UNIVERSITA' COMMERCIALE LUIGI BOCCONI

Faculty of Economics

Master of Science in Public Administration And International Institutions Management

Evaluation of Livelihood Intervention for Extremely Vulnerable Individuals in Northern Uganda.

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Master of Science Thesis

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Academic Year 2009-2010

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In the first place my gratitude goes to all the men and women who took part in the intervention hereby analysed. Beyond all the numbers that made up this research, there are people, just like the kind reader. Despite their vulnerability and old age, they showed remarkable strength of soul in planning their future together with that of their dependants. Thank you for teaching me to welcome the foreigner and to show me the enthusiastic effort for planning the years to come even at 85 years old. Equally my thanks go to those beneficiaries who passively accepted AVSI support, for in this way we learnt how livelihood and development could be improved.

Secondly I have to bow my head in front of all AVSI's staff. Federico, thank you for the trust and the suggestions you granted me through out the entire project, and also for bringing me down to earth when necessary. Massimo without you I would have not landed in Uganda. Your proactive curiosity towards the new is a great example. Your comments are part of this work; I owe you a Bell's crate. Peter despite you found every possible excuse to escape from the office, you also found the time to accomplish your task and wearily entered all the data that made this work possible. Obviously these data would have never been collected without the field staff whom patiently listen to all my requests. Thank you AVSI.

I would like to express my appreciation to my professor Nicola Belle' for welcoming my research proposal. Many thanks should also go to those professors at CLAPI who taught me to always chase the common good with passion and commitment. Bocconi University is much appreciated for having encouraged my endless desire for discovery and exploration.

The most special thanks should go to the people who love me: my family and friends. Every one of you supported me in a very special way. My mum and my dad, you taught me to always pursue the path of self-improvement. Werner, I would have not been able to take advantage of the miracles computer programming can make with my data and probably I would still be there fixing the database without your help. Renna you are an example of pure never-ending friendship. My little brothers

Lurenz and Jeppi, your smile and enthusiasm dressed up with axillaries pants and fed with delicacies made these years a blast. Hermano, thanks for adopting me in your special family, your happiness is for me a religious teaching. Antuny, your lifestyle can be summarised in the motto '*vedendo facendo*' , thank you. Marcious I will always learn from your peaceful smiling approach to problems. Polla, I hope that after becoming a doctor you will be able to answer my biologic curiosities, thanks for your thoughts. Gio and Marghe, you are there like a lighthouse in Milan whenever I return home, thanks for helping with your know-how to build up the table of content. A thousand thanks to you all, as well as all the special persons who walked me by during these years.

Love nullify death, all what it creates is immortal. The end of love doesn't exist, only the beginning of a thousand new immortalities does.

List of Acronyms.

AoO. Area of Operation.

AVSI. Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale (IT).

CARE. Christian Action Research and Education (UK).

CoHA. Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.

CSOPNU. Civil Society Organisations for Peace in Northern Uganda.

CSV. Comma Separated Values.

DCPC. District Camp Phase Out Committee .

DFID. Department for International Development (UK).

ECHO. European Commission Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection.

EVI. Extremely Vulnerable Individual.

FAO. Food and Agriculture Organization.

FGD. Focus Group Discussion.

GoU. Government of Uganda.

IDP. Internally Displaced Person.

IDS. Institute of Development Studies (UK)

IGA. Income Generating Activity

LC. Local Council.

LRA. Lord Resistance's Army.

MSF. Medicins Sans Frontieres.

NRA. National Resistance Army.

NRC ICLA. Norwegian Refugee Council, Information, Counselling and Legal Action.

NUSAF. Northern Uganda Social Action Fund.

ODI. Overseas Development Institute.

PRDP. Peace Recovery and Development Plan.

PSN. Person with Specific Needs.

RFO. Resident Field Officer.

ROI. Return on Investment.

SID. Society for International Development.

SLA. Sustainable Livelihoods Approach.

UGX. Ugandan Schillings.

UNDP. United Nations Development Programme.

UNHCR. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

USAID. United States Agency for International Development.

USD. United States Dollar.

WFP. World Food Program

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ABSTRACT

The word livelihood refers to all means of securing the necessities of life. In Northern Uganda, such means have been compromised by a two decades long war. Since 2006 internally displaced people have started to move back from displacement camps to their original villages, in order to rebuild their living. However extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) were left behind with no or limited means of subsistence. This work evaluates a livelihood support intervention based on three directories - i.e. Petty Trade, Cultivation and Livestock - for EVIs in the Gulu District during 2010. The Sustainable Livelihood Framework was applied as a theoretical reference throughout the entire essay; thanks to its flexibility it was used in the project design and served as a selection criteria for the set of methodologies employed in the actual evaluation. The outcome of the intervention has undoubtedly been successful with an average weekly income increase of 64%. Savings have doubled and even the one third of beneficiaries, who could eat only once a day, can now enjoy two daily meals. However, significant inequalities have been noticed among recipients' improvements. A regression model was built to explain the differences between the income performance of traders and farmers as opposed to breeders, whom on average had an income surge four times smaller than the other recipients. The beneficiaries who chose an activity, which required a strong participation on their side to succeed (i.e. trade and farming), were those who performed best. This should encourage future similar projects to design livelihood support on mutual exchange instead of free delivering.

'A man tries hard to help you find your lost camels.
He works more tirelessly than even you,
But in truth he does not want you to find them, ever.'

Ali Dhux.

'If you want to build a ship don't drum up the men to gather wood, divide the work and give orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea'

Antoine de Saint Exupéry

1. Introduction and Objectives.

Livelihood comprises all household strategies to make a living, it should guarantee a dignified survival and be able to cope with either man made or natural shocks. Such strategies are deeply linked with the resources available and the economic opportunities of each particular regional context.
The topic of livelihood has been gaining increasing attention ever since the concepts of poverty alleviation and underdevelopment started to become a priority on the international community's agenda. The clock is quickly ticking towards 2015 and the progress to eradicate extreme poverty (the first millennium development goal) is way behind its half way flag. Specialized scholars, NGOs and development agencies are all investing their energies, time and money to find more effective ways to halve poverty and increase life conditions for 1.4 billion people around the world.
The present work is willing to contribute to such quest. Its aim is to evaluate a short-term livelihood intervention, implemented by an Italian NGO know as AVSI, addressed to extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) in Northern Uganda during 2010. What changes were triggered after this intervention was performed? What activities worked better? And Why? These are the main questions that the author will try to answer on these pages.

The second chapter of this research will deal with the most relevant theoretical approaches on livelihood of the last three decades. It will provide the necessary tools to understand such a broad field. The most recent approach is known as sustainable livelihoods (SLA). It is characterized by a people centred framework to understand the necessary assets required to build up life sustaining strategies. Thanks to its flexibility and its popularity among academic papers on the issue, it was chosen as the guideline for this study.

The SLA does put a strong emphasis on the importance of the context where an intervention takes place, and this is the focus of chapter three. Four years ago Northern Uganda sought the end of one of the longest African conflicts, the one between the Lord Resistance's Army and the government of Uganda. Even though no formal peace agreement was signed between the two parties, de facto peace pushed the population to move back to their original villages from the internally displaced people's camps where they have been confined by the brutal terror widespread during the war. Livelihood opportunities almost disappeared due to the inability of people to access their fields, the raiding of cattle and the insecurity, which prevented any goods from moving. People in camps were deeply dependant on international aid and the food ratio provided with it.

Once people started moving back, vulnerable individuals were left behind as they were seen more as a burden rather than an asset to bring back home. Though also disabled and people suffering from chronic illness were part of this category, the Extremely Vulnerable Individuals to which the intervention hereby analysed is referred were mainly elderly, and single headed household.

The activities and the very evaluation were designed with a participatory approach; hence all beneficiaries took part in the intervention's design. Three main activities were made available to the 670 recipients. These involved assistance in petty trade, cultivation and livestock activities. A detailed project summary will complete the third chapter.

Consequently the fourth part of this thesis will develop the combination of methodologies used to evaluate this livelihood experience. Recent works by experts in the field (Murray, Ellis, Ashley and Hussein) will be taken as examples while disclosing the way in which data have been collected and analysed. The work is based upon two main data collections, one carried out before and the second one after the intervention.

The results of such data will be disclosed in the fifth chapter, the heart of this work. The latter is divided in four sections. Firstly the original conditions of beneficiaries will be described. The average recipient of this project is a woman of 64 years old, despite her vulnerability she has to cater for the needs of three children. In 75% of cases she is illiterate and manages to afford to eat meat only once every other month. The second part will deal with the description of statistics which show what changes occurred at two months time from the completion of livelihood activities. Significant improvements were recorded on all sides, from nutrition to income and savings. However strong differences were seen between livestock recipients and the farmers/traders group, with a robust inequality in favour of the latter. Furthermore a regression model will be developed in order to better explain what led to the surge of the chosen dependent variable: the weekly income increase. Lastly an impact summary table is presented to show the over all judgement on the intervention and then conclusions are drawn.

This dissertation stemmed out of the working experience of the author in the project hereby analysed. During the 12 months' duration of this program a concern towards effectiveness of each activity was developed together with a desire to develop know-how to better design future projects, which should be in the position to tackle the problem of dependency to aid, as some beneficiaries seemed to retain this syndrome despite their life standards' improvements.

Deeply concerned with improving the effectiveness of this kind of intervention, the present work wish to provide some suggestions for future similar project.

"For the Gods have hidden the livelihood of men."
Hesiod, Works and Days.

2. Livelihood.

2.1 What does it mean?

The word livelihood refers to the maintenance of life, in all its meaning. Throughout history individuals, groups, societies and civilizations have always struggled to gain their daily living, in different ways, according to different policies and ideologies. Looking back at history, it is possible to explore an astonishing wide landscape of means to support life.
The fascinating quests on this theme, explored by economic historians over the evolution of the livelihood of mankind: run from the emergence of economic transactions in tribal and archaic societies to the advent of trade, money, markets and dominant ideologies such as capitalism.

The aim of this essay is limited to evaluate an intervention for the rehabilitation and the support of rural livelihood in an extremely poor environment shocked by a twenty years war. Therefore, the following chapter will focus only on some seminal works from the last decades, which will allow the reader to better understand the concept of livelihood applied to the emergency relief and the economic development field.

In such context, since the 1980s, the studies on famine and food security started as a major area of empirical research and conceptual debate. The main concerns of scholars and projects managers were on issues like: coping and vulnerabilities, environmental sustainability, adaptation and livelihood diversification. This chapter will consider the last historical steps, leading us to a better understanding of the theoretical perspectives aiming at the enhancement of people's way to make a living in the southern world. Given the nature of the Northern Ugandan's context that led to the project hereby analysed, this part will finish with a brief mention on livelihood during an emergency timeframe. In this way the reader should be in the position to better profit from the intervention in analysis.

2.1.1 Asset and Entitlements approach.

Rural livelihoods analysis started probably with the birth of peasant studies in the 1960s, given the dominance of peasant modes of production in many newly independent African countries.

Though 'peasant studies' have fallen out of fashion, the concepts and theories are still central to an understanding of rural livelihoods. The area is multi-disciplinary, having branches rooted in household economy, but also in more Marxian ideas of surplus extraction, differentiation and class formation.

Start and Johnson (2004) have identified three approaches to modelling the economic of livelihood, i.e. *entitlement*, *livelihood securities* and *asset-based* livelihood. All of them are readings, adapted to their specific time, of the old neo-classical general equilibrium model with its three paradigmatic variables: resources, technologies for transformation and preferences.

For instance, Deere and De Janvry (1979) identify: raw materials, means of work and family labour as the resources to be transformed through home production and wage labour production. Such transformations would lead the household to choose among its preferences and allocate the fruits of its work among new means of reproduction and greater differentiation. Two years later Sen (1981) would go further and speak of resources as endowments transformed through production and exchange in order to achieve *entitlements*. The latter can be seen as a measure of real income coming from the profit or the product of a livelihood activity. The explanation to such transformation is lying in process of access, production, transformation and exchange. This provides a calculation of the overall entitlement balance – deficit, surplus or breakeven – in a household over a given period of time. This in turn determines the ability of the household to accumulate and, thus, its social-economic status.

In 1992, Chamber and Conway managed to get rid of the classical factors of production and look at the resources in an innovative way: as stocks and capabilities. This will be classified as the *livelihood securities* approach, whereby households, through activities, struggle to reach their well-being. It is interesting to notice how livelihood is seen as cyclic concept, which should also contribute to the improvement of other people's livelihood. In this framework, the two scholars stressed what is one of the first modern, and most complete definitions of livelihood:

'A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required to make a living: a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and asset, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term'.

One year after, Swift (1993), with his studies on food security, will definitely open the way to an asset-based approach to livelihood. This shift, is particularly important as such approach reveal the central role that assets have in setting the potential of a livelihood to insure against risks and mitigate future shocks, to cope with them when they occur and to adapt existing livelihoods portfolios to gradual or sudden shifts in the terms. The concept of asset is paramount to a new thinking about livelihoods, in particular livelihood security and sustainability.

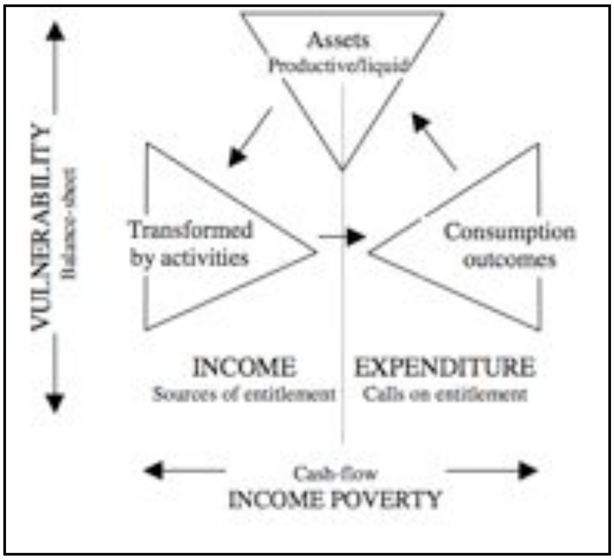


Figure 1. Source: Start and Johnson, 2004

The combination of assets balance, entitlement balance and activities provide an overall picture of wealth, capability and cultural meaning (Bebbington, 1999). This in turn defines the opportunity set available to an individual (Sen, 1981). The difference between entitlement balance and asset balance is a little similar to the distinction between a cash-flow sheet and a balance-sheet in theory of the firm. In fact, a cash flow records inputs and outputs in a given time period and shows a static picture of production, income and profit or loss. On the other hand, the balance sheet assesses the actual health of the enterprise. It gives a deeper insight of the assets available; the potential to draw down resources if crisis strikes or to invest if a change in direction is needed. On a more human level, the financial health combined with capability, a reflection of self-confidence and esteem, provide a measure of the ability to cope and adapt in a changing world of threats and opportunities (Start and Johnson, 2004).

Therefore, it is possible to see how different interpretations coming from different decades, are just complementary to each other to provide a more complete picture of the dynamics of livelihood.

In this context, the concept of assets, capitals and resources go beyond the classical economic perception. Among livelihood scholars, is evermore implicit that resources can be conceptualized as capital assets; these are convertible and can be interchanged among each other.

As we will see later with the DFID framework for sustainable livelihood we can identify five different kinds of capital:

1. Physical Assets: Tools, seeds, ploughs, sewing machines, livestock, and houses.
2. Natural Assets: Agricultural and grazing land, water resources, food and timber.
3. Human Assets: Labour within a household, education, skills and vocational training.
4. Financial Assets: Wages, access to credit and savings.
5. Social Assets: Kinship structure, cooperation, trust and religious groups.

Eventually USAID (2005) mention also a sixth asset that is the Political one, i.e. citizenship, access to political leaders and recourse to a functioning legal system. This asset was indirectly affected by the intervention in analysis as a more secure livelihood can improve the access to political and legal rights. These are rarely guaranteed by public service in Uganda and therefore require significant portions of income to be claimed.

Each of the mention form of asset is convertible into another, thus one form of capital can be used to acquire other forms of capital. The patterns of exchange will be given by cultural, moral, legal and personal factors.
Productivity in the modern livelihood concept is not given anymore only by the allocation of neo-classical factors of production, but also by interconnections between assets and the quality of their exchange, which can affect security, asset wealth as well as productivity.

Finally, we must distinguish between productive and non-productive assets. This categorization deeply depends on the typology of livelihood activity considered; however it is fundamental to understand this difference because liquidation of productive assets, such as seeds and tools, will severely undermine future productivity and livelihood sustainability, while sale of a stores, investment, savings or non-productive assets, such as mattresses or radio, while compromising future enjoyment, will not put at risk food security. Such concerns are central to sustainable livelihood security approaches (Chambers, 1987 and Chambers and Conway 1992).

2.1.2 Intangible assets.

To achieve a well-represented picture of the means required to sustain a living, it is paramount to consider also what is called intangible assets. These are *capabilities*, *moral economy* and *power relations.*

Capabilities refer to the attributes of an individual that usually results into an advantage for him and his community. Sen (1985) put it this way: commodities like food and drugs are transformed into characteristics like nutrition and treatment, which eventually become functionings such as quality of nourishment and health. These determine the capability set available to a person. The people's availability of these functonings determines their advantage; the more advantage they enjoy, the more freedom they have to choose a course of actions that leads to well-being.

The second type of intangible asset can be explained as a feeling of reciprocity, cooperation and trust well known and studied by *moral economists*. Their studies show how membership to various kind of communities involves an implicit mutual agreement to share and claim resources. Most of the times, during fortunate period gifts and obligations are built up, only to be claimed during bad times as a form of social insurance (Swift 1993). The relations of trust and cooperation are also fundamental to facilitate management and access to common pool of resources (forest, grazing land, water sources, markets) and the out coming social network is the very base for everybody's livelihood activity success. Even evolutionist theories approached the issue with what is known as 'reciprocal altruism'. The concept of "reciprocal altruism", as introduced by Trivers (1971), suggests that altruism, defined as an act of helping someone else although incurring some cost for this act, could have evolved since it might be beneficial to incur this cost if there is a chance of being in a reverse situation where the person whom I helped before may perform an altruistic act towards me. For an EVI, being part of such virtuous cycle is actually difficult, as he/she is usually seen by the community as incapable to cater for his/her own needs, therefore a burden for society. To fight this perception of vulnerable people was actually one of the aims of the project analysed.

Finally *power relations* can be consider as a third separate intangible asset, even though it actually stem out of the moral economy one. Every household notwithstanding their livelihood portfolio must respect and consider certain dynamics of power. These are coming from cultural and social tradition, political figures and economic institutions such as markets. Being in the position to take advantage of such power relations is fundamental in order to be able to run a successful activity, which can guarantee a livelihood. Enjoying such a position means to be recognized by the society and by the people holding power as a productive member of society.

We will see how the beneficiaries selected for the intervention valued in this paper, given their extreme vulnerability had a severe lack of all the material assets mentioned above, and therefore found it very difficult to build up also any solid intangible assets.

The following chart adapted from Start and Johnson (2004) represent various examples of livelihood activities. These are classified according to the neo-classical perspective: gaining access to a certain type of asset or resource, transforming it through various terms of production and eventually benefit of their fruit thanks to their exchange.

Asset Base of Livelihood	**Example**	**Terms of Access**	**Terms of Production**	**Terms of Exchange**
Production	Agriculture	Land and Water rights	Rainfall, seed variety, pests, market information	Terms of trade on input and output markets
Common Property	Hunt and Gather	Management rules and norms, competition for products	Harvesting, equipment, knowledge of natural resources	Value for barter or on commodity markets
Asset	Sale of animals, land	Ownership, transfer right, usufruct	Market knowledge	Market demand and price, lost value as collateral or status
Labour	Local and migrant labour market	Labour market segmentation, intra-HH norms for use of labour	Market Knowledge	Wage rates, terms of contract, consumer price index, contacts
Trade	Small scale retailing	Rights to commodity within HH, permits,	Transport	Market dues, market rates, commitment to certain traders
Moral Economy	Reciprocity and patronage in community	Class, gender, ethnicity, kin networks, patronage relations	Knowledge and relations with patrons	Market value of claim
State	Transfer schemes and investment	Rights based on ethnicity, class, etc.	Knowledge of Government schemes	Available amounts, amount lost in bribes and commissions.

Table 1: Examples of Livelihood activities. Adapted from Start and Johnson, 2004.

2.2 Recent trends: Sustainable Livelihood Approach.

2.2.1 Roots.

While colonization was branching towards its sunset, the thirty-third President of the United States of America started speaking about underdevelopment. It was 1949 when President Truman 'launched' this word. Some scholars look at it as a discriminatory concept which is the symbol of what two third of the world should aim in order to achieve a better living, an idea made up to mask the neo colonial era (Esteva 1992, Sachs 1993).
Ever since, an increasing number of Governmental and Non Governmental Agencies started their run towards eliminating poverty. After decades of very limited success, most of them started revising their development strategy, putting more emphasis on poverty elimination through the evolution of livelihoods idea. This is how the sustainable livelihoods approach was born.

On a conceptual level, it is possible to find the roots of Sustainable Livelihood Approach in the studies, partly mentioned above, on poverty eradication that highlighted the importance of assets, including social and intangibles ones, in determining well-being. Poverty is started to be recognized as going well beyond a lack of income, and to have multidimensional characteristics and causes. The social, political and economic conjuncture together with the accessibility to health and education services are just some examples of the new dimensions, which are now contributing to a deeper understanding of poverty dynamics.
Practically, the limited effectiveness of so many basic development activities, where project have been always designed according to a top down mind set, pushed agencies to review their schemes. SLA in fact, sees the people benefiting from development intervention firmly at the centre (Ashley and Carney, 1999). They are the one to take the lead in shaping the activities they will benefit from. Because nobody, like them, have the insight of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats with regards to the specific natural, social and political environment where

they live. The way is open for a better communion between top-down policies and bottom-up researches.

Finally, this approach should not be linked to any single organization as it has been developed within research institutes (i.e. IDS, ODI, etc.) NGOs (i.e. CARE, AVSI, Oxfam, etc.), as well as donors (i.e. DFID, UNDP, etc.).

2.2.2 Evolution.

The Brundtland Commission report "Our Common future", in 1987, lead the way to sustainable development thinking, defining it as:

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts: the concept of 'needs', in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organisation on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs (World Commission on Environment and Development 1987a: 43).

Such definition came in a time of growing disillusion towards the idea of development, which was "standing like a ruin in the intellectual landscape. Delusion and disappointments, failures and crimes have been the steady companions of development, and they tell a common story: it did not work." (Sachs, 1993)

Ten years and several debates later, in 1997, with its White Paper the UK Department for International Development (DFID) made the elimination of poverty in poorer countries the over-riding aim of UK policy for international development. In the pursuit of this goal, the White Paper adopted a number of prescriptions that perfectly spelled out the heart of sustainable livelihood:

- All people have the same basic needs: fresh air to breathe, clean water to drink, uncontaminated food to eat, and livelihoods that allow them to earn their living and raise healthy, educated children (DFID, 1997: par 1.7);
- Poor people have assets in their own skills, in their social institutions, in their

values and cultures and in their detailed and sophisticated knowledge of their own environment (DFID, 1997: par 1.11);

- Given the necessary support, the poor can be the means as well as the beneficiaries of sustainable development (DFID, 1997: para 1.12);
- In order to benefit and promote the participation of the poor, economic growth must incorporate a sound and open macro-economic framework in which resources are used productively and which facilitates the development of income and employment-generating activities that specifically include poor people, particularly women, since the majority of the poor are women (DFID, 1997: para 1.17);
- The State must also provide a framework of law and regulation within which people can exercise their rights; it is the poor everywhere who pay the price where these conditions are not in place (DFID, 1997: para 1.19).

These bullet points are revolutionary as they acknowledge that poverty cannot be eradicated through foreign ideas of livelihood and development. But such ideas should be melted and merged with the local one. Poor people do have incredible skills if they have survived in such environment up to now, to take full advantage of such skills, it is fundamental to improve their access to certain assets, terms of transformation and exchange.

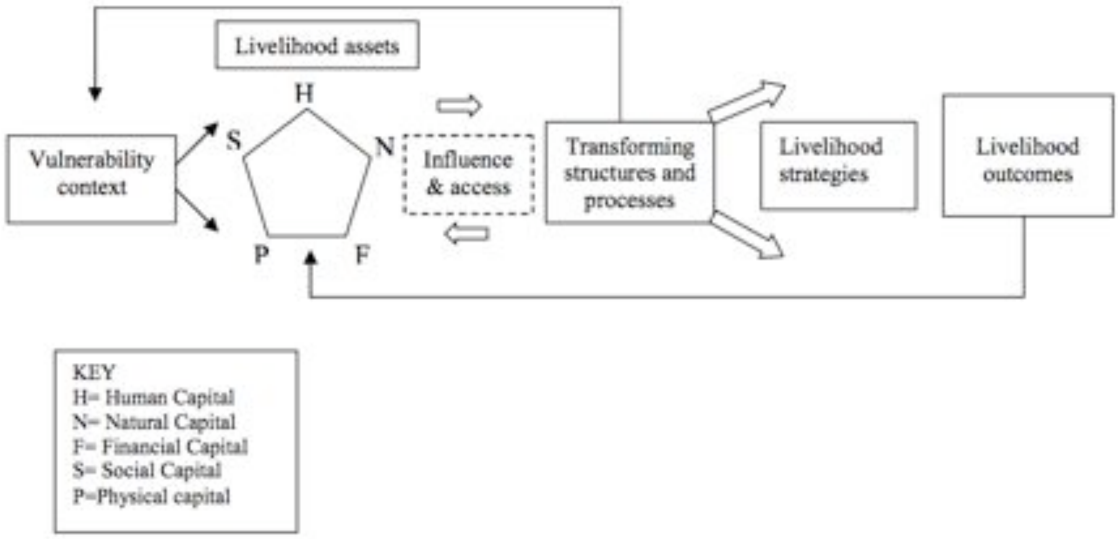
From the White Paper on International development it is possible to identify the main principles that DFID wanted to stress in its SLA. Poverty-focused livelihood activities should be:

- **People-centred**: sustainable poverty elimination will be achieved only if external support focuses on what matters to people, understands the differences between groups of people and works with them in a way that is congruent with their current livelihood strategies, social environment and ability to adapt.
- **Responsive and participatory:** poor people themselves must be key actors in identifying and addressing livelihood priorities. Outsiders need processes that enable them to listen and respond to the poor.

- **Multi-level**: poverty elimination is an enormous challenge that will only be overcome by working at multiple levels, ensuring that micro-level activity informs the development of policy and an effective enabling environment, and that macro-level structures and processes support people to build upon their own strengths.
- **Conducted in partnership**: with both the public and the private sector.
- **Sustainable**: there are four key dimensions to sustainability – economic, institutional, social and environmental sustainability. All are important – a balance must be found between them.
- **Dynamic**: external support must recognise the dynamic nature of livelihood strategies, respond flexibly to changes in people's situation, and develop longer-term commitments through greater diversification.

This approach is based on the five types of assets mentioned in the previous paragraph: human, natural, financial, social and physical. The combination of them, given by the cultural and personal norms, influences and affects the access to the structure and processes for their transformation. These processes are influenced by the level and kind of vulnerability present in the environment and the household itself. The output of such transformations, make up the different livelihood strategies. When combined the latter turn out into the livelihood outcomes, which goes back to increase or diminish the original stock of assets, according to the level of output vis-à-vis the household needs. The following figure, illustrates the forerunning framework for Sustainable Livelihood (DFID, 1998).

For instance, we can consider a Northern Ugandan household, formerly displaced by the war and headed by a young HIV+ woman, named Adong, with four children. In such a case, the vulnerability level is very high; therefore the access to most assets will be surely low.



Source: Carney, 1998

Figure 2: DFID Sustainable Livelihood Framework

They are only left with a goat, some seeds and a hoe (Physical capital), half acre of land (Natural capital) and no labour power or skills to be exploited (Human capital) given the young age of the children and the weakness of the sick mother. At the same time it is impossible for them to have access to any form of credit (Financial capital) and no group or individual is willing to help them due to the social stigma of the mother, being a lonely women rejected by her husband (Social Capital). It is easy to imagine that this family is under very insecure livelihood condition, whereby the stock of asset is undermined by an incapability of transforming and adding value to the resources available. The little they will be able to cultivate will be consumed to fulfil only a portion of their needs, in this way, to consume the necessary outcome they will diminish their already small stock of asset.

Such an example would be defined by Davies (1996) as a subsistence strategy, implying a relative failure, because it results in greater vulnerability. This situation is very much likely to deplete capital, perpetuating a situation in which scarce resources are always being used up, leaving little margin for accumulation.

In order to escape from this vicious circle Adong must find a way to increase at least one of the five fundamental assets, to start developing more livelihood outcome, which could allow her to start accumulating for her household's wellbeing.

This kind of household is precisely the ideal candidate for a livelihood intervention aiming at the most poor and vulnerable. Later in this paper we will show how most of the household who benefited from the project object of this essay were in conditions very similar to those of Adong.

The guidelines for SLA are not uniform and prescriptive, but provide a foundation for creativity. Thanks to this open perspective, the approach became popular and was picked up by most renowned development agencies. Its diversity of interpretations keeps enriching and contributes to the improvement of further livelihood programs.

UNDP, WFP, UNHCR and SID are just a few of those who subscribed this creative way of thinking to poverty eradication. Looking at the technicalities of their different framework, we can have a deeper insight of the tailored solutions that each of them adopted due to the specific context in which they perform their activities. UNDP considering its size set the trend for big agencies to shift from direct implementation to policy making with a strong willingness to move towards a more bottom-up approach. WFP and UNHCR consider more the importance of helping their implementing partners in understanding the different vulnerabilities of their beneficiaries to deliver a more effective intervention in a people centred and participatory approach.[1] Finally SID, bet on the creativity of people living in poverty as the source of social improvement and social justice. They saw the need to start with examining how people sustain their livelihood in different context and analysing what their concrete option for action are in each situation.

Despite these marginal differences, it is possible to see that most organizations are now tuned on the core values of sustainable livelihood summarised in this chapter.

'The widespread uptake, and the penetration of SL language and concepts in the development world over the past three years, support the view that SLA incorporate and summarise much of what is considered to be the best practice in development.' (Hussein, 2002)

[1] WFP and UNHCR, have been heavily using the Household Economy Approach (HEA) and the Individual Household Model (IHM) to better assess the SWOT of their beneficiaries.

2.3 Livelihood in emergencies, vulnerabilities and coping strategies.

Central to livelihoods studies has been the difference between natural and human-induced environmental change or shocks. Examples of the first one include earthquakes, floods, drought and other 'acts of God'. On the other hand, changes in government or market forces, shifts in technology and wars or banditry are among the shocks caused by men. (Start and Jhonson,2004)

To these kinds of potential vulnerabilities, we can add, the health related and social ones whom consist of old age, disabilities, chronic illnesses (HIV/AIDS) and all those condition in which the society might create a stigma (child soldiers, lonely mother, rejected wife…). These categories are particularly relevant to this work as the intervention, evaluated in this paper, focused on the rehabilitation of the livelihood of such people.

A *shock* is a relatively short event disturbing the normal maintenance of life of a certain population within a certain geographic area. If they are protracted over time, they can be defined as *trends*, these are structural transformations of market, phenomenon like urbanization or extremely prolonged war, which constantly modify and disturbs the livelihood means of the household. *Cycles* are also a source of uncertainty, though more predictable due to their seasonality (e.g. rain vs. dry season) they are still modulated by shocks and trends.

Livelihood Assets	**Shocks**	**Possible responses**
Physical: Farm equipment, livestock, seeds, house, tools.	Looting or destruction	Tools distribution, housing support
Natural: Agricultural and grazing land, water sources.	Flood, Burning, Violent displacement, loss of access to grazing land.	Negotiate access, provide alternative resources.
Human: Labour, Skills, and Education.	Death, disabilities, loss of productivity, closure of schools and workplaces.	Emergency education, training, income generating schemes.

Financial: Wages, access to credit and savings.	Collapsing of local banking system, displacement.	Cash/food for work scheme, peace markets, micro-credit.
Social: Kinship structure, religious groups, neighbourhoods.	Displacement, fighting over livelihood resources.	Conflict resolution, livelihood intervention.

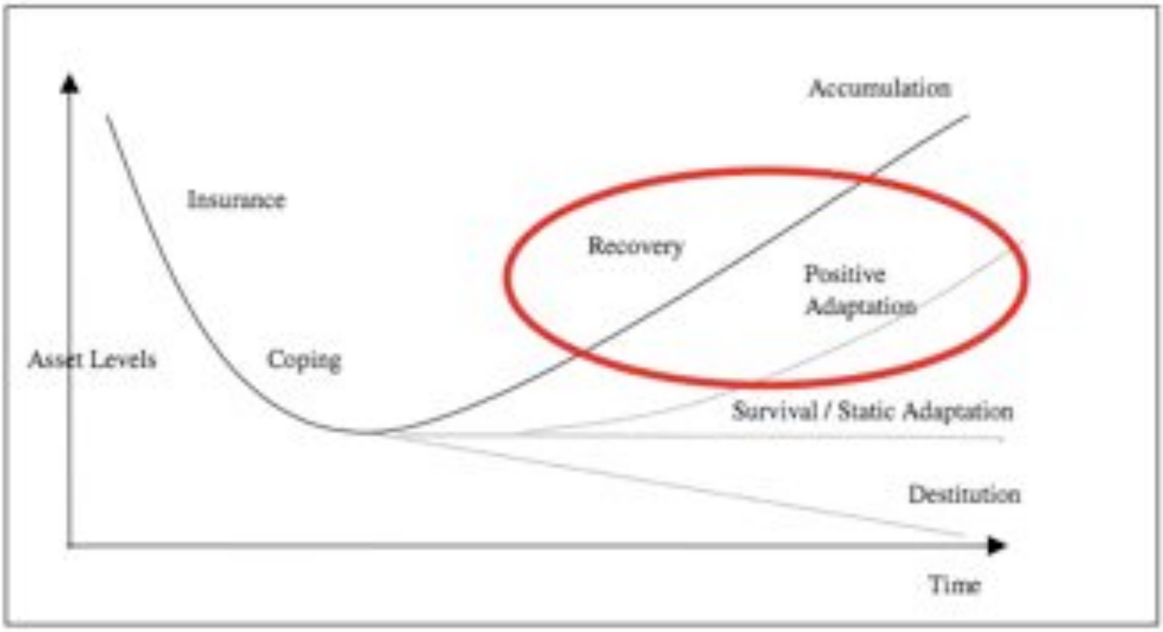
Table 2: Livelihood's Assets deterioration in an Emergency Context. Source: USAID, 2005.

Especially in case of an emergency like war, the main coping strategies available are based on consumption. The household could reduce consumption, diversify it or decrease the number of consumers. Reduction would imply to diminish the amount of food consumed while diversification would focus on the consumption of different products, which can be more easily found (i.e. wild fruit). Lastly the number of consumers in the household can be reduced by returning the wife to her original family, sending the children to other relatives or a temporal migration of the male.

Disregarding the type of shock, when communities are affected by disasters, access to assets and resources is very much restricted. The more the effect of the disaster is prolonged the longer it will take to rehabilitate at least the previous livelihood conditions. A lack of means to sustain people's lives often means an increasing tension within the communities; especially if a displaced population, gathered in a temporary camp is threatening the hosting community's resources. That is why, it is a priority to immediately start to recover and develop resources, to be able to prevent further fighting over scarce livelihood opportunities.
All the strategies to be put in place should promote self-reliance and help to avoid further assets loss. Achieving this goal is about creating a consistent and enduring strategy to guarantee access to a decent combination of the five main assets mentioned above. (NRC, Camp Management Toolkit, 2008)

Therefore livelihood strategies should create different levels of surplus according to the 'topography' of asset available. These should define the level of consumption, the degree of security and the capability to enjoy further opportunities. However, it is important to consider that they also show, the division of a society, between asset holding classes and non-asset holding ones. The amount of asset owned qualify the degree by which production technologies and exchange facilities can be accessed.

The following figure represents some examples of possible scenarios of asset's stock before, during and after a shock. The oval represents the time frame and the range of asset's stock to which the project valued in this paper aimed.



Source: Adapted from Davies (1993)

Figure 3: Livelihood Recovery Timeframe

"Priority is a function of context"

Stephen R. Covey

3. Context Analysis.

This work analyses the livelihood component of a project called *Camp phase out and return-monitoring project*. It run from January 2010 to December 2010, was funded by DFID and ECHO through UNHCR and took place in the whole Acholi Region a portion of Ugandan land of roughly 30,000 sq. Kms. AVSI was the selected implementing partner for six Sub Counties of Gulu District named: Lakwana, Lalogi, Odek, Paicho, Unyama and Awach. The present chapter is meant to introduce the context where the project took place. In order to provide the reader with a deeper understanding of the evaluated activities, the following part describes the origin of the war, which eventually led to the need for interventions like the one hereby analysed. Secondly it mentions the nature of the recipients (known as Extremely Vulnerable Individuals) and consequently outlines the structure of the project from the activities and staffing perspectives. Lastly it reports in details the livelihood component to be evaluated in Chapter 5.

Figure 4: Map of Uganda, highlighted in yellow the conflict-affected area. The project involved the area in the green oval.

3.1 The LRA Conflict.

3.1.1. Origins.

The twenty years conflict in Northern Uganda was not a sudden disaster, but the outcome of a long political process. The roots of this conflict can be traced back to the colonial time, when England institutionalized the gap between the North and the South of the country. Whereas the British reserved the introduction of industry and cash crop production to the south, the north became a reservoir of cheap labour to be employed in the very south. As a result, the country was divided into productive zones in the south and east, producing cotton, plantation, rubber, cocoa and later coffee, and non-productive zones in the north and west that mainly rendered unskilled labour. However, the biggest division lied in the recruitment of the armed services. The latter were specifically reserved to the northerners, mainly known as Acholis. Even though they never had a tradition of warriors, given this colonial division of work, they soon convinced themselves that the army was their natural vocation. In such a way the British, created a military ethnocracy. When Uganda gained its independency, Obote (a northerner from a tribe close to the Acholis), as the first president inherited an army dominated by Acholis.

The asymmetric relationship between economic underdevelopment and dominance of the military power is at the base of the Northern Uganda disaster.

While Obote was ferrying the country through its independent era, the army found it had increasing power. Even the king palace was put under siege by the army in response to a clash of interest with the government. This realization pushed General Idi Amin Dada (surprisingly from the west) – who was responsible for the king's palace siege - to overthrow the government and establish its regime of terror. With mass executions he managed to decrease the percentage of Acholis from the military forces. But soon after Amin's political madness peaked, Obote with the support of Tanzania went back to power. The deliberate massacres of Acholis were revenged by Obote's policy and its infamous Bonanza operation, when in 1983 he ordered the mass killing in the Lwero Trinagle where more than 300,000 Bugandas and Banyarwandas have been murdered (southerners).

In this escalation of violence, another Acholi, General Tito Okello, overthrew Obote and started to negotiate with the increasingly powerful southerner rebellious movement known as NRA and led by Yoweri Museveni. In fact, the latter was just waiting for the new president to fly away for some days in order to capture Kampala and disperse all Acholi forces back North. In January 1986 the current Ugandan President assumed power, never to leave it.

Due to the dramatic retaliation that Acholis had suffered from the southerners led government, the frequent armed incursions of the neighbouring cattle raiding tribes known as Karamojong and obviously their feeling of exclusion from power, the people from the north organized themselves in a number of rebel armies, the most well known to be the Holy Spirit Movement founded by Alice Lakwena.

Such character was soon popular among the entire northern region. Apparently, after being rejected by two men for being sterile, in 1985 a spirit in form of heavenly burning body was sought to be travelling to her original village by many people in the region. Such spirit known as Lakwena, was said to be coming from a dead Italian soldier from the First World War. Often possessed by this inner being, Alice led an army of 'saints'. Inspired by the biblical figure of Gideon whom with only 300 men won the whole army of the Midianites, she pretended from her soldiers to be pure in spirit and be saints. If they had kept their holiness, the bullets of their enemies would have melted before reaching their bodies and the stones that they would have thrown would have turned into grenades. Thanks to her mystic aura she had a big initial success. Firstly, among the people who really sought in her movement a genuine will of change and secondly in military terms, she was gaining land all the way down to the south, until she was heavily defeated close to the source of the river Nile in Jinja, during an attempt to takeover Kampala. Museveni has been able to win such an important battle also thanks to the military support from the USA, both in intelligence and artillery terms.

This defeat is the occasion for another charismatic Acholi to inherit the tribe's cause. The world infamous Joseph Kony took over the fight for Uganda Northerners. Much could be said around the cult of his personality. Rejected as a prophet from his own village he looked for his fortune at regional level and founded the Lord Resistance Army. The group is based in apocalyptic Christianity but is also influenced by a blend of Mysticism, Islamism and traditional religion, and claims to be establishing a theocratic Ugandan state based on the Ten Commandments and Acholi tradition. Actually 'Kony's programme was from the start rather indistinct, a mixture of political entrepreneurship, personal frustration and warlordism.' (Doom and Vlassenroot, 1999)

Kony was possessed not only by the Lakwena, but also by different minor spirits. Number one was called Silly Silindi, originally from Sudan, a spirit in charge of the strategy on the battlefield. The second in command was a Chinese spirit, Ing Chu, who transformed the jeeps and tanks of the enemy into harmless toys. There was Major Bianca, a spirit of American origin who headed the intelligence service, and Juma Oris, a former minister of Idi Amin.

LRA's performances on the ground were quite modest, also because the popular support to the army dropped since Lakwena time. However, in the early 90s the government launched Operation North in order to crush these rebels once and for all. The LRA came out weakened and this condition led to some serious negotiation in Gulu, the main Northern city. Everything was about to be settled in 1994, but the peace process collapsed due to the unwillingness of the Ugandan army to negotiate with such a weak rebel force and the compromises to which the Acholi elders came with the government.

3.1.2. Internally Displaced People's Camps.

Feeling betrayed by the Acholi elders, Kony lost the little confidence he had in the government's peace overtures, and blamed the Acholi people for not supporting his war. He was now receiving full-scale support from Sudan. New equipment was flown in, including land mines and anti-personnel mines. The Sudanese government gave the LRA training facilities in various places. Increasingly, Kony resided in Juba and stepped up his attacks from there against South Sudanese and the very Ugandans.

This is when the war enters its second and most scaring phase. The LRA became a proxy army spreading terror on behalf of the angry Sudanese government. The latter was upset for the support the Government of Uganda (GoU) gave to the South Sudanese People's Liberation Army, a rebel movement who was fighting to separate South Sudan, Christian in majority, from the Islamic North. Kony seems no longer interested in winning a conflict; his military toy was now producing income thanks to Karthoum.

Looting was taking place systematically with no other aim but spreading terror. Violence became a mean and an end in itself. The movement lost any military or political aim, as its attacks did not follow any logic scheme. This created fear and panic among the civilians whom were loosing all their means of livelihood. Elders, women and men were killed in the most atrocious ways, while the practice of abducting children was very much used. Boys were forced to kill their relatives and brutally recruited as soldiers, while girls were used as sex slaves and given as wives to the officials. A part from counterbalancing the lack of voluntary adhesions, such a practice was thought to create a new Acholi identity. Indeed children were supposed to be a blank sheet to be filled in with Kony's commandments.

Acholis started to gather at dusk around trading centres or villages were the presence of government soldier could grant them some form of protection for the night. In this way mass displacement started in 1996, soon after, the government ordered civilians into camps, in most cases without prior discussion with host communities, while a second round of government-organised displacement took place in 2002.

The size of camps ranged from two to as much as sixty thousands people in Pabo. The miserable conditions of such high-density agglomerations finally drew enough international attention to send significant amounts of humanitarian aid to the country. Here is the paradox of powerless humanitarianism. Everybody was economically benefiting from the situation: the government was submerged with foreign help, while the LRA was enjoying Sudan's economic and logistic support. The Acholis, confined into overpopulated camps, were the one to pay the heaviest price.

If they were to dare to go out from camps, even to look for any mean of livelihood, they would be shot either by the LRA or by the Ugandan army who would consider any unidentified individual as a rebel and therefore attack him or her.

The whole Acholi society was kept into such camps without any possibility for the men to fulfil their role of farmers, gatherers and protector of their families, since they were just as vulnerable to the LRA as their children. Whole generations of Acholis grew up in camps were traditional education such as the *wang oo*[2] went lost, leaving young men to fill their time of wait for WFP food ratio with alcohol, laziness and unprotected sex.

The consequences of such time span on Acholi people are dramatic and can be seen clearly up to now. An example is the level of alcoholism among its people, according to the FAO, in 2004 Uganda was the world leading per capita consumer measured in litres of pure alcohol.

The GoU counter insurgency strategy of forcibly displacing the population had a disastrous impact because people were separated from their livelihood and received limited assistance, until security concern started fading away and international NGOs phasing in. In 2005 when displacement peaked, an estimated 1.5 million people across Acholiland, or 80% of the population were living in camps (Allen, 2005). With overcrowded conditions, poor sanitation and little access to water, mortality rates in the camps were significantly high, recording up to 2.79/10,000/day, a figure that would even double for under-five years old children (MSF Holland, 2004).

Finally, the Juba Peace Talks, which started in July 2006, have been the best efforts in years to put an end to this conflict. The increased security in the Northern Region due to the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) has certainly been one of the major factors that facilitated population to start returning to their original villages.

Besides the gross violations of human rights, the conflict in northern Uganda has damaged the fabric of Acholi society. With children and youths the main target of LRA abductions, the memories of rebel atrocities will take generations to fade away.

Apart from the obvious social cost, the economic cost of the LRA insurgency in northern Uganda is tremendous. A study commissioned by the Civil Society Organisations for Peace in Northern Uganda (CSOPNU), estimated the cost of the northern Ugandan war to be US $1.33 billion over 16 years.

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2 Tradition where-by the elders were teaching around the fire to the younger generations. Topics were ranging from agriculture to cattle breeding passing through religion and social justice.

The Final Peace Agreement was to be signed in April 2009, but LRA leader Joseph Kony failed to attend the ceremony. The IDP population maintains deep concern over the missed opportunity and still fear the return of the LRA. The mysticism, on which this war has been based, left a black shadow of superstition and suspect. Nevertheless, this has not affected the movement of the population outside the camps. Actually, hundreds were fleeing everyday from their camps back to their village, in order to build up their lives again.

The caseload of IDPs still remaining within camps when the analysed project started was constituted in majority by the most vulnerable within the population (Person with Specific Needs – PSNs or Extremely Vulnerable Individuals - EVIs) as they were unable to reach a durable solution. In this stage of the return process, these individuals could represent more of a burden to other family members. EVIs were therefore left behind, where they could have easier access to housing, services and support for them and their dependents.

The GoU's put in place recovery and reconstruction projects thanks to the flowing foreign aid, but EVIs seemed to be always left a part. The Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) is a multi-sectoral plan, which tries to develop the region after the war. Among its various fields we can find Community Development and Livelihoods, though such efforts like the Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF) are reserved for certain kind of 'able recipients' and exclude EVIs as not capable enough of taking advantage of their intervention.

To support the return of such category of people was the aim of the project analysed in this work.

3.2. Who is an EVI?

Even if displacement is a challenge for all those forced to flee, some individuals and families struggle with particularly acute needs that may be further exacerbated by personal circumstances, isolation or inability to access basic services.

Exposed to exceptional risk of suffering, these EVIs and their families may suffer from a chronic or severe illness, severe torture or trauma or physical or mental disability, and often include:

- Frail or unaccompanied elderly,
- At-risk women,
- Single heads of households,
- Members of ethnic or religious minorities
- Unaccompanied minors.
- Disables
- People suffering from chronic illnesses (i.e. HIV/AIDS)

Typically, they do not have the means to obtain care and sustain their living with the resources at their disposal and have only limited access to resources available to the majority of the community, including health care, education, training and employment opportunities. On top of that, they usually have several dependents, often children to cater for. In Annex 6 the reader can find the Ugandan national standards for defining EVIs.

3.3. Project Summary.

The present work evaluates the activities chosen by AVSI (the implementing partner) and agreed with UNHCR (the donor), to support the livelihood of EVIs' households (i.e. EVIs + Dependents). Such activities are just a component of the project that supported, from January to December 2010, the return to their original villages of 670 EVIs in six sub counties of Gulu District.

To better understand what led to the activities hereby analysed, it is important to have an overview of the project to which they belonged.

3.3.1. AVSI and UNHCR, the main actors.

AVSI Foundation was the implementing partner. It is an international, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in Italy in 1972. AVSI promotes cultural, social and economic development according to Catholic social teaching, especially among the most disadvantaged in the developing nations and countries in transition. Working in cooperation with local organizations, governments and international agencies, AVSI has programs in 40 countries all over the world.

AVSI has operated in Northern Uganda since 1984, mainly through development projects in-line with the AVSI strategy of celebrating the individual within his or her community. As the security situation in northern Uganda deteriorated in the 1990s, AVSI Uganda's foundation of education and health projects was broadened to include emergency relief for those suffering from the conflict. To date, AVSI has undertaken operations in the health, education, water and sanitation, mine awareness, livelihood, and protection sectors with the goal of promoting the dignity of all individuals in the conflict-affected Acholiland. The Milan based NGO has never left Uganda even during the most tense times.

As the global leader in protection, The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) intervened in northern Uganda in 2006 amid the inception of peace talks in Juba (South Sudan) between the LRA and the Government of Uganda. UNHCR's Representation in Uganda pursues the attainment of durable solutions for refugees and sustainable returns for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). It involves the communities in income generating activities and livelihood opportunities such as road clearing, construction work, micro-credit schemes, agro-forestry schemes and animal husbandry. UNHCR further advocates for community-based approaches in areas including support to vulnerable persons, road maintenance and construction of community buildings.

Partnering with UNHCR, AVSI has been involved in Camp Management, Return and Protection Monitoring and Livelihoods activities in the districts of Gulu, Kitgum and Pader. Over the course of the last five years, UNHCR and her implementing partners have supported some of the fundamental systems which have facilitated the return of nearly 1 million IDPs in the Acholi sub-region. The dynamic return in northern Uganda has shown the importance of integrated humanitarian assistance to the recovery process.

3.3.2. Achievement of Sustainable Durable Solution for Extremely Vulnerable Individuals.

At the end of 2009, AVSI estimated that 670 EVIs were still living within camps in Gulu district. Most of these people of concern were not in the position to achieve a Durable Solution within the short term. In order to sustain this people in achieving a possible durable solution, AVSI proposed a variety of activities to support them.

1. Need assessments for all the EVIs and their dependants present in the camps was conducted in order to tailor specific interventions;
2. Among the identified EVIs, AVSI investigated those willing to move to their areas of origin. Possible interventions were intended to assist EVIs, with shelter and latrines at the indicated place of origin. Beside this, AVSI involved the communities receiving the recipients also in the constructions of latrines. The latrines were offered to the beneficiaries of the hut construction.
3. AVSI worked with communities and local leaders in return sites to identify a caregiver for the returning EVI. Considering the lack of services in the areas of return, this was a fundamental step in order to create a safety net and to facilitate a sustainable protection of the EVI also in the return sites. The caregiver was usually identified among the EVI's relatives and it was a key figure for the proper implementation of livelihood activities. Being the object of this work, such activities will be later explained in detail.
4. At times, EVIs have expressed the interest of being relocated elsewhere than their village of origin. In these cases AVSI has been working with the local authorities and leader as well as others member of the families to offer transport in form of refunds to these individuals that prefer to relocate.
5. A referral system to NRC ICLA Project was in place for suspected cases of land dispute;

3.3.3. Camp clean up and transformation activities.

1. AVSI was an active member of the District Camp Phase-out Committee (DCPC). In this sense, AVSI worked with local authorities and UNHCR to develop and implement camp phase out strategies and transformation plans of camps into viable communities;

2. The communities and the local leaders have been supported to identify and demolish (with the agreement of the hut owner and landlords) huts that were abandoned and constitute a hazard for other people;
3. AVSI also worked with UNHCR and other IPs to maximise the use of the tractor in the camp transformation activities. Former camps have been cleared and made ready again for cultivation in order to further enhance the livelihood of the EVIs' hosting communities.
4. Communities and local leaders have been supported in facilitating the transition from camps to viable communities. In this sense the activities, agreed with UNHCR included: tree planting; land clearing; levelling rubbish pits; improving conditions of existing roads;
5. Population data collections were carried out on a regular basis, following the indication of UNHCR.

3.3.4. Rehabilitation of Basic Infrastructures.

Through meetings with the communities, focus group discussions, and assessments in coordination with UNHCR, precise intervention have been designed to respond to the specific needs of the returning communities. These interventions improved the access to safe water through the protection of six natural springs and the rehabilitation of twenty-six existing boreholes.

3.3.5. AVSI Staff.

In order to carry out the above mentioned activities AVSI adopted the following structure:

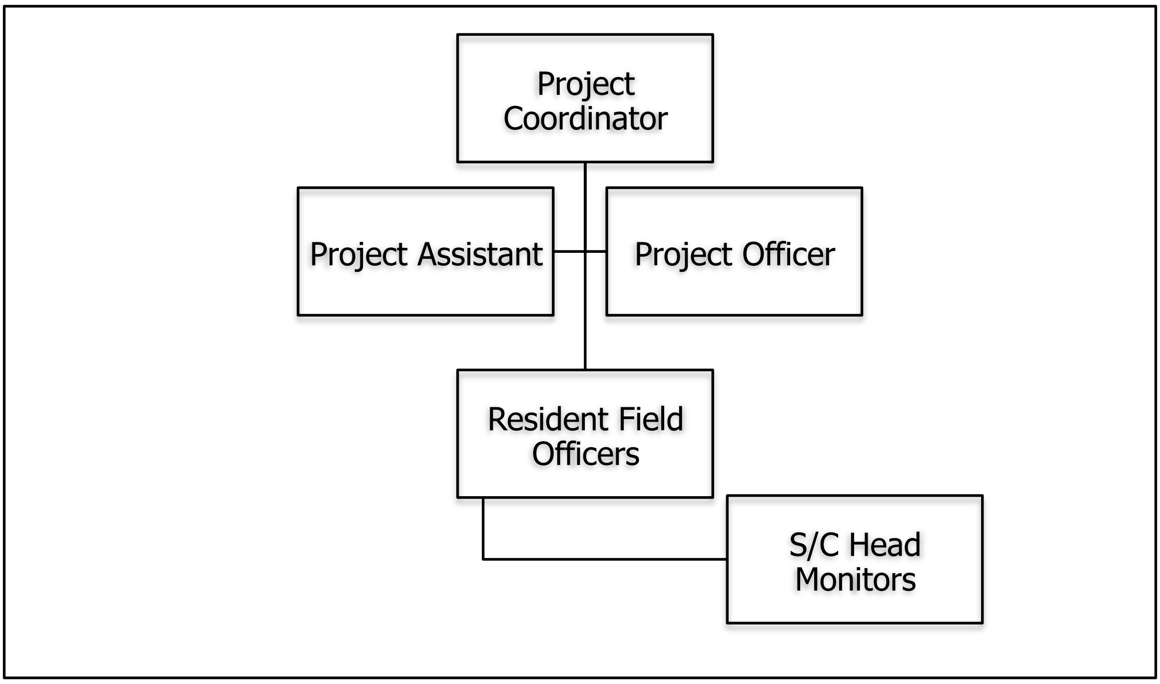

Figure 5: Organizational Chart.

The Project Coordinator who have been responsible for the implementation, coordination and accountability of the project. (International Staff)

The Project Assistant who has been responsible for the direct implementation of the activities: in particular livelihoods and basic infrastructure rehabilitation. He reported directly to the project coordinator. The author of this paper covered this position. (Graduate Student-International Staff)

The Protection Officer who has been responsible for the direct implementation of the protection activities. She reported directly to the project coordinator (National Staff).

The three positions mentioned above, were based at office level in Gulu, they all concurred in coordinating the national staff in the field offices based at Sub County level. In the field, the team was structured as follows:

Seven Field Bases have been established to handle issues as they arose in the camps, transit sites and return areas. They served to facilitate daily, field-based activities in the camp/return areas; these were at selected Sub County Head Quarters or trading centres and comprised of one or more Resident Field Officers (RFOs). The latter worked closely with the Protection Officer and the Project

Assistant towards servicing the camp populations and the EVIs more effectively, maintaining a priority on community involvement and engagement.

In Gulu District AVSI managed four Field Bases in the following sites – **Acet, Lalogi, Opit and Paicho**.[3] RFOs will be allocated to the Field Bases as follow:

- Lalogi and Acet Bases had one RFO each;
- Opit Field Base had two RFOs;
- Paicho Field Base had three RFOs as it served the biggest area, thus the biggest EVIs population;

These staffs lived in the identified camps five days a week in order to closely monitor and coordinate camp activities.

The RFOs have been assisted in their work by *Sub County Head Monitors*, who were representatives of the IDP population. They monitored and collected data on the population movement, on the main livelihood gaps and on protection needs.

3.3.6. Livelihood activities performed.

The evaluation of the following activities is the purpose of this work. It is therefore paramount to gain a deep understanding of their practical features.

In order to further facilitate EVIs and caregivers in the achievement of a sustainable durable solution, the project have focused on the provision of livelihood. Particular attention has been given to guarantee food access and income generation opportunities. With these aims, AVSI undertook an initial assessment, to better understand the beneficiaries' needs and preferences within the livelihood assistance, in order to design the most suitable activities. From this, it came out that EVIs beneficiaries distributed their preferences among three main directories: cultivation, livestock and petty trade. In this sense, AVSI, after a second and more in-depth assessment, delivered the following livelihood interventions according to each EVI's choice:

[3] In Annex 10 a detailed map of the AoO is made available to the reader.

Support to agriculture:

In order to strengthen the food security and the safety net around the EVIs, farming have been supported. Land clearing, seeds and tools have been channelled through the EVI and his/her caregiver, according to their strength and preferences. The recipient eventually decided whether to manage his/her support at family level or to extend its benefit to a group. This should have facilitated the creation of social cohesion within the returning EVI and his family or the community who should not feel anymore the burden of maintaining an unproductive member, thus facilitating the reintegration process.

In this case, the recipient could choose between two different kits: the first one consisted of an ox-plough, to be rented or used with the oxen of the EVIs household; while the second option, much less popular, contained a set of tools (i.e. A Pair of Gumboots, 2 Hoes, 2, Sickle, 2 Machetes, 2 Rakes and 2 Axes) and some forty Kg of assorted seeds selected by the beneficiary. The most popular choices of seeds depended on the season when the assistance was delivered. However, groundnuts, maize, beans, rice and sesame were among the most requested.

Livestock provision.

Acholi people have been traditionally engaged in farming and livestock rearing. Despite this fact, there are still very few animals in the return areas and it is estimated that only 2% of the original stock of animals in the region survived the LRAs and Karamojong raids. Livestock can be a good vector for the improvement of the overall livelihood of the PSN household. It can be kept for reproduction, increasing the asset and food security of the HH, or it could also be sold or slaughtered to sell the meat.

Four sub-options were available under this activity. The recipient could choose according to his/her past experience and capabilities between goats, pigs, sheep and chicken. Given the small amount of labour required to handle this business, it turned out to be the most popular choice especially among the weakest EVIs. In all cases the animals were provided with the standard veterinary treatment designed by the competent public body and the recipients were sensitized by AVSI staff on the importance of proper health checking of their livestock. To reinforce the sustainability of this scheme, animals were delivered in a male to female ratio of 1:2. Those little who chose chicken received sixteen heads, while all other species were given in stocks of three.

In the Acholi culture, a part from guaranteeing food security, the property of animals is also an indicator of social status. Most beneficiaries were happy to tell us that thanks to their animals, the community were having them in higher consideration.

Petty trade.

Most of the remote villages where beneficiaries were returning lacked a network for food and basic items trade. Since a significant number of EVIs highlighted this IGA opportunity, AVSI decided to extend to this project the benefits of its experience in petty trade activities:

1. All those beneficiaries willing to get this kind of assistance, received a business skills training specifically aimed to give them more chances to succeed in their small business and to let them understand the importance of saving and reinvestment of their profit. Such training lasted four days; it was develop on the learning needs of illiterate people and made for the students to familiarize with the management of costs, prices, transports, stock, customer care and source of financing. The course was structured in a two-module course. The first one faced five major questions the beneficiary should answer before starting his/her activity, these are known as the five fingers:

    a. Can I operate this IGA?
    b. Will people buy my products?
    c. Is the IGA profitable?
    d. How much money do I need to start and operate the IGA?
    e. Will the income from the IGA when added to other family income, be enough to pay house hold expenses?

Whereas the second one covered:

a. Marketing and customer care
b. Managing business time management and delegation

c. Problem solving and decision making
d. How too increase business profits
e. Managing business failures & growth
f. Quality management & costing

2. Upon completion of the training each EVI prepared a business plan with his/her idea of trade. AVSI either approved or assisted the recipient in improving his concept. After having the plan endorsed, according to the beneficiary's request, he/she received a grant of 150,000 UGX (±75 USD) or, alternatively he/she had the choice to opt for receiving an equal amount of goods in kind to be sold. Predictably enough the vast majority chose the cash option as they could freely select the quality of the goods to be traded and gave them a higher flexibility in the management of the funds. The few, who decided to receive goods in kind, did it mainly to save on transport cost for their first business cycle. Most common goods sold ranged from food items (e.g. beans, sesame, peas, groundnuts, dry fish, tomatoes, salt, cooking oil…) to assorted articles (e.g. firewood, charcoal, kerosene, matches…)

The presence of these two kits was intended to bridge the gap present due to wide differences in EVIs talents and skills. The best way to overcome this gap turned out to be cash transfer, which enabled each beneficiary to carefully choose his/her stock according to the very specific conditions of his/her situation. Minimizing the risk of providing him/her with useless or little profitable materials for their particular environment.

Actually one of the aspects, which was thought to be analysed, was precisely whether there was a different impact in the business performance of cash started enterprises vis-à-vis in kind started enterprises. Due to an insufficient number of beneficiaries who opted for the latter this concern will not be face in this paper.

3. As AVSI main concern is the sustainability of its intervention, the last and most delicate part of the activity was the follow-up part. This last activity of the intervention provided each beneficiary with monthly visits from the RFOs to monitor, motivate and support the EVIs.

The follow up was a common feature to all different livelihood options in this project.

Such component has been paramount for the sustainability of livelihood activities. It has been widely proven by other AVSI managed projects that, while following up the beneficiaries businesses, these felt someone was really caring to their commitment and also for this reason they went through extra efforts to make the new income chance received as successful as possible.

Due to UNHCR funding mechanism, all the activities supporting the identified EVIs have been delivered in two phases. The first one involved 301 beneficiaries, started in May and lasted up to August, while the second one assisted 369 EVIs from September to December. This work will focus on the evaluation of the first phase beneficiaries, as the tight timeline of the second phase did not allow a proper data collection.

Livelihood Activity	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
General Assessment												
In-Depth Assessment												
Phase I												
Phase II												
Follow-up												

Table 3: Livelihood Activities Timeline, AVSI-Gulu 2010.

For the livelihood support of each EVI, the management of the project budgeted 180,000 UGX (±90 USD), this mean that despite the different items delivered (i.e. livestock, in-kind goods, cash, tools or seeds) the market value of each individual package has always been close to the sum allocated by the budget per individual. The Petty trade activity had higher cost due to the training of beneficiaries and caretaker. This cost 115 USD per recipient.

3.4. Is it a Sustainable Livelihood Approach?

In the previous chapter we mentioned the most important academic views on livelihood. It is a good practice to show the consistency of such theoretical approach with the activities implemented in the field.

3.4.1. Main Principles.

If we recall the main bullet points of DFID led approach, it is possible to find many similarities with AVSI method, which will be introduced below.

	People Centred	Participation	Multilevel	Dynamic
DFID	Durable poverty elimination will be achieved only if external support focuses on what matters to people, understands the differences between groups of people and works with them in a way that is congruent with their current livelihood strategies, social environment and ability to adapt.	Poor people themselves must be key actors in identifying and addressing livelihood priorities. Outsiders need processes that enable them to listen and respond to the poor.	Poverty elimination is an enormous challenge that will only be overcome by working at multiple levels, ensuring that micro-level activity informs the development of policy and an effective enabling environment, and that macro-level structures and processes support people to build upon their own strengths.	External support must recognise the dynamic nature of livelihood strategies, respond flexibly to changes in people's situation, and develop longer-term commitments through greater diversification.
AVSI	The person is the centre of any development program, the purpose of every project. This means first of all sharing needs with the individual to share the very meaning of life and to be moved by his/her destiny.	A top-down project is either violent, since not shared, or ineffective and unsustainable, since assistance-oriented. AVSI's approach to project planning and implementation consists in doing with people; that is, starting from the relationship with the people to whom the project is targeted and building with them.	Development projects are based on real partnerships among all entities active in the particular field, including institutions that are public and private, local and international, thereby avoiding duplications and promoting synergies to optimize available resources. AVSI 's close relations with public bodies fits this view.	AVSI adopts a basic operational principle, which stems out of a positive approach to reality. It helps people to recognize their own value and dignity and take up their responsibilities. Through constant follow-up, AVSI has been able to dialogue with its beneficiaries in order to always adapt, with flexibility, to changes in the communities.

Table 4: AVSI-DFID Approach comparison.

Once these similarities are clear, we can go through the framework shown in Figure 2. As it is stressed in the first chapter, the resources, which are transformed to gain means for living, can be better categorized as assets or capital. The intervention analysed here, delivered in different measures a bit of all five types of assets analysed in the SLA.

1. ***Physical***: It is certainly the one where the project invested the most: Ox-plough and other tools have been provided together with livestock and housing. The effect of this asset increase will be measured by this study.
2. ***Natural***: More than 700 acres have been opened thanks to the use of the tractor and water rehabilitation have been performed all over the Area of Operation (AoO). However the effect of such intervention will not be measured as the benefits of such activities were more intended for the EVIs' hosting communities rather than specifically for themselves. Nevertheless it is important to bear this in mind in order to have a complete picture of the environment where the activities have been performed.
3. ***Human***: Concerning the human capital, attention should be put on the business skills training provided as well as the sensitization of beneficiaries around the management of their livelihood activities. This capital has been also shaped by the follow up visits carried out by the RFOs.
4. ***Financial***: Access to credit was provided in the form of grants for those EVIs willing to set up a petty trade business. Saving was encouraged through direct sensitization during RFOs' visits.
5. ***Social***: This component was tackled in various ways:
    a. Through the selection and sensitization of a caretaker. The latter was in charge of helping the EVI to claim for his/her rights at community level, as well as to help him/her out with the daily livelihood challenges.
    b. All the activities have been carried out after having informed and consulted the competent public bodies and under the supervision of the local authorities (LCs and Rwot Kwery). This was done in order to empower public local bodies and to protect the EVIs from any possible intimidation that their vulnerability might have attracted.
    c. RFOs have constantly sensitized the hosting communities on the importance of taking on themselves the responsibility of their most vulnerable people. Slowly the communities are becoming more

conscious of the benefit that everybody would get by integrating marginalized member of society, beginning from the elders with their immeasurable knowledge of culture and tradition.

The idea behind this design was that through trusting the ideas and potentials of the recipients, empowering them with knowledge transfers and constantly following them up, they should have gained the concrete capability of sustaining his/her livelihood in the long term.

'The true method of knowledge is experiment'

William Blake

4. Methodology

Livelihood is far from being a popular field of research. However a moderate amount of literature is available on both qualitative and quantitative evaluation of livelihood intervention. Academic attention is widespread from big scale assessments aiming at policy-making improvements, to the evaluation of smaller realities whose results are more relevant for the context where they have been implemented. Obviously this work finds its place in the latter category. Most papers analysed were dealing with a much wider population – sometimes even at national or regional level - with a longer timeframe and a much wider set of question. This work analyses a short-term livelihood intervention for a very specific category of beneficiaries. No trace of such an experiment was to be found. For these reasons, no unique methodology was used but various academic essays, with several slight adaptations, inspired the way this research was pursued. As Ashley and Hussein (2000) underline in their seminal work *Developing methodologies for Livelihood Impact Assessment,* there is no set way to conduct livelihood assessment. Nevertheless the Sustainable Livelihood framework stands as a lighthouse for all the papers taken into consideration. So it is for the present work.

4.1. A set of methods.

Murray (2001) while trying to identify the most useful combination of methods to trace changes of livelihood over time, stressed the complexity of this kind of researches. So many endogenous and exogenous variables are involved in the measurement of livelihood at both macro and micro level, that it is paramount to put each study into its context. This should compound the historical background as well as the socio-economic and political one. Secondly the social position of the subject to be studied should receive supreme importance as the portfolio of livelihood strategies is strictly linked with social status. Given the level of complexity that stem out from all this available circumstances, can we possibly generalize the results of such studies? Most of the times the answer should be no, unless the scope of our

generalization is limited to a similar scale to the one from where the results were extrapolated. This paper's aim is to understand the overall outcome of a short-term livelihood intervention, as this kind of project are becoming more popular, in order to provide future managers and scholars with a balance of results and lesson learnt.
Since livelihood policy is an extremely wide field, the author decided to focus on few methodologies that could help to plan future intervention with similar features.

This work follows the Ellis' critique to large-scale surveys (2000) which utility in understanding the changes in rural livelihoods over times is 'of very limited use', instead a small-scale data collection has been used, limited to the direct beneficiaries in the area of intervention where the project was done. Ellis identifies a combination of methods guided by consideration of cost-effectiveness and timeliness which were also the main constrains of this paper's author, particularly due to the timing of the project analysed:

- Semi structured focus group discussions: which in our case have been used to design the data collection forms and to shape the main variables to be studied according to the opinion of the beneficiaries.
- A participatory wealth ranking exercise.
- A sample survey of recipients' demography, income, expenditures, savings and assets. These last two were performed at the same time within two different data collections, before and after the livelihood intervention.

Consistently with Ellis' findings, even during this work, participatory methods were well suited to discover the context of rural livelihoods, hence the way forward in terms of activities and their evaluation. Whilst sample surveys were better suited to examining more quantitatively how the well being of the beneficiaries was affected by the project.
Murray eventually pooled Ellis practical method, together with other similar ('and sometimes overlapping') approaches, and links them with a common thread that is the light house stressed throughout this work: the Sustainable Livelihood framework.
Such approach, broadly described in the previous chapters, is defined as the 'official or dominant framework' (DFID, 1999)[4] and it can be either used to design livelihood

[4] See also www.livelihoods.org

activities as well as for their evaluation (Ashley & Hussein, 2000). Its main advantages with regards to this particular application can be summarised as:

- A shift away from narrow project evaluation criteria, in favour of a people centred approach.
- A rich contextual and project level analysis
- An ability to identify and analyze key assets and activities critical to livelihoods
- A basis for practical recommendations to enhance livelihood impacts.

Usually external experts carry out a project evaluation; they check out that certain performances have been delivered. Such objectives are usually blurred and their scores have little significance for beneficiaries' lives. Indeed for a short term project the indicator of achievement for livelihood activities could be the % of delivered kits or trainings, but what really matter is how these things were delivered and – above all - what consequences this had on the recipients. For this to happen a strong attention to the SLA principles is required as well as a deep involvement of different actors in the evaluation process. These principles have already been mentioned in the second and third chapters therefore they do not need to be stressed again. However this methodology is consistent with the SLA because it is:

- People-centered as the beneficiaries took part in their evaluation, specifically in the design of the data collection forms.
- Holistic, in the sense that it is a non-sectoral research, because it deals with a very limited population and different livelihood choices.
- Dynamic as it attempts to understand changes over time and cause-effect relationships.
- Positive approach, because it starts from the strength of the poor and not from their never ending needs.
- Conciliator because it tries to bridge the gap between the micro and the macro level. Providing project writers with a better insight of the field's reality.
- Sustainable: as the data collections were also an occasion to support and solve the beneficiaries' livelihood challenges.

Differently from most other experiences in livelihood assessment, the purpose of this evaluation, was not to capture all the possible dynamic changes in livelihood

strategies available to certain beneficiaries neither to understand their different options to improve their livelihood portfolio. The present work aimed at the data interpretation and evaluation of the AVSI-UNHCR interventions from the point of view of beneficiaries' well-being improvements. For this we first tried to understand the diversity of condition among recipients at a certain moment in time (circumspective approach). Secondly we tried to understand the change of such conditions on livelihood after the intervention was delivered (retrospective approach).
Before proceeding, the figure from Ashley and Hussein, is very supportive for the explanation of the methodology used hereby. The scheme refers to the methods developed by the two ODI's scholars to assess the impact of the African Wildlife Foundation in East Africa. The scope of their study was much wider than this; nevertheless the overall scheme is basically the same. At the beginning of the project a set of question was put forward:

1. Who are the stakeholders of this livelihood intervention?
2. What activities are best viable for them to build up a secure livelihood?
3. How will the environment react?
4. What livelihood impacts will there be on recipients?
5. What will be the most effective activity?

In order to answer, we explored as well three key themes. A participatory approach was carried out in order to understand the current strategies and the most effective available activities to implement. Secondly to disclose the changes caused by the project, two data collection –called baseline and follow up - were scheduled at roughly two months distance from each other.

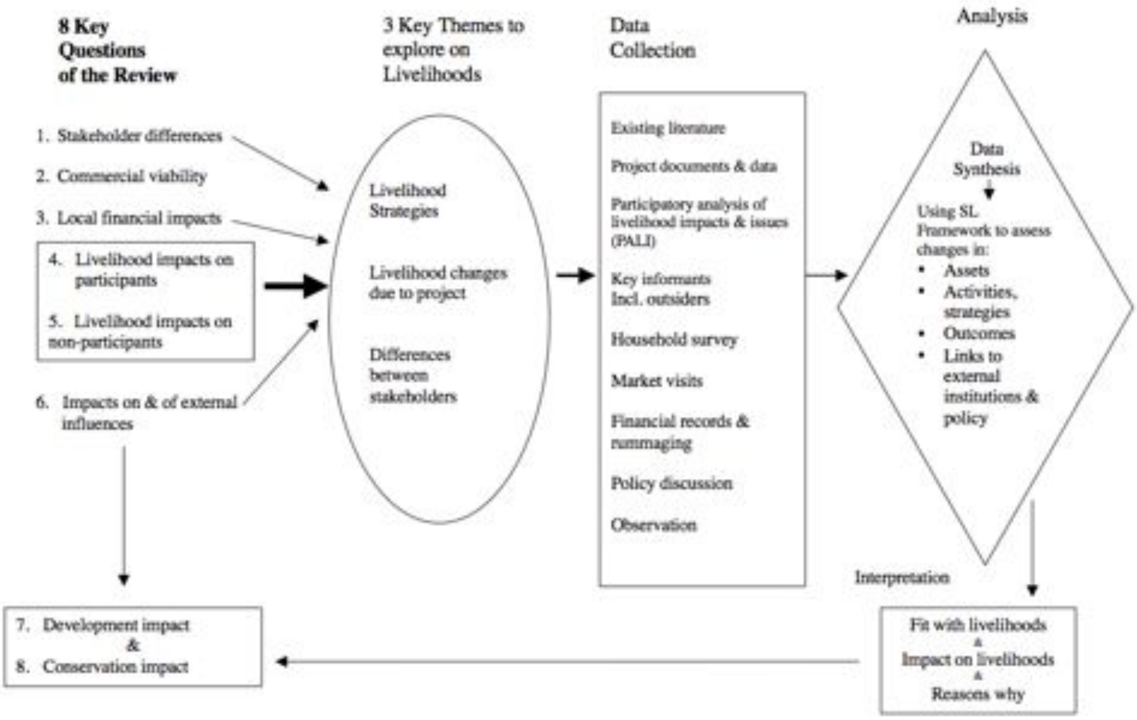

Figure 6: Summary of the process of livelihood impact analysis. Source: Ashley and Hussein, 2000.

Finally the differences among EVIs have been explored through data analysis and constant informal interviews among direct and indirect beneficiaries as well as their communities.

As per Data Collection, household surveys were the fruit of the integrated participation of staff and beneficiaries and were considered to be the main tool for this evaluation. Market surveys were also carried out to understand the beneficiaries' purchasing power.

Lets leave for later the explanation of analysis and interpretation, to focus on the surveys forms.

4.2. Data Collection Forms.

The baseline survey form and the follow up one, actually look very much alike, only a few more variables were added in the latter. They are both the fruit of a close and joint work among the project coordinator, the project assistant, the project officer, the RFOs and the beneficiaries themselves. Various FGD were held among the staff at office level and in the field with beneficiaries to best shape these forms in order to capture what was consider worthy by the project's staff as well as by its beneficiaries. For this reason the author did several field test of the forms until consensus around them was reached.

A couple of other forms have been used throughout the intervention, to collect useful information on EVIs' conditions and preferences. All of them can be found in annex.

Each beneficiary was given a unique BID number in order to build a proper database without problems of name's misspelling, which often arose in context where few people know how to write their names. However, name, age and sex were always asked in order to be able to guarantee that the respondent was the same person. Those cases where this principle could not be met have been ruled out from the analysis.

The baseline form was divided in six categories:

- Income: This section included information on the size of the EVI's household[5], on the amount of the weekly income, its sources and the amount of money realized thanks to the last harvest, if any. Secondly the expenditures of the previous week were recorded as well as the savings. Lastly a glimpse on the financial situation of the beneficiary was captured through current available savings and the amount of debt together with its payback period. The weekly time reference was chosen after long testing and discussions for its reliability as opposed to monthly income, which was too complex to calculate, hence it exposed the data to high chance of error.
- Assets: Here the first question dealt with the ten most popular assets (i.e. Land, Animals, Bicycle, Radio…) identified during FGD and field tests. The second question was reserved to the needed assets, in order to understand whether these needs would have been satisfied on the following data collection. It was later realized that for this assets to be purchased by significant amount of people there should have been a much longer timeframe than the one allowed by the project. Lastly, we asked whether all beneficiaries' land was cultivated and if not, the reason was inquired by the enumerators.
- Health: Both questions dealt with affordability but from different perspectives. On one side we asked where did the EVI go last time he/she was sick, options included *home* which would have shown the impossibility to access any health facility. On the other side, a straighter question was posed in terms of capacity to afford a health emergency. All these answers could be ordered

[5] This nomenclature must be clarified further. For EVI's household it is intended the recipient plus his/her dependants. Hence the reader should not think at a traditional household. Instead an individual with dependant should be considered.

from worst to best, hence a set of growing number was assigned in the dataset.

- Education: Simply the total amount of school fees paid per term (three months) was asked, together with the number of children (under 16) in and out of school. The other two questions aiming at measuring the differences in accessibility to school between male and female went lost as some enumerators misunderstood them.
- Meals: The number of feeds per day is a good proxy to measure nutrition, while quality of food was quantified by the amount of time per month when the recipients were able to eat meat. Lastly it was straight asked the number of days in the past week when someone in the household had to go to bed hungry.
- Household Wealth: This is a self-evaluation section where every EVI was asked to evaluate his/her wealth, according to the criteria of the area where he/she was living, with a scale of five answers from Very Bad to Very Good. The same scale was also used to record the beneficiary perception of the future in a five years horizon. This scale is known as Likert's scale and was converted in the dataset into numbers from one to five.

Almost exactly the same, the follow up differs only for two more sections:

- PSNs Relations: Its aim was to capture the relation between EVI and caretaker. As it occurred previous projects that the latter was taking advantage of the former, this question had a double task: to monitor the phenomenon and return information to understand the importance of a good cooperation for a better outcome. Results were reported in crescent numbers like for the previous section. The last question in this part regarded the capacity of the beneficiary to join a group. Because of the limited amount of positive answers, this effect could not be studied in the analysis.
- Business Performance: This last section was reserved for the beneficiaries who chose petty trade. It was actually used only as a guideline to go through business accounts with the beneficiary in order to monitor and support him. This data are already captured from the income section and were aiming more at assessing productivity. Unfortunately this analysis was not published, because not reliable. The amount of hours declared reflects a blurred concept

of work, with peak answers of 13 hours a day, which reflect a working activity mixed with house works and other tasks. In any case, no correlation was found between business profits and working time/days.

The baseline data collection was performed during the month of May 2010, while the follow up took place two months later in August. In both cases the enumerators were the very same staff who took part in the design of the forms, i.e. the RFOs. Being the same people with whom the beneficiary was interacting throughout the entire project gave them a noteworthy advantage. Due to the continuous meeting with the RFOs, beneficiaries developed a certain level of confidence and trust towards them. This was important as a first step to avoid the problem of social desirability bias. In the same direction, several meetings were done at office and field level to clarify that this project involved a one-time support and all collected data would have been useful only to evaluate the project and eventually replicate the same in other regions.

A Data clerk in Gulu AVSI's office has entered all forms while the database was cleaned and reorganized by the author thanks to SQL[6] software. After the latter task was performed the number of observations was reduced to 266. The figure below represents the path of data: from their collections to the analysis. The extraction, transformation and loading process, consisted of matching information form different tables with inner join and filtering the unreliable observations. The comma separated value format (CSV) has been a friendly companion to easily move data between softwares. Lastly, the data have been analysed with *Excel* and *Stata* respectively for the production of graphs and the development of the regression model.

[6] Structured Query Language

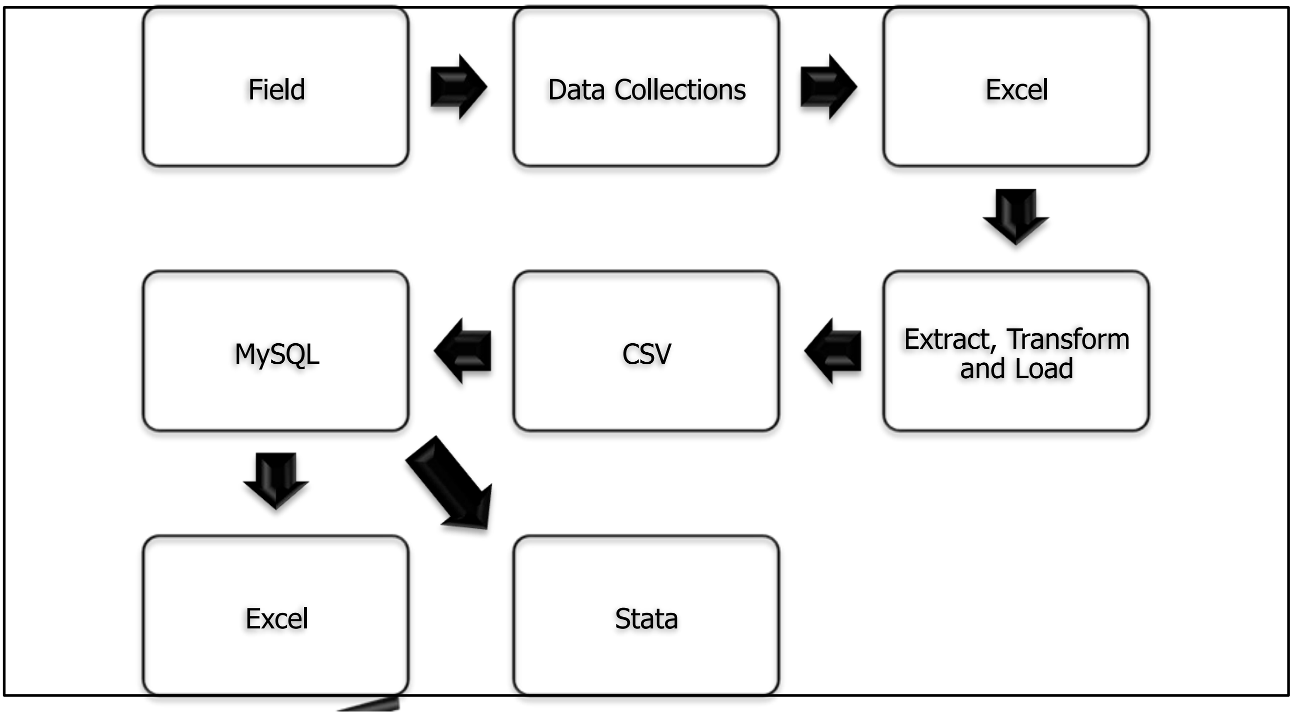

Figure 7: Data Path.

4.3. Analysis.

Few preliminary remarks are necessary before going through this part. In such analysis no control group data could be used. Bearing in mind the best possible evaluation of the randomized control trail projects, the author had to limit this work to several constrains as the staff was already overwhelmed with all the activities that AVSI-UNHCR had planned to implement. Secondly no cluster method was used to group beneficiaries as they were all characterized by vulnerability and similar well-being condition. Instead a clear distinction of the three available activities (i.e. Petty Trade, Cultivation and Livestock) was kept since one aim of this work is actually to underline the differences among these three option's short-term impact. A t test between baseline and follow up averages was performed for all the variables presented, unless specified, all resulted significant at least with a $p<0.05$. Lastly Cohen's guideline has been used for correlation coefficient: only medium to large effects were took into consideration ($r>0.24$; $r>0.37$). The five categories of livelihood assets (i.e. Physical, Natural, Human, Financial and Social) drove the selection of each variable involved in the analysis. However these were not grouped into aggregates of variables to avoid any over interpretation of the real findings.

Results analysis starts with the *circumspective approach*, which is mainly a reading of the baseline data in order to have a glimpse of the well being scenario of EVIs prior to the intervention and to set a term of reference for future improvements. Secondly the follow-up results are exposed with ad hoc graph to show the differences between variables before and after the intervention. Lastly, following the tradition of researches on living conditions (Ansoms & McKay, 2010) a regression model is developed. 'Such a methodology has the advantage of identifying the strength and significance of the relationship(s) between variables. On the other hand it gives little insight into the heterogeneity of profiles in a large population'. Considering the limited sample size and its homogeneity we can consider this step a good way to summarize the overall evaluation experience.

The selection of the dependant variable was obviously the toughest. At the beginning a set of elaborated option was anguishing the choice. From the *ROI* of beneficiaries' enterprises to the *per capita weekly income increase*. Consequently, bearing in mind the principle of prudence the answer was found in the pure and simple *weekly income increase* (Follow Up Weekly Income – Baseline Weekly Income). The following reasons supported the choice:

- The livelihood intervention was intended to individuals (EVIs) who collaterally also had a number of dependants. Hence the impact on them was to be captured.
- The number of these dependants is not fixed and varies according to a number of variables[7] that could not be analyzed in this work.
- Recent papers discourage the use of complex aggregate variables as it can bias findings more than the use of the crude simplest data. In this sense, De Haan and Zoomers (2005) suggest to concentrate on approximation of over all well being often scaled down to income.
- The more complex reality of livelihood was already captured in descriptive statistics.

The model has four independent variables, it was purged of any collinearity problem and its errors proved to be homoscedastic and normally distributed. For this reason the model's errors distribution was tested with the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.

Finally this work presents an over all synthesis of the intervention's impacts, considering the positive and negative sides for the recipients livelihood assets and well being.

[7] Examples of such can be found in the first section of the data analysis chapter.

4.4. Possible improvements.

Research should also be considered as a tool to improve itself. For this reason it is important to highlight what elements were missing from this methodology that could be useful for future similar studies.

First of all, time constrain is the worst enemy of robust livelihood research. The AVSI-UNHCR project was designed to last only twelve months, as the author and the enumerators were working for the same project, the data collection had to stop with its end. Periodical follow up, ideally at six months time for a period of three to five years, could give a much deeper and more reliable in sight of the impact and the effect of an intervention over time. Additionally these data collections could study, aspects that were not consider in this paper like social integration and participation which were not included in this work for such issues require much wider time gap to be captured.

Secondly, the use of qualitative elements of research like in-depth interviews could be an additional asset to the eventual study.

Lastly Randomised controlled trials are - as medicine can witness – the most rigorous way of determining whether a cause-effect relation exists between treatment and outcome and for assessing the cost effectiveness of an intervention. Hence this method should be preferred, when resources allow time and man power necessary to manage a randomization, a control group and all their consequences; in order to achieve the most confident and reliable results. An ethic way to use a control group would be to split the sample in two randomly assigned groups. The intervention and the data collection should start for everybody at time 0 and eventually also the control group would receive the intervention at the end of the first year.

'Statistics are no substitute for judgement'
Henry Clay

5. Data Analysis.

The present chapter can be seen as the heart of this work. Firstly the sample's features are disclosed as they were found in the first data collection. Main categories of data are: demography, education, health, income, expenditures and savings. Consequently the effect of the intervention on such fields is described in the follow up section. Finally a regression model is presented to explain the variable used to determine success, i.e. the weekly income increase between the two data collections.

5.1. Sample features.

The following data are extrapolated from the baseline survey described in the previous chapter and carried out before the livelihood intervention. These aim to describe with enough details the overall situation of the EVIs who took part in the project. The evaluation deals with 266 recipients, hence all the following data will reflect this dataset's characteristics.

5.1.1. Demography.

The gender distribution is widely unbalanced towards female, with a recorded 81% of participants in the analysis being women. This is mainly because of their higher exposure to vulnerabilities, particularly in the context were the project took place, as opposed to men whom are 51 in number and 19% of the EVIs considered in this paper. The average age of the recipients is 64 years old, with only 18% of them under fifty. This phenomenon is particularly important in a country like Uganda where the median age is 15 and only 2.1%[8] of the population is above 60. That is actually the main

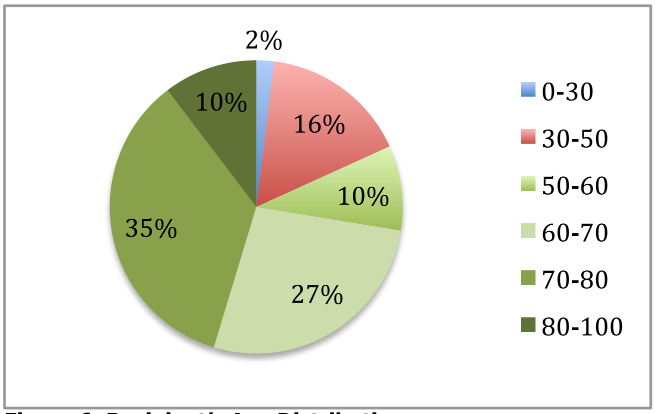

Figure 6: Recipient's Age Distribution

[8] The CIA World Fact Book

category of people; who still remained in camps despite their willingness to go back to their original villages. Working with such old beneficiaries has been a challenge as well as an opportunity considered the wide experience of local livelihood they brought in the project. Hence, the main vulnerability recorded that qualified beneficiaries to receive AVSI's support was old age, affecting nearly half of the sample.

Meanwhile disables and people suffering from serious medical conditions summed up for 18% of the sample, the second biggest category of vulnerability is Single Parents. This includes indistinctly youth and elders, both characterized by the responsibilities over a number of children with which they often do not have biological links. In Northern Uganda, being a land where polygamy is widespread, it is common to find flowing families where children and disabled move from a nucleus to the other according to the strategic allocation of the male over his numerous wives. Grand parents, thus elders (i.e. 82% of our beneficiaries) are often the one ending up looking after all the children unwanted by the new spouses of the parent who is currently holding the *patria potestas* over those kids. This explains the high number of dependants - three on average - whom the EVI has to cater for. These are almost always children since in 75% of recipients there is only one adult component in the household.

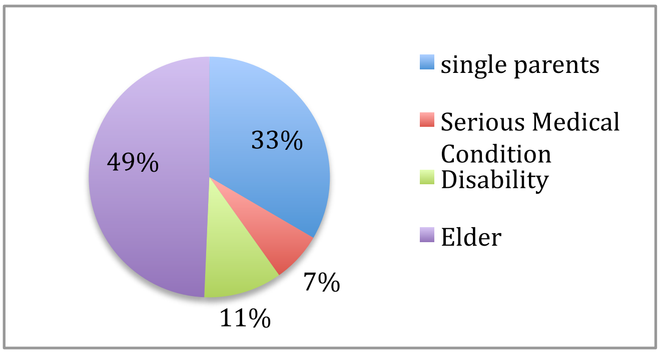

Figure 8: EVIs recorded vulnerabilities.

Being the EVI also the main bread winner in his/her household, these numbers want to stress the pressure for resources that he/she has to handle daily.

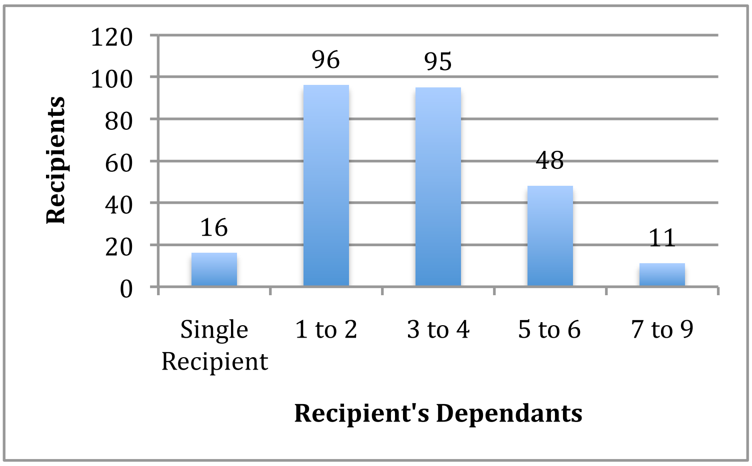

Figure 8: Number of Dependants per Recipient

5.1.2. Education.

The educational system's structure was inherited from the British. Subjects are thought in English (the official language), a part from the first three years of Primary School, which recently were switch to local languages in order to attract more pupils and to preserve the precious cultural differences present in the country. The primary diploma is gained after seven years, while the Secondary School has two degree of completion: the Ordinary level and the Advanced level, which requires respectively four and six additional years. Finally, after 13 years of studying, pupils can access University education. In fact, neither project's recipients nor their caregivers have gone above the Ordinary level, which is still to be considered an exceptional result in the area of intervention.

Two thirds of the participants are completely illiterate and have never enjoyed any formal education; a quarter could boast some school years, while only 10% have completed primary education. On the other hand, if we look at the key figure of the caretakers, their level of education rises proportionally[9] with the increase of their EVI's education. This, as will be shown later has moderate consequences on the livelihood activities' success. Interestingly, the caregivers' education level is significantly higher, with only 30% of illiterates, two thirds completed Primary School and 10% even received some secondary education. As the caregivers are usually found among sons or nephew of the EVIs, they are much younger. The latter might have allowed them to enjoy the GoU's effort for free universal primary education, which - jointly with the above-mentioned correlation - is probably at the base of their higher literacy score. Even though the first seven years are supposed to be paid for by the government, in fact due to poor

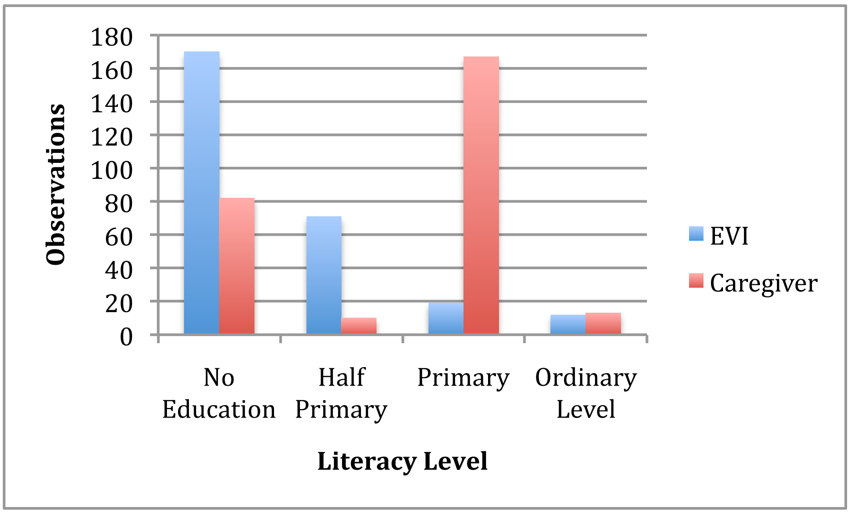

Figure 9: EVIs and Caregivers' Education Level

9 EVI education level – Caregiver Education level: r=0.356

staff facilities and salaries, families always have to supplement some money every trimester for books, teachers' salaries and uniforms.

Despite the fear of problems on record keeping for illiterate recipients, they proved able of great money management skills thanks to their long lasting experience in handling life's challenges with little or no means. Also their relation with the caregiver was sought to be paramount during the whole intervention.

5.1.3. Health and Nutrition.

For the majority of the population now living in return areas, access to basic services represents one of the crucial dividends of peace. Yet, inadequate or faraway health infrastructure, for instance, has left populations susceptible to epidemics, as demonstrated by the recent outbreaks of Yellow Fever, Hepatitis E or the re-emergence of polio. Compounding the situation is the poor water and sanitation coverage, with latrines only accessible to 31%[10] of the population on average, while safe water distribution is uneven, varying from levels at par with the national average to levels twice worse. In the Health Sector, an increase in the number of facilities thanks to funding from the PRDP is yet to be matched by an increase in staffing and equipment to make any meaningful mark on access statistics. A higher than average HIV prevalence rate of 8.2%[11], second only to rates in Kampala, raises fears over the potential for the disease to explode into a pandemic. Access to antiretroviral drugs was indeed one of the challenges some EVIs had to face.

Meanwhile as far as food security is concern, fortunately after a very unlucky harvest, last year, crops are improving and so is doing nutrition among the population.

As per our sample, according to the baseline data an encouraging 84% chose to go to a health centre the last time he/she was sick, which is indeed the best alternative available. The rest – before the intervention was delivered – went either to a traditional witch doctor, a drug shop or even remained home. This could have been due to a lack of resources (for fees or transport), information or availability of the health service within the beneficiary's area. With regards to the affordability of health fees, despite their inexpensiveness 'on paper', a staggering 36% of the sample said

[10] UNOCHA - Uganda Humanitarian Profile 2011

[11] Ibidem

they could not afford any health fees, even under emergency situations. The remaining was almost equally divided into recipients who would have to borrow money (30%) and those who stressed they would be able to pay (34%).
From the nutritional perspective 36% of the sample could afford only one meal per day, clearly remaining well under the daily calories requirements. Whilst on the quality of food the situation is even worse, as more than two thirds of the respondents could afford to eat meat only every other month.

5.1.4. Income, Expenditures and Savings.

In 2008 the World Bank revised the well-known threshold of extreme poverty to 1.25 USD/day. The average weekly income of the EVIs' households was 7,090 Ugandan Schillings (UGX). If we divide this sum by the days of the week it results that the average recipient can count on 0.46 USD/day[12] to cater for his/her needs as well as those of their three mean dependants. The sources of such money flow were said to be inconstant and mainly linked to casual labour, which includes: digging in someone else's garden, stone quarry and every sort of available occasional work. Also common ways to produce an income were farming, alcohol brewing and small-scale trade of crops.

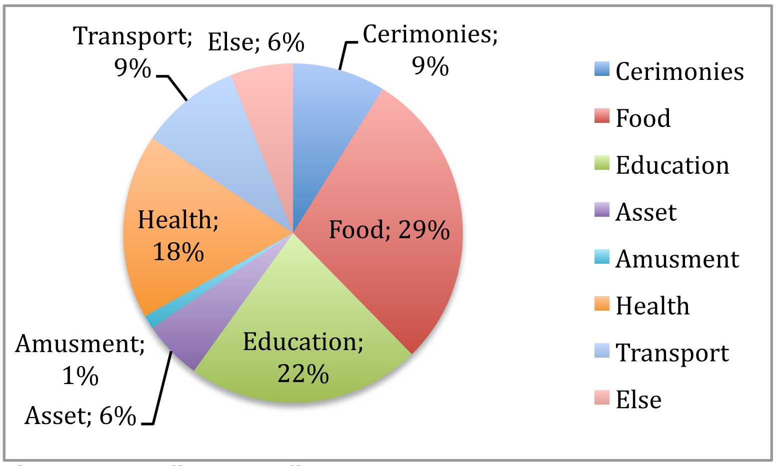

Figure 10: Baseline Expenditure Patterns

Considering the limited amount of money available, recorded expenditures are limited to few key categories, aiming at maintaining the current livelihood. These are food, education and health which add up to more than two third of the average household resource allocation, leaving little for other necessities - important for Acholi culture – like ceremonies. Lastly, assets and transport, which could be seen as indicators of livelihood expansion (Davies, 2000) represents the smallest portion of outgoing money after amusement. However the importance given to education

[12] Official Exchange Rate - July 2010 – 1 USD=2,200 UGX

already gave good hope for the allocation of potential extra income to coming generations to find new ways to develop and expand their livelihood base.
Surprisingly, despite the above mentioned constrains, the recipient said to be able to save roughly a quarter of their weekly income. In fact, this was mainly done to accumulate enough cash to face incumbent needs that usually belonged to the three most important categories of expenditure reported. For this reason the savings base currently available on average to the recipient is hardly bigger than the weekly income itself. Recipients who chose petty trade, interestingly already had a 50% larger base of current savings as opposed to the average of farmers and breeders.
Finally it is worth to note that, contrary to what common sense would tell, incomes were recorded as generally lower then expenditures. This means that a lot of true income is not captured within the survey. Actually this phenomenon is not uncommon in survey data (Deaton, 1997).

5.1.5. Assets.

Each recipient declared to own at least one hut, that is the one built for him/her by the project with the help of the host community in the return site. Some 16% of them managed to keep another hut back to the camp where they were staying. Which was mainly done by 'wealthier' EVIs whom had an interest in trading. In this way they could easily revert from their village to the former camp which can surely offer bigger commercial opportunities, especially when the distance or the physical condition of the beneficiary did not allow him/her to commute daily from his/her home to the trading centre (i.e. the former camp).
With regards to the cultivable land, no major land dispute was recorded at beneficiary level, even though this was a common problem in the area as the NRC-ICLA project can witness. Each recipient said to own an average of eight acres of cultivable land, but only two of them were actually in use. When asked for the reason behind this apparent waste, the quasi-totality of the sample, blamed the lack of available human labour. This testifies the potential for a growing livelihood but also stresses the problem of the isolation of vulnerable individuals who might not be part of a social network able to exploit and share their accessible resources.

Finally we have the physical assets, as described in the previous chapter.

Physical Assets			EVIs %
	Bicycle	16.67%	
	Pig	2.46%	
	Radio	10.46%	
	Goat	32.95%	
	Chicken	43.23%	
	Mattress	10.58%	
	Phone	2.33%	

Table 5:EVIs' Assets availability

The table shows the percentage of beneficiaries owning the different assets. Usually such precious items are self-excluding, in the sense that it is very rare for a recipient to have had even two of them at the same time. Chickens are the most common good to own, for their food security function, cheap prices and the little attention they require. On the other hand, pigs are well known in the region for being a good source of income but at the same time a big source of problems as they require a proper space for themselves, else they destroy whatever is on their way. For their high labour requirements these animals are not so common among our beneficiaries. Finally Goats is the preferred asset by most people. Indeed the most popular choice among those who selected livestock as their preferred intervention, such animals can freely graze without much care and there is always demand for them as it is the most popular meat in the area. It goes without saying that the different distribution between chicken and goat is mainly due to their prices, which allow the former to be more widespread than the latter.
Radio and Mattresses are both luxuries very difficult to find and jointly with bicycles are among the first asset that beneficiaries declared they would buy with the first extra income made thanks to the project. Particularly the bicycle, being a mean of transport is also seen as an important asset for the business since it cuts transport costs and increases the profit margin. Lastly the mobile phone is really uncommon among these recipients as it is seen more as an unjustifiable expense given the high age mean among EVIs whom would not be so familiar with such technologies.
To conclude it is necessary to mention that no significant difference (a part from savings) in terms of income or assets was recorded among the recipients, hence no clustering was sought to be necessary. Furthermore their choice of livelihood activity apparently had no correlation with any of the characteristics mentioned above.

5.2. Follow-Up.

This section together with the regression model is the heart of the present work. All the data presented from now on have been collected according to the methodology described in the previous chapter in a flexible timeframe, which ranged from 45 to 75 days after the assistance was completely delivered. What can be read from the following data, gives an in-depth picture of changes occurred to the beneficiaries' families from an overall well-being perspective according to the livelihood framework previously exposed.

5.2.1. Health and Nutrition.

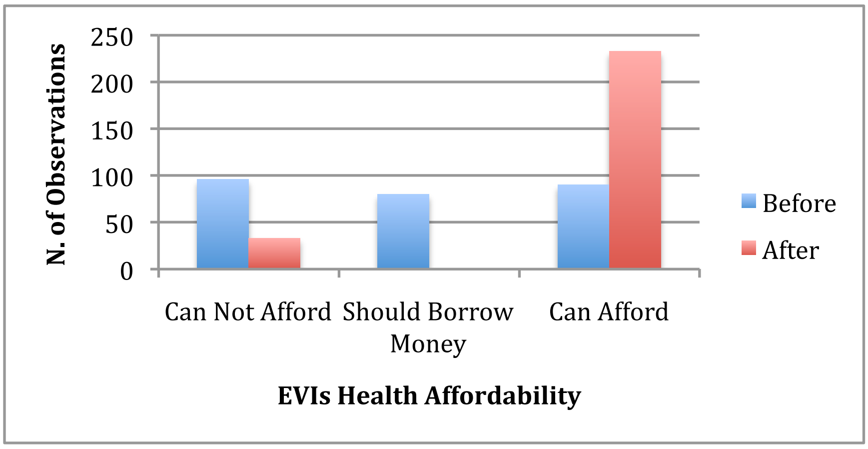

Figure 11: Health Affordability Before and After the Intervention

In this particular section even the baseline results were not discouraging at all. Nevertheless, some further improvements have been recorded.

When asked where did they go the last time they were sick, almost everybody could answer he/she went to the Health Centre. The option to stay home or to go to a witch doctor completely disappeared, letting out only 4% of respondent who are still going simply to the drug shop. Here it is worth to stress that the latter are simple kiosk on the side of the street run by local people as a form of business with little or no knowledge of medicine. Predictably health affordability sought to have had a significant increase. Despite the 12% of participants still stress they could not afford a health emergencies, it is possible to notice a dramatic increase in those who could actually afford it whom represent the remaining 88% of the sample.

Nutrition follows the same trend of improvement. The percentage of households who could allow themselves only one meal a day dropped from 35% to 7%, which means that the others do enjoy two or more feeds every day. Even more interesting is the quality of food measured by monthly meat consumption. As it is shown in Figure 12, the number of people in the position the eat meat at least once a month sought a fourfold increase becoming the 80% of the sample. And as per those who declared never to be able to consume meat, their number of observation went down to zero.

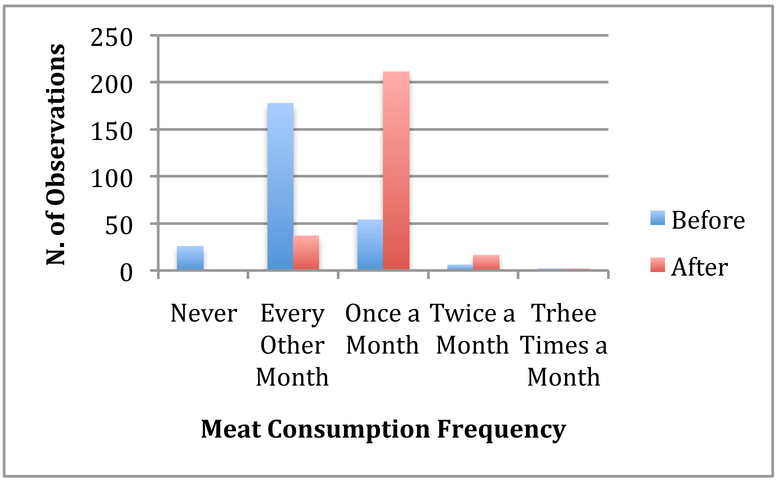

Figure 12: Meat Consumption Before and After the Intervention

Lastly, it is interesting to notice a moderate negative correlation between the decrease in the number of days in a week when someone in the family had to go to bed hungry and the increase in the weekly income[13]. The least weekly income increased the more likely the recipient or one of the dependants had still to go to bed hungry once or more in a week. This still implies that notwithstanding the average income increase which will be disclosed later, as soon as the weekly cash flow decrease food security is threatened. A transition scenario is highlighted by this consideration; beneficiaries are now progressively gaining their food security and not everybody could reach it at the same pace.

5.2.2. Income, Expenditures and Savings.

Weekly income has risen on average of 4,545 UGX, which represents an increase of 64% from the previous data recorded. However, the strongest increase of this variable was found among those beneficiaries who chose either Petty Trade or Cultivation, on average these categories sought a rise of respectively 10,808 UGX

[13] r=-0.2855

and 11,480 UGX, whilst the recipients who opted for livestock augmented their money inflow of 2,295 UGX. Here we shall not forget the different timeframe to which these activities are subjected. It is quite fast to earn money through hiring an ox-plough, or start selling either food or non-food items within the nearby villages. Another thing is to wait for livestock to reproduce. Actually, this could also be rooted to different mind set among beneficiaries. Indeed only 10% of the people who were willing to receive livestock, had plans to set up a slaughtering or trading business with their animals. The rest declared that it was their intention to first increase the livestock assets in the household before starting any income generating activity. Finally, one last reading of this phenomenon is that least entrepreneur and weakest beneficiaries or those with more dependency attitude, went for livestock as it involved the smallest effort in managing the support.

Interestingly the two activities where a big amount of work was demanded to beneficiaries to achieve good performances were also the most successful. Whilst livestock, which did not involve any proactive effort from the recipients had a much smaller impact. Actually, this could have even led to a surge in the dependency syndrome among these beneficiaries. Trader and farmers, given their income increase, will soon be able to buy animals with the resources realized by their activities. On the other side livestock recipients, despite their improvements, seem not to be able to put in place a strong income generating activity.

While speaking about income it is good to give a measure for comparison, to better understand the illustrated figures. The World Bank in 2003 estimated that in Uganda, GDP figures should be adjusted by a coefficient of 5 to be compared in Purchasing Power Parity with that of the US. However this value of reference should not receive too much attention as poverty alleviation is made by long term increases in the assets base and not by debatable calculations.

This said, it is probably more useful to consider the prices of the most common daily items as well as those of some popular assets.

Products	UGX (*1,000)
Charcoal (1Kg)	0.5
Tomatoes (1Kg)	2
Dry Fish (1Kg)	2
Sorghum (1Kg)	0.6
Kerosene (1Lt)	2
Cooking Oil (1Lt)	3
Onions (1Kg)	2
Beans (1Kg)	1
Peas (1Kg)	4
Bicycle	130
Piglet	40
Radio	20
Goat	55
Chicken	10
Mattress	30
Phone	30
Primary School fees	10<x<30
Secondary School fees	120<x<300

Table 6: Prices List of daily goods and assets in Northern Uganda, July 2010

The prices hereby indicated were collected by the author, through market interviews trimmed by monthly price bulletins.[14] These information were coming from urban or semi-urban markets, thus the values for cultivable products could be reduced even by one third for rural areas like the ones where the beneficiaries of this project are living. Notwithstanding their minuscule income, EVIs have always been able to complement it with the fruits stemmed out of the joint work of their hoes and their fertile land. It goes without saying that most of the eatable goods are usually coming from their gardens and therefore their use of income (a part from cases of drought or famine) for food need is limited to processing crops in the various form in which these can be consumed.

The weekly income increase for the two most successful categories of beneficiaries (i.e. Petty Trade and Cultivation) skyrocketed to 2.5 times its original value. Converting this output we reach the notable result of 8.14 USD, which is surely more than a dollar per day and even though it shall be divided by the number of people in the household, it is still to be adjusted to PPP. Since the WB multiplication factor for the latter adjustment is bigger, by one, than the average number of people in each recipient's household, it is obvious that at least on simple mean bases these two categories now live above the absolute poverty line.

The same cannot be said for those EVIs who opted for animal rearing. Their weekly income after the intervention rose by 34%, still a considerable result, though it goes down to roughly half of the figures mentioned for Petty Trade and Cultivation.

[14] Provided by Farmgain Africa Ltd.

The overall expenditure amount sought a slight but significant increase of 8.8%. However the spending pattern recorded some little changes. Food and Education are solidly the two biggest line of expenditure. The latter grew further, witnessing the wide margin of expenditure that is still needed in this field. Curiously, in view of a rising allocation of financial resources to education, the recorded number of children out of school increased. In fact it doubled. This awkward phenomenon was explained quite well from some interviews with the very beneficiaries, as well as by brainstorming with the RFOs. Apparently a bigger income availability jointly with higher standards of living, pushed recipients to reconsider the education of those children in their families whom already lost some years of school. Given the very scarce resources to which beneficiaries were used, they would have tried to reinsert a child into school only if he/she would have had lost one or two years. Otherwise the kid would automatically start helping in the domestic economy becoming ineligible to go back to school. After the intervention, as they felt more economically safe they would like to have even 'older' children back to school.

On the other hand, health had a little decline in percentage but considering the larger amount of money involved it should not be a signal of any change in the usual patterns. And with regard to this variable, a moderate correlation[15] was found with the number of children in the household. Predictably saying the more children, the more health money flows out. From this we cannot conclude that children are more prone to need health treatment than adults, since children represents three quarters of the beneficiaries' families. If we consider the average size of analysed families (four), under 16 reach the totality of the family composition a part from the EVIs who is the only adult and the main breadwinner.

[15] $r = 0.3021$

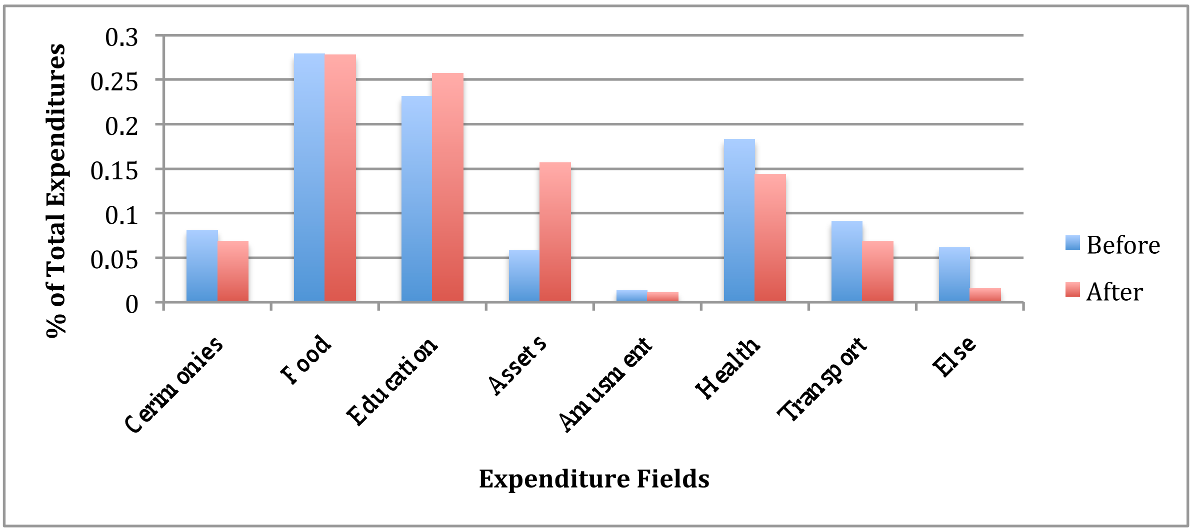

Figure 13: Expenditure Pattern Comparison.

Whilst if we look at the assets, there is an interesting climb of this value as the household were probably waiting to invest the extra money flow in needed tools and other durable goods.

A positive correlation was also found between the baseline expenditure of food, education and health, and their recorded increases during the follow up. The beneficiaries who spent more in such categories were also those who increased the most the disbursement in the same fields. The stronger correlation[16] was precisely between baseline expenditure in education and its surge recorded during the baseline. Hence, those who originally allocated more in education are more likely to channel even more resources into this important long-term investment.

On savings the results are overall positive despite their inequality. In this important section for the planning of families' investments and the prevention of shocks, petty trader triumphantly led the surge. In roughly two months, the latter managed to increase their savings availability of 21,305 UGX, more than doubling their baseline figure. However farmers and

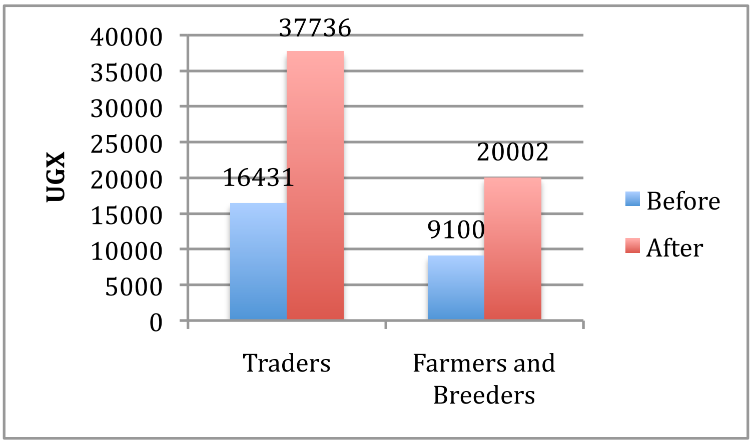

Figure 14: Current Available Savings

[16] r = 0.8891

breeders still managed to almost double the same data with an average increase of 10,902 UGX. Here we shall not forget that traders did start already from a higher amount of savings, probably due to their entrepreneurial skills. Further investigation should be dedicated towards this direction. This should find out the correlation between Business Skills Training undertaken by these beneficiaries and their stronger increase in savings.

Finally the amount of debts increased throughout the entire sample of 30% regardless to the choice of livelihood activity. Such growth is positive for future livelihood expansion, becuase to have access to credit is the first step to livelihood expansion and diversification. This might be due to the better economic situation of the recipients, whom can now boast some guarnatees and are taken in higher regards by loaning groups. Their payback period was split between 90 days and 180 days with a 2:1 ratio.

5.2.3. Assets.

The surge in asset spending noticed before, is reflected in the increase of few of the recorded items. The number of animals remained fairly constant after two months from the intervention, as well as those of mattresses, land and huts owned. On the other hand radios sought a notewhorthy rise of 18.4% which, now makes of more than one third of the beneficiaries a radio owner. More modest have been the progress with regards to phones and bycicles, respectively eight and sixteen beneficiaries could afford to get this asset during the time between the two data collections. This is equal to a 3% and 6% growth of these goods among the recipients. However the averages from baseline and follow up of these two assets did not score satisfactory at the t test, with an insufficient reported significativity of $p<0.20$. The magnitude of such investments is likely to require a longer accumlation period which the project timeframe did not allow.

Some sort of correlation would have been expcted for either phones and/or bycicle with the increase in income, given the strategic business importance of such goods. However no such connections were found, probably because of the too little diffusion among EVIs of such items and the short timeframe between the two data collections.

5.2.4. Recipients' self-evaluation.

Finally, in agreement with what said before on the centrality of the person, it is a duty, to present the perception of the very people who benefited from the livelihood interventions. During both data collections participants had the opportunity to stress their own perception of current household's wealth as well as a self-evaluation of the future ahead of them. Beyond all data analysis it is fundamental to consider the beneficiaries' opinion over their present and future situation, in order to stress the overall positive or negative direction of the impact's intervention (Ashley & Hussein, 2000).

Before the support was delivered the EVIs' opinions on their wealth were negative. The median grade was *bad*: the second worst ranking. At the same time, as the intervention was getting closer, their views on the future (even though at a five years horizon) were significantly better with an average answer very close to *good.* This dichotomy between present and future is also true, but with opposite direction, for the information gathered after the assistance was delivered. It means that while wealth perception significantly increases with a median observation of *very good,* future vision stepped back to *fair*, with some few exceptional negative results. It is quite understandable to see a step back in future evaluation vis-à-vis an increase in wealth. Probably this is due to the strong expectations that the intervention had before it was delivered.

	Before /After	Very Bad	Bad	Fair	Good	Very Good
Wealth	Very Bad			14	13	56
	Bad			32		113
	Fair			9		39
	Good					2
	Very Good					

Table 7: Wealth Self Evaluation Over the two data collections.

Upon completion of the project the present wealth is significantly better but – as no further assistance is planned - the recipients forecast no future improvements.

Tables 7 and 8 capture this. All the numbers who stands on the main diagonal (highlighted in green) represents those recipients who did not change their mind after the intervention. Meanwhile the values on the left and on the right of such diagonal, shows respectively the downgrade and upgrade in self-evaluation. As it can be seen, wealth sought a significant move on the up right triangle, with beneficiaries moving even from *very bad* to *very good*. Whilst as far as the future is concerned the situation is more neutral and is characterized even by downgrading.

	Before/After	Very Bad	Bad	Fair	Good	Very Good
Future	Very Bad					
	Bad					
	Fair	6	4	87	32	32
	Good		1	36	13	10
	Very Good	1		34	6	11

Table 8: Future Self Evaluation over the two data collections

Unfortunately, this could be seen as a clear symptom of what is known as dependency syndrome. Having lived in internal displacement for two decades the dependency attitude in former IDPs still lingers in most communities in northern Uganda. A more development-oriented approach to assistance could provide confidence in people to take up and own their development processes. Such approach should entail an even stronger faith in the SLA when a project is designed, needs should be substituted with beneficiaries' strengths. There should be no more delivery of assistance but mutual exchange of skills, effort and talent between local communities and foreign workers. Eventually, a more business-oriented mind set will be necessary to cut down with this syndrome.

5.3. Regression Model.

A regression model was developed out of this database, to discover which variables could better explain the income increase's distribution. The stepwise method was used in order to generate the combination of independent variables, which could give the most solid explanation to the dependant variable.

Model Summary	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	,864[a]	,746	**,741**	4980,588

Weekly income increase was chosen as the dependant variable (Y) for the reasons explained in the methodology. On the other side, the selection of independent variables stemmed out of a backward selection approach. This involved starting with all candidate variables and testing them one by one for statistical significance, all those, which were not significant, were deleted from the model. Bearing in mind a prudence criterion, the following four have been eventually chosen as independent variables:

- Livelihood Choice – x_1: whether the recipient had chosen Petty Trade, Cultivation or Livestock. A dummy variable has been used for this factor. Due to the too little number of observations for cultivation (10) and their similarity of income with traders, a collinearity problem arose. In this sense, farmers have been merged with vendors and allocated the number 1 as oppose to the 0 of breeders.
- Cooperation with the caretaker – x_2: this had three possible answers - bad, fair and good – to this ordinal character corresponded crescent numbers from -1 to 1. As only one negative answer was recorded in the data set, no dummy variables have been made for this factor. Because it is a de facto dummy variable.
- Weekly Income – x_3: it is the income recorded for the week previous to the baseline data collection.
- Education Expense – x_4: refers to the amount of money allocated by the recipients for educational purposes before the intervention was delivered.

The table below shows the model's coefficients:

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	5350,782	620,717		8,620	,000
	Livelihood Choice	3400,219	794,218	,145	4,281	,000
	Cooperation	3826,617	669,035	,194	5,720	,000
	Weekly Income	-,885	,037	-,802	-23,660	,000
	Expenditure Edu.	,312	,082	,129	3,824	,000

Table 9: Regression Model's Coefficients

Therefore the equation of the model is:

$$Y = 3400.219x_1 + 3826.617x_2 - 0.885x_3 + 0.312\, x_4 + 5350.782$$

As it can be seen from the summary chart above, all variables are significant. However the magnitude of their effect is different. The livelihood support's choice (x_1) looks to be a strong determinant in the prediction of the weekly income increase. This is no surprise if we recall the data previously stressed with regards to the better performance of traders and cultivators as opposed to breeders. Also the cooperation (x_2) between EVI and caretaker (ranked by the former) seems to foresee quite well the income increase's pattern. Hence a positive cooperation is related to higher income performance. This last variable was also seen to have a correlation[17] with the education of the caretaker. To an increase in the caretaker's education, a better ranking in the cooperation between him/her and the EVI is sought. The present findings is quite important for any future policy in the selection of a person to support the EVI in his/her livelihood activity, yet the beneficiary's choice should always prevail as the feeling among the two is probably the most important component of their fruitful synergy.

[17] $r = 0.3236$

These first two coefficients are so much bigger in size compared to the second two, just because they come from dummy variables, this mean that their values can be either 0 or 1. Therefore the effect of a unit increase on the dependant variable is big. On the other side, weekly income and education expenditure are expressed in thousands of UGX like the dependant variable, and that is why they show smaller coefficients.

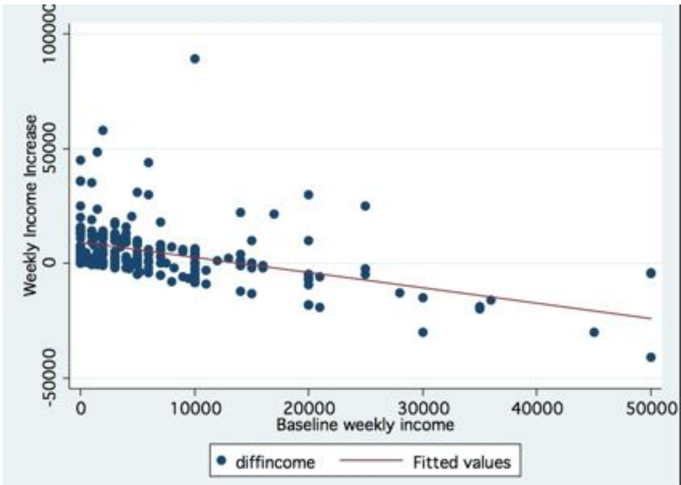

Figure 15: Scatter Plot Graph, Correlation between Baseline Weekly Income and Weekly Income Increase.

However if we look at the standardized coefficient, we can easily see how the strongest explanatory effect is carried out by the baseline weekly income.

A negative effect is brought by the baseline recorded weekly income (x_3). This can be seen very well from the graph, when the weekly income was already quite high before the intervention, the income increase is actually a decrease. On the other hand smaller incomes led to higher increases. In this case it is quite true that those who have least, try harder and do better. This is a very strong reason as to pay ever-stronger attention to the selection of beneficiaries in order to maximize the project's impact.

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1,637E10	4	4,093E9	164,997	,000[a]
	Residual	5,581E9	225	2,481E7		
	Total	2,195E10	229			

Table 10: ANOVA Analysis

Finally expenditure on education (x_4) seems to be a good element to understand income increase. Positively related with the latter, it could mean that people who invest more in a long-term asset like education are also more prone to work harder and achieve better performance.

In order to rule out biased coefficient in the model, outliers (extreme values) of the observed variables were deleted. These were considered all those observations, which went beyond three standard errors from their mean. For this reason 36 observation were deleted, leaving the sample used for the regression model with 230.

Looking at the F ratio in the analysis of variance (table 10), we can confidently reject the null hypothesis that the model has no predictive capability. This being true for a p<0.0001. The model does not present problems of collinearity and the errors are to be considered homoscedastic and normally distributed as it can be seen from the charts below.

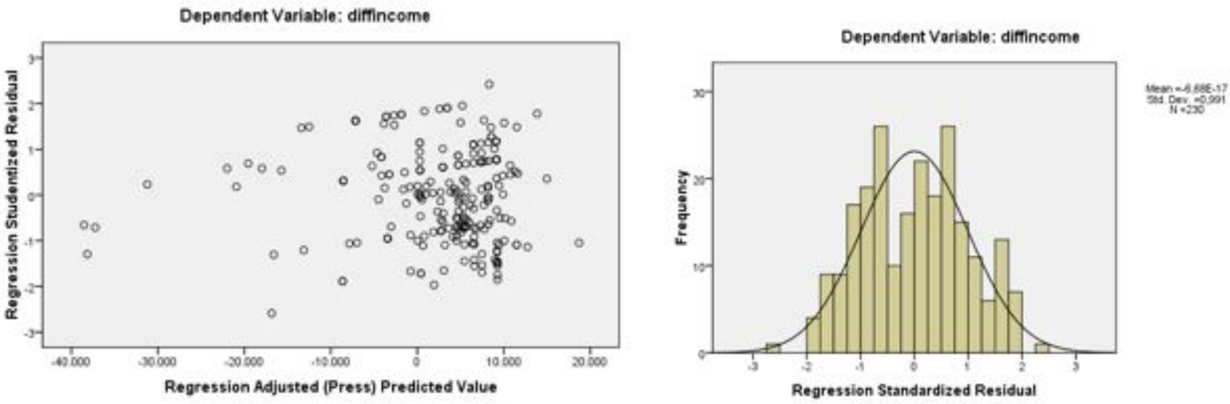

Figure 17: Histogram and Scatter Plot of Model's residuals.

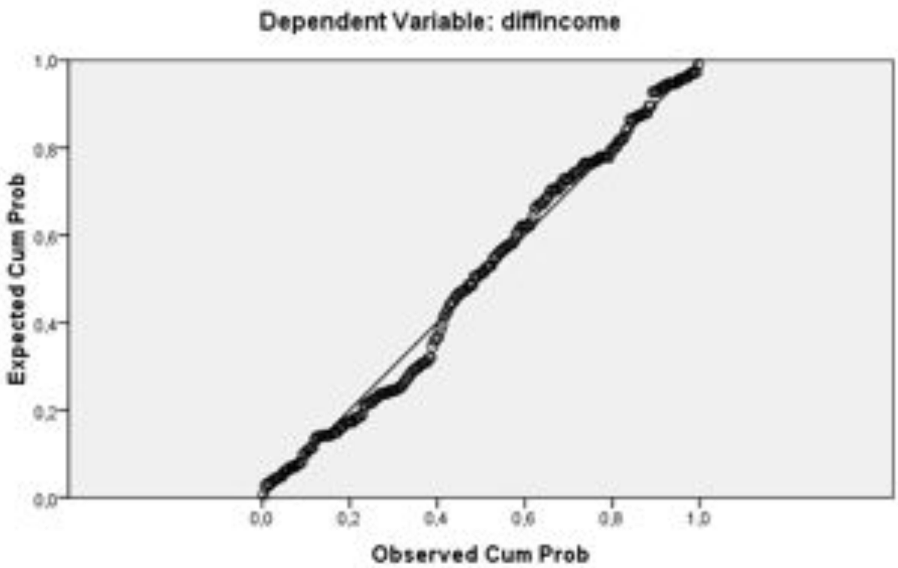

Figure 18: Normal P-P Plot of Regression Standardized Residual

In this sense the kolomogorov-Smirnov test was chosen, to analyze the model's errors, for its non-parametric nature. The test works by comparing cumulative frequency values for the data points against the cumulative frequencies expected for the distribution in question.

Although it's called a 'goodness of fit' test, it's really a 'badness of fit' test, as what it can tell is whether the data deviate significantly from the distribution. Because of this, we have to formulate our hypotheses in a counterintuitive way: the null hypothesis H_0 is that the data do not significantly deviate from the distribution.
The test shows that we cannot reject our null hypothesis – with a significance of $p<0.2$ –hence we can proceed as if the errors follow a normal distribution. Coefficients of collinearity and residual statistics can be found in appendix.

5.4. Impact Summary.

This last part wants to summarize the evaluation of the intervention hereby analysed. The first table shows the positive and negatives sides identified for the different activities proposed by this project.

	Positive	Negative
Petty Trade	• Access to capital • Development of sense of ownership and responsibility • Grant gives more confidence than loan when the target is an EVI • Short Term Income Generation • High rates of return • Improves Savings and Expenditures	• EVIs are low risk profile entrepreneurs; • Lack of skills of the beneficiaries; • Specific needs might hinder the economic performance of the beneficiaries and must be addresses with focused additional interventions • Grant Diversion. Although the phenomenon is close to zero, some cases could still be avoided
Cultivation	• Agricultural Skills traditionally widespread • Increases food security • Allows renting of tools, hence fast income generation	• Seasonality • Volatility of crops size • Not suitable for weak EVIs

Livestock	• Easy to manage • Improves on assets and food security • Social Recognition.	• Income generation in the long term • Animal sicknesses

Table 11: Positive and Negative Bullet points for each livelihood activity.

Finally this second table concludes with a schematic list of impacts on livelihood assets and beneficiaries' wellbeing. Colours have been used to underline whether an impact is to be considered due to a specific activity. As it is shown in the table above, blue is used for petty trade, green for cultivation and red for livestock. When the simple black is used, it means that the impact is common to all three activities.

Impacts on	Strengths	Weaknesses
Assets		
Human	Management Skills; Income used for school fees	Lack of human labour.
Physical	Income Used to buy food stock; Multiplication of Livestock; Better Farming tools	Veterinary knowledge required.
Financial	Access to capital; Increase chance of being able to borrow, via groups. More Savings	Lack of banking facilities in the field. Limited Income generation.
Natural	Income use to maintain water points; Opening of new fields	
Social	More Income available for ceremonies. Social integration thanks to more assets and resources	Some member of the hosting communities might start envying the EVIs for the received support.
Well Being		
Cash	Significant higher availability	
Health Nutrition	More food and better quality. More resources available for health emergencies.	
Empowerment	Increased communication with local leaders	
Reduced Vulnerability	Economic power to cater for the EVI and his/her dependants	

Table 12: Impacts on livelihood assets and wellbeing.

“Philanthropy is commendable, but it must not cause the philanthropist to overlook the circumstances of economic injustice which make philanthropy necessary.”

Martin Luther King

6. Conclusions.

The Sustainable Livelihood Approach has been a very useful companion throughout the entire study. Its flexibility, together with its closeness to field activities provided the author with good hints to build a suitable methodology for the evaluation of this specific livelihood intervention. Once more it is paramount to remember that supreme importance should be given to the context where the project took place. Hence no generalization should be made out of this work, its outcome is useful only for similar activities in the current Northern Uganda context with Extremely Vulnerable Individuals.

The overall outcome of the analysed activities must be considered positive. Recipients have been able to increase their livelihood assets portfolio from all perspectives. Despite the natural differences due to beneficiaries’ talents and activities’ features the improvement was possible thanks to the delivered assistance together with the proactive effort of those beneficiaries who tried to take the best out of their support and at the same time managed to channel the extra income produced to key voices of expenditures able to further expand and secure their livelihood, now and in the future.

6.1. Is the benefit worth the cost?

Each single intervention cost between 90 and 115 USD. The economical benefit of the project seems to overtake the expenditure for single beneficiary. If we transform the weekly income increase into a monthly increase and we add up the corresponding market value of new assets recorded during the follow up, we have an average return on investment of a staggering 85%, it means that this livelihood intervention did make sense even from a mere economic perspective at beneficiary level. Furthermore the present number leaves out all the value created through intangible assets increase. Considering the observed trend of wealth growth (income

& assets), if the EVIs population could only maintain the same level of income recorded in the second data collection for an additional ten months, they would contribute to the Northern Uganda economy for as much as four to five time the amount they received as assistance.

Even though the intervention was economically sound at beneficiary level, this could not be true at project level. The intervention hereby analysed was possible thanks to the means and the human resources available to the whole project, this mean indirect cost of intervention for staff, vehicles, fuel, NGOs overhead, etc.

Consequently an area of improvements for this kind of research on livelihood is the analysis of projects' efficiency. This analysis could not be carried out by the present work, as it would have involved basically another dissertation.

Lastly it is fundamental that any livelihood intervention or research, get rid of any short term attitude to happily accept the burden of being long term activities which result's robustness increases together with the time span analysed.

6.2. Lesson learnt.

The whole intervention is to be considered a success. However, according to the findings disclosed in this work, Petty trade and Cultivation were the most successful activities. This was mainly due to the faster return rate of such activity and the higher involvement of beneficiaries' effort that these activities required.
For the latter reason, the main finding of this work is that these kinds of livelihood interventions do have a stronger impact when beneficiaries have a strong and important role. The higher is the amount of work that the beneficiary accepts to commit to - through the active choice of his livelihood – the higher will be the impact on his/her well being. Hence the better will be the effectiveness of the project itself.

On the other side when the intervention consists of a simple delivery of assets (i.e. Livestock) even though economic and food security could be strengthen by the addition of such assets; the improvement engendered by the beneficiary is limited. The added value of the intervention is much smaller as the beneficiary has no push to do his/her best to gain the maximum out of the support received. This actually promotes a dependency syndrome that does more harm then good to the community where it is delivered. It does more harm because it robs the human being of its most precious thing: the inborn will to improve his life, for him and his community.

The livestock component of this intervention was also part of the humanitarian plan to refurbish the animal stock in the Acholi sub-region. In order to make this happen, no contribution either in terms of work or finance was asked to the beneficiaries. Despite the discrete income increase recorded thanks to this activity, such practice should leave the way for more effective ones like Petty Trade and Cultivation. Sometimes it is better to give no assistance at all instead than free support, for this might spoil the markets and is likely to harm the willingness to work too.

Currently, the Acholi population seems to have reached a steady state as the political and economic environment is stable and the humanitarian crisis is over. This suggests a stronger involvement of the population, in which the communities will now take the lead in their own path to development. No more humanitarian excuse are to be shown off. The time is mature enough to let Acholis walk by themselves. Further intervention should be strictly development oriented with a focus on the strength and not on the needs of the poor.

It is fundamental to demand, to pretend the strongest involvement of beneficiaries and communities for the success of any intervention. As it is shown in the regression model those who are most in need put the greatest effort to make the best out of what they have received.

This conclusion wish to be an humble suggestion for future interventions to focus more on exchange rather than delivery: the recipient must always have the biggest share in the implementation of the activity, meanwhile the project's body should keep a coordinating and at most a supervising position.

As the finding of this work can witness, the outcome of the intervention will be more successful if the project will provide only with a hint and some coordination, while the rest will be left to the beneficiaries.

The performances of recipients in this project, stress the success lying beyond the apparent incapability of vulnerable people or poor communities. Hence the motto might be: less giving and more demanding, less NGOs and more local people to let the community lead their own development. Eventually, this approach would even welcome the arrival of the private sector that will never be a free dispenser of assistance. Instead it will be an agent of a dignified exchange in order to build development through win-win situations.

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Annexes

Annex 1: Summary of Variables (Observations 266)

Variable	*Mean Std. Dev.*	*Min*	*Max*
Baseline			
Age	64.49621 15.51474	16	95
Sex	.1917293 .3944033	0	1
People in HH	3.966165 1.974073	1	10
Under16	3.041353 2.0118	0	9
Livelihood	2.413534 .8912812	1	3
WeeklyIncome	7090.977 8718.598	0	50000
WeeklySaving	3295.483 1980.196	200	40000
CurrentSaving	10962.406 5551.64	0	200000
ExpCerimonies	1015.789 5753.159	0	58000
ExpAirtime	37.61654 190.5666	0	1500
ExpFood	3386.278 4422.623	0	50000
ExpEducation	3758.271 21116.71	0	320000
ExpAsset	2325.94 24014.87	0	380000
ExpAmusments	159.0226 365.7164	0	1200
ExpHealth	2107.895 3904.392	0	30000
ExpGift	37.96992 307.9237	0	4000
ExpTransport	902.2556 2946.99	0	15000
ExpElse	138.3459 683.7987	0	6000
EviEduLevel	2.007519 3.013169	0	12
CtEduLevel	5 3.469544	0	13
MeatMonth	.6875 .5583589	0	4
MealsDay	1.703125 .5142575	1	3
WeeklyHunger	0.2988 0.44466	0	3
AssBike	.1666667 .3836814	0	2
AssRadio	.1046512 .3066984	0	1
AssMattress	.1058824 .3444794	0	2
AssPhone	.0233463 .1512955	0	1
HealthAccess	3.784615 .6086204	1	4
HealthAfford	1.9341085 0.69213	1	3
WealthEvaluatio	1.921053 .6932072	1	4
FutureEvaluation	3.616541 .7983171	3	5
RfoRate	1.717647 .6863993	1	4
WeeklyIncome	4545.602 12532.97	-41000	89000
WeeklyIncomePc	1692.951 6259.001	-22500	50000
WeeklyIncome%	1.589868 4.923801	-1	49
WeeklySaving	1106.767 6053.942	-38800	39500
WeeklySavingPc	289.8944 2147.395	-19400	10000
WeeklySaving%	.7568558 5.363875	-1	79
CurrentSaving	12111.65 48174.96	-96400	335000
CurrentSaving%	1.454242 5.816918	-1	65.6666
HealthAccess	.2593985 .8536304	-1	4
HealthAfford	.8383459 1.132786	-2	3
ExpCerimonies	-65.7894 7729.629	-80000	50000
ExpAirtime	-58.2481 699.9934	-7000	1500
ExpFood	-212.969 6503.308	-58000	38000
ExpEducation	848.1203 23783.7	-120000	320000
ExpAssets	1587.218 25808.32	-150000	380000
ExpAmusement	-12.4060 876.6339	-9000	1200
ExpHealth	-42.4812 5315.023	-34000	30000
ExpGift	-127.4436 1911.8	-30000	4000
ExpTransport	-209.774 4608.97	-25000	15000
ExpElse	-415.4135 3428.23	-50000	6000
RelationCt	.9285714 .2722572	-1	1
CoopCt	.5827068 .5016217	-1	1
GroupParticipatio	.1654135 .3722537	0	1
WealthEvaluatio	2.635338 .030896	0	4
FutureEvaluation	-.4473684 .990069	-4	2
MealsDay	.2894737 .6693013	-1	2
MeatMonth	.3289474 .6657868	-3.5	2.5
WeeklyHunger	0.0789 0.73714	-3	3
AssBike	.0601504 .5029633	-1	2
AssPig	.0789474 .6304898	-1	9
AssRadio	.1842105 .5211514	-1	1
AssGoats	1.860902 1.620451	-4	7
AssChickens	-.08270683.866733	-20	11
AssMattress	-.0037594 .412064	-2	1
AssPhone	.0338346 .3290667	-1	2
ROI	.8567499 .7362969	-1.7183	2.87772

Legend:

Exp=Expenditure

Ct=Caretaker

Pc=Per Capita

Ass=Asset

Highlighted in grey the outcome of variables from the difference between Follow up – Baseline.

Annex 2: Summary of Variables

Petty Trade

(Observations 73)

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Baseline				
Age	60.72603	16.51032	27	87
Sex	0.1643836	0.3731882	0	1
People in HH	4.315068	1.935607	1	10
Under16	3.438356	1.607157	0	6
Livelihood	1	0	1	1
WeeklyIncome	8513.699	8994.587	0	45000
WeeklySavings	3295.483871	4450.3233	200	40000
CurrentSavings	10962.40602	7461.9752	0	200000
ExpCerimonies	3109.589	10632.19	0	58000
ExpAirtime	41.09589	199.8858	0	1000
ExpFood	5941.096	7301.614	0	50000
ExpEducation	9669.863	39014.04	0	320000
ExpAsset	7797.26	45505.76	0	380000
ExpAmusment	147.9452	354.3811	0	1000
ExpHealth	2753.425	4172.232	0	21000
ExpGift	20.54795	130.127	0	1000
ExpTransport	1130.137	3121.417	0	14000
ExpElse	226.0274	961.1953	0	6000
AssLand	11.66197	28.20787	0	200
AssBike	0.1971831	0.4007036	0	1
AssRadio	0.1549296	0.3644129	0	1
AssMattress	0.1111111	0.3164751	0	1
AssPhone	0.0138889	0.1178511	0	1
EviEduLevel	2.684932	3.394754	0	12
CtEduLevel	5.630137	3.289321	0	11
MealsDay	1.814286	0.4902782	1	3
MeatMonth	0.6875	0.3128531	0	4
HealthAfford	1.934108527	0.6903878	1	3
HealthAccess	3.777778	0.5366097	1	4
WealthEvaluati	1.972603	0.5766908	1	3
FutureEvaluati	3.534247	0.746886	3	5
RfoRate	1.842857	0.6513245	1	3
WeeklyIncome	10808.22	29937.76	-30000	200000
WeeklyIncome	3400.383	8991.031	-9100	50000
WeeklyIncome	2.692504	7.364785	-1	49
WeeklySavings	3002.74	8319.004	-12000	39500
WeeklySaving	747.5701	2236.504	-4000	10000
WeeklySaving	2.07373	9.554585	-1	79
CurrentSaving	39761.64	73488.6	-100000	335000
CurrentSaving	3.4421	9.309094	-1	65.6666
HealthAccess	0.260274	0.6877378	0	4
HealthAfford	0.9178082	1.187357	-2	3
ExpCerimonies	952.0548	11172.93	-40000	50000
ExpAirtime	-47.94521	514.8111	-4000	1000
ExpFood	1389.041	8538.809	-25500	38000
ExpEducation	6230.137	39889.53	-40000	320000
ExpAss	7605.479	45556.34	-10000	380000
ExpAmusment	76.71233	483.4829	-2000	1000
ExpHealth	487.6712	5677.268	-16000	20000
ExpGift	0	181.8119	-1000	1000
ExpTransport	-82.19178	4646.544	-14000	14000
ExpElse	-745.2055	5941.288	-50000	6000
RelationCt	0.9589041	0.1998858	0	1
CoopCt	0.5616438	0.5266852	-1	1
GroupParticipa	0.2328767	0.4255894	0	1
WealthEvaluati	2.328767	0.9726081	0	4
FutureEvaluati	-0.301369	1.101576	-4	2
MealsDay	0.1917808	0.6802274	-1	2
MeatMonth	0.2945205	0.8157972	-3.5	2.5
Hunger	0.1369863	0.8549702	-3	3
AssBike	0.1643836	0.5776797	-1	3
AssPigs	0.1780822	1.09725	-1	9
AssRadio	0.109589	0.5907068	-1	1
AssGoats	0.9726027	1.755726	-3	7
AssChickens	0.0958904	3.944632	-20	11
AssMattress	0	0.4082483	-1	1
AssPhone	0.0273973	0.287354	-1	2
ROI	0.7194263	0.7756326	-0.7112	2.78288

Annex 3: Summary of Variables Cultivation.

(Observations 10)

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Baseline				
Age	66.7	6.000926	59	80
Sex	0.3	0.4830459	0	1
People in HH	3.1	1.449138	1	5
Under16	2.3	2.263233	0	5
Livelihood	2	0	2	2
WeeklyIncome	3500	3091.206	0	10000
WeeklySavings	3058.3941	4332.46	200	40000
CurrentSavings	11028.301	7319.4175	0	200000
ExpCerimonies	0	0	0	0
ExpAirtime	0	0	0	0
ExpFood	2200	1032.796	500	4500
ExpEducation	2400	7589.466	0	24000
ExpAsset	0	0	0	0
ExpAmusment	300	483.0459	0	1000
ExpHealth	750	1903.943	0	6000
ExpGift	0	0	0	0
ExpTransport	1900	4532.598	0	14000
ExpElse	0	0	0	0
AssLand	5.8	6.477311	0	20
AssBike	0.2	0.421637	0	1
AssRadio	0	0	0	0
AssMattress	0.1	0.3162278	0	1
AssPhone	0	0	0	0
EviEduLevel	0	0	0	0
CtEduLevel	6.3	2.213594	0	7
MealsDay	1.6	0.5163978	1	2
MeatMonth	0.7252475	0.3034887	0	4
HealthAfford	2.0392156	0.6979619	1	3
HealthAccess	3.9	0.3162278	3	4
WealthEvaluati	1.9	0.875595	1	4
FutureEvaluati	3.4	0.6992059	3	5
RfoRate	1.8	0.6324555	1	3
WeeklyIncome	11480	10886.46	-500	35000
WeeklyIncome	4467.5	5245.157	-500	17500
WeeklyIncome	6.042619	11.22691	-3333	35
WeeklySavings	2700	5391.351	-1000	14000
WeeklySaving	1012.5	2304.14	-500	7000
WeeklySaving	2.266667	7.297133	-0.5	23
CurrentSaving	8850	27668.72	-3000	5000
CurrentSaving	2.619565	6.931416	-1	22
HealthAccess	0.1	0.3162278	0	1
HealthAfford	0.9	0.875595	0	2
ExpCerimonies	-900	1911.951	-5000	0
ExpAirtime	-100	210.8185	-500	0
ExpFood	-2400	3977.716	-12000	2500
ExpEducation	50	7402.89	-7000	20000
ExpAss	0	0	0	0
ExpAmusment	20	762.7436	-1800	1000
ExpHealth	-1900	2274.008	-5800	1500
ExpGift	-100	316.2278	-1000	0
ExpTransport	-400	7515.909	-15000	14000
ExpElse	-1320	3127.228	-10000	0
RelationCt	0.9	0.3162278	0	1
CoopCt	0.9	0.3162278	0	1
GroupParticipa	0	0	0	0
WealthEvaluati	3.1	0.875595	1	4
FutureEvaluati	-0.3	0.6749486	-2	0
MealsDay	0.4	0.5163978	0	1
MeatMonth	0.3	0.2581989	0	0.5
Hunger	-0.8	1.229273	-3	1
AssBike	0.3	0.6749486	-1	1
AssPigs	0.2	0.6324555	0	2
AssRadio	0.4	0.5163978	0	1
AssGoats	1.7	1.418136	0	4
AssChickens	0.1	3.510302	-7	6
AssMattress	0.1	0.5676462	-1	1
AssPhone	0.4	0.843274	0	2
ROI	0.9292209	0.6988938	-0.66	2.00217

Annex 4: Summary of Variables Livestock.

(Observations 183)

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Baseline				
Age	65.89503	15.25979	16	95
Sex	0.1967213	0.3986104	0	1
People in HH	3.874317	1.997401	1	10
Under16	2.923497	2.123817	0	9
Livelihood	3	0	3	3
WeeklyIncome	6716.94	8750.899	0	50000
WeeklySavings	3265.3594	4443.021	200	40000
CurrentSavings	10462.121	7180.2607	0	200000
ExpCerimonies	236.0656	1022.983	0	10000
ExpAirtime	38.28415	192.3227	0	1500
ExpFood	2431.967	1929.963	0	12500
ExpEducation	1474.317	4991.272	0	40000
ExpAsset	270.4918	1990.279	0	25000
ExpAmusment	155.7377	363.8279	0	1200
ExpHealth	1924.59	3850.759	0	30000
ExpGift	46.99454	362.0443	0	4000
ExpTransport	756.8306	2770.953	0	15000
ExpElse	110.929	557.1619	0	5000
AssLand	6.248588	11.58346	0	100
AssBike	0.1525424	0.3759938	0	2
AssRadio	0.0903955	0.287561	0	1
AssMattress	0.1040462	0.358673	0	2
AssPhone	0.0285714	0.1670767	0	1
EviEduLevel	1.846995	2.86866	0	11
CtEduLevel	4.677596	3.556435	0	13
MealsDay	1.664773	0.519459	1	3
MeatMonth	0.6889763	0.3139491	0	4
HealthAfford	1.9296875	0.6930759	1	3
HealthAccess	3.780899	0.6485754	1	4
WealthEvaluati	1.901639	0.7271407	1	4
FutureEvaluati	3.661202	0.822067	3	5
RfoRate	1.662857	0.6993781	1	4
WeeklyIncome	2295.902	10699.92	-45000	36000
WeeklyIncome	860.2296	4627.151	-22500	18000
WeeklyIncome	0.9066992	2.358642	-1	14
WeeklySavings	263.388	4717.238	-38800	21000
WeeklySaving	67.83763	2076.209	-19400	7000
WeeklySaving	0.1490419	1.397095	-1	11
CurrentSaving	1260.109	27914.89	-196400	107000
CurrentSaving	0.5975929	3.19553	-1	21.5
HealthAccess	0.2677596	0.9313814	-1	4
HealthAfford	0.8032787	1.126402	-2	3
ExpCerimonies	-426.2295	6069.947	-80000	10000
ExpAirtime	-60.0765	778.6278	-7000	1500
ExpFood	-732.5137	5512.752	-58000	9500
ExpEducation	-1255.191	13241.8	-120000	40000
ExpAss	-726.776	11346.66	-150000	25000
ExpAmusment	-49.72678	996.5255	-9000	1200
ExpHealth	-152.459	5273.652	-34000	30000
ExpGift	-179.7814	2300.974	-30000	4000
ExpTransport	-250.2732	4425.536	-25000	15000
ExpElse	-234.4262	1594.691	-15000	4000
RelationCt	0.9180328	0.2943655	-1	1
CoopCt	0.5737705	0.4958847	0	1
GroupParticipa	0.147541	0.3556174	0	1
WealthEvaluati	2.73224	1.037431	0	4
FutureEvaluati	-0.513661	0.9542152	-2	1
MealsDay	0.3224044	0.6711403	-1	2
MeatMonth	0.3442623	0.6148862	-2.5	2
Hunger	0.1038251	0.8154663	-3	2
AssBike	0.0054645	0.4508511	-1	1
AssPigs	0.0327869	0.2753946	-1	2
AssRadio	0.2021858	0.488995	-1	1
AssGoats	2.224044	1.433152	-4	6
AssChickens	-0.163934	3.870913	-17	11
AssMattress	-0.010929	0.405851	-2	1
AssPhone	0.0163934	0.2866136	-1	2
ROI	0.9075692	0.718866	-1.7183	2.87772

Annex 5: Collineraity Coefficients, Residual Statistics and Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test.

Coefficients[a]

Model		Collinearity Statistics	
		Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)		
	D_livelihoodchoice	,991	1,009
	coopct	,983	1,017
	weeklyincome	,984	1,017
	expedu	,987	1,013

a. Dependent Variable: diffincome

Collinearity Diagnostics[a]

Model	Dimension	Variance Proportions	
		weeklyincome	expedu
1	1	,05	,02
	2	,03	,88
	3	,03	,06
	4	,64	,00
	5	,25	,04

a. Dependent Variable: diffincome

Residuals Statistics[a]

	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Predicted Value	-38918,40	17726,91	2437,83	8455,324	230
Std. Predicted Value	-4,891	1,808	,000	1,000	230
Standard Error of Predicted Value	470,786	2413,932	674,871	290,142	230
Adjusted Predicted Value	-38531,79	18705,09	2439,82	8421,972	230
Residual	-12615,891	11906,608	,000	4936,897	230
Std. Residual	-2,533	2,391	,000	,991	230
Stud. Residual	-2,587	2,420	,000	1,002	230
Deleted Residual	-13160,063	12202,085	-1,993	5047,003	230
Stud. Deleted Residual	-2,621	2,447	,000	1,005	230
Mahal. Distance	1,050	52,797	3,983	6,164	230
Cook's Distance	,000	,115	,005	,010	230
Centered Leverage Value	,005	,231	,017	,027	230

a. Dependent Variable: diffincome

One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test

		Studentized Residual
N		230
Normal Parameters[a,,b]	Mean	-,0002030
	Std. Deviation	1,00204793
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	,070
	Positive	,070
	Negative	-,047
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z		1,059
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		,212

a. Test distribution is Normal.

b. Calculated from data.

Annex 6: EVI Ugandan National Standard Definition.

EVIs/PSNs Description	Definition and sub categories	Comments with regard to assistance
Persons with disabilities	Male or female, child[18] or adult who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others and needs to be assisted.	A person would qualify for assistance if she/he is unable to support herself/himself due to the direct consequence of her/his impairment.
Important Medical Condition	Refers to a particular medical condition that requires assistance (both for treatment and nutritional and NFI) or may affect the identification of a durable solution such as return/relocation-resettlement. It includes: 1. Serious medical conditions - chronic illness 2. Serious medical conditions - other 3. Psychological condition 4. Malnourished Particularly in this case, there is the need to exercise discretion and **<u>respect for confidentiality</u>**. Reference should be made to the article 19 of the UN Guiding Principles on Displacement[19] In case of disabilities should be included within Person with Disabilities	A person would qualify if she/he is unable to support one self due to the direct consequence of her/his serious medical or psychological condition.
Single household representative	Single household representative, either a man or a woman (18 or older) with one or more dependants, all of whom are under the age of 18, in which the household representative is both the primary income earner and care provider. It includes: 1. Single household representative – parent 2. Single household representative – grand parent 3. Single household representative – other	Priority should be given to child mothers and single parents with children below the age of 12.

[18] Person below 18 years

[19] Art. 19 of the UN Guiding Principles on Displacement: "1. All wounded and sick internally displaced persons as well as those with disabilities shall receive to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention they require, without distinction on any grounds other than medical ones. When necessary, internally displaced persons shall have access to psychological and social services. 2. Special attention should be paid to the health needs of women, including access to female health care providers and services, such as reproductive health care, as well as appropriate counseling for victims of sexual and other abuses. 3. Special attention should also be given to the prevention of contagious and infectious diseases, including AIDS, among internally displaced persons.

	(e.g. sister above 18 (and such not falling with the unaccompanied child category) taking care of her next-of-kin If under age 18 should be included within Children/Adolescent or at risk	
Unaccompanied or Separated Child.	Either a boy or girl under the age of 18 years. *Separated children* are those boys and girls separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives. Separated children may therefore include boys and girls accompanied by other adult family members. *Unaccompanied children* are children who have been separated from both parents and or other relatives and who are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so. It includes: 1. Neglected child with extended family 2. child in institutional care 3. child in foster care	Unaccompanied children automatically qualify for assistance. Separated children qualify, where they are not fully and adequately being taken care of and supported by relatives and/or other adult caregiver.
Older Person at Risk	May be either male or female, normally over the age of 55 years. However, cultural norms should apply in the designation of who is an elderly member of the community. It includes: 1. Older person with children 2. Single older person without accompanying family members 3. Older person with separated children	A person would qualify if she/he does not have any asset, reliable source of income and/or if s/he is without adequate support from own household (sons and daughters),or community.
Woman at Risk	Women who face protection risks particular to their gender, whether they are widowed or accompanied by a male family member, as well as women that are survivors of violence including domestic violence. Protection problems include security threats, sexual violence, physical abuse, intimidation, torture, cruel/inhuman or degrading treatment, economic hardship or marginalization, lack of integration prospects, community hostility and different forms of exploitation including sexual abuse and exploitation. It includes: 1. Single female household representative (without children and no dependants) 2. Women in polygamous marriages or relationship 3. Women associated/formerly associated with fighting forces	
Child/Adolesc	Child (up to 18 years), boy or girl	A boy or girl may qualify for assistance if he or

ent at Risk	especially at risk of violence, abuse and exploitation, unless this risk is entirely related to their separated or unaccompanied status in which case the category of unaccompanied or separated child would apply It includes but not limited to.: 1. Child associated/formerly associated with armed groups/forces 2. Child Headed household (i.e. children without any adult carer who assume responsibilities of heads of households and care for their siblings and/or their own children). 3. children in contact with the law 4.Minor spouse	she is identified to have suffered from or is at risk of being exposed to violence or to be engaged in exploitative act which are harmful to their development due to lack of support and protection from within their household or kinship structures. (incl. sexual exploitation, exploitative and hazardous child labor[20],) A boy or girl may qualify for assistance if he or she requires assistance for reintegration into community or protection from loss of their liberty.
Legal and Physical Protection Needs	The intrinsic elements of vulnerability of these persons prevent them from being self-sufficient (in terms of access to food, water, sanitation, medical treatment etc. on their own), thus justifying that they qualify as EVI/PSNs for assistance purposes. Persons not falling into the other categories that are considered as extremely vulnerable or having specific needs within the particular context. For example . survivors of torture or violence members of a particular ethnic or religious groups, or other protection concerns (e.g. persons with urgent needs of physical protection, victim of domestic violence or other form of SGBV etc.) If under age 18 should be included within Children/Adolescent or at risk or Unaccompanied or Separated Child categories wherever appropriate. Particularly in this case, there is the need to exercise discretion and <u>**respect for confidentiality**</u>.	

[20] Article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in addition to a reference to 'economic exploitation" and "likely hazardous' work, provides that children should be protected from performing any work that may "interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development."

Annex 7: EVI Registration Logsheet

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

AVSI
www.avsi.org

EVI/PSN INFORMATION LOG

Date:---------/---------/--------

AGENCY: AVSI

A) Personal Details **GPS Coordinates:** Long:________________ Lat:____________

IDNo. _______________________Name ____ Age ____________

☐ *Male* ☐ *Femal*

Village of origin_____________________________________ Parish of Origin____

Subcounty of Origin____District of Origin____________________________________

B) Location (*Current*)

Type of Location *tick the appropriate*

1. IDP Camp X

Name of Location____

*Village*_____________________*Parish*______________________*Sub-county*__________________________*District*__________________

C) Vulnerability Category (tick where appropriate)
You can tick more than one option as long as it applies to EVI/PSN

A. Older Persons at risk

1. No source of income
2. Above 60 years old
3. Alone, without material support
4. Alone, without familial support

B. Persons with Disabilities

1. Physical disability (Lame, Severe burns, Mine Victims)
2. Mental disability
3. Vision Impaired
4. Others (Specify)___________________________________

C. Serious Medical condition (*Physical or psychological that impairs ability to survive & has no other support)*

1. HIV/AIDS
2. Tuberculosis (TB)
3. Epilepsy
4. Hypertension
5. Diabetes
6. Others (specify)_________________________

D. Unaccompanied or separated children (*children with no adults to care for them)*

1. Child headed households
2. Children in need of family tracing

E. Single Parents (*One parent with children below 6 without any other community/ family support, situations of extreme poverty***)**

1. Widows
2. Widowers

1

F. Others identified by the community (*specify*) ____

D) Family support/Network

Do you have any dependents? *Tick the appropriate*

1. Yes 2. No

If yes, number of dependants: __________________

Age and Sex of dependants: (*Write age of dependents in numbers***)**

1: Age ______ Sex __________ **2:** Age__________ Sex____________ **3:** Age _______ Sex _____________

4: Age_______ Sex ____________ **5:** Age ___________ Sex _______________ **6:** Age _______________Sex _______________

Are all dependents your children?

(I)Yes, children **(II) No, grandchildren** **(III) No, others (Specify)**______________________________

If (II) and (III), are you supported/assisted by their parents? *Tick the appropriate*

1. Yes 2. No

If No, why? *Tick the appropriate*

1. Parents are dead
2. Mother remarried
3. Others (specify)________________________________

If yes, specify support____

E) Intention to return/ move out from camp

1. YES 2. NO

If No, why? *Tick the appropriate*

1. Village of origin 2. Hosted by relatives 3. Others (*specify*)_________________________

If Yes, to which location?

Village________________________________Parish______________________Subcounty____________________District____________

If yes, do you own the land you intend to move to? *Tick the appropriate*

1. Maternal Village 2. Paternal Village 3. Marital home Land 4. Yes, Own the land

Is there any obstacle to return if desired? *Tick the appropriate and specify*

Yes (*specify*)____

No

Are there relatives in the chosen place of return? *Tick the appropriate and specify*

Yes (*Specify*)____

No

F) Caretaker (is there anybody taking care of the person)

Do you have a caretaker? *Tick the appropriate*

1. Yes 2. No

What is the relationship of the caretaker to EVI/PSN? *Tick the appropriate*

1. Son 2. Daughter 3. Others (*Specify*)____

Age of Caretaker : _______________________

Sex *Tick the appropriate*

1. Female 2. Male

G) Assistance/Support

Have you already received any assistance? *Tick the appropriate*

1. Yes 2. No

If Yes, when did you receive the assistance? Month/Year ____________________

If Yes, who provided the assistance received?

1. UNHCR (PARTNERS) 2. DISTRICT 3. WFP 4. OTHERS (Specify)_________________________

If Yes, what type of assistance did you receive?

A. Food
B. Shelter
1. Huts constructed

C. NFI
1. Household utensils
2. Beddings
3. Mosquito nets
4. Farm tools

D. Livelihood
1. Livestock
2. Piggery
3. Agricultural production
4. Others (*Specify*)____________________

If Yes, what was the modality of assistance provided?

1. Individual PSN/EVI support
2. Caretaker Support
3. Group support (EVI group support). *Name EVI/PSN group*____________________
4. Others (*Specify*)____

What type of assistance would you like to be provided with (most urgent need)? *List them in order of priority*

1. ____

2. ____

3. ____

4. ____

H) Comments (General interviewers' Observations of the EVI/PSN vulnerability situation)

____

____

____

____

____

____

3

Annex 8: Baseline Survey Data Collection Form

PSNs Baseline Survey

Date: ________________ *Assessed by:*________________________

BID No.____________________ Name ____ Age __________Sex______

Income					
Q.1 How many people live in this household?	Total nr. _______ Under 16 ________				
Q.2 What are the three main sources of income in the HH? (quantify)	1)___________________2)___________________3)___________________				
Q.3 How much is the total **weekly income** of this household?	UGX:________________________				
Q.4 In the **last week** how much has the HH spent on the following?	Ceremonies:_______	Airtime:__________	Food:_____________	Education:__________	Assets:____________
	Amusements:_______	Health:__________	Gifts:_____________	Transport:__________	Everything else:_____
Q.5 How much money is the household able to **save weekly**?	UGX:________________________				
Q.6 How much money does the household have **now** in the forms of savings?	UGX:________________________				
Q.7 Does the household have any debts?	Yes, UGX_________ ☐ No☐	If Yes, Payback period: 3months> ☐ 6months> ☐ 1Year>☐			
Q.8 If any, how much income does the household gain after each harvest?	UGX:______________ ☐ Harvest is only for personal consumption				

Household Assets						
Q.9 What kind of assets does the household own (quantify)?	Huts:______	Land (accessible acres):____	Bicycle:______	Pigs:__________	Radio:________	Other:______
	Goats:_____	Chicken/Ducks:______	Cows:________	Mattresses:______	Phone:________	Other:______
Q.10 If you'd had the money what asset would you buy for the HH?	1)_____________ 2)_______________ 3)______________					
a. Are you planning to get them in the next season?	Yes ☐ No ☐					
b. If Yes, How?	Buying with HH saving ☐ Borrowing money ☐ Buying on Credit ☐					
Q.11 How many acres are used for food/cash crop cultivation? _______________	What are the main crops: 1)________ 2)________ 3)________					
a. In case the household has uncultivated land, why is it unused?	Lack of Water ☐ Lack of labour ☐ Unfertile land ☐ Other:_______ ☐					

Health	
Q.12 Where did you go the **last time** you were sick?	Traditional Healing ☐ Health Centre ☐ Stay Home☐ Drug Shop ☐
Q.13 Would your household be able to afford health fees to cure an injury or a sudden sickness for one of his members?	Yes ☐ Yes, but we should borrow money ☐ No ☐

Education			
Q.14 Tot. school fees paid (including eventual extra money for teacher) per **term**	UGX:_________________		
Q.15 In this HH, all children below 16 yrs, go to school?	Yes ☐ No ☐ If No, Nr. of children out of school:_____		
Q.16 Considering the HH resources available at the moment, up to what grade you will be **able** to make these children study?	M ____	F ___	Up to when it is possible ☐
Q.17 Up to what grade you would be **willing** to make these children study:	M ____	F ___	Up to when it is possible ☐

Meals	
Q.18 How many meals in a day do the members of this household have?	Less than 1 per day ☐ 1☐ 2☐ 3☐
Q.19 How many times in the last month do the members of this HH eat meat?	Less than 1 per month ☐ 1☐ 2☐ 3☐
Q.20 In the last two week how many times did the HH go to sleep hungry?	0☐ 1☐ 2☐ 3☐

Household Wealth Evaluation according to village standard	
Q.21 How would you rate your household wealth?	Very Bad ☐ Bad ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Very Good ☐
Q.22 How would you see the future of this HH, in 5 years time?	Very Bad ☐ Bad ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Very Good ☐

For the RFO.

- Rank the household wealth according to village standards. Low 1 2 3 4 5 High

Comments:____

____

____

4

Annex 9: Follow Up Data Collection Form.

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

AVSI
www.avsi.org

PSNs Follow Up Form

Date: ________________ *Assessed by:*________________________

BID No.____________________ Name ____ Age __________Sex______					
Income					
Q.1 How many people live in this household?	Total nr. _______ Under 16 ________				
Q.2 What are the three main sources of income in the HH? (quantify)	1)______________2)________________3)_____________				
Q.3 How much is the total **weekly income** of this household?	UGX:_________________________				
Q.4 In the **last week** how much has the HH spent on the following?	Ceremonies:_____	Airtime:_________	Food:__________	Education:________	Assets:__________
	Amusements:_____	Health:__________	Gifts:__________	Transport:________	Everything else:___
Q.5 How much money is the household able to **save weekly**?	UGX:_______________________				
Q.6 How much money does the household have **now** in the forms of **savings**?	UGX:_______________________				
Q.7 Does the household have any debts?	Yes, UGX_________ ☐ No☐	If Yes, Payback period: 3months> ☐ 6months> ☐ 1Year>☐			
Q.8 If any, how much income does the household gain after each harvest?	UGX:_______________ ☐ Harvest is only for personal consumption				
Household Assets					
Q.9 What kind of assets does the household own (**quantify**)?	Huts:______	Land (accessible acres):___	Bicycle:______	Pigs:__________	Radio:________	Other:______
	Goats:_____	Chicken/Ducks:_____	Cows:______	Mattresses:_____	Phone:_______	Other:______
Q.10 If you'd had the money what asset would you buy for the HH?	1)_____________ 2)_______________ 3)______________				
a. Are you planning to get them in the next season?	Yes ☐ No ☐				
b. If Yes, How?	Buying with HH saving ☐ Borrowing money ☐ Buying on Credit ☐				
Q.11 How many acres are used for food/cash crop cultivation? ___	What are the main crops: 1)________ 2)_________ 3)________				
a. In case the household has uncultivated land, why is it unused?	Lack of Water ☐ Lack of labour ☐ Infertility ☐ Other:_____ ☐				
Health					
Q.12 Where did you go the **last time** you were sick?	Traditional Healing ☐ Health Centre ☐ Stay Home☐ Drug Shop ☐				
Q.13 Would your household be able to afford health fees to cure an injury or a sudden sickness for one of his members?	Yes ☐ Yes, but we should borrow money ☐ No ☐				
Education					
Q.14 Tot. school fees paid (including eventual extra money for teacher) per **term**	UGX:________________				
Q.15 In this HH, all children below 16 yrs, go to school?	Yes ☐ No ☐ If No, Nr. of children out of school:_____				
Q.16 Considering the HH resources available at the moment, up to what grade you will be **able** to make these children study?	M ____ F ___	Up to when it is possible ☐			
Q.17 Up to what grade you 'd be **willing** to make these children study:	M ___ F ___	Up to when it is possible ☐			
a. What is **your** level of education?	No formal edu ☐	P1-P4 ☐	P5-P7 ☐	S1-S4 ☐	S5-S6 ☐	University ☐
b. What is your **CT** level of education?	No formal edu ☐	P1-P4 ☐	P5-P7 ☐	S1-S4 ☐	S5-S6 ☐	University ☐
Meals					
Q.18 How many meals in a day do the members of this household have?	Less than 1 per day ☐ 1☐ 2 ☐ 3☐				
Q.19 How many times in the last month do the members of this HH eat meat?	Less than 1 per month ☐ 1☐ 2 ☐ 3☐				
Q.20 In the last two week how many times did the HH go to sleep hungry?	0☐ 1☐ 2 ☐ 3☐				
Household Wealth Evaluation according to village standard					
Q.21 How would you rate your household wealth?	Very Bad ☐ Bad ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Very Good ☐				
Q.22 How would you see the future of this HH, in 5 years time?	Very Bad ☐ Bad ☐ Fair ☐ Good ☐ Very Good ☐				
PSNs Relations					
Q.23 What is your relation with your caretaker?	Never had one ☐ Bad, he take/took advantage of me ☐ Good ☐				
Q.24 How have the cooperation with your CT been?	CT was/is taking advantage of me ☐ Fairly fruitful ☐ Very Fruitful ☐				
Q.25 Have you set up or joined any group to further sustain your livelihood?	Yes, in____/_____ ☐ No ☐ No, but I tried ☐				

Business Performance (Only for those beneficiaries who are running a commercial business with their livelihood support)

26)	How many **days** does your business cycle last?	Number of days:__________		☐ Business is dead
27)	What are the main traded items?	1)__________________	2__________________	3)________________
	Recalculate with the clients the values for the last *business cycle*:**			
	* A **business cycle**, starts when the goods to be trade are purchased and finish when all the item have been sold. You must calculate the values of the **last completed** business cycle.			
28)	a) How much did you **spend**?	**Stock** (all items):	UGX: __________________	
		Everything else (e.g., wages, **transport**, rent, **operanal costs**):	UGX: __________________	
	b) How much money have you earned? (**revenue** from all the traded items)	UGX: ________________________		

29)	How much available **cash** do you have now in your house? (If possible ask to prove it)	UGX:________________
30)	In a typical week, how many **days per week** do **you** spend on the business?	N.
31)	In a **typical day**, how many **hours per day** do **you** spend on the business?	N.
32)	Do you think your business is successful?	Not at all ☐ No ☐ Somehow ☐ Yes ☐ Yes, Matek ☐

For the RFO:

- Rank the household wealth according to village standards. Low 1 2 3 4 5 High

Comments:____

____

____

Annex 10: Gulu District Map.