END OF PROGRAMME EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT

FOR

PT 1/3 GREAT LAKES 2006-2010

[DRAFT II]

Evaluation Team

Basil Kandyomunda
Maude Mugisha
Jackline Kabahinda

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DanChurchAid (DCA) has been working in Uganda since 1979 but only opened the Uganda Country Office in early 2004. DCA is a faith-based, ecumenical, non-missionary and non-profit organisation and its vision is “a world at peace, free from poverty, discrimination and oppression, where resources are evenly distributed and individual’s dignity is respected.” DCA globally works through partners to implement interventions through five programme types including (i) Political Space/Good Governance; Right to Food; (iv) HIV/AIDS; and (v) Humanitarian Mine Action.

This evaluation targeted the PT 1 which is the Political Space/Good Governance and PT 3 on Food Security. The Food Security activities supported by DCA Uganda have been operating within the Political Space Programme since 2006. However, a Mid Term Review of the programme in 2008 recommended a clear strategy that would support sustainable security and livelihood activities within the Programme. This led to the integration of Political Space and Food Security components into one Programme (PT1/3).

PT1/3 programme interventions aim at enhancing and widening opportunities for marginalized communities in Karamoja region and Amuria and Katakwi districts of the Teso sub-region. The main purpose of the programme was to contribute towards overcoming marginalization and enabling citizens to take up the role of influencing the development agenda into their hands. The human rights based approach to development and gender equality underpins the PT1/3 programme components as it does with all DCA programmes.

The objectives of the evaluation were to identify and assess the extent to which the programme has achieved its goals and objectives, analyse the context in which the programme has operated and how relevant it is for the integrated Political Space/ Food Security Programme and to make recommendations for the programme’s thematic focus for the next period 2011-2016. The evaluation assessed the relevance, performance and impact, efficiency, and sustainability and based on the conclusions reached made some overarching recommendations to guide future programming.

The evaluation methodology involved document review, focus group discussions (FGD) and key informant interviews. DCA Staff, Partner staff, Local Government officials, Community leaders and members of communities. The methodology used a holistic approach in which evaluation questions were developed from the ToR and adapted to specific Partner situations and to the strategic objectives of the PT1/3 programme.

While the geographical focus is Karamoja and Teso sub-regions, the Programme has strategic linkages to advocacy organisations operating at national level with strong connections to these sub regions. For better management and improvement of working relations with Partners, the Programme currently has
the Political Space Programme Officer in the Kampala Office and the Food Security Programme Officer in the DCA field office in Moroto.

Karamoja region is the least socially and economically developed part of Uganda, Nationally, since 1990 the population living below the poverty line has declined from 56% to 31% in 2008, while for Karamoja has increased to 82 with Moroto and Nakapiripirit recording close to 90%. The region suffers from a myriad of problems resulting from many years of social, political, economic and cultural marginalization. The region is also characterised by periodic and extended droughts, sporadic and often brutal violence, cyclical cattle raiding and chronic food insecurity. This in a way influences the nomadic-pastoral nature of the Karimojong characterized by movement of long distances in search of water and pastures for their animals. To survive, the Karimojong and their cattle depend on a highly mobile lifestyle in which men, women and children oscillate between homesteads and mobile cattle camps.

The Teso sub-region has over the last fifty years been shaped by armed conflict to a varying degree. The players in these conflicts have also been varied. They include1: As a result of these violent events, the Iteso people have experienced internal displacement of populations, loss of sources of livelihood – especially through loss of cattle and food, gross violations of human rights such as rape. The worst affected populations are from Amuria and Katakwi districts.

The PT1/3 was designed within the national, regional and Karamoja specific policy context and was found to be well aligned with national and Karamoja policy priorities. The evaluation findings established that most of the PT1/3 Programme interventions are concentrated in Moroto2, Nakapiripirit, Amudat and Kotido and no interventions in Kaabong and Abim which are also districts in the Karamoja sub-region.

Although the PT1/3 components were supposed to be implemented as an integrated programme, the evaluation has established that integration has not been fully achieved, although reasonable progress has been made towards long term impact on the lives of the people of Karamoja and the targeted areas of Teso sub-region.

Furthermore the evaluation established that a number of interventions aimed at sustainable use of natural resources by the Karimajong and strengthening their resilience to drought conditions have achieved a reasonable level of success and they include training and deploying community health workers equipped with mobile kits who are able to diagnose and treat animal diseases as well as building capacities of communities to take care of their animals. Water harvesting efforts through de-silting of water ponds in the target areas has also made water available for vegetable growing and other domestic uses. Initiatives to provide goats for women and children have been undertaken and these have empowered

2 This now includes Napak which became a new district effective 1st July 2010
and uplifted the status of women in their communities. Women are able to use got products for income and household consumption. Cereal banking has been useful for providing food to communities during drought when there is less food available and incomes for the cereal bankers.

Community Land Associations (CLAs) have been formed in a few selected areas and DCA partners have supported them to advocate for land rights and legal ownership of land. A few women have been able to register land in their own names. However, the evaluation has further established that food production at household level is not yet fully realized. Very few members of the community are involved in food production but numbers are increasing as interventions on food security are consolidated.

With regard to the cross-cutting issues, the evaluation noted that the rights based approach to programming is informs partners programming though not yet well internalised by some of the partners and communities served. It was further established that capacity building initiatives by DCA to strengthen the advocacy capacity of partners has not been followed by concrete advocacy campaigns indicating that the programme has not fully achieved the purpose of strengthening partners to become strong and effective advocacy agents. Similarly gender programming has been challenging for some partners although some progress has been made in targeting women and girls.

Factors that have contributed to the achievement of success include the fostering of strategic partnerships which include the partnership with ACTED and C&D and KADP for drought preparedness systems and building resilience of the Karimojong. Factors have hindered progress towards success include a high degree of dependency and apathy, and the cyclic periods of hunger the in the two regions caused by prolonged droughts and floods. The evaluation has also affirmed the choice of partners as appropriate and highlighted areas of improvement.

The evaluation has identified a critical mission link as Functional adult literacy (FAL), a necessary component for transforming lives of both women and men.

Overarching recommendations have been made for consideration to strengthen the follow-on programme for the next five years. They include undertaking vulnerability mapping for appropriate targeting, developing of gender mainstreaming guides and tools, continued capacity support to partners for rights based programming, consideration for expansion of programme coverage to include some other districts share some of the pastoralist challenges because of their vicinity to Karamoja. A call for pragmatic advocacy is made for early and significant impact. Section recommendations have been and are specific to issues as discussed.