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Northern Uganda Peace Initiative (Managing African Conflict)

Contract No. 623-I-00-03-00048-00 / Task Order 002

FY2006 Year-End Report A Summary of Objectives and Results

October 30, 2006

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FY2006 Year-End Report

A Summary of Objectives and Results

October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006

submitted to

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Executive Summary

NUPI submits this report for FY 2006 against its Performance Management Plan (PMP). It indicates NUPI performance in relation to the 11 performance indicators Option Period 2 and the 14 performance indicators in Option Period 3.

The matrix below provides a summary of the performance indicators and the discussion is provided in the narrative that follows.

Indicator definition	Actual for FY2006 (From October 1st 2005 to September 30th 2006)
<p><i>1. Number of peace dialogues supported</i></p> <p>Peace dialogue is a confidence-building peace meeting between the GOU Peace team and other actors involved in the peace process, such as the mediator, LRA, or community leaders. The increasing number of peace initiatives by the GOU Peace Team which are supported by technical advice and strategy papers (on lessons learned from past peace initiatives and other aspects of the peace process) signifies improved functional capacity in peace building.</p>	N/A
<p><i>2. Number of reconciliation dialogues in communities with action items implemented</i></p> <p>A reconciliation dialogue is a peace-making meeting (with an agenda) between conflicting parties. An action item has been implemented if some action has been taken to implement the item and other organizations affected by the action item are aware that the action has been taken or there is documented progress on implementation and proven community knowledge that the item is being implemented.</p>	68 (62 chiefs tours 6 inter-regional dialogue meetings)
<p><i>3. Estimated number of individuals reached by peace and reconciliation media programs</i></p> <p>Persons that are reached by newsprint articles, TV, film screening and radio pieces on peace and reconciliation in Uganda</p>	1,000,000
<p><i>4. Number of traditional ceremonies supported</i></p> <p>The support offered to the community during the performance of “cleansing and reintegration rituals” for the returnees.</p>	51
<p><i>5. Number of returnees supported</i></p> <p>Returnees getting support in form of money to engage in livelihood activities such as food production as well as brick making. The supported returnees act as a conduct or a link to encourage/convince rebels still in the bush to come out for dialogue and reconciliation</p>	670 out of 1,968 beneficiaries in 10 IDP camps of the grassroots reconciliation program.
<p><i>6. Percentage of GOU Peace Team members trained in conflict resolution, negotiation, and public participation</i></p> <p>GOU Peace Team training consists of a program that improves the team’s skills in conflict resolution, negotiation, and public participation (if requested by the Team)</p>	N/A
<p><i>7. Number of Regional and District Peace and Reconciliation Teams</i></p>	22 (16 at district level and 5 at

<p><i>that have increased capacities to organize peace dialogues</i></p> <p>Peace Forums at Regional and District level have been established, are representative of local communities, and are able to carry out relevant activities related to the peace and reconciliation process, including dialogue sessions, training sessions, and other activities. These include Steering Groups in the Acholi sub-region, West Nile, and Lango. These include Peace Forums at the District, Sub-regional, and local levels.</p>	<p>regional level, and Ker Kwaro Acholi)</p>
<p><i>8. Updated monthly communication to relevant stakeholders in the peace and reconciliation process</i></p> <p>Updated monthly communication on the NUPI website to improve information flows to the Diaspora and other officials with internet access cleared by Ministry of Internal Affairs. MIA and NUPI engage in presentations and holds meetings with other peace-building CSOs. NUPI Briefer also updated</p>	<p>Qualitative: NUPI website http://www.nupi.or.ug was launched in November 2005. The website provides information on NUPI activities and is updated regularly. A discussion portal on reconciliation under construction.</p>
<p><i>9. Hit counter on the NUPI website</i></p> <p>The hits (individuals) visiting the NUPI website for information</p>	<p>13,954 hits as of October 18, 2006</p>
<p><i>10. Number of Radio Programs on reconciliation conducted</i></p> <p>National, Acholi, and DPRT broadcast a series of radio programs on reconciliation</p>	<p>13</p>
<p><i>11. GOU Peace process links with the wider reconciliation process</i></p> <p>The concerns of at the grassroots level are incorporated into the national GOU peace process</p>	<p>Qualitative: conference/dialogue sessions held in Gulu in December 2005, supported OPM to draft Issues Paper on the development of a conflict resolution and peacebuilding policy for GoU. National celebrations marking the International Peace Day on September 21, 2006</p>
<p><i>12. Number of grass root reconciliation projects implemented</i></p> <p>The grassroots level projects for expanded reconciliation activities including joint work projects, group farming, drama etc.</p>	<p>13</p>
<p><i>13. Participation of local civil society groups in peace dialogue at the national and regional levels</i></p> <p>Participation entails local civil society groups initiating, developing peace agendas and programs, attending, and reporting back on peace meetings</p>	<p>Qualitative: Ker Kwaro, CMG and Grassroots programs actively engaged in reconciliation activities.</p>
<p><i>14. Number of Peace Forums to facilitate the reconciliation process established at different levels</i></p> <p>A Peace Forum is an inclusive body with representation from Government, CSOs, and other leaders, which takes into concern the needs of the reconciliation process and facilitates activities on reconciliation, disaggregated at different levels including sub-county, district, regional, and national. These include Peace Forums in the Acholi sub-region, West Nile, Lango, Teso and Karamoja, and the Northern Uganda Peace Forum</p>	<p>24 (5 at sub-regional level – West Nile, Lango, Teso, and Karamoja – and 19 at district level in the sub-regions).</p>
<p><i>Number of journalists trained in peace and reconciliation</i></p> <p>Definition: Journalists based in northern Uganda trained in conflict-sensitive reporting.</p>	<p>30 This activity was discontinued in OP III</p>

1. Background

The Northern Uganda Peace Initiative (NUPI) is a USAID-funded program focused on helping to facilitate a national reconciliation process in Uganda. The overall purpose of the Task Order is to provide expert services to assist the Government of Uganda (GoU) and civil society to work together to develop a comprehensive yet workable peace strategy. During the life of NUPI the services have been provided in phases, allowing for a flexible approach to include new directions and opportunities as they unfold.

Whereas the original NUPI Task Order focused on preparing the GoU Presidential Peace Team for peace talks and confidence-building measures with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), there was then a shift of emphasis in mid-2004 to helping the wider reconciliation and peace process out of the consultations NUPI held with civil society and government. Three main areas were agreed upon: i) Intra-Acholi reconciliation; ii) Regional / North –North reconciliation; and iii) National reconciliation.

The result was a shift in focus to providing technical assistance to the GoU in facilitating the establishment of a national agenda for reconciliation. NUPI initiated support to the Office of the Prime Minister to prepare a National Policy and Institutional Framework for Peace-building and Conflict Resolution by preparing an Issues Paper on the subject.

The proposed activities and deliverables for Option Period III (OP III) are therefore extensions and consolidations of accomplishments achieved at the end of Option Period II (OP II) and the Bridge Period. However, increased emphasis on a) outreach to mid-level LRA commanders through a combination of program activities; and b) the nation-wide aspects of national reconciliation process, as a key feature in peace-building were added.

Due to the dynamics of the conflict, it was generally agreed among civil society and the GOU that the dialogues and reconciliation modalities would generally focus first on northern Uganda and intra-Acholi reconciliation. The other regional and national priorities would also receive attention; however, would come into sharper focus as the entire reconciliation process unfolds.

It is against the above background that NUPI activities and deliverables until April 2007 fall within the following broad categories:

1. Institutional Framework for Reconciliation further Developed;
2. Other GoU agencies and CSOs Capacity to Engage in Outreach and Dialogues with LRA Strengthened;
3. Reconciliation and Peace-building Activities with Civil Society and GoU;
4. Information and Communication Management.

The NUPI Option Periods do not coincide with the USAID Financial Year. In this case, the NUPI OP II cuts across both FY2005 and FY2006. As a result, the information for FY2006 includes the activities of both OP II and OPIII. However, the activities and performance indicators for OP II are not identical to those of OP III. Whereas 11 performance indicators were established as the Performance Management Plan to provide a basis for evaluating all NUPI programs in OP II, which was partly covered in FY2005, the number went up to 14 in

OP III (which runs from April 16 2006 – April 15, 2007). Some of the performance indicators in OP II were dropped in OP III while new ones were introduced in OP III.

Each indicator is presented, together with information on targets and actual performance data during FY 2006. Secondly, the narrative highlights the results for each performance indicator in order to explain the data and the NUPI programs on which they are based.

The 11 NUPI performance indicators for OP II are as follows:

1. Number of peace dialogues supported;
2. Number of reconciliation dialogues in communities with action items Implemented
3. Percentage of GOU Peace Team members trained in conflict resolution, negotiation, and public participation;
4. GOU Peace process links with the wider reconciliation process;
5. Number of Steering Groups to facilitate the reconciliation process established at different levels;
6. Number of local groups (Steering Groups) that have increased capacities to organize peace and reconciliation dialogues;
7. Participation of local civil society groups in peace dialogue at the national and regional levels;
8. Number of Radio Programs on reconciliation conducted;
9. Updated monthly communication to relevant stakeholders in the peace and reconciliation process;
10. Estimated number of individuals reached by peace and reconciliation media Programs;
11. Number of journalists trained in peace and reconciliation.

The performance indicators under Option period III are as follows:

1. Number of peace dialogues supported;
2. Number of reconciliation dialogues in communities with action items implemented;
3. Estimated number of individuals reached by peace and reconciliation media programs;
4. Number of traditional ceremonies supported;
5. Number of returnees supported;
6. Percentage of GOU Peace Team members trained in conflict resolution, negotiation, and public participation;
7. Number of Regional and District Peace and Reconciliation Teams that have increased capacities to organize peace dialogues;
8. Updated monthly communication to relevant stakeholders in peace and reconciliation process;
9. Number of radio programs on reconciliation conducted;
10. Hit counter on the NUPI website;
11. GOU Peace process links with the wider reconciliation process;
12. Number grassroots reconciliation projects implemented;
13. Participation of local civil society groups in peace dialogue at the national and regional levels;

14. Number of peace forums to facilitate the reconciliation process established at different levels.

2. Narrative of key results

The discussion of the results below is presented along the existing NUPI database descriptions as appear in the monthly (OP II and OP III) and quarterly (OP III) reports. Each activity is presented according to the agreed performance indicator.

1. Number of peace dialogues supported

- Prior to the peace talks currently taking place in the Southern Sudanese Capital of Juba, NUPI had made consultations with the Ministry of Internal Affairs with regard to possible assistance for the GOU Peace Team. NUPI had also made arrangements with potential trainers for rapid deployment of a training program in advanced conflict resolution skills for the Team if requested for. However, NUPI had made some contribution to the peace talks albeit indirectly.

NUPI facilitated a four-month tour of cultural Chiefs from the Acholi sub-region in which they visited 62 IDP camps from September-December 2005 in FY 2006, out of the 107 internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in the districts of Gulu, Kitgum and Pader. This tour was aimed at promoting the tradition of reconciliation among the Acholi. The traditional function of performing traditional reconciliation rituals and cleansing ceremonies, welcoming returnees back home were seen as pivotal in facilitating reconciliation at the local level.

The tour sensitized the cultural leaders, elders, and the local community on the tradition of reconciliation among the Acholi. The idea of traditional reconciliation was central to the issues presented by Acholi cultural leaders and elders when they visited rebel commanders at Garamba national park in July 2006.

NUPI organized for the filming of a documentary entitled "*Trapped in Anguish: A Call for Acholi Reconciliation*". The 30-minute documentary, which was completed in January 2006, highlights aspects of the plight the Acholi people and emphasizes the need for reconciliation as a means to achieving a return to normalcy in Acholiland. After showing it on National Television and on WBS-TV, a private station, in June 2006, a program to show this documentary in some IDP camps was embarked upon in July 2006. It was screened in 4 IDP camps and it is estimated that some 30,000 people watched it.

After each screening, the community was engaged to get their views on what they felt about what was depicted in the film. These sessions were recorded on video and excerpts of them were later taken by the Gulu District Chairman (LCV), who led a delegation of community leaders, to Garamba to show to the leadership of the LRA what the Acholi people felt on reconciliation.

2. Number of reconciliation dialogues in communities with action items implemented

- A four-month tour to IDP camps by cultural Chiefs in the Acholi sub-region was conducted during September-December 2005. This was aimed at promoting the traditional culture of reconciliation among the Acholi. Approximately 2,500 people participated in each camp meeting, making a total of approximately 155,000 persons reached by the sensitization campaign in the 62 camps visited during FY 2006.
- 6 inter-regional dialogue sessions involving peace actors from across the greater northern Uganda were held from October 2005 – July 2006 as part of the efforts to facilitate cross-regional dialogue and consolidate the formation of reconciliation Peace Forums through the greater north. These include the October 18 meeting in Gulu, the December 15 meeting in Lira, the January 18 meeting in Arua, Soroti on May 3, and Moroto June 21. The Northern Uganda Peace Forum held its first consultative meeting on July 5. These meetings offered an opportunity to share experiences of peace-building from different regions.

3. Estimated number of individuals reached by peace and reconciliation media programs

- The Radio Magazine Program, entitled “Peace for All”, entailed recorded radio interviews with peace team members, ex-combatants, and elders from 7 camps in Gulu district, as well as Kony’s personal neighbors and friends from Odek, Gulu district was conducted. There was anecdotal evidence in 2 IDP camps (Anaka and Opit in Gulu district) that this radio program contributed to the defection of some LRA combatants. According to an ex-combatant in Opit IDP camp, “Radio talk shows with ex-rebels are very helpful and helps present the truth, because we are lied to in the bush about people being killed when they come out. Most rebels come out because of radio talk shows and Betty Bigombe’s peace initiative.” Furthermore, according to the Acholi Peace Forum, 6 LRA combatants reportedly returned to Anaka as a result of the NUPI radio programs. According to a different ex-combatant in Anaka IDP camp, “LRA combatants always tend to believe the message when they listen to their former colleagues talking over the radio”. NUPI staff got similar argument during the current consultations with the peace forums and local communities in the Teso, Lango, and West Nile sub-regions.
- The media program seeks to reach members of society with peace and reconciliation messages. The documentary “Trapped in Anguish: A Call for Acholi Reconciliation”, a 30-minute film that highlights Acholi traditional reconciliation and calls for national reconciliation was telecast on national television, and the private Wavah Broadcasting Services television, and also screened in 4 of the IDP camps. The screening of the documentary in the camps was received with great enthusiasm. Estimates of the people who watched the documentary as follows:

Unyama camp	10,000
Tee Tugu camp	7,500
Alokolum camp	8,000
Bobi camp	11,000
- This documentary was also telecast on Wavah Broadcasting Services Television (WBS-TV) and Uganda Broadcasting Corporation Television (UBC-TV) on June 3, 2006. WBS-TV re-screened the documentary on June 18, 2006. It is estimated that at least 750,000 people watched it.

- Seven radio programs on reconciliation have been run on Mega FM in Gulu. It is estimated that at least 750,000 listeners were reached by these programs.

4. Number of traditional ceremonies supported

- This indicator was introduced in OPIII and as such is captured from April 2006. Among the Acholi, when a person experiences trauma and persistent nightmares that can be linked to something bad that they did, a cleansing ceremony is conducted to rid the individual of bad omen associated with what they did. So, for the LRA who could have killed or harassed, or witnessed such atrocities while in the bush, such ceremonies become necessary. This is the reason why cleansing ceremonies are performed on the returnees.
- A total of 42 traditional ceremonies have so far been supported by NUPI with a total of 289 people benefiting. They are detailed in the matrix below.

Date & place	Type of ceremony	Number of ceremonies	Number of returnees involved	Estimated number of spectators
<i>June 4th 2006</i> Olwal IDP camp Gulu District	Mato Oput	1	0	500
<i>June 17th 2006</i> Porungo IDP camp Gulu District	Noyno Tong Gweno	1	250	2,000
<i>July 15th 2006</i> Palaro IDP camp Gulu District	Mato Oput	1	0	2,500
<i>July 22nd 2006</i> Lacor Area Gulu District	Moyo Kom	10	10	2,500
<i>August 23-26 2006</i> Amuru IDP camp Amuru District	Moyo Kom and Lakereket	29	29	5,000
Total		42*	289	12,500

- The enthusiasm to go through the rituals is because of the hope that this will get rid of the nightmares and hallucinations they suffer (these are often grounds for rejection by the community) and therefore foster their full reintegration into their communities. However, the question of what these rituals entail needs to be revisited by the cultural leaders because the sustainability of donor-supported traditional reconciliation is questionable.
- NUPI support program to the cultural institutions of Ker Kwaro Acholi and Lango Cultural Foundation were terminated end of September 2006. This follows the achievement of the targets, and change in focus of activities towards an agreed national reconciliation process.

5. Number of returnees supported.

- This performance indicator was introduced in OP III. Whereas the Grassroots Reconciliation Program, the Ker Kwaro Support Program and the Women and Youth

* The correct number of ceremonies supported in 42 and not 53 as indicated in the 2nd quarter report.

in Peace Building programs all aim at outreach to the LRA and promoting reconciliation between ex-combatants and the local people, the total number of returnees supported was not established because expansion of projects activities to new camps has not yet fully occurred. However, the data from 10 out of 16 IDP camps in which the grassroots program is operating indicates that 670 returnees benefited from the community reconciliation projects out of a total of 1,968 beneficiaries.

- Judging from the success in the previous period as contained in the Monitoring and Evaluation Report for fiscal year 2005 [full] & fiscal year 2006 [mid-term], such activities should be expanded as they contribute to outreach to the LRA, and foster reintegration as returnees work together with the host communities.

6. Percentage of GOU Peace Team members trained in conflict resolution, negotiation, and public participation

- No training of the GOU Peace Team was conducted, since GOU did not request for the training.

7. Number of Regional and District Peace and Reconciliation Teams that have increased capacities to organize peace dialogues

- The Lira Peace Forum, the Apac Peace Forum, the Amolatar Peace Forum, and the Lango Peace Forum were officially launched in December 2005.
- 7 more peace and reconciliation teams were established in West Nile in April 2006 in the districts of Yumbe, Moyo, Adjumani, Arua, Koboko, Nebbi, and the sub-region of West Nile.
- The Teso Peace Forum was launched on June 17, 2006. Soroti, Kumi, Katakwi, Amuria, and Kaberamaido district peace forums have since been formed. The newly created Bukedea district is however yet to establish a district peace forum.
- Karamoja Peace Forum was launched June 21. The Peace Forum comprise Kaabong, Kotido, Abim, Moroto, and Nakapiripirirt district peace forums.
- The Northern Uganda Peace Forum, involving peace team members from West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso, and Karamoja, held 5 dialogue meetings in FY 2006.
- NUPI has since facilitated the establishment of Peace Forums in all the sub-regions in the greater north including West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso, and Karamoja. The membership of these peace forums includes various civil society groups, religious and cultural leaders, and district local government representatives.

8. Updated monthly communication to relevant stakeholders in the peace and reconciliation process

- The NUPI website <http://www.nupi.or.ug> was launched in November 2005 and has had 13,954 visitors as of October 18, 2006.
- The website is updated on a regular basis since and includes background information about the peace and reconciliation process and NUPI; reports from all dialogue sessions organized by NUPI, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other civil society stakeholders; program briefs about all NUPI thematic program areas; a photo gallery of reconciliation ceremonies; a provision for feedback on the website. Feedback has been received from researchers from Canada, the U.S., UK, and Egypt who are

conducting research on northern Uganda. The various researchers generally requested more information on the peace process, as well as peace-building and reconciliation issues, and NUPI programs. Some positive feedback was received on the amount of information on the website, but no negative feedback has been received so far.

- A discussion portal where the public can participate in sharing views on national reconciliation is currently under construction.
- During February-March 2006, NUPI carried out 5 Information and Dialogue meetings in Kampala (2 meetings), Gulu, Kitgum, and Arua (in West Nile), with a total of 269 participants. These meetings were aimed at keeping Ugandan civil society organizations and the local media informed about the overall peace and reconciliation process, the Government's involvement in the peace process, the infrastructure being built up for reconciliation, and NUPI program activities. Chaired by officials from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and NUPI, the meetings also garnered the participants' contributions to the peace and reconciliation process. Several radio broadcasts and newspaper articles followed the series of meetings in each district.
- The filming the documentary film, "Trapped in Anguish: A Call for Acholi Reconciliation" was produced in January 2006. This 30-minute film highlights Acholi traditional reconciliation has been used to call for greater national peace and reconciliation efforts. It was broadcast on national television and also screened in 4 IDP camps in Gulu district.

9. Hit counter on the NUPI website

- The "hit counter" on the NUPI website is meant to keep record of the number of visits made to the website. This is used as an indicator of whether the public finds the information in the website useful. The feedback from users as mentioned above shows that some find it useful. NUPI is currently upgrading the contents of the website – including the construction of a discussion portal.
- The hit counter recorded 13,954 visitors as of October 18, 2006.

10. Number of Radio Programs on reconciliation conducted

- NUPI facilitated local radio programs to reach out to the LRA fighters. The programs convey messages of reconciliation where members of the district peace teams, ex-combatants, local leaders, office of the Acholi Paramount Chief (Ker Kwaro) and cultural leaders, and the local community feature. Other than the talk shows that involve the above personalities, radio magazines where people in the IDP camps are interviewed about the reconciliation process have also featured. Radio remains a major source of information for both the local communities and the LRA. This has been highlighted by the district peace teams in all the sub-regions and NUPI has been requested to support the peace teams. A total of 13 radio programs have been aired.
- In December 2005, 7 Radio Magazine Reconciliation Programs and 1 radio talk show broadcast on Radio Mega FM in Gulu. These took place in December (3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, and 31st) and January (7th, 14th, and 21st). The Radio Magazine Program, entitled "Peace for All", entailed recorded radio interviews with peace team members, ex-combatants, and elders from 7 camps in Gulu district, as well as Kony's personal neighbors and friends from Odek, Gulu district. The themes of the programs were on how local communities could play a better role in building up peace, and why the northern Uganda conflict has lasted so many years. The radio talk show program involved NUPI staff members briefing the radio audience on the District Peace Teams

and the Concerned Mothers Group programs, as well as the need for continued reconciliation between ex-combatants and the local communities. Some 40 letters were received from local IDP camps, highlighting the positive impact of the NUPI radio programs and requesting that the programs also be extended to Kitgum and Pader districts.

- The Concerned Mothers Groups featured on a radio talk show. It was intended to communicate messages of reconciliation to the LRA combatants still in the bush. The messages centered on the need for forgiveness, reconciliation and a more peaceful resolution to the conflict in the north. On September 24, 2006 a recording for a radio magazine was featured on Mega FM in which views from a cross section of camp dwellers of Awach Camp were aired. The discussions revolved around the people's support for the ongoing peace talks in Juba between the GOU and the LRA.

11. GOU Peace process links with the wider reconciliation process

- Linking up the GOU peace process with wider reconciliation processes entails involving other stakeholders in direct dialogue on national reconciliation. NUPI supported the Office of the Prime Minister during October 2005 – February 2006 in drafting a 5-part Issues Paper to assist GOU with the process of developing a National Conflict Resolution and Peace Building Policy. The Issues Paper contains key recommendations on furthering the development of a peace building and conflict resolution policy in Uganda.
- 5 inter-regional dialogue meetings were held bringing together representatives from peace teams and local government councilors from Acholi, Lango, Teso, Karamoja, and West Nile sub-regions. NUPI facilitated the central government to be an active participant in the first dialogue session, held in Gulu in October 2005. The government was represented by the Ministry of Internal Affairs.
- NUPI is currently in partnership with other stakeholders, both civil society and government, undertaking preparations towards holding a national conference on reconciliation. However, GOU does not seem to be in active participation at this preparatory phase. The central involvement and participation of GOU is NUPI's desire, and efforts will be geared towards achieving this.
- NUPI's partnership with Gulu, Makerere and Mbarara Universities and the research institute Advocates Coalition for Development & Environment (ACODE) is also meant to engage in activities that build up to the national conference.
- NUPI participated in national celebrations to mark the International Peace Day which took place in Kampala on September 21, 2006 under the slogan "Reconciliation: A Responsibility for All". The participants in the celebrations who traveled from outside the capital came in what were called 'peace caravans'. These were convoys that traveled from the Eastern, Northern, and Western parts of the country and held some celebrations in some towns en route to Kampala. NUPI participated in organizing and facilitating the Northern Caravan. One of the main events of the caravan was a stopover at Luwero town. This was meant to contribute to the process of improving the relationship between the people from the northern part of the country and those in Luwero - bearing in mind the history of the struggle between the current government and the Obote II regime. A peace march through the town, speeches, and dances marked this occasion. Although the atmosphere was heavy with suspicion and unease, the events went on well and the organizers felt the point of the need for reconciliation

was sent to all. The ceremonies were crowned by hugs between the politicians and cultural leaders from both regions.

12. Number of grassroots reconciliation projects implemented

- The program mainly entails “work for peace” joint projects where ex-combatants and their host communities work together on agreed projects for their own benefit. These include activities like brick-making, agricultural, and music and drama projects.
- The Grassroots Program has been successful in promoting reconciliation in as far as it enables the returnees to plan and work together with the host communities for common good. The program also provides hope for the ex-combatants in that they not only reintegrate but are assimilated into the community.
- Whereas NUPI had planned to expand the geographical coverage of these activities to another 10 camps, the expansion has been done to only 6 new camps. This is as a result funding constraints. However, NUPI is consolidating the activities in both the previous 10 camps and the 6 new ones.

13. Participation of local civil society groups in peace dialogue at the national and regional levels

- NUPI works in close cooperation with civil society groups such as cultural institutions, women’s groups, youth, religious leaders, journalists, et cetera to reach out to mid-level LRA commanders and to enhance reconciliation between ex-LRA combatants and local communities.
- The Grassroots Reconciliation Program is aimed at promoting the long-term reconciliation of LRA returnees once they are released from reception centers. The program involves at least 1,968 former LRA combatants and local community members who were actively and regularly engaged in “work for reconciliation” projects in 9 IDP camps. The returnees work side-by-side with local community members in promoting joint action-oriented efforts for reconciliation through a variety of individually designed hands-on projects. The communities, comprising returnees and members of the host community work together. There is also a psycho-social support center in one camp. Each project has a 9-member executive committee, made up of both returnees and local community members, who work together as joint project managers. From the 10 camps, the grassroots program has expanded into another 6 camps.
- The Women and Youth in Peace-building Program implements peace-building projects. The projects involve Concerned Mothers Groups (CMGs), made up of approximately 50 women in each camp, which carry out cultural singing and dancing, organize exchange visits to CMGs in other camps, and act as support groups for the members. Some groups have further planned to organize reconciliation radio programs and peace campaigns in their camps. Over 500 women are involved in the program in total
- A four-month tour of cultural Chiefs from the Acholi sub-region to IDP camps throughout northern Uganda was conducted during September-December 2005, aimed at promoting the traditional culture of Acholi reconciliation. The trip was made up of three simultaneous tours of Chiefs in all three districts of the Acholi sub-region – Gulu, Kitgum and Pader – in which 62 IDP camps were visited in FY2006. Approximately 2,500 people participated in each camp meeting, making a total of approximately 155,000 persons reached by the sensitization campaign.

- During the Tour, a unified message was passed on to people in each of the camps visited, focusing on 5 key issues. The traditional leaders then gave the opportunity for the community to ask questions, make comments, and present problems experienced in the camp. Traditional dances and ceremonies also played a key role in each visit. The 5 key issues were as follows:
 - *Desire for peace and what people should do to attain the desired peace;*
 - *Role of chiefs at present and in the pre-colonial days;*
 - *Key contemporary challenges being faced by the chiefs/traditional leaders;*
 - *What chiefs expect from the community, stakeholders, LRA, GOU and family members;*
 - *What people are expected to do when they return to the ancestral land and which procedures to follow in settling land disputes.*
- The M&E exercise of the Chiefs' Tour revealed that the program was highly successful. The chiefs were very well received in the camps, and generally the visits were the first time for the majority of the Acholi to interact directly with the Chiefs (*Rwodi moo*) face to face, which explained the very high turn-up to the meetings. Furthermore, the tour helped show in a very clear manner the dynamics of cultural reconciliation practices, including demonstrating how the Acholi culture can unite people.
- This tour contributed to the shared view on the importance of traditional Acholi reconciliation and forgiveness for reconciling with the LRA. This helped to develop a unified message on traditional Acholi reconciliation which was presented by his highness the Paramount Chief to the LRA leadership in Garamba in July and in Juba during the ongoing peace talks.
- A request was made by the Lango Cultural Foundation to NUPI for support through capacity building programs on reconciliation. A capacity building workshop was held in which the cultural leaders met their colleagues from the same region to talk about the challenges of conflict resolution and reconciliation for the first time.
- NUPI facilitated a tour of some IDP camps in the Lango sub-region by Lango cultural leaders from 2nd to 4th September, 2006. The messages from the cultural leaders focused on:
 - Reintegration and forgiveness of returnees;
 - Traditional reconciliation methods;
 - Mediation techniques;
 - The mandate of the cultural leaders and how they can assist the community;
 - Record keeping and initiation of the registration process of the clan members;
 - Recapture of traditional values in the Lango culture;
 - Gender issues;
 - The role played by LCF in the current peace talks;
 - Education of the youth and the role of Elders.
- The conclusions from the consultations with the members of LCF and also with the community as a result of the tour are that future collaboration with LCF should be focus on reconciliation, resettlement and land issues.
- NUPI's collaboration with the Centre for Conflict Management and Peace Studies (CCMPS) at Gulu University has led to the establishment of an Information Center hosted in the joint CCMPS/NUPI office in Gulu town. The Information Center offers students and researchers easy access to reports and literature relevant to the study of conflict mitigation and management. Equipment including furniture and computers were also donated to information centre by USAID.

- As part of NUPI's partnership with academic institutions, the universities of Makerere and Mbarara have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NUPI. Under this MoU, support for an Information Center at Makerere University we planned.
- Exchange programs for students at all three universities are planned to provide conflict relevant hands-on experience to students, who upon return to mother institutions are expected to contribute to the national aspects of reconciliation through revealing knowledge of the conflict to wider audiences at universities and radio-talk shows. One such exchange visit took place in September/October 2006.

14. Number of peace forums to facilitate the reconciliation process established at different levels

- The peace forums are regarded as lynchpins for the proposed infrastructure for reconciliation. They have now been established allover the greater north covering the regions of West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso, and Karamoja. After the establishment of peace forums in the Acholi sub-region in FY2005, the expansion of a similar structure was embarked upon in FY2006 and 4 Peace forums were established in the Lango sub-region and were officially launched in December 2005. These include the Lira Peace Forum, the Apac Peace Forum, the Amolatar Peace Forum, and the Lango Peace Forum as the sub-regional body. 7 peace forums were established in West Nile in April 2006, for the districts of Yumbe, Moyo, Adjumani, Arua, Koboko, Nebbi, and the sub-region of West Nile. The 5 peace forums established in the Teso sub-region were in the districts of Soroti, Kumi, Kaberamaido, Katakwi, Amuria and Teso sub-regional body, all launched on May 7. The Karamoja Peace Forum was launched on June 20, 2006 and comprised the peace forums in Kaabong, Kotido, Abim, Moroto, and Nakapiripirit districts.
- The Northern Uganda Peace Forum, involving peace team members from West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso, and Karamoja sub-regions was established on June 21.

*** Number of journalists trained in peace and reconciliation (performance indicator 9 in OP II)**

- 30 journalists from across northern Uganda participated in a NUPI-organized training course in conflict-sensitive reporting in Gulu in September 2005. During the training, journalists were equipped with greater skills on how journalism practice can serve to escalate or de-escalate violent conflicts. Journalists also explored the use of careful language in reporting on the conflict, in order not to exacerbate the conflict, after which they issued a "Gulu Declaration / Resolution on Conflict Sensitive Reporting" to be the basis on which the network of journalists and other stakeholders will responsibly and sensitively report on the conflict.
- This activity was dropped in OP III.

Way Forward

On the whole, NUPI has made progress in achieving its intermediate results during FY 2006. Whereas the Intermediate Result 1 (IR 1) – Capacity of the GOU Peace Team Enhanced – has not been achieved because of some of the geopolitical developments affecting the GOU-LRA conflict, the recent developments leading to the talks between the GOU and LRA nevertheless provides the possibility of NUPI working towards working towards enhancing the capacity of the GOU Peace Team.

The ongoing peace talks in Juba between the GOU and the LRA have necessitated change in the overall focus of the activities to working towards an agreed National Reconciliation Process. As a result, some of the activities that local in nature like the Women and Youth I Peace-building Program through the Concerned Mothers Groups (CMGs) have been discontinued with the approval of USAID.

NUPI is currently in the process of generating empirical information on traditional reconciliation in the other regions in the greater north (West Nile, Lango, Teso, and Karamoja) and report will be produced by mid-November. This information is expected to feed into the overall GOU efforts towards national reconciliation and peace, recovery and development for Northern Uganda.