

On 16 July 2021, NDF received an email from the Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability (UCCA), a coalition of NGOs alerting of “retaliations and forceful land acquisition for the Wadelai Irrigation Project”, which is a sub-component of the Farm Income Enhancement and Forest Conservation Project 2 (FIEFOC 2).

The African Development Bank (AfDB) as the lead financier for FIEFOC 2 finances Component 1 on Agricultural Infrastructure Development, which targets the construction of five irrigation schemes and associated infrastructure, including Wadelai Irrigation Scheme in Pakwach district.

NDF’s role in the project is as a parallel co-financier, and only relates to Components 2 and 3, i.e. “Agribusiness Development” supporting climate smart agriculture and youth pilot activities and “Integrated Natural Resources Management” where the objective is to improve planning and management of soils, water and forests and overall upland productivity to improve livelihood security and climate resilience and reduce erosion including via distribution of tree seedlings.

Since NDF is not involved in financing the activities under Component 1 and does not have details on the particulars of the Wadelai Irrigation Scheme, NDF advised UCCA to contact AfDB directly and committed to liaise with AfDB to find out more information.

NDF has engaged with AfDB to encourage adequate investigation of the matter and to obtain more information and details regarding the claims of use of force against community members as well as other irregularities reported. NDF has also closely followed media reports from the area in an attempt to corroborate these claims.

NDF takes any reports of use of force or forceful land acquisition very seriously and is liaising with AfDB to resolve the matter.