FEED THE FUTURE
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS REPORT
KARAMOJA CLUSTER

Moroto Local Council V(LC5) at Kobebe cross border meeting gracing area

IGAD
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT
AUTORITE INTERGOUVERNEMENTALE POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT
ICPALD

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
UNITED STATES AGENCY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FOREWORD

Many individuals and organizations, ranging from actors in government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to traditional authorities, the political elite, youth and women groups, the private sector, dominant and minority groups, among others, are involved in livelihood, social cohesion and natural resource systems interventions in the Karamoja cluster. Such diverse groups often interact in ways that establish relationships among them (whether strong or weak, lasting or mercurial), and produce power relations. These need to be understood by development actors such as the Cross-Border Communities Resilience (CBCR) Activity in order to appropriately design programmes that meaningfully contribute to the communities' resilience and thus reduce the need for their reliance on humanitarian assistance.

Social Network Analysis (SNA) is a powerful tool for understanding the relationship, interaction, and communication between actors in developmental contexts such as the Karamoja cluster. Within the context of the CBCR, social network analysis on social cohesion, natural resource systems and livelihoods actors in the Karamoja cluster was undertaken in order to understand and map the actors, relationships, information flows, gaps/roadblocks and the building blocks for systems level change. Towards this end, the analysis was to enable the CBCR in identifying three kinds of organizations or people in social cohesion, livelihood and natural resource systems in the Karamoja cluster, namely:

1. Central nodes -the well connected, critical sources and repositories of information, and who have influence.

2. Knowledge brokers - those who create bridges between groups; and

3. Peripheral actors - those who are unconnected and can be at risk of exiting the network.

The social network analysis further explores the types and dynamics of relationships (for example, strong vs weak ties) between the various actors/organizations across the social cohesion, natural resource systems and livelihood sectors. The outcome of this social network analysis is supposed to support the CBCR Activity, and other stakeholders, in identifying opportunities for fostering collaboration, minimizing risks of conflict and ensuring operational effectiveness in resilience programming. It is our hope at the CBCR project that the findings in this report will remain useful and valid for individuals and organizations designing projects and programs across the four domains of social cohesion, natural resource systems, livelihoods and collaboration and coordination in the Karamoja cluster.

Jebiwot Sumbeiywo, Chief of Party (CoP),

Cross Border Community Resilience Activity (CBCR).

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS

CBOs	Community Based Organizations
EAMS	East Africa Market Systems
FTF	Feed the Future
UN	United Nations
ACC	Assistant County Commissioner
AFI	Andre Foods International
APaD	Agency for Pastoralists Development
ARGs	Area Referencing Groups
ASAL	Arid and Semi-arid Land
ASTU	Anti Stock Theft Unit
BT	Brilliant Technologies
C&D	Institute for Cooperation and Development
CAN-U & I	Climate Action Network – Uganda and International
CARB	Complementary Action for Resilience Building
CBCR	Cross Border Communities Resilience
CBDFU	Cross Border Development Facilitation Unit
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease of 2019
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DADO	Dynamic Agro Pastoral Development Organization,
DINU	Development Initiative for Northern Uganda
DRC	Danish Refugee Council
ECC-SDCO	Ethiopian Catholic Church Social and Development Commission
ECO	Ecological Christian Organization
EIP	Ethiopia Institute of Peace
ENRCSO	Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Organizations Network
EPARDA	Ethiopian Pastoralist Research and Development Association
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBO	Faith Based Organization
FFA	Food for Asset
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FOCSIV	Federation of International Voluntary Service's Christian Organisms
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GoK	Government of Kenya
HDC	Humanitarian Development Consortium
ICPALD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development's Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development
IDI	Innovative Development Initiative
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IGAD-IDDRSI	IGAD-Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative
IJM	International Justice Mission
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organizations
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IUCN	International Union of Conservation of Nature
KAPDA	Karamoja Peace and Development Agency,
KAS	Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation
KAYESE	Karamoja Youth Efforts to Save the Environment
KDF	Karamoja Development Forum

KDF	Kenya Defense Forces
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
KOPEIN	Karamoja Province in Uganda
KRSU	Karamoja Resilience Support Unit
KWS	Kenya Wildlife Service
KYAN	Kibish Youth Action Network Organization
LDO	Local Development Organization
LDU	Local Defense Unit
LLRP	Lowland Livelihood Resilience Project
LOPEO	Lokichogio Peace Organization
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEL	Monitoring Evaluation and Learning
MGCSW	Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare
NASSOS	Network of AIDS Service Organizations in South Sudan
NDMA	National Drought Management Authority
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPR	National Police Reservists
NPS	National Police Service
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NUDIPU	National Union for Disabled Persons of Uganda
OCS	Officer Commanding Station
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
OPRD	Organization for Peace, Relief and Development
PC	Peace Committees
PELUM	Participatory Ecological Land Use Management
PHE	Population Health and Environment
POKATUSA	Pokot, Karamojong, Sabiny and Turkana communities
PWD	People Living with Disabilities
RA	Research Assistants
ROG	Root of Generations
SAPCONE	Sustainable Approaches for Community Empowerment
SCCRR	Shalom Centre for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SNA	Social Network Analysis
SSWSEEP	South Sudan Women and Social and Economic Empowerment Project
START	Support to Agriculture Revitalization and Transformation
TOR	Terms of Reference
TUPADO	Turkana Pastoralist Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children Education Fund
UPDF	Uganda People's Defense Force
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSF-G	Veterinarians without Borders Germany
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WECC	Women Economic Community Centers
WEDISS	Women Empowerment Development Initiative for South Sudan
WFP	World Food Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This social network analysis was carried out in the Karamoja cluster which comprises the borders between Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda. It contributes to the understanding of existing social networks such as relationships among organizations and institutions, relationships among administrators, community leaders (both formal and informal), opinion leaders and opinion shapers, gender roles and social norms, and religious beliefs and practices in the communities living within Karamoja cluster. The study employed exploratory research design, where both quantitative and qualitative approaches were used to determine the types of relationships and assess attributes or features of the relationships.

Qualitative data was collected from literature reviews, key informant interviews (KIIs), and focus group discussions (FGDs) with a wide range of stakeholders, particularly those involved in promoting social cohesion, livelihoods, and natural resources management in the Karamoja cluster. Included in the sample were relevant organizations, influential individuals, peripheral actors, and stakeholders across the cluster. Data was collected by trained enumerators from relevant organizations and groups operating in the cluster that were identified through purposive and snowball sampling methods as well as from government officers and influential individuals. Data was successfully collected across the ten identified locations- two on the Kenyan side, four on the Ugandan side, two on the South Sudan side, and two on the Ethiopian side of the Karamoja cluster.

Data was collected from August 30 – September 10, 2022. A total of 80 surveys of organizations, 23 FGDs (three of which comprised a group of people with disabilities (PWD)), and 20 KIIs were conducted. Information was collected using the KOBO collect tool and analyzed using the Kumu app for SNA. These helped in identification of the central organizations in the network, the brokers, periphery actors, knowledge network, information flow, influential actors and those that lack influence, position and influence of the local and national governments in the network, and bottlenecks and power dynamics in the network, among others.

The following key findings emerged from the study:

Social Cohesion Actors

Government agencies play a major role and have well established structures and systems in place to advance peace and security across the cluster. In the Turkana-Pokot segment, the central nodes for social cohesion include: Assistant County Commissioners in Kibish and Turkwel, Kenya, the National Police Service Kenya, national police reservists, local chiefs, Turkana and West Pokot County Governments, Agape Church, the Catholic Church, village elders and seers, district peace committee coordinators and moran leaders. The knowledge brokers include the Shalom Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCCRR), The Pellow Community Conservancy, Turkana Pastoralists Development Organization (TUPADO), Sikom Peace Network for Development (SIKOM), and the Agency for Pastoralist Development (APaD).

Social cohesion networks for Kaabong, Kotido, Amudat, and Moroto districts in Uganda include the Ministry of Security, Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces and local defense units, district local governments, the Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ATSU) and ATSU commandant, the Dodoth Agro-Pastoralist Development Organization (DADO), Karamoja Peace and Development Agency (KAPDA), and Riam Riam Civil Society Network and APaD which were established as the central nodes. Similar to the Kenyan side, the Catholic Church, village elders, and district peace committee coordinators featured strongly as major actors in social cohesion. They also liaise with those of the neighboring countries.

Knowledge brokers identified in the sub-cluster are TUPADO, SIKOM, APaD, Kotido Peace Initiative (KOPEIN), and Lokichogio Peace Organization (LOPEO), all of whose activities cut across the cluster linking one community with the other.

In the Toposa and Didinga regions of South Sudan, the central nodes for social cohesion are the East Equatoria State Government, state police, Government of South Sudan, local chiefs, United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and KAPDA. The knowledge brokers are Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Catholic Church, Concern Worldwide, Holistic Community Transformation Organization (HOCTO), and Women Empowerment and Development Initiative for South Sudan (WEDISS).

In the Nyangatom and Daasanach region of Ethiopia, the central nodes identified are Pastoralist Affairs Office, Ethiopia Institute of Peace (EIP), peace committees, Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF), *woreda* (district) police, local chiefs, the Catholic Church, TUPADO, village elders, moran leaders and agriculture officers. The knowledge brokers in the region include PACT, CRS/Catholic Church, Veterinarians without Borders Germany (VSF-G), Mercy Corps, Ethiopian Pastoralist Research and Development Association (EPaRDA), and TUPADO.

Notably, these government agencies, organizations, the Catholic Church, individuals, and committees feature strongly as major actors in social cohesion. They liaise and have joint forums and linkages with neighboring countries. These social cohesion actors also have strong links with their respective communities, and leverage their activities through platforms such traditional elders' forums, chiefs' forums, district peace committees, rangeland committees, Lokiriama Annual Celebration forum for cross border engagements, youth sports forums, and cultural festivals. As such, the Cross Border Communities Resilience (CBCR) Activity can benefit from their network.

Network for livelihoods

The study established that network actors in livelihoods in Pokot-Turkana regions include central and county government agencies. These include the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operatives, the Ministry of Interior, and national administration personnel as key livelihoods actors. Assistant County Commissioners and the local chiefs are used to mobilize citizen engagement in livelihood activities and to maintain peaceful coexistence to enhance marketing.

GIZ Technical Cooperation collaborates with Turkana County Government ministries, the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), GIZ Uganda program, APaD, and Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) in capacity development for the county government's technical officers and the community.

Faith-based organizations also play a substantive role in livelihoods. For instance, Dutch Church Aid (DCA) was highlighted and seen to collaborate with organizations such as SAPCONE, LOKADO, and Anglican Development Services (ADS) to offer interventions on most livelihood projects within the region.

The Ugandan government, through the Ministry of Livestock, engages in intervention programs such as branding and marketing. The interventions are conducted in collaboration with cross border community networks such as Kotido Peace Initiative (KOPEIN), Dodoth Agro-Pastoralists Development Organization (DADO), Kaabong Peace Development Association (KAPDA), Karamoja Development Forum (KDF), and Welthungerhilfe. Riamriam and the Dynamic Agro-Pastoralist Development Organization (DADO) are also influential actors. The latter partners with PACT, Mercy Corps, VSF Belgium, and KDF in livelihood activities. Notably, KAPDA cuts across livelihoods,

natural resource management (NRM), and social cohesion. KAPDA partners with Save the Children, the Nakere Rural Women Activists (NARWOA), Riamriam, Whave, KRSU, Mercy Corps, UPDF, and the Inspectorate General of Government (IGG).

In South Sudan, the Toposa Community Association guides communities' development in collaboration with the Government of South Sudan. It was established that other partners come on board when there is conflict. These include the Ateker Foundation of South Sudan, Integrated Community Peace and Development Organization (ICPDO), KDIF, and American Refugee Council (ARC). ICPDO offers cross–cutting interventions such as promoting climate-smart agriculture, and social cohesion and NRM activities.

In Ethiopia, the Lowland Livelihood Resilience Project (LLRP) in Ethiopia aims at enhancing pastoral and agro-pastoral ability to manage shocks. The Ethiopian Pastoralist Research and Development Association (EPARDA) is a cross border organization that partners with VSF-Germany and Mercy Corps on the Ethiopian side, and with CIFA and TUPADO on the Kenyan side. As such, EPARDA and LLRP are brokers that employ a consortium approach in engaging partners across the cluster.

Natural Resource Management Network Actors

The study noted that most livelihood actors double up as NRM actors, with others also active in social cohesion interventions. On the Kenyan side, the Kerio Valley Development Association (KVDA) and National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) are the main government-assisted NRM intervention programs in the region. The Shalom Centre for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCCRR) engages Turkana and West Pokot communities in peaceful management of natural resource-based conflicts. In Ethiopia, the Omo Delta, an IGAD project along River Omo that is financed by the European Union, is a key actor. The project collaborates with Mercy Corps, VITA/RTI, EPaRDA, CIFA, and TUPADO in Turkana and Marsabit Counties in Kenya, and South Omo and Bench Maji zones in Ethiopia.

Knowledge Networks

The identified and analyzed knowledge networks include:

- MADA, a research organization focusing on governance, democracy, human rights, women's rights, environment and wildlife conservation in South Sudan.
- East Africa Sub-Region Support Initiative (EASSI), a research body that works closely with IGAD and the East African Community (EAC), and liaises with policy and technical personnel in ministries. EASSI also focuses on women's liberation and empowerment.
- Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), which is a government research arm whose findings are utilized to address NRM and livelihood challenges.
- Universal Intervention and Development Organization (UNIDOR) in South Sudan promotes community-to-community initiatives along the borders of South Sudan with Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia.
- The Ateker Cultural Centre (ACC) in Uganda focuses on research, media and advocacy, cross-border engagement, socio-cultural activities through film and photography, art exhibitions, promoting community cultural museums, and promoting cultural heritage.
- The Bukwo University Students' Association in Uganda is funded by county governments to organize and mobilize peace sporting and cultural dance activities across the region.
- Communities themselves were identified as mobilizers of crucial indigenous knowledge and information regarding the three themes.

- Certain individuals within the cluster also form part of the knowledge networks with repository information and are well linked to government entities, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, and other significant individuals. These individuals include Assistant County Commissioners, traders, forex dealers, market leaders and elders, government officers, and community mobilizers.

Strength of relationships

Most actors' interventions cut across the three themes. More than half of the organizations meet at least monthly for social cohesion, NRM, and livelihoods matters, with some tackling all the three themes in one meeting. Data shows that women's and youth groups are affiliated to CBOs and NGOs that support social cohesion activities such as cultural dances. These dances and cultural events are presented annually in a designated location within the cluster.

NGOs collaborate with each other through joint project implementation meetings. Individual committees within the three thematic areas also meet regularly. As for network influences, international NGOs are a source of funds and are, therefore, powerful agents in networks cutting across the sub regions and the cluster. The most mentioned in the study were World Vision and Mercy Corps, which have strong collaboration and partnership with Pokot Youth Bonge, SAPCONE, VSF-Germany, and APad. On the Ethiopian side, Omo Delta Consortium was mentioned, while IGAD was cited as a dormant intergovernmental agency within the cluster and across the Horn of Africa.

The Karamoja Peace and Development Agency (KAPDA), which promotes interaction among the Karamojong, Toposa, and Turkana, was noted for its extensive network in South Sudan and Kenya. The Organization for Peace, Relief and Development (OPRD) was said to have a large network across the cluster, and partners with LOKADO and LOPEO in Turkana, and DADO in Kaboong. Lastly, the Nyakiriket Consortium was reported to have a network of ten local organizations. The network has partnered with USAID to advocate for peace and promote dialogue across three major conflicting groups in the region – the Buya, Didinga, and Toposa.

In terms of power relations, the study established that changes on one side of the border could trigger positive or negative cross-border spillover effects. Understanding this facilitates the possibility of ecosystem-based management, which is an effective approach that recognizes the full array of interactions within an ecological zone. Respondents said that by working together, cross-border communities in the Karamoja cluster can jointly identify and address shared challenges, while exploiting opportunities presented by their shared terrain.

Notably, the respective governments have invested heavily in security, and play a major role in mediating peace and ensuring the security of aid workers in the region. For its part, the government of Uganda has strategically placed rapid response army barracks along the main routes connecting the Dodoth, Jie, Matheniko, and Tepeth communities. Hourly army patrol units monitor the border routes where movement for aid workers away from urban centers is restricted between 6am and 4pm daily. The Kenyan government has strategically installed regular police posts, administration police camps, and General Service Units at the Kibish border point between Kenya and Ethiopia to quell skirmishes between the Toposa, Nyangatom, and Turkana at the Ilemi Triangle, and at Turkwel Centre to deal with Pokot and Turkana hostilities.

Organizational synergy

There is poor coordination among local development organizations (LDOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs), leading to duplications and implementation gaps. Because partnerships and

consortiums face challenges, especially with funding cycles and reporting protocols, some organizations claim credit for consortium milestones and achievements, leaving other members with nothing to report. Communication and language barriers were noted to exist across the cluster, raising the need for interpreters and communication (English) lessons. The most disadvantaged communities are the Didinga of South Sudan, and Nyangatom and Dassanech communities of Ethiopia. Also noted was the emphasis on peace-building interventions along international borders at the expense of intra-border conflicts.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Cross border resilience programming has the support of the four governments in the Karamoja region. There are also numerous actors present who include government agencies, intergovernmental agencies, I/NGOs, FBOs, CBOs, private actors, the political class, and individuals.

Networking and influence
There are more established networks in Uganda and Kenya that Ethiopian and South Sudan counterparts may wish to replicate for more robust network systems in the entire cluster. As such, actors in Ethiopian and South Sudan may wish to draw lessons from their counterparts in order to improve coordination and experience-sharing for sustainable activities in social cohesion, NRM, and livelihoods. Experience-sharing platforms are, therefore, necessary in order to facilitate the learning process.

The youth, women, and PWDs were identified as peripheral actors with a high risk of being dropped out or ignored if there is scarcity of funds, especially where their role in the network is not felt or known. There is need to encourage incorporation of these critical members of the society through project interventions.

Relationships among actors
Whereas annual cultural dances and sports activities have created avenues for enhancing intercommunity interactions, the question of natural resource sharing (especially water and pasture) in the face of climatic shocks needs to be addressed because it is the major underlying issue affecting relationships across the cluster. There is need for sustainable capacity building, coordination, and collaboration of actors towards strengthening natural resource sharing interventions, systems, and mechanisms.

Information sharing networks
Whereas NGOs and CBOs seem to have information sharing platforms, the same cannot be said of INGOs, government agencies and FBOs. There is a need to develop information sharing platforms to encourage information flow among network actors. The Karamoja cluster's terrain is remote and rugged with sporadic telephone coverage and non-existent internet. This demands effective communication strategies and avenues if the actors are to sustainably improve information sharing.

Power relations

By working together, cross-border communities in the Karamoja cluster can jointly identify and address shared challenges while exploiting opportunities presented by their shared terrain. Cross-border cooperation is, therefore, necessary to facilitate the generation of social capital, trust, and mutual understanding among communities on all sides of the borders. Such cooperation can contribute to the stability and prosperity for all involved parties. To this end, peace accords and natural resource sharing agreements need to be encouraged and constantly renewed for sustainable cooperation in the cluster.

Conflict sensitivities

Communities in the Karamoja borderlands need access to water, pasture, and arable land across the borders which generates resource competition. Inter-ethnic conflict is, therefore, rampant due to competition for dwindling natural resources, state neglect, and lack of adequate infrastructure. Cross border programming must take into account these dynamics while engaging the respective communities. Creating a working relationship with the respective communities is essential for any successful intervention.

Proposed programming activities

a. Needs assessments, capacity development and institutional strengthening for key actors, especially in the Ethiopian and South Sudanese sections of the Karamoja cluster.
b. Funding and technical support for regular and structured conferences or meetings for sustainable cross border engagements across the cluster.
c. Targeted interventions for peripheral actors such as the youth, women and PWDs, in order to appreciate their networking needs and to strengthen their collective engagements.
d. Activities to support structured coordination between the Turkana and the Dassanech network actors.
e. Standard protocols for consortiums and partnerships need to be developed in order to manage funding, implementation, and reporting requirements and processes for the respective organizations in a consortium.
f. The transition from nomadic pastoralism to agriculture needs to be promoted further as demonstrated by the Jie and Dodoth communities in Kotido and Kaabong districts, where reduced cattle stocks have reduced instances of cattle raids, thus improving peace among their communities. Cultivation of food crops has also provided alternatives for food security and opened up new livelihood activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Karamoja region spans the borders of Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda. The region is inhabited by pastoralist communities from the Turkana and Pokot of Kenya, the Dodoth, Matheniko, Jie, and Tepeth of Uganda, the Toposa and Didinga of South Sudan, and the Dassanech and the Nyang'atom of South West Ethiopia. Most pastoralist communities within the Karamoja cluster share the same socio-cultural and dialectic roots[1]. The Ilemi Triangle, a disputed territory by South Sudan, Kenya, and Ethiopia, sits within the Karamoja region.

It measures between 10,320 and 14,000 square kilometers (3,985 and 5,405 sq mi), and is home to five ethnic groups, with the Turkana being the dominant[2]. The Turkana move in the territory between South Sudan and Kenya within the Triangle, while the Didinga, Toposa,

Source: Catley et al. (2021) Pastoralism: Research, Policy and Practice

and Nyangatom migrate between South Sudan and Ethiopia. The Dassanech live east of the Triangle in Ethiopia. In order to challenge the dominance of the Turkana, the other ethnic groups formed traditional alliances against them, predisposing the region to fragility[3].

Pastoralism is the dominant socio-economic activity and source of livelihood for most of the population in the Karamoja region. The area is highly vulnerable to climatic variations, such as drought, that render communities perennially food-insecure and limit their livelihood options. These vulnerabilities were compounded, in part, by colonial land policies such as gazettement of fertile grazing land as wildlife conservation areas and forest reserves, accounting for more than half of the total land area. During the dry season, the pastoralists are compelled to migrate to other areas to access pasture and water points, often crossing international boundaries.

Pastoralism can be thought of as a 'critical infrastructure'. Through practices such as mobile herding, fodder provision, and disease control, the highly variable environments that characterize pastoral areas are managed to ensure a stable flow of livestock services and products for sustained livelihoods. Uncertainties dominate pastoralists' lives and are seen by these communities not as hazards to be avoided, adapted to, or coped with, but to be embraced. Living with, and from, uncertainty requires mobilizing different sources of knowledge, including knowledge of possible futures, however

---

[1] United National Development Programme (2019). The Kenya-Uganda Cross-Border Programme for Sustainable Peace and Development, UNDP in Kenya, https://www.undp.org/kenya/projects/kenya-uganda-cross-border-programme-sustainable-peace-and-development. Accessed on 18.08.2022.

2 IGAD, (2017). IGAD Cluster 1 (Karamoja Cluster) https://resilience.igad.int/clusters/igad-cluster-1-karamoja-cluster/.

[3] Haskins, Charles (2009), The Ilemi Triangle: A Forgotten Conflict, https://shalomconflictcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/the-ilemi-triangle_-a-forgotten-conflict-charles-haskins_-2009.pdf Accessed on 18.08.2022. Catley A., Stites E, Ayele M. and Arasio R. (2021). Introducing pathways to resilience in the Karamoja Cluster, *Pastoralism: Research, Policy and Practice*, https://doi.org/10.1186/s13570-021-00214-4 (Accessed 21.11.2022)

unpredictable. It also requires knowledge about immediate day-to-day and seasonal changes affecting capacities to manage livestock under uncertain conditions. This includes knowledge of the state of natural resources, and the effects of insecurity and conflict in an area. This knowledge gathering and sense-making for action requires highly reliable knowledge networks, rooted in relations among diverse people[4].

In this regard, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), together with other donors and development agencies, have committed to support resilience-building initiatives as part of their humanitarian and development agenda. Perceiving its importance, USAID has incorporated resilience into its strategic objective in its Global Food Security Strategy, and made investments in the Cross-Border Community Resilience (CBCR) Activity in the Karamoja, Moyale, and Mandera cluster of Eastern Africa.

The CBCR Activity's aim is to empower local entities, including communities, civil society, private sector, and governments, to implement locally appropriate interventions targeted at addressing conflict, improving livelihoods and/or reducing the risks of shocks and stresses. The project supports local leadership in work planning, implementation, monitoring, and learning, to foster local ownership of development investments. The Activity will be implemented in collaboration with local development organizations (LDOs) under the East Africa Feed-the Future and the USAID Resilience Challenge Fund. In this regard, the CBCR Activity engaged Brilliant Technologies (K) Ltd to carry out a comprehensive social network analysis (SNA) within the Karamoja cluster.

SNA is the study of relationships among agents, groups, and entities that provide channels for information transfer[5]. It studies the behavior of individuals (or organizations) at the micro level, the pattern of relationships (network structure) at the macro level, and their interactions. Social networks, therefore, are the causes and results of individual or organizational behavior[6]. SNA can provide insight into social influences within teams and identify cultural issues.

SNA is a tool applied in the international development field to better understand and work with networks of stakeholders and, importantly, the relationships between them. SNA provides a quantitative, objective means, using visuals ("maps"), combined with figures ("metrics") to better understand the relationships and dynamics within a system, identify opportunities to improve how actors cooperate or share information, and develop network capacity and leadership in ways that serve the system[7].

SNA characterizes networked structures in terms of "nodes" or "actors" within systems, and "connections" or the relationships and interactions that connect them[8]. The ability to combine numerous nodes and connection "attributes," or descriptions, provides a powerful analysis tool, allowing practitioners to examine networks and subnetworks. They can do this by incorporating an array of

---

[4] Tasker A. & Scoones I. (2021). High Reliability Knowledge Networks: Responding to Animal Diseases in a Pastoral Area of Northern Kenya, *Journal of Development Studies*, https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2021.2013469

[5] Ulrik. B. (2015), International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences (Second Edition), https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/social-sciences/social-network-analysis

[6] Matuschke, (2008). Evaluating the impact of social network in rural innovation systems. https://www.ifpri.org/publication/evaluating-impact-social-networks-rural-innovation-systems [Accessed 13.09.2022]

[7] Ulrik.B (2015), International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences (Second Edition), https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/social-sciences/social-network-analysis.

[8] Ibid.

properties of the actors (e.g., organization type, mission, geography) and their relationships (e.g., coordination, financial, frequency) within the system[9].

The CBCR Activity will work with existing LDOs and other actors to reduce overreliance on humanitarian support, hence enhancing resilience among cross-border communities in the Karamoja cluster.

1.1.   Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the SNA exercise was to map the actors, relationships, information flows, gaps/roadblocks, and the building blocks for systems level change, eventually identifying three kinds of organizations or people:

a. Central nodes – organizations or people who are well connected, are critical sources and repositories of information, and who have influence;

b. Knowledge brokers – organizations or people organizations or people who create bridges between groups; and

c. Peripheral actors – organizations or people who are unconnected and can be at risk of exiting the network.

The analysis examines the types and dynamics of relationships (e.g., strong vs. weak ties) between the various actors/organizations in terms of their strengths and/or weaknesses.

This study contributes to the understanding of existing social networks. These include relationships among organizations and institutions, relationships among administrators, community leaders (both formal and informal), opinion leaders and opinion shapers, and the communities. It also contributes to the understanding of gender roles, social norms, and religious beliefs and practices in the communities living in the Karamoja region. The findings and recommendations will inform the CBCR Activity on how the networks can be scaled to enhance resilience to reduce the need for humanitarian assistance among cross-border communities living within the Karamoja cluster.

The findings identified a cross-section of actors in social cohesion, livelihoods, and natural resource management (NRM) throughout the 10 communities in the Karamoja cluster. A number of actors were identified as central nodes, brokers, and peripheral actors. Knowledge networks and information sharing platforms were also identified.

Conflict sensitivities and power dynamics are generally based on sharing of scarce resources as a result of climatic shocks that are prevalent in the region.

1.2.   Organization of the Report

This report is organized in four chapters. The first chapter addresses the introduction and background to the study including the purpose of the SNA. The second chapter presents the methodology employed. The third chapter presents the findings, highlighting the SNA actors and networks, relationships, knowledge networks, network influences, power relations, and conflict sensitivities. The fourth chapter concludes with recommendations and further research based on the findings.

---

[9] Ibid.

2. APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The analysis employed exploratory research design, where both quantitative and participatory qualitative approaches are used to determine the types of relationships and assess attributes or features of the relationship. These help the research team focus on identifying central organizations in the network, knowledge/information brokers, isolated members and bottlenecks, knowledge/information flow, and informal networks.

For primary data collection, the research team engaged and trained local research assistants to conduct in-person interviews and record data in a matrix. Workshops for training the research assistants were held on August 24, 2022 in five locations: Kalya Hotel, Makutano, West Pokot, Kenya; Labono's office, Kapoeta, South Sudan; Moriloria Hall, Daasanach, Ethiopia; Hotel Leslona, Moroto, Uganda; and Lodwar Lolac Hotel, Lodwar, Kenya.

During the workshops, research assistants were familiarized with the study objectives, data requirements, data collection procedures, ethics, and logistics planning for the data collection exercise. The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

a) Familiarize the enumerators with the objectives of SNA study
b) Highlight the role of the research assistants in the SNA study
c) Acquaint the enumerators with the data collection instruments
d) Have the research assistants practice using the data collection instruments
e) Develop a work plan and assign responsibilities for the SNA data collection
f) Sensitize the research assistants on the study deliverables and ethos

Information collected for the SNA focused on types of relationship and aspects of the relationship as depicted herein:

i.   Social roles (who offers services e.g., supervision, training, education, security, support etc.)
ii. Resources (who offers knowledge, facility access, resource access, funding, water, health (both animal and human) etc.)
iii. Actions (who talks, meets, collaborates with who, etc.) and frequency in the last six months
iv. Affective (who likes, dislikes, influences, moves, associates with who etc.)

This information was to elicit the following aspect of SNA important for our client.
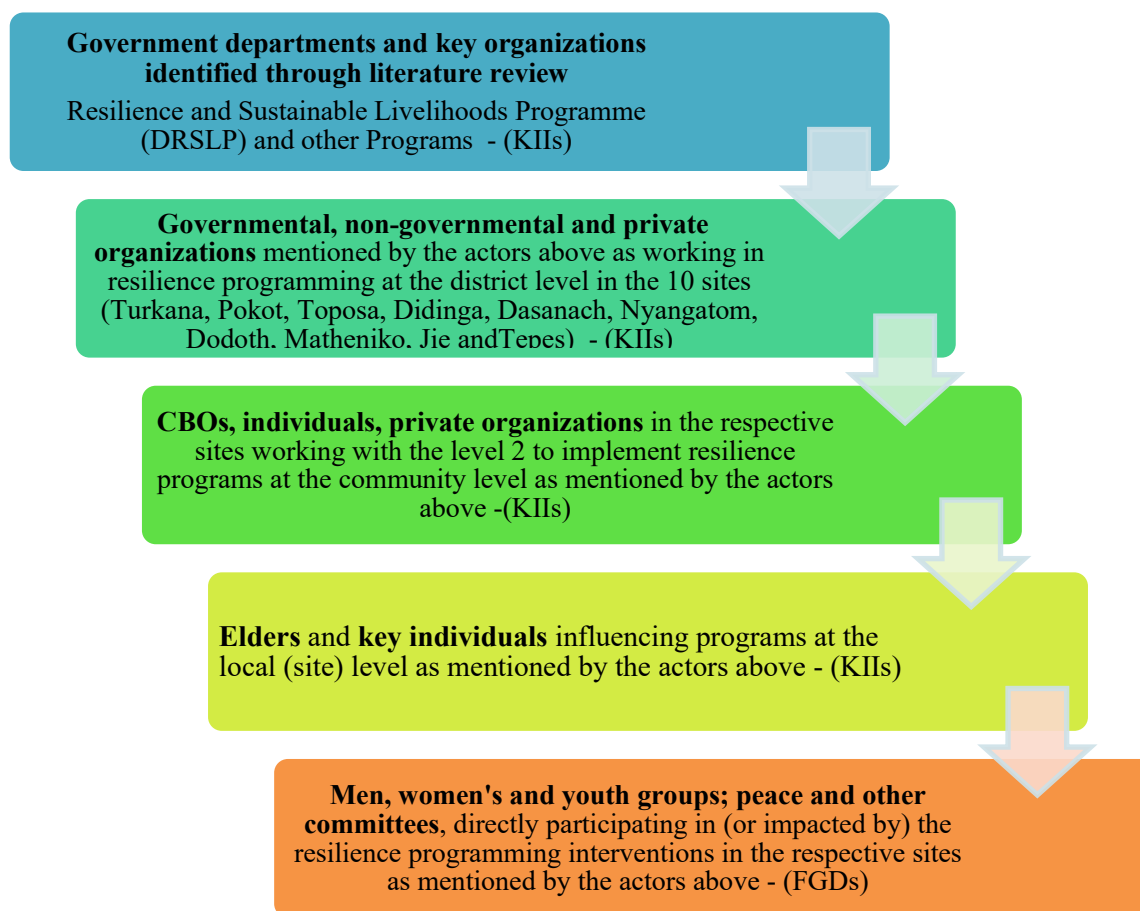
TABLE 1: IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THE RELATIONSHIP	
ASPECT	EXPLANATION
Size (# nodes)	The number of actors/organizations in a network
Density	The proportion of actual ties relative to all possible ties in a network.
Average Distance	The average steps required to get between any two actors in a network.
Average Degree	The average number of ties of actors in the network
Reciprocity	The extent to which directed relationships are reciprocated.
Degree of Centrality	A normalized measure of the number of unique ties a given actor has. Serves as an indication of importance/significance of an actor for the network. This can be

	separated into in-degree centrality (for incoming ties) and out-degree (for outgoing ties) for directed relationship types.
Degree of Betweenness	The extent to which a node acts as a bridge along the shortest path between two other nodes.

2.1. Sampling Techniques

The SNA adopted a whole-of-network approach to assess relationships and structure of each actor. The exercise started with a snow balling phase that identified core local development organizations (LDOs). The process is summarized in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Snowballing and name generator using the funnel approach

Government departments and key organizations identified through literature review
Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (DRSLP) and other Programs - (KIIs)

Governmental, non-governmental and private organizations mentioned by the actors above as working in resilience programming at the district level in the 10 sites (Turkana, Pokot, Toposa, Didinga, Dasanach, Nyangatom, Dodoth, Matheniko, Jie andTepes) - *(KIIs)*

CBOs, individuals, private organizations in the respective sites working with the level 2 to implement resilience programs at the community level as mentioned by the actors above -(KIIs)

Elders and **key individuals** influencing programs at the local (site) level as mentioned by the actors above - (KIIs)

Men, women's and youth groups; peace and other committees, directly participating in (or impacted by) the resilience programming interventions in the respective sites as mentioned by the actors above - (FGDs)

2.1.1.

2.1.2. Sampling Procedures

First step: Identify data collection sites and research assistants

Data collection sites were identified as follows:

TABLE 2 DATA SITES		
COUNTRY	COMMUNITY	DATA SITE
Uganda	Jie	Lomkura and Kalokuruk Villages in Kotido District
	Dodoth	Lokerui Village, Kaabong District

	Metheniko	Nakapelimen and Rupa Villages, Moroto District
	Tepeth	Nachele Village Near Mt. Moroto, Amudat District
Kenya	Pokot	Turkwel Centre, West Pokot
	Turkana	Kibish Ateker, Turkana North
South Sudan	Toposa	Kapoeta Centre in Kapoeta County
	Didinga	Budi Village in Budi County
Ethiopia	Nyangatom	Kibish- Lokorlam and Kagaten Centres
	Dassanech	Turmi and Omorate Centres

Twenty (20) research assistants (RAs) were recruited from respective local targeted communities as follows:

- Jie, Matheniko, Dodoth, and Tepeth communities in Uganda
- Didinga and Toposa communities in South Sudan
- West Pokot and Turkana communities in Kenya
- Nyangatom and Daasanech communities in Ethiopia

Security guides who were village elders and/or community gate keepers were identified to accompany the RAs for security purposes. Thise ensured that data was collected from all targeted cross-border areas.

Second step: Data collection

Data was collected from August 30 – September 10, 2022. RAs were paired according to their ethnic background, allocated different organizations within their region, and dispatched to different communities and sites. Each pair was allocated eight organizations (four for each RA) and were expected to carry out eight key informant interviews (KIIs) and two focus group discussions (FGDs). The FGDs comprised of either women only, youth, men only, or a mixed group, and persons with disability beneficiaries of one or two of the organization's activities.

Information from organizations, including donor-funded projects, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), religious organizations, and other international organization along the Ugandan cross border was collected using the KOBO collect tool. To ensure SNA quality and standards, data collection was done under the supervision of the lead consultant who supervised Tepeth, Matheniko, and Nyangatom teams, while the co-investigator supervised the process for Dodoth, Jie, and Dassanech communities. Data collection for the Toposa, Didinga, and Pokot communities was coordinated by site coordinators who were under the supervision of the lead consultant.

Secondary data was collected through a thorough document review relating to organizations and other networks operating in the Karamoja region.

Phase 1 of Data Collection

For this phase, data was collected from September 1 – 6, 2022 in all data sites in Uganda, South Sudan, and Kenya. Details of communities, allocated RAs, site locations, organizations, and FGDs are presented in Table 2 below:

COMMUNITY	DATA SITE	ORGANIZATIONS IDENTIFIED FOR KEY INFORMANT INTEVIEWS (KIIs)	FGDs CONDUCTED

Jie	Lomkura and Kalokuruk Villages in Kotido district	Andre Food Consult (AFI), Mercy Corps Kotido office, WFP, Development Initiative for Northern Uganda (DINU), Straight Talk, Red Cross Society Uganda	-Women -Men
Dodoth	Lokerui Village, Kaabong district	Mercy Corps, Dynamic Agro Pastoral Development Organization, Save the Children, Goal International, Karamoja Peace and Development Agency, International Rescue Committee, International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) - no respondent found)	-Mixed Group -Men only -PWDs
Metheniko	Nakapelimen and Rupa Villages Moroto District	Welthugner Hilfe, Catholic Relief Services, RIAMRIAM Civil Society Network. Ecological Christian Organization, Cooperation and Development, National Union for Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Karamoja Development Forum	-Mixed group -Youth
Tepeth	Nachele Village near Mt. Moroto Amudat district	International Justice Mission (IJM), Karamoja Youth Efforts to Save the Environment (KAYESE), Save the Children, SASAKAWA-AFRICA, Development Initiative for Northern Uganda-OPM, Food and Agricultural Organization, and Deutsche Gesellschaft fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ GmbH)	-Youth -Women
Pokot	Turkwel Center	County Government, Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT)/Pellow Conservancy, National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), I-REP, Kenya Red Cross, and SIKOM	-Women -Men
Toposa	Kapoeta Center, Kapoeta County	Women Empowerment Development Initiative for South Sudan (WEDISS), Innovative Development Initiative (IDI), Plan International, INTERSOS, HOCTO, Humanitarian Organization for sustainability Development South Sudan, VNG International, and Nyakiriket Consortium	-Youth -Mixed group -PWDs
Didinga	Budi Village in Budi County	Root of Generations (ROG), Save the Children, Norwegian Church Aid, Ark for Humanity, Gredo, Children's Development Support Services (CDSS), APDO and ITWARK	-Women -Men

Phase 2 data collection

Data in the second phase was collected from September 6 – 10, 2022 in Nyangatom and Daasanach in Ethiopia, and in Turkana, Kenya. Details of communities, allocated RAs, site location, organizations and FGDs are presented below:

COMMUNITY	DATA SITE	ORGANIZATIONS IDENTIFIED FOR KEY INFORMANT INTEVIEWS (KIIs)	FGDs CONDUCTED
Turkana	Kibish-Ateker	Elemi Development Organization, Veterinarians Without Borders (VSF) Germany, Kibish Youth Action Network Organization (KYAN), WFP, national government, Share International, Concern Worldwide and Tupado Organization	-Women -Men
Daasanach	Borkonoch Village, Omorate Youth Park, Omorate	ECC-SDCO/South Omorate sub-branch, Government Departments of Water and Social Services, Global Communities, PACT Ethiopia, and Save the Children	-Youth -Women
Nyangatom	Kangaten and Kibish-Lokorlam Villages	Productive safety net program, Lowland Livelihood Resilience Project, Pastoral Development Office, Save the Children International, IPC, and Ethiopian Institute of Peace (EIP)	-Youth -Women

2.2. Ethical Considerations

This study did not involve any intrusive procedures for participants and the consultants. RAs ensured that the participants understood the nature of the study and sought their consent before the interviews.

2.3. Submission of Data from across the Karamoja cluster

SNA data was collected using the KOBO collect app and uploaded to a central server once the RAs had access to a network. A Google Drive link to upload any other materials relevant to this study, such as FGD sign-in sheets, photos, and recordings, was created and shared with all RAs.

2.4. Data Analysis

The KUMU SNA tool was used to scrutinize the connections and to analyze the network. LDO connections were looked at in terms of connectedness, centrality, density, betweenness, bridging, component, closeness, degree, measures of power, homophily (how similar or dissimilar network members are from their connections in terms demographics, education, occupation, market, trade etc.), and multiplexity, which is the number of connections between two network LDOs to establish whether they worked together on several projects.

FOCUS	SNA THEME	NETWORK	RELATIONSHIPS	ACTORS
Pokot-Turkana, Kaabong, Kotido, Amudat, Moroto, Topotha, Didinga Regions and Nyangatom-Dassanech *woredas*	• Social cohesion actors • Livelihoods actors • National resource management (NRM) actors	Network diagrams	• Types and dynamics of relationships (e.g., strong vs. weak ties)	• Central nodes • Knowledge brokers • Peripheral actors

3. FINDINGS

This section presents the SNA actors in the Karamoja cluster. The actors have been narrowed down to three themes, namely social cohesion, NRM, and livelihoods. The study established that there is a well-established network of actors across the entire landscape. Most of the actors cut across the communities and the three themes.

Social cohesion was the most pronounced network due to the prevailing conflict dynamics that are instigated by climatic conditions, and the geomorphological aspects in the region. Observably, a very thin divide exists between livelihoods and NRM, where the actors play duplicative roles.

Collaboration between the actors is notably guided by security needs, availability of funds, and delivery of interventions. The most dominant actors are the government agencies, NGOs, and CBOs. A very thin line exists between the CBOs and NGOs within the region, while the INGOs are the dominant funders across the three themes.

Findings from the data gathered are presented under the following subheadings.

a) Social cohesion actors and their networks
b) Livelihood actors and their networks
c) NRM actors and their networks

3.1. Main actors in social cohesion and their networks

Turkana – Pokot Corridor, Kenya

The Turkana and Pokot communities have been in conflict for many years over access to water and pasture. Recent discoveries of other valuable resources like oil and gold have increased interest over land and boundary demarcations. While county governments have brought valuable services closer to the people, they have also influenced communities' perceptions on governance and ownership of resources within the established political and administrative boundaries, consequently causing new and more complex conflicts.

The study revealed that social cohesion actors within the cluster can broadly be categorized under five main categories: government actors (national and local administration), I/NGOs, faith-based organizations (FBOs), CBOs, and community gatekeepers.

With regard to government actors, the Assistant County Commissioner at Kibish maintained that, *"The Kenya Government, through the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, engages the Kenya Defence Forces, the Kenya Police, and the Kenya Police Reserves to avert conflict in the region. Police commanding station officers work closely with Assistant County Commissioner (ACC)-Kibish, ACC-Turkwel, and County Governments of Turkana and West Pokot."*

The Assistant County Commissioner based in Turkwel added that the social cohesion actors within the region also include peace committees. The peace committees constitute key influential grassroots' leaders such as local chiefs, village elders, women leaders, youth leaders, religious leaders, and National Police Reservists (NPRs), and representatives from the Turkana and West Pokot County Governments (Peace Directorates & MCAs).

An interview with the County Government Coordinator based in Lodwar and Kapenguria stated that the county governments give advice on internal and international border security through the Office of Peace and Security on Borderlands under the County Governor's Office. The Office collects and analyze the security data, and shares it with the Security Directorate, and rangeland management and peace committees within the two counties. This implies that the Office of Peace and Security is a central node which plays an advisory role and is a liaison office for government, NGOs, and other actors working on peace and borderlands. Although funded by the County Government of Turkana, it collaborates with organizations such as Mercy Corps across the cluster, and sub-national leadership in Uganda, South Omo, and South Sudan.

The majority of the respondents within the Turkana – Pokot region stated that non-state actors particularly CBOs and NGOs play a critical role to complement state efforts. For instance, the project manager at SIKOM alluded that, *"NGOs and CBOs have virtually taken over community-driven peace-building efforts in many places within Pokot-Turkana. [This is] on the realization that government personnel and resources are [spread too] thin to effectively manage security in the borderlands."*

This was affirmed during an interview with a former director of the Kerio Valley Development Authority who stated that intercommunity peace-building efforts are largely being pushed by local CBOs and NGOs such as APaD and SIKOM. He explained that SIKOM Peace Network for Development collaborates with the National Police Service and Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation in peace-building and conflict resolution, mainly through sports for peace. He maintained that SIKOM has strong relationships and collaboration with other actors. Therefore, SIKOM is a central node within the Turkana-Pokot terrain.

Respondents also reported that the Komesi Women's Network has strong collaboration with the County Government of West Pokot, Ateker Women's Network, and Action Aid to mitigate cross-border conflict and female genital mutilation (FGM) in West Pokot, Kenya, and Amudat district in Uganda. The Ateker Women's Network is present in all the four countries within the Karamoja cluster. It is a strong network which links women and vulnerable groups across the cluster, is involved in trauma healing and peace-building and, therefore, qualifies to be a broker.

The former director of the Kerio Valley Development Authority, who now serves as the peace ambassador within the region, also reported the activities of the Lokichogio Peace Organization (LOPEO). LOPEO's peace initiatives involve the Dodoth and Jie of Uganda, and the Toposa of South Sudan, mainly through songs and drama shows. He also mentioned the Karamoja Women Umbrella Organization (KAWUO) which focuses on women's and girls' empowerment in all nine districts of the Karamoja sub-region. KAWUO collaborates with the Nawoitorong Women's Group in Turkana on peace mitigation, and with Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation in West Pokot, GIZ, IRC, Malaria Consortium, and with Uganda's Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development on the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP) and Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP).

FBOs in the network include CARITAS-Diocese of Lodwar which collaborates across the borders with APaD and the Moroto Diocese. Peace-building is conducted through peace dialogues, inter-diocesan peace dialogues, and sports for peace.

Women's and youth groups in this terrain have little influence in decision making processes and, therefore, qualify to be peripheral actors in the network.

Karamoja Sub-Region, Uganda

In the Kaabong, Kotido, Amudat and Moroto districts of Uganda, the key social cohesion actors in the sub-region include: the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), donors, development partners, and other government ministries.

The Karamoja Resilience Support Unit (KRSU) is a Secretariat that coordinates the OPM, which represents government interests, and the Karamoja Donors Partners Group, which represents donor interests. The parties meet on a monthly basis. KRSU also conducts research to provide evidence for action, demand-driven research, evidence briefs, and policy briefs. The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and local defence units (LDUs) are engaged in security efforts to curb conflicts and deaths within the region.

In the Amudat region, the Karamoja Peace and Development Agency (KAPDA) and Dynamic Agro-Pastoralist Development Organization (DADO) are networks of NGOs and government actors mapping the borderline between South Sudan and Kenya to increase interaction between the Karamojong and the neighbouring Toposa and Turkana through project interventions. The collaborating partners include: Save the Children, Nakere Rural Women Activists (NARWOA), Riamriam, Whave, KRSU, Mercy Corps, UPDF, and Inspectorate General of Government (IGG). The network is funded through Mercy Corps and Mennoknights Central Committee (MCC). This implies that KAPDA and DADO are central nodes because of their coordination role, while Mercy Corps and MCC are central nodes because they are key funders.

The project manager at Mercy Corps in Kotido district also highlighted the significance of the Kotido Peace Initiative (KOPEl). He described KOPEI as an inter-faith initiative comprised of Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, and the Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAG) to promote peace-building at the local community level. Another key informant in Moroto mentioned the Monarlip-Moroto-Nakapiripirit Initiative as a similar interfaith initiative amongst religious leaders serving the Matheniko, Tepeth, and Turkana communities. Still in Kotido district, KAWUO was reported to be a critical social cohesion actor, and qualifies to be a broker.

Respondents further reported that the Amuria Elders' Association is a key community gate keeper for the Amuria community, making it a central node.

Women's and youth groups in this terrain have little influence in decision making processes and, therefore, qualify to be peripheral actors in the network.

An interview with a peace ambassador for the Karamoja region underscored that politicians are highly visible in their respective regions, but do not belong to a single cohesive network. They play their respective elective roles at national, regional, and local levels, but can infiltrate any network and create disunity in any program intervention, depending on their personal and community interests.

Nyangatom-Daasanach Corridor, Ethiopia

A KII interview with the *woreda* administrator in Kangaten maintained that the key actors in social cohesion include the national government, *woreda* authorities, FBOs, NGOs, and community gate keepers. The West Omo Zone Administration Office, which is a governmental network, coordinates government programs, projects, and activities, and also collaborates with all the government sectors and *woredas* in the zone, including Nyangatom and Dassanech *woredas*. The South Omo Zone Development, Planning, and Economic Directorate coordinates the actors in South Omo Zone, holding

an annual forum with the donor community active in the zone, including Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Save the Children, and Omo Delta Consortium. The Nyangatom Woreda Administration Office and Dassanech Woreda Administration Office coordinate government programs, projects, and activities in their respective *woredas*.

According to the Dassanech *woreda* administrator, community-led cohesion actors include the Initiative for Pastoralist Communication (IPC), a voluntary operation network based in the Jinka area. The IPC focuses on conflict resolution among the pastoralist communities over grazing land and cattle raiding, working with the elders and morans (warriors) from the respective communities who constitute rangeland committees. Therefore, IPC can be inferred as a broker linking Dassanech and Nyangatom communities within the network.

FBOs are also social cohesion actors in Ethiopia. The Catholic Church (Omorate St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, under Sodo Vicarate) networks in peace-building among the Nyangatom, Dassanech, and Turkana through the financial support of the CAFOD Foundation (English Catholic organization), Trocaire (Irish-based Catholic organization), and SCIAF (a Dutch-based Catholic organization).

Toposa-Didinga Corridor, South Sudan

The *Payam* administrator stated that that the key actor in social cohesion in his region is the Office of the Governor, which coordinates all government programs, projects, and activities in Kapoeta State. Grassroot Integrated Network for Development (GRIND) in Kapoeta focuses on peace-building, food security, and livelihoods in partnership with UN agencies, government, and INGOs.

The FGD in Kapoeta highlighted that the Organization for Peace, Relief and Development (OPRD) seeks to integrate the communities by encouraging them to participate in activities like beading, brewing local beer, milling maize, and running a shop that could bring together people from different ethnic groups. As one FGD participant explained, *"OPRD's women's empowerment programs are facilitated as a means to mitigate conflict and improve household incomes. It provides protection through structures for referral pathways to address GBV (child marriages, domestic violence etc.). They are very instrumental in community small arms control, the peace and community cohesion program, as well as organizing traditional dances and sports for peace."*

OPRD is funded by WFP, UNICEF, UNESCO, IGAD and UNDP. The organization collaborates with LOKADO and LOPEO in Turkana, and DADO in Kaabong, and can be identified as a broker linking cross border communities.
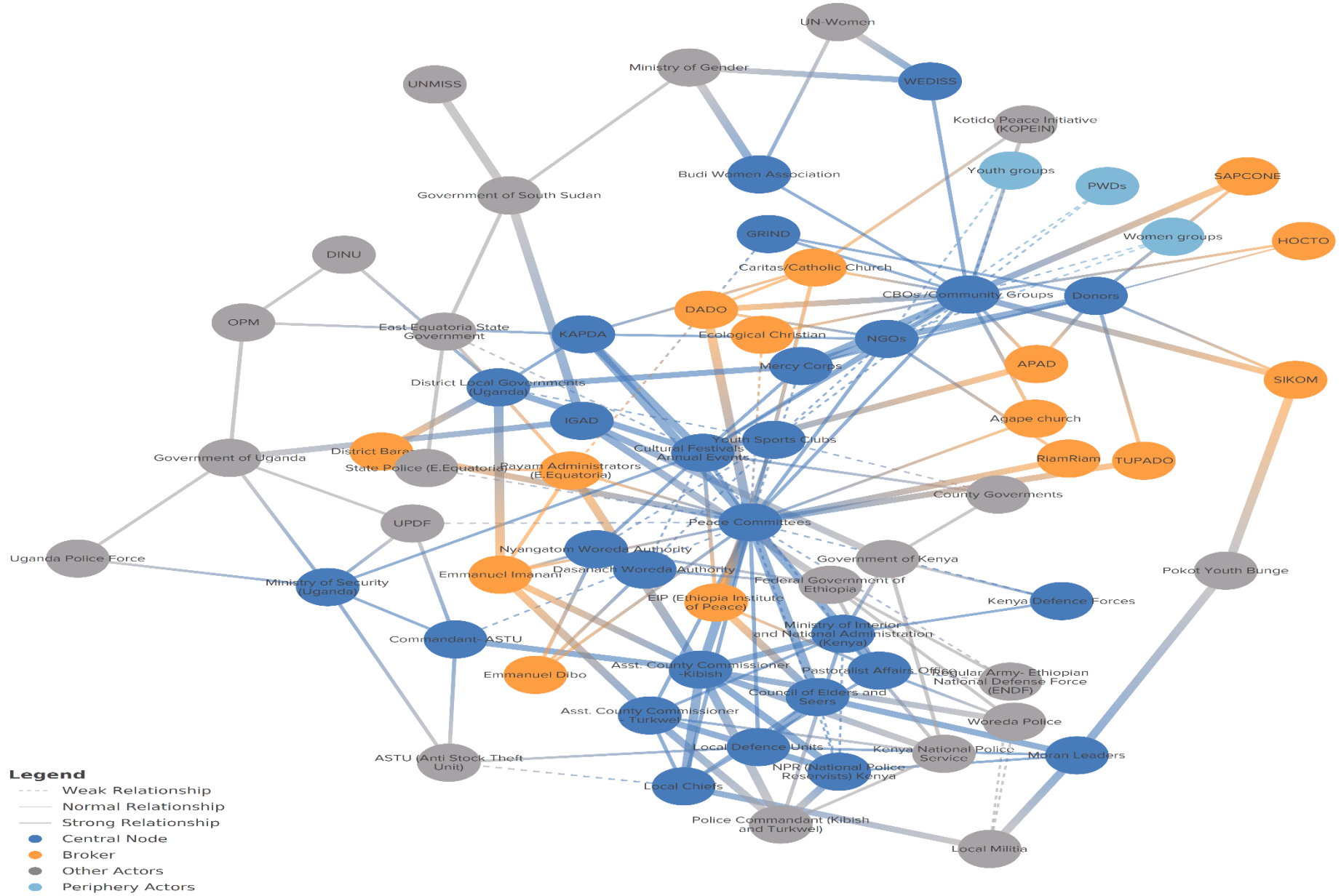
The Integrated Community Peace and Development Organization (ICPDO) has a multifaceted approach working in the three themes. However, it majors on social cohesion activites such as conflict prevention by participatory identification of target communities, strengthening peace committees, peace training, strengthening safer committees, raising awareness and advocacy on youth and women's empowerment, radio talk shows, exchange visits, peace caravans, sports for peace, creation of common shared resources, water points for both animals and human consumption, establishment of structures (market, schools, roads and slaughterhouses), support to ad-hoc community dialogues, institutional development, and formation of civil society peace actors/networks across borders. ICPDO collaborates with PACT Kenya, Mercy Corps Uganda, CORDAID, ARC, PLAN, MACDA, and state government, and is funded by Dan Church Aid (DCA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and NIRAS. This implies that ICPDO as an organization has a strong connection with actors across the region and links within the communities, making it a key broker.

Nyakiriket Consortium was reported by respondents to be an umbrella body comprised of ten local organizations working together to advocate for peace and promote dialogue across three major conflicting groups in the region – the Buya, Didinga, and Toposa. With support from USAID, Nyakiriket Consortium holds Toposa-Turkana peace dialogues.

FBOs are also key players in social cohesion in the region. The Holistic Community Transformation Organization (HOCTO) disseminates state action plans for peace among conflicting communities in the greater Kapoeta State. Further, the organization collaborates with IDI, Root of Generations (ROG), and COPAIDI within South Sudan, and the greater Karamojong region.

From the foregoing, some of the non-state actors, particularly CBOs and NGOs, are central nodes, while others are brokers because they largely complement state efforts and link one community with another. In many places, these agencies have virtually taken over community-driven peace-building efforts on the realization that government personnel and resources are spread too thin to effectively manage security in the borderlands. This, and much more, is depicted in the social network analysis diagram for social cohesion diagram below.

Figure 2: Social Cohesion Network Diagram for Karamoja Cluster

Legend

- - - - - Weak Relationship
──── Normal Relationship
──── Strong Relationship
● Central Node
● Broker
● Other Actors
● Periphery Actors

The SNA diagram indicates the following:

Table 6: Social cohesion network

CENTRAL NODES	KNOWLEDGE BROKERS	PERIPHERAL ACTORS
Ministry of Interior and National Administration (Kenya)	Agape Church	PWDs
Ministry of Security (Uganda)	APaD	Women groups
Donors	Caritas/Catholic Church	Youth groups
IGAD	DADO	
KAPDA	District Barazas	
Kenya Defence Forces	Ecological Christian	
NPR (National Police Reservists) Kenya	EIP (Ethiopia Institute of Peace)	
Nyangatom Woreda Authority	HOCTO	
Daasanach Woreda Authority	Payam Administrators (E. Equatoria)	
Pastoralist Affairs Office	RiamRiam	
District Local Governments (Uganda)	SAPCONE	
Commandant- ASTU	SIKOM	
Assistant County Commissioner - Turkwel	TUPADO	
Assistant County Commissioner - Kibish		
Budi Women Association		
CBOs /Community Groups		
Council of Elders and Seers		
Cultural Festivals and Annual Events		
Local Chiefs		
Local Defence Units		
Mercy Corps		
Moran Leaders		
NGOs		
Peace Committees		
WEDISS		
GRIND		

3.2. Main actors in livelihoods and their networks

Livelihoods actors within the cluster mainly comprise of government actors (national and local administrations), I/NGOs, faith-based organizations (FBOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), and community gate keepers. Observably, the majority of livelihood actors double up as NRM actors within the cluster.

Turkana - Pokot Corridor, Kenya

Network actors in livelihoods in the Turkana – Pokot region include central and county government agencies. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Co-operatives and Ministry of Interior and National Administration are key livelihoods actors. Assistant County Commissioners and local chiefs mobilize citizen engagement in livelihoods activities and maintain peaceful coexistence to enhance marketing. County government activities enhance food security and infrastructural

development to boost trade and marketing. Additionally, the national government disseminates funds to the county governments for livelihoods and peace sporting activities through Bukwo University Students' Associations, the County Governments of Turkana and West Pokot, livestock markets, fish markets, food security committees, governors, and rangeland management and peace committees.

The County Government of West Pokot has established peace border schools along the border of Sebei and West Pokot to enable cross-border socialization with the intention of defusing hostility among learners and parents. The county government also distributes bulls along the Uganda-Kenya border, establishes common markets, and engages security personnel (Kenya police, police reservists) to control the porous borders.

In Turkana County, the GIZ Technical Cooperation collaborates with Turkana County Government ministries, NDMA, IGAD, GIZ Uganda program, APaD, and Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) in capacity development for the county government's technical officers and the community. They engage in sustainable land-use planning, pasture development, corridor development, support linkages with IGAD, support community groups in savings, business development (beekeeping, gum Arabic, livestock management etc.), and facilitate community resource mapping, which is then transferred into geographic information system mapping.

CBOs such as APaD collaborate with Caritas Lodwar, KEFRI, Mercy Corps, and the county government to carry out capacity building for savings groups, bee-keeping, tree planting, a donkey welfare project, and resource sharing for conflict resolution. SIKOM Peace Network for Development, a NGO mentioned in social cohesion, is a knowledge broker in livelihoods that links the region.

The Turkana Pastoralist Development Organization (TUPADO) is an NGO which collaborates with Mercy Corps and the county government. TUPADO focuses on empowering women's and youth's groups with business development information. The organization also provides a linkage with the cross-border management unit on fish marketing, deals in gum Arabic marketing, as well as protection of dry season grazing areas for utilization during scarcity. This implies that TUPADO plays a broker role within the cluster.

FBOs play a substantive role in livelihoods. Dutch Church Aid (DCA) collaborates with SAPCONE, LOKADO, and the Anglican Development Services (ADS) in West Pokot to offer interventions on most projects on livelihoods within the region.

Karamoja Sub Region, Uganda

The Ugandan government, through the Ministry of Livestock, engages in intervention programs such as branding and marketing. According to study respondents, livelihoods actors intervene across the communities within the cluster. For instance, Lotus Kenya Action for Development Organization (LOKADO) focuses on sustainable resource management, cross-border vaccination and treatment of livestock, the establishment of pasture re-seeding demo farms, incoming generating projects, and supporting beneficiaries with business start-up kits e.g., retail shop goods and cash transfers. The interventions are in collaboration with cross border community networks such as Kotido Peace Initiative (KOPEIN), Dodoth Agro-Pastoralists Development Organization (DADO), Kaabong Peace Development Association (KAPDA), Karamoja Development Forum (KDF), and Welthunger Hilfe.

Riamriam was mentioned by several respondents and participants as an influential actor in livelihoods that, over the years, has collaborated with UN agencies, most especially UNDP and UNHCR. The

organization brings together like-minded entities and individual actors to advocate for health, education, water, and environmental and natural resources.

DADO is a CBO mentioned by respondents that partners with PACT, Mercy Corps, VSF Belgium, and Karamoja Development Forum (KDF) in livelihoods activities across all areas within the sub-cluster. The organization also supports SACCOs and village savings associations, and links the communities to banking institutions.

Notably, KAPDA cuts across livelihoods, NRM, and social cohesion themes. In livelihoods, KAPDA addresses inter-community interactions along the borderline between South Sudan and Kenya to increase interaction between the Karamojong and the neighboring Toposa and Turkana. KAPDA partners with Save the Children, KAPDA, Nakere Rural Women Activist (NARWOA), Riamriam, Whave, KRSU, Mercy Corps, UPDF, and the Inspectorate General of Government (IGG).

Karamoja Livestock Development Forum (KLDF) was mentioned by the respondents as a forum for veterinarians which guides livestock planning in the sub-region through training of community animal health workers and livestock intervention programs. KLDF partners with Mercy Corps, FAO, IRC, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF), and vets from Kenya.

The Institute for Cooperation and Development (C&D) in Uganda focuses on agriculture/livestock. The organization sets up veterinary laboratories, agro-pastoral schools, and supports local communities through food and non-food donations. AVSI International was also reported as an NGO that focuses on agripreneurship, and up-skilling for increased youth employment. Ecological Christian Organization (ECO) was also mentioned as an FBO working towards realization of sustained livelihoods for marginalized, under-served, and vulnerable groups in Uganda. In Kotido, the Caritas Kotido Diocese engages in connector plans for cross-border trade, food security, and nutrition, in partnership with Dioceses from Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan.

Toposa - Didinga Corridor, South Sudan

The Toposa Community Association guides communities' development in collaboration with the Government of South Sudan. Other partners, such as the Ateker Foundation of South Sudan, Integrated Community Peace and Development Organization, KDIF, and American Refugee Council (ARC), come on board when there is conflict.

The Integrated Community Peace and Development Organization (ICPDO) offers cross–cutting interventions such as promoting climate-smart agriculture; establishing a market information system; promoting market linkages and credit schemes; establishment and training of farmers' cooperative societies; promoting alternative livelihoods and income-generating activities; establishment of the pastoral field schools; conflict prevention, strengthening peace committees, peace training, and strengthening safer committees; raising awareness and advocacy on youth and women's empowerment; radio talk shows; exchange visits, peace caravans, and sports for peace; creation of common shared resources, establishment of structures (market, schools, roads and slaughterhouses); support to ad-hoc community dialogues; institutional development; and formation of civil society peace actors/networks across borders. They maintain cross border partnerships with PACT Kenya, Mercy Corps Uganda, CORDAID, ARC, PLAN, Mother and Children Development Aid (MaCDA), and county/state government.

The National Empowerment of Positive Women United (NEPWU) empowers women in livelihoods through micro-gardening, handicrafts, social support, and income generating activities. To achieve these, NEPWU collaborates with UNICEF, IOM, JHPIEGO, ICAP, NNGO, MaCDA, IMA, and the Network of AIDS Service Organizations in South Sudan (NASOSS).

Nyangatom-Daasanach Corridor, Ethiopia

The Lowland Livelihood Resilience Project (LLRP) in Ethiopia aims at enhancing pastoral and agro-pastoral ability to manage shocks. The program focuses on communities in arid and semi-arid lands through capital investment and rural livelihoods sub-projects. The Ethiopian Pastoralist Research and Development Association (EPaRDA) is active in rangeland activities. The organization focuses on expanding the rangelands to achieve growth and transformation in livestock, fisheries, pastoral development, urban food security, and job creation. Further, EPaRDA partners across borders with VSF-Germany and Mercy Corps on the Ethiopian side, and with CIFA and TUPADO on the Kenyan side. This implies that LLRP and EPaRDA are brokers that employ a consortium approach in engaging partners across the cluster.

VITA RTI is an organization that implements agricultural programs such as provision of sorghum seeds, growing of cash crops like bananas, and stocking of livestock. The organization targets youth and women by assisting them in food security and job creation.

In several FGDs, participants opined that business communities such as money changers (forex), banks and private traders play a significant role in promoting peace and livelihoods by ensuring a thriving business environment.

The strength of relationships among livelihoods actors within the cluster are summarized in the network diagram in Figure 3.

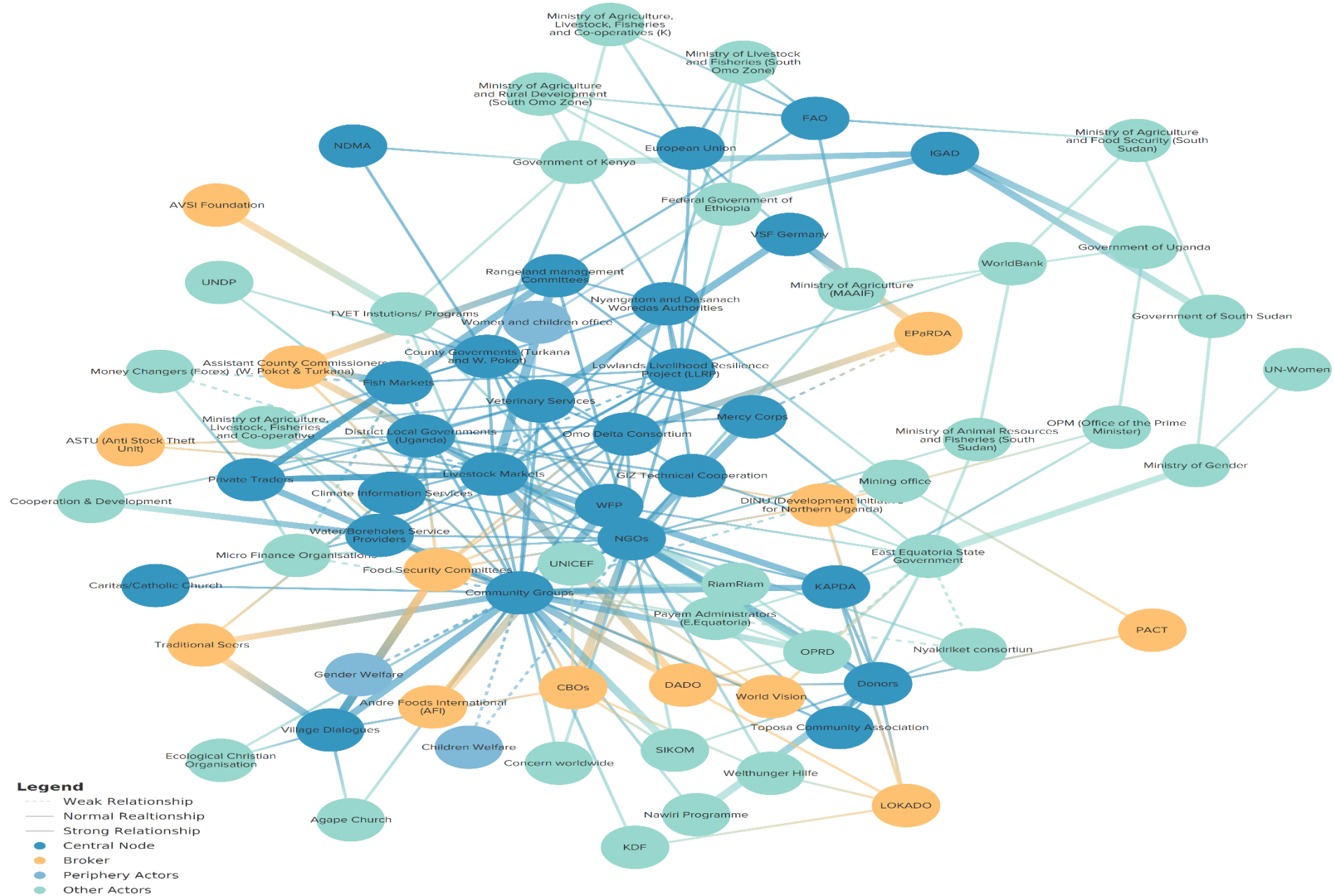*Figure 3: Livelihoods Network Diagram for Karamoja Cluster*

Legend

- - - - Weak Relationship
——— Normal Realtionship
——— Strong Relationship
● Central Node
● Broker
● Periphery Actors
● Other Actors

Table 7: Livelihoods network

CENTRAL NODES	KNOWLEDGE BROKERS	PERIPHERAL ACTORS
Caritas/Catholic Church Climate Information Services Community groups County Government of Turkana County Government of West Pokot District Local Governments (Uganda) Donors European Union FAO Fish markets GIZ Technical Cooperation IGAD KAPDA Livestock markets Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project (LLRP) Mercy Corps NDMA NGOs Nyangatom Woreda Authority Daasanach Woreda Authority Omo Delta Consortium Private traders Rangeland management committees Toposa Community Association Veterinary services Village dialogues VSF Germany Water/boreholes service providers WFP	Andre Foods International (AFI) Assistant County Commissioners (West Pokot and Turkana) ASTU (Anti Stock Theft Unit) AVSI Foundation CBOs DADO DINU (Development Initiative for Northern Uganda) EPaRDA Food security committees LOKADO PACT Traditional seers World Vision	Children welfare office Gender welfare office Women and children office

3.3. Main actors in NRM and their network

Regarding NRM, actors within the cluster are also comprised of government actors (national and local administration), I/NGOs, FBOs, CBOs, and community gate keepers. As mentioned earlier most of the livelihoods actors in the preceding section double up as NRM actors.

Study respondents noted the Kerio Valley Development Association (KVDA) and National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) as the main government assisted NRM intervention programs in the region. According to an NDMA project officer, *"NDMA is a government agency funded by [the] Office of the County Governor on a needs basis and works with all sectors in the counties. NDMA coordinates drought resilience actors in the County and uses [a] tracker program to monitor drought resilience in the county. [We also] provide information on drought response and produce an Early Warning Drought bulletin every month. NDMA supports resilience programs and services to the various sectors and coordinates the county security committee. Intervention activities are done with the assistance of ACCs, local chiefs, Kenya Wildlife Services, [and the] Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources."*

He further added, *"We work closely with Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) which is a research arm of government that focuses on applied research. Their findings assist us to address livelihoods and NRM problems. For example, their findings have informed NDMA on programs such as Aloe Turkanensis (promoting it for soap), beekeeping, pasture sold as seed and hay, resins (kabani), and gum Arabica. Papaya is being encouraged because this will grow within four months. Focusing on soil water management to avoid water run-off. Pasture plots have been introduced along the West Pokot-Turkana border conflict area, and [they are] managed well through the elder's traditional management system as a dry season grazing area to solve the existing conflict."*

The Shalom Centre for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (SCCRR) engages the Turkana and West Pokot communities into the peaceful management of natural resource-based conflicts. They partner with Trocaire in their NRM project work to empower vulnerable communities in the Turkana – West Pokot corridor by increasing their awareness of resource rights and management of natural resource-based conflicts.

Secondary data revealed that KEFRI collaborates with Friends of Lake Turkana, APaD, SIDAE, Caritas Karimo, the Hub, KDF, Caritas Kapoeta in South Sudan, GIZ and Mercy Corps in Ethiopia, and the University of Turkana.

An FGD held at Nakipirpir noted St. Peter's Community Network (SAPCONE) as an organization that provides water through construction of valley dams in health centers and common markets. SAPCONE also engages in peace-building and conflict resolution at hotspots, and is seen to collaborate with PACT and Mercy Corps.

Pokot Outreach Ministries (POM) drills boreholes in parts of Uganda and Kenya as part of their engagement in livelihoods support and social services activities. The Pokot Youth Bunge, in collaboration with Mercy Corps, works on enhancing climate change resilience projects among the youth. The Catholic Church (Omorate St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, under Sodo Vicarate) has interventions on water, agriculture, and livestock development.

The question on NRM actors was posed to the former director of Kerio Valley Development Authority who narrated, *"Here in West Pokot County, we have the Pellow Community Conservancy which is a CBO that started community conservancy in 2014, cutting across the East, West, and North Pokot regions that are bordered by the Pellow conservancy and Nasolot Game Reserve. The conservancy has various animals such as elephant, buffalo, Beisa oryx, lesser and greater kudu, leopards, olive baboons, hyenas, crocodiles, and warthogs. They have sunk boreholes and wells to provide water for the animals and also constructed infrastructure for the community like toilets in the settlements. They not only deal with wild animals but also deal with people. For instance, they have included morans in the peace committees where they train them as peace ambassadors. They also hold sports and strengthen "nyumba kumi" initiatives, in partnership with KWS, NPS, and neighboring conservancies, Tullow Oil, West Pokot County Government, CDF, Conservancy Livelihood Fund, GoK, Red Cross, NRT, FAO and European Union."*

Apart from livelihoods interventions, GIZ has links with IGAD which conducts community resource mapping. GIZ also collaborates with Turkana County Government ministries, NDMA, GIZ Uganda, APaD, and KEFRI. The county government works through its Fisheries Department, and with the West Pokot County Government, and peace and rangeland committees to implement NRM-related projects. In Uganda, GIZ focuses on capacity development of technical officers in the district local government and the community to effectively engage in planning, sustainable land-use, pasture development,
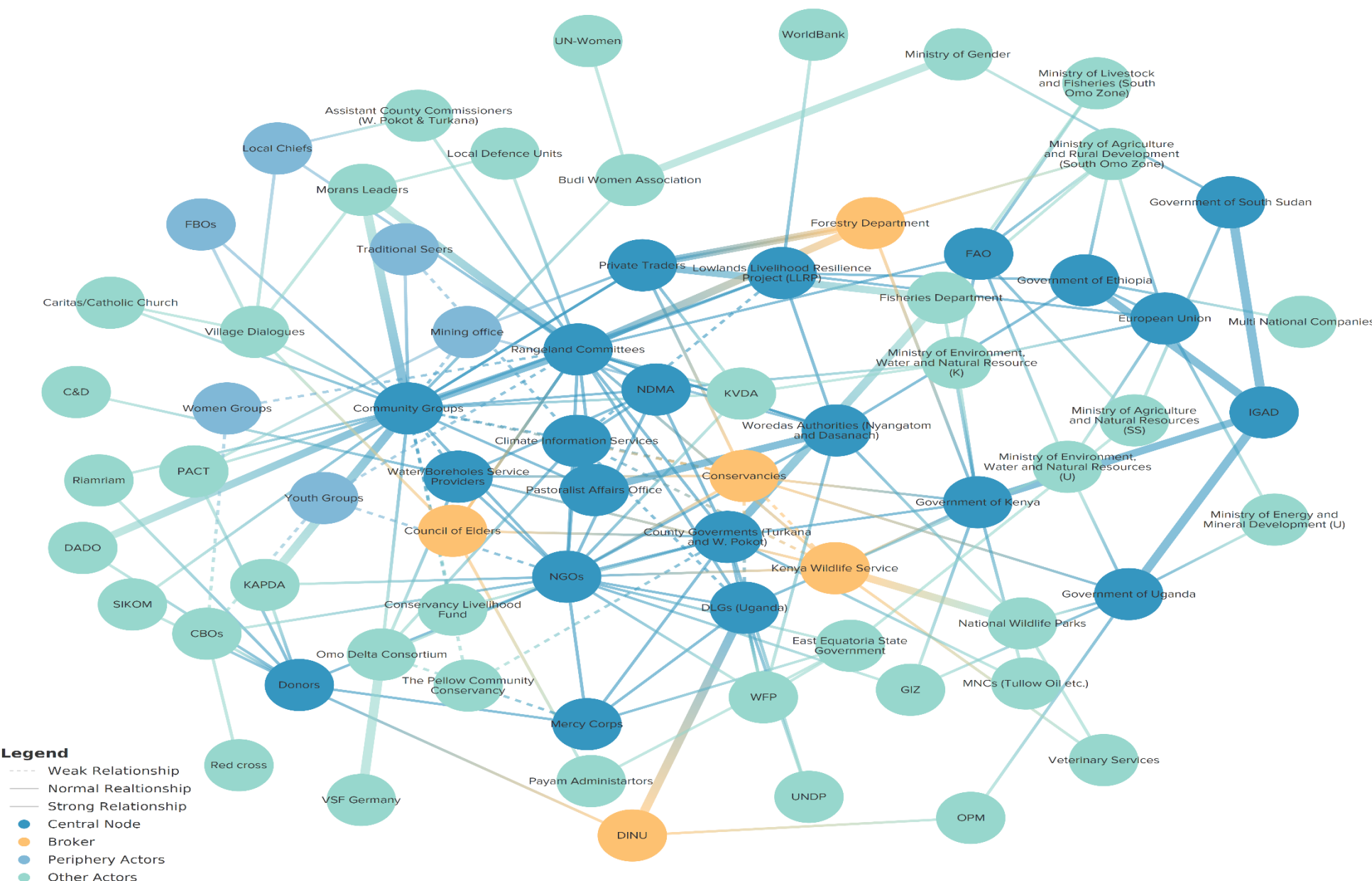
corridor development, and to support linkages through IGAD for water production. Further, GIZ partners with the Government of Uganda, Kenya Defence Forces and IGAD to provide cash-for-work activities that hire people to work.

The Karamoja Youth Efforts to Save the Environment 256 (KAYESE 256) is a youth-led CBO in Karamoja that focuses on environment and climate change aspects. The CBO also works with other CBOs and NGOs supporting NRM. According to the CBO's founder, *"We engage in tree planting and other biodiversity activities. [We] mobilize young people in advocating [against] climate change through digital spaces and platforms. For instance, we have go-green campaigns where we involve churches and schools which have land and encourage them to plant trees. We have also encouraged Mt. Moroto residents to preserve the forest and discourage charcoal burning especially in Enkpiripiri. We also teach the youth to make briquettes which are recycled charcoal residues."*

In Ethiopia, Omo Delta is an IGAD project along River Omo that is financed by the European Union. The project is implemented by Veterenaires Sans Frontieres Germany (VSF-G), in collaboration with Mercy Corps, VITA, EPaRDA, CIFA, and TUPADO working along the Turkana and Marsabit borders in Kenya, and South Omo and Bench Maji zones in Ethiopia. The findings were that Dassanech and Nyangatom *woreda* authorities, LLRP, Omo Delta Consortium, and the Pastoralists Affairs Office in Ethiopia feature strongly as cross cutting actors in both NRM and livelihoods.

In South Sudan, the Budi Women's Association (BWA) is a local CBO engaged in NRM activities. The CBO works in the Didinga community, and their main engagement is environmental education and training; management of community tree nurseries, and promoting the participation of indigenous communities in the restoration of biodiversity in their territories. Additionally, private money changers and traders were found to play significant roles in NRM across the cluster. The social network analysis depicts strengths of the relationships among actors in the entire cluster as cited in Figure 4:

Figure 4 NRM Network Diagram for Karamoja Cluster

Table 8: NRM Network

CENTRAL NODES	KNOWLEDGE BROKERS	PERIPHERAL ACTORS
Government of Ethiopia Government of Kenya Government of South Sudan Government of Uganda IGAD Climate Information Services Community groups County Government of Turkana County Government of West Pokot District Local Governments (Uganda) Donors European Union FAO Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project (LLRP) Mercy Corps NDMA NGOs Pastoralist Affairs Office Private traders Rangeland Committees Water/boreholes service providers Nyangatom Woreda Authority Daasanach Woreda Authority	Conservancies Councils of Elders DINU (Development Initiative for Northern Uganda) Forestry Department Kenya Wildlife Service	FBOs Local chiefs Mining Office Traditional seers Women's groups Youth groups

3.4.   Knowledge Networks

Knowledge networks represent a large number of organizations (and their relationships) that come together primarily to accumulate, generate, and transmit knowledge, mostly focusing on development and intervention activities. In this context, the SNA mapped the knowledge actors in the three themes across the Karamoja cluster. A summary of the knowledge network and information flow is summarized in the diagram below:
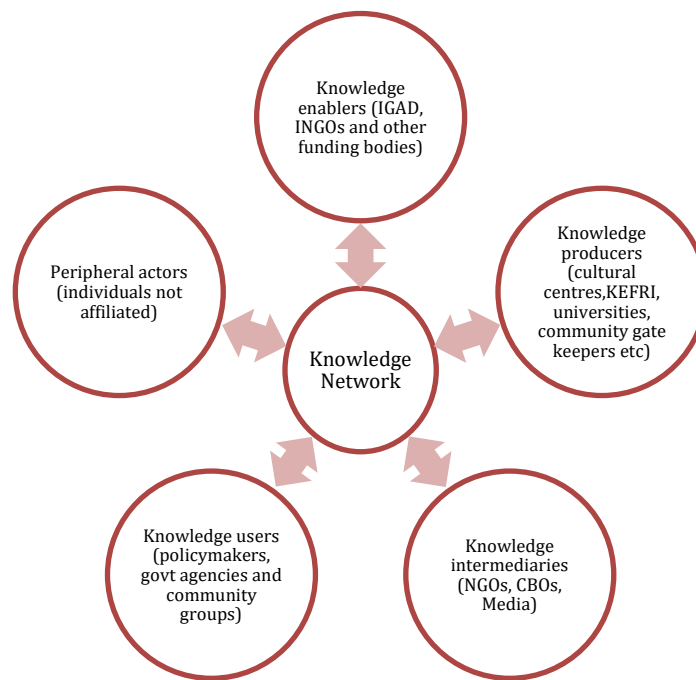
Knowledge networks within the regions were identified and analyzed. These include Manna Development Agency (MADA) in South Sudan, a research organization focusing on governance, democracy, human rights, women's rights, and environment and wildlife conservation. Their findings inform activities that promote marketing, livelihoods support, and resource sharing conflict management.

Similarly, East Africa Sub-Region Support Initiative (EASSI) is a regional NGO that engages in research, and is funded by IGAD and the East African Community (EAC). EASSI also liaises with policy and technical personnel in ministries (i.e., Trade and Industry; Gender, Labour and Social Development; Agriculture; Ministry of EAC Affairs; and Finance and Planning); relevant parliamentary committees; private sector foundations; and NGOs working on trade and business-related issues. Further, EASSI develops products on women's liberation and empowerment so that women are able to participate as equal citizens in national and regional development.

The Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) is a government research arm that conducts applied research, and whose findings are utilized to address NRM and livelihoods challenges. Part of their products include *aloe turkanensis* (for soap), beekeeping, pasture sold as seed and hay, resins (kabani), gum Arabica and Papaya. The end products are disseminated through the elder's traditional management system to promote livelihoods and reduce cross border conflicts within the area.

Universal Intervention and Development Organization (UNIDOR) in South Soudan promotes community-to-community initiatives along the borders of South Sudan with Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia, which have been experiencing insecurity. UNIDOR works through knowledge network partners that include Centre for Studies of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) in South Africa, Kuron Peace Village in Narus, Kapoeta, and LOKADO in Turkana.

The Cross Border Development Facilitation Unit (CBDFU) is IGAD's principal agent and representative on the ground. The Unit executes the obligations of its role and mandate in cross-border

development, including coordinating activities, harmonizing policies and procedures, capacity building and technical backstopping, facilitating cross-border cooperation and development.

In Uganda, the Ateker Cultural Centre (ACC) focuses on research, media and advocacy, cross-border engagement, socio-cultural activities through film and photography, art exhibitions, promoting community cultural museums, and promoting cultural heritage homes. The aim is to empower Ateker communities that uphold their cultural heritage, to preserve nature, and to promote and celebrate Ateker culture through empowerment programs, for harmonious existence and sustainable livelihoods. The Bukwo University Students' Associations is funded by county governments to organize and mobilize peace sporting and cultural dance activities across the region.

Communities themselves also mobilize indigenous knowledge networks to generate reliability and stable outcomes. Pastoralism can be thought of as a 'critical infrastructure' and, through practices such as mobile herding, fodder provision, and disease control, the highly variable environments that characterize pastoral areas are managed to ensure a stable flow of livestock services and products for sustained livelihoods. Community gate keepers have indigenous knowledge skills and technical capacity that are necessary to enable them thrive in the hostile environment. Such gate keepers include community elders, seers, moran leaders, and women leaders. They provide leading information on social cohesion, and practical solutions for environment and climate shock management and livelihoods. This knowledge gathering and sense-making for action requires highly reliable knowledge networks, rooted in relations among diverse people[10].

Individuals within the cluster also form part of the knowledge networks with repository information, and are well linked to government entities, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, and other significant individuals. Such individuals include Assistant County Commissioners, traders, forex dealers, market leaders and elders, government officers, and community mobilizers. They gather and disseminate information through informal interactions with significant individuals or groups from across the cluster. Their informal platforms include social gatherings, popular eateries, markets, shops, and pubs. Some of the individuals who converge in these informal platforms as customers hold relevant positions in NGOs, CBOs, and government agencies. Thus, these individuals have a lot of influence and are respected by communities across the regions, and act as bridges that link communities. Information on Knowledge networks is summarized in Table 9 below:

---

[10] Tasker A. & Scoones I. (2021). High Reliability Knowledge Networks: Responding to Animal Diseases in a Pastoral Area of Northern Kenya, *Journal of Development Studies*, https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2021.2013469

Table 9: Summary of Knowledge Networks in Karamoja Cluster

Knowledge Producers	Knowledge Enablers	Knowledge Intermediaries	Knowledge Users	Periphal
Manna Development Agency (MADA)	CCR, OSIEA, Eriks Development Partner (Sweden), Oxfam	CBOs	Cross border peace-building and resource sharing dialogues	Individuals not affiliated to groups and platforms
Indigenous knowledge from community gatekeepers (seers. village elders, moran leaders women leaders)	NGOs/CBOs	Youth, Women's groups, FBOs	Communities	Individuals not affiliated to groups and platforms
Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), University of Turkana	Friends of Lake Turkana, APAD, SIDAE, Caritas Karimo, the Hub, KDF, Caritas Kapoeta, GIZ, Mercy Corps in Ethiopia	NGOs/ CBOs	NGOs/ CBOs and communities	Individuals not affiliated to groups and platforms
Centre for Studies of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) in South Africa	Universal Intervention and Development Organization (UNIDOR)	UNIDOR	Kuron Peace Village in Narus, Kapoeta (Toposa) LOKADO in Turkana-Kenya	Individuals not affiliated to groups and platforms
East Africa Sub- Region Support Initiative (EASSI)	IGAD EAC	EAC Gender and Development Act and the Gender Policies	● Women cross-border traders ● Women informal traders ● SME trainers ● Gender advocacy and policy formulators, ● Ministries of Trade and Industry; Gender, Labour and Social Development; Agriculture; Ministry of EAC Affairs; parliamentary committees; ● Private sector foundation and NGOs working on trade and business-related issues.	Individuals not affiliated to groups and platforms
LPI established	IGAD	IGAD Cross Border Development Facilitation Unit (CBDFU) in the mapping of actors in the Karamoja cluster		Individuals not affiliated to groups and platforms
Ateker Cultural Centre (ACC)	Ministries of Gender, Culture and Social Services Ministries of Youth Karamoja Community UK	● Photographers, film makers, media houses ● Kenya Defence Forces, ● TOPADO, ● Karamoja Cultural Association, ● KUONYESHA Art Foundation, ●	● Ateker communities upholding the cultural heritage the whole Karamoja sub-region: ● Focuses on research, media and advocacy, cross-border engagement, socio-cultural activities through film and photography, art exhibitions, promoting community cultural museum, and cultural heritage homes.	Individuals not affiliated to groups and platforms
Bukwo University Students' Associations	Kenya government	County Government of Turkana, County Government of West Pokot	Youth engaged in livelihood and peace sporting activities and marketing	Individuals not affiliated to groups and platforms

3.5.   Strength of relationships and level of engagement among actors

Although most of the actors cut across the three themes in strategizing and carrying out mitigating interventions, more than half of them meet at least monthly for social cohesion.
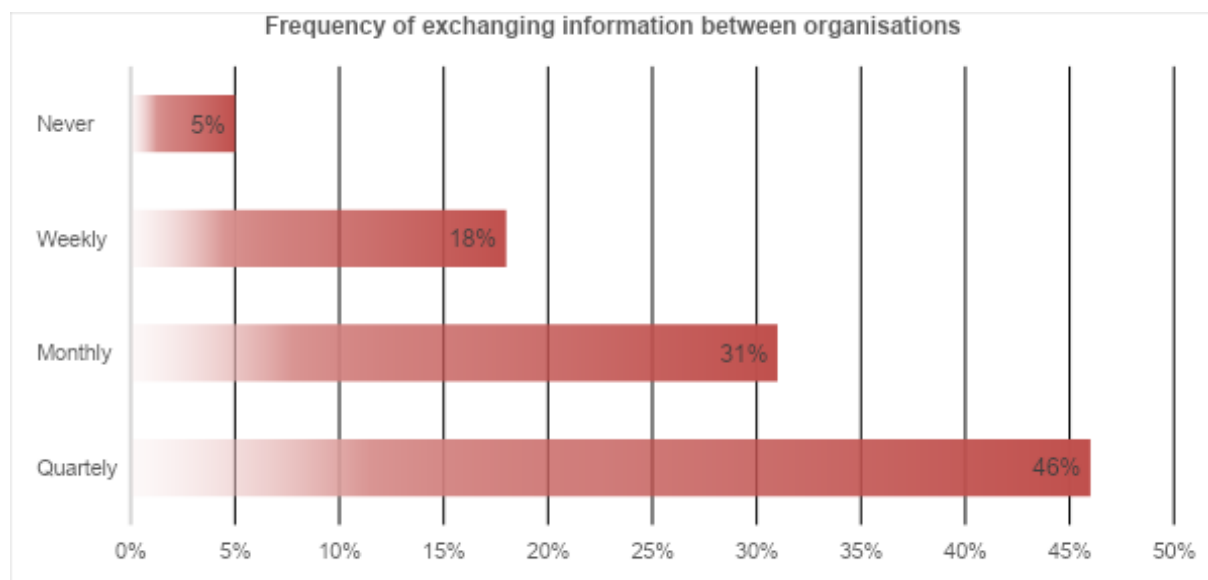
In Kenya, government actors interact as frequently as needs arise. Information gathered from the Assistant County Commissioner (ACC) alludes that there is a weekly flow of information across the border among the police and other security forces within the region (via mobile phone). Information is transmitted among the ACC, Kenya Police, General Service Unit (GSU), National Police Reserve (NPR), Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS), and the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), and flows across the border as warranted. When security vehicles are used to track incidents likely to disturb the peace in the region, information flow from one security apparatus to another is crucial.

The same arrangement is replicated in South Sudan and Ethiopian sub regions where the communities migrate within the Illemi Triangle and across the wide regions.

On the Ugandan side, information flows among the Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU), Uganda Police, the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) and Local Defence Units (LDUs). Information flows across the region depending on the cross-border cohesion consequences. Information on cross border cattle migration is regularly maintained and shared with cross border security counterparts.

Notably, 46 percent of the organizations that participated in the study maintained that information between funders and implementing partners is shared on a quarterly basis. Thirty one percent stated that information is exchanged on a monthly basis, 18 percent of the organizations exchanged information on a weekly basis, and 5 percent indicated they never exchange information as summarized in Figure 6 below:

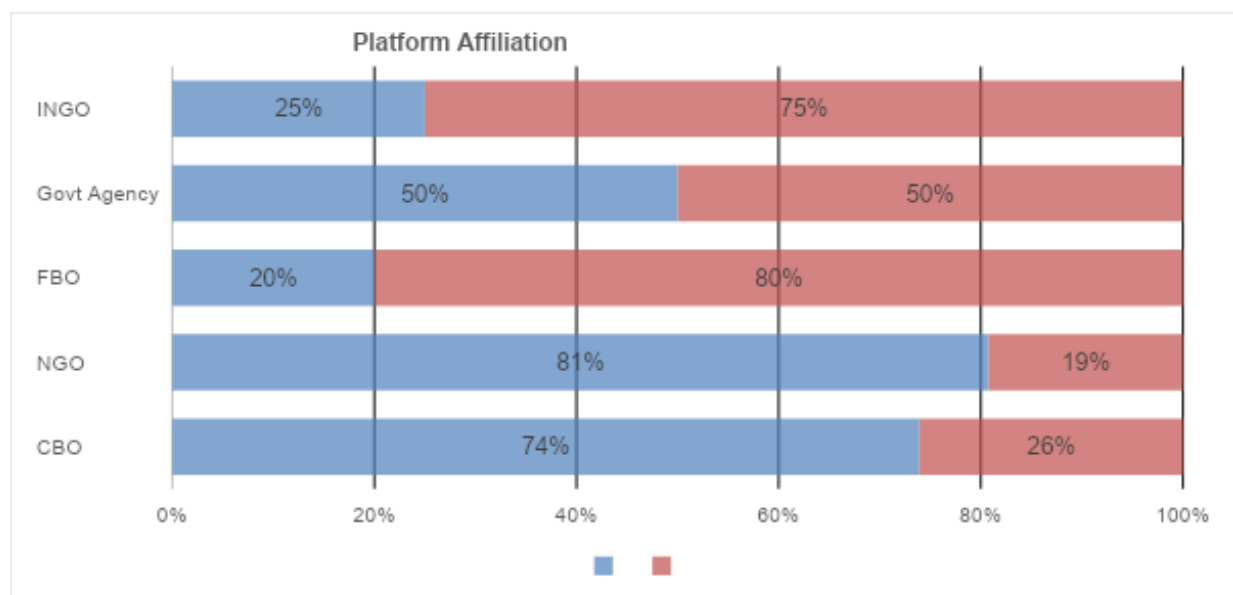*Figure 6: Frequency of exchanging information between organizations*

Where intervention programs exist, there is a weekly coordination meeting between the project implementers and the beneficiaries. For instance, C&D and Welthungerhilfe in Moroto have regular weekly meetings with the project beneficiaries. However, where projects are non-existent, there was no exchange of information.

3.5.1. Affiliation with platform or cluster groups

Data shows that women's and youth groups are affiliated to CBOs and NGOs that support social cohesion activities. Groups such as those rehearsing for annual cultural dances converge weekly to practice prior to presentations in a designated location within the cluster. For instance, during the period of the study, the cultural festival was held at Kaabong district in Uganda and attracted all the 10 communities from the cluster. The study also established that women and youth are mostly affiliated to groups, while men are hardly affiliated to groups.

From the data, 25 percent of the INGOs, 50 percent of government agencies, 20 percent of FBOs, 81 percent of NGOs, and 74 percent of the CBOs that participated in the study are affiliated or work together or share a platform with each other. On the other hand, 75 percent of the INGOs, 50 percent of government agencies, 80 percent of FBOs, 19 percent of the NGOs, and 26 percent of the CBOs are rarely affiliated. The statistics are summarized in Figure 7 below.

Figure 7: Organizational Affiliation to Platform

3.5.2. Extent of collaboration

Regarding the extent of collaboration with each other, the study established that NGOs collaborated with each other through implementation meetings for joint projects. It was also established that 82 percent of organizations (CBOs, FBOs, and NGOs) have joint meetings, 58 percent have joint action plans, 42 percent have advocacy initiatives (including GBV, FGM, and women's empowerment), while 61 percent have joint implementation of activities.

It was also found that individual committees within the three thematic areas meet regularly. For instance, the peace committee in Kibish is attended by members from South Sudan (Toposa), Ethiopia (Nyangatom), and Kenya (Turkana). Those in attendance deliberate upon social cohesion, livelihoods, and NRM. Largely left out are PWDs, who seem to not have any significant collaboration within the network.

3.6.   Network Influences

Informants candidly reported IGAD as a dormant inter-governmental agency not only in the cluster, but also across the Horn of Africa. IGAD partners with national and local governments, regional, national, and cross-border area coordination centers.

International NGOs (INGOs) are a source of funds and are, therefore, powerful agents in networks cutting across the sub-regions and the cluster. An INGO that was repeatedly mentioned was World Vision that engages in livelihoods support and social services across the region. World Vision collaborates with UNICEF, government agencies, chiefs, Ministries of Education and Health, the District Commissioner's Office, and churches, with whom it is said to have strong links.

Participants mentioned PACT as a strong NGO with networks in Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan. PACT supports interventions on conflicts over natural resources such as water, pasture, and livestock. Respondents noted that PACT has strong collaboration with SAPCONE, Strategies for National Development (SND), and Peace Development Centre (PDC).

Mercy Corps is an INGO with strong networks and linkages in the four sub-regions of the cluster. The organization has strong collaboration and partnership with Pokot Youth Bunge, SAPCONE, VSF-Germany, and APad. Mercy Corps supports CBOs, conflict reduction, market systems development, enhancing climate change resilience, and is one of the implementing partners for the Omo Delta project.

The Omo Delta Consortium in Ethiopia was mentioned as a platform for NGO collaboration. It is an IGAD initiative along River Omo, financed by the European Union, and implemented by VSF-Germany, in collaboration with Mercy Corps, VITA, EPaRDA, CIFA, and TUPADO, working along the Turkana and Marsabit borders in Kenya and South Omo and Bench Maji zones in Ethiopia.

Turkana Pastoralist Development Organization (TUPADO) is a major NGO with programs along the Kenya, South Sudan, and Ethiopia borders. It has a wide network of collaborators such as Mercy Corps and county governments, and works with grassroots CBOs, including women's and youth groups. TUPADO focuses on empowering these groups with business development information and has linkages with Busia's cross-border management unit on fish marketing.

Riamriam was mentioned as a key collaborator with UN agencies, especially UNDP and UNHCR. Riamriam positioned itself as a vital player in the network when it survived the insecurity in northern Uganda when all the other NGOs had pulled out. The organization coordinates activities related to human rights, protection, peace-building, advocacy work, capacity building, and meetings, among others. The organization brings together like-minded entities and individual actors to advocate for improved governance, service delivery in health and education sectors, and curbing corruption.

Dynamic Agro-Pastoralist Development Organization (DADO) in Uganda was mentioned as a key actor in the network. DADO partners with PACT, Mercy Corps, VSF Belgium, and Karamoja Development Forum (KDF). DADO also cuts across all areas within the sub-cluster focusing on peace-building,

livelihoods, and advocacy. The organization further supports SACCOs and village savings associations, and links the communities to banking institutions. DADO also facilitated resource sharing agreements between the Dodoth and Turkana, the Dodoth and Jie, and Nakapelimoru-Loyoro in Kobeyon, where communities agreed on the Moruitit, Sidok, and Rengen resolutions respectively.

Karamoja Peace and Development Agency (KAPDA) was also reported to have extensive networks in South Sudan and Kenya, with the objective to increase interaction between the Karamojong and the neighboring Toposa and Turkana. KAPDA partners with Save the Children, Nakere Rural Women Activists (NARWOA), Riamriam, Whave, KRSU, Mercy Corps, UPDF, and Inspectorate General of Government (IGG). Similarly, Karamoja Livestock Development Forum (KLDF) guides livestock planning in the sub-region, and was reported as a strong network for veterinarians. They coordinate veterinary professionals and connects them with those across the borderlands in Kenya, train community animal health workers and communities on animal health and management, and supports joint livestock intervention programs. This is done in partnership with Mercy Corps, FAO, IRC, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), and vets from Kenya.

The Organization for Peace, Relief and Development (OPRD) was mentioned as a major actor in community small arms control and peace-building through traditional dances and sports. OPRD has a large network across the cluster, and partners with LOKADO and LOPEO in Turkana, and DADO in Kaboong.

Nyakiriket Consortium was reported by informants as a network of ten local organizations. In partnership with USAID, the Consortium works together to advocate for peace and promote dialogue across three major conflicting groups in the region – the Buya, Didinga, and Toposa.

Study respondents cited C&D in Uganda as a widely connected organization focused on agriculture/livestock. The organization set up veterinary laboratories, agro-pastoral schools in the field, and the multi-sectoral Center of Rural Development of Loputuk. It also supports local communities through food and non-food donations.

SIKOM was mentioned as a key organization that implements peace-building, health, governance, and humanitarian response programs in West Pokot County and the neighboring districts among Pokot, Karamojong, Sabiny, and Turkana (POKATUSA) communities.

Welthungerhilfe was mentioned as a vital organization that networks with Karamoja Development Forum (KDF), LOKADO, the Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance (PACIDA) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD), both in Ethiopia, to provide alternatives for income generation to ensure that people live a decent life. Welthungerhilfe also works on livestock marketing systems and agronomy, in collaboration with Save the Children, KAPDA, NARWOA, Riamriam, Whave, and the Karamoja Resilience Support Unit (KRSU).

VSF-Germany is a key organization promoting expansion of the rangelands to achieve growth and transformation. It has strong collaboration with CIFA and TUPADO partners on the Kenya side, and with EPaRDA and Mercy Corps on the Ethiopian side.

Traditional elders and seers were also mentioned as critical players in the network. They are custodians of the culture, customs and resources, and anyone intending to access a community will need the approval of these gatekeepers.

3.7.   Power Relations

Cross border areas are usually located at the periphery of the countries, far from national capitals. In the pastoral context of the Karamoja region, borders have little significance and meaning to the local populations, as international borders do not follow ethnic or ecosystem lines. The inhabitant populations would prefer to move freely across the borders and, therefore, it is essential to take these movements and dynamics into consideration when planning or implementing development programs in cross border areas.

Cross border cooperation recognizes that changes on one side of the border could trigger positive or negative spillover effects on other sides of the border. It facilitates the possibility of ecosystem-based management, which is an effective approach that recognizes the full array of interactions within an ecological zone, in a collective and holistic manner, based on considerations of the requirements, available resources, and development possibilities of the cross border area in question.

Respondents maintained that by working together, cross-border communities in the Karamoja cluster can jointly identify and address shared challenges, while exploiting opportunities presented by their shared terrain. This implies that cross border cooperation facilitates the generation of social capital, trust, and mutual understanding among cross border communities. Such cooperation can contribute to the stability and prosperity for all involved parties, as was said of the Matheniko-Turkana alliance.

The study investigators observed that the respective governments have invested heavily in security, and they play a major role in mediating peace and ensuring the security of the aid workers in the region. For its part, the Government of Uganda has strategically placed rapid response army barracks along the main routes connecting the Dodoth, Jie, Matheniko, and Tepeth communities. Hourly armed army patrol units constantly monitor the border routes where field observations revealed that the movement for aid workers away from urban centers is restricted to between 6am and 4pm daily[11].

The Kenyan Government, on the other hand, has strategically installed regular police posts, Administration Police camps, and General Service Units at the Kibish border point between Kenya and Ethiopia. This is with the objective to quell skirmishes among the Toposa, Nyangatom, and Turkana at the Ilemi Triangle, and at Turkwel Centre to deal with Pokot and Turkana hostilities.

According to an Assistant County Commissioner (ACC)[12], explained that Kenya Army barracks are underway to reinforce these existing installations. He further noted that the Ethiopian government has also strategically positioned their police and army units at the Nyangatom and Dassanech border points, just like their Kenyan and Ugandan counterparts. He concluded that without these installations, hostilities in the region would still be at an all-time high.

Informants reported that the Jie and Dodoth communities had started embracing agriculture as an alternative to pastoralism as a result of their animal stocks suffering raids from the Matheniko. As such, pockets of millet, sorghum, maize, and beans fields are evident as opposed to the vast grasslands and game reserves observed among the Matheniko and Tepeth regions. Farming was also observed among the Nyangatom and Dassanech, where community groups are growing fodder for sale especially near

---

[11] Project Officer, Mercy Corps - Kaabong District, 2022
[12] Kibish – KII, 2022

the banks of River Omo. Some commercial farmers are also growing pawpaw, beans, and banana while drawing sections of their labor force from the two communities.

Regarding organizational synergy, local development organizations (LDOs) and CBOs have poor coordination. Often, CBOs don't know what others are doing, leading to duplication and implementation gaps. This scenario often causes confusion among the government players who are supposed to be critical partners in cross border interventions. The ACC based in Kibish Ateker village on the Kenyan-Ethiopian border, reported having severally received requests from an implementing NGO to provide security escorts, which he provides, to project sites. He also observed that within days, he receives similar requests from different partners for escorts, and for similar or related events. This implies duplication and replication of similar project interventions to the same beneficiaries.

A KII in Turmi, Ethiopia opined that partnerships and consortiums face challenges, especially with funding cycles and reporting protocols. At other times, some organizations claim credit for consortium milestones and achievements, leaving other members with nothing to report about. Such issues and risks threaten large partnerships like the Omo Delta Consortium in Ethiopia and Nyakiriket Consortium in South Sudan if left un-mitigated. It was further revealed that communication and language barriers exist across the cluster, raising the need for interpreters and communication (English) lessons. The most disadvantaged communities on this issue are the Didinga of South Sudan, and the Nyangatom and Dassanech communities of Ethiopia, where the number of community members who can communicate in English is quite low.

Respondents also alluded to the fact that there is a lot of emphasis on peace-building interventions along international borders at the expense of the intra-border conflicts. They cited examples of the Turkana – Pokot skirmishes, Toposa - Didinga scuffles, and Nyangatom- Dassanech conflicts that rarely attract funding at the expense of inter-border conflicts. This shows that many NGO and CSO staff implementing projects in the region do not fully understand the concept of cross border resilience programming, evidenced by the divergent approaches being undertaken by respective organizations.

It was further alluded that project interventions in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda are mainly designed around development, while those in South Sudan mainly focus on humanitarian support. Therefore, the focus of funding is mainly towards emergencies and conflict-related issues where most interventions are project-based and, therefore, short-term in nature. Hence, a transition is necessary in order to inculcate resilience and sustainability in communities.

Respondents maintained that peace remains elusive among the cross communities in Karamoja, and each of the communities "plays victim" of the others in a bid to attract sympathy from outsiders. Neutrality is therefore necessary for implementing partners and agencies.

The implications of these findings for the CBCR Activity is that interventions need to be carefully designed and well thought-out in view of the conflict sensitivities and power dynamics in the cluster. Caution is necessary to conserve and improve the existing inter-communal relations in order to safeguard livelihoods, and to manage natural resources for peaceful co-existence.

3.8.   Conflict Sensitivities

Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in the Karamoja borderlands need access to water, pasture, and arable land across the borders, which generates resource competition. This, in turn, results in tensions and conflict between communities. Inter-ethnic conflict is rampant due to competition for dwindling natural resources, state neglect, and lack of adequate infrastructure. Additionally, there are tensions over the Ilemi Triangle, a disputed territory claimed by South Sudan, Kenya, and Ethiopia.

According to one key informant[13], *"The Triangle is home to five major ethnic groups - the Didinga and Toposa in Sudan, the Nyangatom, who migrate between Kenya, Sudan, and Ethiopia, the Dassanech, who live east of the Triangle in Ethiopia, and the Turkana who move in the territory between Sudan and Kenya. These pastoral people have historically engaged in cattle raiding. The Turkana have always been vulnerable to attacks from surrounding peoples"*.

Another informant[14] noted, *"Following numerous efforts to demarcate the area over the last 100 years, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan have all made conflicting de jure and de facto claims."*

The Turkana live in southern Sudan and northwestern Kenya where they practice pastoralism, gathering, commerce, raiding, and fishing. They graze their livestock in the north Illemi Triangle due to availability of grass for eight to nine months a year. Their northwestern neighbors are the Didinga, who mainly live in the Equatoria Province of Southern Sudan and north eastern Uganda, but graze their livestock in western Ilemi during the dry season pastures[15]. *"Nyangatom live in central and southeastern Sudan and southwestern Ethiopia. However, during the dry season, they migrate southwards to graze their animals in northern Ilemi. Being astride River Kibish and River Omo, Nyangatom women practice retreat cultivation when there is rich clay soil left by flooding."*[16]

He further added, *"Dassanech are neighbors to Nyangatom, and live in southwestern Ethiopia and Kenya. Dassanech men raise cattle and women grow grain on the banks of River Kibish and River Omo. During the dry season Nyangatom and Daasanach men graze their herds for long periods in eastern Ilemi."*[17]

Relations between the Turkana and the Dassanech across the Kenya-Ethiopia border have not been amicable for decades when compared to the other Turkana borderlands. The Turkana have remained hostile to the Dassanech for years, due to cultural differences between them as highlighted by linguistic disparities and initiation rites that tend to factor into age-old conflicts between both communities[18].

"The Kenya-South Sudan-Uganda border of the Karamoja cluster comprises Kaabong, Moroto, Kotido and Karenga Districts. The districts are home to Jie, Tepeth, Dodoth, and Matheniko agro-pastoral communities which are in constant conflict due to frequent cattle raids in Uganda, Sudan, and Kenya."[19]

---

[13] Abdi - Kibish, KII, 2022.

[14] Emmanuel Imanani - Kibish, KII, 2022.

[15] Lomolo – Kapoeta, KII, 2022.

[16] Lochomin – Kagaten, KII, 2022

[17] Ibid.

[18] Assistant County Commissioner, Kibish, KII 2022

[19] Mayor - Moroto, KII, 2022.

"Additionally, conflict between Pokot and Turkana emanates from raiding, counter raiding, competition over natural resources (pasture, water, livestock and territorial/boundary dispute), and increasing hatred between the communities."[20]

The Sudanese Didinga are long-standing enemies with the Toposa, but they do not have direct conflict with the Turkana. The Jie of Kotido District in Uganda are culturally closest to the Turkana in Kenya, and the two groups are traditionally allied. The Jie are in sporadic conflict with the Dodoth on the region of Kotido and Kaabong[21].

Kenya has pursued polices that are geared towards containing cattle-rustling between the Turkana and its cross-border neighbors through cattle-branding, whose aim is, in part, to enable easy identification of Turkana livestock. Uganda has also been involved in cattle branding for ease of identification of stolen cattle[22]. Cattle branding in Karamoja has been complemented by sporadic cordon-and-search exercises aimed at recovering stolen animals, especially those that bear alien branding labels. Apart from cattle branding, the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) secures the fields to ward off day-time raids from cross-border neighbors[23].

What has brought more success in Uganda is the recruitment and deployment of local defense units (LDUs) to beef up security operations in the Karamoja area, and specifically to control cattle rustling. Under this arrangement, the Karamojong warriors lead the chase for the stolen livestock as UPDF follows closely behind[24].

Kenya incorporated Turkana elders and traditional authorities in peace committees. The primary aim of these committees is to cultivate a culture of peace by networking with key stakeholders who work together to enhance harmonious relationships within and among communities[25]. Both Kenya and Uganda have incorporated vigilantes in state security surveillance operations.

The Lokiriama Peace Accord of 1973 has deterred conflict between the Matheniko and Turkana, and has persuaded the Dodoth and Jie into this "alliance" of friendly relations. However, the Tepeth and Pokot (of Uganda and Kenya) feel less bound by the Accord and, therefore, still engage in cross border and inter-county raids and conflict against the Turkana and the Matheniko, with the latter forced to retaliate. These skirmishes between Tepeth /Pokot and Turkana/ Matheniko are attributed to their linguistic and cultural differences[26]. This was echoed by the OCS of Kibish police station who stated that the differences in culture contribute to conflicts between Turkana and Dassanech on the Kenya-Ethiopia border areas.

Notably, Turkana living in the Karamoja borderlands enjoy relative peace arising from Uganda's successful disarmament program. As a result, Turkana pastoralists seeking water and pasture in Karamoja during drought, or local traders traveling to local markets in Moroto, Kotido, or Kaabong to acquire grain and vegetables are assured of security by the administration in Karamoja when venturing across the border into Uganda. However, similar peaceful coexistence does not exist in the northern portions of Lake Turkana. Here, armed Dassanech pose a threat to the peace in the Kenya-Ethiopia

[20] Lusike - West Pokot, 2022.
[21] Emmanuel Imanani - Kibish, KII, 2022.
[22] Mayor – Moroto, KII, 2022.
[23] ACC - Kaabong, KII, 2022.
[24] Ibid.
[25] Lukridi – Kibish, KII, 2022
[26] Ibid.

borderlands, and especially to Turkana fishing and farming communities in Todenyang and Loarengak. Armed Dassanech push further south across the border into the Omo Delta to access arable land and fish resources at the expense of local Turkana residents. Additionally, diminishing grazing areas and water points due to irrigation schemes established by the Government of Ethiopia have forced the Dassanech into Turkana[27].

Efforts are being made to address these long-standing conflicts between communities by FAO and the European Union. The two bodies have supported agreements for a cross-border animal health memorandum that provides a platform for Kenya and Uganda governments and technocrats to meet and synchronize activities, such as vaccination campaigns, surveillance, and disease control[28].

Observably, most of the community members throughout Karamoja cluster earn their living through sales of products and fish, for those proximate to Rivers Omo, Turkwel, and Lake Turkana. A small percentage of the community are engaged in farming and earn income through sales of vegetables and fruits. A few engage as small-scale traders in the few local shopping centers available. Urban centers are very few, and are mainly available in the district or *woreda* headquarters across the region. Alternative livelihoods in these centers are, therefore, scarce leading to tensions and conflicts.

Organizations in Karamoja collaborate with the respective central and local governments under IGAD programming to address issues related to natural resource management (NRM), resource sharing, and climate change. Conservation of natural resources is a principal activity of environment actors, and is aimed at averting /mitigating tension and conflict. There are activities on management of rangelands to enhance environmental conservation, capacity building on inter-community resource sharing, and information dissemination on climate change adaptation and early warning systems[29]. These are all geared towards conflict resolution as they are initiatives on resource sharing agreements. The private sector is represented through private conservancies who either choose to work individually or with CBOs or churches in the respective communities.

---

[27] Abdi - Kibish, KII, 2022.
[28] Emmanuel Imanani – Kibish, KII, 2022.
[29] Moses - Turkwel, KII, 2022.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Cross border resilience programming has the support of the four governments in the Karamoja region, under the auspices of IGAD. An inter-ministerial working arrangement has been in place since 2013, and the respective countries have continued strengthening the commitment over the years. There are multiple international donors and government agencies willing to channel donor funds towards the cause.

There are numerous local development organizations (LDOs) working in various cross border intervention sectors in Karamoja. The 10 cross border communities in Karamoja targeted by the CBCR Activity have been responsive to the interventions, and gradual desired change has been experienced in a number of programs. However, more work and interventions are required in order to realize lasting resilience and cross border peace.

The pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities of the Karamoja cluster compete over resources (pasture and water), which produces tensions and conflict among communities. The conflict is made worse by sporadic livestock raiding and cultural differences. Long periods of drought elicit shocks against local livelihoods, particularly in the livestock economy, as it causes common watering sources and vegetation to dry off, leading to hardship. Drought also increases regional mobility to areas that are relatively endowed with water, pasture, and food, leading to conflicts as a result of competition over resources. The prevailing conditions have necessitated interventions to pursue peaceful coexistence, food security, and resource management and sharing.

The study identified actors who include government agencies, intergovernmental agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), faith based organizations (FBOs), private actors, the political class, and individuals implementing social cohesion, livelihoods, and natural recourse management intervention programs across Karamoja. These actors were grouped into three kinds of organizations or people i.e., central actors, knowledge brokers, and peripheral actors. These actors play differentiated and complementary roles within the cluster to avert conflict, ensure amiable resource sharing, food and livelihoods security, and peaceful coexistence.

The study found that government and intergovernmental agencies play key roles aligned to the three CBCR Activity areas, thus can be seen as central nodes. However, though very important, these actors are not involved in project design or kept informed during implementation. Individual actors are knowledge brokers who are well linked, have great influence, and are trusted by the communities. They act as community gate keepers and can be used as entry points into any community across the cluster. Many international organizations are central nodes because they provide funding to the NGOs and CBOs, which enables them to implement project intervention in the three intervention areas. IGAD has very strong links within the region and in the Horn of Africa as a whole, and plays a crucial role across the region since its programs cut across social cohesion, livelihoods, and NRM in all cluster regions.

Some of the non-state actors, particularly CBOs and NGOs, are central nodes, while others are brokers because they largely complement state efforts and link one community with another. In many places, these organizations have virtually taken over community-driven efforts, upon realization that government personnel and resources are spread too thin to effectively manage security in the borderlands.

Peripheral actors were identified as women, youth, and persons with disabilities (PWDs) groups. They have a high risk of being dropped out or ignored if there is scarcity of funds, especially where their role in the network is not felt or known. Yet, these are very crucial groups that support community survival.

4.1.   Recommendations

Networking and Influence

There are more established networks in Uganda and Kenya that can be replicated by Ethiopian and South Sudan counterparts in order to have a more robust network system in the entire cluster. As such, actors in Ethiopia and South Sudan may wish to draw lessons from their counterparts in order to improve coordination and experience-sharing among the actors for sustainable activities in social cohesion, NRM, and livelihoods. Experience-sharing platforms are, therefore, necessary in order to facilitate the learning process.

The youth, women, and PWDs were identified as peripheral actors. Therefore, there is need to encourage incorporation of these critical members of the society through project interventions.

Relationships among Actors

Whereas annual cultural dances and sports activities have created avenues for enhancing inter-community interactions, the question of natural resource sharing (especially water and pasture) in the face of climatic shocks needs to be addressed. This is because it is the major underlying issue affecting relationships across the cluster. Therefore, there is need for sustainable capacity building, and coordination and collaboration of the actors towards strengthening natural resource sharing interventions, systems, and mechanisms.

Information Sharing Networks

Whereas NGOs and CBOs seem to have information sharing platforms, the same cannot be said of INGOs, government agencies, and FBOs. There is a need to develop platforms and avenues for information sharing, and to encourage information dissemination practices that ensure even flow among the network actors.

The Karamoja cluster's terrain is remote and rugged with sporadic telephone coverage and where internet is non-existent. This demands effective communication strategies and avenues if the actors are to sustainably improve information sharing.

Power Relations

Cross border cooperation recognizes that changes on one side of the border could trigger positive or negative spillover effects on other sides of the border. By working together, cross border communities in Karamoja cluster can jointly identify and address shared challenges, while exploiting opportunities presented by their shared terrain. Cross border cooperation is, therefore, necessary in order to facilitate the generation of social capital, trust, and mutual understanding among the communities on all sides of the borders. Such cooperation can contribute to the stability and prosperity for all involved parties. On this breadth, peace accords and natural resource sharing agreements need to be encouraged and constantly renewed for sustainable cooperation in the cluster.

Conflict Sensitivities

Communities in the Karamoja borderlands need access to water, pasture, and arable land across the borders, which generates resource competition. This, in turn, produces tensions and conflict between communities. Inter-ethnic conflict is rampant due to competition for dwindling natural resources, state neglect, and lack of adequate infrastructure. Cross border programming must therefore take into account these dynamics while engaging the respective communities. Creating a working relationship with the respective communities is essential for any successful intervention.

4.2. Potential Activities

a) Needs assessment, capacity development, and institutional strengthening for key actors especially in the Ethiopian and South Sudanese sections of the Karamoja cluster.

b) Funding and technical support for regular and structured conferences or meetings for sustainable cross border engagements across the cluster.

c) Targeted interventions for peripheral actors such as the youth, women, and PWDs, in order to appreciate their networking needs and to strengthen their collective engagements.

d) Activities to support structured coordination between the Turkana and the Dassanech network actors.

e) Standard protocols for consortiums and partnerships need to be developed in order to manage funding, implementation, and reporting requirements and processes for the respective organizations in a consortium. Disagreements have been reported within the Nyakiriket Consortium and Omo Delta Consortium over project inputs and outputs because of the disharmony.

f) The transition from nomadic pastoralism to agriculture needs to be promoted further as demonstrated by the Jie and Dodoth communities in Kotido and Kaabong districts. Their reduced cattle stocks have, in turn, reduced instances of cattle raids, thus improving peace among their communities. Cultivation of food crops has also provided alternatives for food security and opened up new livelihood activities.

Recommendations for CBCR Activity

1) Governments and governmental institutions, departments, and local authorities are central nodes in cross border programming and should be involved for community access and security planning for CBCR Activity implementation.

2) There are many LDOs working on cross border interventions in the Karamoja region. However, their interventions are largely unknown to each other, resulting in duplications and lack of coordination. There is need for coordination of cross border activities to harmonize, synchronize, and optimize project resources.

3) There is emphasis on peace-building interventions along international borders at the expense of intra border conflicts. As such, the Turkana – Pokot skirmishes, Toposa - Didinga scuffles, and Nyangatom- Dassanech conflicts rarely get addressed. A recommendation is made to target intra-border community resilience needs for the cross-border communities.

4) Capacity building on the concept of cross border programming is necessary for implementing organizations. The majority of project officers only considered activities and results within their international boundary. The majority of the LDOs also require training and capacity building in their respective areas of intervention to improve their operational efficiency.

5) Revival of cross border markets at Loki Noma in Turkana North and Nadapan in South Sudan would contribute greatly in peace-building efforts among the Turkana, Nyangatom, and Toposa communities, and would establish modes of communication and relationship building among the communities.

General Recommendations

6) Critical access roads in the respective communities need to be identified with the help of the local communities. Further, the access roads should be demarcated and developed in order to improve security and access to the communities.

7) Rehabilitation and improvement of Kibish-Ateker, which is on the Kenya-Ethiopia-South Sudan border and a key entry point for Turkana, Nyangatom, and Toposa interventions, is critical for CBCR Activity interventions and, therefore, needs to be prioritized. Whereas most of the critical installations are in place, they are in a dilapidated state since they were established decades ago. The Government of Kenya should be encouraged to rehabilitate the Kibish airstrip, which could be easily accessed by humanitarian and other flights, in order to improve access, communication, and relationships among the border communities. The Government of Kenya should also be encouraged to rehabilitate the Kibish AP camp, water pump, solar power system, and guest rooms. This is because the camp has strategic guest houses, and training and conferencing facilities which could be used by the CBCR Activity and other programs. The installations are currently under the Assistant County Commissioner based at Kibish who is a central node in the region, and falls under the national government's Ministry of Interior and Coordination.