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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Karamoja districts</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>RCI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kaabong</td>
<td>40.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Abim</td>
<td>56.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kotido</td>
<td>41.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Moroto</td>
<td>44.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Napak</td>
<td>47.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nakapiripirit</td>
<td>46.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Amudat</td>
<td>40.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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

LOW PRODUCTIVE ASSETS

LIMITED ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES (HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS)

ACCESS TO WATER SOURCES AND IMPROVED SANITATION

POLICY INTERVENTIONS

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

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

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

SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (in all districts)

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