

Strengthening Drought Resilience for Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists in the IGAD Region.



Country Profile *Uganda*



Under the Strengthening Drought Resilience for Smallholder Farmers and Pastoralists in Eastern Africa (DRESS-EA) project, interventions in Uganda are being implemented within the Omanimani and Nangoloapolon Sub-catchments of the Lokere Catchment in the districts of Moroto, Napak, and Nabilatuk in Karamoja Sub-region. The project supports Uganda to strengthen drought preparedness, improve climate resilience and promote sustainable natural resource management through enhanced early warning systems, institutional capacity strengthening and community-led adaptation initiatives.

The project is targeting over 6000 beneficiaries across the project intervention areas.

Challenge

The Karamoja Sub-region is one of Uganda's most climate-vulnerable areas, experiencing frequent droughts, erratic rainfall and prolonged dry spells that threaten livelihoods, food security and water availability. The project intervention area is highly vulnerable to:

- Recurrent droughts
- High rainfall variability
- Prolonged dry seasons
- Land degradation
- Declining pasture and water resources
- Climate-induced food insecurity

Pastoralism and rain-fed agriculture are the primary livelihood sources for local communities. However, prolonged droughts, changing rainfall patterns and environmental degradation have significantly weakened household resilience, reduced livestock productivity and increased pressure on already fragile ecosystems.





The DRESS-EA project is being implemented within the Omanimani and Nangoloapolon Sub-catchments of the Lokere Catchment in the districts of Moroto, Napak, and Nabilatuk in Karamoja Sub-region.

The project area lies in north-eastern Uganda and shares an international border with Kenya, making the area strategically important for transboundary drought management and pastoral mobility. The landscape is characterised by the highlands of Mount Moroto, Mount Napak, extensive rangelands and seasonal watercourses that are increasingly affected by climate variability.

Agriculture within the project area is predominantly rain-fed and based on agro-pastoral production systems. Livestock keeping and crop farming are closely integrated, enabling households to diversify livelihoods and cope with climate shocks. However, the region remains a food-deficit area in most years due to recurrent droughts and unreliable rainfall.

Key Development Challenges

Communities in the project area face several interconnected challenges:

- Increasing frequency and severity of droughts.
- Highly variable and unreliable rainfall.
- Declining water availability for domestic use, livestock and agriculture.
- Land degradation and overgrazing.
- Reduced crop and livestock productivity.
- Heavy dependence on climate-sensitive livelihoods.
- Weak institutional capacity for drought preparedness and response.
- Limited access to climate information and early warning services.
- Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources as households struggle to cope with repeated climate shocks.



DRESS-EA Response

The DRESS-EA project is helping communities strengthen resilience by promoting integrated approaches that improve drought preparedness while restoring ecosystems and strengthening livelihoods.

Key interventions include:

- Strengthening drought and climate Early Warning Systems (EWS).
- Improving water resources management.
- Promoting climate-smart agriculture and resilient agro-pastoral production systems.
- Supporting sustainable rangeland and ecosystem management.
- Strengthening institutional capacity for drought risk management.
- Enhancing knowledge management and community awareness on climate adaptation.
- Building the resilience of smallholder farmers and pastoralists through improved planning, coordination and early action.
- Supporting collaboration among local, national and regional institutions responsible for drought preparedness and response.

Recent implementation activities have further strengthened institutional capacity through early warning systems, climate information services and community-based drought resilience interventions that promote proactive rather than reactive drought management.



Project Implementation Villages

Project interventions are being implemented in selected communities within:

- Moroto District in the Sub-Counties of Tapac, Katikekile, Loputuk, Nadunget, Lotisan, and Rupa
- Napak District in the Sub-Counties of Lopeei, Lokopo, Ngoloriet, Lotome, Matany, and Kangole Town Council.
- Nabilatuk District in the Sub-County of Lorengedwat
- Nangoloapolon and Omaniemi Sub-catchments
- Upper Lokere Catchment
- Karamoja Sub-region

The broader Lokere Catchment extends across eight districts in the Karamoja and Teso regions, creating opportunities for integrated catchment management and transboundary collaboration with neighbouring Kenya.

6,000+

**beneficiaries across
the project intervention
areas.**

This project is funded by the Adaptation Fund through the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), with the Global Water Partnership Eastern Africa (GWPEA) serving as the Regional Executing Entity, while Uganda's Ministry responsible for Water and Environment leads implementation nationally.

