

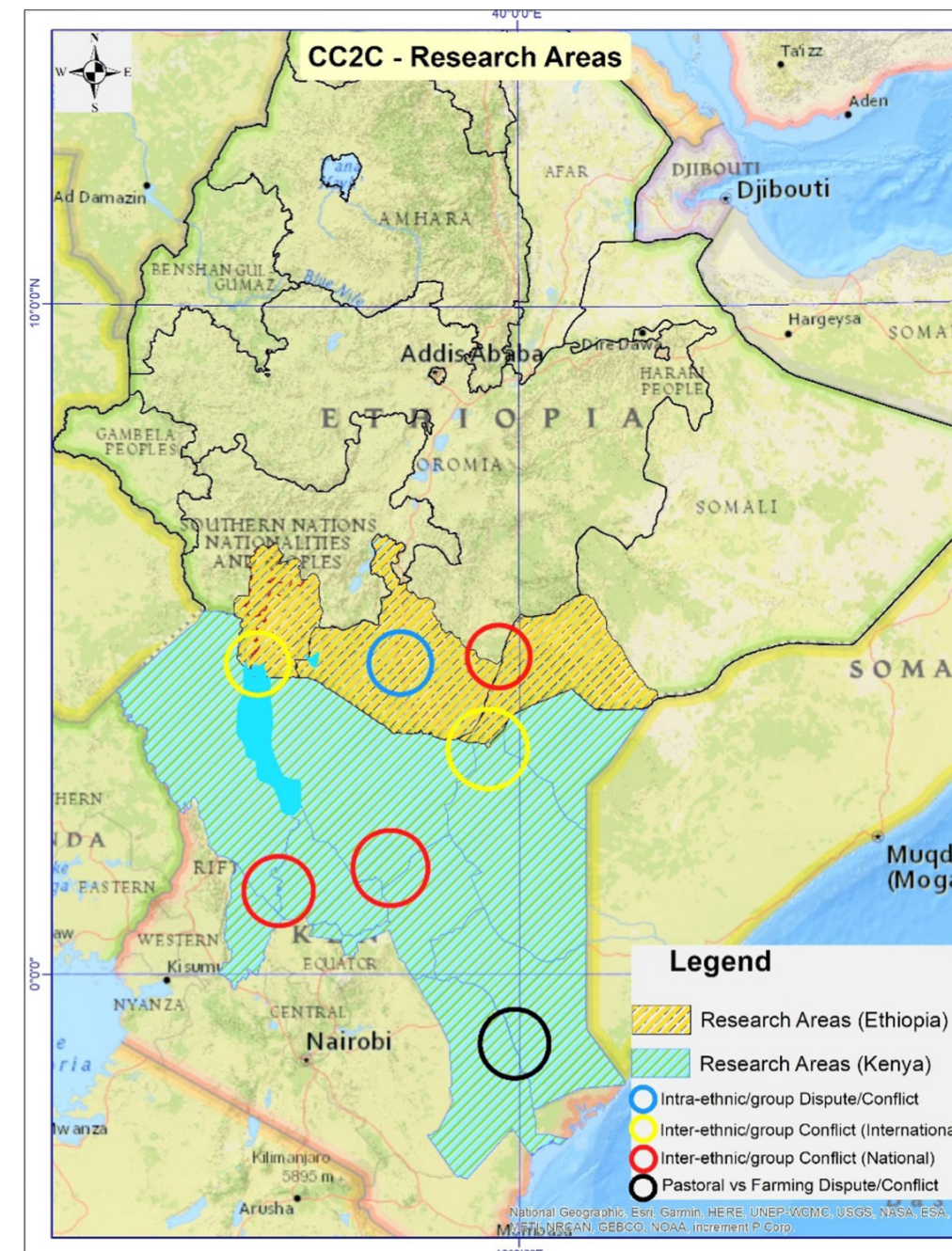
Background

- Conflict is a major impediment to food security and development, and a major cause of human suffering in the drylands of East Africa.
- Cattle raiding, a primary form of conflict in the region, causes loss of important assets and in some cases, loss of life.
- While conflict directly impacts some, the fear of conflict can have broad reaching impacts on where people live, which resources they choose to access, and the livelihood strategies that they employ.

Preliminary Research

The causes of livestock raiding : Qualitative work in the drylands of Kenya and Ethiopia found the following key drivers of conflict:

- Access to rangelands & water
- Acquire bride price (livestock)
- Rebuild herd after drought
- Capture to sell
- Status conferred upon raiders



Relationship between forage and conflict: Earth observation and household survey data from pastoral regions in Kenya and Ethiopia were used to study the effect of positive and negative shocks to seasonal pasture availability. The findings were:

- Raiding increases during drought
- Raiding increases more following periods of abundance

Theory & Our Theory of Change

Resource scarcity: During periods of drought, pastoralists are more willing 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**?*

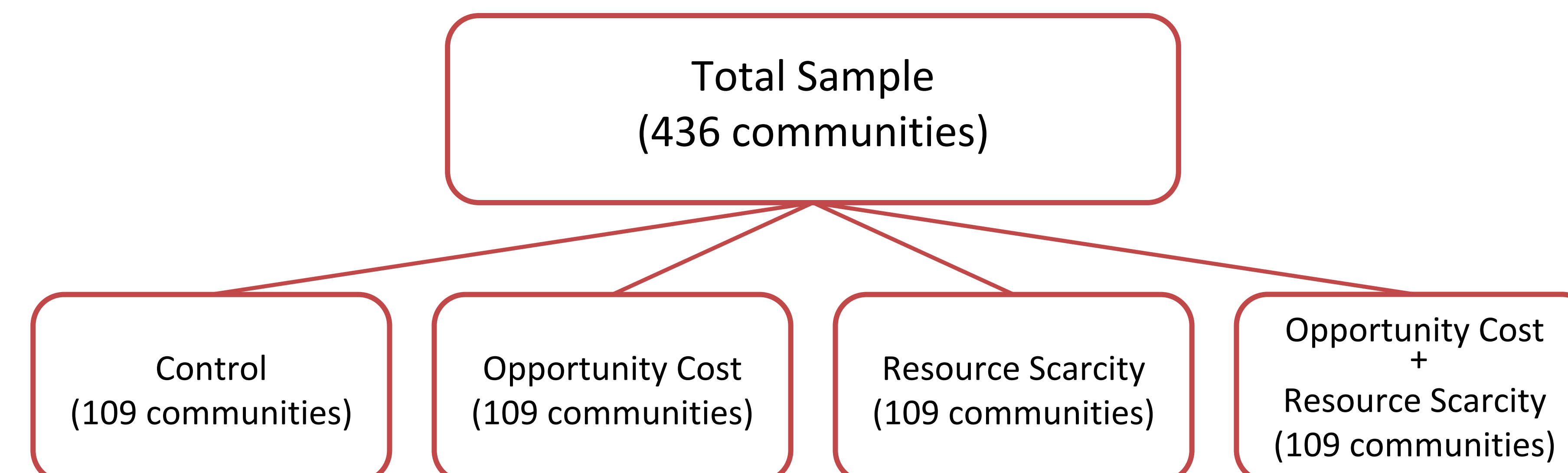
Resource abundance: During times of plenty, the opportunity cost of cattle raiding declines, and the ease and profits from raiding increase.

***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?*

Research Design

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.

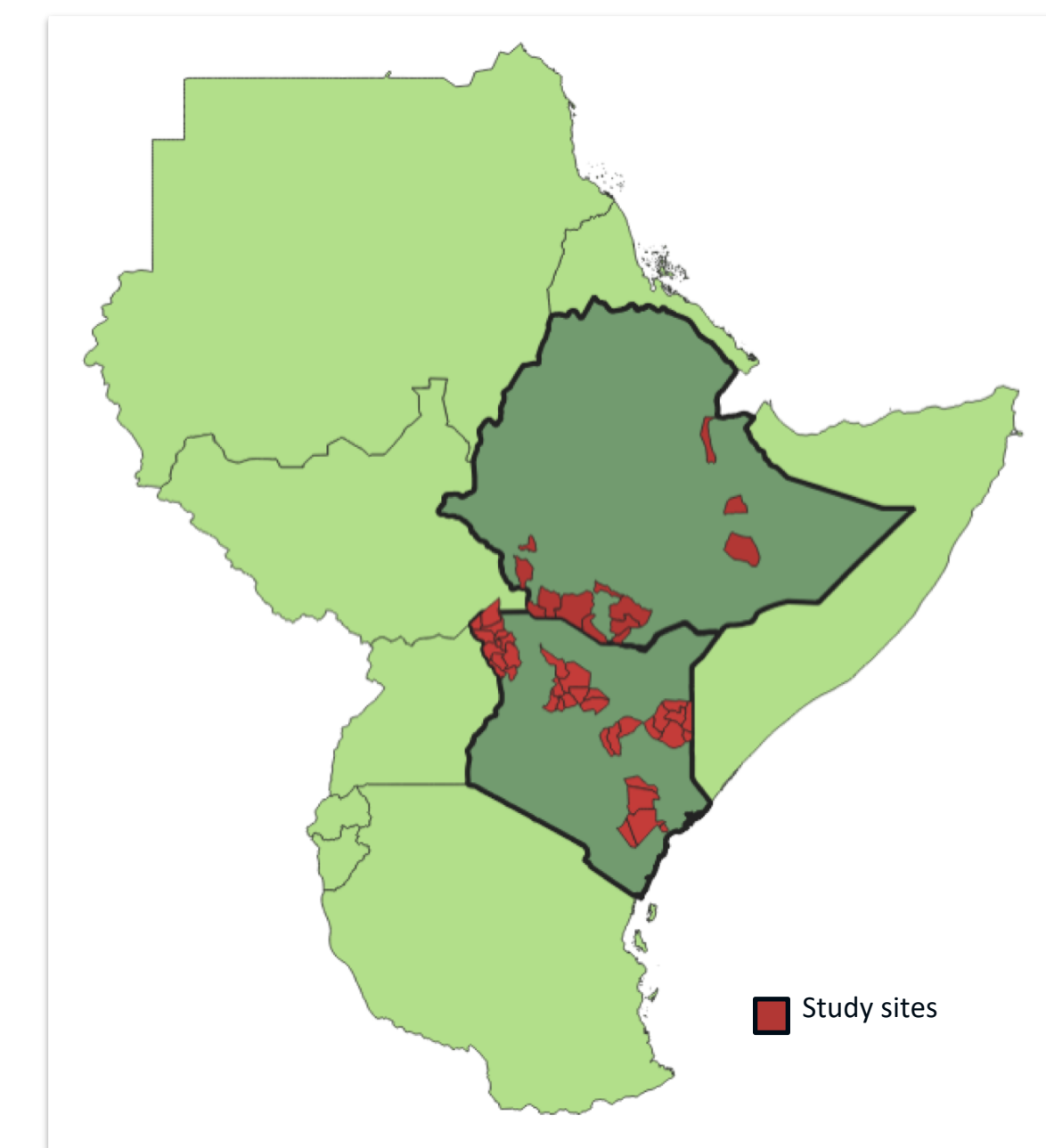


Sample

This research is collaborating with a project aimed at assessing and improving the De-Risking Inclusion and Value Enhancement of Pastoral Economies (DRIVE) program.

Community selection:

- Stratified random selection of kebeles (Ethiopia) and sublocations (Kenya)
- Within kebele/sublocation, we sampled households from cooperative (Ethiopia) /pastoral group (Kenya) catchment areas – communities



Household selection

- 8 Target households/community** = randomly selected from target cooperative/pastoral group rosters
- 4 Spillover households/community** = Study households who are not members of cooperatives/pastoral groups

Coalition



*For more information, contact Nathan Jensen (njensen@ed.ac.uk)

<https://jameelobservatory.org>
info@jameelobservatory.org

This document has a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence. May 2025

