

Capacity for conducting vital demographic surveillance has been anchored in Gulu University. A [Demographic Surveillance System \(DSS\)](#) provides hands-on opportunities for interdisciplinary research and related publications as well as a basis for training of students and involving community members.

#### Demographic Surveillance System

Setting up a Demographic Surveillance System (DSS), tracing the post-conflict resettlement process in detail and serving as a continuing central context for disciplinary and collaborative research, was initiated early 2010. This was done with technical support from the Jinja demographic surveillance project and Makerere University in Uganda. Awach was identified as the geographic site for the DSS with a target population of 13,300 individuals; specific staff recruited, including six (6) field assistants identified from the communities of Awach, and trained to support the data collection process; and, during the months of March to August 2010, baseline data on demographic indicators was collected and processed.

By end June 2010, approximately 75% of the collected data was processed and interesting preliminary findings emerged in respect to basic demographic characteristics of the war affected population in Awach sub-county of Gulu district in Northern Uganda. Amongst others, the data show that more than 50% of the populations are young people below the age of 20 years, which represents its own sets of strategic needs, challenges and opportunities in respect to improving human security in a post-conflict situation. To view summarized report find attached below.

Before end of 2010, the project will have finalised processing the baseline data (by end of September), produced two (2) publications from the DSS baseline data and exercise, provided important feedback to the communities and their leadership on the findings, and, initiated an update round of the DSS data.