



Pastoralism as untapped potential

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PWHE Background Information



- Pastoralist Women for Health and Education (PWHE) is a local NGO based and working in Isiolo County within upper Eastern region of Isiolo Kenya.
- PWHE was started as a Community Based Organization (CBO) in the year 2003 by a group of local pastoralist women primarily to enhance social economic condition of women and Youth. The founders realized that the high illiteracy level, poverty, and unjust social system were impediments to girl-child growth and women development.

Pastoralist Development Network of Kenya



- Pastoralist Women for Health and Education is a member organisation of **Pastoralist Development Network of Kenya**. PDNK is the National Network of Pastoralist advocacy platform that champions the rights of the pastoralist communities at the policy level.
- PDNK partners with CELEP on issues of pastoralism.
- PDNK collaborates with other like minds nationals and international organization on issues of pastoralist and also during yearly Kenya Pastoralist Week

Pastoralism: perception



- Past government regimes saw pastoralists as backward, hostile, uncivilized and unproductive way of life and land use.
- 1965 sessional paper no. 10, on African Socialism, advocated for resources and development to be concentrated in more (crop) productive areas

Untapped potential



- Kenyan pastoralism is defined by high reliance on livestock as a source of economic and social wellbeing Pastoralism is based on three key pillars i.e. Livestock Herds, Traditional Institutions and Land & Natural Resources
- Strategic mobility (nomadic and transhuman) is applied to access water and grazing resources and manage the ecology in areas of high rainfall variability- arid and semi arid lands (ASAL)
- In Kenya's ASAL regions, pastoralism is the dominant livelihoods system for about 10 million people owning 75% of the national livestock herd
- Pastoralists supply substantial numbers of livestock to domestic, regional and international markets making a crucial – but often undervalued – contributions to national and regional economies
- Their production systems are highly adaptive, constantly responding to market and climatic trends – hence resilience

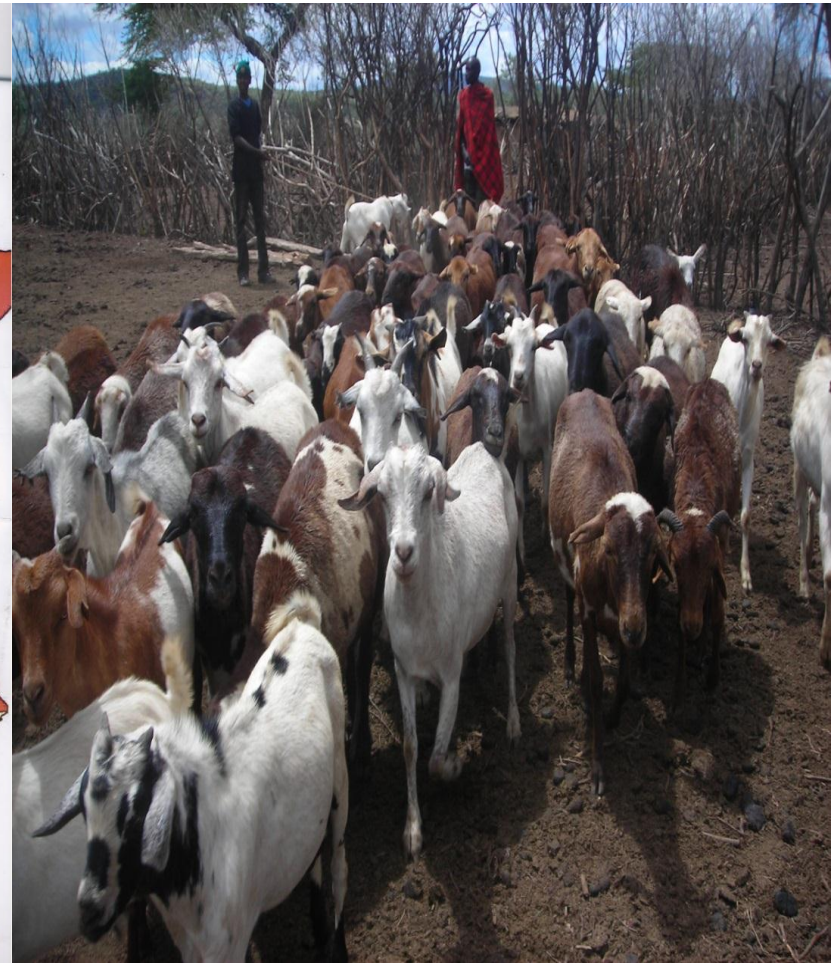
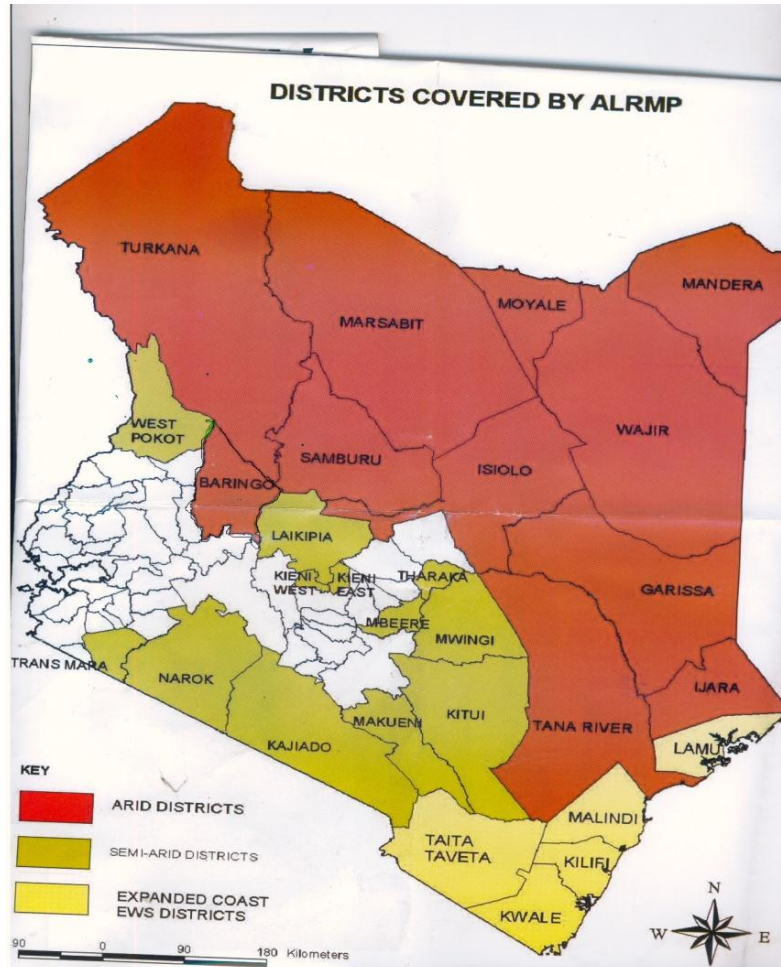
Untapped potential



- Pastoralist culture is part of Kenya's cultural heritage. Animal and plant resources in pastoral areas comprise one of the most important types of genetic resources.
- ASALS are home to more than 90% of the wild game that supports the tourism industry and is home to most of the protected areas such as game reserves and national parks (Maasai Mara, Amboseli, Shaba, Samburu etc..)
- The symbiotic interaction between wildlife and pastoralism, coupled with the rich and iconic cultural heritage of pastoralist communities, is a major tourist attraction
- Tourism is Kenya's highest foreign exchange earner and contributes around 12% to Kenya's GDP

Source: Arid and Semi Arid Lands Policy 2012

Pastoralist areas in Kenya



Women Empowerment



- Women among the pastoral communities have been disempowered, pastoral communities are patriarchal and hence women are looked down upon.
- It is a challenge to change the attitude and perception of communities to progressively look up for women as change agent in line with constitution of Kenya 2010 and other international instruments. Few women member of parliament from Pastoralist community elected as member of National assembly in March 2013. The March 2013 general election also saw all the ten elected (10) Member of County Assembly in Isiolo County being of male gender an evidence attested to the reality. The 2/3 of either gender rule as per the Kenyan constitution is yet to be realised.

Challenges in conflict management



- **Poverty**-absolute deprivation of both the mind and material being is widespread among the pastoral communities-While poverty is a relative term especially among the pastoralist-one may have over thousand livestock- but can barely afford to feed himself.
- The communities have not realised how best to tap pastoralism and turn-around to meaningfully and positively change their economic improvement. Meat as a product are the most priced in hotels but pastoralist remain poor.

Challenges in conflict management



- Majority of people in pastoralist area do not have any legal documentation to their land. With the flagship project of LAPPSET, for example Isiolo is currently being focused by investors from other counties and from beyond the boarder.
- Due to the challenges faced by the pastoralist community especially the women; of **high poverty level, illiteracy, resource based conflict and the nature of land tenure of community land not safe guiding the pastoral land ownership**; it is a potential area for conflict. Women in pastoralist community do not own land.
- Disputed boundary between Counties and many unresolved land issues are among potential causes of conflict in Kenya currently.

Challenges in conflict management



- **Retrogressive cultural practices-**
Infringement of rights especially among the pastoralist girl-child on issues of forced and early marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other negative cultural practices of cattle rustling.
- Proliferation of small arms and light weapons.
- Poor infrastructure and communication development in most of the arid areas.

Current Initiatives and interventions



- Local initiatives that embrace both customary and current practices of governance and are producing positive results.
- Community dialogue meeting targeting herders, women, youth, faith based organisation and District Peace Committees.
- Community policing and “nyumba kumi initiative” (Communities working with police and neighbours being their brothers keeper by knowing their immediate neighbours)
- Support to peace clubs in targeted primary and secondary schools.
- Traditional herders, and council of elders’ dialogue meeting.
- Training and workshop for political leaders (elected/nominated)
- Peace monitors peace meeting and outreach programmes.
- Support to peace meetings and women and youth forums.

Current Initiatives and interventions



- Community capacity building through civic education on their rights and use of media especially through the local F.M. radio station to disseminate on various issues that affects communities (peace message, example land and devolution chapters in the constitution).

Lessons learnt



- Peace building is a fragile state of affairs and needs patience and tolerance. Sustainability of peace depends on other factors example cooperation from all communities living in the area and its environs peaceful co-exist, policies that are supported by resources, enhancement of quality education for pastoralist children especially girls, political good will and quality improvement of pastoralist livelihood i.e. livestock and livestock related products.(milk, meat, hide and skin)

Recommandations



- The EU to support various governments to equip and provide police posts in all the remote centres in the pastoralist areas.
- The development partners to support grass root initiative that spearheads pastoralist development agenda and pastoralism as the viable and appropriate source of livelihood and land use.
- CELEP to advocate to Eastern African states for curriculum development on Pastoralism as viable venture and productive livelihood in middle and higher level learning institutions.

Recommandations



- The emergence of community response mechanisms provides a potential deterrence effect for identifying communities whose members have engaged in raiding. These local systems have brought rewards to the region in most cases, so need for adequate resources to produce positive impact and long lasting transformation to the conflict situation.
- Development partners to support various African government to embrace the modern technology of branding and labeling of their livestock for ease of identification and curb livestock theft.
- CELEP to advocate to various governments for policy support to community action plans and peace building declaration, for effective and enforceability.

Recommandations



- The EU and other development partner states to advocate against sale of small arms to developing nations and strict measures put in place to curb the proliferation of the same.
- Development partner to continue support and strengthen national and grassroots initiatives on peace building and cohesion.



THANK YOU

www.pastrolistswomen.org