Cover: Community Outreach in Northern Uganda

Back: FJDI activities in progress

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Introduction

Northern Uganda’s trajectory to recovery has remained steady since the conflict ended in 2006. The region is without doubt experiencing massive socio-economic transformation as demonstrated by the rehabilitation and rebuilding of infrastructure that was destroyed during the conflict.

Beneath this façade of peace and prosperity, however, lies a silent and invisible struggle by conflict-affected victims and communities to overcome the impacts of the conflict upon them. While northern Uganda as a region may generally be on a steady path to recovery, victims and communities that were directly affected by the conflict continue to struggle as they seek healing and justice. Across northern Uganda, many victims’ associations that were formed in the aftermath of massacres perpetrated in their communities remain unrecognized. Thousands of victims who lost their lives during the conflict are forgotten, and few memorials exist to remember them. Formerly abducted persons, women and children, who were affected by conflict have virtually faded from memory and receive little or no attention.
In 2018 the Foundation for Justice and Development Initiatives (FJDI) along with other like-minded partners continued to work to address various challenges faced by communities recovering from conflict in northern Uganda.

Our activities in 2018 included but were not limited to: implementation of memory and memorialization initiatives for promoting healing in conflict-affected communities; continued advocacy for the implementation of reparations and recovery program for victims; trial monitoring of the two on-going trials of former Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) commanders Dominic Ongwen at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague, and Thomas Kwoyelo at the International Crimes Division (ICD) in Kampala; capacity building and empowerment of victims associations; and research. FJDI also implemented groundbreaking work on memory and memorialization, that saw the launch of new community memory center in Lukodi village that is now open to the public.

This annual report presents highlights of activities implemented by FJDI in 2018.
About FJDI

The FJDI works with children, youth, women and communities to promote justice, development and economic recovery in northern Uganda. FJDI seeks solutions to the long-term impacts of the conflict which ravaged northern Uganda by advocating for redress of human rights violations and atrocities committed during the conflict, implementation of sustainable development initiatives, and promotion of economic empowerment through livelihood programs. We believe in the concept of holistic justice grounded in the notion that judicial mechanisms of redress go hand in hand with development and economic empowerment of victims.

Objectives
a) To advocate for appropriate policies on democracy, governance, justice and development.
b) To promote social economic empowerment for vulnerable individuals, groups and communities in Uganda
c) To conduct research on relevant justice and development issues crucial to national debates and policies.

Program Areas
1. Democracy, Governance and Transitional Justice Program
2. Education, Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment Program
3. Children, Youth, and Women’s Program
Projects Implemented in 2018

Under the above three program areas, FJDI implemented three donor funded projects as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Funder</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>2018 Grant Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dealing with the Past: Promoting Memory and Memorialization in Uganda project</td>
<td>Robert Bosch Stiftung</td>
<td>1 Year: Oct 2017 – Dec 2018</td>
<td>Gulu District</td>
<td>56,000€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Promoting Justice and Accountability for Conflict Affected Communities in Northern Uganda and West-Nile Regions of Uganda (in Partnership with the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD))</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>3 Years: Dec 2017 – Nov 2020</td>
<td>Northern Uganda (20 Districts in Acholi, Westnile, Lango and Teso Sub-Regions)</td>
<td>117,111€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Promoting memory, memorialization and peace education in Northern Uganda through renovation &amp; refurbishment of one classroom block in Lukodi Primary School</td>
<td>Germany Embassy in Uganda</td>
<td>6 months: Jul 2018 – Jan 2019</td>
<td>Gulu District</td>
<td>8,000$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

L – R: Workshop presentation by an FJDI staff member; Visiting students from Manchester University; Visitors at the Lukodi Community Memory Center; Students on a learning visit at the Lukodi Monument
Dealing with the Past: Promoting Memory and Memorialization in Uganda

Despite the intensity of human rights violations, destruction and loss of property and lives that many endured during the LRA war in northern Uganda, none of the governments past or present has tackled the question of memory and memorialization seriously. While many villages in northern Uganda experienced massacres that resulted in the death of many innocent civilians, there are no proper memorials for remembering the victims who lost their lives.

A case in point is Lukodi village. Despite the death of approximately 69 civilians in May 2004, the only existing memorial in Lukodi is a concrete monument. In 2018, FJDI implemented several initiatives aimed at strengthening memory and memorialization work in northern Uganda. These include the following:

Profiling of Victims

FJDI conducted documentation with relatives of victims and survivors of the Lukodi Massacre of 2004 with the objective of creating a profile of the dead and missing persons. These profiles are currently on display at the Lukodi Community memory center.
Commemorating the Lukodi Massacre of 2004

On May 19, the FJDI team joined the community of Lukodi in commemorating their loved ones who died during the Lukodi massacre of 2004. The community members mentioned that the 2018 prayer was wonderful and far much better than for the previous one “The presence of different stakeholders during this year’s prayer event made us feel loved” said Kilama Wilson.

Study Tour to Kigali Genocide Memorial Center

From May 2 – 6 2018, the FJDI Program team together with the Director went to Kigali for a study tour. The aim of this visit was to help FJDI to implement its memory project in Lukodi.

Setting up the Lukodi Community Memory Center

To make the community memory center a reality, there was need for space in which the project would be housed. To solve this problem, FJDI identified a dilapidated classroom block at Lukodi Primary School and sought permission from the school authorities to use it. The community memory center is now operational.
FJDI Promotes Sports for Peace in Lukodi

On June 15, 2018, three FJDI staff visited the Lukodi Community Memory Centre. The visit was aimed at monitoring progress and handing over a football to the youth team of Lukodi following their previous request. The football team is called Lukodi Real United FC captained by Kidega Lawrence who received the ball on behalf of his teammates.

Community Memory Workshop

On 11 July 2018 FJDI organized a community memory workshop in Lukodi. The workshop was attended by 80 community members. The purpose of the workshop was to promote an understanding and appreciation of memory and memorialization among the community members.

National Memory Workshop in Gulu

On November 28, 2018, FJDI organized an annual memory workshop in Gulu. The workshop attracted over 50 national and international participants. Key local participants who were present included representatives of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Trust Fund for Victims, the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), Avocats Sans Frontiers (ASF), and the Uganda Human Rights Commission.
Annual Exhibition and launch of the Lukodi Community Memory Center

The memory workshop was followed by an annual exhibition and formal launch of the Lukodi Community Memory Center on November 29, 2018 in Lukodi village. The half day event was attended by over 500 participants comprising community members, representatives of civil society organizations, victims’ representatives from other regions of Uganda, and local leaders.

Production of a Documentary on the Lukodi Massacre

From the 19 - 24 July 2018, FJDI undertook the production of a documentary on the Lukodi massacre. The purpose of the documentary was to broadly document victim’s testimonies, the impact of the war and also capture the views of community members on the significance of the community memory project as a way of promoting healing and recovery.

FJDI Conducts Mediation Meeting in Lukodi

On the 3rd August 2018, FJDI together with a team from ICC went to Lukodi for a mediation meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to try and settle the conflict between the CORE team members and the members of the victims’ group.
Promoting Justice and Accountability for Conflict Affected Communities in Northern Uganda and West-Nile Regions of Uganda

Funded by the European Commission under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), this three-year transitional justice project aims at strengthening processes of justice and accountability in Uganda both at a domestic and international level by 2020.

The project aims at promoting complementarity in justice mechanisms through support to domestic processes of transitional justice and accountability in 20 districts in Northern Uganda and engaging in the fight against global impunity for war crimes in Uganda through support to international bodies such as the International Criminal Court. Under the EIDHR project,

FJDI conducted community outreaches to create awareness on the ongoing cases of Ongwen and Kwoyelo, built the capacity of victim groups in advocacy, conducted advocacy for the effective implementation of reparations among others. More details on activities implemented under this project are provided below;
Monitoring the Trial of Dominic Ongwen

FJDI in collaboration with other partners such as the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) actively monitored the trial of Dominic Ongwen that started in December 2016. Ongwen is being tried for war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed between July 1, 2002 and December 31, 2005 in the former internally displaced persons (IDP) camps of Lukodi, Pajule, Odek, and Abok in northern Uganda to which he pleaded not guilty. Among the 70 counts are charges of sexual and gender-based violence and the use of child soldiers.

Monitoring the Trial of Thomas Kwoyelo

Thomas Kwoyelo, a former LRA commander surrendered to the Uganda people’s Defense forces in 2009. Kwoyelo is alleged to have commanded attacks on IDP camps of Abera, Pabbo, and Pagak. At the International Crimes Division (ICD) he is facing 93 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Through the community outreaches, FJDI helped provide victims with updates on the ongoing proceedings of the trials. FJDI attended over 10 trial sessions and 4 community outreaches. FJDI also conducted 4 radio programs and published over 6 blog articles.

FJDI Travels to The Hague for the Opening of the Defense’s Case

From September 17 -22, two staff from FJDI and one from ACORD travelled to The Hague, Netherlands, to attend the opening of the defense’s case in the trial of Dominic Ongwen. As part of the trip, they met with various court officials including but not limited to the principal counsel of the office of public counsel for victims, the legal representative of victim’s (LRV), the ICC president, the ICC Prosecutor,
and the defense. The purpose of the meetings was to interact with the court officials and share public feelings and concerns from Uganda.

**Advocacy for the effective implementation of a reparation’s strategy**

On 27 July, FJDI and ACORD organized an advocacy workshop that brought together 42 participants from West Nile, Lango, Teso and Acholi Sub-region with the objective discussing and ascertaining victim’s needs on reparations. Key recommendations for government included the fast passing of the transitional justice policy, engagement with local actors to understand the most pressing needs of victims. To civil society actors, there was a call for effective collaboration on the provided support to increase transparency and avoid duplication of resources.

**Capacity Building Workshop for Victims in northern Uganda**

On the 20th July 2018 FJDI in partnership with ACORD organized a capacity building workshop for victim’s representatives from West Nile, Acholi, Lango and Teso sub-region. This workshop was held in Gulu Town and attended by 56 victims’ representatives from the four sub-regions. The workshop was an important opportunity for victims to share their experience and explore ways of holding their leaders/government both at the lower and national levels accountable.

**Community Outreach**

Through community outreaches, FJDI as an intermediary helped bridge the gap between the court and victims involved in both trials. Victims have been updated on the on-going proceedings of the trials. FJDI uses community
outreach to reach out to communities affected by alleged crimes in cases brought before the Court. In 2018, FJDI conducted over 8 community outreach meetings in various communities across northern Uganda.

Survey on Reparations Needs of Victims’ Associations in Northern Uganda

Within the months of April, May and June FJDI and ACORD undertook a survey to understand the reparation needs of the victims’ associations in northern Uganda and West Nile Regions of Uganda under the EIDHR project. FJDI met with victims’ groups in Parabongo, Bucoro, Obalanga, Atiak, Odek, Koch Goma, Pajule, Omot and Namukora. Among the most pressing top five needs highlighted included the need for funds to boost their savings and credit organizations (SACCOS), housing facilities, scholarships for their children, oxen and ox-ploughs, free health services, memorial centers, vocational institutes, community centers and compensation for their lost loved ones.

Interface Meeting with Survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Lira and Obalanga

On the 12 and 18 July 2018, FJDI in partnership with ACORD conducted interface meetings survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Lira and Obalanga. During the interface meeting the SGBV survivors highlighted their top needs as; medical support/treatment, psycho-social support, and vocational training.

Interface Meeting with Children Born in Captivity

On the 14th August 2018, four staff from FJDI traveled to Lira to carry out an interface meeting with children born in captivity. The meeting took place at
Pacific Hotel Lira. It was attended by 19 people, 7 males and 12 females. The majority of the children said that they have challenges of school fees, stigmatization from the community where they stay, insults from some of the relatives they live with, lack of clothing, proper housing facilities, lack of food and lack of beddings.

Two Days Training for Lawyers from Northern Uganda

On the 30 and 31 July FJDI in partnership with ASF and REDRESS organized a two-days of training of lawyers from northern Uganda to ensure they are educated on victim participation.

Training for Intermediaries

FJDI in partnership with ASF organized a training for intermediaries working with domestic and international justice structures. For both the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Crimes Division (ICD), the role of the intermediaries cannot be undermined.

Facilitated mediation and reconciliation in divided communities

To live or not to live together is one aspect of life that war affected communities around the world grapple with daily. In 2018, with the help of traditional and religious leaders, we facilitated mediation sessions between clans that were divided by the Lord’s Resistance Army war in Mucwini. We emphasized forgiveness, compassion and empathy for one another as the main ingredients of peaceful co-existence.
Advocacy, Networking and Visibility

Advocacy plays a significant role in FJDI’s work and is significant for influencing public opinion, public policy and drawing attention to various issues that still need to be addressed in post conflict northern Uganda. Advocacy ensures that FJDI’s activities are visible and known to the public, thereby creating a support base and audience for promotion of the organization’s activities. Through internal and external visits, meetings, workshops and other events, FJDI can articulate victims’ concerns, interests and needs. Our advocacy events in 2018 rotated around two main pillars: external visits to FJDI and attendance and participation in meetings, and other networking events.

External Visits

Due to its unique work on memory and memorialization, and advocacy on transitional justice, FJDI continued to present a useful hub for learning in northern Uganda. As such, the organization attracted individual and institutional visitors from both within and outside the country as follows;

- **Student learning programs;** FJDI hosted students and visitors from various Universities and institutions local and globally. These included: The University of Manchester, United Kingdom; Ghent University, Belgium; Buffalo University, New York; and Uganda Christian University, Uganda.

- **Visit by Victims’ Group from Democratic Republic of Congo;** From the 25 - 29 June 2018, FJDI hosted a victim’s group from the Democratic Republic of Congo-DRC.

- **Participation in workshop and events;** Throughout 2018, FJDI attended over 18 workshops, training, and networking events on various events. At these events, FJDI had the opportunity to
present perspectives from conflict affected communities in northern Uganda.

Organization and Governance
FJDI’s activities in 2018 were driven by the active participation of its staff and board. FJDI currently employs 8 staff permanent staff who implement programmatic activities. FJDI is governed by a board that provides strategic leadership and oversight roles.

Staff
- Lino Owor Ogora – Director & Founder
- Sarah Nkayimbi - Program Manager
- Opio Francis - Program Manager
- Daniel Okanya Peter – Project Officer
- Acen Susan Oroma - Project Officer
- Akello Paska Oryema – Finance Officer
- Kedi Joseph - Transport and Logistics Assistant
- Nobert Dacan-Project officer
- Sharon Alit-Finance assistant:

Board
- Anyoli Jerry Grants – Board Chairperson
- Opiru Godfrey Binaisa – Member
- Akello Cecilia - Member
- Lino Owor Ogora – Director & Founder

Donors
FJDI is grateful for the continued support of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the European Union, and the Germany Embassy in Uganda.
Pictorial: Community outreach, workshops, and radio programs as part of FJDI’s activities in northern Uganda
Geographical Location

FJDI has presence in the northern Uganda regions of Acholi, Lango, Teso and the West Nile.

Our districts of operation include: Gulu, Nwoya, Omoro, Amuru, Kitgum, Pader, Agago, Lamwo, Lira, Otuke, Kole, Oyam, Soroti, Ngora, Amuria, Ajudmani, Arua, and Moyo.
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