

Animal Husbandry for Vulnerable Individuals

Afghanistan



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Project Goal:

To improve the subsistence level of extremely vulnerable returnees

LOCATION

Basawar village of Mohmandara district, Zelani village of Qarghai district - in Afghanistan

DURATION

September – December 2008

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

National Consultancy and Relief Association (NCRA)

BUDGET

US \$46,652

OVERVIEW

One of the main challenges that returnees face upon return is the lack of livelihood opportunities. Through a needs assessment, it was found that families and individuals who are extremely vulnerable, such as widows and female heads of households, face further difficulties. This is because in general women do not have proper skills nor can they participate daily in labour intensive income-generating work nor engage in work outside their own community. Their basic subsistence needs can only be met via home/community-based activities or from their income of their livestock and farms.

- Recognizing the specific needs of extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs), in 2006, UNHCR piloted a cow raising project in Sheikh Mesri New Township (SMNT) with 20 female EVI returnees, mainly widows and female-headed households. The project was aimed at improving the daily subsistence of EVIs through the provision of one milking cow and one calf. The project also had a revolving element as the beneficiaries were required to provide a total of two cows to secondary beneficiaries within the period of two years.
- Based on the success of the project in 2006, the cow raising project continued in 2007, targeting another 20 EVIs in SMNT, with the construction of the animal feed production center. In addition, in 2007, 16 secondary beneficiaries received one cow each from the 2006 beneficiaries.
- To date, the beneficiaries are able to obtain milk and other protein rich dairy products for household consumption and/or earn some income through sales of the product.

AIM OF PROJECT

In 2008, the project was further extended to two high returnee communities: Basawar village, Mohmandara district Nangarhar and Zerani village, Qarghai district, Laghman. There are over 980 families in Basawar and 264 families in Zelani who have returned in 2007 and 2008. The aims of this project were as follows:

- Improve daily subsistence of 40 EVIs through provision of livestock (one cow and one calf)
- To provide skills and knowledge on animal husbandry with a focus on proper feeding, hygienic issues and marketing
- To enhance a community support mechanism through the introduction of the revolving scheme
- Gave one milking or pregnant cow, and one calf to each of 40 beneficiaries
- Cow raising training was provided to 40 beneficiaries through workshops and daily home visit by the IP staff

- Provided start-up materials including high nutrition feeds and basic materials for shades for cows
- Provided veterinary services including insemination, vaccination and regular check up
- Provided follow up an guidance by the IP including marketing skills and contacts

PROJECT OUTPUTS / RESULTS

- 40 vulnerable returnees (all returnees) acquired basic skills on cow raising
- 40 beneficiaries improve their substance level and earn income from milk/dairy products. Target income to be generated is about \$2 – 4 per day per beneficiary.
- A total of 80 secondary beneficiaries receive one cow from the 2008 beneficiaries within two years

IMPACTS

This project has helped improve the livelihoods of many people in the Mohmandara and Qarghai districts in Afghanistan. Not only have the beneficiaries learned to support themselves, they have also consequently become less vulnerable. The skills they have learned will stay with them for their entire lives, and consequently they should be able to keep using these skills to generate an income.