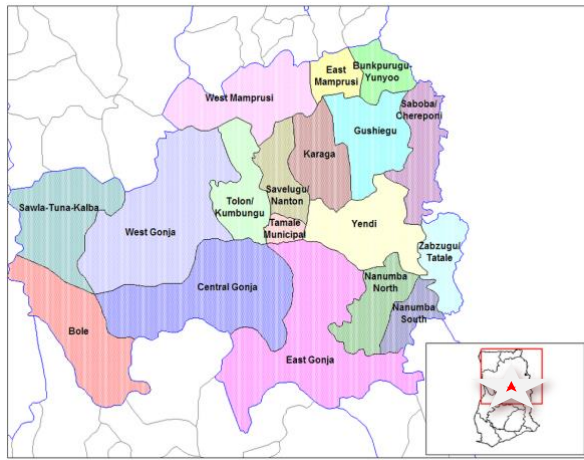



Farmers and herders clash in Zabzugu District of the Northern Region, Ghana.

BACKGROUND/ DEMOGRAPHY



Source: Google Map of Northern Region indicating Zabzugu District

Key:

 **Zabzugu District**

INCIDENT PROFILE

On Tuesday, April 3, 2018, a farmer from Sabare Jagrido met two herdsmen and grazing cattle on the newly cultivated farmland. According to WANEP-Ghana Community Monitors in the district, the herders have been warned on many occasions to desist from grazing cattle on farmlands. The farmer was allegedly attacked by the herdsmen and sustained deep cut on the head in the incident. Upon widespread of the information in the township, relatives of the victim (farmer) also mobilised and attacked the herders killing the cattle and houses belonging to the herders were razed.

Many herders have fled to neighbouring districts in the region out of fear of continued reprisal attacks. It should be noted that the herders and farmers have co-existed for generations without such incidents.

- ✓ The Zabzugu District is located in the Eastern part of the Northern Region² and shares boundaries with Tatale-Sanguli District to the East, Yendi Municipality to the West, Nanumba North District to the South and Saboba District to the North.
- ✓ Zabzugu is the capital of the Zabzugu District and a home to the Dagomba and Konkomba ethnic groups.
- ✓ It has a population of 63,815 (Ghana Population Census, 2010), representing 2.6% of the total population of the Northern Region. Males constitute 49.1% and females represent 50.9%.
- ✓ In 2012, the District was carved out of the Zabzugu-Tatale District in line with the provisions of Legislative Instrument 2053 .
- ✓ Skilled agriculture, forestry and fishing account for 86.3% of the economic activities within the district.



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RISKS ANALYSIS :

The farming season is fast approaching and the re-emergence of Farmer-Pastoralist conflict in the region will be counterproductive not only to crop production but also social cohesion in the communities. In this situation, women and children will bear the brunt of the conflict.

Similarly, the incident has potential to spiral into lawlessness, disregard for the rule of law and human rights in the area. The continuous reprisal attacks will increase the risks and tensions among community members and that might result to violence and public disorder.

The farmers-herders conflict in Zabzugu is a threats to stability in the region. Therefore, urgent and necessary measures are needed douse the tensions and mitigate widespread reprisal attacks and violence.

MECHANISMS FOR INTERVENTIONS

- The District Chief Executive, District Police Commander and the Assemblyman of the area visited the incident location and the injured at the Zabzugu District Hospital. The elders have called for calm while the matter is being investigated. Meanwhile, the suspected perpetrator have been apprehended by the police.
- Military/Police personnel have been sent to the district and are working with the local authorities to restore law and order. They have been urging community members to exercise patience and desist from any retaliatory attacks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Government through the Ministry of Interior, the Northern Region Police Command and the Regional/National Peace Council should strengthen their intervention strategies by collaborating with local CSOs to engage the parties in order to resolve the conflict and institute local mechanisms to forestall future occurrences.
- The Police should be more proactive in responding to threats, to ensure that violence is contained and the level of escalation is limited. Deployment of Police personnel to the conflict scene should also be proportionate with the scale of the conflict and implore the right-based approach in its actions to maintain law and order.
- Based on the current trends, the displaced victims of the attacks should be sheltered and their basic human rights respected by the conflict parties, state and community. Meantwhile, there is need to introduce a process of inter-cummunal dialogue between the herders and farmers community.

References:

Source: WANEP-Ghana National Early Warning System (NEWS)

For further information, kindly contact Albert Yelyang, National Network Coordinator through ayelyang@wanepghana.org