

OBJECTIVES OF KAANA: (short term)

1. To eliminate babies begging from the streets of Kampala
2. Encourage small-scale micro finance business for the Karamojong women or men ie bead making and or any other crafts that can be made. (This has been set up and the women have started making the beads for sale however we need capital for setting up in the first year of the project to enable training, and the buying of materials to be used for the beads)

OBJECTIVES OF KAANA: (long term)

1. Build homes/schools for the babies/children in Karamoja
2. Promote sustainable development by encouraging food production and agriculture productivity in Karamoja, which will reduce the Karamojong dependency on food aid from the World food programme.

Meanwhile, Kaana is to try and lobby the government of Uganda/United Kingdom together with International organisations to think through a strategy that will not only bring about sustainable peace in Karamoja, but also will cause social transformation and ignite economic growth in the region. Lime stone, rubies and other ornamental stones plus gum Arabica and aloe Vera medicinal herbs could be exploited on large scale to benefit the Karamojong.

An integrated approach focusing on solving the community needs of the Karamojong and ensuring their full participation in causing development in the areas would be the most suitable as opposed to ad-hoc interventions by a few development agencies which simply offer and irregularly offer food handouts to the already starving populace.

Instead of using force to disarm the warriors, the Government should first seek dialogues with the Karamojong leaders and elders on the best way of ensuring peace without making other communities within the area more vulnerable to attacks from the warriors. The Government should also use incentives to the warriors to stimulate voluntary handing over of guns.

The Food for Gun programme in Liberia for example has enabled many former rebels to seek amnesty and voluntarily give in their guns in exchange for food. Apparently, to many starving Karamojong, food is now more important than holding a gun and such a programme would cause many warriors to willingly submit their guns to the army with haste.

The Government should also put in place infrastructures that can facilitate development in the region. It is a shame that, there are only five health centres, no electricity or running water and no single tarmac road in Karamoja, a region comprising of five districts with an estimated population of over 1.1 million people.