

PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS REVIEWS

'enhancing effectiveness through evidence-based learning'



North Karamoja Development Project: Uganda 2011/12

Oxfam has been directly supporting 10 women's groups, made up of over 400 members, in Kotido and Kaabong districts of Uganda's Karamoja sub-region since 2007. The Karamojong are an ethnic group of agro-pastoralists residing primarily in the north-east of Uganda. The evaluated interventions were implemented in two districts where two of the seven Karamojong clans reside – Kotido district (home of the Jie) and Kaabong district (home of the Dodoth).

This context is an exceptionally challenging one, particularly from a community development perspective. The Karamoja sub-region has been plagued by chronic food insecurity for many decades, with food aid being distributed regularly and extensively throughout the sub-region since the 1960s. The second major issue is related to security. Traditionally, the Karamojong have raided others (including each other's clans) for cattle and, to a lesser extent, other types of livestock, a practice which continues to the present day.

The support provided through the North Karamoja Development Project and other complementary interventions primarily involved the construction and equipping of grain storage and milling facilities for each of the 10 groups and the provision of agricultural inputs and tools to their members. The women were also targeted with animal husbandry training, where they, among other things, were encouraged to utilise the services of animal health workers. Communal dams were also constructed to increase access to water for livestock owned by the members of the groups and the wider community.

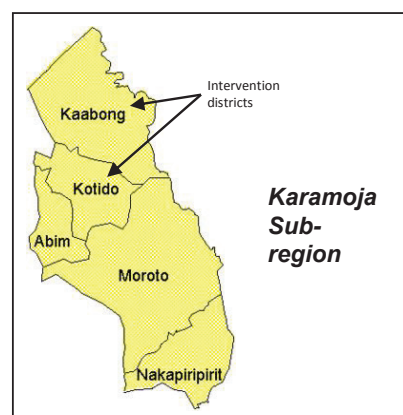


Figure 1: Location of Intervention Sites

Evaluation Method

In August 2011, with the support of an external consultant, a household survey was administered to 188 randomly selected women from the groups, as well as 239 women from non-OGB supported groups in neighbouring communities. The survey comprised of questions related to household consumption and expenditure, ownership of livestock and other assets, agricultural production, food security, and women's involvement in household-level decision-making. In order to compare like with like, statistical analysis of the collected data was undertaken using propensity score matching and multivariable regression to control for measured differences between the intervention and comparison women.



Results

Overall, no statistically significant difference was found between the two categories of women in relation to OGB's global livelihood indicator, indicating that the support has not raised household income. Moreover and unfortunately, no overall differences between the intervention and comparison groups were identified for the other outcome measures as well. The picture is different, however, when the data are disaggregated by district. Positive and statistically significant differences were identified for the OGB supported women in Kotido district in the areas of food security and self-reported agricultural production and profits. In addition, the women of Kaabong district reported less livestock loss over time than their comparators.

Rating key: ● - Evidence supporting large impact; ● - Evidence supporting more modest impact; ● - Evidence of large impact, but only for specific sub-groups/measures; ● - Evidence of modest impact, but only for specific sub-groups/measures; ● - No evidence of impact

Outcome	Rating	Commentary
Outcome 1 – Greater household income (global outcome indicator)	●	No evidence for impact on global indicator or complementary measures.
Outcome 2 – Improved food security	●	Modest evidence of impact in Kotido district, but none for Kaabong district.
Outcome 3 – Women's empowerment	●	No evidence to suggest that the supported women have greater involvement in household decision-making.
Outcome 4 – Increased agricultural production/income	●	Evidence of impact in Kotido district (self-reported), but none for Kaabong district.
Outcome 5 – Improved livestock health	●	No positive difference between the intervention and comparison groups in relation to numbers of livestock lost to disease.

Going forward

The findings of this effectiveness review informed a mid-term review process of Oxfam's programming in the Karamoja Sub-region. The direction of Oxfam's Karamoja programme has changed considerably since the data were collected for the effectiveness review and in ways aligned with its programme learning considerations. That being said, the Kotido team is seeking support from Uganda's Programme Quality Officer to strengthen the design, implementation, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning of the various projects it designs and implements.

Photo credits: Crispin Hughes and Sven Torfinn