



# Enhancing Livestock Resilience and Pastoral Livelihoods in Africa

Q & A transcript

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*Female:* Thank you very much to our presenters for those excellent presentations. We are now going to open it up to a question and answer session and we have a lot of people joining us online so we will alternate between in person and online. And when you have the microphone, please speak loudly. Sometimes in this room it's a little bit difficult to hear from one side to the other. And the microphones are more so for recording purposes and for our online audience than for in the room. And we'll start with an in person question.

*Audience:* Hi my question is do you currently have any policy interventions for establishing veterinary pharmaceutical standards? Because you had mentioned the lack of quality and consistency on the veterinary pharmaceutical supplies available were inconsistent and not very good. So I was wondering if we were working or if you were working on any sorts of policy interventions so that there would be standards established for those available.

*Male:* Yeah, we are working with the veterinary board in Somaliland which has a veterinary coach. Some of the policies are written up. They are very clear. But they're not implemented in the right way. They don't have the capacity to implement the veterinary code and that's one of the core activities we're going to do as well.

*Female:* We have a question from our online audience.

*Audience:* This question is from Alexandra Ruchowser Pereira. And she's joining us from Nairobi and she works with the international medical court. Her first question is, "More and more people argue that pastoralism is not a sustainable livelihood and that we should focus on behavior change to change their way of living instead of promoting pastoralism. What is your answer to that?" And then the second is, "Regarding the two presentations, how do you measure the impact of your interventions and what are the indicators that you are using?"

*Male:* The first question, I agree. I think it's both. It's both behavior change and the people must sustain the best way they know how to live. Pastoralism, \_\_\_ your said, is probably the best use of those fragile wetlands. Try farming. You'll be sorry. Okay, I think the second question was "What are the indicators?"

Actually, \_\_\_\_ indicators. One of them is the income change. And we do a lot of studies to show that households that participate in development programs actually do have a change in their incomes in their households. Among many things like productive of livestock of course.

*Male:* I had three questions. They're very short. Is PPR a problem? And second one is, if I understood your slide, something like 40 percent of these animals were coming from Somaliland, so basically Ethiopia is the main – certainly one of the main sources of animals, that's what I understood. And in that respect, together, put together with some other \_\_, on the production side, do you look at mortality rates of newborns? What management practices do you reduce that mortality rate or anything like that on the production side?

*Male:* Your first question was about PPR, which is pest \_\_\_\_\_, which is like \_\_\_\_ like disease, but then only for small ruminants. And that answer is very short. Yes, that is a problem. It's become pandemic in the large part of the Horn of Africa. I don't know if that answers your question already, so it's extremely important. The second question – there was a question about the production side of things. We are not engaged with that. And your second question was, which I've forgotten now, –

*Audience:* *[Inaudible do to not being near the microphone]*

*Male:* Yes, correct. It's all – it's a very interesting and complicated trade system whereby people have links to perhaps family that live in Ethiopia. It's often plan related trades, and it's extremely interesting if you understand that whole system how it's been able to survive over the years, how it's been able to survive under very difficult conditions when the war was going on et cetera, et cetera.

*Audience:* I wanted to ask both about Kenya and Somaliland, though I know more about Kenya than Somaliland. As a geographer, I remember studying the human/environment relationship and studying this particular area of the world and how the social system has developed and the economic system have developed in reaction and as a way of existing in this environment. And as

Francis said, pastoralism is a creative response to that environment that has, until recently, worked very well. But now, this system is changing and you have the environmental system changing. That environmental system is having impacts on the social system which is having impacts on the economic system. So I agree with Frances that I think pastoral systems – I want pastoral systems, to survive. And so what kinds of changes – and do we know – what kinds of changes have to happen in the systems in order for pastoralism to survive? And that is the social system which has its own addition of safety net. The livestock value chain system and one aspect I was interested in was the off take rate that – we were in Kenya. We heard about that the off take rate is not as high as an economist would want it to be. But there must be social reasons why it is the way it is. So how can any project begin to change some of these things? And it seems to me, thinking from a systems perspective would be important, but I just wanted your response. Both in Kenya and Somalia.

*Male:*

Let me talk about Kenya. I think I said pastoralism is evolving. And it's evolving because of the situations that are changing drastically. The pastoralist will no longer survive on animals alone, blood and milk, no. There's kids that have to go to school. They are challenges. He needs money so yes, he has to convert his life into cash, but only because he needs the cash. Last hope is a bank. Is a wealth for the owner. So the moment you convert to your rest took into cash, then you have to figure out what to do with the cash. But the question is, is he aware there would be a drought? He has gone through many droughts. And he survives. I think he is like in a monetary crush. A drought comes, he loses, but then he bounces back. Of course a few drop out. And that's what I said. . So yes, there's a lot of social change. But the real basic mobility and last hook of keeping as a way of life, that, I think, you need to survive because they call on you will not allow many of options to happen. Are there ways to reverse what's happening? I think there is. Let the pastoralist take charge. He has done it years before. He can still do it. Removed the government out of land issues. And I think the pastoralists through their tradition systems will strike a balance on how to use their land. This is all reciprocal. When I'm in trouble, I go somewhere. I'm assisted. When the other guy's in trouble, he comes to me. I assist. That's how we – pastoralists, survives, I think.

*Male:*

Maybe my answer is more based on my regional experience. I believe pastoralism is often the only viable livelihood in most of these very, very arid regions. People have been able to survive for a long time. They are still surviving. Yes, it's true, there are changes. There are population pressure, land

pressure are among the most important challenges for pastoralism. I believe we have some answers. We've been trying out several things. I think perhaps a more commercial way of livestock production for some cases will definitely make a big change. Some people will not be able to survive. I think we have to accept that. We have to look at management of resources, of water resources, of range. And perhaps we should look at the traditional government systems as well again. There are some areas, particularly in Kenya and Ethiopia where the traditional governor's is still extremely strong. There are some areas which are broken down completely, so we have to look at that and see how we can assist. The governance, traditional governance systems for resources and yeah, I think that works.

*Female:* We have another question from our online audience.

*Audience:* All right, this question is from Nick Archer from World Concern, located in Richmond, Virginia and this is for Francis in regards to early take off animals. He says, "For the pastoralists, animals are their wealth and the more the better. Encouraging people to sell early, ahead of a looming crisis, is very difficult. What can be done to address these challenges and are there any initiatives that have been successful in voluntary early take off?"

*Male:* I want to agree, yes, early take off is not easy, but it's something that can actually be done, has been tried. We have examples. In the last few drought, Ethiopia for example and Kenya sometimes, early off take allows the owner to have value for the livestock before they weaken. There are institutions being developed with a bit of support from partners. Institutions, market institutions and it can sometimes be as simple as linking. Linking the seller to the processor or to an exporter. These linkages are immensely successful in many cases. Let me also say, in instances where this has been successful – and there are many and they are documented – it's clear the cost – what they call aid cost – if an early off take was instituted in a community. It's much, much cheaper than not doing it, letting the communities lose the livestock and come back with food aid and then restock again. It's about 1.5 times cheaper to go in and assist in early off take than going back with food and restocking. Same \_\_\_\_.

*Female:* And I'm sorry, I forgot to mention before, please state your name and organization.

*Audience:* Okay. My name is Ballisani. I'm coming from Joint Aid Management. I'm based in South Africa but there is some work that we're doing here in the states. I've just two questions for Francis. The first one is in terms of pastoralism. What proportion does it contribute to the national sales of livestock – beef, for example, compared to the conventional type of commercial production of meat and beef? The second question is the role of women in pastoralism. I'm looking at countries closer to Kenya, south Sudan. Basically, women are not involved in pastoralism. What happens is that the men, the ones who'd go with the livestock, and they leave the women with the smaller stock, the sheep and the goats, and it is during that time when these high levels of malnutrition, which was effective in the children, the children and they women, they access the milk only when men return. So in Judean security, it's only the men that go with the livestock and they leave the women behind. I don't know what's your comment on that. Thank you.

*Male:* The first question was about contribution of livestock to the economist. We have some statistics now in my countries and my colleague, some information about Somaliland which is 65 percent of the GDP comes from livestock. In Kenya, about half of the GDP comes from livestock which translate to about 15 percent of the total GDP coming from livestock. And most of the livestock, I said, comes from Asall. This is pastoral aid. 70 percent of the meat in Kenya and East Africa comes from pastoral aid. So \_\_\_ a huge contribution. But we have to keep generating evidence on this, yeah, for the policy makers.

The role of women, you are right. Things are changing. There's a lot of centralization. A lot of people centering. Which is not always a positive thing. In the past, the families lived off their livestock. They were mobile and the kids were not malnourished because they had access to milk. Let me also tell you, the kids that move with the camels – and the camels can move for two weeks without coming back to water – so they have access to some of the best grazing as they move. Those kids survive on camel milk only. 100 percent. Their water needs, their food needs, it's 100 percent from camel milk. Even the adults. They are not malnourished. They are very healthy. The problem is when you disconnect the livestock from the people. Then, malnutrition sets in. Thank you.

*Audience:*

Jim Yazmin with USAID Bureau for Food Security. First, I have a question for Francis. You mentioned that this is a system that is sustainable and is best of use of the land. But then you talk about a continued need for timely intervention to help pastoralists cope with drought and you site, for instance, early commercial off take when drought is imminent. But those are really project driven interventions. I mean, do you foresee a future where somehow the system will itself cover those costs or are we going to continue to have to invest in projects to make sure that those costs are covered? And then for Jürjen, I have – you mentioned a need for public investment in order for these systems to continue and also, the private investment is really low. On the public side, you know, we continually hear criticisms when governments try to tax and control, license these export systems, that they're interfering with the trade, they're capturing too much returns. But how are governments going to pay for these services if there isn't some sort of taxation system? And then, what private investment do you envision? Where, in this Somali system, do you see an opportunity for private investment?

*Male:*

Thank you, Jim. The first question about sustainability. I think we're not doubting this is one of the best production systems for loose Asol lands. I've seen that. These \_\_\_\_, for example, comparing pastoral production with commercial – modern commercial ranching and the pastoral system's way superior in terms of productivity. It's a low cost production system. Very low cost. And the returns are really great. So in terms of sustainability, I think it's an economic fact already proven. As long as mobility builds in so they don't die for being restrained to \_\_ resources, then, I think, sustainability is in the hands that way. You asked about the trends. Interventions for early off take. It's true. The pastoralist who like to go to where the grass is and avoid all this. But he's not always able to go. There are reasons he may not cross the borders, policies have changed. In this case, Jim, I think the only way is to allow him to say, "The non-core livestock for sale." Sometimes it's really not part of the issue. If those animals are allowed to go through the system to markets, I think we can save a lot of those from dying. And now, what we saw last year for instance in all these problems, with the assistance of institutions that support marketing, the district marketing organizations, linking this with the processes and big traders, we did not see a big price drop though the big drought. It was very even. So there's room to move large animals with very constant prices even in time of drought. The thing is, do it early. Not when animals are dropping. And of course, this not \_\_, because it's these things that they produce us. I mean, take some of the blame. They hold for too long. But the missing has to be sent back over and

over. Sell early, but we also have to come up with more options. What to do with the money. Unless they keep it and restock, which is of course what they do with the money. Thank you.

*Male:* Your question about the public sector – I think I didn't argue about taxation or anything like that. I think the issue was about Somaliland and I – there's not – not all the money that is being incurred from taxes are flowing back to the livestock sector. And the support services that the livestock sector needs in terms of animal health services, all those public support services are not. They are existent, but they can be really improved a lot. And the private sector issue is more like a more general issue. I think the climate at the moment is Somaliland is very good for private sector investments and there's a lot happening. I wasn't only talking about livestock sector but in general, more private sector investments should be done.

*Female:* We have a question from online.

*Audience:* This question is from Lori Pappas who's with the Global Team for Local Initiatives working in the southwest corner of Ethiopia. And Lori says, "There has been much discussion regarding tangible deliverables regarding livestock, care and marketing. Unfortunately, our biggest challenge is measurement of wealth. Wealth is determined by the number of livestock owned. Diversifying livelihood in areas of few opportunities is difficult. Please share some concrete and specific examples of success regarding diversification of livelihood and wealth measurement."

*Male:* Well, that's not a simple one. I would say that evidence is being covered about wealth. I think my colleague here did mention about the worse of those animals. What's being created in dollars is immense. In good times, any time any add weight, we forget to measure that as wealth. Adding weight. Goods is ounces time to make value on those animals. And it happens when there's always a good season. Diversification, it's happening. And this is also something maybe unfortunate. Some of the biggest livestock keepers are not running behind those animals. They have hired workers. Their worth would be in town with big businesses, trucks and only occasionally go to manning – to look at the animals. They are highly diversified. Some of the traders, this is all

diversification. Their own livestock traders. So there's so much you can say with diversification but the bottom line is, a few efficient producers will be producing livestock. The dropouts will be on something else. Could be livestock related value chain. We've seen for example the women. Some women were making milk and selling milk. We've good examples of women groups making jewelry out of bones, things that we're throwing away. Value addition on meat, there are ways you could re-diversify. Of course, they have the natural resources on the range. \_\_\_\_\_, mineral products, this \_\_\_\_\_ to these possibilities. They may not be hugely big but for the poor, this is significant, still.

*Audience:* Thank you. My name is Alex Gabriel from \_\_\_\_\_. I agree with your recommendation, both of you, for cross border livestock trade. But as you know, we have seen conflicts over you know, grazing land, water and so on. So what can we do, I mean, to solve that challenge? Thank you.

*Male:* This is an \_ issue. I work in a program which actually has three. The border with Ethiopia and Somalia. And I see it happen all the time. The pastoralist don't care for those boundaries, no matter what you do. That's how they survived. They go in to get water and grass, they'll come back. If your parents will come to Kenya, and go back, so what's the point of putting up policy, a rule that says, "Stop." They're not going to obey it. We also say that about markets. The nearest and best market may be only across the other side of the border. In Comesa, I hear this all the time. Maze are product without borders. What does that mean? Your region is broke, so why would you worry? In the end, believe me, it's zero same game. All of the nations benefit. There's nothing for free. The Kenyans' will buy those animals from Ethiopia, for example. The Ethiopians will receive money. And when things change, like the camels trade not – they're going through Ethiopia – so with it, there is no loss in this. It's only that that government don't realize the best thing is to cooperate. But that's a regional \_ I think.

*Audience:* Thank you. Brian Greenburg with Interaction. I wanted to thank you both for your presentations which focused primarily on markets, marketing and value chains. I wondered what your thoughts might be on specifically on building resilience into this systems or addressing that directly. You mentioned that the rangelands are degrading and it's difficult to envision a sustainable system where that is taking place. And so I would put the proposition to you for your reaction that we've got to have an understanding of why the range lands area

degrading and ways to reverse that and to then build greater resilience into those systems. And I'm wondering again for your reaction, is part of the problem here the gap between essentially the fully marketized and privatized system of production and sales on the one hand and the common property resource which is represented by these rangelands. And given the importance in the success, essentially, of cultivated fodder and showing what happens when the market systems are passed through to the fodder, it would seem that the ability of producers not to have to internalize any of the responsibility for regenerating rangeland resources is at the nub of the problem. And as these rangelands degrade with every successive drought, the vulnerability and the risk goes up for these producers and we're going to be seeing this with increasing frequency and likely with increasing severity unless we get at that core dynamic of the system, which I'm not sure that we can do through a conventional value chain approach. So I'm wondering what your thoughts are about that.

*Male:*

That's a very important observation. And I like the way you put it. It's a complex situation. It's no single solution. But let me put it this way. Here, we haven't talked too much about conflict. When is degradation the shortage of resources, that's when conflicts come up. But is it possible to reverse degradation? The answer is yes. The challenge of climate change of course is there. It's harder, let me say it this way, but it can be. The problem – and you stated it correctly – is the commoner use, where there's no management, so to say, nobody's responsible. Put responsibility back to the people. Let them know that's the only resource they have. And believe me, I've been in sessions where this discussion takes place and they shed tears knowing in 50 years, there will be nothing left. Tell that to a pastoralist. They'll cry tears. Then they'll start listening. But I talked about what has happened – too much government is allowed control. Let the government allow the pastoralist to do it. They have institutions. There's no single pastoral community that does not have tradition institutions. Give the power back to them. They will manage. They will reverse that degradation and I've seen it in my few years I've been working, examples. There will be less conflict. I talked with reciprocal use. That's what is so strong. That's how they survive. Even managing – and you know I am managing, you'll come and consult me before you come to the area I mean, then I'll conserve and my assets will be \_\_. It will be stabilized. But unless that's happened, we are talking \_\_\_\_\_. Management must come back to the owners. Simple as that.

*Audience:*

Dan Norrell. Sorry. Go ahead.

*Male:* Yes, I think you mentioned about fodder. I think fodder is actually this competitive use in the most favorable lands. This is the river in the areas. But when that happens, and it's done by the residents, people who should have been pastoralists but dropped out. I think they also deserve a chance, because they're green fodder for their cousins who are the pastoralists and they will need 40 in a few months. This is now connected. That's what I like.

*Audience:* I'm Dan Norell with World Vision and my question is around financial services both formal and informal financial services. What's the role of financial services in a changing system and how can that enhance, particularly, to the – my colleagues earlier questions around improving the wellbeing of children and nutrition of children? And both in Kenya – which is quite different situation and Somaliland.

*Male:* I'm not sure if I'm an expert on financial services. It is definitely, as I said, there is no official banking system in Somaliland. Everything is informal. It can definitely play in a very important role, that's what I can say. I don't have the answer, really, but that's what I can say.

*Male:* In Kenya, yes, financial service has been a bit lacking for pastoral communities. The banks in those areas, the commercial banks, they go for profit, nothing less. We have pastoralist and largely, these are Muslim and no bank remembers the Sharia rules. Very few say they do. We have no way of going around it. The program I work with has taken time to think seriously about what to do. We are – and we've been given permission now through USAID to start a community owned financing system. Let them set the rules. Consult the best Sharia experts. And come up with a way of working. As long as this is their money and we only supporting them, they will be investing in that fund and borrowing from it. And the Sharia compliant. That's the best way you can \_\_ on that. And I think it's doable.

*Female:* We'll take one more question from online.

*Audience:* This question is from Jeremy Chevriair from USAID Male' and he asks, "What, in your mind, is the single most important resilience building intervention that can be done to protect pastoralism from chronic droughts?"

*Male:* Pastoralists don't cause droughts. Climate changes, not because of pastoralism. So they are just victims like anybody else. And even a \_\_\_ will be affected, so it's not only pastoralism. What's a single important thing? I think it has been rough for them. I don't think I can give a prescription of one thing you can do for top resilience results. It has be a combination in my view. And I discuss a few that needs to be done. Some are easy to do, these are the quick wins, those also take times. We just have to figure out which.

*Male:* Maybe I can add to that. There is no silver bullets to problems in these areas. It's a very complicated, complex system that has been able to survive over many years and if there's any intervention to be done either by the humanitarian community, development community or government, it has to be taking into account every aspect of this hugely complex system which is across borders which is dealing with many different communities et cetera. So definitely no silver bullets.

*Audience:* Hi, I'm Bridget Rawlyay from USAID office of Food for Peace. Thank you very much for your presentations. I have a follow up question on the movement of women and children with the fathers and the camels. Is it a relatively new phenomenon that the women and kids are staying behind with the small ruminants and if so, do we want to think about discouraging that? How can we go back to getting the kids to move with the camels so that the children don't become malnourished from lack of access to camels milk?

*Male:* That's a good point. Years back, I asked one lady "Why are you putting up a permanent structure in a new water point?" She looked at me and said, "Do you think we enjoy moving?" I couldn't understand. She has to strike down that house and build it all afresh. It's tedious. It's too much. So when they get a chance and the chance is sometimes we take to them, when you have to put the permanent school, the kids need to get an education. When you have to put up permanent health facility they need medical services. So we do this without realizing what's happening. On the other hand, they need all these

services. So there's reason. But still, somebody must be a pastoralist, must be herding those animals. And a few smart kids, the smartest are the ones who want to go hiding, it's a very intelligent sort of way to survive in those delicate environments. So only the smartest hiders survive. So the smartest kids are the hiders. You can see the sacrifice, but somebody must do this.

*Female:* We have time for one more in-person question before our break.

*Audience:* Thank you. My name is Elizabeth Farmer and I'm an independent consultant but currently with ACDI VOCA. And this question is for either one of you who wants to tackle it. And it's related to just the focus on enhancing the competitiveness of livestock value chains and I'm curious as to how closely you can tie those gains into competitiveness to actual kind of – the key outcome of interests in these areas which is nutrition. And specifically, the marketing activities that you're doing. Because I look at a situation like Ethiopia where they had very impressive improvements in SPS systems, very impressive increases in live animal and meat exports. But where I think – and the pastoralists are contributing the majority of animals to those export markets. But I think very little actual benefits that came down to the pastoralists.

*Male:* I'm not sure if I have the answer to that question but one of the milk – I think, we have to realize, milk is extremely important for the livelihood for the nutrition of pastoralist. People survive on milk so we cannot stress that milk value chain very much. Even though animals might be exported, Milk is still very valuable.

*Male:* Yeah, a little bit on competitiveness. I think we talked about trying to improve almost everything for the pastoralist is ability to make decisions, good quality livestock and timely marketing and good prices, yeah, and access to good markets. All this is not easy, but we try as a package to support them to do.

*Female:* Thank you very much everyone. We'll take a coffee break now and then come back at 10:45 for our presentation with John McPeak of Syracuse University. Thank you.