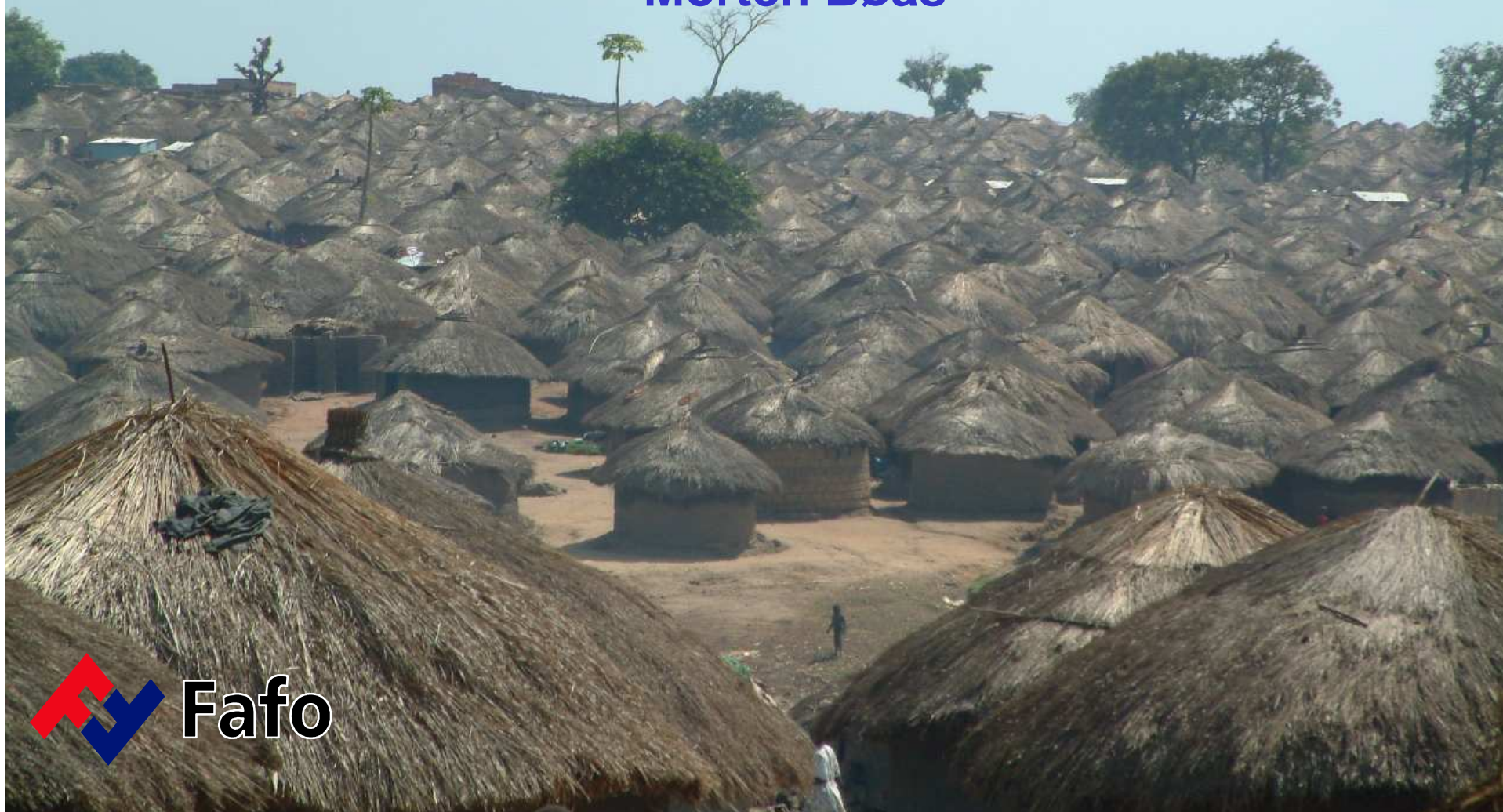
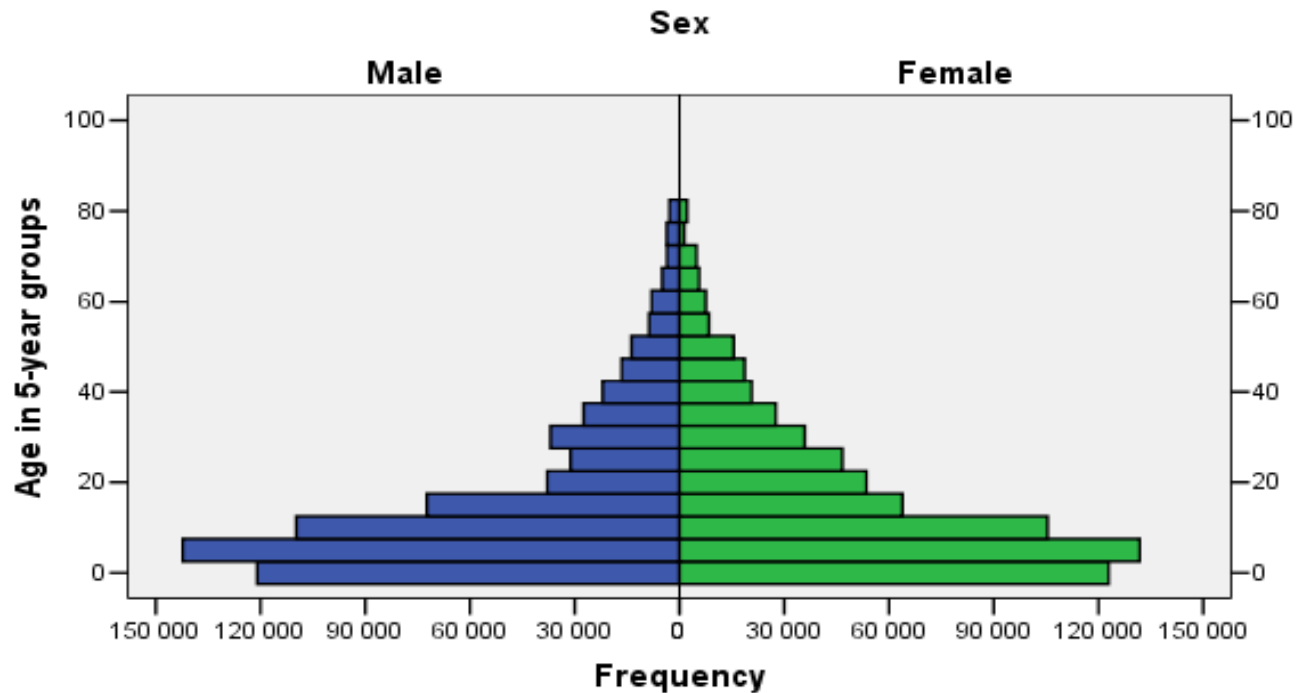


Rural youth exclusion and violence: the case of Northern Uganda

Morten Bøås

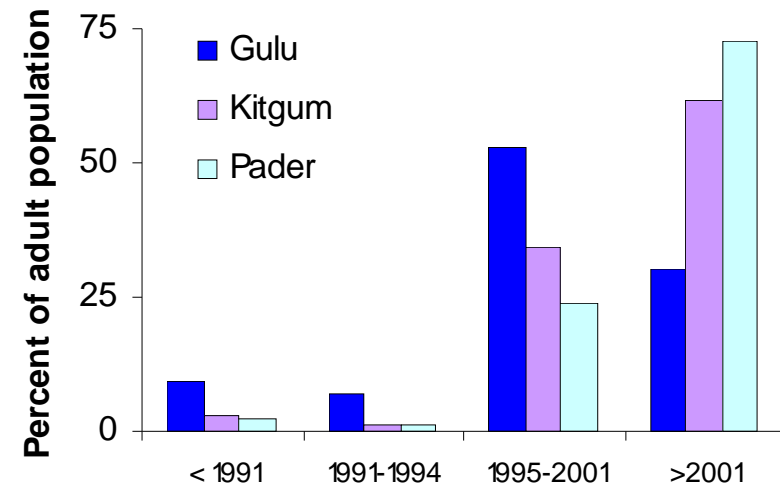


Distribution by age and sex



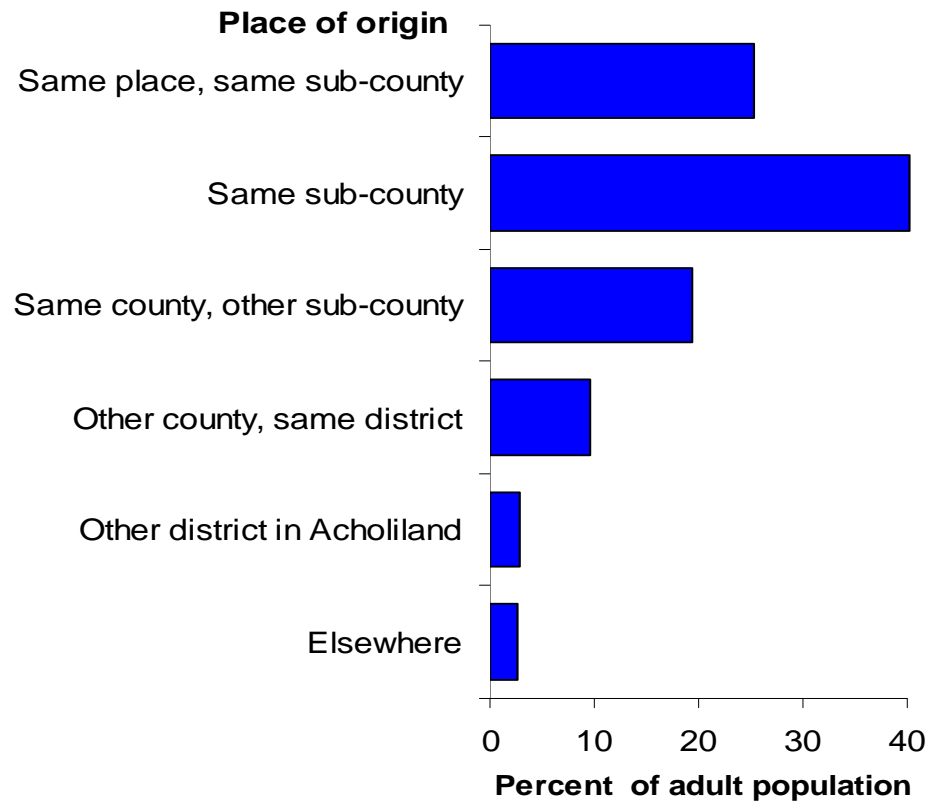
- A significant proportion of young men is missing (20-34 years of age) as well as children under 5

The Gulu population – 10 years in camps



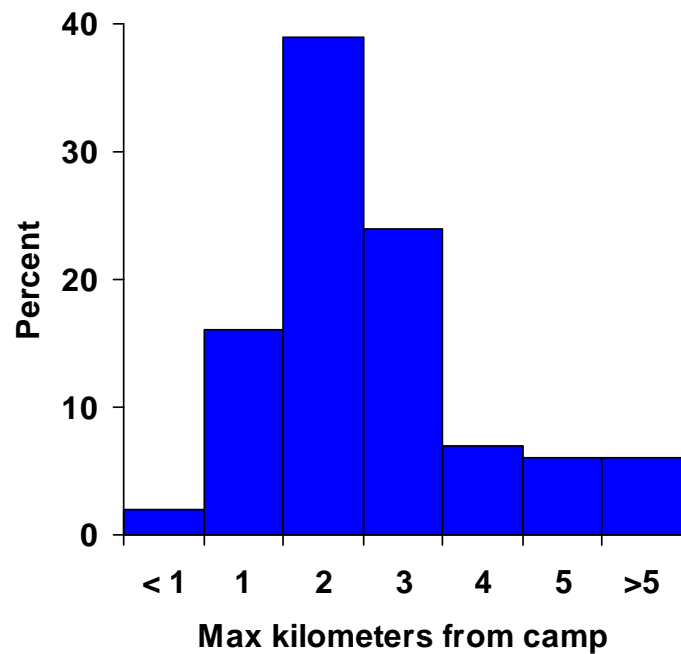
- More than 50 percent of the displacement in Gulu took place between 1995-2001
- The majority of the displacements in Kitgum and Pader started after 'Operation Iron Fist' had been initiated

People have not moved very far



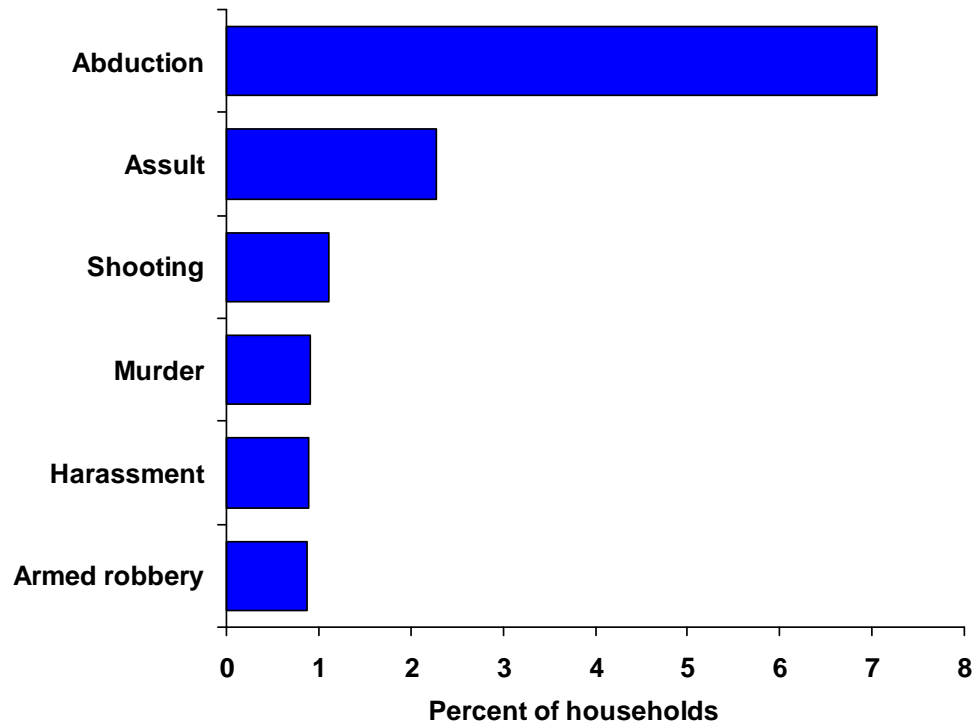
- **66 percent lives in the same sub-county as they were born**
- **Only five percent originate from another district than they currently live**

The security regime



- No movement outside the camps before 9 am and after 17 pm
- Roadblocks
- UPDF soldiers deployed around all camps

Victims of crime



- 14 percent of all the households have members that were victims of a crime in the month last month
- Around 1,900 people murdered in May 2005

Youth, modernity and return I

- **The population is young**
 - Many have little experience, or memories of rural life
 - The population slowly emerging out of the camps is very different than the one that was "herded" into the IDP camps
 - In the most war-affected districts (Amuru, Gulu and Kitgum) – a good number of the youth have grown up in the camps
 - Going home is a dream – whether the young camp dwellers will enjoy rural life is another question

Youth, modernity and return II

- **Modernity and the camp experience**
 - The camp has very little in common with traditional Acholi life
 - If anything it is a perverted-mirror image of rural life; it is a site for semi-urbanisation of traditional rural life
 - Grown up with short distances to school and some sort of health facility (the quality of it is another question)
 - Nearly all camps also have bars and video parlours
 - Return will mean having to commute to school, to health facilities and to bars and video parlours over quite some distances

Youth, modernity and return III

- **Age mates and expectations**
 - Improved material conditions, but life would be the same
 - More work and hard labour
 - Less time to socialise with age mates
 - Really fully prepared to return?
 - A new group of roaming youth – back to the major camps (e.g. Agoro and Madi Opei) or to the larger cities, e.g. Gulu, Kitgum and Pader TC
 - Crime and alienated youth gangs (*bookec*)

Youth, modernity and return IV

- **Former combatants**

- LRA
- UPDF
- Local Defence Units
- Particularly former LRA (abductees?) – abuse and mistreatment from UPDF and the Anti-Stealth Unit (ATU)
- A blending between this group and ordinary but alienated youth from a return process could come to manifest a new vicious brew for Northern Uganda, in particular if mixed with a series of land rights conflicts emerging out of an ill-planned return process