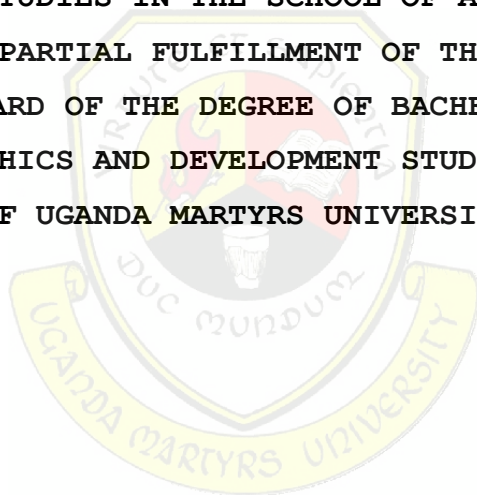


**COMMUNAL CONFLICT AND FOOD SECURITY IN ABIM SUB COUNTY**

**A CASE STUDY OF ABIM SUB COUNTY**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ETHICS AND  
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES IN THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT  
FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS  
(ETHICS AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES)  
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## **DEDICATION**

To my loved and most beloved parents Mr. Owilli John Bosco Amigos and Awor Cecilia for their various supports towards my academic achievement, your wisdom has been counted beneficial towards my academic life. My dear brothers Ongom David, Ochen Jimmy and Ojwok James I appreciate your encouragement and advice which proved your love and care to me, thank you all in your endeavours.

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Am also grateful to my parents for their support and rendering me the time I have spent in ensuring that I finally come up with this work. Your support made who I am today and it is because of your love for me that am able to reach this height. May the advice and mentoring you render not only stop within your family but also spread to other people who will be blessed to hear and learn from your parental advice, God bless you so much.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

ASTU	Anti-Stock Theft Unit
CAFH	Community Action For Health
CFSVA	Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organizations
LDU	Local Defense Unit
MONUSCO	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UPDF	Uganda Peoples Defense Force
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WFS	World Food Summit

## **ABSTRACT**

The study looked at communal conflict and food security in Abim Sub County, Abim District. The study mainly used a case study research design to fully exploit why and how small arms possessed hinder food production, availability and accessibility and to report findings from first hand experiences and through conversations, qualitative study approach was used. The study therefore fully explored the reasons for small arms possession that hinder physical food availability, how small arms possessed has hindered food availability and how cattle raiding/rustling has hindered food accessibility in Abim Sub County. The research findings therefore showed that a number of reasons stood out that made the possession of arms inevitable and among which included need to acquire more wealth, the struggle for the scarce resources, pride associated with the possession of arms, need to raid among others. The second objective of the research study showed that the possession of small arms has made the perpetrators to rape, steal and raid the oxen used for ploughing and others showing how all these has affected food production, availability and accessibility hence food insecurity. It has therefore been concluded that communal conflict is real and the reasons presented by the finding and the others pointed by other authors stand out as fuel in accelerating communal conflict and therefore negatively impacting on food security hence a number of recommendations suggested by the researcher have to be put in place so as to food security and peace which has for long been un answered put right for the peoples' good.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

In all aspects of life, there is need for a peaceful co-existence with one another such that whatever one does of economic, social, and environmental nature is done for the betterment, improvement and sustenance of people's lives. This study therefore, attempts to explore the reasons for communal conflict that affects food security. The main aim of the study is to examine and show how communal conflict hinders food security. The use of small arms possessed especially by Jie community to the people of Abim Sub County and looking into the problems posed to food security and the possible solution to the problems encountered so as to ensure food available and accessed through food production.

#### **1.1 Background of the study**

Communal conflict can be defined as a clash which happens between two or more communities that neither targets nor involves the state. These kinds of conflicts are not constant campaigns like armed conflicts. Sometimes these conflicts involves an ethnic group of people, examples of these kind of conflict include: frequent clashes between Fulani Muslims and Tarok Christians in the city of Jos, Nigeria, which killed at least 2,350 people between 2001 and 2011 and violence between herders in the Karamoja cluster, East Africa (USAID 2011). These conflicts have dated back since the colonial period where these areas involved received less attention historically because they did not fit clearly into the state-centric security standard. Human security has been threatened by communal conflict and often occurs in countries experiencing protracted crises, adding that there is need for interventions by the international community in difficult

situations is paramount. For instance, the Ituri conflict between the Hema and Lendu communities in the DRC may have claimed over 11,000 lives between 1999 and 2003 and internally displaced several hundred thousand more, eventually becoming one of the primary focuses of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) (Salehyan et al. 2012). Communal conflicts can escalate to civil conflict, as in Darfur, when the government is perceived to be supporting, tactfully or otherwise, one communal group at the expense of the other (Kahl 2006).

Communal conflicts are mostly pronounced in areas where resources like land and water are scarce, these include the arid and semi-arid regions of the Sahel, as well as Kenya, Nigeria, and in Uganda, it is among the Karimojong of north eastern part of the country. Continuous weather changes and droughts in the Sahel, which has been viewed for a long time as one of the persistent feature of the region that have become more intense and frequent since the 1960s (Raleigh, 2010), have undermined cooperative relationships between pastoralists - who migrate with their herds in search of water and pasture and sedentary farmers, as pastoralist encroachments on farmlands have increasingly hindered food production for food security. This is because herding activities occur in marginal lands, where conflicts often take place against the background of constant food insecurity and are accelerated by poverty and political exclusion (Zang, 2003). Communal conflicts are also common in areas with high population densities yet creating more strain even on productive, fertile lands, such as in the cases of Burundi, the DRC, and Rwanda. However, evidence for the effects of transient climatic shocks is mixed. While some studies find that conflict is more prevalent in times of relative food insecurity, "When there is food, there is no cattle raiding", quoted in (Theisen), it is also found out that communal

conflict is more evidenced in times of relative abundance, or that the relationship is rounded, with conflict more prevalent during periods of both relative insecurity and abundance (Hendrix and Salehyan 2012). These findings are mixed, but suggest that inter-temporal changes in access to food exert some effect on the outbreak of these conflicts, and periods of very abundant rainfall and periods of drought are marked by increases in episodic communal conflict. More research on the specific impacts of food insecurity on communal conflict is needed.

Abim Sub County is a remote and semi-arid area characterized by highly uneven rainfall, pastoral and agro pastoral livelihood, minimal economic development and perpetual security threats making food production and food security unattainable in the area. Karamoja has seen a series of disarmament initiatives since the early twentieth century but has benefited from few parallel or sustained efforts at economic or infrastructure development among which food security which becomes unattainable leading to food insecurity (Bevan 2008). As such, Abim Sub County which is found in Abim district and Karamoja region has encountered communal conflict from the Jie raiding community hence hindering food production because of the small arms possessed and the killing of people in their gardens.

## **1.2 Problem statement**

Abim Sub County has been one of the sub counties in Abim district that has experience communal conflict especially from the cattle keeping communities of Jie, Dodoth, Matheniko and Bokora. These communities have conflicted among themselves and with the neighboring districts of Abim, Soroti, Pader and Agago especially through raiding their cattle, goats and sheep. This was so because of the proliferation of small arms, no productive fertile land, changes in access to food due to

drought and famine, pride in raiding (Kingma et al, 2012) For a long time the people of Abim and other neighboring districts complained to the government for peace due to the problems they encountered among which included food shortages (Apollo, 2007). Communal conflict therefore called for series of disarmament in Karamoja. However, continuous attacks on the people of Abim even after disarmament was carried out in Karamoja poses great threat to food insecurity in Abim district calling for the attention of organizations like World Food Programme (WFP Report, 2013) and World Vision in trying to provide for these people but still not enough since malnutrition has become more pronounced among the young children and the old alike. Insecurity is pronounced and affects all aspects of life for generations and is perpetrated by male civilians, often with the support of their families and communities. However no clear literature has existed to show the problem but only other aspects of communal conflict like cattle raiding and rustling has been identified yet this is what has increased food insecurity in Abim Sub County and Abim district as a whole though other factors in terms of climate of the area is to blame also. It is therefore on this basis that the researcher intends to carry out a research on the contribution of communal conflict in promoting food insecurity in Abim Sub County, Abim district.

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

#### **1.3.1 General objective**

To establish the reasons why and how conflicts affects food security in Abim Sub County, Abim district.

#### **1.3.2 Specific objectives**

1. To examine reasons why small arms possession has hindered food production among the people of Abim Sub County, Abim district.

2. To establish how small arms possession has hindered food availability in Abim Sub County, Abim district.

3. To establish how cattle raiding has affected food accessibility in Abim Sub County, Abim district.

#### **1.4 Research questions**

1. What are some of the reasons for small arms possession that hinder physical food availability in Abim Sub County, Abim District?

2. How has small arms possession hindered physical food availability in Abim Sub County, Abim District?

3. How has cattle raiding affected food accessibility in Abim Sub County, Abim district?

#### **1.5 Scope of the study**

##### **1.5.1 Conceptual scope**

The study was mainly focused on the reasons why and how communal conflict has persisted in promoting food insecurity in Abim district putting into consideration a number of factors that have led to food insecurity including climatic conditions, the poor attitude towards garden work, selling of the little harvested crops and the poor storage facilities the people have. The study will also take into consideration the endeavors of different Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) like World Food Programme (WFP), World Vision, and Community Action for Health (CAFH) in ensuring food security so as to have food security and improve on the health of the people.

##### **1.5.2 Geographical scope**

The study was conducted in Abim Sub County, Abim district. The district is located in the north eastern part of Uganda, Karamoja, bordered by Kotido district in the north, Pader in

the west, Lira in the south and Soroti in the east. Abim Sub County is located in Labwor County and its sub counties are Abim, Alerek, Morulem, Lotuke and Nyakwae. The Sub County has got five (5) parishes. The population size of Abim Sub County is 204,792 (Report, 2013 population office, Abim district) which population is sparse.

### **1.5.3 Time scope**

This data collected was in respect of the last three years 2013-2016. This period was chosen by the researcher because it was determined relevant for its purpose and given the use of small arms as the predominant weapon in accelerating communal conflict leading to destruction of lives, raiding, and hindering food production that determines food availability, stock, nutritional content and others hence food insecurity.

### **1.6 Significance of the study**

It is important to recognize and realize the contribution of communal conflict in undermining food security. Whether communal conflict can escalate food insecurity or the conflict has been over exaggerated to present the situation of food insecurity in Abim Sub County. The study will focus on why and how communal conflict has been carried out that has hindered food security, the problems encountered in ensuring food security and the possible solutions to food insecurity.

This study will help a number of stakeholders in finding lasting solutions to the problems brought about by the possession of small arms leading to interruption of the food production process hence food insecurity. This is because the major problems have been identified and not only will the stated solutions be dwelt upon to end the problem.



Furthermore, the study will enable the government to focus on the major causes of insecurity and ignite the functions of the government in all its forms and therefore arrive at best ways to tackle the problems. The government with its ability will be able to reach the households in order to avert the problems they encounter in this communal conflict.

Lastly the study will help the households to revise the other causes of food insecurity so that not only possession of arms is blamed for causing food insecurity in the area.

### **1.7 Justification of the study**

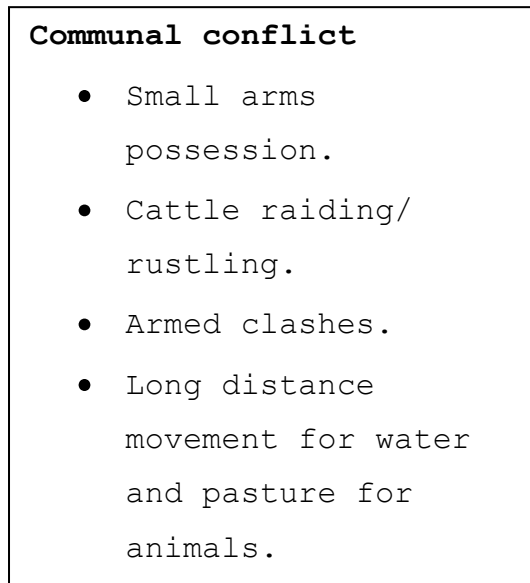
Communal conflict has for a long time been the major cause of food insecurity in Abim Sub County since the food production process has been interrupted by the cattle raiding communities. Karamoja and Abim Sub County faced most of the problems as a result which made food production to ensure food availability, accessibility among others so hard to attain. Its upon this reason that a number of stakeholders have tried to find lasting solutions to the problem but these has persisted for so long though their efforts cannot be undermined. Therefore through in-depth study of the phenomenon using the objectives of the study hence this study will help different stakeholders to make informed decision as far as communal conflict and food security is concerned.

## **1.8 Conceptual framework**

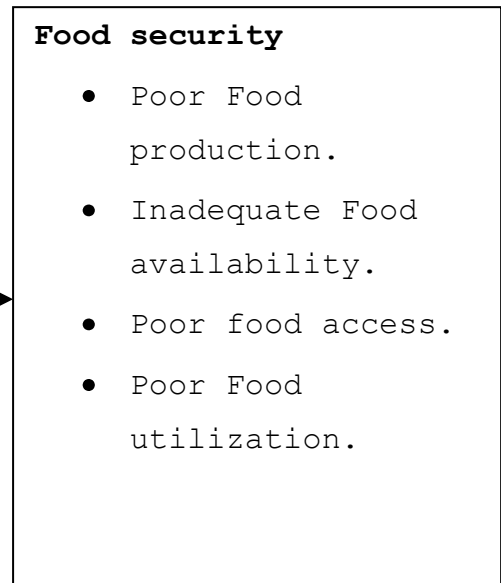
A conceptual framework is a representation, either graphical or in a narrative form, of the main concepts or variables and their presumed relationship with each other (Punch, 2014). The conceptual framework therefore is a guide to the researcher to achieve the set objectives of the study. According to the illustration, small arms possessed hinder food production by causing fear among the people since the warriors who have these arms use it mercilessly on the people they come across and these happens much in the gardens where a greater number of people are killed. So as a result, cattle raiding and armed clashes hinder food availability and access since people end up tilling only nearby gardens which are no longer fertile and end up harvesting little because of ambushes put by the raiders on the way to various gardens. Still, the movement of the pastoralists hinders food availability, access and utilization in that, the pastoralists during their movements end up grazing on these farmlands even when people have not harvested most of their produce and they also steal (loot) and kill to acquire some hence destroying crops. However, the intervening variable shows other factor which has led to communal conflict hindering food security as poor attitude to work experienced by majorly raiders who make ends meet by threatening and killing in order to acquire food, life style of cattle keeping which calls for their protection by use of guns from raiding though these guns have been misused on other communities hence food production, availability, access and utilization affected negatively and therefore food insecurity results.

**Figure 1: The relationship between communal conflict and food security**

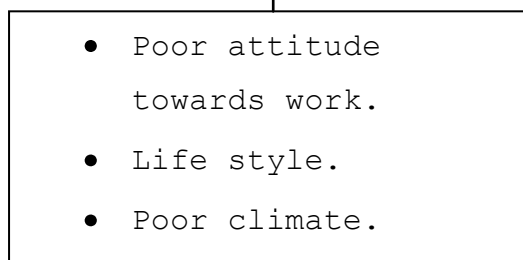
**Dependent variables**



**Independent variables**



**Intervening variables**



**1.9 Conclusion**

It can therefore be noted from the above that, communal conflict has various reasons which impact much on food security and progress in development as a whole. Communal conflict given the various reasons hinder food production, availability, access, and nutritional content hence a threat to food security since people do not have enough time to engage in farming activities other than attending insecurity problems. Therefore communal conflict has to be checked and prevented so as to have time to engage in food production hence healthy population as the objectives of the study puts.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the assessment of/and reviewing relevant literature to help in the understanding of communal conflict which has been presented and accelerated by small arms possession, cattle raiding, armed clashes and long distance movement for water and pasture for the cattle which have hindered food security in Abim Sub County, Abim district in the forms of food production, availability, access and utilization. In this section, the main purpose is to review issues related to communal conflict and food security that has been investigated by other researchers in order to gain more insights into the subject under the study and avoid duplications of efforts in the same area of study.

#### **2.1 Communal conflict**

Communal conflict has existed in Uganda among the Karamojongs of North Eastern part of the country. The Karamojongs are the cattle keepers/pastoralists in Uganda. Communal conflict has been defined as conflict between non-state groups that are organized along a shared communal identity. According to Brinkman (2010), communal conflict is conflict that involves groups with permanent or semi permanent armed militias that does not involve the government. Communal conflict is said to escalate into civil conflict especially when the government decides to support one community against the other and this can be by providing arms to one group or providing other forms of support (Schomerus and Allen 2010). As such Karamoja of Uganda has not been the only region experiencing communal conflict as clashes between the Fulani Muslims and Tarok Christians of Nigeria and Ituri conflict between the Hema and

Lendu communities in the D.R.C present the existence of communal conflict in Africa, (Salehyan et al, 2012).

Communal conflict has presented a number of reasons differently according to different countries that have experienced it. According to Brinkman and Hendrix (2010), communal conflict is caused by resources like land and water. The herders' communities or pastoralists do move long distances looking for water and pasture for their animals due to prolonged drought and in the process interfere with the farmers and therefore conflict begins, this has been the case in Karamoja and the other reason is the need for power or dominion over another community for instance the Fulani Muslims and Tarok Christians of Nigeria. Communal conflict is said to occur in politically marginalized areas which are far from capital, a reason why Karamoja is not developed, (Releigh, 2010). Karamoja has been one of the underdeveloped regions in Uganda because of the conflict experienced and its distance away from the central region such that only military support to stop the conflict from spreading to other regions were provided hence the saying, "We shall never wait for Karamoja to develop". In many cases, areas that experience communal conflict are less developed.

According to Kingma et al, (2012), communal conflict has been accelerated by small arms possession. These arms in Karamoja have been acquired through the porous borders of Kenya and South Sudan and others have also acquired these weapons by joining the military and later quitting but escape with these guns. Armed clashes between communities as well present the communal conflict and these has been accelerated by cattle raiding/ rustling carried out between the cattle keeping communities. The scarce resources like water and grazing land as well has been another reason for communal conflict in that, the herders and sedentary farmer communities due to long

lasting droughts have clashed as the herders go grazing in the farm lands.

## **2.2 Food security**

Food security refers to existing when all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life (World food summit of 1996). It also include physical and economic access to food that meets peoples dietary needs as well as their food preference basing on the three pillars of food availability, food access and food use and this works best with the knowledge of basic nutrition (Botumroath, 2011).

According to Maxwell and Franken, (1992), when people at all times have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food, food security is said to exist but when there is inadequate food or when accessing food is difficult, poorly utilizing it, and with poor nutritional content, food insecurity becomes pronounced. However, for security to be attained, food production becomes the determinant (SAFERWORLD, 2012). This is because food production ensures food availability, stock, accessibility and its utilization such that, when food production is low, stock becomes low and therefore inaccessible and not utilized and as such, food insecurity becomes the end result.

The three pillars of food security include food availability, food accessibility and food consumption or utilization. Food availability is accelerated by food production such that adequate rain fall, agricultural inputs such as improved seeds, labour, good farming methods will improve the yields of food. When much food is produced and stocked, it becomes accessible in that, people will have what to eat and those that do not have can buy cheaply from those who have them. As a result of food accessibility, consumption or utilization is

enhanced since people have what to eat and these must be nutritious so that the body utilizes it better. When those aspects are considered, food security is achieved but even when food is available but not accessible, with no nutritional content and poorly utilized, food insecurity is the end result.

In Karamoja, food security has been difficult to attain because of the communal conflict that has existed since colonial time (Bevan, 2008). This has also been extended to communities that receive minimal rainfall as drought has been one of the hindering factors to food production and food security. Malnutrition has been presented as a result of food insecurity in Karamoja as these people have valued much the cattle to provide for everything in food they need hence the nutritional content missing in such food. The Sub County of Abim has suffered food insecurity due to the ability of the raiding warrior communities with small arms to kill people in their gardens and ambush the trucks that carry food to this place for sale hence causing panic and fear to people to produce or sell these produce in times of plenty to Abim.

### **2.3 Arms possession and food security**

Most communities have presented the reasons why communal conflicts carried out or persist and among which was the continued cross border attacks. An example was cited from the July 2011 attack which was an alliance between the Matheniko of Uganda with the Turkana of Kenya against the Tepeth of Uganda and raiding over 2000 herds of cattle and other livestock. Hundreds of warrior participants were believed to have taken part and the fear for revenge on the Matheniko by the alliance of the Tepeth and the Pokot of Uganda was too much (Kingma et.al, 2012). As a result, these cycles of attacks or violence continue even to areas that did not participate in the attack as the attacked would revenge for

the recovery of the lost cattle and other livestock. Given this reason, Abim Sub County is affected in that, the Tepeth, Matheniko, Jie and Pokot in a bid to recover their cattle would go raiding in Abim Sub County and Abim district as a whole though they did not participate in cattle raiding and in the process, people are attacked most especially from their gardens, on their way to the gardens and also from their own homes. This conflict has been fuelled by small arms available. As a result, people are hindered from carrying out farming activities hence production reduces as inter ethnic conflict remains a strong threat to people's lives, property and livelihoods hence food insecurity in Abim Sub County.

Another reason for small arms possession that has led to food insecurity in Abim Sub County has been presented as the continued supply of arms or weapons through the porous borders. According to SAFERWORLD (2012), South Sudan and Kenya have been identified as the major sources of cheap fire arms and ammunitions making it easier for some communities to re-arm and at the same time evade disarmament process. As a result, the Jie, Matheniko, Tepeth, Pokot but most especially the Jie are able to acquire these arms and engage in cattle raiding yet end up disrupting the people of Abim Sub County from carrying out food production from their farm lands to ensure food availability hence food insecurity as these people fear for their lives.

As communal conflict increase, the UPDF and the police are deployed in the areas experiencing it. However, the deployment of the police's Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU) which operates jointly with the UPDF to deal with cattle raids have been registered to be low in number to deal with the large region. According to SAFERWORLD (2012), the police and the UPDF have been present across the whole region and their inadequate resources and ability has made the communities to express



considerable doubt about their ability to prevent or react to accidental raids or even recover stolen cattle. Some groups who were disarmed and then raided by their neighbors rearmed for their own protection. For example Abim and Labwor as a whole and the Pian home guards were directly rearmed by the government after uneven patterns of disarmament left them vulnerable to raids. Brinkman and Hendrix (2011) adds that, the central government initially established local defense units (LDUs) in Karamoja, and in neighboring regions, as part of the disarmament program to provide security against raiding. Most of the LDUs were never clearly put under police or military supervision. In trying to take up the role of the police to provide for security, the raiding communities also get access to these arms which accelerate communal conflict spreading to the neighbors in Abim Sub County hence hindering food production and therefore food availability.

Another reason for small arms possession that has hindered food production and availability in Abim Sub County is intensified competition over scarce resources like enough grazing land and sustainable water sources between groups, especially the Jie, Matheniko, Pokot, Tepeth and others, all with access to arms. These has been intensified by the absence of alternative support to pastoralists' livelihoods and more so for their livestock such that they keep moving to the nearby areas for available resources for their livestock hence causing instability in areas they move by killing and ambushing the farmers. This scenario has left many people in Abim Sub County in fear and most of them end up avoiding farming long distances yet most of their farm lands are situated miles away from homes hence hindering food availability as this is achieved through food production.

#### **2.4 How small arms possessed has hindered physical food availability**

Given the reasons presented for small arms possession that hinder food production, it is stated that resulting instability can exacerbate food insecurity by causing hoarding and panic in the production of food which affects availability, food stock and consumption or utilization. Brinkman and Hendrix (2011) explain that the arms possessed by the warrior community the Jie and others has caused panic and fear among the people of Abim Sub County and its neighbourhood making it difficult to carry out farming activities since many people are killed during the raiding process. This has been in a way that, as the warriors go raiding from the neighbourhood and on their way either to or from the raid, they meet some people who would be going to their farm lands or even coming back and most of them are killed. Because of the killing and threats received, people therefore engage in a very reluctant way to farming activities and the result is little food produced hence food availability at all times and right quantity is affected.

Many authors argue that conflict is more prevalent during the times of shortages (Theisen, 2012). This has been as a result of the few people with the ability to carry out farming activities being threatened causing fear and panic among them and these are the people of Abim Sub County since their areas are not so much affected by weather changes meaning that they can carry out farming activities. However, the people of Abim Sub County still experience killing which means that food production will be low but the Jie people still come to work on their farms and would want food in return for their services rendered. As a result, those warrior communities that fail to acquire will go fighting in need of food and therefore

the cycle continues hence security is affected and hunger results.

The fact that Men are the significant figures involved in cattle raids for the warrior communities of Jie, Tepeth, Pokot and matheniko, these exposes them to counter attacks by the UPDF and other armed men put to safe guard the cattle. However, most of the warriors have succeeded in killing some of these police and the UPDF soldiers and as a result they have taken their guns which they have used to attack, ambush, kill and raid weaker communities. This still creates fear in people who move long distances to their gardens to carry out farming which is the engine for food production, and availability and therefore food security hindered.

Most men especially warriors of Jie lack educational access as they associate with participation in communal conflict. This has made them in position to acquire arms through getting engaged in arms buying and selling to others who stay back at home, (Raleigh, 2010). Through getting engaged in the trade of small arms, most people are equipped with arms which make it easy for these warriors to fully participate in cattle raiding and at the same time ambushing people on the way. This has still led to increased killing and destruction of property for the people of Abim Sub County creating fear and panic to the people who carry out small scale agriculture in Abim Sub County and district as a whole hence hindering food availability which is determined by food production.

Benefits associated with participation in conflict by the warriors have made them continue accessing arms. Most of these warriors gain in their areas of jurisdictions have gained fame, accumulated wealth, won favour from their elders and women as well. As such, the others who would not feel like getting involved in such business are looked at as cowards and not given honor and respect in their community (Bevan 2008).

This gives morale then to the young ones and the youth to also acquire arms and participate in cattle raiding since elders perform some rituals which assure them of protection. This has presented the most accelerating factor for raiding Abim Sub County and the neighbourhood. Another thing connected with raids is ritual that has threatened people's lives causing panic and fear among the people of Abim Sub County was by then the need for sacrifice and especially humans were taken to be the best. People would not move long distances as they would be caught hence a number of them prefer staying at home than being got for sacrifice since most of them had farm lands miles away from their homes hence food production for the sustenance of life become little and negligible hence affecting food availability and access.

Another way that presents how arms though few these days in the hand of the warriors' communities have accelerated food insecurity in Abim Sub County is high expectation that the Jie, Bokora, Matheniko, and Pokot after disarmament will benefit from the increased government focus on Karamoja region, but they also explained that those who receive such benefits are often factors in conflicts between and within communities, (Kniveton 2012). This has been so due to a number of phases of disarmament that took place in the whole of Karamoja living a big number of the warriors with no other alternative. As most of them have been deprived of the guns and find life more difficult, they start re-arming themselves illegally so as to acquire the basics of life since what the government provides is not enough and in most cases end up in the hands of a few wealthy persons instead. This has made the warriors to re-start the raiding as they engage in communal conflict with a number of communities hence causing fear and panic to those who engage in farming activities hence hindering food production, availability and access in Abim Sub County.

## **2.5 How cattle raiding/rustling has affected food accessibility**

According to Mkutu (2003), cattle raids has been presented as the customary activity of pastoral communities in the rift valley region of East Africa. He further states that, cattle raiding were traditionally an in-built cultural tendency and an economical coping strategy usually regulated by elders. The fact that cattle raiding was and is still done for purpose of brevity, wealth accumulation, fame, paying bride price and used as compensation for those who lose their cattle to others or diseases, this stemmed from the cultural point of view and supported by elders of the warrior communities. These negatively affects food access in that, most during raiding, the warrior communities especially those armed use the same opportunity to loot. As a result, many people (Abim Sub County) due to fear fail to get the little remaining and they as well are stripped off the little they have, given the fear and panic for being killed by the warriors hence making food inaccessible and therefore food insecurity results.

In circumstances where food production has failed completely or carried out in small scale, food relief is given to people depending on hunger severity. However, personnel responsible for food distribution often have been attacked by the cattle raiders through road ambushing meaning that food relief will not reach the intended people, (Kingma et al, 2010). As a result, the people (Abim Sub County) are left to starve and struggle on their own but still suffer being killed in their attempt to acquire food hence food accessibility becomes affected negatively.

Raiders during the course of long distance movement in search of water and pasture which they say is unequally distributed between ethnic groups has resulted or made them end up stealing/looting people's stocked food produce and in most

cases they destroy the food crops that still remain unharvested in the gardens since some take long to mature for harvesting by letting their cattle consume and destroy by stepping on them hence the little that was available is therefore destroyed leading to food inaccessibility and as a result, food insecurity becomes pronounced.

Brinkman and Hendrix (2010) argue that people have always been attacked when carrying food relief home from the distribution sites. This is because of food insecurity as a result of the conflict between the warriors and the people of Abim Sub County and in trying to recover for the raided cattle, people who could be coming back from their gardens carrying harvested produce are attacked too and whatever they have harvested is taken. Others become fearful to carry on with the remaining harvest since they too will be killed when found. Accessing food through the relief given and harvest from gardens has made people face attacks hence negatively affecting food security in Abim Sub County, Abim District.

Another way that presents how cattle's raiding has affected food access in Abim Sub County is through ambushes and attacks on Lorries or trucks that bring food to Abim for sale and many have been killed and looted greatly. People from Pader, Soroti, Lira and Patongo who are the potential suppliers of food to the people of Abim Sub County and Abim district as a whole through selling their produce have experienced ambushes and attacks from the cattle raiders on their way to Abim. This has created fear to the sellers or suppliers such that even when there is hunger due to other causes like weather, no supply is available to the people though they also endeavour to get money to acquire or access food for their survival hence negatively affecting food accessibility and therefore food security becomes inevitable.

The fact that cattle still in Abim Sub County and Abim district as a whole are used to plough gardens, raiding them or stealing them makes food access very difficult since only a few will endeavour to produce. These has also been manifested in that, a person who owns livestock is capable of selling some and acquire food by buying when he/she does not have but cattle raiding deprives people of owning livestock that will help them achieve food access since recovering those livestock is not even dreamt of hence food security too becomes negatively affected.

## **2.5 Conclusion**

The various reasons for small arms possession have made food production and availability difficult to attain since people fear for their lives and panic carry them off. The only way this can be addressed is by putting strategies that look into the real issues or problems the cattle raiding communities face that make them engage in communal conflict through raiding and other ways. This will help save the rest of the people of Abim Sub County and Abim district.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the Methods used by the researcher to carry out the research study from which the information was obtained. It includes the research design used, area of the study, the study population, sample procedures, sample techniques, sample size, data processing and analysis, ethical considerations and limitations and delimitations of the study.

#### **3.1 Research design**

According to this study, the researcher used a case study research design to fully exploit and find out why and how communal conflict affected/hindered food security in Abim Sub County. This is because a case study approach allows the researcher to do an intensive and in-depth investigation in order to come out with the real context of the phenomenon. Abim Sub County was used as a case study because for a long time it suffered attacks by the warrior communities of Jie, Matheniko, Dodoth and Bokora and this negatively impacted on food production which is a major determinant of food security thus, a case study is essentially an investigation of a particular unit under consideration and because it places more emphasis on the full analysis of limited numbers of events or conditions and their interrelations in the study.

The study also applied qualitative approach because it aims at truthfully reporting the findings from first hand experiences and through conversations. As the study aimed at finding out why and how communal conflict hinders food security, the qualitative approach is used to verify the situation and to explore beyond the statistical data obtained and reported in quantitative approach, thus it was descriptive in nature and



sought from the study participants on how and why small arms possession hinder food production, a determinant of food security in Abim Sub County.

### **3.2 Area of the study**

The study was conducted in Abim Sub County, Abim District, and Karamoja sub-region. The researcher took interest in this area because the area has been strategically located for the cattle raiding community and they have easily accessed and raided the cattle such that many people suffered torture, panic, capture for sacrifice, killing of men and women in their gardens and ambushing them on their way to the far gardens. Raiding of cattle has been on the increase and almost on a weekly basis. This area has been vulnerable and fallen prey to the cattle raiding communities of Jie, Dodoth, Matheniko and Bokora thereby interesting for the study. Abim Sub County therefore is bordered by Alerek Sub County in the North East, Nyakwae in the South West, Morulem in the south and Lotuke Sub County in the south. Abim Sub County is one of the five sub counties in Abim district.

### **3.3 Study population**

In this study, samples of respondents were taken from Abim Sub County and interviewed. The respondents in this case comprised of farmers who are directly faced with the conflict, some of the selected community members of Abim Sub County who face the same problems as a result of the conflict and the warriors themselves who have perpetuated communal conflict hence food insecurity in Abim Sub County. Households also have been taken but in this case they are merged with the general community members. This study population is in such a way that the people having experience and knowledge for the existence of the conflict and how the conflict has hindered food security are included in the study population.

### 3.4 Sample procedures

The research involved stratified random sampling to ensure that each stratum is separately involved to allow a smaller sample size for precision to be realized since time resources, effort and cost is reduced. In this case, the farmers were selected and selected community members were interviewed separately. The snowball sampling will be used also and in this sampling procedure a given unit or number of people are sampled and these people then identify more or others to sample or interview and in this case, snowball sampling will be applied to the warrior community. The researcher collected data from the three categories of people from five villages in Abim Sub County. To avoid being bias the researcher out lined eight farmers, ten community members, and seven warriors from the Jie community.

#### 3.4.1 Sample size

Sample is the actual number of respondents that are to be taken for the study to find out information. The target number of respondents is 25 people. These has been categorized according to the population characteristics as follows,

**Table 1: Category and numbers of sampled population**

S/No	CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS	NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS
01	Farmers	08
02	General community members	10
03	Warriors community of Jie	07
	Total	25

#### 3.4.2 Sampling techniques

The researcher employed two types of sampling techniques namely Simple Random sampling technique because the samples yields research data that can be generalized to a larger population of interest and purposive sampling technique also

was used based on the judgment of the researcher that the category of people that was applied had specialized knowledge about communal conflict and food security.

### **3.5 Data collection methods and instruments**

During the collection of data, the researcher used various instruments for instance interview schedule, observation and group discussion. This was applied to the respondents of different categories such as farmers, the general community members and the warriors of Jie raiding community.

#### **3.5.1 Interviews**

According to May (2010), interview is a method of maintaining and generating conversations with people on a specific topic and the interpretation of which social researchers make of the consultant data. He further stresses that interviews yield insights in to people experience, value, attitude and feeling. The researcher here involved respondents who have gained experience and have engaged in communal conflict which has raised concern especially when food insecurity raised concern among a number of people as a result of the conflict.

#### **3.5.2 Focused group discussion**

This constitute a valuable tool of investigation allowing the researcher to group norms and dynamics around issues and topics they wish to investigate, May (2010). The researcher formed groups of respondents and assign them to different discussion groups. This specifically targeted the community members since it generates relevant and first hand information.

### **3.5.3 Observation**

This involved listening, looking, general experience and writing it all down (May 2010). This generally involves moving to the field and observing personally. The researcher here moved to the field and observed how communal conflict has hindered food security. For instance, in January 2015 in Atugo village, Abim Sub County at around 10:30pm, a group of warriors came for cattle raiding to one of the kraal not knowing it had armed men who always them and as a result out of the five warriors who came, one was killed on the spot, two injured and the three escaped the bullets. This was because they needed to accumulate more cattle.

### **3.6 Validity and reliability**

To ensure validity and reliability of the instruments that were used, comparing findings from the different sources will be employed. This also applied to the questions in that they were subjected to testing so that asking of relevant questions is ensured and in the simplest language understood by the respondents. The respondents included those who seriously carried out food crop growing and reared animals were interviewed, the general community still suffered and the warrior community also interviewed by offering the interview guide to them, arranging interview appointments through drawing time table for data collection and questionnaires for the focus group discussion provided. Most of these participants were illiterate but still had information about the study such that truthfulness, and perception was measured to obtain the data.

### **3.7 Data processing and analysis technique**

#### **3.7.1 Data editing**

Checking for errors and omissions will be carried out to ensure accuracy, uniformity and completeness of the final data. This also involves looking into the gaps, errors, incomplete and misinterpreted work.

#### **3.7.2 Data summarizing**

The process involved answer classification into meaningful categories so as to bring out essential and useful information.

#### **3.7.3 Data analysis**

The data collected employed content analysis on narrative analysis to discuss and present the study findings. This is because the narrative analysis involves using interviews, observation, storytelling and real life issues that allow the presentation of the finding. The qualitative approach and its presentation as well was narrative in nature and this was to offer analysis for the stories and interviews and the information from the questionnaires. After collecting data from the field according to the interview guide, and questionnaires, analysis involved comparing the narrative data, and reducing it into tables and presenting of the narrations obtained.

### **3.8 Ethical consideration**

According to Bryman, (2012), while carrying out a research or collecting data, there are several things one can do to try to protect the respondent's privacy. One has to make sure that he or she does not leave the respondents names, phone number or e-mail addresses lying about any where others can see. The researcher kept the privacy and confidentiality to conceal

identities when reporting results. When the subject solicits advice concerning education, extreme caution has to be exercised and if the problem is serious, the appropriate source of professional advice has to be recommended.

To make sure that the data obtained was confidential, the consent of the respondent was sought before asking questions or getting essential documents referencing to the study. Before carrying out the study, the researcher clearly explained to the respondents the purpose of the study and how they will also benefit from the findings. The respondents were assured that their responses and conditions of anonymity would be looked at with utmost confidentiality.

### **3.9 Limitations of the study**

The researcher encountered a number of challenges among which the following cannot be undermined.

The biggest challenge that the researcher faced was disclosure of the information by the warrior community. A number of them feared to share with the researcher their experiences simply because they thought that another disarmament phase was about to happen therefore taking the researcher as a spy. The researcher finally discussed with them the aim of the interview and proving from the researcher's introduction letter then the information was disclosed

Time allocated was not enough given the Sub County being vast. The researcher therefore was able to properly locate time in order to ensure the research work was accomplished.

Above all the research materials from the library presented a big problem to the researcher however, online materials helped achieve the research objectives and the final findings of the research paper.

### **3.10 Conclusion**

The above chapter presented the research design used, area of study, the study population, sampling procedures, sampling size and sample techniques, quality control, data processing and analysis, ethical consideration and limitations of the study.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATIONS, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the research study that is communal conflict and food security. The method used to analyse data or finding obtained from the field is based on content on narrative analysis. This is because narrative analysis rely mainly on the written or spoken words and also takes into consideration visual representation of individual which was applied in data collection and by the fact that narrative analysis encompasses the study of the experiences a single individual embracing stories of life hence enabling data in form of interviews, researcher's and other observation, storytelling to be analyzed.

The analysis presents the reasons for small arms possession that hinder physical food availability as include the need to accumulate more wealth since a number of reasons like payment of bride price would force the warriors to acquire more cattle through raiding of which the guns have to be used. The other is protection of their livestock from other raiders has been presented as the reason for possessing arms that has for long affected the food production process and availability that ensures food security. The study also pointed out that the reason for possessing the arms is because Karamoja was left out of the Uganda's development program hence the need to make ends meet.

How small arms possessed have hindered food availability has been presented as through raiding of the ox-plough that is used for ploughing the gardens, raping of women in gardens, killing of security personnel and destruction of food crops especially when not yet harvested. The study also presents how raiding has affected food accessibility as ambushing and



killing of the truck drivers and looting them when transporting different food varieties to the market for sale hence discouraging the sellers from continuous supply. Destruction of ready to harvest food crops like potatoes, sorghum and others and raping of women discourages them from going to harvest crops from the gardens.

#### 4.1 Participation of the respondents

**Table 2: Category of respondents and the frequency of their participation**

<b>Age of respondents</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Farmers	08	32
Community/households	10	40
Jie warriors	07	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data, 2016*

The table above shows the category of participants/respondents showing that 28% of the warriors participated, 40% households/community members and 32% farmers. The highest participation was presented by the community/households followed by the farmers because they are the people directly faced with the problem and they presented the key informants. 28% of the warriors were able to avail the information but due to fear to fully disclose the information, same hind the information because of fear of anything that might happen later and a number of the kept referring to other people for the information.

**Table 3: Marital status of respondents**

<b>Marital status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
married	18	72
Divorced	02	8
Widowed	05	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data, 2016*

The marital status of the respondents shows that mostly the married had the highest participation rate and this was because they were the affected category of people with the widowed who presented 20% most of whom have been widowed because of the conflict.

**Table 4: Frequency and percentage of gender of the respondents**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Male	17	68
Female	08	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data, 2016*

The gender of the respondents shows the participation rate of the participants with the male taking 68% of the people and female with 32% hence most of the respondents were male.

**Table 5: Frequency and percentage of age of respondents**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
31-40	15	60
41-50	07	28
50 and above	03	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source: Primary data, 2016*

The age of the respondents was in such a way that mostly the experienced and people who for a long time have suffered and

participated in communal conflict and have experienced food insecurity.

#### **4.2 Small arms possession and hindrance to physical food availability in Abim Sub County**

The reasons for small arms possession that hinder physical food availability pointed out food insecurity presence among the study population of Abim Sub County, a situation that make the respondents insecure and malnourished as a result.

##### Accumulation of more wealth

The interviewed respondents pointed out the need to accumulate more wealth as one of the reason for possessing arms with no intention of causing harm to other people. Among the warrior community, wealth in terms of cattle/livestock is a proof that someone is able to influence decision making and generally in any societal under taking since the livestock can be physically seen but to acquire them, one should have guns that can be used to raid others unfortunately the raids has caused instability to the neighbourhood and has hindered food production which assures physical food availability. One of the warriors responded that explained it better in that:

("In the past, we use to buy guns from Kenya because we wanted to be rich just like other people but these guns made some of us so cruel to the extent that they were used wrongly for raiding yet the primary reason was to get wealthy through selling them to those who want them to protect their livestock. By the fact that we bought guns from Kenya, we sold some as another way of getting money not knowing these guns could be misused for killing other people" interview 5.06.2016)

The need to accumulate more wealth according to Brinkman and Hindrix (2011) as one of the reasons for acquiring or possessing small arms that later hinder physical foods availability is in agreement with the respondents' discussion.

These has led to food insecurity in that, when the warriors get the guns they end up using it to raid the neighbours to get more livestock hence depriving them of their ox-ploughs that are used to for ploughing gardens to ensure that food is available hence food security but stealing oxen means food insecurity at the end.

#### Competition over scarce resources

The research finding revealed that competition over scarce resources is one reason that has hindered physical food availability as a result of small arms possession in that, the warriors who are the cattle keeping community have in shortage the resources like water and fresh and constant pasture for their livestock such that in their movement in search of such resources, they acquire guns yet in the long run these guns are used to kill people in their gardens as these warriors try to pave way for their livestock without any opposition from any one as one of the respondents asserted that:

(... way back in December 2000 we took our cows to a place called Otalabar with the aim of feeding them on the abundant fresh pasture but when time came for us to return home, my friend who had a gun without feeling pity for some woman killed the woman's husband who were harvesting potatoes after some 30 minutes quarrel simply because he tried to discourage us from using his garden for routs back to our home and wanted to report the case to SPCs who were 5km away from his garden. This discourages women who witness their husbands' death from even reaching that very garden interview 5.06.2016).

According to SAFERWORLD (2012), the possession of arms was fastened by the need to struggle for the scarce resources because only the neighbors to the warriors have pasture for the period that the warriors have a shortage. Most of them have possessed these arms to have easy access to areas with pasture and as a result misused them to destabilize the food

production process leading to food insecurity as physical availability is made difficult to achieve. This is in line with the interview with some respondents hence in agreement with SAFERWORLD (2012).

#### Protection of livestock

The research findings show that the majority of the warriors were forced to acquire arms or guns for the purpose of protecting their livestock from other cattle raiding communities. Most of the warriors presented that the UPDF and police could not provide the protection as fast as possible and to guarantee recovery of stolen cattle is not possible at times because some of them do give up tracing the whereabouts of the stolen cattle. According to an interview with some of the warrior youths it was discovered that:

(... for our cattle to be protected, we need guns but they are not easy to get and because the police have no enough time and other resources because of continuous attack from the Bokora, most of us have decided to get it by ourselves. Some of us do join the UPDF, police, ASTU and later disappear with the guns while other buy them but in the end the neighbours are attacked when trying to recover the stolen livestock, something that does not allow them move long distances and reduces their working hours in gardens because of fear interview 5.06.2016).

This is in line with the argument that was put forward by Kingma et.al (2012) that most of the cattle keeping communities have taken up arms in their hands to protect their livestock from other cattle raiders but unfortunately this has disrupted their ability to acquire physical food availability through food production hence food insecurity that has persisted for so long a period of time.

### Cross border attacks

The continuous cross border attacks has been common with the Turkana of Kenya and the Tepeth of Uganda which calls for possession of small arms. As per the focus group discussion with some selected elders from the warrior community in Lomukura village, most of them stated that they came to possess arms because they were continuously attacked by those who were not from Uganda like the Turkana cattle keepers of Kenya. One of them further explained it that:

(... I belong to the Tepeth but when the Turkana people attacked my family because my father owned 93 herds of cattle, the 93 herds of cattle where all raided and it was that very day that i lost my brother due to the attack. This forced us out and now we live here in Lomukura. It was during that time that I encouraged other brothers of mine to take up arms to recover the lost cattle and to avenge for our brother's death but this took a different direction that my brothers could move to areas like Otalabar, Alok-ogiro villages and beyond to recover the lost cattle unfortunately another one was killed also" (interview 19.08.2016)

In most cases, this is true as the researcher one day (19/08/2015) in an observation witnessed the death of some Jie warrior near the kraal where they had come to raid but before the death of the 25 year old warrior because he had just been wounded, he pleaded for his life saying he was not use to raiding but was instructed by his dad that in order for him to continue being in school, he must take up a gun and raid because even for them, the neighbours used to attack them, something that deprived them of their cattle hence economically leaving them poor.

This therefore becomes true and in agreement with Kingma et.al (2012) when he cited the July 2011 attack on the Tepeth which was an alliance between the Matheniko of Uganda and the Turkana of Kenya against the Tepeth, something that make the

acquisition and possession of arms inevitable and continuous raids both cross border and among the locals of Uganda hence attacks too on the innocent in a bid to revenge hence a contributing factor to failure to carry out reasonable food crop growing to enable food availability hence food insecurity.

#### **4.3 Small arms possession and the hinderance of food availability in Abim Sub County, Abim district**

This part deals with how the possession of small arms has hindered food availability meaning that food security has been made difficult in Abim Sub County, Abim district hence responding to the second research objective and question.

##### Destruction of food crops

Most of the respondents who were the selected farmers attributed the hinderance of food availability to small arms possession in that, food crop destruction was experienced just as a result of the warriors' ability to use guns for threatening farmers from their gardens and uproot mainly crops like potatoes, cassava and set fire on crops like millet and sorghum and this is done when these crops are ready for harvesting. As such only little or even sometimes nothing is left at all for harvesting by the farmers. Other farmers when got in the gardens are forced to harvest their produce and give to the warriors and at the point of the gun and therefore in fear for life, the farmers end up surrendering their harvested produce hence food insecurity in the shortest time possible.

##### Raiding of oxen for ploughing

The farmers in Otalabar community experienced a great deal of cattle raiding not sparing the oxen used for plough and at the same time raiding and killing the people who are ploughing as

one of the respondents narrated in an interview in Obul village on the 7/06/2016 as,

(... We were ploughing in our garden when we heard a voice of some crying in his attempt to make an alarm in the nearby garden when he was finally shot dead and the oxen he was using taken away. Most of our gardens are far away from home usually 3 miles away from the home area and when making an alarm for rescue instead the people around or near take off or hide themselves in order to avoid more harm to themselves. This hinder food availability in that people will take little time in the gardens and such far gardens are avoided yet they are the most fertile and productive, that is how raiding of oxen for ploughing as a result of small arms possessed by the warriors hinder food availability interview 7.06.2016).

However, one respondent attributed the failure of rescuing people from such attack to the inadequate number of security personnel when he added that,

(... We use to have limited number of soldiers who could help us follow up the oxen stolen by raiders and because the paramilitaries were not distributed equally in the dangerous areas taken up by the cattle raiders, this made the need and the ability to rescue the people attacked very hard interview 7.06.2016)

Although there is no scholarly writing presented on the raiding of oxen for ploughing as how small arms possession hinder food availability, this has been pointed out by most of the respondents in the interview that was carried out in Atugo village on the 18.07.2016. As a result, most warriors have succeeded in increasing food insecurity not only by raiding peoples' oxen used for ploughing but also killing of people who are got ploughing.



## Raping of women

Most of the household respondents were able to share their experiences as far as raping of women was concerned in an interview I their agreement that, most of our colleagues have fallen victims of this circumstance especially in the gardens and some on the way whether going to the gardens or on their way back home. The 18.07.2016 interview with a woman who openly revealed her story said,

(... I had already built a small hut in my garden which is 3 miles away from home. This happened when I had gone back home to collect some food stuff to sustain me with the garden work, on my way back to the hut I made in the garden, I met a warrior who had a gun and this man told me to lie down but I refused saying I have no land near my home to dig otherwise I could have not been here and I am a widow taking care of orphans, please have mercy and let me go peacefully. In a whisper she said, "He raped me despite my struggle and because he had a gun, I had to give up to him. Since then, I left that garden and now am struggling with these ones near my home though they cannot yield much 18.07.2016).

Some of the respondents added that, we women are somehow lucky because it is on rear occasions when a woman is killed by these warriors but most of them are just raped and left to go though the people killed on sight are men. This explains also why most of us are widows though some women have also been killed and these are the people who resist rape.

Rape cases has been common with women who are the majority people in the food production process in Abim Sub County meaning that when women are made fearful to continue with the food production process through farming, food will not be made available in its different varieties. This makes food security hard to meet and this has been made worst by those who possess arms hence food insecurity that has been witnessed in Abim Sub County for so long now.

### Stealing of food crop produce from the gardens.

Most respondents have pointed out that many times they have heard and experienced the stealing of already harvested food crops. This they said happens when excess is harvested and some left in the garden to be carried home the following day. One of the respondents in an interview on the 19.07.2016 explained it saying, up was made only to find that some warriors who had raided a village called Atugo had taken 20 goats and they were the very people who said,

(... it was in 2005 when I had harvested excess sorghum and left some in the garden so that I could go the following day with some people I requested to help me carry it home only to go and find nothing completely left. That very day a garden in the neighborhood also had its sorghum and millet taken and some burnt. A fellow who carried the harvested sorghum because these were found in some hill called Rwoth where 3 goats were slaughtered and sorghum left may it was heavy to carry interview 19.07.2016).

It is therefore taken from this finding that majority agreed that stealing food from the gardens and also from granaries being the major storage facilities at home is common since a number of these armed warriors come at night time to rob such that while others are robbing or looting people's granaries, others are busy guarding for those coming to chase them away. One of the respondents in Obul village expanded this in that,

(... It was around 10:30pm when the armed warriors surrounded my home and at that time, my husband had just reported back home from the drinking place and he was completely drunk that it made me think he was dead. So when these armed warriors came, they heard the goat I had tied inside the same house we sleep in and they knocked the door and ordered me to give them some ready food, sorghum, beans and even that goat which I had to do. Later they took me to some place far from home such that even when I make an alarm, no one could rescue me faster. That was my last time to stay in that area so I relocated my family to Yenglemi where we live up to now, 19.07.2016 interview).

Stealing food crop or already harvested food has many people with nothing at times simply because they do not have cheaper sources available to ensure food availability at all times as this denies food security. According to Barrett et.al, (2010), food should always be available to ensure that people are food secure and to meet the nutritional needs, something that is denied when stealing is involved and need to be taken in consideration.

#### **4.4 Cattle raiding and Food Accessibility in Abim Sub County, Abim district**

In the interviews carried out, most of the respondents presented similar answers saying that it is these very cattle raiders who possess guns that make accessing food difficult to them but added in a few responses.

##### Stealing/looting of food

Respondents reported that stealing or looting food that cattle raiding made it difficult to access food in that, cattle raiders are so volatile in that they can reach any place at any time and by the fact that they do not select what to steal, they make it difficult for those who do not have anything in terms of sufficient food to acquire any meaning that food insecurity continues to those who even had food but was stolen/looted. One respondent in an interview explained this as,

(... because of the weather changes, there are some selected areas like Koya that do well in beans but there was a period were most people's food were looted forcefully and above all at day time. Given such circumstance, some of us whose crops did not do well would buy from the people of Koya but when most of them fall victims of looting, we fail to access some since they will not want to sell to us, interview on the 19. 07.2016 Atugo village).

Respondents reported that because looting and stealing food by the warriors was their problem to having access to food, they needed to at least buy when they have money and stock so that meeting the need for food in the different varieties. The respondents admitted that when they cannot access food from those who sell or have in plenty because the cruel cattle raiders do loot or steal them, then they cannot be food secure and therefore malnutrition which is so unhealthy.

#### Ambushing trucks

The study established as per the respondents that ambushing trucks carrying food items for sale to Abim Sub County have been carried out by the cattle raiders. Most respondents had their stories to explain more on this scenario as they witnessed this several times.

(... it was around June in 2005 when my neighbor who was travelling to Kotido to sell some greens died in an ambush along Lira-Kotido road. She was shot on the spinal cord and by the fact that she had moved along with her daughter and she was seated next to her, both died instantly, interview in Atugo village on 19.07.2016).

Though most respondents mainly knew of the cattle raiders killing people in an ambush to access the Kotido market, they also pointed to the market in Abim Sub County called Mak-atin which operates on Fridays as the market day and said that the people from nearby districts like Agago and Pader do come to sell a number of things among which are the food items which avail people with varieties but when they are ambushed, attacked and looted, most of them end up getting discouraged to keep supplying these items to the market making access to food difficult to the people of Abim Sub County hence food insecurity.

This is in agreement with Kingma et.al (2010) where he explained the several attacks witnessed on the truck drivers carrying relief food to areas with severe food shortage. This has seen a number of them dead and the looting of food relief by the cattle raiders yet areas that have shortages and lack food will therefore go food insecure hence the same problem of Abim Sub County when World Food drivers carrying food to be supplied are killed and looted in an ambush hence food insecurity in Abim.

#### Raping of women

Most of the household respondents were able to share their experiences as far as raping of women was concerned in an interview I their agreement that, most of our colleagues have fallen victims of this circumstance especially in the gardens and some on the way whether going to the gardens or on their way back home. The 18.07.2016 interview with a woman who openly revealed her story said,

I had already built a small hut in my garden which is 3 miles away from home. This happened when I had gone back home to collect some food stuff to sustain me with the garden work, on my way back to the hut I made in the garden, I met a warrior who had a gun and this man told me to lie down but I refused saying I have no land near my home to dig otherwise I could have not been here and I am a widow taking care of orphans, please have mercy and let me go peacefully. In a whisper she said, "He raped me despite my struggle and because he had a gun, I had to give up to him. Since then, I left that garden and now am struggling with these ones near my home though they cannot yield much, focus group discussion 19.07.2016.

Some of the respondents added that, we women are somehow lucky because it is on rear occasions when a woman is killed by these warriors but most of them are just raped and left to go though the people killed on sight are men. This explains also

why most of us are widows though some women have also been killed and these are the people who resist rape.

Rape cases has been common with women who are the majority people in the food production process in Abim Sub County meaning that when women are made fearful to continue with the food production process through farming, food will not be made available in its different varieties. This makes food security hard to meet and this has been made worst by those who possess arms hence food insecurity that has been witnessed in Abim Sub County for so long now.

#### Destruction of food

Cattle raiding have affected food accessibility as put by the one of the respondents in that, the ripped and ready to harvest crops are destroyed by the cattle raiders. This makes getting or accessing food to sustain life very difficult and in most cases unattainable hence malnutrition. The focus discussion with the respondents in Ocheck-abuk stated that,

(... I personally fell a victim of food destruction when some warriors raided Kanu village and passed in my garden of simsim with the 43 herds of cattle. The simsim felt down completely and at the time of harvesting I got only 1 basin of simsim which could not take us to the next planting season. If the simsim was not to be destroyed, I would have harvested at least 2 bags, interview on the 19.07 2016 in Alok-ogiro village).

Respondents reported that most of their effort to have food in the stores for the whole year has been turn down by the cattle raiders when they destroy the produce from the gardens and sometimes some people are left with nothing to survive on hence borrowing and working for those who have food for survival hence food security becomes hard to attain.

The respondents however did not solely blame the Jie community/ warriors for the food insecurity that has existed for so long a period of time. They pointed out climate as one of the biggest obstacle towards achieving food security in Abim Sub County, Abim district and Karamoja sub region as a whole. The variation in the rainfall amount received majorly full of dry conditions has for long time left the people of Abim Sub County in suspense and unable to predict when rain will fall and as a result, crops have ended up drying in the gardens and as such, little is harvested and food insecurity becomes unavoidable at the end.

The respondents also pointed out that regional imbalance is to blame in that, Abim Sub County, district and Karamoja region as a whole was not thought of and left on its own. The people as such stated that the government started thinking of Karamoja most especially when they took up arms and started raiding their neighbours and causing instability as they engaged much in fighting, ambushing, raping and destroying a number of people's property such that the government took concern after other people complaining and for the purpose of peace to be felt in Uganda as well but any developmental activity was denied to these Karamojongs hence the anger seen in taking up arms to make ends meet leading destabilizing the food production process of the people of Abim Sub County and other neighbours leading to food insecurity.

#### **4.5 Conclusion**

This chapter presented and discussed the major findings according to the research questions and objectives. The elements of communal conflict like small arms possession and cattle raiding were discussed as hinderance to food security in terms of production, availability and access hence the reasons presented in terms of access to natural resources,

cross border attacks, need for protection of the livestock and others yet hindering food production, availability and access as discussed in the findings.



## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMANDATIONS**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the summary, conclusion and recommendation for the major findings of the research. It summarizes the major findings in chapter four and the recommendation for the complete removal and control of small arms possessed so as to ensure peace and harmony for the coexistence of the warrior communities with the people of Abim Sub County, Abim district and the neighbouring communities too. The study was carried out to establish reasons for small arms possession that hinder food production and availability, how small arms possessed has hindered food production and availability and how cattle raiding has affected food accessibility.

#### **5.1 Summary**

The study established that the reasons for small arms possession have hindered physical food availability. This is so because things like need to accumulate more wealth, shortages in resources, cross border attacks and others make the possession of arms possible hence hindering food availability since these attacks extends to those who did not even participate in the attack too. The study found out that these reasons make the need to possess these arms inevitable because of the need to make ends meet yet this in the long run hinder physical food availability. Through raids and cattle rustling, proliferations of guns through the porous borders of Kenya and South Sudan as a result of buying and selling involved, the pride Karamojong communities have put in cattle raiding and rustling, the need to protect their livestock since the UPDF and police have become ineffective in providing protection and recovery of stolen cattle. These reasons

presented why small arms possession hinder food production, availability and access hence food security which has become unattainable in Abim Sub County, Abim district.

The other thing that cannot be forgotten is how small arms possession has hindered food production and availability in Abim Sub County, Abim district. From the study, ambushes on the paths and roads used, ritual performance through human sacrifice especially for those who are brown and with gaps in their teeth and these people are got from outside a community that needs it, during cattle raiding, being able to escape or avoid the disarmament programs and escaping with guns especially for those who pretend by joining the LDU and UPDF force for protection purposes. This has made acquisition of the arms possible which have been used on the people through threatening, killing, looting and raiding of livestock in Abim Sub County, Abim district.

However, for peace to reign and for food production, availability and access to be attained, strategies to address the impact of small arms possession should be put forward. These among which included according to the study ways like constructing dams that would ensure stable water sources for the animal hence regulating movement of cattle or animals for water and pasture, provision of affordable quality education, health facilities and clean drinking water to improve on the living standards of both the warriors and the people of Abim Sub County, disarming the warrior communities, and coordination with Kenya and South Sudan government to help in the disarmament programs hence reducing and finally removing completely the arms or guns from the warrior communities hence peace to the people of Abim and therefore to carry out food production and engage in economic activities to earn a living hence ensuring food availability and access hence food security attained.

## 5.2 Conclusion

It can therefore be concluded that, small arms possession given the reasons for communal and how it has been carried out hence being held accountable for hindering food production, availability and access. The arms possessed has for a long time posed great fear and threat since no one would want to lose his or her life given the pain it is associated with for instance when people are captured for ritual purposes where one is killed slowly by cutting. Ambushes as seen especially on the major ways like footpaths and roads and the raiding process which involves serious fights has created a lot of fear and panic among people to carry out farming activities since the greatest number of people involved in farming are women. As such, communal conflict has had a lot of negative impact on peoples' lives and hindering a lot of the major economic activities from being carried out, farming or food production inclusive hence negatively impacting on people's nutrition since a number of them are malnourished and it is both on the children and elderly alike and retarded development is the overall impact of small arms possession in warrior communities and their affected neighbourhood.

However the hindrance to food production that means food availability and accessibility cannot single handedly be blamed on small arms possession as a number of people also attributed the problem to variability of the rain received by people of Abim Sub County and Abim district. Other factors has been presented as poor attitude of people towards farming in that most of them are seriously engaged in begging as a way of survival hence food production has been left only to a small portion of meaning the produce cannot be equally accessed by the many since its availability is small and poor techniques of farming like lack of improved seeds variety, poor farming methods and reliance in mainly women and children for labour

and reliance on few staple food crops like sorghum which are resistance to weather changes and failing to have a variety which mature within a short period of time. These therefore give the reasons why poor nutrition resulting from unavailability of food and access as well has been evidenced hence begging for survival has been presented as the end result.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

The recommendations given here is to help a number of people/stakeholders in finding redress to the problems posed by the elements of communal conflict like small arms possession and raiding that hinder food production, availability and access. Therefore the recommendations given target the government in filling much of the gaps created, the warriors who have perpetuated communal conflict and finally the farmers who have to put things right by never being discouraged since their lives has to be nourished by having food available no matter what. As far as the study findings are concerned and basing on the reasons for small arms possession that hinder food production for food availability, and access, strategies that can be put forward to respond to such challenges were developed and shown below since peace is a prerequisite for development in any dimension.

#### Education and vocational training

According to the study findings, small arm possession can be reduced and dealt with completely when the warriors access education and this can be done by the government through offering scholarships. This will later solve the problem in that, they would have been raiders or cattle rustlers are sent to school and much of their time is spent at school other than staying back in the village and fully participating in cattle raiding which involves killing and depriving other people of

their property. There is need to provide these warriors scholarships that ensures they fully stay and spend most of their time at school giving them no excuse to stay away since these would mean giving them no access to arms and participating in cattle raiding hence giving the people of Abim Sub County, Abim district the chance to engage in agriculture leading to food production, availability and access by those who do not have them.

Vocational training is yet important to encourage the warrior community to avoid conflicting within themselves. For those who cannot manage professional education for professional jobs should be given the opportunity to attend vocational training so that through such training they will be able to earn decent life other than conflicting with each other and looting people's property and killing them in ambushes which will create peace.

#### Reconciliation and peace building

Reconciliation should be undertaken by involving the elders of the warrior communities and Abim Sub County, Abim district will enable the dissemination of the information to the youth who are the potential raiders in the future. The government also has to intervene and help in reconciling the offenders and the offended so as to have full agreement reached. This will be followed by ritual performance such that breaking the reconciliation that was conducted is seen as going against the community wishes for a peaceful coexistence of another community and measures for punishment for breaking a given set or recommended rule for peace to reign stakeholders such that the conflicting communities gets to understand the need for peace. As such, the warriors, people of Abim and neighbours will have peace since breaking of the set rules will not be tolerated and punishable.

### Disarmament and proper investigations for traces of arms that still remain with the people

Thorough disarmament programs should be undertaken so that suspects are caught and their environment fully checked for traces of arms that still remain after disarmament was carried out. This is because some or even the majority of the warrior communities were able to escape being disarmed and at the same time re-arm themselves at the expense of the people of Abim Sub County hence critical disarmament for a peaceful existence. Coordination with government of Kenya and South Sudan so that disarmament is successfully carried out. This will enable peace to reign and the people of Abim Sub County find it easy to carryout farming activities hence food availability and access attained leading to food security.

### Proper deployment of security bodies

Security personnel like the UPDF, LDUs and paramilitaries should be properly deployed in Abim so that the warriors or cattle raiders are dealt with in case they show up in the act of raiding. The security personnel also will enable the continuous patrols along the roads and the paths taken by people on their way to their gardens such that protecting them becomes easy other than being called when the actual problem has occurred. Kraals has to be protected by LDUs and the Paramilitaries in the local areas and the UPDF to be strategically located in areas mostly affected and complement the works of LDUs and paramilitaries in providing proper support towards achieving peace.

### Protection and construction of water sources

To ensure that communal conflict is wiped out, water sources especially clean ones for drinking have to be constructed and protected. Dams have to be constructed by the government that will provide drinking water for the animals of the

pastoralists should be constructed such that movement from one area to another for water and pasture is regulated. This is because of one reason why the warrior communities engage in this communal conflict is because they move looking for water and pasture for their animals since during dry seasons they would have shortages hence causing commotion to areas they get support from ( water and pasture) and therefore by constructing water points their raiding and killing practices are monitored and reduced hence peace and enabling the people of Abim Sub County to carry out food production through farming and ensure food availability and access hence food security achieved.

#### Relief aid to the people

Providing relief aid inform of food will also help to deal with communal conflict in that, most of the warriors do conflict with each other because they lack food and therefore will loot to attain it. Providing food aid will enable the raiders to get food for survival such that engaging in conflicts is reduced. The areas attacked always by the warriors should be provided food aid too since they end up starving when their farming activities for food availability is disrupted by the warriors of cattle keeping communities. All these will enable survival during the period of scarcity hence temporarily tackling food insecurity.

#### **5.4 Areas for further research**

According to the study that was carried out on communal conflict and food security, there emerged a number of issues that can be of interest to other researchers. These are issues still that affect a number of people as far as security, economic development and food production and access is concerned. This will help understand how communities in Karamoja have responded to problems that have affected them

over years. Below are some areas suggested for further research;

The impact of disarmament on the socio-economic development of Karamoja, a case study of Kotido district.

The effect of gold mining on the economic development of local communities of Morulem Sub County, Abim district.

The impact of proper waste disposal on the hygiene and health of the people of Kotido district, Karamoja region.



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## **APPENDICES**

### **APPENDIX I: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE SELECTED LOCAL FARMERS IN ABIM SUB COUNTY**

Dear Respondent,

I am AUMA JACKLINE, a student of Uganda Martyrs University pursuing a Bachelor Degree of Ethics and Development Studies. It is a requirement for the award of the Bachelor's degree and students are required to do research on any topic of their choice and therefore I choose the topic on communal conflict and food security because it is a serious issue that has affected the people of Abim Sub County, Abim district and the entire region of Karamoja. To achieve this, I have chosen to carry out an interview on the reasons for small arms possession that have hindered food production and availability, how small arms possessed has hindered food production and availability and strategies that can be used to address the impact of arms possession to achieve food production and availability in Abim Sub County, Abim district. This therefore you are kindly requested to respond to this questionnaires and any response given is purely for academic purpose and shall be treated with high confidentiality and respect.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

AUMA JACKLINE

**General information**

Name.....

Occupation/position.....

1. What is your experience of community clashes between the Jie and the people of Otolalabar in Abim?
2. If so, which villages have ever got involved in such conflict?
3. According to you as an individual, what do you think could be the possible reasons for such conflicts?
4. How long has your community been fighting?
5. Do you think this fighting has ever affected your food production process through farming?
6. What weapons have you ever witnessed being used by the Jie and other warrior communities in the fight?
7. How do the Jie and other warriors acquire these weapons?
8. How has small arms in the hands of the Jie and other warriors affected food production your area?
9. What do you think can be done to address the problem of small arms possessing to improve food production and ensure food security?
10. Give any other comment you have as far as small arms possession and food production is concerned?

**Thank you for your time and cooperation.**

**APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE GENERAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
IN ABIM SUB COUNTY**

Dear Respondent,

I am AUMA JACKLINE, a student of Uganda Martyrs University pursuing a Bachelor Degree of Ethics and Development Studies. It is a requirement for the award of the Bachelor's degree and students are required to do research on any topic of their choice and therefore I choose the topic on communal conflict and food security because it is a serious issue that has affected the people of Abim Sub County, Abim district and the entire region of Karamoja. To achieve this, I have chosen to carry out an interview on the reasons for small arms possession that have hindered food production and availability, how small arms possessed has hindered food production and availability and strategies that can be used to address the impact of arms possession to achieve food production and availability in Abim Sub County, Abim district. This therefore you are kindly requested to respond to this questionnaires and any response given is purely for academic purpose and shall be treated with high confidentiality and respect.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

AUMA JACKLINE

**SECTION A: RESPONDENT'S BIO DATA**

**Instructions:** *please tick in the box provided for your appropriate answer.*

**A1: Gender of respondent**

1. Male                       2. Female

**A2: category of respondent**

1. Farmer                       2. Warrior   
3. Member of the community

**A3: Marital status**

1. Single                       2. Married   
3. Divorced                       4. Widowed

**A4: Age of the respondent**

1. Below 20 years   
2. Between 21 and 30 years   
3. Between 31 and 40 years   
4. Between 41 and 50 years   
5. Above 50 years

**A5: Occupation**

1. Employed                       2. Unemployed

**SECTION B**

**Reasons for small arms possession that hinder physical food availability in Abim Sub County**

1. Are you aware of any conflict as a result of small arms available in the hands of the Jie community?

1. Yes                       2. No

2. What are the reasons why the Jie, Dodoth, Matheniko, Bokora warriors possess small arms. (Tick the correct answer)

- 1. To protect their cattle from being stolen
- 2. To raid others communities
- 3. Pride and fame associated
- 4. Competition for water and pasture for cattle
- 5. To accumulate more wealth
- 6. To access food

3. Has the small arms possessed hindered food production in your community?

1. Yes                       2. No

**SECTION C**

**How small arms possessed has hindered food availability in Abim Sub County**

4. How do the Jie warrior community and others warriors acquire guns that they have used for raiding?

.....  
.....



5. How has these guns in the hands of the Jie and other warrior communities hindered food production?

.....  
.....  
.....

6. Do you think cattle raiding has reduced people's ability to get food in your community?

.....  
.....  
.....

7. How has it affected people's ability to get food?

.....  
.....  
.....

8. Do you think it is only the possession of small arms in the hands of the warrior communities that has hindered food production leading to food insecurity in your community? If Not, what are the other factors to blame for failure of food production, availability and accessibility in your community?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

### **APPENDIX III: QUESTIONNAIRE GUIDE FOR THE JIE WARRIORS**

Dear Respondent,

I am AUMA JACKLINE, a student of Uganda Martyrs University pursuing a Bachelor Degree of Ethics and Development Studies. It is a requirement for the award of the Bachelor's degree and students are required to do research on any topic of their choice and therefore I choose the topic on communal conflict and food security because it is a serious issue that has affected the people of Abim Sub County, Abim district and the entire region of Karamoja. To achieve this, I have chosen to carry out an interview on the reasons for small arms possession that have hindered food production and availability, how small arms possessed has hindered food production and availability and strategies that can be used to address the impact of arms possession to achieve food production and availability in Abim Sub County, Abim district. This therefore you are kindly requested to respond to this questionnaires and any response given is purely for academic purpose and shall be treated with high confidentiality and respect.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

AUMA JACKLINE

**SECTION A: RESPONDENT'S BIO DATA**

**Instructions:** please tick in the box provided for your appropriate answer.

**A1: Gender of respondent**

1. Male                       2. Female

**A2: category of respondent**

1. Farmer                       2. Warrior   
3. Member of the community

**A3: Marital status**

1. Single                       2. Married   
3. Divorced                       4. Widowed

**A4: Age of the respondent**

1. Below 20 years  
2. Between 21 and 30 years   
3. Between 31 and 40 years   
4. Between 41 and 50 years   
5. Above 50 years

**A5: Occupation**

1. Employed                       2. Unemployed

**SECTION B**

**The reasons for small arms possession that has hindered food production and availability Abim Sub County**

1. Have you ever owned a gun?

.....

2. How did you acquire the gun?

.....

.....

....

3. What do you consider to be the reasons for acquiring guns?

.....

.....

4. How has these guns affected other communities outside your community?

.....

.....

5. How has the guns you own affected food production and availability of the people of Abim Sub County?

.....

.....

6. Have you ever participated in cattle raiding with the Sub County of Abim?

.....

.....

7. How do you think cattle raiding has affected peoples' ability to get food in Abim Sub County?

.....  
.....  
.....

8. Any other comment you have is welcomed.

.....  
.....  
.....

Thank you for your time.

## **TOPIC GUIDE FOR FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION**

I am AUMA JACKLINE, a student of Uganda Martyrs University pursuing a Bachelor Degree of Ethics and Development Studies. It is a requirement for the award of the Bachelor's degree and students are required to do research on any topic of their choice and therefore I choose the topic on communal conflict and food security because it is a serious issue that has affected the people of Abim Sub County, Abim district and the entire region of Karamoja. To achieve this, I have chosen to carry out a focus group discussion on the reasons for small arms possession that have hindered food production and availability, how small arms possessed has hindered food production and availability and strategies that can be used to address the impact of arms possession to achieve food production and availability in Abim Sub County, Abim district. This therefore you are kindly requested to respond to this questionnaires and any response given is purely for academic purpose and shall be treated with high confidentiality and respect.

Thank you for your time and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

AUMA JACKLINE

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**NAME OF PARISH**.....

**NAME OF VILLAGE**.....

**NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS IN THE GROUP**.....

**Sex; male**..... **female**.....

**Age range; 18-20**..... **21-35**..... **36-45**..... **46-56**.....

**QUESTIONS**

1. Why do you think guns are owned?

.....  
.....

2. If any, how has this affected the food production process?

.....  
.....

3. Who are the most affected people by food shortages?

.....  
.....

4. What do you think can be done to avert or respond to the above problems?

.....  
.....

## **CHECKLIST FOR COLLECTING OBSERVATIONAL DATA**

### **Household level**

- Arms/guns owned by Jie warriors
- Food gardens
- Storage facilities for instance granaries
- Sanitation

### **Community level**

- Security provision by security personnel
- Arms availability or other equivalent
- Production farmland and access to food