

Exploring Camel Leasing's Impact on Resilience

Takeaways from recent research

March 24, 2022
9:00-10:15am EST



TODAY'S **Agenda**



Opening Remarks



How does Camel Leasing Impact Resilience?



Perspectives from the Field



Moderated Q&A



Closing Remarks



Michael Kunz

**Senior Knowledge Management
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Dr. Rebecca Flueckiger

Chief of Party | Somalia Camel
Leasing to Impact Resilience Activity,
implemented by RTI International

Somalia Camel Leasing to Impact Resilience Activity Overview

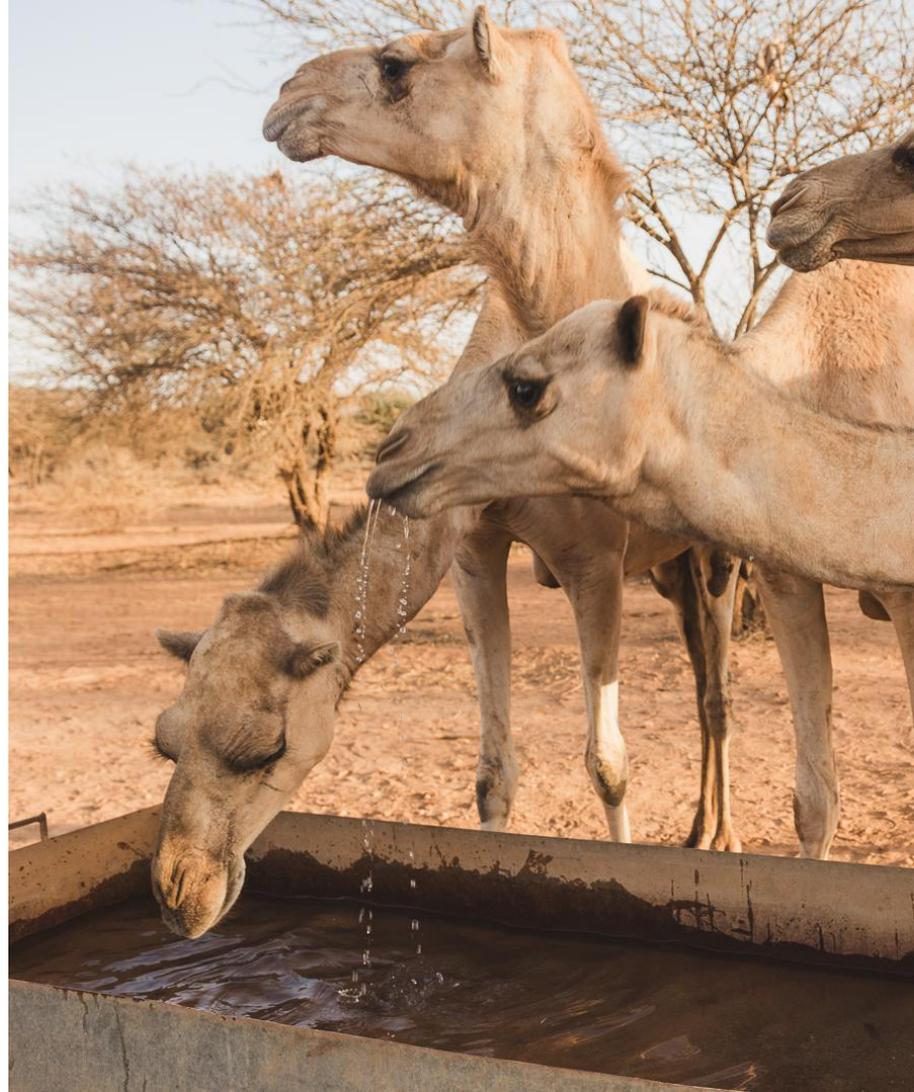


Photo credits: iZone for USAID

What is camel leasing?

A formal arrangement between camel milk dairies and camel-herding pastoralists

- Dairies cover management costs for leased camels
- Pastoralists receive a monthly payment

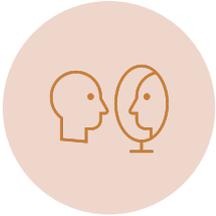


The activity aims to help us learn about:

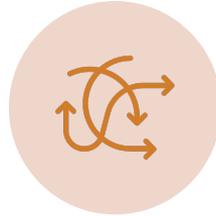
- The impact camel leasing has on the welfare and resilience capacities of pastoral households and communities
- The “business case” for the camel leasing model for dairy companies
- The extent to which Somali social networks influence the camel leasing model



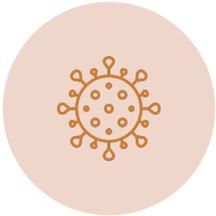
Limitations



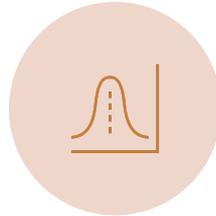
Participants self-identify



Participant panel not maintained over time



COVID-19



Inadequate sample size

Learnings



“

In our case when our milk suppliers in the rural areas were hit hard, we came together and assisted with fodder and feeds to enable their animals to survive as much as possible. Sometimes we support their children also through the hardship periods.

- Female milk market trader

What impact does camel leasing have on the welfare and resilience capacities of pastoral households and communities?



Pastoralist income

Most leasing pastoralists reported:

- ❑ Leasing camels provided at least half of their monthly household income
- ❑ Leasing camels enabled them to save more money
- ❑ Some leasing pastoralists reported leasing camels enabled their household to invest in other assets



“

Camel leasing enables the funding of children's education. With that, we are able to send our kids to school and make savings and to purchase more camels from our savings. So, we have benefited a lot from camel leasing.

- Male leasing pastoralist

Impacting community resilience

“A dairy farm with leased camels is established near or in a community. They can hire a man as a herdsman of the camels on the farm, drivers to transport milk, afterward, a salesman for milk, space is rented to sell the milk. All these hires are a job in the community and an opportunity to earn income.”

- Male previously leasing pastoralist



What is the
“**business case**” for
the camel leasing
model for dairy
companies?

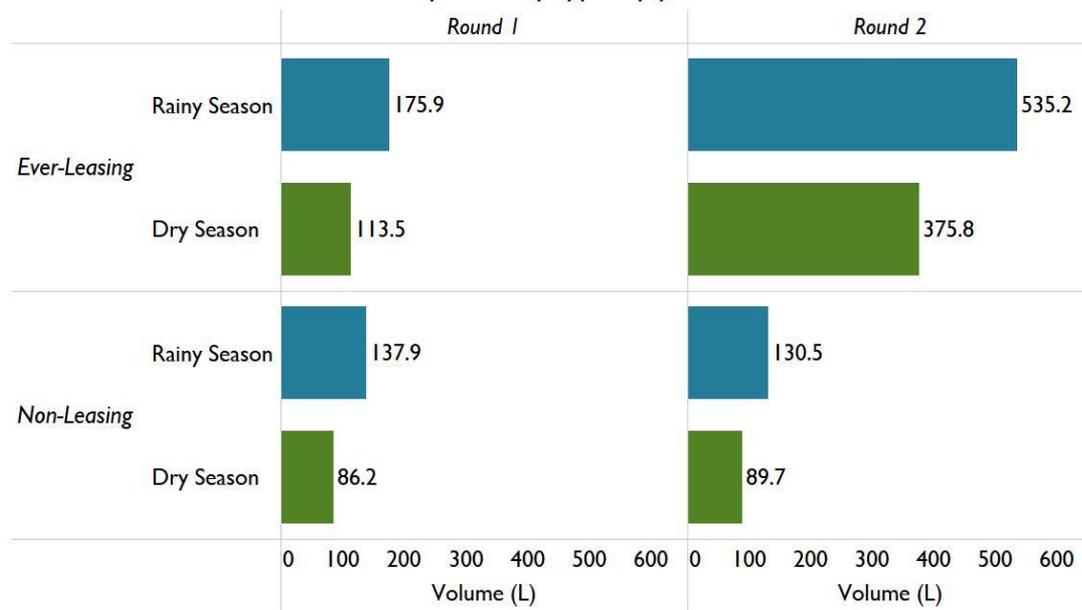


Dairy milk production

Leasing dairies report:

- More milk produced than non-leasing dairies
- Increase in milk production over time

What volume of milk in liters does your dairy typically produce?

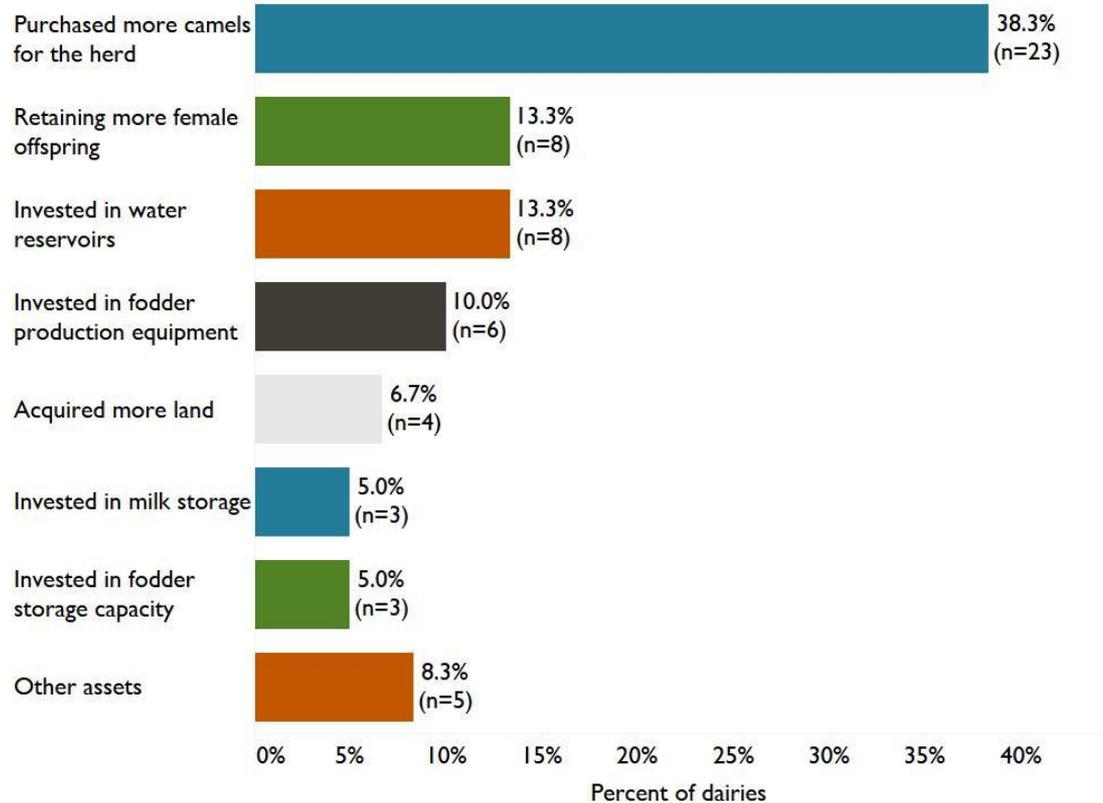


Dairy adaptive measures

Leasing dairies report investing in:

- More camels
- Water reservoirs
- Fodder production equipment

What assets have you invested in since camel leasing?



To what extent do
**Somali social
networks influence
the camel leasing
model?**



Social networks and community relationships



Opportunities for dairies to access other pastoralists and grow their leasing business



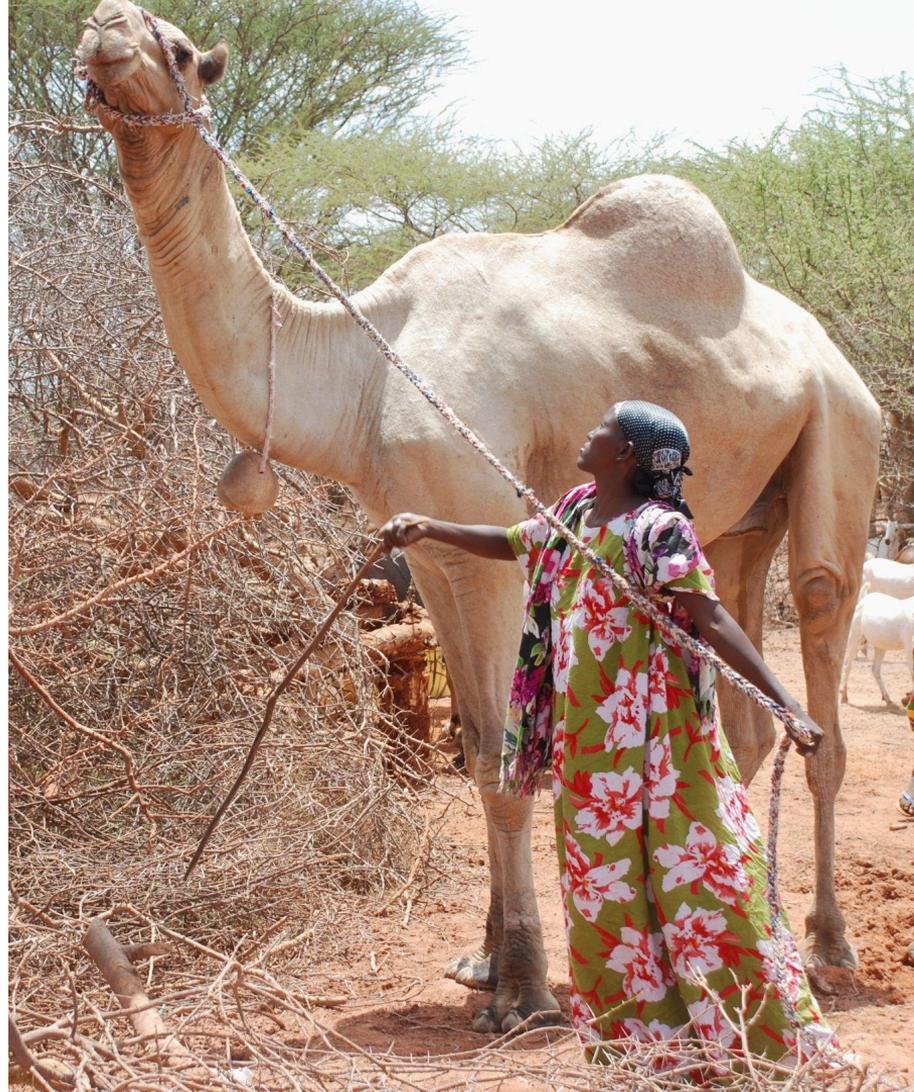
Pastoralists emphasize the need for due diligence by taking the time to assess the capacity of the dairy farmer before establishing a lease



Serve as brokers in the establishment or contest of agreements

Observations of potential unintended consequences

- ❑ Potential for overmilking of leased camels
- ❑ Reduction in camel milk consumption for pastoralists
- ❑ Decrease in availability of grazing land for pastoralists
- ❑ Pushing out of small milk sellers from the market





Perspectives from the Field





Dr. Diba D. Wako

**Agriculture, Livestock and
Fisheries Specialist**
USAID/Somalia

Why do these findings matter?

Camel Population

- Africa 87%
- Eastern Africa 36%
- Somalia 19%





- Recurrent drought
- Changing rainfall patterns
- Increased distances to water & pasture

- Shrinking rangelands
- Poor access to market

Camel Leasing: Benefits

- It is a demand driven idea, started by local people
- Reduced labor cost for the pastoralists
- Improved access to market for the pastoralists
- Increased income

Other possible benefits:

If scaled, can camel leasing stimulate improvement of service delivery across the entire value chain?

- Creates demand for commercial feeds
- Improved animal health service delivery
- Improvement in transport methods/hygiene
- Dairies could act as centers of technology adoption

Camel Leasing: Drawbacks

Negative impacts:

- Competition with women milk vendors
- Concerns about poor care given to the camels by the dairies (e.g. over-milking of the camels)

How can this be overcome?

- Milk replacers to reduce competition with the calf
- Calf management practices such as improved hygiene and the use of probiotics to control calf diarrhea, which is the leading cause of calf mortality
- Market-based approaches to improving access to commercial feed instead feeding whole grain

Moderated Q&A



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Thank you!

Please keep an eye on your inbox for post-event resources!

