



ICPALD



Sweden  
Sverige

# Gender Analysis and Mainstreaming into SEM Project Implementation Study Report



**Sustainable Ecosystem  
Management Project  
August –September 2023**

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## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ICPALD.....	IGAD Center for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development
KII.....	Key Informant Interview
FGD.....	Focus Group Discussion
SIDA.....	Swedish International Development Agency
SEM.....	Sustainable Ecosystem Management
IGAD.....	Intergovernmental Authority on Development

## Executive Summary

The analysis was intended to support gender equality mainstreaming within the ICPALD project sites and particularly the Sustainable Ecosystem Management Project (SEM). The overall objective of this project is to contribute to improve the participation and leadership of women in the project.

The analysis aimed at determining the existence of possible gender inequalities and gaps within Kaabong District, Karamoja Cluster, Uganda; Kapoeta East, Eastern Equatorial State, South Sudan and Kurmuk District, Benishangul Gumuz Region, Ethiopia. These areas are predominantly pastoral and agro-pastoral communities. Further, the analysis aimed to examine the roles and responsibilities of men and women in different aspects of reproductive, productive and community areas such as workload, division of responsibilities, management and decisions regarding expenditures, and participation in community activities. Additionally, the role of children at household and community level and their strategic and immediate needs within the framework of the SEM project were investigated.

The analysis shows that the workload at household and community levels varies between men, women, boys and girls. Women's workload resulted in being higher than men's for all the months of the year in Kaabong and Kurmuk districts, while in Kapoeta east, it is dependent on the season. During the migration season, the triple burden of work for women significantly reduces. Despite this, women's contribution and roles appear to not be adequately recognized such as decision-making on major family spending and purchases, participation in community activities, and leadership. In relation to the control of household assets, properties are mostly recognized by the husband's name. This imbalance can influence women's bargaining power and vulnerability in their homes and communities. The analysis has shown that there should be efforts to mainstream gender throughout the project cycle management of SEM including during implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The strategic and immediate needs of women as it relates to SEM as well as other interventions in the project sites needs to be considered in interventions.

# Introduction and Background

IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) signed a three-year project on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) on Sustainable Ecosystem Management (SEM) for pastoralism in cross-border areas of the IGAD region. The goal of the project is to enhance the resilience of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihoods through sustainable management and the use of shared rangelands in cross-border areas of the IGAD region. After a scoping mission conducted by ICPALD staff between January- February 2023, the cross-border areas of Kapoeta East County (South Sudan)-Kaabong District (Uganda) and Benishangul-Gumuz Region (Ethiopia)-Blue Nile State (Sudan) were selected as project implementation areas which correspond to the shared ecosystem and transhumance routes.

The project is being implemented by ICPALD in close collaboration and in partnership with relevant government ministries, other nongovernmental organizations, and within communities, with the aim of enhancing the resilience of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist livelihoods and thereby accelerating sustainable economic and social development for the poor and marginalized especially women and youth.

The project focuses on the following five objectives:

1. To build knowledge and understanding about the status of shared rangelands in those-border areas to support sustainable management,
2. To enhance feed and fodder availability for men and women pastoralists and agro-pastoralists through regulated use and management of shared rangelands in cross-border areas,
3. To diversify livelihoods for men and women pastoralists and agro-pastoralists through sustainable production and use of wild and domesticated rangelands products (gum and resin, Aloe vera, etc.) and other enterprises,
4. To support research that informs sustainable rangeland ecosystem and pastoral resilience, and
5. To improve governance of transhumance routes and wildlife corridors in cross-border areas.

## The State of Gender Equality in the Region

IGAD has put in place several institutional documents for gender analysis and gender mainstreaming in different divisions. Among many institutional documents, a Regional Gender Equality Strategy 2023-2030 designed to enable IGAD, its member states and other development actors to respond cohesively to current regional priorities. As a complement to many other IGAD regional policy documents, the Regional Gender Strategy is intended to promote coherence and improve the efficiency of gender-responsive and transformative programming within IGAD as an institution and Member States' interventions. The strategy supports developing an array of approaches and methodologies to promote gender equality as well as to understand the different interactions or synergies in gender transformative programming and is aligned with the IGAD Regional Strategy 2021-2025.

IGAD has also put in place the IGAD Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit for different Divisions. This toolkit provides specific tools on how to mainstream gender in different IGAD Divisions.

However, the gap in gender equality persists in all areas of men and women. In the ICPALD project intervention sites, the community is predominantly pastoralist and agropastoral. Men own and look after cattle not only for dairy products but also for meat production and sale. Although women play a critical role in livestock production it is often not recognized. Women's access and control over livestock production in the region is also limited due to gender inequality and structural biases. Women are often associated with small ruminants (sheep and goats), poultry and to a certain extent Pigs while men rear cattle and camels.<sup>1</sup>

Making progress towards gender equality is key to meeting IGAD's overall development goal of 'Transformation towards sustainable development, resilience and stability in the IGAD Region' and responds to all the region's stubborn drivers of poverty and inequality i.e. climate change, political and economic shocks. At the same time, even though women make important contributions to household livelihoods and rural economies, and they play a vital role in domestic care and participating in their communities,

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<sup>1</sup> Masinde 2024, Formation of IGAD Regional Strategy and Medium-term Implementation plan 2016-2020, Baseline Studies at the National Level for IGAD Priority Sectors, State of Gender Affairs Kenya

for women to reach their full potential and to attain global food security, several persistent gender gaps and barriers need to be removed.

Women's role is yet to be promoted in access to and control over land, finance, decision making, training and information, and other productive inputs. Just as importantly, the ways that social norms and institutions, governing frameworks and markets explicitly or implicitly constrain women must be understood and sufficiently addressed.

## Main Objective

The main objective of the study is to ensure that men, women, boys, and girls have equal access, benefits, and participation in the ICPALD project especially Sustainable Ecosystem Management (SEM) interventions through gender mainstreaming informed by gender analysis.

## Specific Objectives

- Examine role profiles of the community through Focused Group Discussion (FGD) in Kapoeta East (South Sudan), Kaabong (Uganda) and Benishangul Gumuz (Ethiopia)
- Assess access to resources and control profiles of the community to understand the economic and political situation of women in Kapoeta East, Kaabong and Benishangul Gumuz
- Explore influencing factors including perceptions of the community towards productive roles of women, attitudes of the community towards roles and responsibilities, access and control over resources as well as examine structural enablers and barriers of gender equality.
- Identify immediate and strategic gender roles in management of shared communal resources in Kapoeta, Kaabong and Benishangul Gumuz

## Location of the Analysis

The Gender Analysis was conducted in the selected cross-border areas of Kapoeta East County in South Sudan, Kaabong District in Uganda and Benishangul-Gumuz Region in Ethiopia.



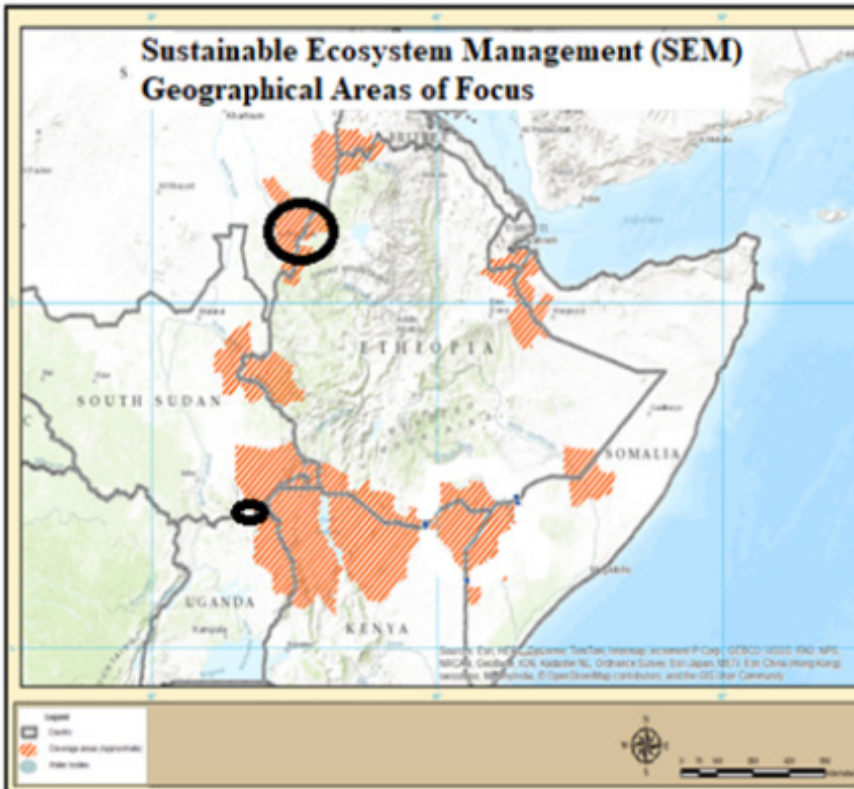


Figure 1: Project Sites Map

## Methodology

Methodologically, the gender analysis used both Harvard and Moser frameworks and focused on identifying immediate and strategic needs of men and women as well as addressing them during project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The result of gender analysis purposes to inform programme interventions towards proposed activities based on the findings, including gender related and other activities.

The analysis employed a qualitative and evidence-based research. The qualitative approach was considered suitable with respect to clarifying, interpreting and to a certain degree, explaining the phenomenon being examined -based approach, a wide range of information and facts were obtained empirically and analytically during the field research. In terms of data collection, the analysis adopted both primary and secondary data collection methods. The secondary data collection employed an extensive desk review which was used to bridge the knowledge gap in the literature



while primary data collection was used to fill the knowledge gap identified in the literature reviewed.

Primary data was collected empirically during the field research in Kapoeta East in South Sudan; Kaabong district in Uganda and Benishangul-Gumuz region, Ethiopia. Primary data was obtained using qualitative tools including Key informant interviews (KIIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and observation. Real time photos were also collected, upon consents received from the informants and their children.

## In-depth/Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)

The consultant conducted institution based Key informant interviews (KIIs) using semi structured interview guides that was flexible to extract as much information as possible. In Benishangul Gumuz Region, Ethiopia, comprehensive data was obtained through one-on-one in-depth interviews with government institutions including Government as Women and Social Affairs District Office, District Agriculture Office, District Water and Energy Office, District Administrative Office, District Health Office, Non-Governmental Organizations including the Low Land Livelihood Resilience Project, academic and research institutions such as Assosa University.

These stakeholders were selected because their insights and experiences were considered vital for this study. The purpose of In-depth/ Key Informant Interviews provided deeper knowledge and evidence on some of the key issues on gender. For this sampling, both purposive and snowball sampling methods were used to identify appropriate and available respondents.



Figure 2: Bureau District Office, Kurmuk

## Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

Each Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) consisted of an average of 10 to 20 respondents. Considering the cultural situation, a separate group discussion of only female and only male groups was conducted. The number of FGDs were selected by the project focal points in the target cross border areas. The FGDs were carried out in the local language, and arrangements were made for any persons with special needs such as deaf persons as needed.

In Benishangul Gumuz Region, Ethiopia, FGD's were conducted with district government offices and two groups from each of the Kebeles. Each community FGD included 20 persons per group with 10 being female members of the community.



Figure 3: Akendeyu Village FGD

## Observation

While conducting the field visits, the team observed how women and men interacted, how they perceive ICPALD projects in terms of gender sensitivity, inclusion and equality among others.

## Ethical Considerations

During the data collection process, the team discussed about the background of the analysis with the Mr. Musa, Bureau Head of Agriculture at Kurmuk, the District Administrative Office, in Kaabong district Office and the County Executive Director in Kapoeta East County, Mr. Ating Gai. The offices allowed the analysis to be conducted. The consultant documented using photographs from the community upon receiving consents as well as

conducted the FGDs with the consent and agreement from the community. The consultant and interpreters made the objective of the analysis clear to the government officials, CSOs and the Community members before embarking upon any of the interviews and FGDs. The consultant ensured that all groups' members both men and women were able to express their opinion equally. People with disabilities were not found in the FGDs and KII. Mechanisms to guarantee gender inclusion and cultural sensitivity, respect for the autonomy of respondents and the principle of do no harm were all well thought of and incorporated.

## **Limitation of the Analysis**

One of the limitations is the scope of the analysis was the inaccessibility of the Sudan border in Benishangul Gumuz region. Initially, the Sudan side of the border was included in the analysis to understand the role, access and control of resources and rangeland use and management and to clearly understand the resource constraints of the Sudan pastoralist that forced them to cross the border to Ethiopia during the dry season; identify possible sustainable solutions that would enable them to inhabit in their own place with resourceful rangeland for them and their animals. The consultant was able to conduct KII and FGD's with relevant stakeholders on the Ethiopian side only.

## **Detailed Analysis**

In the target project sites where the gender analysis was conducted, the division of tasks between men and women on agricultural production and marketing of products revealed that most activities were done by both men and women. Additionally, women cultivated and marketed vegetables, ran small business, and handled household chores.

The results on the division of task on productive, unpaid domestic (reproductive) and socio-political activities, access to and control over resources including land and natural resources and benefits; and practical and strategic needs by gender, focus group findings and key informant interviews and there are discussed below:

### Roles Profile

Kurmuk District hosts a population of about 10,000 refugees as mentioned by the Head of Bureau in Kurmuk from Sudan and South Sudan. Most of the community practice gold mining. Few numbers of the community are semi pastoralist and small holder farmers. The community practices traditional agricultural production system of crop production which is labor intensive. Traditional farming like other parts of the country is not fully practiced. The farmers use donkeys and horses for ploughing and transporting of goods.



*Figure 4: Kebele Manager's Office*

The animal population registered was estimated to be approximately 19,000 goats, 23,000 chicken and 2,000 sheep in 2022. The number of animals has significantly decreased over years due to animal diseases such as trypanosomiasis and currently only 160 cows exist in the district according to the KII conducted and the District Agricultural Office. The community does not have sufficient access to modern farming and animal husbandry technology. The quantity of food produced using the traditional method is not enough for the community resulting to food shortage in the district. It was also observed that feminization of poverty persists due to unequal access and control over existing small resources.

The FGD with government line officials depicted that women in Kurmuk District are involved in productive, reproductive and community works. They handle productive activities including; gold mining, farming, goat and

poultry production and management and small and informal trade as well as the reproductive activities that include taking care of children, cooking, cleaning, fetching water, collecting firewood that are solely handled by women and girls. The FGDs further revealed that men were mostly involved in farming, garden fencing, gold mining, religious leadership in mosques and churches. The KII and FGD also noted boys as being responsible for herding animals, assisting their fathers in farming and gold mining. The FGD community members reported that in general, women bore the brunt of productive and reproductive roles as well as community works compared to men. They agreed that trade was carried out by both men and women. Women's trade focus on selling fruits, vegetable, and chicken while men involved in producing and selling construction materials including sand and stone as well as livestock such as goats. Elderly men are involved in producing baskets, beds from bamboo while elderly women are responsible for taking care of small children while their mothers go for gold mining, farming and home gardening.

Regarding with community work such as preparing weddings, religious ceremonies, holidays, and funerals, women play the traditional roles including cooking, cleaning, washing dishes and hospitality, while men get involved in construction of tents and slaughtering animals for the celebration. Men are predominantly involved in leading celebrations, conflict negotiations when such instances happen between community members while women are majorly responsible for cooking, guest reception and hospitalities.

Both the FGDs and KIIs indicated the presence of men and women with disabilities in the district, who mostly stay at home and are taken care of by their family members due to absence of training, limited awareness of the community and lack of access to education among others.

## **Access to Rangelands**

During dry season, Sudanese pastoralists cross the border between Sudan and Ethiopia to Kurmuk District to access water and grazing land. It is estimated that approximately 10,000 pastoralists (15% women and children) cross the Ethiopian border. During the FGDs community members reported that the number of livestock crossing the borders each year was not known but large number of animals crossed.

Both the KII and FGDs portrayed that the movement of pastoralists from Sudan had pros and cons. Some of the key disadvantages reported during FGDs included; the spread of transboundary animal diseases, environment degradation, damaging of ponds used as source of water for animals, deforestation, and crop damage. Although they contribute positively to the cross-border trade, the community also reported that food price increased during their stay in Kurmuk. Due to limited water during the dry season in the district, the large number of livestock coming to the district significantly affected access to the existing scarce water. The community noted on the lack of access to training and awareness raising on rangeland use and management. Both the Sudanese transhumant and Ethiopian semi-pastoralists practice the traditional animal production system with most of the milk processed to make butter (churning) by women. It was also noted that both men and women collect firewood and sell it to the local community to sustain their livelihoods.

## Access and Control Over Resources

Both the FGDs and KII depicted that men had more access to employment in government, non-governmental organizations and private employment opportunities compared to the number of women due to limited women's access to higher education, early marriage, household chores, structural barriers; deep entrenched social norms against the subordinate position of women, in the community, government structures, religious beliefs, gender based violence and limited awareness of the community towards gender equality. Few women in the community are self-employed who carry out small trades such as coffee and tea shops.

According to national laws, land is jointly owned by the husbands and wives, however, farmland and crops are controlled by men. FGDs depicted that livestock ownership and management is traditionally given to men. Thus, men are entitled to buy and sell livestock with or without women consenting. However, women own and control traditional chicken production at home.

## Access to Social Services

According to the FGD and KII, out of the 19 Kebeles in Kurmuk District, there are eight primary schools and three high schools. Female students drop out of school after elementary education due to accessibility. Parents



do not send their girl child to distant Kebeles to join high school due to gender-based violence, economic problems and lack of transportation hence contributes to high drop out of school and early marriages.

There are three health centers and 19 health posts, one in each Kebele staffed with one medical doctor for the whole District. The health posts are not staffed with medical doctors and medical equipment. Majority of the community members seek better treatment services in Assosa.

Women do not have sufficient access to reproductive health and during pregnancy, it is difficult to get access to medical support and most women deliver their children at home. Complicated health issues remain untreated unless they travel to Assosa for medical attention.

Both FGD and KII showed that there is animal health service across the district kebeles, with nine veterinary clinics. However, these clinics do not have sufficient facilities and consumables. Due to limited awareness, the community treat their animals at home using traditional medicine. During KII with the District Health Office and District Agriculture Office, trypanosomiasis was mentioned as the most prevalent animal disease in cattle and highly susceptible to the disease with poor response to treatment. It was reported that the current prevention technology involves using chemicals (Deltamethrin 1%, Isomethmedium chloride 125 mg and Diminazine diacetate) that is dangerous for the environment that the experts disapprove of it.



Figure 5: Akendeyu FGD



## Access to Financial Institutions

It was reported by FGD respondents that the financial management system is inadequate in Kurmuk due to lack of a saving mechanism. Both the KII and FGDs showed that except for cooperatives, there were no other financial institutions such as banks. Most men travelled to Assosa to access banking services while majority of the community members particularly women did not travel to Assosa for banking. Formal cooperatives are available in Kurmuk District, however, the FGD and KII indicated that most community members who were not organized into income generating activity groups did not use cooperatives for saving. Some of the respondents of the FGD stated that the reason community members did not use cooperatives for saving was due to the cooperatives running out of liquid cash hence unable to withdraw whenever required. The respondents further stated that the absence of banks in the district exposed the community to extravagance and lacked adequate financial management as people opted to use the money deposited at home instead of saving it.

## Access to Development Cooperatives and Income Generating Opportunities

The Lowland Livelihood Resilience Project, a CSO in collaboration with the district government has been implementing a livelihood project by organizing the community into groups. The groups are established consisting of youth, men, and women. The groups are called common interest groups (CIG). The CIG's have homogeneous groups of women, men and women youth groups and mixed men. The groups income generating activities include apiculture, goat production, poultry production and gold mining. Some of the groups involved in these have been successful in generating income to improve their livelihoods despite some challenges with the goat production where goats were brought from a different agroecology (Assosa) that affected the productivity.



Figure 6: Akendeyu FGD

## Study Site 2: Kapoeta East County

Kapoeta East County is in Eastern Equatoria State, the Republic of South Sudan. It borders Kapoeta North County, Kapoeta South County and Budi County to the west and Jonglei State (Pibor County) to the north. It also borders Ethiopia to the east and Kenya and Uganda to the south. The county falls within the south-eastern semi-arid pastoral livelihoods zone. Most of the clan inhabitants in Kapoeta East are the Toposa people. The Toposa community are primarily cattle-keepers, but also herd sheep and goats. Small scale crop farming is also practiced, but on a smaller scale compared to other counties in the state. The most popular crop produced is white sorghum as it grows fast with small pattern rain.

There have been frequent clashes between the Toposa and Buya over cattle in greater Kapoeta and competition over water and pasture has been the primary driver of these conflicts. Food insecurity has remained constant in Kapoeta East. the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) classified the county at Crisis (Phase 3) level in 2016 and it remains in this classification in the IPC's 2022 projections. In November 2022, the IPC projected the county as being at a crisis (IPC level 3) level of food insecurity, with conditions projected to persist at the same level until March 2023, consequently they were predicted to decline to emergency levels (IPC level 4) between April and July 2023.

Kapoeta East is the county with the second largest population in Eastern Equatorial State with an estimated total population of 163,997 out of which

82,977 are female and according to the County Executive Director, H.E Mr. Oting Gait with a population growth of 6% each year. The county has its headquarters at Narus near the border with Kenya.



*Figure 7: Kapoeta East County- KII, District Staff*

In Kapoeta East County, KII were conducted with government departments and CSOs as well as FAO and two FGD's with the community members. KIIs were conducted with county officials from agriculture, youth, water and gender. According to information from the office of the executive director, and KII with line government departments, out of the total of the 7-line government departments, only one department was headed by a female staff.

## **Role Profiles**

The role of women in Kapoeta East County include cultivating, fetching water, child caring, and cooking. In Toposa and Buya communities, women are expected to construct their homes, grind white sorghum, milk cattle, collect wooden polls for homes construction even when they are pregnant. Looking after children and elders are also roles played by women. Women travel long distances to collect firewood and travel up to 4 hours in search of water due to absence of sufficient water points in nearby villages.



Figure 8: Narus, Lopua FGD'S

The roles played by men in the community include animal herding, fencing, defending family and his clan, going to war, leading religious activities, defending the family, fencing gardens. Men also decide on the time and location of movement during dry season and women will either follow their husbands or stay at home taking care of children and elders. Children are also expected to support their parents in certain activities. Girls support their mothers in cultivating, farming, and household chores while boys assist their fathers in animal herding, moving during dry season, fencing gardens. Elderly women and men also play roles in their community. Female elders' role is limited to garden cultivating, taking care of small babies, and preparing girls for marriage while male elders prepare wooden water tank for animal watering, serve as clan and religious leaders and play the important role of conflict resolution. In the Toposa community of Kapoeta East, animals are used for milking and meat while animal skin (goats and sheep)/ hide (cattle) is used for artcraft, clothing and garments where older men and women are mostly responsible to make clothing and garment. Among Toposa community, animals are the source of pride and mostly used for dowry payment. Selling animals is not common in the community as possessing large number of animals is source of respect, pride, and social status.

## Access and Control Profiles

The Toposa community being pastoralists usually herd, cows, goats, and sheep. Small scale agriculture is practiced where they grow sorghum. The community land is usually used by women after men clears it for crop production where they grow sorghum and maize for feeding their families. Decision making powers over cattle are exercised by men and the animals are used for dowry and bride price while animals are rarely sold except when required to purchase animal medicine during disease outbreaks.



Women are allowed to sell milk and sorghum to buy household items such as salt, clothes among others for the household. Although food insecurity affects both men and women, feminization of poverty and food insecurity is visible.

Cooperative, income generating activities and banking are not common in the community. Some women in Narus boma practice small trade where they sell tea, coffee, and vegetable. It was observed that there is a women group established by FAO for income generating through milk processing.

In terms of employment opportunities, it was observed that most women are unemployed due to limited access to education attributed to dropouts because of early marriage and absence of school in the nearby areas.



Figure 9: World Peace Day Celebrations in Narus

## Access to Basic Services

The community in Kapoeta East County has limited access to basic social services. Access to water for household consumption and animal use is one of the challenges of the community. There are 8 water solar pan points in Narus used for household consumption and animal drinking out of which four, are located at Narus center and one in Nadapal. There are seasonal small points that are used for animal watering, crop production and household consumption which are not reliable source of water.

There is only one general hospital located at Kapoeta East County. The hospital provides basic health services, and the community must travel to Kapoeta South for advanced treatments. Both the FGD and KII depicted that most women will not visit health centers for antenatal checkups, and they also deliver their children at home with the help of traditional midwives or in the bush.

## Animal and Human Health

Both KII and FGDs depicted that access to animal health services as very limited. Respondents indicated that they would occasionally sell one of their animals in preparation for moving for grazing and they purchase drugs to treat their animals in events of disease outbreak. In some instances, they also requested the other cross border friends and family members to purchase from the Ugandan side and store the medications for them to use during their movement seasons. The community in Lopua Boma stated that there was no animal health clinic centre within their Boma. The number of trained community animal health workers was 20 who provide outreach service but are not enough to support the entire community. It was also stated that medical supplies and equipment are being limited.

Access to health to the community is also limited. Although there are health centers in each Boma, medical supplies and equipment are not available as well as skilled personnel in the health centers.

## Agricultural Extension Services

FGDs indicated limited agricultural extension services in the area with few community members trained in vegetable production. Due to unpredictable rains, the community rain pattern opts for drought tolerant crop such as sorghum. Insufficient training on animal husbandry results in the use of traditional forms of animal husbandry and treatment.

## Access to Rangeland Use

The Toposa community move towards, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda borders during the dry season. The FGD and KII indicated that there is resource competition and conflict between Kenya and South Sudan border while it was reported that the Uganda and Ethiopia side rangeland use is relatively peaceful. However, it was also reported by the community that access to water for animal and human use as scarce even in those rangelands.

## Access to Education

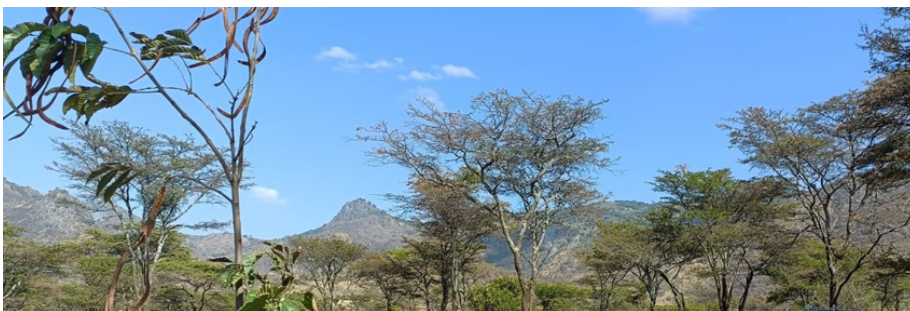
Narus has 19 primary and 4 secondary schools. However, more than 20% of school age going children do not attend school due to seasonal

movement of the community in search of grazing land and water during dry season. There had been a few pastoralists education centers in the past that accommodated moving children but are no longer available. During the rainy season, some students are enrolled in school but drop out during dry season leaving schools almost empty. For some communities, the existing primary and secondary schools are located distances away from their homes, with some as far as 18 km which are concentrated near Narus town.

Although there are few boarding schools in Narus town, the enrollment and retention rate of girls is very low compared to boys as the community prefers to send boys to school. Parents use girls as a source of income and property by forcing them into early marriages. In some instances, the dowry brought by the girl child from marriage is used to send their brothers to school. Children with disability stay at home and do not access education due to stigma, limited awareness, lack of materials and support.

### Study Site 3: Kaabong District

Kaabong District is located at extreme Northeastern part of Uganda about 700km from Kampala. It borders South Sudan in the North, Kenya in the East, Moroto District in the Southeast, Kotido District in the South, and Karenga District in the West. The district is located between longitudes 33° 30' 31" to 34° 31' 28" and latitudes 3° 45' 11" to 3° 6' 44" east of the Green Witch Meridian. The total land area of Kaabong District is 4,751.1 square kilometres. The district mid-year population as of 2020 was 134,600 people (63,100 males and 71,500 females) with a sex ratio of 103 males to 100 females.



*Figure 10: Mt. Morungule, Kaabong District*

Kaabong District has got dry savannah semi-arid climate characterized by an intense hot season lasting from November to March each year. The



rainy season is usually from April to August, and it is about 519mm per annum on average, which is spatially and temporarily distributed unevenly and varies within the district being less or more than average depending on the local factors.

The rain pattern is erratic in nature. The wet and dry seasons are a prominent feature, and the most important form of precipitation is rain which has a big impact on plant growth. Available data shows inadequate amounts, uneven distribution and unreliable rainfall which has significant influence on the livelihood of the community. There is one long dry season from October to February with dry spells in June to August.

The district has large grazing areas with sufficient resource, however due to the limited population of livestock in Kaabong area given as 327 cows as at the time of the study due to theft of their livestock from the neighboring communities.

Kaabong District has three major types of soils, namely; ferallic, vertigos and ferruginous tropical soils, other types of soils. The genesis of soils in Kaabong District has been affected by many factors such as climate, elevation, type of parent rock, vegetation covers, topography, aggravation, and erosion processes. The ferruginous, which are the dominant soils, have been degenerated by weathering processes and have become less productive. Litho soils occur along the up warped surface on the eastern side of the district; they are very stony and contain solid rock.

It was noted that during the rainy season, the vegetation cover is largely underused due to the low population of cattle as a result of rustling from the neighbouring communities.

The entire land area has no water body, swamps, or wetlands. About 90% of Arable land is owned according to customary laws and no land is held by free and lease hold. The average land area for agriculture is 0.14 acres per household.

## **Basic Social Services**

A meeting conducted with the District Chairperson Mr. Meri Jino and the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer informed the team that population and housing census has not been conducted recently and the data

provided above was outdated. They also confirmed that the district is largely dominated by two indigenous tribes; the IK and the Dodoth who were mainly hunters and gatherers, practiced small scale farming and practiced apiculture. Additionally, they are identified as being vulnerable communities who have lagged behind in terms of access to education and human development.



*Figure 11: KII with Kaabong District Staff*

The basic social services provided to the community are based on the past census while the population has grown since the last census in addition to extension of catchment areas to the district which created constraint in terms of basic social services. The district is also drought prone with unpredictable rain pattern. In terms of health services, the existing general hospital provides services to neighboring districts and cross border countries including South Sudan. Health facilities are not adequate even for the local district communities while according to national legislations basic health service is free.

## **Role's Profile**

In addition, the women manage their homes, care and nurture children, cook, fetch water, clear valley dams, dig, collect firewood and collect grass for thatching the roofs. Elderly men take charge of managing cultural events, protect the family, offer guidance and play roles of conflict resolutions. Decision making over the family and the community are usually male roles. In Kaabong District, land is owned by the community. Both men and women have access to use of land.



Figure 12: Morungule FGD's

## Access and Control Profile

According to discussion conducted with the government district administration and FGDs, the Kaabong community used to be mainly pastoralist until their cattle was completely raided and wiped out by the neighboring community including Turkana. The population of livestock has reduced from 49 Kraal in 2021 to 3 in 2023 due to cattle raiding by the cross-border community including Turkana from the Kenya side.

Access and control over resources is distributed based on being a man and a woman in Kaabong. Men have greater access and control over resources compared to women. Land inheritance is left only for boys as girls are believed to marry and used as a source of dowry while as the head of the family men will take over the ownership of the dowry. Traditionally, women are not allowed to own property and have control over it due to the attitude and deep entrenched social norms. Women have access to animal products such as milk and eggs while all other properties including cattle, land and farming products are controlled by men whereas 80% of food is produced by women. Farming land is owned by the community but cannot be owned by clans. Male members of the community decide over the use of land for different purposes including when the government requires land for certain purposes.

In terms of government employment opportunities and leadership, out of 12 government departments, only two departments are headed by acting women heads while 10 of the departments are head by men in Kaabong District.

## Access to Rangelands

During the FGD, community members noted that there has not been any movement of animals or people during dry season for accessing

water or grazing land in the past two years because there are only few animals. The community now purely depends on crop farming. However, due to unpredictable rain pattern and drought, there is not enough farming products and the community is exposed to hunger.

## **Traditional Leadership**

Traditionally, the major traditional governing structure is embedded in the shrines where senior older men and young men who succeed fathers are exclusively recognized as the leaders of the shrines. Decisions concerning the community are decided at the shrines where women are strictly excluded where their role limited to offering food and drinks during shrine meetings. Clan leaders are chosen based on the number of animals they possess, a man who has large number of animals becomes a clan leader. When it comes to conflict resolutions, traditionally, the council of elders which consists of men mediate between different groups of communities and clans.

## **Access to Basic Social Services**

### **Water**

Like the other cross border communities, water was identified as one of the key challenges in Kaabong District. Women travel long distances to fetch water for household consumption.

### **Access to Education**

Kaabong district is agriculturalist with subsistence farming where commercial farming constitutes less than 5%. A total of 64% of the community is poor spending less than one USD per day. The high poverty level is again attributable to illiteracy. Access to primary education is equal to boys and girls, once students reach grade 5, girls drop out of school due to early marriage, deep entrenched social norms against girls' education and the role assigned to women and girls in general as well as gender-based violence and rape on the way to school. Due to the high poverty rate, some girls migrate to small towns looking for domestic work. There is one school per two parishes. For example,

Morungole and Usake parishes use one school which is up to grade 7 only. Once children reach high school, they need to travel to another sub county to access high school and as a result the community prefers not to send their children far from their parishes.

### **Access to Health**

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Health services are limited with only one health center per sub county is available per two parishes. The health centers lack enough human resources and medical equipment's as well as medications. As a result, the community largely depend on traditional medicine. The community practice traditional home birth attendance. A few women go to health centers for prenatal and antenatal care. There is one general hospital in Kaabong that provides services to the whole district and cross border communities from South Sudan and Kenya. The hospital lacks sufficient human resources and medical supplies. There are few private clinics in the district, but the large number of the community do not have access to those clinics as the price of the private clinics is high.

### **Access to Financial Services**

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There are government led village saving associations which support some of the community members particularly women benefit through borrowing money. The government led parish development Model also supports the youth to have access to livelihood. Some women groups in villages have benefited from the parish development Model. During one of the FGDs in Morungole, Parish women stated that they have been given grinding mill.

### **Practical and Strategic Gender Needs**

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The FGD with community members depicted that peace has been identified as the top priority due to prolonged insecurities and conflict among cross border communities. The communities have lost their animals and many women have lost their husbands and children due to cross border conflicts. Agricultural inputs such as drought resistant sorghum seeds, agricultural extension services, water points, access to health, access to communication services (network coverage), trainings

on arts and beadwork, establishment of peace groups, and construction of the road linking Morungole to Natinga through Pire in South Sudan were identified as immediate priority needs. They also highlighted that once the road would be constructed, it would open up the livestock market hence improve livelihoods and foster peaceful coexistence with the South Sudan communities.

## Conclusion

It can be concluded that generally, reproductive or unpaid domestic and socio-political activities were done by women except for a few activities exclusive to men. Women's engagement in the productive activities particularly vegetable cultivation and, selling of agricultural products, workload on unpaid domestic activities particularly household chores were pronounced. Women's overwhelming engagement in the unpaid domestic activities, limited access to school and harmful norms have constrained them to be proactive and productive in the public sphere, especially participation in the formal employment, training, and decision-making at all levels.

Men and women do not have equal access to and control of land and natural resources. Women have limited access to education, formal and informal employment, training, and economic opportunities. On-farm access was equally shared between men and women while control over resources accrued more to men.

Women's practical needs and priorities were found to be different between men and women, while women's strategic needs and priorities were different compared to men's. Women want improvement in education and health, access to water, economic opportunities, gender equality and women's empowerment, while men want farm technologies, roads.



## Recommendations

To promote gender equality and women's empowerment, the project needs to mainstream these activities in the design, implementation, and monitoring stages.

Project's outcome, output and activities should complement to balance productive, unpaid domestic (reproductive) and socio-political role of women and men (productive). The project's activities need to be complemented with additional activities on gender including targeting capacity building of rural men and women under respective outputs, which would support women empowerment and participation in the project implementation.

Meeting women and men's practical and strategic needs and priorities would bring transformational change in the gender relations and shift more decision-making powers to women. Project-based interventions, can influence access to and control of land, agriculture, livestock, and forest resources by mainstreaming gender including incorporating interventions such as:

- Provision of access to clean drinking and irrigation water, seeds and seedlings, agricultural equipment and tools, and entrepreneurship skills in the three project areas.
- Interventions on peace and security in the case of Kaabong because of instability and clan conflict as one of the key challenges and strategic needs.
- Supporting women entrepreneurship activities that will improve the livelihoods of women by organizing women into groups and providing them with access to finance, financial institutions and market outlets was identified as one of the needs of women in the three project sites.
- Awareness and capacity building on education and training including non-formal education, an improvement on health and sanitation and road establishment. In case of Akendeyu Kebele, the areas that lack several social services including access to health facilities, financial institutions, school and agricultural

extension services. Both men and women members of the community stressed that road connection required maintenance to create accessibility as one of the immediate or practical needs of the community.

- Imparting training to women on; vegetable cultivation, tailoring, entrepreneurship skills, micro-finance group saving schemes.
- Creating awareness on self-employment to unemployed youths in villages, leadership, communication and decision-making skills to women and men to capacitate them for participation in local governance through skill-based trainings.
- Accessing markets, climate information through training, using local media to improve planning, decision-making and monitoring of development activities and post-project sustainability.
- Strengthen cooperatives and farmers' groups on apiculture, poultry, milk processing and value-chain addition with women's executive role were identified as an area of engagement that will enhance the economic and social empowerment of women
- Strengthen monitoring impacts of the project progress by gender-disaggregated indicators.
- Supporting water infrastructure development for both animal and human water use and production of animal feed was suggested as a key need of the community in Kapoeta east.
- The Kapoeta East community, compared with the other two have limited access to social services. One of the key challenges pronounced by women was absence of grinding mill and women use labour intensive stone grinding mills and the majority of women who participated in the FGD indicated that access to grinding mills is their practical/immediate need.
- Identifying stakeholders who are engaged in education, mobile schools for the pastoralist community in Kapoeta East was identified as a key area of support.

## List of Informants

1. **Government institutions**
  - a. Agriculture
  - b. Water
  - c. Livestock
  - d. Gender and other relevant government institutions
  - e. Religious Leaders
  - f. Youth Leaders
  
2. **Community members (men women, boys and girls)**  
10 to 20 per FGD and from 2-4 Groups
  
3. **Other development actors**
  - a. CSOs
  - b. NGOs
  - c. Networks and
  - d. Associations
  - e. Academic Institutions i.e. Assosa University



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## Annexes:

### List of Key Informant Interviewees

#### Narus Kapoeta East County

	Name	Position	Department
1	Oting Gait Mitodious	Executive Director – County Office	Administrative
2	Sebit Lopeyok Losike	Pump Mechanic Engineer	Water
3	Zakaria Philipson Oyaha	Director of Gender	Gender
4	John Ulweny Pasquale	Director of Livestock	Livestock
5	Hannah Lopeyok	Director of Health	Health
6	Lopido Daniel	Director of Education	Education
7	Kidega Patrick Paul	Director of Agriculture	Agriculture/ Rangelands
8	Mark Lojoo	Youth Leader	Youth
9	Ziko Zaakaria Ziko	Prayer Leader	Religious
10	Daniel Lokale	Coordinator	Reliefs Rehabilitation Commission
11	Lotalia Nelson	Field Coordinator	Islamic Relief

## Bureau Office, Kurmuk District

	<b>Names</b>	<b>Positions</b>	<b>Department</b>
1	Dr. Birhanu Assosa	Deputy Director, Animal Resources Assosa (SEM Focal Point)	Agriculture
2	Musa Abdurahim	Vice Head of District Administration Office	Administration
3	Mohammed Halil	Deputy Head of Agriculture Office of the District	Agriculture
4	Mohammed Hussen	Youth Representative	Youth
5	Wodayu Mohammed	Agriculture Expert	Agriculture
6	Asha Amir	Deputy Head of Education	Education
7	Majid Yusuf	Education Officer	Education
8	Megenagna Melese	Water officer,	Water
9	Mustofa Ayiz,	Head of Water Department	Water
10	Huweda Asabir,	Health Officer	Health
11	Hassen Abdi	Deputy Head of Health Department	Health
12	Gashaw Kiros	Women Affairs Department	Gender
13	Mitike Gari	Women Affairs Department	Gender
14	Birtukan Feleke	Natural Resource Officer	Natural Resources
15	Genet Mekonnen	Agriculture Officer	Agriculture
16	Birhanu Haile	Animal Feed Team Leader	Agriculture and Livestock
17	Abdulkerim Yomid	Head of Agriculture Department	Agriculture
18	Sisay Tefera	Animal Production Team Leader	Agriculture and Livestock

## Kaabong District

	Name	Position	Department
1	Mr. Shaine Nelson	Deputy Chief Administrative Officer	Administration
2	Mr. Lomongin Emmanuel	District Natural Resources Officer	Natural Resources
3	Lomer Daniel Longoli	Sub-County Chief	Administration
4	Ayen Jimmy	District Community Development Officer	Gender
5	Meri Jino	Local Council Vice Chairman	Administration
6	Dr. Logwee Branda	Senior Veterinary Services and SEM Focal Point	Livestock
7	Chilla Lotyang Peter	Chairperson	Administration

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