

A Rapid Assessment of the War-Affected “Night Commuter” Children in Northern Uganda:

Engaging Politics and Shaping Policy Through Public Health



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Today's Roadmap

- Background on Northern Uganda
- Background on Night Commuters
- Health
- Goals of the Project
- **What Happened**
 - Methods
 - Initial Findings
- Field Work Challenges (Q & A)







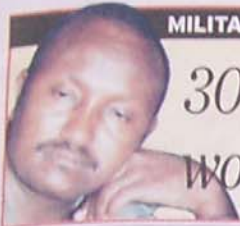
UGANDA



Background

- Lord's Resistance Army
- 22 Year Civil War
- 1.8 million displaced (85%)
- 50,000+ Child Abductions
- Government Abandonment





MILITARY P4

30 years later, how UPDF would repulse Israeli raid

INSIDE POLITICS

Be affraid: Torture chambers are back!



Museveni offers Kony amnesty

MICHAEL WILKERSON
& FRANK NYAKAIRU
KAMPALA

PRESIDENT Yoweri Museveni has announced that Uganda will grant total amnesty to Joseph Kony despite his indictment by the International Criminal Court (ICC) if he responds positively to the Southern Sudan mediated talks and abandons terrorism.

According to the Presidential Press Secretary, Mr Onapito-Ekomoloi, the President made the announcement yesterday at State House, Nakasero, while meeting the UN Secretary General's Representative on Human Rights of Internally

Displaced Persons, Dr Walter Kalin.

Museveni's offer of amnesty to Kony comes amidst calls for Kony's arrest and subsequent prosecution by the UN and the ICC.

"To hand over Kony after he has come out himself, that's out," the President told Kalin.

The Hague based ICC indicted Kony and four of his commanders for war crimes and crimes against humanity in October 2005.

Arrest warrants are out against Kony, Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo, Dominic Ongwen and Raska Lukwiya.

TURN TO PAGE 2



YESTERDAY'S GAME

Germany 0 Italy 2

WORLD CUP REPORTS ON PAGE 39, 42, 43 & 44

Battle for survival



High PTSD

- Age of Abduction: mean 12.9 years
- Period Abducted: mean 744 days
- Saw Someone Killed: 77%
- Forced to Kill Someone: 39%
- Post-traumatic stress reactions: **97%**

Source: Post-traumatic stress in former Ugandan child soldiers. Lancet. 2004 Mar 13;363(9412):861-3.

Health Issues

- Long-term Complex Humanitarian Emergency (water, food, bed nets)
- Top 3 Killers: Malaria, AIDS (15%), violence

Source: WHO July 2005 Survey

Land Mines

Emerging Threat as People Return Home (Lancet '06)

AVSI
Associazione Volontari
Servizio Internazionale

**GWOKKE KI OWIG
BEWARE OF LANDMINES**

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

eCHO Humanitarian
Aid Office
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

NOT STEP OR TOUCH ON ANY UNKNOWN OBJECTS / PE INYON PE IGUD GIN MA PE INIANG IKOME

So Who Cares and So What?

Purpose: Inform the Stakeholders

- International NGO's
- Ugandan Government
- Ugandan Police Defense Force
- Local NGO's
- Parents
- Youth
- Communities



Goals of the Night Commuter Project

- Phase 1: Needs Assessment Using Qualitative Methods to Better Understand Night Commuting and to Build a Solid Quantitative Tool
- Phase 2: Use the Quantitative Tool (Questionnaire) to Answer **-Are the Health Outcomes Better or Worse for People Who Stop Night Commuting?**
- Phase 3: Advocacy: Use Results from Phase 1 and Phase 2 to Better Inform Government and NGO Policy Towards Night Commuters
- Phase 4: Evaluate the Policy for Night Commuters 1 yr. later

Grounded Theory

Descriptions → Categories → Theory

- 1. Understand poorly understood phenomenon
- 2. Appropriate for study of a **dynamic** situation
- 3. Unique Contribution to Public Health

Glaser and Strauss 1967

Night commuting is a
phenomenon about which
very little is known.





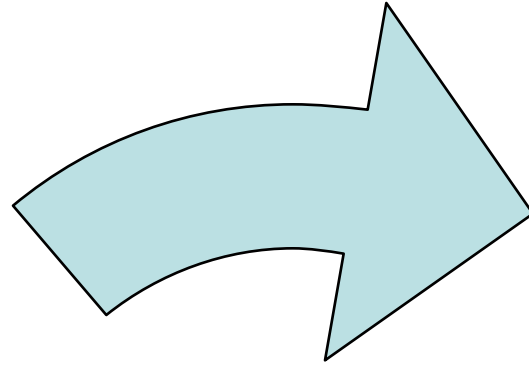




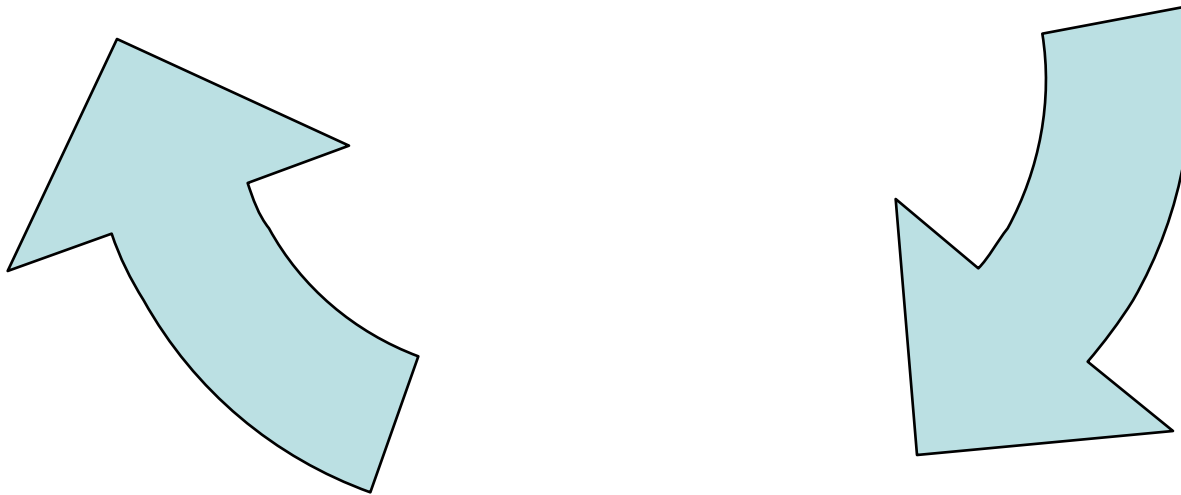
Where to Sleep: Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp or Night Commuter Shelter?

We don't know what questions
to ask yet in a needs
assessment survey.

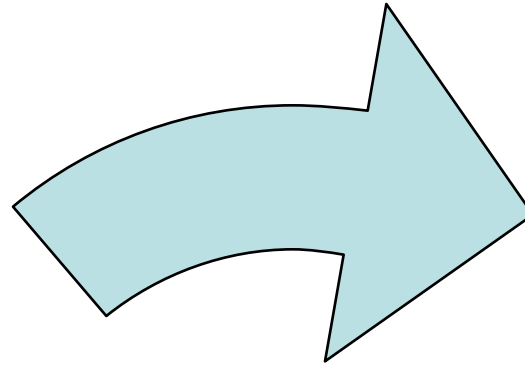
Methods



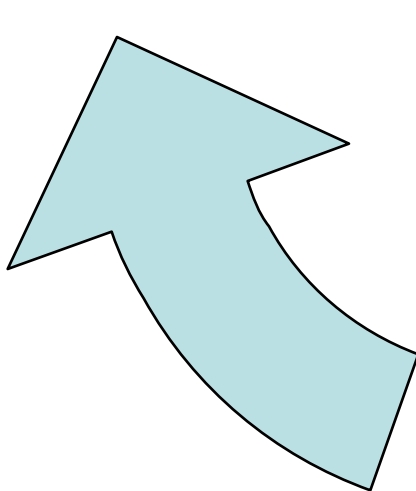
1. Archival Records and Observation



Methods

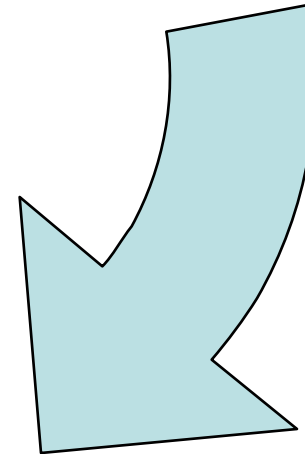


**1. Archival Records
and Observation**

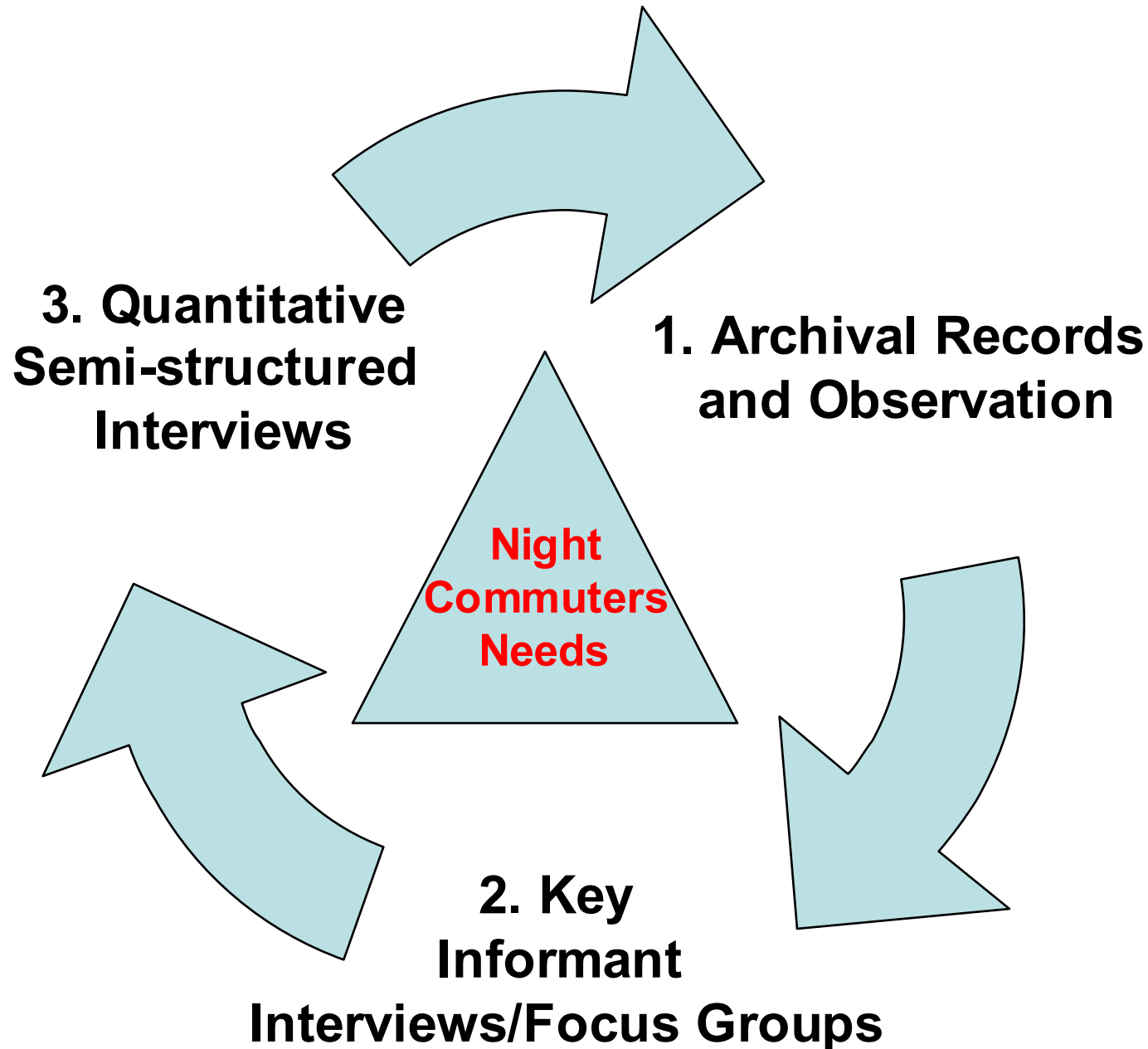


**2. Key
Informant**

Interviews/Focus Groups



Methods





Phase 1: Qualitative

- 1. Archival Records and Observation
Purposive Sampling

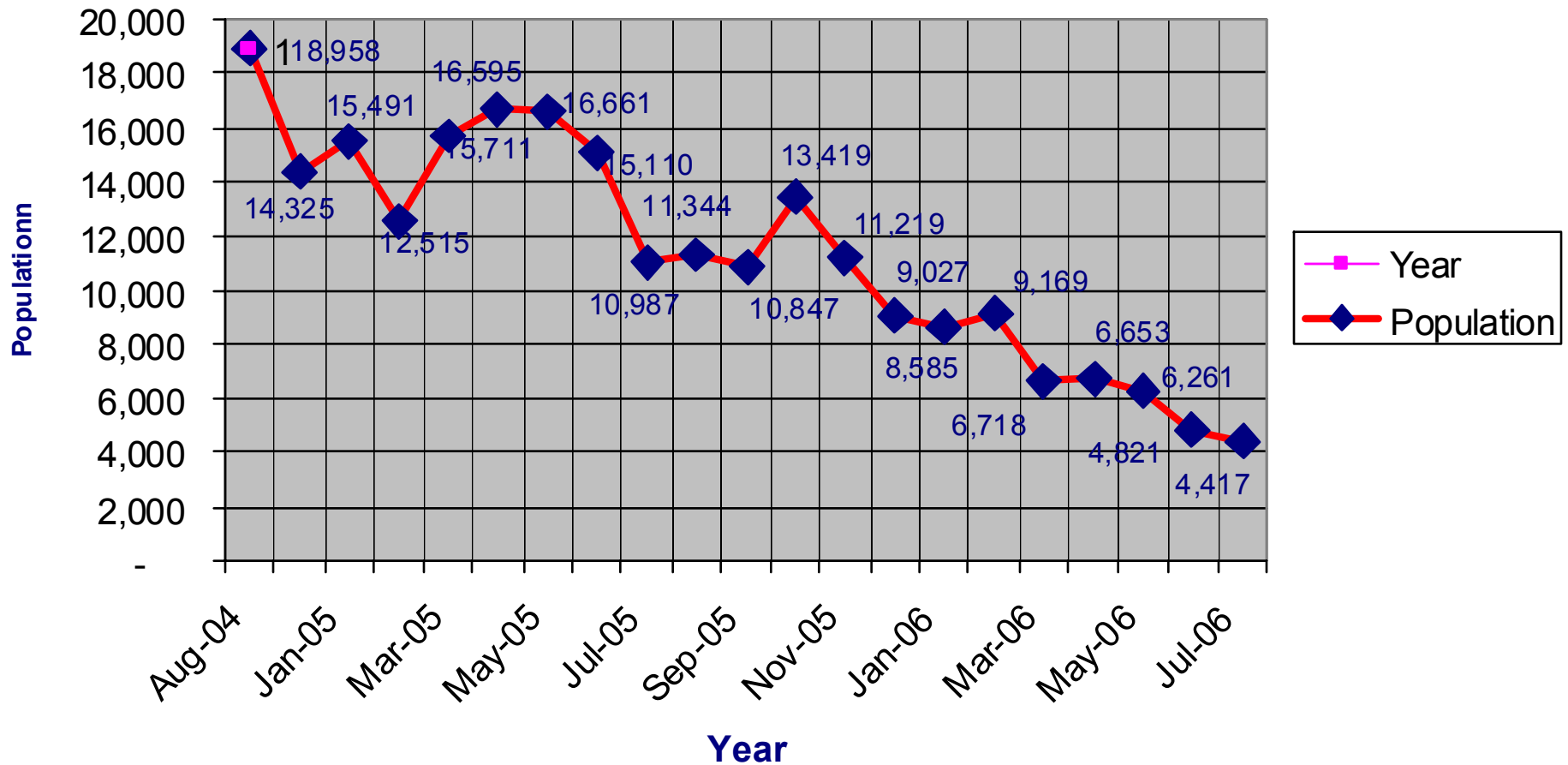
- 2. Key Informants

Snowball Sampling

- 3. Focus Groups

Snowball Sampling

Night Commuters Population From August 2004 to July 2006



Source: Radhakrishna 2006

Observation



Key Informants: n=35

Interviewers (2): used standard script, English speaking, tape recorded, transcribed

1. Consultant from Kampala (June '06 study)
2. Rohan

Respondants:

NGO's (foreign and local), gov. workers, night commuter center workers, IDP camp workers, government officials, military, hospital and school admin, night commuter leaders.

Focus Groups



Focus Groups: n=30

Interviewers (4): used standard script, 1 facilitator and 1 scribe, gender matched

-2 bilingual Acholi men

-2 bilingual Acholi women

Respondants:

IDP camp commanders, IDP camp block leaders, youth leaders, women leaders, night commuter leaders, police

Study Uniqueness

- 1: Representative
 - all stakeholders
 - all 13 shelters
 - mixed methods
- 2: Randomized
- 3: Control Group
- 4: Multiple Responses to Questions

Hypothesis

- Null: There is no significant difference in health status between current night commuters and those who stopped night commuting

Health Related Variables of Interest

- Perception of Safety in the Home vs. Shelter (Likert)
- # Meals (Continuous Variables)
- # of huts and # people per household (Continuous)
- Accidents/Trauma Faced While Commuting (Discontinuous Variables)
- Self-reported Episodes of Sickness In a Month (malaria etc.)

Phase 2: Retrospective Cohort Study

Quantitative Semi-Structured Interviews

All Kitgum Night Commuters n= ~ 55,000

YES= Continue
Night Commuting
n=4,415

Group 1
Unexposed

NO= Stopped Night
Commuting
n=50,000

Group 2
Exposed

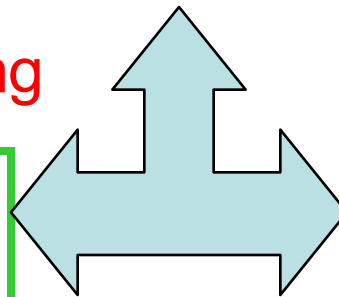
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Quantitative Semi-Structured Interviews

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Stratified Random Sampling

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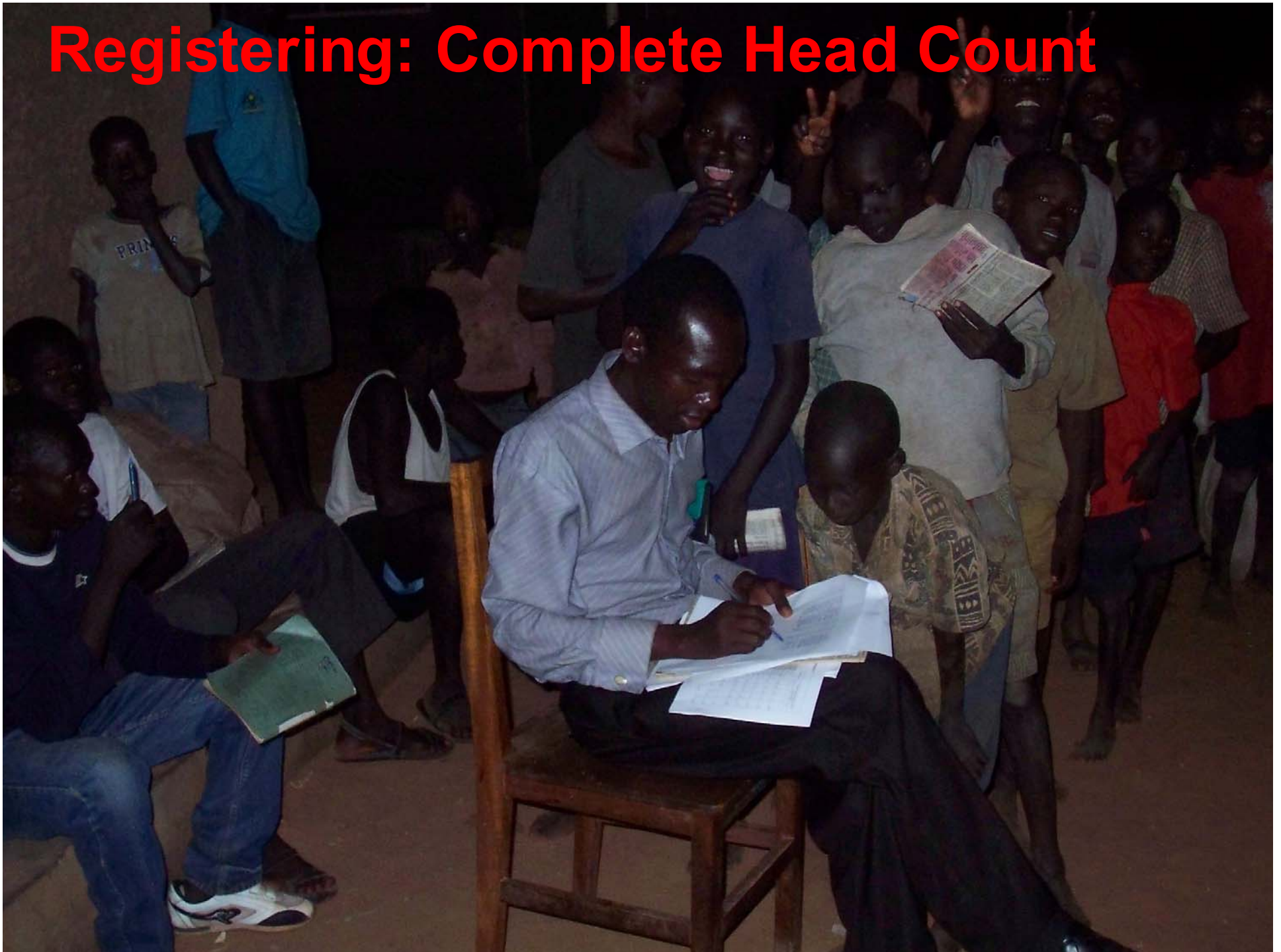
Group 1
Unexposed

Group 1: Unexposed Night Commuters

Register, Stratify, Randomize, Sample

- Registered all Night Commuters in July '06
n = ~ **4,415**

Registering: Complete Head Count



Group 1: Unexposed Night Commuters

Register, **Stratify**, Randomize, Sample

- Stratify within each of 13 shelters for:
 - Age (0-6, **7-17**, 18+) and Sex (F,M)

Group 1: Unexposed Night Commuters

Register, Stratify, **Randomize**, Sample

- Randomize within Strata within Shelters:
Random Number Generator

Ideal Sample Size

Equation 1: $n_o = Z^2 pq / e^2$ $n_o = (1.96)^2 (.5)(.5) / (.05)^2 = 385$

n_o = the sample size

Z = 95% confidence level

p = maximum variability of .5 for a conservative sample size

q = 1 - p

e = 5% level of precision

Equation 2: $n = n_o / (1 + (n_o - 1)/N)$

Calculation 1) $n = 385 / (1 + (385 - 1)/4,415) = 355$ Unexposed

n = the sample size

N = the population size (4,415 from July 2006 Head count)

Calculation 2) $n = 385 / (1 + (385 - 1)/50,000) = 382$ Exposed

Source: Cochran 1963

Group 1: Unexposed Night Commuters

Register, Stratify, Randomize, **Sample**

- Sample Proportionally from each Strata
Total n=410

-Representativeness

(Round up from 355 assuming 15% errors)

-Feasibility (5 week deadline)

-Cost

The Team



Training

- 2 Training Sessions
 - Bias, Randomness, Ethics, **Probing**, Working with Vulnerable Children
- Pilot Testing
- Review of Questionnaire (interviewers, NGO's, UNICEF, Caritas)
- Validity Testing

- **56. Why do you night commute?
Pingo icito iyi alup?**

- **FIRST ANSWER THEY GIVE** _____
- **PROBE: ASK** “Are there any other reasons why you night commute?”
- Tye tam mogo maweko icito iyi alup?

- **SECOND ANSWER THEY GIVE** _____
- **PROBE: ASK** “Are there any other reasons why you night commute?”
- Tye tam mogo maweko icito iyi alup?

- **THIRD ANSWER THEY GIVE** _____
- **PROBE AND CIRCLE ALL ANSWERS THEY GIVE**

- 1 = **Insecurity at Home** 6 = Because of Disease (cholera outbreak)
- 2 = Limited Space at Home 7 = Because House was Destroyed (construction)
- 3 = To accompany friends 8 = Because of Facilities at Shelter
- 4 = To accompany Siblings or Children 9 = Because of Activities at Shelter
- 5 = Because Parents Told Them To 10 = Other

99 = I don't Know

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- **1=Insecurity at Home** **6 = Because of Disease (cholera outbreak)**
- **2=Limited Space at Home** **7 = Because House was Destroyed (construction)**
- **3= To accompany friends** **8 = Because of Facilities at Shelter**
- **4=To accompany Siblings or Children** **9 = Because of Activities at Shelter**
- **5 = Because Parents Told Them To** **10 = Other**

99 = I don't Know

- **57 . IF THE CHILD DID MENTION OPTION 1-“Insecurity at Home” FOR #56 THEN PROBE AND ASK:**
- **“It’s important to understand what makes you feel insecure. Please share with me all the things that make you feel insecure at home?”**
- Pire tek me niang ngo ma weko in pe iwinyo agonya, pien jo ma-gangwu ma butu iyi alupe tye ki lworu, ber walee tam pingo gin tye kilworu me butu gang/paco?
- **PROBE** “Are there any other things that you think make them feel insecure at home?”
- Tye lok mogo ma itamoni weko gin bedo kilworu ka gitye gang?
- 1 = **Fear of Abduction by LRA** 6 = Fear of Witnessing Domestic Violence
- 2 = Fear of Rebel Attack 7 = Fear of Boo-kec (thugs)
- 3 = Fear of Violence from UPDF 8 = Sexual Violence/Abuse/Rape/Defile
- 4 = Fear of Violence from LDU 9 = Other _____
- 5 = Fear of Violence from Parents/Guardian 99 = I Don’t Know

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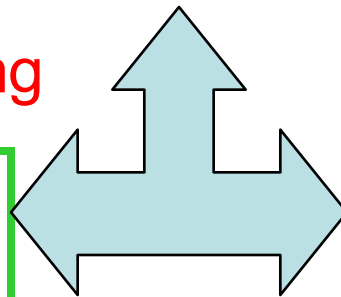
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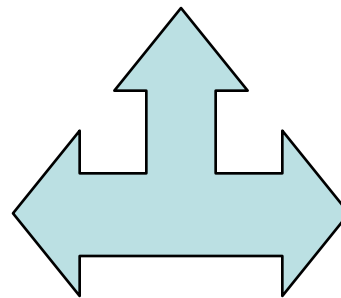


Group 1
Unexposed

Phase 2: Retrospective Cohort Study

Quantitative Semi-Structured Interviews

All Kitgum Night Commuters $n = \sim 55,000$



Cluster Sampling

NO= Stopped Night
Commuting
.
 $n=50,000$

Group 2
Exposed

Group 2: Exposed (Stop Commuting) Neighborhood Cluster Sampling

- Sample Proportionally from the 15 Villages Where Most Night Commuters Come From
Total n= 50,000
- Inclusion Criteria:
 - Age 7-17
 - Previous Night Commuter (Min. 1 month)
 - Current Non-Night Commuter
(Slept <15 days at shelter in past month)**n=382**

Analysis (pending)

- Descriptive Statistics (Night Commuters)
- Regression Analyses to Find Associations
- Chi Square Analyses
- Compare Current vs. Former Night Commuters

Additional Findings

- 2 unmanaged sites with hundreds of kids sleeping



Additional Findings

-military harassment and forced commuting



Additional Findings

- Presented in a 10 Point Plan with Recommendations for Different Stakeholders

Reflections on Research

1) Ecological Paradigm

-interlinked web (public health, human rights, politics)

-applied to assessments and interventions

2) Capacity Building-build on local talent

3) Community-Based Approaches are Needed

4) Evidence-Based Data to Inform Decisions

Reflections on Research

- 1) Ecological Paradigm
 - interlinked web (public health, human rights, politics)
 - applied to assessments and interventions
- 2) Capacity Building-building on local talent
- 3) Community-Based Approaches are Needed

- 4) Evidence-Based Data is Needed to Inform Decisions during Humanitarian Crises
 - Rapid and Integrated Methodologies

Thanks

- The Research Team
- Concerned Parents Association, All Local CBO's
- Humanitarian Community (UNICEF, Caritas, NRC)
- Photos: BBC, Bruno Stevens of HRW, Tom Morley, Francis Okot Odong, Rohan Radhakrishna
- Advisors: Eric Stover, Ndola Prata, Coco Auerswald, Nap Hosang, Aameena Ahmed
- SPH Colleagues (Ben Bellows, Megan Gaydos)
- SWAY (Survey of War Affected Youth)
- Rainer's Fund
- Human Rights Center

Questions, Critiques, Suggestions

