Livelihood Programmes in Karamoja

Background

Until recently, the Karamoja subregion in North-Eastern Uganda experienced decades of cattle-rustling and insecurity. Although security has significantly improved, many people in Karamoja continue to be economically vulnerable, given the challenges of living in this semi-arid region. In order to address these challenges and empower people to become self-sufficient, the German government provides development-oriented transitional aid focusing on livelihood programmes. These programmes aim at establishing foundations for sustainable, post-crisis development.

Programmes

Currently, the German Technical Cooperation agency GIZ and the German NGO Welthungerhilfe, German Red Cross and dvv international implement several livelihood programmes in Karamoja.

GIZ is addressing food and nutrition security and climate change adaptation in Amudat, Moroto, Napak and Nakapiripirit Districts. Activities include:
• community-managed disaster risk reduction
• introduction of adapted agricultural methods through Farmers’ Field Schools
• establishment of small scale irrigation systems
• natural resource management, including promotion of energy-saving stoves and skills-training in using environment-friendly blocks to replace burnt bricks for building houses.

Welthungerhilfe, using both German Government funds and private donations, is implementing projects in Amudat, Moroto, Napak and Nakapiripirit Districts to enhance food security at the household level. The projects focus on:
• re-cultivation of land
• agricultural inputs and cash-for-work
• tree planting and management of woodlots
• re-stocking of goats, vaccination of goats, sheep and poultry
• infrastructure such as small bridges
• training of Community Animal Health Workers, Farmers Groups and Water User Committees
• health and hygiene campaigns

The German Red Cross collaborates with the Uganda Red Cross Society to support the permanent settlement and drought-resilience of vulnerable populations in Kotido and Abim Districts. The projects aim at:
• improved access to clean drinking water
• improved sanitation and hygiene
• food security
In addition, communities are supported in adapting to recurring floods through:
• enhanced disaster preparedness capacities
• strengthened early warning mechanisms

The Deutscher Volkschul-Verband (dvv international) is implementing a five-year project in Karamoja co-funded by the German Government and the EU. To promote sustainable livelihoods, adult literacy is combined with basic skills training in crafts, agriculture and services.