



Process case study

Lessons learnt from the provision of livestock interventions in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger

Background

Over the past decade, the central Sahel countries of Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have each experienced complex crises that have led to many internally displaced persons (IDPs) losing their productive assets and livelihoods. Following a period of humanitarian assistance focused on emergency response, Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium (VSF-B) undertook a recovery phase focused on rebuilding the productive livestock assets of the IDPs as well as the host populations. Between 2012 and 2021, a number of Provision of Livestock interventions have been conducted in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

Activities

The main activities included:

- Selection of recipients
- Technical specifications of the animals
- Technical support for the recipients
- Accompanying measures
- Purchase of animals
- Placement in quarantine
- Compliance check
- Preventive veterinary care
- Distribution of the animals
- Veterinary inspection follow-up

Outcomes

In Niger in 2012, 5,600 households received 16,800 goats.

In Mali from 2013 to 2017, 4,418 goats were distributed to 1,009 very poor households, including 1,019 goats to 382 very poor households in the Banamba Cercle and 2,508 goats to 627 households in the Nioro and Nara Cercles.

In Burkina Faso a total of 624 recipients in 27 at-risk villages received 3,744 goats, of which 2,532 were purchased directly by VSF-B and 1,212 in which the livestock keeper was reimbursed following their purchase.

Lessons Learnt

A number of key lessons have been learnt from these provision of livestock interventions:

1. The establishment of a **minimum kit** including health monitoring, training of recipients and provision of feed increases the productivity of the core group of animals.
2. The selection of **several suppliers** minimises the risk of non-compliance over commitments, especially when the number of animals to be supplied is very large.

3. **Supplier selection criteria:** Suppliers must demonstrate that they are **well specialised** in the livestock trade. Criteria for supplier selection should include their sourcing, animal transport and health risk management.
4. Preventing the **risk of non-compliance:** To guard against unscrupulous suppliers, the payment terms and conditions in the contract should include a deposit from the supplier to be refunded one month after delivery of the animals, provided that the animals comply with the technical specifications of the contract. The contract should also include penalties for non-compliance. To allow for the rejection of non-compliant animals, it is also important for the contract to require an additional 10% of animals to be delivered.
5. **Sharing the animal selection criteria** (breed, age, health, weight) with all stakeholders recipients, suppliers and distribution committees) ensures the supply of appropriate animals and improves recipient satisfaction.
6. During the **rainy season**, the poor condition and inaccessibility of roads may make it difficult to transport the animals on foot or by truck. This period **should be avoided** for the acquisition of animals.
7. **Quarantine** is a technical operation that must be carried out by professionals. The costs (water, food, shelter, guarding, etc.) must be included in the intervention budget. If the costs are not shared with the suppliers, the costs must be covered by the implementing agency due to the critical importance of this stage for the success of the intervention.
8. Experience has shown that some veterinarians tend to perform their services too quickly and that **preventative veterinary care** requires competent and responsible veterinarians. As heat, fatigue, the physiological state of the animals, as well as pregnancy in females, will amplify **post-vaccination reactions** (such as mortality, abortions), it is recommended vaccinations occur **during the cooler hours of the day**. When using **live vaccines**, it is preferable to administer **one vaccine per day**, as two live vaccines can lead to post-vaccination reactions.

Sources:

VSF-B (2020). Livestock Reconstitution for Vulnerable Households: From A to Z. Capitalization document.
VSF-B (2012). Emergency Food Security Support Project. Volet Reconstitution de Cheptel. Lessons Learned.
VSF-B Activity report ZEPESA 2, Projet LIAM, Projet PADABA.

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

