Presidents Launch Cross-Border Programme for Peace and Development in Karamoja, Turkana and West Poko

By Michael Wangusa, UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO)

President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya jointly launched the Cross-Border Programme for Sustainable Peace and Development in Karamoja, Turkana and West Poko, at a colourful ceremony in Moroto on 12 September 2019.

The ceremony was attended by senior central and local government officials and members of the UN Country Teams from both countries, as well as thousand of members of the public.

The objective of the programme is to accord communities on the Uganda and Kenya sides of the border, opportunities for better co-operation, close coordination and peaceful co-existence as well as bridging isolation gaps to improve their livelihoods and socioeconomic conditions for sustainable peace and development.

The two Governments of Kenya and Uganda will be responsible for resource mobilization and ensuring political leadership and ownership of the programme support for the project. The programme will further leverage partnerships from bi lateral and multinational partners, private sector, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and Non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The programme will be coordinated by the Joint Policy Committee (JPC) chaired jointly by the two responsible Ministers; the Uganda Minister for Karamoja Affairs and the Kenya Minister for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands. The committee will provide overall policy, governance and leadership direction for the
implementation of the programme, and will consist Ministers, senior ministry officials from key ministries, County Governors, UN Heads, IGAD leadership and representatives of strategic Development Partners.

President Museveni thanked the United Nations for their assistance in the region for a long time. He urged the UN to continue its good work particularly in the area of advocacy.

Under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinators in Uganda and Kenya, the participating UN agencies in Uganda and Kenya so far are Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF); UN Children Fund (UNICEF), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Environment (UNE), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN) and World Food Programme (WFP); who have so far committed a total of US $ 7.2 million.

The UN believes that the best way to prevent conflict is to ensure that communities are resilient. By reaching those left farthest behind and addressing inequalities and exclusion, working both Governments to encourage joint action, coherence, and a strategic focused framework for peace and development.