

The Plight of War Mothers and Children born of War in Northern Uganda: Education and Health Needs and challenges

Status: Initial stage

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Abstract:

After the critical time when various organisations provide much of the needed humanitarian support, the long-term needs and challenges of children born of war and their mothers are particularly a less known story. In Uganda, thousands of children born of war were fathered through rape and sexual violence by either the LRA rebel forces or other armed actors; like the government forces or state and non-state armed actors. These children live on the edges of society. Evidence suggests that children born of war are likely to be marginalised, traumatised, suffering identity crises, deprived of some of their basic human rights such as access to education and are adversely affected in terms of physical and mental health. The current challenge is how these children born of war can overcome discrimination, stigmatisation and isolation that affect their education and health. Using Participatory Action Research, we are scaling out a study to provide exploratory and empirical evidence on the long-term needs and challenges faced by war mothers and children born of war with regard to accessing education and healthcare in northern Uganda.

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