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Building resilience of livelihoods in Karamoja, Uganda

Why is action needed?

The Karamoja region, in North East Uganda, is one of the least developed regions of the country, and is highly vulnerable to resource-based conflict and climate change variability.

Addressing food insecurity of vulnerable people is a major challenge in Karamoja. Measuring resilience provides more informed policies for withstanding shocks. For this reason, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) developed a Joint Resilience Strategy (JRS) launched in January 2016. The JRS is based on four main pillars:

- ▲ strengthening the productive sector to increase household income and food security;
- ▲ improving basic social services;
- ▲ establishing predictable safety nets that address most vulnerable people's basic needs; and
- ▲ strengthening disaster risk management.

What did the study reveal?

The totality of households living in the region reported drought, climatic conditions, pest diseases and high food prices as the most frequent shocks in the Karamoja region where, as a result, strengthening resilience is quite necessary, in all districts and especially in Kaabong, Amudat, Kotido and Moroto.

Against this backdrop, households' adaptive capacity and asset holdings are the main drivers of resilience capacity in the Karamoja region. Investments on households' adaptive capacity through diversification of income sources, education, training, and both non-productive and agricultural assets influence household's resilience capacity.

In terms of social safety nets, investing in cash transfer programmes contributes to the resilience capacity in all districts. Improving access to basic services, such as markets and health services, is also important.

KEY MESSAGES

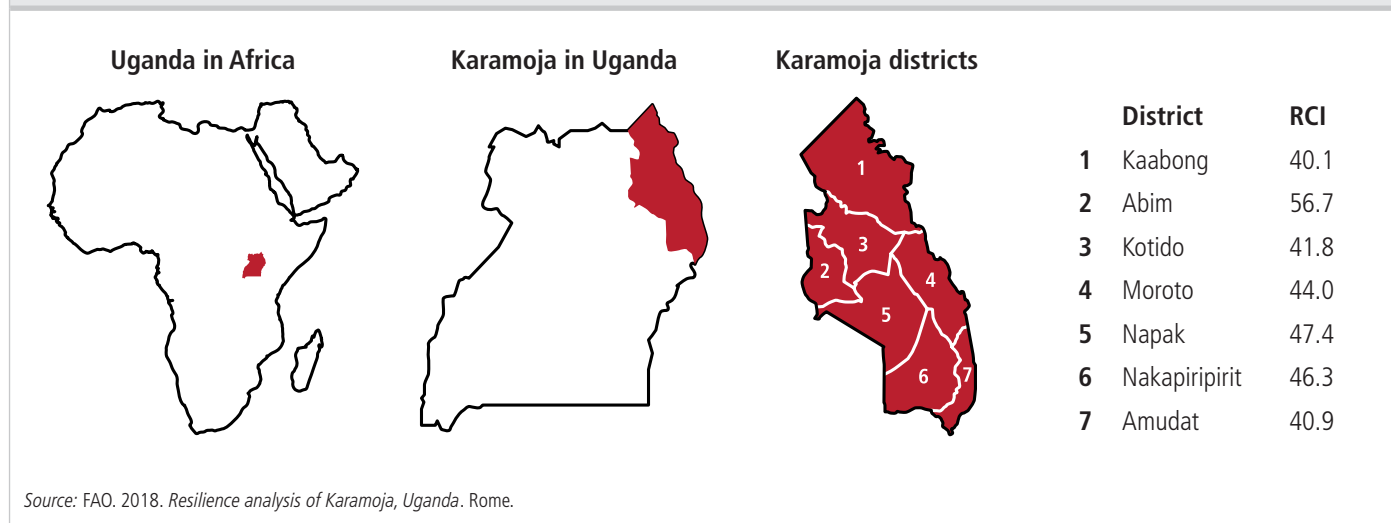
- ▶ The determinants and stressors of resilience capacity emphasize the need for continuous policy monitoring and tailored programming to both male- and female-headed households in Karamoja.
- ▶ Stakeholders, government, policy makers and partner agencies from the different sectors need to jointly build resilience by means of promoting agricultural productivity, assets, social safety, reducing distance to basic services, and enhancing environmental sustainability.

What should policy makers do to strengthen resilience?

1. **Enhance agricultural productivity** by investing in low cost and quick return income-generating activities. In Amudat and Kaabong the focus is on crop and livestock production; while education and training are particularly relevant for Napak, Kotido and Moroto.
2. **Increase assets**, for women and men, by supporting the equal access and control of land for crop production (Amudat), agricultural assets (Abim, Amudat, Nakapiripirit and Kotido) and livestock (Abim, Kaabong and Kotido).
3. **Promote social safety nets** by expanding social protection programmes mainly targeting female-headed households particularly in Amudat, Abim, Kotido and Kaabong, and also access to credit especially in Amudat, Moroto, Napak and Nakapiripirit.
4. **Reduce distance to basic services** (especially in Amudat, Kotido, Moroto, Nakapiripirit and Napak) through improvement of infrastructure.
5. **Enhance environmental sustainability** by strengthening community-based natural resource management.

Main findings of the resilience analysis in Karamoja, Uganda

FIGURE 1. Resilience Capacity Index (RCI) by districts



The Resilience Capacity Index is scaled between 0 – 100, where a higher RCI score would mean the district has higher resilience capacity while a low RCI score means the district has less resilience capacity.

WHAT ARE THE CRITICAL POINTS?

LIMITED INCOME SOURCES



LIMITED ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES
(HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS)

LOW PRODUCTIVE ASSETS



ACCESS TO WATER SOURCES
AND IMPROVED SANITATION

POLICY INTERVENTIONS

PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY
AND CROP DIVERSIFICATION
(in Amudat, Kaabong, and Napak)



REDUCE DISTANCE TO BASIC SERVICES
(E.G. HEALTH FACILITIES, SCHOOLS, MARKETS,
IMPROVE WATER AND SANITATION)
(in Amudat, Kotido, Moroto, Nakapiripit)

SUPPORT ACCESS TO LAND
FOR CROP PRODUCTION
(in Abim, Amudat, Nakapiripirit and Kotido)



SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY
(in all districts)

Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis II (RIMA II)

www.fao.org/resilience/background/tools/rima
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The findings in this brief have been adapted from the FAO report *Resilience analysis of Karamoja, Uganda* (available at www.fao.org/3/i8365en/i8365EN.pdf), prepared under the Resilience Measurement Unit (RMU) with the Office of Prime Minister, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, WFP, UNICEF and FAO.