

REPORT ON TRAINING OF REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES ON  
LAND USE & MITIGATION OF LAND CONFLICTS IN REFUGEE & HOST  
COMMUNITIES IN RHINO CAMP SETTLEMENT, ARUA DISTRICT



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CENU facilitator Mr. Alitia Elia taking participants through a group activity in Yelulu cluster.

**Venue:** Yelulu & Katiku III Clusters, Rhino Camp Settlement, Arua District

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> –22<sup>nd</sup>, Sept 2017.

**Facilitators:** Mr. Asau Sunday & Mr. Alitia Elia

## INTRODUCTION

“Support Program for Refugee Settlements and Hosting Communities in Northern Uganda (SPRS–NU)” is a project implemented under the European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF) by ZOA, DRC, SAVE THE CHILDREN and CEFORD in partnership. A contract was undertaken between ZOA West Nile Portfolio and Community Empowerment Network Uganda (CENU) to facilitate a three (3) day Land use & Mitigation of land conflicts skills training in Yelulu & Katiku III clusters, Rhino Camp Refugee settlement Arua District drawing participants from both refugee and host communities targeting 50 participants.

Aware of the importance of land to people and given the complexity on the laws on land in Uganda and disparities between the land laws & policies of the two countries, lack of awareness on legal rights and obligations in matters of land can surely be a catalyst to conflicts between the customary land owners (host communities) and refugees.

It became imperative to create awareness on land use, rights attached to land, possible causes of land related conflicts and how to mitigate

or resolve the same through Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms to promote peaceful co-existence between host communities and refugees.

This training that was conducted between 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2017 in Yelulu and Katiku III settlement Clusters in Rhino Camp, Arua district, West Nile Sub region.

## **JUSTIFICATION FOR ORGANIZING THE TRAINING**

Long before this training, there has being presence of land disputes, abuse of land rights, gender mismatch on land matters, compensation problems, among other issues occurring between the host communities before refugees came and now between refugees and host communities partly due to ignorance on the land laws of Uganda, or because of the general importance and perception attached on land by the ordinary people. In such circumstances, the public, community leaders (religious, local councils, CBOs, groups) in these areas needed to be sensitized on the general issues concerning land, peaceful approaches to resolution of land disputes and all land right related issues. This training was therefore, not only necessary but remains desired to achieve continuous peaceful enjoyment of land rights by the owners and occupants while mitigating or positively managing conflicts that arise in the process.

## EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

As the general practice, before the participants were taken through the various topics in this training, they were given a chance to enumerate their expectations on the matters of land.

They raised mixed expectations with some touching the training objectives and content while others were general expectations as outlined below:

### Land related expectations

- I. One of the participants expected to deeply understand the role of LCs in addressing land conflicts within the communities.
- II. A female participant wished to know why women are denied ownership of land.
- III. A participant expected to know about how to legally acquire land in Uganda as a refugee.
- IV. A participant expected to gain more skills on how to better resolve land related disputes in their communities.

### General expectations

- I. Most of the participants expected to be given certificates at the end of the training.
- II. They expected to be provided T-Shirts labeled with training subject.

- III. One of the participants complained that they are usually not given handouts to sustain the knowledge they have acquired.
- IV. They generally expected good facilitation from the facilitator

## **TRAINING OBJECTIVES**

Overall objective of this training was to create awareness on the existing land use policies, laws, land management structures and structures of adjudicating land disputes in Uganda.

It was also aimed at helping the participants appreciate the benefit of using Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms in resolving land disputes to promote peaceful co-existence in their communities.

### **Specific objectives**

- I. To deepen the participants understanding and share their experiences on land use practices in communities and appreciate how some of the practices are a source of land conflicts themselves.
- II. To help participants understand the rights of citizens and refugees on land in Uganda.
- III. To have a better understanding of the formal land adjudication structures and procedures in Uganda and refugees settlements.
- IV. To build the participant's practical skills in the use of Alternative dispute resolution mechanisms as opposed to the formal adjudication systems in courts for their benefits.

## METHODOLOGY

- Participatory lectures were undertaken to deliver training content to stimulate interest, build active participation aimed at creating maximum training impact.
- Role plays & training game time activities kept the participants active, focused and concentrated throughout the training.
- Sessions of group discussion to generate participant's deeper understanding of certain training areas and also provided an opportunity for expression of views in confidence for inclusive participation was used.
- Exercises generated the level of understanding of the content delivered.
- Sharing of personal experiences presented an opportunity for the nationals to learn land related practices from South Sudan and vice Versa.
- Question and Answer sessions engaged the participants in active debate, probed understanding and was a useful tool of needs assessment throughout each stage of the training.



## LAYOUT OF TRAINING PROGRAM

The planned content of the training was delivered as guided by the program outlined below.

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBLE
<b>Day 1 program</b>		
8:00–9:00am	Arrival & Registration of participants	Co-facilitators
9:00–9:30am	Welcome & Introductions	Co-facilitators
9:35–9:40am	Official opening remarks	ZOA
9:40–10:00am	Expectations, Fears, ground rules, Logistical issues & training Objectives	Facilitator / ZOA
<b>HEALTH BREAK</b>		
10:20–10:40am	Land basics (sustainable land use, understanding land), Land rights in Uganda, Land acquisition and ownership	Facilitator
10:40–11:40am	Group work and presentations on use, rights of land in South Sudan Vs. Uganda	Facilitator
11:40–12:30pm	Reflections and sharing of experiences	Facilitator
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>		

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2:00–3:00pm	Land Tenure systems and administration of land in Uganda	Facilitator
3:00–4:00pm	The Refugee Act in relation to the use of land by refugees in Uganda	Facilitator
4:00–4:30pm	Group work & presentations on tenure systems Reflections & sharing of personal experiences, Closure of day 1	Co-facilitators
<b>Day 2 Program.</b>		
8:30–9:00am	Arrival & Registration of participants	Co facilitators
9:00–9:30am	Recap of day one learning	Facilitator
9:30–10:00am	Understanding Conflict, violence & non violence, Peace building concepts	Facilitator
<b>HEALTH BREAK</b>		
10:20–1:00pm	Challenges of land use in Uganda/land conflicts Group work on identification & nature of conflicts related to land use in Uganda & South Sudan Reflections, Experience sharing	Facilitator Facilitator Facilitator
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>		
2:00–3:30pm	Adjudication of land conflicts in Uganda	Facilitator

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3:30–4:30pm	Group discussions Reflections Closure of day 2	Facilitator ZOA
<b>Day 3 Program.</b>		
8:30–9:00am	Arrival & Registration of Participants	Co facilitator
9:00–9:30am	Recap of Day 2 work	Co facilitator
9:30–10:00am	Reconciliation and Arbitration skills	Facilitator
<b>HEALTH BREAK</b>		
10:20–12:20pm	Stage 1–4 Mediation process	Facilitator
12:20–1:00pm	Role plays, Demonstrations, Reflections	Facilitator
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>		
2:00–3:30pm	Managing Emotions, Communication skills for trust, cooperation & confidence building, Leadership & Advocacy skills	Facilitator
3:30–4:20pm	Envisioning & Action Planning	Facilitator
4:20–4:30pm	Training Evaluation & Closure	Facilitator

## KEY ISSUES FROM PROCEEDINGS

### Land use & Gender Mismatch

- Power imbalances between men and women revealed that men predominantly possess the power over women on ownership, occupation and use of land.
- The rights of the women according to law to equal ownership of property including land have continually been infringed. Lack of awareness on this among the rural women only exacerbates the situation.
- The power imbalances still create a discord when it comes to land registration where the men outweigh the women and register titles in their individual but not matrimonial names.
- Ignorance on will and succession on land is an uphill challenge in the rural communities for instance after the death of a Husband who appointed the brother as a successor, the widow is thrown out. On the other hand lack of will (written or oral) denies protection for the widow and children from land grabbing from the relatives.
- Empowerment of women on rights on land is critically low in the rural communities giving men advantage over the women.

## **Clash between Customs, Traditions & Norms against the laws governing land.**

- Cultural norms and believes places the women at a precarious position as to where their land ownership lies ( whether at matrimonial home or ancestral home) the underlying believe is the CULTURALLY WOMEN DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO OWN LAND
- Bride wealth buys off the rights of the women to own land to the men as they are considered as fully acquired properties where men take over every right over them and from them.
- The customs and traditions in many rural societies denies women the right to own right. These traditions are rigid. The women are at the same time denied the opportunity for formulation, transformation of these customs & traditions.
- Culture of most of our societies places the women at an inferior position to the men which translates into ownership, occupation and use of land.
- ANY CUSTOM, TRADITION AND CULTURE THAT CONTRADICTS THE CONSTITUTION IS NULL & VOID. The communities are not aware about this giving an opportunity for the disparities to continue.

## **Difference in land laws of the two countries**

- The policies and laws governing land in South Sudan & Uganda are different. There is ignorance among the refugees regarding acquisition, management & use.

## **Key achievements**

- Completion rate was 100% as 50 reported on day 1 and 50 completed on day 3 in both clusters.
- At the end of the three days, participants expressed total satisfaction with the training as evidenced by statements of the group leader and other members of the group. End of training evaluation revealed that the participants were more enlightened, confident on land & conflict issues and charged for action.
- There were action points at the end of the training by the participants on how to implement ideas gathered from the training. On the basis of these action plans, the team will be monitored to see the extent to which they are creating impact in terms of peace building, conflict management on land matters.

## **ACTION PLANS**

We are going to form MDD & cultural groups to raise awareness & sensitize the communities on land & conflict matters. We agree to undertake weekly shows and the responsibility is for the group leader.

The cluster cabinet team is going to organize training for the lower level community to increase the knowledge on land matters and conflict. We agree to undertake these starting from October, 2017 and the responsibility is for the Group leader.

We will undertake sensitization campaigns with followers and general community on land & conflict matters from October 2017 to be overseen by the group leader.

We shall form land advocacy teams in our clusters to advocate for peaceful resolution of land disputes from October 2017 overseen by the group leader.

## TRAINING CHALLENGES

Opening of Ariwa – Yelulu road rendered access challenges delaying arrival of the facilitator.

**Solution:** The paralegals on ground were informed to start proceedings and build training ground ready for the facilitator to take on from.

The sitting and display facilities in Yelulu were not comfortable. These created inconveniences and affected group works.

**Solution:** Interluding sitting, play & movement of participants throughout the training days.

Language barrier was a training challenge in both Yelulu and Katiku III as the training was conducted in three languages

**Solution:** The facilitators fortunately could speak Lugbarati making it easy to translate what they presented.

Because of the sensitivity of the training matter and also age of the participants, they wanted to copy as well as understand all the content within the agreed time frame in both Yelulu & Katiku III

**Solution:** They were made to understand and participate first while training while they copied afterwards and the training hand out was given for them to copy from.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

**Land clinics** are strongly recommended due to the sensitivity of land matters and bearing in mind that land and land resources are the biggest source of conflict world over. The ordinary people need general land information to help them manage land issues as per the countries policy framework.

**Peace Monitors** to follow up peace activities of the groups and the leaders in the communities. Independent peace monitors are necessary as the paralegals cannot stretch to appropriately oversee the peace activities in all the groups.

**Land Information Resource Centre** is extremely vital in the communities to have access to the correct land information including the policies, laws, regulations and registration forms.

**Integration of livelihood and emergency interventions** into the conflict activities to address emergencies like floods and empowerment of vulnerable groups to have voice.

**Follow up of the planned actions** closely by the program team of ZOA to sustain impact of the training and assess extend to which the leaders are intervening to mitigate land related disputes.

## TRAINING EVALUATION

The training was timely planned as land disputes were building and escalating in the settlement between the customary owners and the refugees. It was so much appreciated as the content, methodology was in tandem with the community needs and the impact was evidently high as seen in the very active participation, level of interest and the action planning.

Looking at the following set of comments,

*This was best training ever among the ones I have so far attended with ZOA.....*

*I wish this training was for a full week.....*

*I wish everybody had an opportunity to attend such a training, land disputes would really reduce...LCI Katiku III*

The above comments clearly reveal how well the training was delivered. The contributions, questions asked and level of activity throughout the training was commendable.

## CONCLUSION

As Community Empowerment Network Uganda (CENU), we remain grateful for the trust and opportunity to partner with ZOA on this important program of conflict & peace. This has enabled us interact with the refugee & host communities broadly and also as an organization to identify gaps to build on for a more responsive, effective program. It is the basis up on which CENU feels obliged to always deliver the desired impact when called up on.

Though the feedback from the community has generally being positive, a constructive organizational feedback will strengthen us further in our vision” **A community with efficient human capacities and good quality of life for sustainable development”**

We also express our willingness to cooperate with ZOA in other areas of Livelihoods (Agricultural & Non Agricultural), WASH, and Education among others.

## Appendices

### Activity Photos



Figure 1: The participants presenting their ideas on the land related disputes in South Sudan and Uganda



Figure 2: A group exercise and play time outside the training venue on how to notice conflicts in our communities



Figure 3: Depicts the challenges of sitting but despite these hardships the picture shows how keen the participants were following proceedings due to the importance of the subject matter



Figure 3: Depicts the level of concentration during the proceedings at Katiku III

## Acknowledgements

I-----acknowledge

that this report is a true reflection of how the training transpired on ground, duly delivered under my guidance and direction. I undersign here below in confirmation.

Sign-----

Date-----