Enhancing Access to and Use of Finance for Pastoralists Facing Drought Risks in Somalia

- **Student:** Abdishakur Dirie | **Supervised** by Prof. Dominic Moran & Prof. Alan Duncan
- **Affiliations:** GAAFS & Jameel Observatory
- **Year:** 1st
- **Email:** A.W.Diriye@sms.ed.ac.uk

### Background

- Pastoralists in Somalia are plagued with droughts that lead to livestock mortality, and food insecurity to livestock keepers.
- Index-Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI) triggers payouts for pastoralists against drought during forage scarcity using satellite-based vegetation indices known as the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) to monitor forage anomalies.
- The payout is released at the end of the dry period which may not align well with pastoralists’ critical drought preparation and early actions limiting their investment options and access to livestock nutritional supplements.
- Contributes to facilitating the critical preparations or early actions taken by pastoralists following a drought forecast by paving the way for more timely IBLI payouts.
- Contributes to ensuring the best value for money and minimizing drought impacts on pastoral livelihoods by enabling early action.

### Study area

Source: https://droughtwatch.icpac.net/analysis

### Aims & Objectives

- To explore whether earlier payouts enhance pastoralists’ drought preparedness and early action capacities and whether the IBLI trigger point can be forecasted to enable more timely payouts.

### Approach & Challenges

- Use of mixed methods.
- Collecting qualitative data from pastoralists to understand how they would act following predicted drought.
- Leveraging satellite remotely sensed data on forage anomalies to predict forage scarcity dynamics.
- **Challenge:** Inherent forecast uncertainties and reduced accuracy.
- Forecast skill verification metrics.

### Key messages

- Forage scarcity is predictable.
- Forage scarcity is preceded by rainfall and soil moisture deficit.

### Significance

- **Potentially:**
  - Forage scarcity is predictable.
  - Forage scarcity is preceded by rainfall and soil moisture deficit.


Source: https://droughtwatch.icpac.net/analysis

Source: https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/cattle-livestock-count-heads?tab=chart&country=~SOM


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