Justice and Peace Department - Kotido

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Month: September

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Top News

Security Updates

The security situation in the Karamoja sub-region remained relatively calm in September, with pockets of incidents reported across the region. The following notable incidents were recorded during the period:

- **On 22/09/2026**, an incident was reported involving a student from Kacheri Seed Secondary School and a boda boda rider traveling from Karenga through Lobalangit. The two individuals were attacked and shot at the thigh and buttocks by suspected armed perpetrators believed to be warriors. Both victims sustained injuries and are currently receiving medical treatment in Karenga.
- **On 23/09/2026,** a case of livestock theft was reported in Lobongia, involving donkeys belonging to the Turkana community. The incident was attributed to unidentified Karachuna, and the matter has been noted for follow-up and appropriate action.
- **On 23/09/2026**, four armed warriors reportedly assaulted a woman in Kamor. The victim had fled her home following a domestic dispute with her husband. Although the assailants confronted her, she was fortunately left unharmed.
- **On 25/09/2026**, reports were received from members of the Jie Karachuna alleging that Dodoth Karachuna were engaged in the purchase of illegal firearms from South Sudan. The matter raises serious security concerns and has been documented for further verification and follow-up by relevant authorities.

Despite signs of improvement, persistent vulnerabilities remain. Livestock theft, armed violence, and tensions surrounding disarmament continue to undermine stability.

Sign of Hope Extends Lifetime in Kotido

Responding to the escalating hunger crisis in Karamoja, **Sign of Hope** in conjunction with JPD-K identified and reached out to 70 vulnerable households across **North Division and Panyangara Sub-county in Kotido District** with emergency food distribution. Starting with identification, the distribution took place from the 15-17/9/2026. This timely intervention not only provided immediate relief to families struggling with acute food insecurity but also reinforced broader community resilience. By targeting the most affected households, the support helped stabilize livelihoods while complementing ongoing efforts to strengthen long-term food security in the region. The initiative stands as a beacon of solidarity, ensuring that vulnerable communities are not left behind.



The elderly grandmother with her grandchildren 18/ with the food relief on 17/09/2026.

Bunyoro Crowns a new King

Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom officially crowned a new King on 29 September 2026. His Majesty Edward Rukidi Nyabongo I, marking a historic transition that blends tradition with modern aspirations for unity and development. In his speech, the King pledged unity, reconciliation, and cultural preservation while encouraging youth to embrace their heritage. His agenda emphasized education, health, and wealth creation, calling for collaboration with government, elders, and cultural institutions. Looking ahead, the new reign is expected to revitalize festivals, promote conservation, empower youth, and address the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS affecting economic development in the region.

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Focus of the month

Karamoja Celebrates Heritage and Peace at the 11th cultural event in Moroto

From 7–12 September 2026, Moroto hosted the **11th Karamoja Cultural Event**, a six-day celebration of identity and unity. The annual gathering brought together cultural leaders, government officials, community groups, and visitors from Uganda and neighboring countries. With colorful performances, traditional dances, storytelling, and exhibitions of crafts, attire, and cuisine, the festival showcased the richness of Karamoja's heritage while providing a platform for dialogue on contemporary challenges.



The Karachuna of JPD-K marching during the KCE on the 09/09/2026.

A central highlight was the active involvement of the **Justice and Peace Department (JPD-K)**, which facilitated structured discussions on security, reconciliation, and community cooperation. Rural youth, many formerly involved in conflict, played a pivotal role by sharing testimonies of transformation and peace advocacy. Their participation symbolized hope and underscored the importance of reintegration, inspiring peers to embrace peace and development. The participation of reformed youth reinforced the region's commitment to reconciliation, while JPD K's leadership highlighted the value of institutional support in consolidating gains.

Leaders emphasized the link between cultural identity and sustainable peace, pointing to opportunities in tourism, creative industries, and community development. By blending cultural pride with dialogue, the event demonstrated how heritage can be harnessed as a tool for stability and progress.

President **Yoweri Museveni** also joined the festival, praising the people of Karamoja for preserving their cultural identity while embracing development. He congratulated the community for celebrating its heritage and thanked them for their support of the ruling National Resistance Movement during elections. Museveni reiterated that the government's disarmament program was necessary to curb insecurity linked to firearms, noting that women and voluntary handover of guns played a crucial role by helping authorities recover more than 41,000 guns. He stressed that disarmament was vital for restoring peace and stability, and urged communities to preserve positive aspects of their traditions such as discipline and strong family values while abandoning harmful practices.



His excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni with Karamoja Parliamentary leaders during the Cultural Event on 09/09/2026.

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Projects updates

Promoting Communal Land Tenure Security

In September 2026, the DKA Austria-funded intervention conducted courtesy visits in Longaroe and Kacheri Sub-Counties to introduce the project "*Promoting Communal Land Tenure Security*". Meetings were held with LC3 leaders and Community Development Officers (CDOs) to explain the project's objectives, JPD-Ks role, and its approach to community engagement. A central discussion point was JPD-K policy of not providing allowances or incentives to beneficiaries, emphasized as a strategy to promote ownership, participation, and sustainability of interventions.

Leadership in Longaroe welcomed the project, stressing its importance in addressing land grabbing, sales, and boundary disputes. In Kacheri, the CDO raised concerns about the no-allowance approach, which JPD-K clarified as a uniform policy applied to all. The LC3, in a separate meeting, endorsed the project, supported the approach, and expressed readiness to collaborate with JPD-K.

Influencing Women's Land Rights

The Missio Aachen-funded project conducted courtesy visits in Napumpum and Kamor Sub-Counties to introduce the project "*Influencing Women's Land Rights in Kotido District*"**.** Local leaders warmly welcomed the initiative, expressed readiness to collaborate, and highlighted persistent challenges such as land conflicts, land grabbing, land sales, and limited recognition of women's land rights.

Promoting youth-led Peacebuilding in North Karamoja

In September 2026, the Agiamondo-funded initiative activities were on hold for the month of September.

Toward integrated Demobilization, Reintegration and Reconciliation in North Karamoja

The Mondo Aperto Onlus-funded project, continued to promote peacebuilding and community development. On 21st September 2026, a security meeting was held in Kalapata Sub-county, which gathered 420 participants (310M, 110F), including Dodoth and Turkana communities, local leaders, elders, and security personnel. Discussions emphasized joint grazing, timely reporting of lost animals, respect for Ugandan laws, and coordination among Local Council leaders. Dialogue and cooperation were highlighted as essential to prevent conflicts and strengthen peaceful coexistence.

On 24th September 2026, a youth-led dialogue was held in Opopongo, Abim District with a total of 144 participants (132M, 12F). The engagement focused on peaceful co-existence as Jie communities moved westward to share water and pasture with Ethur. Participants deliberated on long-term grievances, reducing tensions, and fostering mutual understanding.

Complementing these peace efforts, Business Plan Development trainings (session 3) held between 17th and 24th September 2026 were carried out and brought together 169 participants (149M, 20F). Sessions refreshed knowledge on financial management, record keeping, accountability, savings, and investment, enhancing group sustainability.



A Participant giving his remarks during the dialogue in Opopongo, Abim District on 24/09/2026.

Holistic Reintegration of Demobilized Youth Combatants in Northern Karamoja

Under the CEI-SICSP-supported project, the components of socioeconomic empowerment and psychosocial support continued.

Under the socioeconomic component, the Agro Pastoral Field School (APFS) training on bio pesticide extraction was

conducted from 21–27 September 2026 in Kotido and Kaabong. Facilitated by the Project team, the training equipped participants with practical skills in identifying, preparing, extracting, and safely applying bio pesticides as environmentally friendly pest management solutions. Emphasis was placed on using locally available plant materials, integrating bio pesticide practices with other methods, and promoting sustainable agricultural production. Participants discussed common crop pests, shared traditional control methods, and explored innovative approaches to strengthen food security and livelihoods.

Under the psychosocial support component, individual counselling therapy (sessions 6) was conducted in Kaabong and Kotido Districts throughout the month. A total of 292 participants participated in the exercise. The sessions reviewed progress towards previously established goals, identified barriers, and collaboratively developed new, realistic objectives addressing interpersonal, family, livelihood, and psychosocial challenges. This phase consolidated achievements while highlighting areas requiring continued support. Participants reported *common stressors including escalating hunger, grief from recent bereavements, price fluctuations affecting cattle traders, water shortages in gold mining areas, and family disputes linked to famine*. These adversities contributed to rising depression rates among Karachunas. Recommendations included accelerating financial support to strengthen savings, introducing improved crop varieties for vegetable production, and diversifying income-generating activities beyond drought-affected farming.

Under this component from 7–13 September, 272 disarmed youth beneficiaries were facilitated to attend and participate in the annual Karamoja Cultural Festival. DYCs actively participated in the event including youth dialogues and parades.Most especially facilitated youth played a pivotal role by sharing testimonies of transformation. Their participation symbolized hope and underscored the importance of reintegration, inspiring peers to embrace peace and development.



The psychosocial support assistant interacting with the project beneficiary during the IPT session 6 in Losilang, North Division on 22/09/2026

Pictures



*Holistic Reintegration of Demobilized Youth Combatants – **CEI-SICSP**–Funded Project: The Karachuna taking part during the APFS training in Kalapata on 26/09/2026.*



*Holistic Reintegration of Demobilized Youth Combatants – **CEI-SICSP**–Funded Project: The Karachuna taking during the rural youth dialogue during the KCE on 10/09/2026*



The DKA Austria and Missio Aachen—Funded project: The project team and the CDO interacting during the Curtesy visit to Kacheri Sub-county on 22/09/2026



*Towards Integrated Demobilization, Reintegration and Reconciliation in Northern Karamoja – **MOA-TIDDR** –Funded project: The Karachuna of Arengechoto reformed warriors group during the training in BPD on the 21/09/2026.*