



BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR BETTER...

# Livelihoods in the Horn of Africa

Definitions and patterns of  
evolution

**NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMMING  
SEED SECURITY ASSESSMENT  
ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS**

05/03/2014

Burkina Faso | Chad | Mali | Niger | Ethiopia | Kenya | Somalia | South Sudan





# **SOME DEFINITIONS**



# Livelihoods

A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base (Chambers and Conway, 1992).



# Vulnerability

Vulnerability refers to the full range of factors that place people at risk of becoming food-insecure. The degree of vulnerability of individuals, households or groups of people is determined by their exposure to risk factors and their ability to cope with or withstand stressful situations.

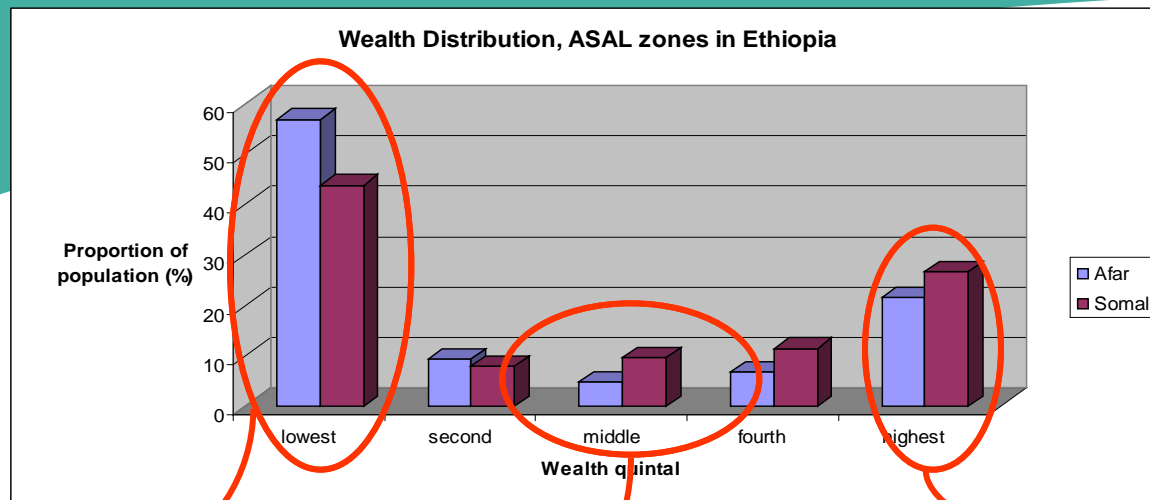
- **Households:** socio-economic, cultural and political factors (female-headed households, the poor, landless, homeless, marginalized groups on the basis of ethnicity, religion and/or political affiliation...)
- **Individuals:** physiological factors (infants, growing children and adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, the malnourished, the elderly, orphans, the terminally ill, and the mentally and physically disabled...)



# **EVOLVING LIVELIHOODS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA**



# Changes in wealth differentiation and livelihood strategies



Source: Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey, 2011

## Ex-Pastoralists:

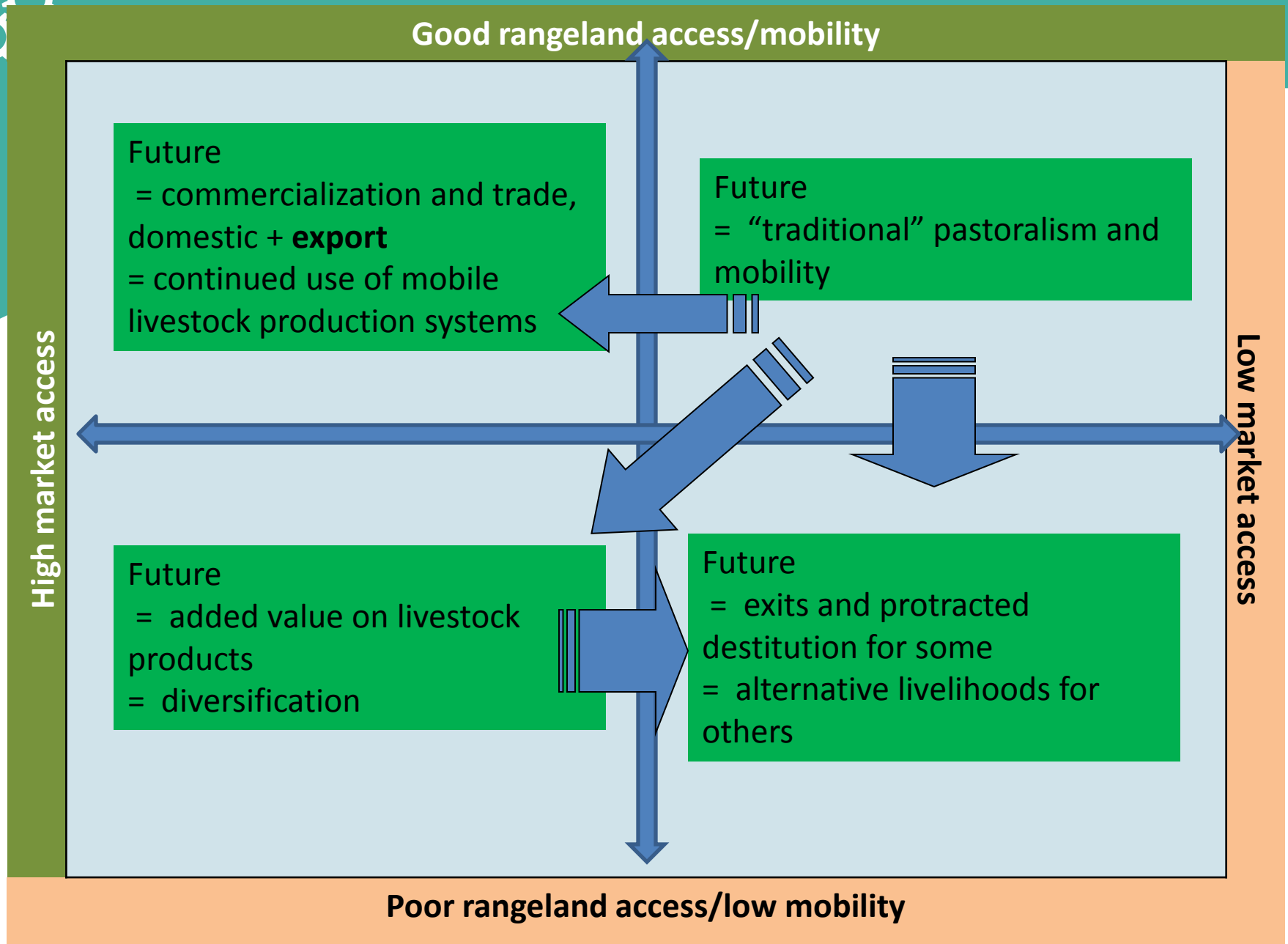
- Few or no livestock
- Sedentarised
- Dependant on aid: food assistance and social protection
- >50% of population
- Future prospects???

## Diversified Pastoralists:

- Few small ruminants
- Other sources of income
- Sedentarised
- Highly vulnerable
- about 25% of population

## Pastoralists:

- Traditional or commercialised
- Mobile/ absent
- Cashing in on increased meat demand
- Highly drought resilient.
- About 25% of popn.





# Game Changers

- Shift from rural and mobile to settlements and urban/ peri-urban
- Commercialized animal rearing
- More diversified and cash-based livelihood strategies, and employment (formal/ informal)
- Emphasis on transition and educating young people into more stable and lucrative livelihoods (across all groups ?)





# What does this mean for risk?

For example in the case of drought...

- Who are the vulnerable?
  - Diversified pastoralists?
  - Ex-pastoralists who are very poor?
  - Commercial pastoralists?
  - Children in school?
  - Women in small settlements?



# What are they vulnerable to?

Still in the case of drought...

- Livestock Disease?
- Market prices?
- Availability of labour?
- Fodder?
- Water?
- Conflict?
- Being pulled out of school?

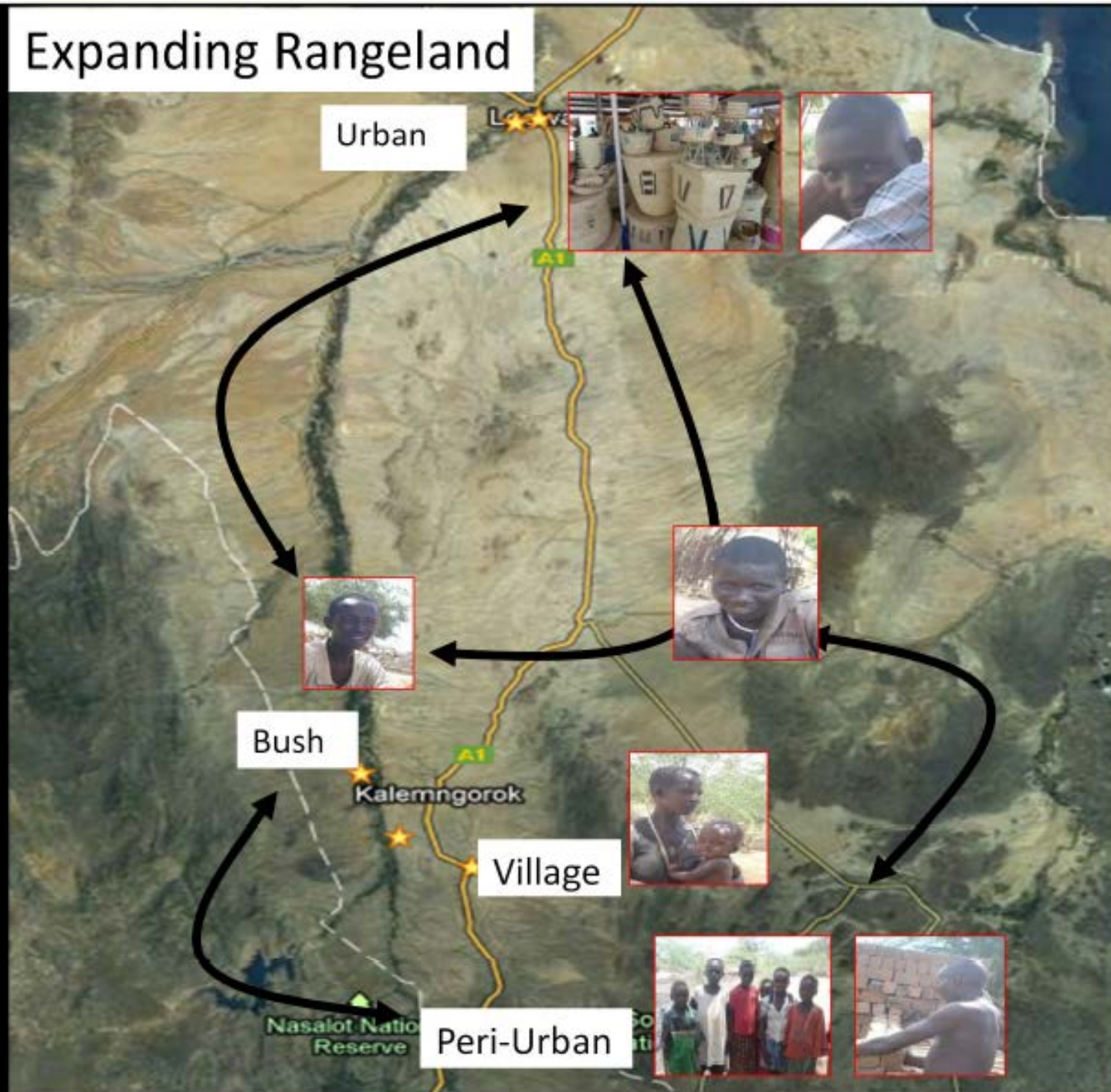


# What does this mean for Risk?

Despite the major 'game changers':

- Livestock remains the predominant economic activity in the arid lands;
- Most people interact to some extent, directly or indirectly with the livestock trade - expanding rangelands concept: this is a very powerful way to spread risk;
- Increasing population... fewer natural resources but growing economic opportunities.

# Expanding Rangeland





# What does this mean for humanitarian response?

- **Conventional Responses:**
  - Based on the Drought Management Cycle...
  - Humanitarian Food Assistance: in-kind food; increasingly cash transfers; conditional/ unconditional;
  - Treatment of acute malnutrition (CMAM);
  - Livestock off-take;
  - Livestock health (vaccination, de-worming etc);
  - Water trucking (human and livestock use);
  - Fodder provision for livestock (unusual);
- **Are these 'fit for purpose' for un-homogenous communities in the 'new' livelihood and risk environment?**



# What does this mean for humanitarian response?

## New ways of doing business...

- Big Issues
  - Importance of understanding the context in terms of changing livelihood strategies and risk: action research;
  - Importance of understanding aspirations for the future, and especially transiting from traditional livelihoods (generational transformation): can we provide a 'soft landing'?
  - Importance of keeping kids in school
  - Gender: with changing livelihood strategies, what new roles for both women and men? What are the opportunities?
  - Social Networks with people living in different locations doing different things: how to help to spread the risk?



# What does this mean for humanitarian response?

- **No Regrets Approach**
  - Income and employment
  - Opportunities around expanding/ contracting social protection safety nets (risk financing model)?
  - Surge model for nutrition (and more?)
  - Addressing persistent acute and chronic under-nutrition
  - Livestock/ crop insurance.
  - Non-sectoral/ multi-purpose transfers
  - Building resilience; spreading risk and more...



# **IDENTIFYING LIVELIHOODS GROUP FOR THE GROUP WORK (CHARLOTTE)**