



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT IN WEST NILE REGION, UGANDA



# Economic Development Assessment in West Nile Region, Uganda

# Acknowledgements

## **Economic Development Assessment in West Nile Region, Uganda**

The report is prepared by UN-Habitat, Planning, Finance, and Economy Section, Urban Practices Branch in collaboration with Makerere University Urban Action Lab for an integrated study of the economic and social development response of the West Nile Region - Koboko, Arua, and Nebbi municipalities.

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# Executive Summary

The Municipality of Arua is in North-Western Uganda, approximately 480km north of Kampala, and is classified as a secondary city, to be upgraded to a regional city soon. It inhabits 65,000 people, with a population growth rate of 3% (National Population and Housing Census, 2014). Due to its strategic location near the borders to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Sudan, the city's economy is based predominantly on formal and informal cross-border trade, natural resource exploitation, agriculture and transport and hospitality services (hotels, restaurants). Because of their proximity to the borders, and to refugee camps within the region, Arua and neighbouring municipalities also host a large population of urban refugees and migrants, which contribute to their economic growth. Arua (and urban areas within the West Nile Region) will continue to grow and prosper economically, especially if important infrastructure projects are implemented as planned - such as the new railway line (providing transportation linkage between Mombasa port in Kenya to the DRC) and upgrading of the airport in Arua. Those infrastructure projects would significantly increase the region's economic development and enhance its strategic location for inter-regional and inter-national trade.

Arua Municipality is currently hosting 153,545 refugees (15% of population) and Koboko Municipality is currently hosting 5,035 refugees. There is a lack of data in urban migrant populations which has led to inadequate allocation of resources from national to local government authorities, posing challenges in the implementation of urban strategies to cater to an expected population census. In previous discussions with the Mayors of Arua, Nebbi and Koboko, significant challenges in the provision of urban services, public utilities

and infrastructure, (including basic services, housing, infrastructure, waste management, social services such as medical services and schools) and a lack of employment opportunities for people of concern were emphasized. Other identified challenges in the region include spatial inequality, high unemployment amongst youth, and environmental degradation.

Applying an integrated planning approach, as highlighted in UN-Habitat's Integrated Multi-Scalar Regional Profile (2018), is crucial for decision-making at urban and city level, promoting dialogue across planning scales as well as across administrative boundaries, including different sectors (transport, trade, planning, finance, environment, economic development and investment; local governments, planning, housing etc.) and urban stakeholders (from civil society, including representatives of vulnerable groups, development partners, private sector and academia).

The Integrated Multi-Scalar Regional Profile laid the foundation, and had a strong territorial component, fostering inter-scalar planning approaches as well as reviewing governance structures while including municipal finance considerations. This socio-economic report builds upon the Multi-scalar regional report with the objective to inform and support planning processes undertaken to capture the situational analysis in the West Nile Region in Uganda. From the onset, the focus of the work is on a major output namely: **Area Based Socio-Economic Analysis** and **Economic Development Analysis Report** capturing all the necessary baseline information required in generating a plan including projections of future settlement scenarios.



# Abstract

The West Nile Region has 3 million inhabitants and hosts around 736,892 registered refugees in districts of Adjumani (213,580 refugees) and Arua (183,438 refugees). Both districts have seventeen refugee settlements each; Koboko (5,423) has eight while Yumbe (232,109) has six settlements as of 2020. While refugees access aid structures in camps, many have moved into urban areas like Adjumani town, Moyo town, Arua town, Jumbe town, and Kampala using urban services, renting houses, and working for both formal and informal sectors. Humanitarian donors are increasingly frustrated by the expense associated with long-term 'care and maintenance programs for long-term refugees. Interventions like food-based interventions and cash-based interventions are in any case acknowledged as being inadequate, and the same unsatisfactory response is reflected in the wider or 'essential' needs of refugee populations.

Refugees' access to education and health services is increasing. Some have gained access to land for agriculture outside their shelter through informal means like being friends with the host community members who give them access to land or renting land from the host communities. Refugees can be development agents with full integration within the host communities that recognize the refugees' potentials. By highlighting refugee's diverse range of skills, talents, and aspirations gradually, there will be a recognition that rather than just vulnerabilities, refugees also have capabilities and the camps represent a viable economy with the potential to contribute to economic growth within and across the region.

Of the total respondents, 79.5% were male, while 29.5% being female. The mean age of the resident household is 38 years, with eight

people in the household. The majority of the two settlements' residents are South Sudanese, representing 82.9%, while Ugandans are 17.2%. 76.2% of the respondents are unemployed, and with a mean age of 38. The level of education of the respondents also varied widely. 40.2% of the respondents have no formal education, 32.8% have primary education, 18.9 secondary, while 6.6% only have tertiary education.

Few households represented by 3.3% are formally employed, 11.5% are involved in businesses, 8.2% casual labor, and 10.7% are engaged in agriculture. The majority, 50.8% of the households, depend on aid and 10.7% other livelihood sources, including remittances from the country of origin. The settlement's demographic profile, coupled with low employment opportunities, impacts the economic situation and opportunity for sustainable livelihoods. With a mean age of 38 and variance, the population is young, though of working age.

Most households have access to various social services, including education from pre-primary to secondary education. Several education facilities exist within the settlements and outside the settlements. The average time in minutes to reach the kindergartens is 21 minutes, while for primary schools, it takes an average of 52 minutes and 65 minutes to get to a secondary school.

Access to health services is equally vital for refugees and all households in the settlements. Households are within an average of 11 minutes to the nearest health center, 34 minutes to a hospital, and an average distance of 2 km to the health facility. Almost half of the interviewed respondents, at 49.2%, get specialized health services from Adjumani hospital, 9.8% from

Pagirinya, and 8.2% from Nyumanzi health centers. At the same time, the rest seek specialized services from the closest health facility.

Water is available in the settlements and the average time to the source is 7 minutes. The available sources of water are boreholes, tapped water (piped water), whereby 81.1% access water from boreholes, 13.1% from tapped water, and 5.7 access water from both boreholes and taps. When it comes to sanitation, most interviewees have toilets outside the house, which seems the standard given that networked sanitation facilities are not in place. For the household to access food from various markets and shops, farms/ gardens and shops and NGOs (like World Food Program and UNHCR), it takes 41 minutes for food and 45 minutes on average for non-food items. The average distance to the sources for food and non-food items is 2.2 - 2.5 kilometers.

Among the refugees, each household located a 30 x30 plot of land for both shelter and other activities leaving little space for agricultural activities explaining the high dependence on food from the World Food Program, approximately 77.8%. Access to these services for the settlements is essential for livelihoods, well-being, and economic advancement opportunities in refugee settlements with host communities. Access to services may also amplify refugees' challenges when the services are short or difficult to reach. Where such services are adequate, access issues regarding the nature and quality of service may arise to affect the refugees and the host communities' livelihoods and well-being.

Refugee settlement systems are primarily based on a self-reliance model built on an initial aid package initially with food, a piece of land, and temporary shelter. Some refugee households rent land or access land leased by support NGOs like Self Help Africa. A number of them have endeavored to establish businesses in the settlements to supplement aid from UNHCR. From the survey, 73.4% of business operators interviewed were Sudanese refugees, while 26.6% were from host communities. The gender distribution of business operators is 55.7% men

and 44.3% women. Concerning the education level of business operators, 16.6% have no education while 67% have attained primary or secondary education, and 15.2% gained tertiary education. The nature and types of business in the settlements can be categorized as; agro-processing businesses (cassava, maize flour), retail (food items, beverages), telecommunication businesses.

Most businesses represented by 64.6% were established within 1 to 3 years, implying that they are recent establishments and recently migrated refugees. Since refugees operate most business joints, this correlates with most refugees having arrived between 2014 - 2016 from the household survey. The key motivation for starting the business is the existence of a large refugee population and purchasing power. Many business owners were motivated by the purchasing power of the host community. While purchasing power is essential, most refugees' operations were mainly established to provide an alternative livelihood and diversify from aid and support by various NGOs.

The settlement administration controls business operations in the settlements. Thus 34.2% of the business operators acquired permission to start a business in the settlement. But this permission does not seem to include paying taxes as 72.2% of the business owners reported they did not pay taxes at starting the businesses. Payment in terms of license fees was reported at a mean of 33,000 UGX. Permits are mainly in trading licenses, market dues, and payments to landlords and most business operators paid to sub-county authorities in Dzaipi.

Several reasons were given as the possible basis for more current and future business opportunities in the area. The reasons include; security of the area, growing population, high purchasing power, presence of financial assistance, favorable tax and permit regimes, and ease of acquiring permits to conduct business were the factors for creating an enabling environment for business opportunities.

Business owners raise several challenges, and these include competition between businesses, creditors, lack of capital were the key issues identified as hindering expanding the businesses. Simultaneously, conflict with host communities, cost of electricity, transportation costs from wholesale towns such as Gulu, Arua were other impedances in expanding the businesses.

From the initial results, it is clear that tapping into business opportunities will include agro-processing, growing the region's service sector, and trade. For agro-processing, if refugees are to be integrated into the regional economy, access to land becomes very important. There are already validated mechanisms for land access and renting by refugees mediated by support NGOs in the area. Economic linkages between refugee settlements and host communities can be seen as a long-term collaboration between stakeholders (in this case, the stakeholders are the refugees and host communities) rather than as a one-off transaction. The economic linkages assessed by the survey were in terms of access to markets, impacts of refugees on the business environment, local economy, employment opportunities, income-generating activities, service availability, and resource utilization.

The assessment of linkages between refugee settlements and wider host communities throughout the West Nile region is vital to understanding the opportunities and constraints in enhancing economic activities. The enormous refugee population in the entire area is a potential economic force due to several factors; First, some refugees arrived with their assets and capital. Other refugees get periodic support from NGOs, including cash. Secondly, most refugees reported remittances received from their families in their country of origin or diaspora, implying that the money inflows among the refugees can be enormous though, in this study, we have not evaluated the net worth of the refugees.

Spatial planning is critical in enabling spatial and regional economies. Our analysis of the region's historical development indicates that the area has historically been sparsely populated with

colossal nature reserves and or hunting areas. Spatial planning intervention in the region would be to develop investment plans for transportation infrastructure. Roads and the ferry service are key infrastructures that can spur economic linkages between the districts and refugee settlements.

The possible pathways for harnessing economic opportunities in the region are:

### ***Biomass energy***

***Biomass Energy*** is important for use by most people in the region. With vast land not cultivated for agriculture, commercial forestry for fast-growing species provides the potential for an economic sector that can be sustainable since the transition to alternative energy will take longer in the country and region.

### ***Commercial agriculture***

Another possible pathway is concerning ***commercial agriculture*** for produce targeting neighboring countries as well as the regional market. This pathway would be supported by land rent mechanisms, spatial planning identifying the suitability of land for niche crops, and identifying unutilized land to reduce or mitigate conflicts between refugees and host communities.

### ***Infrastructure Development***

Infrastructure development is key to enhancing economic activity in the region. Planning for permissive infrastructure in significant towns of Pakwach, Arua, Koboko, and Moyo for transit goods is one of the possible ways through which economic activity can be enhanced.

### ***Enhancing skills***

Lastly, enhancing skills of refugee populations and host communities. Building capacity and skills of the communities have/is an ongoing effort and will continue to be undertaken by the development agencies and the government.



# 01

## Introduction

This chapter provides an overview of the refugee status in West Nile and the purpose of the study. It captures the problem and objectives of the research and justification for the study

### 1.1 Overview

The flux of refugees and the overall increase in population in the West Nile region has led to increased pressure on the host community, the available resources leading to economic, social, development, and humanitarian consequences (GIZ, 2019). The West Nile has 3 million inhabitants and hosts around 736,892 registered refugees concentrating in the districts of Aua. Kobooko, Yumbe, Moyo, and Adjumani, with most refugees coming from South Sudan and DRC (Agency, 2018). The attitude towards refugees is generally inclusive due to cultural and tribal reasons (“we are the same people.”) While refugees access aid structures in camps, many have moved into urban areas like Adjumani town, Moyo town, Arua town, Jembe town, and Kampala using urban services, renting houses, and working both formal and informal sectors (UN-HABITAT, Lab, & Milano, 2019).

Several NGOs, UN agencies, and development partners have worked in the West Nile Region; however, they are only in specific camps under the coordination of UNHCR and on Refugee Movements. Some of NGOs are; REACH, a consortium of international organizations promoting a collaborative approach among aid actors and supporting established inter-agency coordination mechanisms at the global and country levels; Humanitarian Open Street Map, an international organization dedicated to humanitarian action and community development through open mapping (UN-Habitat et al., 2019). Humanitarian donors are increasingly frustrated by the expense associated with long-term ‘care and maintenance programs for long-term refugees. Interventions like food-based interventions and cash-based interventions are, in any case, acknowledged being as an inadequate and unsatisfactory response to the wider or ‘essential’ needs of refugee populations

(Kaiser, 2006). Often entirely neglected by this kind of response are refugees who have settled outside the formal structures of assistance unless they benefit incidentally from the often limited attention paid to the host population.

According to the UNHCR 2019, refugees' distribution in the West Nile region is 13% in the Arua district, 15.4% in Adjumani. Refugees' access to education and health services is increasing. Some have gained access to land for agriculture outside their shelter through informal means like being friends with the host community members and giving them access to land or renting land from the host communities. While the problems associated with refugees' encampment are well documented, less is known about refugees' contribution to the local economy and how the refugees' economic potential can be enhanced through targeted programs to promote activities for a thriving refugee population in the host communities.

Refugees can be development agents with full integration within the host communities that recognize the refugees' potentials. Thus, refugees can be seen as an opportunity and not only as a social cost. By highlighting refugee's diverse range of skills, talents, and aspirations gradually, there will be a recognition that rather than just vulnerabilities, refugees also have capabilities and the camps represent a viable economy with the potential to contribute to economic growth within and across the region. There is potential in West Nile's financial future by recognizing and making the most of refugees' presence. Refugees in camps are also business and social entrepreneurs, artists, writers, scientists, and skilled vocational workers and have diverse capabilities which need to be harnessed. Refugees are making and can potentially cause significant contributions to the local economy through various skills and trading opportunities. Given the proper support and limited degree training, many can improve themselves and their communities and add value to the regional and global economies. This research assesses refugees' economic potential in the West Nile, focusing on refugees living in Arua and Adjumani

districts and their positive implications in the region and country at large. The study analyzes the current economic activities in selected camps, the valued products, and flows within the region to understand how the refugee population is and can potentially contribute to the economic well-being of the West Nile.

## 1.2 A recap on Terms of Reference and tasks

The research project tasks were defined in terms of reference as below:

1. **Analyze the current socio-economic situation of the selected area in the West Nile Region**, with regards to economic activities, main natural features, and productive natural features, protected or heritage areas, roads, infrastructure, and basic services, access to the area, and connections with other settlements including the refugee camps;
2. **Document and analyze current and historical settlement patterns around in the West Nile Region** by (a) Establishing patterns of human settlement and their character, (b) establishing relations between Arua town, the refugee camps, and the immediate hinterlands socially, economically, and spatially, (c) analyzing the population distribution and socio-economic activities, (d) analyzing and contrasting the actual development patterns and trends, and (h) analyzing the existing spatial pattern of community and investment. The timeline to be captured within the survey process will include the spatial and social changes stemming from the recent refugee influx of South Sudan and North Eastern Congo from the last decade. For Arua town, it will capture urbanization and growth patterns from the previous decade.

**The West Nile has 3 million inhabitants and hosts around 736,892 registered refugees concentrating in the districts of Aura, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo, and Adjumani, with most refugees coming from South Sudan and DRC (Agency, 2018).**

3. **Conduct a participatory settlement household survey;** to establish a detailed analysis of the identified settlement systems and development needs of the residents, which will form the basis for developing the scope necessary for undertaking urban planning
4. **Undertake a socio-economic survey of livelihood means in the area** targeting by (a) conducting surveys on working patterns, existing skills, occupations, and professional activities, possible lack of skills or products, livelihood related needs (resources, materials, tools, infrastructure), (b) identifying main issues that need to be addressed, (c) identifying the main community and stakeholder expectations regarding planning the town, particularly in terms of economic relations and access to jobs and services, and (d) identifying the main threats /opportunity to the area in relation to refugee camp / humanitarian interventions
5. **Conduct a participatory business survey** to establish: (a) Kinds and nature of businesses in the West Nile Region; (b) The gender and connected demographics; (c) Opportunities and potential for socio-enterprise investments; (d) Employment



Refugees waiting to collect water in Pagirinya Settlement. © Makerere University





# 02

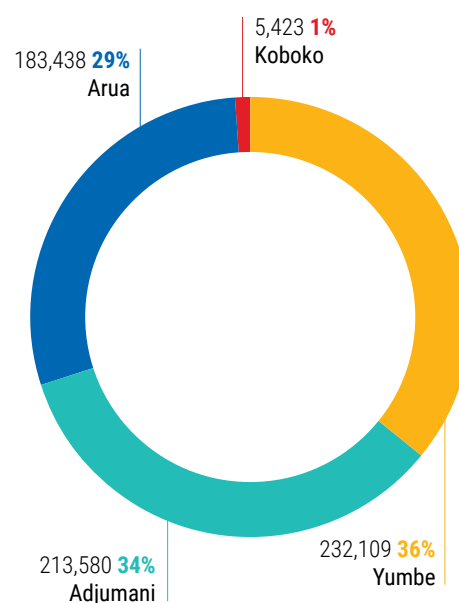
## Background of Nyumanzi and Pagirinya refugee settlements

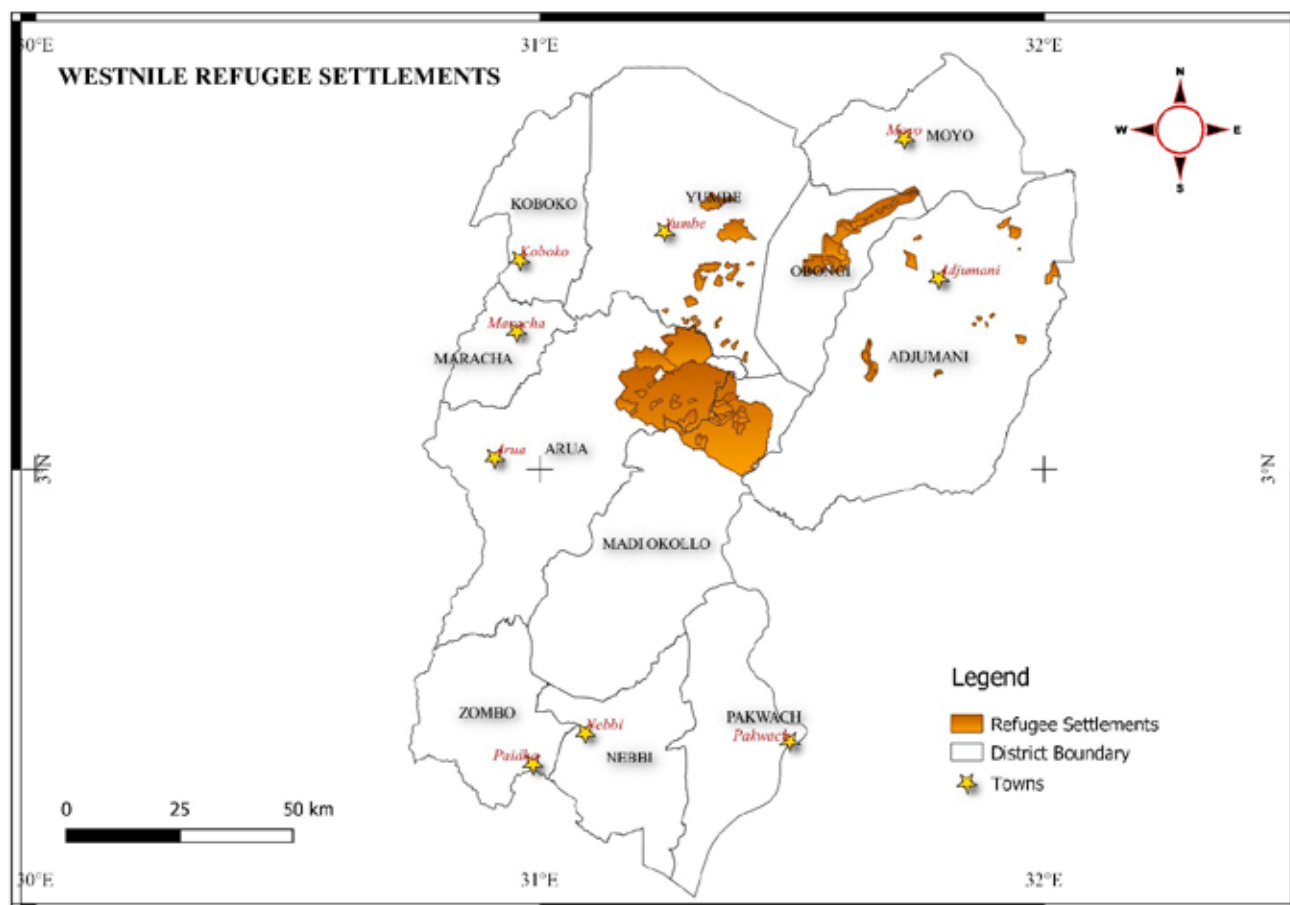
This chapter describes the West Nile region, Nyumanzi, and Pagirinya refugee settlements, their location, population, and size.

### 2.1 The current refugee situation in the West Nile region

Uganda is home to more than 634,550 refugees from South Sudan living in 48 refugee settlements in 4 West Nile districts (UNHCR, 2021). Adjumani (215,736 refugees) and Arua (183,438 refugees) districts both have 17 refugee settlements each, Koboko (5,562) has eight, while Yumbe (233,959) has six settlements as of Jan 2021.

Figure 1: Number of refugees in West Nile



**Figure 2: Refugee settlements in the West Nile Region.**

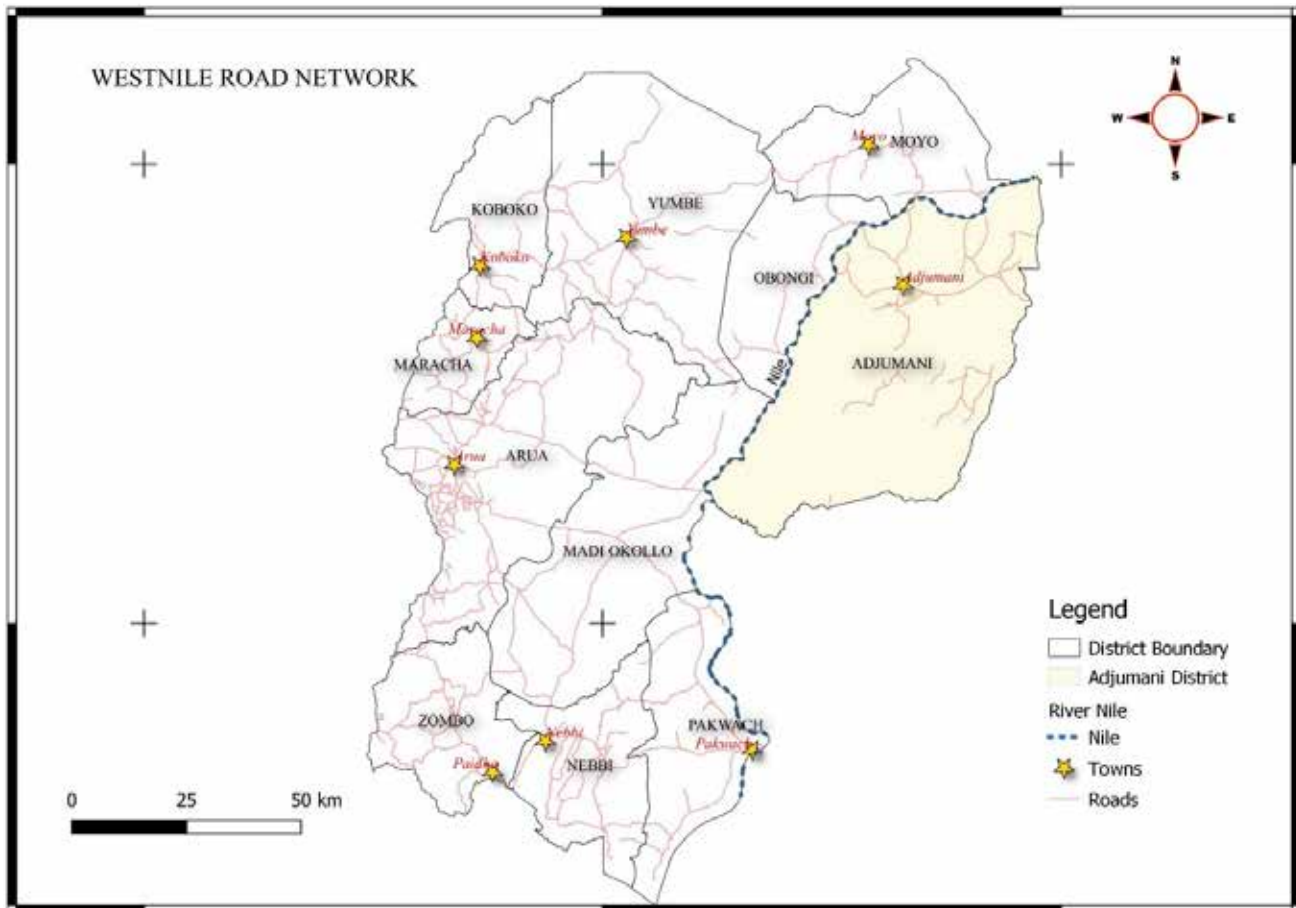
Uganda has one of the most favorable refugee protection environments providing for freedom of movement, right to work, and land for refugees settlements in line with the Refugee Act of 2006 (Uganda Government, 2006). In areas where land is not gazetted for refugees, the Office of the Prime Minister, Refugee Department (OPM) negotiates with the local communities to acquire land for usage by refugees (Agency, 2018). Adjumani district is one of the districts in the North-West region of Uganda neighboring Moyo, Yumbe, Koboka, and Arua. The district area is 3128 sq km, with the arable land area being 1,455sq km with a population of 225,251 (UBOS, 2014) and 213,580 refugees (UN-HABITAT et al., 2019).

The main economic activity in Adjumani is agriculture growing both cash and food crops like maize, beans, sweet potatoes, cassava, millet, and rearing animals like goats, sheep, cattle, and pigs. The major tradeable items

include fish, sweet potatoes, cassava, and maize, with over 17 million population as the target, including but not limited to DRC and South Sudan (Authority, 2017). Refugees generally depend on humanitarian assistance and remittances from their families to meet their basic needs. Some refugees are involved in economic activities like retail, working as casual laborers and farming to generate income, usually associated with their skills and livelihoods before coming into Uganda. This engagement in income-earning activities implies a potential for economic growth and human capabilities that need to be enhanced for refugees to gain socio-economic independence and contribution to the regional economy among host communities.

As shown in Figure 3 below, the transport network in Adjumani is majorly by road network and rarely uses water transport on river Nile.

Figure 3: Road network in West Nile Region.



Over the last four years, the refugee population has increased in the Adjumani district, accounting for almost the same population as the host population (Authority, 2017; UNHCR, 2021). From this large number of active refugees, it may be assumed that sufficient economic scope and human capabilities exist for the refugees to exploit to gain social-economic independence. This population has potentially operational income-generating activities as entrepreneurs and employees. The refugees in Adjumani are mainly from South Sudan and are of diverse ethnic backgrounds: Dinkas, Kuku, Nuer, Kakwa, Madi, and Siluk. Some have similar

ethnicity with the locals, like the Madi, Lugbara, and Kuku in terms of language, skin color, and height. The refugee social characteristics in camps are that more families are female-headed at 70%, and 49% of the households have an average of 10 dwellers.

Two settlements were selected for the in-depth study of economic opportunities and understanding of the potentials. These are Nyumanzi and Pagirinya refugee settlements in Adjumani district. The following section of the report provides a brief characterization of these refugee settlements.

## 2.2 Characteristics of Nyumanzi Refugee Settlement Camp

Nyumanzi is in the Northern part of Adjumani district, close to the border with South Sudan. The area acts as the transit for thousands of new refugee arrivals and home to more than 20,000 long-term refugees displaced by conflict in South Sudan. After opening in January 2014, Nyumanzi has become the largest refugee settlement in Adjumani district regarding population size (UNHCR, 2021). The settlement is divided into seven blocks, A-G, further divided into clusters; A contains 8 clusters, B 4 clusters, C 6 clusters, D 2 clusters, E 2 clusters, F 2 clusters, and G 3 clusters. The refugee leadership is composed of ascending levels of local councils. There is an RWC1 (Refugee Welfare Committee) at the cluster level, RWC2 at the block level, and RWC3 for the entire settlement. Elections overseen by the OPM decides on the members of these committees. A chairperson heads the RWC at each level. Despite their relatively recent arrival, residents are already well-established, and a strong community has emerged in which refugee households actively collaborate to share resources and opportunities. According to UNHCR, Nyumanzi inhabitants account for 11% of the district population, composed of 43,508 registered refugees with 2,104 pending registration.

As of 2019, Nyumanzi camp, still in early development as a refugee camp, has each family on its land containing a house built with mud, metal, iron sheets, and a private vegetable garden. On the camp's main street is a functional market that serves the settlement, which is managed by both locals and refugees who are engaged in economic activities. There are also social services, including schools, a skills training center, a community center, and solar pumping plants, which have a fundamental role in water collection purposes.

**The refugee social characteristics in camps are that more families are female-headed at 70%, and 49% of the households have an average of 10 dwellers.**

Nyumanzi settlement has four motorized boreholes, 38 hand pumps, 3733 household latrines with 28 active health hygiene promoters or village health teams. One hundred forty-eight refugees have access to self-employment or facilitated businesses. The market, established in 2014, is divided between locals and those living in the Nyumanzi Refugee Settlement, with hundreds of people selling traditional and modern commodities.

The health center serving the settlement is located far away and serves approximately 43,000 refugees leading to congestion in the health facility and damaging refugees' access to health services. The lack of ambulance services aggravates this, particularly affecting pregnant mothers who often find themselves giving birth on the way to the center—a significant challenge for those families, especially of the late-night women with labor.

Nyumanzi refugee settlement though being the largest in Adjumani District, has only six schools in total, with three being primary schools where more than 4,000 children go to. These schools were all established by the Building Tomorrow One NGO that has been supporting Education in Adjumani and part of South Sudan.

## 2.3 Characteristics of Pagirinya refugee settlement Camp

Pagirinya settlement opened in July 2016 and currently hosts more than 32,000 refugees displaced from South Sudan (UNHCR 2018). The settlement is spatially organized with a physical design that facilitates access to essential facilities, including health centers and schools. However, many sectors like health and nutrition, water, health, and sanitation are still inadequate for the population. The refugees are of various ethnicities, including Nuer, Dinka, Lolubo, Lotuko, Madi, Acholi, and Didinga. They are located in the six blocks of the settlement, namely, A, B, C, D, E, and F.

Peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities enables communal farming and production. Developing partners such as Plan International Uganda, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) have explored negotiating rental contracts directly with land owning Ugandan nationals so that refugees can cultivate additional crops. Some Ugandan farmers have integrated refugees into their collective farming groups through their village saving schemes locally organized by both the host and refugee at times coordinated by NGOs like Self Help Africa. The camp has a youthful population that is the majority of the settlement's population, creating the potential for a strong workforce to boost the economy with proper support, training, and resources. Refugees have initiated their self-help groups to coordinate agricultural projects, promote savings, and share livestock (UNDP Uganda, 2018; UNHCR, 2018b). However, the settlement faces some challenges, like an understaffed health center with inadequate medicines stocks.

The settlement is divided into six blocks; A, B, C, D, E, and F divided into clusters. Block A having 5 clusters, block B 5 clusters, block C 9 clusters, block D 7 clusters, block E 7 clusters, and block F with 6 clusters. Leadership is composed of ascending levels of local councils. There is an RWC1 (Refugee Welfare Committee) at the cluster level, RWC2 at the block level, and RWC3 for the entire settlement. These are decided by elections overseen by the OPM. A chairperson heads the RWC at each level.

Pagirinya settlement has different schools to support education for young children. According to UNICEF Gulu Zonal Office reports, In 2016, 13 replenishment kits were distributed to Maaji primary school, which has over 3,500 pupils to support the pupils' education. Schools are located far away, leading to students walking long distances. The schools and classrooms are insufficient, which causes congestion and high teacher per student ratios (UNHCR, 2018a). Moreover, there are limited school materials, further inhibiting students' learning environment.

The tuition fees are too high for most parents to afford, and an absence of scholarship opportunities has led to children dropping out, particularly after primary school. The refugees in this settlement obtain water for domestic use from various sources, including boreholes, tap stands, and a small number from tanker trucks. Pagirinya refugee settlement was the scene of a cholera outbreak in August 2016 (Mugumya, Isunju, Ssekamatte, Wafula, & Mugambe, 2020).

## 2.4 Access to Land and Housing in the refugee settlement

The allocation of land among refugees is guided by the Refugee Act (2006) and Refugee Regulations (2010). Accordingly, most refugees access land through OPM on behalf of the Government (Office of the Prime Minister, 2010; Parliament of Uganda, 2006). Owing to the relatively high levels of integration and peaceful coexistence, refugees have devised other innovative ways of accessing more land for production. One of these is through bilateral agreements with host communities, in which case, land may be provided for free, or hosts may request modest rent in the form of cash payments or sharecropping (UNDP Uganda, 2018). Nearly all households in the refugee settlements have access to land, primarily the land surrounding their shelter plot. Most land was used for agriculture (families accessing land around their shelters) (REACH & Norwegian Refugee Council, 2019).

The prime minister's office (OPM) works with the local leadership to identify land for settling refugees. Landlords with big chunks of land at the Local Government level are requested to offer part of their land to settle refugees. The primary land allocated to the refugees is 30x30m, although, in places where there is large land compared to the refugees, they receive more significant allocations like 50x50 and 50x100. In some cases, landowners contact authorities with land offers. The land acquisition process is concluded by signing a memorandum of understanding.



Housing in the refugee settlements was designed to be temporary with leaking roofs and other structural damage types. Households in the refugee settlements have access to housing; typically, through structures they had built themselves. Still, many of these are damaged,

and lack of money often hinders repair efforts. Attempts to repair them using natural material often resulted in disputes with host community members (REACH & Norwegian Refugee Council, 2019).

# 03

## Methodology and approach to the study

This chapter describes the procedures and methods used in data collection and the tools for analysis and interpretation of the study results. It discusses the research strategy, the research design, the study scope, sampling techniques, data collection tools and methods, data analysis, ethical considerations, and the challenges were encountered.

### 3.1 Refugee Settlement Selection

Adjumani district was selected as a district because it was the first district to host refugees from South Sudan in 2013 and hosts the second-largest number of refugees in the West Nile Region. Nyumanzi and Pagirinya settlements were selected because they are in the same parish, Dzaipi parish, and are host to different tribes from South Sudan. Nyumanzi is dominated by Dinka while Pagirinya is dominated by Madi and Nuer. The distinction of tribes within different settlements was an essential element in understanding the settlements' differing perspectives and economic activities. The focus was recent migrants into Adjumani district and Pagirinya is one of the last settlements in Adjumani. On the other hand, Nyumanzi is one of the first settlements established in Adjumani in 2014 and would compare recent migrants in a time window of 5 years.

### 3.2 Research approach

The study employed a mixed-methods approach. Geospatial mapping through the establishment of Land use Landcover change (LULC) trends over 20 years. Socio-economic survey of the two refugee camps, participatory interviews with key stakeholders in the refugee camps in districts of Arua and Adjumani, and a comprehensive literature review. These interviews were conducted with a cross-section of South Sudanese refugees living and doing business in Nyumanzi and Pagirinya settlements and members of the host community in Nyumanzi and Pagirinya. Additional interviews were conducted with the UNHCR, NGO field representatives, settlement commanders, and local government officials.

A socio-economic survey was conducted among a selected number of refugee households and business operators in the two camps. 122 household interviews and 79 business surveys were carried out in other Camps, as shown in the table. The field work was conducted in between the 26th January to 5th February, 2020. After the surveys, a participatory workshop was held to validate the data and collect additional qualitative data for analysis. This involved workshop

stakeholders in the region concerned with refugees and development in the area, including district officials, UNCHR officials, and the OPM representative in the district. Remote sensing for land use classification and historical assessment of settlement growth was utilized in combination with Geospatial methods to assess the historical development of the region.

Table 1: Respondent's Location and category

Households by Category and Location				
		Location		Total
		Pagirinya	Nyumanzi	
Category	Host Community	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
	Refugees	50.0%	50.0%	100.0%
Total		50.0%	50.0%	100.0%

Location and Category of businesses				
		Business Category		Total
		Host Community	Refugee	
Location of settlement	Pagirinya	28.2%	71.8%	100.0%
	Nyumanzi	25.0%	75.0%	100.0%

### 3.3 Accessing the Refugee Camps

Refugee camps are restricted areas for access to the public; a letter from the commissioner for refugees in the Department of the refugees in the Office of the Prime Minister in Kampala is mandatory for access. Permission was granted, and assistance to research Nyumanzi and Pagirinya refugee settlement camps in Adjumani district. The commissioner permitted to access (for a specific period of 12 days) by writing letters to the Refugees Desk Officer Adjumani and the Settlement commanders of Nyumanzi and Pagirinya settlements. The Refugee Desk Officer received the letters to which he signed and stamped as to access the camps with the settlement commanders' support. The settlement commanders introduced us to their respective chairpersons (settlement chairpersons or

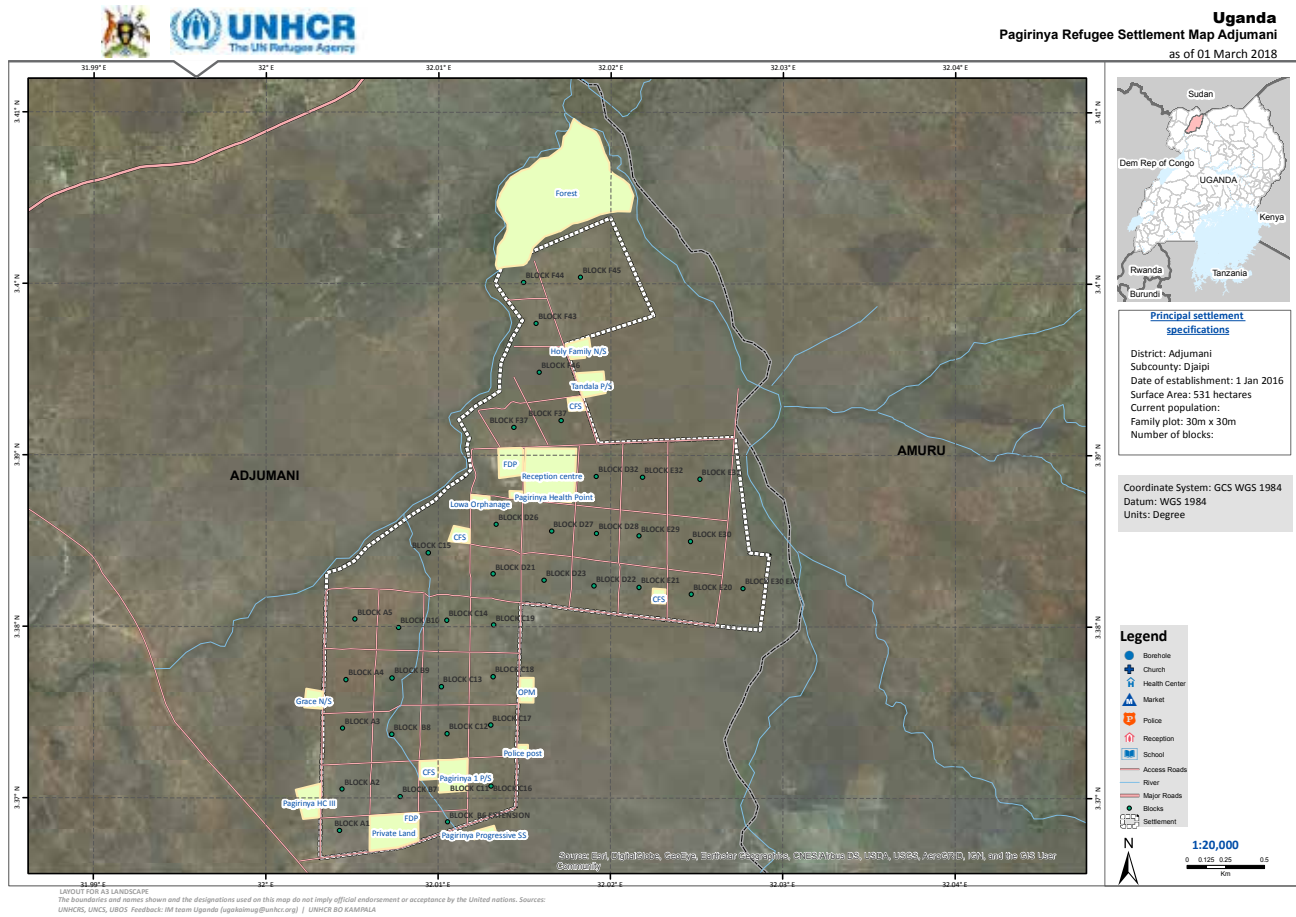
persons in charge of welfare). The chairpersons helped identify translators or field guides who worked with us throughout the entire exercise.

### 3.4 Household and Business Surveys

Households and business operators were selected randomly for the surveys using the settlements blocks and clusters. In Pagirinya the samples were selected from 3 blocks (F, C and A). These blocks were selected because they have many clusters compared to other blocks (B, D, and E). In block F, 21 households were randomly selected from the 3 clusters, 15 households were randomly selected from 2 clusters in block C, and 15 randomly selected households from 2 clusters in block A.



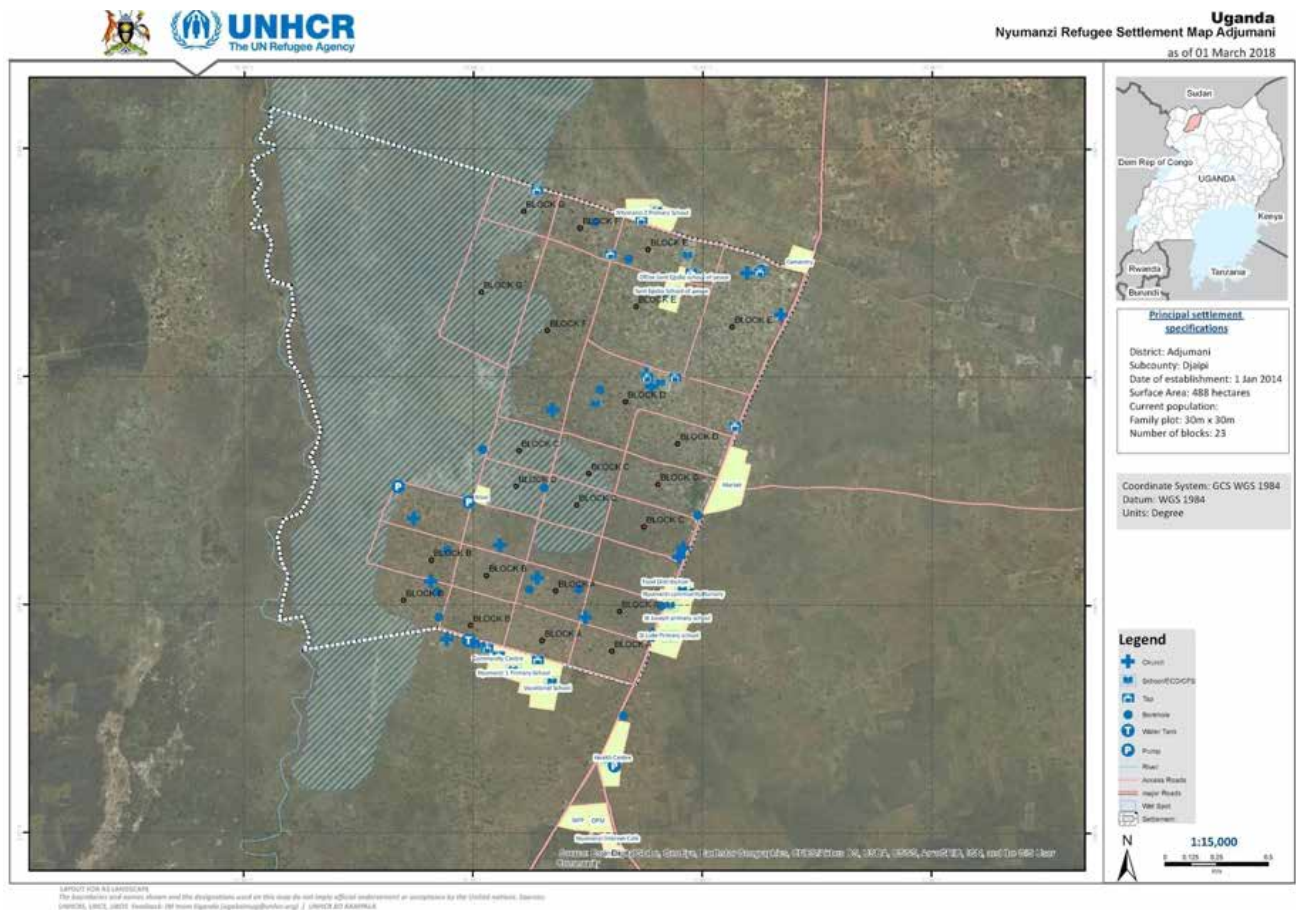
Figure 4 : Pagirinya Refugee Settlement.



Source: UNHCR 2018

In Nyumanzi, the samples were randomly selected from 4 blocks (A, B, E, and G) because they are blocks with many clusters and households compared to blocks B, D, and F. 16 households were randomly selected in 5 clusters from block A. 9 households were randomly selected from 3 clusters in block G. 9 households were selected randomly from 3 clusters in block E. 11 households were randomly selected from 3 clusters in block B. The household surveys from

the host communities in Nyumanzi and Pagirinya were randomly selected from the areas around or adjacent to the refugee settlement camps. The business surveys were randomly selected across both settlements though most selected were randomly sampled around the market areas in both settlements because most businesses were found around the market areas or trading centers than within the settlements.

**Figure 5: Nyumanzi Refugee Settlement.**

Source: UNHCR 2018

A total of 102 household surveys were carried out in both settlements, with 97 female and 25 male respondents. In Nyumanzi, 61 household surveys were carried out with 51 refugees and ten host community members. In Pagirinya, 61 household surveys whereby 51 refugees and ten host community members. Seventy-nine business surveys were carried out in both settlements, whereby 44 males and 35 females operated. In Nyumanzi, 40 business surveys were carried out whereby 30 refugees and ten hosts operated. While in Pagirinya, 39 business surveys were carried out whereby 29 refugees and ten host community members.

### 3.5 Key Informant Interviews

A total of 10 in-depth interviews were conducted, including individuals from UNHCR, camp settlement commanders, NGOs, physical planners, government officials, and selected people with first-hand knowledge about refugees, their livelihood, and economic activities. The interviews focused on livelihoods, economic growth potentials, social services, development-based approach, interaction with hosts, the economically active refugee population, the nature of the economic activity, the operations of the businesses, the linkages with significant towns of Arua, Adjumani, Yumbe, Koboko and in

South Sudan. The basis for these interviews was to understand the livelihoods and businesses in the camp, The nature of livelihoods, the assets, the nature of economic activities, skills sets for the interviewees, planning for integration, support from the refugees' office and the local governments as well as the flows of trade goods between the camp and towns in the region were captured through these interviews.

### 3.6 Focus Group Discussions

Two Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted with a selection of key informants discussed in both refugee settlements. The composition for the FGDs was a host community member, settlement commandant, business owners, and two household representatives. The discussions centered on the questions about the economic and business environment before and after the arrival of refugees and relations between refugees and host communities. The other question discussed was business and economic opportunities in the towns and the region in general. The discussions in FGDs are qualitatively analyzed. Results are presented in word clouds to illustrate the most commonly mentioned issues as reasons or suggestions for economic enhancement in the region. These further inform the analysis of the economic, the business potential of integrating refugees into the regional economy, and the pathways illustrated in the last section of the report.

### 3.7 Remote Sensing and Geospatial Analysis

To understand the region's historical settlement analysis, we utilized remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to understand the immediate historical development and coupled that with a review of documents about the West Nile's history. Historical remote sensing data that was available before the year 2000 was too coarse for meaningful spatial

analysis of developments. We selected the years 2001, 2010, and 2020 to understand the changes in settlements in the last 20 years. The changes would then be related to those findings from the literature reviewed for the period before 2000. Data were prepared using an area of interest shapefile/Kml to search, download, file, and sort all desired imagery. Pre-processing of filed imagery was done using Radiometric & Geometric Corrections to remove strip lines, cloud-covered areas, and resampling of the image edges for completeness. The corrected images were then classified, and an accuracy assessment was conducted for the classes using change detection and confusion matrix statistics. The selected image is represented in table 1.

#### 3.7.1 Imagery Acquisition

This study's nature required the use of remotely sensed data to effectively cover the entire West Nile region. Landsat satellite images were collected from the open-source site USGS Earth Explorer (<https://earthexplorer.usgs.gov/>). During this process, a Keyhole Mark-up Language File (KML) for the West Nile region was developed using Google Earth and later exported to USGS to mark the Area of Interest (AOI) Nile. The KML file helped define the path/row combinations making up the region which paths and rows included 172/57, 172/58, 173/57, and 173/58. Specifications were made about the cloud cover (less than 20%) and dataset requirements. Landsat scenes for 2001 were picked from Landsat 7 TM archives, scenes for 2010 from Landsat 5, while scenes for 2020 were picked from Landsat 8 OLI Earth Thematic mapper. Unless where impossible, care was taken to select images from the same or similar seasons of the year to reduce variations. Selected scenes were dropped into the item basket in USGS and downloaded using the Bulk Download Application (bda). The sorted scenes were then prepared in files for pre-processing. Table 1 below shows a snapshot of scenes used in this study.

Table 2: Satellite imagery used in analysis

Year	Sensor	Scenes	Dates
2020	L8 OLI ETM+	172/57, 172/58, 173/57, 173/58	2020-02-16; 2020-02-16; 2020-03-10; 2020-03-10
2010	L5 TM	172/57, 172/58, 173/57, 173/58	2014-12-17; 2014-03-04; 2014-06-24; 2014-10-07
2001	L7 ETM	172/57, 172/58, 173/57, 173/58	2009-01-01; 2009-04-16; 2009-06-03; 2009-09-14

### 3.7.2 Preparation of Imagery Data

A series of processes were performed on the images before final analysis to correct both radiometric and geometric errors and improve overall imagery visualization. The geometric correction was performed on individual bands by georeferencing the project map projection and Datum WGS 84/ UTM Zone 36N. This was executed using ArcGIS 10.5. Raw imagery is stored in Digital Numbers (DN) to maximize storage capacity, but these are not true ground representations, thus requiring radiometric correction. The radiometric correction was performed for individual bands in GRASS GIS utilising the `i.landsat.toar` module to transform DN values first to Sensor Radiance and at Sensor Reflectance. The module `i.atcorr` was used to

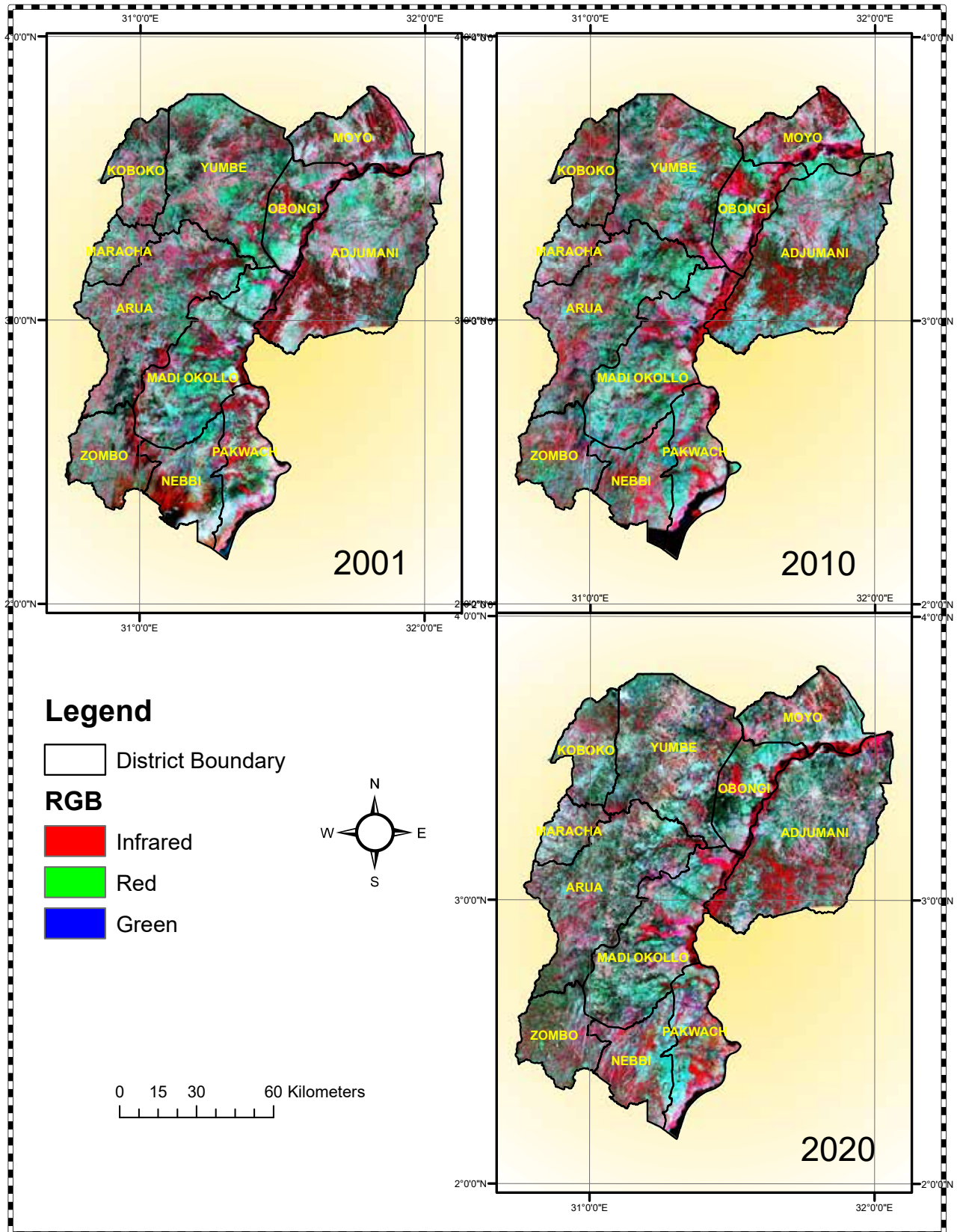
perform atmospheric correction by converting At Sensor Reflectance to Top of Atmosphere Reflectance (TOA). Then Geometrically and Radiometrically corrected bands were transferred to ERDAS Imagine 2014, where the layer stack command formed RGB composites. Individual composites were then stitched together to cover the entire region in the Mosaic pro tool by image dodging, feathering, and utilization of seamlines. Area of Interest was then clipped out of the mosaicked images by masking using the West Nile boundary shapefile developed by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in figure 5.

The mosaics below illustrate the images acquired and classified for the land-use change and historical analysis of the region.



Example of the environmental conditions around a family's household in the settlement. © Makerere University

Figure 6: Raw Images 2001, 2010, and 2020 of West Nile Region



### 3.7.3 Imagery Classification

432 (false color) for L7 and L5 and 543 (false colour) for L8 RGB composites for West Nile were transferred to ArcGIS 10.5 and classified. The classification adopted and adapted the National Forestry Authority, NFA Classification scheme with classes in figure 2 below. These classes were trimmed to the six classes of interest: agriculture, built-up, forest, grassland, wetland, and water. The unsupervised classification was executed by the ISO cluster algorithm in ArcGIS with 100 classes and using region expert knowledge. The resultant classes were grouped into the thematic area using the classification scheme by reclassifying.

**Figure 7: NFA Classification Scheme**

NBS Class	NBS Code	LCCS Classes
1	Broad leaved plantations	Broadleaved trees
2	Coniferous plantation	Needle leaved trees
3	Tropical High forest well stocked	Closed multi-storied high trees
4	Tropical high forestlow stocked	Open high trees
5	Woodland	Closed trees, open trees, generally open trees, very open trees, woody areas
6	Bush	Closed, open or very open shrubs
7	Grassland	Graminoids and herbaceous areas
8	Wetland	Permanently wet Graminoids and herbaceous
9	Small scale farmland	Shrub and herbaceous crops on medium or large size fields
10	Commercial farmland	Shrub or herbaceous crops on medium or large size fields
11	Built up area	Artificial surfaces-urban, airport, refugees camp
12	Open water	Standing and flowing water and water dams
13	Impediments	Bare soil and rocks, quarry, snow

A generalization of classified images to clean misclassified pixels and box out thematic areas too small for analysis was made utilizing the tools; Majority filter, Boundary clean, Region group, Set null, and Nibble, all provided by ArcGIS. Cleaned classified imagery was then exported to QGIS and output using the QGIS print composer. However, given the imagery's resolution and impediments, classes had a high degree of overlap, and these are merged in the analysis classes. After all, the area of interest is large that dominant classes mask individual settlements. Thus, in the analysis, we use this merged class combined with agriculture as a proxy for the historical settlement development in the region.

### 3.7.4 Accuracy Assessment

Accuracy assessment refers to the procedure used to quantify the reliability of classified images. The standard and popular classification accuracy assessment procedure construct a confusion matrix, also known as an error matrix (Hasmadi, Pakhriazad, Shahrin, & others, 2017). An error matrix is a square matrix in which rows and columns represent the land cover classes from the classified image. An accuracy assessment compares two sources of information: 1) pixels or polygons from a classification map developed from remotely sensed data and 2) ground reference test

information. An error matrix summarizes the relationship between the two sources of information.

The accuracy assessment for the classification of this study was conducted in ERDAS using the accuracy assessment tool. The procedure involved loading the classified images into ERDAS, generating random points onto the images, and using reference data to validate their reliability. This acted as the ground-truthing exercise. For the accuracy assessment to be statistically sound, (Cho 2011; Kersten 2003) (Yousefi et al., 2015) recommended a minimum of Fifty (50) random points per class (Cho, 2011). Therefore 50 random points were created for each category, generating a total of 500 random points for accuracy assessment. Reference data for this exercise was derived from the raw

satellite imagery used during the classification. The accuracy assessment tool was then commanded to run and produce accurate reports whose accuracy ranged from 65% to 91%.

### 3.7.5 Land-use Landcover Change (LULC) Analysis

Classified images were converted to shapefiles to analyze land-use landcover changes over the specified period, a spatial intersection of the pairs 2001-2010, 2010-2020, and 2001-2020 was performed. Resultant change maps showed areas of change from one land-use land cover class to another. LULC matrices were prepared in excel using pivot tables, and resultant graphs were prepared.







# 04

## Findings of the study

### 4.1 Overview

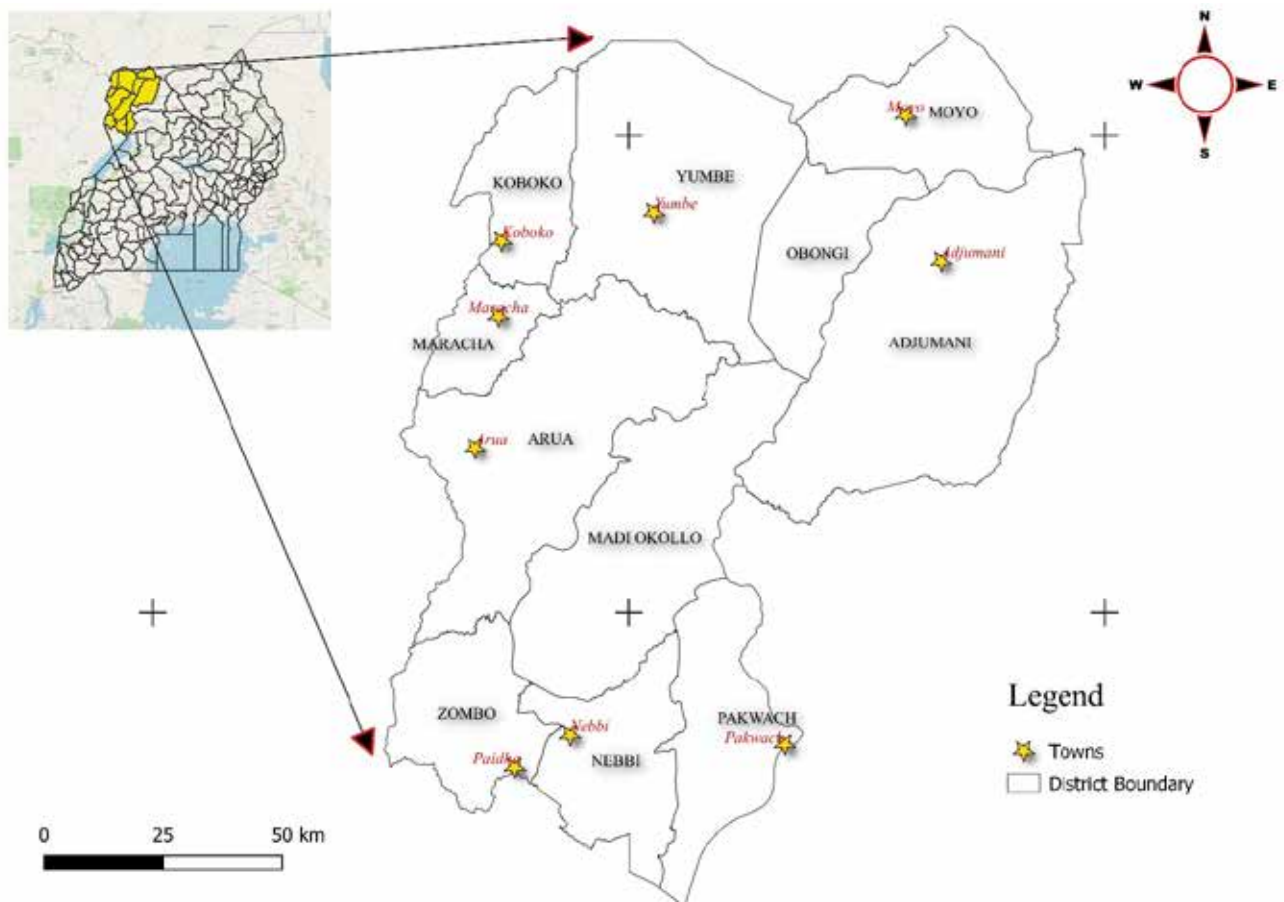
This part of the report presents the findings of the study. The analyzed data discussion presents key results of the thematic areas as outlined in terms of reference and links these themes by triangulating the multiple data sets acquired. The first section of this part of the report presents findings and discusses the West Nile's historical settlement development. The second section analyzes the current socio-economic situation and structure in West Nile by focusing on the selected refugee settlements from which data was collected. The third section will focus on the economic structure in the region and the refugee settlements. This section expounds on the

refugee economic structure, business flows, and linkages between refugees and host communities in business terms. The fourth section analyzes the economic relations between the refugee settlements and significant towns in West Nile before assessing the opportunities of linking refugee settlement businesses within the region in section five. Section six evaluates spatial planning's role in enabling regional economic opportunities with refugee settlements as part of the economic structure and system. The possible pathways for achieving economic opportunities to refugees and host communities are explored. The last section before the summary and conclusions evaluates the constraints of leveraging the regional economic opportunities.

## 4.2 Historical settlement development in West Nile

In the study, we take the West Nile region to comprise the eleven districts of Zombo, Nebbi, Arua, Maracha, Koboko, Madi Okollo, Obongi, Pakwach, Yumbe, Moyo, and Adjumani, as shown in the study area map in figure 8 below. This is the regional categorization by UBOS (2014) on which historical settlement development is undertaken. West Nile is one of the nine regions in Uganda that is the cluster in northwestern Uganda around the river Nile. The region is also characterized by common ethnicity that transcends international boundaries in Congo, South Sudan, and Uganda. The part remained sparsely populated historically with high population densities in Arua and Nebbi. The large wildlife reserves of Rhino Camp and Obongi area remained largely sparsely inhabited until the resettlement of refugees from Sudan in aPakele regions Parolinya, Rhino Camp

**Figure 8: Location of West Nile region**

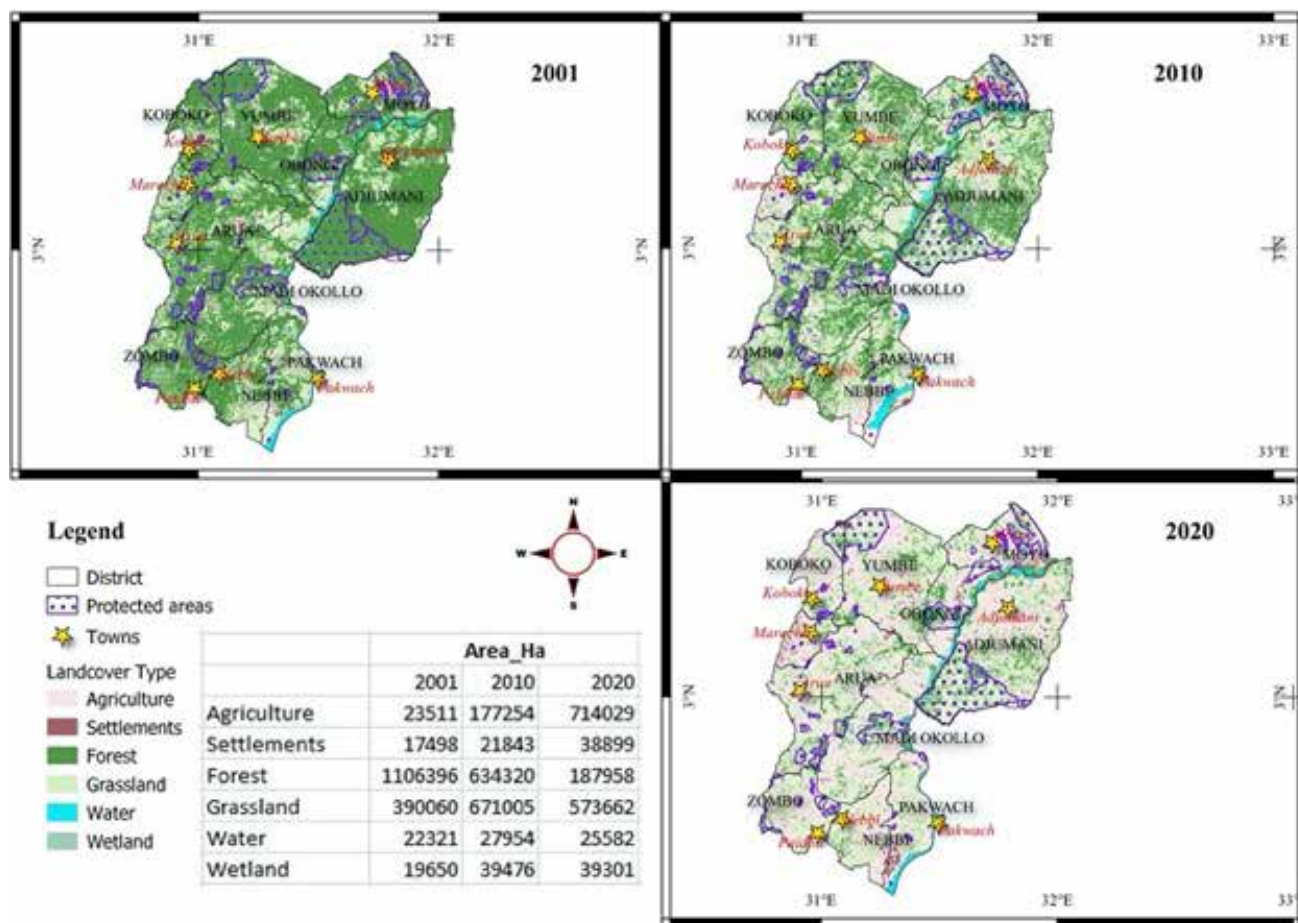


### 4.1.1 Land Use Change and Settlement growth

The classified images indicate a fast change in natural land cover to settlement and bare land. Class of impediments was merged built-up up due to the overlap in the image related to the imagery's resolution. In conjunction with agriculture and forest cover changes, it analyzes the settlement growth and establishment using this proxy of land cover change. The effect of the n overall land classification of this combination is minimal. Thus, the interpretation here is generic to show how the landscape has transformed since 2001. Figure 7 shows the transformation of the landscape from 2001 from forest cover to agriculture around which settlements have

grown in 2010 and becoming more marked in 2020. Settlements increased from 17,498 Ha in 2001 to 38,899 ha. The increase doubled in and around established towns in Arua, Koboko, Nebbi, Adjumani, and Moyo. Expansion of refugee camps in the cultural land has also expanded from the statistics indicated 23,511 ha in 2001 to 714,029 ha in 2020. Agricultural and settlement land use expansion has happened at the expense of forest land cover, which has shrunk five times from over 1 million ha to 187 thousand ha. The settlements are more pronounced in Moyo around Moyo, Yubme, Koboko, Maracha, Adjumani, Paidha, Nebbi, and Pakwach towns. But there also settlements established and clearly shown on the 2020 classified map in Rhino Camp.

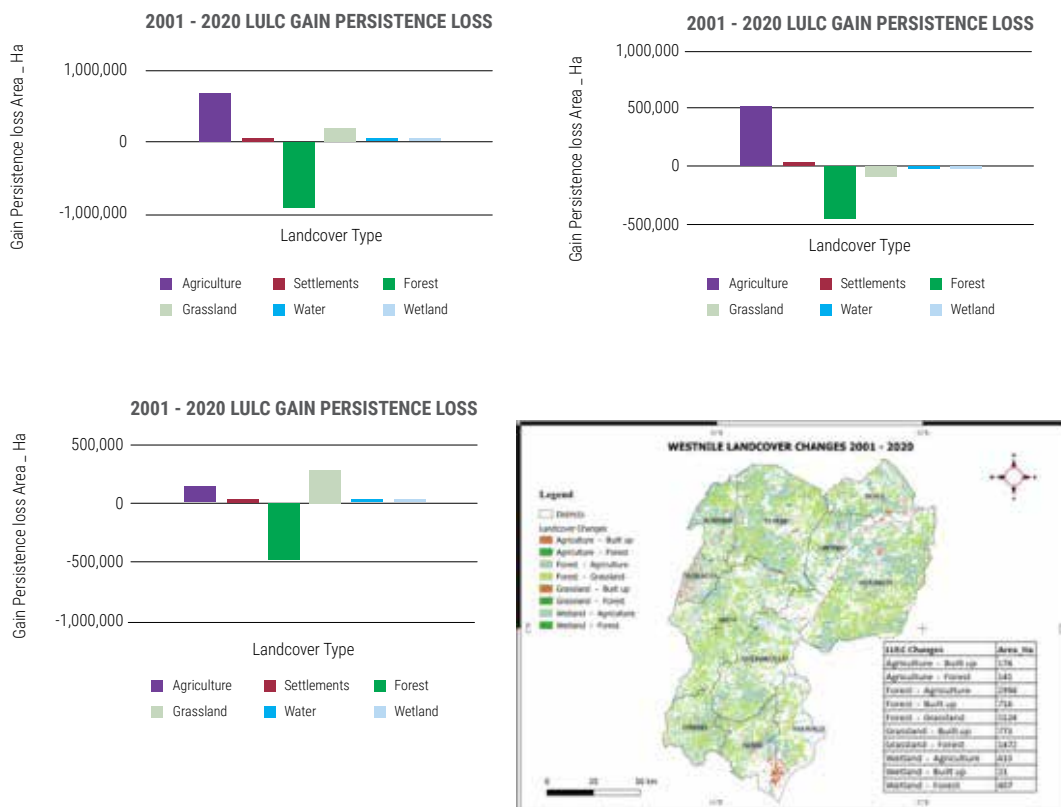
Figure 9: Land use classification 2001, 2010, 2020



The graphs in figure 8 show the gains and losses of land cover and land use classes. Agriculture, for example, lost about 174 ha to settlement and built up, while forests lost 2,994 ha to agriculture and 3,124 ha to grassland. This change implies a trend in deforestation in the region as more land is opened for commercial cultivation. According to the settlement commanders, intensive deforestation occurred during the high emergency phase of the refugee settlements as they sought materials for building shelter and fuelwood. At the same time, degradation was caused mainly by people hunting for wildlife. Although some forest and grassland gains, the overall trend shows the land-use conversion from natural to more human-influenced land-use types. This is related to the region's livelihood systems. The opportunity associated with this change is about more land being opened for agriculture. As illustrated in the section on pathways, commercial agriculture and commercial forestry

could benefit from this transformation. The supporting processes include the negotiations for access to land by refugees coupled with farmer groups which were revealed in the FDGs'. *"The other thing is those partners that form groups, and these groups are always mixed up both refugees and nationals. The partners support them and encourage them to work together with such that the host community can help them the with the land."* - response from FDGs. The linkage between refugee settlements and towns in the region is also under-utilized and provides another possibility for enhancing economic activities for thriving refugee and host communities. *"To me, the demand for food is high if someone engages himself in agricultural activities like cabbages in Adjumani always come from the West. So if someone here can have that potential of growing this locally, it can yield much profit"* - Settlement commander

**Figure 10: Gains and losses in land use between 2001 and 2020**



As shown in figure 8, there has been a rapid transformation of the natural landscape in the region from largely forested land to agriculture and grassland around which settlements have evolved and grown. Findings revealed a rarefied increase in areas under subsistence farming, buildups, and refugee settlements, while the losses were seen in savannah-grasslands, wetlands, and woodlands. *“I think the increase in the land in built-up-areas for rental houses for both business enterprise and residential for people working within and around the settlements and commercial farming”*- physical planner Adjumani. On the regional figure, the settlements are scattered across the region from south in Pakwach to northeast in Adjumani, with substantial growth on the border in Marcaha and Koboko and Adjumani Moyo districts. The wide existence of grasslands in 2020 and loss-gain statistics imply a challenge concerning forest loss but an opportunity for commercial agriculture, commercial forestry, and other possible land-based enterprises that could enhance the economic activities in the region.

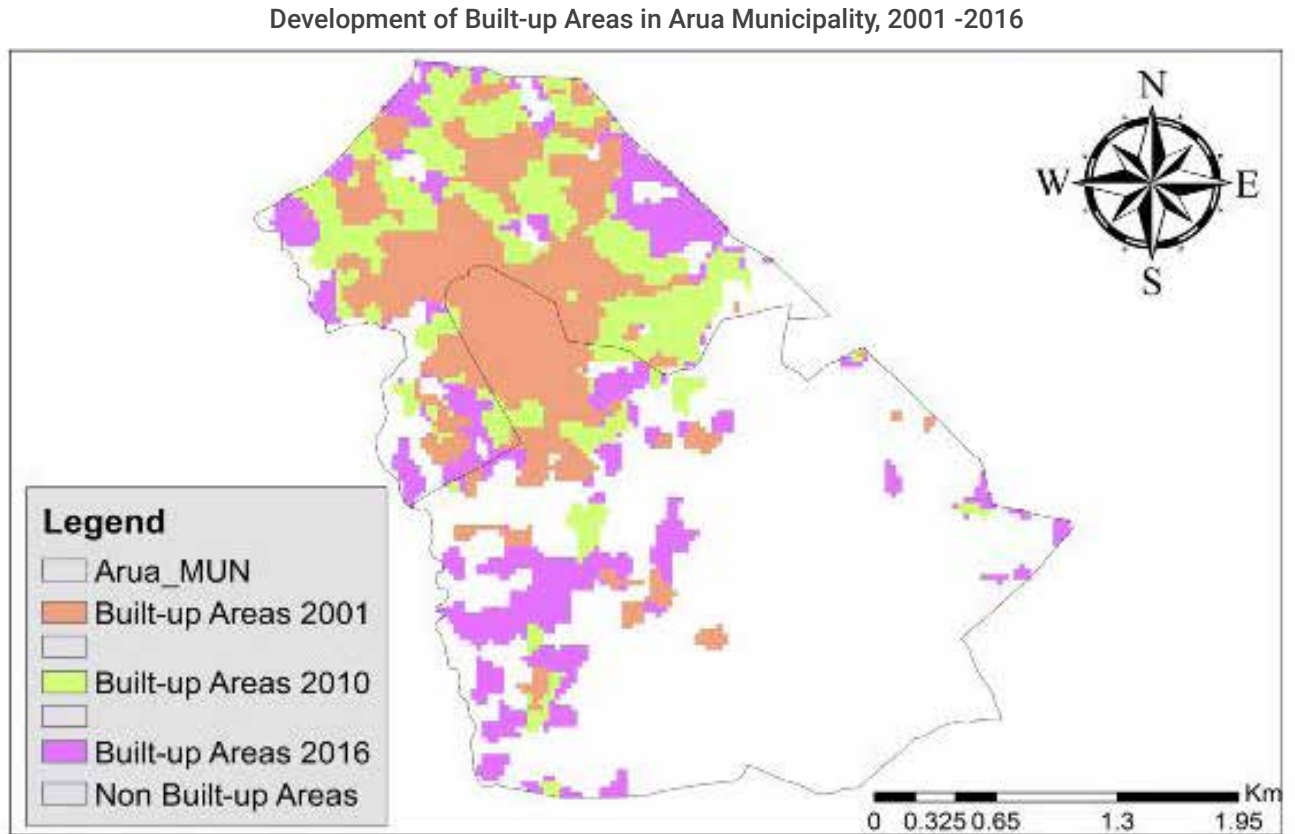
#### 4.1.2 Demographics and Socio-economic profile

Concerning the demographic changes in the region, Arua tops all the regional districts with a population of 803,200, taking fourth in the hierarchy at the national level. Other districts in West Nile fall in the middle populated districts with a total population of 2,731,000 by 2015 (UBOS, 2014). Regarding the socio-economic

wellbeing, the headcount poverty rate stands at 40%, implying low expenditure capacity and widespread deprivation in the largely rural population of the region. Poverty has increased between 2012/13 and 2016/17 in all of Uganda’s regions except in northern Uganda, where poverty fell from 43.7% to 32.5% (based on the national poverty line) (Development Initiatives (DI), 2020). Historically, northern Uganda’s high poverty rate is mainly attributed to over two decades of civil war between the government and the Lord’s Resistance Army rebels of Joseph Kony. The more recent trend is partly due to the government poverty reduction programs that have rejuvenated agricultural livelihoods in that region, which is now peaceful. An average per capita expenditure of 35,000 implies a very low propensity for local consumption in the area. Likewise, the attraction for businesses other than primary production-based enterprises seems very low. This can be put in the historical context where the region has remained a net exporter of cash crops, mainly tobacco and coffee; new cash crops, including sunflower, have since slowly replaced. This is also attributed to the fact the refugees depend on aid for their livelihoods, mostly recent arrivals. Approximately 60% of the income of refugee households comes from assistance in-kind food (called *ratio* by the refugees) or cash (equal to the food they would have got and emittances). There is also wide spread growth in commercial forestry and commercial cassava growing as livelihoods with the picking up of these crops due to demand by industries in the country and East African region.



**Approximately 60% of the income of refugee households comes from assistance in-kind food (called *ratio* by the refugees) or cash (equal to the food they would have got and emittances).**

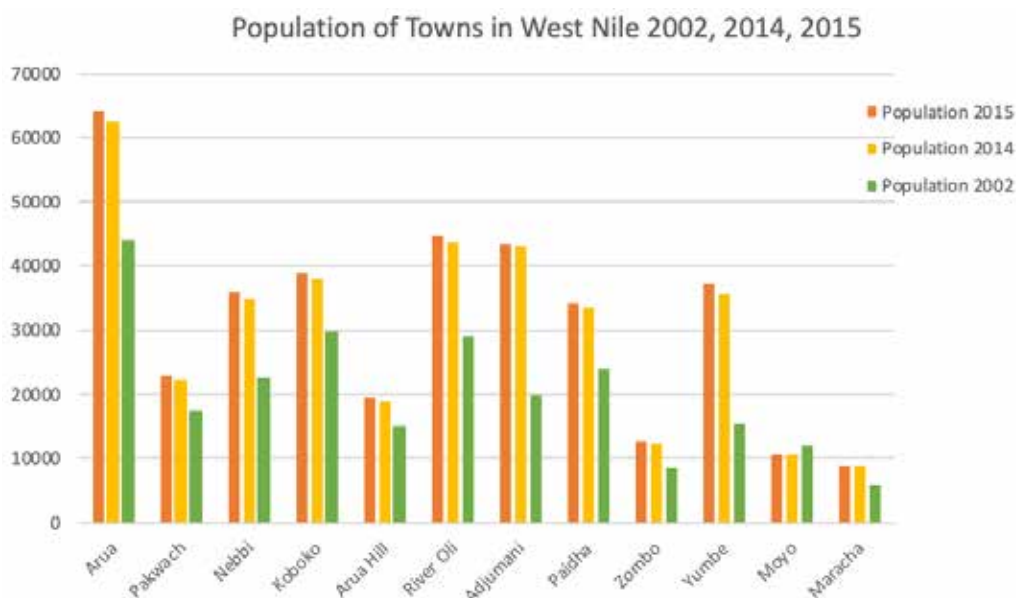
**Figure 11: Arua Urban Sprawl.**

Source: D. Abudu et al

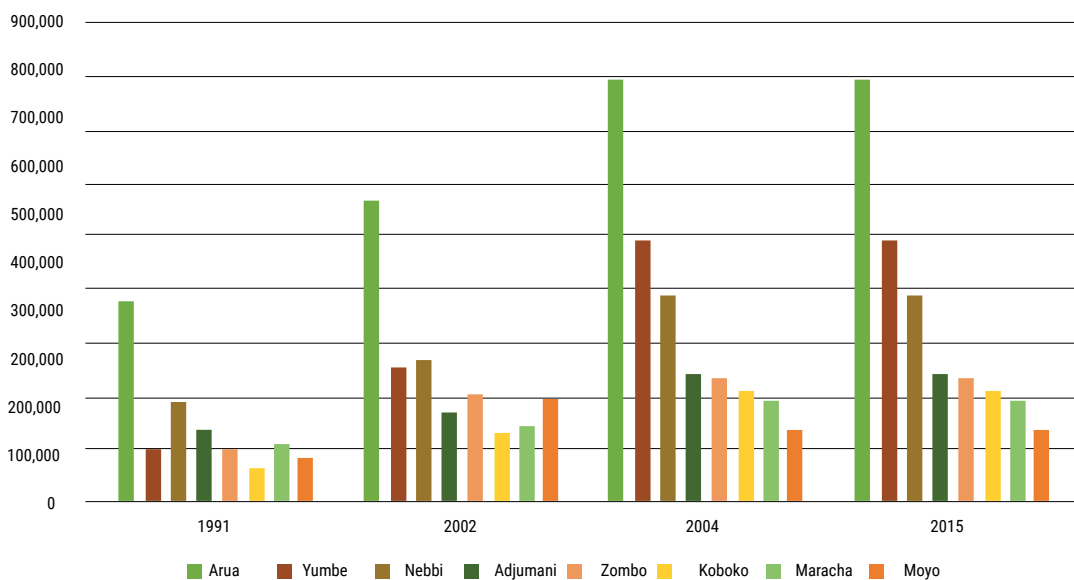
Urbanization in the region is slow and concentrated in Arua. There are 12 towns in the West Nile region, with Arua Municipality topping the list with an estimated population of 60,000, while Maracha has the lowest urban population of less than 10,000. Most urbanization has occurred between 2002 and 2015, which is recent (UBOS 2017). Reasons for this urbanization are many. The role of refugees has been one of the

significant drivers for the current urbanization rate. The second driver is the new districts that have mainly been carved out of the Arua district to create sections including Maracha, Koboko, Yumbe, and curving districts out of Nebbi to create Zombo, Pakwach districts. In contrast, Obongi was made out of Moyo. This implies that the majority of people are rural in the region.

**Figure 12: Population for major towns in West Nile 2002 - 2015**



**Figure 13: Population of the districts 1991 - 2015**



### 4.1.3 Current Socio-economic situation of West Nile Region

In Uganda, the West Nile region had had a long history of economic activity from the pre-colonial times when it was the route to the north along the Nile river for trade between the Nile basin countries. During the colonial period, the region became one of the highly productive places for agricultural output in key cash crops, including Cotton, Tobacco, coffee, and later sunflower that became the non-traditional cash crop. This explains why the Uganda Railway extended to Packwach as the produce collection center before shipping to Mombasa for export. The region has long been a conduit for trade between Uganda, Congo, Sudan, and South Sudan, with merchandise transiting through the major towns. The key infrastructure, including the roads, railway, and water transport, links the Nile bisected region from northern Uganda. In recent times, the area of Arua, Zombo, and Koboko is transit towns for merchandise to and from Congo and South Sudan, making these towns and regions important for trade and service access to host communities, refugees, and other people from the neighboring countries. The region is also characterized by a long history of hosting refugees, which attracted many refugee service NGOs to establish their offices and infrastructure in the region as a response to the civil wars in Sudan, Congo, and recently South Sudan. The refugee services infrastructure set up an economic structure centered around the NGOs that require massive logistics and a high consumptive capacity for consumables such as energy, food, supplies for health, personal use, and institutions. It is the last economic activity that is shaping the economic structure of the region. With social groups having kinship ties across the three countries, there is a continuous movement of people and goods between the West Nile and the neighboring Congo and South Sudan countries. Likewise, the kinship ties also influence the reception given to refugees in the region, with many having cross-border families and assets.

## 4.2 West Nile Economic Structure

As discussed in the preceding section, the economy of the West Nile region is structured around three pillars in figure 12. These include historical production systems, geographic positioning, and international refugee programs. The first and significant one is the historic production systems rooted in pacification and economic production in colonial policies. The cash crops promoted in the area have, over time, dwindled in production, but they are still significantly influencing agricultural practices. The region is the leading producer of tobacco and cotton despite low global prices and financial instabilities. Over time non-traditional cash crops of sunflower have been adopted and surpassed tobacco and cotton production for export. Local markets have also emerged to produce timber, cassava, millet, the latter being the raw material for agro-processing industries for beverages and other products like cosmetics. These recent cash crops are mainly inputs for local industries in Uganda as well the region. While timber growing is for biomass energy, there is also expanding hydropower energy generation and transmission in Uganda and the region. This demand rise explains several private tree crops in the region. According to the UBOS 2014, Arua has 29.9 sq km of plantation forestry and natural woodlands, and other forest stocks. It has illustrated the importance of commercial forestry in the region's economy. There is limited commercial agriculture with about 2.4 sq km of land as per UBOS 2014, which implies that most farmers produce on a small scale but still for commercial purposes. With a supportive climate coupled with vast uncultivated lands, commercial forestry and agriculture are some of the possible but long-term pathways for enhancing the regional economy given the expanding demand for biomass energy within the region and neighboring countries.

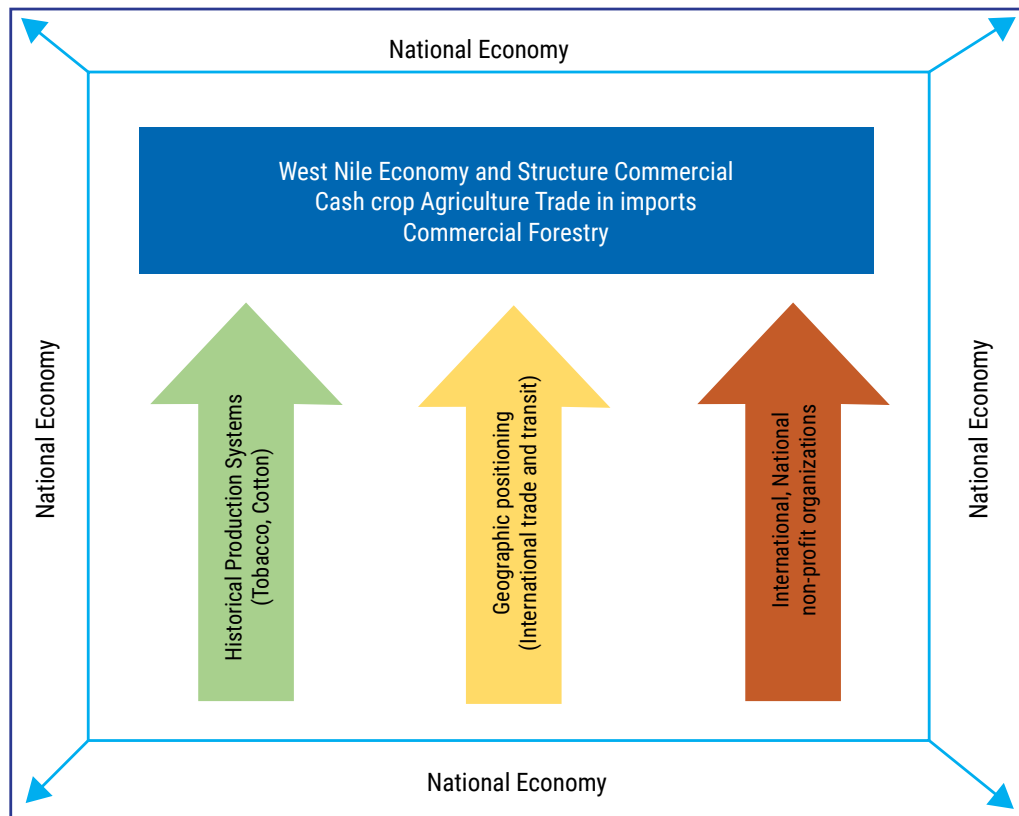


The second pillar of the regional economy is its geographic positioning as transit and conduit for goods and services to neighboring countries of Congo and South Sudan. There is a continuous flow of goods and services through the region to Congo and South Sudan. Supplies to Eastern Congo mainly come through the Port of Mombasa, and to the northeastern region of Congo go through West Nile. Other goods from Uganda, including consumables manufactured in Uganda and fish products, are also transported through the region. Intermediary warehouses and or wholesale shops are located in the West Nile towns of Arua, Koboko, Paidha, and Moyo, which offer goods to traders from the neighboring countries. While many Congo and South Sudan traders also buy merchandise from as far as Kampala. One spin-off of this geographic location and positioning is the growth of trade in the region. For example, large business establishments for beverages, food,

fabric are located in Arua from which the goods are distributed within the region and neighboring countries.

The third pillar of the economy of West Nile is related to international and national non-profit organizations whose work focuses on refugees or refugee-associated activities. To this end, international organizations, including the World Food Program (WFP), Lutheran World Federation, have regional offices in West Nile. Their activities involve large and extensive scales of economic stimulation from the housing market, transportation, energy consumables, food supplies, security services, and office consumables. These activities explain the diversification by farmers in the region from traditional cash crops to maize, sunflower procured by WFP. The NGO activities are valued to be higher than regional government budgets and thus exist in the region to the economy.

**Figure 14: Scheme of Economic Structure of West Nile**



According to Uganda Vision 2040, the West Nile region and particularly Arua is planned as a trade hub or regional city. Mainly because of the pillar described as a transit route to neighboring countries as destinations for imports from China, Middle East, and South Asia. It shows the region's critical importance as a potentially vibrant hub for businesses associated with imports trade and international non-profit organizations. The critical issue is how the refugee population and related activities in the region can be mainstreamed into the economic structure since the refugees were not a major influencing factor in Vision 2040 in designating Arua as a regional city. The later part of the report analyses the possible pathways for integrating refugees and refugee-related activities into the economic structure of the regions with the towns as mediating hubs.

### 4.3 Refugee Settlement Profiles

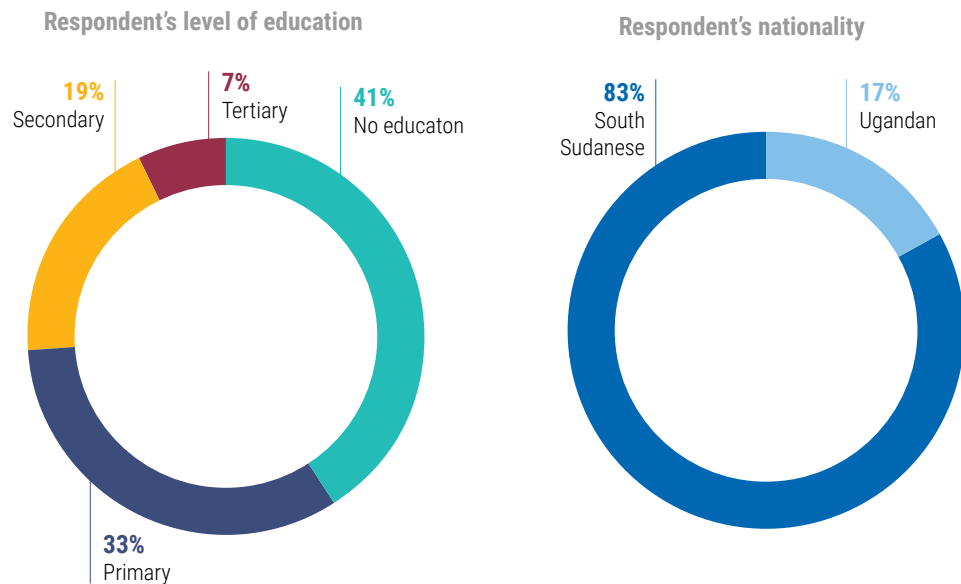
Residents in Nyumanzi and Pagirinya include both host communities and refugees. Thus, the results are analyzed not for refugees alone but with the host communities. Although some services like food distribution and land rights differ, this study explores the settlements as a self-sufficient unit with residents interacting and socializing within the geographically bounded area. As mentioned in the Methods section and sampling, we interviewed 122 respondents, and 102 of them were refugees while 20 are host community members. Of the total respondents, 79.5% were male, while 29.5%

were female. The mean age of the resident household is 38 years, with a mean of 8 people in the household indicating crowding, as shall be analyzed in later parts of this section regarding the respondents' housing characteristics. The majority of the residents in the two settlements are South Sudanese, representing 82.9%, while Ugandans are 17.2%. 76.2% of the respondents are unemployed, and with a mean age of 38, the population is generally youthful yet has no occupation. The level of education of the respondents also varied widely. 40.2% of the respondents have no formal education, 32.8% have primary education, 18.9 secondary, while 6.6% only have tertiary education. Factors behind their unemployment notwithstanding, the opportunities and constraints will be assessed later with the profiles of the settlements.

From the broader perspective of the refugee settlements and the wider host communities, the two settlements of Nyumanzi and Pagirinya account for 13% (40,854 refugees) and 8% (36,791 refugees) of the Adjumani district's total population. From a district perspective and harnessing the regional economic potential, the refugee population is ample for the region. It is necessary to rethink how cities in the area can be planned to harness the economic opportunities associated with the refugee population and refugee-related activities. In terms of social, cultural profile, the Pagirinya settlement is composed of 27 tribes, speaking 27 languages, per the chairperson for refugees in Pagirinya and about six tribes in the Nyumanzi settlement.



**The majority of the residents in the two settlements are South Sudanese, representing 82.9%, while Ugandans are 17.2%. 76.2% of the respondents are unemployed, and with a mean age of 38, the population is generally youthful yet has no occupation.**

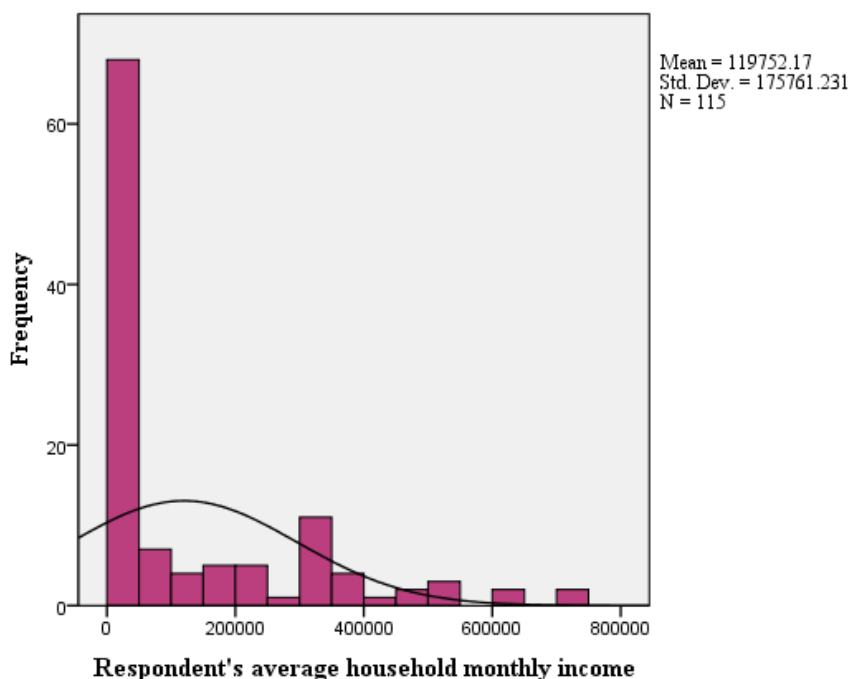
**Figure 15: Nationality, education level, and age of respondents**

#### 4.4 Refugee livelihood systems and economic structure

Refugees largely depend on UNHCR relief, especially in the early days of their move into the settlements. This implies rationing for food items, household consumables, basic housing, and inputs meant to help build towards self-reliance of the refugee households. There are multiple livelihood strategies from which households in the settlements derive a living. Few households represented by 3.3% are formally employed, 11.5% are involved in businesses, 8.2% casual labor, and 10.7% are engaged in agriculture. The majority, 50.8% of the households, depend on aid and 10.7% other sources of livelihood, including remittances from the country of origin. The mean household means income is 119,752 Ugandan shillings (32 dollars) within a standard deviation of 175,761 Ugandan shillings (42 dollars), which implies a high variance between households. This wide variance is explained by the varied livelihood strategies, mostly non-formal and majority

wage-based forms of occupation, including casual labor. This is a challenge for economic enhancement but can also present opportunities depending on the skills set by the household occupants in the settlements.

The demographic profile of the settlement and the low employment opportunities impact the economic situation and opportunity for sustainable livelihoods. With a mean age of 38 and variance, it implies that the population is young for working age. Most refugees depend on aid and remittance and only have access to land from the 30x30M plots of land per family allocated to them by the Prime Minister's Office. This situation could contribute to the overall vulnerability of the household and may impact its capacity to meet basic needs. However, due to the nature of enforcement within the settlement whereby they (settlements) are not closed off traffic goods, capital, and people, they may have strong ties to markets in the host communities and outside Adjumani.

**Figure 16: Income distribution of respondents**

#### 4.4.1 Refugees access to social services and infrastructure

##### Education Services

Most households have access to various social services, including education from pre-primary to secondary education. The average time in minutes to reach the kindergartens is 21 minutes, while for primary schools, it takes an average of 52 minutes and 65 minutes to get a secondary school. The travel time is indicative of proximity and difficulty in access to the education services. In terms of distance, households are within an average kilometer to kindergarten schools, 2.5 km to primary schools, and 8.7 km to secondary schools. The average distances are far shorter than the national level statistics in rural areas of Uganda, implying better access to education services by refugees than most rural settlements interviewed households and access to school areas in Uganda.

According to the survey, 40.1% of the respondents have no education level, 33% have primary level, 19% have secondary level, and 7% have a tertiary level of education. The vocational schools offer training in vocational skills. The settlement commanders revealed, “many have acquired skills in different areas, others in tailoring, carpentry, bricklaying, and even mechanics.”

From the survey, more women have no education represented by 48.4% of the female compared to 12% of men and 3.2% of women having attained a tertiary level of education compared to 20% of men who have a tertiary level of education

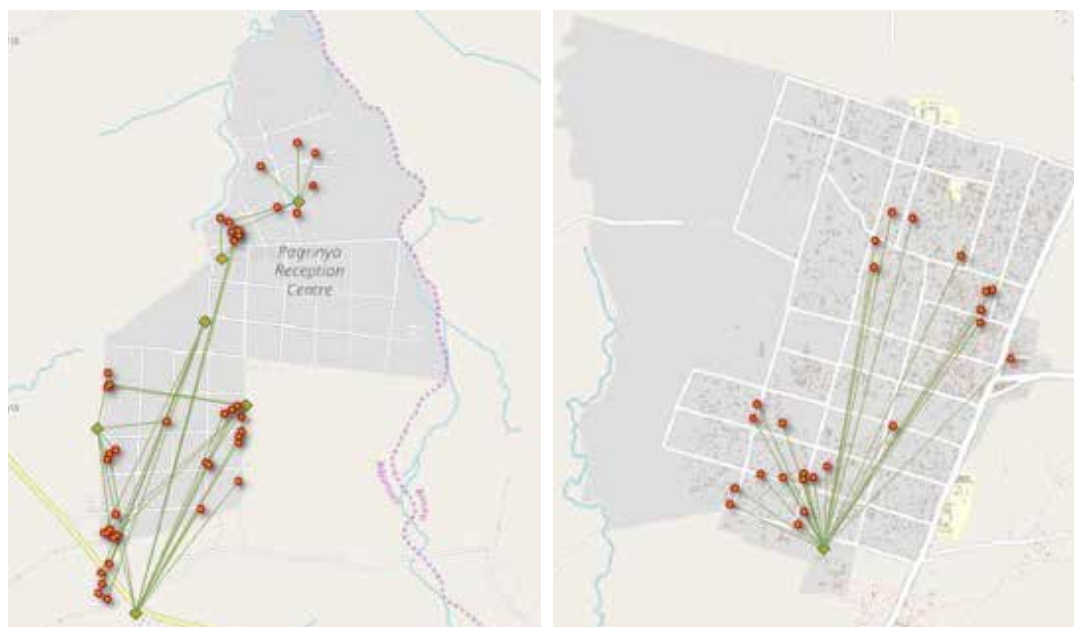


**There are multiple livelihood strategies from which households in the settlements derive a living. Few households represented by 3.3% are formally employed, 11.5% are involved in businesses, 8.2% casual labor, and 10.7% are engaged in agriculture. The majority, 50.8% of the households, depend on aid and 10.7% other sources of livelihood, including remittances from the country of origin.**

Table 3: Crosstabulation between respondent’s gender and level of education

Respondent’s gender * Respondent’s level of education: Crosstabulation					
Gender	Respondent’s level of education				
	No Education	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Total
Male	12.0%	36.0%	32.0%	20.0%	100.0%
Female	48.4%	32.6%	15.8%	3.2%	100.0%

Figure 17: Pagirinya and Nyumanzi Settlements Access to Schools



According to the settlement commander, in Pagirinya there are about two nursery schools, seven primary schools, one secondary and two vocational schools. In Nyumanzi, according to the settlement commander, there are two nursery schools, four primary schools, one secondary school, and one vocational school. An officer from the Office of the Prime Minister revealed that “refugees access education under the same conditions as nationals. They may attend

public schools known as integrated schools (like Nyumanzi integrated primary school), community schools, or private schools for those that can afford them. The integrated schools are public schools providing free education (under the Universal Primary Education Policy) to both hosts and refugees.” Humanitarian agencies expressly set up the community schools to complement the existing public schools in and around the established refugee settlements.



**Access to health services is equally vital for refugees and all households in the settlements. Households are within an average of 11 minutes to the nearest health center, 34 minutes to a hospital, and an average distance of 2 km to the health facility.**

Table 4: Respondent's perspective of operators of school

Kindergarten		Primary		Secondary	
Operator	Percent	operator	Percent	operator	Percent
Self	12.2	Self	23.4	Self	10.3
NGO	59.9	NGO	38.3	NGO	23.3
Community	24.2	Community	27.1	Community	36.4
Refugees	3.7	Refugees	0	Refugees	3
Government	0	Government	11.2	Government	27

However, the classes are overcrowded, whereas some classes are conducted under trees. The pupil-teacher ratio is high– insufficient teachers. Most classrooms in the settlements are overcrowded. Slow learners with language challenges are not attended to, especially when it is due to the inability to comprehend languages.

### Health Care Services

Access to health services is equally vital for refugees and all households in the settlements. Households are within an average of 11 minutes to the nearest health center, 34 minutes to a hospital, and an average distance of 2 km to the health facility. Almost half of the interviewed

respondents, at 49.2%, get specialized health services from Adjumani hospital, 9.8% from Pagirinya, and 8.2% from Nyumanzi health centers. At the same time, the rest seek specialized services from the closest health facility. This indicates that even with physical access to the hospital to be 34 minutes, financial access to many people in the camps is still a significant problem. For host communities, the establishment of Adjumani hospital saved resources and time of accessing specialized health services since they used to seek these from Gulu. Compared to rural Uganda, these access statistics are far much better for the settlements than most rural people in Uganda.



Health Centers, Left Nyumanzi health center III and right Pagirinya Health Centre III

Access to health care in refugee-hosting settlements is integrated. The Ministry of Health is responsible for delivering Uganda’s National Minimum Health Care Package through physical infrastructure, healthcare programs, and ensuring appropriate medical supplies for the population (CSBAG, 2018).

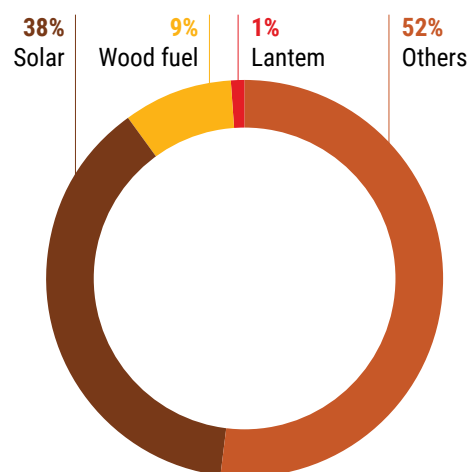
**Access to energy**

Access to energy is another important for refugees; access to safe and reliable power or the lack of it plays a central role in many refugees’ lives. Households are within less than a kilometer to nearest water source and the nearest biomass energy source. It takes an average of 7 minutes to the most immediate source of energy by households.

Findings from the study show that 9% use wood for lighting, 38% use solar, 1% lantern, and 52% use other sources that as torches, dry cells connected to bulbs, grass, phone torches. The use of wood and grass lighting is common for refugees. Some households still have no access to proper lighting and can only rely on daylight for activities, such as reading to children.

While 73% use wood for cooking, 25.7% use charcoal, 0.7% use paraffin, and 0.7% use other energy sources for cooking (dung). These cooking energy sources are unsafe, unhealthy, and inefficient; replacing these energy sources or devices with sustainable energy solutions in camps would have numerous advantages for refugees and the host community and the environment. Refugees collect firewood from areas around their settlements. Depleting the firewood resources in the camp’s surroundings does not only cause environmental problems, such as deforestation and spreading desertification; It often leads to tensions between refugees and the host communities. Refugees who are unable to collect firewood have to buy fuel for cooking. This can be very expensive, “some people send about 3000 Ugandan shillings (1 dollar) a week on firewood” (one opinion leader from Pagirinya).

**Figure 18: Respondent’s main source of lighting**



**Table 7: Respondent’s source of cooking fuel**

		Percent
Type of cooking fuel	Wood	73.0%
	Charcoal	25.7%
	Paraffin	0.7%
	Others	0.7%
Total		100.0%

**Water, sanitation and hygiene Services**

Access to water and sanitation is a fundamental human right and is essential to life, health and dignity. Timely and adequate provision of clean water and sanitation services to refugees is of particular importance. They have traditionally faced difficulties in fully exercising their rights and are very prone to exploitation. Water is available in the settlements and the average time to the source is 7 minutes. The available water sources are boreholes, tapped water (piped water), whereby 81.1% access water from boreholes, 13.1% from tapped water, and 5.7% access water from both boreholes and taps. The quality of water is good, and water is generally available to the refugees and the host community throughout the year. However, water sources, primarily boreholes, and taps are always crowded with a long queue of jerrycans the whole day.

Table 8: Respondent's source of water

Sources of water	Percent
Borehole	81.1
Tap	13.1
Borehole and tap	5.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

According to the settlement commanders, UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies have drilled water points within refugee settlements and a few host communities. However, water points are still inadequate in catering to the catchment population they are meant to serve.



 Water collection points in the settlements

## Sanitation

Most interviewees have toilets outside the house, which seems the standard given that networked sanitation facilities are not in place.

Table 9: Respondent's access toilet and bathroom

Household access toilet and bathroom services	Percent
Own toilet and bathroom	83.6
A neighbor/ relative's	10.6
Reception centre	3.3
Use bushes	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

83.6 % have access to toilet and bathroom facilities on the plot. In comparison, 10.6% use their neighbor's or relative's toilet and bathroom facilities, 2.5% use the toilet and bathroom facilities at their settlement reception centers, and 2.5% use bushes.

## Access to food and non-food items

The non-food items are usually accessed through shops and businesses, which we assess in a later section of the report



Table 10: Respondent’s access to the food item

Access to food items	
	Percent
Own garden	7.4
Market	9.8
NGOs (WFP, UNHCR)	77.8
Own garden and market	4.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Accessing food from various sources such as markets and shops, farms/ gardens and shops, and NGOs (like World Food Program and UNHCR) requires the households to take an average of 41 minutes for food and 45 minutes for non-food items. The average distance to the sources for food and non-food items is 2.2 - 2.5 kilometers.

Among the refugees, each household is allocated a 30x30m plot of land for both shelter and other activities. This leaves little space for agricultural activities which explains the 77.8 % high dependency rate on WFP for food. The food items mainly grown on the refugee plots are vegetables, while others exchange labor for food with the host populations.

**Shelter**

While refugee households have 30x30m plots where they have built the structure themselves, many households have two or three houses. Older children sleep separately. The roof types are grass 69%, iron sheets 28%, tiles 1%, and other 2% (tarpaulin and plastic). Wall materials being mud/wood 70%, bricks/block 18%, mud/ cement 6%, wood 2%, grass/reeds 2% and 4% have others (soil, earth). And the floor material being cement 12% and earth 88%.



**Accessing food from various sources such as markets and shops, farms/ gardens and shops, and NGOs (like World Food Program and UNHCR) requires the households to take an average of 41 minutes for food and 45 minutes for non-food items.**

Figure 19: Respondent’s house floor material

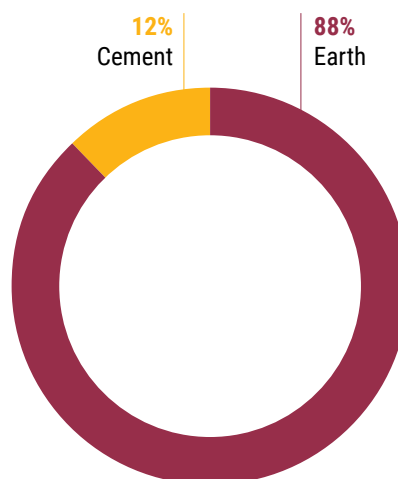
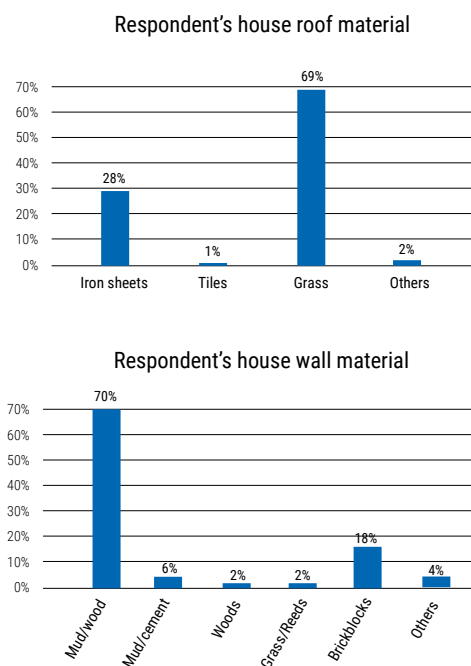


Figure 20: Respondent’s house roof and wall material



The grass is available only between December and March, when bush fires are widespread, posing a problem with termites which are abundant in the settlements. They can quickly destroy the poles used for building.

📷 Housing Typologies in Nyumanzi Settlement



📷 Housing Typologies in Pagirinya Settlement.

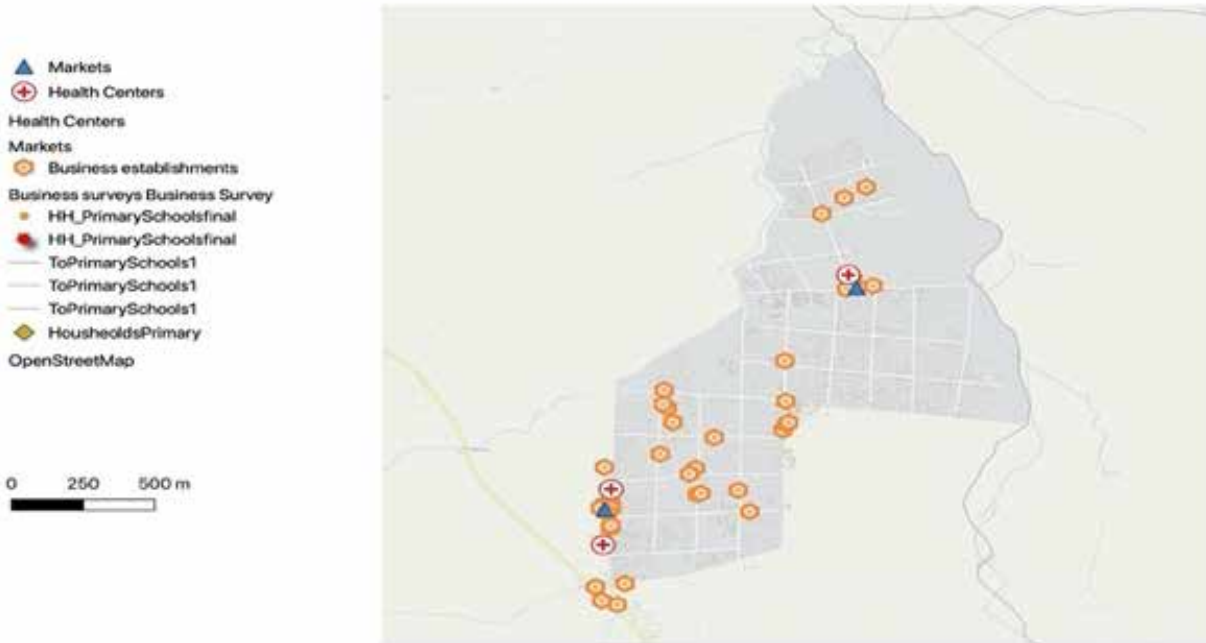


**Access to livelihoods**

Access to these services for the settlements is vital for livelihoods, wellbeing, and opportunities for economic advancement in refugee settlements with host communities. Access to services may also amplify refugees’ challenges when the services are short or difficult to reach. Where such services are adequate, access issues regarding the nature and quality of service may arise to affect the livelihoods and wellbeing of the refugees and the host communities. There is, however, increasing recognition of the disjuncture in access to services between host communities and refugees, with the latter having relatively better access than the host communities. This disjuncture is because these services are provided by UNHCR and its partners with priority to refugees. According to the assistant settlement commander of Pagirinya, “these


services like livelihood, 30% goes to the host community then 70% to the refugees”. Associated services provided by non-profit organizations that tend to focus more on investments and energy on refugees amplify the differences in service access between host communities and refugees. The differentiated access to services in and around refugee settlements implies better coordination in managing refugee affairs. Still, it has downsides of elevating the status of refugees over and above the host communities. This study has documented it as a source of conflicts and tensions between the host and refugee communities. These tensions are discussed in subsequent sections of this report. Still, it is essential to note here that differentiated service access can also be an opportunity to enhance host-refugee community interactions and the local economic advancement for the benefit of all.

**Figure 21: Markets, Health Facilities and Businesses in Nyumanzi and Pagirinya**



- ▲ Markets
- ⊕ Health Centers
- Health Centers
- Markets
- Business establishments
- Business surveys Business Survey
- HH\_PrimarySchoolsfinal
- HH\_PrimarySchoolsfinal
- ToPrimarySchools1
- ToPrimarySchools1
- ToPrimarySchools1
- ◆ HouseholdsPrimary
- OpenStreetMap


0 250 500 m




#### 4.5 Settlement economic structure and business flows

Refugee settlement systems rely on a self-reliance model built on an initial aid package initially with food, a piece of land, and temporary shelter. In the subsequent stages, the refugees rely on food rations to set up gardens on the allocated land expected to transition into a self-reliant household within 18 - 24 months (Robert, Tumwine, & Kabumbuli, 2017) three classifications were derived: thriving for the high income group, managing for the moderate income group and surviving for the low income group, each with distinctive characteristics. During this process, there is a deliberate effort to integrate refugees into the local community and local economy, reducing the need for aid. In the two settlements of analysis, according to the UNHCR, each registered family is given a card and allocated a piece of land measuring 900 sq m by the Office of Prime Minister as long as

they remain in the refugee settlement. But some of the refugees make arrangements with the host communities to access land for farming by renting from the local community through their (refugees and hosts) village saving groups (land renting goes for about 60,000/= an acre per year). Self Help Africa, an NGO supporting refugee families, has acted as links to the local landlords to negotiate to give out land to the refugees willingly to practice cultivation by renting land in kind or cash. Some NGOs also rent land and give access to refugees for cultivation. Supporting NGOs such as Self Help Africa work with the host community and ensure that refugee farmers can access land. In the two settlements of analysis, various skill sets, including farming and livestock rearing, were reported. These are skills either refugee have before coming or acquire through support from NGOs such as Self-Help Africa. The training is in production, enterprise development selection, and business skills development to both the refugees and local communities.

 Agricultural land within the settlements


While some refugee households rent land or access land leased by support NGOs like Self Help Africa, many have endeavored to establish businesses in the settlements to supplement aid from UNHCR. From the survey, 73.4% of business operators interviewed were Sudanese refugees, while 26.6% were from host communities. The gender distribution of business operators is 55.7% men and 44.3% women. Concerning the education level of business operators, 16.6% have no education while 67% have attained primary or secondary education, and 15.2% gained tertiary education. The nature and types of business in the settlements can be categorized as; agro-processing businesses (cassava, maize flour), retail (food items, beverages), telecommunication businesses (mobile money, phone charging, airtime), service businesses including (saloons, shoe repairs, restaurant, tailoring, street vending, hawking), health services, education services (including nursery schools); and wage-based labor (including stone quarrying, carpentry). Most businesses are retail type at 49.4%, services at 17.7%, and wholesale at 2.5%. This indicates that dominant businesses are to service consumption

of routinely required food items, non-food items, and services for individuals. Most businesses are categorized as informal as they do not pay any taxes, although tax is not the only criteria for classifying as informal. Most business enterprises replenish their business stock by purchasing from wholesales within settlement markets like the Nyumanzi market and Pagirinya market, Adjumani town, Dzaipi trading center, Pakelle trading center, Adjumani Market, Dzaipi market, Nimule market, and Gulu town. At the same time, other supplies bring the merchandise to them.

### ***Interest and motivation for establishing businesses***

Most businesses represented by 64.6% were established within 1 to 3 years, implying that they are recent establishments and recently migrated refugees. These demographics correlate with information that most refugees arrived between 2014 - 2016 from the household survey. The key motivation for starting the business is the existence of a large refugee population and purchasing power. While many business owners

were motivated by the purchasing power of the host community - most businesses operated by refugees were mainly established to provide an alternative livelihood and diversify from aid and support by various NGOs. The survey also confirmed that there are more service-related businesses, as mentioned earlier. This finding corroborates with the motivation mentioned by the business owners of the existence of enormous demand for services. Services including mobile phone charging, mobile money, tailoring, salons, and shoe repairs are routinely demanded services from both host communities and refugees. These services are also a category within which flexibility in skills can be observed, implying that many adult people can adapt to the skills levels and offer the services to the

demanding population. As indicated in the word cloud image below, there are varied motivation reasons. Services, household sustenance, and demand from the community were mentioned more in the motivating reasons to establish businesses. For refugee-operated businesses, most owners cited needs, including the provision of private education and health services, provision of basic non-food items and use of profits to supplement aid were the key reasons for starting the business. 44% of the business owners had prior experience operating the kind of businesses before moving to the area. Refugees running businesses also highlighted that most arrived with some capital which they used to establish the businesses.

Figure 22: Major reasons behind the establishment of businesses



#### 4.5.1 Business operations

The settlement administration controls business operations in the settlements. Thus 34.2% of the business operators acquired permission to start a business in the settlement. This permission does not seem to include paying taxes, as 72.2% of the business owners reported they did not pay taxes at the start of the businesses. Payment in terms of license fees was reported at a mean of 33,000 UGX. Permits are primarily in the form of trading licenses, market dues, and payments to landlords, and the majority of the business operators pay to sub-county authorities in Dzaipi. These permits are predominantly annual, with 27.8% of the businesses have paid a yearly license. 66% of business owners reported that it is relatively easy to get permits which imply the ease of entry and exit from the business domain in the area. There were many non-responses regarding the initial business capital. From qualitative analysis, several business owners mentioned they had capital, assets including vehicles, sewing machines, and solar machines, which enabled them to start the businesses by using those assets as collateral to informal money lenders and Village Savings Loan Association (VSLA) others have used. The mean monthly income of the businesses surveyed stands at a mean of 338,000 UGX. This implies a considerable volume of business in the two settlements, given its rural nature and number of businesses in the two settlements. The principal target customers of the businesses surveyed were refugees, host community members, NGO staff, district staff, travelers, and school children. 96.6% of the businesses are owner-operated, with very few where the operator is an employee. For those that employ operators, the employers are

all host community members probably because they have easy access to financial capital and know the economic potentials in the refugee settlements. For most business owners, the increase in the number of refugees has positively impacted their businesses. They reported increased profits, part of which have been used to expand the businesses.

#### 4.5.2 Business opportunities in refugee settlements

The study also analyzed the business opportunities in the area. Several factors created an enabling environment for business opportunities in the area. The reasons include; security of the area, growing population, high purchasing power, financial assistance, favorable tax and permit regimes, and ease of acquiring permits to conduct business. The opportunities mentioned during the survey can be categorized as; agro-processing, where specifically goat rearing and farming food items with the ready market were established as an opportunity. The second opportunity that can be leveraged on where a large population, including schools, was identified as ready markets for the goods and services. The third category is services which are also linked to the high population and purchasing power of the population. The qualitative analysis indicates that most opportunities identified are linked to services and food. With respect to food, land and its access becomes a key factor in enabling business opportunities. Thus mechanisms that can allow refugees to access land, such as the arrangements by Self Help Africa, could offer pathways for enhanced business in the area.

📷 Business Ventures in the Settlement, bottom left Nyumanzi market and Bottom right Pagirinya market



Several business owners identified strategies to tap these opportunities. These include expanding the same business in the same area, with 68% of respondents giving this viable option. Others identified expanding the same businesses in other areas by opening branches of the same business. At the same time, 28% identified starting a new form of business to tap the existing market in items that are in short supply as a for opportunity tapping. Thus diversifying the stock in their businesses, building a permanent structure, and increasing existing stocks are some of the strategies identified, but this requires more capital. Other business opportunities that are non-existent or in short supply identified included wholesale of beverages, goat rearing, recreational center, welding, hardware, and motorcycle spares. Therefore, business owners are surveying the market and can identify shortfalls in businesses in the area. Most business owners have found the business environment improved by 57%, while 7% notice no change in the business. The key changes in

business include; growing customer base due to schools, a market, and health facilities that attract many people. Apart from change in local business, the owners also mentioned that the economy in more expansive districts and regions has improved due to the refugees.

There are several challenges raised by business owners, and these include competition between businesses, creditors, lack of capital were the key issues identified as hindering expanding the businesses. Conflict with host communities, cost of electricity, cost of transportation from wholesale towns such as Gulu, Arua were other impedances in growing the businesses. Price fluctuations and flooding of the market with the same goods (due to competition among many businesses of similar type) sometimes were also another hindrance identified. The business owners mentioned periodic markets which rotate in the region and these markets like Dzaipi that operates on the first Thursday of every month and Nimule market in S.Sudan that operates daily



(at the border of Uganda and S. Sudan) and from Gulu town, some items are sold cheaper which forces them to reduce the prices of goods from their businesses. Space for the business is another challenge, with 81% of the businesses operating in one room. About 25% of the business owners have modified the structures mainly for more space to hold goods, while some for security reasons.

Table 15: Periodic markets

Market	Location	Market days
Dzaipi	Dzaipi Sub-county	First Thursday of every month
Pakelle	Pakelle Sub-county	First Saturday of every month
Laropi	Moyo at the Nile	Every Sunday
Adjumani main market	Adjumani town	Daily
Awidiri	Adjumani town	Daily
Nimule	Border of S.Sudan and Uganda	Daily

Figure 23: Motivations for starting businesses



From the initial results, it is clear that tapping business opportunities will have to include agro-processing, growing the service sector in the region, and trade. For agro-processing, if refugees are to be integrated into the regional economy, access to land becomes very important. There are already validated mechanisms for land access and renting by refugees mediated by support NGOs in the area. This model for enhancing businesses and economic

opportunities is expanded further in the subsequent section of pathways for improving regional economic opportunities. Secure and transparent access to land could be a key factor for refugees to undertake income-generating activities, such as farming and commercial land-based enterprises like forestry and grazing, and access to financial institutions (by using land as collateral).

Additionally, the income generated through livelihoods supports access to basic services. Though most households reported having some income or receiving cash through aid and remittance or other methods, refugees' access to livelihoods was still relatively weak overall. The assessment found that they are heavily dependent on humanitarian assistance and remittances, and they experience challenges in earning enough money to support the daily needs. Thus a mapping of enterprises that households can engage in to spur a regional economy is important if refugees are to be integrated.

#### **4.5.3 Economic Linkages between Refugee Settlements and Host Communities**

Economic linkages between refugee settlements and host communities can be seen as a long-term collaboration between stakeholders (in this case, the stakeholders are the refugees and host communities) rather than as a one-off transaction. The economic linkages assessed by the survey were in terms of access to markets impacts of refugees on the business environment, local economy, employment opportunities, income-generating activities, service availability, and resource utilization

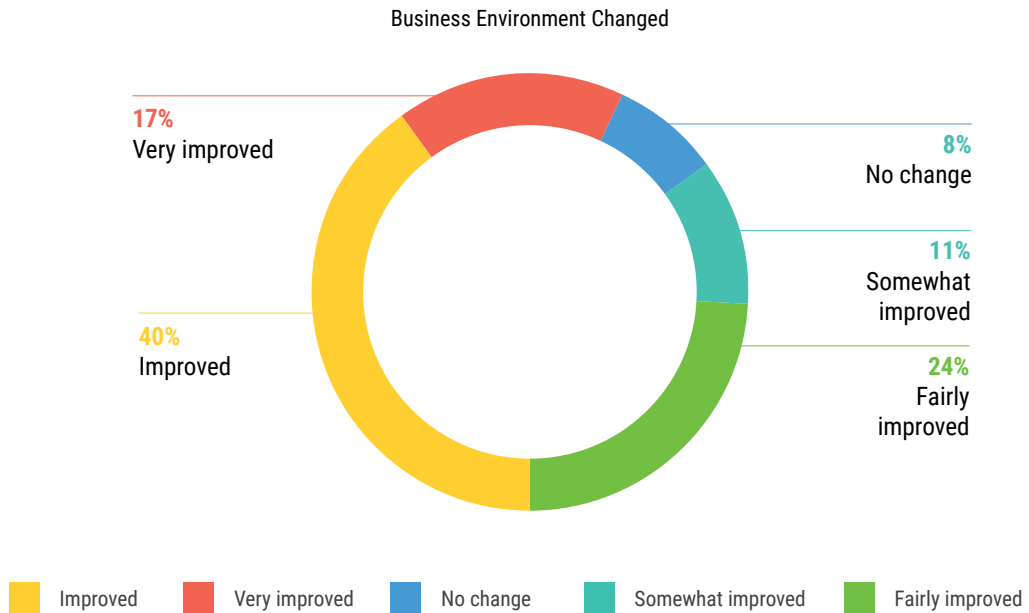
According to the assessment, 35.2% said that service availability had changed positively due to schools, shops, health services, markets, and more water points. 27% said service availability had changed to the negative because there is no reduced food aid to refugees. Many respondents mentioned that people spend a lot of time at the boreholes due to water scarcity in the areas. 21.3% of the respondents said the change is fair because there were a few services before refugees, but with refugees' arrival, the services have become more. 16.4% of the respondents

said there had been no change in service availability ever since refugees came because the services are few compared to the high population in and around the settlement. For example, it was mentioned in the workshop that health services are available. Still, there are no drugs, and the host communities face the challenge of being discriminated against at the health centers because they are not South Sudanese.

Service availability should be seen as a backward linkage whereby both the refugees and host communities are employed in the markets and have shops where they can generate income and the social benefits of accessing schools, health centers, and water points. This potential has a multiplier effect on a healthy community, increasing wages and revenue to boost the local economy. According to the settlement commanders of both settlements, services like schools, health centers, and water points are shared between the refugees and host communities at 70%- 30% however, in most cases, it is 50% -50%.

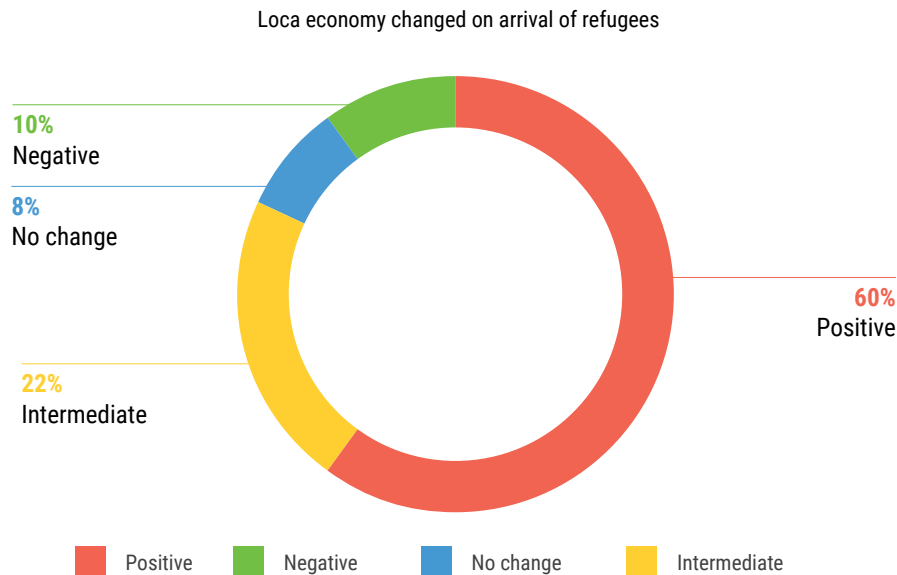
According to the business survey, 40.5% said the business environment has improved, 24.1% say the business environment has moderately improved, 16.5% significantly improved, 11.4% somewhat improved, and 7.6% responded no changes in Nyumanzi and Pagirinya. Mainly because of the increased demand for goods and services and high purchasing power by refugees and more businesses to serve the populations, the availability of business infrastructures like roads, electricity, and cash aid enables the refugees to engage in trade. Respondents who said there is no change in the business environment mentioned that the competition from the many businesses leads to low sales and less money in circulation within the community.

**Figure 24: Respondent's views on whether the business environment has changed**



The change in the business environment can be seen as relatively high consumption linked to effective demand where the host community and the refugees are employed in the businesses trading in goods and services due to personal incomes from refugees in aid remittance. Significant economic benefits are brought through increased demand for goods and services. From the business survey, 59.7% acknowledge that the local economy has changed since the refugees arrived. 22.1% said the change in the local economy has been intermediate, 10.4% said there had been an adverse change in the local economy, while 7.8% said there had been no change at all. The positive and intermediate change in the local economy is attributed to infrastructure development like roads within and to the settlements, which has helped reduce transport costs. Suppliers of goods

can deliver their goods directly to the retailers in the settlements. Some small-scale grinding mills (agro-processing plants for cassava, millet, maize, and groundnuts) in the settlements, which before were in Dzaipi, Pakele, and Adjumani town. There is considerable market demand for goods and services by refugees, and the local economy is now diverse with locals and refugees. The women, mostly the locals, can sell their products to the refugee, and their saving capacities have increased ever since the refugees arrived. And there are a lot of people engaged in business activities. The negative and no change in the local economy is attributed to price fluctuation due to demand and supply forces leading to unstable incomes and the business atmosphere in the settlements, which tend to be seasonally linked to aid handouts to refugees.

**Figure 25: Reasons for change in the local economy**

The positive and intermediate change in the local economy can be seen as a backward linkage related to employing people in the business sector in the form of trade for goods and services. Thereby bringing social and economic benefits hence further boosting the local economy.

#### 4.5.4 Economic Linkages of Refugee Settlements with major towns in West Nile

The assessment of linkages between refugee settlements and wider host communities throughout the West Nile region is important to understand the opportunities and constraints in enhancing economic activities. As discussed severally in the preceding sections, the large refugee population in the entire area is a potential economic force. First, some refugees arrived with their assets and capital. Other refugees get periodic support from NGOs, including cash. Secondly, most refugees reported remittances received from their families in their country of origin or diaspora. However, in this study, we have not evaluated the net worth of the refugees. Living within the region implies that for the most basic and other material needs of the

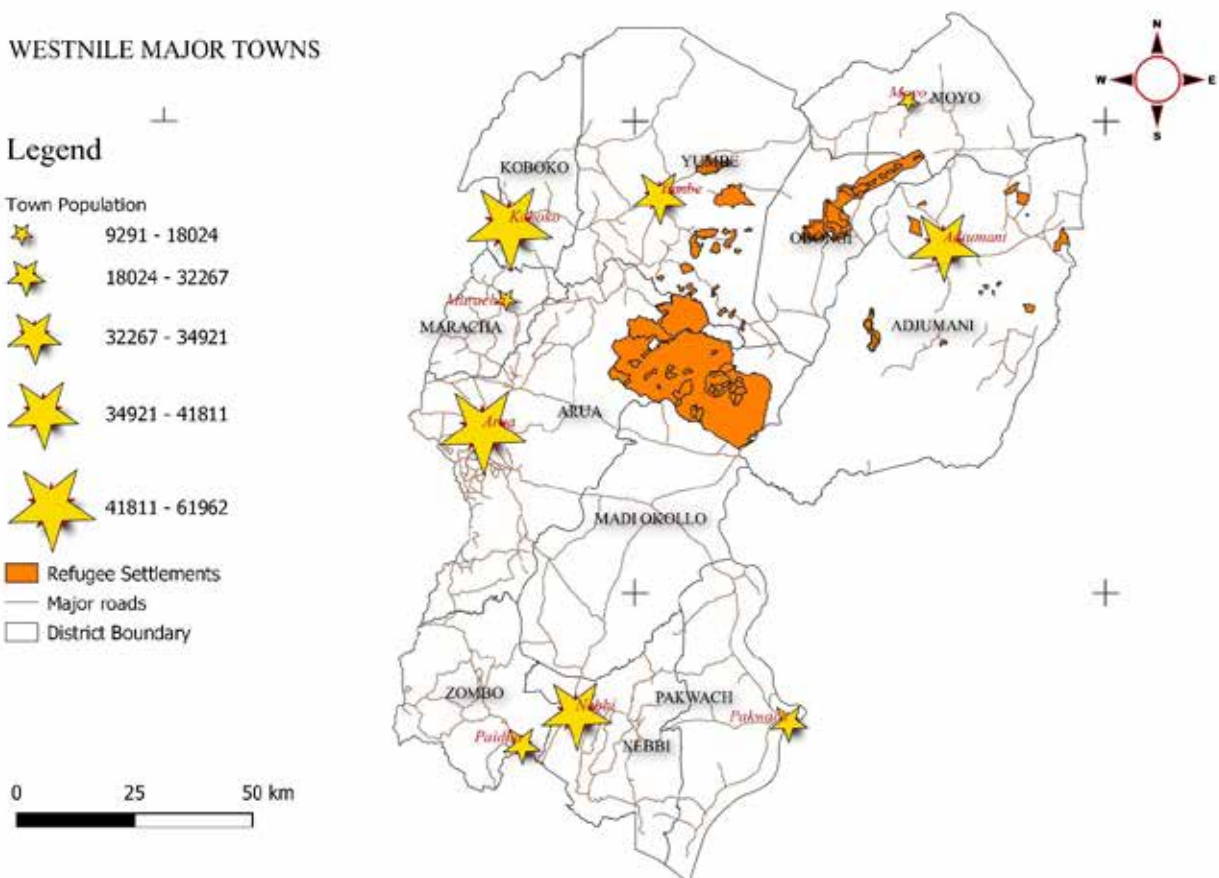
refugee, the local market is the most accessible. Thus enabling this market to stock and provide the necessities of life for refugees and host communities is essential. The linkages with the local economy are still localized mainly around host communities and less with the existing large and bustling towns of West Nile. Key informant interviews revealed fewer linkages of refugee settlements with the major towns except for refugee settlements that are closely located to towns such as Adjumani. The finding was also corroborated with information from business owners in the settlements of analysis that they get goods from Kampala or Gulu, which are distant from the settlements. Key informants from major towns who included planners and administrators also noted fewer linkages between the towns and the refugee settlements. The physical planner from Arua said 'there is little linkages among the districts in West Nile has no common planning concept for these settlements the refugee-hosting communities that have got a perspective of future development thereby no exploiting the potential linkages or not fully exploiting the linkage within the region.' The primary reason for the fewer linkages is attributed to the self-reliance model of refugee settlements and the closed nature of these settlements, which

does not allow seamless interactions between traders and the settlements.

All the nine significant towns in West Nile have establishments linked to refugee services and refugee-related activities, as shown in the map in the figure below. Whether these are offices of NGOs or warehouses of UNHCR or WFP and other international organizations, there are possibilities to cement a solid economic linkage between refugee settlements and the towns. From key informant interviews with planners, some issues came as possible linkages. The first concerns logistics and supplies for refugees. Although this is mainly in the docket of the international organizations, key informants felt

that a deliberate planning effort to plan for and provide this infrastructure could contribute to enabling the flow of materials between the towns and settlements. The major towns would then play the role of conduits for the supplies, which they have historically been doing for transit goods. This way, the linkages would then ignite related economic opportunities of transportation services, logistical supplies for transportation services enabling local business owners to grow their businesses. However, there is a risk of such investments only serving temporarily if the civil strife in origin countries is resolved and refugees return. But from experience, some refugees have lived in the region for over 30 years.

Figure 26: Major Towns in West Nile



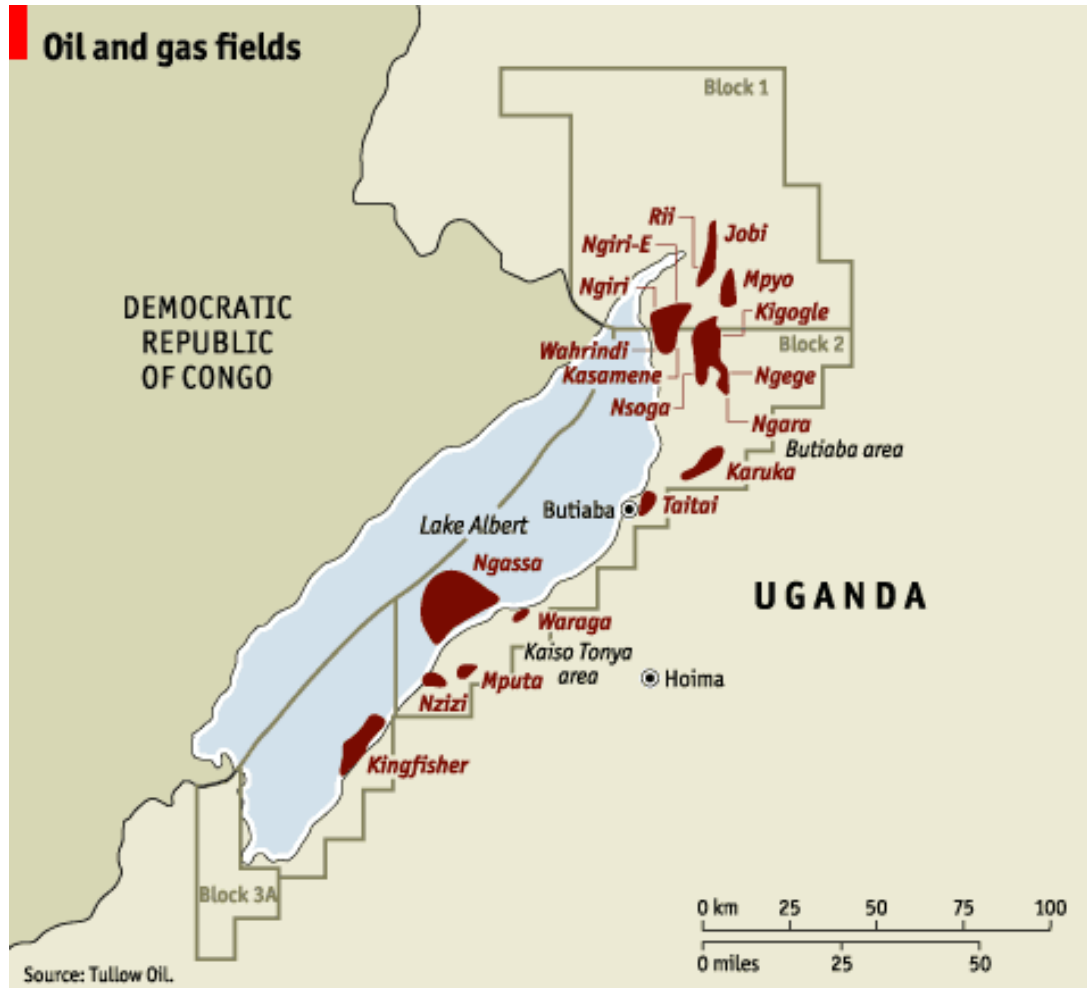
The second planning intervention is about the comparative advantage of the West Nile region as establishing a trade hub. This strategy would have to be supported by investments in infrastructure, services, and systems to spur the region's geographical location to the neighboring countries and as a route for goods. An Industrial Park planned and built in Arua town and land has been earmarked for expansion of this industrial park to attract manufacturing in the region. One turnkey intervention is the attraction of value-adding industries to the region's produce, such as sunflower, cassava, and sugarcane. Such a strategy would provide jobs to host communities but forward linkages to refugee settlements and possible jobs for refugees in the long term. Warehousing could also help establish wholesale businesses, which from the business survey can be assessed as important in reducing costs of transportation of goods needed in the settlements and host communities. The warehousing that encourages regional level businesses can spur linkages between the towns and the settlements.

Several refugees expressed in the survey interest to engage in business and acquire jobs, whether formal or informal. Given that the region is still largely rural, it implies that the most feasible option is to promote and enhance the agro-processing sector. Planning of the towns, especially those near refugee settlements, can take advantage of this to prepare city-regional plans that integrate agriculture and forestry into the city regions. Coupled with refugees' access to rentable land, this could enhance the economic linkages between refugee settlements and the region's major towns. Planning at the city-regional level could be an appropriate strategy. If rural administrative areas like sub-counties can agree to this approach, it can have multiple benefits for all actors.

#### 4.6 The role of Spatial Planning in leveraging regional economic opportunities

Spatial planning is critical in enabling spatial and regional economies. In our analysis of the region's historical development, the area has historically been sparsely populated with colossal nature reserves and or hunting areas. The key intervention of spatial planning in the region is to develop investment plans for transportation infrastructure. Roads and the ferry are key infrastructures that can spur economic linkages between the districts and refugee settlements. Transportation infrastructure can also stimulate the regional-specific flow of goods and materials while enhancing international trade. It would require a region-wide effort since most districts are autonomous, but combining effort can provide better results critical to economic advancement. In the key informant interviews, most district administrators are placing their hope in oil extraction in the region. This will most likely benefit other regions and countries where the oil will be flowing, and less to this region. Due to issues related to people's marketable skills in the oil and gas sector for both refugees and host communities. A possibility around oil extraction is the revenue sharing for the region, which can then be invested in the region's key infrastructure. Even without oil, systematic investments in crucial infrastructure planned at a regional level will be very important in promoting the regional economy. Attached in figure 27 below is the location of Uganda's oil and gas fields.

Figure 27: Oil and Gas fields, source; Tullow oil



Three main factors have influenced the establishment of settlements in Uganda. First, the government policy of gazetting/allocating land for refugee habitation, initiated in the 1940s, is still being practiced to date. Secondly, settlements are established in rural areas, where population density is sparse. Thirdly, the ethnic similarity between refugee and host populations has influenced the establishment of refugee settlement patterns. For example, most southern Sudanese refugees have been settled in West Nile districts among similar Sudanese ethnic groups – the Lugbara, Kakwa, and Madi.

There is a limited linkage between refugee settlement and district physical planning. According to the physical planner of Adjumani, the physical planning unit is not involved in the

mapping of lands for the refugee settlement; OPM and UNHCR usually their own planners and surveyors. *“UNHCR develops the site layout plan for the refugee’s settlement and their physical site planner”* Despite the existence of district physical planning committees, planning is undertaken in a piecemeal and phased manner because of limited financing. Besides, the current efforts in planning have mainly been funded by the donor community through projects, raising sustainability questions. Individual interests and political influence were reported as other factors undermining physical planning in the region.

Initially, the component of refugees was not elaborate in the local government planning processes but challenges of refugees both in the urban and rural setting highlighted the need for

inclusion. The district decided to raise concerns about streamlining the way international NGOs performed their work. To this effect, the district established its coordination committee where these different partners interface.

There is no institution mediating between the national and local government authorities at the regional level and contributing to facilitating local initiatives' coordination in fulfilling the national strategies.

The Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), formally launched in March 2017, embraces existing initiatives, mechanisms, and policies seeking to address the needs of refugee and host communities in Uganda (UNHCR, 2017). Uganda's favorable protection environment for refugees is grounded in the 2006 Refugee Act and the 2010 Refugee Regulations. These legislations allow refugees freedom of movement, the right to work, establish a business, own property, and access national services, including primary and secondary education and health care. Through its Transformative Settlement Agenda (STA), Uganda pursues a non-encampment policy to refugee protection and assistance. Refugees are provided with a plot of land for housing and cultivation and can settle alongside their host communities.

The CRRF seeks to advance Uganda's STA, embedded into the National Development Plan II (NDP II, 2016-2021), including through the implementation of the humanitarian refugee response (emergencies and protracted situations) and development-oriented interventions like the Refugee and Host Populations Framework (ReHoPE), under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) (National Planning Authority, 2015). CRRF's long-term goal is the sustainability of STA and the inclusion of refugees into national and local development plans.

A multi-stakeholder CRRF Steering Group, co-chaired by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), supports the practical application of CRRF, with technical support from the CRRF Secretariat. The CRRF Steering Group consists of 32 members from Line Ministries, Government Departments and Agencies, Local Governments, development and humanitarian donors, UN Agencies, national and international NGOs, the private sector, and international financial institutions.

In January 2018, the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) Steering Group adopted a roadmap, with milestones and priority interventions for refugee stakeholders between 2018 and 2020 bridging the gap between NDP II and NDP III. Creating entry points for non-traditional refugee responders in Uganda, the roadmap highlights the following priority focus areas: adaptation and standardization of refugee response and protection based on lessons learned; access to quality education for refugee and host communities; water delivery and infrastructure; environment and energy; health care; and livelihoods, resilience and self-reliance (National Development Authority, 2020).

#### **4.6.1 Economic Opportunities in West Nile Region linking refugee settlements**

There are many potential economic opportunities in the West Nile that the refugee population can take leverage. For example, value chains in the agro-processing sector, biomass energy production as well as trade. These sectors can ignite growth in the service sector. Several refugees have skills acquired from vocational training. According to the livelihood and environment officer of Lutheran World Federation, the refugees have developed skills in carpentry, tailoring, baking, bricklaying, and mechanic, which are adaptable to the service sector and be integrated into the service sector.



In contrast, the majority can be integrated into the agro-processing sector. The neighboring countries are important destinations for many goods that can transit through the region's major towns. In our assessment of economic linkages of the refugee settlements with the major towns in West Nile, there is little indication

of such relationships. The businesses get their merchandise from Gulu, Kampala, Adjumani towns, suppliers come directly to the settlements and supply, and some get from wholesalers in settlements or the neighboring town councils like Dzaipi and Pakele.

📷 Respondents during the Focus Group Discussions, Left in Nyumanzi and Right in Pagirinya



However, the assessment further engaged some business people in the neighboring districts of Moyo, Yembe, Koboko, and Arua to find out why there are no economic links to the settlements in Adjumani. All the traders randomly sampled from the districts said they only conducted trade with refugee camps within their districts. Some have distribution trucks that supply the merchandise to the refugee camps, or the traders in those settlements just come to collect the merchandise. All of the sampled traders said that they do not distribute or conduct trade with business people in Adjumani, and they attribute it to the distance and the cost of transport. Besides, the traders do not have contacts with people in Adjumani with whom they can start doing business. They also indicated that doing business with the refugee settlement is seasonal only after they have received their aid cash and so engaging with business with refugee settlements in Adjumani is not profitable at all to them. One business owner in Arua said, "refugees are dependent on aid which makes them unable to contribute much to the business sector," another business owner from Nyumanzi said, "the purchasing power of

refugees is low, they tend to purchase mostly on/during the week they receive their ratio/aid money and the purchasing power during the rest of the month is low." According to the traders, refugees do not have an income; they depend on aid from UNHCR and remittance, so their purchasing power is low, and not a strong clientele to rely on in terms of business. However, the economic benefit is to the people that have businesses near the refugee settlements because these traders close by can only incur limited costs in terms of transport (Werker, 2007).

However, the traders recognize that there is economic potential for refugees because their existence has provided economic support for the locals in small businesses and others employed with NGOs and OPM. The refugee population is also growing in the West Nile, which can boost the entire sub-regions economic development or region. According to the physical planner of Arua and the settlement commander of Pagirinya, one of the economic potentials for growth due to the refugees is agribusiness to feed the refugees and need to invest in housing for the urban



📷 Women of Nyumanzi Settlement participating in a village meeting with a savings and loans association. © Makerere University

refugees and NGO employees. Another economic potential mentioned by the physical planner of Arua is the entertainment for the refugees in the form of clubs where they can go and relax. To enable tapping into this economic potential, the key informants mentioned that the government should provide security so that there are no conflicts between the refugees and the hosts that will enable and encourage people to engage in business across the region. While the informants

also mentioned capacity development for both the hosts and the refugees by the government and NGOs to steer up good relationships for both communities to engage in economic activities. Development of infrastructure should be done through constructing roads; for example, the road from Gulu to Moyo is very bad, discouraging economic engagement with people in Adjumani, as mentioned by one trader.

# 05

## Possible Pathways for Regional Economic Development/ Recommendations

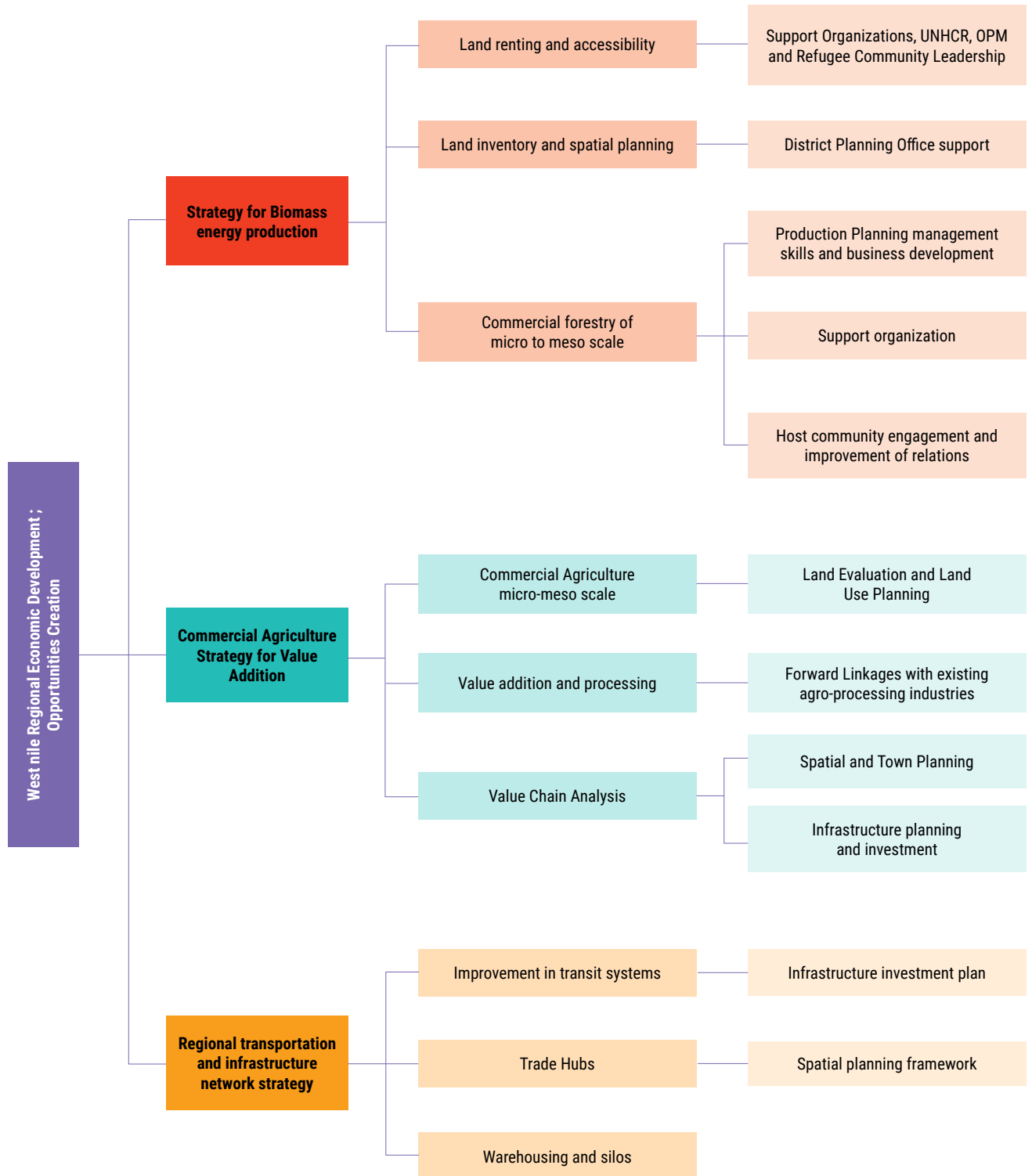
Below are some possible pathways considering the opportunities that may enable the stimulation of the regional economy beneficial to refugees, host communities, and international communities in neighboring countries.

**Biomass energy** is important for use by the majority of people in the region. With vast land not cultivated for agriculture, commercial forestry for fast-growing species provides the potential for an economic sector that can be sustainable since the transition to alternative energy will take longer in the country and region. This is also recognized by UNHCR and OPM when allocating land for the refugees. They also offer seedlings for fast-growing trees, which are multi-purpose for biomass, and poles for construction. Round bars are marketable in the region and used for building and can be used for different purposes.

This pathway can be supported by land renting mechanisms, and it has the potential to integrate up to 70% of the refugee population into the economy. The conditions under which this could be a pathway would also be determined by spatial planning to identify the land where such can be grown so that it is not in direct competition with agricultural land that is also crucial.

Another possible pathway is through **commercial agriculture** for produce targeting neighboring countries as well as the regional market. This pathway would be supported by land rent mechanisms, spatial planning identifying the suitability of land for niche crops, and identifying unutilized land to reduce or mitigate conflicts between refugees and host communities.

Figure 28: Possible pathways for harnessing economic opportunities and potential



Commercial agriculture can also be integrated or coupled with livestock. Several refugee households identified goat rearing as a business opportunity. This is due to the high demand for meat in the region and a large Muslim population that demands goats and sheep at particular times of the year. Hybrid goats and sheep that are fast-growing would be ideal. This pathway could be supported by the several refugees supporting NGOs for training and provision of services associated with the breeds.

As mentioned earlier, **infrastructure** is key to enhancing economic activity in the region. Planning for permissive infrastructure in significant towns of Pakwach, Arua, Koboko, and Moyo for transit goods is one of the possible ways through which economic activity can be enhanced. As discussed earlier, planning for permissive infrastructure can also spur linkages between the major towns and refugee settlements. This pathway is complementary to other ways and would not lead to economic enhancement alone. It is important and critical for regional economic promotion. It is key in aligning the region to other parts of the country, having an upstream economic linkage with the national economy.

In both the commercial agriculture and infrastructure pathways, value addition is ideal as it would take advantage of the regionally produced crops. **Agro-processing and value addition** are critical. Several refugees expressed interest in establishing agro-processing

businesses for cassava, maize, and locally produced rice. This pathway would complement commercial agriculture and focused mainly on the local economy and scale up to regional and neighboring countries.

Lastly, **enhancing skills** of refugee populations and host communities. This is an ongoing effort of developing agencies and the government and will continue to be undertaken.

## 5.1 Constraints to attaining the economic opportunities

Investments required for infrastructure development are enormous, and none of the districts can afford to mobilize the required investment funds. The region has remained remote and isolated from bustling economic hubs like Kampala. The trickle-down effect of industrial development is therefore taking too long for the region to get a stimulus factor in its economy.

Spatial planning is still undertaken mainly at the city level and not the region. For regional-wide spatial planning, it would require legal and statutory instruments to enable such an undertaking despite the possible outcomes of such an effort. The population of the host communities is also largely rural with low purchasing power. Enhancing economic activity thus implies working around value addition to existing economic productive sectors.



📷 South Sudanese children walk around in a refugee camp Juba, South Sudan. © Shutterstock



## Conclusion

Although the region's population has increased with the influx of refugees, the purchasing power seems limited to spur a vibrant economy in the region. The remittances for families of refugees and host communities are one source of capital inflows, but other investments from the public sector are critical for enhancing the regional economy. Business and economic opportunities have been identified and linked to the region's existing economic structure and settlements. Activating refugees into the local labor markets would contribute to the local economy and benefit the country. Skills formation and training geared towards unemployed refugees should consider their characteristics in terms of education, occupational background, and access to land.

Historically the region has remained sparsely populated despite a high population relative to other areas of the country. This is due to the vast land used as hunting areas and nature reserves, part of which have been turned into refugee settlements in due course. The region thus remains inventoried in terms of productive potential except for the traditional cash crops. Potential in inventorying the land and investing in sectors that utilize the region's productive potential and spatial planning can support this initiative.

The relations between host communities and refugees are essential for a regional economy. These relations have improved and historically been better compared to other refugee-hosting areas like Nakivale. Still, more can be

done to improve the ties around land access mechanisms and access to social services. By investing in access to basic services in the host, communities will contribute to their development and contribute to a peaceful coexistence of both populations. There are no significant differences between host communities and refugees in the West regarding access to basic services. In Adjumani, host communities reported favorable access rates to health services and health centers within the settlement compared to the hosting population. Ensuring access for all, through the appropriate financial and institutional resources, will contribute to a more peaceful relationship between refugees and hosts and close the gap between refugee-hosting regions and the rest of the country.

A key ingredient for spurring economic activity in the region will involve spatial planning that is supportive of infrastructure that enables the region to function fully as a trade hub given its geographical location and transit route to neighboring countries. Such an infrastructure capital investment plan would have to be a regional effort rather than district by district planning to leverage the connectivity in the region of major towns that would also include the refugee settlements into this linked network.

Ensuring the self-reliance of refugees should be at the core of policies and programs. Refugees primarily depend on aid: about 53.4 % report that aid is their main source of income. There is a need to enhance the income-generating ability of refugees from the very beginning. It has been the intention of the refugee response framework all along; there is a need to intensify the efforts to

make the goal of self-reliance a reality. This would not only benefit refugees but also contribute to the local and regional economy.

Implementation of Uganda's progressive refugee policies can contribute to the development of the hosting area, improving self-reliance for the refugees, thereby leading to integrating the refugees into the local and regional communities. Uganda's "Self-Reliance Strategy" (SRS) allows refugees in Uganda to enjoy the right to work, freedom of movement within the country, access to basic services, and the right to live in local communities as in defined settlements. Implementation of the framework means investment in service delivery and infrastructure in hosting districts, thus enhancing the living conditions of the hosting population. It also means building institutional capacity at the local level, providing timely and relevant information to inform the design, implementation, and monitoring of the refugee policies and programs.

Enhancing the productivity of refugees already engaged in economic activities can help increase their income. Five percent of the refugees involved in economic activities have received some skills or job trainings. 11.2% of those engaged in economic activities are practicing agricultural production. Ensuring access to high-quality agrarian inputs, accompanied by extension services, can help increase incomes of the agricultural output of refugees with access to land (mainly through using rights).



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# APPENDICES

## Appendix 1: Adjumani Socio-Economic Household Questionnaire

Name of the Data Collection Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Interview Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Location:**

- 1. Pagirinya  2. Nyumanzi
- 5. Other( Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Interview area/Cluster GPS Coordinates: Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

**Respondent Category:**

- 1. Host Community
- 2. Refugee

**BASIC INFORMATION**

- 1. Name of respondent (Optional) .....
- 2. Gender of respondent 1. Male  2. Female
- 3. Age of respondent .....
- 4. Education Level 1. No Education  2. Primary  3. Secondary  4. Tertiary   
5. Informal training
- 5. Nationality (refugees) .....
- 6. Number of people in household/family .....
- 7. Average household monthly income
- 8. Sources of income (occupation) 1. Formal Employment  2. Business  3. Casual Labour  
4. Agriculture  5. Aid  6. Others (Specify) .....

**ACCESS TO SERVICES**

9. Where do you/your household access the following services from

Category	Facility/Service	Name of facility/area (e.g Arua/ Adjumani general hospital, within house/plot, communal site etc)	Distance to facility (e.g minutes walked to facility etc) Km est	Who operates the service (Self, NGO, community, refugees)	Where did you access services from before establishment of current one
Education	Kindergarten				
	Primary				
	Secondary				
	Post secondary				
Health	Basic health services				
	Specialized care				
Water & Sanitation	Water				
	Toilet & bathroom services				
Other services	Electricity				
Basic needs	Food items				
	Non-food items (eg clothing, construction material etc)				

**INTERACTION OF HOST COMMUNITY& REFUGEES**

10. Years lived in area/camp            1. Born here                            2. Moved here in year.....

11. If you moved, from where did you come from? 1. Nearby village (give name) .....  
 2. Another Country (specify) .....            3. Another camp (specify) .....  
 4. Other parts of Turkana County (specify) .....            5. Other places (Specify) .....

12. What were the reasons for moving here (tick many)?  
 1. As a refugee            2. To get aid                            3. To find work  
 4. To utilize emerging business opportunities  
 5. Came back home to exploit emerging opportunities  
 6. Relocated due to congestion in previous camp  
 7. Other (specify) .....

13. Have you lived in the same area/cluster or have shifted? [Refugees]  
 1. Lived in same area                            2. Shifted

14. If you have shifted, why? .....

15. Where did you live before shifting to here? Name of camp/village

16. In your opinion, what changes has this area experienced since refugees came? Rank the changes on a scale of 0-5 (0 being no change and 5 being very improved) Kindly rank the perceived changes on the following aspects from the refugee influx

Aspects	Negative	Positive	No change
Service availability			
Local economy			
Environment			
Land use/ utilization			
Resource availability/sharing			
Security			

17. How have you (your household) adjusted to the changes

Change	Nothing has changed	Changed livelihood/ lifestyle (eg from pastoralist to business)	Moved (closer to) camp	Moved further from camp	Enhanced quality of life – eg increased access to water, education etc	Others (specify)
Service availability						
Local economy						
Environment						
Land use/ utilization						
Resource availability/ sharing						
Security						

18. How often do you interact with the refugees/host community

1. Many times in a day  
 2. Once in a day, 3. Weekly, 4. Bi-weekly 5. Monthly, 6. Yearly 7. Never  
 8. Other (Specify) .....

19. For what aspects are your interactions most based on? (tick all that apply)

	Daily	Weekly	semi-weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Never
Casual labour (working for refugees/host community)						
Trading of goods/services (buying/selling goods to them)						
Social/communal services (joint activities e.g environmental cleaning)						
Interaction in social places (clinic, water points, etc)						
Others (Specify)						

20. How would you describe the relationship between the local community and the refugee population?  
 1. Employer – employee      2. Mutual/Equal      3. Tense      4. Good      5. Fair  
 6. Communal/Properly Integrated

21. Have you experienced conflicts between people of the local community and the refugee population?  
 1. Yes       2. No

22. If yes, what kind of conflict?      1. Utilization of resources (infrastructure services)  
 2. Land matters (rights to property)      3. Conflict on access to opportunities (labour, aid, etc)  
 4. General disagreements (e.g labour & business disputes)      5. Other (Specify) .....

23. How often do you experience such conflicts?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Rarely	Very rarely	Never
Utilization of resources (infrastructure services)							
Land matters (rights to property)							
Conflict on access to opportunities (labour, aid, etc)							
General disagreements (e.g. labour & business disputes)							
Other (Specify)							

24. What are reasons responsible for the conflicts?      1. Increasing inequality      2. Decreasing resources      3. Others (Specify) .....

25. ....

26. Have you experienced instances of good collaboration between the local community and the refugee population  
 1. Yes       2. No

27. If Yes, what type of relations?      1. Joint community activities (e.g. environmental cleanups)      2. Trading activities  
 3. Utilization of resources and infrastructure (e.g. water points, hospitals)      4. Access to opportunities (e.g. division of labour)  
 5. Others (Specify) .....

28. What are reasons for the good relationships and collaborations?

1. Increasing opportunities for growth      2. Increasing capacity development/sensitization from NGOs  
 3. Others (Specify) .....

29. In your opinion, how do you think the relationship between the local community and refugee population will be in the future?  
 1. There will be no change      2. It will grow strong      3. It will weaken  
 4. It will collapse

30. Why do you think this will be the case?      1. Increasing inequality      2. Decreasing resources  
 3. Increasing opportunities for growth from NGOs      4. Increasing capacity development/sensitization  
 5. Others (specify) .....

**LIVELIHOODS & GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES**

31. What is your main occupation      1. No occupation      2. Pastoralist      3. Trader/business person      4. Farmer      5. Trained professional (specify) .....

32. Would you be interested in engaging in any business activities?      1. Yes       2. No

33. If yes, which kind of business activity? .....  
 ..... If no, why? 1. Lack of skill  
 2. Already in business/other activities 3. Not my interest area  
 4. Can't handle the hard work (eg for the elderly) 5. Others (Specify) .....
34. What are the opportunities for growth in your area/community? 1. Availability of land  
 2. Large purchasing power 3. Easy cash flow 4. Improved infrastructure services  
 5. Social support 6. Others (Specify) .....

**HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS & SPACE UTILIZATION**

35. What is the roof material in your house? (select all that applies to all rooms)  
 1. Corrugated Iron sheets 2. Tiles 3. Concrete 4. Grass 5. Makuti 6. Tin  
 7. Mud/Dung 8. Other (Specify)
36. What is the wall material used in your house? 1. Corrugated Iron Sheets 2. Mud/Wood 3. Mud/cement  
 4. Wood only 5. Grass/Reeds 6. Tin 7. Canvas/tent 8. Stone  
 9. Brick/block 10. Other (Specify) .....
37. What is the floor material in your house? 1. Cement 2. Tiles 3. Wood 4. Earth  
 5. Other (Specify). .....
38. Which is your household's main type of lighting fuel? 1. Electricity 2. Pressure Lamp  
 3. Lantern 4. Tin Lamp 5. Gas lamp 6. Wood fuel 7. Solar 8. Other (specify) .....
39. Which is your household's main type of cooking fuel? Tick one or more 1. Wood 2. Charcoal  
 3. Paraffin 4. Gas 5. Electricity 6. Dung 7. Other (Specify) .....
40. What is the average size of the plot in which you live in? (in feet/meters) .....
41. How many rooms are in your house? .....
42. What is the average size of each room (feet/meters) .....
43. How big is the size of your unbuilt compound? .....
44. Have you made any modifications to your house since you first constructed it/settled here?  
 1. Yes  2. No
45. If yes, which modifications? 1. Partitioned 2. Made extensions 3. Fenced plot  
 4. Rebuilt afresh 5. Others (Specify) .....
46. What was your motivation for the modifications? 1. To accommodate bigger family 2. Privacy  
 3. Insecurity 4. Re-design 5. To add other activities to the plot (e.g. shop)  
 6. Other (specify) .....

## Appendix 2: Adjumani Socio-Economic Baseline Business Questionnaire

Name of the Data Collection Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Interview Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Location:

1. Pagirinya  2. Nyumanzi

5. Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Interview area/Cluster GPS Coordinates: Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

### Respondent Category:

1. Host Community

2. Refugee

### BASIC INFORMATION

1. Name of respondent (Optional) .....

2. Gender of respondent 1. Male  2. Female

3. Age of Respondent.....

4. Education Level 1. No Education  2. Primary  3. Secondary  4. Tertiary  5. Informal training

5. Nationality (refugees) .....

6. Type and nature of business 1. Wholesaler 2. Retailer 3. Distributor

4. Service provider (Specify)..... 5. Utility Infrastructure based trade (e.g water point) – Specify .....

7. Description of business (per interviewer observation– *include photo*) please tick the appropriate

Business Character	Yes	No
Registered		
Pay taxes		
Book keeping		

8. Location of business (GPS coordinates).....

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

9. How long have you operated the business in this area? (No. of years/since year) .....

10. What made you decide to start the business here? 1. Presence of large purchasing power from refugees 2. Presence of large purchasing power from host community 3. Lack of other means of livelihood 4. Large demand for services I offer 5. Others (specify) .....

11. Average monthly business income

12. Major target clients for business(select all that apply) 1. Local community 2. Refugees  
3. NGO staff 4. County government staff 5. Others (Specify) .....



13. If you moved here, had you always practiced this kind of business? 1. Yes  2. No
14. If no, what made you venture into this business/what made you change from previous business/activity? .....
15. If yes in 13, how has the presence of refugees in the area impacted on your business? 1. Increased profits,  
2. No change 3. Expanded business to include new establishments  
4. Others (specify) .....
16. How many businesses does your household poses?
17. Who operates which businesses - per gender/age ( 1. Self 2. Spouse 3. Children  
4. Employee 5. Other (include gender & age for each member))
18. Business 1 ..... Business 2 ..... Business 3 ..... Business 4 .....  
(self, spouse, children)
19. Number of hours per day spent in each business? Business 1 ..... Business 2 .....  
Business 3 ..... Business 4 .....
20. How many people are employed in each business? Business 1 ..... Business 2 .....  
Business 3 ..... Business 4 .....
21. Where have you sourced the employees from? 1. Local community  
2. Kenyans from other communities 3. Refugees (specific country of origin of refugees employed)  
.....
22. Which are the applicable business permits for your type of business(es)

Name of permit	Amount paid for license (Kshs)	Amount paid to which authority	Frequency of permit payment (weekly, monthly etc)	Ease of payment procedures (1. Very easy 2. Easy 3. Complicated 4. Very complicated)

23. What are the existing business opportunities in the area? Tick as many  
2. Security 3. Presence of financial assistance opportunities 4. high purchasing power  
5. Favourable tax/permit regimes 5. Ease of acquiring licenses 6. Others (specify) .....
24. How do you plan to utilize the existing opportunities? Tick as many  
1. Expanding same business to other areas (specify target locations)  
2. Starting new forms of businesses (specify type of business)  
3. Expanding size of current business within same area/location  
5. Others (specify) .....
25. What challenges do you face in your business?
26. What is the average size of your business premises 1. Number of rooms .....  
2. Average size in meters or feet.....
27. Have you made modifications to the business premises? 1. Yes  2. No
28. If yes, what modifications?
29. What was your motivation for the modifications? .....

30. What is the future plan for your business/enterprises (for refugees, probe on plan after resettlement back to country of origin) .....

**INTERACTION BETWEEN REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITY**

31. In your opinion, how has the business environment changed since the arrival of refugees? Rank the change on a scale of 0-5 (0 being no change and 5 being very improved)

32. Kindly rank the perceived changes on the following aspects from the refugee influx

Change	Negative	Positive	No change
Income generating opportunities			
Employment opportunities			
Profits			
Local economy			
Service availability			
Security			
Others (specify)			

33. How have these changes impacted on your business?

34. How often do you interact with the refugees/host community  
 1. Many times in a day  
 2. Once in a day, 3. Weekly, 4. Bi-weekly 5. Monthly, 6. Yearly 7. Never  
 8. Other (Specify) .....

35. For what aspects are your interactions most based on?

	Many times in a day	Once in a day	Weekly	Bi-weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Never	Other
Selling goods to them								
Buying products from them								
Casual labour (employing them in my business)								
Social/communal services (joint activities e.g.environmental cleaning)								
Interaction in social places (clinic, water points, etc)								
Others (specify)								

36. How would you describe the relationship between the local community and the refugee population?  
 1. Employer – employee 2. Mutual/Equal 3. Tense 4. Good 5. Fair  
 6. Communal/Properly Integrated

37. Have you experienced situations of conflict between people of the local community and the refugee population?  
 1. Yes  2. No

38. If yes, what are the situations in which the conflict occurs?

- 1. Utilization of resources (infrastructure services)
- 2. Land matters (rights to property)
- 3. Conflict on access to opportunities (labour, aid, etc)
- 4. General disagreements (e.g. labour & business disputes)
- 5. Other (Specify) .....

39. How often have you experience such conflicts in the last 12 months?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Rarely	Very rarely	Never
Utilization of resources (infrastructure services)							
Land matters (rights to property)							
Conflict on access to opportunities (labour, aid, etc)							
General disagreements (e.g labour & business disputes)							
Other (Specify)							

40. What are the reasons responsible for the conflicts? 1. Increasing inequality

- 2. Decreasing resources
- 3. Others (Specify).....

41. Have you experienced instances of good collaboration between the local community and the refugee population

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

42. If Yes, tick many of such experienced? 1. Joint community activities (e.g. environmental cleanups)

- 2. Trading activities
- 3. Utilization of resources and infrastructure (e.g. water points, hospitals)
- 4. Access to opportunities (e.g. division of labour)
- 5. Others (Specify) .....

43. What are the reasons behind the good relationships and collaborations?

- 1. Increasing opportunities for growth
- 2. Increasing capacity development/sensitization from NGOs
- 3. Others (Specify) .....

44. ....

45. In your opinion, how do you think the relationship between the local community and refugee population will be in the future? 1. There will be no change 2. It will grow strong 3. It will weaken 4. It will collapse

46. Why do you think this will be the case? 1. Increasing inequality 2. Decreasing resources

- 3. Increasing opportunities for growth
- 4. Increasing capacity development/sensitization from NGOs
- 5. Others (specify) .....

## Appendix 3: Key Informants Interview Guide

### General Instructions for Interviewees

- Go through the questionnaire each time you prepare for the interview.
  - Adapt questions to the context and the interviewee. Mark in the beginning the relevance of each question and adapt or strike through irrelevant questions.
  - Provide a narrative at the beginning, explaining the context and content of the study, our interest and the use of the outcomes (project summary to be provided).
  - Discuss confidentiality aspects and offer to keep parts of the answers confidential if requested.
  - This is a one-to-one interview: request that you can sit with the respondent undisturbed and ask to record the interview, ensuring confidentiality for the audio file.
  - Depending on the respondent's knowledge, and their willingness to talk, the interview might take from 30 minutes to 2 hours. You should communicate this when requesting the meeting.
  - Bring a timeline to visualize the events of Component 1 and some city maps (of different scale) to indicate which area the interviewee is talking about.
1. Can you briefly describe your institution's / organization's field of work, structure and operations.  
*(Probe for the nature and main tasks and engagements)*
  2. How long have you been working in this institution and which is your current position?  
*(Probe for current position tasks and responsibilities)*
  3. Who are the target groups / citizens that your institution/organization works for?  
*(Probe for if the group is specific)*
  4. Which are the areas / geographical units you work in / you are concerned with?  
*(Here only state generally what the inst/org is active or responsible for)*
  5. What services do the refugees have access to?
  6. How do they access these services?
  7. What kind of aid do the refugees receive and from where?
  8. How do refugees interact with the host communities?
  9. What economic relations does the refugee camp have with Arua Municipality?
  10. Are there any conflicts between the refugees and host communities? What are the conflicts and what are the causes of the conflicts?
  11. What should be done to improve the relations between the refugees and host communities?
  12. What kind of livelihoods do the refugees have?

13. What economic growth potentials are available in this community?
14. What kind of businesses are refugees involved in?
15. What are the existing business opportunities in the area?
16. What are some of the challenges businesses face here?
17. What do the economic activities by refugees and host communities imply for local authorities?
18. How can the region adopt a development-based approach that improves the wellbeing of both refugees and the host communities that utilizes economic opportunities?
19. What infrastructures (physical and non-physical) are present to complement/support the economic activities undertaken by refugees and their host populations?
20. What economic relations do refugees camps have with Arua Municipality or other neighboring districts?
21. What do the economic activities by refugees and host communities imply for local authorities' capacity to promote and plan for sustainable and inclusive urban development in the West Nile region?
22. What skills do refugees have? Both formal and informal skills
23. What are expectations to do have in regard to town planning that will help people have access to employment?
24. What are the threats /opportunity to the area in relation to refugee camp / humanitarian interventions?
25. What are the gaps in service delivery?
26. What support groups are available for refugees?
27. What resources (including assets and inputs) do people have access to and through what networks?
28. What influences access to resources?
29. What do different resources enable households to achieve (e.g. meet basic consumption needs; repay loans; assist others; invest in household economic viability/sustainability/ resilience)?
30. What resources contribute to the wider crisis response?
31. What influences, enables and constrains these resource contributions?
32. What systems would need to be in place for better visibility of all resources?
33. What would need to change about how responders and funders make decisions to incorporate a wider picture of resources?
34. Rather than taking a purely humanitarian approach, how can the region adopt a development-based approach that improves the wellbeing of both refugees and the host communities that utilizes economic opportunities?

**Thank you very much**

## Appendix 4: Focus group discussion interview guide

Date:.....Location .....

Facilitator.....

Note taker.....

Time.....

How many participants.....

Target group.....

Group composition by sex.....

### Introduction:

"We are a team from the Urban Action Lab Makerere University (explain briefly what UAL is). We work on a research project with the aim to assess the economic potential of refugees in West Nile that influences the lives and opportunities of the refugees living in Adjumani and Arua. Therefore, we would like to discuss with you some topics and learn from your opinions and experiences. We are not going to ask questions about your individual households but will ask about your community.

This research is not related to any humanitarian or government program, and therefore not linked to any assistance. We cannot give you anything for participating in this discussion, except our appreciation. You are under no obligation to participate, and you are free not to answer any of the posed questions.

The information you give us will be kept anonymously. We will not write your name and your name will never appear in our research. The information we collect will help us to on how to integrating refugees capabilities and potential in order to contribute to economic growth within and across the region. The report will be used by different organizations working in community development and the government.

### The discussion should take approximately 1 hour. Do you have any questions?

- **Introduce yourself, as the facilitator, and the note taker - clarify what your roles are.**
- **Set the ground rules for the discussion:** "We are interested in opinions and experiences of everyone present, so do give time and space to each other to contribute", "do avoid parallel discussions, as that will make it very difficult for the note taker to capture the discussion", "we are interested in all different views, even if they don't represent everyone in the community"
- **Ask for permission to take notes**
- **Take an introductory round:** where all participants say few things about themselves (e.g. occupation). The note-taker takes the chance to note down gender, approx. age, and possibly occupation of each participant. Give each participant a number/code to be able to refer to which participant says what during the discussion. (This will not always be possible, and some discussions will have to be referred to as a group discussion/consensus)

1. What is the average distance to the nearest primary school? \_\_\_\_ kms What is the average distance to the nearest secondary school? \_\_\_\_ kms What is the average distance to the nearest Vocational Institution \_\_\_\_\_kms
2. What problems do you face with regard to education?
3. What can be done to improve education of refugee children?
4. What problems do you face with regard to safe water access?
5. What can be done to improve refugee safe water access?
6. What kind of livelihoods do the refugees have?
7. What profitable enterprises exist in the refugee settlement?
8. What economic growth potentials are available in this community?
9. What kind of businesses are refugees involved in?
10. What are the existing business opportunities in the area?
11. What are some of the challenges businesses face here?
12. What do the economic activities by refugees and host communities imply for local authorities?
13. What are your sources of fuel for cooking
14. What common practices in the settlement endanger the environment?
15. What are you doing to protect the environment?
16. What services do you get from the local community/government?
17. What problems do you face with local community/government?
18. What else would you want to be provided?
19. Which agency is doing what in this refugee settlement?
20. How do refugees interact with the host communities?
21. Are there any conflicts between the refugees and host communities? What are the conflicts and what are the causes of the conflicts?

**Thank you for your time**

## Appendix 5: Letter requesting for permission to do research in refugee settlements



### MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda

Cables: "MAKUNIKA"

Telephone: 0414 531261

Email: geog@caes.mak.ac.ug

#### DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY GEOINFORMATICS AND CLIMATIC SCIENCES

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020

The Ag Commissioner for Refugees

Office of the Prime Minister /Department of Refugees

Dear Sir/Madam,

#### **Re: Request for your support in conducting research fieldwork**

As part of the continuation of the Multi Scalar Regional Profile that UNHabitat produced in 2018 (focusing on the refugee hosting municipalities in the West Nile). Makerere University Urban Action in partnership with UNHabitat we are continuing with the next phase to conduct a socio-economic baseline survey covering the area of Arua and Adjumani. Makerere University Urban Action Lab team will assess the economic potential of refugees in West Nile that influences the lives and opportunities of refugees living in Arua and Adjumani districts. As part of the project will be conducting fieldwork on the current socio-economic situation of the selected area from the 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020 to the 6<sup>th</sup> of Feb 2020. We request for your assistance in having access to Pagirinya and Nyumanzi settlement camps, and help with identify two field guides (one from Pagirinya and one from Nyumanzi) who will work with us during from the 27<sup>th</sup> Jan to 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020. The findings of the project will help understand how the refugee population is and can potentially contribute to the economic well-being of the West Nile and not seeing refugees as social burdens.

Your cooperation with the research is greatly appreciated. We will endeavour to share our findings with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**Assoc. Prof. Shuaib Lwasa** +256 772461727 shuaiblwasa@gmail.com

Department of Geography- Makerere University





HS/030/21E

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