

In Teso region (eastern Uganda) people mainly live from agricultural production and doing business. The main hazards are floods, pests destroying crops (e.g. grasshoppers), and armed conflict. Cordaid works with 2 local partner organisations on longer-term development programmes, and on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Partner organisation TPO-Uganda will start a community managed DRR project to reduce the risk for disaster caused by the effects of floods. Activities will include to further train community members and government officials on CMDRR, to rehabilitate two shallow wells and to drill one borehole, to distribute quick maturing seeds to households affected by the 2007 floods, and to train all families on improved food preservation and storage.

Another partner organisation (Socadido) will start a longer-term livelihood programme in which the community managed DRR approach will be integrated. The overall goal of this programme is to promote economic and social reintegration of conflict and disaster affected communities in Amuria and Katakwi districts by the end of 2011. The programme aims to improve the livelihood and food security situation of the people, by increasing agricultural production, development of enterprises, promotion of social protection and safety from violence affecting women and children, and environmental protection and re-generation.

In Acholi region, Cordaid already works with Caritas Gulu on a Relief & Rehabilitation programme to support Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in their return process. In 2008 also staff from Caritas Gulu has been trained on Disaster Risk Reduction. This staff trained a pilot community on the CMDRR approach, and together a disaster risk analysis was done. The community felt that water shortage was a problem for them, and for their neighbouring communities, also causing conflict between the groups. Therefore, they decided they want to start a project on water source development in the area bordering with Karamoja, to prevent drought and conflict. This will be supported by Cordaid in 2009.

In brief, the focus for Disaster Risk Reduction in north/east and eastern Uganda so far has been on drought / water shortage (Karamoja region), flooding (Teso region), and armed conflict (both regions) which is also partly due to water shortage. This focus is still relevant in the near future. In 2009 Cordaid will also support a water source development & conflict resolution project in Acholi region.



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## Climate adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in practice: Uganda



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A large part of the population of Uganda is dependent on agricultural production or on businesses related to agriculture. In north-eastern Uganda, frequent emergency situations (mainly caused by natural hazards like drought and floods, but also by armed conflict between people) hamper the development process. Therefore, as from 2006, CORDAID introduced the Disaster Risk Reduction approach to the local partner organisations. The focus of this DRR approach so far has been on combating the negative impacts of drought and water shortage (in Karamoja region), flooding (in Teso region) and armed conflict (in both regions).

### Background

Uganda is a country in East Africa with a population of about 29 million people. A large part of the population is dependent on agricultural production (food crops, cash crops, livestock) or on businesses related to agriculture. March to May/June and September to November are the rainy seasons in the largest part of the country. The north-east of the country (Karamoja region) is substantially drier, with only one rainy season per year, and an agro-pastoral livelihood system. Due to climate change rain patterns have changed: rains are unpredictable and unreliable and/or shorter but heavier. As a result floods, incidences of landslides, soil erosion, droughts and heatwaves occur. Those climate changes have an impact on the livelihood of the people, affecting the health of people and livestock and affecting people's agricultural and livestock production.

### The Cordaid approach

Cordaid works in the northern, north-eastern and eastern part of Uganda (Acholi, Karamoja and Teso region) on the Disaster Risk Reduction programme. In Karamoja and Teso regions, longer-term development programmes of local partner organisations are supported for several years already. The main focus of the programmes is on improving the food security situation, the economic situation, the environmental situation and on peacebuilding. Also, if need arises, emergency relief and rehabilitation projects are supported. For example after drought periods or after floods non-food items, temporary food aid and seeds & tools are distributed.

### Working together

All partners are supported by Cordaid (organisational capacity building, funding for programmes and organisations, technical assistance), by other support institutions such as SNV and IIRR (International Institute for Rural Reconstruction), and by other donors agencies (such as ICCO, Cafod, Trocaire, CRS, VSF-Belgium, DanChurchAid, and others).



In Karamoja region the three local partner organisations (SSD-Moroto, KADP and MADEFO) have formed the 'Karamoja CMDRR Consortium', working together on the promotion of Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction. The consortium works closely together with other local and international NGOs, local government staff and authorities, UN agencies and other relevant stakeholders in Karamoja region. Also they collaborate and share experiences with Cordaid partners from Teso region (TPO-Uganda, Socadido) and Acholi region (Caritas Gulu) in Uganda, and with partners from other countries, in order to learn from each other.

### DRR in practice: adaptation measures

In Karamoja region (north-eastern Uganda), most people have an (agro-) pastoral livelihood. The main hazards are drought and conflict. Cordaid works with 3 local partners organisations on longer-term development programmes, and on Disaster Risk Reduction.

In the longer-term development programmes, activities focus on the diversification of livestock and agricultural production, improved income generation, and peacebuilding-conflict resolution between tribes and regions. For example, women now keep goats and poultry, people grow drought-resistant crops like sorghum, bee keeping and vegetable gardening including marketing strategies are promoted and people learn about and practise soil and water conservation measures.

The outcome of the community disaster risk assessments which were done early 2008 showed that for most people the risks of hunger and water shortage are still a big threat to their livelihood. Therefore, communities came up with disaster risk reduction action plans like building a water pan or diversifying their food production more.

