

## Provision of Water: Process Case Study

### *Water provision for livestock using hafir dams in Sudan*

North Darfur State in Sudan has a history of drought and famine. Complex emergencies have prompted international humanitarian responses on an unprecedented scale. All livelihood systems have been affected, especially those of displaced people, many of whom lose livestock when they are first displaced. Other livestock producers, including pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, have also been seriously affected.

Hafirs are dam structures intended to collect surface water for cattle and other livestock. The NGO Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) has supported the construction of hafirs to address livestock water needs as part of their water sector activity.

Selection of the hafir dam sites was based on community agreement to avoid conflict between community groups. COOPI followed a 'do no harm' and 'conflict-sensitive' approach by consulting and involving all community groups equally on site selection and the future use and management of each hafir dam. For example, community boundaries for animal grazing and other livelihood activities were considered when deciding on the site of the hafir dam. Before hafirs were approved for construction, an environmental impact assessment was completed and the plan for the work approved.

According to the UN in Sudan, the mechanized construction of the hafir had to conform to basic principles. Sudan's National Water Policy was in draft form at the time, but the National Water Supply and Sanitation Policy of 2009 was available, and that document was relevant to hafirs. There were also government guidelines available from the Public Water Corporation, and these provided guidance on various types of water intervention.

#### **Sources:**

UNOPS (United Nations Office for Project Services) (undated) Annex I to ITB section V Schedule 2 – Scope of Works Construction of Mechanized Hafir: Technical Specification, UNOPS, Copenhagen

Gebru, G., Yousif, H., Mohamed, A., Negesse, B. and Young, H. (2013) Livestock, Livelihoods, and Disaster Response, Part Two: Three Case Studies of Livestock Emergency Programmes in Sudan, and Lessons Learned, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University, Medford, MA. <https://fic.tufts.edu/publication-item/livestock-livelihoods-and-disaster-response-part-two-2/>