

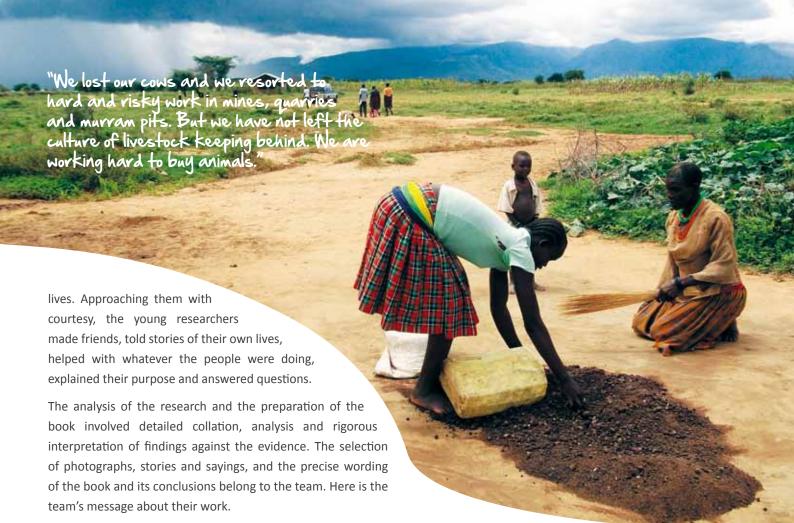
Their purpose in designing, implementing and reporting on this research is to help reduce the misunderstanding that separates their world from the outside. It is also to strike up a debate among the people of Karamoja about the future, and the work and role of youth. Their findings are distinctive, their voices clear, their energy and commitment unmistakeable. The analysis they offer throws a new light on how Karamoja should be understood.

The research team comes from rural and urban areas of Moroto, Napak and Nakapiripirit. Some have been to school, some have not, some have been to university. This combination of those who read and write and those who speak and hear is the strength of the team — they have gained access to people, knowledge and ideas that would not have been possible otherwise. Their record keeping was meticulous, their approach respectful. The team members already understand poverty and hard graft. When not researching, their daily income comes from a dizzying combination of mining, quarrying, digging murram, brewing,

Their journey took them through six sub-counties of Moroto and Napak districts where they conducted 378 interviews; meeting and discussing life and livelihoods with more than 500 people and taking hundreds of photographs over a period of three weeks. They asked young men and women how they are making a living, what is influencing it, what makes it good, and how it has come to be so. They asked older people how they are guiding youth. People answered questions and told stories of their

"When people saw our team together
- a mix of trouser and sheet (the
schooled and the non-schooled), they
got courage. They spoke
free. They told their
stories."





ur research catches people's own voices. We want it to be useful to our people. We researchers come from the community and we ask our own questions and find our own answers. We will take the book back to the community so people can use it. We will call our brothers and sisters, to strengthen our friendship and encourage them that there is something to be done.

We also want to give this book to others who are interested to learn about how life is today for young people in Karamoja and what has caused this to be. The book has our findings, analysis and conclusions. It shows the strengths of the young Karimojong: our respect for others, strength of mind, flexibility, carefulness and knowledge, respect for law and tradition. We suggest that when outsiders come to work in the region, they should please read our book. Then they will respect our strengths and work with them. They will find out what we have to say. We Karimojong have our culture and it cannot be detached from us."

