



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



## Somalia Camel Leasing to Impact Resilience Activity Phase One Highlights Brief (January 2020)

The Feed the Future Somalia Camel Leasing to Impact Resilience Activity is a two-year research effort implemented by RTI International to determine the potential impacts of camel leasing on the wellbeing of pastoralist households and communities in the face of drought and other climate-related shocks.

Camel leasing is a process by which a commercial dairy leases a lactating camel from a pastoralist in exchange for a monthly payment and a guarantee that the camel's health and wellbeing will be maintained through the provision of food, water, shelter, and veterinary services.

### Primary Study Questions

- What impact does camel leasing have on the welfare and resilience capacities of pastoral households and communities?
- What is the “business case” for the camel leasing model for dairy companies?
- To what extent do Somali social networks influence the camel leasing model?

### Methodology

- Desk review of more than 65 reports and online resources
- 19 key informant interviews (*to date*)
- Focus group discussions (FGDs) with dairies, pastoralists, and community members
- Panel survey of leasing and non-leasing pastoralist households
- Case study interviews with pastoralists and dairies

[Click here to view the Phase I Report](#)



## Next Steps

- ✓ Panel household survey of approximately 150 leasing and non-leasing pastoralists in Wooqoyi Galbeed
- ✓ Focus group discussions with pastoralists, dairies, and community members in Wooqoyi Galbeed and Sool
- ✓ Case studies with dairies and pastoralists

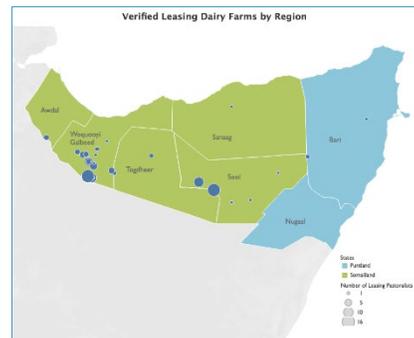
## More Info

Micah Frumkin,  
Chief of Party:  
[mfrumkin@rti.org](mailto:mfrumkin@rti.org)

Jami Montgomery,  
Agreement Officer's  
Representative:  
[jmontgomery@USAID.gov](mailto:jmontgomery@USAID.gov)

## Preliminary Findings

Through December 2019, [Phase I of the study](#) took a retrospective look at the practice of camel leasing. The research team reviewed more than 65 print and online resources through a desk review, conducted 19 key informant interviews, and held five FGDs with pastoralists, commercial dairies, and community members in pastoralist communities in and around Hargeisa and Salahley in the Wooqoyi Galbeed area of Somaliland.



Through a mapping exercise conducted by RTI and local data collection partner Horn Africa Consultants Firm (HACOF), this region was identified as having the highest concentration of camel leasing dairies and pastoralists.

Key preliminary findings from Phase I are listed below.

### ***What impact does camel leasing have on the welfare and resilience capacities of pastoral households and communities?***

- FGD respondents stated that camel leasing helps mitigate loss of valuable livestock assets, provides income to reinvest in livestock, and covers household needs.
- Key informants noted two of the potentially adverse effects related to camel leasing: 1) more restricted diets and exercise for camels housed in dairies; 2) potential land tenure tensions as dairies expand and grazing corridors become more limited.

### ***What is the “business case” for the camel leasing model for dairy companies?***

- Dairy trustworthiness was the single greatest factor affecting a pastoralist’s decision to lease a camel, followed by witnessing the health and wellbeing of leased camels.
- The 2016/2017 drought was a major contributor to camel leasing as pastoralists sought new strategies to withstand losses to their primary livelihoods—livestock.
- The camel milk market in Somaliland is relatively new and rapidly developing, opening opportunities for entrepreneurial dairy owners to invest in ways to increase their supplies of safe, high-quality milk.
- Non-leasing pastoralists and community members raised concerns over the effect of camel leasing and dairies on the price of camel milk in rural areas, as dairies continue to expand into the camel milk market.

### ***To what extent do Somali social networks influence the camel leasing model?***

- Word of mouth from friends, relatives, and neighbors and the ability to witness the practice are two of the strongest factors that influence the uptake of camel leasing among pastoralist communities.
- According to both dairy and pastoralist FGDs, clan dynamics appeared to play no significant role in determining whether leases would be established, or with whom.