

# Endless wide land – real beauty – pure poverty: KARAMOJA

Karamoja could be described with various words due to all the contradictions which can be found in this nord-east region of Uganda that make it quite impossible to find one single fitting word to describe the wealth and that poverty at the same time. Impressive, moving,



sad, beautiful, unbelievable... These were our first trials to summarize the seen and experienced when we had returned back home from three intense Karamoja days on 24th of August around midnight. „We“ means a team of 20 people, a delegation of *Vision for Africa* together with Mama Maria and a few friends as well as two well-borehole experts, who had followed the clear call of the Lord for this region, had succesfully done a pre land research tour before and now they have come to finally meet the elders and leaders and the village of Moroto for detailed help- and building actions to be taken.

Those who have not seen with their own eyes will not believe how beautiful this land is with its many high mountains, this half-dry savannah landscape and this endless wide land, – how beautiful these tall people with their colorful scarves are, their expressive faces and their very black skin, – and how enormous the poverty is because of the murdering drought, the unworthy hygiene conditions and the thereof resultant helplessness.

Hence it seems like a contradiction that these people welcomed us like queens and kings and immediately received us as fellow Karamojongs. This was the biggest proof for us that God himself had sent Mama Maria and the ministry *Vision for Africa* to Karamoja, to give them their dignity back, by receiving water access through



wells, kindergartens and schools, a big hospital with a maternity section and many other helpful establishments to revive Karamoja, after God's own sovereign masterplan.

Another proof of Jesus' confirmation for our Karamoja visit and the planned projects was the great gift of rain which received us at our arrival and rained us good-bye at our departure.



How wonderful our Lord had prepared everything already! We could only marvel, three days long we were marvelling in amazement. We marvelled how these people could grow that old in all that poverty where everyday is a struggle for survival (we have seen many very old people!), we marvelled about the enormous mountains that look so different than the rest of the country and reminded us so much of the European alps; we marvelled about the will of life and strength of these people, about their

joy and gratefulness, we marvelled about life here which reminded us extremely of the old biblical times, and we marvelled about God's marvellous guidance of leading us to this special place at the right time, for starting something great, and about the acceptance and love we received from the people who were so prepared that they even gave us a big piece of land (5 acres) as a gift.

The crowning of our stay at Moroto village was probably when Mama Maria was made a Karamojong lady, got dressed and decorated and she was given a wooden rod as a sign of leadership and authority! Hallelujah! At the end even the whole team got wrapped with these colorful Karamojong-scarves – a present of the mayor of Moroto, our friend Noah.



God is good, and we can't stop marvelling how great God's plans are!

In three weeks from now the construction works for a headquarter and a kindergarten will be starting. Soon Karamoja will be blossoming and there will be a big little paradise of vivid life and children's laughter, where once drought and poverty had been ruling. We praise God, for He has conquered!





