

Mapping markets for supporting livestock shelters in Pakistan floods

In Pakistan in late July 2010, severe flooding moved southward along the Indus River through Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province (KPK) towards western Punjab and the southern province of Sindh. In total, the National Disaster Management Authority reported that approximately 20 million people were affected, over 1.8 million houses damaged or destroyed, and 1.3 million hectares of field crops destroyed. Rapid flash floods of high erosive power damaged valley bottomlands in the north, and devastated transport infrastructure and river floodplains further south. In KPK an estimated 1.2 million livestock and 6 million poultry were lost, and more became sick due to lack of proper feed and veterinary support.

In September 2010, a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary KPK team carried out an assessment using the Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis (EMMA) methodology.

After consultation, the EMMA team focused on critical market areas of wheat seed, livestock, agricultural labour, and timber poles (for shelter). The livestock component analysis found that livestock were a critical safety net for the key target groups of small farmers and landless labourers. Tenant farmers tended to prioritize saving/replacing animals over agricultural input purchases such as wheat seed. Livestock-related flood impacts were most severe in the agricultural plains, where there was an absence of alternatives for grazing or fodder, resulting in the deterioration of livestock condition and health. Crisis sales of diseased livestock were unprofitable due to the decline in price at village level. In the mountain areas, shelter for livestock was urgently required in preparation for winter to prevent loss of livestock livelihoods and prevent the need for animal migration into the agricultural plains. No agencies were considering livestock shelter options at that time.

Together with recommendations relating to wheat, labour, and timber supplies, the team recommended four livestock interventions:

- targeted cash-based livestock fodder/shelter programmes (fodder and shelter on plains, shelters in mountains) to start immediately and run through the winter
- livestock programmes contributing to the survival of remaining animals to start immediately for medium-term impact
- mixed fodder, timber and fuelwood, and field edge plantings to start immediately for medium-term impact
- quick shelter solutions for livestock in mountains before winter, and incorporation of livestock shelters into shelter programming

Sources:

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