

Ensuring Livestock Feed: Process Case Study

Women help manage a nucleus herd feeding programme in Ethiopia

One Save the Children USA intervention during the Ethiopian drought in early 2006 was a feeding project to help the most vulnerable members of pastoralist communities to protect an essential component of their livelihoods by preserving a nucleus breeding herd. Feed camps were established at three sites in Moyale District for feeding, treating, and vaccinating a selected group of productive livestock. In total, about 1,000 sheep and goats and 400 cattle were kept in the feed camps during the peak of the drought, and then returned to their owners.

Efforts were made to ensure that female-headed households were able to participate fully and benefit from the project. At the same time, women were also involved in the management of the feed camps, which included employment as caretakers to look after the stock during the day. The involvement of women in these tasks was first discussed and agreed with community leaders, building on Somali women's roles as the prime carers of sheep and goats.

Source: Nejat Abdi Mohammed, personal communication, 2008.