



***Changing History: “Pastoralist Women Raise Goats to  
Improve Livelihoods”***

**The Case of Improved Goat Project Supported by KADP in Karamoja,  
Uganda**

**A Research project submitted to Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences in  
Partial Fulfillment for the Award of Degree of Master of Development with specialization  
in Social Inclusion, Gender and Rural Livelihoods**

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## **Abbreviations**

CAHWs:	Community Animal Health Workers
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
HPI:	Human Poverty Indices
HDI:	Human Development Indices
IFAD:	International Fund for Agricultural Development
KADP:	Karamoja Agro-pastoral Development Programme
MAAIF:	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries
OCHA:	United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme

## Abstract

The aridity of Karamoja has thrown the sub region into a state of perpetual food scarcity and poverty, which have consequently condemned the people to resort to other means such as charcoal burning to survive. Because of this, different development organisations in and outside the region have put several measures in place to defuse the situation, which has for long haunted region and continues to undermine food stability in the region, The failure of the previous attempts to address food deficiencies at household level gave way to emphasis on adoption of more versatile and multifaceted approaches, initiatives and resources. The goat project was one such initiative, which combined empowerment of women in resource ownership with diversification of sources of incomes to ensure availability of the basic food needs of the household.

The project supported by Karamoja Agro-pastoral Development Programme (KADP) came as an effort to address food insecurity at the household level, especially for women and children. The pilot project was started in 2002 in one village and was later spread across the programme area based on lessons learnt. The project is implemented through women groups to create conditions in which the women would augment famine coping strategies to improve their welfare.

The objective of this study is to provide information to KADP and other goat's initiatives in Karamoja on how the goat project has contributed to strengthening women's famine coping strategies and to provide recommendations for improvement.

The objective was realized by desk study and field research. Data collection procedures heavily relied on the recollection by the beneficiaries of the project and staff of KADP in charge of implementation; this was supplemented by information about the project available in the organization documents. The data was collected through participatory research techniques involving individual interviews with project beneficiaries, focus group discussions and individual interviews with the project staff.

All the 30 women interviewed and the rest of the community in the focus group discussion approve of the appropriateness of the project. The project has empowered the women to own livestock, which is normally a preserve of the men in the traditional situation. The women that received training to manage improved goats are now able to manage livestock, and use them to meet their household needs. The quality of the livestock managed by the project women groups are also better than those that are communally reared by men. The number of goats reared by women has increased over the years (table 4.7), goats are also sold at relatively higher prices compared to the local ones (table 4.8) and project women can meet household food and other basic needs from the proceeds arising from the sale of the goats. The women are able to dispatch animal health services such as treatment of sick animals to the wider community (Box 4.3).

The major challenges and constraints experienced by the goats' project groups include theft associated with insecurity, extensive dry spells and livestock diseases but also there is inadequate support from partners to the women groups and the women also sighted that they still have limited knowledge to sustain the project. At project implementation level, the major constraints as highlighted by staff include Inadequate funding to support project activities, inadequate collaboration and coordination among stakeholders, inadequate knowledge among the project beneficiaries, the lack of strategic focus of the project with no clear exit strategy and

transport problems (remoteness and rugged terrain) making it difficult for staff to constantly deliver support to the groups.

On the part of the recommendations, KADP needs to conduct a joint strategic planning process for women of the goat project in the programme areas and develop clear exit strategies, support coordination and collaboration efforts within groups and link project groups to other key stakeholders especially government, Women groups supported by the project should share their experiences in order to benefit from the initiatives of one another and the project is appropriate and thus should be revitalized. There is need to inject adequate finances into the activity to support the growing demands and address the challenges faced by the project.

# CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

## **1.1. Introduction**

This study explores how the goat project has contributed to strengthening women's famine coping strategies for pilot women groups in Karamoja supported by Karamoja Agro-pastoral Development Programme (KADP), a local Non Governmental Organization working in the two districts of Moroto and Nakapiripirit. This chapter provides general background to the research and explains the context in which this research was conducted; the chapter explains the research objective and key research issues that guide the whole process.

## **1.2. Background**

Karamoja sub-region is located in North Eastern Uganda, and borders Sudan in the North and Kenya in the East. With a total area of 27,000 square kilometers, the region accounts for more than 10 per cent of the country's total land size. It has a population of just over 936,323 people (476,781 females and 459,542 males) in 147,444 households (UBOS, 2002). Karamoja is divided into seven administrative districts: Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Kaabong, Kotido, Abim, Amudat and Napak.

The ecology of the area is semi-arid to arid and in some parts progressing towards desertification. Most of Karamoja parts qualify for classification within the Sahel zone by both aridity index and 20-30% mean variability in rainfall. Karamoja is a home of agro-pastoralists (e.g. Dodoth, Jie, Bokora, Matheniko, and Pian), their livestock is estimated at 1,787,000 heads of cattle, sheep and goats, and wildlife (Pulkol, 1999; Sabiiti, 2000). However, some ethnic groups engage in agricultural activities especially in the hilly areas; such as the Labwor and the Tepeth in Moroto, Napak and Kadam mountains. The Ik of Timu and Morungole mountains and the population of southern Nakapiripirit (Namalu areas).

The region is characterized by serious livelihoods and development challenges defined by the semi-arid to dry sub-humid climatic conditions with poorly distributed rainfall ranging between 500 and 1,200mm per annum in the drier and wetter parts respectively. There are no permanent rivers in the area and only a handful of permanent springs located in the mountains. Seasonal food shortages are common in the region as a result of low crop and livestock productivity.

Generally, Livelihood insecurity, famine, limited access to water, lack of access to trade, inadequate public health, escalating poverty, ignoble state of physical security, and increased out migration define the state of human wellbeing in Karamoja. These factors have left the people in Karamoja trapped in poverty. Karamoja thus, trails as the poorest in the country with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 0.282, Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.292 and Human Poverty Index of 62.7 (UNDP, 2007:57).

There are concerted efforts of Government and Non government Organizations in the sub region and KADP is one of the local and indigenous organizations operating in the area aiming to improve food and income sovereignty and access to basic services for pastoral communities by building on the skills and knowledge within communities to plan and manage development priorities. KADP has supported the goat project initiatives for over 7 years now.

### **1.3. Problem statement**

The Karamojong are agro-pastoralists who depend majorly on the livestock economy to provide basic household food for its family members, but this is supplemented by seasonal cultivation of crops. The men constantly move from village settlements to regions further away in search of water and pasture during the dry season which sometimes lasts eight months (October to May). For eight months while animals are away, only a few livestock especially goats are left behind at to support families but this is inadequate, the situation is worsened by the fact that women are not allowed to take decisions regarding disposal of livestock. Sometimes this happens all year around as livestock is kept away from the villages at the peak of cattle rustling for fear of having them taken away by cattle rustlers. This situation also occurs when there is an extensive drought. This was witnessed in the last five years hence worsening the food security situation amongst women and children

Women in a more patriarchal Karamojong culture are the most discriminated and vulnerable group. They are not facilitated to own livestock but to depend on the man's possession. The woman is not considered a spouse with equal footing in the management and decision making processes at the household.

The project supported by Karamoja Agro-pastoral Development Programme (KADP) came as an effort to address food insecurity at the household level, especially for women and children. The project is implemented through women groups in order to create conditions in which the women would augment famine coping strategies to improve their welfare.

Much has been done in Karamoja sub region in regard to interventions aimed at up scaling the livelihoods for women but little or no studies have been carried to point out the extent of achievement. KADP therefore lacks information on how the goat project has contributed to the empowerment of women. It is against this that this research is sought to assess the specific KADP supported goat project to understand the level of achievement of its intended objectives.

### **1.4. Significance of the study**

Pastoralism is still a predominant form of livelihoods for the Karamojong community in Uganda. Livestock contributes significantly to national economy and employs a majority of the pastoral population. Livestock keeping is a male dominated activity despite the many important roles women fulfill in pastoralist society setting. Pastoralist women face discrimination; they are not given an opportunity to participate in taking decisions that directly affect their lives and livelihoods.

The new and emerging challenges such as rapid commercialization, climate change and ongoing conflicts are increasing levels of food insecurity. Women therefore begin to shoulder the increasingly heavy burdens at the households in a bid to supporting food security for their families.

Pastoralist women play an important role in livestock production, the main source of livelihoods and income for pastoralists. As drought drives pastoralist men further away with the herds in search of water, women must manage the household during this time. Therefore support initiatives to women during this time become very crucial. Women also lack essential skills, these alongside other dilemma women face, is often ignored in drought mitigation strategies.

There are few studies conducted in Karamoja especially on the role of women in livestock production, particularly their participation in decision making regarding ownership and disposal of livestock. Therefore, this study is timely as it will help to identify gaps for improving current interventions. This study will benefit KADP and other goat initiatives in Karamoja as a whole.

## **1.5. Research Issue**

### **Research Objective**

The purpose of this study is to provide information to KADP and other goat's initiatives in Karamoja on how the goats' project has contributed to women's famine coping strategies in order strengthen their future interventions.

### **Research questions**

Main questions:

1. What was the design and implementation strategy of the project?

Sub questions:

1.1 What context issues caused the formation of the goat project?

1.2 What was the purpose of the project?

1.3 How was the project introduced and implemented?

1.4 Who were involved in the project?

2. To what degree have women been able to own and control goats?

Sub questions:

2.1 How did community perception change about women's ownership of goats?

2.2 How do women use the goats for food security?

2.3 What changes are seen in decision making about goats?

## CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Livelihoods and Human Development Indices in Karamoja

In 1992 Robert Chambers and Gordon Conway proposed the following composite definition of a sustainable rural livelihood, which is applied most commonly at the household level:

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living: a livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the short and long term.

Karamoja in respect to the above definition presents a worrying humanitarian situation. According to the most recent surveys by different humanitarian organizations, the humanitarian indicators indicate that this sub-region is the most uncertain within the whole country. Moroto and Nakapiripirit districts, the sampled districts for this exercise have one of the lowest HDI of 0.183 when compared to national average of 0.4491. The districts in Karamoja have the highest HPI, with Moroto and Nakapiripirit Districts having a HPI of 63.5% compared to the national average of 37.5% (UNDP, 2007). The table 2.1 below provides a Summary of the findings by different agencies

Table 2.1: Humanitarian Development indicators; National and Karamoja compared.

<b>Comparative Humanitarian and Development indicators</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>Karamoja</b>
Life expectancy (UNDP 2007)	50.4 year	47.7 years
Population living below poverty line (World Bank 2006)	31%	82%
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) (UDHS 2006)	435	750
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) UNICEF/WHO, 2008)	76	105
Global Acute malnutrition (GAM) rate (MoH/WFP April 2009)	6%	9%
Immunization (children 1-2 years, fully immunized) (UDHS 2006)	46%	48%
Access to sanitation units (UNICEF 2008)	62%	9%
Access to safe water (UNICEF 2009)	63%	40%
Literacy rate (UDHS 2006)	67%	11%

Source: OCHA, 2009

While the above statistics may constantly reach emergency levels, requiring humanitarian emergency support with women and children are the most affected, development projects need to focus on recovery and development in order to minimize future shocks. Therefore building resilience and coping mechanisms of the pastoral population especially among women will help reduce vulnerability and improve food security and the quality of life of the people.

## **2.2 Complexities within pastoral livelihood system**

In Uganda livestock contributes to 19% of Agricultural GDP and 9% of the Total GDP (MAAIF, 2005). It is the main livelihood of the pastoral communities providing food security in harsh conditions under which they live and is one of the few assets available to the poor and especially women to bring them successfully to the cash economy (Carney, 1998)

There are many challenges facing the pastoral production system. Broch-Due and Anderson (1999) highlighted that pastoral societies in East Africa are rapidly changing; there is reduced land for grazing, population pressure, increasing conflicts and a drive to other forms of livelihoods sending the pastoralists to further impoverishment and marginalization. Karamoja today has fewer livestock than before, in addition, many young people are beginning to see pastoralism as a less realistic and viable option and they have begun to resort to other forms of living. Johnson and Anderson (1988) in their research have argued that pastoralism has long proven precarious, Its societies exist in the shadow of drought, disturbance, and disease. Nonetheless current transformations of land use and livestock ownership dominate pastoralists' plans, dilemmas, and daily lives.

Many authors highlight that in such situations it is important to understand how different groups within pastoral society are affected and how they cope with unwelcome change. It is important to specifically look at how women are dealing with these challenges given the fact that they begin to carry household burden. The domination of men in resources ownership, control and decision making is still a very big issue in Karamoja pastoral society. Hodgson (2000) in support to this argument has highlighted that emphasis on the patriarchy in pastoral societies is excessive and ignores much of the power and influence that women can have.

## **2.3 Gender roles in livestock production**

The women in the Karamojong pastoral society play crucial roles in livestock production for example in feeding young calves, watering and caring for the sick animals but this contribution remains unappreciated by the men especially when it comes to making decisions regarding disposal and sharing of proceeds accruing from it. A report by IFAD (1999) highlights that the contribution of women in pastoral societies is underestimated because of the myth of male dominance in livestock production and the lack of monetization and statistical recognition of the contribution of women to the production process.

In traditional arrangement, pastoral women are allocated livestock, they benefit fully from animal products but are not part of decision making regarding disposal. There is now a new dimension; as a chronic food shortages at household intensify, women are turning the story round and can influence the sale of livestock belonging to her household in order to purchase food. This indicates that there is a gradual change in regard to decision making and this has been strongly supported by Tungka *et al* (2000) that; if animal species serve purposes that are within the domain of women's responsibilities, such as feeding the family, women will have greater influence on the decisions and where animals serve purposes of generating income then the man plays greater influence in the decision making.

## **2.4 Women contribution to Food security**

IFAD (1999) defines food security as the capacity of a household to procure a stable and sustainable basket of adequate food achieved through household's ability to produce and/or purchase plus food aid and distribution. Food security therefore incorporates issues of availability, access and stability of adequate food at all times to the household.

There are definitely external factors that cannot be easily managed; drought, floods, livestock diseases etc making availability, access and stability of food supply unattainable for poor households. The extent to which household can be able to achieve food security will depend on how people are exposed to available resources/ assets, how they use them and how the resources are shared and distributed. Women remain worse off with regard to ownership, access and control over income and livestock. This calls for organization of women.

Most development initiatives can effectively be delivered through women groups and networks. This approach is important in that it strengthens the position of women and builds confidence among them. Social networks are therefore important for women to argument problems that affect their lives. Coppock *et al* (1995) have cited the important role of women in supporting households, a case of Northern Kenya.

### **Box 2.1 Coordinating Harambee in Kenya**

In Northern Kenya, pastoral women's groups coordinate public fundraisers (*harambee*) to accumulate larger sums of money to support emergency needs of orphans, elderly and infirm. Group efforts to mitigate drought impacts have evolved overtime; these have included provision of water and food for the neediest members, goat restocking and extending low interest loans. Being a member of such a group provides a buffer to shocks and stresses. For example during drought of 1999-2000 one group assisted each other by harvesting standing hay, managing milking herds, and supporting each others children with milk. Revenue from milk sales were used to purchase grain and sugar for the neediest households. Others provided loans to purchase water and loans with delayed payments until after the drought.

Source: Coppock *et al* 2006

The major problem that undermines the capacity of women is the lack of access to productive resources, this also has a direct relationship with decision making at the household and community level. Quinsumbing *et al* (1995) has supported that that unequal rights and obligations within the household as well as limited time and access to productive and financial resources pose a great constraint to this course and added that reduction in the gap between men and women as regards ownership of resources, decision making and control are necessary if the pillars of food security i.e availability, access and nutritional food security are to be improved.

## 2.5 Empowerment of women

Participation and decision making are important elements of empowerment. The World Bank defined "participatory development as: a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources which affect them " (World Bank, 1994, pi cited in Chamber 2005, p. 103).

In Karamojong pastoral communities, empowerment of women is still hard to perceive and yet the deterioration in food security among the households is placing extra burden on women. Most often, men move with the livestock in search of pasture and water and they benefit from the animal products while away. Women, elderly and children are left behind at the homesteads and women have to take household responsibility. The increasing household burden on women means that they need to be empowered economically so that they can bridge the food security gap, therefore, involving women in raising livestock for sale and/or in other forms of trade can be an important step. The following authors have supported the above argument; Nduma *et al.* (2001) have highlighted that there are economic opportunities for women through the sale of agricultural produce, milk, and labor in that women in pastoral communities have control over milk and milk products, women engage in subsistence agriculture and can provide hired labor. Buhl and Homewood (2000) in their study have added that where men control the major sources of income, trading activities provides an opportunity for women to control their own money and a report by Oxfam GB (2005: 7) also strongly highlights that women empowerment the *right* thing to do because women have the same rights as men, but it's also a *necessary* thing to do, because it will make the world a better place and help us attain human development.

As highlighted earlier, pastoralist women perform activities that are crucial to livelihoods such as watering livestock, taking care of calves, sick animals and in milk processing and preservation (for butter, ghee) but these contributions do not see women benefit from the economic value of livestock as they remain outside the monetary economy. These roles of pastoralist women have been supported and highlighted by different authors; for example Turner, (1999) in his study has supported that women play major roles in raising sheep and goats and that since goats are always left behind during migration season, women have to manage them. Women's roles have also been seen in livestock disease control, some pastoralist women are community based animal health workers (CAHWs) in their communities. This has been supported by a study in Ethiopia carried out by Amare (2004) saying that Women CAHWs have been found to be an entry point to contact women from pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities.

There are also challenges to development actors working in pastoral areas; in this respect, it is important to mention that many development projects especially in Africa are lacking information on how to effectively engage women in development initiatives. Hodgson (2000) has supported this argument saying that livestock development projects fail partially because the roles of women are neglected in the planning process. Development ideas must come from people, SIDA (1997) cited in Aguilar *et al* (2002) highlights that empowerment comes from 'inside', from the individuals themselves, it cannot be granted by others.

Development initiatives that focus empowerment need to look critically at the participation of women at project level, household level and community level and subsequently the decisions they influence at all these levels. Sara Hlupekile Longwe (cited in Candida *et al*, 1999) has developed a framework called Longwe's framework suitable for use by development stakeholders. Longwe argues that poverty arises not from lack of productivity but from oppression and exploitation. She conceptualizes five progressive levels of equality, arranged in

hierarchical order, with each higher level denoting a higher level of empowerment, namely; control, participation, Conscientisation, access and welfare.

However, we do not know how women’s current roles compare with their roles in the past, or how they compare with men’s roles today and how perceptions have changed regarding women ownership and control including disposal of livestock. A clear understanding of changing roles and pastoral livelihood strategies is crucial to development actors.

Therefore understanding the above dynamics and integrating them in development planning can be an important step in elevating the position of women and their eventual contribution to household food security in the pastoral Karamoja.

## 2.6 Conceptual Framework

In assessing the goat project, the study focuses on two key concepts of empowerment and food security. I have operationalized empowerment into two main dimensions of participation and decision making. Participation of women at project, household and community levels was assessed during this study and how the project has helped the women to influence decisions or to change the perception of men towards women.

The concept of food security has been operationalized into two main dimensions for the purpose of this study; Access and Availability of food. Access to food was looked in the context of rights of women to own the goats and sell them to buy food for required for the household, Availability of food on the other hand is relating to how rearing goats has increased milk for household consumption but also the increase in the number of goats raised by women and which they can make decisions to sell in order to purchase food for the household (See Summary on figure 2.1)

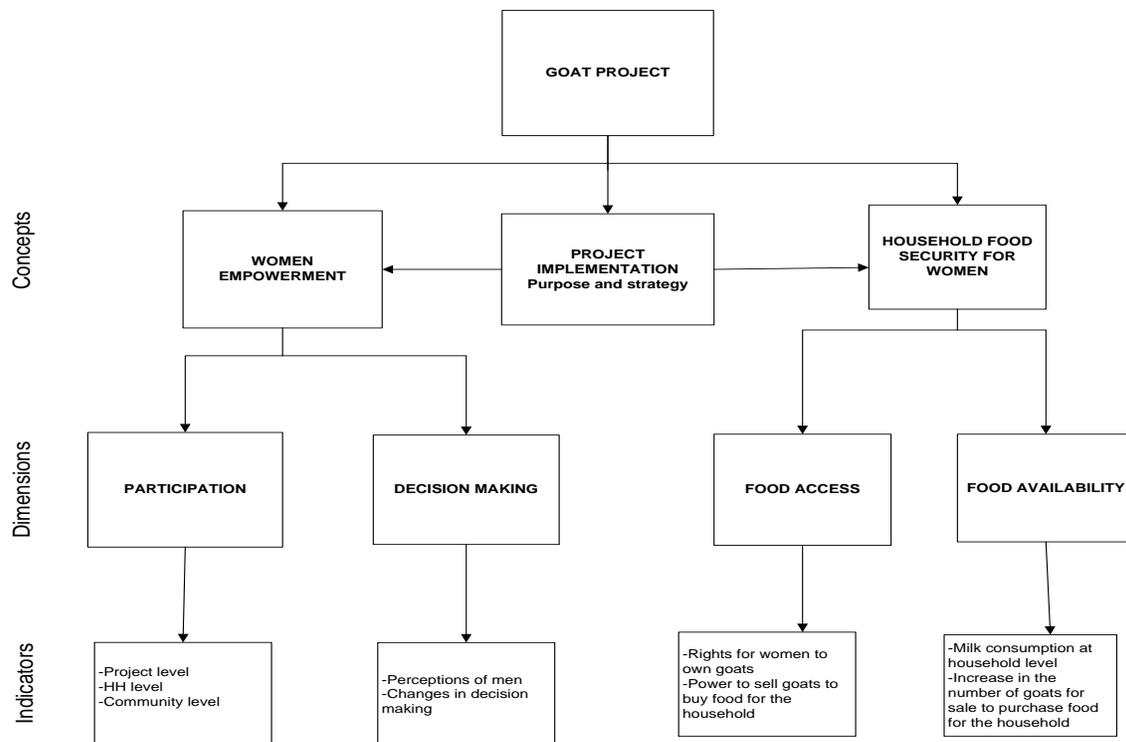


Fig 2.1: Conceptual framework

### **Key words defined:**

**Empowerment** is the expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them (Kabeer, 2001). In the context of this study empowerment will be looked in two elements of participation and decision making

- **Participation** is a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources which affect them (World Bank, 1994, pi cited in Chamber 2005, p. 103). In the context of this research, we look at participation of women at household level, project level and community level.
- **Decision making** is the process of selecting from several choices or available options and taking action. In this research decision making is referred to the changes that have taken place as a result of the project including changes in perceptions of men/ community towards women

**Food security** exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life". (World Food Summit, 1996). In the context of this study, food security is looked at in two dimensions; food access and food availability

- **Food access:** Access by individuals to adequate resources for acquiring appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. In this research, we focus at the rights to own and sell the goat to meet household food needs.
- **Food availability:** The availability of sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality, supplied through domestic production or imports (including food aid). In this research we refer to the availability of milk for the household and increase in the number of goats available for sale in order to purchase food for the household

**Project implementation strategy** is a description of direction taken by the project and that contributes to success of the project in its environment.

## **CHAPTER THREE      METHODOLOGY**

### ***3.1 Study design***

This study was a participatory assessment of the goat project interventions of KADP. Perceptions about changes that have occurred have been recorded from those who implemented the project (project staff), as well as project beneficiaries, those whose livelihoods have been affected by the interventions of the project.

The research was carried out in three-stage process. The first phase involved executing pre-field activities such as literature review on the project. The second phase involved travelling to Uganda to conduct field visits and interviews and phase three was a final data analysis, triangulation and synthesis of final report.

### ***3.2 Area and population of study***

The study was carried out in four sub counties; Nadunget and Katikekile in Moroto district and Lorengedwat and Nabilatuk in Nakapiripirit district. These study areas were chosen because they are the operational area of KADP and the pilot goat groups are sparsely distributed over the two districts.

The study targeted project beneficiaries (women), project staff in charge of implementation and indirect beneficiaries (wider community representatives).

### ***3.3 Sample and sampling procedure***

Beneficiary communities were identified in the two districts, 30 direct project beneficiaries of the project were sampled to provide information needed in this study. Two FGDs meetings were attended by 46 community representatives comprising of men and women; 22 and 24 Nabilatuk and Nadunget respectively. The participants for the FGD were all aged above 30 years, who were considered to be knowledgeable on issues in community. Finally, 6 KADP staffs were selected for interviews in the project locations.

The sampling used certain agreed criteria; for project women the following criteria was used;

- A direct beneficiary of the project
- Holds a key position in the group (not mandatory)
- Knowledgeable on the project and have participated in a series of project activities

For the participants in focus group discussions, the primary criteria for their selection were:

- Resident in the study sites
- Indirect beneficiary of the project
- Knowledgeable of the issues in the community,
- Representation of the different categories especially gender and age-groups.

The project staffs were selected based on their knowledge of that particular location/ site and years of work with the project.

### ***3.4 Data collection procedure and methods***

Data collection procedures heavily relied on the recollection by the beneficiaries of the project who were asked to tell in a historical perspective, when they joined the KADP supported goat project and pointed out how project intervention influenced their lives, especially their ability to cope with the needs of survival in hostile environments. This information was supplemented by

the documentation of the conditions of the beneficiaries and the overall implementation of the project available from Organization's documents.

The data were collected through the following participatory research techniques involving individual interviews with project beneficiaries, focus group discussions and individual interviews with the project staff.

- Individual interviews with project beneficiaries and project staff

Data were collected using semi-structured interviews with key respondents in the selected study sites, these people were considered repositories of significant knowledge on the changes that they have gone through since the inception of the project. These are individual women participating in the project (See Annex I for Questionnaire)

Personnel in the field offices of KADP who have been involved in the implementation of project were also interviewed. These were Programme staff in charge of livelihood and food security interventions; they were useful in providing insights regarding the project implementation (See Annex ii for Questionnaire).

- Focus group discussions (FGDS)

Focus group discussions were conducted in two locations; Nadunget in Moroto district and Nabilatuk in Nakapiripirit district. The participants in the FGDS were community representatives who are indirect beneficiaries of the project and have a clear understanding of the project performance since its inception and the changes that have taken place (See Annex III for FGD guide).

Secondary data

This involved a review of documented information. There were various publications available on livelihoods and food security in Karamoja from a number of actors. Documents, reports and programme planning documents relating to KADP were consulted to extract information needed for this research. Other general sources of information on livelihoods and food security were also consulted.

### ***3.5 Data processing and analysis***

The data was analyzed and interpreted manually. The collected data was first arranged according to the sections as in the questionnaires, then data from different sections was compared and views presented in the results chapter. The findings of the study were compared with the existing literature in order to draw conclusions and finally, recommendations of this study were generated based on the conclusions.

### ***3.6 Limitations of the study***

The research was mainly qualitative and therefore it based on perception of the respondents, which means there can be bias in providing information. The time that the research was conducted was the harvest season and the women were much involved in farm and as well domestic activities. There were logistical constraints given the fact that the pilot groups of this study are distributed over the two districts involving four sub counties therefore transport access to this distant locations was challenging. In some cases I could not reach the selected study sites on time and would have little time to interact with the respondents.

## CHAPTER FOUR RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

The data presented below is a collection from the survey carried out at field level with individual women participating in the goat project, community focus group and with project staff. The numbers of people interviewed by category are presented in table 4.1 and 4.2.

Table 4.1: Types of respondents and their numbers

Respondent type	Number
Women participating in the project	30
Project staff	6
<b>Total number of respondents</b>	<b>36</b>

Two focus group discussions were also conducted; in Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit district and in Nadunget in Moroto district attended by a total of 46 people (31 men and 15 women), most of them were indirect beneficiaries of the project.

Table 4.2: Participants in the focus group discussion

Location	Male	Female	Total
Nabilatuk	16	6	22
Nadunget	15	9	24

### 4.2 Characterization of respondents

#### *Socio- economic information of the project beneficiaries*

All the project beneficiaries interviewed (30) were females and the reason was that the project solely targeted women. The women interviewed range between the ages of 30 years to 50 years with the average age being 40. The majority of the respondents lie between 35 to 45 years. This is the most active age of women in Karamoja.

The women mentioned the following as their main activities. Goat keeping has increasingly become one of the most important activities for women as a result of this project although it still remains a men's domain.

Table 4.3: women's main activities

Activity type	Number of respondents involved in the activity (N=30)	Percentage
Collection and sell of firewood	25	83.3%
Burning and selling charcoal	08	26.6%
Brewing (local)	28	93.3%
Subsistence agriculture	30	100%
goat keeping	30	100%

Source: Own study 2010

It is still important to talk about illiteracy in Karamoja. Of the 30 women interviewed only 5(16.6%) have attended lower primary education (Primary four being the highest level attained) with 25 respondents (83.3%) having not attended school at all. The data shows that rate of

female in education is very low and yet the level of education has a positive influence to acceptance of knowledge and information. The finding concurs with the current statistics that Karamoja has lowest literacy rate of 11% compared to the national average of 67% (OCHA, 2009)

#### *Project staff Respondents*

The (6) project staff respondent were taken from project locations in Tapac, Nadunget, Lorengedwat, Nabilatuk and two staff from the coordination office in Moroto. Of the 6 project staff, only 1 was a female.

Among project staff, field level project staff majority 4 (66.6%) had 4 to 6 years of work experience with the organization. The age of staff respondents 3(50%) were 25-30 years, 3 (50%) were 35-40 years. There is very low number of female project staff employed in the organization.

The focus group discussion drew indirect beneficiaries of the project comprising of men and women. The participant's details were not deeply investigated

### **4.3 Project context**

The information contained in this section was generated from interviewing project staff. According to all the six project staff interviewed about the situation of the project, they provided the information that the goat project began in 2002 as a pilot initiative for the women of Nabokat village. Although this project has expanded to other areas of operation of KADP, it is still operating under pilot status. The project started as a self-help project as indicated by its name, "Euriaroth" Goat Project, the Karimojong word for self-help, self-concern and self-consciousness.

On the project purpose, the two project staffs interviewed at the coordination office in Moroto, two main aims of the project were highlighted, one aim of the goat project was to counter shortage of food during the dry season and years of extensive drought when livestock migrate farther away in search of better pastures from permanent homesteads. The second one was to correct the gender disparity through the promotion of female gender empowerment. Essentially, the project goal was to strengthen the position of women in ownership, control and management of livestock resources; taking decision in the household; resiliently manage drought; and to diversify their means of livelihoods. According to the staff interviewed, a survey on food security and nutrition in relation to gender was conducted by KADP. Following the survey, consultative and needs assessment meetings were carried out with women groups in Nadunget, where women asked to be empowered to own livestock so that they could mitigate food challenges throughout the year. This was the birth of the goat project in KADP and was implemented through women groups

The project aimed at improving the productivity of local goats through introduction of improved goats; Boers (dual purpose breed), Sannen and Toggenburg (Swiss breeds known for high milk yield).

### **4.4 Implementation**

The project officer in Nadunget gave a reflection on the project funding and implementation that between 2002 to the end of 2003, the project enjoyed adequate progress and support. It received specific financial support from UNDP. After this date KADP management rather, than

enter into a funding agreement with the UNDP for next project phase beginning 2004–2007, decided to integrate the project into the mainstream Food security component of KADP. The project also got support from EU/ ECHO drought preparedness initiative 2008 to 2010 and the project was replicated to wider other areas of the project.

**Box 4.1 A quote from Project Officer**

Compared to other components of the Food security theme, the goat project has the smallest budget. This is the underlying condition affecting the progress of the project.

The project activities are delivered through women goat groups. In the interview with the project staff on the group approach, their view was that it facilitates ease of delivery of services and enhances cohesion among beneficiaries. The women groups from which the respondents were selected is given in the table 4.4

Table 4.4: women groups, respondents and their locations

Group name	Total number of women	Number interviewed	Sub county location	District	Year of formation
Nabokat	10	7	Nadunget	Moroto	2002
Loputuk	10	6	Nadunget	Moroto	2004
Tapac	10	6	Tapac	Moroto	2006
Kamaturu	10	6	Lorengedwat	Nakapiripirit	2006
Lojoor	10	5	Nabilatuk	Nakapiripirit	2006

Source: Own study 2010

Some of the reasons for joining the group as given by respondents are provided in the table 4.5 All the 30 respondents stated different reasons for joining the group as working together, share knowledge, increase income, social networking, and gain greater access to project services and to own a goat

Table 4.5 Reasons of joining the group by women

Reasons	Respondents N=30 (%)
Working together	4 (13.3%)
Share knowledge	5 (16.6%)
Increase income	15 (50%)
Social support to each other	2 (6.6%)
Gain greater access to project services	4 (13.3%)
To own at least a goat	2 (6.6%)

Source: Own study 2010

The findings indicate that a majority of women 15(50%) wanted to join the group in order to increase family income for house hold food security.

The main activities delivered by the project to the women groups include; training of women on goat management; feed preservation, housing, identification and control of diseases, business and entrepreneurship skills among others. Groups undergo a series of capacity building initiatives including exposure visits for a period of 3-6 months and on graduation, the project supports each member of the group with one female goat, already cross bred with improved

Billy goat. All women interviewed strongly mentioned and affirmed that they have been trained and supported on the above aspects.

## 4.5 Empowerment

The following sections of the report present the main findings of the review. Analysis of the findings of the study presented reflects the information collected over the entire project area, in a coherent manner rather than by group. This was because the issues in the two districts (study areas) appear to be similar in many instances, would lead to repetitiveness. Citation of specific examples and cases studies from within the project supplement and enhance the easy understanding of the study findings.

### Participation

According to the interviews with project 6 staff (100%) stated that women were involved in all stages of the project (planning, implementation including monitoring and evaluation). On contrary only 10 women (33.3%) out of 30 women respondents agree that they were being consulted on all issues relating to the project and are involved in active decision making. 6 women (20%) feel they have not been involved as decisions are taken by few members (group leaders) and a majority of the respondents, 14 women (46.6%) feel that decisions on group activities are in the hands of group leaders with influence from project staff adding that they are only called to attend trainings or participate in group activity. The table 4.6 provides the summary of who takes decisions in the group as relayed by the respondents.

Table 4.6 Decisions on group activities

Who	Frequency N=10 (%)
By group members	10 (33.3%)
Decision by a few members (group leaders)	6 (20%)
Group leaders by influence of project staff	14 (46.6%)

Source: Own study 2010

The initial groups formed in 2002 (Nabokat) and 2004 (Loputuk) in particular have acquired project skills like management and control of goats, diagnosis, treatment and administration of drugs, characteristics of sick animals, safe keeping of goats, livestock feeding and production and preparation of supplementary feeds, as enumerated by the women interviewed in the two locations. They also extend their knowledge to the newly formed groups

#### **Box 4.2 Quote from discussions in Nabokat and Loputuk**

We trained on diseases, cutting and storing grass for dry season use. We also collect acacia seeds, pods and fruits for goats. Now we can treat the goats ourselves and only report strange cases to KADP. We also train newly formed groups in other project areas

According to the interviews with the women in Loputuk, the knowledge gained from participating in the project has made them reference points for advice at the community level. Women groups provide practical assistance and guidance to the local community livestock keepers on livestock management.

**Box 4.3 Sentiment from Chairperson Loputuk women group**

We offer vital health advice on diseases of goats and on the administration of drugs to sick animals to the rest of the community free of charge. We do not ask them to pay for our services because they are our people.

The project staff interviewed in Matheniko field office of KADP added that the project women have extended their skills to train newly formed project groups in other counties and that the project women involve in sensitizing other women in the community on appropriateness of goat rearing to women as a food shortage coping strategy

In an effort to be self-sustaining, the women interviewed in Nabokat group have taken it upon themselves to initiate income-generating activities to supplement any external financial and material support. In this respect therefore, the women groups have begun making and selling mineral block, salt lick to diversify their livelihoods and sustain them as groups. Women reported that it is not highly selling at the moment because of competition from the factory made one.

**Box 4.4 Excerpt from Interviews in Nabokat**

The supplementary feeds like stocking of hay, mineral blocks and salt licks we prepare has played significant role to both the community and us. The sick animals of other members of the community tethered around homes survive on these items. Sometimes we sell mineral blocks and salt licks at Naitakwae cattle market to get some money to buy some of the drugs we need.

In Tapac, one of the project sites, the women interviewed consider rearing of improved goats as a suitable initiative for them. Regardless of the demands it places on them, women consider goat keeping cheaper and sustainable in their mountainous location. Goats are browsers and easily adaptable to situations. According to the chairperson of Tapac group, care and maintenance of improved goats demands small attention and fewer resources. She acknowledged it is easier to provide supplementary feeds for goats than cows during times of stress.

**Decision making**

The 30 women interviewed and the rest of the community in the focus group discussion approve of the appropriateness of the project. The project has empowered the women to own livestock, which is normally a preserve of the men in the traditional situation. The project has given women power to possess livestock and is changing the traditional attitude of men. Below is a statement from one of the women on her experiences and challenges through the project.

**Box 4.5 Quotation from Nachuge Regina, Chairperson Nabokat women group.**

Inception phase of the project was a busy one. This was an intensive period involving undergoing training on goat management, disease control, making of hay for goats at the Breeding centre and exchange visits to other women groups rearing improved goats. My husband was dismayed that I had developed a habit of dodging domestic chores and he even threatened to stop me from participating in the project. My goats had multiplied in the Breeding centre. Nevertheless, when i brought better quality goats yielding more milk and better weight than the local breed home, my husband was surprised, excited and approved the project was a good initiative after all.

According to the women interviewed across the project area, the men can now consult the project women over sickness of livestock, for drugs, salt and mineral licks. Below is a statement recorded during interviews on men's attitude towards women.

**Box 4.6 Citation from Loputuk and Lojoor**

Some men have developed a positive attitude of us. They consult us over the sickness of their animals, the drugs and doses to administer. They also consult us to sell to them some of our goats for traditional sacrifices. They also request for our Boers to cross breed with their local goats. They respect and ask rather than just pick the goat on their own.

Women have claimed political positions in the local councils reportedly because of the repute they have earned from the project. Of the 30 women interviewed 4 of them hold executive positions in their village and sub county local councils.

## **4.6 Stakeholders**

The key stakeholders as mentioned by women and the staff include; women groups themselves, KADP, other food security groups (Cereal banks and Community animal health workers), local authorities (local councilors and elders), government departments especially veterinary department.

All the women interviewed acknowledged that they share responsibilities around the project, while others fetch water and collect supplementary feed, others herd the goats outside the village or make hay and salt licks and mineral blocks. Group members meet on a weekly basis; all the groups have chosen Saturdays for meetings to discuss issues relating to the group and management of their goats. They reported that even those women whose goats have died continue to participate in the group hoping to acquire another goat and begin all over again.

Interaction between the different women goat groups at the Programme level has been limited to trainings and exchange visits by the project. All the women interviewed affirmed that it is mainly during these workshops that members of the different groups shared experiences and challenges on the project. During these trainings, the pioneer groups took the lead as trainers for new groups. These meeting opportunities and continuous monitoring of the groups and

rendering of some livestock drugs to groups by KADP are becoming irregular, due to lack of funds, as pointed out by a project staff in Tapac.

The groups of Nabokat and Loputuk cordially relate with the local councilors and elders in their village. The local councillors and the men support and join women in tracking and recovering stolen goats.

**Box 4.7 Statement from a woman interviewed in Nabokat**

Our Local Councillors and men are now good. On one occasion when thieves stole our goats, they joined us to track until we recovered the animals. They are often concerned whenever animals wander some distance from the home.

From the interviews in Nabokat and Loputuk; women relayed that the relationship between them and government is almost non-existent compared to the past. The Chairperson of Nabokat women goat group highlighted that at the start of the groups, the veterinary department and doctors regularly visited the groups to monitor the progress of goats against diseases or monitor the feeding and management of treated goats. Today this surveillance visits had vanished.

**Box 4.8 Testimony from the women interviewed in Nabokat and Loputuk**

The motorcycle of the doctor was here every day checking the animals and discussing with us. Now the visits became seldom.

## **4.7 Food security**

Although each member of the group began with a single goat, the number of goats belonging to an individual soon rose to ten or more (table 4.7 below). The women interviewed in Nabokat say that the increase in the number of improved goats with good milk yield has enabled the households of women participating in the project to have milk for children throughout the year.

**Box 4.9 Excerpt from interviews in Nabokat**

Our children can afford to have a constant supply of milk even during the dry season. Our goats provide milk for rituals of naming children after birth when the rest of the livestock are far away from homes.

16 out of 30 women interviewed revealed the project has facilitated them to survive not only the effects of famine but has also helped them to meet the basic requirements of their families such as basic manufactured products, health and educational services for their children.

**Box 4.10 Excerpt from one of the women in Tapac**

I seriously fell sick and became bedridden for quite a long time. My friends as everyone else in the village knew I was going to die. My husband and son watched me waste away. One morning I asked the members to sell one of my goats. They brought me the money with which I went for treatment in Matany hospital. I would not have been there now if my improved goat had not been sold.

Table 4.7 below gives the estimated number of goats (improved and local) reared by the groups interviewed.

Table 4.7: Number of goats owned by women to date

Name of the group	Number of goats		Total	Average number of goats per person
	Improved	Local		
Nabokat	70	31	101	10
Lopotuk	45	34	79	7
Tapac	24	20	44	4
Kamaturu	18	15	33	3
Lojoor	20	17	37	3

Source: Own study 2010

According to the women interviewed in Lopotuk, the group acts as a team to help each other. They said they do market a goat of a member as a group. In an interview with the women in Lopotuk, they stated that the proceeds from the sale of the goat is not under the control of men, project women can use the money to purchase food for their household. The chairperson of the group stated that women who have participated in the project are better off than those who have not joined the group.

**Box 4.11 Extract from interviews in Lopotuk**

The goat project is our bonanza. It has saved us from many risks and problems. It is a big investment in our lives because we can sell some goats to buy food and whatever we want. We wish KADP extended this project to other parishes to help women in those areas too.

Table 4.8: Estimated sales over the last three years

Group	Number of goats sold	Range (Ushs)	Average price (Ushs)
Nabokat	30	60,000 - 80,000	70,000
Lopotuk	24	60,000 - 80,000	70,000
Tapac	10	50,000 - 60,000	55,000
Kamaturu	8	50,000 - 60,000	55,000
Lojoor	11	60,000 - 80,000	70,000

Source: Own study 2010

The reasons given for the variation in prices was market accessibility with Nabokat, Lopotuk and Lojoor located near livestock markets. The above prices are far above the prices of the typical local goats which prices range between 20,000-30,000 Uganda shillings

## 4.8 Constraints and challenges

### Constraints as perceived by the beneficiaries

Theft related to insecurity was highlighted by 25(83.3%) of the women interviewed in different project locations as their major constraint to their success. They cited that about 10 women belonging to different groups have not benefited fully from the project because their goats were stolen and were never recovered.

**Box 4.12 Selection from Nabokat, Loputuk, Kamaturu and Lojoor**

Our major threat is insecurity. Every thieves search the home for animals. They target our goats because they have weight. They steal them while grazing out or at the borehole. We bind these goats in the huts we sleep which greatly endanger us as well.

The dry spells not only make the preparation and attainment of supplementary feeds scarce, added the project women, but also brings in a number of strange and complicated livestock diseases, which are not easily recognized and managed. This has given leeway to diseases such *Lomuu* (sort of diarrhea), “Red Meat disease” and *Amil* (Causing blisters on the intestinal organs). ‘Stillbirths’ (premature) are also common among the improved goats raised by women groups.

**Box 4.13 Extract from Kamaturu and Nabokat**

During years of drought, it is hard to maintain these goats because of shortage of pastures. Once the stored hay is over, we have nothing else to give. Likewise, after much rain as it happened last year, the acacia trees fail to yield fruit, which is a common dry season auxiliary feed we give goats. We allow these goats to free graze and travel for pastures along with the rest in the village. What can we do?

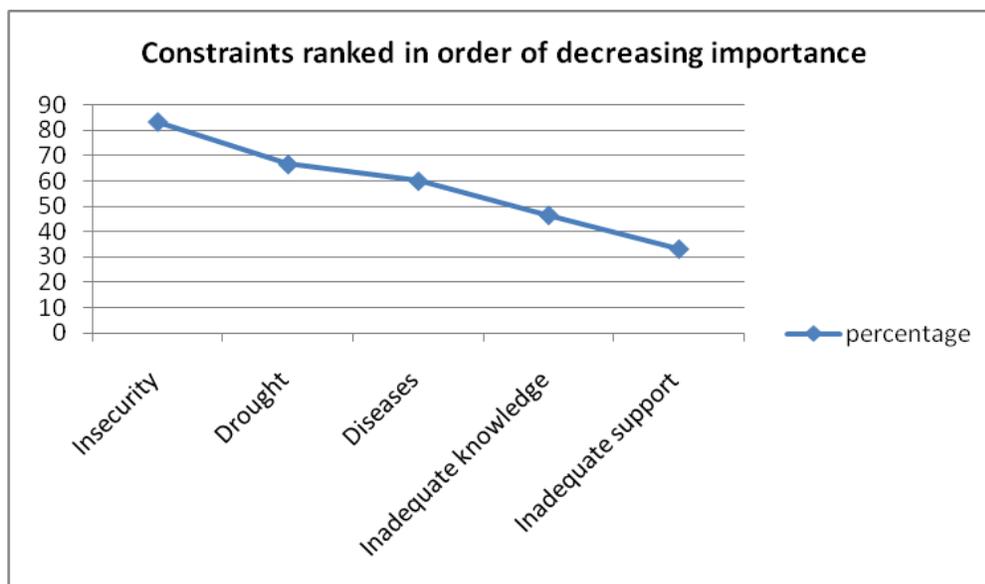
The women interviewed in Tapac and Lojoor, groups that were formed later cited that their level of knowledge to manage the goats is still low (citing complicated diseases above) and added that the support KADP has also reduced compared to the beginning of groups.

Table 4.9: Summary of constraints as perceived by the project beneficiaries

<b>Constraint/ problem</b>	<b>Number (N=30)</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Insecurity	25	83.3%
Drought	20	66.6%
Diseases	18	60%
Inadequate knowledge	14	46.6%
Inadequate support	10	33.3%

Source: Own study 2010

The table above shows constraints to the success of the project in order of decreasing importance as insecurity 25(83.3%), Drought 26(66.6%), Diseases 18(60%), inadequate knowledge and skills among the beneficiaries 14(46.6%) and inadequate support from KADP and other partners 10(33.3%)



**Figure 4.1 Community level constraints**

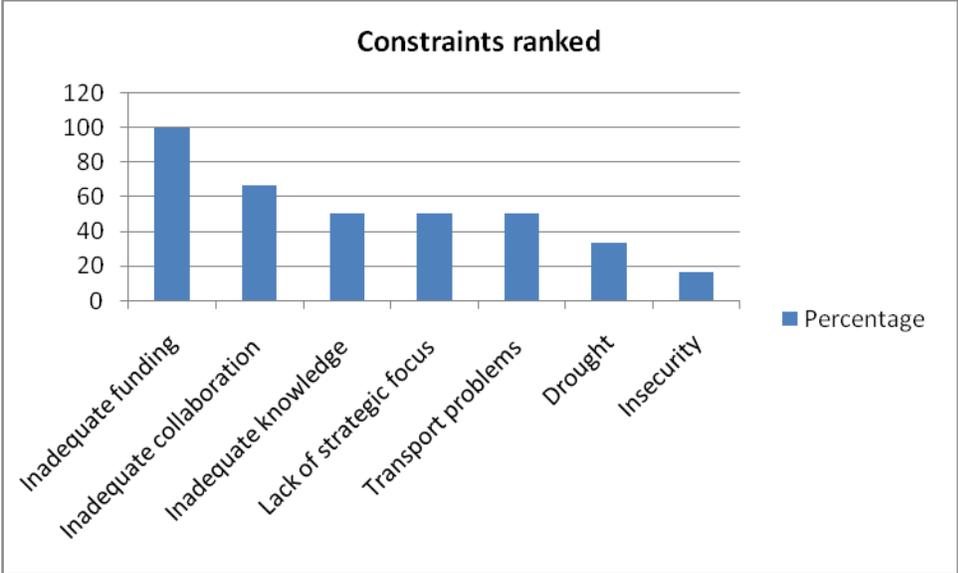
### Constraints as perceived by project staff

Whereas the beneficiaries ranked Drought and insecurity as major constraints, project staff did not look at these two as key constraints to the performance of the project. Inadequate funding 6(100%) was ranked as a major constraint to the success of the project, inadequate collaboration and coordination among stakeholders 4(66.6%). Other constraints namely; Inadequate knowledge among the project women to run the project especially the groups formed later (new), the lack of strategic focus on part of KADP in developing clear strategies for sustainability of the project and lastly, transport problems related to remoteness and rugged terrain especially to the mountainous areas; were all ranked at the same level 3(50%) by the staff interviewed

Table 4.10: Summary of constraints as perceived by project staff

Constraint	Number (N=6)	Percentage
Inadequate funding	6	100
Inadequate collaboration	4	66.6
Inadequate knowledge	3	50
Lack of strategic focus	3	50
Transport problems	3	50
Drought	2	33.3
Insecurity	1	16.6

Source: Own study 2010



**Fig 4.2: Project level constraints in a decreasing order**

## CHAPTER FIVE DISCUSSION

### 5.1 *Project implementation*

From the findings 15(50%) out of 30 respondent women joined the project in order to increase income for household food security. In an attempt to meet household needs for their families, from the data collected, it becomes evident that women are finding hardship in trying meet household needs for their families and have resorted in to other livelihoods sources such as collection of firewood for sale, burning of charcoal as provided (table 4.3). These findings concur with UNDP report that Karamoja presents a very worrying humanitarian situation and has the highest human poverty indices compared to other parts of the Country (UNDP 2007). Therefore, the strategy of the project to target women was a well thought idea as it will contribute to women livelihood improvement.

The project purpose seems to be delivered in meeting shortage of food during the dry season and years of extensive drought for the participating families. The project attempt to correct gender disparity and to strengthen the position of women in ownership, control and management of livestock resources; taking decision in the household; resiliently manage drought; and to diversify their means of livelihoods is also on its course. Women need this support in order to come out from the restraint highlighted by Hodgson (2000) that patriarchy in pastoral societies is excessive and ignore much of the power and influence that women can have. Quinsumbing *et al* (1995) in their study have pointed out that reduction in the gap between men and women as regards ownership of resources, decision making and control is necessary for attainment of food security.

On the other part the project operations today cannot be compared to the initial phase of the project. The project officer highlighted with regards to implementation that the project is underfunded (Box 4.1), there are a number of constraints related to implementation of the project (Table 4.10). The project seems to require more support at the moment, given the fact that development efforts such as these are very crucial in building resilience and coping mechanisms among women and will help reduce vulnerability and improve food security and the quality of life of the people. This goat project has already given some indicators of success.

### 5.2 *Empowerment*

#### **Participation**

A majority of project beneficiary respondents 14(46.6%) from the findings felt that decisions regarding project and group activities are highly influenced by project staff, This contrary to the collection from the staff who reported that women have been involved in all aspects of the project. Involvement in this case should not be about participating in already pre-planned activities but should be about enabling women to make choices. Hodgson (2000) has highlighted that livestock development projects fail partially because the roles of women are neglected in the planning process. The implication is that such groups can be highly dependent upon organization, unless there is follow up and material support, the sustainability is questionable. If groups are initiated and decisions are influenced by the beneficiaries themselves, there are higher chances of survival.

The positive point to note is that, the old project women have extended the skills acquired to the newly formed project groups (Box 4.2) and have provided practical assistance and guidance to the wider community on livestock management (Box 4.3). A report by Oxfam GB (2005: 7)

supports that women's empowerment is crucial because women have the same rights as men. This will make the world a better place and help us attain human development. From the findings, it seems that the project has registered success in the initial groups; Nabokat and Loputuk, although the support to the project groups seems to have declined gradually overtime.

Some useful examples to learn have been quoted from Nabokat women group as one self sustaining one. Their ability to initiate income-generating activities (Box 4.4) such as making and selling mineral block/ salt lick for livestock to supplement any external financial and material support as highlighted in the findings is an encouraging one. It provides clear opportunities for women to broaden their income base. This finding concurs with Buhl and Homewood (2000) that where men control the major sources of income, trading activities will provide an opportunity for women to control their own money. Although this undertaking has not registered much success, it is something to build on since the livestock keepers will take time to recognize the importance of organically made mineral substances and animal feeds. This degree of resilience if build, however, helps the women groups to diversify their livelihood options to boost household food security and makes them more dependable in the event of drought and famine. Any other groups in this similar situation can easily replicate this undertaking.

### **Decision making**

As noted in the findings (Box 4.5), the women can now own livestock, which is normally a preserve of the men in the traditional situation. They can now decide on disposal as well (Box 4.10 and 4.11). Women involvement in trade can be a good move towards elevating the position of women. Again Buhl and Homewood (2000) in their study support this finding that women involvement in trading activities and in this study, the marketing of livestock gives them an opportunity to control their own money and eventually engage in monetized economy. I also think change is gradually coming to pastoral communities, in terms of recognition of the important role of women, given the fact that men can now consult women on the sale of livestock compared to the past. When the men migrate in search of pasture during the dry spells, women have to manage the household. Tungka *et al* (2000) in their study have supported this with the argument that if animal species serve purposes that are within the domain of women's responsibilities, such as feeding the family, women will have greater influence on the decisions.

From the focus group discussions, men in the project areas recognize the women's contribution; the women support each other and they have supported the wider community. The finding in Box 4.6 indicates that men benefit directly from improved Billy goats (Boers, Sannen, Toggenburg) through cross breeding with their local breed goats, hence, giving women authority and recognition and from the findings on Box (4.3), women are dispatching animal health services to the wider community and therefore, are beginning to play an important role in livestock disease control in the community. The knowledge acquired by women as a result of the project supplements the work of community animal health workers (CAHWs). Indeed, Amare (2004) has highlighted the women CAHWs in Ethiopia have been found to be an entry point to pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities, they mobilise the communities for animal health services and participate in direct provision of services like treatment and vaccination of livestock. This is an indicator that women are beginning to influence decisions regarding livestock in the communities.

As result of the project, Women have had the opportunity to speak in public meetings in the community, an activity that has not been possible traditionally due to oppression and male

domination. The participation of four 4 out 30 women interviewed in local political positions is one very good indicator of empowerment since women are able to reach a wider audience.

### **5.3 Food security**

The project is of great significance to the participating women. Although each member of the group began rearing a single goat with the project support, the number of goats belonging to an individual in Nabokat group for example rose to average of ten as highlighted in the findings on table 4.7. Turner (1999) has supported that pastoralist women can play a role in raising goats and that since goats are always left behind during migration season, women have to manage them. Likewise the number of goats sold by women (table 4.8) is increasing and fetching relatively higher prices compared to the ordinary local goats owned by men. The fact that women can now sale goats themselves as well as taking decisions on proceeds from the sales is an indicator of household food security and welfare since part of the money can be used to buy food (Box 4.11) and for medical care (Box 4.10). Indeed, Quinsumbing *et al*, (1995) in their study argue that decision making and control are necessary if the pillars of food security i.e availability, access and nutritional food security are to be improved.

The project has supported the availability of milk to the household through the introduction of improved goats (Box 4.9), although this does not guarantee food security it can be recognized as an important contribution of the project to household food security and has demonstrated women efforts. Coppock *et al* (2006) in his studies in Northern Kenya has shown how women groups have managed to mitigate drought impacts through goat restocking and how they have supported each other for example in harvesting standing hay, managing milking herds, and supporting each other's children with milk.

### **5.4 Stakeholders**

The goat project is an aspect of the food security component of the programme of KADP. From the findings some form of networking exists between and within groups themselves and with KADP. Social networks are important for women to argument problems that affect their lives. Apparent link between women groups and other food security groups is lacking, ideally groups need to reinforce each other. For example Community animal health workers would be of great benefit to the women in disease treatment and control. In this scenario, the connection between the goat project and the rest of the food security initiatives is hard to perceive. Apparent link between these groups results from some members of one group belonging to another.

From the findings provided on (Box 4.8), the veterinary department was active during the inception phase of the project but the support seems to have ceased, other important stakeholders are not even mentioned by the beneficiaries. Government organs are very important to sustaining these initiatives because NGOs always run projects that are time bound, in such a case government should be in position to take over. Although some positive role of local councillors has been noted (Box 4.7), the groups seem needy for stakeholder support in augmenting this initiative. Coppock *et al* 2006 has emphasized the need to strengthening women groups and networks citing an example from Kenya were pastoral women groups support emergency needs of the community and how group efforts to mitigate drought impacts have evolved overtime.

Social networks can add energy and motivation to group members through social support and solidarity. From the above analysis, it is important that understand how they work, their roles, the key stakeholders and their roles and their influence in the community as well as constraints surrounding their progress.

## **5.5 Constraints and Challenges**

### **Community level constraints**

In an effort to promote and maintain the improved goats, women face numerous challenges and constraints that threaten and continue to undermine the effectiveness of the project;

Relentless insecurity was highly ranked by the project beneficiaries 25(83.3%) across the project areas as a major problem to the rearing of improved goats, Inhospitable climate inform of dry spells or drought 20(66.6%) in the project areas has inflicted additional misery to women groups, while livestock diseases 18(60%) add another dimension. This finding has been supported by Johnson and Anderson, (1988) that pastoralism has long proven unstable; its societies exist in the shadow of drought, disturbance, and disease. The disease situation has worsened due to lack of veterinary services and KADP/Breeding centre surveillance support to the project groups being less.

### **Project level constraints**

According to all the staff interviewed, inadequate fund to service the project 6(100%) was ranked as a serious constraint and challenge to implementation of the activities of the project. Funds and material resources are needed for maintenance of the breeding centre, purchase of equipment, goats and transport, amongst others. The lack of this support contributes to the ineffectiveness of the staff and women groups in advancing the cause of project especially in their communities. Absence of funds have paralyzed visits by the veterinary doctors to inspect the condition of improved goats, training of women on disease management and drug administration, exchanges and joint planning meetings for women groups. Women groups are solely dependent on the support provided by KADP.

Inadequate collaboration and coordination 4(66.6%) with other key stakeholders was sighted as one of the key constraint to the effectiveness of women groups. It is clear from the findings that the groups do not get adequate support from government technical department such as veterinary services (Box 4.8) and community development; this will continue to undermine the strength of this initiative. Although some form of collaboration has been reported between the women groups and local councils but this is only limited to tracking stolen goats (Box 4.7) and not in planning, resource and information sharing which could help the women to build confidence among themselves in fostering this initiative.

Inadequate knowledge among the project beneficiaries to sustain the project is another critical challenge. Their effort to promote the rearing of improved goats is constrained by the lack of adequate skills and knowledge 3(50% of the respondents) essential to the attainment of such goals. Considering that women are more vulnerable to face multiple problems within the community such as ethnic conflicts, poverty and domestic violence amongst others, it is only prudent that a multitalented approach backed by multiple skills and competences effectively need to be applied to solve such problems. The review findings indicate that women from the assessment areas are lacking essential and core skills to manage the goats, business and conflict.

The lack of strategic focus 3(50%) in terms of systematic goals and objectives on the part of the project has posed a serious constraint to the effectiveness of the goat project according to the project staff. The women notwithstanding their inadequate skills, training, financial and material resources have over time assumed a wide range of functions and roles in an attempt to sustain the project. While this is positive on the side of women commitment, the project lacks an exit strategy to hand over the project so that the women can take on the project themselves.

Transport difficulties 3(50%) are yet another constraint and challenge faced by the staff mainly because of the rugged terrain, remoteness and undeveloped infrastructure. Assessment findings indicate that this situation undermines the effectiveness of staff in the sense that it limits the frequency of interaction between them and the different project groups. The groups benefiting from the project are also distant from each other, thus, worsening the transport problem on the side of implementers. Transport difficulties will also affect movement within project women and greatly hinders the sharing of initiatives.

The top ranked constraints by the project beneficiaries' i.e insecurity (83.3%) and drought (66.6%) were ranked lowest by the project staffs, which indicate that constraints occur at every level of the project and therefore should be tackled at different levels.

## **CHAPTER SIX CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Conclusions**

There are many initiatives in Karamoja that attempt to address food deficiencies at household level. KADP in this case started a pilot goat project targeting women; combining empowerment of women in resource ownership with diversification of sources of incomes to ensure availability of the basic food needs of the household. It can be said that so far the project has made a positive impact in the pilot communities. The women received goats, attended trainings to manage improved goats and are now able to manage goats, and use them to meet their household needs. The quality of the livestock managed by the project women groups are better than those that are communally reared by men.

Much of the project success has been registered in the first groups to be formed (Nabokat and Loputuk) in that women are getting recognition from men and can sell goats to meet household needs. The groups that were started later (Tapac, Kamaturu and Loojor) still have limited skills and capacity to fully benefit from the project. The project initially enjoyed adequate funding than it is at the moment. It can be concluded that funding support is still crucial to the success of this project given the fact that women groups have not reached a level where they can sustain themselves.

The active participation of women in the goat project has yielded fruit as demonstrated by the number of goats owned and managed by project women as shown on table 4.7 of the findings, women can now use goats to attend to their basic household needs. From these findings it can be concluded that the project is meeting the purpose for its formation in addressing food security and gender equality among the pilot women groups.

From the findings provided on Box 4.6; where women can now be consulted over the sickness of their animals and on the drugs and doses to administer, the community have also consulted women to cross breed their local goats with improved ones owned by the women groups. Project women can make decisions on disposal of goats to meet household food and other needs (Box 10 and 11). From the above findings, it can be concluded that there is change in perception about women ownership and control including decisions regarding disposal of goats within project beneficiaries compared to the traditional arrangement where women are allocated livestock by the husband but stay without rights to dispose it at the time of need. This project therefore, if accelerated can have the potential to supporting women in household food security.

Information obtained on project stakeholders shows that there is wide information – knowledge gap on the project. The women groups themselves, with other food security associations (cereal banks and CAHWs). It is also important the District local government (Veterinary department and sub county administration), community based organizations, and NGOs among others, working in the project area are not playing their active part in supporting the project in a bid to help it to sustain itself.

Consequently, the project does not have a clear exit strategy to enable women take on and sustain the project. Apparently, it can be concluded that the women groups are still heavily dependent on KADP as the major donor of financial and material resources, goats, training and technical advice etc. Transition of women groups from dependency to self-sustainability is still a process far from achievement and remains a challenge to all stakeholders (KADP, communities, and local governments), and the project women as well.

The successes of the project highlighted in the findings Box 4.9; provision of milk to the household and in Box 4.11; women able to sell goats to purchase household needs, it can be concluded that the project in spite of the challenges that it faces (Table 9 and 10) can become an effective alternative strategy to managing household food inadequacies, diversifying sources of income and empowering women socially and economically. If supported, the project can play an important role in fostering socio economic transformation and development of the rural areas especially among women.

## **6.2 Recommendations**

This section of the report outlines the recommendations to KADP for improvement of the goat project intervention;

KADP needs to conduct a joint strategic planning process for women of the goat project in the programme areas and develop clear exit strategies and should point towards supporting women groups to transit from a position of dependency to one of self-sustenance.

In the same way KADP and other stakeholders should offer technical support to the project women in initiating income-generating activities. This technical support should take the form of training in enterprise development, basic financial record keeping and resource mobilization skills.

KADP needs to support coordination and collaboration efforts within groups and link project groups to other key stakeholders within the project locations and government for other support.

Women groups supported by the project need to share their experiences in order to benefit from the initiatives in a more systematic manner for dissemination and knowledge sharing purposes for example lessons from Nabokat women group need to be documented for replication in other locations. For this to succeed KADP should provide technical support in the form of specific documentation, accompanied by regular requests for reports on group activities. There is also need to formalise the groups' in order to increase a sense of ownership and responsibility among them.

The project is appropriate and thus needs to be revitalized. There is need to inject adequate finances into the activity to support the growing demands for the expansion of the project and challenges encountered. This needs to be done by either increasing the project budget line or seeking alternative funding to supplement the existing budget.

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# APPENDICES

## Appendix I: Questionnaire for interviewing Project Beneficiaries

<p>1. Information about the respondent</p> <p>(i) Name of respondent .....</p> <p>(ii) Address .....</p> <p>(iii) Age .....</p> <p>(iv) Sex .....</p> <p>(v) Education .....</p> <p>(vi) Main occupation .....</p> <p>(vii) Group Name .....</p> <p>(viii) Position held in the group.....</p>
<p><b>2. Project implementation</b></p> <p>i) How did you know about the project?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>ii) When did you join the group .....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>iii) How many members are currently in your group?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>iv) What motivated you to join the group?</p> <p>.....</p>
<p><b><u>Consultation</u></b></p> <p>i) How was the community/ men involved in the project right from the beginning/ proposition of this project?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>ii) How was the consultation done?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>iii) What were the actual needs of women towards meeting HH food security?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>iv) In your view does the project address the needs of women mentioned above? Yes...No..... If yes what needs are addressed by the project?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>v) Who decided on activities to be delivered by the project?</p> <p>.....</p>
<p><b><u>Deliverables</u></b></p> <p>i) What specific activities were delivered by this project to you as an individual and/or group?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>ii) Are you able to put into practice some of the skills and knowledge acquired with support from the project? Yes....No.....</p>

If yes, how?

If No, what are the limiting factors?

iii) What major activities are you running independently as an individual or as a group after this project support?

iv) What actual benefits have you realized from participating in project and/or group activities?

v) Are you prepared to continue with these activities after the project period? Yes.....No.....  
If yes, how?

vi) What challenges do you face as an individual and/or a group in relation to this project?

**Stakeholders and Information**

i) What kind of information regarding the project do you regularly get?

ii) Where do you get this information?

iii) Do you exchange/ share information with other groups/people? Yes.....No.....  
If yes, what kind of information?

iv) Has information been useful to you? Yes.....No.....  
If yes, how?

v) How can information sharing and dissemination be improved?

**3. Decision making**

i) How did your role in decision making at HH/ Community level change as a result of this project?, specify the decisions taken by women?

ii) How has the relationship between women and men changed now compared to the situation before? Please specify exactly what has changed as a result of the project?



## Appendix II: Questionnaire for Project staff

### 1. Personal profile of the respondent:

- (i) Name of staff .....
- (ii) Address .....
- (iii) Age .....
- (iv) Sex .....
- (vi) Job title .....
- (vii) Number of years/ months with the project .....

### 2. Contextual issues

- i) Did the Organization conduct a baseline survey prior to the introduction of the project?  
Yes.....No.....

If yes, what were the critical issues raised from the baseline survey?

.....

- ii) What was the influence of local communities in deciding on goats as the main focus of this project?

.....

- iii) Who were the main players in this project?

.....

### 3. Implementation

- i) Which needs of the beneficiaries are answered by this project?

.....

- ii) What were the main objectives of the project?

.....

- iii) Why did the project choose to work with groups?

.....

- iv) What is the group size?.....

- v) Which initial activities were organized before group formation?

.....

- vi) Who decides on group activities?

.....

How is it conducted?

.....

.....  
vii) Which other activities are delivered by the project to this area that reinforces the goat project?  
.....  
.....

viii) What changes do you observe in the situation of the target group since the introduction of the project?  
.....  
.....

ix) Which sustainability and exit strategies are in place?  
.....  
.....

x) What challenges does the project face in delivering the project to the target groups?  
.....  
.....

## **Appendix III: Focus Group Discussion Guide**

### CHECKLIST

The following areas of inquiry will be explored during focus group discussions:

- (i) Discussions on the livelihoods and food security and whether this project is important and a timely intervention
- (ii) Understand the contribution of women to Household food security as a result of this project
- (iii) Perception of the general community, what has changed as a result of this intervention
- (iv) Understand challenges facing the project at community level



## Appendix V: Photos



Photo: Regina Nachuge, Chairperson of Nabokat women group. She now owns more than 15 goats with support from the project



Photo: Boer goat owned by the Tapac women group



Photo: Group meetings enhance cohesion among members

*Extract from the project file, Nabokat women group*



Photo: Focus Group Discussion in Nadunget, Moroto