August – September, 2025– CPS Program – EIRENE and MACCO Report

Project title overall: Civil Peace Service
Organisation name: MAYANK Anti-Corruption Coalition (MACCO)

Specific Project title of the organisation: Men and Women together promoting social and gender transformation in their refugee and host communities towards peaceful co-existence.

Reporting Period: 2nd quarter August – September 2025

Impact 2: Intended direct impact 2: Peaceful coexistence in the refugee and host communities

List of all planned activities (based on the activity plan for 2025)	**Indicator does it refer to**	How many participants (men, woman, children)	Location/date	Who (co)led the activity, who else was present in the organisation/facilitation of the activity	Any direct feedback from the participants such as quotes or statement worth mentioning

Provide spaces for inter community dialogues on proper natural resource governance and resource-based conflict management	**Process Indicator 3:** Local based structures (women, youth, elderly, men) in the refugee and host communities are constructively engaging in equitable and sustainable natural resource governance and influencing peaceful resource based conflict management.	Men 490 Women 372 Children 11	**1st set of Inter community diaogues** Village 5, zone 3 (Payawa church), Odupi sub-County on 8th August 2025; Ofua 1, Chinya village, Uriama sub county on 11th August 2025 and; Ombechi village Ikafe Parish, Ariwa sub county on 13th August 2025 **2nd set of inter comunity dialogue** Village 14, zone 2, Odupi sub county on 24th September 2025; Ayivu village, Ariwa sub county	The overall activity planning and implementation processes were led by the Project Officer **Neima Wadio presented the key resource driven issues for the dialogue** meanwhile the Executive Director (ED) **Enzama Ernest** supported with moderation and translation of the Project Assistant (**Acema Ben}** and Psychosocial Counselor (**Barbra Consolate Birungi**) took record of the proceedings of the activity while identifying issues that needed negotiation,	*" I wish to challenge you the refugees to use the formal ways of acquiring land from the host community as highlighted by OPM (this will help) to reduce conflicts and promote peaceful co-existence remarked **Ismail Mulikiriza**, the Protection Officer, OPM Imvepi refugee settlement, Terego district during the dialogue at village 5, zone 3 Payawa church* *"Many times, I deny my village due to the high rates of criminal cases occurring in the area, i cry to MACCO to lobby for a police post for Ofua 1 to support us to curb the high crime rates" remarked LC 1 Chairperson (**Guma Peter**, of Chinya village, Ofua 1* *"I wish to thank MACCO for organising for us this dialogue to discuss issues affecting this village, I know this can bring change and foster peaceful coexistence" remarked the RWC 1 (**Jamba Emmanuel**), Ofua 1 village.* *"MACCO has brought a good eye-opening session to us as the citizens and community of the area, we need to embrace it to bring change in our community" remarked **Ocokoru Grace,** OC Ariwa* *'.... As district if we invite you for such session, you would not turn-up, I thank MACCO for collaboratively providing opportunity for the district to interact and engage with the local communities on land administration and its "management.''. said Banduga Adinan, the Land Officer, Yumbe District* *''.... Tenancy agreement protects the parties involved; (saying), my office has 2 boxes of land use agreement*

			on 25th September 2025 and; Ofua 3 centre, Uriama sub county on 26th September 2025		*forms to be given to community members free of charge which must be collected picked (by the interested parties), I request communities to embrace the practice of signing land use agreement before using land from host communities'' said Okot Samuel, the LC3 Chairman Uriama* *local communities do not make effective use of the existing structures this renders the local leaders ineffective but today I encourage my block leaders and other leaders to stand Out and play your roles'' noted Peter Gift, the RW C3 Chairman of Rhino Camp refugee settlement.* *"Though the government of Uganda welcomed us with open hands, this was facilitated by the Landlords whom I term as the greatest donor", remarked Ayume Peter John, RWC3, Imvepi.* *"We in the previous times had been refugees but we continue to exploit and harass refugees, I advise you the landlords to focus on future needs when we would be refugees because if the government changes and conflicts ensue, how would the refugees treat us". Remarked Asio William, Assistant Settlement Commandant for Bidibidi zone 5.*
Capacity building for 48 women and youth leaders in peace	**Process Indicator 4**: Local based structures (women, youth, elderly, men) in	Men 29 Women 16 Children 0	Ariwa sub county: 1st to 2nd September 2025	The overall activity planning and implementation processes were led by the Project Officer**, Neima Wadio** meanwhile the	*"I did not know many things e.g. principles and approaches to conflict resolution in regard to my role as a peace advocate, the training in peace building and conflict management has changed my mind and equipped me with skills to do my work better"*

building and conflict management	the refugee and host communities are engaging and influencing peaceful conflict management in their communities		Odupi sub county: 3rd to 4th September 2025 Uriama sub county: 10th 11th September 2025	Psychosocial Counselor **Babra Consolate Birungi** led the training sessions with the support of the project officer using the pre-designed training manual and presentation slides developed by the ED, **Enzama Ernest** in collaboration with the project team aided the training	*remarked **Adiru Lucy**, a Peace Advocate from Odupi sub county* *'Am happy the LCs and RWCs are also being trained in land administration and environmental management, this will strengthen our relationship and coordination on ground and in the field": remarked **Lubari Morris** a Peace Advocate from Odupi sub county.* *"I want to thank MACCO for building our capacity, the knowledge I received during the trainings has helped me to recover my land in court which was about to be grabbed by my uncles" remarked **Ayite Napiricowio** a Peace Advocate from Ariwa Sub County*
Capacity building for for 50 members of area land committees and local council courts on their roles and conflict mitigation	**Process Indicator 2:** The service providers and duty bearers are conflict sensitive in their actions, through intensive training	Men 64 Women 13 Children 0	Ariwa 1st to 2nd September 2025 Odupi: 3rd to 4th September 2025 Uriama: 10th to 11th September 2025	The overall activity planning and implementation processes were led by the Project Officer**, Neima Wadio** meanwhile the Executive Director **(Enzama Ernest)** and Project Assistant (**Acema Ben**) led the training sessions using the pre-designed training manual and presentation slides developed by the ED, **Enzama Ernest**	We have been tired of the war in south sudan, I wish to settle in Uganda, but the land rights and governance does not permit refugees to own land in Uganda. What can I do? asked Sanya Emmanuel from Ofua Zone ''In Imvepi, we sometimes, witness death of original landlords and new landlords are identifie., These new landlords chase out the tenants who were given land by the original landlord. How can we mitigate this. Landlord is elected by the community'' Said Monday Rose, Village 14, Zone 14.. We the communities of Imvepi need peace for our positive wellbeing in the areas of livelihood, the project us empowered us on key mechanisms and strategies for mitigation of land related conflicts; we

					must continue planting trees to save the environment; as expected in fulfillment of the Geneva commitment said Peter Ayume RWC 3, Imvepi Refugee,
Support conflict resolution spaces for mediation and negotion	Process indicator 4: Local based structures (women, youth, elderly, men) in the refugee and host communities engage constructively and positively influence peaceful conflict management in their communities	Men 134 Women 32 Children 0	Ngaziku P/S, Uriama subcounty 17th and 30th September 2025 30/9/2025 Tokuro P/S, Ariwa subcounty 1st October 2025	Enzama Ernest Wadio Neima Barbra Consolate Birungi Acema Ben	"if we had knowledge about land policies in Uganda the way the lawyer has guided us, we would not even come up to claim for the land knowing that the law is not on our side," remarked **Wawa Swaibu**, a land lord at Tokuro school community.

1. **Choose 2-3 significant activities, which contribute to achieving <u>impact 2</u> and describe them in detail: Activity 4.1.2. Provide spaces for inter community dialogues**

In the reporting period, MACCO provided spaces for six inter community dialogues on 8th, 11th and 13th August 2025 and 24th 25th and 26th September 2025. The 1st set of the dialogues was scheduled for Quarter 1, but due to late start of the project implementation, the activity was carried forward to Quarter 2. Thus a total of six (6) inter community dialogues were held (2 per sub county) in different locations (Ombechi and Ayivu villages in Ariwa sub county, Village 5 and village 14 Zone 2 in Odupi sub county, Ofua 3 and Ofua 1 villages in Uriama sub county) were held on the theme ***Documentation of land use agreements and conflict mitigation*** The dialogues were moderated by the project team using participatory community engagement model which facilitated mutual dialogue among the participants; this enabled the communities to dialogue and develop local solutions to the issues raised in an effort to reduce land conflicts relating to refusal of landlords to sign land agreements and would most times hire the same piece of land to multiple users. In the dialogue process key district and sub county leaders and refugee agencies (OPM, RWC 3's) participated to respond to key issues raised by communities and provided technical guidance on issues relating to land use. '… *as district if we invite you for such session, you would not turn-up, I*

Additional issues raised by the community to the leaders during the dialogues

<u>Zone 3 Imvepi Refugee Settlement, in Odupi Sub-County</u>

- Boundary issue between Naranga and Amia villages over ownership of Zone 3 settlement involving the community and the local authorities in the two villages
- Inter youth fights organized in the settlements leading to inter-tribal conflicts
- Indiscriminate destruction of forest resources by refugees without permission from the land owners
- High transport charges levied by LCs, elders and the land committee during land acquisition processes

<u>Ofua Zone, Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement in Uriama Sub-County</u>

- Cinya (Ofua I & II) is a hot spot area for all criminal activities including highway robbery and theft of items of all categories especially by youth.
- Massive destruction/cutting and transportation of trees/logs from Cinya to Arua town by unknown people.
- Rampant land conflict cases between refugees and the host community during hiring processes
- Food categorization leading to increased cases of conflicts/violence and fights/GBV at household level,
- No police post in the area, yet this is hot spot area for criminal activities

<u>Zone 5 Bidibidi Refugee Settlement, Ariwa Sub-County, Yumbe district</u>

- Rampant cases of destruction of crops by stray animals especially cows owned by the *Balalu* (a migrant community of cattle keepers from Western Uganda) and host community
- Ombechi is a hot spot area for all criminal activities including drug abuse and theft of all categories especially by the youth.
- Rampant cases of theft of food crops from the refugees by the host community
- Conflicts over use of natural resources like firewood and water sources.
- Lack of support rendered to landlords for land offered for resettling refugees
- Rampant cases of theft of food crops from plots rented from the host communities blaming it on landlords
- High costs charged for renting a piece of land for agriculture

thank MACCO for collaboratively providing opportunity for the district to interact and engage with the local communities on land administration and its management.'' said Banduga Adinan, the District Land Management Officer, Yumbe. During the dialogues, communities raised additional resource driven issues to the attention of the local authorities for action (tabled above)



***Photo:** Monday Rose, RWC1, Village 14, Zone 2 Imvepi Refugee making submission on exploitation of women during land hire process in inter community dialogue session at Imvepi Refugee Settlement*

A total of 873 community members and local authorities (RM 201, RF 224, NM 228, NF 220, 45 PWDs) attended the inter community dialogue sessions out of targeted 900 intended participants for the 2 sets of inter community dialogues.



Photo (R): Chairman LC 1 giving remarks during the Iner community dialogue at Chinya village, Ofua 1, Uriama sub county

Achievements

Overall, the two sets of inter community dialogue reached out to 873 community members out of the intended 900 community members representing 97% performance. The participants involved 425 refugees and 448 nationals inclusive of 45 persons living with disability

The refuges and host community members reported existence of land conflicts across the three refugee settlement areas, the leading causal factors and other issues flaring conflicts in the area. As detailed in the table above, the underlying issues include food categorization, unfair costs charged for renting a piece of land, crop destruction by stray animals, access and use of forest resources like firewood, massive destruction/cutting trees for logs, lack of support for landlords for land offered and criminal activities including theft of food crops

The dialogues provided good platform for the refugees and host community members to interface with their leaders, respond to issues raised and the leaders adequately responded to the issues raised by the community. Key among the responses and guidance offered were:

Issue	Response
Conflicts arising from land acquisition and use	Asio William Protection Officer (OPM) Zone 5, Bidi bidi refugee settlement tasked the refugees to always involve the local leaders to support them in signing formal agreements with the host/landlords and called on the landlords to ensure that formal documents are signed while hiring out land;
High transport costs charged during land acquisition processes,	Protection Officer OPM Ismail Mulikiriza of Imvepi refugee settlement pledged that in collaboration with Sub County authorities they will meet all the LC1's, LC 2's and RWCs to harmonize transport costs
Destruction of crops by stray animals	The animal owners were cautioned to manage their animals well or else be subjected to the law and pay fines and penalties in accordance with the law as enshrined in the ordinances/bylaws for fair compensation when damage occur due to their non-compliance, remarked Adiru, OC Police Imvepi R/S
Boundary issue between Naranga / Amia villages	This matter was reffered to Odupi sub county local government for action.
High crime rate in Chinya Village, Ofua Zone	The LC 1 Chairperson, Chinya village-Guma Peter, confirmed the issues presented as true record of what happens in the area and blamed the high crime rates on lack of police post in the area and long response times from distant police stations, he then took advantage of the dialogue to advocate through MACCO for Uriama Sub County Local Government to open a police post in the area

The RWC 3 Chairman Bidbidi zone 5, appreciated MACCO for the peace building initiatives remarking that the host and refugee communities have been staying peaceful though there are still some conflicts among host and refugee communities over crop destruction by stray animals and rape of women while accessing natural resources.

Asio William, Assistant Commandant, Bidibidi Zone 5, appreciated the landlords for giving land to the refugees without pay and wished them God's blessing; he encouraged the landlords to continue donating land for refugees and called on landlords while hiring land to ensure that formal documents are signed; Refugees have been exploited through stopping them from accessing farm fields by landlords, he noted saying "We in the previous times had been refugees but we continue to exploit and harass refugees, I advise you the landlords to focus on the future needs when we would be refugees because if the government changes and conflicts ensue, how would the refugees treat us".

Attendance during the dialogues

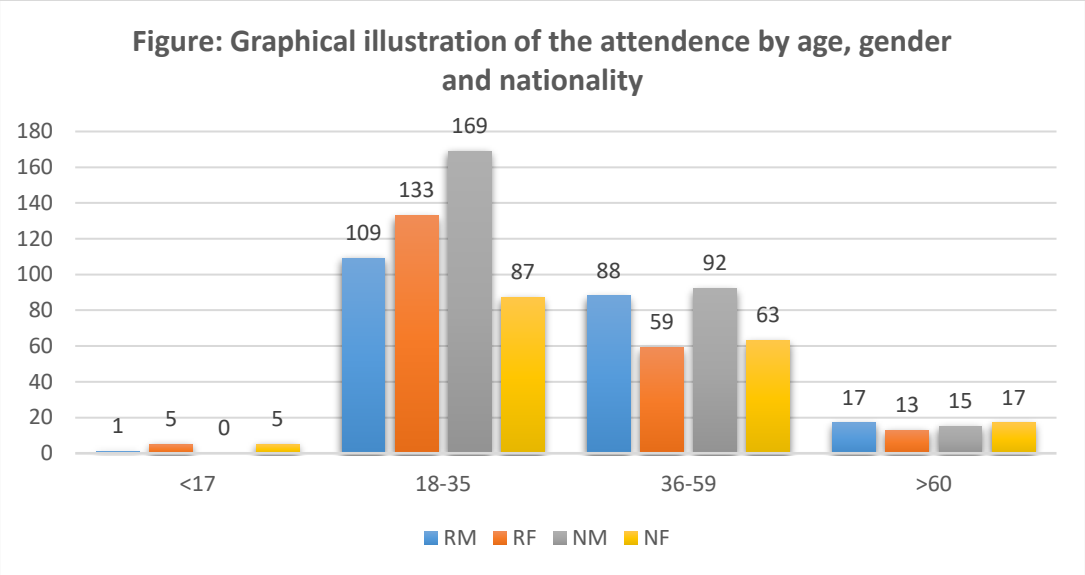
Overall, the inter community dialogues reached out to 873 community members inclusive of 45 persons living with disability out of the intended 900 participants for the dialogues representing 97% performance. Four hundred twenty-five (425) out of the eight hundred seventy-three (873) participants were refugees representing 49% attendance meanwhile four hundred forty-eight (448) were nationals representing 51% attendance for the dialogues across the three project sub counties (Ariwa, Odupi and Uriama).

Table: Break down of attendance by age, gender and nationality

Age	RM	RF	NM	NF	Total
<17	1	5	0	5	11
18-35	109	133	169	87	498
36-59	88	59	92	63	302
>60	17	13	15	17	62
Total	**215**	**210**	**276**	**172**	**873**

Table: attendance break down by sub county, gender and nationality

Sub County	Target for 2 quarters	RM	RF	NM	NF	Total reached
Odupi	300	118	133	33	34	318
Ariwa	300	36	26	131	145	338
Uriama	300	47	65	64	41	217
Total	**900**	**201**	**224**	**228**	**220**	**873**



Good mobilization with involvement of the local authorities (LCs and RWCs) contributed to the high attendance of the activity by both the refugee and host community.

- What changes did you observe during the activity,

- ***Better understanding of land laws and user rights***: Communities demonstrated a better understanding of relevant land laws and policies on access and user rights to land and other natural resources as well as education service delivery. The communities advocated for their rights especially fair sharing of natural resources to promote legal land acquisition among refugees. *"We do not know where to access land user agreement forms and we do not know the LC1s of the host communities; I request OPM and MACCO to support us to access the forms to minmize conflicts with the host communities/land lords"* appealed **Akandru Mary**, a refugee from Imvepi

The community of Ofua 1 (Uriama sub county) was specifically pushing for a police post since the village is a hot spot area for criminal activities. *"Many times, I deny my village due to the high rates of criminal cases occurring in the area, I cry to MACCO to lobby for a police post for Ofua 1 to support us to curb the high crime rates" remarked LC 1 Chairperson (**Guma Peter**, of Chinya village, Ofua 1.*

- ***Improved access to information on land and natural resources***: The establishment of Community-Based Peace Advocates has helped communities to access guidance on land matters and resolution of resource driven conflicts.
  "I appreciate *MACCO for the initiative to harmonize us together with the host communities in the awareness raising and inter community dialogue sessions on access and user rights to land and natural resources; I wish the project continues for 5 years such that all the communities have information on access to land use* ". Remarked **Moses Loruba** Village 12, zone 2 (Odupi)

- ***Growing appreciation for inter community dialogues***; communities raised issues freely and expressed relief as the leaders responded "*I am grateful that we are jointly discussing with host communities. Since 2017, there had been no dialogues like this. No organization brought us together with host communities to discuss issues of land* said **Mary Yang** a refugee

  Communities across the project sub counties expressed need for similar dialogues to be organized in their villages with involvement of authorities from the district and OPM. "*I appreciate the community dialogues which has helped me to freely raise issues affecting us in this village and I request you (MACCO) to organize a similar dialogue with involvement of authorities from the district, OPM among others since some of our issues need their attention*" remarked **Ayimani Richard,** Youth leader from Ombechi village, Ariwa

- ***Increased willingness to mutually share natural resources***: The inter community dialogues raised more awareness on land use agreements; land ownership, acquisition and registration; and natural resource use and conservation. This empowered the refugees and host communities and are now more knowledgeable in land management and better prepared to mitigate land conflicts. They appreciated peaceful resolution of resource driven conflicts using the cultural/religious leaders in the communities. The communities acquired information on how/where to access the land use agreement forms and agreed to embrace signing land use agreements. A gesture that participants are willing to share land based on formal land agreements and live peacefully

- **what changes did the participants report,**

- ***Better psychosocial support and healing;*** participants openly shared their traumatic situations while accessing land for farming. Key among these included psychological pains arising from confiscations of land by landlords without notice especially after preparing the land; violent expulsion from farm fields; physical and emotional violences; during the sessions participants were guided to stay peaceful, report cases of harm to the Peace Advocates and other relevant authorities and seek redress timely.

- ***Improved relations between refugees and host communities in relation to access and use of resources*** Peter Ayume, RWC3, Imvepi Refugee Settlement said, "*we have seen growing mutual sharing of resources and co-existence among the refugee and host communities, the project is making great steps to bridging the gaps*.''
- ***Expanded community perspectives of conflict***; Apart from the natural resource driven conflicts, the communities of Ombechi reported and openly expressed their dissatisfaction over poor state of education service delivery at Ombechi primary school accusing the schools' heads of their misconduct and lack of transparency and accountability in the management of the school
- ***Improving accountability***; The participants expressed their appreciation of the dialogues which served as a platform for their leaders for accountability, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to resolve community concerns raised and ensure that laws are implemented fairly " *We are grateful to you (local leaders) for discussing land governance issues in our community, we are now empowered*" said Candiga Swadick from Ayivu Ariwa Sub County.
- Communities expressed need for similar dialogues to be organized in their localities with involvement of authorities (technical staff) from the district, sub county and OPM among others since some of the issues needed the attention of the listed authorities, the content delivered and mode of delivery and need for such information is enormous.

- **what changes do you hope will happen after the activity?**
- ***Increased use of the standard land hire agreement forms among the community members***. Over 90% of the participants did not have land titles and user rights consent agreements. They also demonstrated ignorance on land registration process. They however expressed strong interest in formalizing land ownership and user right registration. Following awareness on availability of land use consent forms by the sub-county authorities and procedures for access, most participants expressed willingness to collect the forms and sign the user rights consent agreements with landlords ahead of land use.
  ''*…Tenancy agreement protects the parties involved; At the sub county (Uriama), my office has 2 boxes of land use agreement forms. The forms are given to community members free of charge., I request communities to embrace the practice of signing land use agreements before using land from host communities*'' guided the LC3 Chairman Uriama Okot Samuel.
- ***Reduction in land conflicts between the host and refugee communities***; both refugees and host communities expressed willingness to enter into land use agreements prior to accessing and using land. They appreciated the importance of having land agreements as safeguards in combating land conflicts. "*We do not have any where to access land user agreement forms and we do not know the LC1s of the host communities. We need land agreements to legally hire land; I propose the refugees to have respect and we should not blame the host communities for the exploitations in the process of hiring land because we do not sign the agreement, which we must embrace".* said **Akandru Mary**, a refugee from Imvepi

- Improved reporting of land related conflict cases especially crop destruction and illegal eviction of refugees from farm field. ''*…local communities do not make effective use of the existing structures. This renders the local leaders ineffective; but today I encourage my block leaders and other leaders to standout and play your roles''.* reawakened the RWC3 of Rhino Camp refugee settlement.

- **What was the most important success for this activity?**

- ***Active and balanced participation of the community members***; There was equitable representation of all stakeholders. Every particpant freely raised his/her view points on issues affecting the communities. This reflected recognition of voices of all community members irrespective of their status. This further ensured balanced dialogues thereby raising conflidence in the community members on commitments on the natural resources use. The dialogue created good platform for both refugee and host communities to interface with their local leaders over the resource driven disputes, hindering their peaceful coexistence. The leaders responded and reaffirmed their commitment to resolve the community concerns raised and ensure that laws are implemented fairly.

- What did it manage to achieve?

- Growing harmony and social cohesion: Active participation of the various social groups among both refugees and host communities including special interest groups like women, youth and the disabled, together with the community leaders like traditional leaders provided ground for balanced feedback/inputs on key issues affecting them. This has set firm foundation for building trust and confidence among the various social groups thus contributing to building one peaceful community

- Use of local languages (Lugbarati, Kakwa, Arabic) spoken within the communities fostered meaningful participation of the targeted communities

- Why did it go so well?
  - Good facilitation of the dialogue process; a fair and balanced participation was promoted; a clear-cut focus was made on the topic of the dialogue. Vulnerable and most affected participants were engaged to ensure they provided insights on the issues discussed. This ensured that the root causes to the community felt problem was adequately discussed. While the technical personnel provided technical information on the subject of the discussion.
  - Selection of critical participants: engagement of the right participants especially the landlords, victims of land conflicts and technical leaders provided ground for in-depth and inclusive discussion through follow-up question and answer enabled detailed sharing of ideas and opinions on land use.

What were the success factors?

1) Good collaboration among stakeholders during the inter-community dialogue. This reinforced technical inputs while responding to community issues and synergy in resolving community problems
2) Active community peace advocates; they championed mobilisation door-to-door and through community announcements in churches, mosques and community radios.
3) Willingness of the participants to discuss the key issues affecting the communities in relation to land; Excerpts of the discussions is presented below;

Discusants during the Inter-communtiy dialogues.	Submissions.
Moses Loruba Village 12 (refugee)	Appreciated *MACCO for the initiative to harmonize us together with the host communities;* saying, *we rent land from host communities which you must pay for a year or so; as the LC3 Chairman or landlords have discussed; the host communities or landlords offen disturb once your crops are ready.* Proposed for a written longer-term contract of 5 years with landlords to use land, saying; *we as refugees we are settled on rocky land and most of the refugees are in category 3 who do not have food; we are incapacitated by poverty we need support from leaders to easily access land from the communities.*
Kiden Charity, Village 14, Zone 2 (refugee)	*In July 2025, I was disheartened with land hire process,* saying, *I hired a land and the same land was hired to 3 other persons in Pirili, we entered into an agreement for 50k for 1.5 quarters land; later another person went on to pay 80k; all of us are in category 3. This resulted into a conflict, I was disheartened but I was helped. Sometimes the leadership among the refugees confuses the refugees.*
Kiden Rose, Village 14, Zone 2 (refugee)	*I had rented a land from landlord for 3 years agreement, when I planted rice and cassava, the landlord entered the field to initiate a new agricultural project without seeking for my consent.*
Abiko Lilian (national)	*Issues* (reversal) *of the renting land by refugees from the host community is common due to untimely payment of installments* (thus)*, forcing the landlords to hire out land to other members,* saying, *any other person who is willing to offer for the same at higher rate would be granted land.* ***Question**; does the land use agrrement allow for installement payments?* she asked.
Moses Muto Village 13 (refugee)	*We are all refugees but we are not loving each other.* *Sometimes the refugees acquire animals and do not take good care of the animals thus the animals keep on destroying our crops.*
Ajonye Joyce (refugee)	*The refugees only blame host communities on land related conflicts but sometimes the refugees who understand the local Lugbara confuse the host communities to facilitate multiple hire.*
Ecega Yoana, Land Lord Imvepi.	Appreciated MACCO for the opportunity, saying, *the refugees are settled on my land, we survive on the same farmland. Sometimes the refugees are sturbon, they do not show respect to me as a landlord.* *Some of the refugees are unable to afford land hire fees and do not pay regularly the fees for land hire. This forces us to hire out to other persons who are able to pay regulaly after waiting for long patiently.* *Refugees have a lot of pigs and do not tether them well.*
Mawa Moses, RWC 1, village 16	*Since 8th September 2025, 2 cases of land conflicts were received As we were trained by MACCO we can effectively manage land conflicts in the communities.*

	16th September 2025, 10 people were supported from Ediofe, and second in Likido. (environment, Youth, Security Secretaries and Chairperson)
Monday Rose, RWC 1	Received a case in 2022 over conflict on multiple hire of land. Involved the LCs in handling the case. The LC mediated in the case in favour of the tenant and the land lord was charged to pay back the money, though he has not finished paying it to date. *Destruction of crops by stray animals are also rampant especially by animals owned by the host. The training conducted by MACCO further enhanced my capacity to handle land related cases,* she said
Modest Arima, LC3 Chairman Odupi	*Host communities are advised not to sell trees to the refugees for charcoal; this has affected the environment negatively,* he cautioned *I have observed that there is use of bad languages and beakering among the refugees and host communities; partners are concerned of the needs, as believers we must live to the grace of God,* he appealled. *Theft in relation to, animals is on the rise, we must desist from theft, he further advised.* *Here, we see ourselves as enemies, the local communities seem to have some discontentment and conflict but the leaders work together; he called for the participants to believe in God and seek for his hand (his divine intervention) to relieve the community of the gaps.* *These gaps we are having are individual gaps we should address them case by case and peacefully* *To the refugee communities who among you has planted tree?* he asked. *13 participants acknowledged planting trees since 2017. All of us should have had trees to have wood fuel,* he lamented.
Ayume Peter John, RWC3, Imvepi	*Though the government of Uganda welcomed us with open hands, this was facilitated by the Landlords whom I term as the greatest donor,* he said

sio William, Assistant Settlement Commandant, Bidibidi Zone 5	Appreciated the landlords for giving land to refugees without pay and wished them God's blessing longer life on earth; Encouraged the landlords to continue donating land for refugees. Called on landlords to ensure that formal documents are signed while hiring; saying "*Refugees have been exploited through stopping them from accessing farm fields by landlords,* he observed, saying *we in the previous times had been refugees but we continue to exploit and harass refugees".* He advised the landlords to focus on the future needs when we would be refugees because if the government changes and conflicts ensue, how would the refugees treat us.
Bamvile Zone 4 (national)	*I was once a refugee, we never had catagorisation? How has catagorisation come about? Some do have food and others do not. Why are the refugees in Uganda being treated like this?* he asked Response: Catagorization is established to support the most vulnerable person in category 1 & 2 (Asio William, Assistant Settlement Commandant
Habib Salim, Ewatu ti (national)	Said *I have offered 6 hectares of land for settlement of refugees, adding, sometimes refugees are offered land for farm and later would offer the same land to other people.*
Maneno Rose (national)	Said *I was once a refugee, we offered part of our land for refugee settlement and we were included on food log and later removed as there is scacity and scrumble for food ration.* *The refugees have all been removed from food log, we also wish to withdraw all our land offered.*
Land Officer, Yumbe District.	*When the district organizes community engagement meetings, the host communities do not turn-up for meetings because communities would expect facilitation and demand for allowances which the district doesn not offer* the District Land Officer observed saying, *land facilitates work and violence because of its fixed nature and importance in production/livelihoods oft he people.* Observing low participation of host communities in joint activities, he encouraged the communities to actively participate in community activities,

Activity 4.1.2: Capacity building for 48 women and youth leaders in peace building and conflict management

MACCO, in the month of September 2025, trained forty-five (45) women, youth and male advocates designated as Peace Advocates in peace building and conflict management across the three project sub counties of Odupi and Uriama in Terego district and Ariwa in Yumbe district. See table below and Annex 1 for details:

Participants trained by location, gender and nationality

Sub County	RM	RF	NM	NF	Total
Uriama	3	2	8	2	15
Odupi	6	2	4	2	14
Ariwa	2	2	6	6	16
Total	11	6	18	10	45

Participants breakdown and graphical illustration by age

Age	RM	RF	NM	NF	Total
<17	0	0	0	0	0
18-35	6	6	9	4	25
36-59	5	0	10	4	19
Above 60	0	0	1	0	1
PWDs	1	0	0	1	1
Total	11	6	20	8	45

Overall youth aged 18-35 from both refugee and host communities constituted half (55%) of the total number of the Peace Advocates trained. The young group of Peace Advocates will advocate for participation and inclusion of the young people in decision process, ownership, access, use of land and use of natural resources. Women and men aged 36-59 followed with a representation of 42%. The training significantly enhanced the capacity of the Peace Advocates in peace building and conflict management.

Training objective:
The primary objective of the training was to empower 48 women and youth leaders (Peace Advocates) in peace building and conflict management by enhancing their skills in peace building, fostering their understanding of key concepts in peacebuilding and conflict management, and equipping them with the necessary tools and knowledge to advocate for peacebuilding initiatives. The training imparted knowledge and skills in the participants and strengthened the capacity of peace advocates in conflict analysis, peacebuilding and conflict resolution approaches (alternative dispute resolution - ADR, mediation, arbitration, negotiation) and conflict-sensitive practices. The training was delivered through participant centered methodologies notably practical exercises (group discussions, experience sharing, role plays, question and answer sessions) and powerpoint presentations,

TRAINING OUTCOMES
The key outcomes from the training are:

- **Enahnced participation:** participants across the target sub counties confessed having acquired new skills in conflict resolution and demonstrated a strong commitment to applying the new skills and knowledge in peace building and conflict resolution. *"I did not know many things e.g. principles to conflict resolution; the training in peace building and conflict management has changed my mind and equipped me with skills to do my work better" remarked **Adiru Lucy**, a Peace Advocate from Odupi sub county*
- **Eagerness to learn more:** The peace advocates recognised the value of new knowledge in managing conflicts related to land and other natural resources. E.g. Only two of the 14 participants in Odupi had been exposed to training in resource driven conflict management. In addition, the training methodologies namely experience sharing, case studies and group works motivated the participants and aroused their quest for more new knowledge. They demonstrated genuine enthusiasm for learning and skills development in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, recognizing their pivotal roles in promoting peaceful coexistence.
- **Enhanced collaboration between the youth and elderly**: As illustrated in the training participants age analysis above, the youth who constituted 57% pledged to work closely with the 42% of adult men and women and 1% elderly man of the 45 participants. Thus, demonstrating the commitment of the young peace advocates advocating for collaboration between the young and elderly people in the community
- **Three key advocacy issues raised for follow-up namely:**
    - Advocating for land leasehold agreements to support refugees and nationals in documenting land related transactions to minimize conflicts.
    - Identifying and directing sensitizations/awareness to hot spot areas e.g. Cinya., Ombechi, Okubani among others. These are areas characterized by high rates of conflict

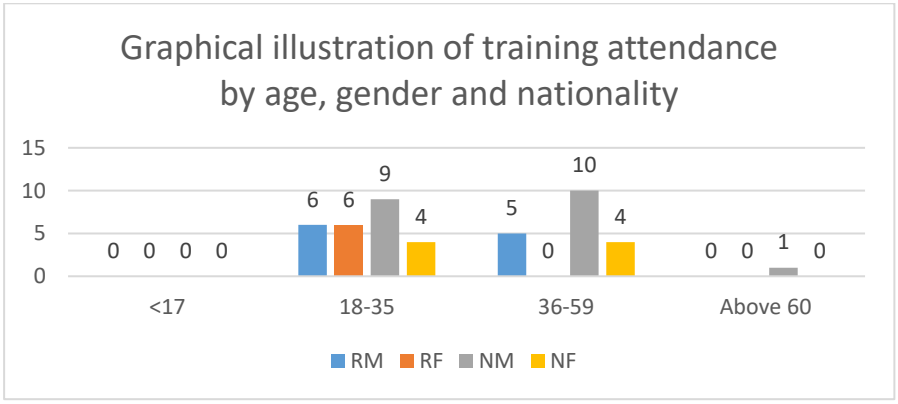
- Advocating for capacity building and involvement of LCs, RWCs and landlords in the project activities to minimize resource driven conflicts.



Photo: Training of Peace Advocates in Peace Building and Conflcit Management by Psychosocial Counselor



Left: Group work presentation (up) during Peace Advocates training at Uriama Sub County



What changes did you observe during the training?

The peace advocates demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting peace and resolving conflicts in their communities. The contextual relevance of the training materials (hand books) and the emphasis on practical skills provided a strong foundation for ongoing and future peacebuilding efforts in the intended refugee hosting sub-countie of Ariwa, Odupi and Uriama.

The participants (peace advocates) gained more knowledge and skills to mediate for peace in their communities and beyond. Throughout the training, participants engaged in activities that enhanced their understanding of conflict dynamics, mediation techniques, and negotiation skills. They gained insights into the key drivers of conflicts (limited resources - money, land, power opportunities, unmet needs and expectations, differences in values and morals,

miscommunication and misunderstandings, power struggles, authority, decision making, unresolved past injustices and explored approaches to peacebuilding (**Formal justice system, alternative dispute resolution methods (**mediation, negotiation, arbitration etc).

What changes did the participants report?

The participants reported positive changes in individual knowledge levels and perceptions about conflicts in their communities; and their ability to transforming conflicts into positive peace. *"The training in peace building and conflict management has changed my mind and equipped me with skills to do my work better" remarked **Adiru Lucy**, a Peace Advocate from Odupi sub county, adding, 'It equipped us with valuable skills and knowledge to contribute meaningfully to peace efforts, which are essential in our day-to-day life in peacebuilding activities*.'

What changes do you hope will happen after the activity?

The Peace Advocates (local based structures) are engaging and influencing peaceful conflict resolution processes in their communities. In this process, the peace advocates are envisaged working collaboratively with the community level duty bearers and service providers namely Local Councils, Local Council Courts, Areal Land Committees and Environment Committees. Thus, conflicts are addressed progressively, constructively and non-violently; it is envisaged that the peace advocates become first points of reference for reporting conflict situations in the community

What was the most important success for this activity?

The training enhanced conflict management skills among the peace advocates including; conflict analysis, mediation, negotiation and dialogue facilitation, to adequtetly tackle conflicts in their respective communities. The Peace Advocates were equipped with skills and knowledge to handle and mediate minor conflicts with support of local leaders in their own communities fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for peace. The training increased their abilities to peacefully address conflicts, empowering them to make meaningful contributions to conflict prevention, management, and resolution efforts.

What did it manage to achieve?

The Peace Advocates gained improved skills and knowledge for conflict resolution, mediation, and peace initiatives. *"I did not know many things e.g. principles to conflict resolution, the training in peace building and conflict management has changed my mind and equipped me with skills to do my work better" remarked **Adiru Lucy**, a Peace Advocate from Odupi sub county*

Activity **4.2: Capacity building for 50 members of Area Land Committees and Local Council Courts on their roles and conflict mitigation and 50 Local Environment Committees**

MACCO conducted one capacity building training for Area Land Committee members, Local Council Courts and Refugee Welfare Council Members between 1st and 10th Septmber 2025.



Photo: Executive Director, MACCO facilitating training of area land committees, local courts and LC1s at Uriama Sub county

The training was planned for 50 participants. However, due to overwhelming demand from the settlement and sub-county leadership, who identified the Area Land Committee members, the participants number was raised to 84 (28 per sub county). The Settlement and Sub-County leaders argued that the Area Land Committes play important roles in land administration and managing conflict related to land; Most of the committees had not received trainings in land administration. Therefore, building the capacity of the Area Land Committees would meaningfully respond to the increasing needs of the communities. Therefore, the number of the participants was revised to 84, i.e. 28 per sub county.

The capacity building training enhanced the capacity of the Area Land Committees and Local Council Courts to effectively administer justice at the local level in lands sector, and promote transparent land governance, The participants acquired the basic tools to handle disputes fairly and efficiently. The training also strengthened mechanisms for more accessible and accountable system for land administration, natural resource governance, sustainable use of natural resources and preserving the environment**.**

The action was facilitated using participant cantered approaches including, participant-led group discussions, experience sharing, question and answer sessions, This enhanced experiencial learning, effective knowledge transfer and skills development for the participants. The approaches improved involvement and clarified issues in the process of discussions.

The sessions were facilitated for 2 days in each of the training locations namely; Ariwa Sub County Head Quarters (Bidibidi), OPM Resource Room (Imvepi) and Uriama Sub-County Head Quarters (Rhino Camp Refugee settlement)

The participants understood their roles and conflict resolution mechanisms; this increased awareness among the local authorities on their roles and conflict resolution approaches**;** triggered sense of proactively managing conflicts in the community, being conflict sensitive at their work, making decisions fairly and supporting peaceful means of conflict resolution using alternative dispute resolution mechanisms notably mediation, negotiation and arbitration using existing structures among the refugees and host communities while promoting free, equitable access and sharing resources.

- What changes did you observe during the activity;

Enhanced capacities in land administration and management of land conflicts: The participants gained practical skills and knowledge in land rights, land governance, natural resource management and peace building. During the training process the participants demonstrated willingness to embrace and apply the knowledge and skills acquired to support local communities in land administration and resolving resource driven conflicts. This is envisaged to reduce land conflicts in the community. At the end of the training, the committees developed action points to raise awareness in the community "*Landlords have been exploiting the refugees by refusing to sign land use agreements with refugees in the process of land acquisition. Today, I will have engagement with landlords and refugees to see they formally sign land use agreements"* said the Chairperson Local Council Courts Ariwa Sub County.



Photo: Executive Director, MACCO making presentation on land laws in Uganda during training of area land committees, local courts and LC1s at Uriama Sub county, Terego District, Photot taken by Acema Ben, Project Assistant.

Increased participants commitment to work collaboratively with stakeholders: The training engaged various categories of local authorities namely; LCs, RWCs, Natural Resource Committees and Area Land Committees. The participants shared their work experiences, identified gaps and laid strategies for mitigation of land related conflicts. They mapped out key stakeholders at all levels of land administration and committed to work with them collaboratively to mitigate manipulations in land transactions and recurrence of land disputes.

Improved efficiency in response to land conflicts: The training focussed on land conflicts and needs of the community conflicts triggred by other natural resouces. It emphasized the importance of the role of the local leaders and affected persons leading the response in local conflcits. *"Actually, the training has come in time, we down here in the communities have been facing challenges in land administration, access from the host communities and land conflicts have been common as refugees want land for cultivation coupled with the reduction in food ratios, refugees land but more conflicts continue to happen, we are going to use the concepts learnt to resolve some of the issues."* ...said Moro John

Willingness to adapt the contents shared; the participants acknowledged that they had not received such a training; particularly the LCs, and area land committees (natural resources) especially from Uriama Sub County 2/23 participants acknowledged being trained on land administration; this means the training provided platform to reach more participants and developed the following action point;

1. Engage local council members in the process of land acquisition.
2. Sign land use agreements with the lands; as the landlord use the tendencies of using the refugees to bush clearing.
3. Local leaders to disseminate the consent forms for land acquisition as shared by UNHCR from OPM in the office of the Production Officer and ensure the LC3 is part of agreement signing process.

4. MACCO in coordination with of Subcounty leadership & police organise a separate peace building and natural resource management training for landlords, youths who perpetuate land related conflicts and criminalities to reduce violence in the communities on land

- what changes did the participants report

Participants recognised importances of implementation of gender sensitive land administration and conflict management; participants; we used to less value and limited involvement of women, provided no access rights and ownership privileges to women. Girls are looked at as bride wealth, and would likely marry. Do girls have right to own the fathers land, this has caused land conflicts between the boy child and the girl child said the LC1 of Ariwa 1 cluster.

Participants ably identified key land conflict divers and developed strategies for mitigiting key drivers of land conflicts especially multiple hiring of land to refugees by landlords due to greed and tendencies of exploitation; unwillingenss of landlord to sign land use aggreements with refugees, intimidation of refugees by landlords and low involvement of LC1s on land issues'' *It is our committment and mandate to make the training concept work, we need to stand out with integrity, create peaceful land use among the refugees and host communities, We need to change our communities, we cannot achieve peace if our minds are not peacefull''* said Senya Emmanuel RWC1, Ofua 3 Zone, Rhino Camp Refugee Settement

Appreciation of the relevance of the training by participants; the training increased confidence, independence and is likely to manage land conflicts; this is anticipated to improve the peerformance & productivity of the LC1s, RWCs, local council courts, local environment committees and area land committee members in manangement and mediation of land related issues ,'' *If we were to use money to get this knowledge, it would have been hard, very expensive and very diffculty* said Kale John,LC 3,Ariwa Sub County.

- **what changes do you hope will happen after the activity?**

- Service delivery providers and duty bearers are conflict sensitive in their actions
- Local based structures (women, youth, elderly, men) in the refugee and host communities are engaging and influencing peaceful conflict management in their communities.
- Zero tolerance to violence in the community
- Conflicts are addressed constructively and non-violently
- Conflict is sanctioned and civil conflict management is becoming the norm

Violence no longer has a place as a means of conflict resolution, Increased awareness and information dissemination on land rights, natural resources use and peace building in the communities through churches, community centres like community meetings, worship centres and market; while the Peace Advocates would continue to cascade the information received using the information leaflets, posters and manuals. This would widen the information dissemination scope.

Improved relationship between refugees and host communities during the session's refugees and host communities' members, local leaders and other key community resource person were engaged to amicably understand and appreciate the importances of mutual and peaceful resource sharing thus it is anticipated the participants would cascade the concept learnt to create lasting harmonious peace while sharing natural resources especially participants pledged to

engage the land lords adapt the practice of signing agreement for land use and access; engage in mediation sessions to reduce on land related conflicts.

- **What was the most important success for this activity?**

The ability of the participants to share emerging conflict cases in the communities especially multiple land hiring to refugees; and key perpetrators of violences in the communities as youths.
91% participation in the meeting; 76%, 15% were men and female respectively, majority of the participants had not received any training in land right and would administer land cases without basic knowledge the training empowered the participants to understand the processes of land administration.

Overall participants attendance of the training by age category.

Category	17	18-35	36-59	60	**Total**
RF	0	4	1	0	**5**
RM	0	9	11	0	**20**
NF	0	4	4	0	**8**
NM	0	2	35	7	**44**
Total	**0**	**19**	**51**	**7**	**77**

Participants attendance break down by nationality, gender and sub county

Sub County	**RM**	**RF**	**NM**	**NF**	**Total**
Ariwa	11	0	14	4	29
Uriama	3	1	16	3	23
Odupi	6	4	14	1	25
Total	**20**	**5**	**44**	**8**	**77**

- **What did it manage to achieve?**

- The participants gained improved skills and knowledge to effectively manage land disputes, administer justice at the local level, and promote transparent land governance

- **Why did it go so well?**

1) Organisation and planning for the activity; the community structures were timely shared the activity implementation plans helped to facilitate prompt mobilisation of key participants as a result most of the targeted participated in the sessions.
2) Coordination and communication with stakeholders especially the sub county authorities (the office of the subcounty chief, community development and the LC3) guided the participants identification process, mapped competent participants that would support in the project; this enabled selection of the right participants for the training.

Activity 4.1.1 support conflict resolution spaces for mediation

MACCO in the reporting period conducted three mediation sessions to resolve conflicts involving institutional land in two Primary Schools (P/S) namely:

- Ngaziku P/S in Uriama Sub-County, Terego district
- Tokuro P/S in Ariwa Sub-County, Yumbe district

In the case of Ngaziku P/S, due to population presure, the grand children of Oresto Enzoa and Leriano (landlords who willings and freely offered land for the school) were reclaiming approximately 5 hectares of the school land offered by their grand parents since 1969; This

made the school administrators /teachers to live in fear of losing life and property due to soaring conflict. Meanwhile for Tokuro P/S, the school is facing challenges from one community member who is a nephew to the owners of the land, he threatens the staff of the school and obstructs the projects in the school saying the school is taking away his grandfathers land given to the school years back.

The two cases were reported following community awareness sessions on land rights and governance conducted by Peace Advocates. MACCO followed-up on the two (2) cases. The case of Ngaziku P/S was resolved following two mediation sessions with involvement of a Lawyer, local authorities (LCs, District Land Officer, Area councilors among others. Meanwhile the case of Tokuro P/S was addressed with resolutions agreed by both parties to end the conflict and the resolutions will be followed up after two weeks.

- What changes did you observe during the activity

- ***The school administrators expressed relief from the fears and threats earlier experienced as the mediation process progressed***. "*I feared for my safety and children, I have been here for 12 years and endeavored alot in improving the school. I am happy that this Organization (MACCO) has brought us today to resolve this issue*" remaked Abele Abduluman, Teacher Tokuro P/S.
- ***Recognition of the Conflict and willingness of the parties to enter into mediation process to resolve the conflict*** "*If the mediation session was tobe delayed for three more weeks, there was going tob a heavy violence witnessed. We used to observe how the teachers would be stopped to cultivate on the disputed land, but now the teachers can access and use the land freely*". Said Nyakuni Benzamin, the former SMC Chairman, Ngaziku P/S, *The issues reported about Kavuma are true and I out found that Kavuma feels proud and thinks that he has over powered the teachers said Ashraf Maternal uncle to Kavuma*. Meanwhile, the participation of the afftected parties in the mediation processes demonstrate their shift from violent land disputes to peaceful ways of resolving the conflicts.

- what changes did the participants report

  - ***The participants appreciated the mediation processes as being peaceful, cost-effective, and timely response to resolving the conflicts***. The communities shifted conflcit resolution strategies from violence involving use of bows and arrows in the case of Tokuro to dialoguing through mediation. The Ngaziku P/S case had been escalated to the District Land Board but had not been responded to since 2013
  - ***Recognition of legal time constraint over land claims;*** The participants of Ngaziku Primary School case reported gaining a better understanding of the legal frameworks in relation to land offers and the limitation act for putting claims. The affected families recognised and acknowledged their shortfalls that their claims were barred by time.

- what changes do you hope will happen after the activity?

- ***The members of the affected families and administrators and teachers will coexist peacefully***: Having recognized their limitations and reconciled over the land issues, it

is envisaged that both affected family members and school administrators/teachers will live in harmony. This will usher improved interpersonal relationships between the teachers and the affected family members. This in turn will nurture in the teachers a strong sense of belonging in the community and ultimately impact on the teaching and learning processes in the schools.

- ***Deterence of future claims over land from bonafide occupants***: The mediation process has set positive precedence in the community that the rights of long term (bonafide) occupants have to be respected. This will prevent recurrence of future claims over institutional and individual lands long occupied by bonafide occupants.

- **What was the most important success for this activity?**

- Withdrawal of claims by the claimants: In both cases (Ngaziku and Tokuro P/Ss), the affected family members eventually agreed to withdraw their claims over the pieces of land in question. The choices for withdrawal were informed by the legal advice from the lawyer who guided the mediation process. The choices were voluntary and followed extensive dialogues between the affected families and school communities during the mediation processes.

What did it manage to achieve?

- Mutually acceptable resolutions allowing the schools to retain right of use over the pieces of land. Recognising that the land offers by the foreparents of the affected families were respected and honored. "I am grateful for the family of Oresto for accesspting to give back the land willingly to the school. It is a very good gesture to respect and honor the wishes and commitments of their grand father" remarked Atiku Charles, the Catechist, Otumbari Church.

- **Why did it go so well?**

- **Legal advice offered during the mediation**: This influenced the final decisions of the affected family members to withdraw their claims because of the rights vested in the schools by the law.

- **What were the success factors?**

- **Remission by the affected family members**: inconsideration of the legal advice and decision of the family heads, the rest of the family members accepted to leave the user rights over the pieces of land to the schools
- **Witness of the wider community members**: the wider community members recognitsed the value of the schools to education services for the entire community; bearing witnesses to the land offers by the foreparents, they argued for the retention of the pieces of land by the schools in order to promote education services in the two school communities.
- **Influence of the elderly family members of the affected families (cultural leaders):** in the spirit of common heritage, the elderly members of the affected families associated more with the wider community members. This is partly due to their roles in the wider communities as cultural leaders. "*If this matter was put to vote, then we (affected family)*

would be left alone to vote for our family. For this reason, I commit as the family head to leave the land to the school" ruled Mr Yamandu Fred Oreste, family head of the affected family/landlord.

Please describe if you encountered any challenges in the implementation of any activity and what conclusions you made for the future? *What was difficult, what did not work out, what did you change in the original plan, how would you do it differently in the future?*

Challenges

- **Poor time management by some of the participants**: In Ngaziku, the family members of the landlords delayed coming to the meeting venue, On their arrival, they all emerged from one side, implying they had been for a family meeting prior to the mediation meeting. Patience of the other community members, school administrators, the local leaders and MACCO team was emplored awaiting arrival of the landlord's family members.
- **Interuption by emergencies due to natural catastrophes**: In the dialogue at IMvepi, two children drowned in a nearby stream as the dialogue had started. When the message reached the community members, this raised some unrest which interupted the dialogue for some time. The project team shared in the grief with the community members and sought the opinion of the community members on the possibility of continuing the dialogue. The community members consented to the need for continuing the dialogue session. Strong community participation was sustained throughout the dialogue..
- **Delayed consensus building during mediation**: Much as the affected parties agreed to resolving disputes through mediation, final consenus does not neccessarily come with ease. In the case of Ngaziku P/S, consus was reached following the second session. Some family members from the complainants were not willing to consent much as majority of them accepted to withdraw their claim over the piece of land and leave it to the school. Engaging elderly members of the family basing on their influence as cultural leaders, legal advocate for legal guidance and witness of the other community members based on the historical narrative and value of the school to the entire community enabled the conseus building.
- **Administrative gaps**: In the case of Tokuro P/S, absence of evidence of land ownership (land title) posed a big challenge to school's ownership over the land. This was exercebated by absence of handover reports that would act as reference documents if it contained a statement on the school land. The mediation outcome (consensus building) relied heavily on the submissions of the wider community members and former leaders of the school, notably the School management Committee Chairpersn and the current LC II Chairperson.
- **Community ignorance of the law**: The community (landlords and sons) generally lacked legal knowledge governing land rights and land administration including ownership, access and user rights. This delayed consensus building on matters which are clearly guided in the law. "*if we had knowledge about land policies in Uganda the way the lawyer has guided us, we would not even come*

up to claim for the land knowing that the law is not on our side," remarked Wawa Swaibu, landlord from Tokuru school community. Engagement of legal advocates eased the guidance and consesus building

Please mention any area your team needs support from the coordination office or other partner organisations - *Do you need more time and attention to discuss the project plans and progress, is there any thematic areas you need specific support, anything else?*

Areas where MACCO team needs support from the coordination office and or other partner organisations

Integrating livelihood component into peace building: The communities increasingly demanded livelihood support to address the underlying causes of poverty in the community. Strengthening the project team on how to integrate livelihood program in to peace building is vital for the project.

Gender in conflict management: Throughout the project implementation, women participation is low despite their large numbers in attendance. Aiding the project team to facilitate gender empowerment and transformative engagement with women is a vital area for enhancing women participation in peace building.

5. **Is there anything in terms of lessons learned what worked very well or what did not work at all that you would like to share with Coordination office and other partner organisations/teams?** e.g. feedback collection methods, which worked best, reaching out to stakeholders, an important success story which might impact and contribute to the work of the other organisations.

Women empowerment strengthens women-led initiatives for women's rights: Mrs Napiricowio Ayite of Ariwa Sub-County was trained among the peace advocates on policy and legal frameworks in lands sector. Mrs Ayite had been denied access to their ancestral land following the death of her father. Land in the customary holding vests in men. Upon understanding women's rights to their customary land, Ayite stoodout to question the denial by her paternal uncles of her right to use their ancestral land after the death of her father. Aware of her rights and the legal processes, she successfully defended her claim over the land until the district Land Board awarded her claim over the land. This demonstrateds that once empowered, women are capable of leading local initiatives in defence of women;s rights.

Peace building in local communities thrives on expert local knowledge. In Tokuro P/S, the mediation process relied on information provided by local people as key informants because documented information was largely missing. Meanwhile, in Ngaziku P/S, the family members of the landlord especially the young people eventually accepted to withdraw their claim over the land after elderly brother advised following information provided by the other community members corroborating the land offer by their grandfather. Therefore, it is important to identify community members who hold critical information and influence to stimulate positive attitudes for peace process to progress smoothly.

5. Mention 1-3 success stories from the reporting period (please include a picture if possible))

Mrs Ayite Napiricowio turns around cultural barriers to women;s right over land and regains her right over their ancestral land

Ayite Napiricowio, 59 years old, is a Peace Advocate from Ariwa Sub County, Yumbe district working with MACCO under the CPS project named: ***Men and Women together promoting social and gender transformation in their refugee and host communities towards peaceful co-existence in Uganda.***

Upon being selected as a peace advocate, Ayite was trained in land administration, environmental management. peace building and conflict management; The trainings enhanced her knowledge on user rights and legal procedures in land administration. She was set to reclaim her right to use the customary land in their ancestral home. Culturally land vests in men and is inherited through the male child. When Napiriciowio got married and later the father died, she was denied access to their ancestral land by her paternal uncles.



Photo: Ayite Napiricowio, a Peace Advocate from Ariwa sub county

During the training, Ayite kept reflecting on how she had been denied access to their ancestral land by the paternal uncles knowing that this had denied her rights to use their customary family land.

The trainings and awareness sessions she attended under the CPS program raised her understanding on the governing laws and principles of land administration, In particular Ayite got informed on the women's rights to land and actions to follow in case of breaches. Therefore, Mrs Ayite confidently engaged her paternal uncles into a family meeting to resolve this breach. Upon unsuccessful discussion with the paternal uncles, she filed an appeal case to LC1 and LC2 courts. However, the verdict of the LC I and LC II Courts were not in her favor. This made Ayite to seek for justice from the District Land Board siting in Yumbe. Eventually, the District Land Board awarded her claim over their ancestral land. "*I felt justice had been served when the court declared my customary land be given back to me. My determination and self-esteem made me secure the land. My role in the family has been redefined from a passive beneficiary to an active property owner. Though I do not speak English fluently, I am committed to supporting and influencing women empowerment and participation in decision making at all levels. I will promote women[s right to land ownership and use*" she recounted; saying, "*I wish to thank MACCO for empowering me to recover my late fathers land*"

Peace returns among school communities of Ngaziku P/S after successful mediation in a standing land conflict.

Ngaziku P/S in Uriama Sub County, Terego district, has been entangled in a standing land dispute with the decentants of one Oreste Enzoa (deceased) the landlord.

The community of Otumbari Parish lived with hard constraint of access to formal education till 1969 when Oresto Enzoa and Leriano out of their generosity and good will to support education for the community offered approximately 15 hectares of land for establishing Ngaziku Community P/S. The offer was intended to enhance access to basic formal education within easy reach. The community for long had to travel cumbersome distances averaging 15kms to the nearest school at Aria P/S.

Ngaziku primary school from the onset was a community-run initiative that struggled with long-term sustainability due to the limited ability of the population to provide consistent support. The school plays a vital role in providing accessible education to the children in its community up to the time government took over its management (Government aided school). The school enrollment increased, parents and other school communities worked concertedly to improve the quality of education and peace-fully co-existed.

However, the generosity of the foreparents and hope for good school would soon fade as population pressure took ist toll on the once abundant land. The grand children of Oresto Enzoa started demanding for part of the school land which their grandfather offered. They threatened the school administrators and teachers. This raised fears in the school community questioning their personal security and sfaety of their property including other school assets due to soaring conflict.

In July 2025, MACCO conducted a community awareness session on land rights and governance for Otumbari Parish. During the session, the Head Master for Ngaziku P/S opened up and shared out the land conflict situation between Ngaziku P/S and the family of Oresto. The Peace Advocates of Uriama followed up the matter for further details and documentation. The report was submitted to MACCO calling for action. MACCO initiated a follow-up into the report which led to two (2) time mediation sessions to resolve the land conflict. MACCO involvement a wide spectrum of stakeholders including local authorities (LCs, District Land Officer, Area councilors among others), community leaders, church leaders at Ngaziku Chapel and former leaders of the school. MACCO also involved services of a lawer for legal counsel. The family members of the landlord and school community were briefed on the alternatives to resolve the land conflict. They were educated on the basic land laws, the costs and benefits of resolving such issues through Courts of law and out of court. The family members and school community resolved on out of court mediation. After exhaustive internal consultation among the family members and the school administrators, the family of late Oresto Enzoa eventually agreed to leave the land fort he school



Photo (above): Participants at site during the boundary inspection at Ngaziku primary



"*I am grateful for the family of Oresto for accepting to leave the land willingly to the school, it is a very good gesture to respect and honor the wishes and commitment of their grandfather*" said Atiku Charles, the Catechist Otumbari church.

6. Is there any change in the overall context of the country or the specific target groups that is worth mentioning?

The country has embarked on electoral campaigns in preparation for the upcoming 2026 General Elections. This continues to affect project implementation because the political leaders have shifted attention to managing their campaigns and will give preference to their campaigns whenever there arises a coincidence in scheduled activity programs. Meanwhile, some community members question the relationship between the program and political maneuvers often associated with land grabbing. This was raised as one hard question in Ariwa based on the community's experience of embedding eviction by one political leader who is alleged to have grabbed the entire land of one village in the Sub-County

7. When revising the overall activity plan for 2025, are there any activities for the next period of reporting that need to be added or amended?

Areas to be revised are detailed in the table below:

Budget Code	Item/Activity Description	Recommendations for review / reallocations
1.	**Investment Costs**	
1.1	Laptops	1,000,000= to be reallocated to motorcycle, 580,000= to bereallocated to Printer and 16,400= to bereallocated to maintenance of equipment
1.3	Video camera, camera mike and Tripod stand	1,380,000= to be reallocated to motorcycle and 170,000= to be reallocated to printer
1.4	Recorder	50,000= reallocated to maintenance of equipment
1.5	Motorcycle	Re-allocations to be made from the balance from procurement of the project car and maintenance of equipment
1.6	Project vehicle	11,500,000= reallocated to motorcycle in the 1st reallocation request
1.7	Maintenance of equipment	4,000,000= reallocated to motorcycle in the 1st reallocation request
2	**Running costs**	
2.4	Utilities	650,000= to be reallocated to Bank Charges
3	**PERSONNEL COSTS**	
	Sub-Total Personnel Costs-Donor Contribution	7,085,000= to be reallocated to maintenance of equipment, 2.425.000= to be reallocated to awareness and 900,000= to be reallocated to peace building initiatives 4,282,113= to be reallocated to activities
4.1.1	**Capacity building for 48 women, youth and male advocates in land administration and environmental management**	
	Sub-Total	4,244,000= to be reallocated to awareness raising
4.1.1	**Capacity building for 48 women and youth leaders in peace building and conflict management**	
4.1.1	Venue hire	250,000= to be rellocated to fuel under capacity building of women and youth leaders in peace building and conflict management
	Sub-Total	3,985,000= to be reallocated to awareness raising
4.1.3	**Awareness raising on access and user rights to natural resources including land, forest resources and minerals; and the relevant laws**	

	Sub-Total	Reallocations to be made from capacity building for commuty structures (women, youth and men) in pecae building and conflict resolution (3,985,000=) 3,150,000= of the reallocation will be for visibility materials including one Pull-up banner, one Tear Drop and T/Shirts
4.2	**Capacity building for 50 members of Area Land Committees and local council Courts on their roles and conflict mitigation and 50 Local Environment committees**	
4.2.1	Venue hire	470,000= to be reallocated to transport reimbursement under capacity building for Area Land Committees, Council Courts and Environment Committees
	Sub-Total	184,000= to be reallocated to conflict resolution spaces through mediation
4.5.1	**Establish feedback mechanisms**	
4.5.2	Data and airtime for the complaints desk	271,970= to be reallocated to construction of website and 45,000= to be reallocated to procurement of office line
	Reference study	
1.1	**Study peace needs in Bidibidi, Invepi,Rhino Camp and Palorinya settlements**	
1.2	**Stakeholder engagement meeting to disseminate study findings**	
1.2.1	Venue hire	180,000= to be reallocated to facilitate community based peace initiatives and 70,000= to be reallocated to projector hire
1.2.8	Transport refunds to participants	500,000= to be reallocated to facilitate community based peace initiatives
	Sub-Total	680,000= to be reallocated to facilitate community based peace initiatives

Other strategic issues to consider are:

- Purchase of Accounting package (QuickBooks
- Staff training in ***Gender in Peace Building and Conflict Management***
- Medical Insurance scheme for staff
- Integrating livelihood component into peace building

8. Have there been any joint activities with any of the other organisations (ACFODE, JESE, ICSS, MACCO) or any of the other CPS implementing organisations (GIZ; AGIAMONDO)

A joint training was conducted for I Can South Sudan and MAYANK Anti-Corruption Coalition in Conflict Sensitivity and Trauma Healing. The training was facilitated by the Coordinator, Uganda Country Program, Madam Ada H. Six (6) members of the MACCO staff attended the training at Yumbe between October 8th – 9th 2025

Annex 1: Advocacy issues for engagements with the leaders at Sub County, District and Regional Level.

Issue	Nature of engagement	Timeframe	Responsible
Call for Police Post at Chinya village, Ofua 1 Uriama sub county	Follow up visit to District Police Commander, Terego	October-November 2025	ED/Project ED/Officer
Harmonizing transport charges levied by LCs during land acquisition processes	Regional engagement meeting with District / Sub-County leaders	October-November 2025	ED/Project Officer
Persistent Boundary issue between Naranga / Amia villages over service delivery	Follow up with sub county leadership of Odupi	October-November 2025	ED/Project Officer
Unwillingness and poor attitudes of the host communities (Landlords) to enter in to formal agreements with refugees in the process of accessing land for use; the landlords prefer oral committements for land use; which is not refferenced.	MACCO in collaboration with of Subcounty leadership & police to initiate an information session with land lord on importances of signing land user agreement and different types of land.	October to November 2025	ED/Project Officer
Poorly disseminated standardized land use agreement forms among the communities	MACCO to collaborate with sub county authorities and local refugee leadership and disseminate the standardized land use agreement forms among the communities through the local leaders and landlords	October to November 2025	ED/Project Officer
Landlords and youths are the key perpetraitors of land related conflicts and criminalities/violence over land in the communities	MACCO to organise a separate training for landlords, youths in land administration, peace building and other natural resources these this target perpetruates land related conflicts and criminalities/violence in the communities	Year 2 of the project	ED/Project Officer