Somalia is one of the poorest country in the world, with the majority of its population engaged in livestock as pastoralists or agro-pastoralists. In contrast to many pastoral systems, the Somali system has a heavy domestic trade and export orientation, and is the largest exporter of live animals out of Africa. As part of a pro-poor livestock development project aimed at better linking Somali pastoralists to these markets, we performed participatory research to understand their livestock keeping objectives.
Data collection: matrix scoring exercises on livestock keeping objectives were performed in gendered groups, involving 252 female and 254 male pastoralists from north-west Somalia / Somaliland.
Reasons Somali pastoralists keep camel

Scores: 0 = no importance, 10 = highest importance

- He camel - female pastoralists
- He camel - male pastoralists
- She camel - female pastoralists
- She camel - male pastoralists

Different forms of Somali transportation
Reasons Somali pastoralists keep shoats

Scores: 0 = no importance, 10 = highest importance

- Sheep - female pastoralists
- Sheep - male pastoralists
- Goat - female pastoralists
- Goat - male pastoralists

Livestock and Somali Pastoralists
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Additional project data includes information on the pastoralists’ selection criteria for livestock, as well as livestock attributes desired by local and export markets. These will be analysed to identify whether or not there are simple breeding interventions to produce animals that better match the needs of both the pastoral livestock keepers and end consumers.

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