

RESEARCH

AND

WORKSHOP REPORT

ON

**“FEASIBLE, PARTICIPATORY, PEACEFUL AND SUSTAINABLE
DISARMAMENT OF THE KARAMOJONG”**

By

**Action for Development of Local Communities (ADOL)
in Conjunction with USAID**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is the product of a research conducted in Karamoja and a workshop subsequently held in Kotido on disarmament. The objective of the research and workshop was to garner grassroots information and opinion on disarmament as well as gather views on how a feasible, participatory and sustainable disarmament could be carried out without causing heavy loss of lives and property. The workshop strengthened and validated the research findings.

The qualitative and quantitative findings from the research established that:

- ◆ There was overwhelming support for disarmament in Karamoja by the non pastoralists, the elders/women (*Ngikasikou/Ngaberu*), girls (*Ngapesur*) and others (Business men, elite and government representatives). They believe that the gun has outlived its usefulness among the Karamojong and has become a weapon of terror, lawlessness and underdevelopment.
- The majority of the pastoralists prefer disarmament with conditionalities: (i) All guns surrendered should be compensated for. (ii) The Karamojong officers and men in the military should be involved in the exercise. (iii) Provisions should be made for post disarmament security.
- Of the eight ethnic groups interviewed, the *Jie*, the *Matheniko*, the *Tepeth* and the *Pokot* were the most intransigent to disarmament.
- ◆ Most of the youthful warriors (*Karachunas*) are opposed to disarmament, arguing that the gun is their only means of protection and livelihood. They appeal to the government to register their guns so that they continue to have control over them. The *Karachunas* have threatened to frustrate the disarmament exercise by migrating to neighbouring countries of Sudan and Kenya should force be used. They also warned that if the disarmament process is not properly handled, more guns would end up in their hands.

- Open gun-markets exist at designated boarder points within Karamoja with impunity. Guns are supplied from Sudan and Kenya while internally UPDF and LDUs in the neighbouring districts were the other source of guns and bullets.
- The Karamojong are sceptical about government's capacity and political will to control gun trafficking and to collect all the guns in the region. There was no concrete evidence on the ground indicating that the disarmament process is impending.
- Misinformation and disinformation were rampant among the population, deliberately disseminated by those who thrive amidst the conflicts. Government policy and messages on disarmament were scanty and appeared riddled with inconsistencies.

The research and the workshop established that a participatory, peaceful and sustainable disarmament of the Karamojong was feasible and recommended the following to achieve it:

Participatory and Peaceful

- Participatory grassroots planning approaches should be employed for designing disarmament activities and messages. Emphasis should be put on assuaging the peoples' personal fears about their security through deliberate confidence-building measures. Disarmament offices for the execution, publicity and monitoring should be decentralised to the districts.
- The surrender of guns should be preceded by intensive and extensive consciensitization and sensitisation programmes: through meetings, radio programs and seminars, among others. Government should improve communication access to reach the majority of the nomadic pastoral Karamojong.
- Kraal leaders should be the core of mobilisation, sensitisation and conciensitization programmes and efforts - targeting the *Karachuna*, kraal leaders, *Ngimurok* (witch-doctors) and soothsayers. The churches, NGOs and the community should be involved.
- Mothers and wives be the main focus of *consciensitisation* at household and family levels. They should consciensitize their sons and husbands about the evils of the gun and cattle rustling as well as the need for peace.
- There should be voluntary surrender and registration of arms at parish level through LC1 chairmen. This exercise should be given ample time.

- The Karimojong officers and men in the military should be involved in the disarmament exercise because they know the area, the culture and can be empathetic with the local communities. This may also ensure minimal conflict between the Karimojong and the state and avoid possible reprisals by outsiders.
- There should be resettlement packages that benefit the community and the gun-owners surrendering guns.
- Discreet informers should be employed within communities to forestall activities of unscrupulous members of society hiding guns on mountains or burying them underground.

Feasible and Sustainable

- Government should put in place security mechanisms to protect the Karimojong from their archenemies during and after the disarmament exercise. Similarly their protection during seasonal migration to and from neighbouring districts should be guaranteed.
- There should be concurrent disarmament of pastoralists from neighbouring countries of Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia.
- Government and stakeholders should ensure provision of water and pasture to the pastoral communities to limit seasonal migration.
- Mechanisms should be put in place and capacity built to check and eliminate gun trafficking in the region.
- Government should provide alternative means/skills of survival for the *Karachunas* (employment) who are now overtly dependent on the gun and the cow.
- There should be free and compulsory education (primary to university) availed to the Karimojong to effect attitude change against the gun, cow and cattle rustling.
- The disarmament process should not be politicized.

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ACRONYMS

ABEK	-Alternative Education for Karamoja
ADOL	-Action for Development of Local Communities
ASTU	-Anti-Stock Theft Unit
CBOs	-Community Based Organisations
CBS	-Community Based Services
CHIPS	-Christian International Peace Service
FAK	-Forum For Advancement of Karamoja
KAPEPS	-Karamoja Peace and Environmental Protection Services
KISP	-Karamoja Initiative for Sustainable Peace
KPIU	- Karamoja Project Implementation Unit
LAP	- Local Administration Police
LC	-Local Council
LDUs	-Local Defence Units
LWF	-Lutheran World Federation
MGL &SD	-Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
MP	-Member of Parliament
NGOs	-Non-Governmental Organisations
PCs	-Parish Chiefs
RDC	-Resident District Commissioner
SPLA	-Sudan People's Liberation Army
TIPS	-Teso Initiative for Peace and Security
UDTA	-Uganda Development Theatre Association
UPDF	-Uganda Peoples' Defence Force
UPE	-Universal Primary Education
USAID	-United States Agency for International Development

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

For over four decades, Karamoja has been experiencing persistent insecurity, community unrest and instability due to acquisition of modern weapons by mainly pastoral groups within and outside Karamoja. The acquisition and possession of these arms has escalated cattle raids, armed conflict and road thuggery within Karamoja and neighbouring areas. The unchecked gun trafficking from Sudan and Kenya has compounded and complicated the security situation and development efforts, impoverishing the region even more.

Cattle rustling and lawlessness have resulted in heavy loss of lives and property thus, causing untold suffering to the peoples of Karamoja and neighbouring districts: *Lango, Teso, Acholi, Sabiny* and *Bagisu*. Government organs in Karamoja have almost been rendered ineffective, and development initiatives stagnated, or are performing at their lowest capacities. The old revered traditional roles and powers of the Karamojong elders in controlling the youth (now turned unruly because of the gun) have been eroded and disempowered. Proliferation of the gun in Karamoja has further aggravated the historical marginalisation and underdevelopment of the region. Today, Karamoja remains the least developed according to all socio-economic development indices in the country (See Appendices 1 & 2).

The persistent practice of armed Karamojong pastoralists in destabilizing and unleashing acts of lawlessness and terror within and outside the region has raised public hue and cry for disarmament of the Karamojong. In an effort to ensure peace, stability and development to the people in Karamoja and the neighbouring areas, government set July 2000 as the starting period for disarming the Karamojong. This pronouncement has been received with mixed feelings and has generated fear and panic among the pastoral communities in the region. There is a general disquiet on whether the disarmament process would be handled without causing heavy loss of lives and property.

Many people doubt the feasibility and sustainability of the exercise because of the prolonged dependency on the gun for survival. Furthermore, there is no evidence on the ground to convince the Karamojong that the government is this time serious in implementing the disarmament policy. They believe that only a simultaneous approach involving neighbouring

countries can create meaningful and sustainable security in the region. Since the pronouncement on disarmament, inter-ethnic cattle rustling within Karamoja has intensified. The various pastoral groups have been forming short-term alliances against each other to stock more animals before their guns are removed by government. This has been so mainly because of scanty accurate information on disarmament.

It is against this background that ADOL (Action for Development of the Local Communities) initiated a grassroots research to assess the available information on disarmament and ensure a feasible, participatory, peaceful and sustainable disarmament in Karamoja. The American government through USAID supported this initiative.

1.2 PURPOSE AND COVERAGE OF RESEARCH AND WORKSHOP

The purpose of the research and workshop was to garner grassroots information and opinion on disarmament as well as gather views on how a feasible, participatory and sustainable disarmament could be carried out without causing heavy loss of lives and property. The research and the workshop were also intended to gather and disseminate information on conflict, peace, security, reconciliation and disarmament to the local communities and stakeholders: government, NGOs and churches amongst others.

The research findings were presented at a workshop in Kotido district in order to share the research findings and map out strategies that will lead to minimal conflict and loss of life and property before, during and after disarmament.

The research was carried out among eight (8) main Karamojong ethnic groups namely, *Matheniko, Bokora, Pokot, Pian, Tepeth, Labwor, Jie* and *Dodoth*. The participants to the workshop comprised Local peace initiative groups operating in Karamoja and Teso inter-alia KISP, TIPS, KAPEPS, CHIPS, FAK, ABEK, International NGOs (PAX CHRISTI, LWF, OXFAM, KPIU), Government representatives, Religious leaders, Kraal leaders, *Karachunas* (Youthful Warriors), *Ngimurok* (Soothsayers), Women representatives, Students, Research Assistants, ASTU and Vigilante commanders.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

Research Assistants were locally recruited and trained in research methods before they were sent to the field. The training was based on a questionnaire, which was designed to suit the purpose of the research (See Appendix 3). The research took approximately three weeks. A total of 1600 people were interviewed, 200 from each ethnic group. The interviews were conducted in randomly sampled Kraals, *Manyatas* and villages chosen with the assistance of local leaders of these areas. The categories of people interviewed included Kraal Leaders, *Karachunas* (Youth), *Ngimurok* (With-doctors), *Ngikasikou* (Elders), *Ngaberu* (Women), *Ngapesur* (Girls), Businessmen, Elite, and Government representatives. The face-to-face interviews were supplemented by group discussions. The information collected from the field was processed and subjected to statistical analysis (See Table 1).

Some respondents were reserved and could not answer all the questions because of their perceived sensitivity of the issues. Others refused to be interviewed altogether. Apathy and preoccupation with domestic chores by some respondents also constrained the research. A combination of bad weather and poor road networks prolonged the field study.

During the workshop, the participants were divided into four participatory appraisal group sessions. Groups 1, 2, 3 & 4 deliberated on questions 1, 2, 3 & 4 respectively under their own elected chairmen and rapporteurs (Appendix 4) with the aid of ADOL facilitators. Their respective reports were presented, discussed and adopted at plenary sessions. The overall recommendations were generated from the research findings and workshop reports.

2.0 THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

2.1 ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES ON DISARMAMENT

The research findings indicate varied views and reactions towards disarmament within Karamoja. These variations depended on occupation, ethnicity and category of respondents interviewed (*Karachunas, Ngikasikou, Ngimurok, Ngimurok Ngaberu, Ngapesur* among others). The responses to the disarmament questionnaire by the 1600 interviewees are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Tabulations of Disarmament Responses of Interviewees in Karamoja

		RESPONDENTS		RESPONSE TO DISARMAMENT					
	GROUP			Pro-Disarmament		Against Disarmament		No-Opinion	
		No.	% of total Respondents	No.	% of total Respondents	No.	% of total Respondents	No.	% of total Respondents
1. Occupation	Pastoralist	1280	80%	807 [§]	63%	358 [♦]	28%	115	9%
	Non-pastoralist	320	20%	301	94%	6	2%	13	4%
	Total	1600	100	1108	69%	364	23%	128	8%
2. Ethnicity	Jie	200	12.5%	110	55%	70	35%	20	10%
	Dodoth	200	12.5%	138	69%	42	21%	20	10%
	Labwor	200	12.5%	196	98%	2	1%	2	1%
	Matheniko	200	12.5%	118	59%	62	31%	20	10%
	Bokora	200	12.5%	152	76%	38	19%	10	5%
	Pian	200	12.5%	130	65%	42	21%	28	14%
	Tepeth	200	12.5%	122	61%	54	27%	24	12%
	Pokot	200	12.5%	142	71%	54	27%	4	2%
	Total	1600	100	1108	-	364	-	128	-
3. Category of Respondents	Elders/Women	656	41%	577	88%	31	5%	48	7%
	<i>Karachunas</i> (Youth)	512	32%	163	32%	297 [♦]	58%	52	10%
	Girls (<i>Ngapesur</i>)	240	15%	197	82%	25	10%	19	8%
	Others [*]	192	12%	171	89%	11	6%	9	5%
	Total	1600	100	1108		364		128	

[§] Refers to respondents who preferred disarmament with conditionalities.

[♦] Refers to Businessmen, Elite, and Government representatives.

^a Expressed violent resistance to disarmament.

The findings from the sample revealed the following:

- ◆ Approximately 69% of the respondents were in favor of disarmament with about 51% preferring disarmament with conditionalities. There was overwhelming support for total disarmament among the non-pastoralists (the *Ethur*, the *Nyangiya*, the *Mening* and the *Ik*) whereas the pastoralists opted for disarmament with conditionalities. About 28% of the pastoralists indicated preparedness to resist disarmament altogether.
- ◆ Of the eight ethnic groups, the *Jie* (35%), the *Matheniko* (31%), the *Tepeth* (27%) and the *Pokot* (27%) were the most intransigent to disarmament.
- ◆ The majority of the *Karachunas* (58%) would resist disarmament. This is the group that possesses guns, controls communities and perpetrates cattle rusting, road thuggery and general insecurity in the region.
- ◆ The Elders (*Ngikasikou*), Women (*Ngaberu*), Girls (*Ngapesur*), Businessmen, elite and government representatives (Others) preferred total disarmament with and without compensation.

The varied reactions and views were mainly due to information gap on the procedures of disarmament. Limited efforts have been made by government or other organizations to sensitize the affected communities on a) procedures of disarmament, b) their roles or contributions towards disarmament, c) their security during and after disarmament, and d) options for sustaining seasonal migration after disarmament. Most of those interviewed said they got information about disarmament as hearsay from friends and in beer parties. Very few heard about disarmament from official sources (Government machinery, radio and newspapers).

2.2 GENERAL RESPONSES ON DISARMAMENT

The general feelings of those interviewed about the gun were as follows:

- That the Karamojong themselves were tired of fighting and needed alternative means of survival other than depending on the gun.
- That the extent of fighting was no longer restricted to a particular area or category/group of persons. As a result there has been indiscriminate killing either for pride, leisure or for acquisition of wealth. The women and children including the disabled have now become the main victims of the gun.
- The animals have turned out to be a source of insecurity and in the process of cattle raids lives and property are lost, families disrupted leading to food insecurity and untold suffering. Therefore, there is no longer any pride and freedom in keeping animals as it used to be.
- The culture of the gun has generated bitter discrimination against the Karamojong by neighbours. As a result they fear to identify themselves as Karamojong when outside the region.

The respondents raised the following concerns and scepticism over disarmament:

- That they have ever repulsed the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), the *Turkana*, the *Pokot*, the *Toposa* and the *Didinga* from the neighbouring countries. They wondered whether government had put in place mechanisms to protect them against these traditional arch-enemies after disarmament. They noted with concern the official presence of the *Turkana* with their guns in Karamoja.
- That government has armed the neighbouring districts and they fear possible reprisals once they are disarmed. They doubt whether seasonal migration to the neighbouring districts will be possible after disarmament.
- That the sources of acquiring arms are varied from within and outside the region. They are sceptical about government's capacity and political will to control gun trafficking in the region.

The respondents also pointed out the idiosyncrasies of various ethnic groups in relation to disarmament as below

- That the *Jie* in Kotido are the most notorious ethnic group known for initiating temporary raiding alliances, road thuggery and destabilising neighbours and armed confrontation with government. The other ethnic groups asserted that they should be disarmed first. The next perceived notorious groups are the *Matheniko* followed by the *Pian* of Moroto.
- That the Bokora may be more receptive to disarmament because they are besieged by other ethnic groups (*Jie, Pian, Matheniko* and *Turkana* of Kenya).
- That the *Pokot* and *Tepeth* cannot effectively be disarmed by force of arms because of the mountainous nature of their habitat. Besides, the *Pokot* and *Tepeth* like the *Dodoth* and *Matheniko*, can easily cross over to neighbouring countries in case of forceful disarmament.

There is a general consensus that disarmament should be carried under the following conditions:

- All guns surrendered should be compensated for.
- The Karamojong officers and men in the military should be involved in the exercise.
- Provisions should be made for their post disarmament security.

2.3 SPECIFIC RESPONSES ON DISARMAMENT

During the study there were specific responses which were obtained based on occupation, ethnicity and category of interviewees as demonstrated below

2.3.1 By Occupation

The non-pastoralists responded as follows:

- That they have been victims of cross-border/district and inter-ethnic raids characterised by looting of property, indiscriminate killings, rape, forced marriages, abductions, destruction of crops, *inter alia*.
- That they have been victims of seasonal migration by aggressive pastoralists and their stock. This has been a source of conflict because of competition for scarce resources.

The pastoral communities interviewed had these to say:

- That the gun was their only means of protection for their animals and themselves from both internal and external aggression. State protection has been very ineffective.
- That the gun has been the only means of survival. Government has never introduced them to any other alternative sources of livelihood.

2.3.2 By Ethnicity

The *Dodoto* had the following views:

- They are tired of insecurity and wars, which sometimes renders access to social services impossible.
- The *Turkana* currently grazing in *Dodoto* and Jie should first surrender their guns to authorities or be disarmed. They also expressed the need to disarm the *Didinga* and the *Toposa*.
- They proposed voluntary surrender and registration of arms through Kraal leaders and Sub-County chiefs. They strongly objected to the military participation in the implementation of this option. They also expressed that monitoring of the exercise should be given due importance and the disarmament exercise ample time.
- In the event that the voluntary approach fails, then government should adopt the forceful means through Lt. Col. Guti and other Karamojong officers and men in the UPDF who have a deep understanding of the Karimojong set up.

The views from Jie were:

- That it was premature to disarm the Karimojong because of the marauding LRA rebels, possession of guns by its arch neighbouring rivals (*Turkana, Toposa, Didinga*), internal conflicts within Karamoja and the availability of livestock which is the cause of cattle raids.
- Compensation of one million shillings (Shs. 1,000,000) should be made for each gun surrendered. Extensive conscientization programmes should precede the surrender of guns.
- That government should first remove all livestock from the Karamojong so that the removed animals are handed back in exchange for guns.

- That the *Turkana*, the *Matheniko* and the *Dodoth* should hand over their guns first because they were the first to acquire guns in the 1960s.

The following were the views from Labwor:

- That the Labwor community (*Ethur*) insisted that they have never caused intra-ethnic conflicts but have been victims of external aggression by the *Jie*, *Dodoth* and *Bokora*.
- That the pastoralists who are in-laws to the Labwor have turned out to be spies and collabourators of the rustlers.
- That total disarmament is the solution to the current armed conflict in the Karamoja region.

The specific views from Bokora were the following:

- The *Bokora* believe that they are the most affected pastoral groups because they suffer frequent combined attacks by other pastoral groups like the *Pian*, the *Matheniko*, the *Jie* and the *Turkana*.
- That guns should be compensated at the rate of 4-5 bulls, each bull equivalent to Shs. 150,000/=
- They opted for indirect surrender of guns through their commanders, Kraal leaders, local councils and elders.

Matheniko were of the view that:

- They are not opting for forceful disarmament since it would result in heavy bloodshed. To avoid this situation, government should involve more of their sons and daughters in the army to disarm them instead of foreigners who might annihilate them.
- Value should be attached to their guns. The worth of compensation per gun should be stated clearly and passed over to their local leaders for negotiations.

These are the views expressed by the Pian:

- They believe that other pastoral ethnic groups have maximised the use of their guns, so they should be given time to raid and stock enough animals before disarmament. They also need enough time to decide appropriately on disarmament. They were angered by the recent politicians' interference at their restocking attempts and are organising a delegation to meet the President over it.
- Most of them are frustrated about disarmament and have requested the government to determine the compensatory value of their guns before the start of disarmament.

The *Tepeth* and the *Pokot* shared similar views on disarmament probably because of their ethnic affinity. They had this to say:

- They called for the disarmament of the *Tepeth* and *Pokot* of Kenya concurrently with disarmament of the Karimojong pastoral groups.
- They support disarmament because the cost of raiding and recovery of raided animals are exorbitant these days. It involves mobilising, facilitating and hefty payments to the rescue team.
- In order to facilitate the disarmament exercise, they suggested that government should improve communication access in order to consciensitize them since they are a mountainous people.

2.3.3 By Category of Respondents

By category of people interviewed, the following responses were made:

- The *Ngaberu* (women) expressed willingness to persuade their husbands and sons to voluntarily surrender the guns. They pointed out that wars have disrupted family life. The current conflicts have created a large population of widows and orphans and that they are not prepared to have more widows and orphans in their communities.
- ♦ Most of the *Karachunas* (58%) are opposed to disarmament. They say the gun is their life. Government can remove all their animals, belongings, and even their wives but should leave their guns because with the gun, one can acquire any thing. They pointed out that the President promised recruitment of 147 vigilantes per Sub-County in order to restore peace and order but wondered why this has never been implemented but instead people in the neighbouring districts were being armed. They appealed to the government to register their guns so that they continue to have control over them. The *Karachunas* threatened to frustrate the disarmament exercise by migrating to neighbouring countries of Sudan and Kenya should force be used. They also warned that if the disarmament process is not properly handled, more guns would end up in their hands.
- The *Ngikasikou* (elders) wondered how they would be protected by the state during attacks from rustlers, as they were too old to escape. They questioned the sustainability of seasonal migration without the gun.
- Most *Ngapesur* (girls) are pro disarmament because they would not want to have absentee husbands or being widowed while young. Many of the pastoral girls are threatening to avoid marrying their own warriors in preference for others.
- The Businessmen, Elite, and Government representatives (Others) who are the enlightened, support disarmament arguing that they are the direct victims of the evils of the gun in Karamoja. Besides losing property and lives, communication is often disrupted. Quite often they fall victim of public stereotyping and discrimination about cattle rustling whenever they travel outside Karamoja. Likewise, civil servants find themselves confined to the headquarters because they are unable to travel freely and implement government policies and programmes effectively.

3.0 WORKSHOP REPORT

3.1 OPENNING OF THE WORKSHOP

About 120 participants, among whom were international representatives from the SPLA, Pax Christi (Netherlands) and the Donor Communities attended the workshop. The Minister in Charge of Security, Hon. Muruli Mukasa officially opened the workshop while the Minister of State for Karamoja Affairs, Hon Peter Lokeris closed. The opening session was chaired by the LCV Chairperson Moroto, Mr.Terence Achia who called upon the Programme Co-ordinator ADOL, Mr Darlington Lorika to welcome the participants.

Mr.Lorika reiterated the objectives of ADOL which he said involved improvement in the quality of life of the local communities and the promotion of peace for the development of the Karamojong at the family and household levels. He thanked USAID for supporting the workshop and the research on peaceful and participatory disarmament of the Karamojong, which he said, was going to be the main focus of the workshop. Lorika informed the participants of the keen interest expressed by Great Britain, German Volunteer Services (GTZ), Italian government, European Union and Pax Christi in peaceful, participatory and sustainable disarmament of the Karamojong. He said that they were looking forward to the outcome of this workshop.

In his welcoming remarks, the RDC Kotido, Mr. Drani Dradriga commended ADOL for the timely intervention for peace making, peace building and peace sustaining initiatives. He challenged the participants to use the workshop in order to deliberate on how to reduce and eliminate conflict and insecurity. They were asked to critically analyse the root causes of insecurity and conflict so as to prescribe permanent solutions to intra and extra Karamoja armed conflicts. The Resident District Commissioner noted that since the President announced the disarmament of the Karimojong in Matany, there has been escalation of cross-boarder gun trafficking from Sudan and increased insecurity in Kotido. The RDC informed the participants of the peace initiatives and strategies already on the ground in the region: Local Community Leaders Initiatives, KISP, Women Organisation Initiative for Peace, KPIU, Karamoja MPs Initiatives, Advocacy for Affirmative Action for Karamoja, Churches and Oxfam. As a way of addressing the escalating insecurity, Kotido administration has:

- Formed the Kotido pacification committee, which includes all stakeholders.

- Formed peace committees e.g. The Jie clan committee.
- Addressed issues of annual migration of the Karamojong to neighbouring districts.

The RDC Kotido outlined the time frame of disarmament activities from July 2000 to July 2003 as follows

- *July to December 2000*---Sensitization, Consensus building and Registration of guns.
- *January to December 2001*---LDU programme consensus building plus on-going registration and voluntary surrender of guns.
- *January 2002 to December 2002*--Voluntary surrendering of guns and strengthening of police, judiciary and local intelligence.
- *January 2003 to July 2003*--Evaluation of the disarmament program with military action to contain resistance to disarmament.

Mr. Dradriga assured the delegates that the people of Kotido and Moroto were totally committed and ready to work with government to effect disarmament peacefully. He thanked the United States government through USAID for empowering ADOL in undertaking this noble task of peaceful conflict resolution in the region.

The Program Manager, Special Objective for Re-integration of Northern Uganda, USAID, Mr. Harris Randolph expressed great pleasure on behalf of USAID in supporting the workshop and the research and their objectives. He pointed out that one of the aims of USAID was to strengthen local capacity in order to mitigate against conflicts in the greater horn of Africa. The peaceful, participatory and sustainable approach by ADOL was embraced and appreciated by USAID in the hope that would develop long lasting solutions to the problems of Karamojong and the greater horn of Africa where similar conflicts are endemic. Mr. Harris Randolph further told the participants that the international partners are ready to listen to the recommendations and strategies for resolving the Karamojong conflicts peacefully and pledged support for these efforts.

The Minister of State for Karamoja Affairs, Hon. Peter Lokeris welcomed the Minister in Charge of Security, Hon. Muruli Mukasa to Kotido and the workshop. He pointed out that he held the right portfolio to address the workshop on the issues at hand: government policy on disarmament. He informed the participants that the Minister in Charge of Security and

himself are members of the National Disarmament Committee, which is charged with issues of pastoralism in the greater horn of Africa, a matter that was pertinent to Karamojong nomads. He told the participants that a move was underway to phase-out the old vigilantes and recruit/train a new batch of Local Defence Units (LDUs). He notified the audience that discussions were going on to determine whether to increase the unit size from 146 to 300 LDUs depending on the size of the sub-county. Hon. Peter Lokeris then invited the guest of honour to officially open the workshop.

The Minister in Charge of Security informed the assembled that parliament and government of Uganda decided to carry out a peaceful disarmament from July 2000 since it would bring about a fundamental change and ensure total socio-economic and political transformation of the lives of the people of Karamoja. The ills: nomadism, brutality, violence, ignorance, disease, institutionalised robbery, poverty, rape, famine, lawlessness, greed and terror that have been causing under development would be a talk of the past once disarmament has been effected. The future of a peaceful Karamoja is bright. He pointed out that the Karamojong are positively a happy, hardworking, indefatigable, respectful and wealthy people. They spend energy tending to harsh conditions of Karamoja to sustain a healthy society. He said that government hopes to see well-stocked fenced ranches with boran-cattle, well tended with nutritious pasture and supplied with adequate water. The Government wants a Karamoja with adequate agricultural crops to feed itself and export to the neighbouring communities. Similarly, government hopes to see other things in Karamoja such as honey, orchards, and dairy industries. With these hopes, Karamoja could become the breadbasket of Uganda.

Hon. Muruli Mukasa stated that government intends to have a peaceful disarmament as far as possible involving every one concerned. The estimated cost of disarmament was Shs. 10billion. He revealed that the Kenya government was awaiting Uganda to disarm so that they can simultaneously embark on its disarmament of the Turkana, Pokots, Samburus and Marakwets. He pointed however that the position of Sudan was complicated by the current civil war there, but contended that Uganda would co-operate with organisations/authorities controlling boarder areas. The Minister appealed to the Jie, Matheniko, Tepeth and particularly the *Karachunas* not to resist disarmament, as the consequences of such actions would be dire.

The Minister proceeded to outline government policy and stand on disarmament in Karamoja. He informed the participants that the disarmament plan was already in place to be spearheaded by UPDF. The main disarmament activities are aimed to:

- Stop armed Karamojong from terrorising the neighbours within Uganda, Kenya and Sudan.
- Stop inter-clan terrorism within Karamoja and infiltration of arms.
- Deploy UPDF, LDUs and vigilantes in strategic areas within Karamoja and along the borders to ensure protection of life and property.
- Enlist support for peaceful disarmament of people at grassroots level through rigorous sensitisation programmes.
- Co-operate with Kenya and Sudan in concurrent disarmament of the *Turkana* and *Didinga*.
- Stop illegal trafficking of guns from Sudan/Kenya into Uganda.
- Resettle and rehabilitate those who surrender guns and ensure social/economic transformation of Karamoja.
- Improve radio communication for effective dissemination of information and education.
- Beef up police and the judiciary to ensure peace and administration of justice.

Hon. Muruli Mukasa cautioned the nomads about the hostile mood in the neighbouring districts and implored them to migrate orderly this dry season so as to minimise acrimony and conflict with their neighbours. He dispelled the fears of the participants about post disarmament insecurity arguing that the LDU and police would take care of internal security while the UPDF would defend and pre-empt external aggression including incursions by the LRA.

The Guest of Honour finally thanked ADOL for organising the workshop and extended his gratitude to USAID for supporting the research and workshop on disarmament. He wished the delegates fruitful deliberations and looked forward to the outcomes of the workshop. He then declared the workshop officially open.

3.2 PRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

Dr. Bruno Ocaya presented the research findings on peaceful and participatory disarmament of the Karamojong to the participants who already had copies of the report. The background, scope, objectives and research findings are contained in sections 1 & 2 of this report. He highlighted the major research findings by occupation, ethnicity and category of respondents. Dr. Ocaya pointed out that the findings were what were obtained on the ground and provide the necessary information for developing programmes and modalities for implementation of disarmament by the relevant authorities. He emphasised that the purpose of the workshop was to strengthen and validate these findings. He went on to say that for a successful disarmament, there is need to change the attitude of the Karamojong towards the gun and cattle rustling. It was necessary to consciensitize them to appreciate that life is still possible without the gun and that human life was more important than all the cattle obtained during raids.

Reacting to the research findings, the participants were unanimous that disarmament in Karamoja should take place. They reiterated the research findings that the Karamojong were tired of the gun and that they would hand it over peacefully once assured of government protection by guarding the borders to rule out insecurity. They however objected to the phrase “compensation for guns” because it decriminalises possession of the gun and atrocities committed by the gun owners. Others felt that compensation would encourage others to acquire more guns and gun trafficking in general. Instead they opted for the phrase *resettlement packages* for the surrender of guns. These packages should benefit both the community and the individual owner of the gun.

The participants felt that the number of guns in Karamoja far exceeded the number estimated in the research. They pointed out that in a number of cases there were more than one gun per household and that leaders keep their guns with their relatives so as to give the appearance that they have no guns.

The workshop recognised that the problem of intra-ethnic clashes in Karamoja is escalated by the ease with which guns are acquired. The initial guns were pilfered by the Matheniko from Moroto Barracks after the fall of Idi Amin. Subsequently, more guns became available from

fleeing soldiers after the fall of successive regimes. The current proliferation of arms and ammunitions are due to gun trafficking and booty in internal and cross-boarder conflicts. Open gun-markets exist at designated boarder points with impunity (For instance *Nyangia* and *Orom* in Kotido district). In fact they cited LRA, UPDF and LDUs in the neighbouring districts as their other sources of guns and bullets. They observed that the supply of guns may have an international dimension, citing the collapse of the former Soviet bloc countries as probable sources of cheap supply of arms that is fuelling existing local feuds and conflicts in the great horn of Africa.

3.3 GROUP REPORTS

3.3.1 Group 1: General Opinion on Disarmament

The participants agreed that the Karamojong received mixed pieces of information on disarmament. Some information was positive while others were negative and confused. There were varied sources of information, which were inconsistent and reflected their own assessments of the impact of disarmament.

Positive impact of disarmament

The positive impact of disarmament were that it would:

- Save lives and property.
- Encourage investors into Karamoja.
- Foster more inter-ethnic harmony.
- Increase population essential for human resource development.
- Boost Trade and Commerce.
- Expand educational opportunities since children currently grazing cattle would be free to attend school.
- Ensure peace, progress and prosperity in Karamoja.

Negative impact of disarmament

- Disarmament may lead to loss of life if force is used without prior and proper consultation between the *Karachunas* and the disarming authorities. The *Karachunas* may acquire more guns if disarmament is mis-handled.
- The *Karamojong* are not sure whether their security is guaranteed after disarmament.
- The *Karimojong* have experienced attacks by hostile neighbours despite the presence of UPDF in their midst.
- The *Karamojong* were wary of their post-disarmament future since the gun had become their source of livelihood as well as personal and community protection.

Confusion about disarmament

- Misinformation and disinformation were rampant among the population, deliberately disseminated by those who thrive amidst the conflicts.
- The *Karamojong* very much doubt the feasibility of collecting all guns in their hands.
- The *Karamojong* claim that there is nothing tangible on the ground to show that disarmament is either in progress or is ever going to take place.
- The *Karamojong* doubt the credibility, capacity and political will of government to protect them once they are disarmed. They believe that the disarmament pronouncement was simply government propaganda.
- It was noted that mechanisms for the detection of hidden guns and monitoring of new acquisition of guns were not in place. This is because unscrupulous members of the community may hide guns on mountains or bury them underground.

Policy on disarmament

There were mixed reactions from participants as to whether the disarmament pronouncement was timely or not. Some believe that it was a referendum vote-catching ploy to appease tribes neighbouring *Karamoja*. Those who believed that disarmament and its implementation was timely argued that the gun had lost its protective value and had become a tool for terrorism, blood shed, thuggery and criminality. Thus, the people were ready and willing to give up their guns. In anticipation of the implementation of the disarmament policy, some of the *Karamojong* have already surrendered their guns to the authorities. However those who believed disarmament was timely were disappointed that no well thought and planned

strategies for immediate disarmament had been made prior to the announcement. The district leaders countered by pointing out that concurrent pronouncement and implementation was not possible because the prerequisite funds were not available at the time. Now the government has earmarked 10 billion Shillings to cover all facets of disarmament in Karamoja. Nonetheless the participants were disheartened that the delay in the implementation of disarmament led to more acquisition of guns and intensification of cattle rustling in an attempt to establish equity in cattle population among the various pastoral ethnic groups.

The delegates emphasised that all stakeholders should surrender illegally acquired guns peacefully and transparently. In particular, civic and political leaders should show a good example by surrendering all their guns publicly so that the rest of the community could emulate.

Alternatives to disarmament

The participants noted that cattle rustling was partly a product of idleness among the youthful population. It was felt that the provision of formal and vocational training would sufficiently consciensitize the youth and children of Karamoja against the acquisition of the gun and cattle rustling. It would also provide alternative gainful employment opportunities. In this way, the demand for guns would be contained or significantly reduced. Education is an effective attitude-change agent for the next generation in order to reverse the negative cultural traits of the Karamojong and also to ensure sustainability of peace and security.

The participants called upon the government to heavily deploy UPDF while carrying out sensitisation and consciensitization programmes among the people. Concurrently, the LDU should be trained to maintain peace, law and order in the region. The illegal trafficking of guns between the SPLA and Karamojong should be stopped to stem the number of guns within the communities bordering Sudan.

Alternative to government pronouncement

The participants felt that more sensitisation and conscientisation activities should have taken place before the pronouncements were made. They also appealed to government to make disarmament a gradual process. They were of the opinion that if done in haste and haphazardly, it would create more tension and conflict within the population.

3.3.2 Group 2: Feasible, Participatory, Peaceful and Sustainable Disarmament

The participants were of the opinion that disarmament was feasible and could be conducted in a participatory, peaceful and sustainable manner under specific conditions.

Feasible disarmament

For disarmament to be feasible, the following were considered vital:

- Involvement of all stakeholders at all stages of the implementation process.
- The necessary logistics be in place: funds, personnel, transport and telecommunication.
- Concurrent intra-Karamoja disarmament with simultaneous disarmament in Kenya and Sudan.
- Sealing and securing of borders of Uganda, Kenya and Sudan against infiltration by armed thugs and gun-traffickers.
- Effective enforcement of law and order without fear or favour.
- Construction of more roads for internal and external accessibility with elimination of *panya routes* (unmarked trails or unofficial paths).

Participatory disarmament

Participatory disarmament should be preceded by:

- Adoption of effective modalities for the surrender of guns.
- Mobilisation, sensitisation, conscientisation and pacification of the local communities, civic and cultural leaders. In particular the witch doctors and soothsayers who prophesy the outcome of the raids and bless the warriors before the raids.
- Formation of disarmament committees from the grassroots to the district level.
- Targeting the involvement of *Karachunas*, kraal and clan leaders as well as NGOs and churches.

- Discouraging heroic songs extolling and perpetuating accomplished raids and murders during cattle rustling escapades.
- Encouraging women participation in dissuading their husbands and sons from cattle rustling, road thuggery and general criminal activities.
- Discouraging the business community from buying and selling stolen animals, arms and property.
- Institutionalising programmes on anti-rustling, anti-gun trafficking and anti-social behaviour through songs, plays, and essay writing and painting competitions aimed at discouraging criminality and armed conflict.

Peaceful disarmament

In order to achieve peaceful disarmament, it is important that:

- The number of guns and gun owners be established and registered.
- Dialogue between kraal leaders and gun owners be promoted and maintained by the authorities throughout the disarmament exercise.
- Sensitisation of local communities should emphasise voluntary surrender of guns.
- A uniform resettlement package be attached to the surrender of the gun.

Sustainable disarmament

The participants noted that sustainability of disarmament was crucial for lasting peace and development of Karamoja. For sustainable disarmament it was proposed that:

- The UPDF, LDUs, LAP and ASTU be deployed within and along the borders of Karamoja in order to stop armed incursions and gun trafficking. Continuous monitoring of gun trafficking be maintained.
- Effective communication system be available at all levels. Anti-gun ownership and disarmament messages should be precise, coherent and consistent.
- Resettlement programmes be made available to affected communities and those surrendering guns. It was suggested that resettlement programmes would include income generating activities, vocational training, entrepreneurship training, and markets for animal products among others.
- The law on illegal gun ownership and gun making should be fearlessly enforced to deter any future-armed lawlessness.

3.3.3 Group 3: Disarmament and Implementation Strategies

The participants identified a number of disarmament strategies and implementing agents shown in Table 2

Table 2: Strategies for disarmament and bodies responsible to effect them

Strategies	Implementing Agent
1. Mobilisation and Sensitisation of key stakeholders like LCs, Kraal leaders, <i>Karachunas</i> , CBOs/NGOs, Civil servants, Chiefs/PCs, Soothsayers, Business communities and women.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's office & Prime Minister's office • District leaders/Educational institutions • NGOs/ CBOs
2. Research on disarmament, conflict resolution be done in neighbouring districts not consulted. Thereafter, an inter-district workshop held to share experiences and chart out a peaceful way for disarmament and co-existence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs/Government • Donors • individuals
3. Exchange visits to neighbouring districts particularly for the <i>Karachunas</i> in order to enlighten them other ways of livelihood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs/CBOs/District Administration • Peace initiative groups
4. Interregional co-operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Administrations /Central Government.
5. Provision and improvement of infrastructure (roads, water, hospitals, schools and telecommunications).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government/Donors/Private Sector • NGOs/CBOs
6. Integrated functional adult literacy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government/MGL&SD/CBS • NGOs/ CBOs
7. Compulsory free universalisation of education in Karamoja.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/ Government/ Religious Bodies • NGOs/CBOs/Donors
8. Establishment of print and electronic media network in local languages in order to improve communication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government/Private Sector • NGOs/CBOs
9. Formation of drama groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women/Youth groups, UDTA • Schools/Institutions
10. Widening the employment opportunities through vocational training, entrepreneurship, industrialisation and creation of markets for animal products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government/Private Sector • NGOs
11. Encouragement and support of peace initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government/Religious Bodies • NGOs/CBOs/ Donors
12. Enforcement of the ban on arms trafficking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security Forces/Judiciary • Local communities/ LCs
13. Increase the number of judicial staff at sub-county level to hasten the administration of justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial Service commission/Government
14. Community participation in the disarmament process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stakeholders

Based on the above strategies, the delegates recommended that:

- Participatory planning approach-involving Karachunas, Kraal and Clan leaders together with the public and civil servants are adopted to determine the time and manner in which the process of gun-surrender and certification should be effected.
- The disarmament exercise should not be politicised.

The following procedures were proposed for the surrender of guns:

- The gun-owner reports to the LC I chairman who records the serial number of the gun in an LC I gun register. The Chairman LC1 together with the gun-owner report to the LC II Chairman in the presence of the ASTU commander and the parish Chief who would witness the hand-over of the weapons, register the serial number and issue a certificate of surrender. The parish LCs will be the basic unit centre for the collection of guns surrendered. The district disarmament committees would then collect the ammunitions from them.
- Gun surrendering should be given wide publicity before, during and after in order to encourage those still hoarding guns to surrender. This will give credibility to the exercise and encourage others to surrender their guns.

3.3.4 Group 4: Post- Disarmament Development Programmes

The participants noted that the sustenance of security was indispensable for post disarmament programme and development of Karamoja. It was therefore deemed necessary to maintain and ensure security and law enforcement after disarmament. In order to achieve this, it will be imperative to:

- Strengthen law enforcement agencies especially the police.
- Promote local peace groups and maintain dialogue among the feuding ethnic groups within Karamoja so that inter-tribal animosity is reduced or eliminated altogether.
- Revive and promote the eroded traditional roles of *Ngikasikou* (elders) in order to effect positive transformation of the local communities.
- Ensure that new conflicts within and without Karamoja do not arise and borders remain permanently secure from external aggression.

The participants at the workshop pointed out that famine is an annual scourge because of the prolonged turbulence and droughts in the region. Hence, the following programmes should be put in place once security is assured after disarmament:

- Employment opportunities of demobilised *Karachunas* are expanded by training them in skills for self-employment or employment in the private sector.
- Food production and security should be intensified. The participants underscored the need for a comprehensive pastoral policy similar to that of crop production. They proposed that pastoralism should be part and parcel of modernisation of agriculture, especially the development of dairy and animal products industry.
- The development of water resources should be enhanced. It was emphasised that water was a prerequisite for human and animal survival and agricultural activities. Therefore it was felt that more dams, water reservoirs, bore holes, solar and wind water-pumping systems should be put in place. This would avail pasture, water and minimise seasonal migration into neighbouring districts, which is a major source of conflict.
- Micro-credit schemes should be provided. It was pointed out that lack of capital was a major constraining factor in expanding and diversifying economic activities in Karamoja. This was exacerbated by lack of business management skills and collateral to secure bank loans at commercial rates. Therefore, the need for training in small-scale business management skills, micro-credit and the capacity to monitor was articulated.
- Reforestation and environmental protection projects should be promoted. The participants noted with concern the systematic desertification of Karamoja. They called for intervention to train communities to appreciate and ensure the protection of environment and reforestation.
- The participants proposed post-disarmament priority sectors for intervention in the following order: security, education, water, agriculture, health/media, environment, road infrastructure and micro-credit schemes.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The interviewees and delegates generated these recommendations in order to ensure a successful disarmament, which is feasible, participatory, peaceful and sustainable.

4.1 Participatory and Peaceful

- Participatory grassroots planning approaches should be employed for designing disarmament activities and messages. Emphasis should be put on assuaging the peoples' personal fears about their security through deliberate confidence-building measures. Disarmament offices for the execution, publicity and monitoring should be decentralised to the districts.
- The surrender of guns should be preceded by intensive and extensive consciensitization and sensitisation programmes: through meetings, radio programs and seminars, among others. Government should improve communication access to reach the majority of the nomadic pastoral Karamojong.
- Kraal leaders should be the core of mobilisation, sensitisation and conciensitization programmes and efforts - targeting the *Karachuna*, kraal leaders, witch-doctors (*Ngimurok*) and soothsayers. The churches, NGOs and the community should be involved.
- Mothers and wives be the main focus of *consciensitisation* at household and family levels. They should consciensitize their sons and husbands about the evils of the gun and cattle rustling as well as the need for peace.

- There should be voluntary surrender and registration of arms at parish level through LC1 chairmen. This exercise should be given ample time.
- The Karimojong officers and men in the military should be involved in the disarmament exercise because they know the area, the culture and can be empathetic with the local communities. This may also ensure minimal conflict between the Karamojong and the state and avoid possible reprisals by outsiders.
- There should be resettlement packages that benefit the community and the gun-owners surrendering guns.
- Discreet informers should be employed within communities to forestall activities of unscrupulous members of society hiding guns on mountains or burying them underground.

4.2 Feasible and Sustainable

- Government should put in place security mechanisms to protect the Karamojong from their archenemies during and after the disarmament exercise. Similarly their protection during seasonal migration to and from neighbouring districts should be guaranteed.
- There should be concurrent disarmament of pastoralists from neighbouring countries of Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia.
- Government and stakeholders should ensure provision of water and pasture to the pastoral communities to limit seasonal migration.
- Mechanisms should be put in place and capacity built to check and eliminate gun trafficking in the region.
- Government should provide alternative means/skills of survival for the *Karachunas* (employment) who are now overtly dependent on the gun and the cow.
- There should be free and compulsory education (primary to university) availed to the Karamojong to effect attitude change against the gun and cattle rustling.
- The disarmament process should not be politicized.

5.0 CLOSING OF THE WORKSHOP

The closing session was chaired by the RDC Moroto, Thomas Okoth Nyalulu who thanked ADOL for the research and workshop well organised and the participants for their resourceful contributions that made the workshop a success. He urged every body to fully embrace disarmament since it was the only way to transform Karamoja into a peaceful, progressive and prosperous region. The RDC called for the establishment of disarmament offices in the Karamoja districts for effective co-ordination, supervision and communication during the disarmament exercise. He concurred with the sentiments of the participants and challenged the current and the future leaders of Karamoja to effect the recommendations of the workshop. He argued that the effecting of these recommendations was the litmus test for the leadership's commitment to disarmament in Karamoja. In addition, he encouraged ADOL to intensify her programmes to bring about peace and development to Karamoja.

Mr. Darlington Lorika moved a vote of thanks to the participants of the workshop. He particularly thanked Hon. Peter Lokeris, the USAID representative Mr. Randolph Harris, Dr. Simon Simonse of Pax Christi, Dr. Peter Adwok of the SPLA/M for devoting their time fully to the workshop, and for their concern and partnership in creating a conducive environment for disarmament in Karamoja. The Karamoja MPs, the Kotido and Moroto district executives, the headmistress of Lomukura Primary School and the Teso Initiative for Peace representatives were praised for their commitment to peace and development in the region.

Dr. Bruno Ocaya appealed for the elimination of the gun and emphasised that the workshop was meant to enrich the research findings. The documents produced thereafter would provide information for government to develop modalities for non-confrontational disarmament in Karamoja. It might also be replicated in areas with similar conflicts elsewhere in the world. He assured the participants that their inputs would be incorporated in the final document that will soon be circulated to all stakeholders.

The LCV chairpersons of Moroto and Kotido appealed to the participants to disseminate their deliberations at the workshop accurately and widely among their communities. Their authentic messages would destroy saboteurs' designs to frustrate disarmament in Karamoja. The Chairpersons underscored the need for a synchronised, harmonised and well co-

ordinated disarmament programme. They called for the post-disarmament development programmes to gainfully occupy the Karachunas. They urged the leaders to pass on accurate and consistent messages about disarmament regardless of ideological inclinations and fora.

Randolph Harris thanked ADOL for a job well done and the participants for their very informative and practical suggestions for peaceful disarmament in Karamoja. He said that the results of the workshop were for them and the government to implement. Harris advocated for a complete attitude and value change among the pastoralists. He urged the Karamojong to “stop celebrating when children come from cattle rustling with their booty and spoils of war. “Celebrate the fruits of security and education instead”.

The MP for Moroto Municipality, Hon. Michael Lotee and the Women Representative for Kotido, Hon. Janet Okorimoe informed the participants that funds that had been earmarked for development of Karamoja had to be diverted for security. They lamented that in spite of this, security has never been achieved. It was deplorable that they had to come to their homes in Karamoja under armed escort. A situation of no security, any development and deteriorating infrastructure now exists in Karamoja. The MPs urged the participants to curse the gun. ADOL was cautioned against involving politicians in their programmes because they are spoilers. They noted that the politicians can easily politicise an otherwise noble and commendable initiative such as the one ADOL is undertaking, rendering it inoperable.

Hon. Janet Okorimoe called upon the Minister of State for Karamoja Affairs, Hon. Peter Lokeris to officially close the workshop.

The Honorable Lokeris made the following observations before reading his prepared speech, which is contained in appendix 5.

- The Karamojong perceptions about cattle raids and other criminal activities have to change. Cattle rusting, murder, road thuggery must be condemned by all before and the events. There is a tacit deliberate conspiracy of silence among the clans that condones and abets this criminality.
- Change is inevitable. The Karamojong must learn to manage change so that the economy of Karamoja can be transformed once these negative cultural practices are eliminated and security ensues. It is time that Karamoja abandons the gun and integrates into the buoyant economy of Uganda
- Once peace is in place and existing negative practices abolished, NGOs and other development partners can operate to provide the currently lacking basic essential services: micro-finance, health, water among others.
- Conceptual committees have been formed to work out the modalities of disarmament. Inputs are expected from Karamoja MPs and district executives. Hence, the results of this workshop are most opportune. Disarmament activities will eventually be decentralised to the RDCs.

APPENDIX 1

SELECTED INFORMATION ON KOTIDO AND MOROTO DISTRICTS

	KOTIDO DISTRICT	MOROTO DISTRICT
GENERAL		
Area (Sq.km)	13,208	14,352
Population	242,000	261,000
Male	115,800	123,400
Female	126,200	136,900
Density	19	18
Ethnic Groups	-Jie and Dodoth (mainly pastoralists). -Ethur, Nyangia, Ik (Teuso) and Mening (mainly cultivators).	-Karimojong, Tepeth (So) and Pokot (mainly pastoralists)
Estimated Number of Guns	60,000	55,000
ADMINISTRATION		
Counties	(3) Jie, Labwor, Dodoth	(5) Matheniko, Bokora, Pian, Pokot, Chekwi
Sub-counties	19	21
Parishes	52	64
LAND USE		
Arable	805,000	750,000
Under Cultivation	57,226	188,500
Forest	232,400	108,443
Rainfall (mm)	650-1,250	625-1,000
LIVESTOCK		
Cattle (Estimated 1999 -2000)	430,000	453,000
Goats (1999-2000)	150,000	240,000
Sheep (1999-2000)	200,000	320,000
Pigs (1999-2000)	5,300	4,100
Poultry (1999-2000)	110,000	87,000
EDUCATION		
Primary Schools	77	69
Secondary Schools	3	3
Technical Schools	0	0
T.T.Cs.	1	1
HEALTH		
Hospitals	(2) Abim, Kaabong	(2) Moroto, Matany
Health Units	23	26
ECONOMY		
Activities	Livestock rearing, crop production, petty trading, charcoal burning, brick making, grain milling, alluvial gold mining, tourism	Livestock rearing, petty trading, crop production, charcoal burning, brick making, grain milling, alluvial gold mining, gemstone, marble and asbestos exploration
Small Scale Industries	Grain milling, brick making, furniture works and bee keeping	Grain milling, bee-keeping, carpentry
AGRICULTURE		
Food Crops	Sorghum, millet, maize, groundnuts, simsim, sunflower, sweet potatoes, cowpeas, cassava, beans, fruits, vegetables	Sorghum, Maize, beans, groundnuts, sunflower, sweet potatoes, cassava, vegetables
Cash Crops	Livestock, cotton	Livestock

Source: Planning Offices in Kotido and Moroto districts.

APPENDIX 2

SELECTED SOCIO-ECONOMIC INDICATORS FOR KARAMOJA

INDICATORS	KOTIDO	MOROTO	UGANDA
GENERAL			
Illiteracy rate (% of pop age15+)	78	79	38.2
Life expectancy at birth (years)	42.2	41	40.5
Fertility rate (births per woman)	7.9	6.8	6.9
EDUCATION			
Gross enrol. Ratio, prim (%schl age pop)	24	28	91
Gross enrol. Ratio, sec (% schl age pop)	1	2	13
Pupil-teacher ratio, primary	54.0	32	88.6
Pupil-teacher ratio, secondary	21.0	18	19.2
Drop out rates % (prim. & sec. School)	88.0	86	40.0
HEALTH			
Infant mortality rate (per thou. Live births)	145	148	97
Under 5 mortality rate (per thous. Live births)	246	248	203
Maternal mortal. Rate (per 1,00,000 live births)	650	650	506
Population per physician (Doctor)	26,033	19,000	18,6000
Population per nurse	5,207	5,000	7,000
Population per hospital bed	1,200		
Pop. 0.5Km radius to health unit (%of pop.)	10		
Latrine coverage (% of pop)	6.3	6	47.6
LIVESTOCK			
Cattle per capita	1.75	1.74	0.46
Goats per capita	0.63	1.31	0.39
WATER AND SANITATION			
Access to safe water (% of population)	38	56	26.4
Bore-hole usage (pop. Per operational B/hole)	1:700	1:720	1:300
Temporary dwelling units (% of pop.)	97	95	58.6

Source: Planning Offices in Kotido and Moroto districts.

APPENDIX 3

QUESTIONNAIRE GUIDE ON PEACEFUL DISARMAMENT IN KARAMOJA

A- BASIC INFORMATION

Name Tag No:_____

Sex Male Female

Title Elder /Woman Kraal leader *Emuron* *Karachuna*

Others

Marital Status Married Single

Economic Status Very Rich (over 200 herds) Rich (100-200)

Average (50-100) Very Poor (0)

Education Level_____

District _____

County _____

Sub-County _____

B- CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND MANAGEMENT

1. Have you ever had conflict within your village/manyata/community? anything about disarmament? YES / NO.

1.1. If yes? What type of conflict?

(a)- Family conflict/quarrel

(b)- Clan fight

(c)-Intertribal

(d)- Cross-borders within and without the country

1.2. What do you think were the main causes of the conflicts above?

1.3. How were some or any of the causes above being solved/managed within your community?

1.4. What in your opinion could be the best ways in dealing with them?

C- GOVERNMENT AND KEY ACTORS IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND MANAGEMENT (DISTRICT LEADERS, KRAAL LEADERS, S/C CHIEFS, VARIOUS COMMANDERS):

1.1. How are the local authorities managing/resolving these conflict?

1.2 What challenges have the local leaders faced in the above endeavours?

1.3 (a)- Besides government, do you know of any organisation/institutions involved in conflict resolution/management? If so, name them

(b)- Have they been successful? YES/NO, give reasons

1.4 In your opinion, what is the best ways the institutions can do to improve on methods and approach in resolving conflict?

D- DISARMAMENT

1. Have you ever heard of disarmament?, YES/NO

If yes from whom?

- (a)- friend
- (b)- community
- (c)- government
- (d)- radio
- (e)- local leaders
- (f)- others

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1.1. What do people say about disarmament?

1.2. What is your understanding of disarmament?

1.3. Do you think disarmament is necessary? YES/NO

Explain:

1.4. What would be the consequences of disarmament?

1.5. It is believed that forceful disarmament would bring a lot of loss of lives, property and general suffering if not properly handled. What could be the best way to minimise these losses and sufferings?

1.6. What role would you play to ensure a peaceful disarmament?

1.7. Which categories of people in your view should be involved in peaceful disarmament of the Karamojong?

1.8. How should a peaceful disarmament process be maintained/sustained in your community?

1.9. What do you think would be the situation in Karamoja after disarmament in terms of:

(a)- Seasonal migration

(b)- Relations within Karamoja and neighbours

2.0. After the disarmament, what is your advice to government/development partners?

APPENDIX 4
GUIDELINES FOR GROUP DISCUSSIONS.

1. General opinion on disarmament
 - (a) What information do you have on disarmament
 - Positive
 - Negative
 - Confused and why?
 - (b) Has policy on and implementation of disarmament been timely?
 - (c) What are the alternatives
 - To disarmament?
 - To government disarmament pronouncement?
2. How can disarmament be made?
 - (a) Participatory?
 - (b) Peaceful?
 - (c) Feasible?
 - (d) Sustainable?
3. What is the way forward: Strategies for disarmament and implementation.
4. What concrete development programs would you suggest for Karamoja after disarmament?

APPENDIX 5

Closing Speech By Minister of State for Karamoja Affairs (Hon. Peter Lokeris)

Allow me to convey to you best wishes from the President of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the Movement government. In the same breath I would also like to convey to you greetings from the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Professor Apolo Nsibambi who directly supervises my portfolio. I also take this opportunity to thank you for the frank and diligent deliberations on the research findings and the workshop on feasible, participatory, peaceful and sustainable disarmament.

The Karamojong first acquired rudimentary guns in the 1950s from Ethiopia (Abyssinia) When some Karamojong elements started using them for cattle stealing and killing, the colonial government immediately curbed their activities. In the 1960s the Turkana and Toposa from the neighbouring countries of Kenya and Sudan acquired sophisticated guns, and they started massive raids and killings in Karamoja. The Matheniko were the major victims and were driven into the counties of Bokora and Pian in order to survive these threats. Successive governments including that of Amin set up special squads to fight the Turkana and the Toposa with little success.

After the fall of Idi Amin, the Matheniko helped themselves to the abandoned arms in Moroto barracks. Some of the fleeing soldiers also sold their guns to other Karamojong clans in exchange for cattle. The Matheniko turned their stolen guns against the other Karamojong. Armed conflict ensued and escalated. With time the Karamojong clans seem to have achieved military balance. Each clan sought to restock from neighbours who were not prepared for war within and outside Uganda.

Cattle rustling within and outside Karamoja aroused concern of every Ugandan including government. Soldiers were deployed and Local Defence Units and Vigilantes were recruited to contain the situation but the violence still persists. The Government has been hesitant to disarm the Karamojong on the understanding that they will be exposed to external aggression from neighbouring pastoral tribes in Kenya and Sudan. It is this perceived vulnerability that delayed the disarmament of the Karamojong.

After observing the deteriorating security in Karamoja and the neighbouring districts, parliament passed a resolution urging government to disarm the Karamojong. I want to reiterate that this exercise is not meant to wipe out the Karamojong off the globe, but is an endeavour to allow sanity and peace to return to the region. This will facilitate the exploration of other avenues to pacify and develop the region. Karamoja is endowed with mineral and natural resources to make it shine. It is a land of opportunity. Once sustainable peace is assured, we shall call on the international community to join our government in developing the area and improving the quality of life of the Karamojong. Karamoja shall be the envy of all its neighbours.

I wish to point out that disarmament is a difficult exercise. Our sister country, Kenya, has expressed willingness to disarm its pastoralists bordering Karamoja concurrently. We encourage the countries in the Horn of Africa and IGGAD to help stave off gun trafficking which fuel and sustain these conflicts in the region.

The research findings and the deliberations of the workshop are genuine expressions of the Karamojong in their determination to eliminate the gun so as to ensure sustainable peace for the development of Karamoja. The recommendations from the research and workshop should be studied by all stakeholders and incorporated in the disarmament programmes. I would like to thank the nascent local NGO, ADOL for a job well done in undertaking research and organising this workshop. I shall be taking copies of your resolutions for study and guidance to Her Excellency the Vice President who has been assigned to chair the disarmament exercise.

The Movement Government is a friend of all the people of Uganda regardless of where they are found and therefore would like the disarmament exercise to be as peaceful as possible for the sake of preserving the lives and property of all Ugandans.

I urge everybody to participate when called upon so that the disarmament exercise is concluded peacefully.

Allow me most heartily to thank USAID for funding the research study and workshop. I implore them to continue funding more studies in various spheres for the purpose of developing this disadvantaged area. In the same vein, allow me to thank all the Donors and NGOs who have braved the prevailing insecurity and committed resources to address various problems facing the Karamojong. Finally I thank all of you for effective participation in this workshop. I am therefore, privileged to declare this workshop closed. Have a safe journey home. Thank you.

