



## **REACHING THE FRONTIERS**

### **Perspectives on sustainable development strategies in Karamoja**

**Under the guidance of:**

ACTED – Leuphana Universität Lüneburg

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# Introduction

Karamoja is the poorest part of Uganda. The landscape is dominated by arid and semi-arid regions, which are populated mainly by pastoralists. The main part of the population lives in protracted food insecurity and under political unrest due to cattle-raiding and disarmament. For the pastoralists their tradition and culture take an important part of their behaviour and their life. Therefore they live in a permanent conflict between tradition and modernity (for a more detailed description, see the 'Karamoja syndrome' paper, describing the situation in Karamoja: [www.karamoja.eu](http://www.karamoja.eu)).

This advocacy paper was edited by a group of students, under the guidance of the French non-governmental organisation Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) and the Institute of Culture Theory, Culture Science and Arts (IKKK) of the Leuphana University of Lüneburg in Germany. In a seminar called "European awareness of sustainability in Africa", students analysed the situation and the problems of Karamoja and developed the following recommendations. Students from the universities of Prague in the Czech Republic, Bordeaux in France and Groningen in the Netherlands participated. This project is part of the Karamoja awareness-raising campaign, coordinated the ACTED and IKKK, with the support of the European Commission (see [www.karamoja.eu](http://www.karamoja.eu)).

The advocacy paper is entitled "*Reaching the frontiers: perspectives on sustainable development strategies in Karamoja*" to highlight in a metaphorical way limits to sustainability and more concretely illustrate the centrality of the idea of national and transnational borders in the pastoralist context of Karamoja. The paper addresses different institutions and organisations to inform them and raise awareness about the problems concerning Karamoja and the possibilities of improvements.

The receivers of the paper are:

- the industrial countries
- the United Nations
- the European Commission
- the non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- the African Union
- the Government of Uganda
- the LCV (chairpersons of Local Council 5, district level)

The addressees for the respective recommendations were selected depending on their influence, their possibilities of acting and their responsibilities.

The advices are divided into the following subjects:

- Acknowledgement of pastoralism
- Human rights violations
- Freedom of movement
- Global climate change
- Disarmament
- Education
- Public services and infrastructure
- Youth programs
- Population growth and family planning
- Role of women
- HIV
- Cooperation and coordination of NGOs

Every receiver should assume responsibility in front of the world population and especially vulnerable populations in the developing world. The population in Karamoja is poor, without education and, what is most important, mainly powerless. For these reasons they definitely need your involvement, your commitment and your help!

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# 1. To the industrial countries

## 1.1 Topic: Global climate change

**Situation:** The consequences of the global climate change caused by the industrial countries in the first place are already present in many southern regions of the world such as Karamoja. As an arid and semi-arid region Karamoja has to deal with increasing problems like expanding droughts and unreliable rainfall. Especially, the pastoralist livelihood is endangered, because of its adaptation to and dependence on the environmental conditions (e. g. seasonal movements in search for pasture and water). It is the industrial countries' duty to protect and help those who don't belong to the contributors of global climate change, but will be the ones who suffer from it the most.

### Recommendations:

- Keep the agreements of the Kyoto Protocol by reducing the emissions of greenhouse gas by at least 30 % to 40 % from 1990 levels until 2020 and work on further international agreements with all industrial countries. Globally, emissions have to be reduced by 80 % from 1990 levels until 2050 to limit global warming below 2° C above its pre-industrial level.
- Support the European Parliament's ideas for the extension of the emission trading system. The money resulting from the sale of emission certificates is to be used for the support of e. g. projects by NGOs meant to deal with the consequences of global warming in developing countries.
- Financially support the government of Uganda to implement early warning systems for droughts and floods by providing technical equipment and know how.
- Promote awareness raising among citizens of industrial countries who have to understand the relation between their emissions and the consequences for developing countries in general and Karamoja in particular.
- Intensify research on the impact of climate change on semi-arid areas like Karamoja.
- Share this knowledge with and transfer technologies to people and institutions in highly affected areas.

# 2. To the United Nations

## 2.1 Topic: Freedom of movement

**Situation:** The topic "freedom of movement" includes the opportunity for the pastoralists to move along their traditional movement patterns independent from national borders as well as the choice of residence (for which education is the basis).

As an adaptation to the arid and semi-arid region in Karamoja the seasonal movements of the pastoralists are strongly limited by privatization of common land, national borders (which have traditionally no meaning for the pastoralists at all) and forced sedentarization. The traditional cattle raids are already out of control because of the automatic weapons which reach Karamoja by international arms trade and more violent raids restrict the mobility of the pastoralists as well. The tremendous consequences are the overexploitation of natural renewable resources (like grazing land and water), which are the very basics for the life of human beings and livestock. This leads to the loss of natural diversity, loss of livestock and more violent conflicts.

### Recommendations:

- Strongly control the international arms trade with the aim to stop it in the long term in order to support the national disarmament in Karamoja.
- Call on the government of Uganda to ensure the pastoralists' freedom of residence and their freedom of movement which has to be based on the crossing of national borders.
- Call on the government of Uganda to stop the privatization of common used land of the pastoralists in Karamoja.

- Call on the government of Uganda to stop the forced sedentarization of pastoralists in Karamoja.
- Support the work of the Ugandan government and NGOs concerning programs on:
  1. the connection between the increasing use of automatic weapons in cattle raids and the loss of mobility and
  2. advantages and disadvantages of outmigration for those Karamojong who want to leave Karamoja. Give financial help and know how.

## **2.2 Topic: Disarmament**

### 2.2.1 Peace building projects / awareness training

**Situation:** Peace is the very basis for a stable social structure of the Karamojong livelihood. The disarmament of only a few tribes in Karamoja has been leading towards an inequality between the tribes: weapons are being partially removed while further protection of the unarmed against those who are still in possession of guns is not further guaranteed.

This situation can be seen as one of the main reasons responsible for a high lack of security in the region. The desired effect of disarmament programs has turned into its opposite: violence is clearly on the increase. The connection of this problem with cross-border arms trafficking from Sudan and Kenya is clearly given. Furthermore, as reported by Human Rights Watch (based on field research in 2007), disarmament has regularly been accompanied by a severe and ruthless, brutal force on the part of the Ugandan army.

This failure of former disarmament campaigns is to show how deeply rooted the conflicts between the Karamojong and neighbouring tribes really are. Attempts to force the people into disarmament and to simply destroy the weapons have to stay fruitless, as long as these strategies are not combined with a concrete awareness training of tribes in conflict.

#### **Recommendations:**

- The willingness to disarm can only be worked out on the basis of open dialogues and collective workshops. A "*disarming of the minds*" is to be considered the first priority before an actual disarmament will be possible. This goal can only be attained if pastoralists regain a feeling of security being made reliable in their area. Weapons thereby will become redundant.
- Provide staff of security forces with practical human rights training. Security forces have to be held accountable for past human rights violations.
- Revise disarmament policies to ensure compliance with human right obligations under national and international law.

## **3. To the European Commission**

### **3.1 Topic: Acknowledgement of pastoralism**

**Situation:** As living conditions in Karamoja are very harsh and unpredictable, pastoralism as a flexible way of managing livestock and land has proved to be the most sustainable adaptation to the arid and semi-arid environment. Both privatization of common land and increasing forced sedentarization lead to overexploitation of natural renewable resources (like grazing land and water), which are the very basics for the life of human beings and livestock. These two processes are an expression for a general isolation of the pastoralists in Karamoja. All actors involved should help the Karamojong to adapt their pastoralist way of live to the modern world. This could be done by encouraging the pastoralist way of life and adapting it to the current situation. This can be done by the vaccination of cattle, teaching the Karamojong to be veterinarians and teach them about land ownership. In this case, the Ugandan Government should respect the Karamojong choice and should do anything to help them to stay pastoralists. For those Karamojong, who don't want to continue their pastoralist way of life, the actors involved should seek alternative livelihoods for those people, be this agriculturist or some other alternative livelihood.

**Recommendations:**

- Be aware of and financially support non-Western conformed living strategies like the pastoral livelihood and put effort in finding solutions to obtain cultural diversity.
- Continue spending money for awareness-raising campaigns to reach a broader public.

**3.2 Topic: Human rights violations**

**Situation:** The topic of widespread human rights prevalent in the region has to remain an issue of concern. The fundamental human rights enshrined in the Ugandan constitution and in the International Declaration of Human Rights of the International Community have been grossly violated by various groups at various degrees in the past few years of conflict within the Karamoja region. The perpetrators include the warring factions in the local community of Karamoja as well as parts of the Ugandan security forces. These violations occur in different manors, e. g. the following:

1. Deprivation of right to live: In the course of cattle raid, there is wanton killing of men, women and children on both sides of the raiders and the raided. The Ugandan army, though with the good intention of quelling the inadmissible act of raiding, adopt a very violent approach of handling the problem; i. e. they resort to the outright killing of the raiders without trial in a proper court of law.
2. Deprivation of right to property: The act of cattle raiding constitutes a deprivation of right to property.

If these human rights violations are left unchecked they result in a culture of impunity.

**Recommendations:**

- Proper mechanisms to safeguard the human rights of the Karamojong population have to be reviewed, implemented and supervised. Encourage or, if necessary enforce, the Ugandan government to establish these measures.
- Efforts that are made to enhance the human rights situation in Karamoja have to be built on close cooperation with the Ugandan government.

**3.3 Topic: Freedom of movement**

**Situation:** The topic "freedom of movement" includes the opportunity for the pastoralists to move along their traditional movement patterns independent from national borders as well as the choice of residence (for which education is the basis).

As an adaptation to the arid and semi-arid region in Karamoja the seasonal movements of the pastoralists are strongly limited by privatisation of common land, national borders (which have traditionally no meaning for the pastoralists at all) and forced sedentarization. The traditional cattle raids are already out of control because of the automatic weapons which reach Karamoja by international arms trade and more violent raids restrict the mobility of the pastoralists as well. The tremendous consequences are the overexploitation of natural renewable resources (like grazing land and water), which are the very basics for the life of human beings and livestock. This leads to the loss of natural diversity, loss of livestock and more violent conflicts.

**Recommendations:**

- Strongly control the international arms trade with the aim to stop it in the long term in order to support the national disarmament in Karamoja.
- Call on the government of Uganda to ensure the pastoralists' freedom of residence and their freedom of movement which has to be based on the crossing of national borders.
- Call on the government of Uganda to stop the privatisation of common used land of the pastoralists in Karamoja.
- Call on the government of Uganda to stop the forced sedentarization of pastoralists in Karamoja.
- Coordinate your work with the government of Uganda, the LCV and those NGOs initiating programmes on:
  1. the connection between the increasing use of automatic weapons in cattle raids and the loss of mobility and

2. advantages and disadvantages of outmigration for those Karamojong who want to leave Karamoja. Give financial help and know how.

### **3.4 Topic: Global climate change**

**Situation:** The consequences of the global climate change caused by the industrial countries in the first place are already present in many southern regions of the world such as Karamoja. As an arid and semi-arid region Karamoja has to deal with increasing problems like expanding droughts and unreliable rainfall. Especially, the pastoralist livelihood is endangered, because of its adaptation to and dependence on the environmental conditions (e. g. seasonal movements in search for pasture and water). It is the European Commission's duty to protect and help those who don't belong to the contributors of global climate change, but will be the ones who suffer from it the most.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Keep the agreements of the Kyoto Protocol by reducing the emissions of greenhouse gas by at least 30 % to 40 % from 1990 levels until 2020 and work on further international agreements with all industrial countries. Globally, emissions have to be reduced by 80 % from 1990 levels until 2050 to limit global warming below 2° C above its pre-industrial level.
- Follow up the European Parliament's ideas for the extension of the emission trading system. The money resulting from the sale of emission certificates is to be used for the support of e. g. projects by NGOs meant to deal with the consequences of global warming in developing countries.
- Financially support the government of Uganda to implement early warning systems for droughts and floods by providing technical equipment and know how.
- Promote awareness rising among European citizens who have to understand the relation between their emissions and the consequences for developing countries in general and Karamoja in detail.

### **3.5 Topic: Disarmament**

#### **3.5.1 Peace building projects / awareness training**

**Situation:** Peace is the very basis for a stable social structure of the Karamojong livelihood. The disarmament of only a few tribes in Karamoja has been leading towards an inequality between the tribes: weapons are being partially removed while further protection of the unarmed against those who are still in possession of guns is not further guaranteed.

This situation can be seen as one of the main reasons responsible for a high lack of security in the overall region. The desired effect of disarmament programs has turned into its opposite: violence is clearly on the increase. The connection of this problem with cross-border arms trafficking from Sudan and Kenya is clearly given. Furthermore, as reported by Human Rights Watch (based on field research in 2007), disarmament has regularly been accompanied by a severe and ruthless, brutal force on the part of the Ugandan army.

This failure of former disarmament campaigns is to show how deeply rooted the conflicts between the Karamojong and neighbouring tribes really are. Attempts to force the people into disarmament and to simply destroy the weapons have to stay fruitless, as long as these strategies are not combined with a concrete awareness training of tribes in conflict.

#### **Recommendations:**

- The willingness to disarm can only be worked out on the basis of open dialogues and collective workshops. A "*disarming of the minds*" is to be considered the first priority before an actual disarmament will be possible. This goal can only be attained if pastoralists regain a feeling of security being made reliable in their area. Weapons thereby will become redundant.
- Provide staff of security forces with practical human rights training. Security forces have to be held accountable for past human rights violations.
- Revise disarmament policies to ensure compliance with human right obligations under national and international law.



### 3.5.2 Stop violence (of UPDF) and ensure protection

**Situation:** Actions of disarmament have been reported as severely accompanied by brutal force against civilians, who were killed, injured and tortured. The idea of introducing the Ugandan army in order to ensure security in the region of Karamoja has thereby turned into its opposite. Furthermore, a misuse of power on part of the UPDF happened in the past. Not only can this treatment of inferior people be considered a violation of human rights, but also is the misconducted realization of a good intention causing further insecurity: disarming only certain tribes amongst the Karamojong, the UPDF creates an inequality amongst different tribes concerning their ability of defending themselves, while not further guaranteeing the security of the unarmed.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Control the actions of the UPDF during disarmament processes in order to end human rights violations in the region: The UPDF could rather be used in the proceeding against inter-tribal violence and cattle raiding through intervention and the attempt of creating a peaceful dialogue and cooperation between them.
- Raise awareness of violations that are known to encourage the application of sanctions to end impunity.
- Address violations of human rights in Karamoja on part of the UPDF amongst the Ugandan government.

#### 1. Short termed:

To obtain a peaceful Karamojong society with less force of arms it is important to create a trustful relationship between the UPDF or even the Ugandan police and between the different tribes. Therefore it is necessary for short term to establish a Ugandan police or at least reorganize the UPDF for example through better education (with the help of the EU) or better payment.

#### 2. Long termed:

Based on this growing security the government of Uganda (if possible through cooperation of the EU and Sudan) make the population of Karamoja hand over their arms freely through adequate campaigns or maybe even a kind of collective rewards. As long as the Karamojong feel insecure and feel the need for weapons they will be able to get some, so drastic restrictions are not helpful in that matter.

### 3.5.3 Control of protection / documentation of human rights abuses

**Situation:** Actions of disarmament have been reported as severely accompanied by brutal force against civilians, who were killed, injured and tortured. The idea of introducing the Ugandan army in order to ensure security in the region of Karamoja has thereby turned into its opposite. Furthermore, a misuse of power on part of the UPDF happened in the past. Not only can this treatment of inferior people be considered a violation of human rights, but also is the misconducted realization of a good intention causing further insecurity. These cases of human rights abuses must not happen again in order to establish confidence in the Ugandan army and other security forces among the Karamojong.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Provide practical training for the Ugandan security forces in human rights.
- Strengthen the Ugandan Human Rights Commission and help them to investigate in cases of human rights abuses.
- Control the actions of the UPDF during disarmament processes in order to end human rights violations in the region.
- Encourage communities and local NGOs in Karamoja to report on human rights violations to the Ugandan Human Rights Commission. Provide photography equipment and transport to the members of NGOs in order to help them to document the violations.
- Address violations of human rights in Karamoja on part of the UPDF to the Ugandan government.

### **3.6 Topic: Education**

**Situation:** The field of education is strongly determined by the confrontation between tradition and modernity, in this special case between concepts aiming at keeping the pastoralists' indigenous knowledge alive on a primary school level (ABEK schools = Alternative Basic Education for Karamoja) and the formal educational system as established by the Ugandan government. In Karamoja the ABEK system is better suited than formal education, because it is adapted to the Karamojong way of life, i. e. it still allows the children to do their tasks in the communities, e. g. herding the cattle, and it is also adapted to the pastoralist movement patterns. Although ABEK is in fact meant to open up the way to enter formal education, the mediation between the two educational approaches needs to be re-established. If the Karamojong are well educated, they do have the choice to search for a job or to live their traditional pastoral lifestyle.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Financially support the foundation of a committee with experts from local NGOs as an advisory instance for the teachers of the ABEK as well as of the formal system. The committee members have to be familiar with the challenges of the pastoral way of life, but also with the conditions of the formal school system. The aims should be to convey a consciousness for the modern challenges pastoral societies have to adapt to (last but not least ecological changes of their environment they depend on).
- Financially support the government of Uganda and NGOs by improving and expanding the ABEK system all over Karamoja:
  - by training teachers chosen within the community
  - by providing furniture and teaching material to teachers and pupils
  - by encouraging the involvement of parents and communities
- Through the support of interactive education projects or workshops, like health programs, traditional healers can be motivated to share their knowledge which is normally kept as a secret within tribes. The knowledge of traditional healers and western doctors working in Karamoja should complement one another.

### **3.7 Topic: Public services and infrastructure**

**Situation:** The region of Karamoja is facing different problematic situations some of which could be improved by a better infrastructure and public services. Food and water insecurity are amplified by different factors such as the consequences of climate change and population growth, reinforcing illnesses or epidemics amongst people and animals. Illnesses amongst animals, again, are destabilizing food security and the economic situation of the Karamojong. The position of (pregnant) women and children needs to be analyzed specifically as they often suffer from the problematic situation in different ways and need special treatments.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Financially support improving infrastructure to reduce territorial inequalities between Karamoja and other parts of Uganda. The network of transports, e. g. roads has to be expanded and the health services furniture needs to be improved.
- Financially support the government of Uganda and NGOs in increasing the number of hospitals and (mobile) health centres in Karamoja, spread across the whole region following the pastoralists' movement patterns.
- Provide more support to projects aiming to face global warming in developing countries. Concerning public services, early warning systems for natural catastrophes are necessary.
- Urgently needed gender based programs should (while avoiding a transfer of ideas of gender role models) include a gender based approach aiming at self-developed gender role models as well as a diversification of economic participation for women. Thereby the capacity of women to organize themselves to be able to defend their interests should be reinforced. Furthermore they should pay more attention to women's health and undertake awareness campaigns concerning health care and family planning.

### **3.8 Topic: Youth programs**

**Situation:** As more than 50 % of the population of Karamoja is under the age of 18, it is necessary to address this group within special programs. This generation grew up under violent and unstable conditions (e. g. arms trade, more violence in cattle raids with automatic weapons, conflicts between generation sets) and therefore youth needs to start understanding peace as the very basis for all further developments. Considering the high demographic rate and the rate of children and youth in total population in the Karamoja region, these specific groups can play an essential role in the communities. Indeed, children and youth are the first concerned by climate change, pastoralism future and most of all by the arms trafficking. Furthermore, their energy and their will for the Karamojong community future must be tackled by all the actors of civil society.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Financially support those NGOs which initiate sports programs for the young generation involving different tribes (e. g. like Trevor Dudley's Kampala Kids League) to strengthen their spirit of companionship among each other. Through sports the children learn to cooperate, to communicate and to work together to achieve common goals.
- Financially support those NGOs which initiate community development projects requiring the direct participation of the youth to make them an active and integrated part of the community. Help providing material and technical assistance for these projects.
- Support local governments and NGOs in Karamoja which listen to the youth and take into consideration their different perspectives.
- Specific programs could be created such as professional formations for those who want to migrate to cities. Professional structures could be created in cities for young Karamojong to prevent them from economic and social exclusion.
- Create inputs activities for youth and the community as a whole.

### **3.9 Topic: Population growth and family planning**

**Situation:** First of all the population pressure in Karamoja needs to be recognized as a consequence of reduced mobility and increasing sedentarization. The growing population is one of the driving factors, which amplify the dynamics of problems such as food and water insecurity. This is one reason why most people in Karamoja live below the poverty line. At the same time it should be taken into consideration that for those pastoralists, who are still mobile, a relatively large number of children is needed for taking care of the cattle. There should be a dialogue about the new challenges and the different ways in which the Karamojong could and may wish to respond in terms of family planning. The issue of population growth and family planning is strongly linked to the topic "role of women" (see topic 4.9).

#### **Recommendations:**

- Financially support those NGOs which work on programs about family planning in Karamoja. These projects are mainly required in sedentarized communities or among pastoralist drop-outs according to the situation described above.
- Supervise and support the Ugandan government in creating better living conditions through better health care systems, food security and a better infrastructure system with good access to markets. More security for the (sedentarized) Karamojong would lower the pressure for the necessity of having many children.

### **3.10 Topic: Cooperation and coordination of the NGOs**

**Situation:** In Karamoja numerous NGOs work to improve the population's situation and to meet its needs. Coordination of humanitarian and development activities by local authorities, with the support of UN agencies, need to be further improved, in order to avoid unnecessary, often harmful, duplication of efforts.

**Recommendations:**

- There is a need to enhance coordination of efforts among the NGOs and humanitarian organisations in the Karamoja region, which should be supervised and coordinated by the government of Uganda, with the support of UN agencies. The government of Uganda should continue to register and monitor the work of NGOs, while at the same time guaranteeing a friendly administrative environment for the success of their operations.
- Help with technical know how to create a good register basis.
- Coordinate your support with the Ugandan governmental institutions.

**3.11 Topic: Intercultural dialogue**

**Situation:** Over years, the Karamojong followed sustainable living strategies in the arid and semi-arid area of North-East Uganda to conserve nature as it is their basic survival need. In the other regions of Uganda, a lack of understanding for this pastoral livelihood dominates and has led to an isolated position of the Karamojong culture. The tremendous consequences not only for Karamoja, but also for neighboring tribes in countries like Sudan and Kenya include: privatization of common used land, forced sedentarization, overexploitation of natural renewable resources and increasing violence by automatic weapons in originally traditional cattle raids. Considering last but not least that the pastoral livelihood is the most sustainable way of land use in Karamoja, intercultural dialogues for a mutual understanding are necessary. Right and sustainable development can not be brought from outside. It should come from the country itself, also known as bottom-up. Different villages or communities should think and work together. The ideas that come up here have a better basis of acceptance and are probably more suitable to the situation. That's why the international community, but also the government of Uganda, should provide platforms or arrange meetings to bring the population of Karamoja (their representatives) together.

**Recommendations:**

- Financially support the government of Uganda, the LCV and those NGOs which organize round tables, conferences, discussions and exhibitions for creating awareness of the Karamojong culture and a better intercultural dialogue.
- The European Union and all other actors involved should enforce the power of local governments in the Karamoja region. They should encourage local projects like Teso Initiative for Peace (TIP), where local governments come together to work on peace initiatives. The actors involved should encourage local governments to be more powerful, transparent and democratic legitimate so that they can create peace for their people.

## **4. To non-governmental organisations acting or willing to act in Karamoja**

**4.1 Topic: Human rights violations**

**Situation:** The topic of widespread human rights prevalent in the region has to remain an issue of concern. The fundamental human rights enshrined in the Ugandan constitution and in the International Declaration of Human Rights of the International Community have been grossly violated by various groups at various degrees in the past few years of conflict within the Karamoja region. The perpetrators include the warring factions in the local community of Karamoja as well as parts of the Ugandan security forces. These violations occur in different manors, e. g. the following:

1. Deprivation of right to live: In the course of cattle raid, there is wanton killing of men, women and children on both sides of the raiders and the raided. The Ugandan army, though with the good intention of quelling the inadmissible act of raiding, adopt a very violent approach of handling the problem; i. e. they resort to the outright killing of the raiders without trial in a proper court of law.

2. Deprivation of right to property: The act of cattle raiding constitutes a deprivation of right to property.

If these human rights violations are left unchecked they result in a culture of impunity.

**Recommendations:**

- Proper mechanisms to safeguard the human rights of the Karamojong population have to be reviewed, implemented and supervised. Encourage or, if necessary enforce the Ugandan government to establish these measures.
- Efforts that are more to enhance the human rights situation in Karamoja have to be built on close cooperation with the Ugandan government.

#### **4.2 Topic: Freedom of movement**

**Situation:** The topic "freedom of movement" includes the opportunity for the pastoralists to move along their traditional movement patterns independent from national borders as well as the choice of residence (for which education is the basis).

As an adaptation to the arid and semi-arid region in Karamoja the seasonal movements of the pastoralists are strongly limited by privatisation of common land, national borders (which have traditionally no meaning for the pastoralists at all) and forced sedentarization. The traditional cattle raids are already out of control because of the automatic weapons which reach Karamoja by international arms trade and more violent raids restrict the mobility of the pastoralists as well. The tremendous consequences are the overexploitation of natural renewable resources (like grazing land and water), which are the very basics for the life of human beings and livestock. This leads to the loss of natural diversity, loss of livestock and more violent conflicts.

**Recommendations:**

- Call on the government of Uganda to stop the privatization of common used land of the pastoralists in Karamoja.
- Call on the government of Uganda to stop the forced sedentarization of pastoralists in Karamoja.
- Initiate awareness raising programs to explain the connection between the increasing use of automatic weapons in cattle raids and the loss of mobility.
- Initiate awareness raising programs to explain the advantages and disadvantages of outmigration for those Karamojong who want to leave Karamoja. Ensure support for those Karamojong reaching urban centres by providing basic infrastructure in reception sites. Also ensure support for those Karamojong willing to return to Karamoja by integrating them into their original community.
- Coordinate your work with the EU, the government of Uganda and the LCV.

#### **4.3 Topic: Global climate change**

**Situation:** The consequences of the global climate change caused by the industrial countries in the first place are already present in many southern regions of the world such as Karamoja. As an arid and semi-arid region Karamoja has to deal with increasing problems like expanding droughts and unreliable rainfall. Especially, the pastoralist livelihood is endangered, because of its adaptation to and dependence on the environmental conditions (e. g. seasonal movements in search for pasture and water).

**Recommendations:**

- Implement early warning systems for droughts and floods. To be able to react to the consequences of the global climate change a national drought contingency fund has to be set up.
- Coordinate your work with the planning of the EU and the Ugandan government.

#### **4.4 Topic: Disarmament**

##### **4.4.1 Peace building projects / awareness training**

**Situation:** Peace is the very basis for a stable social structure of the Karamojong livelihood. The disarmament of only a few tribes in Karamoja has been leading towards an inequality between the tribes: weapons are being partially removed while further protection of the unarmed against those who are still in possession of guns is not further

guaranteed. This situation can be seen as one of the main reasons responsible for a high lack of security in the overall region. The desired effect of disarmament programs has turned into its opposite: violence is clearly on the increase. The connection of this problem with cross-border arms trafficking from Sudan and Kenya is clearly given. Furthermore, as reported by Human Rights Watch (based on field research in 2007), disarmament has regularly been accompanied by a severe and ruthless, brutal force on the part of the Ugandan army.

Also children grow up under violent conditions, while they especially should be the ones to learn how to solve conflicts without a gun and to respect the life of others.

This failure of former disarmament campaigns is to show how deeply rooted the conflicts between the Karamojong and neighbouring tribes really are. Attempts to force the people into disarmament and to simply destroy the weapons have to stay fruitless, as long as these strategies are not combined with a concrete awareness training of tribes in conflict.

**Recommendations:**

- The willingness to disarm can only be worked out on the basis of open dialogues and collective workshops. A "*disarming of the minds*" is to be considered the first priority before an actual disarmament will be possible. This goal can only be attained if pastoralists regain a feeling of security being made reliable in their area. Weapons thereby will become redundant.
- Provide staff of security forces with practical human rights training. Security forces have to be held accountable for past human rights violations.
- Combine strategies of disarmament with a concrete awareness training of tribes in conflict, which can only be initiated through a mediating instance allowing for the fears and prejudices of the groups involved. Assemble a team of external peace workers (e. g. from international development services and NGOs) and local experts who will act as mediators. There should be dialogues and workshops with members of different tribes and Government representatives.
- Also focus on working with children as more than 50% of the population in Karamoja is under the age of 18 and therefore play an important role in the future of that region.
- An intensive collaboration between local NGOs and the LCV is important in order to amend the peace building efforts by a more "neutral" perspective from outside. Although the LCV have of course to stay in the centre of the dialogues, NGOs could concentrate on the supply of concrete help in forms of organisational know-how and technical equipment for the realisation of collective meetings and workshops.
- Initiate video projects to foster the tribes' understanding for their common ground as the collective enacting of common rituals could be a starting point for a mutual understanding.

4.4.2 Control of protection / documentation of human rights abuses

**Situation:** Actions of disarmament have been reported as severely accompanied by brutal force against civilians, who were killed, injured and tortured. The idea of introducing the Ugandan army in order to ensure security in the region of Karamoja has thereby turned into its opposite. Furthermore, a misuse of power on part of the UPDF happened in the past. Not only can this treatment of inferior people be considered a violation of human rights, but also is the misconducted realization of a good intention causing further insecurity. These cases of human rights abuses must not happen again in order to establish confidence in the Ugandan army and other security forces among the Karamojong.

**Recommendations:**

- Control the actions of the UPDF during disarmament processes in order to end human rights violations in the region: the UPDF could rather be used in the proceeding against inter-tribal violence and cattle raiding through intervention and the attempt to create a peaceful dialogue and cooperation between them.
- Raise awareness of violations that are known to encourage the application of sanctions in order to end impunity.

#### **4.5 Topic: Education**

**Situation:** The field of education is strongly determined by the confrontation between tradition and modernity, in this special case between concepts aiming at keeping the pastoralists' indigenous knowledge alive on a primary school level (ABEK schools = Alternative Basic Education for Karamoja) and the formal educational system as established by the Ugandan government. In Karamoja the ABEK system is better suited than formal education, because it is adapted to the Karamojong way of life, i. e. it still allows the children to do their tasks in the communities, e. g. herding the cattle, and it is also adapted to the pastoralist movement patterns. Although ABEK is in fact meant to open up the way to enter formal education, the mediation between the two educational approaches needs to be re-established. If the Karamojong are well educated, they do have the choice to search for a job or to live their traditional pastoral lifestyle.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Initiate the foundation of a committee with experts from local NGOs as an advisory instance for the teachers of the ABEK as well as of the formal system. The committee members have to be familiar with the challenges of the pastoral way of life, but also with the conditions of the formal school system. The aims should be to convey a consciousness for the modern challenges pastoral societies have to adapt to (last but not least ecological changes of their environment they depend on).
- Short termed: improve and expand the ABEK system all over the country:
  - by training teachers chosen within the community
  - by providing furniture and teaching material to teachers and pupils
  - by encouraging the involvement of parents and communities
- Long termed: create a dual education system that is based on the ABEK approach and the formal schools in order to bring together tradition and modernity. To make the two systems function as complements, it is necessary to adapt their curricula. Besides the basics of reading, writing and calculating the following topics should be integrated: culturally-sensitive sex education/contraception, health, especially the problematic of HIV, history of Uganda and Karamoja, political situation of Uganda (disarmament), climate change, a sensible and sensitive "disarmament of the childrens' minds".
- Through the support of interactive education projects or workshops, like health programs, traditional healers can be motivated to share their knowledge which is normally kept as a secret within tribes. The knowledge of traditional healers and western doctors working in Karamoja should complement one another.

#### **4.6 Topic: Public services and infrastructure**

**Situation:** The region of Karamoja is facing different problematic situations some of which could be improved by a better infrastructure and public services. Food and water insecurity are amplified by different factors such as the consequences of climate change and population growth, reinforcing illnesses or epidemics amongst people and animals. Illnesses amongst animals, again, are destabilizing food security and the economic situation of the Karamojong. The position of (pregnant) women and children needs to be analyzed specifically as they often suffer from the problematic situation in different ways and need special treatments.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Build infrastructure to reduce territorial inequalities between Karamoja and other parts of Uganda. The network of transports, e. g. roads has to be expanded and the health services furniture needs to be improved.
- Improve the access to health services:
  - by increasing the number of hospitals and (mobile) health centres in Karamoja, spread within the whole region respectively following the pastoralists' movement patterns
  - by reducing the prices of drugs and treatments

- by training health workers within communities on how to deal with sicknesses (like HIV / AIDS) and birth control. Working in cooperation with traditional healers is important.
- Provide more support to projects aimed to face global warming in developing countries. Concerning public services, early warning systems for natural catastrophes are inevitable.
- Urgently needed gender based programs should (while avoiding a transfer of ideas of gender role models) include a gender based approach aiming at self-developed gender role models as well as a diversification of economic participation for women. Thereby the capacity of women to organize themselves to be able to defend their interests should be reinforced. Furthermore they should pay more attention to women's health and undertake awareness campaigns concerning health care and family planning.

#### **4.7 Topic: Youth programs**

**Situation:** As more than 50 % of the population of Karamoja is under the age of 18, it is necessary to address this group within special programs. This generation grew up under violent and unstable conditions (e. g. arms trade, more violence in cattle raids with automatic weapons, conflicts between generation sets) and therefore youth needs to start understanding peace as the very basis for all further developments. Considering the high demographic rate and the rate of children and youth in total population in the Karamoja region, these specific groups can play an essential role in the communities. Indeed, children and youth are the first concerned by climate change, pastoralism future and most of all by the arms trafficking. Furthermore, their energy and their will for the Karamojong community future must be tackled by all the actors of civil society.

##### **Recommendations:**

- Initiate more sports programs for the young generation involving different tribes (e. g. like Trevor Dudley's Kampala Kids League) to strengthen their spirit of companionship among each other. Through sports the children learn to cooperate, to communicate and to work together to achieve common goals.
- Make sure that these programs are not restricted to urban areas, as the majority of the youth affected by lack of prospects due to violence lives in remote areas.
- Initiate more community development projects requiring the direct participation of the youth to make them an active and integrated part of the community. To start such projects it is essential to allow for the needs and wishes of the community members themselves. Provide material and technical assistance for these projects.
- NGOs working in Karamoja must listen to the youth and take into consideration their different perspectives.
- Participative debates and education must be promoted to underline their needs and their wills.
- Youth should be involved in the community debates. NGOs could empower their political voice by promoting youth organizations.
- Specific programs could be created such as professional formations for those who want to migrate to cities. Professional structures could be created in cities for young Karamojong to prevent them from economic and social exclusion.
- Create inputs activities for youth and the community as a whole.
- Aware youth about alternative answers to cattle raiding and arms trafficking.

#### **4.8 Topic: Population growth and family planning**

**Situation:** First of all the population pressure in Karamoja needs to be recognized as a consequence of reduced mobility and increasing sedentarization. The growing population is one of the driving factors, which amplify the dynamics of problems such as food and water insecurity. This is one reason why most people in Karamoja live below the poverty line. At the same time it should be taken into consideration that for those pastoralists, who are still mobile, a relatively large number of children is needed for taking care of the cattle. There should be a dialogue about the new challenges and the different ways in



which the Karamojong could and may wish to respond in terms of family planning. The issue of population growth and family planning is strongly linked to the topic "role of women" (see topic 4.9).

**Recommendation:**

- Initiate programs about family planning, which are mainly required in sedentarized communities or among pastoralist drop-outs according to the situation described above. It is important that these projects are created carefully and individually, because those pastoralists who are still mobile enough need more children to herd the cattle.

**4.9 Topic: The role of women**

Control of protection / documentation of human rights abuses

**Situation:** Women play an important role in the pastoralist way of life, assuming diverse responsibilities with regard to the livestock, the land and the household. However, their knowledge of natural resource management, which they put into practice for the benefit of both their communities and the environment, has not yet been fully recognized. Furthermore, many of the increasing problems Karamoja faces today are especially hard for women. Women are also often excluded from the decision-making process which weakens their power in society and their influence on relief and adaptation strategies that are to be pursued to combat current aspects of crisis. Therefore women's needs must be met with extra care to end their suffering. Women represent one of the most vulnerable groups in Karamoja. Gender imbalances and inequalities prevent the society as whole from realizing its full potential in all social, economic, legal and political spheres.

**Recommendations:**

- Urgently needed gender based programs should include an approach aiming at a diversification of economic participation for women and reinforce the capacity of women to organize themselves to be able to defend their interests.
- Furthermore programs should involve and raise awareness for topics like women's health care, health care in general and family planning. Nevertheless such programs should try to respect the traditional role of women in the Karamojong region and avoid transferring their own (western) gender role models.
- Take into account the culture of the Karamojong.
- Inform the population of economic opportunities for women.
- Promote human rights and especially women's rights.
- Improve the coordination between local NGOs working for this issue.
- Increase women's access to education.
- Increase Karamojong awareness about familial planning issues.
- Create specific programs about familial planning working with the local authorities and the local medical structures.
- Increase women organization's capacity building and encourage debates about the role of women in peace building efforts and in the promotion of alternative livelihoods to cattle herding.

**4.10 Topic: HIV**

**Situation:** One of the major causes of death in Uganda is AIDS. In particular pregnant women and children in rural areas, like Karamoja, suffer from this problematic. The epidemic has been in Karamoja for a shorter period than elsewhere in Uganda, so they have not learned how to deal with it and how to prevent it, yet. The distribution of condoms is useless unless it goes along with explanations of their purpose and use. Ten years ago HIV / AIDS was unknown in Karamoja region, but today local authorities estimate that the number has climbed to 3 %. Drought and hunger have led to a competition for natural resources. Cattle raiding has become increasingly aggressive and the rape of women and children has become commonplace, bringing the warriors into sexual contact with communities where HIV / AIDS rates are higher. The late arrival of HIV / AIDS in Karamoja means that prevention efforts are more than a decade behind the rest of the country, and illiteracy is a barrier to promoting Uganda. NGOs must concentrate in implementing schools (ABEK) in which prevention against AIDS must take

an important place. Health centres must also provide contraceptives and "faith-based NGOs" should not work against the promotion of contraceptives in Karamoja.

Today the prevalence of HIV / AIDS is 4.5 %, which is lower than the national average of 6.5 %, but quite high for a conservative society. HIV becomes an upcoming threat and the epidemics will keep increasing and will have dramatic consequences in the region if not tackled appropriate manner. The level of ignorance about the mode of HIV transmission and prevention is still high and stigma is widespread. Thus, particular focus should be given on this region and the HIV prevention has to be tackled by the government of Uganda and local authorities in the Karamoja region.

**Recommendations:**

- Organize culturally-sensitive workshops for the children and also for the teachers of formal schools and ABEK schools. This open handling of the topics sex, sexuality and prevention is to make the topics more normal and less out of bounds.
- Initiate programs of sensitization and educational awareness about the issue of HIV / AIDS, its effects and its potential impacts on the population. These bodies should work hand in hand with women, who constitute the most vulnerable part of the population, and traditional healers, who command a lot of respect, on the issue of HIV / AIDS sensitization. Coordinate these programs with hospitals, schools and traditional healers.
- Provide an easy access to medical diagnosis and health care in order to monitor and curtail the spread of HIV / AIDS and other illnesses. Dynamic follow-up programs, which are adaptable to the needs of a highly mobile population, should also be introduced.
- Promote health education by training health workers within the communities.
- Train more doctors and reduce the price of drugs and treatment.
- Increase financial resources for regional HIV prevention programs and lobby for the creation of a special fund for the Karamoja region.

**4.11 Topic: Cooperation and coordination of the NGOs**

**Situation:** In Karamoja numerous NGOs work to improve the population's situation and to meet its needs. Coordination of humanitarian and development activities by local authorities, with the support of UN agencies, need to be further improved, in order to avoid unnecessary, often harmful, duplication of efforts.

**Recommendations:**

- There is a need to enhance coordination of efforts among the NGOs and humanitarian organisations in the Karamoja region, which should be supervised and coordinated by the government of Uganda, with the support of UN agencies. The government of Uganda should continue to register and monitor the work of NGOs, while at the same time guaranteeing a friendly administrative environment for the success of their operations.
- Help with technical know how to create a good register basis.
- Coordinate your support with the Ugandan governmental institutions.

## **5. To the African Union / governments of East Africa**

**5.1 Topic: Acknowledgement of pastoralism**

**Situation:** As living conditions in Karamoja are very harsh and unpredictable, pastoralism as a flexible way of managing livestock and land has proved to be the most sustainable adaptation to the arid and semi-arid environment. Both privatization of common land and increasing forced sedentarization lead to overexploitation of natural renewable resources (like grazing land and water), which are the very basics for the life of human beings and livestock. These two processes are an expression for a general

isolation of the pastoralists in Karamoja. All actors involved should help the Karamojong to adapt their pastoralist way of live to the modern world. This could be done by encouraging the pastoralist way of life and adapting it to the current situation. This can be done by the vaccination of cattle, teaching the Karamojong to be veterinarians and teach them about land ownership. In this case, the Ugandan Government should respect the Karamojong choice and should do anything to help them to stay pastoralists. For those Karamojong, who don't want to continue their pastoralist way of life, the actors involved should seek alternative livelihoods for those people, be this agriculturist or some other alternative livelihood.

**Recommendations:**

- Stop the privatization of common used land of the pastoralist tribes as the private land reduces the possibilities for the seasonal pastoral movements.
- Stop forcing the pastoralists into sedentarization as, in the long term, agriculture is not a sustainable way of using the land if not carefully balanced with the needs of pastoral land use.
- Assemble a team of mediators (external development workers, Ugandan politicians and Karamojong) who will work out peaceful solutions between the population of Karamoja and the bordering countries. The pastoralists should be able to influence and to participate in political decision making.
- Policies of positive discrimination should be implemented in favor of the Karamojong, for instance, educated Karamojong youth should have guaranteed access to good employment positions, further education opportunities, and government representation (e. g. quota in all political institutions).

**5.2 Topic: Freedom of movement**

**Situation:** The topic "freedom of movement" includes the opportunity for the pastoralists to move along their traditional movement patterns independent from national borders as well as the choice of residence (for which education is the basis).

As an adaptation to the arid and semi-arid region in Karamoja the seasonal movements of the pastoralists are strongly limited by privatisation of common land, national borders (which have traditionally no meaning for the pastoralists at all) and forced sedentarization. The traditional cattle raids are already out of control because of the automatic weapons which reach Karamoja by international arms trade and more violent raids restrict the mobility of the pastoralists as well. The tremendous consequences are the overexploitation of natural renewable resources (like grazing land and water), which are the very basics for the life of human beings and livestock. This leads to the loss of natural diversity, loss of livestock and more violent conflicts.

**Recommendations:**

- Strongly control the international arms trade with the aim to stop it in the long term in order to support the national disarmament in Karamoja.
- Find a cross-border framework which ensures the freedom of movement for the pastoralists across international boundaries.
- Coordinate your work with the government of Uganda and the LCV.

## **6. To the government of Uganda**

**6.1 Topic: Acknowledgement of pastoralism**

**Situation:** As living conditions in Karamoja are very harsh and unpredictable, pastoralism as a flexible way of managing livestock and land has proved to be the most sustainable adaptation to the arid and semi-arid environment. Both privatization of common land and increasing forced sedentarization lead to overexploitation of natural renewable resources (like grazing land and water), which are the very basics for the life of human beings and livestock. These two processes are an expression for a general isolation of the pastoralists in Karamoja. All actors involved should help the Karamojong to adapt their pastoralist way of live to the modern world. This could be done by

encouraging the pastoralist way of life and adapting it to the current situation. This can be done by the vaccination of cattle, teaching the Karamojong to be veterinarians and teach them about land ownership. In this case, the Ugandan Government should respect the Karamojong choice and should do anything to help them to stay pastoralists. For those Karamojong, who don't want to continue their pastoralist way of life, the actors involved should seek alternative livelihoods for those people, be this agriculturist or some other alternative livelihood.

**Recommendations:**

- Stop the privatization of common used land of the pastoralist tribes as the private land reduces the possibilities for the seasonal pastoral movements.
- Stop forcing the pastoralists into sedentarization as, in the long term, agriculture is not a sustainable way of using the land if not carefully balanced with the needs of pastoral land use.
- Assemble a team of mediators (external development workers, Ugandan politicians and Karamojong) who will work out peaceful solutions with the population of Karamoja. The pastoralists should be able to influence and to participate in political decision making.
- Policies of positive discrimination should be implemented in favor of the Karamojong, for instance, educated Karamojong youth should have guaranteed access to good employment positions, further education opportunities, and government representation (e. g. quota in all political institutions).
- Ensure support for those Karamojong reaching urban centres by providing basic infrastructure in reception sites. Also ensure support for those Karamojong willing to return to Karamoja by integrating them into their original community.

**6.2 Topic: Human rights violations**

**Situation:** The topic of widespread human rights prevalent in the region has to remain an issue of concern. The fundamental human rights enshrined in the Ugandan constitution and in the International Declaration of Human Rights of the International Community have been grossly violated by various groups at various degrees in the past few years of conflict within the Karamoja region. The perpetrators include the warring factions in the local community of Karamoja as well as parts of the Ugandan security forces. These violations occur in different manors, e. g. the following:

1. Deprivation of right to live: In the course of cattle raid, there is wanton killing of men, women and children on both sides of the raiders and the raided. The Ugandan army, though with the good intention of quelling the inadmissible act of raiding, adopt a very violent approach of handling the problem; i.e. they resort to the outright killing of the raiders without trial in a proper court of law.
2. Deprivation of right to property: The act of cattle raiding constitutes a deprivation of right to property.

If these Human rights violations are left unchecked they result in a culture of impunity.

**Recommendations:**

- Recognize the existence of and publicly condemn human rights violations in the region – especially those committed by Ugandan security forces.
- Put into effect and publicly announce measures to prevent future violations. Establish independent institutions to investigate all allegations of rape, murder, torture, arbitrary or unlawful detention, abuse, looting and other reported cases of human rights abuses and infringements in the region for the prosecution of perpetrators.
- Provide reparations for families who have been victims of human rights violations by Ugandan security forces during disarmaments.

**6.3 Topic: Freedom of movement**

**Situation:** The topic “freedom of movement” includes the opportunity for the pastoralists to move along their traditional movement patterns independent from national borders as well as the choice of residence (for which education is the basis).

As an adaptation to the arid and semi-arid region in Karamoja the seasonal movements of the pastoralists are strongly limited by privatisation of common land, national borders (which have traditionally no meaning for the pastoralists at all) and forced sedentarization. The traditional cattle raids are already out of control because of the automatic weapons which reach Karamoja by international arms trade and more violent raids restrict the mobility of the pastoralists as well. The tremendous consequences are the overexploitation of natural renewable resources (like grazing land and water), which are the very basics for the life of human beings and livestock. This leads to the loss of natural diversity, loss of livestock and more violent conflicts.

**Recommendations:**

- Strongly control the international arms trade with the aim to stop it in the long term in order to support the national disarmament in Karamoja.
- Stop the privatization of common used land of the pastoralists in Karamoja.
- Stop the forced sedentarization of pastoralists in Karamoja.
- Find a cross-border framework which ensures the freedom of movement for the pastoralists across national and international boundaries.
- Ensure the freedom of residence for the Karamojong by setting up programmes on outmigration providing information to those who want migrate into urban areas of Uganda and to those who want to return to Karamoja.
- Within reception sites for those Karamojong reaching urban centres basic infrastructure has to be provided. Also ensure support for those Karamojong willing to return to Karamoja by integrating them into their original community.
- Coordinate your work with the EU (arms trade), the African Union (crossing of international boundaries), the LCV (crossing of national boundaries) and those NGOs initiating programs on:
  1. the connection between the increasing use of automatic weapons in cattle raids and the loss of mobility and
  2. advantages and disadvantages of outmigration for those Karamojong who want to leave Karamoja.

**6.4 Topic: Global climate change**

**Situation:** The consequences of the global climate change caused by the industrial countries in the first place are already present in many southern regions of the world such as Karamoja. As an arid and semi-arid region Karamoja has to deal with increasing problems like expanding droughts and unreliable rainfall. Especially, the pastoralist livelihood is endangered, because of its adaptation to and dependence on the environmental conditions (e. g. seasonal movements in search for pasture and water).

**Recommendations:**

- Implement early warning systems for droughts and floods. To be able to react to the consequences of the global climate change a national drought contingency fund has to be set up.
- Coordinate your work with those non-governmental organisations planning to set up such warning systems.

**6.5 Topic: Disarmament**

6.5.1 Peace building projects / awareness training

**Situation:** Peace is the very basis for a stable social structure of the Karamojong livelihood. The disarmament of only a few tribes in Karamoja has been leading towards an inequality between the tribes: weapons are being partially removed while further protection of the unarmed against those who are still in possession of guns is not further guaranteed. This situation can be seen as one of the main reasons responsible for a high lack of security in the overall region. The desired effect of disarmament programs has turned into its opposite: violence is clearly on the increase. The connection of this problem with cross-border arms trafficking from Sudan and Kenya is clearly given. Furthermore, as reported by Human Rights Watch (based on field research in 2007), disarmament has regularly been accompanied by a severe and ruthless, brutal force on the part of the Ugandan army.

Also children grow up under violent conditions, while they especially should be the ones to learn how to solve conflicts without a gun and to respect the life of others.

This failure of former disarmament campaigns is to show how deeply rooted the conflicts between the Karamojong and neighbouring tribes really are. Attempts to force the people into disarmament and to simply destroy the weapons have to stay fruitless, as long as these strategies are not combined with a concrete awareness training of tribes in conflict.

**Recommendations:**

- Provide staff of security forces with practical human rights training. Security forces have to be held accountable for past human rights violations. Encourage communities and local NGOs in Karamoja to report on human rights violations to the Ugandan Human Rights Commission. (Providing photography equipment and transport to the members of organizations could help them to document the violations.)
- Combine strategies of disarmament with a concrete awareness training of tribes in conflict, which can only be initiated through a mediating instance allowing for the fears and prejudices of the groups involved. Assemble a team of external peace workers (e. g. from international development services and NGOs) and local experts who will act as mediators. There should be dialogues and workshops with members of different tribes and government representatives.
- Also focus on working with children as more than 50 % of the population in Karamoja is under the age of 18 and therefore play an important role in the future of that region. Coordinate your work with local NGOs.

6.5.2 Stop violence (of UPDF) and ensure protection

**Situation:** Actions of disarmament have been reported as severely accompanied by brutal force against civilians, who were killed, injured and tortured. The idea of introducing the Ugandan army in order to ensure security in the region of Karamoja has thereby turned into its opposite. Furthermore, a misuse of power on part of the UPDF happened in the past. Not only can this treatment of inferior people be considered a violation of human rights, but also is the misconducted realization of a good intention causing further insecurity. These cases of human rights abuses must not happen again in order to establish confidence in the Ugandan army and other security forces among the Karamojong. By disarming only some tribes amongst the Karamojong, the UPDF creates an inequality amongst different tribes concerning their ability of defending themselves, while not further guaranteeing the security of the unarmed.

**Recommendations:**

- Control the actions of the UPDF during disarmament processes in order to end human rights violations in the region: the UPDF could rather be used in the proceeding against inter-tribal violence and cattle raiding through intervention and the attempt to create a peaceful dialogue and cooperation between them.
- Regulate and control the effectiveness of the disarmament actions in Karamoja under the Karamoja Integrated Disarmament and Development Program.

1. Short termed:

To obtain a peaceful Karamojong society with less force of arms it is important to create a trustful relationship between the UPDF or even the Ugandan police and between the different tribes. Therefore it is necessary for short term to establish a Ugandan police or at least support the UPDF for example through better education (with the help of the EU) or better payment.

2. Long termed:

Based on this growing security the government of Uganda (if possible through cooperation of the EU and Sudan) make the population of Karamoja hand over their arms freely through adequate campaigns or maybe even a kind of collective rewards. As long as the Karamojong feel insecure and feel the need for weapons they will be able to get some, so drastic restrictions are not helpful in that matter.

## 6.6 Topic: Education

**Situation:** The field of education is strongly determined by the confrontation between tradition and modernity, in this special case between concepts aiming at keeping the pastoralists' indigenous knowledge alive on a primary school level (ABEK schools = Alternative Basic Education for Karamoja) and the formal educational system as established by the Ugandan government. In Karamoja the ABEK system is better suited than formal education, because it is adapted to the Karamojong way of life, i. e. it still allows the children to do their tasks in the communities, e. g. herding the cattle, and it is also adapted to the pastoralist movement patterns. Although ABEK is in fact meant to open up the way to enter formal education, the mediation between the two educational approaches needs to be re-established. If the Karamojong are well educated, they do have the choice to search for a job or to live their traditional pastoral lifestyle. The awareness in Uganda about the Karamoja region is extremely low. This part of the country can only truly integrate if the people have the right knowledge about it. There are still Ugandan people who believe the Karamojong have tails or walk around naked. This area is discriminated and neglected, based on stories that aren't even real. Education can change this.

### Recommendations:

- Initiate the foundation of a committee with experts from local NGOs as an advisory instance for the teachers of the ABEK as well as of the formal system. The committee members have to be familiar with the challenges of the pastoral way of life, but also with the conditions of the formal school system. The aims should be to convey a consciousness for the modern challenges pastoral societies have to adapt to (last but not least ecological changes of their environment they depend on).
- Short termed: improve and expand the ABEK system all over the country:
  - by training teachers chosen within the community
  - by providing furniture and teaching material to teachers and pupils
  - by encouraging the involvement of parents and communities
- Long termed: create a dual education system that is based on the ABEK approach and the formal schools in order to bring together tradition and modernity. To make the two systems function as complements, it is necessary to adapt their curricula. Besides the basics of reading, writing and calculating the following topics should be integrated: culturally-sensitive sex education/contraception, health, especially the problematic of HIV, history of Uganda and Karamoja, political situation of Uganda (disarmament), climate change, a sensible and sensitive "disarmament of the childrens' minds".
- Through the support of interactive education projects or workshops, like health programs, traditional healers can be motivated to share their knowledge which is normally kept as a secret within tribes. The knowledge of traditional healers and western doctors working in Karamoja should complement one another.
- Policies of positive discrimination should be implemented in favour of the Karamojong, for instance educated Karamojong should have guaranteed access to good employment positions, further education opportunities and government representation.
- Coordinate your support and projects with the LCV and the NGOs.

## 6.7 Topic: Public services and infrastructure

**Situation:** The region of Karamoja is facing different problematic situations some of which could be improved by a better infrastructure and public services. Food and water insecurity are amplified by different factors such as the consequences of climate change and population growth, reinforcing illnesses or epidemics amongst people and animals. Illnesses amongst animals, again, are destabilizing food security and the economic situation of the Karamojong. The position of (pregnant) women and children needs to be analyzed specifically as they often suffer from the problematic situation in different ways and need special treatments.

**Recommendations:**

- Build infrastructure to reduce territorial inequalities between Karamoja and other parts of Uganda. Firstly, expand the network of transports, e. g. roads. Secondly, in order to improve the health services furniture run up the public expenditures for health in the region of the highest mortality and illness rates in the country.
- Improve the access to health services:
  - by increasing the number of hospitals and (mobile) health centres in Karamoja, spread within the whole region respectively following the pastoralists' movement patterns
  - by reducing the prices of drugs and treatments
  - by training health workers within communities on how to deal with sicknesses (like HIV / AIDS) and birth control. Working in cooperation with traditional healers is important.
- Provide more support to projects aimed to face global warming in developing countries. Concerning public services, early warning systems for natural catastrophes are inevitable.
- Urgently needed gender based programs should (while avoiding a transfer of ideas of gender role models) include a gender based approach aiming at self-developed gender role models as well as a diversification of economic participation for women. Thereby the capacity of women to organize themselves to be able to defend their interests should be reinforced. Furthermore they should pay more attention to women's health and undertake awareness campaigns concerning health care and family planning.

**6.8 Topic: Youth programs**

**Situation:** As more than 50 % of the population of Karamoja is under the age of 18, it is necessary to address this group within special programs. This generation grew up under violent and unstable conditions (e. g. arms trade, more violence in cattle raids with automatic weapons, conflicts between generation sets) and therefore youth needs to start understanding peace as the very basis for all further developments. Considering the high demographic rate and the rate of children and youth in total population in the Karamoja region, these specific groups can play an essential role in the communities. Indeed, children and youth are the first concerned by climate change, pastoralism future and most of all by the arms trafficking. Furthermore, their energy and their will for the Karamojong community future must be tackled by all the actors of civil society.

**Recommendations:**

- Cooperate with those NGOs which initiate sports programs for the young generation involving different tribes (e. g. like Trevor Dudley's Kampala Kids League) to strengthen their spirit of companionship among each other. Through sports the children learn to cooperate, to communicate and to work together to achieve common goals.
- Make sure that these programs are not restricted to urban areas, as the majority of the youth affected by lack of prospects due to violence lives in remote areas.
- Cooperate with those NGOs which initiate community development projects requiring the direct participation of the youth to make them an active and integrated part of the community. To start such projects it is essential to allow for the needs and wishes of the community members themselves.
- Coordinate your support for such programs with the LCV.
- Encourage local governments and NGOs working in Karamoja to listen to the youth and take into consideration their different perspectives.
- Encourage participative debates and education to underline their needs and their wills.
- Specific programs could be created such as professional formations for those who want to migrate to cities. Professional structures could be created in cities for young Karamojong to prevent them from economic and social exclusion.
- Create inputs activities for youth and the community as a whole.



- Create awareness among youth about alternative answers to cattle raiding and arms trafficking.

### **6.9 Topic: Population growth and family planning**

**Situation:** First of all the population pressure in Karamoja needs to be recognized as a consequence of reduced mobility and increasing sedentarization. The growing population is one of the driving factors, which amplify the dynamics of problems such as food and water insecurity. This is one reason why most people in Karamoja live below the poverty line. At the same time it should be taken into consideration that for those pastoralists, who are still mobile, a relatively large number of children is needed for taking care of the cattle. There should be a dialogue about the new challenges and the different ways in which the Karamojong could and may wish to respond in terms of family planning. The issue of population growth and family planning is strongly linked to the topic "role of women" (see topic 6.10).

#### **Recommendations:**

- Financially support those NGOs which work on programs about family planning in Karamoja. These projects are mainly required in sedentarized communities or among pastoralist drop-outs according to the situation described above.
- Create better living conditions through better health care systems, food security and a better infrastructure system with good access to markets. More security for the (sedentarized) Karamojong would lower the pressure for the necessity of having many children.
- Coordinate your support for such programs with the LCV.

### **6.10 Topic: The role of women**

**Situation:** Women play an important role in the pastoralist way of life, assuming diverse responsibilities with regard to the livestock, the land and the household. However, their knowledge of natural resource management, which they put into practice for the benefit of both their communities and the environment, has not yet been fully recognized. Furthermore, many of the increasing problems Karamoja faces today are especially hard for women. Women are also often excluded from the decision-making process which weakens their power in society and their influence on relief and adaptation strategies that are to be pursued to combat current aspects of crisis. Therefore women's needs must be met with extra care to end their suffering. Women represent one of the most vulnerable groups in Karamoja. Gender imbalances and inequalities prevent the society as a whole from realizing its full potential in all social, economic, legal and political spheres.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Urgently needed gender based programs should therefore include an approach aiming at a diversification of economic participation for women and reinforce the capacity of women to organize themselves to be able to defend their interests.
- Establish more health services or mobile health units near manyattas or – if that is not possible – to have skilled health professionals who wander from manyatta to kraal and look after the women's special needs.
- Take into account the culture of the Karamojong.
- Inform the population of economic opportunities for women.
- Promote human rights and especially women's rights.
- Improve the coordination between local NGOs working for this issue.
- Increase women's access to education.
- Increase Karamojong awareness about familial planning issues.
- Create specific programs about familial planning working with the local authorities and the local medical structures.
- Increase women organization's capacity building and encourage debates about the role of women in peace building efforts and in the promotion of alternative livelihoods to cattle herding.

### **6.11 Topic: HIV**

**Situation:** One of the major causes of death in Uganda is AIDS. In particular pregnant women and children in rural areas, like Karamoja, suffer from this problematic. The epidemic has been in Karamoja for a shorter period than elsewhere in Uganda, so they have not learned how to deal with it and how to prevent it, yet. The distribution of condoms is useless unless it goes along with explanations of their purpose and use. Ten years ago HIV / AIDS was unknown in Karamoja region, but today local authorities estimate that the number has climbed to 3 %. Drought and hunger have led to a competition for natural resources. Cattle raiding has become increasingly aggressive and the rape of women and children has become commonplace, bringing the warriors into sexual contact with communities where HIV / AIDS rates are higher. The late arrival of HIV / AIDS in Karamoja means that prevention efforts are more than a decade behind the rest of the country, and illiteracy is a barrier to promoting Uganda. NGOs must concentrate in implementing schools (ABEK) in which prevention against AIDS must take an important place. Health centres must also provide contraceptives and "faith-based NGOs" should not work against the promotion of contraceptives in Karamoja.

Today the prevalence of HIV / AIDS is 4.5 %, which is lower than the national average of 6.5 %, but quite high for a conservative society. HIV becomes an upcoming threat and the epidemics will keep increasing and will have dramatic consequences in the region if not tackled appropriate manner. The level of ignorance about the mode of HIV transmission and prevention is still high and stigma is widespread. Thus, particular focus should be given on this region and the HIV prevention has to be tackled by the government of Uganda and local authorities in the Karamoja region.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Organize workshops for the children and also for the teachers of formal schools and ABEK schools. This open handling of the topics sex, sexuality and prevention is to make the topics more normal and less out of bounds.
- Initiate programs of sensitization and educational awareness about the issue of HIV / AIDS, its effects and its potential impacts on the population. These bodies should work hand in hand with women, who constitute the most vulnerable part of the population, and traditional healers, who command a lot of respect, on the issue of HIV / AIDS sensitization. Coordinate these programs with hospitals, schools and traditional healers.
- Provide an easy access to medical diagnosis and health care in order to monitor and curtail the spread of HIV / AIDS and other illnesses. Dynamic follow-up programs, which are adaptable to the needs of a highly mobile population, should also be introduced.
- Coordinate your work with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.
- Promote health education by training health workers within the communities.
- Train more doctors and reduce the price of drugs and treatment.
- Increase financial resources for regional HIV prevention programs and lobby for the creation of a special fund for the Karamoja region.

### **6.12 Topic: Intercultural dialogue**

**Situation:** Over years, the Karamojong followed sustainable living strategies in the arid and semi-arid area of North-East Uganda to conserve nature as it is their basic survival need. In the other regions of Uganda, a lack of understanding for this pastoral livelihood dominates and has led to an isolated position of the Karamojong culture. The tremendous consequences not only for Karamoja, but also for neighboring tribes in countries like Sudan and Kenya include: privatization of common used land, forced sedentarization, overexploitation of natural renewable resources and increasing violence by automatic weapons in originally traditional cattle raids. Considering last but not least that the pastoral livelihood is the most sustainable way of land use in Karamoja, intercultural dialogues for a mutual understanding are necessary. Right and sustainable development can not be brought from outside. It should come from the country itself, also known as bottom-up. Different villages or communities should think and work together. The ideas that come up here have a better basis of acceptance and are probably more suitable to

the situation. That's why the international community, but also the government of Uganda, should provide platforms or arrange meetings to bring the population of Karamoja (their representatives) together.

**Recommendations:**

- Include cultural values of the Karamojong community as well as the other local communities.
- Create a peaceful coexistence of cultures through organizing round tables or conferences with the LCV, local NGOs and the elders to gain different perspectives and to be able to provide sustainable help.
- Organize discussions and exhibitions to support the cultural understanding of the Karamojong and other Ugandan citizens. As important as it is to clarify the problems of Karamoja as well it is important to visualize the Karamojong with all their benefits.

## 7. To the LCV

### 7.1 Topic: Acknowledgement of pastoralism

**Situation:** As living conditions in Karamoja are very harsh and unpredictable, pastoralism as a flexible way of managing livestock and land has proved to be the most sustainable adaptation to the arid and semi-arid environment. Both privatization of common land and increasing forced sedentarization lead to overexploitation of natural renewable resources (like grazing land and water), which are the very basics for the life of human beings and livestock. These two processes are an expression for a general isolation of the pastoralists in Karamoja. All actors involved should help the Karamojong to adapt their pastoralist way of live to the modern world. This could be done by encouraging the pastoralist way of life and adapting it to the current situation. This can be done by the vaccination of cattle, teaching the Karamojong to be veterinarians and teach them about land ownership. In this case, the Ugandan Government should respect the Karamojong choice and should do anything to help them to stay pastoralists. For those Karamojong, who don't want to continue their pastoralist way of life, the actors involved should seek alternative livelihoods for those people, be this agriculturist or some other alternative livelihood.

**Recommendations:**

- Stop the privatization of common used land of the pastoralist tribes as the private land reduces the possibilities for the seasonal pastoral movements.
- Stop forcing the pastoralists into sedentarization as, in the long term, agriculture is not a sustainable way of using the land in many parts of the Karamoja region.
- Assemble a team of mediators (external development workers, Ugandan politicians and Karamojong) who will work out peaceful solutions with the population of Karamoja. The pastoralists should be able to influence and to participate in political decision making.
- Policies of positive discrimination should be implemented in favor of the Karamojong, for instance, educated Karamojong youth should have guaranteed access to good employment positions, further education opportunities, and government representation (e. g. quota in all political institutions).
- Ensure support for those Karamojong willing to return to Karamoja after failed outmigration by integrating them into their original community.

### 7.2 Topic: Human rights violations

**Situation:** The topic of widespread human rights prevalent in the region has to remain an issue of concern. The fundamental human rights enshrined in the Ugandan constitution and in the International Declaration of Human Rights of the International Community have been grossly violated by various groups at various degrees in the past few years of conflict within the Karamoja region. The perpetrators include the warring

factions in the local community of Karamoja as well as parts of the Ugandan security forces. These violations occur in different manors, e. g. the following:

3. Deprivation of right to live: In the course of cattle raid, there is wanton killing of men, women and children on both sides of the raiders and the raided. The Ugandan army, though with the good intention of quelling the inadmissible act of raiding, adopt a very violent approach of handling the problem; i.e. they resort to the outright killing of the raiders without trial in a proper court of law.
4. Deprivation of right to property: The act of cattle raiding constitutes a deprivation of right to property.

If these Human rights violations are left unchecked they result in a culture of impunity.

**Recommendations:**

- Recognize the existence of and publicly condemn human rights violations in the region – especially those committed by Ugandan security forces.
- Put into effect and publicly announce measures to prevent future violations. Establish independent institutions to investigate all allegations of rape, murder, torture, arbitrary or unlawful detention, abuse, looting and other reported cases of human rights abuses and infringements in the region for the prosecution of perpetrators.
- Provide reparations for families who have been victims of human rights violations by Ugandan security forces during disarmaments.

### **7.3 Topic: Freedom of movement**

**Situation:** The topic “freedom of movement” includes the opportunity for the pastoralists to move along their traditional movement patterns independent from national borders as well as the choice of residence (for which education is the basis).

As an adaptation to the arid and semi-arid region in Karamoja the seasonal movements of the pastoralists are strongly limited by privatization of common land, national borders (which have traditionally no meaning for the pastoralists at all) and forced sedentarization. The traditional cattle raids are already out of control because of the automatic weapons which reach Karamoja by international arms trade and more violent raids restrict the mobility of the pastoralists as well. The tremendous consequences are the overexploitation of natural renewable resources (like grazing land and water), which are the very basics for the life of human beings and livestock. This leads to the loss of natural diversity, loss of livestock and more violent conflicts.

**Recommendations:**

- Stop the privatization of common used land of the pastoralists in Karamoja.
- Stop the forced sedentarization of pastoralists in Karamoja.
- Find a cross-border framework which ensures the freedom of movement for the pastoralists across national boundaries.
- Coordinate your work with the government of Uganda (crossing of national boundaries) and those NGOs initiating programs on:
  1. the connection between the increasing use of automatic weapons in cattle raids and the loss of mobility and
  2. advantages and disadvantages of outmigration for those Karamojong whose want to leave Karamoja.

### **7.4 Topic: Disarmament**

#### 7.4.1 Peace building projects / awareness training

**Situation:** Peace is the very basis for a stable social structure of the Karamojong livelihood. The disarmament of only a few tribes in Karamoja has been leading towards an inequality between the tribes: weapons are being partially removed while further protection of the unarmed against those who are still in possession of guns is not further guaranteed. This situation can be seen as one of the main reasons responsible for a high lack of security in the overall region. The desired effect of disarmament programs has turned into its opposite: violence is clearly on the increase. The connection of this problem with cross-border arms trafficking from Sudan and Kenya is clearly given. Furthermore, as reported by Human Rights Watch (based on field research in 2007),

disarmament has regularly been accompanied by a severe and ruthless, brutal force on the part of the Ugandan army.

Also children grow up under violent conditions, while they especially should be the ones to learn how to solve conflicts without a gun and to respect the life of others.

This failure of former disarmament campaigns is to show how deeply rooted the conflicts between the Karamojong and neighbouring tribes really are. Attempts to force the people into disarmament and to simply destroy the weapons have to stay fruitless, as long as these strategies are not combined with a concrete awareness training of tribes in conflict.

**Recommendations:**

- Provide staff of security forces with practical human rights training. Security forces have to be held accountable for past human rights violations. Encourage communities and local NGOs in Karamoja to report on human rights violations to the Ugandan Human Rights Commission. (Providing photography equipment and transport to the members of organizations could help them to document the violations.)
- Combine strategies of disarmament with a concrete awareness training of tribes in conflict, which can only be initiated through a mediating instance allowing for the fears and prejudices of the groups involved. Assemble a team of external peace workers (e. g. from international development services and NGOs) and local experts who will act as mediators. There should be dialogues and workshops with members of different tribes and government representatives.
- Also focus on working with children as more than 50 % of the population in Karamoja is under the age of 18 and therefore play an important role in the future of that region. Coordinate your work with local NGOs.

7.4.2 Stop violence (of UPDF) and ensure protection

**Situation:** Actions of disarmament have been reported as severely accompanied by brutal force against civilians, who were killed, injured and tortured. The idea of introducing the Ugandan army in order to ensure security in the region of Karamoja has thereby turned into its opposite. Furthermore, a misuse of power on part of the UPDF happened in the past. Not only can this treatment of inferior people be considered a violation of human rights, but also is the misconducted realization of a good intention causing further insecurity. These cases of human rights abuses must not happen again in order to establish confidence in the Ugandan army and other security forces among the Karamojong. By disarming only some tribes amongst the Karamojong, the UPDF creates an inequality amongst different tribes concerning their ability of defending themselves, while not further guaranteeing the security of the unarmed.

**Recommendations:**

- Control the actions of the UPDF during disarmament processes in order to end human rights violations in the region: the UPDF could rather be used in the proceeding against inter-tribal violence and cattle raiding through intervention and the attempt to create a peaceful dialogue and cooperation between them.
- Regulate and control the effectiveness of the disarmament actions in Karamoja under the Karamoja Integrated Disarmament and Development Program.

1. Short termed:

To obtain a peaceful Karamojong society with less force of arms it is important to create a trustful relationship between the UPDF or even the Ugandan police and between the different tribes. Therefore it is necessary for short term to establish a Ugandan police or at least support the UPDF for example through better education (with the help of the EU) or better payment.

2. Long termed:

Based on this growing security the government of Uganda (if possible through cooperation of the EU and Sudan) make the population of Karamoja hand over their arms freely through adequate campaigns or maybe even a kind of collective rewards. As long as the Karamojong feel insecure and feel the need for weapons they will be able to get some, so drastic restrictions are not helpful in that matter.

## 7.5 Topic: Education

**Situation:** The field of education is strongly determined by the confrontation between tradition and modernity, in this special case between concepts aiming at keeping the pastoralists' indigenous knowledge alive on a primary school level (ABEK schools = Alternative Basic Education for Karamoja) and the formal educational system as established by the Ugandan government. In Karamoja the ABEK system is better suited than formal education, because it is adapted to the Karamojong way of life, i. e. it still allows the children to do their tasks in the communities, e. g. herding the cattle, and it is also adapted to the pastoralist movement patterns. Although ABEK is in fact meant to open up the way to enter formal education, the mediation between the two educational approaches needs to be re-established. If the Karamojong are well educated, they do have the choice to search for a job or to live their traditional pastoral lifestyle. The awareness in Uganda about the Karamoja region is extremely low. This part of the country can only truly integrate if the people have the right knowledge about it. There are still Ugandan people who believe the Karamojong have tails or walk around naked. This area is discriminated and neglected, based on stories that aren't even real. Education can change this.

### Recommendations:

- Initiate the foundation of a committee with experts from local NGOs as an advisory instance for the teachers of the ABEK as well as of the formal system. The committee members have to be familiar with the challenges of the pastoral way of life, but also with the conditions of the formal school system. The aims should be to convey a consciousness for the modern challenges pastoral societies have to adapt to (last but not least ecological changes of their environment they depend on).
- Short termed: improve and expand the ABEK system all over the country:
  - by training teachers chosen within the community
  - by providing furniture and teaching material to teachers and pupils
  - by encouraging the involvement of parents and communities
- Long termed: create a dual education system that is based on the ABEK approach and the formal schools in order to bring together tradition and modernity. To make the two systems function as complements, it is necessary to adapt their curricula. Besides the basics of reading, writing and calculating the following topics should be integrated: culturally-sensitive sex education/contraception, health, especially the problematic of HIV, history of Uganda and Karamoja, political situation of Uganda (disarmament), climate change, a sensible and sensitive "disarmament of the childrens' minds".
- Through the support of interactive education projects or workshops, like health programs, traditional healers can be motivated to share their knowledge which is normally kept as a secret within tribes. The knowledge of traditional healers and western doctors working in Karamoja should complement one another.
- Policies of positive discrimination should be implemented in favour of the Karamojong, for instance educated Karamojong should have guaranteed access to good employment positions, further education opportunities and government representation.
- Coordinate your support and projects with the government of Uganda and local NGOs.

## 7.6 Topic: Public services and infrastructure

**Situation:** The region of Karamoja is facing different problematic situations some of which could be improved by a better infrastructure and public services. Food and water insecurity are amplified by different factors such as the consequences of climate change and population growth, reinforcing illnesses or epidemics amongst people and animals. Illnesses amongst animals, again, are destabilizing food security and the economic situation of the Karamojong. The position of (pregnant) women and children needs to be analyzed specifically as they often suffer from the problematic situation in different ways and need special treatments.

**Recommendations:**

Appeal to the Ugandan government, (inter-)national NGOs and the European Commission to pay attention to the following aspects that concern public services and infrastructures:

- Build infrastructure to reduce territorial inequalities between Karamoja and other parts of Uganda. Firstly, expand the network of transports, e. g. roads. Secondly, in order to improve the health services furniture run up the public expenditures for health in the region of the highest mortality and illness rates in the country.
- Improve the access to health services:
  - by increasing the number of hospitals and (mobile) health centres in Karamoja, spread within the whole region respectively following the pastoralists' movement patterns
  - by reducing the prices of drugs and treatments
  - by training health workers within communities on how to deal with sicknesses (like HIV) and birth control. Working in cooperation with traditional healers is important.
- Provide more support to projects aimed to face global warming in developing countries. Concerning public services, early warning systems for natural catastrophes are inevitable.
- Urgently needed gender based programs should (while avoiding a transfer of ideas of gender role models) include a gender based approach aiming at self-developed gender role models as well as a diversification of economic participation for women. Thereby the capacity of women to organize themselves to be able to defend their interests should be reinforced. Furthermore they should pay more attention to women's health and undertake awareness campaigns concerning health care and family planning.

**7.7 Topic: Youth programs**

**Situation:** As more than 50 % of the population of Karamoja is under the age of 18, it is necessary to address this group within special programs. This generation grew up under violent and unstable conditions (e. g. arms trade, more violence in cattle raids with automatic weapons, conflicts between generation sets) and therefore youth needs to start understanding peace as the very basis for all further developments. Considering the high demographic rate and the rate of children and youth in total population in the Karamoja region, these specific groups can play an essential role in the communities. Indeed, children and youth are the first concerned by climate change, pastoralism future and most of all by the arms trafficking. Furthermore, their energy and their will for the Karamojong community future must be tackled by all the actors of civil society.

**Recommendations:**

- Cooperate with those NGOs which initiate sports programs for the young generation involving different tribes (e. g. like Trevor Dudley's Kampala Kids League) to strengthen their spirit of companionship among each other. Through sports the children learn to cooperate, to communicate and to work together to achieve common goals.
- Make sure that these programs are not restricted to urban areas, as the majority of the youth affected by lack of prospects due to violence lives in remote areas.
- Cooperate with those NGOs which initiate community development projects requiring the direct participation of the youth to make them an active and integrated part of the community. To start such projects it is essential to allow for the needs and wishes of the community members themselves.
- Coordinate your support for such programs with the government of Uganda.
- Encourage local governments and NGOs working in Karamoja to listen to the youth and take into consideration their different perspectives.
- Encourage participative debates and education to underline their needs and their wills.
- Specific programs could be created such as professional formations for those who want to migrate to cities. Professional structures could be created in cities for young Karamojong to prevent them from economic and social exclusion.

- Create inputs activities for youth and the community as a whole.
- Create awareness among youth about alternative answers to cattle raiding and arms trafficking.

### **7.8 Topic: Population growth and family planning**

**Situation:** First of all the population pressure in Karamoja needs to be recognized as a consequence of reduced mobility and increasing sedentarization. The growing population is one of the driving factors, which amplify the dynamics of problems such as food and water insecurity. This is one reason why most people in Karamoja live below the poverty line. At the same time it should be taken into consideration that for those pastoralists, who are still mobile, a relatively large number of children is needed for taking care of the cattle. There should be a dialogue about the new challenges and the different ways in which the Karamojong could and may wish to respond in terms of family planning. The issue of population growth and family planning is strongly linked to the topic “role of women” (see topic 7.9).

#### **Recommendations:**

- Initiate programs about family planning, which are mainly required in sedentarized communities or among pastoralist drop-outs according to the situation described above. It is important that these projects are created carefully and individually, because those pastoralists who are still mobile enough need more children to herd the cattle.
- Coordinate your support for such programs with the Ugandan government.

### **7.9 Topic: The role of women**

Control of protection / documentation of human rights abuses

**Situation:** Women play an important role in the pastoralist way of life, assuming diverse responsibilities with regard to the livestock, the land and the household. However, their knowledge of natural resource management, which they put into practice for the benefit of both their communities and the environment, has not yet been fully recognized. Furthermore, many of the increasing problems Karamoja faces today are especially hard for women. Women are also often excluded from the decision-making process which weakens their power in society and their influence on relief and adaptation strategies that are to be pursued to combat current aspects of crisis. Therefore women’s needs must be met with extra care to end their suffering. Women represent one of the most vulnerable groups in Karamoja. Gender imbalances and inequalities prevent the society as whole from realizing its full potential in all social, economic, legal and political spheres.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Urgently needed gender based programs should therefore include an approach aiming at a diversification of economic participation for women and reinforce the capacity of women to organize themselves to be able to defend their interests.
- Establish more health services or mobile health units near manyattas or – if that is not possible – to have skilled health professionals who wander from manyatta to kraal and look after the women’s special needs.
- Take into account the culture of the Karamojong.
- Inform the population of economic opportunities for women.
- Promote human rights and especially women’s rights.
- Improve the coordination between local NGOs working for this issue.
- Increase women’s access to education.
- Increase Karamojong awareness about familial planning issues.
- Create specific programs about familial planning working with the local authorities and the local medical structures.
- Increase women organization’s capacity building and encourage debates about the role of women in peace building efforts and in the promotion of alternative livelihoods to cattle herding.



### **7.10 Topic: Intercultural dialogue**

**Situation:** Over years, the Karamojong followed sustainable living strategies in the arid and semi-arid area of North-East Uganda to conserve nature as it is their basic survival need. In the other regions of Uganda, a lack of understanding for this pastoral livelihood dominates and has led to an isolated position of the Karamojong culture. The tremendous consequences not only for Karamoja, but also for neighboring tribes in countries like Sudan and Kenya include: privatization of common used land, forced sedentarization, overexploitation of natural renewable resources and increasing violence by automatic weapons in originally traditional cattle raids. Considering last but not least that the pastoral livelihood is the most sustainable way of land use in Karamoja, intercultural dialogues for a mutual understanding are necessary. Right and sustainable development can not be brought from outside. It should come from the country itself, also known as bottom-up. Different villages or communities should think and work together. The ideas that come up here have a better basis of acceptance and are probably more suitable to the situation. That's why the international community, but also the government of Uganda, should provide platforms or arrange meetings to bring the population of Karamoja (their representatives) together.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Include cultural values of the Karamojong community as well as the other local communities.
- Create a peaceful coexistence of cultures through organizing round tables or conferences with the government of Uganda, local NGOs and the elders to gain different perspectives and to be able to provide sustainable help.
- Organize discussions and exhibitions to support the cultural understanding of the Karamojong and other Ugandan citizens. As important as it is to clarify the problems of Karamoja as well it is important to visualize the Karamojong with all their benefits.
- Encourage local projects like Teso Initiative for Peace (TIP), where local governments come together to work on peace initiatives. The actors involved should encourage local governments to be more powerful, transparent and democratic legitimate so that they can create peace for their people.

## Conclusion

Karamoja has been facing a long-term crisis for several decades. Among problems that are most dominant are:

- **food insecurity, including famines**, as a result of ongoing drought and crops failure
- **violence** and **insecurity** due to high circulation of weapons and a lack of State control
- **population growth** that exacerbates the competition for scarce resources
- **climate change** that leads to degradation of land
- **restrictions of pastoral movement** which leads to overgrazing and erosion of traditional livelihoods

These and other aspects of the crisis have several root causes which – in interactions – form a complex network of unsustainable developments (for a more detailed description, see the 'Karamoja syndrome' paper, describing the situation in Karamoja: [www.karamoja.eu](http://www.karamoja.eu)).

Therefore, all measures of improvement must meet the complexity of the Karamoja crisis. That means that, although this paper lists single recommendations, they cannot be seen or implemented separately.

In order to improve the living situation in Karamoja, an integrated approach, that also takes into account the unintentional effects of any measure, must be undertaken. One could point out, as an example, the consequences of borehole drilling: On the one hand it provides much needed drinking water for people and cattle. On the other hand the groundwater table sinks and overgrazing becomes a problem, when people start settling around water holes.

In order to face the conflict between tradition and modernity that Karamojong pastoralists are exposed to, and to do it in an appropriate way, it is most important to provide people with a choice. Whether pastoralists continue to follow a traditional lifestyle, or evolve towards a more modern lifestyle is not our choice but theirs. Freedom of choice is a basic human right, and we are responsible to guarantee it for everybody: *Their current situation, though, leaves pastoralists with a general impossibility of applying this right.*

Therefore, as this paper pointed out, a concerted building-up of the pastoralists' future on the basis of sustainable principles is indispensable. Sustainability, on the one hand, applies to the ecological context: The ecosystem, in which the pastoralists find themselves, must be given the ability to maintain ecological processes, functions, biodiversity and productivity into the future. On the other hand, it also applies to the social context, in which sustainability enables a meeting of the pastoralists' needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

# Photographs from Karamoja



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# Karamoja



*ACTED is a French non-government organization created in 1993.  
ACTED's vocation is to support vulnerable populations worldwide and  
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