

Somali Cluster of Kenya

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Impact of Influx of Borana and Gabra Communities of Ethiopia to Moyale Kenya

Introduction

This report provides a brief on the current situation in Moyale following outbreak of violent conflict between the Borana and Gabra communities in the Moyale area of Ethiopia on the 8th of February 2007. The purpose of the report is to inform stakeholders on the impact it may have on the dynamics of the conflict due to the influx of these communities from Ethiopia to Kenya.

Background

Many Ethiopians have crossed into Kenya following the outbreak of violent conflict between the Borana and Gabra communities in the Moyale area of Ethiopia on the 8th of February 2007. By 12th February 2007, the violent conflict had escalated. The Gabra who consist the majority of the people displaced have moved to Moyale, Kenya with their livestock to seek refuge among their relatives.

Fears have been expressed that the influx of the Ethiopians with their livestock may result in a spill-over of the conflict into Moyale, Kenya considering that the two communities in conflict live in the area.

Current Situation

The Moyale District Security Committee is however on the alert to prevent the possible spill-over of the conflict into Kenya. On 17th February 2007 the Marsabit Field Monitor reported that the situation had been contained in Ethiopia by the Ethiopian Security Forces. It is believed that it will take longer before the displaced Ethiopians feel secure enough to return to their country. The fear is that the spillover of the conflict that may occur in addition to the conflict over resources that could arise due to presence of these communities with their livestock may jeopardize the cross-border peace initiatives between the Boran and Gabra communities that the Kenyan and Ethiopian Governments have been involved in with the support of civil society organizations; these initiatives have been going on for the past two years.

Recommendations

- The Moyale and Marsabit Districts Peace Committees should be on the alert and sustain their current tempo in peace work so as to ensure that the inter-communal dialogue and cordial relations between the Boran and Gabra communities in Kenya are not impaired by the influx of hostile members of the same communities from Ethiopia.
- The two communities in Ethiopia have to be reconciled so as to ensure that the peace agreements that have been reached so far continue to hold. Because of the importance of the cross-border initiatives, it is recommended that the Moyale and Marsabit Districts Peace Committees and other actors who have been involved in the cross-border peace initiatives assist in reconciling the warring Boran and Gabra communities in Ethiopia.