

Effects of Climate Change on Human Security in Rural Post Conflict Communities in Lango, Uganda

The paper presents a social analysis of climate change and its links to violent conflict and economical wellbeing in rural Uganda. It is embedding the effect of climate change into the socioeconomic livelihood of rural communities that have suffered from conflict and analyzes the interconnected threats that are being imposed on Lango farmers. To receive a holistic picture on the complexity of challenges it uses a human security perspective. Climate change is set into a social discourse that does not follow the prevailing sustainability framework but argues from a perspective of loss, recognizing the already existing damages and limits of adaptation. It studies the imminent causes of climate change such as the unpredictability of rain whose scope cannot be fully seen without understanding the limited means of subsistence farmers to respond to the changes. The paper discusses the results from failed harvest on subsistence farmers that rely on rainfed agriculture. Without having the opportunity for alternative sources of income many farmers encroach further on ecosystems by cutting trees for charcoal or farming in protected wetlands thereby extinguishing the process of climate change. When agricultural production fails, the level of poverty in the households leads to consequences such as lack of education, lack of medical care, domestic violence, child marriage, criminality and suicide. The challenges climate change pose on the agricultural production have further shown to negatively affect cooperation within the rural communities. Conflicts have contributed to worsen the capacity of farmers to adapt to climate change by leaving communities underdeveloped and individuals traumatized as well as the environment degraded. While on reverse climate change has contributed to further ethnic conflict and violence within the community and households presenting a vicious circle.

The research relies on fieldwork within two communities in the Lango sub counties Aromo and Otuke that serve as case studies to understand the climate - conflict nexus. Aromo suffered from the civil war with the Lords Resistant Army when it was turned into an IDP camp and faced deaths, abductions and loss. Otuke is facing continuous violent raiding of property by the neighboring Karimojong, a traditional pastoralist tribe from an arid region that is especially vulnerable to climate change.