



Evidence review 29th February 2024

Pastoralism and agriculture in conflicts and crises: a review of three years of SPARC research

This report, commissioned midway through SPARC's six-year run, synthesises the programme's work in the period 2020 to mid-2023.

By { "@context": "https://schema.org", "author": { "@context": "https://schema.org", "@type": "Person", "name": "SPARC", "url": "https://www.sparc-knowledge.org/about-us/contributors/authors/sparc" } } [SPARC](https://www.sparc-knowledge.org/about-us/contributors/authors/sparc)
[Promoting innovative solutions](#) [Reframing aid and resilience](#) [Supporting livelihoods and markets](#) [Understanding land and conflict](#) [Working in a changing climate](#) [Gender equality and social inclusion](#) [Global](#)



A man tends his livestock in Sankabar Kebele, Somali region, Ethiopia - Image by UNICEF Ethiopia - CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

People living in the drylands are used to dealing with uncertainty. Far from being outdated or unproductive, pastoralism and farming in the drylands are highly adaptive, well suited to semi-arid to arid ecosystems, and form a critical part of regional food and economic security. However, the resilience of these people is being increasingly tested, and support remains fragmented, siloed, and often ill-suited to specific contexts.

Supporting Pastoralism and Agriculture in Recurrent and Protracted Crises (SPARC) was commissioned in 2020 to drive more meaningful and cost-effective support to pastoralists, agropastoralists and farmers living in the context of climate change, protracted crises and ongoing conflicts. It does this by generating policy-relevant and accessible evidence on the drylands, providing decisionmakers - governments, donors, non-governmental organisations, banks, investors and the private sector - with the tools and information they need to intervene more effectively.

This report summarises three years of SPARC's work. Chapter 1 reviews SPARC's research so far into critical knowledge gaps and outlines how this research has been designed to generate change in perceptions, policy-making and aid programming. Chapter 2 looks at the impacts of SPARC's work so far: how knowledge is being used to support different actors to engage more effectively in the drylands, and how it is being embedded into wider conversations in the humanitarian, climate and development sectors. Finally, Chapter 3 considers the role and importance of SPARC's research in the years ahead, in shaping longer-term programmes, policies and investments that are sensitive to the unique needs and issues affecting the drylands.

SPARC IN STATISTICS

Supporting Pastoralism and Agriculture in Recurrent and Protracted Crises (SPARC) is helping drive the agenda on a number of critical issues in the drylands and conflict-affected countries, including:

Reframing aid and resilience



Supporting livelihoods and markets

Understanding land dynamics and farmer-herder conflict



Identifying innovative solutions

Working in a changing climate



Generating new data on gender and social dynamics



SPARC in numbers since 2020:

16



The number of **countries** in which SPARC has worked

10



SPARC's work includes 10 of the **world's 20 most fragile states**

11



Declarations, decision texts and strategies which SPARC has informed

6



Major international events where SPARC has guided discussions and shaped outcomes

20+

Pieces of technical assistance provided to governments, banks and development organisations



54



Reports published, including **10** in French

>GBP 1.5 million

Leveraged in additional funding for research on **gender equality** and **food price increases**

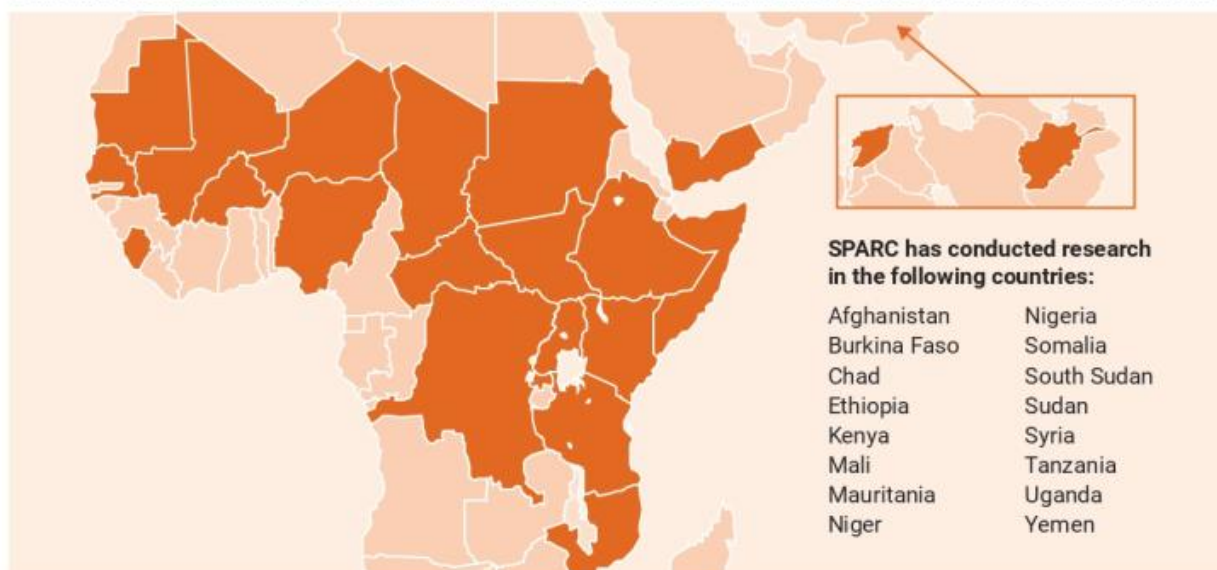


Figure 2 from the report 'SPARC in statistics'
Credit SPARC 2024

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<https://www.sparc-knowledge.org/publications-resources/Pastoralism-and-agriculture-in-conflicts-and-crises-review>