

Interim findings

Post trauma services for women's empowerment

This research project on the 'Cost-benefit analysis of cash transfer programmes and post trauma services for the economic empowerment of women in Uganda' examines the extent to which a combination of cash transfers and trauma support addresses trauma and impacts on the sustainable economic independence of highly traumatized women in Northern Uganda. The following are the interim findings and policy messages:

Interim findings:

- The levels of trauma among women in Northern Uganda are significant and there has been disinvestment in the provision of trauma support. Community leaders and government leaders perceive this disinvestment as a problem.
- There are mixed results from cash transfers programmes and where empowerment is lacking the results are diminished. The question as to whether or not trauma support is an important part of such empowerment is, therefore, seen as relevant.
- There is much interest in a radio and ICT-led intervention for trauma support and agreement has been reached among the research team and partners in communities and local government on eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) as an intervention. This intervention has been discussed with experts in the districts and approved.

Policy interest and outreach:

- Meetings with the Commission of Equal Opportunities (Chairperson and Commissioner Zamina Malole), which has offered to collaborate in research in this area (to be followed up with an MoU)
- Meetings with the Ministry of Gender, which has rendered assistance in the identification of social protection schemes
- Meetings with the President's Office on social protection schemes
- Meetings with district heads and community development officers, which are interested in collaborating and identifying participating groups in the survey and in the dissemination of the results (including by local radio)
- Meetings with women's group facilitators in the three project districts, which are interested in being included in the research as well as in the intervention for trauma relief and dissemination of results
- Meetings with parties in the Netherlands during outreach programme of the project leaders and Commission of Equal Opportunities Zamina Malole as delegation leader, made visits to: Philips (on collaboration with ICT tool for trauma relief), War Trauma (for collaboration), Organisation Wo=Men (Women equals Men - to strengthen collaboration on women's empowerment) and Dutch Parliament
- Project introduced in the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Research embedded with other research partners (including Leiden University, Nidos and Centrum 45) working on EMDR interventions
- Embedding of the research group and research partners on Barrett and analytical support

Contact:

Prof. Dr Mirjam van Reisen, research project leader, mirjamvanreisen@gmail.com