

Research Poster

The Impact of Recurrent Droughts on the Livelihoods of Rural Communities in Somalia

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1. Introduction

Recurrent droughts have become one of the most severe environmental and socio-economic challenges in Somalia. These droughts have significantly affected rural livelihoods, particularly those that depend on livestock and rain-fed agriculture (FAO, 2023). Understanding the impacts of recurrent droughts is essential for designing effective adaptation and long-term resilience strategies.

2. Problem Statement

Frequent droughts in Somalia have resulted in widespread crop failure, livestock deaths, food insecurity, and mass displacement, especially in rural regions. Weak government capacity and insufficient drought-response mechanisms have further worsened the situation, leaving communities highly vulnerable to poverty, hunger and reduced economic stability (UNDP, 2022).

3. Research Questions

- How do recurrent droughts affect the socio-economic conditions of rural households in Somalia?
- What coping and adaptation strategies are used by affected communities?
- What roles do government institutions and humanitarian organizations play in drought mitigation?

4. Methodology

This study employs a **qualitative, desk-based research approach**, relying on secondary data from credible publications, including government reports, humanitarian assessments, and international studies by FAO, UNDP, and WFP. The analysis focuses on identifying patterns, challenges, and existing interventions related to drought impacts in rural areas of Somalia.



5. Results

- Droughts have led to significant losses and declines in **agricultural productivity**, resulting in reduced household income.
- **Food insecurity and displacement** have increased in drought-affected regions.
- **Limited access to water, basic services and humanitarian aid** exacerbates community vulnerability.
- **Community-based coping mechanisms**, such as migration, reliance on social networks, and selling household assets provide short-term relief but are unsustainable in the long term.

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

Recurrent droughts continue to undermine rural livelihoods, weaken community resilience, and hinder long-term socio-economic development in Somalia.

Recommendations:

- Strengthen community resilience through sustainable water-management systems, drought-resistant agricultural practices and improved early-warning systems.
- Enhance coordination between government agencies, NGOs and international organizations to improve coordination for effective drought response.
- Promote environmental conservation initiatives, including reforestation, soil rehabilitation and restoration of degraded pastoral lands.

References

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