FNS-REPRO Somaliland Key Findings Report

Key findings emerging from the FNS-REPRO generated studies and other sources as input for the sensemaking events and adaptive programming

Eelke Boerema, Charles Chapman, Cecile Kusters

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This report describes the key findings that emerged from the analysis of the studies generated by the Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO) in Somaliland and from other relevant sources. The FNS-REPRO is designed to strengthen the resilience of food systems for food and nutrition security in conflict affected regions in the Horn of Africa and focuses on Somaliland, South Sudan and Sudan. These findings have been summarized and used as input for the annual sensemaking event, during which they were reflected upon by FAO & WUR staff and key stakeholders, so as to generate key suggestions for improvement of the program. The key suggestions for improvement serve as input for the next annual plan of FNS-REPRO and as such influence adaptive programming. The analysis of these findings and the facilitation of the sensemaking events have been carried out by Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen University and Research, as a key partner for FNS-REPRO for the knowledge agenda.

Keywords: conflict, environment, evidence, findings, fodder, food security, gender, nutrition, producers, resilience, shocks, Somaliland, stressors, value chain, youth.

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Photo cover: FAO, 2021b

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List of abbreviations and acronyms

CoP	Community of Practice
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FNS	Food and Nutrition Security
FNS-REPRO	Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme
FVC	Fodder Value Chain
HDDS	Household Dietary Diversity Score
IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRM	Natural Resource Management
RCI	Resilience Capacity Index
RIMA	Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis
USD	United States Dollar
WCDI	Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen University & Research
WUR	Wageningen University & Research

Summary

This Key Findings Report provides an overview and summary of the key information that emerged from FNS-REPRO's studies and reports, and other sources on Somaliland. The information and data presented in this report is disaggregated into key chapters, each representing the key thematic areas FNS-REPRO is focused on and which are relevant to the program, such as Food and Nutrition Security, Healthy Diets, Resilient Livelihoods, Fodder Value Chain etc. This information has been summarized in presentations used during the sensemaking event and the subsequent annual review and planning meeting that took place in July 2021. The sensemaking of the key findings led to key suggestions for improvement of the program in the next annual plan. These summary key findings and suggestions for improvement are described in a separate report. Below is a summary of the key findings/data emerging from each of the main chapters.

Chapter 3: Food and Nutrition Security

Up to 2.7 million people in Somalia (22% of the population), face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3 or above) between April and June 2021. Approximately 839,000 children are likely to be acutely malnourished (IPC, 2021). The key environmental drivers behind these acute levels of food insecurity and malnutrition include drought and poor rainfall, extreme recurrent floods compounded by rainfall variability, pest and livestock diseases, including the more recent desert locust invasion. These environmental drivers negatively impacts crop and livestock production, thereby severely affecting the livelihoods of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Sool and Sanaag regions (IPC, 2021; FAO, 2021b; WCDI, 2020; CoP survey, 2021).

Socio-economic drivers in Sool and Sanaag include: High food prices and continued currency depreciation, coupled with poorly enforced land tenure system or resource ownership, illegal land encroachment of former grazing areas, leading to clashes between herders and farmers. Seasonal scarcity of food coupled with a general reduction in humanitarian food assistance. Absence of institutions that support climate-smart agriculture/disaster risk reduction actions. This depletion of resources and reduced livelihood opportunities may manifest into isolated insecurity incidents that displace populations, disrupt livelihoods and impede household food and nutrition security (WCDI, 2020; CoP survey, 2021).

These environmental and socio-economic drivers have led towards poor food security outcomes for populations in Sool and Sanaag. As the RIMA baseline study (FAO, 2021b) indicates, 24% of households have 'poor' Food Consumption Scores (FCS) and 20% are 'borderline'. However, it is important to note that wealth index, agricultural assets index, tropical livestock unit holding, size of land cultivated during summer, education of the household head (years) were found positively associated with household food security (FAO, 2021b).

Chapter 4: Healthy Diets

The role of FNS REPRO and other factors in stimulating healthy diets by targeted communities is yet to be determined but it is clear that currently wealth index, agricultural assets index, tropical livestock unit holding, size of land cultivated during summer, education of the household head (years) were found positively associated with household food security. The main shocks that undermine food security (and therefore the ability to eat healthy diets) in the study area are drought, conflict/insecurity and reduced household income (FAO, 2021b).

The two main indicators used to assess healthy diets in Sool and Sanaag were HDDS, FCS. The average FCS in the surveyed area is 47. Approximately 56% of the households have acceptable FCS. The average HDDS for the households in the survey area is 6, and there is no difference between male and female headed households. On average, a household in the survey area consumed 6 different kinds of food out of the 12 food groups. There is high consumption of cereals, vegetables, oils and sugar in the survey area. The main source of protein is milk and meat. On the whole there is room to

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improve the diversity of foods eaten, especially in terms of protein rich food (pulses, fish and eggs) and fruits (FAO, 2021b).

The main positive factors influencing healthy diets, as identified by CoP participants were: availability of healthy and diverse foods, awareness of healthy diets (food choices), income to purchase healthy foods, production of healthy food crops (kitchen gardens, subsistence farming), and lastly, dealing with consumer behaviours (improved food choices) (CoP survey, 2021).

Chapter 5: Resilient Livelihoods

Despite relative stability, Somaliland remains in a fragile situation, where multiple threats and shocks co-exist and may risk reversing economic gain unless they are addressed in a strategic and sustainable manner. There are a myriad of factors affecting the resilience of targeted communities in Sool and Sanaag. According to the RIMA study, the main shocks experienced by households are drought, reduced household income and high food prices, loss of employment, serious illness and violent insecurity (FAO, 2021b). The CoP survey further identified the following negative factors affecting people's resilience: (1) undiversified livelihoods, (2) insufficient food, food storage, (3) lack of income and savings (4) desertification and drought (5) migration (e.g. to urban areas), and (6) climate prone agriculture (shortage of water and monocropping) (CoP survey, 2021).

Communities in Sool & Sanaag depend mainly on trade in livestock and livestock products; livestock is backbone of Somaliland's economy. Approximately 10% of the households relied on fodder production as a livelihood source in the last 12 months (FAO, 2021a). Main types of fodder crops grown: natural grass (73%), sorghum (59%) and maize (23%). Badhan (RCI=46) and Caynaba (RCI=41) are the most resilient district, while Taleh (RCI=33) is the least resilient of the surveyed districts. Female HHs (RCI=38.3) are slightly more resilient than male headed households (RCI=37.5). However, male HHs earn much more income (USD 200 per annum) compared to female HHs (USD 75). Male HHs more dependent on income from livestock production and crop production, while female HHs more dependent on crop production and petty trade (FAO, 2021b). Approximately 63% of households accessed some form of credit in the last 3 months before the RIMA survey. Average reduced coping strategy index (rCSI)⁷ in the study area is 8.23, measured on a scale of 0 to 56. This indicates that households are not employing very severe coping strategies (FAO, 2021b).

Majority of the target beneficiaries are dependent on only one source of livelihood. This limited number of livelihood sources could leave the households vulnerable to shocks that affect their livelihood. There is a need to invest in livelihood support systems to enhance the number of household income sources to increase the resilience, income and food security of targeted populations in Sool and Sanaag (FAO, 2021b).

Chapter 6: Fodder Value Chain

According to the RIMA study (FAO, 2021b), some 10% of households rely on fodder production as a livelihood source, mainly men (71%). The main types of fodder crops grown are natural grass (73%), sorghum (59%) and maize (23%). Sources of fodder seeds: 61% purchased seeds; 40% seed stored from previous harvest; 11% borrowed from neighbours. Key challenges include: pests and plant diseases, low availability of fodder inputs, inadequate water, low access to technical assistance services, lack of market for fodder. Only 5% of households involved in fodder production belong to groups/associations (FAO, 2021b).

The main needs of households to improve fodder production and income, as indicated by results of the CoP survey are: (1) training and documentation, (2) tools & equipment for planting, (3) training on fodder and good agricultural practices, (4), access to drinking water, and (5) access to fodder producer associations (CoP survey, 2021).

Chapter 7: Conflict and Stability

The main conflicts in Somaliland can be categorized as follows: (1) Land-related conflicts: associated with border disputes due to unclear demarcation boundaries owing to customary land allocation systems as well as enclosure of land for private pasture or for fodder production. The main actors are enclosed landowners, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. (2) Water associated conflicts: particularly in

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the dry season. Associated with fighting for water access from private berkads (water reservoirs) and shallow wells. (3) Livestock related conflicts: arrival of livestock in a new area causes a competition for scarce grazing and water resources between the new arrivals and previously existing ones. (4) Ethnic and tribal conflict relates to problems between different ethnicities and tribes who have similar livelihood systems. (5) Political: the incitement of violence by politicians to sustain instability and maintain the relevance of unofficial politicians (FAO, 2021a).

The Covid-19 pandemic has reportedly intensified vulnerabilities and reduced people's resilience, thereby, led to increased incidences of resource-based conflicts, especially between pastoralists and farmers. It has also added additional challenges in undertaking community-level peace initiatives with restrictions on gatherings constraining the implementation of measures to foster community-level management of disputes and conflicts over scarce resources (FAO, 2020b). A key recommendation to increase peace in Sool and Sanaag, is that FNS-REPRO should focus on the reconciliation of elders and local leaders by supporting joint ventures between them, such as building their institutional capacity to prevent conflict (FAO, 2021a).

Chapter 8: Gender and youth disparities

There are a number of gender disparities present in Sool and Sanaag. The RIMA baseline study (FAO, 2021b) showed that male headed households (HHs) are better off than female HHs in a number of areas including: Income (USD 294 compared to USD 184) and education. However, female HHs are better off in regard to access to land: having access to 1.7 Ha, while male HHs on average have access to 1 Ha. Albeit not statistically significant, female headed HHs (RCI=38.3) are slightly more resilient than male headed HHs (RCI=37.5). The food security scores (HDDS and FCS) are similar between male and female HHs.

The Somaliland Community of Practice (CoP) survey also revealed disparities in relation to access and control over resources. Results indicated that overall, men are in control of most resources and labour activities along the fodder value chain. Especially, when it comes to any decision-making aspects such as 'negotiating over land' or 'settling land disputes', while women and female youth remain hardly involved in either decision-making or business-related activities. Overall, female-headed households are the most vulnerable socio-economic group as they are often excluded from the decision-making process in relation to access, use and control of resources (CoP survey, 2021). However, there are a number of practical recommendations available which can be adopted in order to make FNS-REPRO more gender sensitive and inclusive (FAO, 2021a).

Youth make up the majority of Somaliland's population (around 70%), yet face a number of challenges largely surrounding unemployment and lack of livelihood opportunities, leading to poor coping mechanisms like drug abuse, and insecurity (Oxfam, 2019). The unemployed youth often survives on charcoal production and sale and other small jobs. On the other hand, youth who are able to get decent urban jobs play a key role in sustaining livelihoods in their rural communities. Employed youth acts as a sort of insurance for their relatives who remained in the pastoralist lifestyle. Indeed, during droughts, the employed youth supports their communities with remittances. In terms of youth's role in the fodder value chain, young men have an important role to play as they are engaged in labour activities for fodder production, such as harvesting, watering, planting and land preparation. While, young women are less engaged, they also support more off-farm related activities such as processing, marketing and selling fodder (CoP survey, 2021).

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background to this document

This Key Findings Report provides an overview and summary of the key generated information emerging from FNS-REPRO's studies and reports on Somaliland. A process of coding was undertaken, whereby key information was extracted and analysed from existing studies and reports including Somaliland multi-dimensional context analysis, Somaliland RIMA baseline report, Food System Resilience Assessment (FoSRA) and FAO special studies. The key findings emerging from the Communities of Practice (CoP) events and online surveys are also included in this report. Some external reports were also incorporated to generate further information and knowledge on the fodder value chain in Somaliland.

Coding took place on the following key topics:

- Resilience
- Livelihoods of the fodder value chain actors
- Food and Nutrition security (FNS) and related diets
- Conflict and stability
- Gender
- Youth

After coding, the information was analysed to generate key findings to be discussed during the sensemaking event, where key findings were discussed and suggestions for improvement given for adjustment of the next annual plan. The summary of the findings and key suggestions for improvement were then validated in the subsequent annual review and planning meeting.

The information and data presented in this report is disaggregated into key chapters, each representing thematic areas FNS-REPRO is focussed on (e.g. Food and Nutrition Security, Healthy Diets, Resilient Livelihoods, Fodder Value Chain etc.). As a result, this Key Findings Report serves as a consolidation document, summarizing the key information emerging from FNS-REPRO's existing studies and reports during the Inception Phase. This information has been summarized in presentations used during the sensemaking event and the subsequent annual review and planning meeting which took place in July 2021. The sensemaking of the key findings led to key suggestions for improvement of the program in the next annual plan. These summary key findings and suggestions for improvement are described in a separate report.

1.2 Background to the FNS-REPRO programme

The Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO) is designed to strengthen the resilience of food systems for food and nutrition security in conflict affected regions in the Horn of Africa and focuses on Somaliland, South Sudan and Sudan. The program is "funded by the Government of the Netherlands to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and is a four years programme of USD 28 million that contributes directly to the operationalization of the United Nations Security Council 2417 by addressing the "cause-effect" relationship between conflict and food insecurity, in Sudan (Darfur), Somaliland and South Sudan" (FNS REPRO Final Proposal).

"FNS-REPRO is the first programme in Eastern Africa specifically designed to foster peace and food security at scale, through a multi-year livelihood and resilience-based approach, in some of the least stable regions, where interventions are normally of humanitarian programming nature exclusively. Its design allows FAO and partners to set examples of building food system resilience in protracted crises.

The programme adopts an innovative area- and livelihood-based approach that looks at the multidimensional threats and risks that communities are exposed to, while identifying and utilizing opportunities for improved livelihood resilience. FNS-REPRO will promote coordination with relevant stakeholders involved in targeted areas to reach collective outcomes between multi-sectoral humanitarian and development interventions.

The programme is also unique in its approach to the Humanitarian, Development and Peace building Nexus, as it encompasses a serious and rigorous learning agenda along the Nexus – under the leadership of Wageningen University & Research (WUR) – that will start from the very beginning of programme implementation, contrary to normally applied post-factum learning processes. The uniqueness of the learning agenda lies with a grassroots and localised approach to learning where targeted communities and local institutions will be active participants in design and implementation of the intervention – rather than just being key informants. Furthermore, the learning agenda will contribute to quality programme implementation (through flexible and adaptive programming) as well as to policy dialogue as it will be linked to the Global Network Against Food Crises, through alignment of learning targets, processes and methodologies” (FNS REPRO Final Proposal).

“The proposed programme is an initiative by the Dutch Government to operationalise United Nations Security Council Resolution-2417, which forbids the creation of food crises and famine as an act or result of war, by investing in food system resilience in times of crises and situations of conflict”. “The aim of the Dutch government funded Food and Nutrition Security REsilience PROgramme (FNS-REPRO) is to strengthen the resilience of food systems for food and nutrition security in conflict-ridden regions in the Horn of Africa (South Sudan, Sudan and Somaliland). This will be done through investing in initiatives that:

1. Strengthen sustainable management of the natural resource base;
2. Increase the resilience of agriculture- and livestock-based livelihoods and food systems, and;
3. Contribute to meeting medium to longer-term food needs.

The attention for the resilience of food systems is a systems approach which aims to strengthen the enabling environment in which livelihoods and food systems operate and resilience takes shape” (FNS REPRO Final Proposal).

The **FNS-REPRO Theory of Change** is illustrated on the next page.

FNS-REPRO Theory of Change

Figure 1 FNS-REPRO Theory of Change.

1.3 Background to FNS-REPRO in Somaliland

The FNS-REPRO Annual Plan (FAO, 2020a), provides an overview on what FNS-REPRO is focusing on in Somaliland:

Based on the results and findings from the inception phase, between March 2020 and September 2021, and in strong participation of and collaboration with government, local authorities and communities, FNS-REPRO will pursue the sustainable commercialization of fodder from the extensive natural rangeland grazing areas within some of the production valleys, especially in Sanaag Region, while providing support for fodder storage and processing infrastructure, and capacity development (especially training) on good grazing management practices. FNS-REPRO will train smallholder fodder producers in good agronomic practices for fodder production, provide quality inputs including locally sourced fodder seeds (from within Somaliland), support the provision of extension services through the formation of pastoral and agro-pastoral field schools that benefit men and women equally/equitably and facilitate the establishment of existing and new agro-dealer supply shops for sustainable provision of inputs, extension and advisory services. All fodder producers will be trained on business planning, financial record keeping and facilitated to access credit. FNS-REPRO will also identify additional livelihoods strategies or interventions such as bee keeping that are feasible to add to the food and nutrition security of the fodder producing communities.

FNS-REPRO will support peace efforts led by traditional and local leaders by supporting joint ventures between them, such as building their institutional capacity to prevent conflict and mitigate its effects. To engage these two leadership categories as a consortium of leaders, FNS-REPRO will partner with InterPeace, who jointly with FAO-RTEA, will provide specific conflict-sensitivity and conflict-resolution training and technical support. This will be done through the FAO programme clinic approach in which conflict and peace drivers in the areas of intervention will be analyzed, stakeholders and any potential for opposition to the project will be assessed, and potential peace and conflict impacts of the project identified.

FNS-REPRO interventions in Somaliland have been designed to benefit women and men as individuals as well as in single or mixed gender groups by delivering interventions through them. FNS-REPRO will be implemented in full coordination and alignment with (i) actors involved in the Humanitarian Response Plan (using the food security cluster as a catalytic entry point), and (ii) other sectoral investments in the region such as FAO emergency interventions in addition to cash for work, and the Rome Based Agencies (RBA) resilience project (funded by Canada) and the Swiss-funded Somali Information and Resilience building Action (SIRA). FNS-REPRO will also have an interactive link with FSNAU and SWALIM programmes of FAO.

To this extent, FNS-REPRO key outputs and activities for Somaliland include the following:

Output 1. Improved inclusive access and management of local natural resources

Key activities and milestones under this output include:

- Facilitate establishment of community grazing systems that accommodate fodder harvesting and storage, proper stocking, and application of range management principles. This includes development of natural resource management plans
- Support low-income and vulnerable community producer groups using public land that is legitimately allocated to them by authorities and leave the responsibility of fencing the land to the groups to avoid conflict.
- Provision of time- and energy- saving cooking and water technologies such as solar and/or energy saving stoves and water tanks for distribution to women in the project.

Output 2. Improved livelihood and income opportunities along the fodder value chain

Key activities and milestones under this output include:

- Facilitate the formation of fodder producer groups from the village fodder producers and aggregate them into cooperatives with up to 50 percent membership from women and youth
- Provision of fodder production and processing inputs (fodder seeds, fodder processing and baling machines, tractors etc.)

-
- Capacity development through training
  - Establishment and rehabilitation of fodder storage and processing infrastructure

Output 3. Enhanced knowledge, skills and capacity of local communities around nutrition

Key activities and milestones under this output include:

- Review of seasonal livestock marketing and fodder production calendars and seasonality of incomes from these livelihood components; and their implications on nutrition.
- Discussion with communities and beneficiaries about on- and off-farm income diversification throughout the year and on the direct and indirect contributions of the selected value chain products to food system resilience in the targeted areas.
- Facilitate formation of (or strengthen existing) gender- & youth-inclusive honey producer/groups and aggregate them into cooperatives/associations.
- Provision of bee-keeping inputs (hives, honey production and processing/value-addition inputs and equipment/tools).
- Establish and train Agro Pastoral Field School (APFS) networks to manage and sustain knowledge delivery on best practices to farmers as well as strengthen provision of extension services at community level.
- Support establishment, through capacity development, of an innovation and knowledge sharing platform for improved adoption of technologies and practices on fodder, beekeeping, animal health, public veterinary health and rangeland rehabilitation (demonstration farm in Sanaag).

Output 4. Established and implemented learning mechanisms that reinforce field activities and facilitate improved policy and practice on food system resilience

- FoSRA scoping report developed and finished (light version June 2020, full version November 2020);
- Special study(ies) undertaken by WUR research candidate(s) and report provided;
- Formation, management and facilitation of country-level Community of Practice developing Learning Journeys (including activities 4.4.3 - 4.4.6);
- Conduct Tailored ToT training and in-depth training courses for key stakeholders at country level;
- WUR to facilitate a country based annual consultation and learning event to capture learning in line with the Learning Journeys initiated under the Country Community of Practice (focusing on the learning questions at output and outcome level. The annual country-based consultation and learning event will by itself be capped by the Regional consultation and learning event (focusing on the learning questions at outcome and impact level).

Refer to Appendix 1 for a schematic representation of the fodder value chain.

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2 Somaliland Country Background

"The country is located at the Horn of Africa between latitudes 8° and 11°30' North and longitudes 43° and 49°30' East. It borders the Gulf of Aden to the north, Somalia to the east, Ethiopia to the south, and Djibouti to the northwest. It has an estimated area of 137,600 Km² with a coastline of 850 Km (Nur, 2005). The country is divided into 6 regions namely Togdheer, Sahil, Awdal, Marodi Jeex, Sanag and Sool; the 6 regions are subdivided into 32 districts and sub districts. No census has been carried out since 1997 census, the population of Somaliland was then estimated to be 3 million with an estimated population density of 22 persons per Km²; about 55% of the population living in the rural areas and the rest (45%) in urban centre" (FAO, 2021a).

"Somaliland, a former British Protectorate, achieved its independence on 26th June 1960 and later united with the former Italian colony of Somalia on 1st July 1960 to form the Republic of Somalia. The democratically elected government ruled for 9 years (1960-69). However, a military revolution took place on 21st October 1969 and the military regime took control of the country, persisting military rule for 21 years during which economic development deteriorated and, together with occurrence of many civil conflicts, led to the collapse of the military government in early 1991, followed by destruction of all vital infrastructures. As the civil war intensified, the military regime of Siad Barre destroyed almost Somaliland's entire infrastructure including natural resources such as water reservoirs that underpinned the pastoral economy (MoNPD, 2017). Soon after the collapse of the military regime, Somaliland separated from the rest of Somalia, based on the original colonial boundaries, and restored a democratic rule on 18th May 1991. A series of negotiations and reconciliation meetings involving representatives of different clans (congress of elders) led to the attainment of this political state. Constitutionally, Somaliland has a multi-party system of democracy, with an elected president and local council. The country combines elements of Somali culture and modern democracies; for example, the Somaliland upper house comprises clan elders, while the lower house includes other clan representatives." (FAO, 2021a).

"A number of conflicts have occurred since the early collapse of the previous military government. The conflicts are complex, with multiple combatants, motivations, and interests with the seeds of the instability sown during the predatory military regime, between 1969 and 1991 (Adam, 2013). Despite the challenges, Somaliland has established regional administrations, bringing relative stability, which are the product of a local peace process, uniting different clans to form a joint administration (Adam, 2013)." (FAO, 2021a).

2.1 Somaliland: Livelihood Zones

The region of Somalia, Somaliland and Puntland can be divided into 19 livelihood zones, as Figure 2 presents. The geographic focus areas of FNS-REPRO in Somaliland are Sool and Sanaag.

Map 1 Map of Somalia's Livelihood Zones. Source: (FAO, 2021b).

2.2 FNS-REPRO target localities: Sool and Sanaag

The Food System Resilience Assessment Somaliland Report (FoSRA) written by WCDI (2020), provides an overview of the livelihood zones found in the selected FNS-REPRO target localities, Sool and Sanaag.

"The regions are in the very east of Somaliland, bordering Puntland, and consist of five of Somaliland's 19 livelihood zones: Guban Pastoral (zone 01); West Golis Pastoral (zone 02); Hawd Pastoral (zone 05); Northern Inland Pastoral (zone 06) and East Golis Pastoral (zone 07) (Figure 2). Livelihoods in Sool and Sanaag are dominated by livestock, and to a smaller degree crop production, both of which are important for subsistence and generating an income (Waithanji, et al., 2020)." (WCDI, 2020).

As Figure 2 shows, the main livelihoods of people in these zones are:

1. (nomadic-) pastoralism;
2. agro-pastoralism

Figure 2 Sool and Sanaag in Somaliland's Livelihood Zones. Adapted from: (FSNAU, 2015).

Below more information is provided on five different livelihood zones.

The Guban Pastoral Livelihood Zone (1) "is sandy and has sparse vegetation, as typical for steppes. Guban means 'burnt area' in Somali, describing the area's high temperature and humidity. The zone's economic basis lays in pastoralism. The soil is sandy mixed with marine soil with vegetation largely emerging after rains arrive, providing some grazing areas for pastoralism. Livelihood activities largely relate to camels, goats and sheep – which are prized trading commodities and provide milk during droughts. Agricultural activities are entirely absent, meaning that such products must be purchased. Hence, vulnerability to market fluctuations is high" (WCDI, 2020).

The West Golis Pastoral Livelihood Zone (2) "is ecologically seen semi-desert and the basis of the economy is pastoralism. The zone is vulnerable to water scarcity and depends in dry seasons on communal wells, however, during the rainy season, there are shallow wells, springs and small seasonal streams that allow trees and bushes to flower after the rains. Forests are used to feed

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livestock (like acacia) and for charcoal production. Rearing camels and small livestock for milk production and trade are the dominant livelihood activities. Livestock migrates with herdsman, searching for pastures” (WCDI, 2020).

The Hawd Pastoral Livelihood Zone (5) “is, with the Northern and Southern Inland Pastoral Zones, one of the three largest livelihood zones in the country. This semi-arid zone, with altitudes of between 800 and 1200 meters above sea level, stretches from just inside Hiran, where it meets the Southern Inland Pastoral Zone, through Central Somalia too far into Somaliland. As such the Hawd is essentially a vast plateau that forms the prime grazing and browsing area, with patches of flat lowland covered with extensive bush and shrubs. The soil type in the Hawd is reddish loamy sands that are widely distributed in the Somali peninsula and found in the northeast and northwest regions. Vegetation cover is composed substantially of acacia (geed qodaxeed) and comiphora (geed hagar), which extend over a large area, together with a mix of numerous trees and the shrubs. However, there are also extensive grassy plains (banka) which are a distinctive feature of the ecology. In the plains of the northwest region open grasslands are more dominant and suitable for sheep. However, as these become overgrazed the finer soil particles are loosened and washed or blown away by the agents of erosion (flash floods and wind) leaving a surface less favourable to grass growth. Overall, both the area and the intensity of the pastoral livelihoods are shrinking” (WCDI, 2020).

The Northern Inland Pastoral Livelihood Zone (6). “The pastoral economies of all three sub-zones have been in transition for many decades but the changes arguably accelerated after 2000 due to the extended drought of 2001-2004 and because of (i) recurrent water stress since then and (ii) because the increasing loss of traditional grazing lands to environmental degradation and enclosure of rangeland. Overgrazing is mainly due to increased number of livestock in combination with the lack of law enforcement to regulate access to rangeland and water resources. In the Northern inland Pastoral Livelihood Zone fodder is a key limiting factor and fodder production will support body condition of livestock, maintain or improved milk yields and reduce, in combination with livestock drought cycle management, the loss of livestock in times of drought” (WCDI, 2020).

The East Golis Frankincense, Goats and Fishing Zone (7) “covers an area which includes the districts of Calula, Iskushuban, Qandala and Bosasso in northern Bari region, and Las Qorey, Ceerigaabo and Ceel Afweyne districts in northern Sanaag region. The zone is characterized by rugged terrain as it contains the central and eastern sections of the Golis mountain range, a succession of barren mountain peaks incised by valleys and dry seasonal rivers and ravines. The ecology of the zone is semi-desert and the basis of the economy is frankincense trade and livestock rearing” (WCDI, 2020).

“Frankincense production is the key economic activity for households in the livelihood zone, it provides income through sale but also creates employment opportunities for men and women in the tapping, harvesting and sorting of resins. Frankincense trees grow in the wild and are not subject to any management practices. Traditionally the ownership of frankincense fields is clan-based, and each family has a right to directly work in the fields where the trees grow to collect the incense, to rent out the land for exploitation by someone else or to engage in sharecropping” (WCDI, 2020).

“Livestock is second to frankincense in terms of the economic importance in the livelihood zone. The mountain goat is the dominant livestock species, a highly adaptable animal to the topography of the zone, but sheep and camels are also reared. The species of sheep and goats kept in the zone are low in meat and milk production and they mature later than species kept in other zones” (WCDI, 2020).

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3 Food and Nutrition Security

Summary: Up to 2.7 million people in Somalia (22% of the population), face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3 or above) between April and June 2021. Approximately 839,000 children are likely to be acutely malnourished (IPC, 2021). The key environmental drivers behind these acute levels of food insecurity and malnutrition include drought and poor rainfall, extreme recurrent floods compounded by rainfall variability, pest and livestock diseases, including the more recent desert locust invasion. These environmental drivers negatively impacts crop and livestock production, thereby severely affecting the livelihoods of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in Sool and Sanaag regions (IPC, 2021; FAO, 2021b; WCDI, 2020; CoP survey, 2021).

Socio-economic drivers in Sool and Sanaag include: High food prices and continued currency depreciation, coupled with poorly enforced land tenure system or resource ownership, illegal land encroachment of former grazing areas, leading to clashes between herders and farmers. Seasonal scarcity of food coupled with a general reduction in humanitarian food assistance. Absence of institutions that support climate-smart agriculture/disaster risk reduction actions. This depletion of resources and reduced livelihood opportunities may manifest into isolated insecurity incidents that displace populations, disrupt livelihoods and impede household food and nutrition security (WCDI, 2020; CoP survey, 2021).

These environmental and socio-economic drivers have led towards poor food security outcomes for populations in Sool and Sanaag. As the RIMA study (FAO, 2021b) indicates, 24% of households have 'poor' Food Consumption Scores (FCS) and 20% are 'borderline'. However, it is important to note that wealth index, agricultural assets index, tropical livestock unit holding, size of land cultivated during summer, education of the household head (years) were found positively associated with household food security (FAO, 2021b).

3.1 FNS situation Somaliland

3.1.1 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

This section provides an overview of the most recent IPC data emerging from the Somalia IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis report (IPC, 2021). "During the projection period between April and June 2021, food security conditions are expected to deteriorate for most population groups due to multiple risk factors. These include expected depletion of food stocks from own production among poor agropastoral households and farmers in riverine areas, likely below average 2021 Gu (April-June) season rainfall leading to a decline in agricultural employment opportunities and income; continued desert locust infestation threatening pasture and crops; and likely increase in local staple cereal prices through mid-2021 and reduced access to milk and limited number of saleable animals among poor pastoralists in some livelihoods. In addition, urban populations, including IDPs, will likely be adversely affected by the continued socio-economic impact of COVID-19" (IPC, 2021).

"During the projection period between April and June, most rural livelihoods will remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2). However, Guban Pastoral, Toghdeer Agropastoral, Northern Inland Pastoral, East-Golis Pastoral of Sanaag, Coastal Deeh Pastoral of northeast and central regions, Addun pastoral, Cowpea Belt agropastoral of central, Riverine livelihoods in Hiran, Gedo, Middle Shabelle and Lower Juba, Bay Bakool Low-Potential agropastoral and Southern Rain-fed Agropastoral of Juba are expected to deteriorate from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Southern Inland Pastoral in most parts of southern Somalia (Hiran, Shabelle, Bakool, Bay and Juba regions) will remain in Minimal Acute Food Insecurity (IPC Phase 1). The food insecurity levels for most displaced populations are expected to deteriorate from Stressed (IPC Phase 2) to or remain in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) during the projection period. On the other hand, most urban populations are expected to remain Stressed (IPC Phase 2) between April and June 2021, except Kismayo urban which will deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3)" (IPC, 2021).

"In summary, 2.7 million people across Somalia are expected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between April and June 2021 without sustained humanitarian assistance. An additional 2.9 million people are expected to be Stressed (IPC Phase 2), bringing the total number of people facing acute food insecurity between April and June 2021 to 5.6 million" (IPC, 2021).

Figure 3 IPC Map (January-March 2021) **Figure 4** IPC Map (April-June 2021).

Source: IPC, 2021.

Table 1 Somalia Food Insecurity (April – June 2021).

PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY APRIL - JUNE 2021		
2.7M 22% of the population People facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION	Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4	400,000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3	2,252,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2	2,926,000 People Stressed
	Phase 1	6,750,000 People in food security

Source: IPC, 2021.

Figure 5 Percentage of the Somali population estimated to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4), early 2017 through mid-2021.

Source: Results of 2017-2021 Somalia IPC workshops, FSNAU and FEWS NET.

As can be seen in Figure 5, the food insecurity situation for Somalia has progressively worsened in recent years. The solid bars indicate a projection in the absence of humanitarian food assistance. The hashed bars indicate a current situation analysis, which shows the estimated population that is still acutely food insecure despite ongoing delivery of food assistance (adapted from IPC, 2021).

3.1.2 Acute malnutrition overview

"The current nutrition situation is likely to deteriorate between February and April 2021 among some population groups due to seasonal as well as acute factors, including increased disease burden and expected deterioration in the overall food security situation. Specific factors include a decline in milk availability and access, reduced access to water and increased water prices, likely increase in morbidity, declining household cereal food stocks and a likely increase in cereal prices" (IPC, 2021).

"Accordingly, a deterioration from Serious (IPC Phase 3) to Critical (IPC Phase 4) is expected among Galkacyo IDPs, Hawd Pastoral of northeast and central regions, rural Hiran (Beletweyne, Jalalaqsi, Buloburte and Mataban districts), Baidoa IDPs, Bay Agropastoral and Lower Juba Riverine. Similarly, a deterioration from Alert (IPC Phase 2) to Serious (IPC Phase 3) is expected in Guban Pastoral, Northwest Agropastoral, Toghdeer Agropastoral, and Coastal Deeh Pastoral of northeast and central regions. A deterioration from Acceptable (IPC Phase 1) to Alert (IPC Phase 2) is expected among the urban population in Burao " (IPC, 2021).

"All other livelihoods will experience some deterioration but are likely to sustain their current IPC acute malnutrition classification phases" (IPC, 2021).

"In the projection period, between February and April 2021, the number of population groups with a Critical acute malnutrition prevalence (GAM $\geq$ 15% or IPC Phase 4) is projected to increase from the current nine to 16: Bossasso IDPs, Garowe IDPs, Galkacyo IDPs, Hawd Pastoral of northeast and central, Beletweyne IDPs, Beletweyne urban, rural Hiran (Beletweyne, Jalalaqsi, Buloburte and Mataban districts), Mogadishu IDPs, Huddur urban/IDPs, Southern Inland Pastoral of Elberde district, Baidoa IDPs, Bay Agropastoral, and Riverine of Middle Shabelle, Lower Shabelle, Middle Juba and Lower Juba livelihoods" (IPC, 2021).

Figure 6 Acute Malnutrition (Feb-Apr 2021).

Source: IPC, 2021.

Figure 7 Acute Malnutrition (January)

3.2 Food security indicators

Household food security exists when all the people living in the household have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food at all times that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The RIMA study (FAO, 2021b) used two food security indicators, namely FCS and HDDS, to measure the food security status across the project areas in Somaliland (adapted from FAO, 2021b).

3.2.1 Food Consumption Score (FCS)

"Food consumption score (FCS) measures variety, quality and quantity of food consumed by household in a period of seven days. The average FCS in the surveyed area is 47. Figure 8 shows the percentage of households in the different FCS categories. Approximately 56% of the households have acceptable FCS. There is no statistically significant difference in FCS by gender of the household head (FCS for male headed households is 46.4 while for female headed households is 47.7). There is statistical difference in FCS between beneficiary households (FCS=48.6) and non-beneficiary household (FCS=43.1)" (FAO, 2021b).

Figure 8 FCS categories.

Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

"Figure 9 presents variation of FCS by main livelihood source. Households engaging in petty trade and crop production have the highest FCS while skilled labour have the lowest FCS. While households engaging in skilled labour have low rCSI, they have poor FCS. The skilled labour households could be having access to food, maybe required resources to purchase food, but have a mismatch in terms of utilization. This could be an indication of a need to conduct mass sensitization on different nutritional aspects and importance of ensuring adequate foods across all groups are consumed in the households. There is also needed to document locally available food items for each of the food groups" (FAO, 2021b).

Figure 9 FCS disaggregated by main livelihoods.
Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

“In terms of the foods eaten in the past 7 days (Figure 10), oils & fats, cereals, other vegetables and milk are frequently consumed; at least three days in a week. Proteins from meat, eggs and pulses are least consumed by the households. Fruits are rarely consumed in the household within a period of seven days. This confirms the information on HDDS, indicating there is a low consumption of proteins and fruits” (FAO, 2021b).

Figure 10 Food groups consumed in the household in the last 7 days.
Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

3.2.2 Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)

“Household dietary diversity score (HDDS) measures the diversity of foods consumed in a household. The data of consumption is collected for a recall period of 24 hours. The average HDDS for the households in the survey area is 6. On average, a household in the survey area consumed 6 different kinds of food out of the 12 food groups. Figure 11 presents the proportion of households that

consumed food groups in the last 24 hours preceding the survey. There is high consumption of cereals, vegetables, oils and sugar in the survey area. The main source of protein is milk and meat. Very few households are consuming protein rich foods; less than 20% pulses, fish and eggs. Less than 10% of the households consumed fruits in the past 24 hours. On the whole there is room to improve on the diversity of foods eaten, especially in terms of protein rich food (pulses, fish and eggs) and fruits. There was no statistical difference in HDDS between beneficiary and non-beneficiary households" (FAO, 2021b).

Figure 11 Food groups consumed in the household in the last 24 hours.
Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

The Somaliland RIMA study (FAO, 2021b) identified the following factors as affecting the food security amongst the surveyed households:

- Both productive and non-productive household assets are positively associated with food security (p-value<0.001).
- Households with higher tropical livestock units are more food secure (p-value<0.001).
- Households that have bank accounts have better food security status compared to households that do not have access to financial services.
- Households that have access to improved lighting and cooking energy are more food secure compared to those that have unimproved basic facilities.
- Households head education level is positively associated with food security status, persons with higher education have better food security status (p-value = 0.08).
- The three main shocks that undermine food security in the survey area are drought, conflict/insecurity and reduced household income.
- However, only households that reported conflict/insecurity had their food security status undermined in a significant manner.
- Wealth index, agricultural assets index, tropical livestock unit holding, size of land cultivated during summer, education of the household head (years) were found positively associated with household food security. (adapted from FAO, 2021b).

3.3 Key drivers of acute food insecurity and malnutrition

The Somaliland RIMA study (FAO, 2021b) and the Somalia IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis report (IPC, 2021), identify a number of the key drivers of the acute food insecurity and malnutrition in Somaliland. It is important to note that, while presented separately here, these key drivers of food insecurity are often inter-linked and affect each other in multiple ways.

Droughts/weather shocks: “By far the main hazard is the lack of pasture and water due to reductions or delays in rainfall levels and drought situations, which lead to weakened animal body weight and value. Insufficient water and pasture also reduce milk production. The drying up of water sources can result in having to relying on water trucking (and increased household expenditure on water) and increased migration. In addition to reductions and delays in rainfall, strong winds during the haggaa season, and high temperatures rising above 45°C, cause the early drying up of pasture and contribute to the acceleration of sand dune movements that eventually cover the vegetation.” (FAO, 2021b).

“In the past, Somaliland has experienced 11 major droughts during the period between 1964 and 2017. The droughts that occurred in 1973–1974, 1984, 1991, 2010/2011 and 2016/2017 were most intense and widespread; in some areas of Sanaag, Togdheer and Sool Regions, drought conditions have persisted even longer (Abdulkadir, 2017).” (FAO, 2021b).

“Most livestock deaths, up to 60% of the herds are due to drought. These deaths severely damage pastoralists’ livelihoods.” (IPC, 2021).

Poor rainfall: “The 2020 Deyr season rainfall was below average in most parts of Somalia, adversely impacting pasture and crop production. The 2021 Gu season is likely to be below average to average in central and southern Somalia and below average in the northern regions.” (IPC, 2021).

Desert Locusts: “The desert locust infestation expanded from northern to central and southern Somalia, affecting pasture and 2020 crop production continuing to pose a very high risk to both pasture and crops until at least mid-2021.” (IPC, 2021).

Flooding: “Floods continued in the Hiiraan, Shabelle and Juba regions from late October to early November, leading to poor or failed crop production in most riverine livelihoods.” (IPC, 2021).

Covid-19: “The socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 have led to increased food prices, a decline in remittances, and fewer employment/ income opportunities in urban areas.” (IPC, 2021).

Livestock diseases: The most common diseases are endo and ecto parasites, Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia (CCPP), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) (called susun locally), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS), Sheep and goat Pox (SGP), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) and Camel Pox. Adapted from (WCDI, 2020).

Environmental degradation: A myriad of factors has resulted in the dwindling of grazing resources in Somaliland. These include overgrazing, rapid degradation of forest cover due to charcoal production, unregulated grazing and animal mobility due to breakdown of customary and state institutions, and vague tenures or resource ownership, illegal land encroachment of former grazing areas. Adapted from (WCDI, 2020).

Insecurity: “Mainly as a result of conflict among different clans of the livelihood zone and neighbouring zones, over pasture and water sharing. Civil insecurity causes frequent displacement of pastoralists and it can disrupt trade, increasing the cost of essential food items. Sometimes conflict results in death.” (WCDI, 2020).

According to the RIMA study (FAO, 2021b), the three main shocks that undermine food security in the survey area are drought, conflict/insecurity and reduced household income. However, only households that reported conflict/insecurity had their food security status undermined in a significant manner.

3.4 Factors that negatively influence FNS of households

The below factors were identified by Somaliland CoP participants during discussions held reflecting on the CoP survey results. The participants were asked to indicate negative factors that influence food and nutrition security of households within the fodder value chain. Factors were disaggregated into three separate categories, namely, (1) food system activities, (2) socio-economic drivers, and (3) environmental drivers. The results from the CoP online survey are displayed below.

3.4.1 Food system activities

Figure 12 Factors that negatively influence FNS of households within the fodder value chain.

Source: Somaliland CoP survey, 2021.

According to the CoP survey results (Figure 12), the main food system activities that are inadequate and thus negatively affect the FNS situation of households in the fodder value chain are:

1. Food supply system: Food storage, transport and trade (77.3%)
2. Enabling environment: Institutional arrangements (45.5%)
3. Business services: Agro-chemical providers (40.9%)
4. Enabling environment: Transport networks (40.9%)
5. Food supply system: Food production (36.4%)
6. Food supply system: Food processing (31.8%)
7. Food supply system: Food consumption (31.8%)
8. Business services: extension services (31.8%)

During the Somaliland CoP learning event, participants further elaborated on the following issues in relation to 'food system activities':

Food storage, transport, trade

- **Storage:** There is lack of storage infrastructure. Storing food for future use is required. In times of hardship, stored food can be relied upon. Storage of fodder and foods is very challenging. People use very rudimentary methods. There is plenty of grass in Somaliland, but it is not harvested and stored. Some grasses are not harvested because they cannot be stored and thus they go to waste.

Knowledge gaps (when and how to harvest it) exist. A lot of food and fodder is wasted which impacts FNS and ability to sell healthy livestock.

- Transport: Transportation of foods and commodities comes thereafter.
- Trading: Trading networks are also underdeveloped. Trading hubs and markets are few and require long distances to reach. Trading capacities are low. Road infrastructure is very poor.

Enabling environment

- There is no enabling environment that is conducive for support fodder production. Institutionally, there are no arrangements that enable and support fodder production, storage, etc. The role of universities, UN and NGO's is more important here. The government is absent in the regions.

3.4.2 Socio-economic drivers

The CoP survey results indicate the main socio-economic drivers that are negatively influencing FNS of households that are active within the fodder value chain. As seen in Figure 12, CoP participants identified the following as the most important factors:

Policy: e.g. land rights, food production, the environment, labour, trade or food safety (72.7%)

Markets: e.g. market systems, prices, trade relations, profits, wages, labor availability (54.5%)

Science & technology: e.g. research, innovation and education (50%)

Shocks & stressors: conflict and insecurity (45.5%)

Social organizations: e.g. households, social movements, media, education and health care (36.4%)

Individual factors: e.g. the lifestyle, norms, attitudes and cultures (27.3%)

Figure 12 Factors that negatively influence FNS of households within the fodder value chain.

Source: Somaliland CoP survey, 2021.

During the Somaliland CoP learning event, participants further elaborated on the following issues in relation to 'socio-economic drivers'.

Policy

- Land rights is the main issue. Land rights are absent, which is a cause for friction, competition and conflict. Different groups, clans and livelihood groups compete over land and land rights. The government is not present.
- Land ownership is a very precarious topic. The main challenge is a lack of land ownership and land rights. It is clearly related to conflict (as one of the main negative drivers). When land rights are granted and recognized, much more stability will emerge, and other policies will come into place.

Market

- Market systems are poorly developed. Markets are usually very far away from the production areas. People are challenged to bring their produce to the markets, impacting the ability to sell produce and generate income.
- Markets (systems / infrastructure) are a main entry point for development to improve incomes in Sool & Sanaag.
- Role of private sector: Fodder producer associations and cooperatives can stimulate the development of market systems. Public & private sector coming together creates an enabling environment.

Social

- Social cooperatives need to be organized and strengthened for creating a conducive environment for fodder production and improving incomes. Education and media can play a role in this as well.
- Advocacy around the topic and strategic opportunities around fodder production is required. For example, Propopsis harvesting is underutilized in Todgheer region. Demand is extremely high, but cultivation capacity is very low. Therefore, there is an increased need for improved education, awareness and advocacy around harvesting and improved agricultural practices.

3.4.3 Environmental drivers

Figure 13 shows the main environmental drivers which CoP participants indicated are most negatively influencing food and nutrition security of households that are active within the fodder value chain.

Figure 13 Factors that negatively influence FNS of households within the fodder value chain.
Source: Somaliland CoP survey, 2021.

1. Lack of water (for irrigation, cooking, drinking, cleaning) (77.3%)
2. Shocks and stressors: drought (59.1%)
3. Lack of land availability and low soil quality (36.4%)
4. Land tenure (36.4%)
5. Lack of fossil fuels in machinery and equipment, storage, processing, transport (27.3%)
6. Lack of minerals and microminerals (e.g. to enrich soils) (27.3%)
7. Pests and diseases (18.2%)

During the Somaliland CoP learning event, participants further elaborated on the following issues in relation to 'socio-economic drivers':

Water

- Irrigation is a main challenge. There are no irrigation systems in place, no dams, no water catchments. All agriculture is rainfed and thus depending on the rains. Somaliland experiences drought frequently and intensively. Thus, agriculture is very vulnerable and prone to drought. Water storage and water infrastructure are key components.
- Water use efficiency is very low. There are a number of grasses that hold water for a long time (e.g. after floods). Growing in these areas improves yields and the production ability of certain crops. This is underutilized.

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4 Healthy Diets

Summary: The role of FNS REPRO and other factors in stimulating healthy diets by targeted communities is yet to be determined but it is clear that currently wealth index, agricultural assets index, tropical livestock unit holding, size of land cultivated during summer, education of the household head (years) were found positively associated with household food security. The main shocks that undermine food security (and therefore the ability to eat healthy diets) in the study area are drought, conflict/insecurity and reduced household income (FAO, 2021b).

The two main indicators used to assess healthy diets in Sool and Sanaag were HDDS, FCS. The average FCS in the surveyed area is 47. Approximately 56% of the households have acceptable FCS. The average HDDS for the households in the survey area is 6, and there is no difference between male and female headed households. On average, a household in the survey area consumed 6 different kinds of food out of the 12 food groups. There is high consumption of cereals, vegetables, oils and sugar in the survey area. The main source of protein is milk and meat. On the whole there is room to improve the diversity of foods eaten, especially in terms of protein rich food (pulses, fish and eggs) and fruits (FAO, 2021b).

The main positive factors influencing healthy diets, as identified by CoP participants were: availability of healthy and diverse foods, awareness of healthy diets (food choices), income to purchase healthy foods, production of healthy food crops (kitchen gardens, subsistence farming), and lastly, dealing with consumer behaviours (improved food choices) (CoP survey, 2021).

4.1 Healthy diets situation

A key learning question posed by FNS-REPRO is: *What is the role of REPRO and other factors in stimulating healthy diets by targeted communities?*

According to the RIMA study (FAO, 2021b), "The role of FNS REPRO and other factors are yet to be determined but it is clear that currently wealth index, agricultural assets index, tropical livestock unit holding, size of land cultivated during summer, education of the household head (years) were found positively associate with household food security, whilst reduced household income is the main shock that undermines food security in the survey area".

The RIMA study (FAO, 2021b) used Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS) and Food Consumption Score (FCS) as indicators to determine the diversity and quality of the diets consumed by households. This information was previously mentioned in section 3.2 of this report. However, the relationship and correlation between food security and other factors such as income, livelihood source, and healthy diets is explained in more detail below.

4.2 Factors that negatively affect households to eat healthy diets

The Somaliland Community of Practice (CoP) survey, further revealed a number of factors which hinder or prevent households that are active withing the fodder value chain to eat healthy diets (Figure 14). The main negative factors influencing healthy diets, as identified by CoP participants included:

1. Lack of production of healthy food crops (77.3%)
2. Lack of income to purchase healthy foods (72.7%)
3. Low availability of healthy and diverse foods (59.1%)
4. Poor market access (59.1%)
5. Lack of awareness of healthy diets (food choices) (50%)

Figure 14 Negative factors influencing healthy diets.

Source: Somaliland CoP Survey, 2021.

4.3 Factors that positively affect households to eat healthy diets

As can be seen in Figure 15, the main positive factors influencing healthy diets, as identified by CoP participants were: Availability of healthy and diverse foods (90.9%), Awareness of healthy diets (86.4%), Income to purchase healthy foods (81.8%), Production of healthy food crops (54.5%), and Dealing with consumer behaviour (13.6%).

Figure 15 Positive factors influencing healthy diets.

Source: Somaliland CoP Survey, 2021.

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5 Resilient Livelihoods

Summary: Despite relative stability, Somaliland remains in a fragile situation, where multiple threats and shocks co-exist and may risk reversing economic gain unless they are addressed in a strategic and sustainable manner. There are a myriad of factors affecting the resilience of targeted communities in Sool and Sanaag. According to the RIMA study, the main shocks experienced by households are drought, reduced household income and high food prices, loss of employment, serious illness and violent insecurity (FAO, 2021b). The CoP survey further identified the following negative factors affecting people's resilience: (1) undiversified livelihoods, (2) insufficient food, food storage, (3) lack of income and savings (4) desertification and drought (5) migration (e.g. to urban areas), and (6) climate prone agriculture (shortage of water and monocropping) (CoP survey, 2021).

Communities in Sool & Sanaag depend mainly on trade in livestock and livestock products; livestock is backbone of Somaliland's economy. Approximately 10% of the households relied on fodder production as a livelihood source in the last 12 months (FAO, 2021a). Main types of fodder crops grown: natural grass (73%), sorghum (59%) and maize (23%). Badhan (RCI=46) and Caynaba (RCI=41) are the most resilient district, while Taleh (RCI=33) is the least resilient of the surveyed districts. Female HHs (RCI=38.3) are slightly more resilient than male headed households (RCI=37.5). However, male HHs earn much more income (USD 200 per annum) compared to female HHs (USD 75). Male HHs more dependent on income from livestock production and crop production, while female HHs more dependent on crop production and petty trade (FAO, 2021b). Approximately 63% of households accessed some form of credit in the last 3 months before the RIMA survey. Average reduced coping strategy index (rCSI)7 in the study area is 8.23, measured on a scale of 0 to 56. This indicates that households are not employing very severe coping strategies (FAO, 2021b).

Majority of the target beneficiaries are dependent on only one source of livelihood. This limited number of livelihood sources could leave the households vulnerable to shocks that affect their livelihood. There is a need to invest in livelihood support systems to enhance the number of household income sources to increase the resilience, income and food security of targeted populations in Sool and Sanaag (FAO, 2021b).

5.1 Beneficiaries existing capacities: livelihood assets

This section deals with the existing capacities of beneficiaries in Sool and Sanaag, which are FNS-REPRO's target localities (as mentioned in section 2.2). The five livelihoods' assets described in this section include – natural, physical, financial, human and social (Figure 16).

In the context of shock and stress, resilience can be perceived to be "the ability to prevent disasters and crises as well as to anticipate, absorb, accommodate or recover from them in a timely, efficient and sustainable manner" (FAO, 2021a). This includes protecting, restoring and improving livelihoods systems in the face of threats that impact agriculture, nutrition, food security and food safety (FAO, 2020c). Resilience of communities in rural contexts is often seen to be linked to the assets – natural, social, physical, human and financial – that the community can access (Fischer and McKee, 2017) as well as own and control.

Figure 16 The five livelihood assets.

Source: Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a). Adapted from Bebbington (1999).

5.1.1 Natural assets (e.g. land, water, livestock, trees)

The Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a) presents gender disaggregated data in relation to the **availability of natural assets** by gender. "Men and women mentioned in almost equal measure the presence of land, livestock, water and trees as common natural assets they use to support their livelihoods" (Figure 17).

Figure 17 Availability of natural assets by gender.

Source: Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a).

According to the Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a), individual ownership of these assets was low across the board: "Most grazing land is owned communally, with the exception of a few areas close to the villages used for crop production. The ownership of

frankincense fields is clan-based, and each family has a right to directly work in the fields where the trees grow to collect the incense, to rent out the land for exploitation by someone else or to engage in sharecropping” (FAO, 2021a).

Livestock appeared to be a better representation of wealth among wealth categories: “The poor had only sheep and goats and seldom exceeded a count of 15. In fact, most of the respondents in the current study reported having lost several animals during the 2016-2017 drought and have since not recovered” (FAO, 2021a).

Figure 18 Frequency of mention of land cover types by gender.
Source: Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a).

In regards to land use type, the key findings emerging from the Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a) were as follows:

- According to women participants, the most common land use type was rangelands, where livestock were herded, and as a source of water.
- Men indicated rangelands and settlements to be the most common land use types.
- The presence of settlements together with rangelands is an indication of potential for transhumance pastoral livelihoods.
- According to the men and women the integration of cropping activities in their livelihoods was one coping strategy to shocks.

Figure 19 Sources of water for the community by gender.

Source: Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a).

In regards to sources of water available to the community, the key findings emerging from the *Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis* (FAO, 2021a) are as follows:

- Berkads, followed by shallow wells are the most common sources of water according to women and men.
- Thereafter, sources cited by men and women differed with men stating boreholes third and women stating rivers (mostly seasonal dry beds) and dams/reservoirs in catchments third.
- Water use associations were considered non-existent by most communities, except for two women and two men groups.
- According to these latter groups, the association members ensured cleanliness and good sanitation at the water sources.

Figure 20 Summary of livestock ownership and average number of livestock owned.

Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

As seen in Figure 20 above, the Somaliland RIMA study (FAO, 2021b) identified the following data in relation to livestock ownership in the study area:

- Approximately 73% of the household's own goats and each household owns on average 20 goats.
- 59% of households own sheep with an average of 20 sheep per household.
- 27% of the household's own camels with an average of 5 camels per household.
- 21% of households own donkeys with an average of 1 donkey par household.
- 20% of households own cattle with an average of 4 cattle per household.
- The main livestock products sold by households in the study area are live animals (80%) and milk (21%).

In addition, Figure 21 presents the main challenges that households experience when practicing livestock rearing in the survey area.

Figure 21 Livestock rearing challenges.

Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

Concerning natural assets in Sool and Sanaag, the main findings emerging from the Somaliland RIMA study (FAO, 2021b) are:

- Access to enough cultivation and grazing land is important in increasing rural household productivity and diversification of income sources.
- Approximately 23% of households in the study areas have access to arable land and use it for cropping.
- Male-headed households on average have access to 1 Ha while female-headed households have access to 1.7 Ha.
- During the 2019 DEYR season (the minor rainy season: Oct. – Dec.), male headed households planted on 0.5 Ha and female households 0.7 Ha.

5.1.2 Physical assets

According to the RIMA study (FAO, 2021b) the “majority own less productive tools including axe (69%), hoe (67%) and shovel (62%). Although 23% of households reported to be involved in crop production, less than 5% reported to have some form of storage facility – fodder storage (2%), hermetic bags/silos (2%) and granary (1%).”

Figure 22 Agricultural tools owned by households.
Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

Similarly, the Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a) identified the following evidence in relation to physical assets available in the community:

- Most common assets used by women (n=4) were machete and tractor (n=5); and donkey carts and hoes.
- Men (n=5) indicated farm tools such as axes and sickles.
- The lack of diversity of physical assets, such as farm tools, transport and storage assets indicate low farming activity.
- In fact, most fodder is harvested from self-regenerating, rather than actively planted pastures, and some farmers used kitchen knives to harvest due to shortage of sickles.

Figure 23 presents the percentage of households that have access to the selected facility. "The least accessible facilities are extension services offices, veterinary clinic and hospital. Close to 100% of households in the study area can access primary schools while only 71% can access secondary school and the average time taken to reach a secondary school is over 2 hours" (FAO, 2021b).

Figure 23 Proportion of households having access to facility.
Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

5.1.3 Financial assets (livelihood source)

It is interesting to compare data on main livelihood sources emerging from the different studies. Figure 24 presents the main livelihood sources as identified in the Somaliland RIMA baseline study (FAO, 2021b). As can be seen, “the three main sources of income for the households in the last 12 months preceding the survey are livestock rearing (76%), sale of vegetable and cereal crops (29%) and petty trade (10%).” According to the RIMA study, “there are no variations in terms of sources of income for male-headed households and female headed households; both groups rely on livestock, crop sales and petty trade.”

The data emerging from the Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a), corroborates this evidence on the main livelihood sources in Sool and Sanaag. As can be seen in Figure 25, “for both women and men, common livelihood strategies include pastoralism and agriculture/ horticulture production”. However, the key finding to emerge here is that “men also trade (in various commodities) as a livelihood strategy more than women” (FAO, 2021a). The report concludes that, “men dealt with commodities that yielded higher income (and required higher investment) than women”. This finding is also supported by the finding that men earned a higher income than women (Section 5.1.4 below).

Figure 24 Livelihood sources in the last 12 months.
Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

Figure 25 Livelihood sources in the last 12 months.
Source: Somaliland multidimensional context analysis (FAO, 2021a).

5.1.4 Financial assets (income)

According to the data emerging from the RIMA study (Table 2), the median annual income of households in the survey area is USD 180. This is USD 0.66 per household per day and with a median household size of 8 members, this comes down to USD 0.08 per household member per day. Male headed households earn much more income (USD 200) compared to the female headed households (USD 75). Median annual income for beneficiary households (USD 200) is higher than non-beneficiary households (USD 120).

Table 2 Annual income in USD by sex of household head and beneficiary type.

Sex of household head	Annual median income from sale of cereals, vegetables and other crops (USD)	Median annual income from livestock (USD)	Median annual income from petty trade (USD)
Male	400	141	170
Female	300	50	237
Beneficiary	400	112	118
Non-beneficiary	300	53	200

Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

While the Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a), does not provide data on annual earnings, it does provide further insight into how people earn their income. Figure 26 shows that men are more dependent on income from livestock and casual labour. Whereas, women are more dependent on casual labour, followed by sale of livestock. Evidence from the RIMA study (Table 2), supports this finding and also adds evidence in regards to crop production: “*Male-headed households are more dependent on income from crop production and livestock production, while female-headed households are more dependent on crop production and petty trade*” (FAO, 2021b).

Figure 26 Sources of income by gender.

Source: Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a).

Figure 27 provides a summary of the main livelihood sources and income disaggregated by gender.

Main livelihood source	Men:	Women:
• Livestock/pastoralism	• Livelihood strategies: Livestock/pastoralism & trade, then horticulture; • income from livestock sales and casual labour; • earn more income than women; • control the money.	• Livelihood strategies: Livestock/pastoralism, then horticulture; • earn income from casual labour followed by sale of livestock (but less than men).

Figure 27 Summary of livelihood sources and income.
Source: Somaliland Sensemaking Event PowerPoint.

5.1.5 Financial assets (access to credit)

Figure 28 shows the main purposes of accessing credit, which are: purchase of food (86%), access to health care (54%), travel (19%) and education (16%). Approximately 63% of household heads accessed some form of credit in the last three months preceding the RIMA survey. Very little of the accessed credit is used to improve productivity in the households (minimal usage in livestock investments, equipment purchases agricultural packages). Most of the accessed credit is used for daily food consumption and health care needs, which could play a catalytic role in sinking the households into deeper poverty levels and reduce their credit worthiness in their social circles. The source of the accessed credit was mainly from friends, neighbours and relatives (95%), local cooperatives (3%) and small microcredit and savings programs (2%). An indication of low access to formal financial services and especially credit. (Adapted from FAO, 2021b).

Figure 28 Main purposes of accessing credit.
Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

The Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a), provides further insight into the availability and accessibility of credit for both women and men (Table 3).

According to women, “the banks were inaccessible in the past, but they are currently accessible through a credit facilitation service provided by the bank partnering with an NGO, CARE Somalia.” CARE acts as a guarantor for women borrowers and trains groups. Save the children, an International NGO, is easily accessible as it provides informal credit directly to women. Men stated that “formal credit can be inaccessible because it is usually only available in large towns, e.g. one needs to travel from Habari Heshay to Caynabo; and financing requires guarantors. Informal credit is accessible depending on how trusted the borrower is and seasonality. Credit limits are low during the dry season due to high number of borrowers in the community” (FAO, 2021a). Overall, credit is more accessible for the wealthy than for the poor and for men than women (Table 3).

Table 3 Financial assets: Credit services availability and access.

Women	Men
Availability - Formal – Dhahabshil, Darasalam through the NGO CARE and disbursed through Somtel and Telesom money transfer systems respectively; Save the children provides direct credit to women. - Informal – Relatives and friends, table banking (for women or mixed gender and age associations). Accessibility? - Previously, the banks were inaccessible but with CARE acting as a guarantor for women borrowers and training these groups, women now access credit from Dhahabshil and Darasalam. - Save the children is easily accessible as it provides informal credit directly to women.	Availability - Formal – Dahabshil, Darasalam, Salama, Amal - Informal – Livestock traders, shop owners and traders Accessibility? - Depending on locality, formal credit, which is usually accessible in large towns e.g. one needs to travel from Habari Heshay to Caynabo. Financing requires guarantors. - Informal credit is accessible depending on trust and seasonality. - Credit limits are low during the dry season due to high number of borrowers and potential defaulters in the community. - More accessible for the wealthy than for the poor.

Source: Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a).

5.1.6 Human assets

There are also gaps in terms of human assets. See also below.

Gaps in human assets

- A majority of farmers have never received any external training, leading to applied farming techniques often not being on a high level.
- Further, producers lack knowledge on post-harvest handling and processing (Warsame, 2015).
- It appears that women are facing barriers preventing them access to health services (FAO, 2021a).
- “...Women fail to seek medical services for two main reasons: First, women, especially young mothers, can be very busy (time poor), and second, some older women, find it shameful to disclose or discuss their illness, and therefore self-medicate” (FAO, 2021a).
- The community has basic skills and is generally healthy, both necessary human capital components for functional humans, which is necessary for the project (FAO, 2021a).

Recommendations

- FNS-REPRO should facilitate building human capital through skill-based training that can motivate the diversification of traditional livelihood activities to alternative profitable business-oriented livelihoods strategies, such as beekeeping and frankincense (FAO, 2021a).
- FNS-REPRO to provide training to cereal producers (that produce fodder residue crops) in order to stimulate expansion of the area under cereal crops for enhanced supply of crop residues to compliment natural grazing (FAO, 2021a).
- FNS-REPRO should address the issue of women’s time burden by, for example providing energy saving cooking and water technologies such as solar and / or energy saving stoves and water tanks (FAO, 2021a).

5.1.7 Social assets

Concerning social assets (Figure 29), the following findings emerged from the RIMA study (FAO, 2021b):

- "Approximately only 30% of the households have a household member belonging to, at least, one community network/group."
- "The three main networks in the study area are women groups (8%), savings groups e.g. Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and Village Community Banking (VICOBA) (7.6%), and cooperative society (4%)." (Figure 29).
- "Only one percent of the sampled households have at least one member belonging to a fodder users' group (this corresponds to 5% for households that are involved in fodder production)."

Figure 29 Social networks and associations.
Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

Figure 30 provides further information on social capital networks by gender (FAO, 2021a). As can be seen, women mainly draw their social capital from networks with friends and relatives equally, followed by single or mixed gender groups. Men, on the other hand, mainly draw their social capital from relatives, followed to a much lesser extent, by single or mixed gender groups.

Figure 30 Social capital networks by gender.
Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

5.1.8 Summary of livelihood assets

Figure 31 provides a summary of the key livelihood assets (natural, physical, financial, social, and human), which was presented in section 5.1 above.

Natural assets:	Physical assets:	Financial assets:	Social assets:	Human assets:
• 23% of HHs: access to arable land and use it for cropping • Male HHs - access to 1 Ha; female HH - access to 1.7 Ha. • During 2019 DEYR season (Oct.–Dec.), male HHs planted on 0.5 Ha and female HHs on 0.7 Ha. • Land use type: women – rangeland; men – rangeland & settlements • Berkads & shallow wells most common water sources • Main livestock products sold: live animals (80%) and milk (21%).	• Majority own less productive tools including axe (69%), hoe (67%) and shovel (62%). • Although 23% of HHs involved in crop production, less than 5% has some form of storage facility	• 63% of HHs accessed some form of credit in the last 3 months preceding survey, mainly for food consumption & health care, hardly for improving productivity	• 30% of HHs belonging to, at least, one community network/group. • 3 main networks: women groups (8%), savings groups e.g. VSLA & VICOBA (7.6%), and cooperative society (4%). • 5% of fodder producing HHs also belong to fodder users' group • Women: networks with friends and relatives equally, followed by single or mixed gender groups. • Men: networks with relatives, followed to a much lesser extent, by single or mixed gender groups.	• Majority of farmers has never received any external training; • Producers lack knowledge on post-harvest handling and processing.

Figure 31 Summary of livelihood assets.

Source: Somaliland Sensemaking Event PowerPoint.

5.1.9 Threats, risks and opportunities for livelihood assets

The Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a) specifies various threats, risks and opportunities for the five asset categories as presented in Table 4. FNS-REPRO should support beneficiaries to safeguard their assets by providing interventions that support the opportunities identified by participants. FNS-REPRO can identify opportunities associated with their mandate and seek partnership with organizations mandated to address other opportunities.

Table 4 *Threats, risks and opportunities for livelihood assets.*

Livelihood assets	Threats	Risks	Opportunities
Natural	Recurrent droughts	Water shortages	Environmental protection
	Climate change	Farms dry up	Reseeding
	Locusts	Deforestation	Soil and water conservation
	Soil erosion	Lack of meat and milk	
	Cyclones	Lack of household income	
	Charcoal burning	Livestock malnutrition	
	Floods		
Financial	Human and livestock diseases	Economic slowdown	Financial associations
	Conflicts	Family breakdown	Jobs creation
	Cyclones	Increase in poverty	Human resource management
	Climate change		Livestock restocking
	Locusts		Skills
	Human and livestock diseases		
Social	Tribalism	Increase in crime rate	Conflict resolution committees
	Conflicts	Reduced Community connections	Saving and lending associations
	Poverty	Poor governance	Community committees
		Loss of security	Village development committees
Physical	Conflicts	Damaged roads	Construction of health centers
	Soil erosion	Collapse of buildings	Rehabilitation of roads
	Droughts	Telecommunications breakdown	
	Cyclones	Hospital closures	
	Floods	Destruction of water facilities	
Human	Human diseases	Loss of property	Cooperation
	Climate change, urbanization	Lack of schooling	Coordination
	Villagization	Diseases outbreak	Livestock restocking
	Health	Loss of jobs	Knowledge/skills
	Tribalism	Increased gender-based violence	Health
	Conflicts		

Source: Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a).

5.2 Shocks and coping strategies

According to the RIMA study (FAO, 2021b), the main shocks experienced by households: Drought (15%); Reduced household income (15%); High food prices (12%); Desert locusts (12%); Loss or reduced employment (8%), as summarized in Figure 32. Approximately 96% of the households reported to have been invaded by desert locusts (DL) at the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020. Among those reporting that there was DL invasion, only 12% reported that the DL were still around.

Figure 32 Shocks experienced by the households in the last 12 months.

Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

The Food System Resilient Assessment (FoSRA) also presents data on ‘hazards’ in Sool and Sanaag. The REPRO target communities were asked¹ to describe hazards that they worry about and that occur either regularly or have occurred in the past in their region. The pie chart in Figure 33 provides an overview of the answers, indicating that “drought was most frequently mentioned, followed by deforestation, livestock disease, conflict, desert locusts, unemployment, drought impacts and violence and insecurity. In fact, drought (50%) and drought impacts (8.59%) could even be grouped together, further emphasising that droughts seem to be central in the Sool and Sanaag risk landscapes.” (WCDI, 2020).

Figure 33 Hazards mentioned by target communities in Sool & Sanaag.

Source: Somaliland FoSRA (WCDI, 2020).

¹ A joint RIMA/FoSRA data collection mission to Sool and Sanaag was undertaken in February 2020 by FAO and WUR.

To better understand not only which hazards were mentioned where but also which ones are perceived as a priority and by whom, further groupings were made when ranking the hazards:

Priority hazards (1st, 2nd, 3rd) by target group are:

- Male: 1st Drought, 2nd Livestock Disease, 3rd Locust
- Female: 1st Drought, 2nd Livestock Disease, 3rd Locust
- Youth: 1st Drought, 2nd Unemployment, 3rd Locust

"The results indicate that there are no significant differences between male and female perceptions, but that youth mentioned the issue of unemployment as a number two priority, which was not mentioned by others. This suggests that youth has different worries that need to be taken into account when designing REPRO intervention strategies. Furthermore, key shocks and stressors identified are drought, deforestation, livestock disease, conflict and the desert locusts" (adapted from WCDI, 2020).

The Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a), presents similar results when it comes to common shocks faced by communities. Disaggregated by gender, main shocks included drought, locusts, animal diseases and floods according to women; and drought, conflict and animal diseases according to men (Figure 34). *"Other shocks and stresses identified by women and men included wildfires, human disease outbreaks, cyclones, soil erosion, charcoal burning, poverty and tribalism"* (FAO, 2021a).

Figure 34 Common shocks faced by community and gender.
Source: Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a).

Figure 35 provides a comprehensive summary of the main threats, risks and opportunities that affect the vulnerability and resilience of communities.

Examples	
Threat	Floods, drought, conflicts, fire break outs, livestock disease outbreaks, human disease outbreaks, locusts, cyclones, soil erosion, charcoal burning, poverty, tribalism
Risks	Migration, death/injury, low economy, poor nutrition/ famine, desertification/ soil erosion, interruption of trade and movement, family breakdown, orphan increase, increase in theft and highway robberies, gender inequality
Opportunities for resilience	Drought: To conserve water through water catchments i.e. Dams, berkads or cisterns etc.; to plant and store fodder; to get investments for drought mitigation; awareness raising on diseases; to prepare and make quarantine, when contagious diseases occur; to make contact and communicate with the development agencies and government offices; to re-seed the grass lands/ rangelands; to restock for pastoralists who lose their livestock to drought Conflict: Establish peace committees; in a timely manner, resolve conflicts; raise awareness; create strong security i.e. government forces; fund raising for conflict resolution and peace building activities and processes; create employment and job opportunities Food Security: Increase food production; conserve the available food

Figure 35 Threats, risks and opportunities that affect the vulnerability and resilience of communities.

Source: Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a).

"FNS-REPRO's interventions should support existing opportunities because these are proven resilience enhancing strategies recognized by community members" (FAO, 2021a).

5.2.1 Key negative factors influencing resilience capacities

The Somaliland CoP survey further identified a number of negative factors that influence household's capacity in the fodder value chain to withstand shocks and stressors (Figure 36). The five most negative factors identified (in order of significance) include: undiversified livelihoods (81.8%), insufficient food, food storage (81.8%), lack of income and savings (54.5%), desertification, drought (54.5%), migration (e.g. to urban areas) (40.9%), and climate prone agriculture (shortage of water and monocropping) (36.4%).

Figure 36 Key negative factors.

Source: Somaliland CoP Survey 2021.

5.3 Resilience Capacity

5.3.1 Resilience capacity index (RCI)

The Somaliland RIMA study (FAO, 2021b) used the resilience capacity index (RCI)² to identify a household's capacity to withstand stresses and shocks that have long lasting effects. The key findings to emerge include:

- The mean RCI of households surveyed was 38.
- Badhan (RCI = 46) and Caynaba (RCI = 41) are the most resilient district, while Taleh (RCI = 33) is the least resilient of the surveyed districts.
- Albeit not statistically significant, female headed households (RCI=38.3) are more resilient than male headed households (RCI=37.5).
- Beneficiary households (RCI=39.4) have higher resilience capacity compared to non-beneficiary households (RCI=34.9).
- The observed resilience capacity is driven by access to basic services and assets.

Figure 37 Average RCI by district.

Source: Somaliland RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

² RCI is based on the four pillars of resilience (assets, social safety nets, adaptive capacity, and access to basic services).

5.3.2 Key resilience capacities

Figure 38 Key resilience capacities of households.

Source: Somaliland CoP Survey 2021.

The Somaliland Community of Practice (CoP) survey further identified resilience capacities that households within the fodder value chain need to deal with recurring shocks and stressors (Figure 38). These can be summarized into the following capacities:

- Human capacities & assets: knowledge and skills (on good quality seed production, post-harvest, marketing), access to labour (59.1%).
- Physical capacities & assets: infrastructure (feeder roads), transport, storage facilities, tools, (clean) energy, clear water (54.5%).
- Financial/economic capacities & assets: (access to) micro-finance and pre-finance (from banks), savings & credit (50%).
- Natural capacities & assets: e.g. access to land, water, forest etc. (45.5%).
- Social capacities & assets: being part of a group, seed traders association (STASS), or network (40.9%).
- Disaster-risk management strategies (preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery) by institutions, government, communities, etc (36.4%).
- Technology related capacities: access to (market) information, internet, phone, radio (4.5%).

5.3.3 Sool and Sanaag's risk landscape

The FoSRA Report for Somaliland (WCDI, 2020), conducted a 'Capacities and Vulnerabilities Assessment' (CVA) and also identified 'key resilience capacities' (existing and missing) of the target communities in Sool and Sanaag. This information combines to create a 'risk landscape'³ of the target population in Sool and Sanaag (Figure 39). This risk landscape summarizes some of the key findings and evidence as presented in section 5.2 (Shocks and coping strategies) and 5.3 (Resilience capacity) of this report. Sool and Sanaag's risk landscape consists of:

- Key shocks and stressors include droughts, deforestation, livestock disease, conflict and most recently desert locust, with only minor differences between male, female and youth perceptions. However, the youth were significantly more concerned about unemployment than other groups.
- Coping strategies include reliance on distributed commodities, livestock relocation, destocking and the establishment of committees, among other diverse options. There were only minor differences among different groups' (gender, youth, land use) responses.

³ Risk landscape refers to the wide range of risks to which local people are exposed, like disaster risks, but also risk as a result of diseases, famine, unemployment, insecure land rights or violence (Heijmans, 2017).

- Key capacities mentioned by communities in Sool and Sanaag include community support, morals, faith and religion, natural resources and livestock, humanitarian aid provision, community risk management committees and appreciation of secure, peaceful times (WCDI, 2020).

Figure 39 Sool and Sanaag's risk landscape.

Source: Somaliland FoSRA (WCDI, 2020).

6 Fodder Value Chain

Summary: According to the RIMA study (FAO, 2021b), some 10% of households rely on fodder production as a livelihood source, mainly men (71%). The main types of fodder crops grown are natural grass (73%), sorghum (59%) and maize (23%). Sources of fodder seeds: 61% purchased seeds; 40% seed stored from previous harvest; 11% borrowed from neighbours. Key challenges include: pests and plant diseases, low availability of fodder inputs, inadequate water, low access to technical assistance services, lack of market for fodder. Only 5% of households involved in fodder production belong to groups/associations (FAO, 2021b).

The main needs of households to improve fodder production and income, as indicated by results of the CoP survey are: (1) training and documentation, (2) tools & equipment for planting, (3) training on fodder and good agricultural practices, (4), access to drinking water, and (5) access to fodder producer associations (CoP Survey, 2021).

6.1 Fodder production aspects

According to the Somaliland RIMA study (FAO, 2021b), “approximately 10% of the households relied on fodder production as a livelihood source in the last 12 months”. Furthermore, “over 10% of households in Erigabo, Lasanod and Caynabo are engaged in fodder production (71% male-headed households and 29% are female-headed households)”. However, most of the households are not registered in fodder production groups/associations; only 5% of the households involved in fodder production belong to groups/associations, namely Illad fodder association and Buq agricultural organization. Other important fodder production aspects include:

- The main types of fodder crops that households grow include natural grass (73%), sorghum (59%) and maize (23%).
- The households got their fodder seeds from multiple sources: 61% of the households purchased the seeds, 40% got seed stored from previous harvest and 11% borrowed from neighbours.
- Among the households growing fodder 9% reported to have received training on land preparation, pest and disease control, and fertilizer application (adapted from FAO, 2021b).
- (Figure 40).

Figure 40 Percentage of households growing fodder.

Source: RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

6.1.1 Fodder harvesting and production challenges

The Somaliland RIMA study (FAO, 2021b), identified the main challenges faced by households in fodder production as follows (Figure 41):

1. Pests and plant diseases (50%)
2. Low availability of fodder inputs (39%)
3. Inadequate water (32%)
4. Low access to technical assistance services (26%)
5. Lack of market for fodder (25%)

Figure 41 Challenges in fodder production.

Source: RIMA Baseline Report (FAO, 2021b).

6.1.2 Main needs to improve fodder production and income

The Somaliland Community of Practice (CoP) survey, identified the main needs of households that are active within the fodder value chain to improve agricultural production and income. As presented in Figure 42, the main needs identified by CoP participants were: training and documentation (86%), tools & equipment for planting (63%), training on fodder and GAP (63%), access to drinking water (54.5%) and fodder producer associations (54.5%).

Figure 42 Main needs of households to improve agricultural production and income.

Source: Somaliland CoP Survey 2021.

6.1.3 Threats, risks and opportunities for the fodder value chain

Figure 43 indicates a number of threats, risks and opportunities for the fodder value chain (refer to Appendix 1 for a schematic representation of the fodder value chain). FNS-REPRO can “identify and prioritize the support they can give to the communities according to their mandate such as supporting conflict resolution committees, training fodder producers in production and processing techniques, provision of good quality fodder seeds, equipment and other inputs, designing and constructing storage facilities/warehouses and support for rain water harvesting” (FAO, 2021a).

Fodder VC component	Threats	Risks	Existing opportunities in the communities
Production	• Locusts • Floods • Conflicts • Cyclones • Fire outbreaks • Diseases • Droughts • Bad seeds • Pests and insects	• Loss of soil nutrients • Lack of water • Disagreements between employees and employers • Injury related to conflict, fire, cyclone etc.	• Appropriate land • Equipment • Investment • Knowledge • Conflict resolution committees • Trainings • Manpower • Construction of schools • Roads rehabilitation • Seeds • Rain/water
Processing	• Soil erosion • Conflicts • Floods and cyclones • Human health • Droughts	• Floods wash away fodder • Lack of knowledge/skills • Unsuitable land for processing • Lack of harvesting financing • Injury sustained by harvesting people • Lack of storage facilities	• Equipment • Storage facilities/warehouses • Transport • Labour • Economic support
Storage	• Droughts • Floods and cyclones • Human health • Conflicts • Fire outbreaks	• Damage and loss	• Storage facilities/warehouses
Transportation	• Human health • Floods • Inaccessibility (poor infrastructure) • Conflicts	• Damage and loss • Transport accidents	• Equipment • Financial support • Labour
Marketing	• Market conflicts • Human diseases • Floods and cyclones • Livestock diseases • Fire outbreaks	• Market downturn • Mismatch between production and selling costs.	• Reduced import of fodder • Livestock export during the Hajj Pilgrimage • Reliable markets • Muslim festivals • Application of modern livestock herding practices

Figure 43 Threats, risks and opportunities for the fodder value chain.

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7 Conflict and Stability

Summary: The main conflicts in Somaliland can be categorized as follows: (1) Land-related conflicts: associated with border disputes due to unclear demarcation boundaries owing to customary land allocation systems as well as enclosure of land for private pasture or for fodder production. The main actors are enclosed landowners, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists. (2) Water associated conflicts: particularly in the dry season. Associated with fighting for water access from private berkads (water reservoirs) and shallow wells. (3) Livestock related conflicts: arrival of livestock in a new area causes a competition for scarce grazing and water resources between the new arrivals and previously existing ones. (4) Ethnic and tribal conflict relates to problems between different ethnicities and tribes who have similar livelihood systems. (5) Political: the incitement of violence by politicians to sustain instability and maintain the relevance of unofficial politicians (FAO, 2021a).

The Covid-19 pandemic has reportedly intensified vulnerabilities and reduced people's resilience, thereby, led to increased incidences of resource-based conflicts, especially between pastoralists and farmers. It has also added additional challenges in undertaking community-level peace initiatives with restrictions on gatherings constraining the implementation of measures to foster community-level management of disputes and conflicts over scarce resources (FAO, 2020b). A key recommendation to increase peace in Sool and Sanaag, is that FNS-REPRO should focus on the reconciliation of elders and local leaders by supporting joint ventures between them, such as building their institutional capacity to prevent conflict (FAO, 2021a).

7.1 Main types of conflicts

There are different types of conflict:

- Land-related conflicts: associated with border disputes due to unclear demarcation boundaries owing to customary land allocation systems as well as enclosure of land for private pasture or for fodder production. The main actors are enclosed landowners, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.
- Water associated conflicts: particularly in the dry season. Associated with fighting for water access from private berkads (water reservoirs) and shallow wells.
- Livestock related conflicts: arrival of livestock in a new area causes a competition for scarce grazing and water resources between the new arrivals and previously existing ones;
- Ethnic and tribal conflict relates to problems between different ethnicities and tribes who have similar livelihood systems.
- Political: the incitement of violence by politicians to sustain instability and maintain the relevance of unofficial politicians; and the frustrations associated with dispossession of the poor by the greedy and powerful rich people. (adapted from FAO, 2021a).

7.2 Causes/drivers of conflict

There can be many reasons for conflict. As seen in Figure 44, the most common causes of conflict mentioned by key informants who took part in the Somaliland multi-disciplinary context analysis (FAO, 2021a), are:

- Arrival of livestock in a new area accounted for (32%)
- Political interferences (28%).
- Family and clan feuds and poverty (16%)
- Poor governance of the country (8%)

Figure 44 Common causes of conflict.
Source: Multi-Disciplinary Context Analysis (FAO, 2021a).

The Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context Analysis (FAO, 2021a), categorizes conflict into four key 'conceptual categories of conflict', namely – economic, social, political and human security. However, the causes or drivers of conflict are often interlinked, and related, as various causes of conflict were mentioned across the categories (Figure 45). For example, social exclusion, injustice, impunity e.g. land grabbing, political instigation and family/clan feuds can cause conflicts in all the categories used in the analysis.

Economic • Clan feuds fueled by elders and political leaders wanting compensation for blood money • Recurrent drought – caused by climate change but exploited by opportunistic politicians • Youth unemployment – selfish politicians instigate youth against leadership • Competition for scarce resources and opportunities • Politically contested areas between Puntland and Somaliland keeping the area unstable and stateless for exploitation by politicians	Social • Instigation by traditional and political leaders, who fuel confrontation and injustices e.g. rape by the youth • Some politicians damage relations between clans and sideline traditional structures such as clan elders • Fueled by leaders, elders, youth to perpetuate injustice
Political • Multi-party system – competition between leading and opposition parties; leaders who find government to be too weak; those who blame ruling party for injustice • Armed unemployed youth and persons – purporting political instability and injustice • Administrators in contested areas of SL and PL seeing political instability and injustices	Governance • Weak capacity of national and local authorities hence impunity • Impunity of leaders excluding citizens from decision making
	Human security • Insecurity caused by disgruntled youth associated with clan confrontation, political instability and poverty • Instigated by politicians – who see weak government and injustices such as land grabbing; poverty and security instability • Instigated by traditional elders • Leaders in contested areas of SL and PL maintain insecurity to stay in power

Figure 45 Drivers of conflict.
Source: Multi-Disciplinary Context Analysis (FAO, 2021a).

7.3 Impacts of Covid-19 on conflict & peace dynamics

The FNS-REPRO Covid-19 conflict report (FAO, 2020b), highlights the impacts of Covid-19 on conflict and peace dynamics.

- Increased incidences of resource-based conflicts: "Especially between pastoralists and farmers. Also, disputes related to herding cattle in enclosed land have been reported."
- Challenges in undertaking community-level peace initiatives: "Restrictions on gatherings constrained implementation of measures to foster community-level management of disputes and conflicts over scarce resources."
- High levels of gender-based violence: "The Covid-19 pandemic increased women and girls' exposure to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and amplified their susceptibility to socio-economic shocks."
- Loss of incomes: "Increased unemployment and loss of incomes especially among the youth due to economic downturn after implementation of Covid-19 restriction measures, also in Sool and Sanaag regions. This situation has intensified vulnerabilities and is likely to lead to dependence on food aid in the face of reduced remittances from overseas, on-going drought, and severe food insecurity."

7.4 People affected most by conflict

Figure 46 shows that all community members are affected by the four categories of conflict – economic, social, political and human security. However, according to respondents of the Multi-Disciplinary Context Analysis (FAO, 2021a), "women and children were affected more, than other people, by economic conflict and more vulnerable people to political conflict" (FAO, 2021a).

Figure 46 Who is mainly affected by conflict.

Source: Multi-Disciplinary Context Analysis (FAO, 2021a).

7.5 Institutional capacity for peace

As stated in the Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context Analysis (FAO, 2021a) four institutions that intervene in conflict to bring about peace, in descending order of effectiveness:

1. Traditional elder system
2. Government security forces and the courts
3. Committee of conflict resolution
4. Islamic Sharia

Therefore, it is concluded that, “traditional elders are best equipped to resolve conflicts associated with natural resources” (Figure 47).

Figure 47 Institutional capacity for peace building.

Source: Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a).

7.6 Recommendations for FNS-REPRO for conflict resolution

The Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a) provides three key recommendations for FNS-REPRO for conflict resolution:

1. “FNS-REPRO should support reconciliation of elders and local leaders by supporting joint ventures between them, such as building their institutional capacity to prevent conflict. Once reconciled, the elders and leaders will be able to address impunity by stopping land grabbing and instigation of the youth by elders.”
2. “Identify a peace building facilitation partner for FNS-REPRO to facilitate the peacebuilding process among the traditional elders and community leaders e.g. InterPeace.”
3. “FNS-REPRO should avoid getting involved in fencing of fodder fields and provision of large water storage facilities but should leave the responsibility up to the beneficiary farmer groups, the community and community leaders.”

The FNS-REPRO Covid-19 conflict report (2020b), also makes a number of recommendations: “*In order to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic on conflict and peace dynamics, programme personnel have recommended the following*”:

- “Closely monitor land conflict dynamics, and work with community leaders and elders to promote inclusive management of resource-based conflicts;

-
- Partner with Interpeace and local peacebuilding organizations to implement the programme's conflict sensitivity and sustaining peace interventions as recommended in conflict analysis;
  - Create a more inclusive criterion for selecting programme beneficiaries in order to prevent any potential negative perceptions and related tensions;
  - Accelerate activities that provide opportunities for communities to access more fodder, including productive grazing areas in order to meet the increased feed demands by livestock, and contribute to the reduction of conflicts over pasture.
  - Raise awareness on the benefits of inclusive development, and active participation of women and youth in the programme e.g. in the production and marketing of fodder, and training in entrepreneurship so as to mitigate the economic burdens aggravated by the pandemic while empowering them to engage in decision-making processes;
  - Work towards putting in place strong fodder production systems with strengthened supply chains to ensure pastoralists have alternative income streams. This is also likely to reduce tensions between them and farmers over access to and control of rangelands;
  - Train relevant beneficiaries on how to commercialise fodder;
  - Take advantage of the 2021 Deyr rains to accelerate interventions involving harvesting and storage of surplus fodder, while facilitating protection of other areas to ensure they regenerate fast including providing support (in future) on reseeded of degraded areas and training on improved grazing systems to sustain productivity;
  - Seek the support of other actors in the provision of emergency livestock feed supplies in order to prevent further escalation of resource-based conflicts".

8 Gender and youth disparities

Summary: There are a number of gender disparities present in Sool and Sanaag. The RIMA baseline study (FAO, 2021b) showed that male headed households (HHs) are better off than female HHs in a number of areas including: Income (USD 294 compared to USD 184) and education. However, female HHs are better off in regard to access to land: having access to 1.7 Ha, while male HHs on average have access to 1 Ha. Albeit not statistically significant, female headed HHs (RCI=38.3) are slightly more resilient than male headed HHs (RCI=37.5). The food security scores (HDDS and FCS) are similar between male and female HHs.

The Somaliland Community of Practice (CoP) survey also revealed disparities in relation to access and control over resources. Results indicated that overall, men are in control of most resources and labour activities along the fodder value chain. Especially, when it comes to any decision-making aspects such as 'negotiating over land' or 'settling land disputes', while women and female youth remain hardly involved in either decision-making or business-related activities. Overall, female-headed households are the most vulnerable socio-economic group as they are often excluded from the decision-making process in relation to access, use and control of resources (CoP Survey, 2021). However, there are a number of practical recommendations available which can be adopted in order to make FNS-REPRO more gender sensitive and inclusive (FAO, 2021a).

Youth make up the majority of Somaliland's population (around 70%), yet face a number of challenges largely surrounding unemployment and lack of livelihood opportunities, leading to poor coping mechanisms like drug abuse, and insecurity (Oxfam, 2019). The unemployed youth often survives on charcoal production and sale and other small jobs. On the other hand, youth who are able to get decent urban jobs play a key role in sustaining livelihoods in their rural communities. Employed youth acts as a sort of insurance for their relatives who remained in the pastoralist lifestyle. Indeed, during droughts, the employed youth supports their communities with remittances. In terms of youth's role in the fodder value chain, young men have an important role to play as they are engaged in labour activities for fodder production, such as harvesting, watering, planting and land preparation. While, young women are less engaged, they also support more off-farm related activities such as processing, marketing and selling fodder (CoP Survey, 2021).

Male headed households (HHs) better off than female HHs:	Female HHs headed households better off than male HHs:	Youth	Access to and control over resources for fodder production:
- Income; - Education; - Similar HDDS and FCS as women	- Slightly more resilient, (RCI=38.3) compared to men (RCI=37.5). - Access to land - Similar HDDS and FCS as men - Covid-19 pandemic increased women's & girls' exposure to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and more susceptible to socio-economic shocks.	- High unemployment, with related problems like drug abuse & insecurity (inc. arms); - Survive on charcoal production & sale; those employed send remittances to their pastoralist relatives - Low access to and control over resources (except education – male youth) for fodder production, especially for young women.	- Low for young men (except education); lowest for young women - Land & labour for fodder production: mainly men - Farm equipment for fodder production: equal men/women (except girls) - Capital for fodder production: men bit more than women - Education for food production: more young men and men than women and young women

Figure 48 Access to and control over resources.
Source: Somaliland Sensemaking Event PowerPoint.

8.1 Gender disparities in Somaliland

Based on the Somaliland RIMA study (FAO, 2021b), there are currently significant differences between male and female-headed households in terms of:

Income: Male headed households (HHs) earn more (USD 294) compared to female headed (USD 184).

Livelihoods: Male headed HHs are more dependent on income from crop production and livestock production, while female-headed HHs are more dependent on crop production and petty trade.

Education: over 65% of female household heads did not attend formal education compared to 46% for male-headed HHs.

Access to land: Female-headed HHs on average have access to 1.7 Ha. While male-headed HHs on average have access to 1 Ha.

Resilience: Albeit not statistically significant, female headed HHs (RCI=38.3) are slightly more resilient than male headed HHs (RCI=37.5).

HDDS: There is no statistically significant difference in HDDS by gender of the household head.

FCS: There is no statistically significant difference in FCS by gender of the household head.

rCSI: There is no statistically significant difference in rCSI by gender of the household head.

8.1.1 Gender in Livestock

The Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context Analysis (FAO, 2021a) identifies a number of important gender considerations which FNS-REPRO should pay attention to:

- Women have increasingly become involved in herding and milking the camels following migration of men to urban areas in search of better jobs; this was traditionally a role reserved for men.
- Limiting factors for women's optimal performance include: lack of skills and knowledge on diverse areas such as improved fodder production practices, animal husbandry, and entrepreneurship.
- To demonstrate the firm grip men had on money from livestock sales, some young women said, "Only widows could have cash to spare from livestock sales" (Women < 35 years, Habari Heshay).
- The Somaliland Livestock Policy (MoLFD, 2006) recommends for gender mainstreaming in order to address the gender imbalances in livestock farming through several strategies, specifically: promoting capacity building on gender mainstreaming in government and within pastoral communities; support to women with energy saving technologies appropriate to pastoral communities; and empowering women and youth to access resources that enhance income generation and participation in markets.

8.2 Access to and control over resources

The results emerging from the Somaliland CoP survey indicate that men are in control of all resources in the fodder value chain. However, it is interesting to note that in general, women have slightly more access to and control over resources than male and female youth (except in regards to access to education and training as well as labour for fodder production). Essentially, men dominate in most labour activities along the fodder value chain. Especially, when it comes to any decision-making aspects such as 'negotiating over land' or 'settling land disputes', women and female youth are hardly involved. Refer to Appendix 2 for the Division of Labour graphs from the CoP survey.

Figure 49 Access to and control over resources.

Source: Somaliland CoP Survey 2021.

8.3 Challenges facing youth in Somaliland

It is worth noting that, while youth are targeted in FNS-REPRO programming, not much information or data exists on the role of youth, for example, in the fodder value chain. This is despite the fact that youth represent the majority of the population of Somaliland. Youth face a number of challenges largely surrounding unemployment and lack of livelihood opportunities, leading to poor coping mechanisms. Some of the key challenges facing youth include:

Youth unemployment

- Youth make up approximately 70% of Somaliland's population of 3-4 million, yet struggle with high youth unemployment and lack of livelihood opportunities (Oxfam, 2019).
- The unemployed urban youth often survives on charcoal production and sale and other small jobs and often get addicted to Khat (Oxfam, 2019).
- On the other hand, the young people who get decent urban jobs play a key role in sustaining livelihoods in their rural communities. Employed youth acts as a sort of insurance for their relatives who remained in the pastoralist lifestyle. Indeed, during droughts, the employed youth supports their communities with remittances (Oxfam, 2019).

Conflict

According to the Somaliland multi-disciplinary context analysis (FAO, 2021a), the following findings in relation the youth involvement in conflict was identified:

- Insecurity caused by disgruntled youth associated with clan confrontation, political instability and poverty.
- Some traditional and political leaders incite youth to fuel confrontation and injustices e.g. rape so as to discredit the local government.
- Armed unemployed youth – purporting political instability and injustice.
- Male youth were reported to have been beating and robbing women of their fodder while they were harvesting in the field.

8.4 Recommendations for FNS-REPRO to be more gender sensitive

The Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context Analysis (FAO, 2021a), provides a number of practical recommendations for FNS-REPRO to be more gender inclusive and sensitive:

1. FNS-REPRO interventions should be modelled to benefit women and men as individuals as well as in single or mixed gender groups.
2. FNS-REPRO facilitators to require project beneficiaries to allow the following:
  - a. Women to participate as groups, as individuals and as household members in mixed gender fodder cooperatives.
  - b. Women group cooperative members to get special support as women groups to produce fodder and participate in the FVC in age appropriate ways e.g. fodder demo plots for fodder farmer field schools to be made accessible to young mothers with low mobility as key actors.
  - c. Young mothers to be trained and assigned roles of fodder field school trainers. Older women, who have greater mobility, to be supported to deliver fodder by trucks in large markets e.g. Berbera.
3. FNS-REPRO to support women fodder traders in Waqdari – by asking traditional elders and local leadership to set aside communal land along the river for these women group to grow fodder.
4. FNS-REPRO to capacitate the women (skills, tools, initial inputs), drying and storage facility.
5. Women to initiate or continue table banking and start saving money and FNS-REPRO to link these women to credit service providers for training and credit provision (FNS-REPRO can work with CARE or Save the Children or learn from them and do what they do).
6. FNS-REPRO to facilitate the women with credit (or a grant) to purchase the first inputs (seed and tools) and the first fodder crop from themselves and other producers and the cost of the first trip to the distant fodder market.
7. FNS-REPRO to facilitate women's access to time saving support e.g. energy saving stoves/ training in building; water storage tanks to save time spent searching for firewood (by reducing consumption) and water (by providing storage)
8. The project should have a qualified and full-time gender and youth inclusion officer, to guide the gender and youth inclusion processes, while supporting the staff lacking, or having inadequate, capacity to implement the component. Adapted from (FAO, 2021a).

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Appendix 1 Fodder Value Chain

A schematic representation of the fodder value chain, its actors and linkages

Source: Somaliland Multi-Disciplinary Context and Fodder Value Chain Analysis (FAO, 2021a).

Appendix 2 Division of labour

Source: Somaliland CoP Survey 2021.

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