

# FUTURE LIVELIHOODS IN KARAMOJA

The disarmament period (2006-2011) in Uganda has brought stability to rural regions.

Karamoja is one of the poorest sub-regions of Uganda. (75% considered destitute). It is at the end of the road, affecting trade, tourism, and connectivity, political prioritisation. The region has been under-prioritised in terms of trade and investment. This is now changing.

Pastoralism is a traditional livelihood that presents great opportunities for development and challenges theories of settled agriculture as the major path to development

The potential for elections in 2021 to be disruptive, should be considered in any strategic intervention

## HEAVY TRENDS

These are highly impactful and relatively certain in the outlook to 2022:

Rainfall has always been unpredictable in Karamoja, climate change will increase average temperatures and make rainfall more variable.

Karamoja shows significant gender discrimination. Patriarchy dominates in domestic life but women have greater rights in the public sphere especially in market opportunities.

High levels of poverty lead to high out-migration and vulnerability in urban centres.

Karamoja reflects Ugandan demographic trends with high population growth and a significant proportion of under 15s. Formal unemployment is and will continue to be a serious challenge for the region.

Cultural links to cattle are changing; further research is needed as to how traditional beliefs are interacting with market forces regarding asset wealth.

Cross-border considerations: The spillover of South Sudan's civil war and the availability of weapons in neighboring countries is of concern.



### Legend

- Agricultural Zone
- Arid Pastoral Zone
- Mining (Gold & Marble)
- Tourism

## SCENARIOS TO 2022

# 1

The national government pours money into Karamoja, infrastructure is developed.

The mining sector booms and the agricultural sector commercialises.

Trade increases, towns grow, higher-skilled workers move to Karamoja

The boom is precarious -- drought threatens agricultural livelihoods and service provision is severely compromised.

Livestock wealth is concentrated in the hands of a few, competition increases and small herders are driven out.

Investment in Karamoja falters once infrastructure projects are completed.

Karamoja remains a periphery region, despite growing trade and decreasing food prices.

The size and industrialisation of the mining sector do not change.

The region is growing (not as quickly as in scenario 1, but with more stability in livelihoods and service provision).

International aid is constrained and service provision suffers in Karamoja

Government interest in the region wanes

Gold revenues hold little attraction over the next 5 years

Weapons are increasingly confiscated crossing the border from South Sudan

Karamoja is again problematised as being unable to develop and relies on food aid for the next few years.

Destitution -- malnutrition is increasing, outbound migration is on the rise, and the exploitation of the people of Karamoja in cities outside the region.

# 2

# 3