



The Alan Shawn Feinstein International Famine Center



Research update March 2006

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Introduction

The Feinstein Center is presently running some 20 research and institutional change projects, under three broad themes of enquiry: Politics & Policy, Rights & Protection, and Lives & Livelihoods. This update briefly describes the present status of each of these pieces of work. Full reports on the projects will appear on the Center's web site as they are released and will be flagged in our regular six monthly Center Status Reports.

Politics and Policy

The Politics and Policy theme highlights the reality that policies geared to alleviating suffering and protecting the rights of marginalized and vulnerable people – the core preoccupation of the Center – closely intersect with politics. Cutting across the work of the Center, the intersection has two specific aspects: the influence of politics on policy formation and implementation, and the impact of policy on politics. The Center pursues a research agenda on both these aspects.

1. The Humanitarian Agenda 2015: Principles, Power, and Perceptions

Lead Researchers – Larry Minear & Antonio Donini

Building on earlier Humanitarianism and War Project studies, Center has embarked on new independently-funded policy research, aimed at equipping the humanitarian enterprise to better address emerging challenges. The new research focuses on four specific issue areas which are likely to shape the humanitarian agenda in the coming decade. The key questions are:

Universality

Although humanitarian principles are viewed by practitioners as universal, are the philosophical, institutional, funding, and operational roots of the international humanitarian apparatus inescapably Western and Northern? To what extent does this reality affect the quality and effectiveness of humanitarian work, and what can be done to enhance the universality of the humanitarian enterprise?

Terrorism

How do terrorism and counter-terrorism affect the concept and conduct of humanitarian action? Is the humanitarian enterprise being increasingly drawn into the security agenda of the US and its allies? What can be done to delimit those impacts?



Coherence

Should humanitarian work be integrated into the political and peace-building aspects of multidimensional peace missions and other political frameworks? Does the cost to humanitarian action of integrating it into such frameworks exceed the benefits reaped by humanitarian action? If so, what strategies might alter the balance?

Security

Is the security environment for humanitarian action becoming more volatile worldwide or only in specific contexts? What accounts for the changes? Based on a more in-depth understanding of the vectors of insecurity, what strategies are humanitarian organizations pursuing, and might they pursue, to enhance the security and effectiveness of their work?

Starting in January 2006 an international and interdisciplinary team is investigating these issues in Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Liberia, Burundi, and the Sudan. Additional countries may be added if finances permit. Members of the team are Sippi Azarbaijani-Moghaddam, Antonio Donini, Greg Hansen, Larry Minear, Tasneem Mowjee, Karina Purushotma, Ian Smillie, Elizabeth Stites, and Xavier Zeebroek. A detailed methodology for data collection and survey tools has been developed. In each country, the researchers will focus on a key theme (e.g. terrorism and counter-terrorism in Colombia; perceptions of aid agencies in Afghanistan; integrated missions in Liberia and Burundi; etc.) while at the same time collecting information on the other three themes. This should allow a composite picture to emerge of the challenges and opportunities facing humanitarian agencies in countries in crisis.

The picture is being built from the bottom up: The emphasis of the data collection is on the perceptions of local communities and local actors. Working with the support of local partner agencies, researchers conduct individual and focus group interviews with members of local communities as well as aid agency personnel in the field. This is complemented by interviews with a wide range of informants in the donor, UN, NGO and academic communities as well as by a survey of over one hundred aid personnel at donor and agency headquarters using a web-based electronic questionnaire.

The team's findings will be the subject of a number of reports and articles scheduled for completion in the latter half of 2006. These will include a final report and several technical papers or case studies as well as shorter policy papers aimed at aid agencies and donor institutions.

2. Globalization, Trade and Vulnerability

Lead Researchers – Andrew Catley and Yacob Aklilu

The Globalization, Trade and Vulnerability initiative assesses the impact of growing international livestock trade markets on marginalized and conflict-prone pastoralist



communities in trans-boundary areas of the Horn of Africa. While international trade is often promoted by donors and African governments as a means to reduce poverty and vulnerability, the poor and socially excluded are often isolated from such markets. Initial evidence from Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia indicates that the benefits of new trade are easily captured by powerful elites. Trends such as the private enclosure of communal land and environmental degradation increase the risk of resource-based conflict. As commodities acquire a high market value, pastoral women lose ownership and control of assets, and become more vulnerable and exploited. With funds from the USAID Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance, we're about to begin an initial one-year study in southern Ethiopia to examine the impact of new livestock exports on pastoralist vulnerability. We'll track the economic, social and environmental changes at community level which are primarily attributable to new markets, and the broader policy and institutional arrangements which enable these changes to occur. These broader factors include the myriad of donor-led programs in the region and the increasing influence of security agendas. Security issues are of particular relevance to the large but isolated pastoralist groups who often move across national borders as part of their traditional grazing and conflict-avoidance strategies.

A second main strand of this initiative looks at international standards governing livestock trade, and options for more enabling standards and certification systems for developing regions. This work builds on our past successes with changing the standards of the Office international des epizooties (the WTO body responsible for livestock trade) and mostly takes the form of co-authorship of technical papers on these issues, and strategic publication in journals such as *The Veterinary Record* (the veterinary equivalent of the *British Medical Journal*).

3. Policy Implications on Livestock Exports from Ethiopia

Lead Researcher – Yacob Aklilu

Three governments in the last forty years in Ethiopia pursued economic policies of contradicting nature spanning from free market to command and mixed economic systems. Each policy was radically different from the preceding system and had a direct bearing on trade, including livestock trade. The disruptions of livestock exports in mid 1970s and early 1990s not only resulted in loss of critical lead time but it also galvanized the unofficial cross-border market towards Somalia, Kenya, Djibouti and Sudan. The research reviews the implications of how policy changes in Ethiopia impacted internal livestock trade, official exports, losses in revenues and analyzes the ensuing measures taken by pastoralists when internal markets were weakened or disrupted due to policy changes. The paper recommends measures for reversing the flow of trade to internal markets for maximizing exports of livestock. This paper will be published as a book chapter in a forthcoming J. McPeak and P. Little (eds) *Livestock Marketing in Eastern Africa*, ITDG press, United Kingdom.



4. Alchemy Project, 2006-2008: Scaling-up Best-Practice Microfinance Services for Refugees and Internally Displaced People in sub-Saharan Africa

Lead Researcher – Karen Jacobsen

The Alchemy Project began in 2001 as a pilot program to explore whether and how microcredit and other income support interventions can support the livelihoods of forcibly displaced people. Microfinance in developing countries, especially South Asia has been shown to reduce poverty, but it has not been widely attempted with refugees and IDPs in Africa, because they are considered too risky an investment. Based on data gathered during three years of impact evaluation of more than ten programs in refugee and IDP settings, our project has demonstrated that microfinance can be considered as a viable intervention to support the livelihoods of the displaced. Using our experience and evidence from Alchemy Project Phase I, we are continuing to work with NGO partners in African contexts, including Chad (CORD), Uganda (UWESO) and Liberia (ARC). We are also extending our work to explore the use of remittances to conflict zones as a possible source of collateral for microcredit. This research is under the aegis of the Livelihoods, Migration and Remittance Flows to Conflict-Affected Regions (see Helen Young), and is based in Darfur, Sudan, working with MercyCorps.

For a review of our work and findings from our program in Uganda, see “Using Microenterprise Interventions to Support the Livelihoods of Forcibly Displaced People: the Impact of a Microcredit Program in IDP camps in Lira, Northern Uganda.” *Refugee Survey Quarterly* Vol. 25 (2). 2006

5. Hastily Formed Networks

Lead Researcher – Peter Walker

This study, on how organizations best organize work and their relations in crises, is being carried out through the Society for Organizational Learning and in partnership with the Ford Motor Company, the US Department of Defense and a number of other university centers. The research takes as its starting point that normal hierarchical methods of command and organization are ill equipped to deal with rapidly changing environments where there is a high degree of uncertainty and where individuals and groups who have not previously worked together are forced by circumstance to cooperate for a common cause.

The research will study both successful HFNs and failed HFNs in the field of humanitarian crisis response, including the present planning for a flu pandemic, and attempt to build a body of evidence from this, and parallel studies in defense and automobile design, to propose best practice in organizing such networks.



Protection and Rights

Protection is a primary obligation of the state. However, during armed conflict, mass flight across borders, or transitions from conflict to post-conflict, the state may be unwilling or unable to fulfill its protective obligations. In such cases, the responsibility to protect falls on regional and international bodies, which must be willing and able to promote the protection of at-risk populations. The Center works to draw attention to the obligations of governments, regional and international bodies, and the duties of communities and individuals to respect, protect and uphold these the rights of communities affected by crises. We work to shape policies and programs that support key actors in meeting these responsibilities.

The Center also seeks to ensure that at-risk populations affected by armed conflict or displacement can and do play an active role in informing and developing protection strategies. Local people can and should serve as advocates for the protection of themselves and other conflict-affected populations.

6. Northern Uganda, Eastern Uganda and Southern Sudan Project

Lead Researchers – Dyan Mazurana, Darlington Akabwai, Clement Ochan and Frank Olyet

Phase 1

The current policy of key international donor governments, the World Bank, the United Nations, and the African Union of addressing the conflicts in Northern Uganda, Eastern Uganda and Southern Sudan in relative isolation may ultimately guarantee that armed conflict continues in the region. Regardless of the optimism surrounding the current peace agreement between the government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), given the existing conditions on the ground, it is likely that this region will continue to be mired in violence and crises unless policymakers and donors adapt their perspective to take into account the larger regional picture. Identifying and understanding the ways that the conflicts in these areas are linked requires a more holistic regional approach than has been articulated to date. This on-going three year study provides in-depth, field data on the facets of the specific conflicts and makes clear the broader regional links to best inform policy and program formation in the following areas: protection of civilian populations, DDR, peaceful resolution to the conflicts, transitional justice, conflict prevention, and the strengthening of sustainable livelihoods.

The study is an on-going, multi-year field-based undertaking involving a core team of eight researchers from Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, and the United States, including FIFC members Darlington Akabwai, Clement Ochen, Priscillar Ateyo, Elizabeth Stites, Christopher Carlson, and Frank Olyet. Dyan Mazurana serves as team leader.



Phase I

The research team produced a briefing report "In Search of Security" and presented a series of briefings based on findings from research conducted between January and October 2005. This first phase of research in the larger project focused on the use of military approaches to address the conflicts, the rise of militias, the regional trade in weapons, and current disarmament and demobilization attempts.

Phase II

All three teams are currently working on issues of human security and livelihoods in their respective regions.

In **Northern Uganda**, Elizabeth Stites lead the team in a study in Kitgum district of the impact of the conflict on rural and urban household livelihoods and how populations have adapted to cycles of insecurity. In Kitgum the researchers' examine the role of land access in food security and livelihood strategies, the economy in displacement camps and how this links to household coping strategies, and the variations in household income streams based on access to humanitarian assistance, remittances, land, credit and markets. The team also examined the ways in which human security intersects with livelihood strategies, particularly for child- and female-headed households. Within the fieldwork, Dyan Mazurana and Khristopher Carlson focused on issues of violence, violations and protection and the affects on livelihoods.

In **Karamoja, Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan**, Darlington Akabwai and Priscillar Ateyo are finalizing their work on illegal weapons markets and the links to pastoralists and commercial cattle raiding. They will then shift their work to begin research on a series of violent events that have led to the Karamajong losing their grazing rights in Acholi, Teso and Lango areas, which has cut off a primary Karamajong coping strategy that they now need to employ in the face of serious droughts and food insecurity. Darlington Akabwai and Priscillar Ateyo will also host and document a meeting between two groups that have broken ties in what appears to be a misunderstanding of events, to see if it is possible to begin to reestablish those ties. Elizabeth Stites, Khristopher Carlson and Dyan Mazurana will join Darlington Akabwai and Priscillar Ateyo to carry out a large human security and livelihoods study in three regions of Karamoja. This larger study will build on the in-depth qualitative work Darlington Akabwai and Priscillar Ateyo are carrying out and serve as a comparative study to the Kitgum data collected by Stites' team earlier in Kitgum.

In **Southern Sudan**, Clement Ochan is carrying out work on community responses to violence in three towns that have experienced high levels of LRA attacks and internal killings and sexual assaults, including by members of the armed forces operating in the region. The main objective of the study is to document how the communities in Equatoria have responded to violence in the areas. The study also examines the efforts the government (especially SPLM) has made in order to bring stability and normalcy in the area. The study examines the infrastructure put in place by state actors to engender stability and normalcy, in particular Ochan will study and document the



mechanisms deployed by state actors to bring positive change and stability; the reaction of various interest groups, including institutions towards the new laws and the government's response to them; and the outcomes of the new small arms laws. The study will also examine the community-based responses to perceived and real threats in the study areas, and how they are striving to improve their social and economic security. Here the study will strive to examine the community approaches (including awareness creation) and addresses the sexual threats (rape and prostitution) posed by the armed forces currently operating in some of the areas;..

In September, Elizabeth Stites, Khristopher Carlson and Dyan Mazurana will join Clement Ochan to carry out a large human security and livelihoods study in South Sudan in areas that are affected by the LRA, the UPDF and the SPLA activities. This work will build on the in-depth qualitative work conducted previously by Clement Ochan, and will serve as a comparative study to the work conducted in Kitgum and Karamoja.

7. Forced Marriages, Rights Abuses and Access to Legal Systems in Northern Uganda

Lead Researcher – Khristopher Carlson

This research is carried out in conjunction with the larger Northern Uganda, Eastern Uganda, and Southern Sudan project housed at FIC. In this study Khristopher Carlson focuses on rights abuses committed against girls and women abducted by and subsequently forcibly “married” to rebel Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) fighters and commanders. The study is concerned not only with rights violations committed against these girls and women during their time spent as captives (e.g., enslavement, torture, forced pregnancy), but the broadest range of rights violations committed against these girls and women from the time of abduction through post-captivity. With the change of status from captive-wives to formerly-abducted returnees, patterns of rights violations against these girls and women emerge where-by the perpetrators include both the LRA and the Ugandan government. This study, therefore, examines the availability and accessibility of legal remedies for formerly captive “wives” and the extent to which formal and customary legal systems are able to address the rights abuses perpetrated against them. Additionally, the study examines the young women’s ability to enjoy the positive obligations of the State in terms of protection, education, health and other national and international law-based rights. Within the study, Carlson explores the relationships among clan-based systems, and local and national courts, as well as the role of some local and international NGOs in facilitating legal access and addressing patterns of violations. The institutional change dimension of this project focuses on documenting the challenges and obstacles that prevent young women’s access to formal and customary legal structures. This is done in an effort to work with the girls and women, clan leaders, legal advocates, and human rights actors to make the necessary changes in the local and districts courts to help ensure availability and access for girls and women seeking legal redress.



8: Perceptions and Practice of the Ugandan Amnesty Act in Peace and Reconciliation

Lead Researcher – Khristopher Carlson

This on-going study examines the Ugandan Amnesty Act, the government document pardoning any participant or collaborator with non-state forces against the government of Uganda. The Amnesty Act is interpreted and understood differently among members of civil society, government agencies and those returning from rebel fighting forces. Through interviews with civil society members, abducted children and youth, and the Amnesty Commission, the lead researcher, Carlson is compiling qualitative data to illustrate the varied perceptions of what the Amnesty Act means in terms of justice and reconciliation. Significantly, the interpretation and application of the Act by the Amnesty Commission, the body set up to oversee applications for amnesty, is such that those rights violations committed by rebel LRA fighters against abducted girls and women (including egregious and consistent patterns of torture and forced pregnancy) are deemed exempt from criminal prosecution by the individual victims themselves as per the conditions of the amnesty. Carlson's initial legal analysis finds this interpretation is actually counter to both national and international law. He is therefore investigating the Ugandan government's conformity to the rules of international law and its responsibility to follow the principle that states cannot cite domestic legal systems (e.g., the Amnesty Act) as justification to circumvent international treaty obligations. In addition, in the present case of the Amnesty Act, Carlson documents evidence of government obstruction to the prosecution of LRA fighters by abducted citizens, most often youth. The institutional change dimension of this project is to clearly articulate the legal parameters of the Amnesty Act and the Amnesty Commission, indicate where the state of Uganda is in violation of its own international treaty obligations and where the Amnesty Commission is misinterpreting the Act and its own roles, and detail what legal remedies actually exist for victims of crimes committed by the LRA and the state of Uganda.

9. Women Leaders in Armed Opposition Groups: International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, and Justice

Lead Researcher – Dyan Mazurana

Dyan Mazurana worked with the ICRC, Geneva, Geneva Call, and the Program for the Study of International Organization(s) of the Graduate Institute of International Studies, University of Geneva to design a landmark workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November 2005, bringing together 40 women leaders from armed opposition groups in Africa that are currently in conflict or that have recently moved into post-conflict



phases. The objective of the 2005 "Africa workshop" was to identify ways of strengthening the understanding and observance of international humanitarian and human rights law within the African armed groups and their political wings. At the same time, the workshop sought to contribute to African and international organizations' understanding of and ability to work with armed opposition groups to promote and uphold international humanitarian and human rights norms. Four topics were discussed during the workshop: humanitarian law, human rights law, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and transition into governance role. Mazurana is authoring the final report which is due to be published in April 2006.

The institutional change component stems from working with the ICRC regarding their engagement with women leaders within armed opposition groups. In addition, the work seeks to inform and strengthen the African Union Peace and Security Directorate's understanding of and engagement with gender dimensions within armed groups and armed conflict.

10. World Bank's Multi Country Demobilization and Reintegration Program (MDRP) in the Greater Great Lakes Region

Lead Researchers – Dyan Mazurana & Khristopher Carlson

The research team worked with the World Bank to help identify areas for improving attention and strengthening action in regard to gender dimensions and youth associated with fighting forces within national DDR programs in Africa. As part of this work, from October 31 to November 2, 2005, the World Bank's MDRP Secretariat and UNIFEM held a consultation workshop for approximately 80 participants. These participants included seven national delegations from countries currently demobilizing fighters -- Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda -- as well as representatives from UNICEF, UNDP, ONUB, MONUC, UNIFEM and the MDRP Secretariat Technical Coordination Group (TCG). Key civil society partners, international experts on gender and DDR, and women ex-combatants from the greater Great Lakes region were also in attendance. The overall objective of the MDRP and UNIFEM project was to examine the gender and generational elements of the DDR processes underway in the MDRP supported countries and to identify mechanisms for addressing these elements in the context of the MDRP at the regional and national levels. Mazurana and Carlson are writing the final report and recommendations to the World Bank MDRP and UNIFEM on this project, which will be completed by May 2006. This work is influenced by an institutional change agenda (on our part) to strengthen the MDRP and national DDR commissions approaches regarding women and youth associated with fighting forces

11: Working with African Human Rights Institutions

Lead Researcher – Khristopher Carlson



African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR)

The ACHPR is charged with promoting and protecting human rights in Africa, and is the primary organization overseeing States' compliance to human rights obligations (it is modeled on the UN Human Rights Committee). The Commission can hear complaints by groups or individuals on violations, examines state reports, interprets the African Charter, and appoints Special Rapporteurs. In recent years, non-governmental groups have made valuable contributions to the Commission's development and have contributed greatly to individual State's implementation of human rights.

Khristopher Carlson will work with Peter Walker, Andy Catley and the FIC's Addis office to submit an application for FIC to gain observer status within the African Commission. Doing so will enable FIC to (1) participate in the ACHPR's bi-annual sessions, as observer status allows the Center to submit a formal report to the ACHPR on rights issues of its concern and participate in the sessions' public proceedings; (2) further strengthen links with other rights-based regional and international organizations working within the ACHPR; and (3) further promote the advancement within the AU and African Member States of the rights of women, children, refugees, IDPs, pastoralists and other key population groups with whom FIC works. Observer status would also enable FIC to submit complaints directly to the ACHPR on behalf of individuals or groups whose rights are violated by AU member states. Carlson will serve as the Center's liaison to the ACHPR and help to facilitate the work of FIC staff and faculty and our partners in the preparation of briefs and reports, as well as during the working sessions of Commission itself. The ACHPR is based in Banjul, Gambia.

African Court on Human and People's Rights and the African Court of Justice

There are two continental courts in Africa enabled to handle human rights issues, the African Court of Human and People's Rights (which has been ratified but not yet established) and the African Court of Justice (awaiting ratification). There is a process underway to determine how to create the African Court on Human and People's Rights, which will likely be located in East Africa. By establishing itself with the ACHPR, FIC could be better positioned to interact with and help to strengthen the African Court of Human and People's Rights (and any future African Court of Justice). When the Court is established, it will have jurisdiction to hear cases concerning violations of any international human rights treaty to which an African State is member from individual citizens or groups of citizens. It is important that FIC be part of the African and international human rights networks and coalitions that are currently having influence for the creation of an effective African human rights court so that there is a strong human rights protection mechanism in Africa.

12. Northern Uganda Human Rights Documentary Film Project

Lead Researcher – Khristopher Carlson



Khristopher Carlson and Dyan Mazurana are working with Catherine Hébert of Montreal, an independent human rights documentary film maker, to inform and advise her during the production of a current feature-length film which analyzes the current conflict and documents the effects of the war on the population of Northern Uganda. Previously, they worked on the production of Hébert's 2004 film, *Mangos for Charlotte*, which was featured at 2006 Montreal Human Rights Film Festival.

Lives and Livelihoods

Crisis-affected, displaced and marginalized communities frequently suffer heightened risks that lead to all too familiar scenes of malnourished children, disease epidemics and increased deaths. While these are the most immediate and urgent concerns, they reflect a much wider range of issues that undermine and erode livelihoods. The Center's approach is to prioritize life-saving response strategies for meeting basic needs (e.g., shelter, food, water, sanitation and wider public health measures), and at the same time to ensure a more balanced approach that respects and builds on local efforts and supports local priorities in order to protect livelihoods and save lives.

A common element of the Lives and Livelihoods theme is turning analysis into practice, and ensuring well-designed strategic interventions in different operational contexts.

13. Human Security and Livelihoods in Uganda and Sudan

Lead Researcher – Elizabeth Stites

As part of the larger Uganda-Sudan project at the Center, Elizabeth Stites, Dyan Mazurana, Khristopher Carlson, Clement Ochen, Darlington Akabwai and Priscillar Ateyo are working on a larger human security and livelihoods study in Northern Uganda, Eastern Uganda and Southern Sudan. In March and April, Khristopher Carlson and Dyan Mazurana began looking at the relationships between insecurity, livelihoods strategies and rights violations specifically among child- and female-headed households in Kitgum District. Within this, Carlson is looking at the responses of local leadership (clan elders, local council executives, and IDP camp leaders) to patterns of rights violations against women and children and how these populations are responding to violations and how livelihoods strategies adapt over time.

In June, Mazurana, Stites, Akabwai, Ateyo and Carlson will carry out a large human security and livelihoods study in three regions of Karamoja. This larger study will build on the in-depth qualitative work Akabwai and Ateyo are carrying out and serve as a comparative study to the Kitgum data collected by Stites' team earlier.

In September, Mazurana, Stites and Carlson will join Ochan to carry out a large human security and livelihoods study in Equatoria in areas affected by LRA, UPDF and SPLA



activities. This work will build on the in-depth qualitative work conducted previously by Ochan, and will serve as a comparative study to the work conducted in Kitgum and Karamoja.

14. Livelihoods, Migration and Remittance Flows to Conflict-Affected Regions

Lead Researchers – Helen Young, Karen Jacobsen, Abdal Monim Osman

Our research explores the role of migration and remittances in conflict zones, both as they affect the livelihoods of people affected by the conflict and their role in either supporting recovery from conflict or fuelling conflict and associated war economies that develop over time. A deeper understanding of migration and remittances will enable us to make recommendations about policies and remittance facilities that could potentially support conflict-affected communities without contributing to war economies or fuelling conflict.

The first phase of the project, a mini-survey, will take place in Darfur in July 2006. In March 2006, we tested our research strategy in Khartoum, where we also conducted a stakeholder analysis. Subsequent phases of the project will explore remittances on the part of the Sudanese diaspora in African cities (Benghazi, Cairo, Nairobi) and in the west.

15. Evaluation of WFP Darfur Interventions: Design Phase

Lead Researcher – Helen Young

Building on the previous Tufts/FIFC research on livelihoods in Darfur lead by Helen Young, a Tufts/FIFC team have undertaken background researches allowing them to plan and design the evaluation of the relief interventions of the UN World Food Programme in 2004 and 2005. These food aid interventions were of an unprecedented scale reaching more than 3.25 million in 2005 and with an annual budget of more than \$800 million. The background researches included a review of the conflict and crisis, and associated international response, including WFP's role within it. Studies also reviewed other aspects of international engagement with the crisis including political, military, peacekeeping, human rights & associated judicial/ ICC processes.

In preparation for the evaluation a full stakeholders analysis was undertaken, including a review of stakeholder issues and issues raised in recent and past evaluations of Sudan. As background materials, two separate chronologies of the crisis were developed, plus a bibliographic database.

16. Follow-up to the research “Livelihoods Under Siege” Darfur, 2005.

Lead Researcher – Helen Young



This research is the only field based independent academic research to be undertaken in Darfur, and in neighboring Libya, since the conflict first erupted in early 2003. As such it has had a major impact on international organizations (UNOCHA, World Bank, WFP), bilateral donors (USAID, DFID, Dutch, EU) and NGOs (MercyCorps, British Red Cross, Practical Action) who have used the research findings as a platform for their own investigations or to shape their strategic planning and programs. For example, Helen Young is regularly invited by the Sudan Team within the Department for International Development/ Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In addition the World Food Programme used the Livelihoods Under Siege study to justify the rapid expansion of their food aid strategy in Darfur in 2005. The World Bank in Sudan has said it uses this report as 'their bible' when it comes to the history and evolution of the conflict and crisis and its impact on livelihoods. Sudanese civil society groups have also commended the report and offered their collaboration and assistance in any follow-up or future researches.

This research has provided the foundation for the follow-up research study on labor migration and remittances (see number 14). Other follow-up includes the development of a detailed case-study on labor migration and remittance flows which will form part of the ODI Humanitarian Policy Groups review paper on this topic.

17. Malnutrition and Mortality: Towards Improved Practice in Use of Benchmarks

Lead Researcher – Helen Young

The use of the nutritional indicator 'acute malnutrition among children under five years of age' has long been established as an indicator of the nature and severity of humanitarian emergencies. Based on her previous experience of developing standards and promoting good practice in the use of such data, Helen Young with Susanne Jaspars have recently reviewed the role of anthropometric data as part of an international benchmarking system, which was presented at the WHO convened Meeting on Benchmarking in Geneva in December 2005. Following on from this Helen Young and Susanne Jaspars are reviewing these issues from a more practical perspective in order to produce a review that is more easily understood and accessible by practitioners in the field and policy makers within national and international organizations. This will be published in 2006 by the Humanitarian Policy Network of the Overseas Development Institute.



18. Forced Migration and the New African City: Transnational Livelihoods and Politics in Johannesburg, Maputo and Nairobi

Lead Researcher – Karen Jacobsen

Through surveys of Congolese and Burundian refugees in three African cities, Johannesburg, Maputo and Nairobi, the project gathers and analyzes data that will address significant gaps in our understanding of Africa's urban refugees and changing urban realities. The research explores three questions:

What are the factors that structure refugees' journeys from source country to capital city? In particular, how do urban refugees mobilize transnational networks during their flight?

What is the nature of urban refugees' linkages with their countries of origin and how do these ties affect their livelihoods?

How does the frequency and nature of contact between urban refugees and the local population affect group loyalties and affiliations?

The project examines how the refugees' ethnic, national, transnational or religious group membership, as well as their legal status, affect their journeys, livelihoods and socio-political attitudes. Our surveys will take place in neighborhoods of Maputo and Nairobi with high densities of refugees and migrants. The survey will be complemented by subsequent qualitative research to provide in-depth understanding of the experiences of migrants. Our survey will sample both nationals and migrants living in comparable conditions. Including this 'control group' of national communities will allow us to make statistically significant claims about the effects of flight, legal status, xenophobia, and remittances on the lives and attitudes of urban dwellers. Gathering data on citizens living in refugee-populated areas will also allow us to explore the sociological foundations of the antagonism that often exist between locals and migrants.

The project will contribute in three ways to migration research: (1) Base-line data. The project will provide the first methodologically sound and comparable survey data on the experience of self-settled refugees in African cities; (2) Building local academic and research capacity. We will work closely with local partner institutions: the Center for Population Studies at Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique), and the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi; (3) Policy implications. Our data and analysis will contribute to a more empirically based policy discourse by providing policy makers, refugee advocates, and the business community with a more robust understanding of the livelihoods of urban refugees in Mozambique and Nairobi, and their potential contributions to the urban and national economies.

19. Controversies, Pastoralism and Policy Process

Lead Researcher – Andy Catley



Our Controversies, Pastoralism and Policy Process initiative recognizes that in common with mobile communities throughout the world, African pastoralists are often misunderstood and regarded by policy makers as problematic and uncivilized. Yet during the last 15 years or so a mass of research conducted by anthropologists, rangeland scientists, ecologists and economists contests deeply entrenched views on the viability and efficiency of pastoralism in fragile, arid environments. Despite the rigor and scale of this academic output, supportive policies for pastoralists are virtually non-existent. Instead, a series of starkly contrasting policy narratives and perceptions continue to paralyze the policy debate, and pastoralist communities continue to receive inappropriate aid assistance. This initiative approaches the problem of limited pro-pastoralist policy through analysis of policy process, and the hands-on design and facilitation of policy development.

The initiative is currently focused around our technical coordination and policy harmonization of the USAID-funded Pastoralist Livelihoods Initiative in Ethiopia, a \$29 million program involving federal and regional governments, various academic and research institutes, 15 international and local NGOs, and the private sector. Our role includes technical backstopping of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Ethiopia to convene a national Pastoralist Livestock Policy Forum, and development of training courses in policy process for senior Ethiopian policy makers. The training process involves collaboration with the Institute of Environment and Development. Specific, high-profile controversies are identified and we then facilitate a range of reflective, action research and awareness-raising activities designed to encourage policy makers to revisit, and ultimately refine, their understanding of the issues and the policy options. Improving understanding of the livelihoods – and nutritional – benefits of livestock to pastoralists is part of the process, as is tracking the ways in which policy makers respond to new learning and information.

Related to the two initiatives above is a proposal to develop a generic policy process training courses and run a series of country-level case studies involving senior livestock policy makers in Africa. The proposal involves partnerships with the African Union's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, and the Institute of Development Studies. We expect to hear a decision on funding by mid-March 2006.

20. Best-Practice Livelihoods Approaches to Livestock Interventions

Lead Researcher – Andy Catley

Given the importance of livestock to pastoralists, livestock interventions are a common feature of large-scale relief and food security programs in the Horn of Africa region. However, long-term impact is consistently undermined by incoherent relief and development programs which often exist side by side. Relief provides short-term inputs free of charge, with minimal local consultation and often excluding local service providers. In contrast, development programs promote privatized services and



community participation. Livelihoods approaches highlight the need to design relief interventions which not only save lives, but also protect and ideally, enhance livelihoods.

We're currently involved in two processes related to the promotion of best-practice and livelihoods approaches:

Analysis of past experiences: Somalia and South Sudan cases studies on pastoralist interventions and policies in complex emergencies

In 2005 and early 2006 we were commissioned by the Agriculture and Development Economics Division of FAO to review experiences with livestock interventions in Somalia and South Sudan. The case studies focused on the role of co-ordination, information, and national and international policies in shaping livestock interventions, and the impact of these interventions on livelihoods. The case studies are now being compiled with other studies (from DRC) into a book on food security and livelihoods interventions, also supported by FAO.

21. Towards National and International Guidelines on Livelihoods Approaches to Livestock Interventions

Lead Researcher – Andy Catley

We're currently leading two related areas of work on best-practice livelihoods approaches to livestock interventions

Drawing on experiences from the Sphere Project, we're using funds from USAID's Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance to lead a global effort to develop best-practice guidelines for livestock interventions in complex emergencies. This work is just beginning and involves facilitation of a core group of agencies to oversee the process, plus wide consultation with practitioners. The core group comprises FIFC, FAO, ICRC, the African Union and Vétérinaires sans frontières.

Closely linked to the above process is our technical co-ordination of USAID's Pastoral Livelihoods Initiative in Ethiopia, for which we've already produced best-practice guidelines (in January 2006). These guidelines will be updated as new experiences emerge from the field. Due to the current drought in southern Ethiopia, the team is providing hands-on technical support to USAID-Ethiopia, government and NGOs to ensure effective livelihoods-based responses and channel lessons from the field into policy dialogue. We're having early successes with the involvement of the private sector in the drought response, particularly livestock traders who are now reaching communities previously isolated from marketing systems. This is resulting in off-take of animals from rangelands and crucial injections of cash into pastoralist areas. Our support is also generating lessons on the co-ordination of large-scale programs involving international NGOs with diverse, and often limited expertise in livelihoods



programming or experience in pastoralist areas, but strong political support from the program donor.

Working with NGOs to improve assessment of their work, particularly using participatory impact assessments to examine economic and nutritional impacts, is a key step in producing evidence to inform best-practice.

22. Testing and Institutionalising Participatory Research Approaches and Methods

Lead Researcher – Andy Catley

This work is a response to two main constraints related to policy reform in marginalised areas. First, conventional research methods are often difficult to use due to various operational, resource and security problems. For example, longitudinal epidemiological studies are extremely problematic in pastoralist or insecure areas.

Second, there is a need to improve direct communication between pastoralists and policy makers. During the last five years or so we've been testing various combinations of participatory epidemiology (PE) and impact assessment methods as means to combine an acceptable level of methodological rigour with the benefits community participation. This approach was very successful in our previous programs with the African Union, and we currently have two research proposals under review by the Wellcome Trust (UK).

One proposal will further develop participatory impact assessment methods, looking specifically at the impact of livestock diseases on the livelihoods of pastoralist communities in Ethiopia, with a view to prioritising government interventions. This project works with government and veterinary schools in Ethiopia.

The second project aims to improve teaching of PE in veterinary schools in Africa, and covers Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania and Nigeria. The project builds on current teaching courses at either undergraduate or postgraduate levels in African universities (initiated through our previous program with the African Union), and will develop improved teaching materials and teaching methods with local university staff. We already run a short course on PE for students on the Master of Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics course, Addis Ababa University.

Both projects involve collaboration with the Cambridge Infectious Diseases Consortium (University of Cambridge, UK) and the African Union. A decision on funding for both proposals is expected in mid-March 2006.



23. Action research on mini dairy processing enterprises in pastoral areas of Ethiopia and Kenya

Lead Researcher – Yacob Aklilu

Despite recurring droughts, pastoral areas produce surplus milk in times of plenty when they receive good amounts of rainfall. However, much of the surplus milk is wasted due to poor shelf life, problems of hygiene and marketing constraints. With funds from OFDA, the Famine center will establish five mini-dairy enterprises for women groups in Ethiopia and Kenya. These women groups will be trained in hygienic milk processing and business management and provided with milk processing equipment for producing pasteurized milk, yoghurt, ghee and butter. Distribution of the products will take place through centrally located milk kiosks either in bulk or to individual customers. This project has an in-built research component that will look into supply demand factors, management issues, the viability of the business and improvements in income earnings for participating members, if any. Good practices will be documented for wider use.

The program is due to start in March 2006

24. The Development and Application of a Participatory Impact Assessment Tool for Humanitarian Assistance in sub-Saharan Africa

Lead Researcher – Peter Walker

Under this Gates Foundation funded initiative the Famine Center will provide support, to the operational NGOs funded by B&MGF, in order to develop baseline project information, monitoring systems and participatory evaluation techniques for their innovative emergency interventions. With the selected agencies, the Center will develop and field-test an impact assessment toolkit. The Center will lead a final evaluation of the selected projects focusing on their true impact on the targeted communities. The Center will produce a final evaluation report and will disseminate the Impact assessment toolkit within the humanitarian aid community.

The initiative will start in March 2006 and run for 19 months. The lead researcher for the initiative is presently being recruited and will be based in Addis Abbaba.

The goal of this work is to improve the ability of the humanitarian community to carry out impact assessment of its work and thus improve its effectiveness, and accountability to the affected communities and the donor community.

The specific objectives of this project are:

1: The development of an impact assessment approach and methodology with participating agencies.



2: The application of this methodology to selected agency projects to produce a single comprehensive impact evaluation report.