



## FLOW PROGRAMME

### Project: Building and Amplifying Women's Voices in Economic and Political Development



ASSESSING WOMEN 'S PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND ACCESS  
TO AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

IN NAMUTUMBA, DOKOLO AND PADER DISTRICTS

JUNE 2012



Action for Development (ACFODE) with funding from the Netherlands Government and Diakonia is implementing a project titled *“Building and Amplifying Women’s Voices in Political and Economic Development”* in the districts of Dokolo, Pader and Namutumba. Prior to the start of activity implementation, ACFODE needed to assess and have an understanding of the status of women leaders’ participation in politics and public administration as well as examine women’s access to agricultural extension services. This was meant to inform ACFODE’s programming in the districts so as to engage women leaders on their participation and representation and also increase food security amongst female headed households.



<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>page</b>
List of Acronyms.....	5
List of Maps and Tables .....	6
1.0 Background information.....	7
1.1 Organization.....	7
1.2 Project summary.....	8
1.2.1 Goal of the programme.....	8
1.2.2 Envisaged project outcomes.....	9
1.2.3 Objectives of the project.....	9
2.0 Pre-visit and survey objectives.....	10
3.0 Methodology.....	10
<b>4.0 Findings</b>	
<b>4.1 NAMUTUMBA DISTRICT</b>	
4.1.1 Location, status, administrative divisions & population .....	12
4.1.2 Food security status, water & sanitation .....	14
4.1.3 Women’s participation in politics and public administration.....	16
4.2 Emerging issues.....	18
4.3 Advocacy issues.....	18
4.4 Recommendations.....	19
<b>5.0 DOKOLO DISTRICT</b>	
5.1 Location, status, administrative divisions & population .....	20
5.2 Food security status; water & sanitation.....	21



5.3 Women’s participation in politics and public administration .....23

5.4 Emerging issues.....24

5.5 Recommendations .....25

**6.0 PADER DISTRICT**

6.1 Location, status, administrative divisions & population .....26

6.2 food security status; water and sanitation.....29

6.3 women’s participation in politics and public administration .....30

6.4 Advocacy issues .....32

7.0 General observations.....33



## LIST OF ACRONYMS

UNICEF-	United Nations Children's Fund
ACF-	Action contre la faim
NAADS-	National Agricultural Advisory services
DCDO-	District Community Development Officer
CDO-	Community Development Officer
DHO-	District Health Officer
HH-	Household
NRC-	Norwegian Refugee Council.
IDMC-	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre



## List of Maps and Tables

Maps	page
1: Map of Namutumba district showing boundaries and borders .....	12
2: Map of Dokolo district showing boundaries and borders.....	20
3: Map of Pader district showing boundaries and borders .....	26

Tables	page
<b>Table 1:</b> Administrative divisions, status and population of Namutumba district .....	13
<b>Table 2:</b> Food security status in Namutumba district .....	14
<b>Table 3:</b> status on water sources and their coverage in Namutumba district .....	15
<b>Table 4:</b> Namutumba district local council structure by gender representation .....	16
<b>Table 5:</b> Food security status in Dokolo district.....	21
<b>Table 6:</b> Prevalence of hygiene related diseases in Dokolo district .....	22
<b>Table 7:</b> Administrative divisions, status and population of Pader district.....	27
<b>Table 8:</b> Nongovernmental organizations operating in Pader district .....	28
<b>Table 9:</b> Food security status in Pader district .....	29
<b>Table 10:</b> women in politics and public administration in Pader district.....	31



## 1.0 Background Information

### 1.1 Organization

Action for Development (ACFODE) is an indigenous, voluntary, not –profit making civil society organization born on November 19, 1985. Its formation was sparked off by the United Nations third world conference on women held in Nairobi in July 1985. With a few women realizing the need for an organized forum that would provide a platform for effective debate and action on issues related to the advancement of women in Uganda; ACFODE was formed.

ACFODE envisions a just society where gender equality is a reality and the organization’s mission is to empower women and influence legislation and policy for gender equality in Uganda.

#### ACFODE’S CORE PURPOSE

- Advocacy for gender equality and equity

#### ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- To increase women’s effective involvement in politics and decision making through building the leadership capacity of potential female leaders at all levels.
- To promote good governance and democracy at national, district and local council levels through democracy monitoring and civic education.
- To defend and protect women’s rights through elimination of gender based violence and any form of discrimination against women
- To promote formulation and implementation of gender responsive political, economic and social policies as well as programs.
- To build and strengthen the capacity of ACFODE and other like-minded civil society organizations for effective implementation of programs intended to benefit the vulnerable women.



## 1.2 Project Summary

ACFODE with funding from the Netherlands government and DIAKONIA is implementing a project titled: *Building and Amplifying Women's Voices in Economic and Political Development*. The project is under a bigger grant programme of funding leadership and opportunities for women (FLOW) and is implemented in the eastern and northern districts of Namutumba, Dokolo and Pader.

### 1.2.1 GOAL OF THE PROGRAMME

The overall goal of the programme is to enhance the position of women and girls especially their participation and benefit in economic and political spheres of development. This goal is in line with DIAKONIA's overarching policy aim of contributing to structural poverty reduction by improving gender equality and empowerment of women.

The FLOW programme is focused on the following three categories of activities:-

- Activities designed to promote security by combating violence against women and actively involving women in processes of peace, security and reconstruction.
- Activities designed to promote economic self reliance, through giving women a say in food security, the right to employment and access to safe drinking water.
- Activities focused on the participation of women in politics and public administration.

The project "Building and Amplifying Women's Voices in Political and Economic development project" was consequently born out of the above programme focus categories in particular focal areas 2 & 3. The project is inter-country implemented in Uganda by Action for Development (ACFODE) and Forum for women in Democracy (FOWODE) and in Kenya by Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK), Federation for Women Lawyers (FIDA-Kenya), and Women Political Alliance of Kenya (WPA-K).





## 1.2.2 Envisaged project outcomes

### Outcome 1

Percentage of households (female headed) that are food secure in the operational areas increased by 10%.

This shall be measured on the basis of:-

- Percentage of women with access to agricultural education & extension services.
- Percentage of households with food reserves with food.
- Percentage of women with basic knowledge of basic nutrition and care as well as adequate water and sanitation.

### Outcome 2

Women's participation in politics and public institutions at local and national levels increased by at least 30% and their networking and advocacy capacity for gender responsive policies and programmes enhanced.

This shall be measured on the basis of:-

- Number of women actively involved in politics at local government levels.
- Number of women holding public administration positions at local government & national levels.
- Number of gender sensitive legislations/policies developed and implemented

## 1.2.3 Objectives of the project.

- To equip communities with skills and knowledge on food security for purposes of having food secure households through trainings on food security.
- Create and sensitize communities in operational districts on right to food and food security issues through mobilization and public awareness campaigns.
- Facilitate women to form and operationalise value chain agricultural groups for purposes of using modern agricultural practices and accessing agricultural extension services.



- Conduct learning and exchange activities for model women farmers to share knowledge and experiences for purposes of having food secure households.
- Equip women leaders with key skills and knowledge on leadership and management.
- Prepare women for political participation and leadership positions in 2016.
- Increase on gender responsive policies that go through the legislative process and subsequently passed.
- Create awareness on key issues affecting women in their political participation and public administration and also understand the gender issues that women administrators face.

## 2.0 Pre-visit and Survey objectives

In order to kick start the implementation of the project, a baseline survey was conducted in the operational districts to;

- Introduce the organization (ACFODE) in the respective districts.
- Introduce the project *“Building and amplifying women’s voices in economic and political development”*
- Share with key district officials copies of the draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) which would formalize ACFODE’S partnership in the respective districts.
- Last but not least assess status on current trends and events especially related to the project focus of access to agricultural information, knowledge and skills including the food security situation amongst female headed households and women’s participation in politics and public administration

## 3.0 Methodology

The districts in which the project is implemented- Namutumba, Dokolo & Pader were purposively and carefully selected based on facts of need in the areas measured against the focus areas of the project. Namutumba district for example according to a survey by UNICEF and ACF (2011) established that incidences of acute malnutrition were high especially among children 0-8 years. In the district of Dokolo according to a briefing paper by NRC and IDMC (2010) female headed households were cited among the most



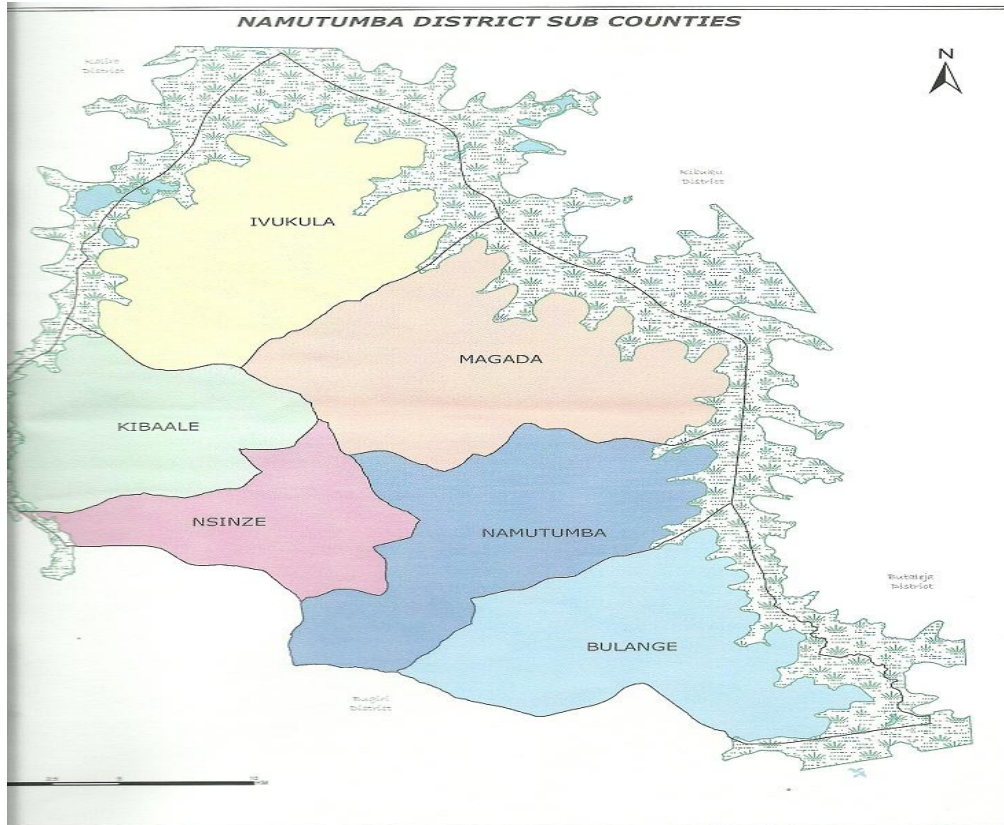
vulnerable group to food insecurity which further heightened their vulnerability to gender based violence. These facts informed selection of the districts of operation.

Since the project is to be implemented in only two sub counties of each of the operational districts, there was need to choose the sub counties in which to implement the project. Like the district selection, the sub counties were selected in consideration of the main variables of the project. Sub counties with the highest incidences of malnutrition and food insecurity and whose women's participation in politics and public administration was most wanting were chosen as project operational areas. Aside from the existing need, care was taken to choose sub counties in which a similar project was not already being implemented by other civil society organizations. This was done for purposes of reducing the likelihood of duplicating service delivery within the same area location.

In seeking answers and responses to a number of questions sought, face to face interviews were held with key informants in all the districts. These included the local council chairpersons V, the district speakers, gender officers, district and sub county NAADS officers, district community development officers, production officers, water officers and women councilors among other personnel. Additionally, secondary data at the districts was also reviewed to cross check earlier information received for purposes of ascertaining validity of information given.

## 4.0 FINDINGS

### 4.1 Namutumba District.



#### 4.1.1 Location, status, administrative divisions and population

The district was carved out of Iganga district in the year 2006 and is located in the eastern region of Uganda. The district aspires “To be a prosperous district with a healthy population readily accessing services and managing the available resources in a sustainable manner”. The district borders Iganga district in the south, Bugiri in the south east, Kaliro and Palisa districts in the north and Butalejja district in the east. The district headquarters are located about 25km away from Iganga town and its offices are 2kms north of Namutumba town.



The main economic activity of the people in Namutumba is agriculture. Key agricultural crops grown are rice, maize, cassava and coffee plus a few vegetable crops. However, majority of the farmers are subsistence agriculture farmers. Trade and business is likewise steadily but slowly growing up ever since Namutumba was made a district in 2006. The population is mainly rural with urban centers steadily coming up.

**Table 1: Administrative Divisions, Status and Population Statistics of Namutumba District**

District Population by Sub county, by Sex, by Number of Households and by Household Size								
S/N	Sub county	No. of parishes	No. of villages	Population			No. of households	Average Household size
				Male	Female	Total		
1.	Bulange	7	46	18,200	19,500	37,700	7,340	5
2.	Ivukula	6	65	17,300	17,600	34,900	6,780	5
3.	Kibaale	5	53	15,200	15,900	31,100	6,060	5
4.	Magada	6	75	21,500	22,400	43,900	8,520	5
5.	Namutumba	6	39	21,900	24,000	45,900	8,940	5
6.	Nsinze	5	60	12,300	13,200	25,500	4,960	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>106,400</b>	<b>112,600</b>	<b>219,000</b>	<b>42,600</b>	

Source : UBOS 2012

During the visit to the district, a number of technical people including political persons in this district were met. They included the Chief Administrative Officer, District chairperson, District Community Development Officer, the planner, NAADS coordinator, District Health Officer and many others including the sub county community development officers. Visits were also made to the two sub counties of the district which were chosen to be the sub counties of operation. They are Nsinze and Magada. In these sub counties, meetings were held with the community development officers of these sub counties, NAADS coordinators and the health centre staff. It was at these health centers that the reality of the extent of need that the community has in managing the incidences of malnutrition that is affecting mothers and their children was most seen and felt.



#### 4.1.2 Assessment Area 1: Household food security& Nutrition; Water and Sanitation

In this area of assessment, the survey aimed at finding out the general status of the food security situation, nutrition as well as water and sanitation of the district as well as the sub counties of Magada and Nsinze as the project areas.

The following table summarizes the findings on women's access to agricultural education and extension services and the food security situation in the district of Namutumba.

**Table 2: Food Security Status and Trends**

S/N	Assessment area	DISTRICT STATUS		SUB COUNTIES			
				Magada		Nsinze	
	TOTAL POPULATION	M	F	M	F	M	F
		106,400	112,600	21,500	22,400	12,300	13,200
		Total: 219,000		Total:43,900		Total:25,500	
	TOTAL NO.OF HOUSEHOLDS	42,600		8,520		4,960	
1.	No. of female headed households	-		1,278		118	
2.	No. women with skills & knowledge on food security	1241		203		227	
3.	No. of women receiving agric. inputs from NAADS program	1241		205		91out of 270	
4.	No. of women model farmers	64		8		15	
5.	NO.of women farmer groups	260		28		54	
6.	NO.of women trained in modern agric. techniques by NAADS	1241		205		154	
7.	Households using modern farm technologies	3,964 ( cumulative since 2006)		300		450 H/H	
8.	NO.of women requesting &receiving info. from NAADS	5985		205		227	
9.	NO.of h/h's with food storage facilities	EST.400		Less than 5%		-	



10.	NO of h/h with food storage facilities with food	EST.150	-	-
11.	Recorded incidences of malnourished cases btn July2011-April 2012 at Magada HCIII	691	304 FY 2010/2011	269 FY 2010/2011

Source: District & Sub-county records

Table3: Status of Water sources coverage in Namutumba District as of 2009

Sub County	Bore Holes			Shallow Wells			Protected springs			Schools with RWH Tanks 10			% coverage for fws only
	F	N	Total	F	N	Total	F	N	Total	F	N	Total	
Bulange	25	6	31	4	2	6	8	0	8	3	0	3	37.3%
Ivukula	54	1	55	19	3	22	3	0	3	2	0	2	76.5%
Kibaale	38	1	39	26	1	27	10	0	10	1	0	1	83.55
Magada	50	1	51	19	9	28	0	0	0	4	0	4	58.1%
Namutumba	30	3	33	23	1	24	9	0	9	2	0	2	44.3%
Nsinze	39	2	41	15	8	23	11	0	11	3	0	3	91.8%
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>61.9%</b>

Source: District Planning Unit/ Namutumba District, 2009

Note: F rep. Functional, NF rep. Non Functional, Fws rep. Functional Water Sources.

Safe water is a major contributing factor in all socio economic fabric of any society. The total water coverage for functional water sources (boreholes, shallow wells, protected springs including schools with water tanks) in Namutumba district is 61.9% for 42,600 households. In the sub county of Magada, water coverage is 58.1% for a population of 43,900 people and 8,520 households. This means instances of people having to cross over village boundaries in search for water do exist. This directly reflects on the hygiene and sanitation situation and illnesses due to the same. According to the Namutumba District 2002 Census Analytical Report, 80% of the population in the District live in poor housing, have poor water supply with about 65% of the population with no access to





safe water and characterized with poor sanitation. These factors contribute to high morbidity and mortality rates in the district.

The commonest diseases found to affect the people and communities in the district were diarrhea-persistent and acute, intestinal worms, malaria and respiratory tract infections at 26%

#### **Women’s Participation in Leadership of the Water Sources:**

The policy on gender mainstreaming in regards to the operations and maintenance of water sources and facilities was found to inform the election of members of the water and sanitation committee. The policy stipulates that at least 3 women should be represented on every committee and at least 1 in a key position (chairperson, vice chairperson or treasurer) and the policy has been followed accordingly. For the 250 boreholes in the district, there are 250 water and sanitation committees with at least 3 women represented. That is about 750 women seating on the water management committees. The numbers could be higher in instances where you have more women sitting on the committees. The information on the current numbers of women on the Water and sanitation committees for the district wasn’t readily available. In Magada Sub County, of the 51 management committees, two committees are headed by women.

#### **4.1.3 Assessment area 2: Women’s participation in politics and public administration**

Namutumba District Council is governed by an elected District Local Council, which is the highest policy making organ in the district composed of 18 District Councilors; 8 of whom are women headed by a district chairperson, deputized with a vice chairperson and an Executive committee of 5 members. The District civil service headed by the chief Administrative officer implements council policies and any other lawful council decisions.

**Table 4: Namutumba District Council Structure by Gender representation**

Structure/Position	Gender	
	Male	Female
District Chairperson /Secretary for finance and planning	1	0
Vice District Chairperson & Secretary for Health	1	0





District Speaker	1	-
Deputy/ Speaker	-	1
Secretary for Works	1	-
<b>Standing Committee Councilors</b>		
Finance & Planning	2	4
Works & social	3	2

Source: *District Planning Unit/ Namutumba District, 2011*

#### 4.2.1 Participation of women in politics and public administration at sub county level.

##### Nsinze Sub County

The council of Nsinze is composed of 15 councilors; 5 of them are women (2 seat on the executive committee. One is in charge of production and second who happens to be the vice chairperson represents gender & community. It was established that during the last elections only 1 woman competed on the direct seat ticket and unfortunately she lost.

There are 5 technical female staff at the sub county; 3 are parish chiefs and 2 health assistants.

##### Magada sub-county

The sub county council has 16 councilors 8 of whom are female. One (1) of the female councilors seats on the executive committee as the secretary for finance.

Unlike Nsinze Sub County which has very few women in public administration, Magada Sub County has 37 women in public administration placements. 31 of these are in the education sector serving as teachers and principals; 3 in the health sector and 3 are stationed at the sub county headquarters.



## 4.2 Emerging issues.

- Food produced is not enough to feed the people in the households as the households have big families and production is not always constant therefore not sustainable all year through.
- 6/10 children are malnourished as families don't have a balanced food intake. Majority eat same food types day in-day out. Malnutrition is caused by among other reasons failure to eat nutritious food types
- Households and communities need knowledge on how to use indigenous foods like dodo without having to think negatively about them as people lack knowledge on food variety nutrients
- Men limit women from attending trainings because of mistrust.

Once trainings take off, it was advised that they should be harnessed with practical demonstrations to create long lasting impact.

- Commercialization of agriculture has exacerbated food insecurity as families place first priority on selling produce than home consumption. Relatedly women lack decision making powers as men control the marketing process.
- Aside from the government program of NAADS, other organizations implementing work in Namutumba include Sesekawa 2000, Salvation Army, UHMG, UNICEF, action aid, INSHAWA. It was however established that there projects majorly gave inputs like hoes, improved seeds, therapeutic foods. This gave more reason and weight to implement this project in area because of its design that requires we work with already existing structures, programs and systems-the projects would therefore complement each other.

## 4.3 Advocacy Issues.

- Restriction of women's participation and attendance of meetings by their husbands and male colleagues.
- Malnutrition in some communities is attributed to witchcraft.

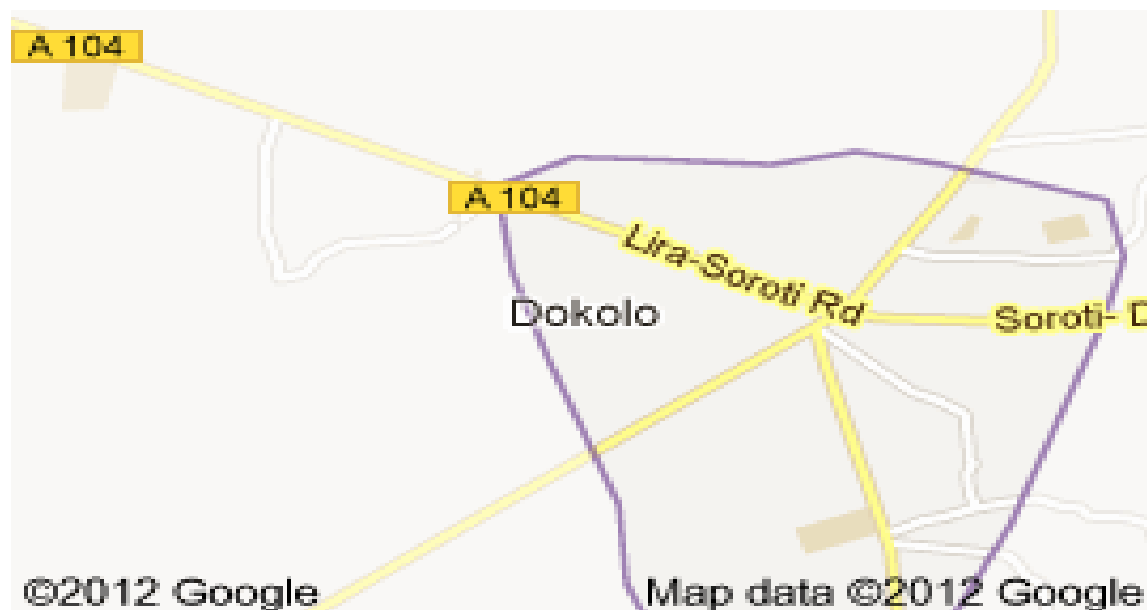


- More water sources need to be made functional especially if women have to cross over village boundaries to get water-their security is compromised
- Women may be adequately represented on water and sanitation committees; however, their effectiveness to implement their roles and assert their positions is yet to be felt.

#### 4.4 Recommendations

- Exhaustive findings in a joint nutrition emergency assessment survey by UNICEF and ACF indicated that the root cause of the malnutrition could be tackled through comprehensive training and knowledge enhancement on food security and nutrition aside from giving therapeutic foods. Therefore comprehensive training on food and nutrition need to be undertaken in order to reduce incidences of malnutrition in the district.
- Family planning programs should be implemented to encourage mothers to space their children to have healthy children they can adequately provide and care for.
- Communities need to be educated to instill in them the culture of making water safe either by boiling or chlorination. Relatedly, is the need for awareness about sanitation and water related use.

## 5 DOKOLO DISTRICT



### 5.1 Location, status, administrative divisions and population

Dokolo District is bordered by Lira District to the northwest, Alebtong District to the northeast, Kaberamaido District to the east and south, Amolatar District to the southwest and Apac District to the west. The administrative headquarters of the district at Dokolo, are located approximately 58 kilometres (36 mi), by road, southeast of Lira, the largest city in the sub-region. The coordinates of the district are: 01 55N, 33 10E.

The District was established by the Ugandan Parliament in 2005. It became operational on 1st July, 2006. Prior to that, Dokolo was a county in Lira District. Together with Lira District, Amolatar District, Alebtong District, Apac District, Kole District, Otuke District and Oyam District, Dokolo District is part of the larger Lango sub-region, home to an estimated 1.5 million Langi people, according to the 2002 national census. The district is a predominantly rural district. Subsistence agriculture, animal husbandry, afforestation and commercial fishing from area lakes constitute the economic engine of the district. The main crops grown include: Beans, Pigeon peas, Cowpeas, Groundnuts,



Cassava, Sweet potatoes, Millet, Maize, Sorghum, Rice, Sesame, Sunflower, Soybeans and Cotton.

The district has eleven (11) sub counties. They include: Agwata, Bata, Kanagai, Kwera, Amwoma, Dokolo S/C, Dokolo Town Council, Kangai, Okwalogol, Okongodul and Adok.

## 5.2 Assessment Area 1: food security; Water and Sanitation

Dokolo is one of the districts which has benefitted from the Peace and Recovery Development Plan (PRDP). It has been identified by government as a PRDP Model district, Northern Uganda Social Action Plan (NUSAF I and II) and National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS). 90% of the population depends on agriculture as a source of livelihood and the district is a food basket of northern Uganda.

**Table 5: Food Security Status in the District of Dokolo.**

Assessment areas	Sub counties of Dokolo District										
	Agwata	Bata	Adok	Adekino	Kwera	Kangai	Dokolo	Dokolo T/C	Okwalongwen	Okwongodul	Amwoma
No. of women with knowledge & skills on food security	276	281	148	533	573	498	610	261	122	472	527
No. of women who have received inputs from NAADS	59	136	96	97	139	105	142	33	95	124	112
No. of women model farmers	28	36	23	21	18	19	15	16	26	16	22
No. of women farmers groups trained	18	22	13	32	53	39	49	12	47	20	49
No. of farmers groups trained	265	312	93	128	140	136	204	132	161	1231	192
No. of HH using modern farm tech.	974	1205	62	376	359	297	190	480	423	492	420
No. of women requesting & receiving information	756	1840	219	510	439	530	590	543	472	421	384



from NAADS											
NO. of HH with food storage facilities	1,035	610	1012	795	1978	869	975	496	943	746	819
No. of HH with food storage facilities with food	625	250	812	532	896	469	648	306	735	422	673

F/Y 2009/2010, 2010/2011,2011/2012-source district NAADS office

## 5.2 Water and Sanitation

### a) Health status: Hygiene and Sanitation related illnesses

Below is the summary outlay of prevalence of hygiene related in Dokolo as provided by the Bio-Statistician and the District Health Officer (DHO)

**Table 6: Summary of prevalence of hygiene related diseases by S/C in Dokolo**

Sub county	Acute Diahorea	Intestinal Worms	Severe Malnutrition	Malaria	Dysentery	Total
Dokolo	95	172	8	4834	63	5,175
Bata	1245	1822	40	1077	80	4,264
Agwata	715	1303	6	8794	60	10,878
Adok	1240	2946	9	4647	38	8,880
Amwoma	356	1032	3	3463	3	4,857
Kangai	514	138	2	5179	24	5,857
Kwera	364	1758	0	3579	0	5,701
Okwalango	387	954	0	3458	20	4,819
Okongodul	514	1326	2	4080	13	5,935
Dokolo T/C	1416	2024	34	1122	117	4,713

Records office-DHO 2010/2011



**b) Sources of water in Dokolo District and women's participation in management of the water source.**

The district was found to be supporting the implementation of 3 types of technologies of water sources. These include: the deep well – borehole, Shallow well and Spring well. It was established that on average a family walks between 0.5-1.5 KMs to access water. In total the district has 680 water sources broken down accordingly:-

- a) Boreholes – 210
- b) Shallow wells -260
- c) Deep wells- - 210

Adequacy of water in the district once assessed in correlation to the population and number of water sources, the district was found to have a fair coverage of water. However only 75% of the water sources are functional. The sub counties of Dokolo, Agwata and Kangai have the lowest water coverage compared to the other sub counties.

Regarding women's participation in the management of the water committees, it was established that more males were chairpersons than females. This was attributed to lack of confidence to lead amongst women. Women were however represented on the water management Committees as treasurers and members.

### **5.3 Assessment area 2: Women's participation in politics and public administration**

**a) Women's Political participation.**

The district has a total number of twenty four (24) councilors. 12 women (2 elected on direct ticket and 10 on affirmative action) and 12 men. The District Chairperson is a male while the Vice Chairperson is female.

The executive committee has 5 members out of which 3 are female and 2 male. Out of the 3 females in the executive, 2 of them are Committee Secretaries. They include: Secretary for Finance and that of Production and Marketing.

#### **Motions raised by the council**

Eleven (11) motions have been moved by Council since the start their 2011 -2016 political term. Some of them include: i) Motion for approval of budget estimates (ii) Indoor spraying of mosquitoes iii) Reclamation of public land The clerk to council could not verify how many were moved by women in particular or those targeting women. However he acknowledged that the motions moved will benefit women as well.



Out of the motions moved, 5 were implemented and are operational. They include;

- i) Approval of Procurement plan.
- ii) Revenue enhancement.
- iii) Budget plan.
- iv) Declaration of cleaning day.
- v) Motion for the approval of public accounts committee.

### **Ordinances / by laws passed.**

Three (3) ordinances have been passed. They are: I) Improvement of Education – academic performance ii) Hygiene and Sanitation aimed at reducing the prevalence of hygiene related diseases, iii) By law on environment – aimed at promoting sustainable use of natural resources

### **5.4 Emerging issues**

- There is no specialization on crops grown and animal husbandry. Therefore a little of everything (yields) are expected at during the harvest season.
- While majority of the farmers would like to adopt modern farming methods, land fragmentation found to be common practice limits mechanization. Most farmers therefore have remained comfortable using the Oxen and ox plough's as the main source of labour.
- Farmers produce much food however they have limited markets for their produce.
- It was established that most of the successful NAADs groups in the district were women groups however they still faced a limitation of access to agricultural information.
- The breakdown of a number of boreholes and drying up of spring wells during dry season including poor drainage in shallow wells during rainy season has led to increases in the number of hygiene related diseases.
- Women's effective participation in politics in the district has been limited by:-
  - High illiteracy levels. For instance in all the 11 Sub counties, only one (1) councilor was found to have studied up to O'Level.
  - High school dropout levels of girls and females has led to powerlessness and vulnerability.





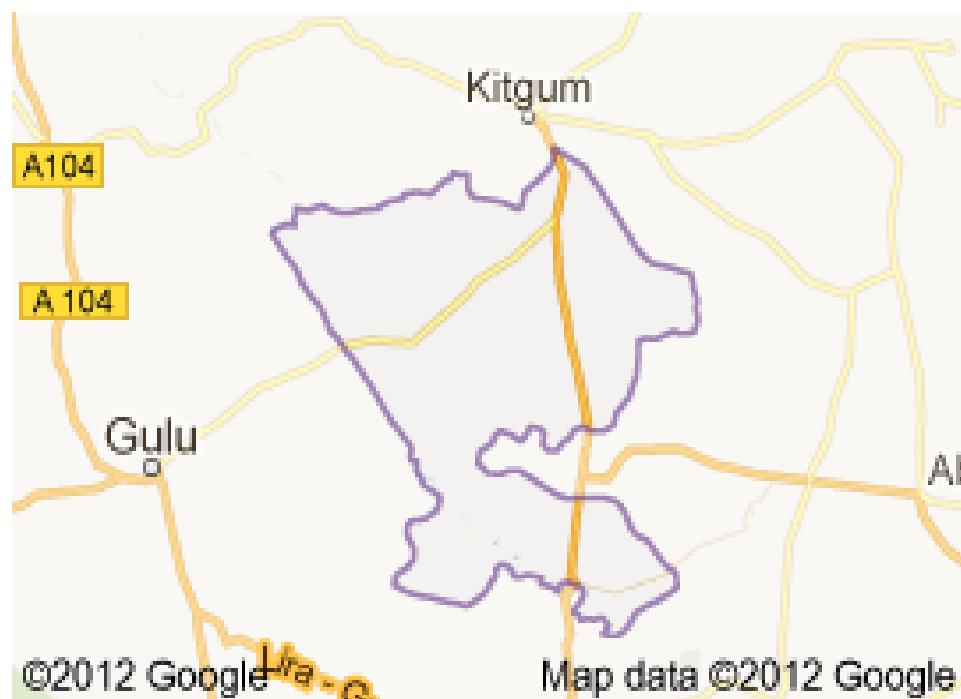
- Divisions / differences amongst fellow women. Some women have been using “Pull Her Down” syndrome to work against fellow women. This was asserted by one female political leader.  
*“Participation in Politics for Dokolo women is still wanting because now there’s division amongst women themselves” – Hon. Abang Molly.*
- Out of the 12 female district councilors, only 4-5 are able to articulate and participate in Council processes. Some women shy away from speaking up after a man has said a word.
- Poor understanding of council process.

### 5.5 Recommendations

- There is need to promote the formation of women groups that would be trained on specialization in agriculture. Weaved into the training would be a topic on value addition and marketing of agricultural products.
- Working with existing Local Government structures such as the Office of Community Development, Production / NAADs and Health department while implementing the project will contribute to the successful implementation of project activities.
- Building the capacity of women in public and political offices in advocacy on women’s rights and gender budgets including training of women who aspire to join politics on council and parliament procedures is key in enhancing their effectiveness in the leadership positions they hold

## C: PADER

### 6.0 PADER



#### 6.1.1 Location, status, administrative divisions and population

Pader District is located in Northern Uganda. The district is bordered by Lamwo district to the northwest, Kitgum district to the northeast, Agago district to the east, Otuke district to the southeast, Lira District to the south, Oyam district to the southwest and Gulu district to the west. The district headquarters at Pader are located approximately 130 kilometers by road, northeast of Gulu, the largest city in the sub-region.

The district is relatively new, having been part of Kitgum District in the past. In December 2001, Aruu County and Agago County were carved out of Kitgum District to form Pader District. The district, along with Amuru District, Agago District, Gulu District, Lamwo District, Nwoya District and Kitgum District, constitutes Acholi sub-region, considered to



be the historical homeland of the Acholi ethnic group estimated at 1.1 million people according to the 2002 national housing and population census.

The district population projection for the year 2010-2012 was 248,900: 125,900 male and 123,000 female (UBOS, 2010 sub national projections). The district has an annual population growth rate of 5% compared to the national population growth rate of 3.2%. The high population growth rate constrains the districts capacity to deliver services. Life expectancy in Pader district is 38.5 and 43.5 years for men and women respectively, compared to the national average of 50years. Infant mortality rate is 165/1000; Child mortality is 279/1000, compared to the national averages of 83/1000 and 279/1000 respectively.

According to the information officer in the education department of Pader, the district has an overall literacy rate of 39.3% with 21.6% men and 18% women being literate. With the introduction of UPE and USE, he said the total enrolment currently stands at 154,949.

## 6.1 ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

The district has 12 sub counties, 52 parishes and 608 villages as summarized in the following table.

**Table 7: Table showing sub counties that make up the district and parishes.**

Sub county	No. Of parishes	No. Of villages
Acholibur	4	57
Latanya	5	58
Atanga	5	57
Angagura	4	35
Awere	4	41
Ogom	4	42
Pader	4	31
Laguti	3	58
Pader T.C	3	30
Pajule	6	86



Puranga	6	54
Lapul	4	59
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>608</b>

Source: DPU Data base, Pader

### 6.1.2 Non-governmental Organizations operating in the district

There are a number of non-governmental organizations operating in Pader district. The influx and existence of these organizations was attributed to the LRA insurgency which left many people homeless while others needed a range of support from food to health care. The following table summarizes the non-governmental organizations in the district and the services they offer to the people of Pader.

**Table 8: Non-governmental organizations operating in Pader district and the services they offer.**

S/N	Name of NGO	Activities
1	NGO Forum	- GBV
2	Medical Teams	- Primary health care in Puranga, Kilak, Atanga with extensions in Ogom Sub county
3	UN WFP	- Food security - Agriculture - Livelihoods(Cassava Value addition)
4	Mercy Corps	- Improved access to food activities - Sanitation and hygiene - Nutrition - Health seeking behaviors
5	CPAR	- Coordination support to food security meetings - Conducting value chain analysis - Trainings(VSLA/ Marketing) - Grants to farmers
6	LWF(Acholibur and Angagura sub counties)	- Nutrition - Livelihood rehabilitation - OVCs livelihood - Energy savings project - Women's bank - Nodding disease
7	International Aids services (Lapul and Laguti sub counties)	- Integrated community development - Empowerment
8	ROCOPACO	- Community mobilization - Awareness creation/Information Disseminations (Drama &Poems, radio Talk



		Shows) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research and baseline surveys</li> <li>- Advocacy</li> <li>- Capacity building services in cross cutting thematic areas</li> <li>- Project/program implementation</li> <li>- Monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>- Reporting</li> <li>- Lobbying</li> </ul>
9	WARCHILD UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Child protection</li> <li>- Paipir primary schools latrines, rights, Education and community</li> <li>- Protection phase 2</li> </ul>
10	LAMP LIGHTERS MINISTRIES LTD(Kilak)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide goats for rearing</li> <li>- Implement agriculture projects</li> <li>- Provide books for secondary scholars</li> <li>- Support outreach programmes</li> <li>- Provide homes for total orphans</li> <li>- School sponsorship</li> <li>- Transport and medicines</li> </ul>
11	Action aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procure and distribute improved seeds to 25 women and 25 youth groups(Maize, simsim, beans and G/nuts)</li> <li>- Procure and distribute oxen for ploughing</li> <li>- Farmer trainings</li> <li>- Construct collective marketing stores</li> <li>- Provide value addition motorized machines for simsim and G/nut paste</li> <li>- Facilitate women and youth representatives to conduct public expenditure tracking</li> </ul>

**Table 9 : Women's access to agricultural education and food security status in Pader District.**

No	Question/Area of assessment	Source of information	Information in Nos.
1	No. of women with skills & knowledge on food security	District NAADS Coordinator	14,942/37029 (40.3%)
2	Number of women receiving agricultural inputs from the NAADS programs	District NAADS Coordinator	55/208 (26.4%) Inputs-local goats, poultry chicks, seeds
3	Number of women model farmers	District NAADS Coordinator	Pader T/C-2/12 Ogom-9/16 Latanya-8/20 Lapul-2/16 Laguti-2/12 Pajule-3/24 Acholibur-3/16 Awere-5/16 Angagura-4/16 Puranga-12/24 Kilak-2/16 Atanga-7/20 TOTAL-55/208
4	Number of women farmer groups in the District	Sub county officers District NAADS coordinator	192
5	Number of women who have been	District NAADS	432



	trained in modern agricultural techniques;	coordinator	
6	Households that are using modern farm technologies	District NAADS Coordinator	9,288
7	No. of women requesting and receiving information from NAADS.	District NAADS Coordinator	14,942
8	No. of households with food storage facilities.	Agricultural officer	87,423 (estimate)
9	No. of households with food storage facilities with food	Production officer	9,467
10	No. of malnourished children cases/incidences in the district	MoH Report	Not established, but estimated at 4/10 (mild malnutrition)
11	Number of hygiene related illness reported.	Health Assistants	5
12	Water adequacy & sanitation. Are there any challenges in the access of water?	Water Officer	yes
13	Distance to the nearest water source	Health Officers	200m

### 6.1.3 Water supply and access

Pader District has 1,442 domestic water points (Bore Hole, Shallow Well, Protected Spring, Rain Water Harvesting Sources, Piped Water System) of which 15 have been non-functional for over 5years and are considered abandoned. The main water supply technology is the deep borehole. The district has 74 piped water systems serving approximately 9 % of the population having access to safe water while 91 % is served by point water sources. Quite a number of piped systems in the former IDP camps are not functional anymore or are redundant. There exists 360 water sources at present and 246 villages don't have safe drinking water. The ratio of access to water is ***1water source: 300people***. There exist water committees which are headed by women. In most cases when women are not the heads they are the Vice Chairpersons. Over 80% of the water committees comprise of women. (*DDP, Pader district 2012*)

### 6.3 Women's participation in politics and public administration

Pader district is one of the districts in the Northern region with the most number of women in leadership positions according to information from the DDP 2012 and the records from the clerk to council registry. The Vice Chairperson to the LC 5, RDC, Gender officer, the district NAADS coordinator, District Health Officer, Education Officer (In charge of special needs), Accountant, Sanitation in charge, Secretary (Community



based services), Deputy speaker and Host of other office attendants are all women. (*Clerk to council records, Pader district*). According to the clerk to council, 2 ordinances in lieu of issues affecting women and girls had so far been passed. They are bye laws on the Prevention of Gender Based Violence and Education of the girl child

**Table 10: Women in politics and public Leadership in Pader district**

Q/N	Area of assessment	Source of information	Information in Nos.
1	Number of women in elected positions of leadership	District LCV District and S/C Chairpersons District and Sub county Women Councilors	10
3	Number of by-laws & ordinances passed in support of women concerns	District Councilors	2
4	Number of interventions implemented by the local government in support of the women's agenda	DCDO	10(NUSAF, FAL, PMTC T, GEM, IRS, PYC, GBV, NAADS, PWD, OVC)
5	Number of motions and petitions raised by women in council	Vice Council Chairperson	More than 5
6	Number of women holding technical and administrative positions in the district & Sub county level.	Asst. Personnel	35
7	Are there any gender sensitive legislation/policies developed and being implemented at the district?	DCDO	Yes

Challenges cited that affect women's participation in politics and public administration include;

- Poor economic background that affects majority of the women leaders and yet politics has become synonymous with credible economic standing.
- Cultural and tradition that limits women's involvement in politics and relegates women's status to domestic work.
- Low levels of education of the women leaders affects their level of engagement on their duties and roles as decision makers and planners.



- Reconciling of triple roles.

#### 6.4 Advocacy issues for Pader

- Findings from the assessment reveal an increased level of land access by the households in the district, though this increase in land access has not translated into increased utilization the land. Factors which limited and will continue to limit levels of land utilization were identified as lack of better methods of land opening and cultivation, reliance on the hand hoe for land opening and limited access to improved seed and planting materials. Also identified during the assessment was the heavy dependence on crop production for both household food consumption and income, this could easily jeopardize the meaning of the high food self-sufficiency figures observed across the entire district.
- There are opportunities for families and households increasing the level of crop production to not only meet their food needs but also become food self-sufficient while earning sufficient household income within a considerably short time period following their resettlement to homes of origin. This will happen if holistic approaches to addressing the major constraints to crop production in the district are adopted. These approaches would include increasing support to the farmers at all the stages in the production cycle and integrating marketing into the production process, expansion of distribution and promotion of the use of better agricultural inputs like seeds, and use of ox ploughs to enable the households utilize more of the land they can access. This would not only help the farmers bridge the gap in accessing better agro inputs but also help increase their output. It is also very necessary to promote the production of livestock besides crops as this would help diversify farmers' sources of income as well improve their nutrition and reduce dependence of relief aid. Promoting the rearing of better livestock breeds like the boar goats and cross breed dairy cattle and better chicken breeds in the district would greatly help improve the farmers' socio-economic status and wellbeing.
- Interventions that will increase the farmer's ability to utilize accessed land are crucial in helping them increase their land utilization levels, food production and self-sufficiency. This is backed by the observed strong positive correlation between land utilization and food self-sufficiency levels. Promotion of ox-traction technology once explored would contribute to achieving this, while introduction of tractor hire schemes at sub-county levels would also help organize farmers in bringing more virgin land into use. Increasing farmers' access to better seed and planting materials through not only continued distribution of improved seed but





also strengthening the supply chain through the local seed dealers and stockiest would be necessary.

- Promoting the planting of high yielding, short maturity period and drought resistant varieties of commercial crops like upland rice, groundnuts, sunflower in the region will help the farmers to not only diversify their income sources but also improve the food self sufficiency levels in that the sale of crops meant for home consumption will be greatly reduced.
- Promoting the practice of better post-harvest handling (produce processing, preservation and storage) and marketing need to be prioritized in the interventions planned by the agencies doing agricultural and food security related activities and projects within the sub-region. It would be meaningless to promote increased crop production without simultaneously helping the farmers on how to manage the surplus produce. Farmer education on product storage, processing, preservation and marketing need to be encouraged or stepped up. This will help solve the problems of low prices farmers get when they hurriedly rush to sell their produce at harvest time because of lacking proper storage facilities.

## 7.0 General observations

The following issues affecting women's political participation and economic development were observed to cut across all districts visited.

- Women's political participation is limited and restricted by a range of factors including cultural stereo type's, conflicts amongst women themselves and illiteracy which in turn leads to low self-esteem and confidence of the women thereby hampering their ability to effectively deliberate on issues.
- Households have devised other means of storage of food other than granaries. This has been attributed to insecurity in particular theft in which food previously stored in outside granaries would be stolen in the night. Over 80% of the households in all the districts visited had resorted to keeping/storing food within their residential houses
- Household food security is a problem. Although NAADS and other non-governmental organizations are in existence in all district visited, incidences of food scarcity and malnutrition still prevail.



- Women contribute over 70% to the agricultural production in the districts. However limited access to information and small markets limited their ability to gain more from this economic activity.
- While all districts had a number of water sources. Almost 45% were found to be non-functional. This creates a situation of water scarcity and subsequently increases the likelihood of the occurrence of hygiene and sanitation related diseases.

## References

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3. UBOS 2012
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