



Report of LIDC workshop on Development issues in Somalia and Horn of Africa, 16 Nov 2011

Participants

| Surname | First name | College/Org |
|-----------|------------|-------------------------------|
| McAuslan | Patrick | Birkbeck |
| Styan | David | Birkbeck |
| Carr-Hill | Roy | IoE |
| Yates | Chris | IoE |
| Gusman | Balah | IoE |
| Moore | David | LSHTM |
| Mohamed | Halima | LSHTM |
| Dar | Osman | LSHTM |
| Dowden | Richard | Royal African Society |
| Rushton | Jonathan | Royal Vet College |
| Kock | Richard | Royal Vet College |
| Okell | Claire | Royal Vet College |
| Hammond | Laura | SOAS |
| Rader | Anna | SOAS |
| Manuel | Clare | Law & Development Partnership |
| Healy | Sally | Chatham House |
| Dirie | Nuradin | Independent/Kings College |
| Patel | Preeti | King College |
| Gubbin | Keith | Africa Asset Management |
| Leather | Andy | Kings College & THET |
| Bullard | Matthew | Africa Educational Trust |
| Peacock | Christie | Sidai |
| Fletcher | Catherine | LIDC |
| Marry | Anna | LIDC |

Introduction: Cathy Fletcher welcomed participants and said the purpose of the workshop was to allow researchers in LIDC Colleges whose research involves Somalia, and interested external participants, to get to know each other and each other's work. The workshop aimed to bring together views about the future of the region in a development context, by exchanging information and ideas from a range of perspectives including political, legal, educational, human and animal health.

Presentations:

1. Somalia – how and why Richard Dowden (Royal African Society) gave a historical perspective on Somalia and personal reflections on its future.

In the late nineteenth century, Britain and Italy gained control of parts of the coast, establishing British Somaliland and Italian Somaliland. This occupation lasted until 1941, when it was replaced by a British military administration. Northern Somalia remained a protectorate, while southern Somalia became a trusteeship. Other parts of Somali territory were also taken over in the imperial carve up; Djibouti by France, the Ogaden by Ethiopia and the south by Kenya. In 1960, the first two regions were united to form an independent Somali Republic under a civilian government. Mohamed Siad Barre seized power in 1969 and established the Somali Democratic Republic. In 1991, Barre's government collapsed as the Somali Civil War broke out. Since 1991, no central government has controlled the entirety of the country, despite several attempts to establish a unified central government. The northwestern part of the country has been relatively stable under the self-declared, but unrecognised, sovereign state of Somaliland. The self-governing region of Puntland covers the northeast of the country. The Islamist Al-Shabaab controls a large part of the south of the country. The internationally recognised Transitional Federal Government (TFG) controls only parts of the capital and some territory in the centre of the nation.

The turbulent history of the region has implications for its present and future. But there were bright spots. Somaliland is stable because the role of the elders is still paramount in decision-making, since Britain used indirect rule during colonial times without undermining the power of the elders. But the region doesn't have good press in the West, being associated with famine and war, as well as terrorism and piracy. Speculating on potential independence of Somaliland, Dowden was not very optimistic, saying that from a political point of view this is unlikely to happen, as there is no 'certified decoloniser', unlike the cases of Eritrea and South Sudan.

2. Somalia or Somalias: why more might mean better Prof Patrick McAuslan (Birkbeck College) described his professional involvement in Somaliland on a UN Habitat project in 2003, and subsequently on a UNDP city law development project in Mogadishu in 2007.

Referring back to his experience of working on the Mogadishu City Charter, McAuslan said that the law that was initially proposed was too top-heavy, giving too much power and responsibility to the local government, and not enough to the citizens. In the absence of a functioning local or central government, non-governmental organisations are providing a minimum of services to the population, which is working out well, but a local government is needed to act as an enabler, assisting and coordinating their efforts. What is needed in Somalia, as in many post-conflict states, is not the restoration of the state but the transformation of the state, not by tinkering with outside changes to institutions but by local ownership, participation, inclusion and consensus-building, with a mixture of indigenous and imported practices. The new draft reflected that in allocating rights and responsibilities to both the authorities and citizens, defining the role of the local government as an enabler, as well as establishing a co-operative approach to governance between the City Council as a city regional state and the federal government located within Mogadishu.

McAuslan argued that the international community insisted on unity for Somalia, while what would have worked better is a system of 6-7 mini-states in the territory, as was established in Yugoslavia. Somalia should be a state system, rather than a state, and it can develop its governance on its own, without the international community imposing rules and structures.

McAuslan argued that Somaliland shows the way. It is a state based on a clear majority of one clan but not excluding other clans and it has devised a governance system which owes a good deal to indigenous systems. It has developed largely on its own, with minimal foreign aid though that looks likely to change in the near future.

The way forward for the rest of Somalia is to develop as a series of mini-states based on clans creating systems of governance which resonate with their local populations. The international community should

provide some basic assistance to bring these mini-states into existence and then indicate that more states will not mean more aid. This may be a highly unconventional approach but the conventional approach to state building in Somalia has over the last 20 years been singularly unsuccessful.

Donors need to proceed with extreme care to avoid unwittingly creating in Somaliland a situation where the amount of aid leads not to better but to worse governance as officials and politicians cease to try and make do with the little they have obtained via taxes from the people and begin fighting over the free largesse that suddenly begins raining down on them from donors. In general, more outside intervention in Somalia and Somaliland usually means worse governance outcomes.

3. Animal disease, trade and certification Dr Jonathan Rushton (Royal Veterinary College)

In rapidly changing societies there is growing demand for livestock products, leading to an increase in trade. Emerging and re-emerging diseases of animals impose a challenge that one needs to view from a socio-economic point of view, and not only from a purely epidemiological perspective. Tackling the issue requires an interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral approach and a good understanding of the value chain, the institutional environment and human behaviour surrounding livestock production and trade.

Rushton said that 50% of Somalia's economy is dominated by livestock, and yet investment in animal health is very low. The most important animal diseases in terms of trade impacts in Somalia are Rift Valley Fever, and Foot and Mouth Disease. The majority of livestock is exported to the Middle East, which has made requests for an improvement on livestock certification with regards to animal health. Not investing in animal health will have a severe economic effect, as evidenced when Saudi Arabia stopped importing livestock from Somalia.

Rushton talked about a risk assessment project using a people-centred approach to understanding the spread of disease, which RVC undertook on behalf of FAO. It revealed a need to introduce disease control within Somalia and other countries, like Sudan and Ethiopia, from which many animals exported from Somalia originate (at production point), control of exported animals and control at points where domestic and exported animals get into contact. Currently, quarantine stations do not play a disease control role, but rather act as holding stations.

We need to think about animal health at the production point as well as consumption, while understanding the people who come in between production and consumption; and we need to better monitor the movement of livestock. Ultimately, though protecting livestock we are protecting people.

4. Extreme surveying: results of a household survey of pastoralists in six regions of Somalia Prof Roy Carr-Hill (Institute of Education)

Prof. Roy Carr-Hill talked about a survey of living conditions of pastoralists in Somalia that he worked on in mid 2011 with UNICEF and DFID funding. The assessment was based on a survey of 6,650 households over a period of 6 months and the questionnaire spanned several sectors, including education, health, livelihoods and nutrition. 200 Somalis were trained as enumerators to carry out the survey in six regions including the South. Ministers from Somaliland, Puntland, and South Somalia were involved in approving the surveys.

Selected findings:

- Educational levels have improved, but not radically (still 76% of boys and 81% of girls don't go to school, the reasons most commonly reported being: lack of money, lack of schools, migration).

- 75% of respondents have access to health services, but it takes them an average of four hours to reach the clinic.
- 2% have access to flush toilets and it takes an average of 14 minutes to walk to the nearest toilet facility.
- 80% don't treat water used for cooking or drinking.
- Many respondents reported owning livestock or owning land, but most reported living off other sources than just livestock and agriculture due to poor returns.
- Most couldn't remember any visit from a government animal inspector in the past year.
- 15% didn't have enough food supplies to last a week.
- Respondents' diets were too poor in protein and many reported reducing intake in order to cope financially.

5. From emergency response to high-quality TB laboratory network in post-conflict Somaliland Dr Laura Hammond (SOAS), Dr David Moore and Halima Mohamed (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)

The three speakers talked about their participation in a programme focused on moving away from an emergency TB response (top-down, relief-oriented, short-term and often delivered by NGOs) to a sustainable health system (a network of TB labs), of which research was a part, in addition to implementation.

Somalia is a fragile, post-conflict state with a generally weak health system, where TB treatment is not a priority. In Somalia, as in other post-conflict settings, it was necessary to improve state-effectiveness and legitimacy, build capacity and raise detection levels (as most people who are infected have not been diagnosed with TB).

Currently, World Vision is the main focal point on TB in Somalia, with funding from the Global Fund and WHO. Going forward requires creating a sustainable, bottom-up system based on partnerships between providers, engaging the private sector and communities, with leadership from the NTP.

The programme improved diagnostics through the use of technology, such as the fluorescent microscope, but also through solutions lowering the barriers for patients: sputum collection made easier (coming for testing once instead of twice) and using a mobile lab to reach remote communities. The programme included a survey on why people are reluctant to being diagnosed, as well as a public information campaign to encourage people to get tested. A separate component was engaging with policy-makers to encourage them to implement a sustainable plan of action. As a result, more people were tested and testing became more accurate.

The resulting discussion focused on the issues of cross-species infections (humans to cattle and vice versa), the challenges of getting messages out to the public and the stigma surrounding TB.

6. How can better natural resource management support this “livestock livelihoods” dominated society and what are the disease implications Prof Richard Kock (Royal Vet College)

Richard Kock said that the Somali society is built around a nomadic livestock culture, where livestock practically IS the economy. On the other hand, Somalia also abounds in unique endemic species of wildlife. A mixed livestock and wildlife system could significantly benefit the economy, including develop tourism (similarly to Kenya, which, having invested in wildlife conservation, now draws 30-40% of its foreign exchange from tourism). However, in Somalia large wild mammals are being overexploited and many are endangered. The indigenous hirola antelope is a case in point – it is valued by locals and

treated as a sacred animal, but it is currently under threat. Plants are endangered as well, in particular tree species. Diseases further threaten wildlife and livestock alike, in particular Rift Valley fever, African swine fever and FMD, also having an adverse impact on trade.

7. Plenary Discussion - Common issues in development and across sectors

- The academic community in the UK hasn't spoken out much about Somalia and could do more to raise awareness.
- There's a need to communicate academic research findings to policy-makers involved in Somalia, as well as to opinion-leaders and funders. However, a major issue is that DFID does not have a base in Somalia (the nearest is Nairobi-based).
- Security for research workers working in Somalia is a problem, related to lack of international recognition of Somaliland. For foreigners it is almost impossible to do research work in the central and southern areas of Somalia. Some major issues that researchers encounter relate to security, but also to how to do representative sampling, and training of local interviewers.
- There is a lot of potential research work to be done at the intersection of livestock and human diseases (One Health for Somalia).

Conclusions

Participants agreed that this was a useful first meeting for information exchange and could serve as the basis for a network to increase further interaction on research activities related to Somalia. It was proposed that an LIDC Working Group be set up to further this end if participants were willing.