

## An Integrated Approach to Working in the ASALs



A Turkana herder in northern Kenya at a water-well provided by Oxfam. Better access to water sources means that pastoralists' vulnerabilities are greatly reduced.

**D**rought and other hazards like floods are a major threat to livelihoods and development in the arid and semi-arid areas of the Horn and East Africa.

The impoverishment of whole populations is thought to be increasing. This is making humanitarian crises triggered by shocks and those

resulting from chronic poverty barely distinguishable.

Oxfam has long recognised that development work in this context needs to take risk reduction fully into account.

This approach helps ensure that programmes are designed and implemented in ways that reduce

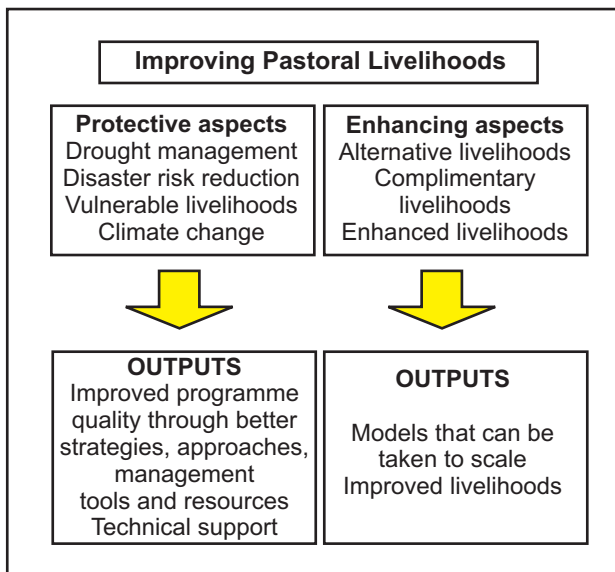
peoples' chronic vulnerability to hazards and strengthen their livelihood capacities.

It is essential that development actors take an integrated approach to protecting and securing livelihoods, recognising the link between levels of livelihood security and levels of vulnerability to disasters (particularly

droughts).

The Improving Pastoral Livelihoods (IPL) project aims to both enhance and protect the livelihoods of people living in pastoral areas.

## Enhancing Pastoral Livelihoods



**T**he two-year project will invest in experimentation and learning in livelihoods programming.

Oxfam believes that innovation and investment in alternative, complimentary and improved livelihoods can result in better returns for pastoralists and greater links to the environmental,

conservation and economic benefits of pastoral production.

The aim is to develop an evidence-based model for development in the ASAL areas by linking work to enhance pastoral livelihoods with work to better manage the impacts of disasters.

**Alternative livelihood activities:** include innovative

income generating activities that are not currently practised (this might include mobile phone based services, service provision, manufacturing traditional or non-traditional goods for export out of the region such as beading, basketry, mats, credit schemes, tourism, payment for environmental services, new crops or wild resources, exploitation of mineral resources). This area of work will focus on particularly vulnerable groups such as fisherfolk, destitute pastoralists and others with few assets. This work will also be responsive to particular opportunities and technologies that arise.

**Complementary livelihood activities:** such activities do not themselves depend on livestock keeping, but make complimentary use of other dryland resources within the

context of existing livelihoods. Examples include drylands forestry, agriculture, beekeeping, (sustainable) charcoal production, gum and resin harvesting, soap making, and aloe vera production.

**Improved livelihood activities:** enhancing the productivity of livestock-based livelihoods including livestock marketing groups and infrastructure, skins and hides processing, niche products such as camel milk, organic agriculture, weather risk insurance mechanisms, community-based animal health systems and so on.