

Weather shocks, conflict and effective, scalable interventions

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Coalition



Conflict

Conflict is a major driver (as well as outcome) of food insecurity and the risk of conflict constrains production strategies.

Weather shocks and the changes in available resources they cause, play an important role in shaping violence, but the empirical evidence on the direction of that relationship is somewhere contradictory.

Resource scarcity: Negative shocks exacerbate competition over resources, leading to conflict (e.g., Homer-Dixon, 1994; Von Uexkull et al., 2016; McGuirk and Nunn, 2024; Hsiang et al., 2011; Burke et al., 2015, 2024)

Resource abundance: Positive shocks can increase the returns from violence and/or reduced opportunity costs of participation, increasing conflicts (e.g., Collier and Hoeffler, 2004; Salehyan and Hendrix, 2014; Mack et al., 2021).

Drought, conflict may push 1M more Somalians into critical food insecurity, warns WFP

Latest analysis shows 3.4M people are already experiencing crisis-level hunger or worse

Beyza Binnur Donmez | 04.03.2025 - Update : 04.03.2025



<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/drought-conflict-may-push-1m-more-somalians-into-critical-food-insecurity-warns-wfp/3499762#>

A screenshot of the Political Geography journal website. The page features a dark red header with the journal title "Political Geography" and the tagline "Supports open access". Below the header, there is a navigation menu with links for "Articles & Issues", "About", "Publish", and "Order journal". A search bar is also present. The main content area highlights a "Special Issue: Climate Change and Conflict" from November 2014, with pages 1-90. It includes an "Editorial" and "Full text access" link, and the title "Climate change and conflict: Making sense of disparate findings" by Idean Salehyan.

Weathering Conflict: The Effect of Resource Shocks on Livestock Raids (Jensen, Lopez-Rivas, Morsink & Rikken* 2025)

Theory

- **Resource scarcity:** During periods of drought, pastoralists are more likely to employ risk-prone strategies, such as theft or using contested rangelands or water points, to cope with scarcity.
- **Resource abundance:** During times of plenty, the opportunity cost of cattle raiding declines, and the ease and profits from raiding increases.

Data

- **Conflict:** Household-level incidence of livestock lost to raiding (binary)
 - Longitudinal data from pastoral households in Kenya (N=924) and Ethiopia (N=524)
 - Both panels include > 16 seasons observations/household
 - 12% of households have ever been raided
- **Shocks:** Seasonal NDVI z-scores: pasture quality is defined as bad (<20th percentile), normal (20th–80th), or good (>80th)

Findings

- Negative pasture shocks increase the propensity to be raided in dry seasons.
- Positive pasture shocks increase the propensity to be raided in subsequent rainy seasons.

Testing Scalable Interventions to Reduce Conflict in the Drylands

Resource scarcity: During periods of drought, pastoralists are more likely to employ risk-prone strategies, such as theft, using contested rangelands or water points, to cope with scarcity.

***RQ1:** Does Index Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI), which makes indemnity payments in response to forecasted forage deficits, reduce conflict associated with drought-caused **resource scarcity**?*

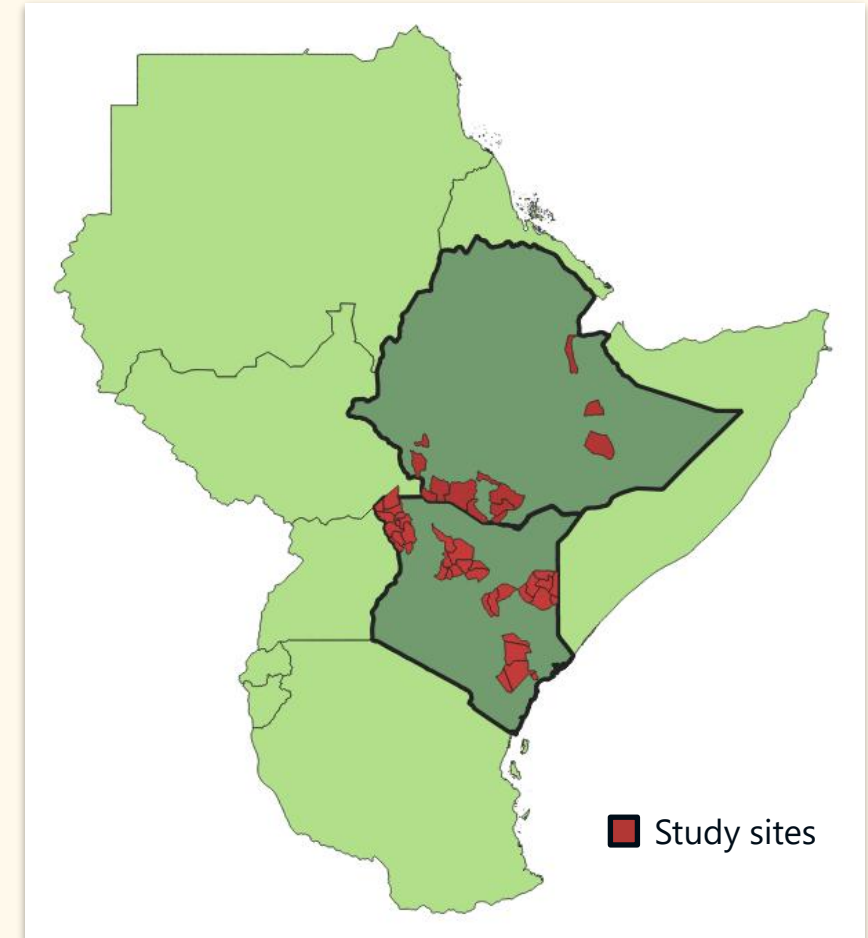
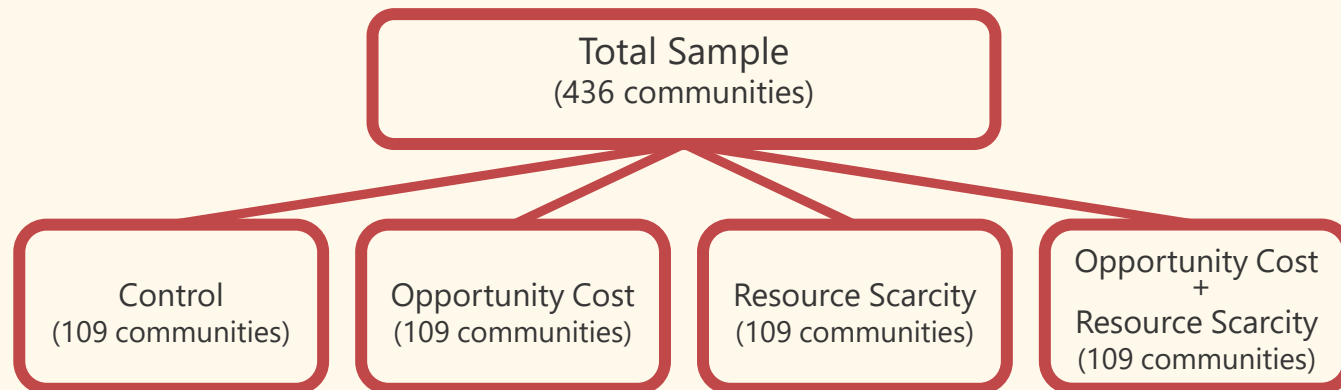
Resource abundance: During times of plenty, the opportunity cost of cattle raiding declines while the ease and profits from raiding increase.

***RQ2:** Can changing perceptions on cattle raiding and on alternative strategies for meeting the objectives of raiding, increase the **opportunity cost** of raiding and reduce conflict?*

Testing Scalable Interventions to Reduce Conflict in the Drylands

Randomized Control Treatments (RCT) in 2025 across 436 communities.

- **Resource Scarcity:** Interventions that boost supply of IBLI are used to exogenously vary insurance coverage.
- **Opportunity Cost:** Educational entertainment (edutainment), to change attitudes to collaborative agreements, and the status of alternative livelihoods.



Thank you
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