



Drought-related livestock mortality and subsequent psychological morbidity in Moroccan pastoralist men

a longitudinal cohort study (2000–2026)

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ABSTRACT

Background: Recurrent severe droughts threaten the viability of pastoralist livelihoods in North Africa, with livestock asset loss a well-documented economic shock. The longitudinal impact of such climate-related losses on psychological morbidity in this population remains poorly quantified.

Purpose and objectives: This study aimed to establish the longitudinal association between drought-related livestock mortality and the incidence of clinically significant psychological morbidity among male pastoralists.

Keywords: *Pastoralist livelihoods, Drought, Psychological morbidity, Longitudinal cohort study, North Africa*

Article Highlights

- A standard deviation increase in livestock loss raised odds of morbidity by 52%.
- Cumulative morbidity incidence was 34% in the highest loss quartile versus 11% in the lowest.
- Findings demonstrate a direct longitudinal link from climate shock to mental health.
- Study followed a closed cohort of 412 pastoralist men from 2000 to 2026.

Methodological Note

Analysis used a GEE model with lagged livestock loss and household-clustered errors to establish temporal association.

This longitudinal evidence calls for integrated mental health support in climate adaptation programmes.

ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

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