Livelihoods and Vulnerability of Pastoralists in the Horn of Africa

By

Dawit Abebe
COMESA/PACAPS

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Trade and Transboundary Animal Diseases in the Horn of Africa
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Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

- About 18 million
- Own major proportion of the national herd

COMESA: Free movement of people, Goods and Services
Objectives

- Overview of Pastoral Livelihoods and vulnerability
- Pastoralists adaptive and risk management strategies
- Governments and Donors response to crisis
- Contexts
- Questions
- Policy and programme issues
Sustainable Livelihoods Framework

Vulnerability context

Livelihood Assets

Policies, institutions, processes

P livelihood strategies

H livelihood outcomes

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**Livelihood Assets**

**Financial capital**
- in the form of livestock
- remittances

**Social capital**
- network & relationships
- to work together
- reciprocity and exchange
- providing support

**Human capital**
- skills & knowledge of family
- the ability to work
- good health, strength etc
- labour
- indigenous knowledge

**Physical capital**
- infrastructure
  - shelter
  - transport
  - tools
- very low

**Natural capital**
- water
- soil
- trees and tree products

**Political capital**
- representation
- voices
- very weak

- loss of key resource assets
- weak infrastructure (physical capital)
- weak education & health services (human capital)
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) / PACAPS

Seasonal variation (wet & dry season)

Reduce access to key resource areas

Sedentarization

Overgrazing

Population growth

Conflict

Exogenous Land pressure

Drought

Trends

Change in Market trend
- Market exclusion
- Cereals - livestock price

Livestock Losses

Human Losses

Livelihood assets and strategies under pressure

Shocks

Disease outbreaks (RVF, PPRé etc)

Somalia & Ethiopia:

Kenya:
- 2003, 2007/8

Sudan:
1. Mobility:

- Seasonal movement
- Drought period movement
  - long-distance
  - across international borders
  - negotiation and agreement between different users
- In case of disease outbreak
- In case of conflict and insecurity
- Market opportunities
Livestock movement patterns from dry to wet season grazing areas: Awash Valley
2. Livestock sale

- surplus males and unproductive females
- rarely breeding females in severe drought situation

- high supply
- low and unstable prices
- poor body condition
- difficulty to access market
Adaptive and coping strategies... Cont'd

3. Herd splitting

4. Livestock sharing, loan and gift within kinship networks

5. Diversifying species composition of herds
   - camel: drought tolerance
   - efficient utilization of vegetation
   - faster herd rebuilding

6. Maximizing Stocking densities

7. Livelihood diversification (manual labour, petty trade, firewood and charcoal selling, cultivation)
Government and donors development and disaster response strategies:

Does it supportive of the pastoralist coping strategies?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policies and programmes</th>
<th>Positive / Strengths</th>
<th>Negative / Limitations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Development</td>
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<td>Privatization</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Restrict movement</td>
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<td>Livestock marketing</td>
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<td>Policies and programmes</td>
<td>Impact on coping strategies</td>
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<td>Animal Health CBAHWs</td>
<td>CBAHWs (e.g. Rinderpest eradication in Ethiopia and Disease reporting in Tanzania)</td>
<td>Conventional livestock disease control and surveillance system don't reflect on the epidemiological realities of the various diseases</td>
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<td>Water development (Permanente water points in boreholes)</td>
<td>Drought time water sources</td>
<td>Settlement and localized overgrazing, High cost of operation &amp; unsustainable, Conflict</td>
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<td>2. Disaster response</td>
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| Emergency livestock marketing | Create income & expenditure capacity: | ÅLimited to accessible areas (road side & market centre) due to poor road access and high transport cost  
ÅNot timely in most cases, and price go down as the crisis develop  
ÅIneffective in the absence of pre-existing LMS  
ÅIneffective in the face of export ban  |
|                          | Å to buy food: income shock |                             |
|                          | Å helps fast recovery and herd rebuilding (buying feed, veterinary drugs & tracking breeding stock to grazing areas) |                             |
|                          | Å prevent asset lose / shock |                             |
| Emergency feed supplementation | ÅSaves breeding animals, ÅRapid post drought recovery | ÅLimited to accessible communities  
ÅNot timely in most cases |
The use of income derived from commercial de-stocking (n=114 households)

Type of expenditure

- Mean proportion (%) of expenditure (95% confidence interval)
- Livestock: 37%
- Livelihood benefits: 79%

- Buy food for people: 27.7%
- Transport livestock: 11.7%
- Buy human medicine: 18.8%
- Pay off debts: 6.6%
- Support relatives: 5.3%
- Savings: 3.2%
- Buy animal feed: 5.3%
- School expenses: 5.3%
- Buy veterinary care: 4.3%
- Buy clothes: 6%
- Others: 8.8%

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### Impact on coping strategies

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<tr>
<td>Emergency animal health intervention</td>
<td>Not significant</td>
<td>Lack of clarity of objective, Ineffective vaccination practices: weakness in disease diagnosis, Delayed implementation, Inappropriate coverage, Improper storage at field level Lack of adherence to vaccine and drug administration protocols Weak immunological response: Pastoralists believe that vaccination during disaster undermine their resilience. Subsidized and free drugs and vaccinations Difficult in the absence of existing network of primary veterinary service delivery system</td>
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Contexts

- Mobility is a key pastoralists adaptation strategy:
  - Seasonal movement - Dry and wet season
  - Coping strategy: in time of disaster (drought, flood, conflict, disease outbreak)
  - Access to market: in response to better market opportunity

- Drought: slow onset, frequent and normal event
- Fixed-point service delivery system
- Disease control and surveillance system
- Uncertain and changing livestock export market
- Lack of appropriate livestock marketing system
- Cross-border livestock trade: poverty alleviation and food security
- Disconnect between disaster responses and development intervention
Questions

Given the need for mobility, likely occurrence of shocks and stresses, and uncertain export market condition, how should livestock marketing system that can be effective both in "normal" and crisis period established?

- that insure access to mobile herd in remote areas,
- that address potential risks of market exclusion

Given mobility, epidemiological, economic and ecological contexts, how should effective disease control and surveillance system that meets livestock keepers needs in both "normal" and crisis period be established?
Policy and programmes

- Vulnerability is one of the defining characteristics of poverty. Risks of drought, disease, conflict and market exclusion should be regarded by large as a development problems:

  - Development policies that recognize the benefit of mobility; livestock services and markets that is adapted to and strengthening pastoralists coping strategies should put in place.

  - Emergency response: should be based on principles of disaster management cycle, and appropriate guidelines and standards.

- Pastoralists vulnerability to the risk of diseases depends very much on the access to veterinary services for preventive measures:

  - Normal period: preventive disease strategies that ensure adequate levels of herd immunity;

  - Drought period: specific disease control policies and strategies during drought and flood.
Vulnerability to risks of exclusion from domestic and international markets is associated mainly with high transaction costs, and inability to meet international standards.

- Streamlining taxes and bureaucracy
- Capacity-building in government marketing and veterinary systems
  - International standards
- Upgrading of export abattoirs to meet market demand and sanitary standards
- Improve road access to reach remote and mobile pastoral communities
- Support and facilitate cross-border livestock trade as critically important to food security and poverty reduction in pastoral areas.
- Rapid commercial destocking during disaster based on appropriate guideline and standards.
Thank you