

# **MILESTONES TOWARDS THE INTEGRATION OF INFORMAL JUSTICE MECHANISMS INTO THE FORMAL SYSTEM**

**FINDINGS FROM  
AMURU, APAC AND KATAKWI DISTRICTS**

**December 2010**

ULA Research Series 00/2010



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background .....	1
1.2 Rationale for Integration of Informal and Formal Land Justice Delivery Mechanisms .....	2
1.3 Objectives of the Data Collection .....	3
1.4 Methodology .....	4
1.4.1 Scope and Coverage of the Exercise .....	4
1.4.2 Data Collection Techniques .....	4
1.4.2.1 Field Data Collection .....	5
1.4.2.2 Review of Reports .....	5
1.4.2.3 Evaluation of ULA Project .....	5
1.5 Social Composition of Respondents .....	6
1.5.1 Age of Respondents .....	6
1.5.2 Gender of Respondents .....	6
<b>2.0 FINDINGS FROM THE COMMUNITY .....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 Type of Land Tenure .....	8
2.2 Security of Tenure .....	9
2.3 Land Dispute Resolution .....	13
2.3.1 Types of Conflicts .....	13
2.3.2 Choice of Institutions for Dispute Resolution .....	14
2.3.3 Choice of Laws .....	16
2.4 Challenges Encountered In Integration Process .....	17
2.5 Interventions to Improve Land Administration and Management .....	20
2.5.1 Sensitization of Communities .....	20
2.5.2 Training of Local Leaders .....	21
2.5.3 Increase in Human Capacity .....	22
2.5.4 Increase in Resources .....	22
2.5.5 Institutionalization of Traditional Institutions .....	23
2.5.6 Increase Community Participation in Managing their Resources .....	24
<b>3.0 ULA INTERVENTION IN THE INTEGRATION PROCESS .....</b>	<b>25</b>
3.1 Training of Traditional Authorities and Local Leaders .....	25
3.2 Community Legal Education .....	25
2.9 Stakeholder Evaluation Meeting .....	29
<b>ANNEX 1 .....</b>	<b>31</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1:	Age of Respondents by District .....	6
Table 2:	Gender of Respondents by District .....	7
Table 3:	Land Tenure Types .....	9
Table 4:	Possession of land ownership documents .....	10
Table 5:	Number of People Reached Through Community Sensitization .....	26
Table 6:	Land Cases reported to the Land Rights Centers in 2010 .....	28

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure i:	Level of land ownership by gender by district .....	11
Figure ii:	Level of land ownership by marital status by district ..	12
Figure iii:	Common Disputes in the Community .....	14
Figure iv:	Choice of Conflict Resolution Institutions by District .....	15
Figure v:	Choice of Laws for Dispute Resolution .....	17
Figure vi:	Challenges Faced in Dispute Resolution .....	19
Figure vii:	Interventions to Improve Land Administration and Management .....	20
Figure viii:	Improving Community Management of Land .....	24
Figure ix:	Analysis of People Reached in Three Districts .....	27
Figure x:	Cases Reported to the Centers by Gender .....	29

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>IEC</b>	INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION
<b>JLOS</b>	JUSTICE LAW AND ORDER SECTOR
<b>LABF</b>	LEGAL AID BASKET FUND
<b>LC</b>	LOCAL COUNCIL
<b>LRDO</b>	LAND RIGHTS DESK OFFICER
<b>LRIC</b>	LAND RIGHTS INFORMATION CENTER
<b>ULA</b>	UGANDA LAND ALLIANCE

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

The Uganda Land Alliance (ULA) with support from DANIDA Legal Aid Basket Fund (LABF) implemented a project on “**Land Justice For Peace Building In Northern And Eastern Uganda: *Traditional Authorities Making a Difference at the Grass Roots***”. The original timeframe for the project was one year (August 2009 to July 2010). However this project was extended to December 2010 to enable ULA complete all the pending activities. The aim of the project was to contribute towards the integration of informal land justice delivery mechanisms into the formal justice system.

One of the activities planned by ULA under the project was to collect data during project implementation to assess ULA’s contribution towards the integration process. The data collection also captured people’s attitudes and opinions of the significance of both formal and informal systems in delivering justice and rationale for the integration of the two justice mechanisms.

The main output of this exercise is an analysis of the understanding of the different interventions by different actors and the impact of these interventions on the integration process. The analysis also contains the community’s perceptions towards the importance of both formal and informal systems and

whether integrating the two can add value to justice delivery on land conflicts that are rampant in northern and eastern Uganda. The analysis is to help ULA and stakeholders to consolidate the achievements made as well as challenges faced in spearheading the integration process and will provide further light on the how this process can be carried forward to conclusion.

## **1.2 Rationale for Integration of Informal and Formal Land Justice Delivery Mechanisms**

Recommendations in the Transitional justice study carried out by JLOS in 2007 proposed not only the recognition of the traditional authorities in dispute resolution but the integration of this system with the formal justice delivery mechanisms. Particularly the recommendations stressed that:

*“Traditional systems of justice have been largely overlooked by most reform agendas in post conflict countries. Exploring the potential of indigenous and traditional systems to enhance access to justice, particularly in post conflict contexts, and examining how they can link to formal systems and how human rights standards and principles can be introduced may often be useful entry points. The two working in tandem is critical in post conflict settings where the formal system is often in an embryonic stage and unable to handle a colossal caseload. Therefore, a combination of approaches and mechanisms combining traditional and formal institutions should be devised to ensure that*

*strong and effective institutions are developed that will contend with the challenges of transitional justice.”*

Traditional authorities like the clan system comprise of the indigenous people who are familiar with the management of customary land and therefore a mechanism of justice resolution. The institution owes its origin from the people and this system like any law or judicial process is derived from the people. This will therefore be the most appropriate means to resolve land disputes of a customary nature given that most of the land in Amuru, Katakwi and Apac is owned under customary tenure.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Data Collection**

- To study the trends in land tenure, ownership, access and utilization in Amuru, Apac and Katakwi.
- To assess the performance of traditional institutions, Local Councils and formal courts in land dispute resolution
- To understand the challenges encountered in the integration of informal and formal justice delivery mechanisms.
- To investigate the potential opportunities and ways for improving and sustaining the integration of formal and informal systems.

## **1.4 Methodology**

### **1.4.1 Scope and Coverage of the Exercise**

The data contained in this report was collected from three districts of Amuru, Apac and Katakwi where ULA has been facilitating the process of integrating informal and formal justice delivery systems. Specifically, the data relates to interventions carried out in the sub-counties of Amuru, Aboke and Ngariam in Amuru, Apac and Katakwi districts respectively. A total of 101 were involved in providing responses that represented the views of: the general community, the traditional leaders and the local council leaders who are the key stakeholders in resolving land disputes at the grassroots (See tables 1 and 2 below).

The process also involved the participation of other key stakeholders including the representatives of the formal courts of law, local authorities both at district and sub-county levels who participated in many of ULA activities in the project areas.

### **1.4.2 Data Collection Techniques**

#### **1.4.2.1 Field Data Collection**

In this exercise, ULA made use of the data collected directly from the field (primary data). This data was collected by use of individual questionnaires administered by the researchers on a

one to one basis. The questionnaires were later analyzed to give the perspective of the community on the process of integrating the informal and formal systems. The data analyzed from these questionnaires also demonstrates the nature of land tenure and ownership among the communities in the districts in question.

#### **1.4.2.2 Review of Reports**

It is also important to recognize that throughout the implementation of the project, a number of reports were generated out of the activities implemented by ULA. The analysis therefore made use of all the reports of ULA regarding the progress of the project. These reports gave an in-depth insight into the milestones made towards the integration, the successes and challenges of the process as well as a synthesis of the way forward for the integration process.

#### **1.4.2.3 Evaluation of ULA Project**

Towards the end of the project, ULA conducted a stakeholders' evaluation workshop to discuss the progress made towards the integration process. The output of this evaluation was a report detailing out the effectiveness and impact of ULA and other stakeholders in facilitating the integration process. This report has been useful in informing the study.

## 1.5 Social Composition of Respondents

### 1.5.1 Age of Respondents

Respondents were chosen across all age groups (Table 1). Generally most of them fell in the range of 30 to 70 years of age.

**Table 1: Age of Respondents by District**

	District			Total
Age	Amuru	Apac	Katakwi	
20- 30	5	3	5	13
30 - 40	8	6	5	19
40 - 50	16	7	9	32
50 - 60	3	7	4	14
60 - 70	0	13	2	15
70 - 80	2	4	1	7
80 - 90	0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	34	40	27	101

### 1.5.2 Gender of Respondents

In Amuru and Katakwi the participation of males and female respondents in the exercise was more or less proportional (50% and 48% respectively) while in Apac, females contributed only one third (35%) of total respondents (Table 2). This was attributed to cultural imbalances that usually make women inactive in initiatives that involve men.

**Table 2: Gender of Respondents by District**

	District			Total
Gender	Amuru	Apac	Katakwi	
Male	17	26	14	57
Female	17	14	13	44
Total	34	40	27	101

## 2.0 FINDINGS FROM THE COMMUNITY

### 2.1 Type of Land Tenure

Land in northern Uganda is generally owned under customary type of land tenure. Under this system land is passed on under family lineage from one generation to another. From the research, it was discovered that the only way to acquire land among the Acholi, Langi and Iteso is through inheritance. Under this arrangement land is exclusively controlled by the clan. In Amuru district for example, it was interesting to discover that people have not been selling or purchasing land because they do not possess exclusive ownership rights over this land. Any decision that has to be taken on the land has to be approved by the clan who in most cases do not approve sale. Among the people interacted with throughout the life of ULA in Amuru, there was no one found to have acquired land through purchase.

From the data collection exercise, all respondents who possessed land in the three districts had it under customary tenure (Table 1). Only 1 person in Apac District reported having freehold type of land. It was discovered that this land owned under freehold is located in a town council or municipality.

**Table 3: Land Tenure Types**

Tenure types	District			
	Amuru	Apac	Katakwi	Total
Customary	20	33	22	75
Freehold	0	1	0	1
Do not own Land	14	6	5	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>101</b>

## 2.2 Security of Tenure

In Uganda, security of ownership on land is guaranteed through possession of documents such as certificate of customary ownership or certificate of title in case of registered land.

The available data indicates that land in northern and eastern Uganda is mostly owned under customary tenure with no supporting documents (Table 2). Ownership of a given parcel of land is evidenced by neighbors and members of the clan who were present at the time of its allocation/acquisition. By implication, the owner of the land will not have evidence of ownership in the event that s(he) fails to trace these witnesses. In other instances, the witnesses may turn to be dishonest at the time of dispute. This makes the customary land owners less secure because of unreliable evidence. On the other hand, customary land parcels are demarcated by boundaries which are not permanent and are more likely to change over time. The fact

that the agreements made do not show the exact size of the land makes it difficult to determine where the boundary marks were initially fixed. This results into uncertainties over the determination of boundaries which results into dispute.

**Table 4: Possession of land ownership documents**

Documents Possessed	Interview	District			Total
		Amuru	Apac	Katakwi	
Certificates of title	First	0	0	0	0
	Second	2	0	0	2
Customary certificate	First	0	0	0	0
	Second	2	0	0	2
No documents	First	34	40	27	101
	Second	30	40	27	97

This scenario was found to be common to all the project areas where people have lived outside their land for long due to insurgency and on return they have found it difficult to locate their land or the land of their ancestors. The main cause of conflict found in the communities was the failure to secure reliable evidence of ownership of the land which has resulted into displacement and disagreement over boundaries where the rightful owners in some cases have ended up losing the land. From the findings, it is indicated in table 4 above that almost all

the people in the community do not possess land ownership documents.

As a result of ULA's presence, people had started to recognize the importance of land ownership documents and attempts had been made in this direction. Data obtained from district records indicated that during the year 2010, a total of 10 applications for customary ownership had been received in Katakwi district of which 6 were approved. In Pabbo sub-county - Amuru district alone, 79 applications for certificate of customary ownership had been made while 62 leasehold applications were made in the year.

**Figure i: Level of land ownership by gender by district**

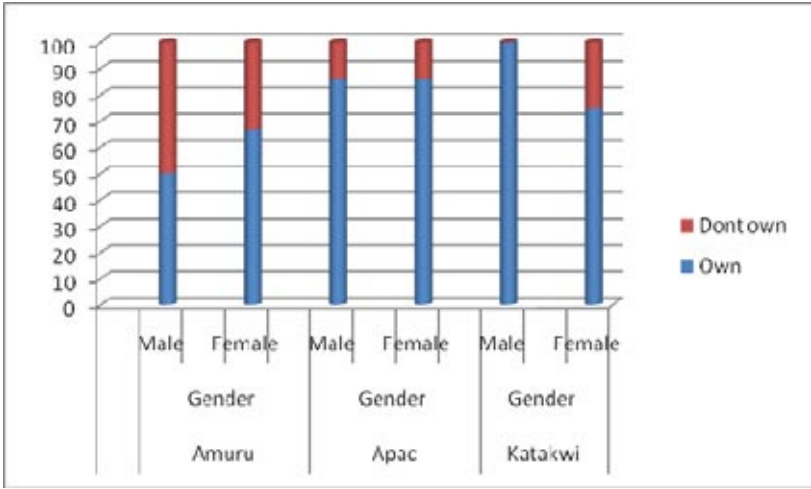
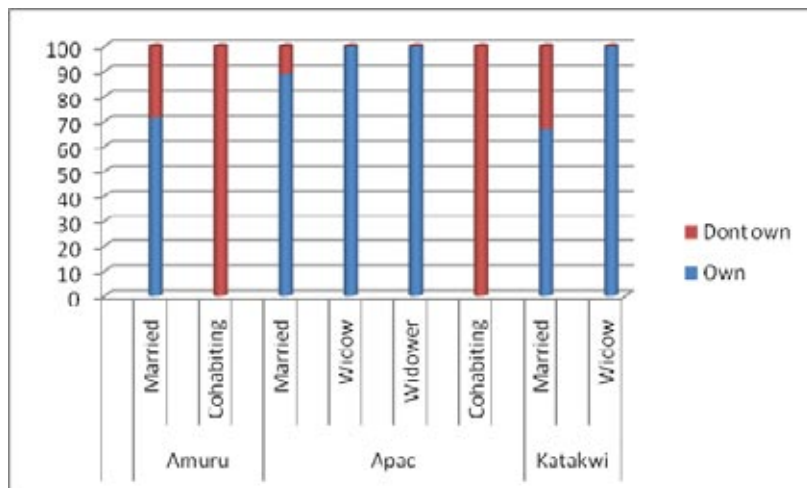


Figure I above shows that the proportions of male owning land are higher than those of females in the three districts. The

majority of the women who reported to own land were either widows, or those who believed that they have a stake in family land. Women believe that by virtue of their marriage, they owned land of the family. A deeper investigation into women land ownership indicated that majority of the women interviewed did not actually own land. Most of these women are not legally married and cannot claim family land which under customary practice is succeed on male family lineage. Figure ii below illustrates this.

**Figure ii: Level of land ownership by marital status by district**



## **2.3 Land Dispute Resolution**

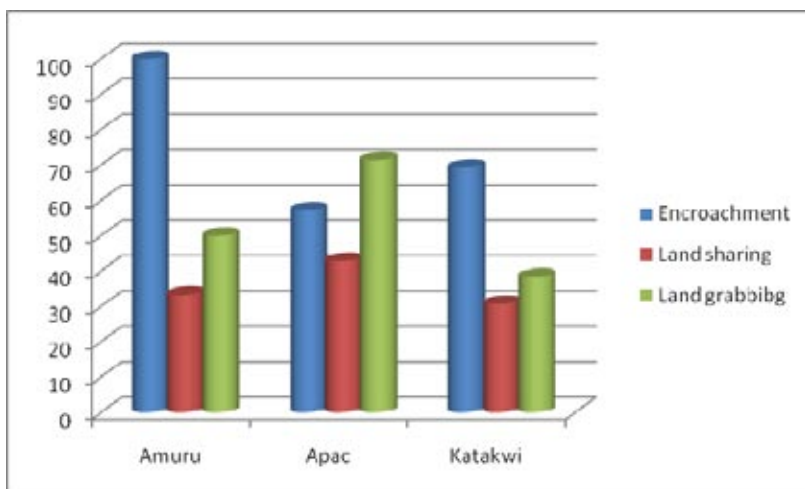
### **2.3.1 Types of Conflicts**

It was discovered during the study that the most prevailing conflicts in the communities were: Land encroachment by neighbors, land sharing during succession and land grabbing by people claiming to be owners of the land. Encroachment was very common in all the three districts. This situation is attributed to the fact that the long stay of people in camps has made it difficult to locate the exact boundaries of the land. As a result some lucrative people take advantage of the situation to encroach on other their neighbors because there no clear evidence to ascertain the right boundaries.

Conflicts resulting from sharing of land among family members were also found to be prevalent with some families wanting to claim bigger parcels than others. In many of these cases, women are denied chance the share on family land and this ends up in conflict.

There were also incidences of land grabbing reported during the study. Because of the existence of customary land largely without documentation, the wealthier members of the community tend to take advantage of the situation to grab communal land. The chart below shows the levels of common land conflicts reported in the three districts.

Figure iii: Common Disputes in the Community

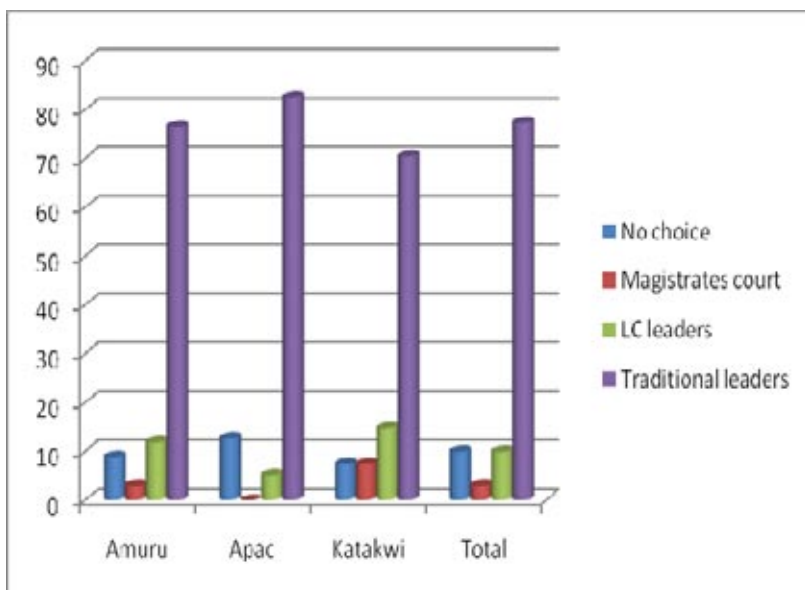


### 2.3.2 Choice of Institutions for Dispute Resolution

Most respondents in all districts preferred reporting land disputes to traditional leaders followed by Local Councils and lastly magistrates' courts. The main reason for going to traditional courts was the fact that they are cheaper and had better knowledge of the land boundaries compared to other courts. Communities however concurred that the magistrates' courts though corrupt and slow tend to be respected by the conflicting parties in a sense that whenever they pass a judgment, it is normally consented to by the conflicting parties. The LCs were hailed for their fairness in passing judgment. Figure iv illustrates respondents' feelings of their preference for the different justice delivery institutions in the community.

Much as the traditional leaders were hailed for being fast and cheap, the magistrates' courts were blamed for doing the opposite hence expensive and slow.

**Figure iv: Choice of Conflict Resolution Institutions by District**



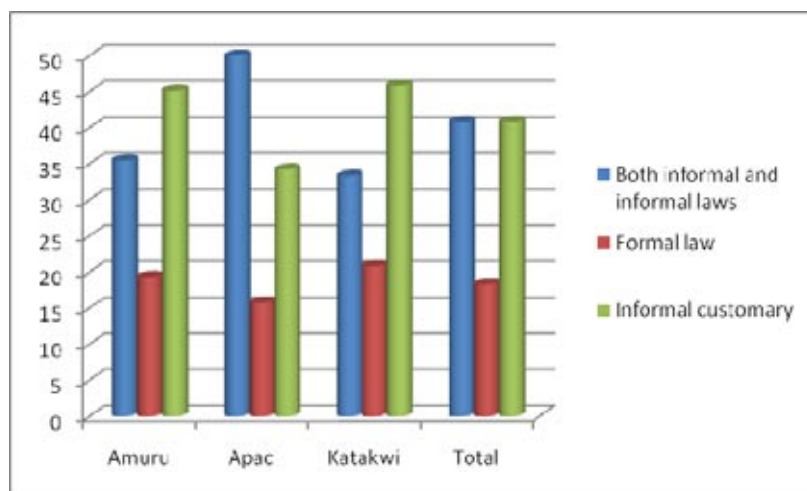
The following are the arguments raised by the communities in favour of traditional leaders, LCs and Magistrates' courts in handling cases:

Category	Traditional leaders	Local Council courts	Magistrates' courts
Arguments in favour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are cheap</li> <li>• They are faster</li> <li>• They have better knowledge of the boundaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They give equal treatment (they are normally unbiased)</li> </ul>	They are normally respected

### 2.3.3 Choice of Laws

Generally informal laws were more preferred by the communities in all the districts than the formal laws in the resolution of disputes. Asked about the type of laws the communities would want to be applying in handling disputes, majority of the respondents (40.8%) were in support of informal laws while the minority (18.4%) were in favor of the formal law. 40.8% of all the respondents were in favor of a blend of both formal and informal laws. However the application of both mechanisms increased from to 46% between the first and second interviews.

**Figure v: Choice of Laws for Dispute Resolution**



## 2.4 Challenges Encountered In Integration Process

A number of challenges were cited as being faced by the traditional leaders in the resolution of disputes. Traditional leaders were concerned about the lack of resources to effectively execute their work. They report lack of funds to conduct site visits, purchase requirements like stationery in order to record their proceedings and even facilitation for their services<sup>1</sup>.

Another challenge cited in the resolution of community land conflicts was mistrust by the communities particularly of the

---

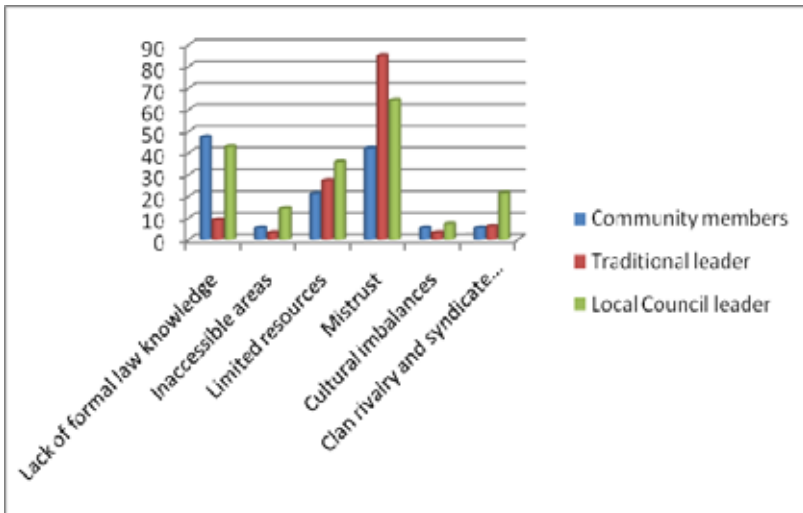
<sup>1</sup> Evaluating the Integration of Customary and Formal Land Dispute mechanisms: Draft Report, Maggi Carfield and ULA.

traditional leaders. 84% of the responses given by the traditional leaders cited mistrust by communities as the biggest challenge while 42% and 64% of the communities and local council leaders cited mistrust as a challenge. The mistrust was mainly caused by some parties to a conflict accusing the traditional leaders of supporting or colluding with the other party. This is caused by the fact that traditional leaders come from within the communities and may have personal relationships with some of the parties involved in a land wrangle.

Besides, traditional leaders feel undermined especially by the wealthier categories who feel they can afford the costs of the formal system. Literally, this in a way is a ploy to disable the poor who in most cases do not afford the costs of formal courts. The integration process needs to address the institutionalization of the informal systems so that they are not undermined by certain sects of the community.

Other challenges mentioned were: lack of formal knowledge of the law, inaccessible areas, limited resources, cultural imbalances and clan rivalry. The following figure summarizes the results.

Figure vi: Challenges Faced in Dispute Resolution



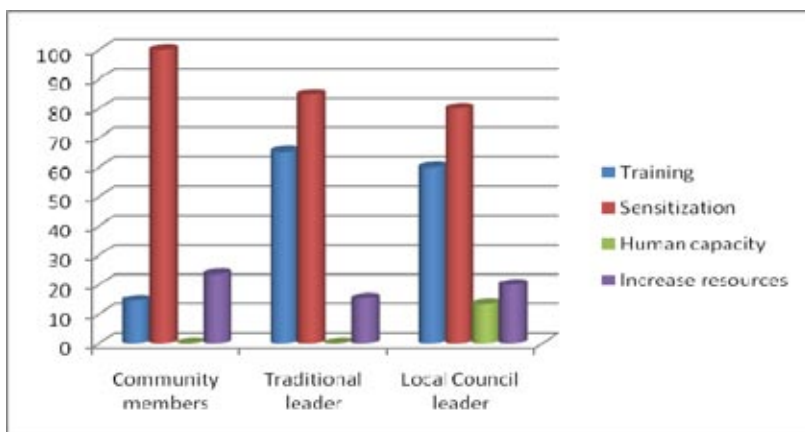
Traditional leaders also reported the lack of authority to enforce their decisions. In cases where disputants become hostile and refuse to honour the decisions made, their (traditional leaders) “hands are tied”. They normally find it difficult for example to force the disputing party out of the land. Some parties even threaten these leaders which results into the case being abandoned.

## 2.5 Interventions to Improve Land Administration and Management

### 2.5.1 Sensitization of Communities

All the three categories of respondents interacted with during the study (i.e. the community, traditional leaders and Local council members) preferred community sensitization as the best way to improve land administration and management in the community. This view was highest among the community members who expressed their desire to have more and more knowledge on land matters. Other recommended measures to improve land administration include; training of the land management institutions, increasing on the resources, and human capacity.

**Figure vii: Interventions to Improve Land Administration and Management**



It was stated that “One training in the community was like a drop in the ocean”. It was recommended that ULA should intensify training on the ground so that people understand the various institutions of help in case of any land problem. The sensitization was also said to be important as it helps people understand the law so that they are not manipulated by unscrupulous individuals in the community.

### **2.5.2 Training of Local Leaders**

The training of local leaders is very much appreciated in the community. It was reported that local leaders do not have adequate capacity to handle all land disputes that arise in the community. Most of the local leaders still apply customary laws which are so discriminatory especially to the vulnerable.

The communities were highly in support of the training for the local leaders. The feeling is that most of these leaders have minimum education whereas others especially the traditional authorities have not attained any education. For them to be respected by the community, they have to have a command of modern laws so that their decisions conform with formal courts. This also gives confidence to the formal courts of the decisions made by the local(traditional leaders). The Uganda Land Alliance has made a stride to train the local leaders particularly the training of area land committees, the traditional/clan leaders and

local council leaders. This training still remains inadequate on one part because of limited coverage and also because the training lasted a short period (five days) that it could not intensively cover all the basics needed to for local leaders to effectively execute their work. More refresher trainings are also important to enable the leaders be abreast with changes in the laws.

### **2.5.3 Increase in Human Capacity**

The composition of the grassroots land dispute resolution structures was also reported to be inadequate. For example the area land committee and the LC3 courts are composed of five members each. The argument is that not only are these leaders susceptible to manipulation but may be ineffective in cases where some of them have other commitments. Given the fact that these members are not adequately facilitated, they in most opt for other personal business instead of land management work which is voluntary<sup>2</sup>.

### **2.5.4 Increase in Resources**

Some of the respondents advocated for an increase in resource to enable proper functioning of the existing institutions. “The

---

<sup>2</sup> There is no specific budget allocated to the area land committees to inspect land of people applying for certificate of customary ownership. This cost is normally met by the applicants. As a consequence most people find it unnecessary to incur these costs.

traditional leaders operate on their own without any recognition or facilitation from government” one community member from Amuru stated. “If these traditional leaders are given some facilitation, they become more effective because they will be encouraged”.

Even the government established structures are not properly functioning because they are not funded. The area land committees for example are not facilitated with transport to demarcate land for people who intend to obtain land ownership documents. One woman in Amuru stated that “When you go to apply for the certificate, the area land committee ask you for transport, and they are normally many; In many cases it is expensive and we can’t afford and this fails the process”.

### **2.5.5 Institutionalization of Traditional Institutions**

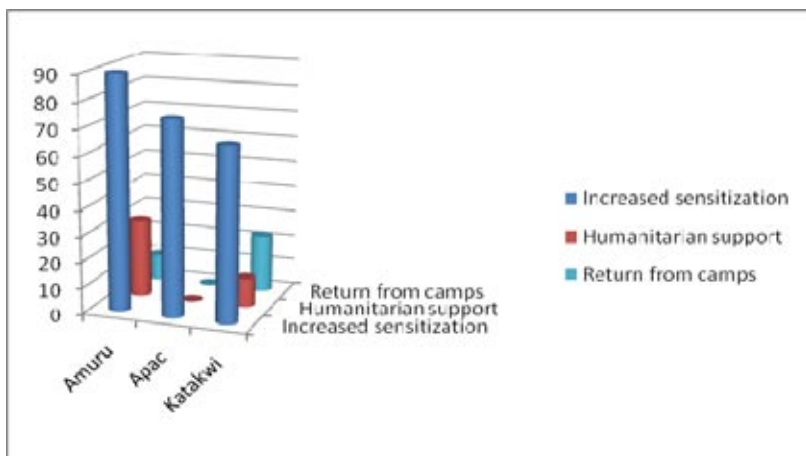
The constitution of Uganda 1995 recognizes traditional institutions as important in managing community affairs. However, the traditional institutions are not formerly recognized in the hierarchy of administration. For example, the Land Act 1998 recognizes LC2 as courts of first instance in land dispute resolution. The Act does not recognize that there is a strong structure of traditional authorities to which most of the land related cases are reported and resolved. In order to strengthen the work of these institutions, they should be considered in the

hierarchy of dispute resolution institutions so that their decisions are recognized in higher courts of law. The communities in Amuru, Apac and Katakwi recommended that the traditional institutions should be considered as courts of first instances and their decision should be respected in the courts of

### 2.5.6 Increase Community Participation in Managing their Resources

Among argument for improving land administration as the need to improve peoples’ participation in understanding and managing their land. This participation according to respondents can be improved through: sensitization, providing humanitarian support and encouraging people to move from camps so that they settle on their land.

Figure viii: Improving Community Management of Land



## **3.0 ULA INTERVENTION IN THE INTEGRATION PROCESS**

### **3.1 Training of Traditional Authorities and Local Leaders**

ULA endeavored to train traditional leaders and local council leaders under the project. The training was aimed at strengthening the capacity of the local leader on issues of land law so that they become more effective in delivering land justice. This was seen as a strong pillar in enhancing the integration process. Understanding formal laws by the traditional leaders enables them to apply in resolving disputes. In a way to ease the recognition of these authorities by the formal system.

This intervention was highly appreciated among the local authorities and the general community. It was seen as a strong instrument in bridging the gap between the two institutions. On the other hand it was argued that the training offered was so inadequate both in terms of coverage and the extent to which the leader were able to conceptualize the law.

### **3.2 Community Legal Education**

Community legal education was done at community level in form of community sensitization on land rights and law. This was intended to create awareness of the law within the community so

that people understand the law and the operation of the different systems. The training also gave particular emphasis to the importance of traditional leaders in community dispute resolution. The communities were however advised that traditional leaders were bound by the law in delivering justice.

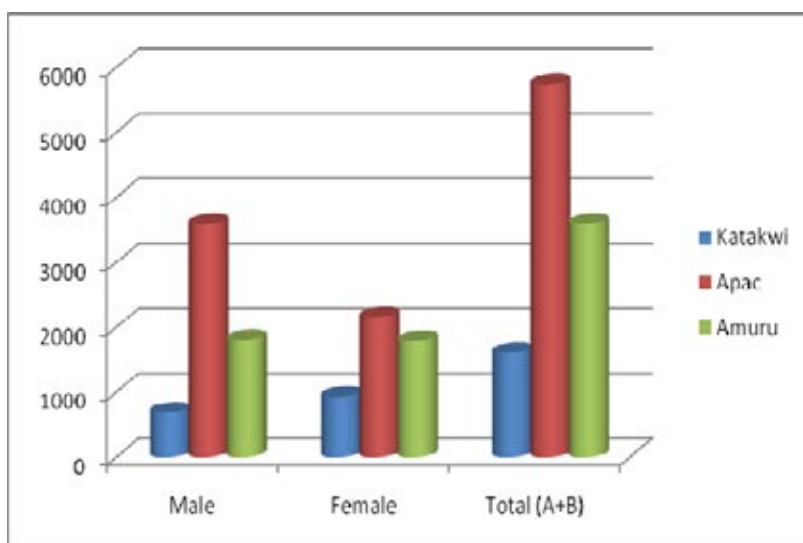
The table below summarizes the number of people reached through community sensitization during the project period.

**Table 5: Number of People Reached Through Community Sensitization**

Activity	Category	Number of People Reached								
		2009			2010			Total		
		Male	Female	Total (A)	Male	Female	Total (B)	Male	Female	Total (A+B)
Katakwi	ULA Secretariat	97	130	227	160	157	317	257	287	544
	Land rights center				210	340	550	210	340	550
	Paralegal				214	300	514	214	300	514
	Sub Total	97	130	227	584	797	1381	681	927	1,608
Apac	ULA Secretariat	176	146	322				176	146	322
	Land rights center	434	356	790	829	298	1127	1263	654	1917
	Paralegal	827	721	1,548	1,322	636	1958	2149	1357	3506
	Sub Total	1,437	1,223	2,660	2,151	934	3085	3,588	2,157	5745
Amuru	ULA Secretariat	172	128	300	253	171	424	425	299	724
	Land rights center				534	766	1300	534	766	1300
	Paralegal				844	722	1566	844	722	1566
	Sub Total	172	128	300	1,631	1,659	3,290	1,803	1,787	3,590

The sensitization enhanced peoples' knowledge on land rights. This knowledge has been reflected in peoples' responsiveness to the centers to seek assistance. Comparatively community legal awareness was highest in Apac and least in Katakwi among the three districts of ULA operation. This in turn had an impact on the knowledge as reflect in number of people visiting the center for legal assistance.

**Figure ix: Analysis of People Reached in Three Districts**



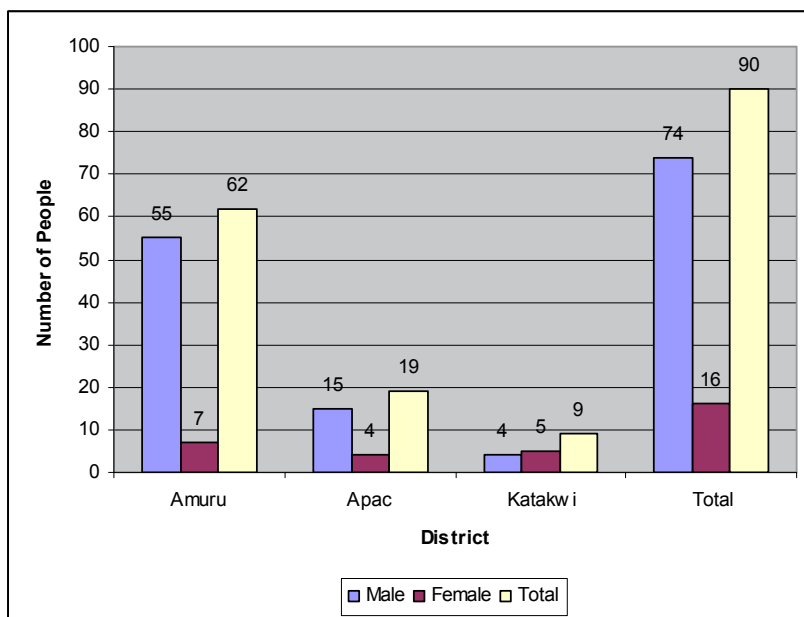
The main outcome of the training was that community are now more aware of the law and where they can report land problems. The statistics below show that people have responded to ULA

services by reporting cases to the Land Rights Centers in the respective districts:

**Table 6: Land Cases reported to the Land Rights Centers in 2010**

Month	District		
	Amuru	Apac	Katakwi
January	10	5	0
February	4	7	1
March	9	1	2
April	6	3	2
May	8	2	3
June	4	1	1
July	1	0	0
August	5	0	0
September	5	0	0
October	6	0	0
November	4	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>

Figure x: Cases Reported to the Centers by gender



## 2.9 Stakeholder Evaluation Meeting

ULA conducted a stakeholder evaluation meeting to assess the progress made in advocating for the integration process. During the evaluation it was evident that the efforts made by ULA particularly in building the capacity of traditional leaders to understand basic principles of the law were appreciated by all the stakeholders in the evaluation. The evaluation was also a

reflection by the different actors in dispute resolution on how best the integration process can be carried forward.

The evaluation drew participants from the three districts of Amuru, Apac and Katakwi. A number of recommendations were made by the participants on the way forward for successful integration.

- Traditional structures should be made courts of first instance respected by the formal justice delivery systems because they are more appreciated and preferred by the most communities.
- Traditional cultural institutions should be supported to educate the communities on land rights

## Annex 1

### *About the Uganda Land Alliance (ULA)*

*The Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), a national civil society consortium of organizations and individuals with a focus on land was founded in 1995 to advocate and lobby for fair land laws and policies. During its inception the Constitutional making process was in progress an opportunity that was taken advantage of to position itself in the centre stage in the land debate accelerating first the constitutional recognition of customary tenure and above all land and property rights of women. It also achieved in definitive terms legal and human rights protection for women's rights among other.*

*Priority issues addressed by ULA are;*

- *Customary land tenure security*
- *Land rights awareness*
- *Land legal and policy reforms*
- *Organizational development*

*Over the years, ULA has learnt that while working with laws and legal systems is critical, it is important that we start where people are and then go beyond the provisions of the law to discuss livelihood options, which then makes law relevant to the lives of the people. We have come to realise that asserting rights, redressing injustice and accessing political and economic resources requires using the system that exists where possible and challenging and seeking its expansion where necessary. This ensures that our proposals*

*are often acceptable by the state as we are not viewed as enemies, but pro-people. To enable us achieve this:*

- *ULA includes marginalized groups as decision makers on issues that affect them and fosters their critical consciousness and ability to influence and transform power dynamics as well as norms, systems and institutions that affect their lives at the local level.*
- *ULA furthermore links rights efforts to devising concrete solutions to problems identified. This is done by weaving expert knowledge into community designed strategies and analysis so that groups can effectively deal with a range of policies, and institutions shaping their livelihood choices.*

*ULA seeks to make public decision making processes and structures more responsive and inclusive of the ordinary citizenry as well as promote individual and group awareness of rights.*



**The processing of this data and printing of the  
booklet have been supported by the Legal Aid  
Basket Fund (DANIDA) 2010**

Block 29, Plot 1521, Mawanda Road.  
P.O. Box 26990 Kampala, Uganda.  
Tel: 256 414 540 038 Fax: 256 414 540 048  
Email: [ula@ulaug.org](mailto:ula@ulaug.org)  
Website: [www.ulaug.org](http://www.ulaug.org)