

# RESULTS SUMMARY

## Holding duty bearers to account in Karamoja, Uganda

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PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Resilience Enhancement and Advocacy Program (REAP)
	<i>Partner:</i>	ADRA Uganda
	<i>Country:</i>	Uganda
	<i>Period:</i>	January 2022 - ongoing

**CHANGE**



In the northern Uganda region of Karamoja, community based organisations (CBOs) supported by ADRA have influenced government authorities to deliver public services such as construction of roads, classrooms, boreholes and latrines as well as posting additional staff in health clinics, primary schools and police stations / army barracks. These are significant changes since this region is characterized by few livelihood opportunities, recurrent conflict and by being deprioritised by public authorities including few government resources being allocated to the target areas. These changes were achieved through community led prioritization of issues and implementation of advocacy plans.

**CONTEXT**

In the Karamoja sub-region, 66 percent of the total population is living in poverty compared to the national average of 20.3 percent and the net primary school enrolment is 43% compared to the national average of 91%. Until recently, pastoralism has remained the dominant form of livelihood and lifestyle for the population of Karamoja. Vulnerabilities that constrain livelihoods and development in the region stem from historical dynamics affecting current governance, including private ownership of firearms, cattle raiding, severe environmental degradation, insensitivity to climate change dynamics, poor infrastructure as well as limited access to education and health services.

**CONTRIBUTION**

ADRA has introduced community-based advocacy in a context where citizens were not prepared to defend or even accept that they themselves or others have rights and where local governance was still to take root. ADRA addressed this by training and supporting community groups in human rights and advocacy as well as in ways to meet their immediate needs e.g. Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs). The VSLAs proved to be a valuable point of departure for building group cohesion and common agendas. By now, most of the CBOs which started out as VSLAs also do advocacy based on the training and mentoring done by ADRA. ADRA also trained local government and other duty bearers.

IMAGES		
	Photo: ADRA-archive	Photo: ADRA-archive

See next page for more details →

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### ACTIVITIES

Example of an advocacy process: ADRA trained Lim-Mit CBO members in community-led advocacy, formulation of advocacy work plans, issue identification and prioritization, how to engage relevant stakeholders and on power relations. The CBO members used the skills gained to make an advocacy plan and the community prioritised health services since for more than 4 years, they had to walk over 25km to Abim town to access medical services. ADRA facilitated Lim-Mit CBO members to organise dialogue meetings attended by the District Health Officer, Resident District Commissioner, Local Council and the Health Incharge to advocate for medical services. Different issues were discussed including following and tracking of government supplies that sometimes get lost, absenteeism of health workers from government units, long distance to health services etc. This influenced Abim District Health Office to establish a mobile outpatients department in Apok resettlement area in Abim district. Similar processes have taken place to produce the other 57 outcomes related to community based advocacy (ref.: Evidence Section below).

### LESSONS

ADRA has managed to kickstart a shift in mindset around women's leadership with several outcomes describing instances where women have taken up leadership roles in community and/or public structures. However, the value of these outcomes has not been fully maximised while the outcomes seem to have a strong potential to generate higher value in the next programme stages. Thus, In the next stages of the REAP programme it will be considered tracking the results achieved by the increase in women's leadership, identifying multiplier effects, such as the changes observed in prioritising gender and women's issues at the community and local government level, the replication of awareness raising around women's leadership in other communities, etc.

### EVIDENCE

The changes in public service provision are results of the advocacy initiatives of CBOs in Karamoja, which in turn was made possible by the organising, training and ongoing support of ADRA. An outcome harvest of the programme in Uganda was done in January-April 2023, harvesting a total of 88 outcomes with 57 of them associated to 'Local Advocacy & Exercise of Rights and Duties'. The Value for Money analysis done to supplement the Outcome Harvesting concluded "Most of the high-value outcomes harvested are related to public authorities implementing infrastructure / public service delivery projects as a result of community-led advocacy. These kinds of outcomes indicate that the shift in mindset has been two-fold: on the one hand, communities are sufficiently empowered to recognise an issue and lead advocacy efforts for its solution. On the other, the relevant authorities have been influenced and have taken action to recognise the issue and address it.". Ref: Value for Money Assessment of ADRA's Action for Social Change (ASC) and Resilience Enhancement and Advocacy (REAP) Program, Francesca D'Emidio, Learning and Change Ltd., May 2013, Uganda-Value-for-Money-Assessment.pdf (adra.dk)

### DOMAINS

<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>	Insert strategy priority
<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	x
<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	x
<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	-
<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	x
<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	x