

The Complex and Gender Differentiated Objectives of Livestock Keeping for Somali Pastoralists

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Somalia is one of the poorest country in the world, with the majority of its population engaged in livestock as pastoralists or agro-pastoralists.

In contrast to many pastoral systems, the Somali system has a heavy domestic trade and export orientation, and is the largest exporter of live animals out of Africa.

As part of a pro-poor livestock development project aimed at better linking Somali pastoralists to these markets, we performed participatory research to understand their livestock keeping objectives.



Somalia



Somali pastoralist



Somali hut



Export camels

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Objective	Objective for	
	CAMEL	CATTLE
Draught
D. Meat Consumption
D. Milk Consumption
Milk Sale
Income
Savings



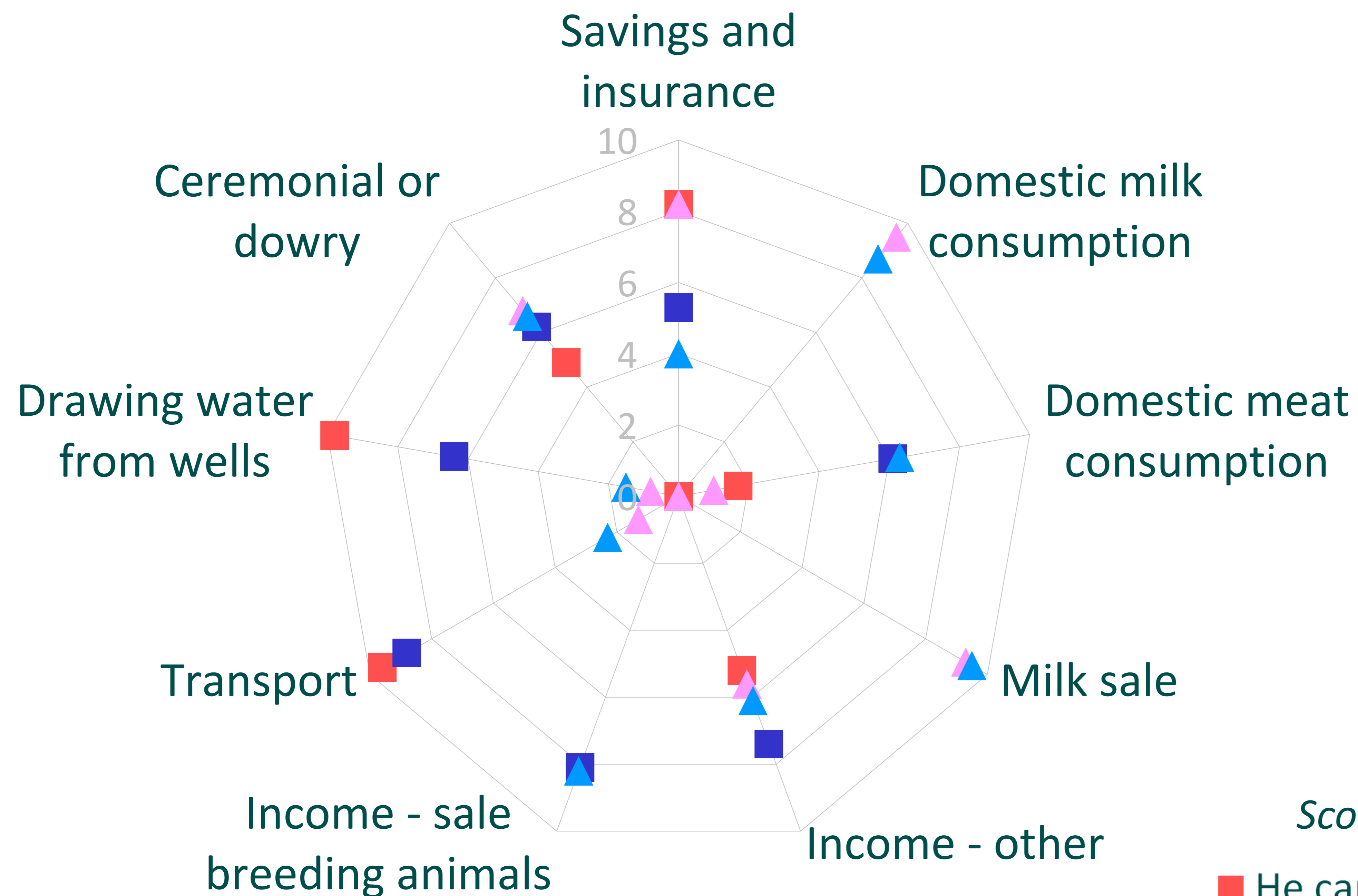
Data collection: matrix scoring exercises on livestock keeping objectives were performed in gendered groups, involving 252 female and 254 male pastoralists from north-west Somalia / Somaliland.

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Reasons Somali pastoralists keep camel



Scores: 0 = no importance, 10 = highest importance

- He camel - female pastoralists
- He camel - male pastoralists
- ▲ She camel - female pastoralists
- ▲ She camel - male pastoralists

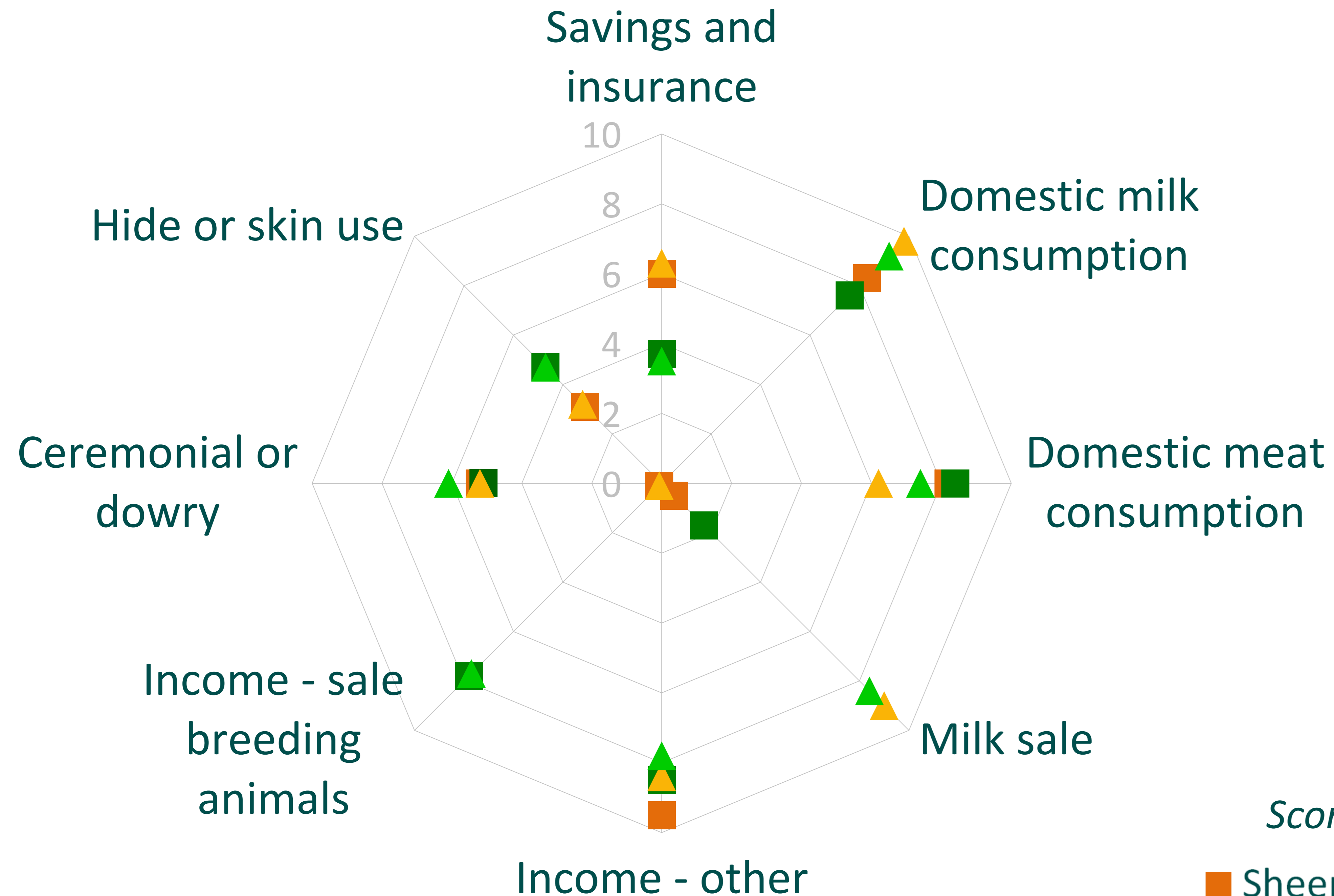


Different forms of Somali transportation

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Reasons Somali pastoralists keep shoats



Scores: 0 = no importance, 10 = highest importance

- Sheep - female pastoralists
- Sheep - male pastoralists
- ▲ Goat - female pastoralists
- ▲ Goat - male pastoralists



Shoats (sheep and goat) for sale at a local market

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Additional project data includes information on the pastoralists' selection criteria for livestock, as well as livestock attributes desired by local and export markets.

These will be analysed to identify whether or not there are simple breeding interventions to produce animals that better match the needs of both the pastoral livestock keepers and end consumers.



Somali pastoral family



The author in Somalia