



# Accelerated Child Survival & Development Project in Karamoja



"What are we doing about the situation of Children & Mothers in Karamoja?"

Empowering Caregivers and Influential persons in relevant leadership positions to create fiscal space for children and act as their dependable advocates and protectors.

## Specific Objectives

- To empower and build the capacity of the Karamoja leaders to effectively monitor, oversee and advocate for the well being of Karamoja's children at all levels, in partnership with UNICEF and other child-serving organizations.
- To build evidence on the status of children in Karamoja through periodic collection and analysis of information that will be used for various advocacy purposes.
- To positively influence decision making dynamics at *Ekal* (household) and *Ere* (manyatta) levels in favour of children and their mothers.
- To strengthen the community based health care system by helping to bridge the gap between the formal system and the traditional care delivery practices through supporting the involvement of authentic informal leadership structures that will increase the acceptance and usage of Village Health Teams (VHTs) and their formal healthcare services among the *Ere* and *Awuyi* dwellers.

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The project is being implemented by the Moroto AFLI Field Office in collaboration with UNICEF-Karamoja Zonal Office and the 5 District Local Governments (Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Kotido, Kaabong and Abim). The project builds on the gains that were made during the three months Karamoja leaders 'Standing Tall Together on Accelerated and Sustained Child Survival Campaign' (September, October and November 2008). This was initiated by UNICEF and supported by the Karamoja District local governments, Ministry of

## INTRODUCTION

Karamoja sub-region has continued to experience persistent high rates of early childhood illnesses and deaths compared to the rest of the country. More so, Karamoja is the poorest region of Uganda as measured by income per capita and in terms of key human development indicators. These have made Karamoja the worst place in Uganda to live in and grow up as a child with elevated levels of early childhood mortality and morbidity

## OBJECTIVES

### Overall Objective

To contribute to sustained Child Survival and Development efforts in Karamoja sub-region, by





health, Office of the Prime minister - Karamoja affairs, Ministry of Education and Sports, Minister of State for Children Affairs, Karamoja Parliamentary Group and the Presidential Assistant on Karamoja Disarmament.

### PROJECT PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

- Develop and adopt a Declaration for children and establish a social contract with traditional and formal leadership structures;
- Establish a Karamoja Leadership Forum for Children in collaboration with the 5 District Local Governments (LC V Councils) and Karamoja Parliamentary Group (KPG). In particular, Conduct Bi-annual Special Sessions for children to serve as leadership forums for information sharing, consensus building, accountability and periodic target setting (2009-2010).
- Support monthly meetings of community leaders and care givers to review progress on activities aimed at promoting Child health, Education, Protection and General wellbeing
- Collect data on flow of financial resources to the districts local government, allocation of resources by the districts to Child Survival and Development Activities, Cost-effectiveness of activities and per



- capita expenditure. Compile and analyze the data and use it for advocacy purposes
- Identify and train 10 Influential community leaders and care givers in each of the 9 pilot subcounties of Karamoja to conduct targeted dialogue with key leadership and child care givers at household, Ere, Kraals and LC1 levels in selected pilot sub-counties.
- Conduct community Baseline Surveys on Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices (KAP) with regard to Child Survival Decision making dynamics at Household and *Manyatta-Ere* levels
- Mobilize and recruit traditional leaders to scrutinize the Village Health Teams (VHTs) nominated by Local Councils and Community Structures. Integrate manyatta leaders into the Village Health Teams recruitment process.
- Support integration of Village Health Teams (VHTs) with traditional leadership structures at *Ere / Kraal* levels to improve oversight and accountability of Village Health Teams (VHTs) for scaled up actions in support of Child survival and Development.
- Develop a communication profile and strategy that outlines modalities to effectively reach the *Ere* leaders, Village local councils, Village Health Teams (VHTs), Care Givers and the general community with key messages. The communication profile will outline key channels of influence among the Karimojong communities to effect behaviour change in favour of child health, education, protection and well being

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