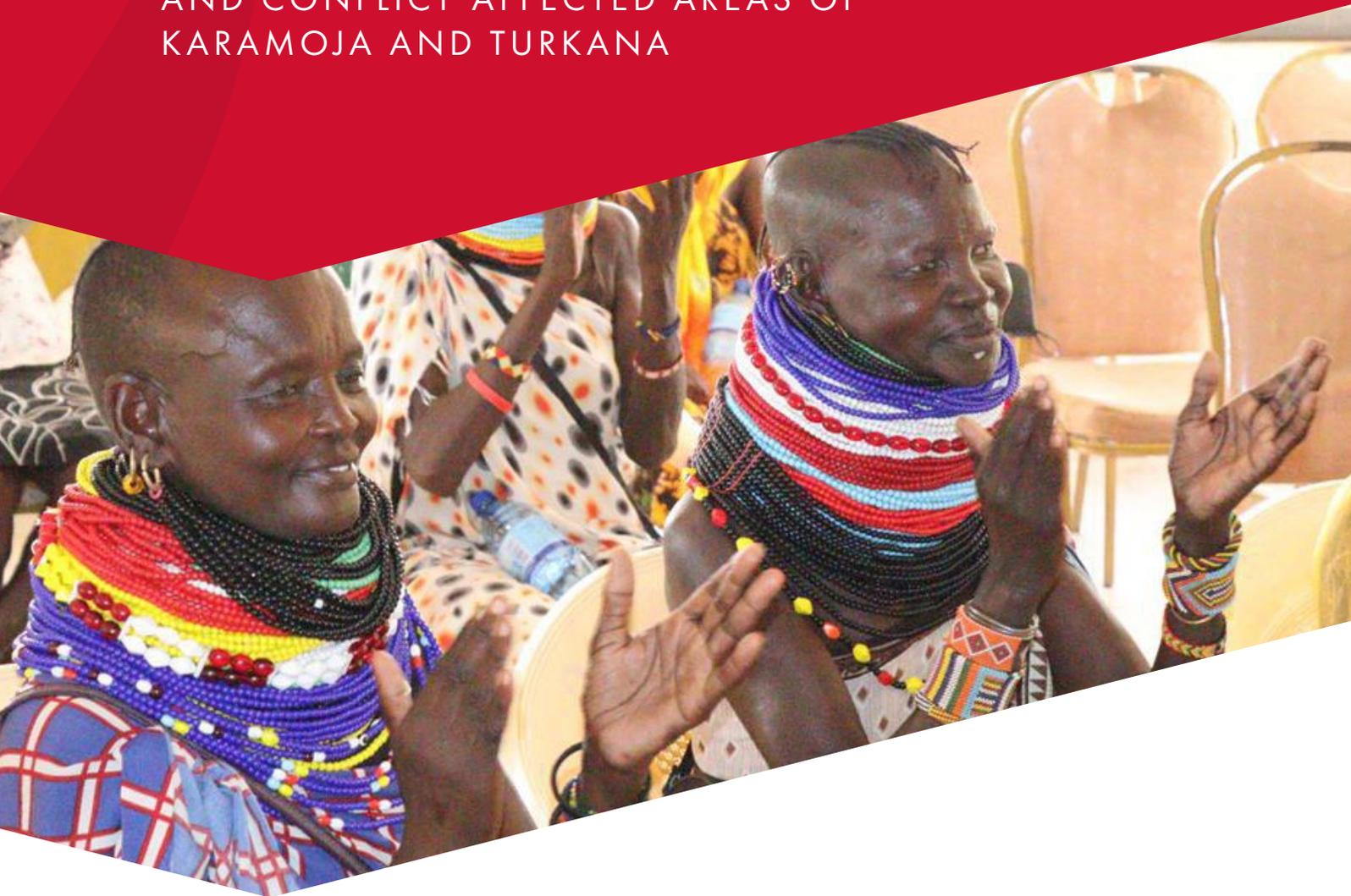




Climate & Conflict Situation Report

INTEGRATING CLIMATE ACTION IN FRAGILE
AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS OF
KARAMOJA AND TURKANA



With funding from



DECEMBER 2024



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List of Abbreviations

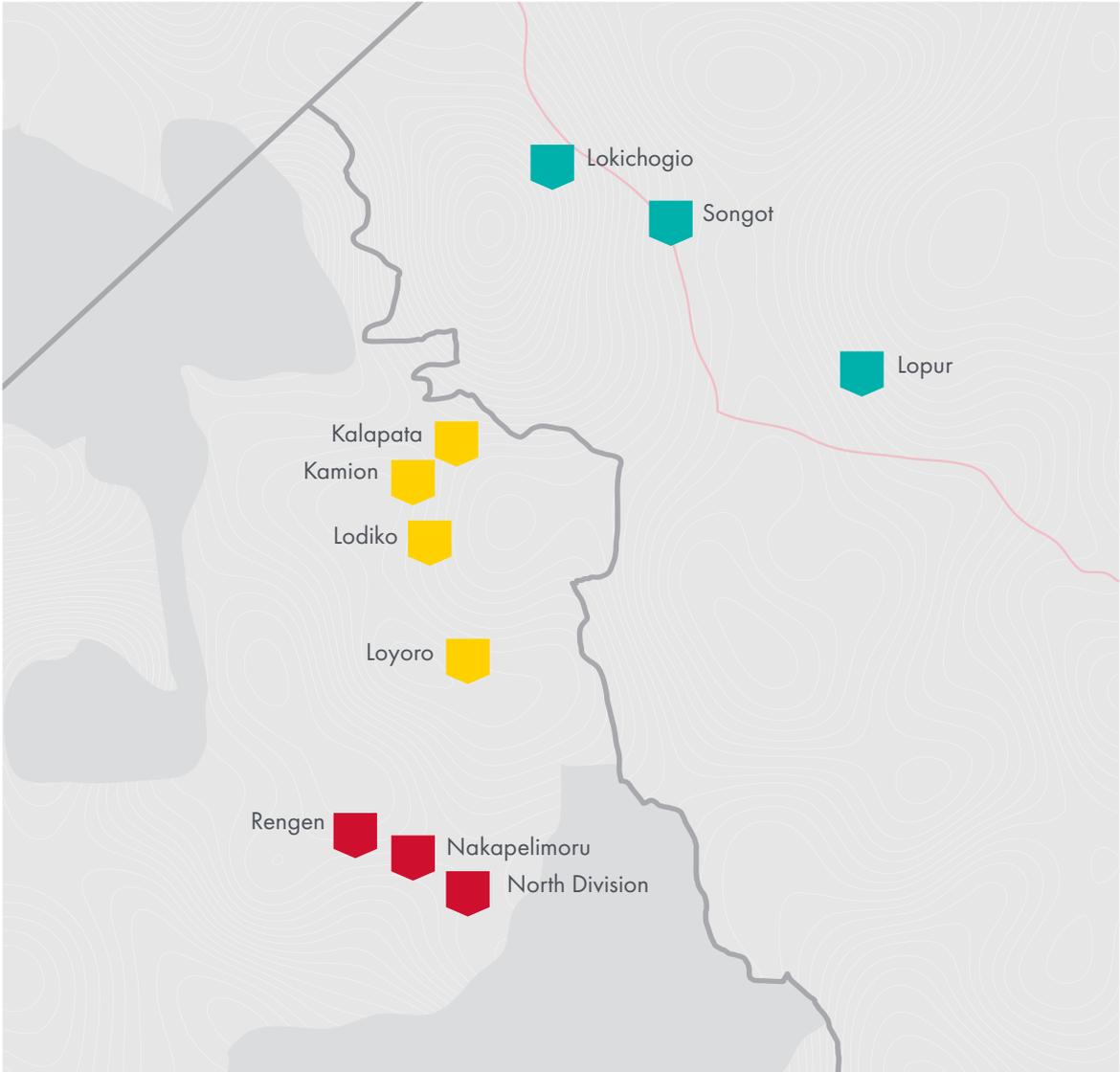
ADA	Austrian Development Agency
CCLAP	Climate Change Leaders Advancing for Peace
GoU	Government of Uganda
KAPDA	Kaabong Peace and Development Agency
MHEWS	Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems
NDPIII	National Development Plan III
NARWOA	Nakere Rural Women Activists
NRSA	Natural Resource Sharing Agreements
RSA	Resource Sharing Agreements
SAPCONE	Sustainable Approaches for Community Empowerment
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD\$	United States Dollar
ND-GAIN	Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative

Introduction

Climate change is acknowledged as one of the most significant challenges facing humanity on a global level. There is strong evidence that climate change is directly affecting the social, economic, and human development of all countries.

The Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN 2021) ranks Uganda as the 10th most vulnerable country to the impacts of climate change and 35th least ready in terms of preparedness. Uganda is highly vulnerable because of prevalent poverty levels, dependency on weather sensitive sectors and exposure to climate risks. This indicates a significant and urgent need for investment and innovation for climate adaptation.

CCLAP Program Locations



REGIONS ————— ■ Turkana ■ Kaabong ■ Kotido



It is generally acknowledged that climate change is a driver of conflict in the Karamoja cluster, primarily on account of its impact on the capacity of the rangelands to provide pasture, water and other resources that support pastoral and agropastoral livelihoods. Moreover, the impact of climate change on the health and productivity of the rangelands exacerbates competition for resources and increases the potential for conflict.

This learning brief explores the intersection of climate change, conflict, and governance in the Karamoja sub-region of Uganda and the Turkana region of Kenya. Climate risks, including erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and resource scarcity, intersect with existing vulnerabilities, such as weak governance structures and socio-economic inequities, to amplify conflict in these regions. The report highlights findings from three studies CCLAP Baseline, Vulnerability Risk Assessment Conflict and Natural Resource Mapping Exercise conducted by the CCLAP program in 2024, as well as previous research studies conducted under Mercy Corps' peace-building interventions in Karamoja.

The CCLAP Uganda project, funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) with funds from the Austrian Development Cooperation, seeks to build a gender-equitable and conflict-sensitive knowledge base to enable women and girls in

North-East Uganda (Kotido, and Kaabong) and in North-West Kenya (Turkana West), including men, youth, and elders, to make climate-informed decisions about natural resource management (NRM). The CCLAP project contributes to Mercy Corps' overall mission and strategic outcomes. Specifically, the program aligns with Mercy Corps' peace and good governance outcome, which aims to reduce or prevent violence, advance sustainable peace, and foster meaningful participation in inclusive and responsive governance systems. Mercy Corps and its partners, NARWOA, KAPDA and SAPCONE, engage communities in sustainable natural resource management, climate adaptation, and peace-building efforts to address these challenges.



THIS LEARNING BRIEF SEEKS TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. How do climate risks and existing vulnerabilities impact peace and security outcomes?
2. What factors may mitigate or exacerbate these impacts?

This learning brief is targeted at CCLAP program stakeholders, including Government of Uganda (GoU) and Government of Kenya (GoK) policy makers and duty bearers, development partners, implementing partners, peer organizations and Mercy Corps team members.

The brief highlights the need for integrated, gender-sensitive approaches where men, women, boys and girls are engaged in all aspects of conflict prevention, management and resolution to address the dual challenges of climate change and conflict. The report also emphasizes the role of women and girls in driving sustainable solutions and advancing peace-building efforts, despite facing systemic barriers and vulnerabilities. The brief ends with actionable recommendations to inform programmatic strategies and policy frameworks which promote environmental sustainability and social cohesion in the Karamoja and Turkana regions of Uganda and Kenya.

Climate trends in Karamoja and Turkana

Since 1980, Uganda has experienced a temperature increase of up to 1.5°C, with projections suggesting a further rise of 2°C over the next 50 years. Rainfall patterns are becoming increasingly erratic and intense, contributing to extreme weather events such as prolonged droughts and severe floods. These changes are expected to exacerbate challenges for communities reliant on climate-sensitive livelihoods, with the economic costs of inaction projected to range from US\$3.1 billion to US\$5.9 billion annually by 2025.

Climate adaptation efforts in Uganda from 2015–2020 alone required an estimated cost of US\$ 406 million. Uganda’s Third National Development Plan (NDP III) 2020/21 - 2024/25 recognizes the critical need for climate resilience across key sectors, if the Vision 2040 goal of becoming a competitive, upper-middle-income country is to be delivered.

The northeastern region of Uganda, including Karamoja, is particularly vulnerable due to its semi-arid ecosystem characterized by water scarcity, erratic rainfall, and frequent droughts. In response to these challenges, communities have traditionally relied on pastoralism and agro-pastoralism, livelihoods that have enabled communities to adapt and thrive in semi-arid environments for generations. However, increasing climate variability is straining critical resources like water and pasture, undermining both livelihoods and food security.

Similarly, the Turkana region in northwestern Kenya faces worsening climate impacts, which add to its existing socioeconomic challenges. Limited access to adaptive resources and fragile governance structures further impedes resilience in the region. These pressures often lead to competition over scarce natural resources such as grazing lands and water points, increasing conflicts between communities. Women and girls, tasked with resource collection, face heightened risks as they travel longer distances for water or firewood.

Weather data indicates that the Karamoja and Turkana regions will continue to experience warming and unpredictable rainfall in coming decades. From 2010

to 2039, maximum and minimum temperatures in Karamoja are projected to rise slightly, with average maximum temperatures around 31.2°C and minimum temperatures approximately 17.7°C. In Kenya, temperatures have shown a distinct warming trend since the 1960s, with inland areas experiencing significant increases. Annual mean temperatures have risen by about 1.0°C, averaging 0.21°C per decade. The most notable temperature rise has been observed at the beginning of the primary rainy season (March to May) in the arid and semi-arid regions. The table below indicates temperature and rainfall trends for both geographic areas.

Table 1: Summary of Climate Trends and Impacts in Karamoja and Turkana (1981–2015)

Climate Metric	Trends in Karamoja	Trends in Turkana	Impact
Temperature Increase	Average temperatures rose by up to 1.5°C since 1980, with a further 2°C projected over the next 50 years.	Temperatures have ranged between 20°C and 40°C, with southeastern Turkana being notably hotter.	Rising temperatures and extremes threaten agriculture and food security and leading to increased heat stress.
Rainfall Pattern	Uni-modal with two phases: March-May (peak) and July-November (peak). Uneven distribution throughout the season.	Turkana has had favorable conditions for agriculture, with regular and adequate rainfall, especially during the long rainy season, which received between 750 mm and 1000 mm.	Karamoja and Turkana highly depend on rainfall; irregularity increases vulnerability and affects agricultural productivity.
Rainfall Variability	Significant variability in annual rainfall; recent decades show an average increase of 137 mm per year.	Current average annual rainfall in Turkana has decreased significantly to between 180-200 mm.	Increased rainfall variance complicates planting and harvest planning.

In 2024, **CCLAP** carried out three assessment targeting program participants from both Karamoja and Turkana West;

1. **The CCLAP baseline**, which established a reference point for key program indicators, assessing the socio-economic conditions, climate vulnerabilities, and conflict dynamics affecting communities in the target areas.
2. **The Vulnerability Risk Assessment** that aimed at examining the climate risks, vulnerabilities, and their impacts on peace and security. This assessment analysed data collected through quantitative and qualitative methods alongside desk reviews of different publications.
3. **Conflict and Natural Resource Mapping Exercise** that took a participatory approach, with targeted participants leading the process and focused on identifying conflict-prone areas to implement peace initiatives that foster social cohesion.

These three studies conducted under CCLAP validate earlier findings from similar programs implemented by Mercy Corps, notably the Climate Change, Peace & Security Assessment (2023) and the Adapting in Adversity Study (2023), conducted under the USAID-funded EKISIL programme, Climate Change and Peace building story Uganda and Kenya (2018) and Contextual analysis integrating Climate change adaptation and Natural resource Management for Karamoja cluster (2015)- Conducted under the USAID funded Peace III program.

Participants of the Vulnerability Risk Assessment (2024) confirmed that there is a shift in the current climate pattern, particularly unpredictable rainfall and prolonged droughts. In both Kotido and Kaabong, participants reported that floods are now occurring earlier, disrupting the agricultural calendar and leading to crop losses.

“

“The rains come too early now, bringing floods when we are not ready. Before we harvest, the waters wash away our seeds and the soil, leaving us with nothing. It feels like nature has turned against us, and we no longer have control over our fields or our future.”

Droughts, extending from January to March, are severely affecting water sources and pastures, resulting in stress for both livestock and communities. In both districts, the delayed onset of rains and extended dry spells have significantly reduced agricultural yields, heightening food insecurity.

In West Turkana, Kenya, community members echoed similar concerns, emphasizing the disruption of previously predictable climate patterns. The onset of drought, which historically spanned from January to May, now extends through December, resulting in acute water and pasture shortages. This extended drought period severely affects livestock health and productivity, worsening the vulnerability of agro-pastoralist communities. A resident of Song'ot Ward described the escalating challenges:

“

The winds have become relentless, blowing through our homes and lands at unexpected times. We used to be able to predict them, but now they come whenever they please, tearing down our roofs and drying up our fields. The droughts that follow are even worse, leaving our animals weak and us desperate for water. We are losing everything, and we don't know how to stop it.”

Both regions face increasing pressure on shared resources, especially water and pasturelands, due to erratic rainfall and prolonged droughts. These pressures exacerbate the vulnerability of agro-pastoralist communities who rely heavily on these resources for their livelihoods. Conflicts over access to water points and grazing lands have become more frequent, emphasizing the need for effective cross-border resource management strategies. The CCLAP program focuses on fostering collaboration among communities to ensure equitable access to these critical resources while reducing tensions. These initiatives have shown promise in promoting dialogue and cooperation, encouraging sustainable natural resource management practices. By integrating traditional knowledge with modern resource-sharing frameworks, the program underscores the importance of inclusive strategies that address both environmental and social challenges. Research from the CCLAP baseline (2024) Vulnerability Risk Assessment (2024) and Conflict and Natural Resource Mapping Exercise (2024) reinforces the need for structured agreements and collaborative governance to mitigate conflicts and enhance resilience in the Karamoja and Turkana regions.

The intersection of climate change and gender reveals that women and girls bear a disproportionate burden from its effects. Resource scarcity and economic instability, exacerbated by climate change, often lead to heightened domestic violence. Men, facing increased pressures from competition over resources and the loss of traditional livelihoods, sometimes direct their frustration toward women, using violence as a harmful coping mechanism in response to mounting stress (Vulnerability Risk Assessment, 2024).

Additionally, women and girls are shouldering greater responsibilities in the face of climate change. As resources like water and firewood become harder to access, women are frequently tasked with traveling longer distances to collect these necessities, exposing them to gender-based violence and physical health risks. This dynamic further intensifies their vulnerability and highlights the need for targeted interventions (Conflict and Natural Resource Mapping Exercise, 2024).

Extreme weather events and persistent food insecurity also have significant educational and economic impacts on girls. In situations where resources are limited, families often prioritize household labor over education, leading to higher dropout rates for girls. This undermines their educational prospects and restricts their future economic opportunities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality (Vulnerability Risk Assessment, 2024).

The compounded effects of climate shocks exacerbate socio-political and economic tensions, underscoring the urgent need for integrated climate adaptation programs. The Adapting in Adversity study (2023), conducted under the USAID-funded Mercy Corps EKISIL program, identified critical gaps in the availability of weather and climate information necessary for reducing climate risks and preventing maladaptation. Strengthening the provision of timely, reliable, and sustainable weather and climate services is essential to enable informed decision-making and enhance resilience.

Conflict Trends in Karamoja and Turkana

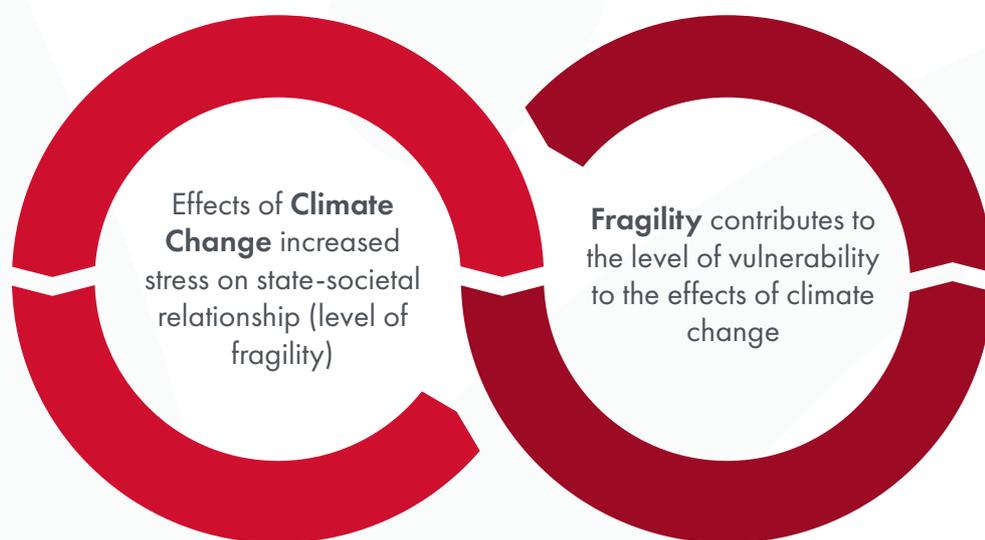


Figure 1: A vicious cycle - the relationship between climate change and fragility

Past Mercy Corps studies such as *Addressing Climate Drivers of Conflict*, May 2019 reveal that it is not climate change that directly causes conflict. Instead, its effects (e.g., rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns) lead to environmental impacts (e.g., loss of grazing land for cattle), which in turn, result in socioeconomic tensions (e.g., farmers and herders competing for resources). This chain of reactions contributes to an increased risk of conflict, worse in contexts with weak governance, high rates of poverty, income equality, and existing social tensions.

The Karamoja cluster, spanning the borderlands of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, is not exceptional to this and is significantly affected by protracted conflicts linked to effects of climate change. The ecological context of the cluster, coupled with a history of marginalization, predisposes it to various conflict types, particularly natural resource-based conflicts and other low-level conflicts such as banditry and cattle raiding. Competition over water and pasture, exacerbated by climate change, remains at the core of many conflicts in the region. Additionally, poor communication, dishonored peace and natural

resource-sharing agreements, and emerging mining activities along the borders contribute to these tensions.

More recently, conflict trends in Karamoja and Turkana have evolved. Historically, cattle raiding was a traditional practice that emphasized social identity and masculine rites of passage. However, the CCLAP Vulnerability Risk Assessment (2024) revealed that climate change outcomes in Karamoja and Turkana West have created new entry points for violent conflicts between pastoralists and settled groups. Long-standing resource-based conflicts have been further aggravated by prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall, intensifying competition over water, pasture, and other natural resources. This competition has escalated tensions and violence among pastoralist communities, with frequent reports of livestock theft and armed clashes.

CCLAP baseline data also underscores the profound impact of conflict and climate change on gender relations in Karamoja. Pastoralist migration, now more frequent and extended due to resource scarcity, has forced many women to seek alternative livelihoods in urban areas. These women increasingly participate in non-traditional roles, such as livestock trade and operating butcheries. While this shift offers opportunities to diversify livelihoods and reduce dependence on humanitarian aid, it also exposes women to new vulnerabilities. Interviews conducted during the CCLAP baseline survey (2024) highlighted concerns about limited access to credit and the risks of gender-based violence faced by women entrepreneurs. As one participant stated:

“

Women have become the backbone of survival for their families, but the lack of support systems often leaves them in precarious positions.”

The intersection of climate change, conflict, and gender reveals a deeply intertwined and multifaceted issue. Women in Karamoja and Turkana are increasingly stepping into leadership roles in resource management as climate change reshapes traditional livelihood structures. However, these new responsibilities come with significant burdens. As women take on roles traditionally held by men, they face societal resistance rooted in entrenched

gender norms, alongside inadequate institutional support systems. This shift also heightens their exposure to harm, including increased risks of gender-based violence and economic exploitation. For instance, women leading community resource management initiatives often report challenges in accessing decision-making platforms and financial resources needed to implement sustainable solutions (CCLAP, Conflict and Natural Resource Mapping Exercise, 2024).

The Adapting in Adversity study (2023) further underscores the importance of gender-sensitive approaches in addressing these challenges effectively. It highlights how climate change exacerbates existing inequalities, disproportionately affecting women and girls through increased domestic workloads and restricted access to education and healthcare. In the words of one community leader:

“

When women are supported, entire communities thrive, yet they are often the last to receive support in times of crisis.”

Programs like CCLAP are striving to close these gaps by empowering women through targeted interventions, such as capacity-building workshops and inclusive decision-making forums. These efforts aim to not only elevate women’s voices in resource management but also equip them with the tools to navigate societal and structural barriers. Gender-responsive strategies are not just essential for equity but are also pivotal for the broader resilience and sustainability of communities impacted by climate change and conflict.



Case study – Resolving conflict between the Ik (Kaabong) and the Turkana



Figure 2: The Conflict web generated from the NRM exercise

Conflict over natural resources has been particularly acute in Turkana (Kenya) and Kaabong (Uganda). During the 2CCLAP Natural Resource Mapping (2024), participants highlighted ongoing tensions between the Ik tribe of Uganda and the Turkana of Kenya over access to grazing lands and farmland in the Nawontos green belt border area. This conflict intensifies during prolonged dry spells when competition for resources becomes more severe. To address

these tensions, a multi-stakeholder forum was facilitated by the CCLAP program in December 2024. This forum brought together political leaders, technical experts, and community representatives to examine the root causes of the conflict and develop actionable solutions. A key outcome was the establishment of a joint commitment allowing Turkana pastoralists free movement into designated Turkana-Karamoja grazing corridors. This agreement also ensured access to essential social services, including health centers and markets in Kamion and Kalapata. However, while the forum successfully strengthened cooperation on broader cross-border grazing corridors, it did not result in a specific resolution for the Ik-Turkana conflict in the Nawontos green belt. Participants acknowledged the need for a more targeted dialogue process to address grievances unique to Nawontos and ensure sustainable conflict resolution. Additionally, the forum underscored the importance of continuous monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to uphold agreements and prevent tensions from resurfacing, particularly during drought seasons.

As one local leader noted,



“Without accountability and strong governance, even the best agreements fall apart.”

Moving forward, there is a need for dedicated interventions to directly address disputes between the Ik and Turkana in Nawontos, ensuring that all affected communities benefit from peace-building efforts.

Seasonal migrations and resource scarcity have exacerbated conflicts between communities, making water and pastureland critical flash points. The CCLAP baseline survey highlights the severity of these conflicts and underscores the necessity of formalized agreements to manage resource sharing effectively. Such agreements, when developed inclusively, build trust and cooperation among communities while addressing the root causes of disputes. Strengthening governance frameworks is essential for enforcing these agreements and ensuring their sustainability. As one community leader noted,

“

Women have become the backbone of survival for their families, but the lack of support systems often leaves them in precarious positions.”

The Adapting in Adversity (2023) report emphasizes that well-structured governance not only facilitates equitable resource distribution but also supports early warning systems to enhance preparedness for climate shocks. These systems enable communities to anticipate and respond proactively to climate-induced crises, reducing the likelihood of conflict and fostering resilience. Empowering youth through vocational training, entrepreneurship opportunities, and access to climate-smart agricultural practices can also play a transformative role in reducing vulnerability and fostering peace. Together, these efforts form a comprehensive strategy to address the multifaceted challenges facing Karamoja and Turkana.



Lessons Learned

The interconnected challenges of climate change, food insecurity, and resource-based conflict in Karamoja and Turkana highlight the need for urgent, coordinated action. Mercy Corps' long history of peace-building programming provides critical insights into addressing these challenges effectively. These lessons focus on the importance of inclusive governance, sustainable resource management, and empowering marginalized groups, particularly women, to build more peaceful and resilient communities.

Linking Resource-Sharing Agreements to Peace and Security: The CCLAP Natural Resource Mapping (2024) revealed that while numerous resource-sharing and peace agreements exist, their implementation remains insufficient, perpetuating cycles of conflict. Communities view natural resource management as a peace and security issue, not just an environmental one. The mapping highlighted that for these agreements to be effective, they must integrate actionable strategies, allocated budgets, and clear mechanisms for implementation. Additionally, raising awareness among mediators and negotiators about the critical link between natural resources and sustainable peace is essential.

A key challenge identified in the mapping is the lack of a policy framework for rangeland management. The absence of such a framework hinders effective and sustainable management of rangeland resources, contributing to conflicts and undermining peace efforts. Establishing a comprehensive policy would support sustainable rangeland use, reduce tensions, and improve peace-building in the region.

Gender-Responsive Peace Processes Enhance Sustainability: Involving women in peace processes significantly improves outcomes by fostering sustainable, inclusive solutions. Women excel in addressing core issues through interest-based negotiation, broadening discussions to include critical community needs like social services and economic recovery. Research shows peace agreements are 35% more likely to endure when women participate. Despite systemic challenges, Mercy Corps' experience highlights that training

women in climate action and negotiation equips them to strengthen community peace-building and amplify diverse voices, making peace processes more equitable and effective. Prioritizing women's inclusion is vital for lasting and resilient peace.

Integrated Approaches to Peace-building: Effective peace-building requires a blend of advocacy, mediation, dialogue, economic development, and education. The CCLAP program emphasizes the need to engage diverse stakeholders and invest in long-term, flexible strategies to create lasting peace. Women and girls, as the most vulnerable during conflicts, often have unmet security needs. Integrating their perspectives into broader peace-building frameworks is vital for inclusive outcomes.

Promoting Psychosocial Well-Being and Trauma Healing: Addressing the psychosocial impacts of conflict is essential for reconciliation and sustainable peace. Community dialogues on transboundary water and land resource management have shown that fostering cooperation and mutual understanding among cross-border communities helps rebuild trust. Psychosocial support and trauma healing are foundational for enabling communities to collectively address conflict's root causes.

The Impact of Small Firearms on Conflict Dynamics: The continued presence of small firearms in Karamoja and Turkana fuels conflict, exacerbated by economic hardships, cross-border weapons influxes, and inadequate livelihoods. The incomplete disarmament process has increased vulnerability, as firearms often provide an advantage to some groups, undermining local security mechanisms. Addressing this issue requires renewed efforts to curb arms proliferation and provide alternative livelihoods.

Water Resource Management Requires Community-Led and Integrated Approaches: Addressing water scarcity in Karamoja and Turkana highlights the importance of community-driven solutions and integrating traditional and modern resource management techniques. Programs have demonstrated that community-led water protection, through initiatives like water user committees, promotes equitable access and sustainable maintenance of infrastructure. Additionally, combining traditional practices, such as rainwater harvesting, with modern technologies like solar-powered irrigation and remote sensing improves

resilience by ensuring efficient water use across seasons. Sustainable water management must prioritize community ownership and adaptable strategies to meet diverse needs.

Ecosystem Protection Strengthens Livelihoods and Climate Resilience:

The degradation of ecosystems in Karamoja and Turkana has underscored the critical link between environmental governance and sustainable livelihoods. Experience has shown that empowering communities to monitor and manage their natural resources fosters accountability and stewardship, reducing harmful practices such as deforestation, illegal charcoal production, and overgrazing. Community-led reforestation and afforestation with native species have proven effective in restoring ecosystems, while alternative energy solutions like solar cookers and biogas reduce reliance on finite resources. Introducing sustainable grazing practices, such as rotational grazing, mitigates overuse of land and strengthens ecosystem resilience. These lessons demonstrate that protecting ecosystems is fundamental to building climate-resilient livelihoods.



Recommendations for Future Actions

Resource-Sharing Agreements and Peace and Security: Expand and institutionalize Natural Resource Sharing Agreements (NRA), integrating Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) to address both climate and conflict risks. Government-backed frameworks should ensure sustainable resource management and cross-border cooperation to align agreements with peace-building objectives. Additionally, a critical recommendation is the development of a comprehensive policy framework for rangeland management. Such a policy would provide the necessary guidance for sustainable rangeland use, supporting conflict prevention and enhancing cooperation between neighboring communities. This policy should integrate climate resilience measures and promote long-term peace by addressing the root causes of resource-based conflicts.

Gender-Responsive Peace Processes: Invest in training women as peace-builders and negotiators, while promoting gender-inclusive governance structures. Develop multi-year programs to support women's active participation in peace-building initiatives.

Integrated Peace-building Approaches: Adopt nexus programming that combines peace-building, development, and crisis-responsive strategies. Support community-based conflict resolution, strengthen traditional leadership, and regularly update Kenya-Uganda cross-border agreements to reflect evolving resource challenges.

Psychosocial Well-Being and Trauma Healing: Incorporate trauma healing and psychosocial support into community dialogues and resource management programs. Promote collective action and empathy-building to foster intergroup reconciliation and address the psychological impacts of protracted conflicts.

Small Firearms and Conflict Dynamics: Support disarmament programs, enhance community security through traditional and local institutions, and invest in livelihood opportunities to reduce reliance on weapons for survival.

Water Resource Management: Effective water resource management is essential for enhancing climate resilience in Karamoja and Turkana, where water scarcity remains a major challenge. Recommendations include investing in community-led water protection through water user committees to ensure equitable access, sustainable development, and regular maintenance of water infrastructure. A comprehensive water management strategy should integrate traditional and modern approaches, including rainwater harvesting, solar-powered irrigation, and the use of monitoring systems like remote sensing to ensure sustainable water use across seasons.

Promoting livelihoods based on eco-system services: Environmental degradation threatens both livelihoods and ecosystems, requiring stronger climate resilience strategies. Key actions include enforcing regulations on deforestation, illegal charcoal production, and overgrazing, while empowering communities to manage natural resources.

Promoting community-led reforestation, alternative energy sources like solar cookers, and rotational grazing will help restore ecosystems and ease resource pressures. Additionally, providing youth with vocational training and access to climate-smart agriculture can reduce vulnerability and foster peace.



Conclusion

Through the Climate Change Leaders Advancing for Peace (CCLAP) program, Mercy Corps is addressing these intersecting challenges. The program promotes inclusive and sustainable natural resource management, empowers women and girls to lead climate adaptation efforts, and fosters cross-border collaboration. Initiatives such as community-led natural resource management plans and Resource Sharing Agreements (RSA). Dialogues are the entry point into communities with intercommunal tensions. These act as a platform to generate joint management plans that culminate into the signing of resource sharing Agreements, demonstrating a commitment by conflicting communities to steward and share natural resources.

This learning brief highlights the interconnectedness of climate change, conflict, and socioeconomic challenges in northeastern Uganda and northwest Kenya, emphasizing the need for holistic, gender-sensitive approaches. Supported by the Austrian Development Agency, the CCLAP program demonstrates the impact of community-led efforts and collaborative natural resource management. Looking ahead, CCLAP remains committed to promoting environmental sustainability, economic growth, and social stability, with a focus on empowering vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, to create a peaceful and equitable future.

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About Mercy Corps

Mercy Corps is a leading global organization

Powered by the belief that a better world is possible. In disaster, in hardship, in more than 40 countries around the world, we partner to put bold solutions into action — helping people triumph over adversity and build stronger communities from within. Now, and for the future.



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