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Incident briefs/updates in Turkana south, central and North Districts for the months of February – March 2008.

The overall situations of incidences related to conflicts differ in terms of areas and nature of pastoralists and livelihood means.

In Turkana south in Kapelibok, on 13th February 2008 Pokots from the neighbouring pokot north district attacked Kapelibok village of Kaputir location of Kainuk division. During the incident around 2 herds of cattle from 11 families were driven by raiders, the livestock have not been recovered yet and no government intervention was realized by the community.

The second incident happened on 27th of February 2008 in Kapelibok village where reports indicate pokots raided a settlement in Kapelibok and went away with 350 shoats estimated to be from 6 households. In the fight one person Turkana herdsman was killed during the incident.

On 3rd of March 2008, the pokots raided a neighbouring settlement of Kapelibok village at night. The reports show about one thousand two hundred and five shoats for nine families were driven towards pokot areas of Kasei. In the incident one person was killed and two were injured now at Lodwar district hospital for treatment.

In the same incident Esther Akai a beneficiary in the restocking for peace project also lost her 25 shoats to pokot raiders.

On 22nd March 2008, a group of pokots raiders attacked settlements in Kapelibok village where 120 shoats were driven by pokots towards areas of Kasei division in Pokot north district. No reports of death and injuries reported during the incident.

In Lopii area on the 3rd week of March pokots from East Baringo attacked Turkana manyatta in lopii. In the incident 5 herds of shoats were taken away towards East Baringo areas. The raid claimed one person dead and another injured.

In the second raid in lopii on 22nd March 2008, pokots raided kraals at lopii area. The incident claimed one person dead and one herd of camels were driven by pokot raiders with no government intervention realized in the raids.

In Turkana Central in parts of loima division areas of Lokiriama constant livestock thefts is experienced where in the first week of march 2 herds of shoats at Nasogol area were driven by jie raiders of Kotido district of which historically have been at peace with the Turkana community.

On 23rd March 2008, 40 donkeys of Turkana were driven away from Tapaiki area in Lochor a lomala sub-location in Lokiriam. The donkeys were driven by Jie raiders who have continuously acted on Turkana livestock in attempts of livestock thefts which will later spark violent raids as revenge or counter attack from Turkana community.

In the second week of March in Lokwamor area of Lorugum Location around 60 camels of 2 families were raided by pokots from Kalapata area in Alale division. Riam Riam after receiving the information a team of peace actors and government officers from the district were sent as a rapid response to areas in pokot to recover the camels and now possibilities of recovery are under through the local leaders in pokot North district.

In Turkana North in areas of Kibish Division and Lapur the situation is changing in terms of security where the Dongiro community show signs of resistance to the peace deal with the Turkana community and this are witnessed in the handing over and the joint cross-border inter-community dialogues. However, reports in the community show Toposa and Dongiro tribesmen are allied to hit the Turkana and we witnessed that in areas of Liwan, Meyan, Kibish, Lokamarinyang, Napak and Kokuro impending attacks are reported by communities.

In Oropoi division reports of major attacks from the neighbouring community of Dodoth in Kaabong district in Karamoja region of Uganda. The Dodoth have forged an alliance with the Toposa of southern Sudan and have continuously attacked pastoral settlements around Nalapatui, Nawountos, Letea and Katelemot in Oropoi division. The latest, on 17th march 08, 120 cattle were taken and one person killed in the incident.

Comments:

The entire areas of south are at great threat of attacks by pokots from East Baringo and Pokot North district evidenced by the large numbers of violent incidences and the number of livestock lost in the short period. To complement on the ongoing efforts community policing aspect be explored and encouraged. To add on the same more security monitoring and timely responses are emphasized

In the same vain, in areas of Kibish which border the Nyangatom of Ethiopia there is need for the two governments to hold higher level talks to forestall the conflict that is threatening to defy local efforts of intervention.

Finally, interventions from the governments and civil society are required to solve the escalating incidences in Oropoi division where an earlier intervention (Turkana – Dodoth conflict mitigation project) from USAID/DAI and Oxfam was vital in the reduction of violent attacks in the cross border communities.

Riam Riam

28th March, 08