

# Peace Building and Drought Mitigation Measures



Experiences  
from Napak,  
Katakwi and  
Amuria Districts,  
North Eastern  
Uganda



## Our Vision:

Communities enjoying a decent life free of hunger, poverty and disease.

## Our Mission:

Promoting sustainable community livelihoods through; income and food security, water and sanitation, good health and policy advocacy.

### Our key thematic areas:

- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Health Care Promotion
- Lobbying and Advocacy

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*Climate change is one of the biggest crises facing humanity. The impacts of climate change and variability continue to be felt in Uganda as manifested by recent prolonged draughts and floods in the Karimoja and Teso sub regions.*

The threat climate change poses to insecurity, conflict and communities' livelihood is more real than ever for this region where more than eight in every ten people totally depend on agriculture as their source of livelihood.

In 2015, Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI) with support from Misereor implemented a three-year safe water, sanitation and hygiene project in the sub counties of Okungur in Amuria District, Ongongoja Sub County in Katakwi District and Irimi Sub County in Napak District, North Eastern Uganda. Where we integrated issues of climate change adaptation, peace building and conflict mitigation because competition over water resource contributes to conflicts.

In this publication we bring you stories of change, how we have managed to integrate climate change issues, peace and conflict mitigation using WASH as entry point.

I am very grateful to all our partners, colleagues at CIDI and the different stakeholders we have worked with to implement this project. It is my hope that this publication gives you a better understanding of our organization and its development approach to community development in the districts of Amuria, Katakwi and Napak.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr. Fulgensio Jjuuko  
**Executive Director CIDI**





“ We often speak of climate change as an academic discourse but for the people of Karamoja and Teso sub region of Uganda. The impact of climate change has come home in form of prolonged draught and flooding, leading to food insecurity. ”

# Introduction:

Climate change has and will continue to have far-reaching impacts on environment, social and economic conditions. Increasingly, climate change and the associated increase in the frequency of extreme weather events (such as floods, prolonged droughts and rising sea level) are acknowledged as not only having humanitarian impacts, but also creating national/regional political and security risks. While people can adapt to these impacts, their capacity to do so varies.

In 2015, Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI) with support from Misereor implemented a three-year safe water, sanitation and hygiene project in the sub counties of Okungur in Amuria District, Ongongoja Sub County in Katakwi District and Iri Sub County in Napak District, North Eastern Uganda.

In this project we integrated issues of climate change adaptation, peace building and conflict mitigation because through our experience of working in this region we have noticed how competition over water resource contributes to conflicts in extreme or sudden events such as

flooding or prolonged droughts.

## Contributing to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Adaptation plays a key role in determining whether climate change is likely to undermine human security. Adaptation processes can both reduce or increase insecurities. SDG 13 (Climate Action): requires development actors and practitioners to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts if poverty is to be eradicated, livelihoods are to be improved, prosperity is to be fostered and a healthy, functioning world is to be passed onto the next generation.

Through this project we have been able to make a contribution towards the SDG agenda by enabling human development and transforming families. Our interventions besides SDG 13: has been central to this ambitious agenda and relates to several other goals: such as those focused on health (SDG-3); human settlements (SDG-11); sustainable consumption and production (SDG-12); and ecosystems (SDG-15). Our focus was on providing water to communities that is for multi-purpose use and contributed to peace and conflict settlement in the communities.



This is Napiananya village where the first project meeting was held to talk about peace and conflict resolution.

## Our work around drought mitigation and peace building includes:

Right from the start of the project, we understood that we are operating in a post conflict area where issues of peaceful coexistence and preserving of the environment for the next gen-

eration are important and relevant for community development.

Therefore, in Amuria, Katakwi and Napak districts we focused on peace building and climate change adaptation. To achieve change in our target communities, we employed a multipronged approach that focused on peace building and conflict mitigation and provision of reliable water sources to serve food production, household and livestock needs.

## Peace Building and Conflict Mitigation

In addressing peace and conflict mitigations measures, first we trained peace ambassadors on the Youth against Conflict, a manual developed to guide the training of the peace ambassadors. Secondly, we have trained 90 Peace Ambassadors and some of these have also trained to become Village Health Teams (VHTs) members these have helped us to achieve the confidence and trust of the other VHTs in the area of peace and conflict resolution in their communities.

As result of our intervention in these sub counties, 350 cases have so far been handled by Peace Ambassadors. Of these 295 were resolved and 55 referred to local counsels. Most common sources of conflict include: land disputes, water conflicts, domestic violence and theft.

### Role of Peace Ambassadors

- Carry out community outreach on peace building and conflict resolution
- Work with elders in peace and conflict resolution
- Call peace and Conflict related village

meetings

- Link community members with Local government Structures

As a Peace Ambassador my work entails helping community members solve their conflicts. Most common source of conflict emanate from abuse of alcohol, theft, domestic violence and land wrangle.

### Processes of solving conflicts:

When solving conflicts in our community, we work with the elders in the village but if we fail to solve the matter we refer it to the Local Council (LC1). We call the two aggrieved parties to come together to discuss the cause of their conflict, after listening to them we make our judgement.

Quarrels over land are very common during the planning time, in such a case we meet the two parties and agree on new land boundaries. If the conflict is about theft of a cow or goat, we follow the footprint while tracing the where about of the stolen animal.

On our committee of Peace Ambassadors we are



10 members and CIDI gave each one of us a bicycle to move with in the village. Our village is very big; it has many Manyatas (homesteads).

For us we don't have conflict with our neighbours in Katakwi District. Its people from neighbouring Nakapiripirit District who usually steal cattle from

Katakwi, when the Itesot come they think it is us their immediate neighbours who have stolen their cows. In Karamoja region we have what we call the Nabilatuk Resolution, which says that if you are found with a stolen cow you pay two cows in return. This also has greatly helped to minimise live stock theft in the region."



### **Sagal Samuel and his wife**

I am Sagal Samuel, 20 years old and I live in Napiananya village, Amedek Parish, Nabwal Sub County, Napak District, Karamoja Region of Uganda. I was trained by CIDI to become a Peace Ambassador.



Joseph Mutia, (in yellow) Chairperson Napiananya Village Peace Ambassadors chairing a peace meeting

“ When there is violence in a community, we go meet the conflicting parties to understand the root causes and solution to the conflicts. The main causes of conflict has always been quarrels over land boundaries especially during planting time, livestock theft and domestic violence due alcoholism.

There is peace in the community nowadays.

People used to fight and no body would sit them down to settle their miss understandings. Today, when there is a conflict in community, Peace Ambassadors working hand in hand with elders call for meetings to bring together the two conflicting parties to solving their issues.

In case of land wrangles, we go to the land in conflict and look for landmarks such as trees

and then map out land borders.

On our 10 member Peace Ambassador's Committee, five members are women. Things have greatly changed, before women never used to

with elders in conflict resolution matters. Here we women are equal partners, they talk in meetings and women are knowledgeable about many things in homes for than their male counter parts."



“ CIDI gave me a bicycle to help me visit many villages talking about peace building and conflict resolution,” Pius Erutu, Chairperson Peace Ambassadors in Akodokodoi village, Amuria District.

Photo: CIDI/  
James Kiyimba

“ My name is Pius Erutu, 65, I am the Chairman Peace Ambassador in Akodokodoi village, Okungur Sub County, Amuria District.

In our community, cattle theft and uprooting of cassava when grazing animals are the main sources of conflict. This however, is mainly done by the Jie from kotido district not people from our neighbours from Napak. Other conflicts are as a result of land wrangles, competition over water resources especially during the dry seasons and domestic violence.

Working with the district local government, we have been able to address some of these conflicts through convening dialogues with the Jie community and its leaders and also hold cross boarder meetings. We have managed to conduct four cross border meeting between 2017-2018.

### **Training from CIDI**

To be able to work as peace ambassadors we were trained by CIDI in peace building and we were given bicycles. Our work involves: community mobilisation for meetings, helping people settles their conflicts and also encouraging people

to inter marry.

### **Our achievements as peace ambassadors includes:**

- Peaceful co- existence with Karamajong community.
- Cattle theft has reduced.
- Insults based on tribe has also reduced- the karamajong used to call us 'IKUMA MA' (stupid people moving naked) and we used to call them 'I loke' (Insult).
- Inter marriages between Karamajong and Itesot have greatly increased
- There was a piece of land that was a no man's land before but now it is occupied by mixed tribes that co-exist together in harmony.

Our plan for the future is to form a peace ambassadors' coalition that embraces the Itesots and karamajongs at sub county level.

### **Karamajong and Itesot living together in peace**

With such achievements, it was not long before we witnessed the impact of our intervention in

Napak, Amuria and Katakwi Districts. The two dominant tribes of the region, Itesots and the Kar-amajong now live harmoniously as a result of the community sensitization on peace building and conflict resolution conducted by the peace

ambassadors. There is also reduced cases of conflicts in the communities were registered as result of the sensitization on peace building and conflict resolution still conducted by the trained peace ambassadors.



### **Apejok Ongeri - Karamajong living in Teso**

From left, Apejok Ongeri, 40, with her children looking by a Kar-amajong living in Amuria District, Teso Land with Pius Erutu, 65, Chairperson Peace Ambassadors in Akodokodoi village, Amuria District. Photo: CIDI/ James Kiyimba



Apejok Onger, 40, a Karamajong living in Amuria makes local brew, which she takes back home to pay people who work in her garden. She has lived peacefully here in Amuria district with the Itesot.

“I am Apejok Onger 40, years old and my husband is called Mariko Moru. We are originally from Lokolokodoi village, Kangole Sub County in Napak District. We have stayed here for four months and we came in search for food. I look for work and I sometimes work and sometimes I do not get work. I have not been able to get land to cultivate but we got free accommodation from Asupu Samuel. To supplement our income, I make local brew (cassava + sorghum), which I take back home and give to

people who till my garden.

I am a mother of three, I came here with my little three-year old son Lessee Apaalokang. Previously as a karamajong I could not dare come and stay in Teso area because I feared to be caught up in the inter-tribal wars. I am now happy to be here because there is peace. My neighbour Aceng Mary is my best friend, she helps me by providing me with food especially cassava flour.”



## “At last I have peace at home”

“When ever my husband used to get home drunk he would beat me, for no reasons. I would equate our home to a boxing ring and I had nowhere to run for help.

However of recent things have changed. CIDI has trained Peace Ambassadors with in our village. These have always intervned when there is domestic violence, whenever I have domestic violence issue I run to them for counselling. The last time they also invited my husband to finding lasting solution to issues leading to domestic violence. We have since resolve our differences and now we are in good terms with my husband. Its long since we last fought.

The main causes of conflict in my community include: competition over water especially during the dry season, taking too much alcohol without caring for the family and men especially failing to perform their conjugal rights. These conflicts have however reduced because we have Peace Ambassadors who mobilise and sensitize the community about peaceful co-existence.” Ngorok Agnes, 32, mother of five children, Napiananya Vilage, Amedek, Napak District.

# Drought mitigation measures



Members of Amedek Farmer's Group tending to their garden;  
*Photo: CIDI/ James Kiyimba*





We supported communities to mitigate the impacts of the climate change through adaptation by rehabilitating two valley dams in two sub counties to provide water for production and household use. This was a response to the usual search for water for animals, which was a cause of conflict in communities especially in the dry season.

Whenever animals would come to drink water they would end up destroying crops along their path and also would drink water and deprive the people from access. These were points of stress that caused conflict. When we rehabilitated the valley dams, we increased the availability of water for irrigation and for animals this would sustain these communities in the dry season as well. Besides rehabilitation of the valley tanks, we also provided training to farmer groups in irrigation and crop management. To kick-start the production process we provided inputs in form of seeds to the farmer group and also trained them in Village savings and loan association.

We have realized changes in the community in form of increased production of food crops that are sold and earn the groups money. The valley dams are a more reliable source for water to enhance production; tensions and conflicts have also reduced as there is year round access to water for animals in the community.

## Drought mitigation: Napiananya Village Valley Dam

Through our experience of working in Karamoja region we have noticed that competition over scarce water resources especially during dry seasons is one of the major cause of conflict among communities. As a result, CIDI with support from Misereor is using WASH as entry

point to peaceful existence and conflict resolution among communities in Napak district, Karamoja region.

In this respect in 2015 we supported the de-silting of Napiananya village valley dam, which serves both pastoralists and agriculturists with water during dry seasons. Below are some testimonies from the community on how the dam has transformed people's lives.



“ During the dry season all animals even as far as Nakapiripirit District come to drink water from here in Napiananya Valley Dam, Amedek Parish, Nabwal Soub county . We also get fish from the dam as well as use water from the to irrigate our vegetables during dry seasons water, ” Joseph Mutia.




Joseph Mutai (in yellow) with members of Amedek Farmers Group tending to their onion nursery bed – members use water from the valley

dam to grow vegetables and onions especially during the dry seasons which they sell in nearby markets.

CIDI also provided a manual water pump and as well as installing two water tanks each of 10,000 litre capacity to support irrigation during dry seasons.





“ In 2016, when as Amedek Farmer’s Group sold onions from the irrigation scheme I got a share of UGX. 15000. I used the money to buy a chicken. I am very pleased that since then my chicken keeping is becoming bigger and bigger. Recently the mother chicken hatched seven chicks, some times we eat chicken at home or when I need of money I sell some of my chicken,” Lokiru John Bosco, 19, is member of Amedek Farmers Group.

“My name is Mutia Joseph, am 50 years old; I am the chairperson of the Napiananya Village Peace Ambassadors. Napiananya Valley Dam is the biggest water source in our sub-county and it was constructed by CIDI. During the dry season the dam provides water for households and for production (irrigation and cattle). It serves communities in the sub-counties of Nabwali, Iriri sub-county, and Napak.

Before CIDI intervention the dam was silted and it could hold very little water, which could not serve the multiple demands in the community.

Now that the dam is fully functional and people from nearby sub counties also bring their animals to drink water from here during the dry season. We are in discussion with the District Local Government authority to come up with a management arrangement that allows us to

charge the various users of water.

We have a community development group called Amedek Farmers group comprising of 25 members (12 male and 13 female).

As a group we use water from the valley dam to irrigate our plants especially during dry seasons. We have two acres of land and we usually plant quick maturing vegetables. Last season we got seedlings from CIDI, which helped us, plant vegetables such as eggplants, onions, cabbage, and tomatoes. When we harvested our produce we sold and earned UGX 70,000. We work as a team to cultivate and harvest the produce, which we usually sell at Ocholamogin in Katakwi, Iriri trading centre and Moroto market.”



“ My name is Adiaka Micheal, 18 years old and a member of Amedek Farmers’ group. I have earned three times from the group and this is about UGX 45,000. I have used this money to buy a solar panel, which we use in the community to charge our mobile phones. I am now planning to work hard and be able to earn enough to buy a goat. ”



Nakiru Linda 18, (seven months pregnant) together with her husband Sagal Samuel 20 (member of Amedek Farmers Group) collects water from the valley dam to grow vegetables to supplement their food especially during the dry season.





**Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI)**

P.O. Box 692, Kampala, Tel: +256 414 510358

Email: [cidi@cidiuganda.org](mailto:cidi@cidiuganda.org) or [cidcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:cidcommunity@gmail.com)