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Food Security Among the Long-Term Displaced and the Role of Livestock

Jameel Observatory stocktaking webinar on overcoming and mitigating risks and their impacts on pastoralist livelihoods in the Horn of Africa, 27 January 2026

Rosie Herrington | 27.1.26

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Presentation Outline



Context
& Risks



Key
Insights



Actions
Needed

Context

- Dadaab Refugee Camp
- Since 1991, many have been there for over 10 years
- >400,000 people, 97% Somali
- Livestock-keeping
  - Continuation from pre-displacement or;
  - New business as highly limited livelihood options
- Huge potential but unsupported and benefits / risks need characterised



Risks

- Increased food insecurity in times of aid cuts
- Child malnutrition as a result
- Poor well-being
- Inability to improve self-reliance
- Food safety / zoonosis risks





Key Insights 1

- Refugee livestock provide income, milk, meat and a sense of self-reliance to many refugee's in Dadaab.
  - Aid and ration cuts and long-term displacement.
  - BUT these livestock need to be productive.
- The benefits flow down to children
  - Prioritised ASF consumption
  - Improved nutrition, school performance and survival.



Key Insights 2

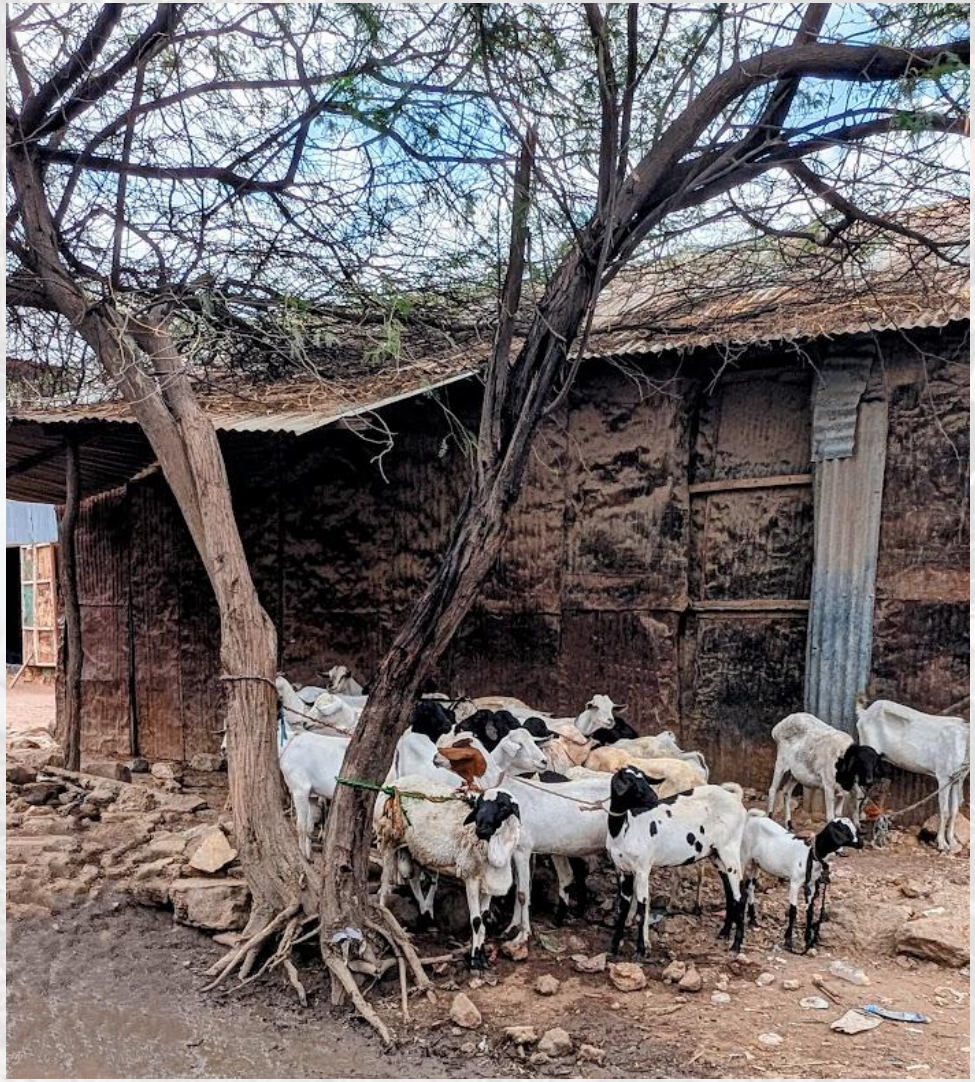
- Refugee and host livestock keepers work closely together
  - Sharing resources
  - Co-managing Garissa livestock market
  - Supporting each other in times of need.
- BUT Refugee livestock keepers lack access to animal health services
- Drought is a major challenge in the area for the host community and refugees alike.
- Movement restrictions -> lack of access to grazing and markets are challenges for refugees.



Actions Needed

- Quantitative study of these benefits and risks (in progress).
- Diseases don't know a host community members animal from a refugees animal – improve access to animal health services.
- Access to markets needs improvement.
- Need for capacity building in animal husbandry, production and health.

- …by who?



"The Somali community, we are more of pastoralists. We love animals. Animals have always been our backbone and our livelihood. So wherever they go, normally it goes with us. So that's why it is not surprising to have animals even at a refugee set up.".

Participant 3

"With better nutrition from livestock women can sustain pregnancy, men can be more productive and kids can concentrate better in school. Less infection, less mortality. Less infection, more school-going kids. Better nutrition, better outcomes for the community, for children, women, men and society at large.".

Participant 4

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Rosie Herrington
Rosie.Herrington@ed.ac.uk

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