

Securing a Living: The role of diverse voices in developing secure livelihoods in pastoralist areas in Ethiopia (Implications for social protection)

DFID Ethiopia has been supporting knowledge and capacity building for improving pastoralist community access to benefits, goods and services and effective use of productive resources through its project 'democracy, growth and peace for pastoralists'. The project has supported learning and debate on beneficial trajectories for the economy of the lowlands in terms of pastoralist production, trade, added value and alternative rural and urban livelihoods.

The 'Securing a Living' study will look at the ways in which stronger livelihoods are being achieved in the Developing Regional States and other pastoralist areas. It will inform DFID and other donor programmes, and will also contribute to informed dialogue between relevant government offices, donor agencies and pastoral groups working together towards pastoralist development in Ethiopia. There are four objectives:

- i) Understanding the capability of different social groups within pastoral areas to participate in processes to protect and secure their livelihoods.
- ii) Looking at how individuals, groups and institutions (informal and formal) work together on issues of livelihood protection and security;
- iii) Taking account of ways in which institutions of all kinds channel and respond to livelihood protection issues in pastoralist areas, especially how they address vulnerabilities.
- iv) Showing how, in what ways and to what effect, pastoralists from a variety of different social, economic and ethnic backgrounds are being drawn into policy debates from local to national levels.

Outputs will include:

- a series of facilitated meetings between pastoralists and formal institutions to explore issues emerging from the study, starting at local-level and culminating in national-level discussions;
- an IDS working paper (an analytical document presenting the main findings);
- a policy brief (a focused document outlining main conclusions) and
- a document based on voices from the study process to be widely disseminated within pastoral communities as well as with other actors engaged in the process.

The study will be led by DFID consultants Mary Hobley and Mary Ann Brocklesby, managed by Patta Scott-Villiers and assisted by a team of eight-ten field workers. The study method consists of:

- i) A literature review drawing on references on livelihoods and on large programmes aimed at improving pastoralist livelihoods (such as the the Ethiopian Productive Safety Nets Programme).
- ii) Interviews conducted with community leaders, government officials at district, region and national levels, external stakeholders within donor community and civil society and researchers working on livelihood issues in pastoralist areas.
- iii) A participatory learning process conducted with a diverse range of actors in three pastoralist woredas of Afar, Oromia and Somali National Regional States.

Timetable

Early March	Government Protocols
mid March – early May	Field Work & Interviews
mid May	Analysis and Review
mid May – mid June	Writing & Editing
mid June – mid July	Publishing
September – December	Dissemination