

Provision of Livestock: Process Case Study

Deciding against livestock distribution following the Pakistan earthquake

On 8 October 2005, three districts in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and five districts in North-West Frontier Province (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) in Pakistan were struck by a severe earthquake. In support of the government's short-term recovery and rehabilitation programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) undertook a review of the livestock component of the programme in May/June 2006. The objective was to formulate a strategy for the first six months of the short-term recovery phase. The review made best estimates of the post-earthquake feed supply and demand situation in the affected districts. The situation is summarised in the table below.

Post-earthquake feed supply and demand

District	Total feed demand	Total feed supply	Surplus (deficit)
	MJME (m)	MJME (m)	MJME (m)
Azad Jammu and Kashmir			
Muzaffarabad	5,361	7,560	2,199
Bagh	2,688	1,757	(931)
Rawalakot	5,092	3,306	(1,787)
North-West Frontier Province			
Mansehra	9,339	7,096	(2,242)
Battagram	4,037	1,871	(2,165)
Shangla	3,097	2,901	(197)
Abbottabad	6,339	3,336	(3,003)
Kohistan	11,962	11,103	(860)

MJME = megajoules metabolizable energy; (m) = millions

Post-earthquake, only Muzaffarabad District had a significant feed surplus although Shangla and Kohistan Districts, neither of which experienced high animal losses, had a reasonable balance between the feed demand and the associated feed resource. For the remaining districts there was a significant feed deficit.

Based on these findings, FAO changed its original plan to restock affected households and instead focused its attention on supporting the surviving livestock through the provision of winter (2006/07) feed, animal shelters, and animal health care. Despite the concerns expressed regarding the sustainability of the feed resource, of the nine implementing agencies providing livestock assistance in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the 13 in North-West Frontier Province:

- 27 per cent indicated they would provide large ruminants.
- 33 per cent would provide small ruminants.
- 33 per cent were said to be providing both small and large ruminants.
- 7 per cent were providing support for livestock inputs only

Source: Simon Mack, personal communication, 2008.