

1. Study number: U2004

2. Study title

Challenges of Integrating Children Born in Armed Conflict; A study of children born of the Lord's Resistance Army, Gulu Municipality, 1990-2003

3. Dates of data collection

November 2003 – March 2004

4. Principal investigator(s)

Apio Eunice, a dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Award of the Degree of Master of Arts in Human Rights of Makerere University, Kampala – Uganda.

5. Data collector(s)

Eunice Apio
Joy Acen
Fred Ebil

6. Content

Qualitative study reviewing the social, emotional and psychological experiences of 69 children born of girls abducted by the rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army during the 20-year old Northern Uganda war. The study, carried out in the northern Ugandan town of Gulu used both observation and interview techniques to gather data from the children, their mothers and community including traditional system of the Acholi people.

7. Population and sampling procedure

Purposive sampling was key strategy for selection of respondents partly due to its flexibility in unstable situations such as that in Gulu then. Studies were carried out where children born of war could be located including internally displaced persons camps, reception centres as well as amongst communities in ordinary settlements. A total of 84 children (67 born of the LRA and 17 born in normal relationships as control)

8. Method

Questionnaires were developed, tailored for members of each focal group – children born in captivity and control group, their mothers, families of their mothers, community members, NGOs (& reception centres) and traditional leaders. These questionnaires were administered directly by the data collectors for technical reasons which included illiteracy, unstable security and the short period of time allotted by the researcher for data collection. The data collectors also applied skills in observation, which proved very helpful for assessing physical evidences of exposure to vulnerabilities as well as psychosocial as detailed in the findings.

9. Dimension of data set

no data file

10. Publications

Eunice Apio: "Challenges of Integrating Children Born in Armed Conflict; A study of children born of the Lord's Resistance Army, Gulu Municipality, 1990-2003"

Eunice Apio: "Bearing the Burden of Blame" May, 2008 in collaboration with editing support from Dr. Linda Dowdney for the psychosocial webpage of the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers ([www. Child-soldiers.org](http://www.Child-soldiers.org))

Dr. Charli Carpenter, Associate professor, University of Pittsburgh in collaboration with Eunice Apio & Others: "Born of War" (2007)

Eunice Apio: "finding the Balance of DDR in Northern Uganda"; presented to the Phase III of University of Alberta study on Rehabilitation, Children and War: Impact, Protection and Rehabilitation (2006/2007)

Eunice Apio: "Uganda's Forgotten Children of War", authored and presented at the XVII world congress of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates Belfast, Northern Ireland, August 2006.

Eunice Apio: "Challenges of Integrating Children in armed Conflict: The case of children born of Abducted girls in Northern Uganda"; Authored and Presented at the 4th World congress on family Law and Children's Rights in Cape Town – March 2005

11. Other acknowledgements

The Belgium Government and Belgium technical Cooperation for the Funding (Belgium local Fellowship programme 2002/2004)

Linda Dowdney with the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers

4th World Congress on family Law and Children's Rights

XVII world congress of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates Belfast

12. Degree of accessibility

Accessible through Principle Investigator and for the respective publications also through:

Websites for the international conferences as highlighted above, Dr. Charli Carpenter of the University of Pittsburgh, The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers (Psychosocial Webpage)

13. Links

14. Information provided by:

Eunice Apio, Facilitation for Peace and Development (FAPAD), Uganda