

Destocking: Process Case Study

Contract purchase for slaughter destocking in Kenya

Arid Lands Development Focus (ALDEF), a local NGO operating in northern Kenya, implemented a destocking operation in 2000.

ALDEF requested the community to identify trustworthy contractors from among themselves to supply livestock to the programme. Those selected included members of the 200 plus women's groups which ALDEF was already supporting with a microcredit programme. These groups supplied the bulk of the sheep/goats. Individual contractors, mostly women, also supplied cattle and camels to schools and hospitals. The purchasing price was fixed at \$15 per sheep or goat, and at \$66 per head of cattle or per camel. This was later raised to \$17.50 per sheep or goat, \$73 per camel, and \$80 per head of cattle. The contractors sold the livestock to ALDEF at these prices, retaining the profit for themselves. Contractors were instructed on the number and type of animals to buy, i.e. old and barren animals. Purchased animals were handed over to community committees and delivery notes issued to effect payment.

A total of 950 cattle or camels and 7,500 sheep or goats were supplied by the contractors. The project covered seven peri-urban and seven rural areas. Slaughtering took place twice a week at the sites. Fresh meat was then distributed regularly to participants based on two sheep or goats between eight families per week. Institutions also received weekly meat from the scheme: two bulls/camels per school; three to four bulls/camels per high school; six goats to a hospital; three goats to a TB centre; and an unspecified number of goats plus one bull to each of six orphanages.

ALDEF involved community members in the committees that were formed to select participants for its slaughtering programme. Vulnerable households were targeted, and the list was read out in public. People unhappy with the list were given the right to appeal, and disputes were referred back to the committee for a decision. In addition to selecting participants, the committees were entrusted with receiving livestock from contractors, distributing it to eligible families, witnessing the slaughtering and meat distribution, collecting skins and hides, managing disputes, and liaising with ALDEF. A high level of community involvement meant that project activities were completed on time.

Source: Aklilu, Y. and Wekesa, M. (2002) Drought, Livestock and Livelihoods: Lessons from the 1999–2001 Emergency Response in the Pastoral Sector in Kenya, Humanitarian Practice Network Paper 40, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), London.