



## Voices from the desert: living with desertification

Diramo lives in the village of Siminto in Ethiopia. She grew up as a herder, but now the abundant grasslands that fed the cattle are gone and the people are no longer able to migrate in search of pasture.

*"During my childhood, the grass was the height of a person," Diramo says. "Now, the shortage of water and grass has led to the emaciation of cattle; we have nowhere to go. Our life is tied to our cattle. When the cattle are fat, we get fat; when they are emaciated, we too lose weight."*

Chuqulisa from Ethiopia is divorced and supports her six children by selling firewood. "It is during acute droughts that we enter into conflict with other clans," she says. "It is during this time that the Boran wander with their animals in search of pasture and water. A group called the Digodi moves around with the same purpose. The two groups clash, [both] claiming the land is theirs. The conflict is so serious and it claims many lives."

More stories from the Desert Voices project by Panos London, funded by an IFAD grant, can be found on the Panos website: [www.panos.org.uk/?lid=435](http://www.panos.org.uk/?lid=435)

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