Recovering from the Recovery

THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CREATING AND RECTIFYING THE GENDER GAP IN NORTHERN UGANDA

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Background

- Northern Uganda, the LRA, and Yoweri Museveni
- Forced Displacement and IDP camps
- The Dispersal of International Aid and its Gendered Consequences
NGOs and Gender

To research the implications of NGO work on gender; it’s effects, it’s consequences, and it’s role in a post-conflict setting
Methodologies

- Six NGOs:
  - American Refugee Council (ARC)
    - Rocky Menya, GBV Program Coordinator
  - Care International
    - Judy Adokorach, Program Advisor on Gender
  - Catholic Relief Services (CARITAS)
    - Anonymous Source
  - Straight Talk
    - Jacqueline Arcongo, GBV Project Officer, & Alfred Olweny, Project Officer for Nwoya District
  - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
    - Grace Latigi, National Programme Officer
  - World Food Programme (WFP)
    - Moses Oyema, Senior Project Assistant

- Ojara Martin Mapenduzi, District Chairman of Gulu District
- Okema Lazech Santo, Program Coordinator, Ker Kwaro Acholi
NGOs, government, and cultural institutions work independently of one another, and while general blame is placed on international aid for the initial creation of the gender gap, there is very little agreement on a subsequent course of action.

However, there were three major themes in my research:
- The need for gender mainstreaming in programming
- The need for the education of the community
- The lack of government implementation of gender-based legislation

Varying opinions were again found on just whose responsibility it was to accept responsibility for each need or problem.
Recommendations

“It becomes apparent that the only way to forge sustainable peace and long-lasting gender equality in northern Uganda is through a joint effort between all three players concerned: NGOs, local government, and cultural leaders and institutions. In nearly every interview, gender equality was defined as equal opportunity for men and women. To achieve this, each group has a different responsibility, but without fluidity and open discourse, each will be working against the other and prolonging or even hindering the movement toward gender equality.”