

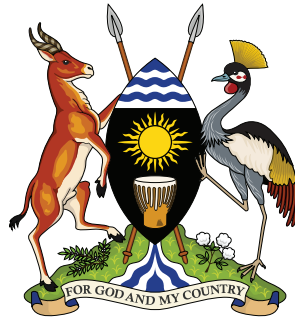


REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

# ANNUAL REPORT ON CONFLICT EARLY WARNING AND EARLY RESPONSE-2023







REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

# **ANNUAL REPORT ON CONFLICT EARLY WARNING AND EARLY RESPONSE-2023**



# Table of Contents

Table of Contents .....	V
Acronyms.....	VII
1.0 Foreword.....	VIII
1.1 Acknowledgement.....	IX
1.2 Executive Summary .....	X
<hr/>	
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY: CEWER REPORTED EVENTS IN 2023</b>	<b>1</b>
1.0 Introduction.....	2
1.2 Reported Events .....	2
1.3 Summary of Conflict Trends for Five Themes/Sectors .....	2
1.4 Maps showing the National Distribution of Conflict Events at the District and Regional levels in 2023 .....	4
<hr/>	
<b>ENVIRONMENT SECTOR</b>	<b>6</b>
2.0. Introduction.....	7
2.1 Environmental Trends Analysis.....	7
2.2 Environment Causes of CEWERs.....	8
<hr/>	
<b>ECONOMY SECTOR</b>	<b>9</b>
3.0 Introduction.....	10
3.1 Economic Trends Analysis, 2023 .....	10
3.2 Economic Causes of CEWER.....	11
<hr/>	
<b>SOCIAL SECTOR</b>	<b>13</b>
4.0 Introduction.....	14
4.1 Social Trends Analysis .....	14
4.2 Social Causes of Conflict 2023 .....	14
4.2.1 Social Health .....	15
4.3.2 Social Quality of Life.....	16
4.3.3 Social Education .....	17
4.3.4 Gender and Identity .....	17
4.3.5 Tradition and Pastoralism.....	18
4.3.6 Pastoralism.....	18
4.3.7 Migration .....	19

<b>GOVERNANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>20</b>
5.1 Introduction.....	21
5.2 Governance Trends Analysis .....	21
5.3 Causes of Governance Conflict in 2023 .....	22
5.3.1 Due Process and Dissent .....	22
5.3.2 Fairness, Equality and Justice .....	23
5.3.3 Elections and Campaigns .....	23
<b>SECURITY SECTOR</b>	<b>24</b>
6.0 Introduction.....	25
6.1 Security Trends Analysis.....	25
6.2 Security Causes of CEWER .....	26
6.2.1 Armed Conflict .....	26
6.2.2 Violence .....	28
6.2.3 Terrorism.....	29
6.2.4 Personal Safety .....	31
<b>OTHER CEWERU IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>32</b>
8.1 CEWERU Activities Implemented at the District Level .....	33
8.2 CEWERU Activities Implemented at the National Level .....	34
8.3 CEWERU Activities Implemented at the Regional Level .....	35
9.0 Recommendations .....	36

# Acronyms

CEWER	Conflict Early Warning and Early Response
ECR	Early Conflict Response
CEWERU	Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Unit
FDC	Forum For Democracy Change
NRM	National Resistance Movement
NUP	National Unity Platform
LOP	Leader of Opposition
UPDF	Uganda People’s Defence Forces
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ADF	Allied Democratic Forces
UP	Uganda Police
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
CSOs	Civil Society Organisation
FM	Field Monitors
MoFPED	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
STRP	Situation Report
AOR	Area of Reporting (AOR).
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
PDCB	Presidential Directives on Charcoal Burning (PDCB)
AHB	Anti-Homosexuality Bill
NEC	National Enterprise Corporation
NFA	National Forest Authority
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and other (LGBTQ+) communities.
CER	Conflict Early Response
SACCO	Saving Credit Cooperatives



ACP Florence Kirabira

## 1.0 Foreword

This report takes track of progress made in reporting on the Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (CEWER) situation in 2023. It highlights events reported, incidences of conflicts, causes of conflict, and responses to prevent, mitigate, resolve, and manage conflicts. The report evaluates the situation of CEWER in key sectors: social, economy, governance, security, and environment. It considers cross-cutting issues that are gender- and human rights-related. The data provided has been validated and triangulated with what has been reported by other government agencies and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). In addition, it presents other activities that have been implemented by CEWERU technical staff at the district, national, and regional levels.

The information presented in this report is intended to inform policy discussions and influence planning and budgeting. Also, guide development partners and CSOs in implementing peace and conflict-related programs. The report serves as the basis for accountability for the utilization of resources allocated to the CEWERU-Situation Room and the results achieved.

---

*Failure to identify and respond to them promptly may escalate conflicts and thus result in full-brown instability in the country.*

---

It was established that in 2023, high incidences of conflict would be in security, social, and economic domains. Failure to identify and respond to them promptly may escalate conflicts and thus result in full-brown instability in the country. Despite the challenges we continue to face in order to report comprehensively, effectively, and efficiently, such as insufficient resources, the inability to have field monitors evenly distributed across

the country, and adequate support with necessary technological gadgets to collect data, I request that all actors put more effort into identifying conflict triggers so that they can be prevented, managed, and resolved in a timely manner.

In that regard, I applaud the Ministry of Internal Affairs for recognizing the significant contribution made by CEWERU and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFPED), development partners, and CSOs who have meaningfully demonstrated support for the execution of the CEWERU mandate. Sincere appreciation goes to all CERWERU staff and the technical team for putting this report together.

I therefore call upon State and non-state actors to continue giving us a hand as we work together to build a peaceful Uganda for all.

ACP Florence Kirabira  
CEWERU Head



## 1.1 Acknowledgement

**M**any thanks to the CEWERU staff for compiling this annual report and dedicating their time to actively implementing planned activities. We appreciate the situation room team's efforts in sorting, cleaning, verifying, triangulating data with all relevant sources, and finally compiling a shareable document for other stakeholders. Thank you very much to the Program Officers, Musinguzi Obah, Robert Mbiro, Turyahumura Ben, and Elizabeth Katusiime, Esther Wasagali for providing technical support to the team.

We appreciate the support of CEWERU's administration team: Florence Kirabira (CEWERU HEAD) and Betty Kyokunzire (Administrator). Special thanks go to the team driver, Isa Mukasa Sowedi, for continuously supporting the CEWERU team. You are a multi-skilled team member, and we greatly appreciate your support.

Special thanks to the Development Partners and the entire Civil Society fraternity that implements peace and security-related programs for your ongoing support and decision to focus on peace and security.

Finally, special thanks to the Field Monitors (FM) for voluntarily and tirelessly collecting and regularly uploading data into the Situation Report (STRP) reporting tool. Your efforts have greatly influenced this annual report. I acknowledge and applaud the efforts of our FMs: Kaweesa Solomon, Okello Ivan Comboni, Dabada Yusufu, Natuk Betilda, Yediaid Nyakahangura, Edea Vuyaya Topista, Kadama Yusufu, Mutebi Alvin, Imalingat Charles, Byamukama Paddy, Deebea Rogers, Matte Jockas, Ndikumwami Helen, Kiima Stephen, Butsatsa Simon, and Sseruwagi Nicholas for their efforts to analyse and report these incidences in their Area of Reporting (AOR).

We hope that this report will help CEWERU, policymakers, development partners, and the entire CSO fraternity implement peace and security-related programs, allocate adequate resources to collect data on Conflict Early Warning Early Response and implement programs and projects on conflict prevention, management, and resolution initiatives at regional, national, and lower local (district and sub-county) levels.



SP Musinguzi Obah  
Incharge Situation Room



Musinguzi Obah

---

*We appreciate the situation room team's efforts in sorting, cleaning, verifying, triangulating data with all relevant sources, and finally compiling a shareable document for other stakeholders.*

---

## 1.2 Executive Summary

Conflict Early Warning and Early Response, form critical mechanisms designed to prevent violence before it starts and minimize the effects of conflict on people. This report tracks the progress made in reporting on the CEWER situation in Uganda in the year 2023. The report presents data from the CEWARN reporting tool, detailing the distribution of conflict events across the country, focusing on conflict incidences, causes, and responses. The CEWARN reporting tool categorizes information into five major themes: Environment, Economy, Social, Governance, and Security, guiding IGAD Member States in monitoring conflict indicators in the region. The security theme saw the highest number of events, with governance and environmental issues being the most potentially escalating. Kampala Metropolitan and Kasese experienced the most security incidents.

The signing of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill led to speculation, withdrawals of foreign aid, and withdrawals from European embassies. However, it also attracted significant support from China for Uganda's oil and petroleum project. The data indicates frequent natural disasters, particularly floods, causing destruction and loss of homes and livelihoods, but inadequate response and capacity to handle these disasters, despite efforts to end charcoal burning and nomadic pastoralism. The study reveals consistent efforts to end charcoal burning, despite challenges in enforcing legislation and military deployment, but does not consider income changes for affected individuals. The described issue is similar to what was done to end nomadic pastoralism in the same region of Uganda. The data shows a high

crime rate, low personal security, and numerous acts of terrorism, with the army actively fighting to maintain security and prevent further attacks.

The most significant challenges remain: insufficient resources (financial support) and insufficient distribution of Field Monitors throughout the country. Field monitors provide broader coverage. This leads to inconsistencies in reporting, which then affects analysis. Field monitors have limited capacity to deliberately report on cross-cutting issues such as gender justice.

We recommend increasing the collection of primary data, analyzing it regularly, and sharing the results to inform programming and decision-making. Developing context-specific monitoring indicators and mobilizing resources

---

*Environment, Economy, Social, Governance, and Security, guiding IGAD Member States in monitoring conflict indicators in the region.*

---

to support CEWERU program activities, as well as establishing links with other departments, modeling data collection systems with various government departments and empowering non-state stakeholders to report on agreed-upon indicators from the programs they participate in. Round-table discussions with state and non-state actors, as well as development partners, to strategize on how to integrate CEWER into their programs and advocate for the formulation of the peace and transformation policy.



# BRIEF SUMMARY: CEWER REPORTED EVENTS IN 2023

# 1.0 Introduction

This report presents the situation of Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (CEWER) from January 1 to December 31, 2023, with a focus on the social, economic, security, environment, and governance themes/sectors of the events reported that have a direct or indirect impact on national and regional peace and security. It also identifies conflict causes and responses, as well as potential predictions and recommendations. The brief contains summaries of events plotted on a bar graph for each thematic area of analysis mentioned above. The map depicts the distribution of conflict events in Uganda, along with a regional conflict Atlas and conflict trend analysis figures.

## 1.2 Reported Events

In 2023, the CEWERU Unit recorded a total of 192 events across the country on Security, Social, Environmental, Governance, and Economy related events. As shown in Figure 1 below, security events dominated (52) followed by social (46), economy (41), governance, and environment (29 and 24 events, respectively). The lower number of events reported compared to other government sources of data could be attributed to limited coverage by field monitors, resources, and language, which frequently hinder the update of the CEWERU Situation Report (STRP).

Events reported for the 5 theme/sectors 2023

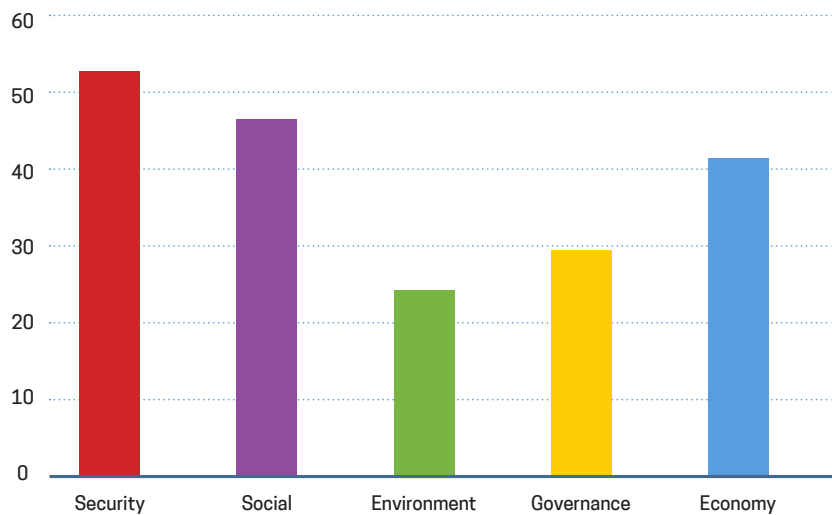
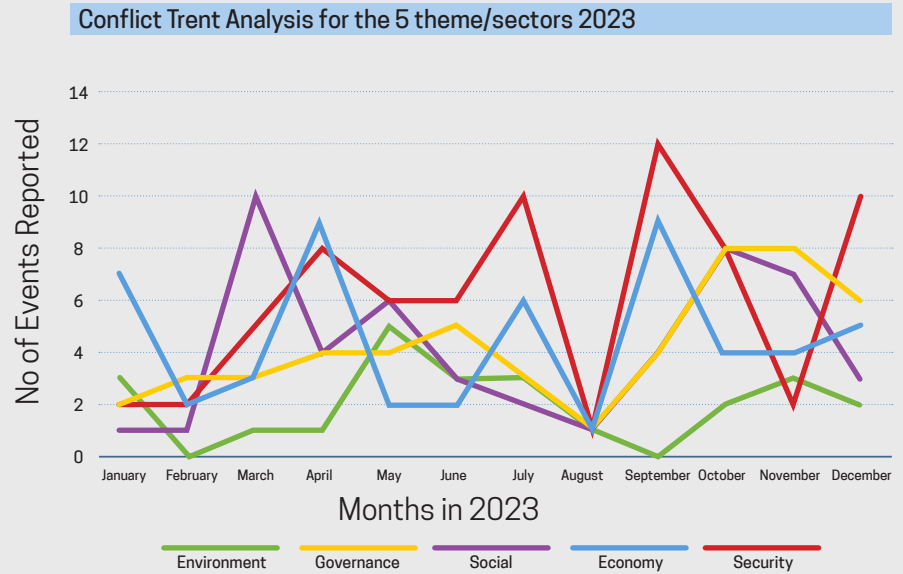


Figure 1: Total events for Economic, Environment, Social, Governance and Security Reported 2023

## 1.3 Summary of Conflict Trends for Five Themes/Sectors

Figure 2 depicts a line graph illustrating the unfolding conflict trends in Social, Security Economic, Environmental, and Governance. With security reporting a greater number of conflict events, the line graph shows that they were in fairly unstable social, economic, environmental, and governance situations. However, the reported event conflicts did not lead to full-fledged conflict or anxiety in the country.

Figure 2: Trends Analysis for Economic, Environment, Social, Governance and Security Reported Events 2023



### Regional Distribution of Conflicts

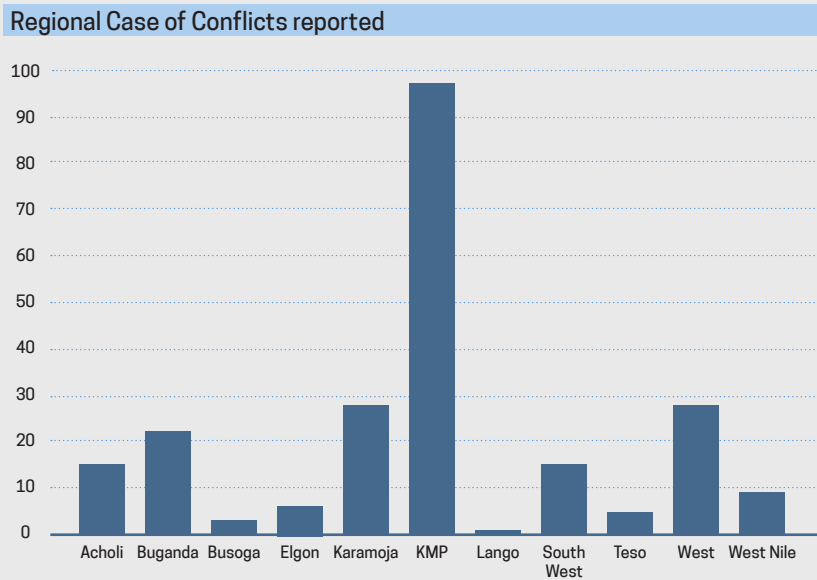
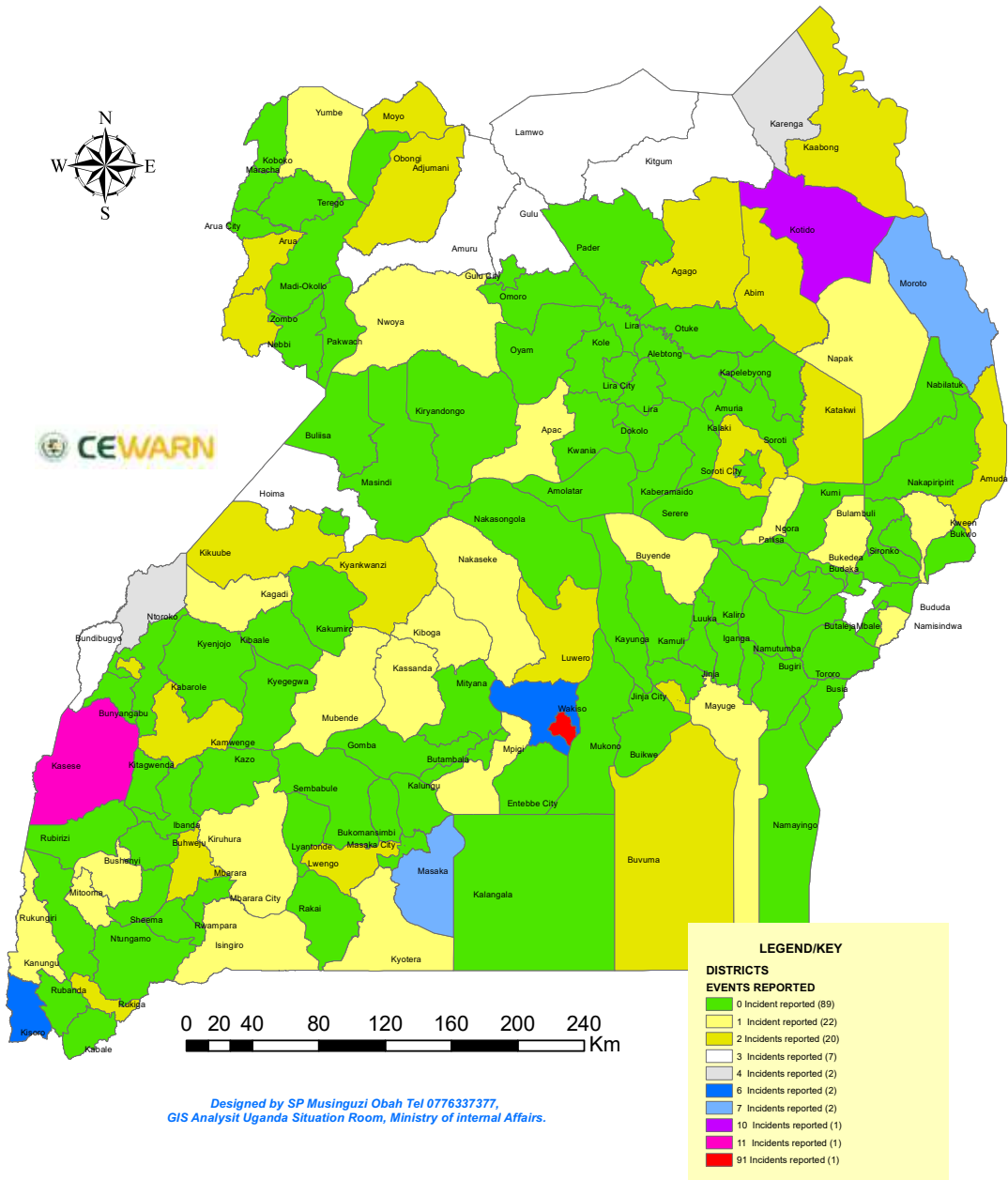


Figure 3: Regional analysis of total reported Events in 2023 with KMP coming out with the highest number of conflicts at 98, followed by West and Karamoja at 28 and 21 respectively.



# 1.4 Maps showing the National Distribution of Conflict Events at the District and Regional levels in 2023

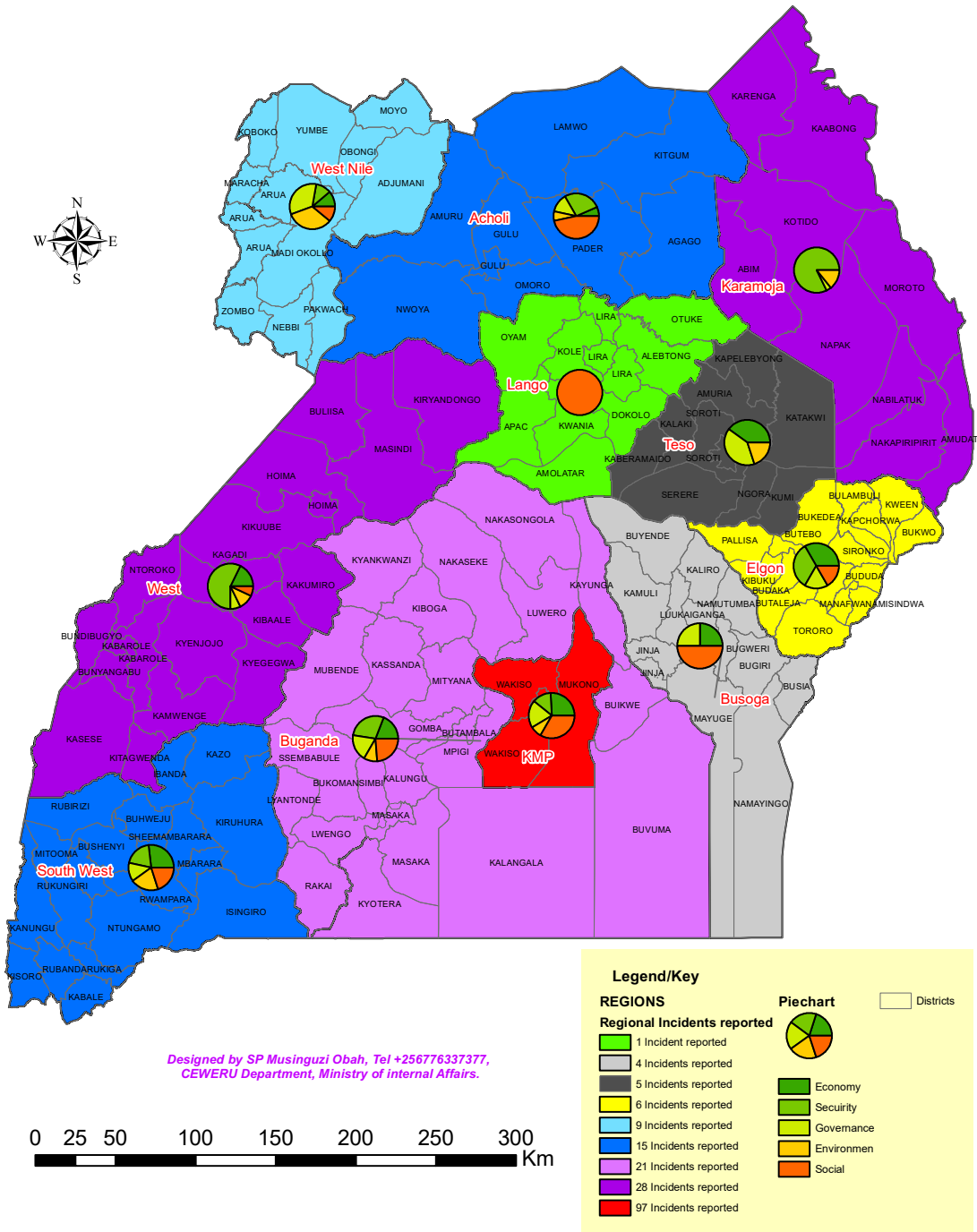
Distribution of Conflict Events -2023



Map 1: Distribution of reported Events by location with Kampala (91) receiving the highest number of cases reported followed by Kasese (11) and Kotido (10). Districts shaded with green colour received no cases as indicated on a map legend/ Key.

# Map Showing Regional Distribution of Conflicting 2023

## Regional Conflict Atlas



Designed by SP Musinguzi Obah, Tel +256776337377, CEWERU Department, Ministry of Internal Affairs.

0 25 50 100 150 200 250 300 Km

Map 2: Distribution of reported Events by Regions. Kampala Metropolitan (97) received the highest number of events reported, followed by Western (28), Karamoja (28) and Buganda (21). The Region with few number of Events reported was Lango (1), followed by Busoga (4) and Teso (5) as indicated on the Legend /Key above.



# ENVIRONMENT SECTOR



## 2.0. Introduction

This section focuses on CEWER situations in 2023. It covers environmental events from January to December 2023 as reported in the CEWARN reporting tool, which is frequently updated by the Field Monitors (FMs). The Environment sector covers the causes, responses, predictions, and recommendations for dealing with conflicts that emanate from environmental issues. The causes of environmental conflicts ranged from degradation, pollution of the environment, deforestation, high levels of water contamination, disasters, and accidents. Heavy rains resulted in floods, mudslides, continuous logging of trees, charcoal burning, and wash floods, as well as failure to enforce environmental legislation and policies.

Conflict Early Responses (CER) were vigorously implemented to prevent deforestation, advocate for tree planting, and provision of financial resources. The most significant was the implementation of Presidential Directives on Charcoal Burning (PDCB), in 2023. The environmental causes highly triggered conflicts in 2023, and the trend is expected to increase in 2024. Nevertheless, the impact of climate change losses and damages remains constantly documented.

## 2.1 Environmental Trends Analysis

The reported events showed an uneven distribution of environmental incidences, with sharp peaks in January, April, July, and November. Figure 2 depicts the trend of the environmental events.

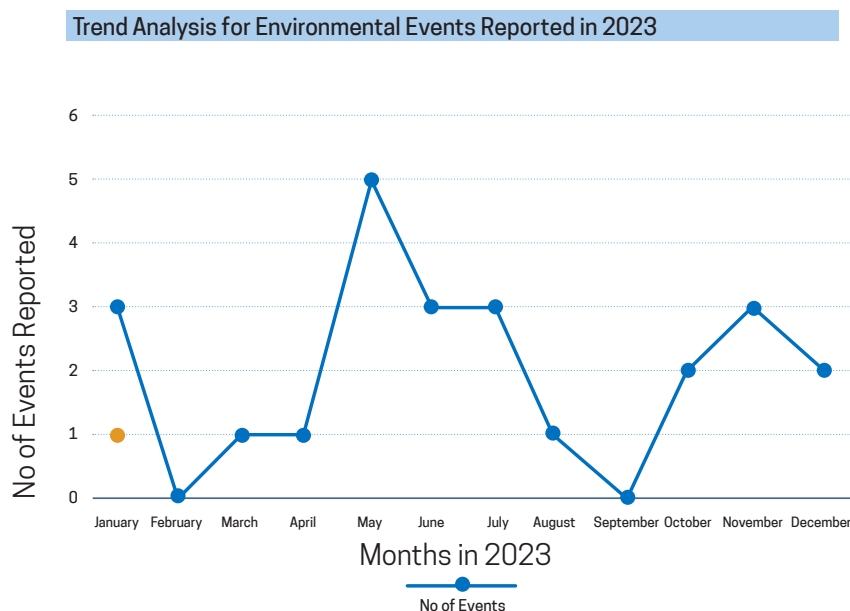


Figure: 4 Trends Analysis for Environmental Events 2023

Figure 4 shadows the trend analysis for environmental events 2023 above. Environmental situations in the year 2023 from January to December continuously fluctuated (not stable). In January, May, June, July and November there were heavy rains characterized by hail storms, floods, and flash floods. These were mostly reported in Kataho, Ryakitanga, Bikungu and Enshaka in Mitooma Districts with flash floods in Amuru, Ntoroko, Adjumani, Kasese and Kabale. The effects of the disasters emanating from heavy rainfall were hazards which included but were not limited to, the displacement of over 450 families facing starvation as hailstorm destroyed their properties like plantations and houses. In May, flash floods occasioned by torrential rains continued to wreak havoc with more people affected and roads cut off. The latest casualties were the districts neighboring river Katonga which burst its banks and washed away the bridge.

## 2.2 Environment Causes of CEWERs

Environment-related conflict indicators included heavy rains and floods, charcoal burning, deforestation, floods, water pollution, mudslides, and failure to implement environmental legislation and policies. Heavy rainfall contributed to a larger section of environmental conflicts, followed by charcoal burning, accidents caused by environmental factors, and then charcoal burning, with a few instances of flash floods.

Causes of Environmental Conflicts

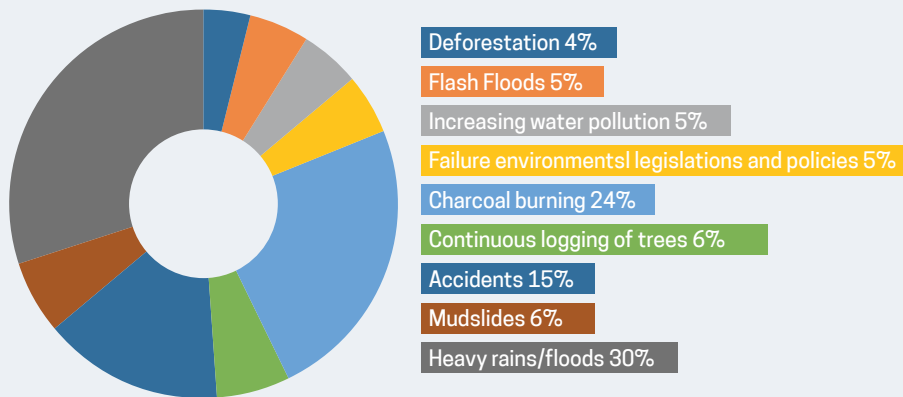


Figure 5: Environment Causes of Conflict Early Warning and Early Response 2023

Several early responses were implemented to combat the environmental causes, including, but not limited to, the Uganda People’s Defense Forces (UPDF) and Luwero Industries Limited (LIL), a subsidiary of the National Enterprise Corporation (NEC), which embarked on a tree-planting drive with the on-shore Kingfisher. The National Forestry Authority (NFA) gave UPDF 1,000 trees to begin with, but the goal is to plant 20,000 trees in two years.

President Yoweri Museveni ordered that all people in flood-prone areas vacate and resettle at least 50 meters away from river banks and 200 meters away from lake shores, and no buildings be built on hills with a gradient greater than 30 degrees. He also directed the State House Comptroller to distribute 5 million Shillings to each bereaved family and 1 million Shillings to injured individuals to cover treatment costs. By the president’s directive, commercial charcoal burning and trade were locally prohibited in the Kaabong district, and no commercial charcoal transportation was permitted.





# ECONOMY SECTOR

### 3.0 Introduction

The economy section reports on the economic situation of CEWER in 2023. It provides a regular analysis of the reported events, incidences, causes, impacts, and responses to the conflicts. To effectively report on the conflict early warning and early response situation of the year 2023, we analyzed the economy’s observable indicators as stipulated in the IGAD Reporting Manual for Field Monitors and Situation Room Officers (2019). The economic sector is defined as, the set of factors that regulate or determine the production, management, distribution, and consumption of commodities, services, and goods. In the economic sector, we constantly monitor changes in commerce and trade, focusing on disruptions in the environment for business, infrastructure to support business, accountability and transparency (corruption), irregularities in taxation, and poverty inequalities.

In 2013, the economy was fairly unstable and weak, especially in April, July, and September, partly explained by disruptions in the business environment for trade that contributed 29% of reported incidences that caused conflicts, weak infrastructure to support business explained by 27%, and weak transparency and accountability (corruption) and taxi irregularities, respectively. The economy appears to have been impacted by donor sanctions on institutions and individuals due to the passing of the Anti-homosexuality bill by the Ugandan Parliament into law. The escalation potential of the unstable economy in 2024 is predicted to be moderate, save for the implications of the anti-homosexuality bill and tax irregularities. Economic fluctuations in 2023 affected both men and women, boys and girls, people living with disabilities, but more seriously, those in the formal and informal business sectors due to disruptions in business for trade.

### 3.1 Economic Trends Analysis, 2023

Figure 4: below, shows that in 2023, monthly economic events reported increased in a high-pitched way in April, July, September and December. The increased reporting on economic events emanated from events that disrupted the environment for trade, infrastructure for business, tax irregularities and accountability and transparency. Access to business capital was numerous reported, and disruptions emanating from strikes and demonstrations emanating from unfulfilled pledges on compensation that will be affected by oil pipeline construction. Frequently reported were speculations of the impact of Anti-The homosexuality bill on the economy, transparency and accountability (corruption) that was manifest in January, February, March and somehow October. Corruption cases were reported in institutions systems and structures, like URA, but also, sources of corruption were in central, Male and Rukiga Male districts. The corruption cases of Mbale were specific to the misuse of Parish development model funds.

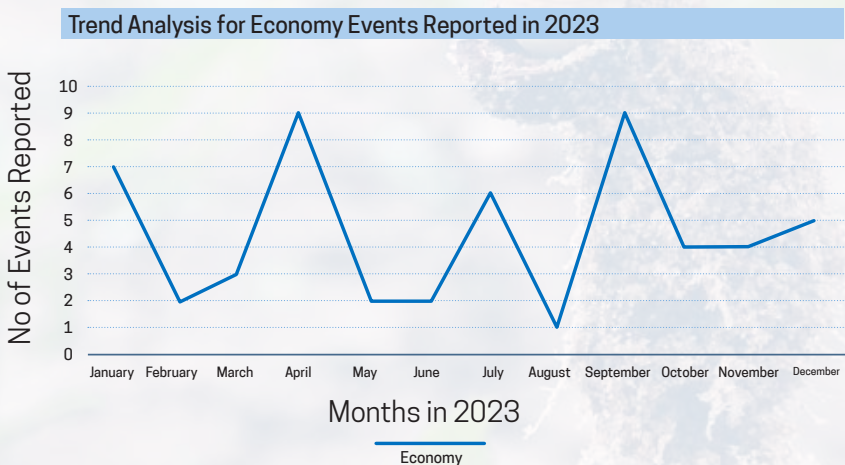


Figure 6: Trends Analysis for Economic Reported Events 2023

## 3.2 Economic Causes of CEWER

Figure 6 shows the percentage distribution of conflicts that emanated from economic factors. The major cause was disruptions in the environment for business (29%), followed by infrastructure to support business (27%), weak transparency and accountability (19%), irregularities in taxation (10%), and poverty inequalities (15%), respectively, as demonstrated in Figure 7 below.

Causes of Economic Conflicts 2023

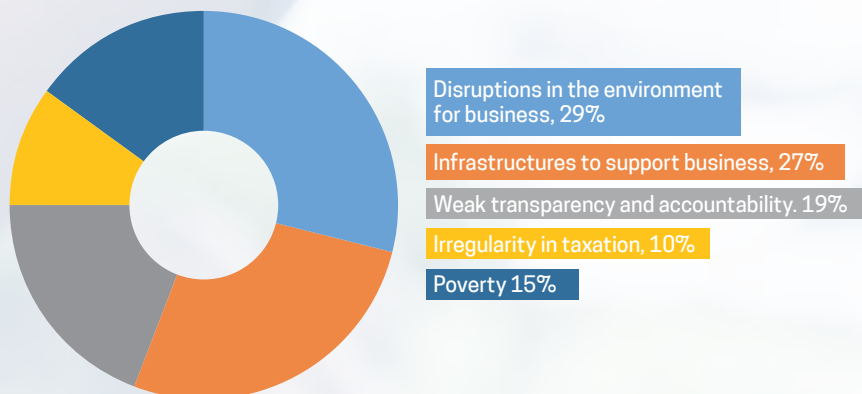


Figure 7:  
Economic Causes  
of Conflict Early  
Warning and Early  
Response 2023

As shown in Figure 7, the economic causes of conflicts progressively monitored in 2023 were disruptions in the business environment, which contributed 29%. Disruption in the environment for business was attributed to the passing of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill on May 26, 2023, by the Parliament of Uganda. By June 2023, the donor community had termed the anti-homosexuality bill retrogressive and a violation of human rights, and immediately in July 2023, the donors cut down on support for the Ugandan government. The announcement of budget cuts for government ministries and departments in the fiscal year 2023–24 was projected to negatively impact service delivery, even in the economic sector. Besides, in August 2023, the World Bank decided to pause the approval of any new public finance projects in Uganda until Ugandan authorities provide an adequate policy to protect minorities, including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and other (LGBTQ+) communities.



In 2023, economic conflicts were exacerbated by inadequate business infrastructure (27%), as well as a lack of accountability and transparency (19%). Economic corruption was a frequently reported issue. Due to a lack of accountability and transparency, officials from the Uganda Revenue Authority and the Ministry of Finance failed to collect more than Shs300 billion from unspecified gold export transactions in January 2023. Mbale City Production Officer was arrested in February 2023 for failing to account for Parish Development Model funds (which went missing), crippling the PDM program. Later, the Mbale Production officer was required to refund eight million Uganda shillings (8,000,000 UGX).

In March 2023, the Ministry of Works and Transport awarded Grand Engineering Company Limited a contract worth 650 million Ugandan shillings to construct, grade, shape, and gravel the 6.5-kilometer Kabamba-Michinga-Rusekere road. Nonetheless, the contractor never turned up. Political corruption was also evident. In January 2023, a section of the National Resistance

Movement (NRM) party leaders and supporters petitioned the Office of National Chairman (ONC), protesting corruption in the government's poverty alleviation. Programmes and unfulfilled economic presidential pledges. Hundreds of NRM supporters who gathered in Kasangati Town, Wakiso District, on Wednesday, asked Ms Hadijah Namyalo, the head of ONC and NRM Bazzukulu group, to remind the President to fulfil the pledges before the 2026 elections.

Limitations in infrastructure to support business (27%) were attributed to conflict, early warning, and response situations. In October 2023, a lack of logistics was highlighted as the major bottleneck to the effective implementation of the Parish Development Model (PDM) in Masaka district. Reports indicated that the district was facing challenges in serving its targeted beneficiaries and was forced to seek funds

from Parish Savings and Credit Cooperatives (SACCOs). Correspondingly, there is a lack of equipment and internet bundles for data entry and transmission.

This situation of logistic inadequacies was coupled with income inequalities, a deprived state of well-being, and unstable purchasing power, all of which were attributed to poverty, measured at 10%. The 2023 economic situation was moderately fluctuating, with moderate disruptions in the business environment and infrastructure, often attributed to corruption as the primary cause of economic conflicts. In conclusion, the Anti-Homosexuality Bill's aftermath disrupted commerce and trade in 2023, necessitating government strategies to improve infrastructure, combat tax irregularities, and combat economic corruption.





# SOCIAL SECTOR

## 4.0 Introduction

This section provides information on conflict, early warning, and early response to social situations in the country in 2023. It covers the analysis of reported events from January to December 2023 in the CEWARN reporting tool, frequently updated by the Field Monitors (FMs) and Situation Room staff under the CEWERU department. The changes in social situations were measured against key indicators: social health, education, gender, identity, and tradition, which focused on social norms, beliefs, practices, and social quality of life. It was established that the general social situation in 2023 was moderate.

This was illuminated by CEWER emanating from the social quality of life, which contributed to 35% of the conflicts, followed by social health at 24%. Compared to conflicts emanating from traditional norms, beliefs, and community practices, which stood at 4%, there was some moderate social conflict emanating from education, quality of life, and gender. The trend analysis of reported social events in 2023 revealed a significant increase in social events in February, May, August, and October, which can be attributed to social quality of life and social health incidences reported. Particularly a lack of health equipment and operational licenses, enforcement of the law on operational licenses, shortage of health equipment, and unprofessionalism of the health workers.

## 4.1 Social Trends Analysis

Figure 8, the Line graph below shows the trends for social events reported in 2023. In February, May, and September and partly in October and December social events were increasingly reported. The increase was explained by the social quality of life, social health and events related to refugees and migration.

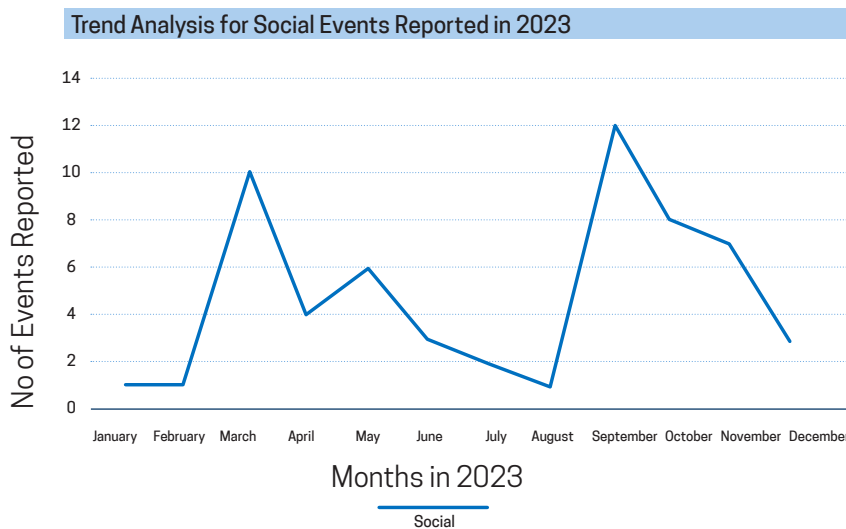


Figure 8: The graph showing the trend of reported social situations / events in 2023 which continuously fluctuated (not stable) in March, May, September October and December.

## 4.2 Social Causes of Conflict 2023

The conflict early warning and early response that are social reported in this section were social health, education, quality of life, gender and identity. It was established that conflicts emanating from social health were moderately the same as social conflicts emanating from education, quality of life and gender. The causes of conflict early warning and early responses were categorized as, social health, education that measures the social situations in education, social quality of life focusing on quality of social life, clean water, livelihoods and low levels of food insecurity. Also analysed was the social gender



and identity that focused on incidences of religion, ethnicity, identity stigmatization marginalization and discrimination. Also, social traditions, examine rigid norms, beliefs, and practices. Social pastoralism measures the cause of food insecurities, occasional threats to transhumance and inclusive change of livelihood amongst other causes. Incidences of conflict in which Social Migration was analyzed and this focused on forced displacement, population movement, unregulated seasonal worker’s movement, and the unregulated labour movement. Figure: 3 Shows, categorized social causes of conflict. Social quality of life contributed 35%, social health 24%, and migrations (refugees) contributed 13%. Gender and identities contributed 11%, and tradition and pastoralism made 4% each respectively.

Causes of Social Conflicts 2023

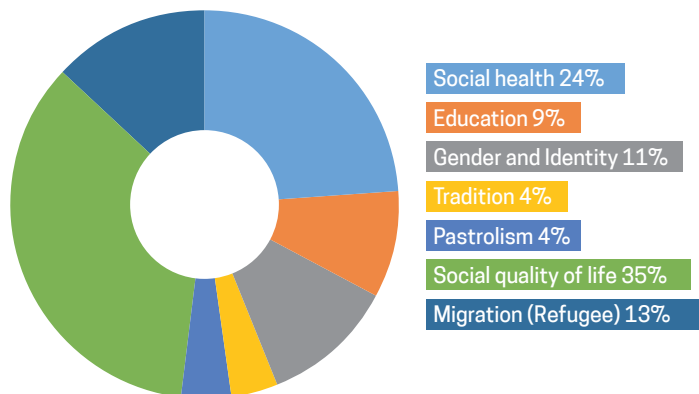


Figure 9: Showing percentage distribution of social causes of Early Conflict and Early response reported in 2023

### 4.2.1 Social Health

Conflict Early Warning and Early Response incidents that were likely to create conflicts that are social health in nature contributed 24%, as shown in the figure above. This situation was caused by a lack of operational licenses and unqualified workers running drug shops. In March 2023 alone, almost 21 drug shops and 7 pharmacies were impounded, and 109 boxes of assorted medicines worth Shs30 million were confiscated. It was reported in the Auditor General report that at least 40 pieces of essential medical equipment for disease detection and patient management at Mulago National Referral Hospital were non-functional.



This social health situation was compounded by a shortage of equipment for diagnostics and curative care. It was established that 10 billion Uganda shillings were needed to repair and maintain machines whose non-functionality has affected care at the facility. However, the donor community has deteriorated the situation by announcing that the health sector will lose 400 million UDD dollars meant for HIV/AIDS care and treatment. The cause of the funding cut was anti-homosexuality.

The situation of social health was also affected by the disconnection of water from all government hospitals in the country because of non-payment of water bills. The social health situation was weak causality and emergency health care section to handle accident victims. The outbreak of anthrax in Kabira Sub-county, Kyotera District which had potential for escalation in other districts was a potential cause for social health issues. Despite the social health challenges, there was moderate response adequacy for social health. On December 24, 2023, in Kampala, Mulago National Referral Hospital officially launched its first successful kidney transplant surgery program. His Excellency President Museveni had a dialogue with a group of surgeons who performed the first kidney transplant in Uganda at the facility.

### 4.3.2 Social Quality of Life

Social quality of life contributed 37% to the reported causes and responses of social conflicts. This was characterized by partial access to clean and safe water, a pitiable (poor) road network and a sorry state of roads, limited access to electricity, a low level of food insecurity, cases of malnutrition, and a lack of employable skills for the youth. In 2023, the responses to the social quality of life were moderate and critical. Among the responses seen was access to quality and safe water.

In Zombo Town Council in the West Nile region, the government of Uganda, in partnership with the government of Germany, initiated a 5.3 billion-dollar project aimed at providing clean water. Residents of Zombo, the town council, Nyepea Sub-county, Athuma, Aliza, and Ajere Hills were to benefit from this water project. Also, under the same project, 10 toilet stances were to be constructed in Zombo's main market, Zombo Lower Primary School. The office block of the National Water and Sewage Cooperation was to be constructed in Zombo. Generally, the issue of clean and safe water was planned to be addressed with the provision of a piped water supply. The government had earmarked 250 million shillings to boost the water supply in Masaka district to address the issue of water shortages. In the Acholi subregion, 22,000 households were to be connected to piped water, as pledged by the Ministry of Water and Environment. Also, motorized boreholes were to be built in Nwoya and Lamwo communities.

A noticeable cause of conflict in social quality of life was the issue of addressing the dilapidated road network. On March 10, 2023, chaos engulfed the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) due to accountability issues on roads to be constructed with World Bank findings. World Bank funding was secured to speed up road construction in most parts of Uganda. In Mbarara and Kabale



Municipalities, contractors were argued to speed up the process and complete road construction in the stipulated time. Generally, because of the sorry state of roads in the country, the government embarked on road repair, beginning with Kampala. The sorry state of the roads was attributed to poor workmanship.

Other responses were on dealing with household poverty. In Kampala Ghetto Youth SACCO was given 1.2 billion shillings, and to increase household income in Apac districts, the National Animal Genetic Resources Center and Data Bank (NAGRC and DB) gave out 120 oxen (Ox- ploughs) to farmers to open up gardens. Also, the government is committed to fighting malnutrition among children. Besides, parliament passed an employment amendment bill on May 24th, putting in place stringent conditions for employers to contract casual workers and punitive measures for those who contravene the law. The scarcity of jobs has left young people unemployed and resorted to selling land in search of jobs abroad. However, in Northern Uganda, some are under rehabilitation. On December 16, 2023, in Gulu, the government secured a facility in Gulu City to host 150 former Lord's Resistance Army rebels for rehabilitation.



### 4.3.3 Social Education

Social education conflicts contributed 9%, and this emanated from education policies, including controversies over the education curriculum. On May 23, 2023, a British university rejected a Ugandan graduate because the National Council for Higher Education had already classified the courses the student applied for as “Expired” yet some students in Uganda were still studying the same courses classified as expired by the

National Council of Higher Education. The implications and employability of young people who had completed the courses termed “expired” conflictual and impulsive.

The Ministry of Education and Sports had financial inadequacies equivalent to 1.6 trillion (USD 450 million). Due to financial inadequacies, the education response plan that was to benefit 600,000 learners from refugee camps and host communities could not be implemented. Besides, on September 30, 2023, the

Ministry of Education issued guidelines on the timeline for all teacher teachers, including those teaching primary schools, to go back and obtain a Bachelor’s degree in education as the minimum qualification for teachers. This complied with the education transformative teacher policy of 2019, which phased out lower teacher qualifications. Teachers teaching at the nursery, and primary levels were mandated to hold a Bachelor’s degree by 2030. Conflicting opinions by teachers, legislators, and the general community attracted conflictual debates. Unexpected disruptions in social education stemmed from the global pandemic COVID-19, along with other complications such as delays in enacting the requisite legislation on the establishment, of the Teacher Council and the Uganda National Institute of Teacher Education.

### 4.3.4 Gender and Identity

Gender- and identity-reported incidents of conflict stood at 11%. The major causes are modest discrimination in sexual identity legislation on homosexuality and LGBTQ bills. On February 16, 2023, President Museveni, in his speech to mark the late Archbishop Janani Luumu’s day in Mucwini Sub County, Kitgum District, applauded the church of Uganda for rebuking Canterbury over same-sex marriages. On March 29, 2023, Parliament passed the Anti homosexuality bill amidst claims and threats to legislators who supported and opposed the bill.

On October 23, 2023, the US issued an advisory, the second in four months since the Anti-gay law was passed, informing its citizens to be careful while in Uganda or doing business in the country. Some of the American companies on alert included, but were not limited to, Citibank, FedEx, Ernst & Young, Deloitte, Price Waterhouse Coopers, and American Tower Corporation. The passing of the Anti-homosexuality bill did not only increase conflictual relationships with legislators but also interreligious counsel, and there were religious leaders’ blames and counter-blames, which were likely to escalate conflicts.

There were isolated cases of gender and identity aligned with prohibiting pregnant students from sitting for Uganda’s national examinations and discriminating against those who had not paid school fees to completion. Also unique to the conflict was the court attachment on Muslim property worth over 19 billion Uganda shillings. On November 21, 2023, the Court issued an “attack 8” order. The properties to be attached are land comprised in leasehold register volume KKCA 149 Folio 16, land at Kampala City William Street 30, land comprised in leasehold register volume 2771 Folio 2, Old Kampala Plot 23-25, Kyadondo Block 195 Plot 5463, land at Kyanja, and one square mile of land at Bukwe and Hoima. This was aligned with a warrant of attachment and sale of immovable property ordered by the commercial division of the High Court on November 16, 2022. This event was predicted to cause more conflicts.

### 4.3.5 Tradition and Pastoralism

On October 14, 2023, in Mbale City, the new cultural leader of Inzu ye Bamasaba, His Highness Jude Mike Mudoma, was installed on Saturday as Umukhukha III of the Bamasaba Cultural Institution after three years of a bitter leadership crisis that had engulfed the institution. Mutoto Cultural Ground in Mbale City is where the ceremony took place. On September 13, 2023, it was reported that, since 2014, when HRH Wilberforce Gabula Nadiope IV was enthroned as the king of Busoga, celebrations have always been held at his royal palace in Igenge in Bugembe Jinja city. This time around, the ceremony is now being held at the Kigulu chiefdom in Iganga

district. On this very occasion, the coronation of the Inhe Bantu (wife to Kyabazinga), Her Royal Highness Mutesi Jovia has also taken place.

### 4.3.6 Pastoralism.

On October 13, 2023, in Apaa, Amuru district, 217 Balaalo herdsmen were evicted with their families and cows loaded onto trucks, which later were offloaded in Kitgum against the presidential directive of evicting these herdsmen. The President halted the eviction of Balaalo from Northern Uganda pending further dialogues with stakeholders. Thousands of heads of cattle belonging to the Balaalo are spread out across the region, and attempts to evict them have been futile. President Museveni extended the eviction. “I hereby extend the deadline of the Executive Order to the 30th of September, 2023. Museveni said, “The only issues to take care of are: No kwoneseza wananchi” loosely translated that the Balaalo cattle should stop trampling on farmers’ crops, and the answer for that is strong fencing, providing on-farm water, and legally buying or leasing the land to the Balaalo, and avoiding the practice of exploiting the knowledge gap between the immigrants (the Bafurukyi) and the Bataka (the indigenous people), where they collude with a few individuals in the family or clan to make the purchases, yet the land does not belong to the individuals.” Almost 80,000 heads of cattle in northern Uganda belonged to non-compliant migrant cattle keepers who failed to fence off their land, thus causing conflicts between cattle keepers and the local community crop growers.



### 4.3.7 Migration

Social migration events or incidences were reported as very rare and low and accounted for 13% of the total social conflict events reported. But during the World Refugee Day celebrations held on June 20, 2023, in the Palabek refugee settlement in Lamwa districts, celebrants were informed by the guest speaker that there was a surge of fighting and persecution worldwide, and this has augmented the population seeking settlement in other countries. On July 14, 2023, in Kampala, the European Union donated 24 billion shillings (6 million euros) to support refugees in Uganda. The EU pledged continued support for Uganda's refugee response, including providing humanitarian assistance and development support to refugees. Uganda currently hosts 5 million refugees, many of them from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, because of the instability of two neighbouring

Trafficking of migrant workers was reported as a major migration issue, and on 15th July 2023, employees of Middle East Consultants company

were convicted for attempting 50 migrant workers. This was in line with the international crime division. In the related incident of human trafficking, a senior secondary school student in Kapeka Senior Secondary Schools has detained for trafficking 170 youths, promising them employment in outside countries. Also, the woman, not identified by name, was arrested for recruiting students, and 98 students fell victim, especially the students from Nansana, Kyengera, Bukomero, Butambala, Kasese, Fortpotal, and Kyegegwa. The students were paid between Shs 50,000 to 100,000 to motivate them to be trafficked. In a related incident on November 14, 2023, more than 1000 Congolese refugees fled to Bundibugyo district following attacks by suspected allied Democratic Alliance labels suspected of attacking refugee camps. Inadequacies of logistics to fund refugee needs were raised by the World Food Program and there is a need for 298 Billion shillings to support food and livelihood for refugees hosted in Uganda. All donors and government and charity organisations across the world fund refugee needs.





THE PARLIAMENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

# GOVERNANCE SECTOR

## 5.1 Introduction

This section reports on Conflict Early Warning and Early Response to Governance Situations in the country in the year 2023. It covers reported events from January to December 2023 reported in the CEWARN reporting tool updated by the Field Monitors (FMs). The causes of governance conflicts ranged from corruption in the public service, failure to implement government programs, nepotism, power fights, political influence peddling, illegal assembly, and violation of human rights (anti-gay legislation).

Others were unfulfilled presidential pledges, demonstrations, petitions, dissident activities, border disputes, political reforms, promotion of impunity, political parties' intra-rivalries, land disputes, politics of identity, antagonism between the state and cultural institutions, tribal conflicts undermining privacy rights, and inter- and intra-religious wars. Also reported are the responses undertaken to prevent and mitigate the situations. The general governance causes of conflicts were categorized as due process and dissent, fairness, equity, justice, elections, and campaigns. Embezzlement or swindling of public funds hampered service delivery.

## 5.2 Governance Trends Analysis

The graph below presents the trends Analysis for Governance events reported in 2023.

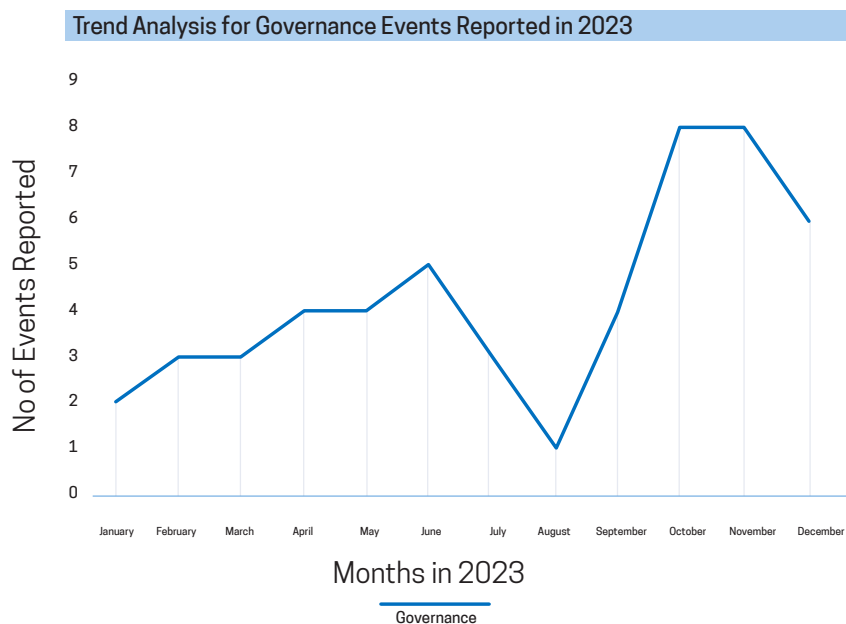


Figure 10: The graph above shows that the Governance situations in the year 2023 from January to December continuously fluctuated (not stable).

In the months of June, October and November there was a rise in governance issues. The rise was described by indicators such as fairness, Equality and Justice, and matters related to corruption especially in June. It was also observed that in October and November governance issues were high because the state and non-state actors failed to observe human liberties and human rights, and silencing the political agitators.

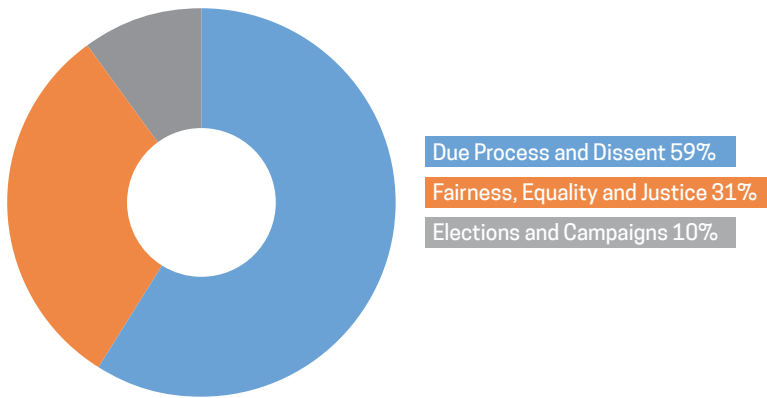


Figure 11: Showing percentage distribution of governance causes of Early Conflict and Early response reported in 2023



## 5.3 Causes of Governance Conflict in 2023

The conflict early warning and early response that are governance in nature reported in this section were categorized as; due process and dissent, fairness, equality and justice, elections, and campaigns. The responses to addressing countering governance issues were mechanisms for accountability and the availability of functioning avenues for settling grievances. The detailed causes of conflict, early warning, and early responses to governance are discussed below.

### 5.3.1 Due Process and Dissent

Due process and dissent contributed to 46% of the governance events reported. Among the reported events in this category were; targeted repression, limiting organized dissent, and protection against vague laws. Other observable events include arrests and detentions, unfair trials, the use of excessive force by security operatives, and the suppression of civil liberties and rights. For example, on March 9, 2023, MPs introduced legislation to Parliament that proposes tough new penalties for same-sex relations in a country where homosexuality is already illegal, defying criticism from human rights groups. Other examples of targeted repression and limiting organized dissent were evident on April 27, 2023, when police arrested about 11 female opposition legislators who led peaceful demonstrators to the Ministry of Internal Affairs to deliver a petition against police and other security agencies, which often frustrate dissident activities, including rallies. Limits on protests to suppress dissent, e.g., On October 9, 2023, police arrested Uganda’s opposition leaders and supporters of the National Unity Platform (NUP), who were taken and detained at Kira Road and other police stations around the city. Referring to the Figure 11 -pie chart shown above, due process and dissent account for 46%.



### 5.3.2 Fairness, Equality and Justice

Analyzed also the legal processes, exercising due process, rule of law, equality, and minority rights through observable occurrences such as the allocation of state and natural resources and the delivery of services in such a way that it is not perceived to be discriminatory, hate speech, impartiality, and fair procedures, e.g. On June 12, 2023, the police spokesperson, SCP Enanga Fred, issued a statement saying that 13 police officers were being subjected to disciplinary action for torturing a group of Muslim youths whom they had purportedly gone to rescue from the home (alleged rehabilitation center) of Sheik Muhammad Yunus Kamoga, located in Ttula zone, Kawempe division, North of Kampala City. On June 1, 2023, while in a meeting in Munyonyo, opposition leaders pushed for political reforms.

The proposal resurrected included addressing the militarization of politics, defining the role of the army and other security agencies in the politics of the country, and returning term limits, equality, and minority rights through observable occurrences such as the allocation of state and natural resources, e.g. On October 15, 2023, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni affirmed that the government intends to set up a consolidated package of wealth creation and poverty alleviation for the people of Karamoja in order to defeat hunger and make sure that they grow enough food collectively but also help them do it individually. Delivery of services in such a way that it is not perceived to be discriminatory or hate speech, e.g., On October 9, 2023, in Kitgum at Boma grounds, President Museveni urged Ugandans to shun politics of identity to ensure prosperity. He emphasized politics of interest rather than identity and the elimination of corruption. According to Figure 11 or the pie chart shown above, fairness, equality, and justice account for 44%.

### 5.3.3 Elections and Campaigns

Also analyzed were the enactment and modification of electoral processes and institutions, bribery, and campaigns focusing on rallies, intimidation, detentions, and the unfairness of transferring resources in return for votes. Campaigns focusing on rallies, e.g. On July 13, there was an escalation of FDC internal fights as reconciliation committee chairman Dr Frank Nabwiso resigned as a result of a lack of cohesion within the party, citing interference in the mediation process. Bribery, e.g., the crux of the matter in FDC started with the funds (7 billion shillings) that were allegedly brought to the party by Nandala Mafabi, whose source has remained unknown and there is no proper accountability for it in terms of activities or lack of transparency. Other issues of contention included misuse of IPOD money and alleged selling out the party during the 2021 general elections, a deal which was purportedly brokered with the NRM government to weaken FDC.

Nevertheless, Amuriat denied the claims. Enactment and modification of electoral legislation, e.g. On December 22, 2023, in Kampala, the National Unity Platform (NUP) appointed Nakawa West MP Joel Ssenyonyi as the new Leader of Opposition in Parliament (LOP), replacing Mathias Mpuuga Nsamba. Speaking at the party headquarters in Kampala, Robert Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, the President of NUP, said the new appointments shouldn't be seen as a demotion of Mpuuga but rather as the party living to its spirit of changing leadership. According to the pie chart (Figure 11) shown above, elections and campaigns account for 10%.

In all, most of the governance issues are characterized and influenced by corruption tendencies, violation of human rights, riots, demonstrations, bribery, land grabbing, border disputes, and abuse of office consequently causing governance issues to escalate in June, October and November 2023.



# SECURITY SECTOR

## 6.0 Introduction

This section reports on conflict early warning and early response security situations in the country in 2023. It covers reported events from January to December 2023 reported in the CEWARN reporting tool updated by the Field Monitors (FMs). The changes in security situations were measured against key indicators in the context of CEWARN: armed conflict, violence, personal safety, torture, and terrorism. It was established that the general security situation in 2023 was inconsistent, as per the trend in the figure below.

## 6.1 Security Trends Analysis

The graph below presents the trend analysis for security events reported in 2023.

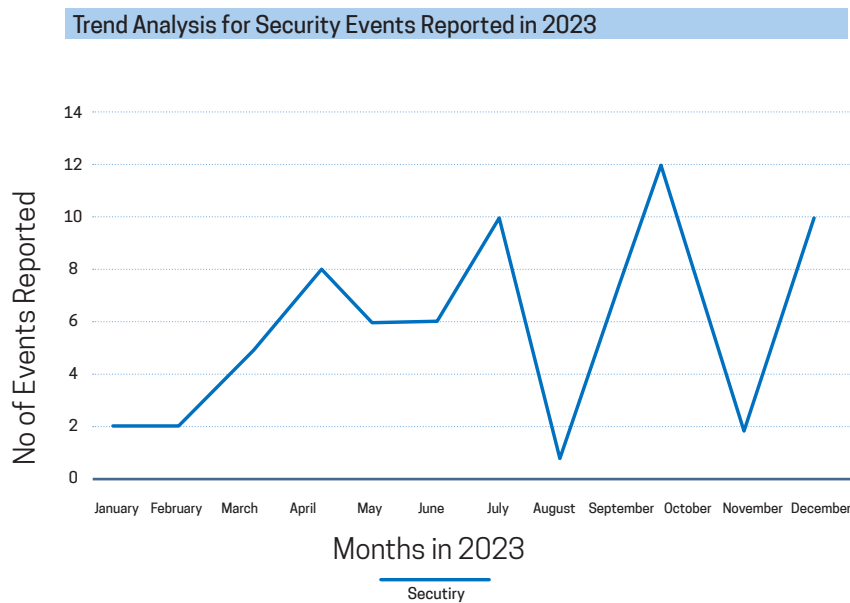


Figure 12: The graph above shows that the security situations in the year 2023 from January to December continuously fluctuated (not stable).

Figure 12 above shows that the security situations in the year 2023 from January to December continuously fluctuated (not stable). The trend analysis of reported security events in 2023 indicated a sharp increase in security events in April, July, September, and December. These peaks are explained by various forms of murder: cattle rustling, illegal possession of firearms, kidnaps, resurgence of weapons, local assassinations, and high proliferation of small arms, terror attacks, and starvation to death. Conflicts related to the illegal possession of firearms were reported more in the Karamoja region, followed by Western regions, especially in Kasese and nearby districts, as demonstrated by the distribution of security in regions, as shown in Figure 13. .

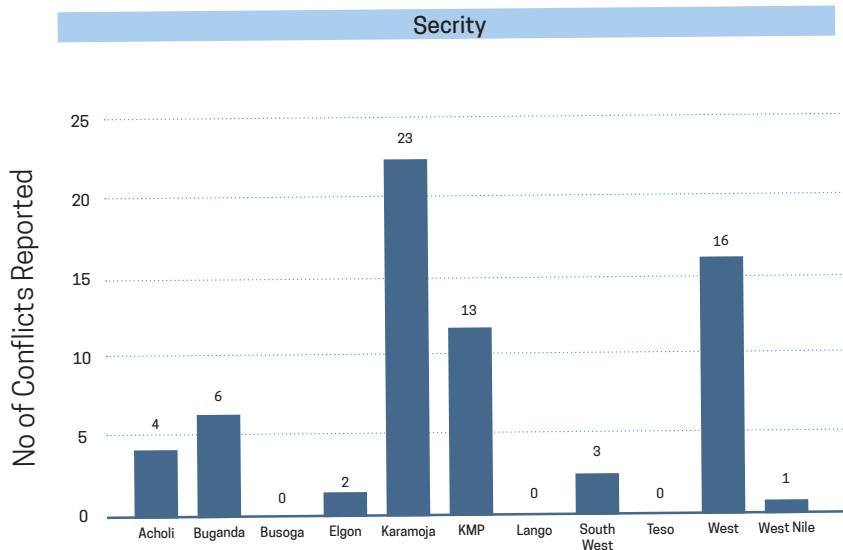


Figure 13 Distribution of reported Security events in regions. Karamoja region registered the highest number of incidences of illegal arms and the Western region

## 6.2 Security Causes of CEWER

Figure 11: shows the percentage distribution of conflicts that emanated from security factors. The major cause was an armed conflict (37%), Followed by Terrorism and Violence both at (23%) and personal safety at (17%) as demonstrated in Figure 11 below:

Causes of Security Conflicts 2023

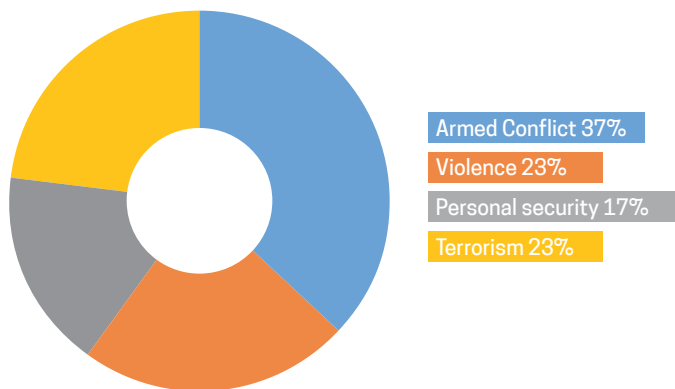


Figure 14: Showing percentage distribution of security causes of Early Conflict and Early response reported in 2023

### 6.2.1 Armed Conflict

Armed conflict was investigated using parameters such as intense fights and excessive use of firearms, e.g., in the matter dated January 21, 2023, in Lwengo, where police hunted for runaway suspects after the recovery of two guns abandoned by an unidentified man at the home of Pastor Mark Kaliisa in Kalegero village. Another incident that was observed and involved the use of firearms was dated March 10, 2023, in Kasese district, where a gun loaded with 10 rounds of ammunition was dumped at the home of Asasio Kayahika, Kagongo village, Nyakatonzi subcounty. According to credible sources, the area had experienced a spate of robberies.



Also encountered in the analysis is the incident dated April 8, 2023, in Moroto district, where security forces made a breakthrough in criminal cells at the Lokeriaut hideout and recovered 31 rifles, 32 magazines, 19 bows and arrows, and 3 security uniform parts in a single cordon and search operation, having realized that they were the same weapons that were disturbing Moroto municipality and other urban centers. At the center of it all were 129 suspects, the majority of whom were Turkana of Kenya and Matheniko of Moroto.

Involving gun misuse was an incident that occurred. On April 13, 2023, a notorious warrior by the name of Lokong Lopustom Lochamacia, a resident of Napumpum town board in Kotido district, was gunned down by the UPDF after a serious exchange of fire in Lokuri village, Loderia parish, and Panyangara sub-county. He died with his two fighters, i.e., Etheye Lorion Nagiatuk and Kiyong Apagiwai, and a 01 SMG rifle was charged at them. We recorded continued attacks in the neighbouring districts by Karamajong warriors in areas of Agago district, where on April 28,

2023, seven suspected armed Karamojong warriors were arrested by the Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF). We registered increased attacks on innocent civilians and UPDF officers. For instance, on July 2, 2023, unidentified suspected Jie warriors armed with six AK47 guns killed four people, including a local leader and two UPDF officers, in the restive Karamoja subregion. Armed cattle rustling in Karamoja intensified in May for instance on 3rd May 2023 at Lokeraut Kraal in Napak district, the kraal was attacked by the armed rustlers who raided an unknown number of cattle. Similarly, on 13th May 2023 suspected Turkana warriors attacked the 405 brigade in Nakaperimoru sub-county, Kotido district and successfully raided an unknown number of animals. On May 14th three people were shot dead by suspected raiding armed Jie warriors at Morukori while raiding at Kalapatani Lokido Sub County in Kaabong district. Relatedly, on 2nd July 2023 in Kotido district a Jie warrior killed four people including a local leader and two UPDF officers' in the restive Karamoja sub-region. Armed conflicts accounted for 37% in the year 2023 as indicated in the pie chart above.

## Conflict Early Responses

On July 15, 2023, in a bid to create harmony, the Sebei community from Uganda and the Pokot community from Kenya held a peace meeting at Kanyerus to foster peace between the two communities. Leaders from both countries were reconciled and encouraged to maintain peace. Besides, to maintain tight security along the Uganda, Rwanda and DRC borderline, security forces in Kisoro district arrested illegal entrants from DRC who were armed with two hand grenades. Upon further interrogation and search one submachine gun, and 64 rounds of ammunition were recovered. The suspects were arraigned in courts of law, charged, conceded and requested for forgiveness.

In the restive Karamoja subregion in July, August, and September, 112 guns were retrieved by the joint forces. The joint forces extended an offer of amnesty to former cattle raiders, urging them to abandon their weapons and choose peace for the betterment of the Karamoja region. Brigadier General Busizoori, the deputy commander of the third infantry division, announced that the security situation in the Karamoja sub-region has significantly improved since the amnesty window was extended. The region has experienced a reduction in serious raids, particularly in North Karamoja, which includes Kaabong, Kotido, and Abim, which previously faced numerous raids.

To create harmony between the Pokot and the Pian communities, Pokot leaders in Amudat district came to a consensus with security forces to work together to end the raging raids and other criminal activities including attempts to attack security forces. Subsequently, the security forces conducted a peace meeting with the Amudat leaders and the West Pokot officials from Kenya on 25th December 2023. To harmonize the disagreement and integrate them into the peace process as well as handle the existing tension. They suggested working together amicably with security forces if peace is to be restored.

To eliminate the ADF rebel activities, the UPDF successfully engaged and neutralized a group of rebels that had infiltrated the country in areas of Kibaale National Park, Kamwenge district, and

Lake Albert between November and December 2023. Those that were put out of action are some of the top commanders, like Njovu, aka Abdul Rashid Kyoto/Bufalo, and Musa Kamusi.

For purposes of reducing commercialized cattle raids security forces on 30th December 2023 in Moroto, moved a step to regulate the livestock markets and animal transportation routes and due to those effective measures the region started experiencing relative peace. It was also noted that the presidential directives beefed the security forces to manage the operations and reclaim peace in the region.

## 6.2.2 Violence

It was observed that there were different forms of conflict, including but not limited to gun violence, brutal murders, and unlawful assemblies. On the issue of gun violence, several incidents were registered in the period under review, e.g., the murder of Charles Okello Engola Kiwatule, the killing of blogger Ibrahim Tusubira in Kyanja, a Kampala suburb; the killing of Uttam Bhandari, an Indian by nationality, at Raja Chambers, Kampala city center; the killing of Justus Ssempewo, a motorcycle rider in Kakumiro district; the shooting to death of Ronnie Mukisa, a city lawyer working with the IBC Advocate from Makindye Sabagabo municipality; the killing of two soldiers attached to the mountain brigade; the shooting of Kenneth Opobo, a mobile money agent in Gulu city; and the murder of Opio Balaam in Kaabong district. Other murders involving security personnel have happened in areas of Mubende and Arua districts, respectively.

Under brutal murders, some died as a result of assault, suicide, the use of sharp objects, and in other cases, using blunt objects to harm the citizens and stabbing people to death. Registered also are unlawful assemblies by inciting violence, referring to the current Buvuma district member of Parliament who gathered people without police permission, and also a violent demonstration caused by youth activists in Kampala city. Another critical conflict involved the border communities between Uganda and Kenya, where there had been long-standing clashes in the past ten years (2013–2023) of cattle rustling and banditry between the Sebei

community from Uganda and the Pokot from neighbouring Kenya, sometimes causing the deaths of innocent people. Violence accounted for 23% of conflict issues for the year 2023, as shown in the pie chart above.

## Response to Violent conflicts

On June 12, 2023, it was reported that at the Nadunget Security checkpoint in Moroto District, six stolen cows were recovered from four trucks that were intercepted. Hence Traders dealing in livestock are demanding the government suspend all the cattle markets in the Karamoja region until they get permanent solutions to end the commercialized cattle raids in the Karamoja subregion. According to the traders, they are facing several challenges, ranging from distant designated routes to the impounding of animals by security suspected to have been stolen, among others.



### 6.2.3 Terrorism

Terrorism contributed 23% to the reported causes and responses to security conflicts. This situation was caused by Alshabaab terrorists' deadly attack on Ugandan troops in Somalia on May 26, 2023, where 54 soldiers serving under the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) in the area of Bulo-Mareer lost their lives. Several internal attacks by suspected Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels in different parts of the country were recorded. On June 16, 2023, at around 11:30 p.m., suspected ADF rebels attacked Lhubirira secondary

school in Mpondwe, located 2 km from the DRC border in Kasese district, leaving 25 students dead instantly, 8 severely injured, and over 30 abducted.

On September 3, 2023, a joint police team intercepted a suspected terrorist by the name of Abdulhuman, a 28-year-old resident of Buwama subcounty, Mpigi district, who had disguised himself as a churchgoer, and recovered an IED at the main entrance of the Miracle Center church and three IEDs at his rented house in Lunguja zone 8, Lubaga division, Kampala City. On October

13, 2023, suspected ADF rebels burned a vehicle registration number UBM 624 ML Benz box body carrying produce to DRC along the road at Katoho-Rusese-Katwe junction in Nyakiyumbu sub-county, Kasese district, where one passenger died, two others were injured, and one escaped unhurt. This was followed by another deadly attack. On October 17, 2023, three people were killed in a terrorist attack in Queen Elizabeth National Park, and their vehicles were burned. The victims were David Jim Barlow, a British national aged 50; Emmaretia Celia Geyer, a South African national aged 51; and 40-year-old Ugandan driver Eric Alyai, a resident of Entebbe.

On October 18, 2023, Bushenyi district was put on high alert following the distribution of leaflets in four schools believed to be from the ADF rebels in Kyamuhunga sub-county, Bushenyi district. The leaflets warned that the ADF would attack the four schools if they did not close within two weeks and also threatened to kill any teachers or students who remained at the schools after the deadline. On December 26, 2023, in Kamwenge, suspected rebels of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) killed three people in Kamwenge district. The dead include Adrine Ngwabijji, 78, and her two grandchildren. The attackers made off with ten goats and five cows. The attack came a week after suspected ADF rebels killed 10 people around the Kibaale forest. The victims were watching over their crops to protect them from being destroyed by monkeys when they were killed. This followed another incident. On December 30, 2023, an explosive device was discovered at a fuel station in Kadindimo trading center, Kadindimo parish, Rwimi Sub County, along Kasese Road, approximately six meters away from the fuel pump in Bunyangabu District. On December 31, 2023, the bomb squad reported the detonation of an improvised explosive device (IED) in the busy Kataba slum, Kabalagara-Munyonyo area.



## Terrorism Responses

On July 2, 2023, the Joint Anti-Terrorism Task Force (JATT) disabled three suspected allied democratic force (ADF) terrorists in an operation that started in Kampala city and ended in Kiboga district, Lwamata sub-county, Nsala parish, and Tondo village. A fire exchange ensued between JATT and the three suspected ADF terrorists, who were later put out of action, including Shakur Othman, who was leading the team to identify where the terrorists were hiding. This was followed by the July 3, 2023, directive, where all security agencies across the country were put on high alert to avert any possible terror threat targeting both local and foreign nationals in Uganda. Responding to the UK government's warning in its foreign travel advice in June 2023 that terrorists are likely to carry out attacks in Uganda. The army spokesperson, Brig. Kulaigye Felix said that Uganda has no specific security threat; however, he hastened to add that citizens must become vigilant and work with security to defeat every threat. It was further mentioned that terrorism is a threat across the world, and you are



aware that the UK itself, the USA, and France have been attacked before. The security agents here have been on alert, and that is why we can burst terror cells wherever they are located.

On 29/09/2023, a security meeting was held among the top security officers in Ntoroko district at Karugutu Town Council Ntoroko District over the insecurities in Ntoroko port on Lake Albert in Kanara Town Council. Among the issues discussed are the DRC water pirates illegal fishing and ADF in the DRC since DRC neighbours Uganda particularly most sub-counties in the district. The meeting was headed by RDC Ntoroko District Major Johns Mugabirwe and Brigadier Gen. Micheal Nyarwa Marine Force commandant.

On October 15, 2023, the president of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, informed all Ugandans in a statement to be on alert due to the infiltration of ADF remnants after a hot pursuit inside the DRC in four huge rebel camps. Consequently, the terrorists' attacks are aimed at unleashing havoc inside the country. The public is, therefore, informed to look out for strange people that come to your area and report them to the area police or local authority for further management. This was followed by a joint security operation carried out on October 18, 2023, where five rebels of suspected ADF who were pretending to be mad people in Kasese town, Kinyamaseke,

## 6.2.4 Personal Safety

Conflict early warning and early response incidents that were likely to create personal safety conflicts in nature contributed 17%, as shown in the figure above. This situation was caused by isolated kidnaps, cattle rustling, human trafficking, and starvation. For instance, on February 13, 2023, a Ugandan doctor by the name of Gideon Wamasebu Simuyu, 62, feared

to have been kidnapped, murdered, and secretly buried by a pastor he moved with to Webuye in Kakamega County, Kenya.

Another cause of cattle rustling, for instance, On April 16, 2023, suspected Turkana rustlers raided and swept all the cattle in the Lamonok government-protected kraal; 792 cows, 86 goats, and sheep were stolen at about 12:18 am in Karenga district. On April 17, 2023, the LC2 Chairperson of Loderia parish, a resident of Loderia village by the name of Lokwii Bodmas in Panyangara sub-county, Kotido district, was gunned down in his house by unknown gun-wielding men suspected warriors who thought he was cooperating with security organs. The following day, on April 18, 2023, an old lady commonly known as Grandmother Lucia Apeyok, a resident of Abim district, Alerek subcounty, and Olem parish, narrowly survived death in the hands of Karamajong raiders who set her house ablaze with animals and property.

On 12th June 2023, 23 people, including 12 children and 11 elderly, died of starvation in Kotidany village, Chamkok Sub County, Abim district, due to a ban on commercial charcoal burning. There was also an increase in Human trafficking due to non-manned borderlines across the country for instance out of 2699km of borderlines of five countries, only 67km are manned and are under the control of internal affairs. And cases reported have increased from 500 in 2022 to about 1200 by the end of 2023. In a report released on July 30th 2023, human trafficking has risen due to poverty, unemployment, economic and gender inequality, discrimination, domestic violence, limited access to education, and some extent political instability and the most vulnerable groups are the women, youths and children.



# OTHER CEWERU IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

## 8.1 CEWERU Activities Implemented at the District Level

CEWERU activities implemented at the district level include the establishment and training of District Peace Committees on Conflict Prevention, Management, and Resolution (CPMR). The purpose of these activities is to provide basic skills in conflict prevention, conflict management, and conflict resolution to the participants. Identify existing capacities for early warning and response and solicit ownership of the EWER mechanism from the participants. CEWERU established, revitalized, and conducted training in the following districts: Kibale, Otuke, Napak, Nakapiripirit, Masaka, Kapelebyongo, Rwengo, Wakiso, Katakwi, Kamwenge, and Entebbe Municipality.



Picture 1: The above photograph shows members of the Kibale District Peace Committee taken after the opening remarks by the area RDC



Picture 2: The above photograph shows members of the Entebbe Municipality District Peace Committee taken after the convening training on 24/7/2023.

## 8.2 CEWERU Activities Implemented at the National Level

At national levels, we convened a total of six steering committee meetings, comprised of representatives of state and non-state actors. All steering committee meetings were held at the Silver Spring Hotel.



Picture 3: National Steering Committee Meeting held at Silver Springs Hotel Bugolobi on 23rd and 24th August 2023



Picture 4: National Steering Committee Meeting held at Silver Springs Hotel Bugolobi on 12th November 2023.

## 8.3 CEWERU Activities Implemented at the Regional Level



Picture 5: The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) 17th Meeting of the Technical Committee on Early Warning and Response (TCEWR) in Mombasa, Kenya on 29-31 May 2023 reviewing implementation of the CEWARN and CEWERUs activities as well as reports relating to conflict early warning.



Picture 6: South Sudan visiting Delegates and CEWERU Uganda Team at the Ministry of Internal Affairs on 5th November 2023.

After the successful implementation of the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) II projects by the six IGAD Member States—Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda CEWERU South Sudan made a learning visit to Kampala, Uganda, to share experiences with CEWERU Uganda and the implementing agencies from October 5–11, 2023. The implementing agencies visited include the Coalition for Action on 1325 (COACT), the Uganda Society for Disabled Children (USDC), the Riam Civil Society Network, and Nakele Rural Women’s Activists. The learning experiences reflected the success stories of what worked well, the challenges faced, how best to improve in the next RRF undertakings, and how to map opportunities for joint cross-border programming.

## 9.0 Recommendations

CEWERU team proposes the following recommendations

- a. Recruitment of more Regional Field Monitors (FMs) to evenly cover the areas of reporting across the country.
- b. Digital Transformation: leverage digital technology and develop a Uganda National Situation Room EWER system that integrates data collected by Non-State Actors (CSOs) and CEWARN EWER.
- c. Training and Capacity Building: build capacity and train Situation Room Officers and Field Monitors on the dynamics of conflict and reporting and analysis.
- d. Fast Track Facilitation of Field Monitors and Situation Room Officers Quarterly: Field Monitors have somehow developed a go-slow on their reporting of an act that is detrimental to the CEWARN EWER mechanism.
- e. Timely and appropriate responses to warnings and monitoring the impact of responses to conflicts inform decision-making and policy formulation.
- f. Scaling up resource mobilization and Programming for CEWER activities by state and Non State Actors.

**Situation  
Room**

Annual  
Report 2023  
Writing Team



Musinguzi Obah



Elizabeth Katusiime



Robert Mbiro



Turyahumura Ben



Esther Wasagali



**REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Plot 75 Jinja Road.  
P.O. BOX 7191, Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: 0414 7346145  
Email: [dcs@mia.go.ug](mailto:dcs@mia.go.ug)  
Web: [www.mia.go.ug](http://www.mia.go.ug)