go to the bush to fight in wars.

Many people who are educated lack gainful employment and incomes, so are forced to join rebel activities.

**6.2.1 Nature and forms of Insecurity****(a) House hold insecurity:**

Over population in Koboko Town Council has led to problems of insecurity. Congestion of houses affects negatively household equipment, theft cases and conflicts on water. The women occasionally go for water but do other things else resulting to domestic violence.

- (i) Robbery by unknown gunmen.
- (ii) Petty theft e.g. animals, money of household at night.
  - ? ? Imprisonment of culprits
  - ? ? Suffering of women and children.
  - ? ? Tax defaulters running away from home leaving wives and children alone.
  - ? ? Inadequate and delayed salary payment not able to satisfy basic needs.
  - ? ? Food insecurity making households to prioritize feeding times.
  - ? ? Women buying food in the house occasionally lead to poor relationship between men and women as women will not accept orders of men resulting to Domestic violence.

**(b) Community Insecurity:**

According to the youth (boys and nationals) high taxes coupled with low income forces one out of business. This results in idleness, involvement in criminal activities including rebel activities.

Confiscation of OPEC youth items by URA can at the same time force the youth to take to commit crime as a coping mechanism, the result is insecurity in the community. Nationals have alleged that investigations carried out have implicated refugees in gunning down of people. Refugees can easily communicate with nationals who are also involved in such activities to cause more insecurity.

Refugees allege that one-sided justice in LC I courts is a breach of peace and harmony between refugees and nationals. The lack of confidence in the LC I court forces them to seek justice in the national local courts.

### **(c) Wider Insecurity:**

The borders are less than 50 kilometers and this has enable refugees to move in and out of Uganda without checking. The problem is compounded by SLPA carrying guns alleged by various groups of people (CBOs), community members and government officials. Poor international relations with the neighbours and internal politics can cause wars.

#### **6.2.2 Trend Analysis on insurgency:**

In 1979 there was insurgency in the area and no one remained in Koboko, every body flee into exile into DRC and Sudan. There were no education services. Schools were abandoned. “ Former president Obote said he should only get rats and dogs in Koboko and so we left that area and ran away” alleged a man.

“It was difficult to come home into the village (Koboko), but we sometimes sneaked in to collect food” said another man. But if the government army at that time got you and you are a Kakwa, they would term you as “ Amin’s Man” and you would be killed.

There was confusion and civil strife, for instances people from Maracha, Alur and other places would blame the problem on the Kakwa and Koboko because former president Amin was from Koboko.

The community informed the team that everything was destroyed including schools, health center facilities, business premises and residential houses in Koboko.

During the period 1980 - 1984 people fled into exile in Sudan and Congo (DRC). The men said some of them including youths formed rebel army and engaged in rebel activities across the border into Uganda. The rebel war (insurgency) was mainly fought by use of local weapons such as spears, arrows and guns to mention a few.

During 1985 –1986 Tito Okello Lutua took over Obote II Government in a military coup, but he ruled Uganda only for very few months according to the community. But in the same period rebel activities continued into Uganda according to community members. We tried all ways and means to fight our way back home when Lutua came to us to request us (our rebel groups and our people in exile to come and assist him in war “against NRM / A” said a former rebel) .

Women informed the team that during this period some of them and their children returned from Sudan. The community said the insurgency in 1986 was not great as the NRM / A entrance to Koboko was fairly peaceful. Between 1990 – 1994 there was rebel activities but not as much as compared to other periods.

During 1995 – 2000/1 there was rebel activities led by Juma Oris. There was terror by West Nile Bank Front, the insurgency led to displacement of people (Internally displaced Persons). During this period, people’s houses were burnt and rebel robbed people. This time some people were again forced to flee in exile into DRC Congo - Biringi Refugee Camps and in Sudan.

So in Conclusion the trend analysis revealed that the magnitude of insurgencies and the associated problem was greatest during the period of 1979 when Amin was overthrown followed by 1995 –2001 when Juma Oris led the rebels of West Nile Bank Front, which caused terror in the area. Then the least insurgency was in the period of 1990 –1994.

In triangulation of information on security with key informant, the following remarks were obtained, that insecurity was caused by youth who joined rebel activities based on their personal interest not due to control of illegal cross border trade by URA.

Lower LCs leadership in mobilization sometimes are poor. The LCs are not active because they complained of no (monetary) payments for the work they perform. The LC III gets some allowances but not the LC Is.

Security is one of the government programs we have achieved a great deal. People give us information on insecurity willingly and this will make security to improve further.

Movement of SPLA with arms is being taken care of by the security agents.

***“On security issues, we organize security meetings with the community. For example when one business man was killed (gunned down) by gunmen, we organized a meeting whereby community members were frank to us in their deliberations. They also assisted us a lot”*** (Senior Political Mobilizer- KII)

### **6.2.3 Poor information flow in Government System:**

The Government has a well-organized system, the local councils from the grass root to the parliament, coupled with the decentralization policy that brings services closer to the people. The LCs in Gbukutu defined their roles explaining to the team that, “ We have different roles according to the different secretaries, but our major role is mobilization of the community to take part in development, education, security to mention but a few” said the LC I Executive Committee.

The District Local Government informed the team that, they prepare Three Years Strategic Development Plan, developed as from 1998 to focus on the future and hope to change situation in the long term with greater effects on the community as a result of mobilization and bottom up approach”.

The LCs both at lower and district levels defined their roles positively, to bring change in the community for poverty eradication. Meanwhile, the community has different views on the LCs and the government in general. The people of Koboko Town council informed the team that, “LCs do not know what to do, they are only interested in hearing village courts as their livelihood means” said a man and woman in Koboko.

Why should the LCs, especially the lower LCs II and I be interested in hearing cases than delivering government planned services. The LCs had this to say, “We are facing problems in community mobilization and dissemination of information because we are not being paid for our service ”.

The LCs I and II form the largest number in the government, and therefore become a focus in information delivery. All ministries reach the community through them for mobilization purposes. Sub-Parish Chiefs who were paid by the government did community mobilization before the LC system came in use. They were few, hence government was able to pay them.

The LCs are already many, and still during the recent LC I elections there were further break down of villages creating many more LC Is than before. The issue of non-performance has not only been registered by communities on LCs alone, but affects the Civil Servants as well. “ Majority of the staff are non performers,” said District Staff.

All government programmes on health, education, roads etc are meant to reduce poverty. There is poor information flow because the system is taken for granted. “We prepare vouchers and Cheques for Heads of Departments and I expect the message to reach (information is passed) they are not satisfied” said District Staff.

More effort is now put in writing letters as a means of communication by explaining what is happening in Finance Department. In Sub-counties the Chiefs and Extension Officers do not pass the information down to lower subordinates deliberately.

The LCs whose roles are to monitor the implementation of government programmes and policies as they are being executed by the technical staff, do not reach the people to find out “ People do not bring information unless there are serious issues.

Lower level councils lack capacity, hence good governance cannot take place without empowering them and the community to demand for services. Widows said, “ *Leaders are more corrupt leading to more poverty – if any support is to target widows it should not be directed through the LCs*”.

#### 6.4 Corruption:

The team has been informed at different levels about corruption. The community is not satisfied with the service delivery with any feedback to the community. “*It is not easy to control corruption,*” said the district staff. On accountability and attitudes of the district staff, it was revealed to the team that there was still problem with accountability of funds and attitude of some of the staff. For instances, at Sub-county level the district registered many cases of indisciplined.

An example of corruption has been alleged in Teremunga Primary School where the district was involved in completion of 8 classrooms. The community reached the ring beam stages the construction work. In the process of releasing cheques, which is discussed in detail under Government Policies (section 7.2.4 –School Facilities Grant/CCG).

Corruption at top level is difficult to control as lamented by the District Staff. It is technical difficulty to trace, as the School Management Committee would have documented everything. One of the causes to this is where school management is not involved in planning but only to approve planned budgets.

***“Civil society is weak to demand for accountability, and unless there is improvement in their capacity, there will be no improved society,”***  
(KII-District Staff)

Accountability of public funds is mainly upwards, from the Sub-counties to District, and to the Ministries, because strong resolutions are passed from top. At times it involves using strength/force, but no accountability submitted to the community.

***“Government has not kept promises made, the President promised twice as well as the minister, but there is no piped water seen in Koboko town council”***  
(LC I executives)

Plans are generally from community, but there are top down conditions imposed from the central government, said a Medical Officer.

~~///~~ Political elections are now monetised

~~///~~ Democracy in Uganda is not for the educated, and politicians are below standard of their counter parts, the civil servants.

#### 6.4.1 Political elections

Political elections are now monetised. Whenever election periods draw nearer, people get prepared to get money from the candidates, while candidates think of how they would win the electorate to their side and how to meet other costs.

Many people now get involved in either dishing in some coins to few individuals or prepare feasts for those few.

The implication of this is the politicians say I “bought” the votes why should I bother to bring in development before I recover what I had spend, or why should I play with this opportunity of being in this position. While the electorate say I will not vote that one who has given me nothing to eat.

This is where corruption begins, communities are corrupt and leaders became corrupt **“It is not easy to control corruption”**, this quotation is from the district staff. An indisciplined staff is transferred from one office to another making corruption to become a vicious cycle.

**“Democracy in Uganda is not for the educated and the Politicians are below standard of their counter civil servants”** (said by KII –District)

Academic considerations have been observed in higher government positions. Presidential and Parliamentary where at least “A” level education is required, but in local council election the position of the District Local Council V Chairman is considered for “A” level standard, while the rest are not seriously observed.

It is well known that the district councilors form the district local government. These same councilors will be appointed to be secretaries to various government departments e.g. Health Education, Environment etc. Who will monitor the implementation of government programmes. These civil servants they are to monitor are mostly graduates. **Is there any balance incase the politician is not a graduate?**

This imbalance in education will create a gap between the two giving way for corruption. According to the district staff, people should learn to send stronger councilors to provide equity Local government are at district and sub-county level. At sub-county level no attention has been paid to education of Local Council III chairpersons and their councilors education. It becomes difficult to advice a low leveled educated person in budgeting. Knowing very well that graduates are posted to sub-counties to uplift development.

When LCs start talking of **prerogative powers**, they can disappoint the civil servants making it difficult to execute some of the plans as some civil servants fear the politicians just only to protect their position.

Leadership corruption caused by low level of education. Sometimes the civil servants take this as an opportunity to exploit the resources for their own benefit if the politicians are unable to identify source of the weaknesses.

The community (civil society) weak to identify some of the weaknesses if their enlightened representatives join in corruption. For example in Koboko Town Council the community is not aware of compensation rates for things like fruit trees, grass thatched houses, land etc. when taken by other development activities from them.

**“Some government officials take peoples ignorance of the law to exploit them”** (District Staff).

The community in Koboko Town Council complained that they are being under paid in compensation e.g. a Guava fruit tree would only be paid 1,500/= (i.e. per tree). When the

town authorities were consulted, they said “ *Revealing the rates of compensation is reserved for politicians*”

#### 6.4.2 Corruption at Lower Level:

LCs assumes responsibilities of water sources user fee collectors with no feedback of accountability of use of funds.

##### **A Case Study:**

Some times in the year 2000, some fire disaster cases were registered in Koboko town council. There was one in which 150 houses got burnt. Support from Humanitarian Organization was given through the LC III office Koboko Town Council to the victims.

This support given remained in the LC III desk and never reached the needy people. The LC III Chairman thought no one would follow this money meant for buying bamboos, grass, reeds ropes etc for the affected people (about 2.8 million Ush).

Some one who came to know of this from the concerned organization leaked information to the community who woke up to follow the matter.

The LC III Chairman was found guilty and imprisoned for 4 months in Arua Prisons. He later resumed his duties as LC III Chairman, after serving the prison sentence.

##### **Analysis:**

When the community is made aware and become informed on their situation they can demand for accountability and services (i.e. by sensitizing community on all government programmes / policies and involving them deep in implementation of projects allowing them to control project budgets by having copies of project budgets and compare with current market prices would stop corruption in government system.

This above analysis can only be achieved when there are independent community facilitators in each Sub -county and they are well facilitated.

#### 6.5 Conclusion:

The leaders, both politicians and civil servants talked of Quality Service Delivery to reduce poverty, while the community in Koboko informed the team that there is still problem of insecurity, poor information flow in government systems and corruption.

Insecurity for refugees is reducing while the nationals still allege that insecurity is continuing.

The community still claims that things were fine during Amins error compared to now.

There still exists household insecurity where cases of petty thefts of animals, money etc at night and robbery by unknown gunmen occur.

Women pretend to delay in waiting to fetch water but do other things else resulting to domestic violence.

Confiscation of OPEC goods by URA forces youth to commit crimes. One-sided justice in LC I courts lead to breach of the peace and harmony between refugees and nationals.

Refugees living close to the borders make them move freely with guns especially the SPLA, causing insecurity.

There is still a gap between the rural grass-root community and the government. Community members still complain that they are not aware of government programmes/policies and have

not seen tangible results, especially of intangible projects which impact has not been felt inspite of huge amounts spent on the programmes e.g. malaria eradication.

Corruption remains difficult to eradicate, as the civil society is too weak to check on the ruling class, and are not aware of what is going on in the offices.

Corruption has spread all over at the different levels from the lower level administrative units to sub-county and district local government and to the central government. This is difficult to control.

## **6.6 Recommendation:**

- ~~///~~ All Government programmes and private sector organizations should come through the Town Council for easier monitoring and ensuring proper accountability. The Town Council should be considered for capacity building fund. (Town Council Authority).
- ~~///~~ Youth Council representatives should encourage youth groups to initiate specific capacity building projects at community level (Town Council Authority).
- ~~///~~ Government should support people with disabilities (PWDs) both nationals and refugees with walking support equipment (The Community)
- ~~///~~ Government to create more job opportunities by electrification of West Nile region through which small scale industries will emerge to employ school leavers (Opinion Leader).
- ~~///~~ Capacity building training should not be for some few individuals but should be developed at all levels to enable every staff to develop their career related to relevant departments. This would improve transparency and accountability (District Staff).
- ~~///~~ Government to find better ways for the community to send strong councilors for better development planning. People with technical background, who then will be able to monitor the technical staff. This will be one of the ways to stop corruption among the technical staff (District Staff)

## 7.1 Introduction

This chapter takes into account poverty focused government programmes and policies that are being implemented on the ground.

It is important to look at how selected programmes/policies are implemented and how the related funds are allocated, monitored and accounted for, thus the benefit to the rural poor.

Most of the programmes fall under Poverty Action Fund (PAF) Programme. A PAF Programme is a specific intervention within a sector or sub-sector that meets all four criteria. It is an integral part of the Government budget, which has also mobilized additional resources from donors, as Government was able to demonstrate to Ugandans and donors alike the direct impact of the funds on poverty.

The funds of PAF programme are channeled to Local Governments. The Local Government grants experienced in Koboko are: -

- ?? Primary Education Development Grant (SFG/CCG)
- ?? Primary Education Conditional Grant (UPE)
- ?? Health sector conditional Grant
- ?? Road sector conditional Grant

*Other policies of interest to look at include: -*

- ?? Decentralization policy
- ?? Taxation policy
- ?? Privatization / Liberalization
- ?? Self Reliance Strategy (SRS)

Some people have heard about PMA and Restocking programme from the neighboring Sub-county of Midia, as they are not implemented in Koboko Town council.

## 7.2 Universal Primary Education (UPE)

### 7.2.1 Introduction

UPE is one of the government policies, which were commonly talked about in Gbukutu. The District Planner and Assistant District Education Officer informed the team that in order to enable Basic education for all, the government of Uganda formulated UPE strategy where four children per household are to benefit from free education. The parents are to meet other expenses such as writing materials (Pen, Books etc), uniforms and welfare of the child (food, medical care). This policy is supported by Poverty Action Fund (PAF) which under UPE is seen in three areas.

- ✍ UPE Capitation Grant for school fees (tuition), scholastic materials, co-curricular activities, Management, Administration and others that may be necessary.
- ✍ School Facility Grant (SFG); mainly for classroom construction, furniture and latrines for the pupils.
- ✍ Classroom Completion Grant (CCG) – to top up community / parents' effort in construction of classrooms which are their initiatives. The local councils (LCs) said it is designed to benefit the nationals only.

It would be appropriate to look at this under six main areas i.e. Allocation / Planning of the funds, implementation, accountability / transparency, achievements, problems and suggestions from the community.

### 7.2.2 Allocation / Planning:

The Central Government releases fund to the District through Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) who is the Accounting Officer in the district. The education department then release to the schools using the basic fees structure.

This issue is discussed in special reference to Teremunga Primary School in Koboko Town Council. According to the District Planning Unit, and the School Management, the allocation of UPE fund in a school is according to the budget line by the MOES, divided into percentages as below:

35%	Scholastic materials
20%	Co-curricular activities
15%	Management
10%	Administration
20%	others – to top up problem areas.

#### **Planning**

The head teacher said as soon as the funds are posted to the school account and the amount known from the Education Office, a meeting is convened for the Finance Committee for planning and budgeting. These are Heads of Department with separate Chairpersons, apart from head teachers. It was learnt that all the view of the teachers are taken through their various subject heads or departments. The senior women teacher said the view of the female teachers is taken in the budgeting for example, priority is given to girls kit 35,000/= shs a month.

After budgeting, it is sent to the School Management Committee for approval. When approved the funds are decentralized to the various departments for implementation. The team learnt from the school authority that the SMC is not involved in planning of UPE grant only to approve and monitor the implementation SFG and CCG.

The school benefited from Classroom Completion Grant by completing 8classroom block, which was taken over from Ring beam level. However the researchers were informed that the community, school authority and SMC are not involved in planning and selection of schools for both SFG and CCG. Therefore they do not know anything about selection, allocation and planning of CCG and SFG funds.

### 7.2.3 Implementation:

As regards the UPE Capitation Grant, the school authority said after the blessing of the SMC, the funds are given to each head of subject / department to be spent in the relevant areas as budgeted for. The Head teacher and the Chairperson SMC monitor the use by receiving the returns (receipts, physical check).

The District Education Office complains that all the UPE funds are released to the schools with no money for monitoring set aside, which makes it difficult for the office to follow up.

#### **School Facility Grant and Classroom Completion Grant:**

In Teremunga Primary School the school management said when 8 classrooms was taken over, they started receiving funds out of CCG. They were supposed to receive a total of 38,020,000/= but actual received was 35,960,000/=, which was given in installments.

The money received is budgeted by the school authority mainly the head teacher is given in cheque to be taken to the school account. According to the policy the SMC is to be responsible for identification of project, preparing, application, contracting, providing supervisory role, paying contractors, making counter contributions and reporting on utilization of SFG funds. But it has been realized that SMC is not involved in the implementation only the school authority and DEO's office.

#### 7.2.4 Accountability and Transparency:

Since a lot of money is put in this sector. The government and other stakeholders are interested in knowing how the money is being used. The school management said for transparency, the amount received is divided in accordance with percentages given in the guidelines is displayed on the notice board and in the Head master's office.

According to the Chairperson Finance Committee the money is given to the heads of department later transferred to the responsible teachers to spend as stipulated in the budget. The teacher accounts for it through the head of department to the Finance Chairman, and the head teacher compiles and sends directly to the DEO. The Town Council is given a copy thought they are supposed to audit and monitor, which they have not been doing due to the pressure of work.

***“It is additional work for us. Is it the workload or lack of involvement? for me I do not understand - It seems the funds which do not come via / through Sub-county or Town Council has created lack of interest in follow up”*** (KII –District)

Report from the District Education Office says female head teachers are better in accounting than the male head teachers, possibly because women are sympathetic and more honest.

#### **School Facility Grant / CCG”**

The District Planner informed the team that the Classroom Completion Capitation Grant helps to finish up parent's initiatives in classroom construction from wall plate level so as to reduce the burden on the parents. However, there is a problem observed in accountability of CCG. This is so because few are involved in budgeting and accountability of the funds received. Teremunga Primary School received funds for completion of 8-classroom block as follows: -

*Table 7.1 Teremunga Primary School CCG funds received 1999 /2000*

Date	Cheque No	Amount:
31/8/1999	020022609	4,000,000=
12/11/1999	0020022628	8,000,000=
14/12/1999	020022648	5,000,000=
?	?	14,382,000= Actual received 12,322,000=
16/8/2000	020022673	6,638,000=

Source: - Teremunga P.7 School Office Notice Board

This shows that one cheque number and date were not indicated, had value of 14,382,000= but received 12,322,000= less by 2,060,000=.

According to the school management, the difference was taken by District Education Office and they were asked to account for the whole amount 14,382,000=. This shows inconsistency in implementation and accountability.

***“The DEO's office deposited some amounts of cash in school accounts that they sport and request us as those head teachers sported to write cheques of specified amounts to be deposited in an account number of their own which I cannot remember now. That is how the 2,060,000/= was removed from us”***  
(KII-Teremunga P.7 school)

In the view of the above, it can be concluded that the accountability is a matter between the school office and District Education Office. There is need to involve the school management committee and Sub-county / Division / Town council in the system.

### 7.2.5 Achievement of UPE:

The people have welcomed the idea of UPE because it has yielded considerable achievement for the community and the school. Teremunga as a grade I school has appreciated the benefits accrued from UPE. The school attained grade I status because of its high enrollment. Through UPE government has achieved her obligation of education for all. E.g. comparing enrolment of 1995 before and 2001 currently.

Table 7.2: - Enrolment Increase due to UPE

Year	Girls	Boys	Total:
1995	495	585	1,080
2001	1,672	1,806	3,478

Source: Teremunga Primary School

Increase is by 2,389 (222%) pupils as a result of UPE and refugees presence. Currently there are 432 (193 girls and 239 boys) refugee children in the school.

The senior Women teacher said UPE has promoted girls' education because the parents strictly gave priority to boys in paying school fees when resources did not allow. The girls were kept at home or engaged in petty trade in the town. This was confirmed by the ADEO that girls are more in number in schools than boys, though boys still perform better than girls.

UPE funds are better than paying school fees i.e. before UPE the school used to collect school fees of 200,000shs per year on average, compared to 3 million on average received as Capitation Grant monthly. "It has brought improvement of school facilities through SFG and CCG component, this can be seen in 8 classroom block recently completed by the CCG" said the head teacher. He also added that UPE enable sharing of administration because many are involved in use of UPE funds.

#### Analysis

According to Education Office, the money is given to the SMC to build their capacity in planning / budgeting, implementation and accountability, but in Koboko it is a different story, school management is not fully involved in the management of UPE funds. Then whose capacity is built? SMC as owners of the school needs to be fully involved in planning, implementation, monitoring and accountability.

The Refugees have also benefited from the UPE by sharing the facilities of the school. It is only the school fees, which they don't benefit from. Refugees pay school fees directly.

### 7.2.6 Problem of UPE:

Though UPE has received general acceptance by the public, there are some bottlenecks encountered in the policy. The community and teachers have realized a drop in quality of education generally, mainly due to high enrolment there is over crowding in a class. E.g. in Teremunga there are 270 pupils in a room, where the facilities are not enough.

***"We struggle for desks, textbooks, first come first serve, when you sit on the floor it is difficult to see the teacher"*** (Primary School Pupil).

Female teachers emphasized that girls are the victims because they are slow learners and in most cases shy off. Meaning the teacher cannot give attention to all pupils effectively, teaching becomes difficult.

The Assistant District Education Officer said the problem is inadequate qualified teachers to meet the growing enrolment of pupils, as Primary Teachers Colleges don't have the capacity to train the required number of teachers. Some elements in the policy that children should not be failed has aroused concern of the teachers that it makes pupils relax provided they can go to the next class.

Community still complains that they are aware of UPE but not aware of the procedures implying they are not sensitized about UPE policy. Many members expressed concern about paying the development fund, which according to them has not made any difference, if not worse when there was no UPE. " Before UPE I was paying school fees of 4,500 per year, now I am paying development fund of 6,600= . Where is the benefit of UPE?" said an elderly man.

Table 7.3: - Fees structure in Teremunga primary school

Class	UPE Pupils			Total
	Tuition fees	PTA (Development)	Exams	
P.1 – P.2		6,000=	600	6,600=
P.3 – P.4		6,000=	1,000	7,000=
P.5 – P.6		6,000=	1,500	7,500=
P.7		6,000=	2,000	8,000=
Non UPE Pupils				
P.1 – P.2	5,000=	6,000	600=	11,600=
P.3	5,000=	6,000	1,000=	12,000=
P.4	8,100=	6,000	1,000=	15,100=
P.5 – P.6	8,100=	6,000	1,500=	15,600=
P.7	8,100	6,000	2,000=	16,100=

Source: -Teremunga Primary School

The widows say they cannot afford these school expenses and that is why many of their children are not going to school. According to the head teacher UPE funds have created misunderstanding between him and the community.

***“Everybody is suspicious of UPE funds, I was once attempted and shot at, but God saved me”*** (lamented the Headmaster).

This is so because people think the head teacher has a lot of money.

The school also complains that there is too much restriction on the UPE funds as conditional grant. This has made other areas in the school uncovered such as construction, teacher's motivation which would be crucial in the school.

UPE funds releases are irregular making management of school very difficult. The grant was received once in the whole term, the reason for the delay has not been made clear to the head teachers. The head teacher also lamented that the criteria for allocation of funds are not known where different amount received for the same number of pupils.

Latest amount received for October is 5,247,245= when broken down would be: -

Table 7.4: - UPE funds received by Teremunga Primary school:

Class	No of pupils	Amount per child	Total
P.1- P.3	1,589	1,329=	2,111,781=
P.4 – P.7	1,457	2,152=	3,135,464=
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>5,247,245=</b>

Source: Teremunga P.7 School

Compared to earlier releases of this year

February 3,461, 295=

March 6,899,898=

September 1,768,598=

The Refugees said that the NGOs and support organizations help the schools health centers, water points due to their presence. Yet they are not benefiting much from the Government of Uganda more especially in UPE, since mostly the refugees have unstable sources of income they cannot afford the school expenses and yet they came out of camps for quality education.

The ACAO in charge Refugees Desk said, the refugees would not pay school fees if they remained in the camps because when they are self-settled the UNHCR and law of Uganda do not recognize them thus not budgeted for in the National budget.

*Suggestion by the communities:*

- ✍ UPE funds be released timely and conditions be flexible such that head teachers, staff and SMC can plan in most crucial areas in the school.
- ✍ More money be injected in construction of staff houses.
- ✍ Procedures of CCG / SFG be clearly explained such as selection of schools for support, criteria for release of fund, implementation and accountability.
- ✍ The District Education Office suggested that there should be a percentage given out of the Capitation Grant for monitoring by DEO's office.
- ✍ There should be training of Management Committees and Head teachers in accountability in order to account properly for UPE funds.

### 7.2.7 Conclusion

UPE as a Government Policy has helped a lot in providing basic education to Ugandans and improving education facilities. Promotion of girl's education is noted with appreciation. However the community is aware of the programme but does not know the details and feel not enough research was done before implementation.

In accordance with Geneva Convention " Basic Education for all", the foreigners feel it is unfair to be excluded in UPE. Therefore it can be concluded that it is a good policy, but has still problems with monitoring and accountability from community level to the district. Few are involved and the capacity of school owners – SMC is not built to manage the money.

## 7.3 Health Sector Conditional Grant

### 7.3.1 Introduction

In the Health sector, PAF is for specific priority such as Primary Health Care, which can be used for outreach programmes, supplementing drugs and operational cost. According to the conditions it is not supposed to be used for staff allowances.

This PAF money comes quarterly and irregularly in Koboko Health Centre. The District Director of Health Services said Medical programmes are inadequately funded.

### 7.3.2 Implementation

According to Medical Officer, the planning and budgeting for the PAF is generated from the community through their branch Health units to the Koboko Health Centre, where they sit together with Health Management committee compile reports to be sent to the district.

There is often a top down fund use imposed in terms of conditions that do not address the needs of the community. The local government issues different types of formats to be followed which are changed now and then, this according to Medical Officer, adds workload during planning, budgeting and reporting period.

Example:

They receive 7 million shillings in a quarter and are expected to use only 10% for buying drugs which is only Ush: 700,000/= and yet with drastic increase in number of attendants the main problem is insufficient drugs. They cannot use the money for improving facilities, which are not in place. The drug kit given to the Health Centre is allocated according to population census of 1991, in which they receive 3 kits, which runs out within 2 weeks

### 7.3.3 Conclusion

The major issue in Koboko Health Center is over population due to foreigners and IDPs, which has caused inadequacy of drugs and facilities. Relying on one source of funding is dangerous making PAF funds insufficient unless conditions are relaxed to address the most pressing issues in the health services. Therefore, population explosion in Koboko should be considered in allocation of funds and any kit.

## 7.4 Road Sector

The road Capitation grant has been sent to the district. According to Koboko Town Council Authority, Funds under PAF have been directly administered from the District.

However, it was only last financial year (2000/2001) that the Town Council received 30 million for road maintenance and not for opening new feeder roads.

Out of the 30 million they also co-funded 10%, (9 million). It was intended for constructing a bridge along Lobule route.

### 7.4.1 Problem

The community does not know anything about this programme. The community expressed their concern on the bad conditions of the roads.

***“The existing town roads have too many pot holes. They have been eroded to gullies and endangering life (breaking legs) when moving at night especially our men who like moving at night from their business places”*** (Women – FGD)

According to Koboko Town Council staff it is difficult to open new roads in the community due to congestion in settlement and conditions do not allow. However, they are embarking on existing roads. The intention is to improve the conditions of the old roads.

### 7.4.2 Conclusion

On this note it can be concluded that roads conditional grant has just been received. The work on the ground is not seen, as it is not yet fully implemented. This is why the Community does not know about it, as they have not seen the benefit.

## **7.5 Decentralization Policy:**

### **7.5.1 Introduction:**

Decentralization is a common feature of many Local Government Sectoral Programmes. The term covers both transfers of responsibilities for managing services and decision-making powers to local authorities. It offers important opportunities for poverty reduction because local government operated in close proximity with local communities and is more able to respond to the needs of the poor. It is one of the means to improve the quality, accountability and cost effectiveness of Public Services.

### **7.5.2 Achievements of Decentralization:**

According to the community it has brought services nearer to the people. “ We used to go for administrative issues up to Arua, we now have a Government at our door in the Town Council where we can make laws (bye-laws)” said the Town Agent.

The elite say the powers are now with the people, they can decide somebody’s destiny democratically. The women said decentralization has recognized women status by giving them self-confidence. “ We are given positions in LC system where we sit together with men to solve some problems we can now talk with authority” Said Chairperson Koboko Women Association.

### **7.5.3 Limitations of Decentralization:**

Although Decentralization policy statements are clear and convey a vision of equity, the local communities in Koboko Town Council say Decentralization could not have yielded results, but it picked up without preparing the poor community and the lower local councils (LCs).

*“Without empowerment of the community the decentralization is useless,”* said a man. They blame the local government authorities for not sensitizing them on government programmes, as a result they do not know what government programmes exist to address their economic needs like PMA. *“We are not informed about Government programmes such as PMA, Restocking etc. We hear about these things in other Sub-counties”.* To the community, decentralization has allowed powers to abuse or misuse offices at the expenses of the poor communities. For instances, water users fees collection from the household in order to access clean water points has never been ploughed back to maintain protected water points in the community.

The community lamented over the roles played by lower LCs that they do not convene community meetings to discuss the community problems and their needs to solicit investment proposals. Instead LCs have become more active in local courts which provides them with daily livelihood means. When asked, the LCs said the poor mobilization is due to lack of motivation. The lower LCs executives are not paid salaries or allowances compared to LCs III and LC V Executives and Councilors that it has affected their performance generally.

According to the district staff, decentralization has devolved too much power to local government and has created problems of over taxing market dues on poor women. Decentralization policy is a way of leaving behind the areas, which have been backwards for good. It does not take into account areas like Koboko where the people have been suffering for over 10 years due to war / insecurity since 1980s.

“We cannot be compared to those who have been and still are in peaceful areas (districts) and say we are decentralized, when shall we catch up with them?” said a trader. Decentralization has created many levels of Government and each of these levels charge different taxes all to be paid by the same person making people poorer.

For example, refugees complained that Town Council forces them to pay taxes, which they term as development tax, which the district and central government don't know. They argue that in countries like Kenya refugees do not pay taxes.

The District staff said that due to decentralization in Uganda many other staff are paid by the district coupled with low revenue base in Arua, it has not been able to meet its huge wage bill especially for Sub-county staff and health nursing aids.

#### **7.5.5 Effects:**

The lower LCs who are not given allowances only participate or seem to be working where there is money. The LCs have forgotten their roles of development in the community. Therefore community not informed of developments taking place and it is difficult for them to demand or access services.

It has also caused lack of trust between the community because the community feels the LCs are using their positions to block assistance and exploit them e.g. assistance given through them does not reach the targeted people.

***“Decentralization is good to exercise the political and civic rights, but once elected they don't come back to us and our people are not given civic education and thus not aware a leader can be removed before the term of office expires”***  
(lamented a women leader)

#### **7.5.6 Suggestions:**

- ~~///~~ Decentralization should take into account those who have suffered and are suffering from insecurity, making it difficult for them to develop, meaning the poor will remain poor.
- ~~///~~ The community sensitization and Civic Education should be given upper hand and stepped up.
- ~~///~~ The women said it would be better to deal with them directly in case of assistance or information from higher level not through LCs.

#### **7.5.7 Conclusion:**

People in Koboko have appreciated the policy of Decentralization but they feel it has come at wrong time when they are recovering from shock of wars and insurgency. Unless Government reconsiders motivation of lower LCs so that competent, educated people are elected in the various positions decentralization will not yield much fruit.

### **7.6 Taxation Policy**

Tax is money collected by the Government. It is an amount, which must be paid to the government according to income, property, goods bought or business carried etc.

#### **7.6.1 Introduction**

Tax is major source of revenue for both local and central government. However, there are various types of taxes, which are both legitimate and illegitimate which, are collected at different levels.

It can be seen under various areas with special reference to Koboko Town Council, more so Gbukutu Sub-ward. These are:

- ~~///~~ Types of taxes.
- ~~///~~ Tax administration.
- ~~///~~ Achievement

- ~~///~~ Problems of taxation.
- ~~///~~ Recommendation/Suggestion by the community.
- ~~///~~ Conclusion.

## 7.6.2 Types of Taxes

People are paying money to the government in many ways at local level. The types of taxes being paid by the people in Koboko include: Graduated tax, Ground rent, Users fee, e.g Water, Market fee, Slaughter fee, Parking fee, Advertising, Public shows, License, Public Health Facilities, Tender fee, Tender of plans, and Development fund for refugees.

While some of the above are true in the district, the district also collects produce fee e.g. on fish going outside the country (1,000/= per packet), Tobacco haulage fee. The central government collects income tax in Koboko by Uganda Revenue Authority (URA).

## 7.6.3 Tax Administration

Graduated tax: this is the major local revenue base for acquiring assets and payments of salaries. There is tax assessment committee at Sub-county Town Council level. At lower level assessment is done on assets/property and for the employed on salaries. At the district there is tribunal who moves from Sub-county to Sub-county to hear complains of those who are not satisfied with their tax assessment.

The administrators do the collection, Parish Chiefs/Town Agents to be taken to the Town Council/Sub-county, to be shared in percentages provided for by the local government act.

The type of commodity/business and property one has with the rates set determines other types of taxes.

Water users fee: According to the community, it is illegitimate tax being paid by poor women to access clean water source, paid monthly at 500/=. The money goes through many hands i.e. Landlord claims water source being on his land, has responsibility if not ownership, water committee and LCI executives all collect the fees to be taken to the town council and council says it receives very little. Where the money goes remains a mystery.

Market dues: According to privatization policy, market tenderer is to charge 10% of commodity brought to the market and pays tender fee to the local government.

For the goods leaving or coming to the country, the central government collects tax through URA by using Anti-Smuggling Unit to arrest those who deal in illegal trade. This to the community is very harsh and inconveniencing especially for youth.

### **Refugees**

The foreigners who are self-settled and involved in full business pay taxes as nationals. Others who are involved in cross border business pay development tax of 1,000/= per packet of fish in case of fishmongers. Though refugees in Koboko Town complain of paying development tax flat rate of 10,000/=:, their response to tax payment is better than that of nationals, because they want recognition and identification for free movement. Others taxed are those who are engaged in service delivery.

“High taxation is causing poverty. In spite of us paying residence tax, development tax, and income tax, we do not have access to social services like the nationals”. They insisted that nationals benefit a lot in terms of social infrastructure and other social services and yet they are left out in benefiting like the nationals.

#### 7.6.4 Achievements.

Tax is the main source of revenue for the local government. Services at lower levels depend heavily on the local collection. The community does not see the benefit of paying taxes because they do not get the expected services.

However the LC I Executives said they have been getting 25% remittance from the Town Council which they used for buying bricks for the Health Center as part of their contribution. At the Sub-county level this local revenue is used for paying local government staff salaries and part for services e.g. roads, water maintenance.

The Sub-county chiefs and other local staff such as nursing aides are paid salaries (wages). From a certain percentage of the tax revenue collected which at the district level the Personnel Officer said is used for paying salaries /allowances for those who are paid by the district local government and allowances for the councilors.

The money is also used for co-funding programmes or project by the NGO. Some refugees pay willingly in order to be identified or to carry effective business.

#### 7.6.5 Problems

Local revenue is unreliable and unpredictable because of reduced revenue base of the major source that is graduated tax. The community blames the government of poor tax assessment system in the town council that people are not involved in the assessment. This leads to over taxation. The businessman said this is due to government staff being corrupt as some of money collected goes to their pockets.

There are many types of taxes levied by the various levels of government e.g. URA harasses, arrests and confiscates the goods in order to collect taxes for the central government. These kinds of mistreatment and high taxes cause the youth to join the rebels in the bush, thus insurgency.

***“This is why insecurity which is the major cause of poverty in Koboko will never end”*** (Youth-FGD)

Contraband fuel was not only illegal but also dangerous to the youths that deal in fuel smuggling. For instance fuel of a youth kept illegally at home near URA Koboko offices got fire and burnt an elderly women to death according to the URA staff.

On the allegations that URA overcharges the local business community and the presence of many taxes, the URA official reported that the local district/town council authorities were misusing the word – Revenue collection. For example the local authorities set road blocks with writing such as “Revenue Collection Points” this confuses the local community that it is URA collecting revenues at these check points. The URA staff advised the local authorities to use the words Local Dues Collection point so as not to confuse the local community.

On high income taxes alleged by the local business community the URA staff reported that income tax levels is determined by levels of incomes and turn-overs of particular business for the details, the team was referred to the Internal Revenue Department by the URA official.

URA official reputed that the local community cross border trade in goods such as agricultural produce, honey etc. is not taxed by URA.

Meanwhile the district collects produce fee and many others. The town council collects most of the taxes, market Tenderers over charges the market dues and lower LCs collect water users fee. The same people, men and women pay all these various taxes alike: - Example

- ~~///~~ Water fee of 500/= per month.
- ~~///~~ Market due, 300/= daily.
- ~~///~~ Rent/Ground Rent 10,000 per annum.
- ~~///~~ Income tax ranging from 5,000 to 20,000 per annum.
- ~~///~~ Graduated tax ranging from 15,500/= - 20,000/= per annum.

Most of these are traders and bound to pay all these forms of taxes. An old woman who brings a produce worth 500/= is charged market due of 200/=, which is now 40% instead of 10% of the five hundred shillings .What will she buy with the 300/=? Lamented a businesswoman. They said it mostly happens on the market days (Mondays, Thursday and Saturdays)

According to the district staff, people have negative attitude towards tax payment whether low or high despite sensitization done over radios and physically. Sometimes it is the politicians confusing the taxpayers. For instance, the President pronouncement of reducing minimum tax level to 3,000/= everybody took that 3,000/= for all levels. This has reduced revenue base for Arua District. From total collection of 85% to 50% thus has made it difficult to meet the high wage bill and cannot pay staff salaries.

### **Refugees**

The refugees complain of high taxation. They said they buy land for settlement, pay residence fee and flat rate of 10,000/= for development tax without assessing the levels of their wealth, makes others poorer.

#### **7.6.6 Recommendation**

- ~~///~~ Government to harmonize taxes paid at various levels as being paid by the same people.
- ~~///~~ License is issued for specific types of businesses.
- ~~///~~ Government to guide trade but not enforce anti-smuggling to force youth to take to rebel activity.
- ~~///~~ Local government should monitor market tenderer over their excessive market due which affect women and youth.
- ~~///~~ There is need for sensitization of local community on purposes of paying taxes.
- ~~///~~ Government to come up with law for Graduated Tax for refugees.

#### **7.6.7 Conclusion:**

There are too many types of taxes in the town council. Yet services to the grass root community are not upto date. Over 500 households paying for the same source of water is a lot of money, which is not used for the repairs/maintenance, or protection of new water sources is exploitation of the community.

Main livelihood means being trade, taxes paid including market due have reduced the people means.

Negative attitude of people towards taxes can only be helped by sensitization of he community about importance and benefits from paying taxes.

## **7.7 Privatization and Liberalization Policies**

Privatization refers to selling government owned industries, organization or sectors into Private ownership. While liberalization means removing limitations or restrictions to freedom.

### **7.7.1 Introduction**

People in Koboko do not know much about privatization, except tendering the market, which is Koboko Town Market.

### **7.7.2 Market Tender**

The District Tax Officer informed the team that, market due is one of the main sources of district revenue, and that after the markets were privatized the district found it was better in that there was little or no cost in the district getting the money.

The markets are advertised according to their grades and people bid for the tender. The highest bidder is given the costs, the district only gets what they agreed upon.

According to the agreement, the tenderer is supposed to charge 10% of the value of the commodity brought to the market.

### **7.7.3 Problems**

The community in Koboko especially the women and youth complain of over charging. Most people depending on the market as major means of livelihood.

It is noted that 10% is too much for the poor. Some of the commodities are charged more than once when all of it is not bought.

The team also learnt that the tenderer are left free not monitored, this gives them opportunity to exploit the rural poor, especially on market days of Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays in Koboko Town Market.

Sometimes the tenderer employs less educated youth to collect market dues who harass market users. Cheating and mistreating the ignorant woman.

In view of the above, it can be concluded that the tender system has given excessive powers to exploit the poor.

On serious note, the tenderer sometimes bid very high to the district. They are therefore left free to over charge to recover their money and make double profit. Therefore, there is need for strict monitoring system by the local government as it is the main sources of revenue for the local governments.

### **7.7.4 Liberalisation**

The impact of foreigners in Koboko is felt in that liberalization has made trade in Koboko very competitive, which the indigenous people of Koboko can not withstand. This is so because:

The progressive businessmen who come from Kenya, Congo, Zambia and other parts of Uganda have huge capital which locals don't have. Some refugees go directly to Kampala bring goods in pretext of taking them to Sudan to sell in Koboko cheaply.

The butchers in Koboko also complain that the Sudanese bring their cattle directly from Sudan, they slaughter and sell the meat cheaply, since they have a lot of cattle in Sudan.

Bearing the above reasons in mind, the researchers learnt that due to this high competition, coupled with low capital the nationals fall out of business, creating idleness especially by

youth. Consequently reaching to insecurity e.g. a progressive Sudanese businessman was shot dead as he planned to leave for Kampala three days before the team arrived to Koboko.

## **7.8 Self-reliant Strategy**

### **7.8.1 Introduction**

According to the District, UNHCR is moving towards self-reliance strategy (SRS) program, this means more responsibility for Arua District Local Government.

From 1994 to 1997, the Government through Ministry of Local Government and UNHCR has been promoting local settlement programmes for the Sudanese refugees in the district. The debate about SRS started in 1997 and continued up to 2000, it was thrown out of the council twice. But the problem was that SRS was not well understood especially in the areas of how local government would be involved in the implementation.

### **7.8.2 Integration of Refugees**

The self-reliance strategy is to integrate refugee services into the Local Government Development Programme /Structure (LGDP). Since it's the ideas are not far different from one of the local settlement scheme. The problem is that it is meaningfulness, which confuses the council. The argument is that since UNHCR is non-development agent and its fund are running out. It would mean refugees whether in the camps or not are an added heavy burden to the host district which already suffers a low revenue base. The question of "who" is to fund remains unanswered. The District Council already sensed the unsustainability of Self-Reliance Strategy implementation.

SRS has been planned to introduce Income Generating Activities (IGA) and Agricultural Production to increase food security and surplus for sale to help refugees alleviate their poverty at household levels. IGA self-reliance is planned to empower refugee household to plan for activities that would generate higher income for the household members.

For example Techno-Serve (NGO) organized introduction of high value chilli production and also provided the market source, it is a business activity to reduce / alleviate poverty. But the research team was informed that in Koboko Town Council, chilli production was abandoned because handling chilli without any protective clothes becomes difficult for women / widows. Again people who come to buy wanted chilli at give away price (originally promised at 800/= to 1500 per kilogram). The successful farmers / widows chilli ended up not bought and got spoiled.

The self-reliance strategy is a strategy being developed by UNHCR and government of Uganda to integrate refugees with Nationals for self-reliance. It has not been clear in terms of roles, responsibilities and funding where the district have more responsibility.

The stakeholders are still pessimistic about the implementation of the strategy. If properly funded it would be useful in agriculture and income generating activities for both refugees and natives.

## CHAPTER EIGHT: STRATEGY AND PLANS FOR POVERTY ERADICATION:

### 8.1 Institutional Support

In Koboko there are private organization that render services to the people, these include, Financial Institutions, Community Based Organizations CBOs, the Church and Mosque also play important role. The others include; Food processing (grinding mills, rice hurling), tree seedling raising etc.

#### 8.1.1 Community Based Organization:

There are a number of Community Based Organizations that exists and work in Koboko and Town Council in particular. According to the community these include Koboko United Women Association (KUWA), Tukakaliri Multi Purpose Association (TMA), Sudanese Active Women Association (SAWA), ARIZON, a Youth Association in the Town Council to, mention a few.

These CBOs have their offices in Koboko for the purpose of rendering service to the people of Koboko. One of them that the community commonly talks about is Koboko United Women Association (KUWA). It is an umbrella association of 50 different women groups with two categories of membership i.e. Founders 80 individuals registered and affiliated membership from groups all over Koboko county. The Chairperson said there are 1,160 members who have registered with the CBO.

The Objective KUWA is to eradicate illiteracy in the community, to improve standard of living of the people of Koboko.

#### **Activities undertaken by the CBO are: -**

Adult Literacy with 50 classes all over Koboko, they have sensitization programmes on women related laws.

They also have Income Generating Component that includes; food processing and credit scheme for the members.

In achievement the team noted the following; 400 women can now read and write, rate of child abuse and domestic violence have reduced, acquired funds from West Nile Women Association (WENWA) and lobbied from FINCA for loan for women. Recovery of loan in the credit scheme is good.

The women leaders also go to schools to discuss with girls, teachers about the importance of girl's education. The CBO works in conjunction with LC III council in women related activities, they work with Uganda Media Association where women's voices is taken in Radio Uganda in creating awareness to the women. All the above roles and achievement are geared to the poverty eradication.

Tukaliri Multi Purpose Association as a civil society organization helps the community under two major sets of activities:

Income Generating Activities, which include Market Oriented Crop Production with rice, groundnuts, maize, and coffee (mostly in rural areas) as principal crops.

Produce processing e.g. rice hurling and flour milling in the Town Council is helping the people a lot. Farm produce marketing with rice, ground nuts and maize. Supply farmers with improved seeds, pesticides, farm tools and fertilizers.

Education Social Services: Technical training of beneficiaries, provision of Functional Adult Literacy to the disadvantaged adults. Clean water source protection, maintenance of rural feeder roads, environmental awareness raising in gender sensitive manner.

This is a local organization being supported by DANIDA – Danish Organization enabling it to render required services to the people. Most of the activities are agricultural and more vivid in the rural areas of Koboko.

Others; Youth Association called ARIZONA providing employment for the youth to keep them busy to avoid idleness and raise income for them by raising tree seedlings, also wash cars.

#### **8.1.2 The Church / Mosque:**

The Church and Islam play important roles in the community. Such roles include promoting community education by sensitizing and assistance in education sector. For example, Church of Uganda is assisting a refugee student (PWD) in school fees payment in secondary school (now in senior six). They organize seminars, promote spiritual life in the community, and also give advice to the community on food security. By urging them to acquire land out side the village for cultivation.

#### **8.1.3 FINCA:**

It is a Micro-Finance Institution, helping women in credit facilitation through training and giving loans. It operates in Koboko Town Council, gives short-term loans with no grace period. For a 50,000/= Ush. loan a woman is expected to pay weekly amounting of 4,000=.

The women are complaining that it is not helping them much because, the amount given is very little for a viable business and is given off-season. The weekly repayment schedule is unfavourable, drains off the little money and does not leave room for profit making, as there is no grace period.

This has led some women drop out of business after recovering the loan. Others have defaulted and are hiding in Congo or villages. FINCAS being the only Financial Institution in Koboko, the women have no alternative but to access its facilities. In Koboko, lack of electricity has prevented many private sectors in operation more especially small-scale industries.

There are no International NGO working directly with people of Koboko.

“Most of these big NGOs are based in Koboko but work in Sudan. We have given them land for office premises but all of them work in Southern Sudan” said a women leader.

The self-settled refugees also complain that though the NGOs work in Sudan they don’t help the Sudanese in Uganda.

Most of the CBOs are agricultural focussed therefore are effective in rural areas i.e. neighbouring sub-counties of Midia, Lobule and Ludara. The effect of adult literacy is not felt in the town because not much time is given for such activities.

The absence of Financial Institutions and Banking Services has affected the people so much. That is FINCA with tight condition has monopolized the sector, the women have no other options, while men have no support unless they come to Arua for financial services.

### **8.2 Conclusions and Possible Interventions**

The presence of self-settled refugees, internally displaced people from rural places of Koboko, and many others attracted by the business in Koboko Town Council has caused remarkable constraints on the life style of the host community.

There are two major issues emerging from the findings believed to have constrains on resources and services

Overpopulation has tremendously increased from 7500 to 24000. This has impacted on the people in the following ways:

- ✂✂ Land – Congestion: No space for production leading to depletion of environment, poor sanitation that causes rampant diseases to poor health. Congestion has also made them prone to fire disasters.
- ✂✂ Livelihood means has changed from agriculture to mainly trade due to above reason.
- ✂✂ Food Insecurity is eminent because most people rely on food from the market. Only few go out to cultivate in the neighbouring villages or rent land outside the town.
- ✂✂ The impact on social services is witnessed in sharing of facilities in the schools making them not enough. This is reducing quality of education. This is so due to overcrowding leading to non-effective teaching.
- ✂✂ In the health sector, drugs are not sufficient. For instance 3 drug kits of run out within 2 weeks. Other facilities are not enough though the Health Centre is upgraded to Grade 4. The facilities have remained the same as before.
- ✂✂ Water is serious issue, over 500 households are sharing 3 protected clean sources of water points. The few protected sources are contaminated by the poor sanitation i.e. latrine being too close to the water source. The restriction of cleans source of water forces other people to use dirty water leading to rampant water borne diseases. These include diseases such as typhoid, bilhazhia and cholera outbreaks.

Another second major issue is insecurity still prevailing in Koboko

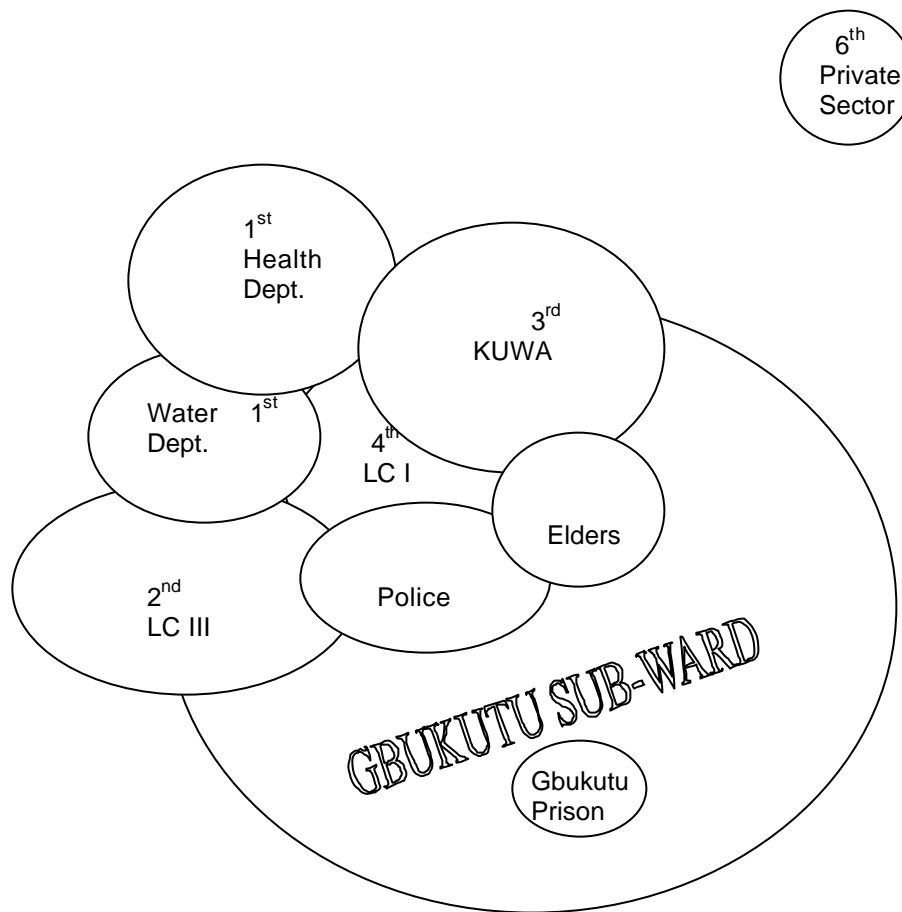
- Control of border movement is a problem where others cross with guns to be used for robbery, theft and unnecessary killings.
- The refugees free movement has also made it difficult to monitor security in the town council as unknown persons move in and out without proper identification.
- The Security personnel (especially Police) are too few to provide security to the increased population

In the view of the two major issues, it can be concluded that the poverty in Koboko has been increasing since 1980 and worst from 1990s to the present due to refugees/population pressure.

#### Possible Interventions

- ?? Government is to intensify border movement restrictions and increase vigilance in providing security.
- ?? Local Government is to give priority in community sensitization in all aspects. Including civic education, health education, and population education/Family Life Education. Sensitization on government policies and Functional Adult Literacy and other areas of interest.
- ?? Town Council to acquire more land to resettled the people and have proper Urban Plan.
- ?? District and the Central Government to look into the possibility of providing more protected water sources, with intensive health education. However, piped water system would be an option either from a giant borehole or from a river.
- ?? Provision of Credit facilities with fair terms and taking banking services to Koboko will help the community (men, women, youth and the disabled) a lot.
- ?? Government and UNHCR should speed up formulation of Self-reliance Strategy to integrate refugees with their rights clearly spelt out.

**Figure. 8.1 GBUKUTU SUB-WARD INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS**



Facilitators: Michael Aluma  
 Jackson Okuaye  
 Caroline Arubaku

Participants: 13 Men, 16 Women: Total: 29.

**Analysis:**

Lower LCs have been identified to have linkages with all institutions within and outside of The community Gbukutu. It shows they are very important in development promotion and Poverty reduction.

The implication is they perform poorly as they are not paid, the result is most of them Become corrupt- only they can perform well when they know there is a benefit in what job to be done. And the community has lost confidence in them. That their importance is to solve domestic violence (conflicts) and simple civil cases, out of which they earn their livelihood. Government should reduce some of the powers they handle to hamonise relationship with community.

### 8.3 Appendixes

#### 8.3.1 Appendix I: Daily Routine Activities Analysis by sex and categories of people

Time	Men	Women	Youth Boys	Youth Girls
12.00 A.M		Wake up from bed. Fetching water.		Wake up from bed. Wash dishes Sweep compound Fetch water for home use or for sell in hotels/builders.
7.00		Cleaning home Preparing Break fast.		Sweep house. Make fire and prepare B/Fast. Selling tea. Fetching water for home use or sell
8.00		Go to sell in the market.		Washing utensils. Fetching water for home use or sell Selling tea
9.00		-Do-		Go to market to sell
10.00		-Do-		"
11.00		-Do-		"
12.00 P.M		Preparation of Lunch		Lunch prep.
1.00		Serving lunch		"
2.00		Fetching water		Clean home and utensils
3.00		Return back to market for selling.		Return to market to sell.
4.00		-Do-		"
5.00		-Do-		Fetching water.
6.00		Return home to prepare supper. Fetching water		Selling local beer for other women. Selling tea.
7.00		Prepare supper. Fetching water		Prep supper Bath children Selling local beer for other women. Selling tea.
8.00		Prepare supper Fetching water Bathing children. Fetching water		Prep supper Bath children Selling local beer for other women. Selling tea. Serve supper
9.00		Serving supper Fetching water		Bathing Reading
10.00		Selling tea at discos and video places		Bathing Reading To bed
11.00		Fetching water Selling tea at discos and video places To bed		To bed
12.00		Fetching water To bed		

### 8.3.2 Appendix: II Gender Activity Analysis Diagram

	Activities	Categories of people			
		Women	Men	Girls	Boys
A.	Productive Activities				
	1. Business:				
	Selling business commodities		*		
	Buying business commodities for sale		*		
	Cross –border legal trade	*	**	*	
	Cross –border illegal trade (smuggling)		*		**
	2. Produce buying and selling:				
	Buying produce for sale.	**	*		
	Selling produce	**	*		
	Selling vegetables	*		**	
	3. Selling water	*		**	
	4. Selling Firewood	*			
	5. Selling grass	*			
	6. Selling labour	*	**	*	**
	7. Commission agents		*		**
	8. Formal (salary) employment		*		
	6. Selling cooked food and tea	*			*
B.	Reproductive activities				
	Cooking	**		*	
	Bathing children	*		*	
	House cleaning	*		*	
	Fetching water for home use	**			**
	Taking children to health centre	**	*		*
C.	Community work				
	Attending to funerals	**	*		
	Attending to ceremonies	*	*		
	Community work	*	*		

### 8.3.3 Appendix: III Access and Control profile

Resource/assets	Access		Control	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Land	*	*		*
Animal	*	*		*
Children	*	*		*
Money	*	*	*	*
Labour	*	*		*
Education	*	*	*	*
Time	*	*	*	*
Food	*	*		*
House/Home	*	*		*

**8.3.4 Appendix IV : -Categories of well-being by national and self-settled refugees community in Gbukutu-Koboko town council**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Criteria</b>
<b>Nationals</b>	<b>Category 1. The Rich</b> (Korein)	Having livestock: over 20 cows, 15 goats, 30 birds. Having over 5m/=. Having a shop and business. Having a house for renting.
	<b>Category 2. Fairly Rich</b> (Alubunga)	Able to have all meals in a day: B/fast, lunch and supper. Having some livestock; about 10 goats, over 2 cows. Having land for cultivation. Having gardens with crops such as cassava, bananas and sugarcanes.
	<b>Category 3. Fairly Poor</b> (Teru)/ (lemeri cika)	Having some small piece of land for renting and selling. Able to hire some labour. Having gardens with crops. Able to have at least two meals in a day (lunch and sometimes supper).
	<b>Category 4. The Poorest/the core poor</b> (Alemeri dho dho)	Having no income source. Dependent on relatives and other people for meals and accommodation. Not able to afford clothing Feeds once a day or not at all. Has no land Has a house in poor conditions. They include categories of people such as the elderly, widows, orphans, the chronic sick, People with Disability (PWDs).
<b>Self-settled refugees</b>	<b>Category 1. The rich</b> (Kworonit / Kporoni)	Having at least 1m/= and above. Having livestock: above 50 cows, 100 goats. Having bicycle(s). Having sometimes vehicle(s). Having an employment. Earning salaries.
	<b>Category 2. The poor</b> (Lemer)	Having amount of money between 1,000/= and 50,000/= and seasonal. Living from "hand to mouth" i.e having no surplus to save.
	<b>Category 3. Fairly poor</b>	Sell their own labour to survive.
	<b>Category 4. The Very poor.</b>	Dependent on other people for survival. Having nothing (i.e assets and other things).

**8.3.5 Appendix V: - Timeline matrix of Gbukutu-Koboko Town council from 1970 – 2001 by the community**

<b>Period</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Impact</b>
1970	The area (Koboko TC) was sparsely populated	People engaged in crop cultivation. There was high food production and food supply for the community. The area (Koboko TC) had big trees and large tree coverage.
1971 – 1978	Dr.Obote 1 Government was overthrown by former President Idi Amin in a coup (war)  Koboko Town became the headquarters of North Nile district.	Many people joined Government Armed Forces. There were free health services. Many people were employed. Incomes increased. There was better standard of living due to increased income levels of households. Taxes were low and people were able to pay and businesses were better. School fees levels were low and people were able to afford and pay school fees. There was increased level of education. There were high chances for employment (job opportunities) for the few educated people. Many people migrated from rural areas and other places to stay in Koboko town council. “Businesses boomed” in Koboko TC. There was increased numbers of good looking permanent buildings in the town.
1979	Idi Amin Government was overthrown by combined forces of Tanzania and Uganda rebels.	There was war but not much resistance. Some people ran into exile in Sudan and Zaire (present DRC). Many people lost their Government jobs especially, in the Government Armed Forces.
1980-1984	Former Amin soldiers combined with community members in exiles in Sudan and Zaire (present DRC) waged a war against Obote II Government.	Many more people fled into exile in Sudan and Zaire (present DR) and the area was left empty unoccupied. Many people were killed in the war. Buildings and infrastructure such as schools, health centers, commercial shops etc were destroyed. Households assets were looted. Women were raped.
1985	Tito Okellos requested the former Amin Soldiers to help them fight the Obote II and NRA rebels. Tito Okellos overthrew Obote II Government.	Some people returned home from exiles to Koboko town council.
1986	Yoweri Museveni’s NRM/A rebels overthrew the Tito Okellos Government.	Good governance began to be practiced e.g RCs systems. Social services (schools, health centers, clean water sources etc) were renovated by UNHCR. People in exile began to return back home (especially a year after 1987). More new schools were built. Parents started to pay school fees. Lack of employment forced many people to leave Koboko.

1990-1992	Civil war in Sudan re-started and intensified	<p>There was influx of refugees from Sudan to Koboko</p> <p>Many NGOs established offices and started operating in Koboko.</p> <p>Local Government took people's land and gave it to NGOs without compensation.</p> <p>Lack of employment opportunities and income forced many people to leave Koboko.</p>
1993-1996	Insurgency and rebel activities began in Koboko, Arua district and the West-Nile region.	<p>Unemployed youth joined the rebels and began rebel activities.</p> <p>Many people were killed and others were tortured and harassed.</p> <p>Many people were displaced from the rural areas to Gbukutu –Koboko town council. This led to increased population, congestion and constraints on the limited resources and services.</p>
1997-2001	Insurgency intensified and spread deeper into refugees camps	<p>Refugees were forced out of the refugees camps by WNBF rebels to Koboko town council to become self-settled refugees.</p> <p>People migrated to Koboko town council from within (Aringa, and Maracha) and from out side the country (DRC and Kenya) and settled in Koboko town council to carry out businesses.</p> <p>The further increased in population led to constraints on resources and social services. Land became scarce for settlement. Schools and health centers facilities and supplies became limited e.g drugs supply.</p> <p>Over crowding in schools and health centers.</p> <p>Services became expensive.</p> <p>Businesses declined and incomes reduced.</p>

### 8.3.6 Appendix VI: Institutions their importance and relationships with the community

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Relationships and Importance to the community</b>
<b>Local council – LC I</b>	LC Is was less important to the community and their relationships with the community have become poor. They did not pass information to the community and information from the community to the above authority; link the community to the elders and upper LCs and did not regular meetings.
<b>Local elders</b>	The elders were regarded important to the community because they receive information from other sources such as decisions from LC IIIs and pass it to the community. They called meetings regularly.
<b>Local council II and III</b>	The LC II and IIIs are less important to the community because they more interested in collecting water user funds through the water committees which they did not account properly. They harshly enforce laws. They were expected to interact closely with Water department, Police, health sector, prisons and LC I. But, they failed to perform that role.
<b>Police</b>	The police co-operated with LCs and elders in keeping Law and Order. But, the Police personnel numbers were not enough and they were corrupt because they asked for money as bribes.
<b>Water Department</b>	The Water Department co-operated with LC III and Health Department but has no relationship with the community. But they have failed to provide more safe water sources for the community when shortage of clean water was the leading community problem.
<b>Prisons</b>	The Prisons Department was important to the community because they provided the community members with food supply. The community members bought food supply from the prisons. The Prisons Department supplies Koboko Town council market with food supply which they grew on their farms.
<b>KUWA (a local CBO)</b>	KUWA, a local CBO was important to the community because they mobilised the women, provided them information and organised them in development.
<b>Private firms</b>	The private firms and organisations had no links with the community. They were less important to the community members because they did not provide the youths employment.

### 8.3.7 Appendix VII: Insecurity in Gbukutu Sub-Ward Koboko Town Council

**8.3.8 Appendix VIII: Income Analysis and Expenditure tree for Household of Mr. Damai**

**8.3.9 Appendix IX: Income Analysis and Expenditure tree for Household of Mr. Iddi Lemeru**

### 8.3.10 Appendix X: PPA II Information Collection Feed Back Community Meeting

S/n	Names	Designation		Names	Designation
	<b>LC I Executives</b>				
1	Amani Tobit	LC I C/P Gbukutu	48	Rehema Ratib	Secretary for Finance
2	Aliga Swaib	LC I Vice Chairman Mundukudu	49	Mariamumu Juma	Lc I sec. For Finance
3	Alemi Marjan	LC I Chairman Central Village	50	Afako Patrick	Business man – Secretary
	<b>Community Members</b>				
4	Buruga Bran Kayinga	Newsman			
5	Aida Aisha	Female	51	Salima Bako	Female
6	Dawa Salam a	Female	52	Zaida Ayile	Female
7	Afusa Faida	Female	53	Nusura Engopia	Female
8	Aningo Amisa	Female	54	Kemisa Akando	Female
9	Zaitun Faida	Female	55	Halua Karani	Female
10	Dukiya Avar	Female	56	Dawa Magrete	Female
11	Kemisa Dodo	Female	57	Safina Ali	Female
12	Bako Zubeda	Female	58	Madina Dawa	Female
13	Naima Yangu	Female	59	Maneno Grace	Female
14	Siyama Akujo	Female	60	Govule Brani	Male
15	Kadija Candiru	Female	61	Swale Dafala	Male
16	Leyla Safi	Female	62	Sadiki Domadi	Male
17	Kasfa Umar	Female	63	Adam Musa	Male
18	Jamila Safi	Female	64	Swale Mamudu	Male
19	Akiya Amina	Female	65	Amani Tabit	Male
20	Ema Asuni	Female	66	Idi Lumago	Male
21	Nusura Akandu	Female	67	Obi Silimani	Male
22	Aje Dola	Female	68	Diriya Chandiru	Female
23	Ketura Candiru	Female	69	Swaibu Bakole	Male
24	Rakiya Tabu	Female	70	Dusumani Lingo	Male
25	Naima Anjeru	Female	71	Kemisa Chalici	Female
26	Fatuma Anderu	Female	72	Druku Felix	Male
27	Atituo Juma	Female	73	Umar Nusur	Male
28	Sara Candiru	Female	74	Ratib Saidi	Male
29	Ajio Dawa	Female	75	Majidi Maturu	Male
30	Kakayo Safiya	Female	76	Umar Bongomini	Male
31	Eldar Dudu	Female	77	Aleti Sali	Male
32	Joice Aday	Female	78	Apay Unisi	Female
33	Fatuma Ede	Female	79	Maneno Ibrahim	Female
34	Anjuleta Akuya	Female	80	Binti candiru	Female
35	Maburuka Ongiya	Female	81	Amida Candiru	Female
36	Wilaru Joice	Female	82	Zakiya Beatrice	Female
37	Ate Nadiya	Female	83	Lemeriga Maciidi	Male
38	Mariyamumu Juma Wani	Female	84	Kasara Afsha	Female
39	Aisha Rajabu	Female	85	Fatuma Udaru	Female
40	Fatuman Dombiyo	Female	86	Ana Gasiya	Female
41	Apitiki Sauda	Female	87	Maicol Taban	Male
42	Jamila Ajonge	Female	88	Bwate Mansuru	Male
43	Aisha Idi	Female	89	Kanya Rukiya	Female
44	Mariyamumu Yangi	Female	90	Aka Saban	Male
45	Zubeda Gabu	Female	91	Palma Aka	Female
46	Atibu Saidi	Male	92	Gabu Idi	Male
47	May Apay	Female	93	Mariyamumu Adam	Female

<b>S/no</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>S/no</b>	<b>Names</b>	<b>Designation</b>
996	Magret Udri	Female	108	Aluma Muhamud	Male
97	Faida Fatuma	Female	109	Asunye Kemisa	Female
98	Ali Aume	Male	110	Caroline Fatuma	Female
99	Yeka Ayile	Male	11	Geria Rose	Female
100	Piter Anguzu	Male	112	Araba Marata	Female
101	Faida Amina	Female	113	Ajio Melika	Female
102	Viko Amina	Female	114	Apai Lona	Female
103	Likico Grace	Female	115	Adrili Aisa	Female
104	Dud Nusura	Female	116	Anite Mariam	Female
105	Kumbu Juma	Male	117	Joicy Cosmus	Female
106	Yeka Ayile	Male	118	Piter Anguzu	Male
107	Loicy Akandru	Female	119	Acan Aisa	Female