

IDDRSI COUNTRY PROGRESS SUMMARY REPORT

UGANDA



IDDRSI

IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative



Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Lainey

The Uganda Country Programming Paper (CPP) is the 15 year strategy identifying priorities for intervention to build resilience at national and regional levels.

The Uganda CPP was approved by the Committee of Permanent Secretaries in 2013, but implementation of some activities started in 2011.

INTRODUCTION

The CPP is in line with the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) 15-year regional strategy to end drought emergencies. The objective is to increase investments in the drylands in order to improve livelihoods and enhance resilience of communities to drought by transforming the (agro)pastoralist sector into a more profitable, integrated and resilient economic system thereby improving food and nutrition security. It serves as a planning, coordination and

resource mobilisation tool for projects and investments required to contribute to ending drought emergencies. The main areas of focus are the drylands in West Nile, parts of western Uganda and the “cattle corridor” which stretches from Karamoja region in the northeast to Isingiro and Ntugamo districts in the southwest. The cattle corridor is a wide rangeland that covers approximately 84,000 km² (about 40%) of the total land area in Uganda.

KEY NATIONAL IDDRSI EVENTS

Heads of State and Government of Countries in the Horn of Africa and East Africa convene the historic Nairobi Summit. A collective decision leads to the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI). A regional strategy to end drought emergencies is developed.

The National Emergency and Coordination Centre (NECOC) is established for early warning information and coordination of emergency response.

The IDDRSI sub-committee is formed to handle drought related activities and emergencies. A Crossborder Facilitation Unit is established in Moroto to support and coordinate drought resilience activities in cross border areas of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Sudan. Uganda National Disaster Preparedness and Management Policy is enacted.



2011

2013

2014

2016

2017

Uganda's IDDRSI Country Programming Paper (CPP) is approved by the Committee of Permanent Secretaries. The CPP is a 15-year strategy for building resilience in the drylands of Uganda. The DRR Platform is adopted as the coordination mechanism. A multihazard risk assessment and mapping is done in all 112 districts of Uganda.

The National Integrated Early Warning System (NIEWS) starts producing and disseminating national integrated early warning bulletins. A National IDDRSI Coordinator is recruited to lead and coordinate the Initiative in Uganda.

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Uganda covers an area of 241,038 km² with about a third covered by fresh water bodies and wetlands. The population is 36.6 million, while the poverty rate is 27%. Additionally, there are large regional variations in poverty with most of the poor concentrated in the East (42.7%) and the North (30.6%). At sub-regional level, poverty is highest in Karamoja, where 61% of the population is income poor. However, this is an improvement from 2012/13 when 75% of the Karamojong lived below the poverty line.

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth averaged 7% per year in the 1990s and the 2000s, placing Uganda among the 15 fastest growing economies in the World. However, over the past decade, the country witnessed more economic volatility and the growth in GDP slowed to an average of just about 5%. With the population increasing at a rate of at least 3% per annum through these decades, per capita income growth decelerated from a rate of 3.6% recorded in the decades of 1990s and 2002, to about 2%.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

Uganda Vision 2040 is the national long-term development framework, which provides the overall guiding framework on sustainable development and socioeconomic transformation. The second National Development Plan 2016-2020 (NDPII) is aligned to Vision 2040 and sets out the roadmap towards Uganda achieving middle income status by 2020. For investments in these areas to be fully realised, there is an implicit need to manage disaster and climate risk and to enhance the resilience of Ugandans to potential shocks. The NDP reaffirms the change in government focus from emphasising social sectors to infrastructure, security, general competitiveness and accelerating socioeconomic transformation.

Regarding resilience in the Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASALs), the NDP identifies strategies to improve disaster risk management and livestock production in the cattle corridor, as well as investment in agricultural transformation, especially through provision of critical technology inputs. The Plan identifies strategies to address regional imbalances by supporting affirmative action for marginalised areas like Karamoja and Northern Uganda. These strategies include improvement of security conditions, agricultural and livestock based livelihoods, and development of economically viable enterprises from dryland products and other natural resources to offer diversified livelihood choices.

The Karamoja Integrated Development Plan (KIDP) is a medium-term development framework specifically designed to address the unique context and development challenges of Karamoja sub-region. Now in its second phase, KIDP II (2015/16 – 2020/21) is being implemented with the overall objective of enhancing peace and development in Karamoja.

INVESTMENTS IN RESILIENCE BUILDING: THE CASE OF KARAMOJA

Karamoja sub-region lies in north-eastern Uganda and is comprised of seven districts of Abim, Amudat, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Nakapiripirit and Napak. It covers over 27,900 km² which is about 10% of the total land area of Uganda. The population of Karamoja is estimated at 1,059,300 representing nearly 3% of the national population.

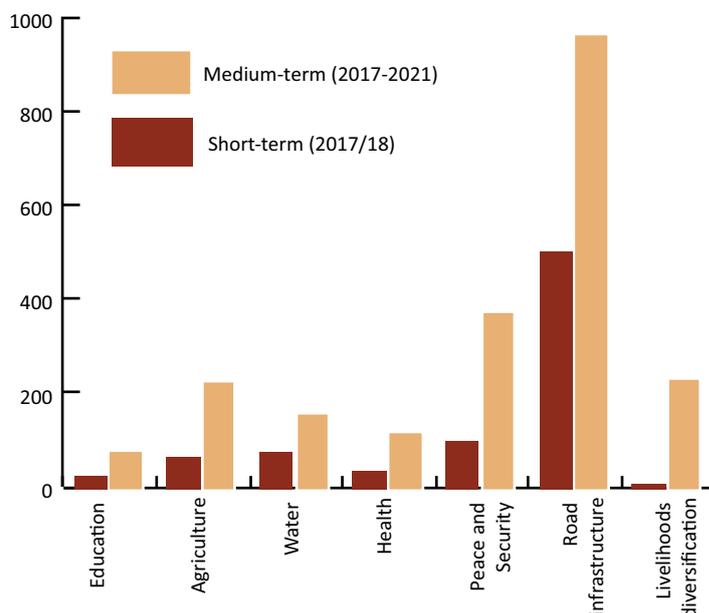
It is a dryland characterised by uni-modal rainfall pattern with high spatial-temporal rainfall variability across the region. This has defined the pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods. Security has improved and conflict declined significantly in Karamoja over recent years. This has increased freedom of movement thereby improving livelihoods, and economic and food security.



Disclaimer: The country borders shown on the map are only indicative and do not represent the position of IGAD.

PLANNED INVESTMENTS

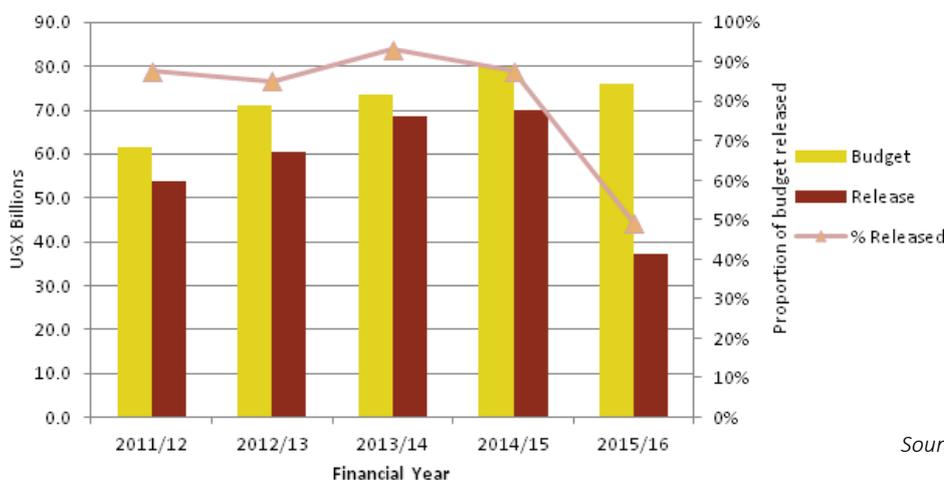
A review of on-going, planned and completed projects within the review period shows that at least USD 500 million will be invested in Karamoja by 2021.



Source: OPM, 2016

BUDGETARY RELEASES TO KARAMOJA

A review of public expenditure shows that there has been a steady increase in budgetary releases to the Karamoja district local governments since 2011. About 80% of the planned resources for Karamoja were mobilized and released to the seven district local governments in the sub-region during the five year period. The allocations in 2015/16 were affected by economic challenges such as the cost of staging national elections, slow global economy and subsequent decline in the export commodity prices.



Source: MFPED

PARTNERS' INVESTMENTS BY PRIORITY INTERVENTION AREA

There has been increased interest in investing in the resilience and productive capacity of the Karamojong. The CPP attracted concession loans from multilateral partners such as USD 40 million from the World Bank for the Regional Pastoral Livelihood Resilience Project and USD 2 million for the Drylands Project funded by the Islamic Development Bank. This is in addition to various donor projects funded by KFW, USAID, DFID, Irish Aid, among others. Most of the investments are towards PIA 3.



Source: 3W map

PIA 3: TRENDS IN SELECTED INDICATORS SINCE 2011

The impact of expenditure towards resilience building will take longer the five years to be felt. However, there has been a demonstrable improvement in indicators under PIA 3. In addition, road connectivity within Karamoja and the rest of the country has improved. Conflict incidences have declined significantly in recent years, leading to improved security and freedom of movement. This has in turn improved livelihoods, economic and food security.

Indicator	2015/16 (%)	2011/12 (%)
Children under 5 years who are underweight	2610	32
Children under 5 years who are stunted	35-32	45
Any anaemia in children 6-59 years	68	70
Net enrolment rate in school	46	45
Rural access to safe water	68	43

Sources: UBOS 2017; MoES 2012, MoESTS 2016, MWE 2016, MWE 2011

NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM

The National Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Platform, in the Office of the Prime Minister, is the main coordination mechanism for the resilience initiative in Uganda. Created in 2007, this platform derives its mandate from the National Disaster Preparedness and Management Policy. It is also informed by the Uganda CPP and IDDRSI strategy. It brings together focal point technical officers from line ministries, UN agencies, non-state actors and other relevant stakeholders.

The DRR Platform therefore meets the key principles of the coordination mechanism which includes government ownership and leadership, multi-sectoral representation and participation, sustained technical assistance and capacity building. The convening authority of the DRR Platform is the Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister. The Permanent Secretary delegated this function to the Commissioner for Disaster Preparedness. The ministries technical focal point officers head sectoral disaster risk working groups. Outputs of the sectoral working groups inform decisions of the national platform. The Platform has structures in all tiers of government, from national to the village level.

RESPONDING DIFFERENTLY TO DROUGHT

In 2016, 10.9 million (30%) people faced acute food insecurity, and 1.6 million (5%) were in a crisis situation needing relief assistance. In response, the Government committed UGX 25 billion to the purchase of relief food for communities in Karamoja, Teso, Bukedi and the cattle corridor.

Implementation of programmes rather than relief food in 2016 to mitigate food insecurity and use of early warning bulletins, issued since 2016 to enable early response, illustrate commitment to a proactive response in Karamoja. Disaster response funds can be drawn from the legal framework for contingencies fund that was created in 2015.

KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The implementation of Phase 1 of IDDRSI has reduced the vulnerability of communities to food insecurity, poor health and malnutrition. The impact on reducing economic vulnerability is still very modest because associated investments in education, income diversification, and animal health management will take longer to yield.

- There has been a shift in government policies from poverty eradication to wealth creation through increased economic productivity and structural transformation. This realignment is well articulated by the NDP II which seeks to address structural bottlenecks in the economy to accelerate economic transformation that will deliver prosperity for all. However, this has been at the expense of spending on social services such as health and education which are vital for resilience building of communities in the short and long-term.
- Uganda needs to mobilise UGX 813 billion and UGX 2,182 billion to invest in critical sectors in Karamoja in the short and medium term, respectively. It is envisaged that bolstering education, agriculture, water, health, peace and security, road infrastructure, and livelihoods diversification will greatly contribute to resilience building in the Karamoja sub-region.
- The Government of Uganda will mobilise resources from Government budgetary appropriations and development partners through bankable projects.

Some recommendations for a way forward include:

- Develop an investment plan for the Uganda CPP to attract more funding
- Increase understanding of the IDDRSI strategy among stakeholders
- Provide a dedicated budget for the national platform
- Include a proviso for a portion of funds from development projects to be used to respond to disaster/crises
- Develop a risk transfer mechanism (insurance) for the drylands
- Implement government policies and strategies to support livelihoods e.g. Irrigation Master Plan, Irrigation Policy, etc.
- Institute multi-stakeholder innovation platform to develop, share and disseminate solutions to local problems
- Harness IT and other technological innovations for drought management

Download full report:

<http://www.resilience.igad.int>

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