

SUCCESS STORIES

Ethiopian Side of the Somali Cluster

Peace Committees successfully implemented resource sharing agreements.

Background

The Borana and Gabra communities who share many cultural ties are located in southern Ethiopia and northern Kenya. They also share a common language and similarities in terms of traditional governance structures. Previously, tensions between these groups had been on the rise due to, among others, the creation of new constituencies/administrative units in some areas, which led to competition over which resources should be allotted to which administrative unit. In 2005, 75 Gabra, including school children were massacred in a raid in Torbi, Kenya for which the Borana were blamed. The following year a large number of Borana living in Chalbi took flight to Ethiopia and settled around police stations in the Borana zone. Tensions led to rising banditry, cattle rustling, cross-border attacks, highway robberies and frequent shoot-outs.

Resource Sharing in the Post Maikona Period

A peace process was initiated between elders from the town of Dillo, Ethiopia and Dukana, Kenya. In November 2008, the two communities agreed to a cease-fire and a formula for compensating those whose animals were stolen, which would also be used for future incidents. The agreement was

further cemented by the inclusion of the Dillo community into the Madogashe/Dukana/Maikona peace initiative in July 2009. As trust was restored between the communities in the locality, local leaders agreed to try to extend their mandate along the entire border area where both communities reside. This coincided with the revitalization and creation of CEWARN local peace committees in Dillo and surrounding woredas which enabled the local communities to pursue their peace building efforts in an institutionalized manner. Later, these areas were included in a CEWARN led cross border peace meeting in November 2009 in Moyale, Ethiopia.

The numerous peace processes led to the adoption of resource sharing agreements. In Kenya there is plenty of grazing ground and water scarcity while in Ethiopia there is a shortage of grass and plenty of water. Since the Maikona peace gathering and the revitalization of CEWARN Local Peace Committees all Borana livestock from Dillo and surrounding kebeles e.g. Arbole, Goray, Qadim and Hoboq travel as far as Bada Huri 260 km inside Kenya for access to grazing areas. Instances of resource sharing were again seen in April 2010, when following heavy rainfall and the consequent filling up of ponds at Bada-Huri, Kenya Borana communities from Ethiopia took their livestock for water usage.

The livestock's stayed there up to the end of June 2010, when the ponds dried up. They returned to Ethiopia. The cattle and goats use the water sources at the crater located in Dillo town, Ethiopia while camels drink at the borehole located in the town of Goray, Ethiopia .So far no theft have been reported between the communities and their relationship remains mutually respectful.

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