



AN EVALUATION OF THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO SUPPORT SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES IN ADJUMANI - HOPE AGAIN Project 2016-2017

REVISED DRAFT REPORT

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I. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACF Action against Hunger

BCP Building and Concrete Practice

DCA Dan Church Aid

DRC Danish Refugee Council DRR Disaster risk reduction

FCA Finn Church Aid FFH Food for the Hungry FRC Finnish Refugee Council

HH Household

IGAs Income Generating Activities
ICR International Rescue Committee
LWF Lutheran World Federation
M&E Monitoring and Evaluation
MTI Medical Teams International

NFI Non Food Items

NRC Norwegian Refugee Council OPM Office of the Prime Minister RICs Refugee Incentive Workers

RLP Refugee Law Project

RWCs Refugee Welfare Committee
UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UNHCR United Nations High Commission for Refugees

VSLA Village Savings and Lending Association

WFP World Food Programme

II. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. <u>Introduction</u>

This report presents the evaluation findings of the end of the Humanitarian Response to Support South Sudanese Refugees in Adjumani (Hope Again Project) implemented by LWF Uganda in Adjumani refugee settlements and host communities. The settlements comprise Ayilo, Baratuku, Nyumanzi, Boroli and Elema. The evaluation was undertaken in January 2017 by staff, management and stakeholders of the project and facilitated by external consultants from Tropical Business Research.

The objective of the evaluation exercise was to assess the achievements, impacts and sustainability plans put in place for the Humanitarian Response project.

The exercise was undertaken with the aid of various methods which ranged from desk research, interviews, focus group discussions, site visits and a survey of 214 households comprising South Sudanese refugees (149) and host communities (65) in the project area.

B. FINDINGS

This evaluation was guided by the objectives set in the terms of reference. The findings are structured along two objectives with the attendant sub-themes elaborated in the main report.

This evaluation has established that, overall, the project was found to be relevant to the needs of the stakeholders; (South Sudanese Refugees and host communities). The design and strategies were found to be appropriate especially in supporting the implementation of the government self-reliance strategy for the refugees. In terms of context, the project was deemed relevant because of the effectiveness of the strategies it employed to address the unique challenges faced by the refugees.

The evaluation has also established that the Hope again project goal and objectives are consistent and in tandem with the country strategies and priorities of LWF (Humanitarian Emergence Response and Sustainable Livelihoods), DCA Right to food and humanitarian action).

Implementation of project activities took cognizance of the objective of achieving efficiency, by employing strategies that have ensured achievement of results with minimum costs and convenience. Allocative efficiency, sound budget management, timeliness of the delivery of projects services, all show satisfactory efficiency levels.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

AGRICULTURE

The project facilitated training of farmer groups in all the five settlements and host communities in the project area in improved methods of farming. Farmer training was

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conducted by area field extension workers (FEW) assisted by incentive workers. Farmer Groups underwent training in agronomic practices including seed bed preparation, selection of good seedlings/seeds, timely planting, spacing, early weeding, pests and diseases control, timely harvesting, selection of seed for replanting and post-harvest handling. As part of the extension support farmers were also helped to access right seeds through a seed voucher system. Trained farmers were able to purchase improved seeds such as hybrid maize and beans, cassava and potato vines. As a result of the intervention the refugee community were able to grow some food to supplement the food rations leading to an improvement in household food security. Besides, as a result of the capacity built into the farmer groups, some of their members were able to sell their produce in the markets located in the settlements. The money was used to boost their VSLAs while they shared some at the end of the year.

NUTRITIONAL STATUS

The project supported a number of mothers in nutrition as a remedy to ending malnutrition. Several households especially among refugees have adopted vegetable growing and consumption as an important and integral part of their diets.

VOCATIONAL SKILLS

A total of 76 young people (46 from the refugees and 30 from the host communities) have been supported to undergo vocational skills training in the following trades; agriculture, building and concrete practice, carpentry and Joinery, welding, hair dressing and motor vehicle repairs. The skilling is already making an impact in the livelihood of the communities especially in agriculture. It is expected that overtime; the rest of the acquired skills will translate into beneficial jobs for the youths and their communities. This is because some of these skills by their very nature have longer gestation periods from acquisition to adoption and becoming trades.

CONCLUSIONS

LWF supported Livelihood interventions in the five settlements and host communities have done a commendable job in supporting both the refugees and nationals/locals in enhancing the quality of their livelihoods, food and nutrition security as expressed by many if not all the interviewees and affirmed by the evaluation team.

The design and appropriateness of the Hope Again Project strategies in the five settlements and host communities can be viewed as relevant to the needs of the beneficiaries.

Evidently, the capacity building efforts involving direct training of beneficiaries to improve their livelihoods; improve their nutritional status and achieve food security through IGAs and vocational skilling have been critical in empowering both refugee and host communities to become more self-reliant.

Engagement of key stakeholders to agree on settlements to be targeted has gone a long way in avoiding duplication and wastage of resources in a multi actor environment.

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A well laid strategy right from project design needed to have been provided to take care of issues of sustainability and continuity of some of the outcomes of the interventions. These interventions like practices and habits that support livelihood, food and nutrition security are likely to be adopted by the project beneficiaries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the implementation experience for a period of 12 months, the following recommendations have been suggested:

- 1. There is need to devise new strategies to mobilise resources for expanding the livelihoods, food and nutrition security and vocation skills activities. The need for such interventions is enormous given that the refugees are not likely to return to South Sudan soon because of the fragile situation characterized by sporadic violence and food insecurity that has continued back home.
- 2. Strengthen capacity building interventions target at direct beneficiaries especially through training of caregivers within households to address nutrition needs which are widespread amongst the refugee population is a valuable and worthwhile undertaking.
- 3. Appropriate skilling of young persons who are a majority and can easily become a security threat within the settlements and the community at large is a noble cause beneficial undertaking.
- 4. Linkage with other stakeholders in a multi actor humanitarian response especially the district local government should be strengthened. This will allow use of existing resources to realize intended outcomes at minimal costs. This is a vital element in guaranteeing sustainability. The need to strengthen mechanisms for collaboration with other actors need not be emphasised.
- 5. Administrative improvements
 - i. Address the issue of appropriate and adequate staffing for such interventions based on very heavy caseload.
 - ii. In future design an exit strategy at the beginning of the project as part of sustaining the gains and achievements.
 - iii. Engage with development partners to support interventions for longer periods to realize the intended outcomes.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 LOCATION

Adjumani is one of the districts in the north-western region of Uganda. It is bordered by Moyo district in the North, Arua and Yumbe in the west, and Amuru District in the south and east. It has an average altitude of 1,200 metres above sea level. Adjumani District headquarters are situated in Adjumani TC, Central Parish, and Molokpoda village. Adjumani district has a total area of about 3,128 Sq. Kilometres of which the land area is 3,081.2 square km.

The District consists of two Counties (Parliamentary Constituencies); nine Sub-counties; two Town Councils (Adjumani and Pakele); 54 Parishes and 206 Villages.

1.2 ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS:

The project was implemented in Adjumani district in the Sub-counties of Pakele and Dzaipi and in five settlements and surrounding host communities. The Settlements include: Boroli, Ayilo, Baratuku, Elema and Nyumanzi.

1.3 HOPE AGAIN PROJECT

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Dan Church Aid (DCA) received funds under the Danida Humanitarian Partnership Framework to implement the Humanitarian Response to Support South Sudanese Refugees in Adjumani (Hope Again) Project in selected Refugee settlements and host communities.

1.4 Project Goal and Objectives

The one year project (01.01.2016 – 31.12.2016) aims at improving the quality of life for 30,600 vulnerable conflict-affected individuals (5,100 households) of South Sudanese refugees and host communities affected by conflict) in Adjumani District.

The areas of focus for the project included:

- ↓ Vulnerable HHs have improved food security and living standards through increased purchasing power. The targets were as follows:
 - 2,100 households consisting of 1,470 refugees and 630 hosts community households receive unconditional cash grant to purchase food & NFIs.
 - The community of business owners benefit from a stimulated local economy as purchasing power is increased
 - HHs have sufficient access to varied basic needs items, including food
- ♣ Improved income, food and nutrition security for refugee and host community households. The targets under this objective included:
 - o 200 households of refugees (140) and host communities (60) receive vocational training to start up income generating activities.
 - o 200 households of refugees (140) and host communities (60) received cash grant to purchase of enterprise start-up kits.

- 1,500 households of refugees (1,050) and host communities (450) are supported to do home garden vegetable production.
- o 3,500 households of refugees (2,450) and host communities (1,050) have improved household food production through improved agronomic practices and seeds and tools fairs.
- 13,500 refugee and host community women of reproductive age (pregnant & breast-feeding) change nutrition practices through nutrition education

The Hope Again Project covered some of the selected settlements where LWF was implementing interventions. The Settlements are located in the two sub-counties of Pakele and Dzaipi and the settlements are: Boroli, Baratuku, Elma, Nyumanzi, and Ayilo. The project employed a coordinator and was supported by Extension Staff and Refugee Incentive workers (Community health workers- CHWs). The RIWs played a pivotal role in planning, implementation, monitoring and implementation of activities. The Extension Staff (FEW) work alongside these CHWs and RIWs to ensure effective participation of intended beneficiaries in the project.

The implementing agency was Lutheran World Federation, Pakele Sub Office in partnership with the Refugee and Host communities in the target camps, networking with other relevant Agencies (NGOs) and Local Governments.

1.5 PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

The purpose of this evaluation was to assess the impact of the Hope Again Project on the Sudanese Refugees and the host community within the implementation period (Jan 2016 – Dec 2016).

1.6 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The specific tasks include:

- I. To assess the relevance of the project
- 2. To ascertain the appropriateness of project design including as well the methods in project delivery.
- 3. To assess the effectiveness of the project (extent of attainment of set targets and objectives realization) as well as the enabling and limiting factors
- 4. To assess the efficiency of the project (in working towards realization of set targets and objectives) as well as the enabling and limiting factors
- 5. To assess the Impact of the project, stating as well the enabling and limiting factors
- 6. Assess how the project results and objectives contribute to the overall DCA Country Strategy and LWF Country Strategy.
- 7. To ascertain the Sustainability of the project- looking at how sustainable the initiatives and gains of the project are, stating as well the enabling and limiting factors.
- 8. To share the learning's: Giving a position on the learning's in respect to each of the aspects above
- 9. To give recommendations in respect to each of the aspects above

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1.7 METHODOLOGY

Different methodologies to obtain the information needed were employed and among them were:

- i. Desk Research;
 - This involved a review of documents, project documents; annual reports, plans and list of documents reviewed have been put in the annex.
- ii. Focused interviews and discussions with groups at Settlement and Host Community level; representatives of the different stakeholders and beneficiaries;
- iii. Visit to representative communities and institutions;
- iv. Observations
- v. Key informant interviews with selected persons in the Base camps and settlements and district
- vi. Household survey in 214 (149 refugee and 65 host community) households sampled using the cluster and purposive sampling methodology

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Using the purposive and cluster sample methodology, the evaluation team sampled the following settlements in the five settlements and host communities in the two sub counties that LWF Pakele Sub office was responding to refugee crisis in Adjumani district.

SAMPLING METHODOLOGY

The cluster method was used to select the blocks and villages for the household survey. This is due to the fact that it minimizes bias and allows for fair representation of the situation on the ground. It was unanimously agreed that five clusters (villages) would be used for the household survey because LWF had implemented interventions in the settlements. Subsequently beneficiaries were equally distributed in the respective blocks and random sampling of the beneficiaries was employed to zero down on individual households. This was due to limitations in resources, which could not allow the evaluation team to target all the project beneficiaries in the settlements and host communities. This would be representative of the situation in settlements and host community households as it was the same formula used in targeting the refugee and host community households as it was the same formula used in the selection of beneficiaries at project inception. Using the triangulation method, the data from the key informant interviews and the focus group discussions was used to augment the results from the household survey.

DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFICIARIES ACROSS THE TARGETED AREAS

The refugees were distributed across the five settlements using probability proportional to size. Settlements with the highest number of refugee groups attracted more respondents; the distribution of the sample is reflected in the table below.

Table showing the sampled settlements

Sample district	Number of Groups in settlements (blocks and clusters)	Sample size (PPS)	Host Communities
Nyumanzi	44	30	13
Ayilo	47	30	13
Baratuku	25	24	13
Boroli	37	50	13
Elma	5	15	13
Total		149	65

Within the settlements, data was collected from clusters and blocks but based on the groups, differentiated by the respective intervention as per the profiling that had been done by Project staff. A list of settlements and size of the population was obtained from LWF Adjumani in Pakele.

Within the settlements an equal distribution of respondents across the three categories of interventions implemented (Livelihood, Nutrition and Vocational skills) was undertaken. Incentive workers supported the consultant team in generating lists of beneficiaries by category and the lists generated constituted the sample frame for that settlement. The required sample size was then selected from the sample frame using simple random sampling techniques. The Incentive workers identified the respondent beneficiaries selected for interview. For the host communities, a simple random sampling criterion was used to reach the 13 respondents in each of the five host communities. Interventions of livelihood, nutrition and vocational skills influenced the selection of respondents. The incentive workers were helpful in the selection and will guide the research assistants

INCLUSION CRITERIA

In order to be eligible for participation, potential participants were required to be at least 18 years of age (legally considered an adult and able to provide personal consent).

DATA COLLECTION

Data collection took 5 days. The translation of the questions was undertaken by Incentive workers. Refugee Incentive workers and extension workers were used to guide and supervise the whole process.

ANALYSIS

The data was cleaned while still in the field and supervisors ensured that the questionnaires were correctly filled and data entry and analysis was under an Epi-info computer package where frequencies and cross tabulations were generated.

1.8 LIMITATIONS OF THE EVALUATION STUDY

Due to the season, the evaluation team was unable to physically inspect the agricultural interventions. The beneficiaries of the vocational skills interventions were not met because at the time of the fieldwork, the participants were in Lira undergoing training. Nonetheless the beneficiaries who were attached to local artisans and located in the settlements were met and their experiences shared using the key informant interview tool.

The project did not undertake a baseline at the beginning of the project and therefore comparison of the results after 12 months of implementation was not possible. However, the consultant has been able to make inferences of the potential outcomes that can be attributed to LWF Project implemented in Adjumani with direct supervision of the sub office in Pakele. We further depended on anecdotal evidence and personal testimonies for the forming opinions.

There could have been a communication challenge given that the research assistants had to use translators who were knowledgeable in Arabic and the final content from the respondents could have been altered. However, the project staff in LWF Pakele sub office assured the consultants that the incentive workers were experienced and could handle translation effectively.

Finally by the time the evaluation was undertaken the project had come to an end and project staff could not be easily accessed to provide information. The Consultant was able to get some of the staff who the Pakele M&E team designated to support the data collection.

2.0 REFUGEE SITUATION IN ADJUMANI DISTRICT

Adjumani District in northern Uganda is home to about 170,000 refugees from South Sudan. The resumption of war in July 2016 has seen some 3,000 refugees cross to Uganda, on a daily basis, through the Nyumanzi reception centre in Adjumani. Figures provided by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in Adjumani District, in northern Uganda, indicate that the refugee influx threatens to outnumber the population of locals in the area. The 2014 National Census figures indicate that Adjumani had a population of 210, 000.

UNHCR estimates that more than 2.6 million of South Sudan's citizens have been forcibly displaced, making the state among the countries ranked with the highest levels of conflict-induced population displacement globally. Half of its people rely on humanitarian aid.

The Refugee Desk Officer (RDO) in charge of Adjumani under the OPM states that as of beginning of August 2015 the refugee population had hit 170, 000 individuals. This had put pressure on land in the district as bush thickets and trees are cleared to create settlement space for the refugees in the area. Other settlements were identified like Pagirinya where more land has been cleared. At one time it is reported that the numbers of the refugees overwhelmed district authorities and aid agencies.

The negative effect on the environment in Adjumani is visible as the pressure has been exerted on the local environmental as refugees outnumber the host communities. Other settlements have been identified to accommodate the Sudanese refugees with the OPM providing leadership on this aspect. There are a number of agencies that are responding to the humanitarian crisis facing the refugees from South Sudan (Table 3).

Table showing Key Humanitarian Agencies in Adjumani District

Area of Intervention	Food rations	Livelihoods	Agriculture	Health	WASH	Shelter and NFIs	Vocational skills	Education	Income Generation	Peace & Conflict + Protection	Research and Advocacy
Actor											
UNHCR	√	√									
ОРМ											
LWF		√	√		√	√	√		√	√	
Plan Int.						1		√		√	
ICR		V		1							
UNICEF				1	1			√		√	√
MTI				V				V	V	√	
War Child				,			V	V		x	√
Canada							'	`			
Welt Hunger		V	1								
Save the								√	√	√	√
Children								,	, ,	,	
Concern WW		V		1	√						
World Vision	√ √	V	√		1		√	√		√	
NRC	1	V	V		1		V				
FRC	,	,	·		,	1	,				
DRC	1	V	V		V	V	V	√	1	1	
RLP Makerere	,	,	,		,	,	,	,	,	,	
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Society					'	'				,	
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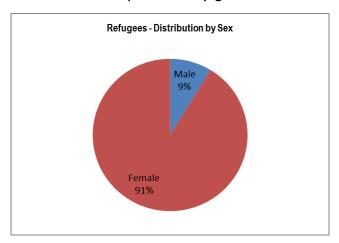
Source: Field notes

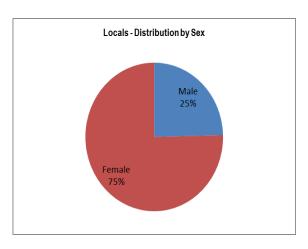
UNHCR, OPM and various Humanitarian Agencies have tried to collaborate with other stakeholders to minimise duplication of services and build synergies where possible for the benefit of refugees and host communities. However, the Adjumani district Administration has expressed concern of less involvement of the technical officers in some interventions.

3.0 EVALUATION FINDINGS

The evaluation survey respondents are categorized as refugees or host communities (Locals). The demographic and socio-economic characteristics as presented in below:

Distribution of Respondent's by gender

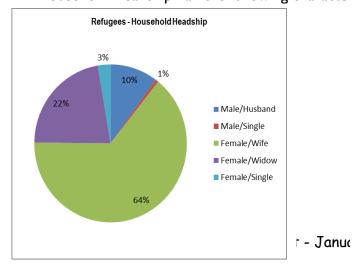


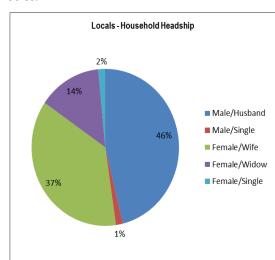


The findings show that respondents were predominantly female both in refugee settlements and host communities. Overall the female respondents represented 86% while the male respondents were 14% of the sample. This is consistent in the targeting by the LWF project of mainly female breast feeding mothers and children for the interventions implemented.

In terms of the age of the respondents, the refugees had an age distribution of 20-30 years (45%) and 31-40 years (34%) as the majority. The host communities had age distribution as follows: 20-30 years (36%) and 31-40 years (46%). The age distribution is consistent with the target beneficiaries of the LWF Hope Again project interventions that mainly targeted beneficiaries of reproductive age.

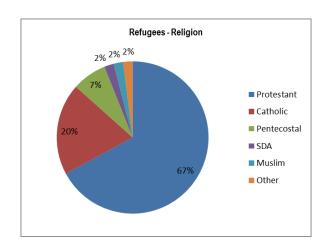
Household Headship had the following characteristics:

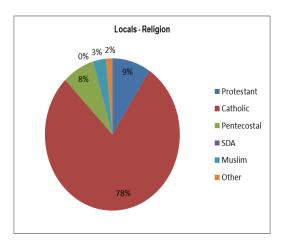




There was a significant number of widowed female household heads (22% of the refugee respondents). Meanwhile the majority of household heads of the host communities was mainly male 46% and female headed households 37%. Majority of the respondents were married (Refugees 72%; Host communities 81%)

Religious affiliations of the respondents:

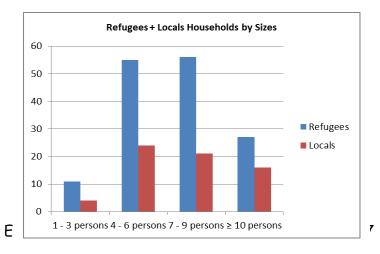




Educational status of the respondents

Respondent	Been to	School or Not	Litera	су	Remarks
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Refugees generally have not
Refugees	28%	72%	37%	63%	been to school and literacy
Host Communities	71%	29%	55%	45%	levels are low as compared to the host communities
Spouse of respondent					
Refugees	36%	64%	28%	72%	Even the same pattern is seen
Host Community	82%	18%	77%	23%	with the spouses of the respondents and implications of the interventions especially in terms of communication of messages and training

Household sizes



The refugees have larger household sizes as compared to host communities. Refugee households tend to have between 4-9 persons

3.1 PROJECT DESIGN

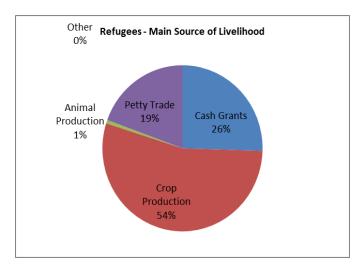
Based on the evaluation framework, Hope Again Project was assessed using a number of factors that included; relevance, appropriateness of the design, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the interventions implemented. Here below we summarise the findings based on the parameters mentioned above.

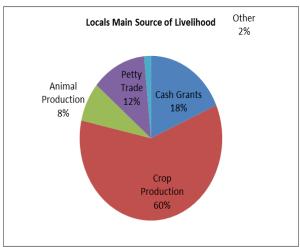
3.1.1 RELEVANCE

Relevance of the project was assessed as High because it responded to the felt and expressed needs of the Sudanese refugees and Host community as expressed below:

- Displacement and its effects is a critical reason for the interventions in Hope Again project
- Hope Again Project activities implemented in all the 5 settlements and host communities in Pakele and Dzaipi Sub Counties.
- Long history of LWF in emergence response and its being a part of the ACT alliance and with LWF's capacity they can quickly respond on a timely basis to emergencies and refugee crisis
- Capitalising on trust and respect LWF has built with the government, UNHCR, other
 actors and the communities as a result of past emergency response interventions, the
 Hope Again project was deemed highly relevant

The interventions of the Hope Again project show how agriculture is relevant to the needs of the project participants (Refugees and host communities). The main source of livelihood of refugees and host communities was reported to be agriculture and this can be seen in the diagrams below;





Implementation was rated highly because:

- Unconditional cash grant for empowerment, nutritional care for breast feeding mothers, skilling the vulnerable groups (especially the youths) were considered practically relevant and important at settlement and community level
- Extension workers and RWCs teams in place and their participation was considered practical and relevant

- Innovations like skilling the youth despite the level of education, a requirement for formal educational system in Uganda has spearheaded skills development among refugees and host communities
- Different activities like support to seed vouchers for access to planting materials to improve food security at household levels designed to respond to needs of the refugees and host communities with interesting perspectives.

3.1.2 APPROPRIATENESS OF PROJECT DESIGN

The appropriateness of project design and strategies was assessed through review of project documents, and key informant interviews. Overall, the project design and strategies are found appropriate for the emergency circumstances and the anticipation that the refugees were not to return in the short and medium term. The specific aspects of project design include:

STRUCTURING AS AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE - given the massive influx of refugees that threatened to outnumber the host communities, interventions that target both refugees and host communities were appropriate. The Hope Again project interventions sought to empower refugee and local host communities and provided opportunities for all to earn a living, e.g., employment and growing of crops.

PROBLEM ANALYSIS - LWF, in consultation with its partners (UNHCR, OPM and Adjumani local government and other development players in the district, undertook a quick analysis of the problems prevailing amongst the refugees. The priority problems identified centred on weak livelihoods means (income and food security).

CONSULTATIVE ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING - the process to plan and start up the project, was participatory and inclusive of all relevant stakeholders. The design of the project was informed by information collected from other agencies undertaking emergency response and development work in the district, including UNHCR, OPM, and UNICEF among others.

<u>THE PROJECT STRATEGIES</u> - were based on supporting self-reliance of vulnerable individual among the refugees through identification and selection of beneficiaries.

- ♦ Short term solutions to solve immediate problems on self-reliance basis. This was against the background that refugees were not to return in the short and medium term
- Quick and low-cost approaches, to facilitate effective empowerment of refugees and host communities even in circumstances of limited access to tools of production, land equipment and other inputs.
- Building the capacity of refugees and local communities so as to promote sustainability of the project achievements even when external funding comes to an end.

<u>PARTICIPATORY IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING</u> - Project implementation and monitoring plans and practices were fully integrated into existing leadership and

management mechanisms at LWF, Settlement and community levels. Refugee settlement leaders (RWCs) and other community leaders are key players in day-to-day project management and implementation. It was reported that the project is recognised and appreciated by OPM and UNHCR and other actors in the refugee settlements. However, the involvement of the technical offices in the district in livelihood interventions was limited.

Efforts to develop integrated monitoring systems between the project and the district were not fully successful. For example, tracking of production was done without the participation of the district technical staff. Joint support supervision and monitoring was not reported at all. We recommend active partnership between the LWF and local governments in the area of refugee management

PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABILITY of the project achievements has been developed through:

- ♦ Participation of local stakeholder, e.g., in providing inputs in the market, which enhances local ownership of the project
- Building the capacity of RWCs and use of incentive workers.
- ♦ Promotion of appropriate technologies such as local food varieties for improved nutrition, vocational skills for refugees and host communities

3.2 EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT INTERVENTIONS

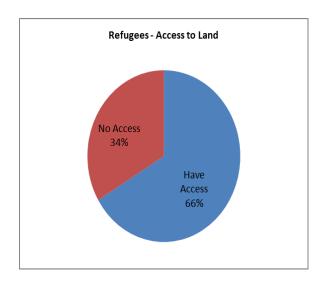
Effectiveness defines the extent to which the Hope Again Project's objectives were achieved, or are expected to be achieved. This component was to promote food production among the beneficiaries. By being refugees, vulnerability in terms of food security increases despite the food rations provided by WFP through World vision. The evaluation was able to establish that the refugees and host communities were supported with Improved and fast growing seeds that were procured through the voucher system and supplied by local traders within Adjumani. The table below shows the individuals and groups reached over the project life span:

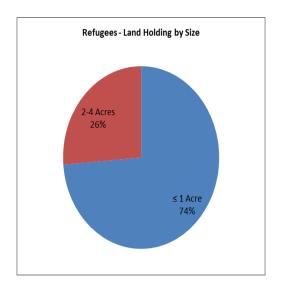
Improved SO1. Vulnerable •2,100 households 1442 targeted quality of life HHs have consisting of 1470 (males=266 fem	
analist of life LLLs have someisting of 1470 to the second	individuals
	nales=1176)
for vulnerable improved food refugees and 630 host were supported	with seeds
conflict- security and living community have and agricultural	
affected South standards through received	
Sudanese increased unconditional cash	•
refugees and purchasing power grant to purchase (M=85, F=885).	
host food & NFIs. males and 291	females for
community in the Host.	
Adjumani	
settlement. •The community of Evidence shows	40 traders
business owners benefit have various	business
from a stimulated local ranging from v	
economy as purchasing retailing and se	•
power is increased	
pnone charging	-
●HHs have sufficient have market for	•
access to varied basic and services	from the
needs items, including refugees who	benefitted
from the cash gra	ant
SO2 . Improved ●200 households of ● 76 Young	
income, food and refugees (140) and host undergoing	
nutrition security communities (60) have skills training	
for refugee and received vocational Nyumanzi, 3	• (
host community training to start up and 52 in Liu	,
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	46 from
activities. refugees. (38	
•200 households of	
refugees (140) and host • 65 farmer g	
communities (60) have 1442	individuals
received cash grant for (F=1176, M=	, , ,
purchase of enterprise refugees and	` '
start-up kits. participated	•
●1,500 households of production	_
refugees (1.050) and host the seeds	
communities (450) are fairin order	
improved	household

supported to do home garden vegetable production. •3,500 households of refugees (2,450) and host communities (1,050) have improved household food production through improved agronomic practices and seeds and tools fairs.	•	food production and house hold income, food security especially in the extremely vulnerable households 38 farmer groups with a total of 765 individuals (M=247, F=516), received training in agronomic practices of food and vegetable production while 297 did not but were able to set their Demonstration gardens however, they were also equipped with additional knowledge during support visits for technical back stocking
•13,500 refugee and host community women of reproductive age (pregnant & breast-feeding) change nutrition practices through nutrition education.	•	It was reported by the refugee women that feeding habits have improved and knowledge on nutritious foods especially for children. This has been proven in the section of outcomes/impact of the project

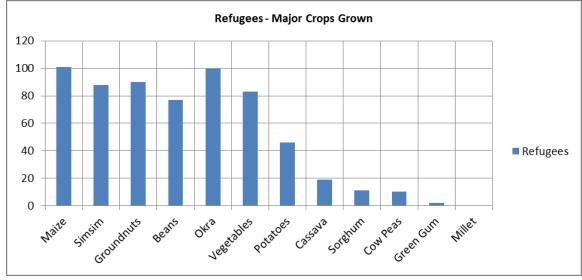
THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AGRICULTURAL INTERVENTIONS:

The evaluation noted that agricultural interventions were effective because it was relevant to the needs of the targeted populations (refugees and host communities). This was demonstrated through the ability for refugees to access land and inputs for farming. This can be evidenced in the figures below derived from the analysis of the primary data that was collected in the field.





75% of the refugees and 88% of the sampled respondents are engaged in agriculture and major crops grown are shown in the graph below:



The hand hoe remains a predominant tool that is used for cultivation by both refugees and host communities. For the refuges the tools and inputs used for farming were mainly donated (76%) compared to 58% purchased by locals.

The above analysis shows how the agricultural interventions were effectively implemented. However, for food self-sufficiency to be attained, a period of one year is inadequate in terms of adoption of agronomic practices. Let alone the drought that hit Adjumani in 2016, which makes it difficult for the results to be sustained beyond the 12 months, the lifespan of the project.

The evaluation study noted that the households (refugees and host communities) reached were able to boast of having some food though the quantities were not adequate all the time throughout the year.

VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING (SCHOOL FEES/ TUITION)

Access to education by refugees can be challenging given the nature of vulnerability and displacement from own home country. The evaluation study notes that the LWF Adjumani Hope Again Project in Pakele supported young people to access both skills training in both formal and informal education. This was meant to enable the young people access vocational skills training for self-reliance.

The following table shows the young people supported to access education and vocational skills in formal training institutions in Lira and while others were placed with local artisans within the settlements. The evaluation team also noted that by the time of the fieldwork, all those recruited young persons were in college undergoing training and did not interface with the consulting team.

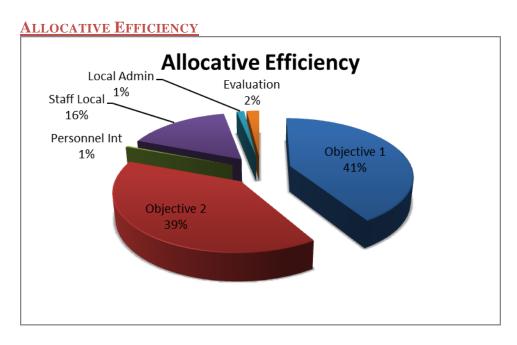
Table showing beneficiaries of Vocational Skills Training

Type of Education/skill support	Refugee (numbers)	Host community (numbers)
Agriculture	2	7
Building and Concrete Practice	2	1
Hair Dressing	3	4
Tailoring	21	4
Welding	I	4
Motor vehicle repairs	14	
Carpentry	I	9
Catering	2	I
TOTAL SUPPORTED	46	30

The evaluation study notes that supporting the graduates of the vocational skills training with tool kits will be important for them to take up employment or start own businesses for sustainability.

3.3 PROJECT EFFICIENCY

Project efficiency was an assessment of the prudent use of resources in the delivery of planned outputs and outcomes. The project results were delivered with a budget of a sum total of UGX 832,832,816 (Eight hundred thirty two million, eight hundred thirty thousand and eight hundred and sixteen Uganda Shillings) dispensed between January 2016 and December 2016 for project related interventions.



There was an allocative efficiency and objective I and 2 that were the core thrust of the project took up to 80% of the total budget. It is the considered opinion of the Consulting team that the ratio between direct and indirect costs was low and thee evaluation team notes that there was an allocative efficiency.

TIMELINESS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

Assessment of timely implementation through delivery of inputs, availability of human resources and their competencies in the several areas was analysed to assess the efficiency. The Hope Again Project implementation structures had competent resource persons to conduct field activities at the respective levels. The team of Field extension workers and incentive workers were some of the human resources that have contributed to the efficiency.

It was reported that the regular disbursement of funds by the donor/partner to the project ensured that activities are implemented on time. Financial information accessed shows timely disbursements of the funds from DCA.

The Hope Again Project was implemented efficiently overall. Material support like the procurement and distribution of NFIs, Cash Grants was undertaken and timely delivery was reported. However, the training of beneficiaries in vocational skills seemed to have been delayed due to the education system that would not allow the training to be completed by the time the project closed.

Evaluation of LWF Hope Again project - January 2017

Logistical support to activities is adequate because LWF Adjumani sub office in Pakele has adequate humanitarian response capacity and a number of other projects were being implemented in the same settlements and thus building on the synergies

Technical and management support to the project from district, LWF national office (international and local staff) was regular but the evaluation team was unable to see the schedules of the visits. However, there was evidence through visitors' books but again project supervisory reports were not accessed. The level of support has a direct impact on the quality of the Hope Again Project implementation.

This evaluation did not undertake a cost benefit analysis however the project delivered on its intended outputs within reasonable limits of its original scheduled time. However, given that 80% of the direct costs were meant for objective one and two, then the beneficiaries got value for money in terms of targeting.

BUDGET MANAGEMENT

Budget management and financial reporting is done at national level. Hope Again Project at lower level operated a cash budget based on the work plans and activities to be implemented therein. Spending rates were in tandem with the planned figures save for objective two that had a variance of -8% but was covered where some savings had been realized. No delays were reported in the disbursements.

EFFICIENCY IN TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Most of the project interventions that involved training of the various groups of individuals either as farmers or traders at different training venues. The community centres within the camp settlements were convenient. The training of the traders and farming groups was conducted and average duration was ranging from 5 days and phased over a period of time. Respondents were able to attest to having received training from LWF in business management, agronomic practices, and nutrition. The medium of instruction was local lingua franca (Arabica for Refugees and Madi for the host communities).

EFFICIENCY IN COLLABORATION AND INTER SECTORAL LINKAGES

Collaboration with humanitarian actors (OPM, UNHCR) was reported to exist. However, collaboration with relevant sectors at district level was minimal and concern was raised why humanitarian agencies implementing livelihood interventions involving crop production shouldn't be able to work with expertise available within the district.

Nonetheless, overall the evaluation team assesses the Hope Again Project under efficiency to have been satisfactory

3.4 PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Project Sustainability was an assessment of the likely continuation of net benefits from the Hope Again Project interventions beyond the after phase-out of direct LWF support. It also included an assessment of the likelihood that actual and anticipated results will be resilient to risks beyond the project's life.

The design of the Hope Again Project was to have a life span of one year (12 months) and the time frame in itself raises doubt if sustainability was considered at the onset of the project. The food security and nutrition interventions require adequate time and accompaniment of the beneficiaries over a period of time.

Furthermore, the evaluation also notes that exit strategy specifically for the Hope Again project was not developed because it would have provided basic information on how continuity of some activities would be handled post project life span.

Nonetheless some aspects of sustainability measures were identified during the evaluation.

- Capacity building through training of farmer groups and women groups for nutrition and IGAs will ensure that some of the benefits are sustained. Knowledge on agronomic practices, kitchen gardening, nutrition and vocational skills will remain with the project beneficiaries and can be applied even beyond the project life span.
- Results have shown that established groups (Farmers, Nutrition and VSLA) continue working together especially amongst the refugees.
- Working with Incentive workers who are based in the settlements can be seen to be
 a sustainability measure as long as these workers can tap into other resources
 available for the benefit of the farmer and women groups.
- The capacity of local suppliers in the district has been enhanced with the opportunity to supply agricultural inputs. For the suppliers, the business principles influence procurement and stocking. As the farming season begins, stocks of agricultural inputs will be available and therefore access issues will have been sorted out. However, availability of disposable income to purchase agricultural inputs might be a challenge in the short and medium term.
- LWF Pakele continues to implement other projects within the same settlements and the integration of the Hope Again Project beneficiaries into the other ongoing interventions will ensure that knowledge and skills acquired are not lost completely.

The evaluation team notes that future project interventions should factor in sustainability measures and work towards integration and sectoral linkages with other actors like government and humanitarian agencies in the district

3.5 Assessments of the Impact/Outcomes of the Project

Assessment of impact focused on the changes that have occurred or are expected to occur in the lives of the refuges and host communities in Adjumani district (whether positive or negative, direct or indirect, intended or unintended) as a result of Hope Again Project

The evaluation notes that the design of the Hope Again Project did not include robust performance measurement framework and therefore impact assessment has not been possible for all components of the results based on the targets. Nonetheless, there are notable impacts/outcomes that were identified during the group and key informant interviews and primary data collected from the individual respondents as well as discussions with beneficiary groups. Some of these include:

GENERATION OF KNOWLEDGE FOR THE BENEFICIARIES (Refugees and host communities) in livelihoods they are engaged in. The national Refugee policy identifies empowering refugees to become self-reliant and integrate in the local communities. The objectives and overall goals of the Self-Reliance Strategy are: (i) to empower refugees and nationals in the area to the extent that they will be able to support themselves; and (ii) to establish mechanisms that will ensure integration of services for the refugees with those of the nationals (OPM -Self-Reliance Strategy 2004). Training of refugees and host communities has contributed to generating knowledge and empowering project beneficiaries. The training in business management, nutrition and agronomic practices has empowered project participants.

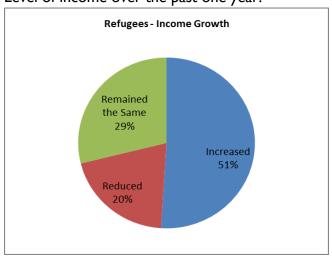
IMPROVED INCOME AND LIVELIHOODS THROUGH IGAS (CASH GRANTS), FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY INTERVENTIONS: Some of the refugees within the settlements have initiated IGAs after accessing the cash grant and support from the Hope Again Project. 67% of the refugees that were sampled had accessed the cash grant as compared to 48% of the host communities. The economic empowerment has changed the way refugees are viewed as dependents on handouts from the Humanitarian agencies. Some refugees are now self-supporting and a few cases have been profiled of the business entrepreneurs within the settlements like Nyumanzi, and Ayilo.

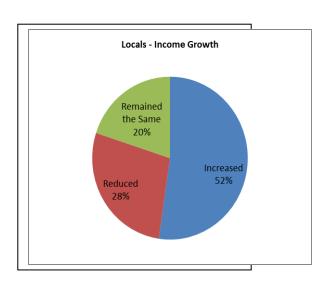
With agricultural support, both the refugees and host communities were able to realise some income from the sale of the agricultural produce as can be evidenced in the table below;

EARNINGS FROM CROP SALES	Refugees	%	Locals	%
≤ 50,000	30	50%	13	25%
50,001-100,000	11	18%	- 11	22%
100,001-150,000	6	10%	7	14%
150,001-200,000	3	5%	4	8%
200,001-250,000	2	3%	2	4%
250,001-300,000	2	3%	2	4%
300,001-350,000	3	5%	3	6%
350,001-400,000	2	3%	2	4%
400,001-450,000	I	2%	3	6%
450,001-500,000	0	0%	2	4%
≥ 500,001	0	0%	2	4%
Total	60	100%	51	100%

Analysis shows that 50% of the Refugees earned less than shs 50,000 last season. 50% of the Locals earned between Shs 50,000-100,000 last season. No Refugee earned up to 0.5 million in the last season At least 8% of the Locals earned 0.5m and above last season. The analysis shows that most of the sales for the refugees (49%) were done in the markets found within the settlements. While the host communities sold along the roadside, market and to traders who bought their crops at the farm gate.

Level of income over the past one year:





The levels of income for the refugees as shown in the above charts shows income increment for 51% refugees and 52% for the host communities and this can be attributed to the project support that provided opportunity for the beneficiaries to engage in trading in some of the agricultural products grown and other IGAs started as a result of the cash grants.

FEEDING HABITS AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY: A proxy indicator of meals taken per day for the refugees indicated that 69% of the sampled households had 2 meals per day; 16% three meals per day and 9% having one meal per day in the last day preceding the survey. The foods eaten in the last day preceding the survey include; beans, posho, vegetables, sorghum and sweet potatoes amongst the refugees. The sources of the foods consumed show that own grown was 34%; bought 26% and food rations from World Vision (handouts) 52%. This indicates that refugee grow own food as opposed to entirely depending on food rations is significant. This is commendable and can be partly attributed to the Hope again project interventions. There is also an indicator that mothers try to provide foods that help address the problem of malnutrition especially for the children which is a problem among the refugees.

The impact of the agricultural intervention can be seen in the increased food production at the household level, increase in household incomes, improved nutrition and with this better living and health standards.

The seeds/seedlings procured during the seeds fare were of required standards according to the extension worker and was able to boost the income of the local seeds traders in Adjumani. The field interviews revealed that some of the traders made a profit and a female business trader during the seeds fair was able to construct a permanent house that is yet to be completed.

There are however areas of improvement especially in terms of follow-up of farmers after training, the extension workers were able to track land cultivated and expected yields anticipated. However, we note that use of Adjumani district local government Agricultural Extension Workers was not adequately exploited.

SKILLING AND EMPOWERMENT: some of the refugees and host communities are undergoing vocational skilling training that will hopefully enable several of them to start self-help initiatives. Beneficiaries of the skilling intervention are mainly in the following areas; motor vehicle repairs; crafts; tailoring, drapery; and catering, computer education, driving inter alia. The beneficiaries met in the settlements attested to the fact that they have been able to start own self-help initiatives and will eventually stand on their own. The mentality of thinking of refugees as dependents on humanitarian assistance is most likely to be discarded.

Unintended Outcomes:

EXTRA BURDEN ON REFUGEE WOMEN: The Hope Again Project support has empowered some of the beneficiaries with agricultural inputs and cash grant that has increased on the burden on women who are care givers within the refugee community. This is an additional responsibility for refugee women. This challenge was not anticipated. Therefore, whereas the Project has been of help to the beneficiary populations, there is need for an extra helping hand to the women

3.6 FACTORS FOR SUCCESS

The following factors were cited as key in the achievement:

- Engagement of key stakeholders in the Hope Again Project activities like Incentive workers, Refugee Welfare Committees (RWCs), Local Council Leaders and community members in general was helpful.
- The entry was good. The project began with dialogue with the key actors (OPM, UNHCR and local leaders at district level) that enabled the identification of the beneficiary settlements to avoid duplication and wastage of resources.
- Continuous meetings and openness aroused interest and helped beneficiary populations get deeper understanding of themselves and the need to work for their own welfare.
- Demonstrated capacity of LWF to respond to humanitarian crisis that has been built over a long period of time.
- The role played by the extension workers was instrumental in identifying and following up the beneficiaries.

INHIBITING FACTORS

The evaluation study observes that there are inhibiting factors that affected optimal performance of the Hope Again Project and these include:

- a) Inadequate engagement of district local government to support agricultural extension in the refugee settlements
- b) Short term funding that cannot sustain initiatives that have been started.
- c) Pest and diseases affecting crop production
- d) Drought that affects crop production
- e) Inadequate tools
- f) Limited labour
- g) Limited capital to invest into farming

3.7 Project results and objectives contribution to DCA Country and LWF Country Strategy

The analysis under this component looks at how the project results are in tandem with the key strategies and goals of the LWF Uganda and DCA the partner that provided the support. Working through the ACT Alliance in Uganda, DCA provided support to respond to humanitarian needs faced by the conflict affected Sudanese refugees in Uganda. The relevant strategic goals have been identified for DCA and LWF. Subsequently analysis tabulated in the matrix.

RELEVANT DCA STRATEGIC GOALS

- I. Right to Food seeks to reduce hunger through fostering sustainable and resilient rural livelihoods. DCA supports increased agricultural production, other income generating activities on individual and collective basis, access to government safety nets, and increased influence on the use of resources. DCA seeks to increase the involvement of marginalised groups and reduce local, national and international barriers to achieving the right to food. Our work increasingly integrates disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation alongside other context specific risk factors
- 2. In Humanitarian Action, DCA seeks to respond to acute crisis based on the priorities, needs and capacities of the affected populations. To this end, we work in partnership with local partners and the national ACT Fora. Recognising that local preparedness and contextual knowledge of local conditions are crucial for an appropriate humanitarian response, a key priority is to work with partners to strengthen their preparedness and capacity to respond to humanitarian crisis and to reduce risks from natural hazards and conflicts

RELEVANT LWF STRATEGIC GOALS

- I. LWF Uganda Country strategy 2015-2020 puts emphasis on LWF emergency response to ensure that asylum seekers and displaced persons are living a dignified life within the settlement areas. LWF Uganda also underscores the commitment to support the vulnerable persons who need humanitarian assistance to ensure effective usage of resources. Disaster preparedness, timely and coordinated responses under pin the emergency response interventions.
- 2. Sustainable livelihoods is another strategic goal and emphasis is on food self sufficiency

HOPE AGAIN PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- I. Vulnerable HHs have improved food security and living standards through increased purchasing power
- 2. Improved income, food and nutrition security for refugee and host community households

Matrix showing the strategic goals of the project, LWF and DCA

Hope Again	LWF Country	DCA Strategy	Remarks
Project results	Strategy		
Vulnerable HHs have improved food security and living standards through increased purchasing power	DRR, Emergency Preparedness and Response and adapting to Climate change	Right to Food	The attainment of the Hope again project results are in tandem with the strategic goals of LWF and DCA. The project focussed on building the capacity of the
Improved income, food and nutrition security for refugee and host community households.	Sustainable Livelihoods	Humanitarian action	refugees and host communities to become self-reliant in terms of the food and livelihoods.

The evaluation team observes that the project goal and objectives contribute to the attainment of goals of LWF at Country level and those of DCA.

3.8 LESSONS LEARNT AND GOOD PRACTICES

The nature of interventions implemented by LWF in response to humanitarian needs of the South Sudanese refugees in Uganda have been able to contribute to increasing food self-sufficiency of the targeted refugees and host communities within a multi actor context. There are a number of lessons that have been learnt and these include:-

- I. Working within the established settlements has ensured that project interventions reach the extremely vulnerable individuals and households. Social groups (farmer and Nutrition) can be social capital to be used for supporting vulnerable groups in the communities. The dialogue and consensus with actors like OPM and UNHCR ensured that project interventions in specific settlements minimize duplication and waste of resources.
- 2. Active involvement of the stakeholders enhances their ability to participate in interventions that affect them. Specifically, interventions that target Sensitization and encouragement of women groups and bring others services nearer to the community has help to improve involvement and participation of women and girls in other activities especially trainings. Actual physical presence in the settlements of the Incentive workers enables the Field Extension workers and to liaise with other stakeholders to participate in project activities and build on synergies.
- 3. Working with local suppliers can be an effective way of increasing access to agricultural inputs to the farmers. The use of traders within Adjumani boosted the local economy and facilitated easy access to planting materials to the farmers both refugees and host communities.
- 4. Targeting of project interventions to those in dire need can also increase participation. Female refugees dominated as direct beneficiaries because of the nature of interventions that were mainly livelihood oriented. However, there is need to have male involvement to ease the drudgery burdens on women at household level. Whereas males dominated in the trading, there is need to mobilise men and boys to get involved in farming activities and if carefully harnessed, it will further ensure sustainability of farming and boost food self-sufficiency.
- 5. Limited engagement with some stakeholders like local governments can lead to limited participation. The district production department despite having technical expertise in livelihoods (especially crop production) was not engaged. This was a missed opportunity to tap into available labour to bridge the manpower gap at the project.
- 6. Livelihood interventions such as agriculture need medium to long term support to realize the desired outcomes of self-reliance of the refugees. The project had a lifespan of 12 months and strictly speaking the impacts could not be discerned and instead the potential outcomes were used to assess the emerging changes among the direct project beneficiaries.
- 7. Alignment of project goals and objectives to those of the development partners and humanitarian standards and policy frameworks make it easy to track contributions of the project interventions in meeting strategic goals of humanitarian responses.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

LWF supported Livelihood interventions in the five settlements and host communities did a commendable job in supporting the refugees and nationals in ensuring livelihoods, food and nutrition security as expressed by many if not all the interviewees and seconded by the evaluation team.

In the context of responding to humanitarian assistance to refugees to support them attain self-reliance and improve their living conditions, strategies and approaches should target vulnerable individuals and empower them knowledge and skills. The design and appropriateness of the Hope Again Project strategies in the five settlements and host communities can be viewed as relevant to the needs of the beneficiaries.

Capacity building; Training of direct beneficiaries (Refugee and host communities) in livelihoods, food and nutrition security and IGAs and vocational skills is very critical to empowering them to become self-reliant.

By and large Uganda has distinguished itself as a leader in providing support to refugees. Many lessons learnt will continue to provide the basis for future interventions targeting refugees. However, inhibiting factors that the Hope Again Project faced like pests and diseases, inadequate labour, capital, inputs need to be addressed.

Engagement of key stakeholders to agree on settlements to be targeted has gone a long way in avoiding duplication and wastage of resources in a multi actor environment.

Issues of sustainability and continuity of the interventions for the project beneficiaries to take on practices and habits that support livelihood, food and nutrition security need well laid out strategy right from the design of interventions.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the implementation experience for a period of 12 months, the following suggestions have been recommended by the evaluation team and respondents and could be incorporated or considered in the future interventions that target refugees and host communities.

- i. There is need to devise new strategies to mobilise resources for expanding the livelihoods, food and nutrition security and vocation skills activities. The need for such interventions is enormous given that the refugees are not likely to return to South Sudan because of the fragile situation characterized by sporadic violence that has continued back home.
- ii. Strengthen building the capacity of the direct beneficiaries especially through training of caregivers within a household setting to address malnutrition that is widespread amongst the refugee population. Appropriate skilling of Young persons who are a majority and can easily become a security threat with the settlements and the community at large.
- iii. Linkage with other stakeholders in a multi actor humanitarian response especially district local government should be strengthened. This will allow use of existing resources to realize intended outcomes at minimal costs. This is a very vital element in guaranteeing sustainability. There is need to strengthen mechanisms for collaboration with other actors.
- iv. Administrative improvements
 - Address the issue of appropriate and adequate staffing for such interventions based on caseload.
 - In future design an exit strategy at the beginning of the project as part of sustaining the gains and achievements.
 - Engage with development partners to support interventions for a longer periods to realize the intended outcomes

ANNEX I. LIST OF PERSONS CONSULTED

	NAME	DESIGNATION	INSTITUTION
1	Felix Mubuke	M&E Officer	LWF
2	Manyi Manyi Kennedy	FEW-Nutrition	LWF
3	Henry Tiondi	M & E	LWF
4	Emanuel Odede	Settlement officer	LWF
5	Okello Simon Patrick	Settlement officer	LWF
6	Adams	FEW-Livelihoods	LWF
7	Peter Manza	Data	LWF
9	Odong Denis	Settlement officer	LWF Boroli
10	Mary Awok	RWC	Ayilo Settlement
П	Amouru Rebecca	RWC	Ayilo
12	Elizabeth Nyang	Care giver/ beneficiary	Ayilo
14	Michael Choul	RWC	Ayilo
15	Joseph Choul	Incentive worker	Ayilo
16	Acon Acek	Mother/beneficiary	Ayilo
17	Ayen Deng Arwayai	Beneficiary	Ayilo
18	Bul Garang	RWC	Baratuku
19	Moi Ben	RWC	Elema
20	Taban Chaplain	RWC	Elema
21	Yobo Susan		Elema
22	Alumbi Albert	Asst Settlement Officer OPM	Nyumanzi
23	Dr Mugyenyi Anthony	Production Coordinator	Adjumani District LG
24	Atem Akwoc Moit	RWC	Nyumanzi
25	Dorcas Amul	RWC	Nyumanzi
26	Eric Obua	M&E officer	LWF
27	Pius Kikomeko	M&E	LWF National Office

ANNEX II DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- a) Project Proposal
- b) Quarterly Reports
- c) Annual Reports
- d) Self-Reliance Strategy for Refugees
- e) DCA Global Strategy
- f) LWF Uganda Country strategy (2015-2020)