

Valuation of forest products for refugee resilience and planning forest resources management for emergency and development needs in Bidibidi settlement, Uganda

Problem Statement

The ongoing refugee influx from South Sudan has led to the establishment of some of the world's largest refugee settlements in Northern Uganda. As of December 2017 a total of 1,037,898 million South Sudanese refugees had migrated to Uganda, with 354,429 arriving in 2017 only. 61% of the refugees are children under 18, and 82% are women. Further, Uganda is also hosting refugees from Somalia, Burundi and DRC, making it the largest refugee host country in Africa and second in the world with a total of 1.4 million refugees and asylum seekers¹.

The need for natural resources to sustain the refugee and host population creates a high risk of environmental degradation and long-term economic and social losses. Given the increasing refugee population in this area, there is an urgent need to plan and implement environment management interventions (including but not limited to rehabilitation, restoration and afforestation/reforestation) in order to protect the existing forests and other woodlands and to support the energy and more broadly food, nutrition and livelihood needs of refugees and host communities.

Overall objective

Contribute to innovative methods for planning and developing interventions of forest resources management to provide a safety net and vital assets that increase resilience in the short and longer-term of displaced and hosting populations.

Specific objective

Planning sustainable forest management to alleviate pressure on the environment, to ensure access to fuelwood for cooking in Bidibidi refugee settlement.

Accounting for non-wood forest products (NWFPs) to enhance food and nutrition security and to create income opportunities in displacement contexts.

Expected results

Impact:	Generic Impact	Contribute to building resilience of displaced communities by addressing energy, food/nutrition and livelihood needs
Outcome:	Generic Outcome	Appropriate options for the sustainable forest resources management to address energy needs and build resilience in the refugee context are assessed
Output 1:	Forest plan	Forest management plan for refugee hosting areas developed
Output 2:	Economic value	Forest products value assessed

¹ UNHCR, Flash Update, December 2017

Outputs and activities

Outcome Appropriate options for the sustainable forest resources management to address energy needs and build resilience in the refugee context are assessed

Output 1 Forest management plan for refugee hosting areas developed

Activities

- 1.1 **Forest management plan** - Availability for forestry productive use (optimum land use and planning forest resources management). This will include identification of land available and suitable for forestry interventions: nursery, plantation scheme, participatory selection of right species, seed collection, establishment of community based plantations, rehabilitation, agroforestry, etc. to support the energy needs as well as to contribute to household food and nutrition needs.
- 1.2 **Forest products demand and rate of extraction** - Assessment of the current forest products consumption (including both wood and non-wood forest products) to appraise contribution to food and nutrition security and in turn, better inform tree plantation interventions.
- 1.3 **Barriers & opportunities** - Assessment of barriers and opportunities for refugees and host communities to plant and care for trees - land tenure, land administration, vulnerability (age, gender, diversity), livelihood, etc.
- 1.4 **Stakeholders** - Identification of the local government and other stakeholders' role in implementation and management of tree plantation interventions.

Output 2 Forest products value assessed

Activities

- 2.1 **Resources value** - Development of a tool to characterize and quantify contribution of non-wood forest products (NWFPs).
- 2.2 **Economic value** - Estimate of the economic value of existing wood and non-wood forest products and costs analysis for the establishment of multipurpose tree plantations to reduce pressure on the environment and to sustainably supply woodfuel.

Deliverables

- Development of a tool to characterize and quantify contribution of non-wood forest products (NWFPs), to enhance food and nutrition security and to create income opportunities in displacement contexts (May 2018).
- Application of the NWFPs tool in and around Bidibidi refugee settlement (July 2018).
- Development of a forest management plan to alleviate pressure on the environment and to ensure access to fuelwood for cooking and to promote resilience of refugees and host communities in Bidibidi settlement (November 2018).
- Preparation of an action plan for a trial of a multipurpose tree plantation (December 2018).

Comparative Advantages

FAO has established a partnership with UNHCR which capitalised on UNHCR's access to refugee hosting areas and on FAO's decades of experience in forest and land use monitoring and planning. FAO and UNHCR are increasingly working together in several countries to address the multi-sectoral challenges and risks in the contexts of acute and protracted crisis. FAO will provide technical assistance to UNHCR to carry out the assessments and help the UNHCR Country Office to prepare for longer-term settlement management that minimizes forest degradation and promotes resilience.

Stakeholder Identification

The main beneficiaries are the over 280,000 refugees in Bidibidi settlement in Northern Uganda. These forcibly displaced people are living in a settlement which was designed quickly as emergency response but an increasing number of people are housing there and likely for a medium to long time. The proposed project aims to support a shift from traditional refugee camps towards more sustainable settlements, incorporating low emissions, climate resilient, sustainable development.

Capacity Development

The project will improve capacity of UNHCR staff involved in the management of natural resources, and the protection of populations in and around displacement camp settings, to promote a better understanding of the multiple factors and dynamics needed for planning a sustainable forest management. This will require a comprehensive analysis that takes into consideration different key elements such as the selection of tree species, nursery management, planting schemes, suitable land and land tenure issues, water supply, human resources, protection measures, monitoring activities, awareness-raising, etc. Local and international capacity building for gender mainstreaming is essential in the delivery of any emergency operation, particularly towards achieving sustainable interventions. In this regard, a set of actions may be required to strengthen the capability of participants and other stakeholders involved in project implementation processes.

Gender Equality

The project will assess the roles of men and women are playing (i.e. division of labour), the risk of gender violence during wood collection, different food intake/access, income earning activities, etc. The project will contribute to better understand gender inequalities and the exposure to the risk of gender-based violence, and diminishing the share of women's workload caused by fuelwood collection. Human resources will be considered as an important assets in rehabilitation and recovery planning and operations. During implementation of this project much attention will be given to women and men based on their different roles and responsibilities, keeping in mind that acute emergencies and protracted crises as result of conflicts does impact women and men differently. Emphasis will be given for equal participation, access to inputs, access to knowledge and any other benefits accrued from the project among women and men.

Annex I

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK MATRIX FOR THE FAO COMPONENT

	Indicators				Assumptions/Risks
	Indicators	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	
<p>IMPACT: Contribute to building resilience of displaced communities by addressing energy, food/nutrition and livelihood needs</p>	<p>Extent to which forest resources contribute to building resilience*</p> <p>*Interlinked with the resilience analysis recently carried out by the FAO RIMA team</p>	0	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project final report - Stakeholders consultation 	
<p>OUTCOME: Appropriate options for the sustainable forest resources management to address energy needs and build resilience in the refugee context are assessed</p>	<p>Degree to which proposed options for sustainable forest management in refugee context are locally appropriate and viable*</p> <p>*to be determined through the environment-energy working group under the CRRF</p>	0	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project final report - Stakeholders consultation 	
<p>Output 1: Forest management plan for refugee hosting areas developed</p>	<p>Proportion of the studied area covered by the assessment Forest resources management plan</p>	0	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key informants and beneficiaries interviews. - Project final report. - Physical site visit 	
<p>Output 2: Forest products value assessed</p>	<p>Number of diverse livelihood options assessed Key non-wood forest products documented and their value determined</p>	0	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project final report. - Physical site visit - Stakeholders interviews/consultation 	

Annex II

WORK PLAN

Outcome: Appropriate options for the sustainable forest resources management to address energy needs and build resilience in the refugee context are assessed												
Output/Activity	Timeline 2018											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Inception phase to coordinate the work plan and mobilize the stakeholders												
1. Forest management plan for the refugee hosting areas developed												
1.1 Forest management plan: identification of land available and suitable for forestry interventions: nursery, plantation scheme, seed collection, establishment of new plantations, rehabilitation, agroforestry, participatory selection of right species, etc.												
1.2 Forest products demand and rate of extraction: Assessment of the current forest products consumption (including both wood and non-wood forest products)												
1.3 Barriers & opportunities: Assessment of barriers and opportunities for refugees and host communities to plant and care trees - land tenure, land administration, vulnerability (age, gender, diversity), livelihood, etc.												
1.4 Mobilization of the local government and other stakeholders in the implementation and management of forestry interventions in Bidibidi settlement.												
2. Forest products value assessed												
2.1 Development of a tool to characterize and quantify contribution of non-wood forest products.												
2.2 Estimate of the economic value of existing wood and non-wood forest products and costs analysis for the establishment of multipurpose tree plantations to reduce pressure on the environment and to sustainably supply woodfuel.												