

**THE EFFECT OF CONFLICT ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE SLUM
AREAS OF RUBAGA DIVISION, KAMPALA DISTRICT, UGANDA: CASE STUDY
OF KASUBI MUGEMA ZONE**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL
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Declaration

I Marion Kwegondeza, hereby declare that this is my original, "*THE EFFECT OF CONFLICT ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE SLUM AREAS OF RUBAGA DIVISION, KAMPALA DISTRICT, UGANDA: CASE STUDY OF KASUBI MUGEMA ZONE*" is not plagiarized and has not been submitted to any other institution for any award

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Date; 5th/05/2026

Approval

This dissertation titled “***THE EFFECT OF CONFLICT ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN THE SLUM AREAS OF RUBAGA DIVISION, KAMPALA DISTRICT, UGANDA: CASE STUDY OF KASUBI MUGEMA ZONE***” has been submitted with the approval of **Mercy Amayo** as the supervisor from the School of Social Sciences of the Uganda Chirstian University

Mercy Amayo



Signed;

Date;8/05/2026

Dedication

I dedicate this work to my husband Mr. Salongo Kitamirike Patrick for his support he has given me since I started this academic program. May God abundantly bless him.

Acknowledgement

I would like to extend my gratitude to God for the gift of life and for enabling me to complete my research well and write a report. I am grateful to my supervisor, Madam Mercy Amaniyo, for the supportive guidance and positive feedback towards the accomplishment of this research dissertation. To my friends, Mugarura Simon and Ochoko Faustine, I am grateful for their insightful support towards the completion of this work.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CBO-Community-Based Organization

IPV-Intimate Partner Violence

KCCA-Kampala Capital City Authority

LC1-Local Council One (Village Level Local Government Leader)

MGLSD-Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

NGO-Non-Governmental Organization

PTSD-Post- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

SPSS-Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

UNDP-United Nations Development Program

UNICEF-United Nations Children's Fund

UN-United Nations

WHO-World Health Organization

Abstract

The study investigated the Effect of Conflict on Women and Children in the Slum Areas of Rubaga Division, Kampala District, Uganda, using case study Kasubi-Mugema Zone. Its objectives were; to assess the socioeconomic effect of conflict on women and children, examine the psychological and emotional effect of conflict on women and children and explore the role of community support systems in mitigating the effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone. Using case study design, data was collected through questionnaires, interviews, documentary reviews using a study sample of 108 of the respondents who actually participated in the study and data was analyzed using central tendency distribution through SPSS. The study findings revealed that: The findings show that conflict has significant socio-economic effect on women and children with a High Mean Average Rating of 4.40. The results show that conflict creates a profound psychological and emotional effect on women and children living in the Kasubi-Mugema Zone. Average Mean Score of 4.27. The findings revealed that the community support systems play a moderately strong role mitigating the effect of conflict on women and children, with an Average Mean Score of 3.77. The study recommends that; The study calls for socio-economic interventions that will cater for the immediate requirements of the women and children and also help in restoring their livelihoods. The government and development organizations should focus on sustainable livelihood projects that will boost the earnings of the households headed by women. It is also imperative to incorporate mental health services and psychosocial interventions when designing strategies for helping the communities. There is a need to develop a system where counseling can be offered to the affected persons on a regular basis to help them cope with the psychological challenges and in order to improve the performance of community support systems in Kasubi-Mugema Zone, it is essential to foster better cooperation between main partners, including NGOs, CBOs, governmental institutions, religious organizations and local leaders putting the ecological theory into use.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY

1.1 Introduction

Conflict in its various forms, whether domestic, communal, or structural, remains one of the major threats that human security and development face among many urban slum settings. The effect of violence has been felt more deeply among the vulnerable populations of women and children who suffer its most intense brunt, in addition to poverty and social instability, as evidenced in the case of Uganda and, more specifically, within Kampala's informal settlements (Mwesigye & Matsumoto, 2016). Rubaga Division is one of the five administrative divisions that make up Kampala City and hosts some of the slum areas that are highly densely populated. Kasubi Mugema Zone is one such area where socio-economic challenges like unemployment, poor housing, limited education, and inadequate health services further heighten the influence of conflict on households (Kampala Capital City Authority KCCA, 2021).

Most of the conflicts seen in such settings have adverse effect on women and children as a result of gender inequality, dependency issues, and poor social protection mechanisms. While women are likely to face violence and lose their sources of income, children will be neglected, suffer from trauma, and miss school. These experiences violate basic human rights and destroy social fabric required for sustainable community growth.

In slums, conflict drivers may include competition for limited resources, domestic conflicts, substance abuse, and limited access to justice. The high density of people in addition to informal nature of these settings as evidenced by Kasubi-Mugema Zone makes the occurrence of escalating conflicts more likely. This, in turn, limits the effectiveness of authorities and social work practitioners' response to these problems. Therefore, social workers and community leaders play

an important role in managing conflict outcomes and supporting recovery, particularly through community-level interventions.

It is crucial to conduct the research about the consequences that the conflict has on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone to provide insight into the development of social protection and gender-sensitive programs. The study will add to the existing debate about urban poverty, gender-based violence, and welfare of children in Uganda by highlighting specific types, causes, and consequences of conflicts in the studied slum setting. The study aligns well with such Sustainable Development Goals as Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) (United Nations, 2015).

Therefore, in this chapter the researcher looked at the background of the study, historical background, conceptual review, contextual background, and conceptual framework, highlighting the statement of the problem, purpose of the study, the objectives, research question, scope and the significance of the study thus giving justification of the study.

1.2 Background of the study

1.2.1 Historical Background of the study

Omach, (2014) says that over the past decades, armed conflicts have increasingly shifted from classical inter-state wars to protracted internal wars, civil wars, insurgencies, and communal violence; this trend increases the chances that civilians including women and children are likely to be directly exposed. According to the UNICEF Report (2024), by 2017 about 630 million women and children globally were either displaced by conflict or living dangerously close to armed conflict events.

While global conflicts have direct wartime impacts, in many African settings, the ripple effects like displacement, urban migration, and informal settlements have created chronic conflict environments even in "peaceful" times (Mwesigye and Matusmoto, 2016). According to Kinyanda, Hjelmeland, Musisi & Kizza, 2019, urbanization in Africa has often outpaced formal housing and infrastructure capacity, leading to growth of informal settlements. Slums have tended to be characterized by overcrowding, inadequate housing, poor water and sanitation, insecure tenure, and limited services that lead to conditions exacerbating vulnerability for residents

Conflict and social unrest have shaped the socio-economic and cultural life of Uganda for many years. Historical armed and domestic conflicts in Uganda span the civil wars of the 1970s and 1980s to more localized community disputes both in urban and rural settings (Omach, 2014). Although large-scale warfare has declined, everyday forms of social conflict persist amidst the widespread poverty, unemployment, and limited access to social services in urban slums (Mwesigye & Matsumoto, 2016).

According to KCCA, (2021) report the rapid urbanization and rural-urban migration in Kampala's slum areas have occasioned overcrowding, inadequate housing, and scarcity of basic resources, thereby fueling interpersonal and domestic conflicts. Due to socio-economic vulnerability, women and children are disproportionately affected by these kinds of conflicts. Women are victims of gender-based violence and exploitation and are emotionally abused, while children face neglect, trauma, and disruption of education. As mentioned by MGLSD (2020), the two challenges that dominate the lives of this group of people include social protection and gender equality. Although there are established national policies like the Uganda Gender Policy (2020) and the National Child Policy (2019), there is little research about the effect of conflicts on women and children living in

informal settings. The historical background helps shed light on the effects of conflict at the community level, especially within the slums like Kasubi Mugema Zone.

1.2.2 Conceptual Review of the Study

There are three key concepts that form the core of the study: conflict, women, and children in slums. Conflict can be defined as a state whereby parties experience a perception of incompatible goals, interests, and needs, resulting in tension or violence (Deutsch, Coleman, & Marcus, 2014). Conflicts manifest themselves in different ways in slums, ranging from domestic violence to crime.

Social and economic inequality renders women occupying slums the most disadvantaged group in society, considering that these conditions are caused by gender stereotypes, lack of education, and limited access to opportunities. As pointed out by UNDP, in 2018, women were at high risk of gender violence. On their part, children face the negative implications of conflicts, as they may suffer traumatic experiences, poor schooling, and instability.

Vulnerability is another critical concept used in this research. According to MGLSD (2020), vulnerability means the susceptibility to adverse impact associated with economic, environmental, or social conditions. Vulnerability in this context refers to low capacities of women and children to withstand the negative effect of the conflict in slums such as Kasubi Mugema Zone. In terms of conceptual framework, conflict serves as the independent variable while the social, economic, and psychological well-being of women and children are dependent variables.

1.2.3 Contextual Background of the Study

Kasubi Mugema Zone is an informal settlement located in the Rubaga Division in Kampala District. Rubaga Division is notable for having a high population density, poor infrastructure development, high unemployment rates, and inadequate availability of basic social amenities like

healthcare services, education, and water (KCCA, 2021). The abovementioned factors are sources of severe social conflicts within households and communities.

According to the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (2021), poverty and violence against women and girls are more common in informal settlements than elsewhere because such settlements do not have strong protective mechanisms. Thus, most females in Kasubi Mugema Zone are engaged in informal employment such as petty trade and housework, whereas their children sell goods on the street or skip school because of unstable family life caused by poverty and lack of money. Domestic violence, abuse of children, and other types of conflicts are often reported in local organizations, for example, ActionAid Uganda (2020).

Despite several interventions introduced by governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations, including public awareness campaigns and social protection programs, which are part of the Social Development Sector Strategic Plan III (2020/21 – 2024/25), the level of community conflicts remains rather high. Analysis of such phenomena is essential for policymaking and community strengthening.

1.3 Statement of the Problem.

In urban slums of Kampala, there is recurring conflict evidenced by violence, insecurity, forced evictions, and conflicts involving land and houses, among others. For instance, Rubaga division hosts slum areas which hold an estimated 414,750 people while the Kasubi-Mugema area holds

about 50,000 people (ACTogether Uganda, n.d.). Tenure insecurity in the slums of Kampala is widespread. In the settlement profiling of the city's slums, it was revealed that 52% out of the total 58 slum communities were under threat of eviction, something which poses a great challenge for stability and displacement (Dobson et al., 2024). Within such environments, it is normally women and children who face the greatest level of risk. As conflict becomes intense, the woman takes up the burden of caring for other members of the family but still faces the increased likelihood of violence and disruption of economic activities and movement within the environment. The child, on the other hand, is likely to be injured, neglected, and denied education; they could end up getting separated from their parents as well as subjected to violence, which results in various forms of mental problems such as depression, fear, anxiety, and trauma.

According to the Kampala Capital City Authority, there is need to enhance the process of accessing city services such as education and healthcare (Kampala Capital City Authority, 2020). Despite this realization, there is little information regarding conflict within the Kasubi-Mugema Zone, specifically how the women and children are affected socio-economically and psychologically by such conflicts. This study therefore examines these socioeconomic and psychological effect to inform practical interventions that improve protection, service access, and recovery support.

1.4 Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to investigate the influence of conflict on women and children in the slum areas of Kasubi Mugema Zone

1.5 Objectives of the study:

1. To assess the socioeconomic effect of conflict on women and children in the slum areas of Kasubi Mugema Zone.
2. To examine the psychological and emotional effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone.
3. To explore the role of community support systems in mitigating the effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone

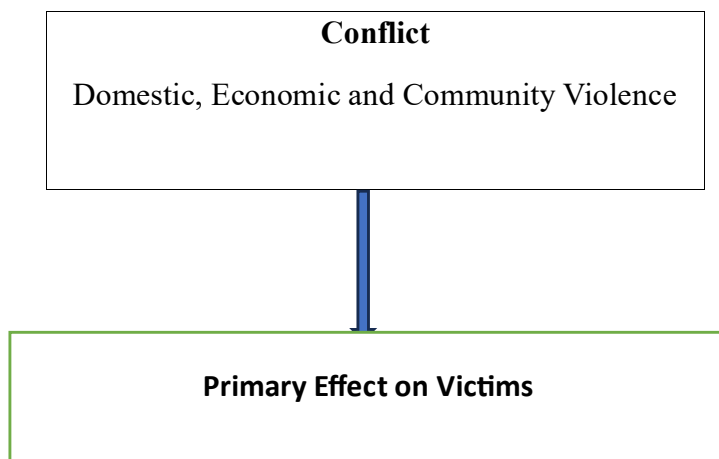
1.6 Research Questions:

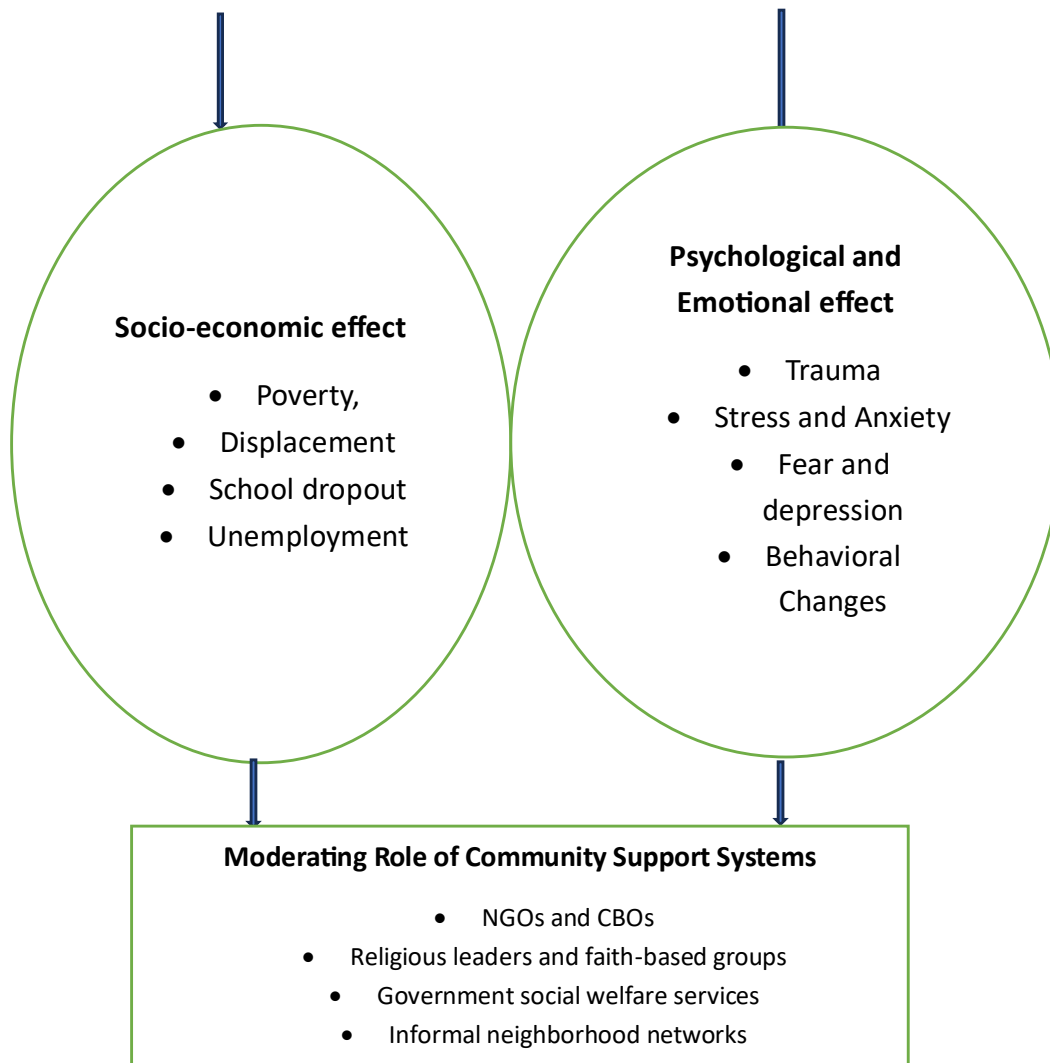
1. How has the ongoing conflict in Kasubi Mugema Zone affected the economic well-being of women and children living in the slum areas?
2. What are the psychological and emotional effect of conflict on women and children in the slum areas of Kasubi Mugema Zone
3. What role do local community support systems play in alleviating the effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone?

1.7 Conceptual Framework

In Sarantors(2013) “conceptual framework” is described by Miles and Hurberman as either graphical or in narrative form the main dimensions to be studied and the presumed relationship among them. The framework below conceptualizes that conflicts in Kasubi Mugema Zone creates

instability, violence, and economic deprivation. These conditions directly affect women and children, leading to socio-economic challenges like unemployment, poor housing, school dropout and emotional and psychological issues such as trauma, stress, and fear. However, the presence of strong community support systems can play a vital moderating role by providing psychosocial assistance, economic support, and protective services, thus reducing the severity of this effect





Source: *Developed using the knowledge of Urie Bronfenbrenner (1917–2005) Ecological Systems Theory*

Figure 1: Showing conceptual framework of the study

1.8 Scope of the study

1.8.1 Subject scope

The study focused on assessing the effect of conflict on women and children in slum areas, with particular emphasis on the socioeconomic bearings, the psychological and emotional consequence, and the role of community support systems in mitigating the effect.

1.8.2 Geographical Scope

The study was limited to Kasubi-Mugema Zone, excluding other parts of Rubaga division, in order to focus on a clearly defined geographic area for a manageable and in-depth analysis. Specifically, the researcher concentrated on the villages of Mugema Zone B, C, and D

1.8.3 Time scope

This research was conducted over a period of twelve months, which was considered adequate for systematic research activities such as data collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting. Besides this, the research study incorporated a longitudinal literature scope from 1988 to 2025, which was considered adequate for identifying long-term patterns and trends in literature and thus adds depth and validity to this research study.

1.9 Significance of the study

The results obtained from this research study are intended to guide policies and interventions carried out by the local governments in Rubaga Division and KCCA, especially concerning the effects of conflicts on vulnerable groups of people, namely women and children. The information gathered will be used to develop policies concerning social protection schemes and strategies for preventing conflicts and improving the well-being of the residents.

By enhancing social services provided to women and children, the study will reveal specific problems faced by women and children during times of conflicts, such as gender-based violence, displacement, trauma, and financial hardships, and thus help non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and social workers develop strategies and counseling services targeting their needs in the Kasubi Mugema Zone.

Adding to the existing literature, the research is expected to contribute to the relatively small body of research studies related to the effects of conflicts in slums of Uganda. In addition to the academic community, other researchers will be able to refer to this study when investigating similar topics.

Finally, the study is expected to increase community awareness and resilience to violence and conflicts. By increasing awareness among community members and leaders about the hidden effects of conflicts on their lives, the study can contribute to the development of collective actions aimed at early reporting and handling cases of domestic violence.

1.10 Operational Definitions

Conflict refers to any kind of dispute, fight, violence, or tension between people in any context.

Slums refer to overcrowded settlements characterized by poor living conditions, lack of adequate sanitation facilities, insecurity of land tenure, lack of amenities, and inadequate social service delivery.

Community Support System refer to both formal and informal networks within the slum community that help people cope with conflict.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This literature review seeks to compile the body of knowledge in terms of published papers, reports, and theories available that focus on the effect of conflict on women and children in urban slum areas. This literature review looks at the psychological, socio-economic, and emotional effect of conflict on women and children and how social support from the community can help alleviate the effect. Through the incorporation of the research question in both the global and local context, the review pinpoints the research gaps and lays down a basis for studying the situation of women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone

2.1 Theoretical Review of the study

This study is based on the Ecological Systems Theory proposed by Urie Bronfenbrenner (1979). According to this theory, human development, behavior, and well-being arise as a result of interdependent processes and interactions within several environmental systems, from the personal sphere to broader societal and cultural layers. The theory argues that the development, behavior, and well-being of individuals should not be understood in isolation since these aspects stem from the time-embedded interactions with the environment.

Urie Bronfenbrenner distinguishes five interacting systems: microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, macrosystem, and chronosystem. This theoretical framework offers a holistic view on the role of conflict in the lives of women and children who live in poor communities, for example, in Kasubi-Mugema Zone in Rubaga Division.

The microsystem represents the closest environment of interaction involving personal contacts with family members, household, peers, and community members. In poor areas, the microsystem consists of overburdened dwellings, unstable family relations, and little parental control. Conflicts at the microsystemic level may include domestic violence, neglecting children, emotional abuse, conflicts inside the family, which often happen because of financial problems and drug use. In particular, women may face domestic violence, whereas children may suffer from physical and psychological abuse. Under the ecological paradigm, such direct experiences play a crucial role in defining the emotional well-being and safety of participants.

The mesosystem involves relationships between several microsystems, namely family, schools, health services, religious organizations, and neighborhood communities. Poor connections and dysfunctional interactions between different microsystems can contribute to aggravating the problem of conflict. Thus, for example, household conflicts may adversely impact school education of children, while lack of collaboration between households and the community can reduce access to protective services for abused women. On the contrary, proper interaction between community organizations and families could minimize negative effects. Thus, the mesosystem shows how disruptions or connections in social relationships moderate vulnerability to conflict.

The exosystem represents those environmental elements that do not directly involve individuals yet influence their life situations in an essential way. Examples include local governance, social services, police departments, employment, and NGOs. In the case of slums in Rubaga Division, the lack of institutionalization, policing, and social services can contribute to increasing conflict. For instance, unemployment or insecure work in the informal sector can increase household pressure, which results in domestic violence. Similarly, poor enforcement of the relevant

regulations concerning child protection and GBV reduces the ability to deter perpetrators or to access justice.

2.2 Conceptual review of the study

Galtung, (1969) says that Conflicts in social sciences can be defined as disagreement, tension, and competition between different people or groups regarding some issues. Conflict can be interpersonal, community, structural, or systemic in nature, and it could either take a form of physical, sexual violence and other direct actions or poverty and marginalization which fall under indirect conflict forms. Structural violence which entails systematic disadvantages to particular groups of people caused by social structures is especially useful in understanding conflicts in slum areas since inequalities in these neighborhoods lead to suffering that arises when people lack access to the minimum required resources for survival.

Informal settlements are neighborhoods with particular characteristics that distinguish them from other informal areas such as lack of formal urban planning, land tenure, and lack of basic services. UN's description of slums includes inadequacy of access to safe water, sanitation, adequate living conditions, overcrowding, and poor land tenure and they usually lead to socio-economic vulnerability. As the term suggests, informal settlement is an area where people lack security of land tenure, proper infrastructure like sanitary facilities and clean water, and proper shelter due to uncontrolled urbanization processes.

Women and children are socially vulnerable groups because they experience the most severe consequences of violent and economic conflicts, especially because of gender inequality and lack of economic opportunities. Violence against women can include domestic violence, sexual abuse, exploitation, and deprivation of decision-making power in matters about health and economy due

to poverty. Vulnerabilities experienced by children include lack of family support, limited access to education and healthcare, and social and psychological trauma resulting from exposure to violence. People in slums tend to have high exposure to violence in their communities as well as little protection from institutions, thus leading to even higher level of vulnerability among women and children.

Community support systems include formal and informal support systems that are used by individuals in order to cope with difficulties resulting from conflict. Family and neighbors, religious or cultural community groups, leaders, NGOs, and vigilance groups are some examples of support systems that provide social support by offering emotional, material, information, and instrumental assistance in coping with negative consequences of violence. Informal support systems are very important in slum communities since formal help is usually not provided there (e.g., legal help, counseling). Peer networks have proved to be able to decrease psychological problems among young women and children.

2.2.1 The socio-economic effects of conflicts on women and children in slum areas

The occurrence of conflicts in Uganda has significantly affected the livelihoods of many families with greater adverse effects on women and children. Conflicts such as the one in northern Uganda have been seen to negatively affect agriculture, businesses, and ownership of assets among others, making many households experience absolute poverty (Kemirere, 2009).

The Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium reports that violent armed conflict in Uganda has had “long-lasting negative impacts on individual human-capital accumulation, including educational attainment, health outcomes and labour-market opportunities”. In slum contexts, although specific research is more limited, the same dynamics apply: women living in informal

settlements have fewer assets, less secure employment, and are therefore more vulnerable to poverty after conflict or displacement. According to the United Nations Women study, displaced women in Uganda reported the impossibility of keeping children in school or meeting basic needs due to conflict-related poverty (UN Women, 2017). Thus, poverty is both a direct socio-economic effect of conflict and a mediating factor for further adverse outcomes for instance schooling dropout, unemployment for women and children in slum or informal settlement settings.

Displacement resulting from conflict compounds socio-economic vulnerability among women and children. For example, in Uganda, between 1.8 and 2 million persons were internally displaced during the two-decade conflict in the north; the disruption of livelihoods, schooling and social networks was extensive. In the study by Corbin (2019) of women resettled after the conflict, it was found that displacement resulted not only in loss of land and assets, but in altered gender roles, increased economic burdens on women, and reduced access to formal labour markets (Corbin, 2019).

Whereas in Ugandan slums, most displaced families relocate or settle in the informal settlements, the implication is that the affected population will end up facing overcrowding, tenure insecurity, informal and irregular employment, and exclusion in the economy. Furthermore, the marginalization of women in the ownership of land, for example, will limit the efforts of women to restore their lives. Landesa (2024) observes that “in Northern Uganda, land is the most valuable asset; however, this is not accessible to most of the returning families, especially women-headed families, thereby hindering recovery. Displacement is thus an important socio-economic means whereby conflict negatively affects the well-being of women and children in slum communities.”.

One of the most consistent socio-economic consequences of conflict for children, and indirectly women, is disruption of schooling, with consequent dropping out, and loss of future human capital. The SLRC study in northern Uganda reported that from 2013–2018, primary school attendance fell by around 20 % for girls and boys; children who had been injured in war, or abducted or forced to be recruited were less likely to remain at school. In West Nile sub-region, where conflict and displacement feature more strongly, a study reported that nearly one in three girls questioned aged between 14–18 had dropped out of school; poverty was given as the main reason, followed by pregnancy; conflict-exposure was an important contextual factor (Kelly, 2014)

Nabugoomu, (2019) further says that parents poverty correlates highly with the drop-out of children. Children from economically disadvantaged households, more likely women-headed or displaced, in slum settings can be forced to work in informal labour or domestic work instead of school attendance, which perpetuates low human capital and poverty. Children's dropout places an additional caregiving burden on women, mothers, or female heads and reduces their ability to generate income or make investments in children's futures.

Conflict and its socio-economic fallout leave many women and youth unemployed or working in precarious informal jobs, reducing economic resilience and increasing vulnerability. According to the national labour force survey conducted for Uganda, unemployment is still an issue, specifically among women and youth, with vulnerable employment reaching 82.2% among women in 2022 (UN Women, 2024). The study on gendered livelihoods in Katakwi District found that the impact of the war was borne by women as their men were being killed, recruited, or displaced; women had to take up new roles but lacked access to land, credit, and agricultural inputs, making their options of employment and livelihood very limited (Asire, 2005)

Displacement and conflict-induced asset loss further restricted employment pathways (Saebo, 2007). In slum contexts where the formal economy is weak and informal employment predominates, women and children who have either been displaced by conflict or reside in slums may attempt to subsist on daily wage labour, small-scale trading, domestic work, or informal vending-all unstable, low-income activities with minimal protection. Lack of decent employment increases household dependency and poverty and constrains women's ability to support children's education and health. This socio-economic constraint thus creates a disabling environment for both women and children's development and well-being.

The literature thus reveals that the socio-economic effects of conflict on women and children in Uganda are multidimensional. These dimensions-possibly interconnected and feeding into each other-include poverty from destroyed livelihoods, displacement, asset loss, and exclusion; disruption and dropping out of school leading to erosion of human capital; unemployment and precarious informal work which limits household economic security. For women in slum areas this means increased vulnerability, caregiving burdens, and limited agency and ability to support children's futures. For children, the compound effect is early exit from school, entrance into work, increased responsibility, and lower life-course opportunities. Within the field of social work, this study highlights the importance of developing interventions that take into account an integration between livelihood programs targeting women along with efforts towards children's educational retention and a focus on rights-based programs with regard to land and employment, among other things. Interventions should also be designed with a consideration of the slum setting where unemployment and inadequate services are prevalent.

2.2.2 The psychological effects of conflicts on women and children in slum areas

Exposure to armed conflict and violence is widely recognized as a profound trauma risk factor shaping the mental health of women and children. Research globally and in sub-Saharan African contexts documents elevated rates of post-traumatic stress, anxiety, and depression among conflict-affected populations. Conflict exposure disrupts family and community structures, increases displacement, and often heightens gender-based violence, all contributing to psychological morbidity (World Health Organization, 2021). Exposure to such violence is associated with anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and depression among women and children, with women often bearing a disproportionate burden due to gendered violence for instance sexual assault, rape and caregiving stressors (World Health Organization, 2021).

In Uganda, trauma research has tended to focus on rural and post-conflict districts, where war-displacement has led to significant emotional symptoms among young people. For example, a Northern Uganda community majority of adolescents exhibited poor psychological well-being and depression symptoms after multiple childhood trauma events, with social isolation also common (World Health Organization, 2021). Slum residents may include people uprooted by conflict whose trauma then interacts with the chronic stress of informal settlement life.

The urban environment characterized by slums has different kinds of stressors such as crowdedness, widespread poverty, insecurity, lack of services, and violence, which further exacerbate the negative effect of trauma experienced during conflicts. The urban setting creates a feeling of constant danger, leading to heightened anxiety and fear. According to studies on mental health in urban areas within informal settlements, depression, anxiety, and mental disorders have

been reported to be rampant in young women, with exposure to violence and economic hardship being some of the causes of this trend (Anguzu, Kiguli, Nyabigambo, & Dickson-Gomez, 2025).

In addition, research on gender-based violence among women in informal settlements reveals that emotional and physical violence occurring in public and domestic spaces correlate highly with higher rates of depression and anxiety (Anguzu et al., 2025). This means that the combination of community violence, gender-based violence, and adverse structural conditions in informal settlements exacerbates the psychological stress experienced in other locations.

Depression is one of the primary emotional outcomes resulting from trauma, stress, and deprivation faced by individuals living in post-conflict settings or informal settlements. Women in slums are exposed to various risks such as poverty, hunger, violence, and lack of services, which predispose them to depression (Anguzu et al., 2025). Moreover, according to Anguzu et al. (2025), IPV is rampant among women in slums and contributes to depression. Young women in slums are especially vulnerable, as several reports indicate the prevalence of co-morbidity among various mental illnesses that increase the possibility of suicide and aggravate their emotional state.

The psychological stress experienced in conflict and slums may result in behavioral changes and maladaptive coping strategies. Exposure to violence among adolescents in cities has been associated with the use of drugs, apart from anxiety and depression, as coping mechanisms for dealing with emotional stress (Swahn, Braunstein, Palmier, Kasirye, & Yao, 2014). Although drug use and criminal behavior cannot be attributed exclusively to conflict, they highlight the effect of psychosocial challenges caused by trauma and stress.

According to Fazel, Singh, Doll, and Grann (2012), children who experience trauma may exhibit behavioral problems, including aggressive behaviors, conduct issues, and difficulty controlling emotions.

2.2.3 The role of community support systems in mitigating the effecting of conflicts on women and children in slum areas

Urban slums in Uganda are characterized by adverse effects of conflicts such as displacement, poverty, and even psychosocial trauma. Therefore, community support systems that include NGOs, CBOs, religious leaders, faith-based organizations, governmental social welfare services, and informal community networks play an important role in mitigating the problems caused by conflicts. This literature review discusses the contribution made by these systems in reducing the negative effect of conflicts on vulnerable people in the slum area (UNICEF, 2015).

According to Kinyanda et al. (2019), both NGOs and CBOs make a significant contribution to helping women and children who have encountered difficulties associated with conflicts in Uganda. For instance, the Eliezah Foundation Initiative Uganda provides services related to shelter, legal advice, and economic empowerment in the form of training in doing businesses, as well as promoting community dialogue on gender issues and security. Also, the Agoro Community Development Association supports girls' secondary education and the development of vocational skills to enhance women's and youth's employment opportunities. Thus, they provide necessary services such as education, empowerment, and legal assistance, which reduce vulnerability and promote resilience among the target population.

Faith-based organizations and religious leaders can be considered the key moral and spiritual pillars in any society that experiences adverse consequences of conflicts. For example, in the Kitgum region, they collaborate with the local authorities and promote initiatives aimed at

eliminating negative social practices in conflict areas by increasing the reporting rate of violence cases (UNICEF, 2015). They not only provide counseling services but also encourage activities designed to restore peace between conflicting parties and help them start a dialogue and build harmonious relationships. Furthermore, religious leaders mobilize the necessary resources and influence public policies through their advocacy activities. They play an important role in addressing psychological and social needs of women and children in terms of restoring their hopefulness and sense of belonging.

Governmental social welfare services make a great contribution to providing structured support to the vulnerable people in the urban slums of Uganda. Specifically, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development in Uganda implements various frameworks for improving the performance of social care and support systems to increase the welfare of women and children (UNICEF, 2015). These services cover such areas as child protection, healthcare access, and other services relevant to the recovery process. At the same time, there are certain limitations in urban areas because of the lack of resources and inadequate infrastructure (Kampala Capital City Authority, 2021). Therefore, the collaboration between governmental bodies and community-based organizations is needed.

The informal community networks include such elements as an extended family, neighbors, or community associations that can provide quick and culturally relevant support to the people affected by conflicts (Neal & Neal, 2013). For example, community members in the Kampala slum area promote activities designed to develop fair urban policies and facilitate women's access to various services (UN Women, 2020). Such networks promote resource sharing, mutual exchange

of information, and emotional support, thus providing an effective safety net for vulnerable members of the community.

Community support systems make a considerable contribution to reducing the negative effect of conflicts on women and children living in urban slums of Uganda. NGOs and CBOs implement activities intended to meet basic needs of these people and support their development. Faith-based organizations and religious leaders promote spiritual values that foster unity and reconciliation. Government social welfare services provide support despite possible challenges faced by urban settings. Finally, informal community networks facilitate the immediate assistance of cultural relevance. When considering the implications of these findings for social work practice, it should be noted that a coordinated effort of formal and informal community support systems can lead to creating an optimal model for addressing the needs of vulnerable people.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter helped to explain the research design, study area and population, sampling selection techniques and sample size, data collection method, validity and reliability of data, sources of data and study variable, data processing, analysis, presentation that was used in this study and provided the ethical considerations and methodological constraints of the study

3.1 Research Design

The study adopted a case study design, using both qualitative and quantitative techniques to analyze data. A case study design was chosen because the researcher had neither the time nor financial resources to conduct a national survey of the slum areas in Uganda. Shikokoti, Okoth & Maurice, (2024). Secondly, as Sarantakos, (2013) states, a case study research design permits a researcher to conduct an in-depth examination of a single phenomenon at a given point in time, to arrive at findings that are applicable to the broader phenomenon that the case represents.

The study used both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis techniques. Gronmo, (2023) says Qualitative research design is exploratory, and it is used when we don't know what to expect, to define the problem or develop an approach to the problem. Therefore, it was used to go deeper into issues of interest and explore nuances related to the influence of conflicts on women and children in the slum areas mainly Kasubi-Mugeme Zone. Qualitative techniques were deployed for non-numeric data, such as respondents' views or opinions, preferences, attitudes and feelings which were collected mainly using the interview guide while Quantitative techniques were applied to numeric data, because its conclusive in its purpose as it helped quantify the effect of

conflicts on women and children and understanding how prevalent would look for projectable results on a larger population (Shikokoti et al, 2024). All helped the researcher to make clear conclusions on the effect of conflict on women and children in the slum areas of Rugaba Division

3.2 Study Area

The research was conducted in Kasubi-Mugema Zone, located in Rubaga Division, one of the five administrative divisions of Kampala District. Kasubi-Mugema Zone is a densely populated slum area characterized by; High poverty levels, Informal housing structures, Overcrowding, Insufficient social services, High youth population, Household and community conflict occurrences. Its socio-economic characteristics made it suitable for a study on women and children on conflict matters.

3.3 Study Population

The study was conducted in Kasubi Mugema Zone. The target population consists of women and men mainly with children, and key community stakeholders who were directly affected by conflict or involved in conflict resolution and social protection within the slum community. Based on estimates obtained from Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2025; Constituency and Division Profiles-Kampala Capital City Volume Two. The approximate target population was as follows:

Table 1: Showing The Target Population of the Study

Category	Estimated Population
Women aged 18 years and above	450
Men aged 18 years and above	300
Local Council (LC1) leaders	8
NGO representatives/social workers	12
Police officers attached to the area	10
Parents/Guardians (of children aged 10–17)	200
Total Estimated Target Population	980

Source: Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2025; Constituency and Division Profiles-Kampala Capital City Volume Two

The respondents were selected due to the fact that women and children represent the main victims of conflicts in the slum areas, making it possible to collect first-hand data related to the nature and consequences of conflicts. Moreover, Local Authorities, Police Personnel, NGO members, and Social Workers were also selected as part of the respondents owing to their involvement in the mediation of conflicts and provision of social services in the community. In addition, parents and guardians could provide useful insights on the effect of conflicts at the family level and specifically the effect of conflicts on the well-being of the children. Hence, the total estimated number of respondents, 980 people, provided an adequate basis for selecting an appropriate sample size.

3.3 Sample Size and Selection

The total sample size for the study was 120 respondents, based on an estimated population of 980 individuals. This sample size was considered sufficient for the purpose of providing reliable results, as well as being feasible based on the time and resources available. Below was the distribution of the sample:

Table 2: Showing The Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Category	Estimated Population	Sample Size	Sampling Technique
Women	450	70	Simple Random Sampling
Men	300	30	Simple Random Sampling
Local Leaders (LC1 Executives)	8	5	Purposive Sampling
NGO/Social Workers	12	5	Purposive Sampling
Police Officers	10	5	Purposive Sampling
Parents/Guardians	200	5	Purposive Sampling
Total	980	120	

Source: *Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2025; Constituency and Division Profiles-Kampala Capital City Volume Two and adopted Krejcie, Robert V. Morgan, Daryle W. 1970*

3.4 Sampling Techniques

The researcher used simple random technique and purposive sampling technique. With simple random sampling technique, it gave equal chances to all the members of the finite population to be included in a sample mainly the men and women with children. Every member in the population was chosen on a chance basis. This helped to remove the possible biases that could arise as a result of the researcher favoring some members of the population. (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2019).

Also with purposive sampling technique, the researcher based on knowledge and expertise of the subject, selected the elements of the study with the better information about the subject matter. The chosen elements were thought to be the best represent of the phenomena studied. The researcher taken the population of Local leaders, NGO and social workers, Police officers and Parents and guardians because these respondents had specialized knowledge about conflict and community safety and therefore selected deliberately.

3.5 Study Procedure

The researcher got the permission from the school of social science, Uganda Christian University and the introduction letter was used to introduce the researcher to the different leaders mainly the Local Executive of Kasubi-Mugema Zone, NGO and Police. The research ethics were observed and this helped to carry out the research study in the area easily. Permission was sought from main key informants and respondents were assured of anonymity and confidentiality.

3.6 Data Collection Methods

Data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. Qualitative and quantitative methods were used in the collection of data. Primary data was collected using self-administered

questionnaires and interview guides. While secondary data was obtained from review of documents such as journals, reports, planning documents, memos, and files

3.6.1 Questionnaire Savery

This method was used since it is reliable and dependable for large samples, gives respondents adequate time, free from interviewer bias and cheap, (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2019). The questionnaires were delivered by the researcher. The researcher the administered questionnaires to various respondents under the study. Each item in the questionnaire was developed to address a specific objective and research question.

3.6.2 Interviews

Interviews, being face to face encounters were administered orally using an interview guide. This method was used because it offered the researcher an opportunity to adapt questions, clarify them by using the appropriate language, clear doubts and establish rapport and probe for more information (Ayiro, Onyango & Murungi, 2024). Interviews were carried out among a sample of local leaders mainly the LC1 executives within the community, NGO representatives, and religious leaders operating in the community; parents and guardians of children, local police, community social workers directly involved in conflict or family protection issues. To obtain accurate information through interviews, the researcher established friendly relations with the respondents for maximum cooperation prior to conducting the interviews (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2019).

3.6.4 Documentary Review

Documentary review was used to collect secondary data during the study. Many reports, policies, NGO publications, government documents, academic articles, and media archives already contain evidence on conflict effect, especially regarding women and children in urban slums were

reviewed. This helped researcher to get a view of the influence of conflict on women and children in the slum areas of Rubaga Division. A documentary checklist was developed and used to guide the researcher on the data to look for in order to generate the necessary information for the study (Mugenda & Mugenda,2019)

3.7 Data Collection Instruments

3.7.1 Questionnaire

The researcher designed a set of questions and make questionnaires. This was comprehensive enough to cover the extent of the problem and all aspects of the study variables basing on the objectives of the study and research question.

The questions were both open and close which helped the respondents to express their views and opinions. The questionnaires were delivered to the different respondents by the researcher thus self-administered and research administered questionnaires respectively was used which helped the researcher to get relevant information for the study. The method has been chosen because the respondents are both nonliterate and literate, a hard copy can be filed for reference purposes and always gives standard questions and almost uniform answers that can be quantified and processed easily to give a tentative answer (Ayiro et al, 2024). The questionnaires delivered to the respondents were broken down to capture background information and data related to each of the variables under investigation.

A three linkert-scale questionnaire was used to investigate the influence of conflict on women and children in the slum areas. The questionnaire was designed according to the objectives and study variables and responses to the questions will be anchored on a three (3) point Likert scale ranging from 3- Agree, Neutral (2) and Disagree (1)

3.7.2 Interview Guide

An interview guide was prepared based on the research objective. Face to face interview were conducted. This technique was used to gain an understating of the underlying reasons and motivations for people's attitudes, preference or behavior about organizational polices (Mbabazi, 2008). Still the interview was semi- structured in that the questions were predetermined but to allow the respondents to express him/her at length. The questions were directed to clarifying and establishing whether there was any influence of conflict on women and children in the slum areas of Rubaga Division using Kasubi-Mugema Zone as a Case study.

3.7.3 Review of Document

These include mainly primary sources. The primary data was the firsthand information collected from the field using collection tools such as questionnaires, interviews and documental checklist. Information was also sourced from document related to the area of study. These documents were studied and critically reviewed putting the ethical standards in mind. They were also used to examine the effectiveness; relevance and the appropriateness of the language include those related to the policies of conflicts, women and children protection.

3.8 Validity and Reliability of Data

3.8.1 Validity of Data

Validity concentrated on how accurately the instrument captures data that gives meaningful inferences (Mbabazi, 2008). Instrument validity was ascertained by discussing the questionnaires

with colleagues, there after adjusting were done before submission to the supervisor who helped to assess the face validity. The instrument was then be pretested, after which the content validity was measured (Gronmo,2023). This helped to assess the appropriateness of sentence construction, comprehensiveness of instrument and language clarity. Comments were received on the acceptability of the instrument in terms of length and the privacy of the respondents. These comments helped in designing the final instrument that was used to generate data. For instances, duo to the nature of respondents during pretesting the researcher decided to change the Likert scale from 5 to the Likert scale of 3(Agree, Neutral and Disagree). To measure validity of variable and measure of dimensions influencing conflicts on women and children in the slum areas of Kasubi-Mugema Zone a validity test was carried out, using content validity index (CVI) formula prior to the administration of the research instrument. This was intended to find out whether the questionnaires are capable of capturing the intended data that was stated in the researcher objectives and questions

$$CVI= n/N \quad \text{where } n= \text{Items rated relevant}$$

$$N=\text{Total number of items}$$

3.8.2 Reliability of Data

In this study Reliability concentrated on assessing the consistency and repeatability of tests used. Thus, Reliability was assessed Using Cronbach's Coefficient Alpha of the questionnaires instrument. The two scores were then correlated and results evaluated. The Cronbach Alpha reliability coefficient were socioeconomic effects, psychological and emotional effect on women and children and role of community support system in mitigating conflicts on women and children. The data collection instruments were tested for reliability on 5% of the study elements to ensure

that they produce results whenever the same instrument was used to collect data. Questionnaires were first piloted in a nearby slum- Nakulabye to refine questions and revision was made to ensure clarity and relevance. After a week the same instruments were given to the same people to determine whether responses were consistent. The results of the two tests were correlated by comparing the responses from the same person at both instances. The higher the coefficient of the stability, the more reliable the instrument was taken, for an instrument to be taken as reliable a minimum coefficient of 0.5 is assumed as suggested by Sarantakos (2013) in which case the research was proceed.

3.9 Measurement of Variables

Variables were measured to be able to generate data; the researcher used three measurement scales that were nominal, interval and ratio scale because they were suitable for this study

3.9.1 Measurement of Using the Nominal Scale

A nominal scale is a list of categories to which objects can be classified into mutually exclusive and collectively exhaustive set (Gronmo,2023). The researcher used this to measure variables like sex of the respondents to determine distribution of the respondents that female and male to further aid in the cross tabulation and analysis of the data in questions on the study variables.

3.9.2 Measurement Using Interval Scale

An interval scale was used to sum and determine the magnitude of the responses to the questions on a '3' Likert Scale. The responses were ranked in the order of importance by determining the percentages of positive and negative response to the questions in the questionnaires

After determining the preferred response for each question on the Likert scale. The researcher calculated the magnitude and preferences of the responses. The differences assigned to each interval was ranked in order and the quality of the magnitudes of the difference in the variables determined. These were used to determine the mean, measure of central tendency and the standard deviation using the data analysis system of SPSS(Gronmo,2023).

3.9.3 Measurement Using Ratio Scale

Ratio scale is scale with an absolute zero origin and hence the magnitude and proportion of the differences. The unique zero origin allows mathematical and powerful statistical procedures to be used on the response results. This was used on the data that was generated from measurement using the nominal and interval scale to determine ratios for instance determine the rate of women and cmen in the Kasubi-Magemba Zone while analyzing the different variables using SPSS

3.10 Data Sources

These included both primary source and secondary sources. The primary data was the first-hand information collected from the field using collection tools such as questionnaire, interview and focused groups discussions. Secondary sources of data include the internet, newspapers, text books, journals, documents and reports from the Division Offices, NGOs and other organizations that dealing supporting slum areas in Uganda.

3.11 Data Processing, Analysis and Presentation

3.11.1 Data Processing

After gathering data, processing was done which involved editing, rewriting and summarizing of all responses. Editing included checking the response to ensure the relevant questions have been answered. Data collected from the questionnaires was coded and entered into a computer using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS)

3.11.2 Data Analysis

To answer the research objectives, frequency tables and charts were generated. To analyze each variable the frequency, mean scores for statement under which respondents were requested to tick a long a continuum of strongly Agree (3) to disagree (1) was used. Thereafter, central tendency distribution was calculated to examine the effect of conflict on women and children in the slum area of Kasubi-Mugema Zone. To interpret central tendency mean score a legend scale was used and interpreted as follow 2.20-5.0 (Very High); 3.4-4.19 (High); 2.60-3.30 (Average); 1.80-2.59 (Low) and 1.00-1.79 (Very Low)

The data gathered from the interviews, related documents from previous researches and public community document was used to support results in the data analysis and interpretation. The interpretation from the data analysis used to draw conclusions and recommendations were made. The suggestions from the key informants was an addition to draw recommendations on wellbeing of women and children in Kasubi-Mugema Zone.

3.11.3 Data Presentation

The data was presented in simple essay format, charts, graphs, frequencies and table format; further analysis with the help of Statistical Packages for Social Science (SPSS) in order to come up with clear tables and central tendency distribution.

3.12 Ethical Consideration

The researcher followed strict ethical protocols, obtained informed consent from all adult females and male in addition to parental and guardian consent whenever applicable. Additionally, strict confidentiality and anonymity was maintained, given the sensitive domains associated with conflict and violence. Referral systems were also put in place to refer any respondent who may have experienced violence and abuse to accessible resources, such as local non-governmental organizations and social services, especially if the respondent opens up about violence in an interview. Similarly, protocols were established to ensure researcher safety, since research was being done in high-risk setting of a slum.

3.13 Methodological Constraints

The potential drawbacks of conducting this research included the possibility of underreporting due to fear or stigma attached to it; the women may have difficulty putting down experiences in words, which could lead to incomplete or not so reliable results; high mobility of dwellings in the slums, which could compromise follow-up and consequently retention and consistency over time; the nature of conflict questions and the possibility of eliciting emotional reactions from participants which could influence participation and quality of response; and limited resources which could place a limitation on the size of the research population and consequently the generability of findings

However, the researcher acknowledges that the delimitations of this study include being geographically limited to the Kasubi Mugema Zone, focusing specifically on the experiences of women and children, and examining the impacts of conflict rather than addressing all social problems in the slum, thereby clarifying the scope and methodological boundaries of the research

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

The chapter presents the analysis and interpretation of the study findings arising from the raw data collected from the field using questionnaires, interview guide and documentary review checklist. The first section presents the response rate followed by Socio-demographics information about the respondents, presentation and analysis of the study findings in relation to the objectives of the study. The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of conflict on women and children in the slum areas of Kasubi Mugema Zone.

4.2 Response Rate

A total of 120 individuals were targeted to participate in this study including 100 questionnaire respondents and 20 interviewees

Table 3: Showing Results of Response Rate of the Study

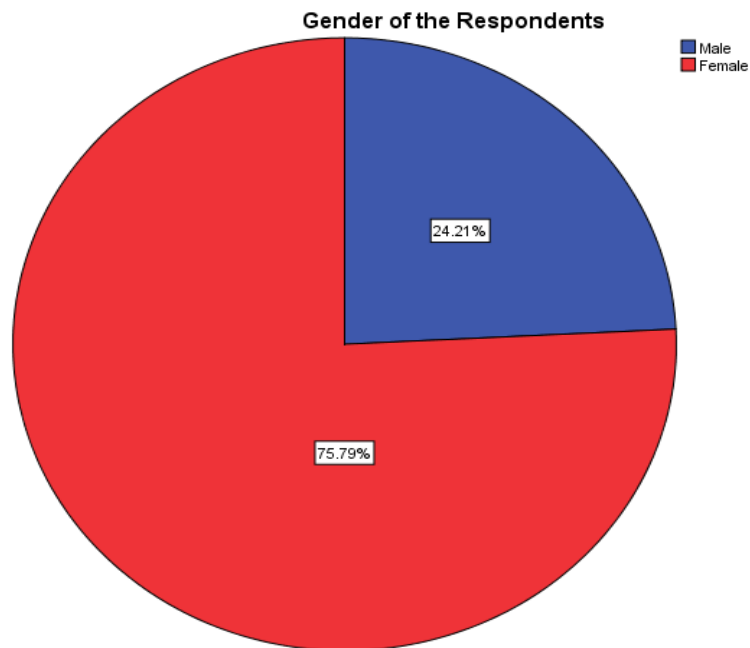
	Targeted number	Realized number	Percentage %
Questionnaires	100	95	
Interviews	20	15	
Totals	120	108	91.7%

4.3 Results on the background characteristics of respondents

In this section, data is presented on the socio-demographic composition of the sample obtained through the questionnaires, which included; Gender, age group of respondents, time stayed within the Kasubi-Mugema Zone, whether they had children in Kasubi-Mageme Zone and whether their household have experienced conflicts. All the tables are based on the 95 respondents. The purpose of collecting demographic data on respondents was to help in establishing the respondent sample

characteristics and be able to form appropriate opinions about the research findings. The detailed analysis of these characteristics and interpretation of the real research findings is presented in the following subsections.

4.3.1 Distribution by Gender

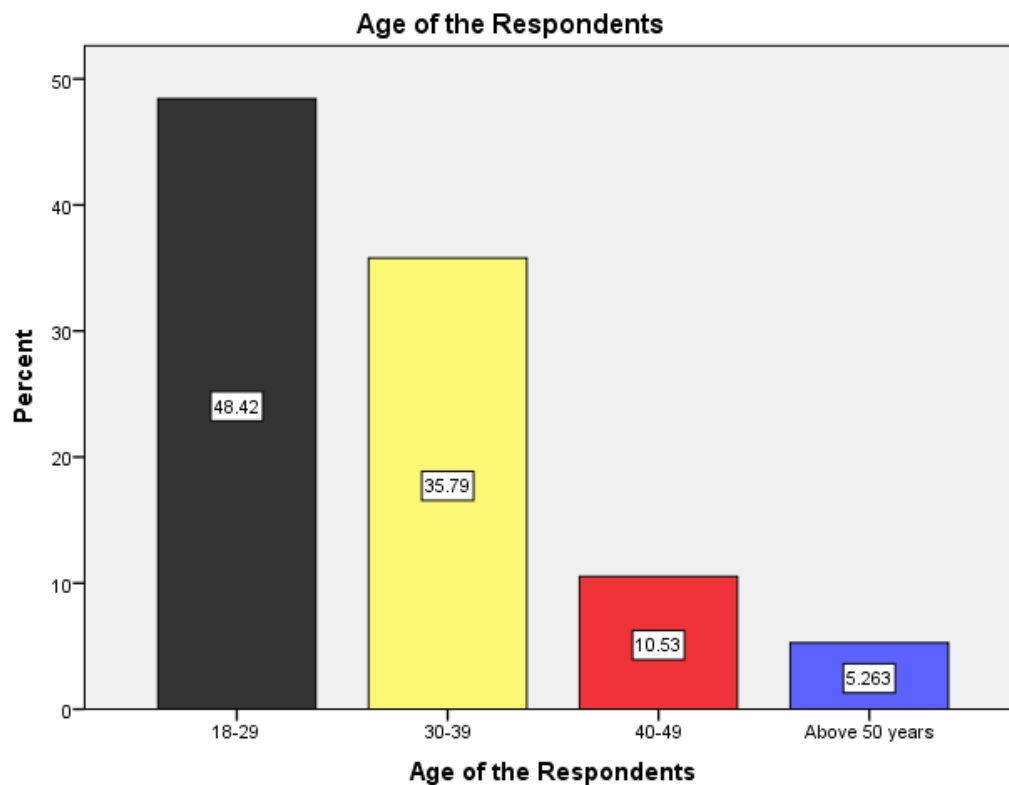


Source: *Primary Data, 2026*

Figure 2: Showing the Distribution of Respondents by Gender

As per the results in Figure 2, it can be observed that females formed the majority with 75.79% being respondents, whereas males were represented by only 24.2%. This is important since women form the main subject under research and hence are more prone to being affected by any conflict.

4.3.2 Distribution of the Respondents by Age Group



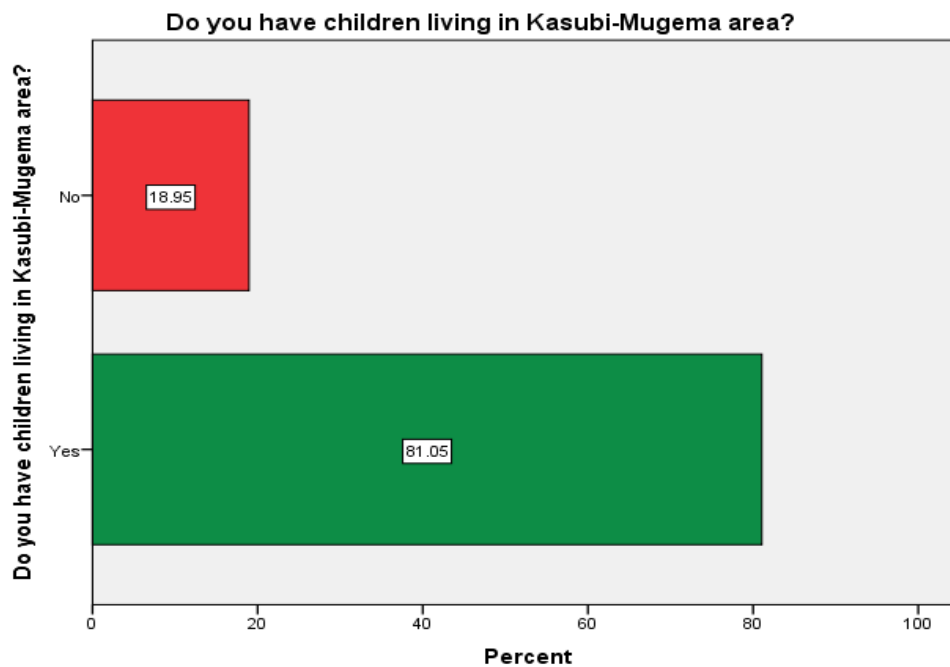
Source: *Primary Data, 2026*

Figure 3: Showing Distribution of Respondents by Age Group

The findings in figure 3 above reveal that 48.42% of the respondents are within the age bracket of 18-29 years, 35.79% of them are in the age group of 30-39 years, 10.53% and 5.26% in the age bracket of 40-49 years and above 50 years. Most respondents fall within the productive age bracket (18–39 years), implying that the study reflects economically active individuals directly affected by conflict-related disruptions.

4.3.3 Child Bearing in Area of Kasubi-Mugema Zone

Still, the respondents were asked if they had children whom they nurse and take care of. From Figure 4 below, it is clear that 81.05% of the respondents had children in the Kasubi Mugema Zone, while 18.05% did not have children. This implies that data obtained from the respondents know the causes of conflict for women and children in the Kasubi Mugema Zone.



Source: *Primary Data, 2026*

Figure 4: Showing respondents with children in Kasubi-Mugema Zone

4.3.4 Conflict experience in the Household



Source: *Primary Data, 2026*

Figure 5: Showing respondents that have Experienced Conflict in Kasubi-Mugema Zone

The findings in figure 5 above show that 81.05% of the respondents have experienced conflicts like violence, forced displacement and property destruction in Kasubi-Mugema Zone while 18.95% of the respondents said have never experienced conflicts in their Household, the results above indicate that conflict is widespread and directly affects family structures in Kasubi-Mugema Zone.

4.4 Results on the Substantive Objectives

4.4.1 The socioeconomic effect of conflict on women and children in the slim areas of Kasubi-Mugema Zone

According to the conceptual frame work, the socioeconomic effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi-Magama Zone was measured using four indicators namely; Poverty, Displacement, school dropout and unemployment that were gathered by asking the respondents the questions in the table 4 below;

Table 4: Showing Finding on the socioeconomic effect of conflict on women and children in the slim areas of Kasubi-Mugema Zone

Statement Questions	Percentage				Central Tendency	
	N	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Mean	Std. Deviation
The ongoing conflict has increased poverty among women in this community	95	11.58	4.2	84.2	4.38	1.159
Many households now struggle to meet basic needs such as food and rent because of the conflict.	95	5.26	9.5	84.2	4.29	.921
Women's income has reduced since the conflict began	95	4.21	14.7	84.2	4.33	.916
Children in affected households lack basic necessities like food, clothing, school materials	95	6.32	6.3	87.4	4.36	.898
Some families have been forced to move from their homes due to the conflict	95	2.11	6.3	91.6	4.57	.709
Displacement has made it harder for women to earn a living.	95	4.21	6.3	89.5	4.34	.820
Displaced children face difficulties accessing basic services such as school and healthcare	95	1.05	6.3	92.6	4.58	.708
The conflict has increased school dropout among children in this community	95	2.11	6.3	91.6	4.46	.712

Some children miss school because their families cannot afford school-related expenses	95	3.16	6.3	90.5	4.45	.755
Children are involved in income-generating activities instead of attending school due to economic hardship.	95	4.21	9.5	86.3	4.42	.870
The conflict has increased unemployment among women in this area	95	4.21	5.3	90.5	4.29	.756
Women find it difficult to secure stable jobs because of the conflict.	95	2.11	14.7	83.2	4.32	.802
Loss of employment due to conflict has negatively affected children's well-being.	95	5.26	12.6	82.1	4.38	.970
Average Mean					4.40	

Source: *Primary Data, 2026*

From the findings in table 4 above, 82.4% of the respondents agreed that the ongoing conflict has increased poverty among women in the community, 4.2% remained neutral and 11.58% disagreed with the statement. At 84.2%, the respondents agreed many households now struggle to meet basic needs such as food and rent because of the conflict, 9.5% remained neutral and 5.26% disagreed with the statement. This implies that women in Kasubi-Magemu Zone are living in the poverty line and lack basic needs. Even 87.4% of the respondents revealed that also Children in affected households lack basic necessities like food, clothing, school materials, 6.3% and 6.32% remained neutral and disagreed respectively.

The respondents went head and said Some families have been forced to move from their homes due to the conflict with 91.6% agreed, 6.3% remained neutral and 2.11% disagreed with the statement. At 89.5%, the respondents agreed that displacement has made it harder for women to earn a living. 4.21% of respondents disagreed and 6.3% remained neutral. This implies that most families in Kasubi-Magemu Zone are having economic instabilities due to conflicts. Still, at 92.6%

respondents agreed displaced children face difficulties accessing basic such as school and healthcare, 6.3% remained neutral and only 1.05% of the respondents disagreed.

The respondents went ahead and agreed at 91.6% that the conflicts have increased school dropouts among children in the community, 2.11% disagreed and 6.3% remained neutral. Further, at 90.5% of the respondents agreed at some children miss school because their families cannot afford school related expenses, 3.16% disagreed and 6.3% of the respondents were neutral. In the same context, 86.3% of the respondents agreed that children are involved in income generating activities instead of attending school due to economic hardships, 9.5% remained neutral and 4.21% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. This suggests that conflict in the area of Kasubi-Mageme Zone has endangered the education of the children yet it's their right to better education.

The respondents, at 4.21 disagreed, 5.3% stayed neutral and 90.5% agreed that conflict has increased unemployment among women in the area of Kasubi-Magema Zone. 83.2% of the respondents of agreed that women find it difficult to secure jobs because of conflict, 2.11% disagreed and 14.7% remained neutral. The respondents additionally agreed at 82.1% that loss of employment due to conflict has negatively affected children's well-being, 12.6% stayed neutral and 5.26% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. The results indicate that conflict on women and children endangers that labor market and increases employment in area.

4.4.2 The Psychological and Emotional Effect of Conflict on Women and Children in Kasubi-Magama Zone

Using the conceptual frame work, the psychological and emotional effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi-Magama Zone was measured using four indicators namely; trauma, stress and anxiety, fear and depression and behavioral changes by asking respondents the questions in the Table 5 below;

Table 5: Showing Finding on the psychological and emotional effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi-Magama Zone

Variables	Percentage				Central Tendency	
	N	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Mean	Std. Deviation
Women in this community experience emotional trauma because of the conflict	95	5.26	7.4	87.4	4.45	.920
Children in this community show signs of upset after experiencing conflict	95	6.32	17.9	75.8	4.14	.996
Some women have painful memories that disturb them because of the conflict	95	4.21	18.9	76.8	4.19	.960
Conflict has increased stress levels among women in this community	95	4.21	14.7	81.1	4.27	.939
Children often feel worried or anxious due to the conflict situation	95	4.21	9.5	86.3	4.31	.851
Women find it difficult to relax because of ongoing conflict.	95	3.16	13.7	83.2	4.27	.856
Women feel unsafe or fearful as a result of the conflict	95	2.11	17.9	80.0	4.38	.853
Children are easily frightened because of the conflict	95	4.21	16.8	78.9	4.34	.906
Some women show signs of sadness or depression due to the conflict	95	5.26	10.5	84.2	4.24	.884
Women become withdrawn and easily angered due to conflict	95	8.42	15.8	75.8	4.13	1.003
Children are becoming aggressive and isolated due to the conflict.	95	6.32	23.2	70.5	4.19	1.003
Children have difficulty concentrating at school because of the conflict	95	7.37	8.4	84.2	4.31	.979
Average Mean					4.27	

Source: Primary Data, 2026

The respondents agreed at 87.4% that women in the community experience emotional trauma because of conflict, 5.26% disagreed and 7.4% of the respondents remained neutral. Still, 75.8% of the respondents agreed that children in the Kasubi-Mugema Zone show signs of upset after experiencing conflict, 17.9% of the respondents remained neutral and 6.32% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. This implies that indeed children in the area face trauma because of the conflict. The respondents further, agreed at 76.8% that some women have painful memories that disturb them because of conflict, 4.21% of the respondents disagreed and 18.9% of the respondents remained neutral. Even respondents at 81.1% agreed that conflict has increased stress levels among women in Kasubi-Mugema Zone, 14.7% remained neutral and 4.21% of the respondents disagreed with the statement.

Furthermore, 86.3% of the respondents agreed to the statement that children often feel worried or anxious due to conflict situation, 9.5% stayed neutral and 4.21% of the respondents disagreed. The respondents at 3.16% disagreed, 13.7% remained neutral and 83.3% agreed that women find it difficult to relax because of ongoing conflicts in the family. 80.% of the respondents agreed that women feel unsafe and fearful as a result of conflict, 2.11% disagreed and 17.9% remained neutral. In regard to above 78.9% of the respondents agreed that children are easily frightened because of conflicts in Kasubi-Mageme Zone, 16.8% remained neutral and 4.21% of the respondents disagreed. The respondents at 84.2% agreed that women show signs of sadness and depression due to conflict, 5.26% disagreed and 10.5% of the respondents stayed neutral. 75.8% of the respondents went on to agree that women become withdrawn and easily angered due to conflict, 15.8% remained neutral and 8.42% of the respondents disagreed.

The respondents at 70.5% agreed that children in Kasubi-Mugema zone are becoming aggressive and isolated due to conflict, 23.2% remained neutral and 6.32% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. 7.37% of the disagreed, 8.4% remained neutral and 84.2% of the respondents agreed that children in Kasubi-Mugema Zone have difficulty concentrating at school because of the conflict. This suggests that indeed conflicts has far reaching effect to children and women in Kasubi-Mugema Zone. *As one Key Informant noted*

“.....there are noticeable signs of fear and anxiety, especially those who are responsible for taking care of their families during difficult circumstances. Some women express deep worry about their children's safety, their financial situation, and the future of their households. In several cases, we have also observed emotional distress such as sadness, withdrawal from community activities, and feelings of hopelessness, which may sometimes develop into conditions like Depression or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder if not properly addressed.....”

4.4.3 The role of community support systems in mitigating the effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi-Mugema Zone

According to the conceptual frame work, the role of community support systems in mitigating the effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi-Mugema Zone was measured using four indicators namely; NGOs and CBOs, Religious leaders and faith-based groups, Government social welfare services and informal neighborhood networks that were gathered by asking the respondents the questions in the Table 6 below;

Table 6: Showing Findings on the role of community support system in mitigating the effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi-Mugema Zone

Variables	Percentage				Central Tendency	
	N	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Mean	Std. Deviation
NGOs and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in this community provide effective support to women affected by conflict	95	23.16	22.1	54.7	3.63	1.289
NGOs and CBOs help children affected by conflict access education, counseling, or basic needs	95	14.74	20.0	65.3	3.80	1.145
Religious leaders and faith-based groups provide emotional and spiritual support to women and children affected by conflict	95	13.68	25.3	65.3	3.75	1.010
Faith-based organizations contribute material assistance (such as food, clothing, or school fees) to affected families.	95	25.26	15.8	58.9	3.62	1.231
Government social welfare services respond effectively to the needs of women affected by conflict.	95	15.79	24.2	60.0	3.66	1.145
Government programs help protect children from violence, neglect, or exploitation during times of conflict	95	11.58	25.3	63.2	3.79	1.071
Neighbors and extended family members provide practical support (such as food, shelter, or childcare) during conflict.	95	10.53	29.5	60.0	3.82	1.072
The Local Council (LC) system plays an active role in resolving disputes and preventing further violence	95	7.37	29.5	63.2	3.89	1.026
Community leaders (LC officials) ensure that vulnerable women and children are linked to available support services	95	9.47	27.4	63.2	3.91	1.042
Overall, local community support systems have reduced the negative effects of conflict on women and children in this area	95	10.53	31.6	57.9	3.82	1.120
Average Mean					3.77	

Source: Primary Data, 2026

From the finding in table 6 above, 54.7% of the respondents agreed that NGOs and community-based organizations in the Kasubi-Magemba Zone provide support to women affected by conflict, 23.16% disagreed and 22.1% of the respondents stayed neutral. This implies that with the moderate response from the respondents most likely the NGOs and CBOs activities are not yet felt in the community. At 65.3% respondents agreed that NGOs and CBOS help children affected by conflict with access to education, counseling and basic needs, 20% remained neutral and 14.74% of the respondents disagreed with the question. This was stressed by one key informant who noted that;

“.....NGOs and community groups support education for children by providing scholastic materials, paying school fees for vulnerable families, and encouraging school attendance. This helps to reduce school dropout rates among children affected by economic hardship”

The respondents at 65.3% agreed the religious leaders and faith-based groups provide emotional and spiritual support to women and children affected by conflict, 25.3% of the respondents remained neutral and 13.68% of the respondents disagreed. Still, at 58.9% of the respondents agreed that faith-based organization contribute material assistance such as food and clothing to the affected families. 25.26% of the respondents disagreed and 15.8% of the stayed neutral.

Furthermore, 60% of the respondents agreed that government social welfare services respond effectively to the needs of women affected by conflict, 24.2% stayed neutral and 15.79% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. The respondents at 63.2% agreed that government programs help protect children from violence, neglect and exploitation during times of conflicts,

11.58% of the respondents disagreed and 25.3% remained neutral. However, respondents went ahead and responded at moderate rate of 60% that neighbors and extended family members provide practical support such food, shelter and childcare during conflict, 29.5% of the respondents remained neutral and 10.53% disagreed with statement. The respondents 63.2% agreed that local council system plays an active role in resolving disputes and preventing further violence, 29.5% of the respondents remained neutral and 7.37% disagreed. 63.2% of the respondents further insisted that LC officials ensure that vulnerable women and children are linked to available support services, 27.4% stayed neutral and 9.47% of the respondents disagreed

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE STUDY

15.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary, discussion, conclusions and the recommendations of the study.

The chapter has been structured according to the objectives of the study which were to assess the socioeconomic effect of conflict on women and children in the slum areas of Kasubi Mugema Zone, to examine the psychological and emotional effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone, to explore the role of community support systems in mitigating the effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone

Summary of the study

The socioeconomic effect of conflict on women and children in the slum areas of Kasubi Mugema Zone

The findings show that conflict has significant socio-economic effect on women and children, considering the High Mean Average Rating of 4.40, implying consensus among respondents in the Kasubi-Mugema Zone

The psychological and emotional effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone

The results show that conflict creates a profound psychological and emotional effect on women and children living in the Kasubi-Mugema Zone. The Average Mean Score of 4.27 reveals a high degree of consensus on the importance of conflict in creating psychological and emotional disorders.

The role of community support systems in mitigating the effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone

The findings show that the community support systems play a moderately strong role mitigating the effect of conflict on women and children, with an Average Mean Score of 3.77, implying consensus among the respondents in the Kasubi-Mugema Zone.

Discussion of the study findings

The socioeconomic effect of conflict on women and children in the slum areas of Kasubi Mugema Zone.

According to the results of the study, there is evidence that conflicts significantly destabilize the economy for women and children, which aligns with previous studies conducted by Mwesigye & Matsumoto (2016) and KCCA (2021). This economic destabilization is caused by unemployment, disruption of informal trading, and evictions.

The key findings relate to the effect on education due to the conflicts, there is consensus among 91.6% of the respondents that the conflict has increased the number of children who dropout from schools. Due to financial constraints, children are forced to join the workforce and hence drop out from schools because 86.3% of respondents confirm that the conflict has led to the involvement of children in income generation instead of school. In accordance with Nabugoomu (2019), poverty among parents is strongly associated with school dropouts which results from conflicts.

These findings confirm that conflict acts as one of the most influential factors behind the poverty situation faced by women and children living in the slums. From data analysis, it was observed that 84.2% of the participants were in agreement that there has been an increase in poverty as a result of conflict, while an equivalent percentage of 84.2% felt that the households find it difficult to afford their basic necessities like food and rent. This is in accordance with Kemirere (2009) and

SLRC who assert that conflict leads to degradation of infrastructure and assets which ultimately causes absolute poverty.

There is a clear indication of instability in terms of economics, as 90.5% of the respondents believed that the conflicts had contributed to unemployment amongst women. Another 83.2% had challenges accessing stable jobs. The results coincide with trends at the national level where women face higher chances of being in vulnerable employment (UN Women, 2024). Women find themselves in a situation where there are no job opportunities in the slums, hence engaging in informal and low-paying employment. Similar to Asire (2005), women taking up household leadership roles without credit or land access create an atmosphere that disables people from getting out of the poverty cycle.

Displacement emerges as one of the prominent structural burdens in the study. More specifically, 91.6% of the respondents stated that families had no choice but to be displaced, while 89.5% claimed that displacement negatively affect women's ability to make a living. Such conclusions support Corbin (2019) in their findings that displacement involves losing vital resources that allow for recovery. According to Landesa (2024), the fact that women are marginalized in terms of owning land in Uganda makes things even more difficult. In slums, the experience of displacement is connected to the cycle of insecure tenure and informal employment.

From the findings, it is clear that 84.2% of the respondents agreed that there was a relationship between conflict and poverty levels of women, an assertion that is consistent with Kemirere (2009) findings that conflict in Uganda led to poverty because of livelihood destruction and disruption of agricultural practices. In the same direction, 84.2% of the respondents indicated that women could

not even meet basic household requirements such as food and rent due to poverty induced by conflict. The finding is consistent with UN Women (2017) findings on the same issue

The psychological and emotional effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone

Consistent with the UNICEF (2024) findings, the study indicates that the exposure of women and children to violence leads to them experiencing trauma, anxiety, and emotional stress. This is consistent with the Ecological Systems Theory proposed by Bronfenbrenner (1979), which states that the environment has an immense influence on the welfare of individuals.

From the findings of the study, 87.4% of the respondents agree that emotional trauma affects women as a result of conflict. These results are in accordance with WHO (2021) which states that being exposed to violence and armed conflicts may lead to the development of psychiatric conditions including PTSD, anxiety, and depression. Moreover, 76.8% of respondents believe that women go through painful memories. This is in agreement with WHO (2021) which emphasizes that being exposed to traumatic events often leads to the presence of psychological problems.

The finding that 81.1% of the respondents confirm that conflict has contributed to the increase of stress amongst the women, while 80.0% claim that the women are feeling insecure. These findings concur with WHO (2021) statement that conflict poses a threat to community safety and increases vulnerability of individuals psychologically. Further, 83.2% of the respondents' state that the women have problems relaxing. This concurs with Anguzu et al. (2025) who stated that women in informal settings experience continual psychological distress because of violence, poverty, and insecurity. For the children, 86.3% of the respondents indicated the presence of anxiety, and 78.9% indicated fear. The two findings agree with WHO (2021) observation that children who have experienced conflict tend to show high levels of anxiety. According to Anguzu et al. (2025),

overpopulation, poverty, and insecurity pose a continuous sense of danger, hence the fear and anxiety.

The outcome demonstrating that 84.2% of the respondents agreed that women demonstrate symptoms of depression is consistent with Anguzu et al. (2025), who pointed out depression as one of the most common mental disorders that women living in slums experience, and they mentioned the interaction between poverty, violence, and the unavailability of mental healthcare services. Such interactions are in line with the research context and account for the prevalence rate observed in this study. Furthermore, 75.8% of the respondents stated that women are likely to withdraw themselves and easily get irritated. This outcome resonates with the findings provided still by Anguzu et al. (2025), who suggested that exposure to IPV worsens depression symptoms and leads to emotional dysregulation.

The finding that 75.8% of the respondents agreed the proposition about children showing signs of emotional distress true is consistent with research findings by the World Health Organization (2021) in Northern Uganda, where it was discovered that the children undergoing trauma had poor emotional health and wellbeing. Also, the fact that 84.2% of the respondents agreed that children find it difficult to concentrate in class is consistent with findings by the World Health Organization (2021) that trauma negatively affects the cognitive functioning and social development of children.

Additionally, it was established that 70.5% of the respondents felt that children are being aggressive and isolating themselves. Indeed, this point is consistent with research by Fazel et al. (2012) which found that trauma affected the behavior of the child leading to conduct problems such as aggression.

The role of community support systems in mitigating the effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone

The findings show that 54.7% of the respondents agreed that NGOs and CBOs provide effective help to women in times of crisis. This concurs with the findings of Kinyanda et al. (2019), who opine that NGOs and CBOs play an important part in providing shelter, legal aid, and empowerment in terms of economy to women and children during crises. The findings also show that 65.3% of the respondents agreed that NGOs and CBOs assist children to access basic educational facilities.

The agreement by 65.3% of the respondents that religious leaders give support emotionally and spiritually. Likewise, 58.9% of the respondents agree that the organizations also offer material support to those affected which is consistent with UNICEF (2015). The involvement of faith-based organizations in giving counseling, peace building, and reconciliatory measures, faith-based organizations still mobilize themselves for humanitarian assistance including food, clothing, and tuition payments. Nonetheless, the moderate agreement reveals that although the organizations influence people, they do not necessarily help everyone affected.

As per the findings of the study 60.0% of the respondents felt that the government was doing enough in addressing the social welfare needs of women and that the government welfare programs adequately help to protect children at 63.2%. This can be correlated to UNICEF (2015) and the Kampala Capital City Authority (2021) on how the government is responsible for providing child protection and health care services. Nevertheless, the presence of a considerable number of neutral

responses and disagreements is attributed to the problems identified including resource constraints, administrative hurdles, and poor infrastructural capabilities to safeguard women and children in conflicts (UNIEF, 2015)

The finding that 60.0% of the respondents agreed on the provision of assistance by neighbors and relatives correspond with those of Neal & Neal (2013) and UN Women (2020), who stress the significance of informal networks that give immediate help. These informal networks include aid in terms of food, housing, and child care, particularly during conflicts.

The findings reveal that 63.2% of the respondents believed that Local Councils take an active part in solving problems. Additionally, 63.2% were of the opinion that the community leaders assist the vulnerable members of the society in accessing the required services. The results obtained are consistent with the assertion made by Neal & Neal (2013) regarding the importance of local governance institutions in the maintenance of law and order, conflict resolution, and service delivery.

Conclusion of the Study

The socioeconomic effect of conflict on women and children in the slum areas of Kasubi Mugema Zone.

The findings show that the socio-economic effect of the conflict on women and children was high with an Average Mean Value of 4.40. This shows that the conflict has caused a lot of poverty, displacement, unemployment, and disruption in education for women and children. High values in the mean indicate that the conflict has highly jeopardized the livelihoods of families and access to basic necessities for women and children in Kasubi-Mugema Zone. This implies that women and children remain trapped in conditions of economic vulnerability with reduced capacity to recover and sustain their well-being.

The psychological and emotional effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone

The findings reveal that the psychological and emotional effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone has dire consequences. The Average Mean Score of 4.27 shows a clear agreement that there exists a significant effect of conflict on the emotional wellbeing, stress, fear, anxiety, and depression on women and children in the Kasubi-Mugema Zone.

The role of community support systems in mitigating the effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone

The finding reveal that community support systems play an average role in mitigating the effect of conflicts on women and children with an Average Mean Score of 3.77. It is clear from respondents' recognition that NGOs, government, religions and community structures have a role to play in addressing conflict on women and children; however, the relatively low mean as

compared to other objectives means that such systems are not entirely adequate for the task at hand. Gaps in coordination, accessibility, and resource availability limit their capacity to fully address the needs of affected populations.

This study concludes that socio-economic effect (Mean=4.40), psychological effect (Mean=4.27), and support system effect (Mean=3.77) are highly intertwined. The social and economic challenges facing the women and children contribute to their psychological challenges, while ineffectiveness of the support system makes them less capable of handling these issues.

Recommendation of the study

The socioeconomic effect of conflict on women and children in the slum areas of Kasubi Mugema Zone

The study highlights major socio-economic problems facing women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone, such as high levels of poverty, displacement, unemployment, and dropout from schools. It calls for socio-economic interventions that will cater to the immediate requirements of the women and also help in restoring their livelihoods. The government and development organizations should focus on sustainable livelihood projects that will boost the earnings of the households headed by women. These include skill training for jobs in the urban informal sector, provision of microfinance services and saving schemes, and small business development.

The psychological and emotional effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone

The findings from the study indicate that women and children living in the Kasubi Mugema Zone suffer from psychological and emotional effect such as trauma, anxiety, fear, and depression. Therefore, it is important to incorporate mental health services and psychosocial interventions when designing strategies for helping the communities. There is a need to develop a system where counseling can be offered to the affected persons on a regular basis to help them cope with the psychological challenges.

Capacity building programs for community health workers, social workers, and local leaders are important in ensuring the early detection and referral of cases of mental health problems. Awareness-raising activities can also be introduced in order to reduce any stigma around the problem and encourage individuals to seek help. Incorporating mental health into existing services will probably increase both access to and the sustainability of the services provided. Taking care of the mental health of an individual is important in ensuring their full participation in social and economic activities.

The role of community support systems in mitigating the effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone

The findings indicate that community support systems in Kasubi-Mugema Zone play a significant but moderately effective role in mitigating the effects of conflict on women and children. In order to improve their performance, it is essential to foster better cooperation between main partners, including NGOs, CBOs, governmental institutions, religious organizations and local leaders. It might be beneficial to create proper coordination instruments, such as community action groups, which would assist in exchanging information and prevent overlapping of services. Governmental

institutions need to collaborate closely with local entities to facilitate social services provision, especially for residents of slum areas who do not have regular access to these facilities.

Limitations of the Study

Much of the findings of this study were based on primary information provided by the respondents which are subject to the potential bias and prejudice of respondents. However, this was overcome by ensuring that as much as possible the study relied on secondary data related to the subject under investigation in addition to the primary data

Areas Recommended for Future Research

The study suggests that a similar study should be conducted in future as a follow up or a longitudinal study, probably after one year so as to assess whether there are improvement and cooperation between main partners, including NGOs, CBOs, governmental institutions, religious organizations and local leaders in managing conflicts on women and children

The study recommends that a similar study should be conducted in another slum area so as to compare with the findings of this study.

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APPENDICES
APPENDIX 1
QUESTIONNAIRES

I am **Marion KWEGONDEZA**, a Bachelors Student at Uganda Christian University Mukono, currently carrying out a research study in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of **Bachelor's Degree of Social Works and Social Administration**. My research study is focusing on **The Effect of Conflict on Women and Children in the Slum Areas of Rubaga Division, Kampala District, Uganda Using Kasubi Mugema Zone as a Case Study**

You have been identified as one of the core and resourceful informants on this study. Accordingly, I am kindly requesting you to spare your precious time and participate in this exercise by attending to this questionnaire.

The information given will be kept and treated with utmost confidentiality and will be used for academic purposes in addition to adding to the body of knowledge in social works profession.

Please, tick the relevant box

PART A: BIO DATA AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

What is your gender: Male ☐ Female ☐

What is your age group?

- A. 18-29 ☐
- B. 30-39 ☐
- C. 40-49 ☐
- D. Above 50 years ☐

Do you have children living in Kasubi-Mugema area? () Yes () No

Have you or your household experienced conflict (e.g., violence, forced displacement, property destruction) in this area? () Yes () No

If yes, approximately when? _____ (years)

PART B: RESEARCH STUDY INFORMATION

Please note: In the subsequent parts, tick appropriately in the boxes provided whether you: **Agree A (3), Neutral (2) and Disagree (1)**

SECTION A: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF CONFLICTS ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SLUM AREAS

No	Statement	A (3)	N (2)	D (1)
Poverty & Household Economic Effect				
1	The ongoing conflict has increased poverty among women in this community			
2	Many households now struggle to meet basic needs such as food and rent because of the conflict.			
3	Women's income has reduced since the conflict began			
4	Children in affected households lack basic necessities like food, clothing, school materials			
Displacement & Instability				
5	Some families have been forced to move from their homes due to the conflict			
6	Displacement has made it harder for women to earn a living.			
7	Displaced children face difficulties accessing basic services such as school and healthcare			
School Dropout & Child Education Effect				
8	The conflict has increased school dropout among children in this community			
9	Some children miss school because their families cannot afford school-related expenses.			
10	Children are involved in income-generating activities instead of attending school due to economic hardship.			
Unemployment & Labour Market Effect				
11	The conflict has increased unemployment among women in this area.			
12	Women find it difficult to secure stable jobs because of the conflict.			
13	Loss of employment due to conflict has negatively affected children's well-being.			

SECTION B: THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF CONFLICTS ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SLUM AREAS

No	Statement	A(3)	N(2)	D(1)
	Trauma and Post-Traumatic Symptoms			
14	Women in this community experience emotional trauma because of the conflict			
15	Children in this community show signs of upset after experiencing conflict			
16	Some women have painful memories that disturb them because of the conflict			
	Stress, Anxiety and Depression			
17	Conflict has increased stress levels among women in this community			
18	Children often feel worried or anxious due to the conflict situation			
19	Women find it difficult to relax because of ongoing conflict.			
	Fear, Safety and Behavioral Changes			
21	Women feel unsafe or fearful as a result of the conflict			
22	Children are easily frightened because of the conflict			
23	Some women show signs of sadness or depression due to the conflict			
24	Women become withdrawn and easily angered due to conflict			
25	Children are becoming aggressive and isolated due to the conflict.			
26	Children have difficulty concentrating at school because of the conflict			

SECTION C: THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS IN MITIGATING THE EFFECT OF CONFLICTS ON WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SLUM AREAS

No	Statement	A(3)	N(2)	D(1)
27	NGOs and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) in this community provide effective support to women affected by conflict			
28	NGOs and CBOs help children affected by conflict access education, counseling, or basic needs			
29	Religious leaders and faith-based groups provide emotional and spiritual support to women and children affected by conflict			
30	Faith-based organizations contribute material assistance (such as food, clothing, or school fees) to affected families.			
31	Government social welfare services respond effectively to the needs of women affected by conflict.			
32	Government programs help protect children from violence, neglect, or exploitation during times of conflict			
33	Neighbors and extended family members provide practical support (such as food, shelter, or childcare) during conflict.			
34	The Local Council (LC) system plays an active role in resolving disputes and preventing further violence.			
35	Community leaders (LC officials) ensure that vulnerable women and children are linked to available support services			
36	Overall, local community support systems have reduced the negative effects of conflict on women and children in this area			

Thank you for your co-operation

APPENDIX II
IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE

Key Informants such as Parents and guardians, police officers, social workers and NGO leaders and LC leaders' members living in the selected zones who are knowledgeable about the study topic.

PART A: BIO DATA AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION OF THE RESPONDENTS

Particulars	Responses
Age	
Gender	
Marital Status	
Number of Children	
Occupation	
Zone	
How long have you lived in the Zone	

PART 2: RESEARCH INFORMATION

SECTION A: The socioeconomic effect of conflict on women and children in the slum areas of Kasubi Mugema Zone.

1. From your experience, how has the ongoing conflict affected household income levels and poverty among women and children in this community?
2. Have there been cases of displacement due to the conflict? If yes, what economic challenges have displaced women and children faced?
3. What effect has the conflict had on school attendance and dropout rates among children in this area?

4. How has the conflict influenced employment and income-generating opportunities for women in the community?

SECTION B: The psychological and emotional effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone.

5. Based on your experience, what signs of trauma have you observed among women and children affected by the conflict in this community?
6. How has the conflict contributed to stress or anxiety among women and children in the slum areas?
7. In your view, how has the conflict affected feelings of fear, sadness, or depression among women and children?
8. Have you noticed changes in the behavior of women or children (such as withdrawal, aggression, or difficulty concentrating) due to the conflict?

SECTION C: Role of community support systems in mitigating the effect of conflict on women and children in Kasubi Mugema Zone

9. How do NGOs and community-based organizations support women and children affected by the conflict in this community?
10. How can religious figures or religious groups help women and children cope with the effects of the conflict?
11. How are the social welfare programs of the government effective in dealing with the needs of women and children who suffer from the conflict?
12. How can the community or Local Council help women and children in coping with the conflict?

APPENDIX III

Documentary Checklist

1. Division annual reports
2. Police crime reports
3. Local council annual reports
4. NGO/CBO REPORTS