

**THE ROLE OF CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES IN CONFLICT
MANAGEMENT IN NORTHERN UGANDA.**

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to investigate on the role of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in conflict management in Uganda: A case of Northern Uganda. The survey was carried out to identify the roles played by CRS in conflict management in Northern Uganda, to evaluate the working relationships between CRS and other actors in their bid to managing conflicts in northern Uganda and find out the challenges faced by CRS in their efforts to manage conflicts in northern Uganda.

To achieve the above objective, the researcher used different methods to collect reliable data from the field. Interview, Questionnaire, Focused group discussion as well as document review were key methods used in data collection. Purposive and random sampling was used to select respondents from the study population. Data was analyzed using frequencies and percentages.

Key findings from the study show that CRS' efforts in the process of conflict management are worthwhile although so many challenges exist as they explore their day to day agenda. Highlights of these are lack of adequate assistance rendered to them, Sporadic fighting, killing of humanitarian Agency personnel, resentment of non-Acholi leaders on the use of mato-oput an Acholi traditional justice system, former combatants attack communities as well as diversity of the cultures that exist in the affected region

The study recommends CRS to expand their focus or attention from mere conflict management to conflict resolution. It is recommended to use its international reputation to persuade ICC to drop the arrest warrant against the LRA top commanders to encourage them to sign the peace agreement; do more sensitization of non-Acholi cultural leaders to bring them on board in conflict management process; and to encourage the advancement of amnesty by government to those rebels who have surrendered and given up there rebel activities for the sake of creating peace in the region. Former combatant should be funded by the government to start small scale income generating activities to prevent them from being idle.

In conclusion, CRS has done a commendable job in line with conflict management.