



## 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 mechanised 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  
Gebu, 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/>

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- ▶ You can access all of the LEGS case studies at [livestock-emergency.net/resources/case-studies](https://livestock-emergency.net/resources/case-studies)
- ▶ For more information see the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards Handbook at [livestock-emergency.net](https://livestock-emergency.net)

