

Success Stories

(1) Recovery of Stolen Livestock from Ethiopia

Five camels and a calf stolen by thieves were recovered by Issa tribesmen of the region and returned to their Debneh owner thanks to the efforts of the Field Monitor of CEWARB of the area,

On the morning of 2 June 2009, five camels and a calf belonging to an Afar Debneh Garaïsa family in Garsaledaba were stolen by Issa tribesmen. The theft took place around Sankal sector in As-Eyla and was noticed around noon. Immediately, the Debnehs went after the thieves to recover the camels, but returned empty handed because the thieves were already out of reach. On their way back, the Debnehs informed Issa herdsmen from the sector where the theft was committed and sought their help in finding the camels. In the evening, the Debneh tribesmen reported the incident to the civilian and military authorities of As-Eyla. The next morning, the local Field Monitor of CEWARN, with the assistance of the As-Eyla Head of Station, assembled Issa tribal chiefs in an effort to find the camels. A group of seven men, all from the Issa community, was designated and urgently dispatched to Oudhaleh to find and arrest the thieves and recover the camels. On 3 June 2009, to show their good faith and their commitment to peace between the two communities, Issa herdsmen from the Oudhaleh sector, who were already alerted by the Debneh tribesmen, arrested the thieves 70 km from Sankal on Ethiopian territory. On 4 June 2009, the five camels and the calf were brought back to As-Eyla and returned to their owners.

(2) Release of Hostage after 6 days of Captivity

An Issa caravan taken hostage by Afar tribesmen is released without bloodshed or loss of property following negotiations led by one of the Field Monitors in the region

On 26 April 2009, two unarmed civilian men and a woman from Isa with three camels carrying loads of food items from Ethiopia, were taken

hostage by a group about 20 armed men from the Afar tribe of Debneh, shortly after they had passed through the Bakereh border crossing. They claimed that the motive was a revenge, against a raid by Issa tribesmen. The Debnehs estimated the number of goats stolen at 150 head. The hostage-taking - the first of its kind in the region - occurred 8 km from Himir, As-Eyla sector, on the Ethiopian side of the border.

On 27 April 2009, members of the Issa community in the region reported the incident to the Head of the DNA (AND) Company in As-Eyla and one of CEWARN's Field Monitors of the area. The effort of Issa herdsmen to defuse the situation peacefully was abandoned following threats from the hostage-takers. Given the gravity of the situation, the military official of As-Eyla immediately informed the DNA Commander in Dikhil as well as the Official of the region. The Officials of Dikhil, accompanied by the DNA Commander in Dikhil, travelled right to the place where the hostages were being held and demanded the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages, with a personal promise to recover raided goats. The kidnappers accepted the proposal, but did not release the hostages. The next day part of the herds was found in the bush by the very Debneh tribesmen. About forty goats were still not accounted for.

On 29 April 2009, the CEWARN's Field Monitor of the area - also an Issa Okal who is influential and respected in both communities - requested permission from the officials of the region to bring together the elders of both communities in an effort to secure the release of the hostages and resolve the incident amicably. He hired a vehicle and drove a group of elders from both communities to the kidnappers with a message from the Debneh Sultan of As-Eyla. The elders demanded the immediate release of the hostages and invited the kidnappers to come to the tree. The negotiation lasted two days. The hostages were released on 1 May 2009, after 6

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days of captivity, and the caravan resumed its journey.

(3) Impending Attack by the Pokot Warriors from Kenya

On the 12th April, 2009, the CEWARN Field Monitor (FM) for Moroto district received an alert from a peace mobilizer from Katikekile Sub County, Moroto District of an impending attack by the Pokot warriors from Kenya on the Matheniko warriors of Loputuk parish, Nadunget sub county, Matheniko county, Moroto district. The information was that large number heavily armed Pokot warriors from Kenya had entered Uganda. The FM informed the district peace committee chairperson, security officers and the community leaders. The community leaders who received the alert mobilized the youth (Karachuna) who moved around making alarms and sounding bells which scared the advancing Pokot warriors who had reached Thogolimen grazing area in Loputuk parish, Nadunget Sub County, Matheniko county, Moroto district. The Pokot warriors, on realizing that their planned attack had been known retreated to Kenya without taking anything or hurting anybody.

(4) Cross Border Resource Sharing Facilitated

On 17th May, 2008, CEWARN's Field Monitor of West Pokot was while field mission in Katikomor/ Chepchoina, Kanyerus and Nasal was informed by communities of the area that several border international Beacons were uprooted or attacked by unknown people while Ugandan Peoples Defense Force (UPDF) were operating in the area. The situation was reported by the Field Monitor the district leaders meeting of Pokot North District which was held at Amakuriat on 19th May, 2008. The DC Mr. Joseph Motari visited the area on the following day, 20th May, 2008 with other district security officers and the area councilor, The DC immediately initiated cross border peace meeting which included two other district commissioners of West Pokot and Kwanza Districts of Kenya and RDC for Bukwo- Uganda to immediately resolve the matter before it exploded. Tension between Pokot and UPDF soldiers was managed after a meeting was held and Pokot pastoralists are now grazing their livestock on the Kenyan border

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without the previous week problems of herders being assaulted, beaten or forced to hard labour of scooping sand on the trucks by UPDF soldiers. The Pokot Communities are also willing to re-open Kanyerus market together with Sabinu community.

(5) Pian Chekwi Nakapiripirit, Uganda

CEWARN Field Monitor of this area on 15th January, 2007 received a message from one of the Peace Committee members from Lotome in Moroto district through a telephone call, informing him that the Bokora of Lotome were planning to go and raid a protected kraal in Nabilatuk Sub County. After the FM had received this information he alerted the army officer of Nabilatuk detach and the local community. The army deployed soldiers to strategic positions and tightened the security and the community became alert. When the warriors came at night for a raid they realized the presence of soldiers guarding the area tightly they quickly left the place and returned to Lotome without carrying out the raid. No one was hurt or killed in this incident. This raid was successfully pre-empted and it did not take place which saved lives and property.

respond positively towards disarmament. We advised the communities to do it voluntarily and bring force their guns without being forced.

