

Module 9 Animation

PART 1:

Abdi and his family are smallholder farmers and pastoralists in the Jowhar district in Somalia.

Their livelihoods critically depend on climate sensitive ecosystems that are affected by dry and wet extreme weather events.

As they practice semi-subsistence agriculture, their food consumption and ability to secure food primarily depend on their own food production.

“Our lives depend on agriculture, we are farmers, we spend days working on our farm and cultivating the little piece of land we have.

Sometimes we get to harvest vegetables and other crops from our land, and other times we don't harvest anything.”

In Somalia, many people are affected by conflict.

While conflict has a negative impact on Abdi's farm activities, it also increases the dependence on subsistence agriculture.

This is because conflicts disrupt local trade and markets.

Abdi and his family find themselves experiencing ever growing challenges to secure food.

Seasonal and internal migration for farm work has helped in the past.

But now the drought affects most of the country, drying out previously nutritious soils.

“Our morale is strong.

There is a Somali proverb that says, you eat what you get.”

The situation is made much worse by the presence of an armed group that controls parts of the country and collects illegal road taxes.

They block the roads, and this makes both pastoralism and humanitarian work pretty much impossible.

The consequences are life threatening because humanitarian work could support the struggling population with food and other needs to survive and prepare for the next drought.

PART 2:

Let's go back to Abdi's story.

He is exposed to frequent weather shocks and conflict.

When the armed group in the region strikes again (or makes another attack), he doesn't have much control over when and where to escape to for shelter.

In recent years, Abdi and his family have had to leave their homes several times to seek support after droughts and harvest failures.

In some places they went to, the local community helped them with food and shelter.

But other times there were tensions.

There was also fear that there won't be enough food for locals and people like Abdi, displaced by conflict, drought, floods, or sometimes a combination of these reasons.

These fears have led to some people being accused of inciting tensions or even being chased out of communities.

But does getting displaced automatically make people more vulnerable or likely to experience conflict as well?