

# South Sudan

## LIVESTOCK STRATEGY PAPER

### Situation Overview

The political crisis in South Sudan has resulted in massive fighting among rival military and tribal groups since December 2013. This situation has caused countrywide insecurity, massive displacement of men, women and children and loss of livelihoods assets. Crisis-induced factors have worsened the situation of livestock-dependent populations and significantly affected livestock mobility and traditional migration routes and patterns – the most critical element of any pastoral production system<sup>1</sup> (see **Graphic 1**). Consequently, pastoralists have become unable to access traditional water and pasture resources as well as markets. Insecurity is forcing pastoralists with large numbers of cattle to abandon pastoral domains; pastoralists are fleeing to other areas within their states or into other states or regions such as Lakes, Warrap, Upper Nile and Greater Equatoria (see **Graphic 2**). These movements have resulted in the intermingling of livestock from different geographical areas, as well as of pastoralist populations and pastoralist and farming populations, giving rise to significant tensions.

In contrast to pastoral livestock mobility in stable settings, where traditional migrations are formed over time to support the efficient use of the natural resources, in the current crisis pastoralist migration is being driven by the need to save lives and livestock. Insecurity and the associated violent appropriation of assets, cattle raiding *en route* and in other areas, livestock diseases, and availability of grazing resources and water are some of the factors influencing the means, routes and destinations of pastoralist movements.

### Problem Statement

#### ***Animal health and disease outbreaks***

The current movement of livestock into different states and the concentration and intermingling of large numbers of livestock in confined areas is already having devastating effects on animal health. During the period from September to December 2014, there were 22 reports of livestock disease outbreak from the ten states that constitute the Republic of South Sudan and the disputed Administrative Area of Abyei (see **Graphic 2**). The main diseases reported include foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), East Coast fever (ECF) and trypanosomosis. During the same period of 2013, there were no reports of outbreaks of any of these diseases. Furthermore, the nature of work women and men perform within the livestock sector exposes them to various health and safety related concerns, such as heightened exposure to zoonotic diseases. The handling of raw animal products leads to higher vulnerability to zoonotic diseases; women are traditionally the household members responsible for handling food for both family consumption and sale (milking animals, processing the milk and preparing meals), so, as a result they tend to have greater exposure than men.

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<sup>1</sup> Livestock population estimate in South Sudan is 11 816 672 cattle, 13 974 135 goats and 12 611 522 sheep.

### ***Livelihoods and food security***

In South Sudan, cattle are much more than a source of food. They signify status and wealth, and serve as the main livelihood asset for pastoralist communities. Livestock are sold for cash, slaughtered for cultural practices, bartered for grain, used as payment for penalties, and given for dowry. The dislocation of massive numbers of livestock into areas outside their normal domains, leading to dramatic rises in disease outbreaks and death poses a grave threat to the livelihoods and food security of pastoralist communities across the country. Women usually have a primary role with regard to the nutritional status of the household, especially the children. The loss of cattle and reductions in milk production due to disease implies that household coping strategies are affected, impacting on overall household wellbeing and, in particular, nutrition. Lack of access raises the risk of malnutrition in pastoralist groups who rely on milk and blood as an essential part of their diet, particularly for children and pregnant and lactating women. It also implies that women have no access to income from milk sales, which benefit and contribute to the overall household food security and wellbeing.

Women, men, boys and girls often have different roles and responsibilities in livestock production. These roles, however, are not static but can and do alter under changing conditions. There is a lack of and a need for an in-depth analysis to identify gaps and opportunities for women and men in livestock production in the current context.

### ***Lack of response capacity***

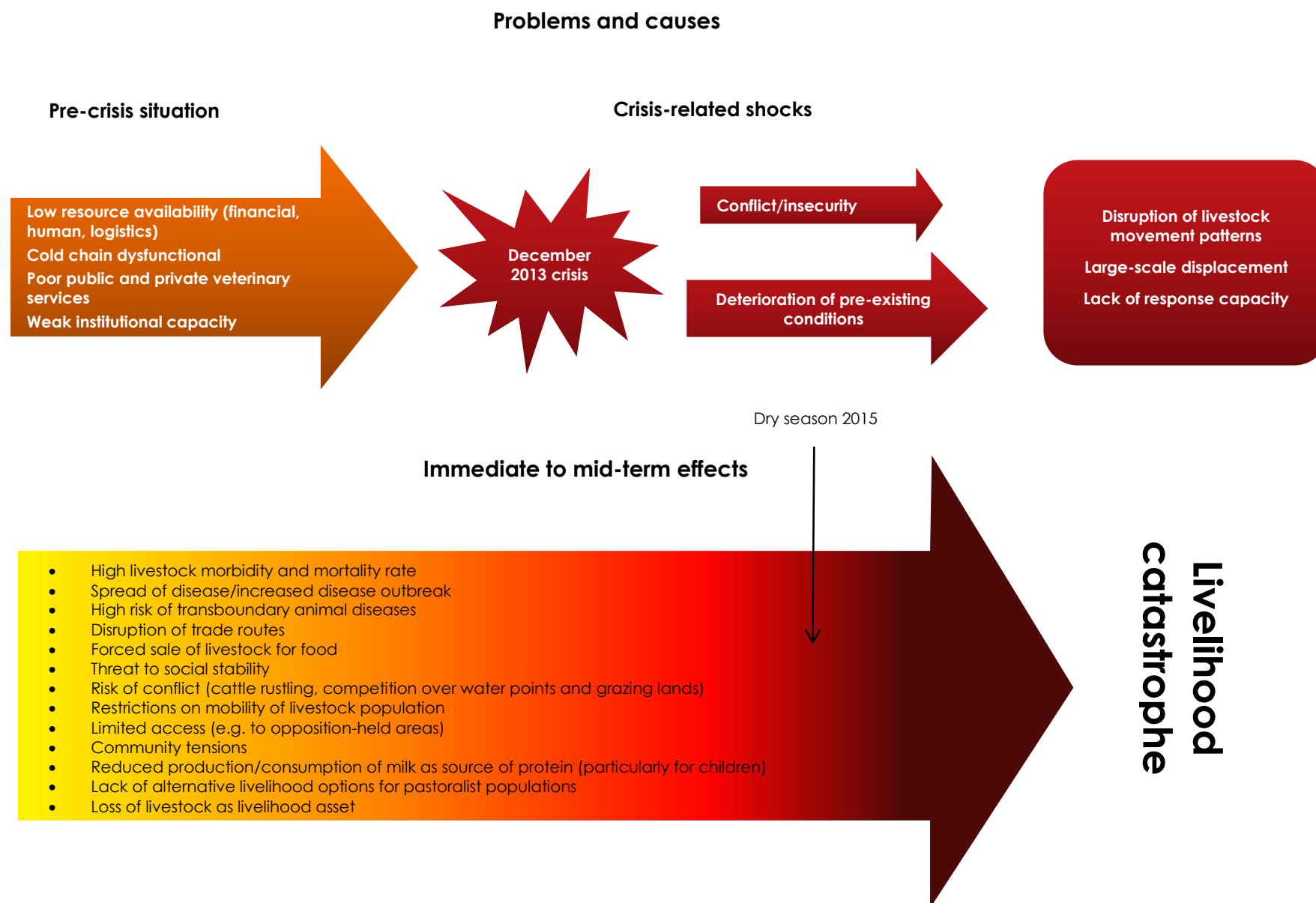
The outbreaks reported in different locations across the country indicate that the national herd has become exhausted. The deterioration in the animal health situation is even more dire when coupled with a limited capacity to address these challenges. The veterinary services remain very weak due to a lack of means and adequate human resources, resulting in an inability to respond to the deteriorating in animal health situation. Equally, the current partners with whom FAO is working have limited competence and are not able to address the crisis at scale on the ground. Should current trends continue, a livelihood catastrophe is inevitable within the coming months.

### ***Conflict, social tensions and access to resources***

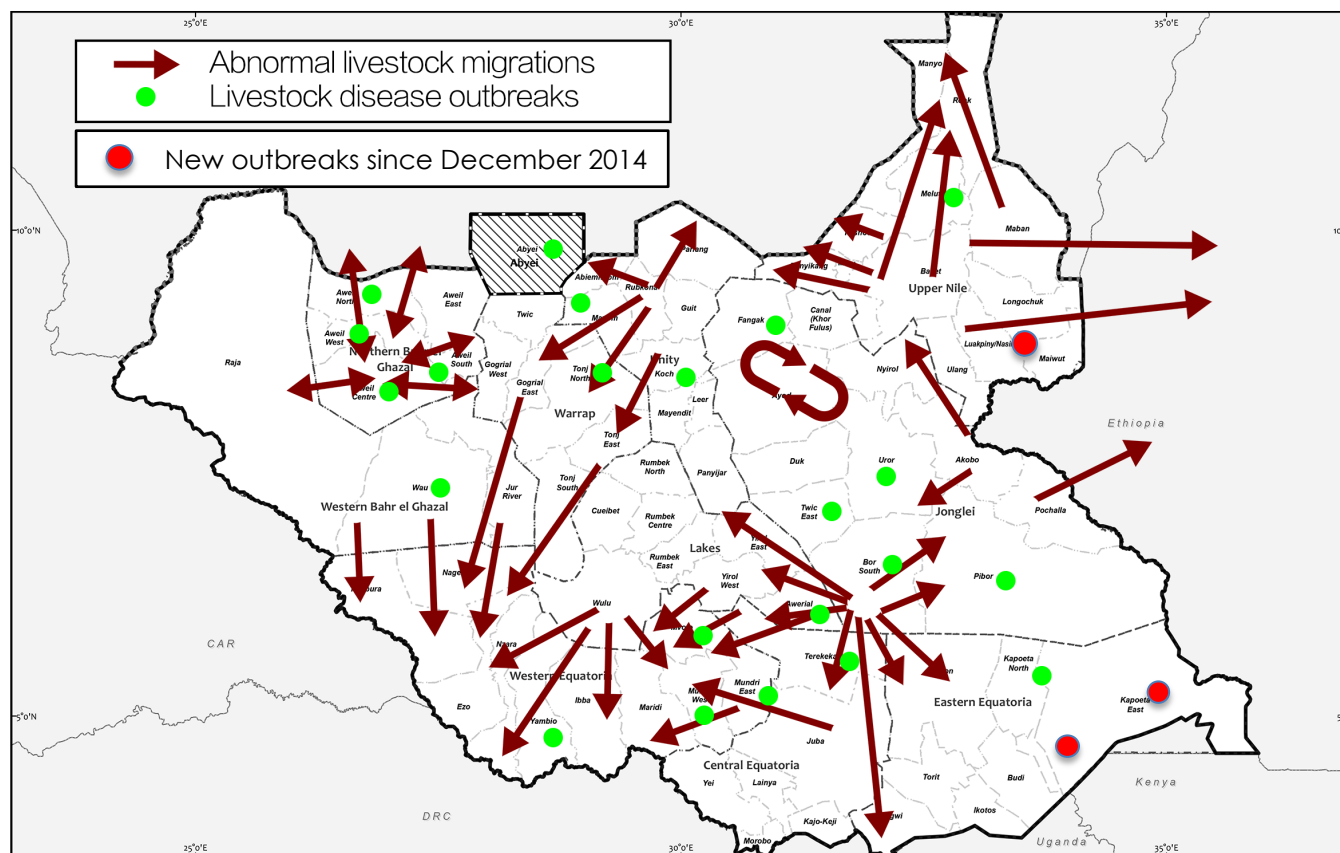
The capacity of formal and informal institutions to promote peaceful interaction and dialogue between host communities, internally displaced persons and migrating herders is limited.

In addition, the population displacement and livestock movement into new areas affect social dynamics. Encroachment of migrating livestock on crop farms combined with the spread of arms to fuel local conflicts can already be seen in Lakes, Western Equatoria and Warrap States as well as in Nimule, Eastern Equatoria State. Access to land is structurally linked to tribal affiliation and local power. While non-tribe members can be granted temporary right of utilization of lands and are in due time incorporated into the tribal system, an inflow of large tribal groups generates problems. These problems are not limited to the availability of arable land, but also relate to power relations in the area and to concerns about the future alienation of land. For this reason, the escalation of local-level conflicts over access to natural resources can be fuelled by tribal/political allegiances of the land users and wider tribal politics at the national level.

**Graphic 1: Situation overview**



**Graphic 2: Livestock movements and disease outbreaks in South Sudan in 2014 and early 2015**



#### Livestock movements and recent outbreaks

Large-scale livestock migration has already taken place from the conflict-affected states into different states of Greater Equatoria, where rainfed cultivation is the year-round livelihood activity. In Eastern Equatoria, movement of livestock has been concentrated in the Madi corridor of Magwi where more than 250 000 head of cattle moved into the eastern part of the county last April. In Western Equatoria, a conservative estimate of cattle camps in the different parts of the state last April was about 95 camps.

In Aweril county, FAO and partners estimated, during an investigation of a disease outbreak last October, the local and migrating herds from other states to reach some 750 000 cattle and more than 1 000 000 sheep/goats. In Kuernyang payam of Fangak county, an FAO assessment mission last November estimated around 4 000 head of cattle. In Turkei boma of Mayom county (where FAO and partners are currently investigating a disease outbreak), the herds initial estimates show some 3 000 head of cattle. The accumulation of large herds in small areas has serious consequences for animal health and social stability.

## FAO's Short-term Response Strategy



The situation requires immediate intervention. FAO's short-term strategy seeks to mitigate some of the immediate negative effects of the December 2013 crisis and the unprecedented movement of livestock in the country. FAO will seek to address some of the consequences of these non-traditional migratory movements of livestock on food security and livelihoods, including increased morbidity and mortality, reductions in production and productivity, loss of livestock assets as well as the uncontrolled grazing of animals in farmland creating conflict between pastoralists and farmers.

FAO has initiated a five-step plan for immediate action requiring just over **USD 13 million** for an effective dry season response at scale:

### 1. Prevent and respond to disease outbreaks (USD 2 450 000)

- ✓ **Scale up vaccination and treatment:**
  - FAO targeting 50 percent of the national herd for vaccination;
  - over 2 million livestock vaccinated (as of January 2015);
  - 2014–15: LoAs signed with 18 partners in all 10 states; and
  - additional partners and logistical support needed.
- ✓ **Establish an early warning system for livestock situation monitoring:**
  - disease surveillance is underway across the country with partners (NGOs and government) reporting on a regular basis to FAO;
  - access remains a serious constraint in some areas; and
  - funds needed to establish early warning system
- ✓ **Coordinate stakeholders and actors:**
  - As co-lead of the Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster and leader of the Livestock Working Group, FAO is spearheading response coordination.

#### Box 1: FAO and Government Coordination

FAO recognizes the mandate and vital role played by the national Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Industry (MLFI) in South Sudan, and the State Ministries of Animal Resources and Fisheries (SMARF) in the ten states in protecting the assets of pastoralist communities and enhancing food and nutrition security through improved health and production of livestock assets.

FAO is also cognizant of the limited government human resource and financial capacity to carry out its mandate in a timely manner, thus warranting support from various partners. However, it is imperative to see to it that all these efforts towards improved animal health and production are carried out in a coordinated manner. Therefore in 2015, FAO will carry on with its corporate responsibility and plans to continue its support to the Government and its partners under the Emergency Livelihood Response Programme.

A coordination meeting between State Director-Generals of SMARF and MLFI was held in Juba on 21 January 2015. Called by MLFI and facilitated by FAO, the meeting addressed: the status of existing LoAs and challenges; plans for the dry season campaign including gaps, and partnership for 2015. Further, a session with MLFI, Director-Generals and livestock partners was held on 22 January to discuss geographic coverage, available resources, targets and reporting. Finally, a bilateral meeting between the MLFI and FAO took place on 22 January to improve collaboration following lessons learned in 2015.

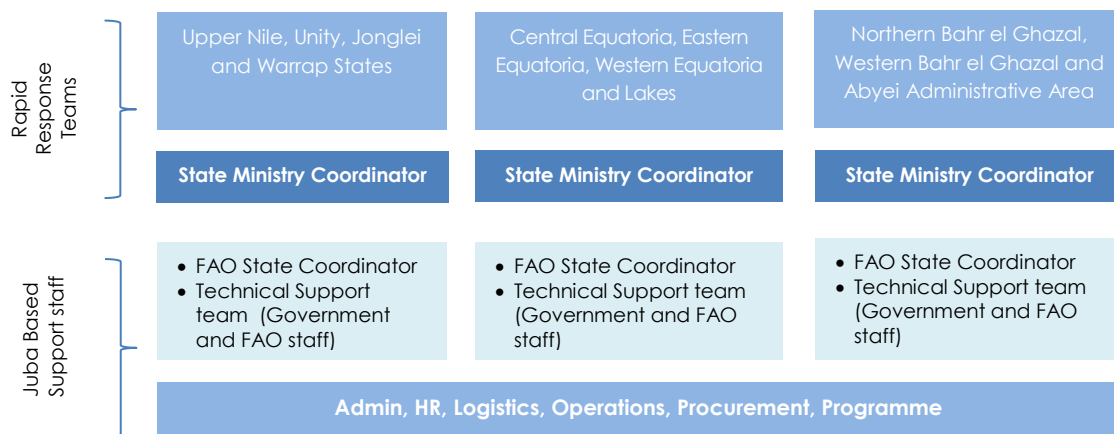
## 2. Address loss of assets and reduced milk production (USD 2 476 000)

- Additional funds needed to re-stock households in Greater Upper Nile
- ✓ **Improve availability of milk through supplementary feeding, access to animal health care and improved production, processing and marketing**
  - 300 women to be trained on milk production, processing and marketing;
  - 1 515 community-based animal health workers (CBAHWs) to be re-trained and equipped; and
  - additional funds needed to:
    - link livestock owners with CBAHWs and set up cost-recovery system; and
    - train women in livestock-dependent households on basic animal health care for sheep, goats and poultry.

## 3. Boost response capacity (USD 4 770 000)

- ✓ **Build the capacity of partners (Government and NGOs)**
  - FAO is leading a series of technical training sessions for partners (January to February);
  - through Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster Livestock Working Group, FAO has mapped partner availability and identified gaps where direct intervention is required – FAO needs additional logistical capacity to respond and resources are required for charter flights;
  - Boost FAO's own response capacity (human resources, logistics):  
*FAO has deployed dedicated staff across the country (see **Graphic 3**).*

**Graphic 3: FAO Response Team Structure**



*FAO is looking for partnerships for logistical solutions to allow for the rapid deployment of staff and vaccines when outbreaks occur, in addition to scheduling interventions for dry season.*

- Re-establish functional cold chain

*In 2014–15, FAO has purchased 12 solar fridges, 4 electric fridges and 5 generators as well as providing spare parts, maintenance, generator fuel and training on maintenance/repair for government staff.*

- Continue to ensure coordination between actors, including FAO and Government
- Mobilize adequate resources – *awareness raising among stakeholders and timely resource allocation.*
- Prioritization of available resources

*FAO has activated additional internal logistics staff and prioritized the deployment of dedicated livestock officers to the field to work with partners and local authorities on the ground.*

#### **4. Prepare to operate in a context of limited access and insecurity (USD 3 350 000)**

- ✓ **Use the dry season to strengthen hubs including installation of adequate storage structures and pre-positioning of inputs**
- ✓ **Build strategic partnerships**

*FAO is exploring all options on the ground looking for competent actors for service delivery in remote locations.*

- ✓ **Explore local competencies**

*FAO is looking for qualified personnel in remote locations to provide rapid on the ground assistance under supervision of FAO technical staff in case of outbreaks.*

- ✓ **Facilitate community dialogue through livelihood interventions**

*FAO is currently implementing Pastoral Field Schools in Lakes State with an element of conflict resolution built into the curriculum.*

*Livelihood activities with the aim of peace building between conflict-prone pastoralist communities will be implemented in Abyei in 2015.*

#### **5. Gain and disseminate better understanding on gender in agriculture in South Sudan and the impact of the crisis (USD 200 000)**

- ✓ Carry out an assessment of the impact of the current crisis on the pastoral livestock system.
- ✓ Carry out conflict risk mapping exercise in relation to livestock movements.
- ✓ Conduct a Country Gender Assessment to inform the implementation of FAO's Country Programming Framework for South Sudan.
- ✓ Conduct an assessment on gender roles in farming, fishing and pastoralist communities.
- ✓ Disseminate findings to raise awareness among stakeholders on key issues.
- ✓ Use assessment results to inform programme design and implementation.