



Livelihood, Pastoralism and Disaster Risk Reduction

Second African Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

Consultative Meeting, Nairobi, 5-7 May 2009

Helen Bushell: Regional DRR Focal Point, Oxfam GB



Regional
Pastoral
Livelihoods
Advocacy
Project



Objectives

- **Get pastoralists (as a highly vulnerable group) on the DRR/CCA agenda**
- **Recognise the challenges of slow on-set disasters (technical and within the HFA) and the added dimension of CC**
- **Promote the need to increase focus on addressing underlying risks even as humanitarian case loads rise.**





Risks to pastoral livelihoods

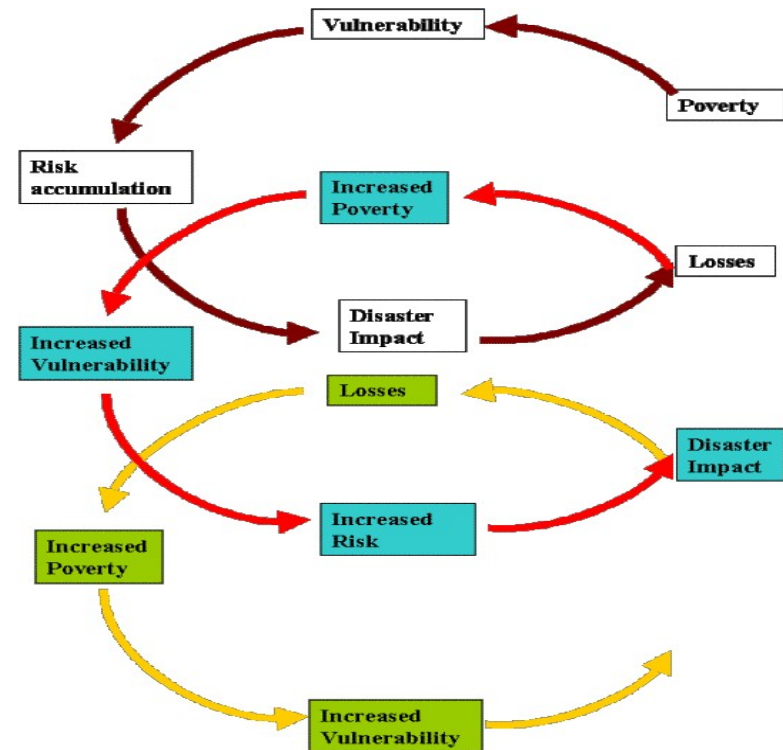
- Hazards including drought, floods, conflict, disease are a major threat to livelihoods and development in the ASAL
- Current context: Humanitarian crises triggered by shocks and those resulting from chronic poverty barely distinguishable.
- Development work in this context needs to take DRR fully into account with an emphasis on addressing underlying risk





Pastoral Livelihoods: Key issues

- Chronic marginalization of the 20 million or so pastoralists in Horn and East Africa
- Cycles of crises (often with drought as a trigger)
- Rising humanitarian case loads





Climate Change

- **Climate change is now a serious consideration for policy makers and practitioners.**

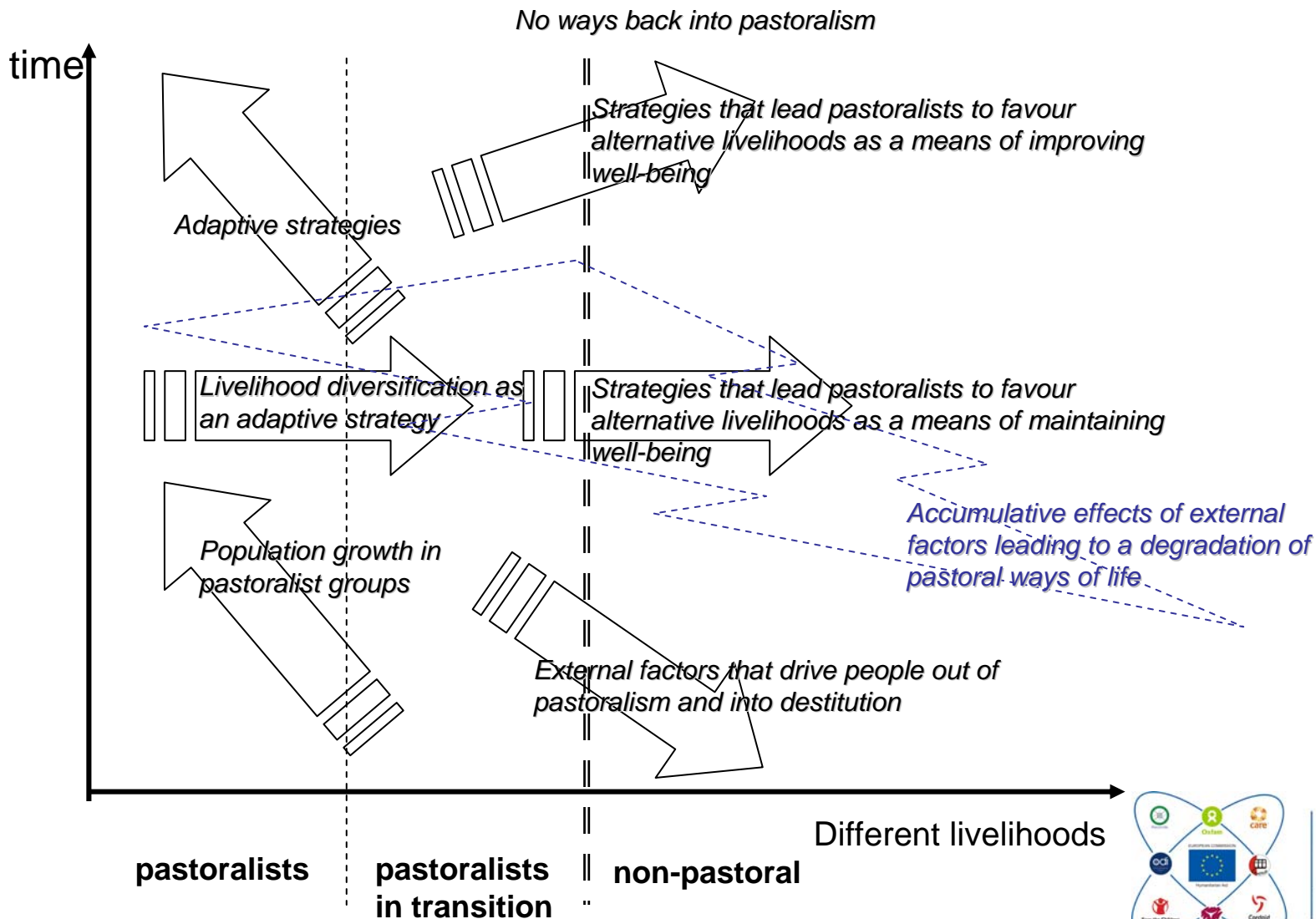
Climate change intensifies existing non-climate risks in the drylands

- Increased migration \implies more population pressure and environmental degradation.
- Increased climatic shocks \implies more conflict over resources and access.
- Failed rainy seasons \implies reduced agricultural yields and increased livestock losses in already highly fragmented landscapes.





The “left-hand wall” syndrome of changes in numbers of people involved in pastoral livelihoods – explaining depletion





Uncertainty and pastoralism

- With increasingly uncertain climatic conditions, and a likely mosaic of different impacts across the region, the ASAL will need to be managed in a way that supports and promotes land uses and livelihoods that are more resilient to climatic variability and help reduce underlying risk.
- Of all the land uses in the drylands, pastoralism is best placed to adapt to increased climatic variability.





Enabling autonomous adaptation – what is this?

- **Autonomous adaptation - measures taken by people at local scales to prepare for, cope with and recover from the effects of increased climate variability and climate change.**
- **Enabling autonomous adaptation implies ‘freedom from’ poverty and ‘freedom to’ take beneficial action.**
- **Pastoralists need the ‘freedom to’ take action, whether they choose to remain in pastoralism, or to diversify their livelihoods in a way which would ensure economic well-being.**





Addressing underlying risk factors and enabling autonomous adaptation

How do we support governments to pastoralists are on the DRR/CCA agenda and reflected in related policy and practise? Includes NAPs, COP.

Three main areas of intervention:

1. Governance/policy
2. Access to markets
3. Basic services (particularly education)





Some recommendations

- 1. Risk profile and adaptive capacity of pastoralists needs to be better recognized and understood. Supporting autonomous adaption (requires capacity)**
- 2. DRR and Climate adaptation should be mainstreamed into dryland plans and strategies at regional, national and local level and at sectoral levels. Unique context and degree of vulnerability requires specific attention**
- 3. Addressing underlying risk factors in pastoral areas requires urgent attention to reverse marginalisation of pastoral communities. A matter of political will.**

