

# WEEP: Water-security in Ethiopia and the Emotional-response of Pastoralists



Dr Paul Hutchings – WASH Futures 2018

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# Introducing WEEP

## ESRC-DFID Development Frontiers Fund (2017-2019)

- Exploratory research, new thinking, results that challenge the status quo, uncertain success
- Cranfield University, IRC Ethiopia, Oxfam in Ethiopia, International Management Institute







“The underlying hypothesis is that **conventional ways of measuring water access poorly align with pastoralist livelihood patterns and water use.** This not only leads to misleading data but also contributes to public policy and development interventions that **damage pastoralists’ resilience to overcome the stresses of poverty, environmental change and conflict.**”

# Can we do better than this?

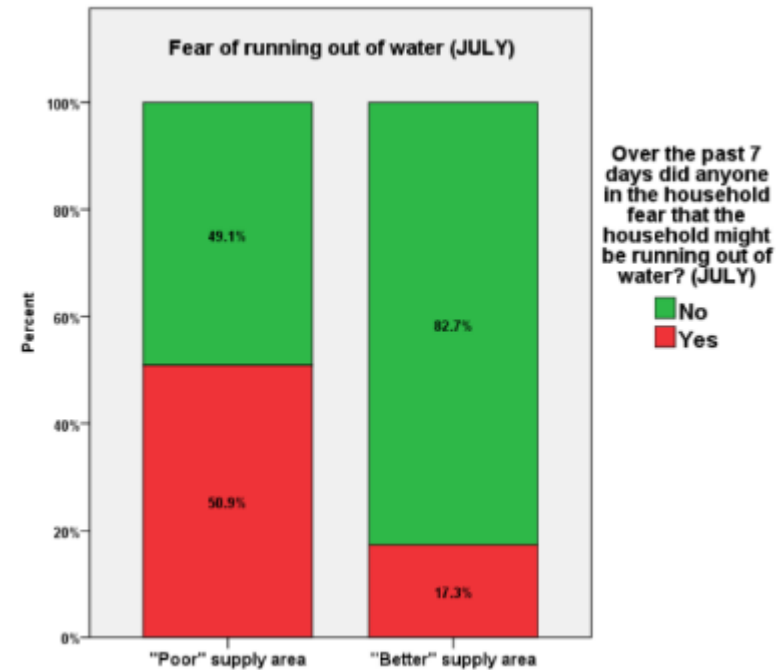
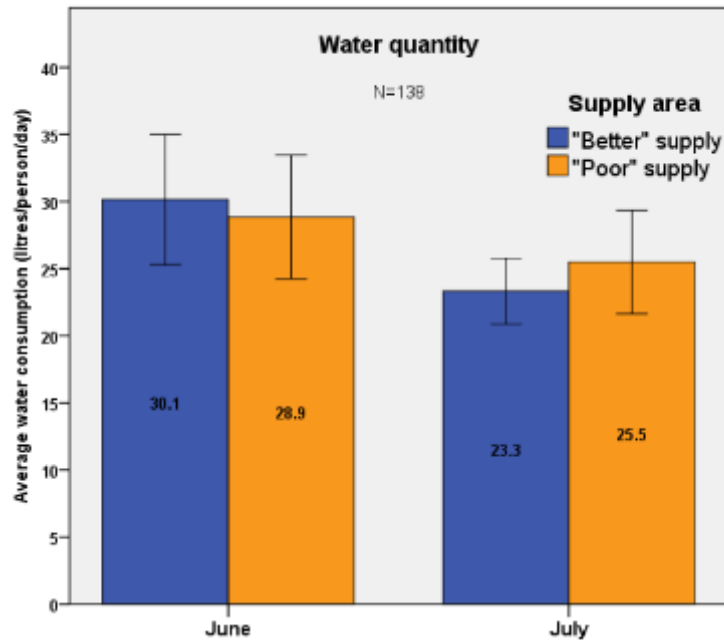
## Shortcomings of conventional water access indicators for pastoralists:

- 1) the distinction they make between domestic and productive water does not correspond with pastoralists' **multiple-uses of water**;
- 2) the emphasis on measuring service quality from single-water points does not capture pastoralists' **customary approach of sharing numerous water sources**;
- 3) the household-level unit of analysis can mask **inequalities** between household members, which will be particularly pronounced when members of pastoralist households spend long periods away from the homestead (and which also prevents important analysis of intra-household differences across categories such as **gender**.)
- 4) Pastoralist resilience to conflict and environmental change has been linked with **mobility** – this is not recognised in conventional ways of measuring water access





# Analytical power of a focus on emotional wellbeing



- Data from Welenchiti, Oromia, Ethiopia
- Compared the better and poor supply areas of a small town
- Household coping mechanism can bridge supply inequities
- Thomas et al. (2017), MSc Thesis



# WEEP research overview

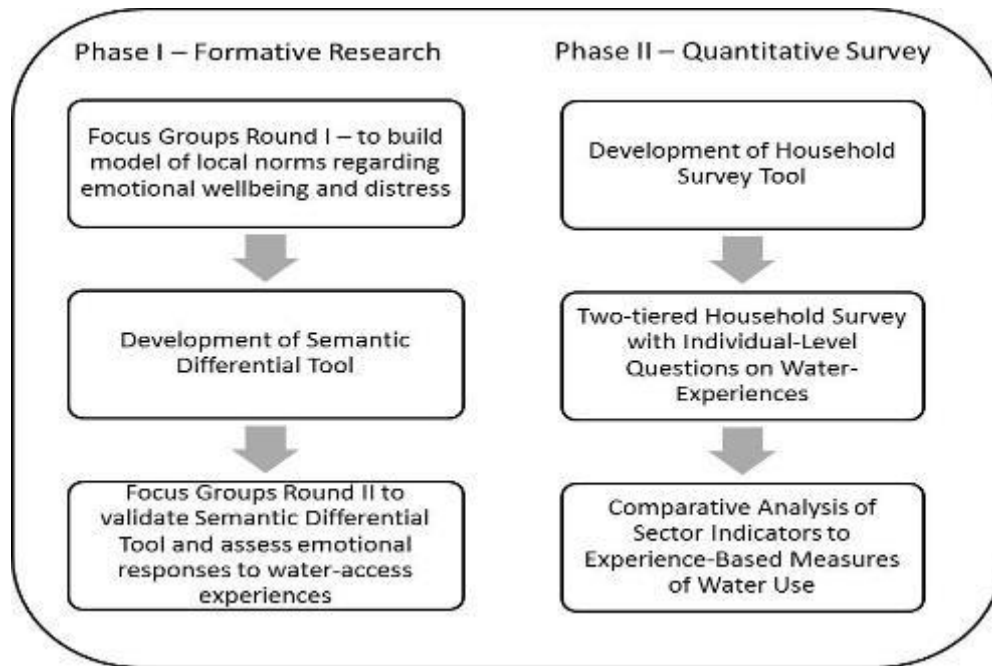
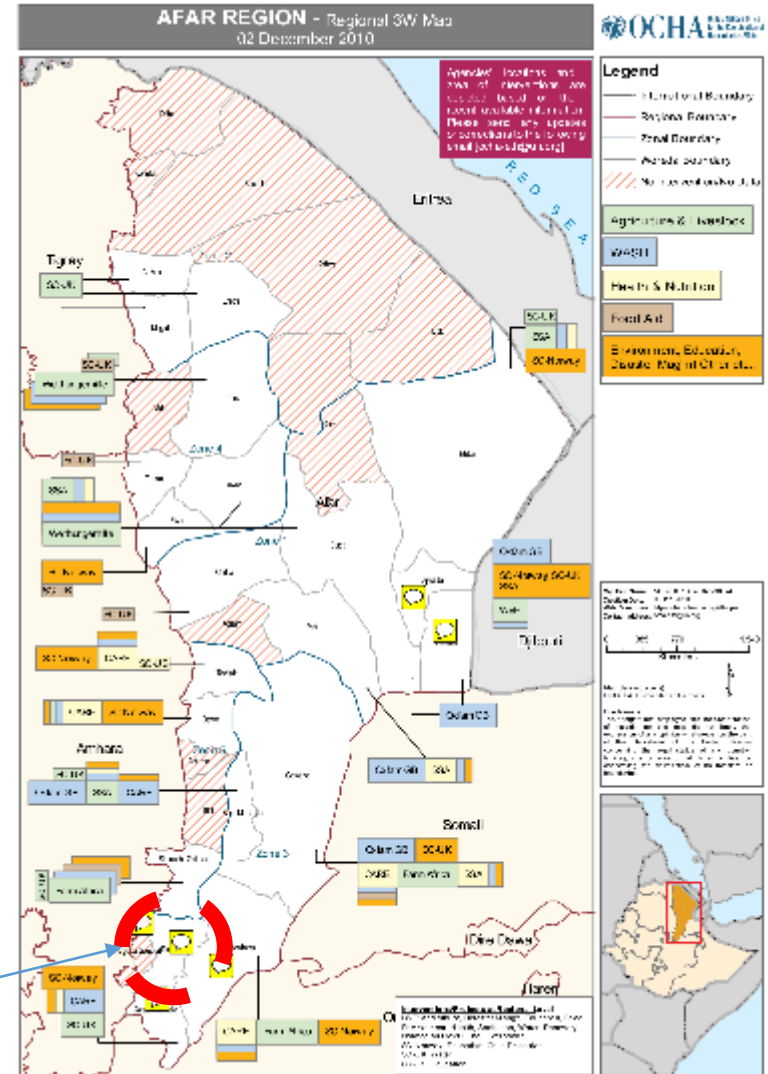


Figure 1 - Overview of Research Design

Study Sites: Afar State, Dulecha Woreda, Ege, Adkonta and Tirtira Villages



# Formative Fieldwork Part 1 – initial findings

## Resource Mapping Exercises

**What are the things that can cause stress for a man/women in their community?**



Ege		Adkonta		Tirtira	
Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Lack of water and pasture and the displacement this causes.	<sup>2</sup> Lack of water and pasture and the displacement this causes	Lack of water and pasture	<sup>1</sup> Absence from family due to drought and lack of pasture and water.	Lack of water and pasture, and the uncertainty and disappointment it causes.	<sup>3</sup> Absence of pasture and water
	Absence of transport to health/markets	Absence of transport to health/markets	Absence of transport to health/markets	Displacement from home and lack of sleep.	<sup>3</sup> Absence of transport
	Loss of wife – man takes on deceased's responsibilities	Forced to sell livestock but not enough for food (causes confusion and worry)	Unfair practices in livestock dealing and high overheads		
		Poor quality food	Sick/death of livestock in dry season.		
		Become sick so can't prepare food.	Expensive transport		



# Formative Fieldwork Part 1 – initial findings

## Resource Mapping Exercises

**What are the things that make a man/women happy in this community?**



Ege		Adkonta		Tirtira	
Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Rainy season – enough pasture and water – enough food and nutrition	Rainy season – enough pasture and water – enough food. Don't worry about where to take herd.	Rain season – enough food/milk	Reduced conflict – in dry season between Argoba and Essa communities	Grazing land available in the village Enough food	Rainy season – enough pasture and water – enough food. Brings good feelings
	'Social and Cultural events	Social and cultural events. Singing and dancing.	Enough water and pasture – healthy animals, good price. If they had enough services and infrastructure	More social, time to braid hair. 'Even older women look beautiful'	Have time to play and chat
			Able to buy fertiliser	Social/Cultural events – song/dance. We sit under tree and churn butter.	Alternative employment opportunities and crop cultivation.

# Conceptual developments – validated and refined through formative fieldwork part 2

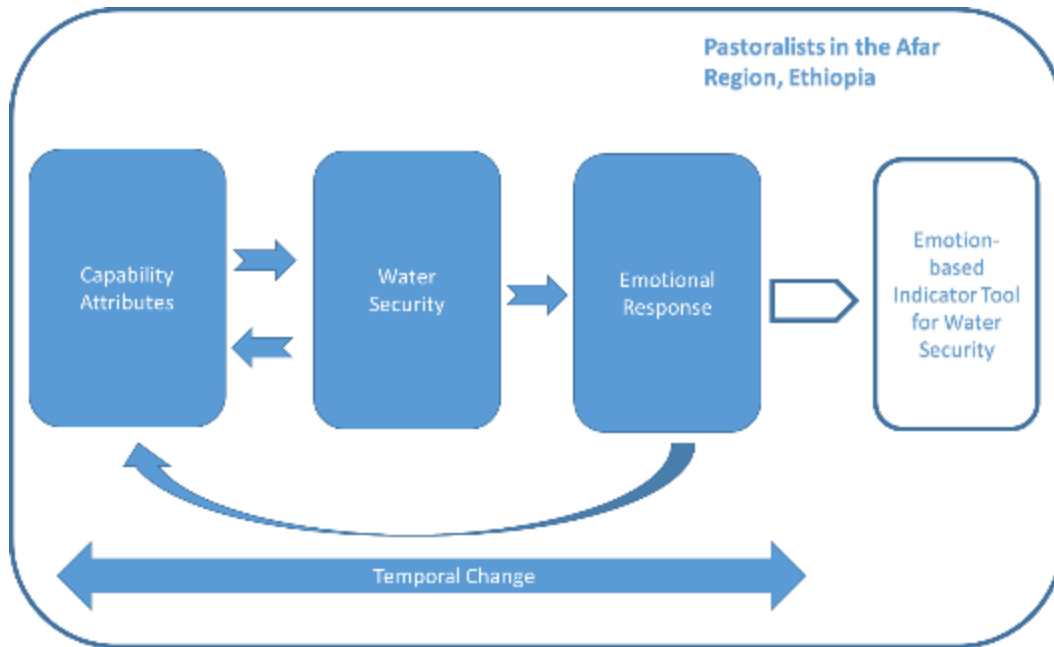


Figure Conceptual Framing for Water-Security in Ethiopia and the Emotional Response of Pastoralists (WEEP) (Adapted from Goldin, 2012)

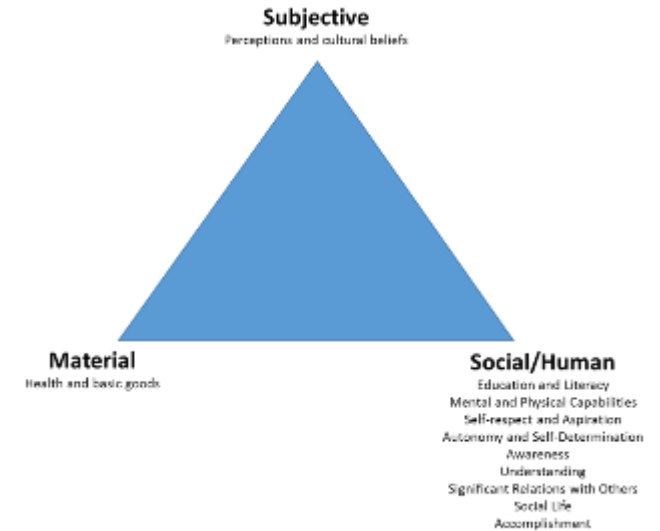


Figure : The three dimensions of wellbeing and capability attributes (Adapted from White, 2010 and Goldin, 2012)

# Designing an indicator and applying in survey study

## Considerations

- Based on conceptual framework
- Aggregation into composite indicator
- Nominal logic and quantification
- Validation of indicator
- Design and application of survey instrument
- Analysis against conventional indicators

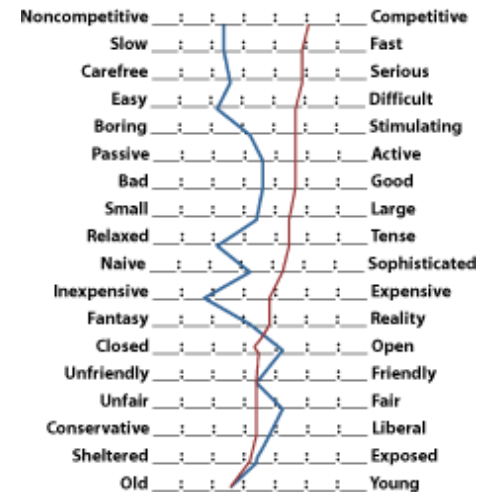


Figure 1 – Semantic differential

# WEEP: Water-security in Ethiopia and the Emotional-response of Pastoralists

- New study into experience-based indicators of water security
- A way to understand and evaluation the needs of vulnerable groups – M&E toolkits an output from project
- Detailed investigation into water within the Afari pastoralist context
- We are keen to learn from others' experience and share our learnings



<https://www.ircwash.org/projects/weep>

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