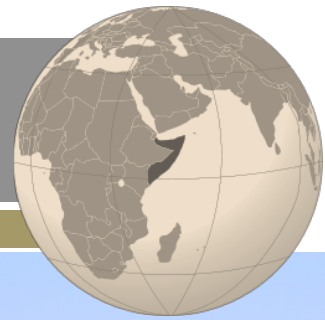




Fact Sheet

February 2013



Somalia Livestock

Overview

Pastoralism and trade in livestock remains the principal livelihood for a majority of Somalis. Livestock accounts for roughly 80% of export earnings annually. FAO is involved in monitoring the livestock sector and its impact on both livelihoods and food security. Seasonal migration of pastoralists is monitored along with rainfall patterns that often force a complex series of movements in search of grazing-lands across the different seasons.

Despite insecurity, political instability, disease and bans in trading of livestock by some major importing Gulf countries over the past two decades, the number of animals and meat exported from Somalia continues to grow.

The private sector has been playing an important role in this trade since the collapse of the State. In 2012, Somalia exported over 4 million sheep, goats, cattle and camels.

As a key local consumption commodity, livestock is seen as a key source for household food security. Pastoralist communities exist throughout Somalia with high concentrations of mainly pastoralists in the north and central areas and while agro-pastoralists are in the southern areas.

Livestock production on two levels

The global livestock sector is characterized by a pronounced dichotomy of two disparate but co-existing systems;

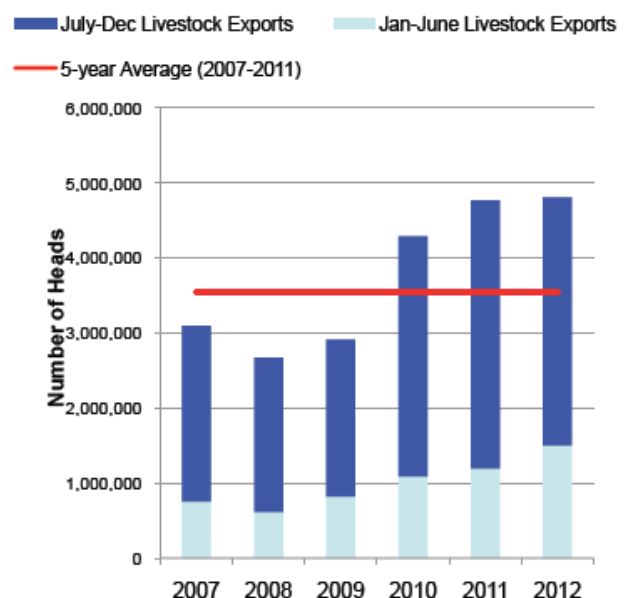
- small-holder and pastoralist production –supporting numerous family livelihoods and household food security and contributing to rural food security; and
- commercial production – supporting the global food supply system and providing employment to producers and others in associated processing, distribution, marketing and support services;



Livestock exports

Recurrent droughts, floods and international bans in livestock trade as well as the spread of disease, have periodically interrupted exports of livestock and their products. The most recent ban was imposed by Saudi Arabia in 2000 but lifted in 2009, subsequently curtailing Somali livestock exports for nine years.

In 2011, Somalia suffered the worst drought in decades leaving thousands of animals dead due to disease outbreaks and water scarcity. Despite these hindering factors, with FAO's emergency interventions, livestock exports have continued to increase with the country registering over 4.7 million animals in exports the same year.



SOMALIA LIVESTOCK POPULATION MAP

Livestock Sector Strategy

FAO Livestock Sector Strategy addresses sectoral challenges and ensures that safe, sustainable and affordable livestock products and services contribute equitably to human development and well-being in Somalia. This is done using a well-recognized professional core at FAO's knowledge base, which is capable of addressing the sector's role in its context and of establishing effective linkages with partners.

The strategy also clarifies, informs and facilitates the contribution of livestock to household and national food security, to overall rural economic development and poverty reduction, to the provision of safe food for consumption, and to national, regional and international livestock commodity trade, while safeguarding environmental sustainability and agricultural biodiversity. With key outcomes in the last two years, FAO focuses of the following priority areas:

- **VACCINATIONS:** Since July 2011, FAO has **vaccinated over 19.6 million livestock** against PPR and 7.5 million against CCPP
- **TREATMENT:** Over **3.5 million** livestock have been treated for **infectious diseases as well as parasites.**
- **SURVEILLANCE:** FAO has established a continuous early warning system that includes **surveillance** and **response** to priority **diseases.**
- **INFRASTRUCTURE:** FAO has constructed two large modern slaughterhouses, constructed and rehabilitated **Hargeisa Livestock Market** and a **Meat Market in Borama.**
- **LIVESTOCK BYPRODUCTS:** FAO has introduced new products in Somalia's livestock value chain including **soap** and **jewelry** made from livestock bones.
- **POLICY DEVELOPMENT:** FAO has worked with the authorities of Somaliland and Puntland to pass **key pieces of legislation** regulating **meat quality.**

