

Press Statement Moroto, October 13, 2011

The German Ambassador, Klaus-Dieter Duxmann and a high-ranking delegation of Members of Parliament from Karamoja, as well as several German development organizations are visiting the Moroto, Nakapiripirit and Napak districts on October 13 and 14, 2011. The purpose of the visit is to appreciate achievements of Ugandan-German development projects in Karamoja.

Since 2009, the German Government has committed more than 30 billion UGX to support development in Karamoja. Projects mainly focus on sustainable food security and peace consolidation. They are implemented both by the German Government-owned GIZ and by German Non-Governmental Organizations with their Ugandan partners.

The visit starts on October 13, 2011 with the launch of the art exhibition **“Karamoja in the Eyes of her Children”** by the First Lady of the Republic of Uganda, Hon. Janet Museveni, in the presence of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, Klaus-Dieter Duxmann. The exhibition has been organized by the GIZ-project “Food and Nutrition Security and Conflict Management”. The purpose of this activity was to engage the children of Karamoja in dialogue through their own drawings and paintings about the current condition of the region, including their vision for the future of Karamoja.

On October 14, the delegation will visit the following sites:

In Lorengedwat, a self-help slaughter slab built by the German NGO **Welthungerhilfe** together with the local community will be inaugurated. It has been provided with a solar pump for borehole water and will allow to slaughter following international hygiene standards. Further projects by Welthungerhilfe in the area include the installation of 4 grinding mills in Lorengedwat and Lotome sub-counties and the Lomogol block farm, a joint farm by the formerly disputing Pian and Bokora communities.

Also in Lorengedwat, the German **Civil Peace Service Programme** will present its activities in Karamoja: The German Catholic Association for Development Cooperation (AGEH) supports the Diocese of Moroto in strengthening justice and peace structures. GIZ, AGEH and Welthungerhilfe with their Ugandan partners Omaniman Community Development Initiative, Teso Initiative for Peace and Teso-Karamoja Peaceful Coexistence Initiatives Programme successfully promoted peaceful coexistence of Karimojong and Iteso in new settlements in the border area between Karamoja and Teso.

In Iriiri, **German Red Cross** and Uganda Red Cross Society will present their Karamoja programme: With a focus on Kotido district, they work to improve the livelihood of 18 agro-pastoralist communities by drilling boreholes, providing seeds and technical advice for agriculture and income-generating activities such as brick-making and bee-keeping.

Deutscher Volkshochschulverband (dvv) will present its skills training and adult literacy programme, implemented together with the Uganda Adult Education Network UGAADEN.

Still in Iriiri, the GIZ **Energy Explorerz** team will sensitize primary school teachers and students of to be aware of energy efficiency and climate change.

Subsequently, Nabwal road which connects Iriiri Trading Center and Nabwal Settlement and links both places to Nakapiripirit district, will be officially handed over to Local Government. This 21 km long road was rehabilitated by the **GIZ-project “Food and Nutrition Security and Conflict Management in Karamoja”**. It facilitates access to villages and opens market opportunities for farmers to sell their agricultural products. The communities themselves largely contributed to the rehabilitation with their labour. Also, medical services improved a lot: Emergency vehicles from Iriiri can now respond to emergencies within an hour.

Next to Nabwal road, GIZ will show Kodike demonstration garden, a demonstration and learning site of a **Farmers’ Field School**. To enhance food security, GIZ has trained 39 facilitators that promote improved vegetable production methods at 116 Farmer Field Schools.

With all these activities, German Development Cooperation contributes to overcoming the economic and social gap between Northern and Southern Uganda.

