

WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN KARAMOJA

As the world commemorates the International Women's Day, OLANDASON WANYAMA spoke to some women who have impacted the lives of others in Karamoja sub-region:

Lily Frances Naberei is one of the few women who have provided strong representation and support for Karamoja's peace and development.

As a peace activist and a member of Kaabong district women peace forum, she has contributed to promoting peace, dialogue and unity within the community.

"We have been able to preach reconciliation, tolerance and peaceful co-existence among diverse groups," Naberei says.

Margie Lolem, inspired by her experience as the Moroto district

community development officer, has helped women become financially independent.

"I have been able to guide over 1,000 women on accessibility of government funds," she says.

Lolem adds that as a result, many women in the villages are engaging in business to support their families.

She further says she makes quarterly visits to communities to meet women and girls.

"The women and girls need to improve the uptake of services and programmes at the community level," Lolem says.

Stella Namoe, a former Woman Member of Parliament for Napak district and also Greater Moroto (2006-2021); says during her 15 years in the House, she invested in education, more so scientists like doctors.

"It's on record that the district

has the highest number of doctors in the Karamoja sub-region," she says.

Relatedly, Namoe is remembered for having paid fees for students at Comboni SSS. When she lost the polls in 2021, all the beneficiaries dropped out of school.

Many people believe even today that Namoe was the architect of the unity that has been dismantled by camps in the district.

Priska Loyer, the district councillor for Nabwal sub-

county, took the initiative to help the community recover animals.

"I used to take immediate action once I would hear of animals being stolen," she says, adding that her job was to coordinate with security forces and the locals.

Loyer says at the peak of insecurity and intense disarmament, she helped residents recover over 500 head of cattle.

On the other hand, in 2023, when Karamoja was hit by hunger, she fed vulnerable families by lobbying for food for them.

Anna Lomonyang, the executive director of Karamoja Special Children's Hope Initiative, a non-governmental organisation, advocates for the rights of children with special needs.



Naberei

Namoe

Loyer

Lomonyang

Lolem