

Post Intervention Monitoring Exercise

Livestock Distribution Programme - October 2023



The Post Intervention Monitoring of the Livestock Distribution Programme was conducted by UNHCR in 2022 to assess and monitor the various aspects of the programme, which benefitted 2,731 households in nine governorates in 2020 and 2021. The sample size was set at 350 households, taking into consideration age, gender and diversity as well as household status. UNHCR analyzed the collected data and shared the results with partners accordingly to inform programming purposes.

90%

of households were satisfied with UNHCR's livestock assistance

60%

of households can meet their basic needs with UNHCR's livestock assistance

45%

of households can meet their health-related needs with UNHCR's livestock assistance

BACKGROUND

The crisis in Syria has not only resulted in significant damage to key agriculture-related infrastructure, but also has hampered income-generation activities of many households including those in communities hosting internally displaced people and returnees, increasing their vulnerability.

The Livestock Distribution Programme supports selected households engaged in livestock-rearing for their livelihood through provision of small livestock as well as other ancillary inputs and supplies.

As UNHCR livestock interventions focus on small animal breeding, sheep and goats were the main livestock asset provided in most cases. The choice between sheep and goat was made according to needs assessments, and previous experience.

Through this programme, UNHCR extends protection to affected households, whose livestock rearing constitutes their main source of income, and aims to support them meet their basic needs. Internally displaced people, returnees, and refugees are all eligible for this programme, as are affected host community members.

PARTNERS

Partners who made the PIM exercise possible were: Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC), Syria Trust for Development, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East (GOPA), Syrian Society for Social Development (SSSD), Monastery of St. James the Mutilated (MSJM), and Al Ta'alouf Association.

"I am working hard to raise these two sheep to have a flock in the coming years"

Um Abdul Kader, a mother of six in Al-Wdihi, Aleppo Governorate



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Um Abdul Kader, a mother of six including two with disabilities speaking with UNHCR staff. She benefited from the livestock distribution programme in Al-Wdihi, southern Aleppo.

"I am working hard to raise these two sheep to have a flock in the coming years and improve my family's life", she said.

KEY FINDINGS

Access to Information

- Community members and local leaders are the main channel for communities to learn about the livestock distribution programme. Others included the Directorate of Agriculture, word of mouth, UNHCR and NGO staff, and outreach volunteers;
- Almost half of households attended sessions relevant to the assistance. The awareness and training sessions were considered useful and expanded the knowledge of households in breeding, animal health, and feeding approaches;
- Most households knew how and where to report complaints related to the livestock distribution programme; however, no complaints about the programme were filed.

Quality and Quantity of Livestock Assets

- Most households received two to three livestock assets (the majority being sheep, with a small number receiving goats) and the overall increase in number of livestock assets (i.e. heads) stands at 22%;
- The majority reporting assets received are good or excellent quality - in terms of breeding, milk production, animal health, age and size;
- Most households received adequate quantity and satisfactory quality of fodder, although they requested increasing the quantity of fodder and providing regular veterinary care as additional support.

Impact of Assistance

- Most households earned income as a result of the assistance;
- Most households received good support after receiving the assistance – through phone calls, WhatsApp groups, physical visits of the partner focal points or the veterinarian after receiving the assistance;
- The livestock assistance increased the ability of over 60% of households to meet their basic needs, and provided the same percentage of households with a regular source of income;
- The livestock assistance increased the ability of 45% of households to meet their health-related needs.

Challenges

- Some households faced challenges after receiving the livestock and opted for different ways to overcome them, although the majority did not report facing any challenges. For those who did, the four main challenges were lack of veterinary care including vaccination through national service providers, inability to secure fodder, climate issues (i.e. poor rainfall), and lack of grazing points.

LESSONS LEARNED

Specific recommendations to improve the programme emanate from the findings.

These include:

- Ensure awareness and training sessions are extended to households lacking the required knowledge in best practices of livestock breeding, animal disease control, and feeding approaches;
- Explore solutions to reduce the period between the assessment and the delivery of assistance including cash for livelihoods;
- Ensure that quality support and follow-up is extended to all households after receiving the assistance in all cases;
- Overcome the challenges for livestock during the delivery journey e.g. long journey, unsuitable weather conditions, wrong feeding practices, and health condition i.e. pregnancy;
- Ensure that veterinary support is extended at least for three months after the distribution of assets;
- Identify and encourage innovative ways to secure sufficient amount of fodder (i.e., hydroponic barley during winter season);
- Ensure that UNHCR/partners thoroughly study the challenges faced in implementing the programme to reach the desirable impact in the new cycle.



Livestock distribution to returnee families in Tal El-Daman, Aleppo Governorate.
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Contact: UNHCR Syria External Relations Unit

Email: syrdareporting@unhcr.org