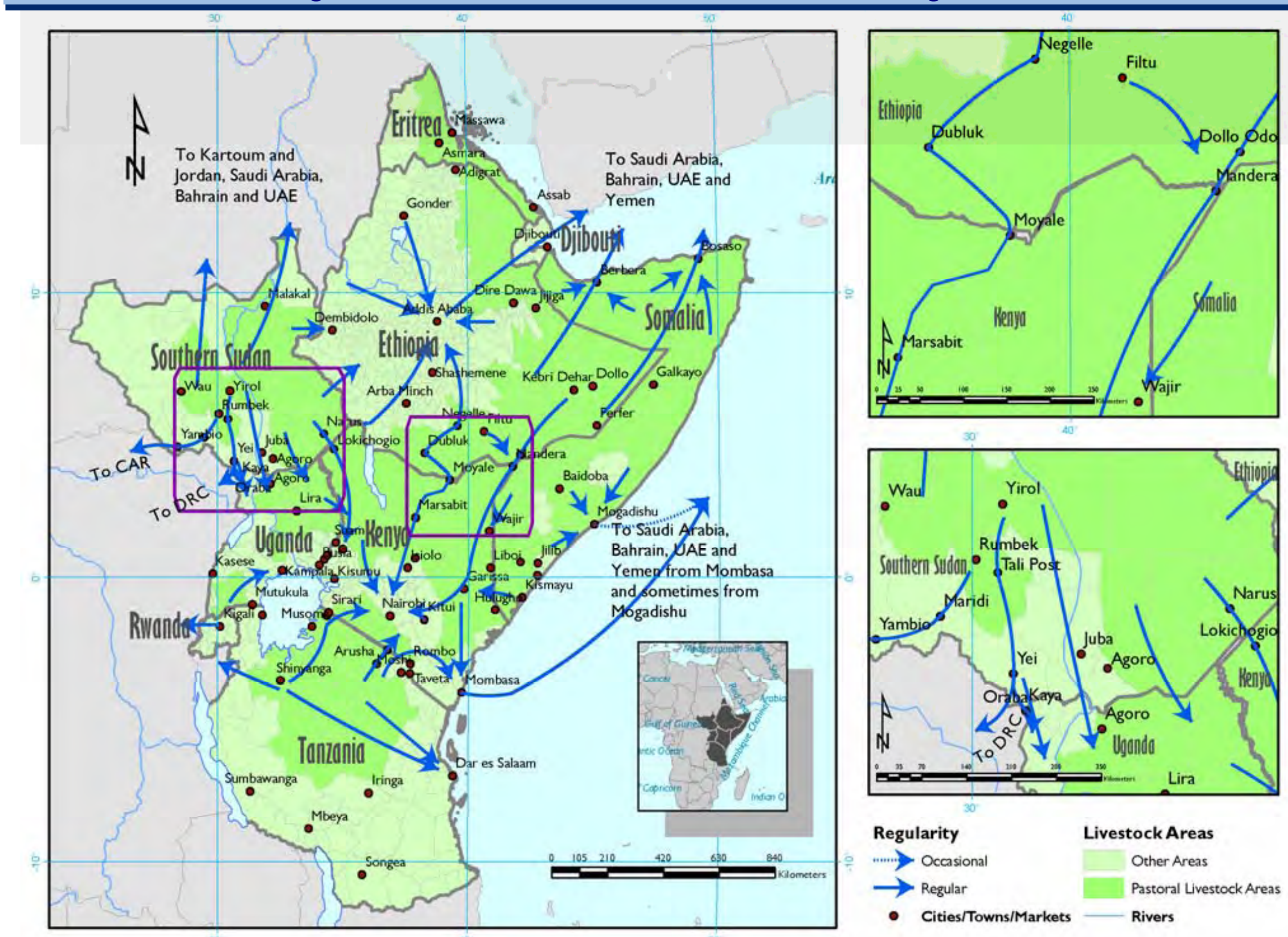
volume of intra-regional trade. The economic impact of the ban on livestock imports from the GHA by Saudi Arabia between February 1998 and May 1999 and again in late 2000 and due to a Rift Valley Fever (RVF) outbreak in Kenya and Somalia was massive. The volume and value of livestock exports from pastoralists in Somaliland, Somalia, Region V of Ethiopia, and Eritrea tumbled. Exports through the port of Berbera in Somaliland dropped from nearly three million head in 1997 to just over one million in 1998, and the value of lost export earnings was estimated at around $100 million. Prices of livestock fell by around 30 percent in Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia as a result of the ban. Other countries in the GHA included in the ban were only marginally affected, as the Gulf was not a significant importer from these countries.

Civil strife also affects the domestic and overseas livestock export markets, redirecting supplies to regional markets. For example, Little et al (2001) observed a 'boom' in cross-border livestock trade along the Somalia/Kenya border, with the aggregate value of cattle sales in Garissa, Kenya growing by an astounding 400 percent between 1991 and 1998 after the fall of the Somali government. In terms of volume, sales rapidly grew from 24,395 in 1989 to more than 100,000 cattle in 1998[4].

Cross-border trade between South Sudan and Kenya and between South Sudan and Uganda takes place because of the proximity of surplus and deficit markets across borders. Figure 2 is a summary of the main livestock trading routes in the GHA.

Figure 2: Greater Horn of Africa main livestock trading routes



Source: FEWS NET

[4] Where data is used this should be taken as indicative of the situation in most years unless stated otherwise.