General case study

Using the PRIM to protect alpaca livelihood assets in Bolivia

Use of LEGS

The LEGS Participatory Response Identification Matrix (PRIM) tool helps identify and prioritise technical interventions for livestock-based emergency responses. Responses should meet at least one of the LEGS livelihoods objectives.

In this case study from the Pelechuco highlands of La Paz, Bolivia, the response focused on **protecting the key livestock assets** of the crisis-affected Aimara people who have lived there for over 800 years. Each Aimara family owns approximately 70 - 100 alpacas, and depends on their fibre and meat production for their livelihoods. An alpaca fleece is a highly sought after and expensive material when made into coats and clothing. The price received by the livestock owners is only a tiny fraction of this final cost however, and the Aimara families barely get by.

Background

At 5,000 metres above sea level, the Bolivian highlands have cold temperatures, low oxygen levels, intense radiation from the sun, very scarce pastures and limited water sources. No fruit, vegetable or other crops are feasible, and only locally adapted camelid livestock are able to survive the conditions.

Between 2012 and 2014 an estimated 10,000 alpacas died, and tens of thousands more were seriously affected, following extreme droughts and cold fronts that reached minus 20 degrees centigrade. The alpacas that survived suffered significant loss of body weight and levels of fibre production plummeted.

Process

At the outset of the emergency response, the FAO office in Bolivia and national government agencies (including the ministry of rural development and land) provided relevant background information on the type, intensity and size of the emergency to international NGO, World Animal Protection. Their initial assessment reviewed official response capabilities, as well as a damage and needs analysis for the Aimara people, the animal herds affected, and the impact on their livelihoods.

Response planning involved bringing together affected communities, community leaders, and local government to work together, in spite of some reluctance to engage on the part of the affected communities. A Participatory Response Identification Matrix (PRIM) was developed to identify and prioritise emergency responses options. At this phase of emergency, the PRIM exercise identified veterinary support and feed provision as priority technical interventions (see PRIM table below). The PRIM matrix was used throughout the length of the project.

Example of PRIM used in the <u>Response</u> Phase of the drought in Pelechuco, Bolivia						
Technical intervention	**Livelihoods objective**			**Emergency phase**		
	Immediate benefits	**Protect assets**	**Rebuild assets**	**Immediate aftermath**	**Early recovery**	**Recovery**
Vet support	****	****	*	→	→	n/a
Feed	****	****	***	→	→	n/a
Water	**	**	**	→	→	n/a
Shelter	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Livestock offtake	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Provision of livestock	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Order of application and priority: 1.Veterinary support 2.Ensuring feed supplies 3.Provision of water

Example of a PRIM used in the <u>Recovery</u> Phase of the drought in Pelechuco, Bolivia						
Technical intervention	**Livelihoods objective**			**Emergency phases**		
	Immediate benefits	**Protect assets**	**Rebuild assets**	**Immediate aftermath**	**Early recovery**	**Recovery**
Vet support	*	*	*	→	→	→
Feed	***	****	***	→	→	→
Water	***	***	***	→	→	→
Shelter	****	*	****	→	→	→
Livestock offtake	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Provision of livestock	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Order of application and priority: 1.Livestock shelter and settlements 2.Ensuring feed supplies 3. Provision of water

Outcomes

In the emergency phase of the response in 2013, 40 tons of feed, 25 tons of minerals, and 5,000 deworming medications were provided to some of the 50,000 animals affected. According to World Animal Protection, this had significant impact: it helped reduce alpaca herd mortality by 10% during the drought, and in the long run protected the most vulnerable gestating females and calves. It was estimated to have resulted in a 70% reduction of miscarriages and the return to a proper weight for new-born alpacas and juveniles.

In the recovery phase, which evolved into a disaster risk reduction approach, the attention shifted to developing resilience. Sustainable and locally replicable interventions were identified, again using a PRIM, to ensure the welfare of the herds and the protection of the livelihoods of those who depended on them. The PRIM exercise identified shelters and water provision as a priority technical interventions. Between 2013 and 2014, to improve the chances of the alpaca herds withstanding future harsh dry months and the cold winds of winter, a total of 70 animal shelters were built hand-in-hand with recipient families in seven communities. Five wells powered by stationary bikes and fitted with cement troughs were also constructed to access underground water.

LEGS case studies demonstrate good practice in livestock emergency response. They cover the six LEGS Technical Intervention areas, the eight LEGS Principles as well as the broader contexts covered in the third edition of the LEGS handbook. **Process case studies** illustrate the application of LEGS guidance and **impact case studies** reflect on the outcomes of LEGS interventions.

► You can access all of the LEGS case studies at livestock-emergency.net/resources/case-studies

► For more information see the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards Handbook at livestock-emergency.net