

SUCCESS STORIES

Kenyan Side of the Karamoja Cluster

June 2, 2008

West Pokot district is an area of coverage of the CEWARN Mechanism

On 17th May, 2008, I participated in a baseline survey conducted by PACT KENYA staff across the border of Pokot – Sabiny and Pokot – Karamojong in areas of Katikomor / Chepchoina, Kanyerus and Nasal. During the survey I met with community warriors and who informed me that several border international Beacons was uprooted or destroyed by unknown people and UPDF soldiers brutalizing young livestock herders. I reported the matter to the district leaders meeting of Pokot North District which was held at Amakuriat on 19th May, 2008. Based on that information, the DC Mr. Joseph Motari decided to visit the area on the following day 20th May, 2008, and I accompanied him to the site of the destroyed beacon with other district security officers and the area councilor. The DC then initiated a 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 explore. The meeting was effective in defusing the high tension between the Pokot and UPDF soldiers. Currently, the livestock of the Pokot are now grazing along the border without any problem. Pokot Community members have also expressed readiness to re-open Kanyerus market together with Sabiny community. In previous weeks, however, herders were brutalized, beaten, their livestock being bombed and forced to hard labour of scooping sand on the trucks by UPDF soldiers.

CEWARN FM Pokot West district