The Feasibility of Promoting Livestock Interventions in the Conflict Affected Areas of Northern Uganda

Food Security Monitoring In Gulu, Amuru, Oyam, Northern Apac and Lira Districts

Newsletter #12

Action Against Hunger / Mission Uganda
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Action Against Hunger (ACF) is an international NGO implementing nutrition, water and sanitation and food security programmes in Northern Uganda. Since 2004, ACF has been conducting periodic monitoring on specific food security topics relevant to the conflict affected areas in Gulu, Amuru, Apac (Oyam) and Lira districts.

This newsletter seeks to examine the factors still challenging households—IDP and returnee—in engaging and / or expanding their animal husbandry activities and what agencies can do to assist in fostering the sustainable re-growth of the activity in Northern Uganda. The study is meant to capture trends more so than precision.

The field assessment took place over 17 days in July and August 2007 by ACF food security staff. Interviews were conducted with 150 households in 15 areas, 14 agencies implementing animal based programmes or involved in marketing, and 14 veterinary service providers in Gulu, Amuru, Oyam, Lira and Northern Apac districts. Transect walks were completed in 17 areas and observations done in eight markets.

MAJOR FINDINGS

- Livestock ownership is primary goats and poultry in both sub-regions followed by cattle and pigs
- Methods of upkeep are generally free range and some tethering with little provision of shelters for animals
- Most veterinary service providers focus on curative treatment with little work in preventative work
- Access to veterinary services is considered not so accessible by households and veterinary service providers
- Main animal based products intended for sale are 1st live animals, 2nd meat, 3rd milk
- Markets for buying and selling animals are considered fair to good by 82% of respondents in Lango and 42% in Acholi respectively
- 30% of respondents in Acholi claimed that markets for animals and animal products are non-existent
- Market information is learned primarily through word of mouth
- 65% of buyers and 88% of sellers on markets visited were from within the district
- Lango had 51% buyers from outside the district of the market
- Animal prices have doubled to tripled since 2005 in the sub-regions
- More agencies are undertaking animal based interventions starting in 2006 with an increase in the diversity of methodologies beyond distribution
- Cattle and goats have mainly been promoted with little focus on other species
- 66% of all animal based interventions have required some beneficiary input
Main challenges cited by households preventing commencement of animal husbandry activities are 1st lack of capital and 2nd insufficient space

Households indicated to improve production they need 1st veterinary services, 2nd improved shelter, 3rd improved access to feeds/fodder

Major challenges seen to improving animal husbandry are marketing and market information, inadequate knowledge and management of animals, low reach and use of veterinary services

Households indicated willingness to contribute to animal based projects either through cash and/or other resources

82% of respondent households indicated willingness to invest in shelter for animal upkeep, 38% would invest in land and 50% would invest in feed/fodder

**CONCLUSIONS**

Despite the precarious food security situation of the IDPs and returnees, the population has sought and continued to raise animals. The contribution that increased animal husbandry can make on the household and community level is significant. While the population is interested to re-engage or improve rearing animals, household capital remains low and knowledge to have substantial production from animals is poor. Marketing of animals and animal based products is currently weak overall.

Veterinary services have a very small reach in the area. This sector is under-exploited and the providers need to be supported to reach the population where they are to best address animal health needs. Though disease is considered a main problem by the population, it is clear that they are not in the practice of using animal health services. Sensitisation is required to explain the benefits of using the services while at the same time the population is trained to increase their knowledge of animal health.

The methodology of implementing animal based projects to date is dominated by distributions. This has two implications: disempowerment of beneficiaries in terms of ownership and the responsibility for animal health (builds relief/aid syndrome). Secondly this method contributes to limited multiplication of animals as it concentrates the ownership with the direct beneficiaries, which due to the cost and logistics of the intervention, are always few.

**Why increase animal husbandry projects in Northern Uganda?**

Animal husbandry can add substantial income; a sale of three litres of milk a week adds over 100,000UGX yearly income. While economic benefits are most obvious, socio-economic benefits of improving livestock production are also tremendously important to consider. These benefits include improved self-worth, strengthening of markets and social cohesion and the creation of associated businesses and services from these markets or sale of animal based products.

**Opportunities**

While no doubt challenges exist, there are some clear opportunities that can aide in the resurgence of animal husbandry in Acholi and Lango including:

- Available pastures and land
- Ready markets
- High demand for products in neighbouring districts and South Sudan
- Existing knowledge base: population, NGOs/ministries, veterinary service providers
- Interest at community level
- Potential to link activities to larger livelihood initiatives
Traditional knowledge exists. However, in order for the population to have livestock make a significant and sustained contribution to their improved livelihoods, they will need to have their knowledge expanded. Interventions should be uncomplicated, scalable and seek to use low-cost inputs that can be easily managed at the village level.

Targeting of interventions

Women are often targeted as they are essential to household food security status. One group that needs to be looked at closely is men, the traditional animal tenders in Acholi and Langi society. In displacement, most men were reduced to redundancy. Indeed interventions should target the household, even if the primary beneficiary is of one gender or another.

The elderly are an important group to be considered to target. Their mobility may be impaired and crop production opportunities reduced. Animal husbandry can provide a solid source of income for them as an alternative.

In designing animal based programmes, provisions should be made for the differences in the two sub-regions in order to assure appropriateness from the camp into resettlement.

Connection of animal husbandry to humanitarian interventions and early recovery

Animal husbandry should be seen as important as improved crop production, as it increases the population’s capacity to deal with shocks, adds alternative coping mechanisms, as well as increasing assets. Animal husbandry is a complementary activity to phasing out of support received in displacement.

Marketing beyond the household and community level

In order to make a significant impact on the larger economy many infra-structural issues need to be addressed. These issues cannot be tackled by any one agency, but without addressing them a large scale livestock industry is unlikely to occur in the near future. What can first be done is to increase production at the household level for consumption and community level sales.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Expanding knowledge base of animal husbandry interventions

• Wider information sharing of projects and approaches implemented in both sub-regions

Methodologies

• Cash based incentives used such as vouchers, work for assets, construction of kraals
• Integrated programmes to livelihood focus including connections to soil fertility management, use of forage, household nutrition and sanitation
• Community contribution to projects should be promoted
• Working with groups for larger impact though planning for potentially splintering with resettlement

Access & availability

• Restocking & re-distribution of animals in sub-regions with priority on procurement from other sub-regions when possible

Management of livestock

• Improved fodder & feeding practices promoted
• Zero grazing promotion
• Cross breeding with local species for increased production
• Luo language training materials in animal health
• Community based animal health workers projects
• Radio shows on animal health in Luo

**Marketing of livestock and animal based products**
• Radio shows on market information
• Product development and value addition of animal products
• Associations or group promotion for better marketing

**Building on capacity of local structures**
• Increase veterinary capacity to reach population
• Support to district veterinary departments
• Disease surveillance and pest control programmes

**Lobbying on animal drug use**
• Off-setting of drug costs to make more accessible to population

**Alternative animal based activities to be promoted**
• Poultry & piggery with special attention given to disease and sanitation issues
• Api-culture & aquaculture with special attention on assurance of technical support over at least one year to insure significant production levels
ACROCNYMS

ACF  Action Contre la Faim / Action Against Hunger  
CbAHWs  Community based animal health workers  
CBPP  Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia  
CIAT  International Center for Tropical Agriculture  
IDPs  Internally displaced person  
FAO  Food and Agriculture Organization  
FMD  Food and Mouth disease  
NGO  Non-governmental organization  
NAADS  National Agricultural Advisory Services  
NUSAF  North Uganda Social Action Fund  
RANET  Radio and Internet Technologies for communication of weather, climate and related earth science information to support the development of rural communities.  
UGX  Ugandan Shillings  
WFP  World Food Programme
GENRAL BACKGROUND

Action Against Hunger (ACF) is an international NGO implementing nutrition, water and sanitation and food security programmes in Northern Uganda. Since 2004, ACF has been conducting periodic monitoring on specific food security topics relevant to the conflict affected areas in Gulu, Amuru, Apac (Oyam) and Lira districts. The aim of the monitoring is to increase the level of understanding and analysis of the complex food security situation in Northern Uganda. Each assessment is compiled into a newsletter and this is the twelfth newsletter in the series.

NEWSLETTER TOPIC OVERVIEW

The general objective of this newsletter is to assess the feasibility promoting livestock interventions in the conflict affected areas in Gulu, Amuru, Oyam, Northern Apac and Lira districts.

Livestock ownership adds a significant contribution to the livelihood of a household. Animal ownership can improve nutrition and income; oxen also can help quickly increase the amount of land cultivated thus increasing food for consumption and sale. According to a recent WFP assessment, livestock owning households were seen to be more food secure than non-livestock owning ones. With resettlement underway in the Lango sub-region and significant decongestion in Acholi, the resurgence of livestock as a household activity is becoming more feasible.

This newsletter seeks to examine the factors still challenging households—IDP and returnee—in engaging and/or expanding their animal husbandry activities and what agencies can do to assist in fostering the sustainable re-growth of the activity in Northern Uganda.

JUSTIFICATION

Historically, both the Acholi and Langi practiced agro-pastoralism with animal husbandry playing an essential part in the socio-economic structure of the cultures. Typical homesteads owned large herds of cattle and goats and sizable flocks of poultry. According to 1983 veterinary figures for Gulu and Lira districts, an average household owned upwards to 33 cattle, 17 goats and over 20 chickens. Oxen and ploughs were generally used to in land preparation for crop cultivation.

Livestock losses were initially incurred in the 1980’s from a combination of looting, cattle rustling and disease across the two sub-regions. With over 20 years of conflict and prolonged displacement in the Acholi sub-region, livestock holdings have remained insignificant for most households. In Northern Lango, periodic cattle rustling combined with a more recent population displacement have kept the livestock holdings low in that sub-region, as well.

The ACF newsletter #7, completed in August 2005, explored the topics of livestock use, management and marketing in Gulu and Lira districts. The assessment showed that livestock ownership had greater reduced since displacement. Additionally, the districts showed significant differences on the types of animals owned—cattle three times more prevalent in Lira district than in Gulu. Clearly the difference in the duration of displacement between the sub-regions allowed for the Langi to retain more cattle, while the Acholi had essentially de-capitalized all significant assets by the time of the assessment.

1 Gulu and Amuru districts are in the Acholi sub-region and Lira, Oyam and Apac in Lango.
2 "Emergency Food Security Assessment of IDP camps and settled areas in Northern and North-eastern Conflict Affected Regions" March-April 2007
3 This report will use the terms “animal husbandry”, “livestock” and “animal rearing” interchangeably.
4 ACF. Food Security Monitoring Report #7. August 2005
Up to 2005, due to the insecurity stemming from the conflict in Northern Uganda, the growth of animal husbandry activities was stifled. IDPs lacked the capital to re-stock and feared losses through looting. Most agencies providing support to IDPs deemed animal based interventions as impractical because of insecurity, lack of space for proper animal rearing in cramped IDP camps. In general focus was given to emergency interventions such as seeds and tools distributions.

However, 2006 saw a significant improvement in the security situation throughout Northern Uganda. IDPs began to return to resettle to decongested areas and some even to their villages of origin. Various NGOs and donors began to see livestock as a more feasible intervention.

**METHODOLOGY**

Initial research included review of base-line data from ACF, other agency documents. The field assessment took place over a total of 17 days in July and August 2007 by ACF food security staff from two bases (eight days for Gulu and nine for Lira). Interviews were conducted with 150 households in 15 areas, 14 agencies implementing animal based programmes or involved in marketing, and 14 veterinary service providers in Gulu, Amuru, Oyam, Lira and Northern Apac districts. The target groups were key informants and representative community members. Additionally, observations were made to triangulate information gathered from other sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OBSERVATION</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>QUESTIONNAIRE</th>
<th>#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Market</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Household</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary service provider</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Agency implementing animal based programmes</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transect walk</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Marketing professionals for animal-based products</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Veterinary service providers</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>45</td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 1: Assessment tools and sample size per tool*

**Site selection**

Representative areas were chosen from each district with focus on getting a range of areas. Criteria for the groupings were agro-ecology, market opportunities and population density. In each representative area, households were randomly selected to participate in interviews.

Services providers were interviewed from different locations as identified from discussions with key informants. Select markets with significant animal sales were chosen to be observed. Agencies implementing animal based interventions were identified through coordination documents and discussions with key informants at the district levels. A complete listing of areas visited and people interview can be found in Annex I.

**Limitations to the study**

**Representativeness:** An exhaustive topology of the households was not attained in the sample of the households. Additionally, not all agencies active in livestock promotion participated in the study, leaving room for other interpretations or experiences.

**Hypothetical questions:** Many questions were asked to households and agencies that were based on potential scenarios. Their answers were not possible to verify through other means.
Scope of assessment: The study is meant to capture trends more so than precision. Additionally, the study only looked at the population in Northern Lango and Southern Acholi. The districts of Dokolo and Amolatar were not part of the study as they were considered to have significantly different attributes. Pader and Kitgum districts were not visited due to limitations in ACF programme reach. The conditions may not be completely the same in Northern Acholi, but are likely to be similar.

RESULTS

Current practices in animal husbandry-2007

In both sub-regions the top four animals raised are goats, poultry, cattle and pigs, in the respective order. Recent WFP findings put animal ownership at 25% in the areas. This is a notable change since 2005 where only 19% of households claimed to be raising animals. Within the sub-regions, Lango in general has higher incidence of animal rearing of all species.

Upkeep of animals, whether in a camp or village setting, was generally free range with some tethering. Cattle were the only animal grazed far from the homestead areas and few kraals seen. Watering of animals is done by open sources though some households to bring water from other sources such as boreholes. Shelters for animals are not common.

Veterinary services

Client services

Treatment of animals and general advice were the most commonly indicated services given by the veterinary service providers. Mainly providers claimed to focus on curative treatment with less focus on preventative work. Almost no providers indicated engaging in animal breeding services and feed sales.

In both sub-regions, services are provided for cattle, goats, sheep and pigs. Less than half of the service providers interviewed indicated they worked with poultry. Cost per treatment varies according to the species and size of animal. In general, the range for a routine treatment such as de-worming is between 500-2,000UGX.

Animal morbidity

Worms are main causes for morbidity for cattle, goats, sheep, and pigs with ticks also greatly affecting the first four species. Other major diseases indicated per species in the sub-regions were:

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5 “Emergency Food Security Assessment of IDP camps and settled areas in Northern and North-eastern Conflict Affected Regions” March-April 2007
6 ACF, “Food Security Survey in IDP Camps in Northern Uganda” September-October 2005
7 US$1=1,700UGX / €1 =2,039UGX
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Main diseases / problems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>Foot and mouth disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trypanosomiasis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>Nairobi sheep disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>Goat pox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig</td>
<td>African swine fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diarrhoea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickens</td>
<td>Newcastle disease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3: Major sources of morbidity per species

Availability of drugs and equipment

Services providers were generally equipped with a variety of drugs for main causes of morbidity. These included de-wormers, acaricides (anti-tick), and some had antibiotics. Only two providers out of 20 had rabies vaccines available. Quantities were modest; service providers remarked that demand is low because of high costs for drugs. Therefore, it is not practical to store large quantities of drugs because of the potential of spoilage. Most providers also had minimal equipment such as sprayers, needles and Burdizzo pliers (for castration). Refrigeration capacity was basically absent.

Access to veterinary services

Across both sub-regions, households felt that all veterinary services were not so accessible. A higher percentage of households in Acholi felt that services were at least somewhat accessible compared to Lango ones—48% vs. 18. This difference may be attributed to the fact that most of the livestock in Acholi were provided by projects / agencies which also insured veterinary services with distributions.

Interestingly veterinary service providers were also of the opinion that veterinary services in both sub-regions were somewhat to not accessible. The service providers felt that the main issues affecting accessibility were distance of providers from population, too few providers and high cost for animal care.

Figure 4: Perception of veterinary services by respondent households

Though not indicated by local providers, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia should be considered a disease of concern for goats and Lumpy skin disease for cattle according to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
Markets and marketing

Marketing at household level

Households identified that the main animal based products intended for sale were: 1st live animals, 2nd meat, and 3rd milk. The percentage of households that intended to sell milk was lower in Gulu and Amuru, understandable by the lower level of cattle rearing in those districts.

Markets

Lango markets were seen as good 52% and fair 30%. Only 6% of Acholi markets were deemed good and 42% fair. In Acholi 30% of the households claimed that animal markets were non-existent in their areas. Indeed, in Acholi purchasing of animals is more likely to be done outside the market area. It is more common for purchases to be made directly by moving through the camp areas and negotiating with livestock owning households.

Market information on livestock is generally learned by word of mouth. About 5% of the households identified radio as a main source of information.

Markets visited generally had a range of animal based products for sale. While these items may be present on the markets, households remarked across both sub-regions that meat and milk are in higher demand than can be supplied by the local markets. Because of good market access in Lango, a larger proportion of live animals are generally sold. Milk supply is similarly available in the Lango for the same reason.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Meat</th>
<th>Milk</th>
<th>Skins/Hides</th>
<th>Butter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lango</strong></td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acholi</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 5: Animal based products seen on markets by sub-region*

Goats were the only species seen on all markets. In general, Lango markets had more species of animals for sale than the markets in Acholi. Overall animals for sale appeared to be in fair to good health.

Buyers and sellers

Markets were assessed for the provenance of the buyers and sellers. Across the two sub-regions 88% of sellers were from the district where the market was held. Acholi markets had higher incidence of sellers from within the sub-county of the market than Lango—75% vs. 48%. Sellers from outside the district were on average 17%.

Overall, 65% of the buyers were from the district where the market was held. Again Acholi markets had higher rates of buyers from within the same sub-county as the market. Lango

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7 Milk consumed is from cows only. Goat milk is not traditionally consumed by Acholis or Langis.
Markets had 51% attendance of buyers from outside the district. This could be linked to the better market for animals in Lango than Acholi.

![Figure 7: Provenance of buyers on markets visited by sub-region](image)

### Animal prices

Prices for animals varied significantly across the two sub-regions. Gulu and Amuru markets saw significantly higher prices across all species as compared to Oyam, Apac and Lira district markets. The pig prices seemed lower in the Lango sub-region because in general piglets were sold on the market for breeding. In Acholi more pigs on the markets are sold for slaughter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Lango</th>
<th>Acholi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>200,000-600,000</td>
<td>250,000-800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>18,000-60,000</td>
<td>15,000-70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>30,000-45,000</td>
<td>30,000-60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>15,000-35,000</td>
<td>50,000-150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>2,000-8,000</td>
<td>3,000-9,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Figure 8: Range of prices for animals on markets in sampled areas in UGX](image)

Even more significant is the change in the average price per species since 2005. Two years ago, the average price for livestock was:

- Cow / bull 200,000UGX
- Goat 25,000UGX
- Chicken 5,000UGX
- Pig 50,000UGX

Taking an average of the range of prices seen on the markets for 2007, livestock prices have essentially doubled. In 2007 the price of a breeding-aged she goat was on average 50,000UGX across the sub-regions and oxen at 400,000UGX. The main factor cited by most people for this price increase has been an increased demand on the market for animals principally stemming from South Sudan. The Acholi sub-region has been hardest hit by this price increase as seen in Figure 8.

### Animal sourcing

For animal sourcing, none of the districts were identified as a main self-supplier except in the case of chickens for Lira district. Otherwise, other districts (Masindi, Nebbi, Nakasongola, and Soroti) are the major supplier of animals to Gulu, Amuru, Oyam and Lira districts. Interestingly, Oyam and Lira were indicated as major sources for Gulu and Amuru districts.

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10 ACF. Food Security Monitoring Report #7. August 2005
11 ACF programme implementation experience in May 2007.
Apac district was identified as a major source for all species, though it is assumed to be southern Apac where the population was not displaced and livestock holders are higher.

**Animal husbandry activities implementation in the sub-regions**

Various agencies shared information on the types of interventions they have been involved in, their experiences and future plans. There has been a considerable growth in animal based interventions in both sub-regions since 2004. Clearly resettlement and improved security have fostered this growth. All agencies interviewed had plans to implement animal based interventions in 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 9: Percentage of agencies interviewed implementing animal based programmes by year*

From 2002-2005 agencies were almost exclusively involved in distributions and training with only one agency involved in animal breeding programmes. Since 2006, the diversity of animal based interventions has taken root.

![Figure 10: Animal based interventions promoted by interviewed agencies 2007 vs. 2006](image)

Cattle and goats have been the main focus of the agencies involved in animal husbandry promotion. Pig rearing has been promoted by a small number. No agency indicated supporting poultry production.

![Figure 11: Species of animals targeted by interventions by sub-region](image)

In the interventions that have taken place, 66% of the agencies have asked beneficiaries to meet some costs. Labour was the main form at 65% with materials being the second most common at 40%.
Factors that agencies noted that develop community interest in animal husbandry activities included:
- Availability of resources: land, income
- Community participation in management of livestock
- Cultural beliefs of importance of animal rearing
- Sensitization on the multiple benefits of raising animals

## Challenges and opportunities

### Household level

Main challenges cited by households for preventing the commencement of animal husbandry activities were lack of capital, lack of sufficient space, insecurity and no feed/fodder. Lango households mentioned insecurity more than Acholi ones, probably due to the incidence of cattle rustling in Lira district.

In order to improve animal production, households in both sub-regions identified needing 1st veterinary services, 2nd improved shelter and 3rd improved access to fodder/feeds.

To help non-livestock owning households start the activity, in both regions 60% of the respondents felt that capital would help them begin to raise animals. Only 24% in Lango and 9% in Acholi cited donation of animal—interesting considering the prolonged connection to distributions in the area. Ninety-five percent of Acholi households also cited access to improved shelters and fodder would help them begin to raise animals.

### Veterinary service providers

The main factors hindering growth of animal husbandry, as ranked by veterinary service providers are:
- Inadequate knowledge by population
- Lack of veterinary capacity: access to population, number of providers
- Pests & disease

### Marketing challenges

The main factors identified as hindering the marketing of animals and animal based products in the sub-regions were:
• Lack of marketing infrastructure and dissemination of market information
• Lack of adequate capital for population to engage in livestock activities
• Low production levels overall

Implementing agencies

Many challenges were cited by implementing agencies. Broadly they fell into the following categories:
• **Security:** cattle raiding, landmines, insurgency
• **Management:** feeding practices, handling and animal health practices by population
• **Staffing:** agency access to widely dispersed population, limited veterinary service providers
• **Funding / capital:** donor agencies and ministerial levels, household level cash availability

Future implementations

Households

Households interviewed were asked which animals were interesting to raise. For both the sub-regions, cattle and goats were the most frequently mentioned. Lango households felt that poultry was the third most interesting and Acholi households indicated pigs. Reasons why these animals were interesting to them to raise centred on marketing potential as seen in Figure 14.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-region</th>
<th>1st Reason</th>
<th>2nd Reason</th>
<th>3rd Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lango</strong></td>
<td>Profit/improved production/animal traction</td>
<td>Market availability</td>
<td>Manure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acholi</strong></td>
<td>Meat/ Milk / Availability of fodder</td>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>Meat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 14: Most interesting animals to raise and why according to households interviewed

Households interviewed were given different options for intervention methodologies that could help them to begin or expand their animal husbandry activities. All options had a certain element of beneficiary commitment, whether monetary, work related or time spent. The methodology that was most positively received was raising an animal and giving off-spring to a neighbour with 89% of the households claiming to be willing to do so.

Figure 15: Household interest in different methodologies by sub-region
Respondents felt that on average of 20% had adequate shelter to raise animals and 51% felt they had enough fodder/feed. For households in Lango, 88% felt they had enough land to raise animals, while only 52% in Acholi felt they had enough.

Households were asked if they were to receive an animal from an agency would they be willing to invest in shelter, land and feed/fodder to take care of the animal. Eight-two percent said they would be willing to invest in shelter, 38% in land and 50% in feed/fodder. Lango households were much less willing to invest in these items; for land where only 8% indicated this willingness. The amounts suggested for investment ranged greatly from 2,000 to more than 150,000UGX though most respondents indicated less than 50,000UGX.

Agencies were asked if different methodologies of animal based interventions were interesting for them to implement. The most cited ones was distribution with recovery of offspring in a distant second, as seen in Figure 17.

Veterinary service providers indicated that the areas that need to be addressed related to animal husbandry are:
- Training of farmers: general animal health, breeds and breeding
- Increased coverage and reach of veterinary services: treatment of animals, more service providers
- Subsidies for feed cost

To improve marketing three general areas were cited:
- Improving knowledge of production: handling of animal based products such as milk and meat
- Improved marketing infrastructure & information: central store, better information dissemination on markets and prices
- Forming of associations: to facilitate better knowledge and marketing opportunities
Conclusions

Overview of findings

Animal production in the Acholi and North Lango sub-regions has been affected by the prolonged conflict, but has not disappeared. Despite the precarious food security situation of the IDPs and returnees, they have sought and continued to raise animals. The contribution that increased animal husbandry can make on the household and community level is significant and there is a need to support the population to increase their production capacity.

While the population is interested to re-engage in rearing animals, household capital remains too low for most to purchase animals to have considerable herd sizes. In fact, the doubling or tripling in prices for animals on the market in the past two year has made restocking even more inaccessible than previously thought.

As households are moving back to their places of origin, support needs to be given to them to go back a better life than they left. Traditional knowledge exists. However, in order for the population to have livestock make a significant and sustained contribution to their improved livelihoods, they will need to have their knowledge expanded. Interventions should be uncomplicated, scalable and seek to use low-cost inputs that can be easily managed at the village level. Sheltering of animals is not commonly practiced—currently or traditionally. In order to protect the investment of livestock, shelter should be addressed through building of simple structures to protect animals from climatic effects and theft.

Animal health is a significant challenge in both sub-regions. In most areas, veterinary services are available but inadequate. Access and quality of service are poor due to high cost of treatment and few trained veterinary personnel. The cost of curative treatment as opposed to preventive treatment is very crucial as it is the main approach to ensuring health of livestock. It is also worth noting that this approach predisposes animals to epidemics such as Newcastle disease in poultry and FMD and CBPP in livestock.

Though disease is considered a main problem by the population, it is clear that they are not in the practice of using animal health services. ACF internal monitoring found that if goat owners' animals fell sick 46% would use their knowledge to treat the animal, 20% would do nothing and only 34% mentioned using veterinary services. Sensitisation is required to explain the benefits of using the services while at the same time the population is trained to increase their knowledge of animal health.

The methodology of implementing animal based projects to date is dominated by distributions. This has two implications: disempowerment of beneficiaries in terms of ownership and the responsibility for animal health (builds relief/aid syndrome). Secondly this method contributes to limited multiplication of animals as it concentrates the ownership with the direct beneficiaries, which due to the cost and logistics of the intervention, are always few.

Why increase animal husbandry projects in Northern Uganda

Currently the income earned form animals and animal based products is nominal for the majority of the population; according to WFP data it does not factor into the top seven sources of income. The impact it could have can be impressive. Sales three litres of milk a week can bring in around 100,000UGX a year.

While economic benefits are most obvious, socio-economic benefits of improving livestock production are also tremendously important to consider. These benefits include the improved self-worth, strengthening of markets and social cohesion and the creation of associated businesses and services from these markets or sale of animal based products. Such benefits

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13 Food Security Assessment Gulu, Kitgum And Pader Districts. October 2006. Zero Draft
have been noted in response to acute emergencies\textsuperscript{14} and undoubtedly will be seen in this crisis lasting over two decades, too.

**Opportunities to animal based activities in the sub-regions**

While no doubt challenges exist, there are some clear opportunities that can aide in the resurgence of animal husbandry in Acholi and Lango. Across all groups interviewed there was agreement prospects allowing for the expansion of animal husbandry in the sub-regions. These included:

- Available pastures and land
- Ready markets
- High demand for products in neighbouring districts and South Sudan
- Existing knowledge base: population, NGOs / ministries, veterinary service providers
- Interest at community level
- Potential to link activities to larger livelihood initiatives (nutrition, soil fertility improvement, bio-gas production)

**Targeting**

All sectors of the population can benefit from increased animal production—from toddlers who will have milk to women who can sell a chicken to raise money for school fees. Women are often targeted as they are essential to household food security status. One group that needs to be looked at closely is men, the traditional animal tenders in Acholi and Langi society. In displacement, most men were reduced to redundancy. Their traditional works of major clearing and of tending cattle were taken away. In looking towards restoring the dignity of half of the population, this group should not be overlooked. Indeed interventions should target the household, even if the primary beneficiary is of one gender or another.

Additionally, the elderly are an important group to be considered to target. Their mobility may be impaired and crop production opportunities reduced. Animal husbandry can provide a solid source of income for them as an alternative.

**Connection of animal husbandry to humanitarian interventions and early recovery**

Animal based interventions may not seem like humanitarian activities, but rather development. It is right to say that in the case of Northern Uganda, these activities are essential to add to early recovery phasing from humanitarian to development periods. Animal husbandry should be seen as important as improved crop production, as it increases the population’s capacity to deal with shocks, adds alternative coping mechanisms, as well as increasing assets. As seen in the Lango resettlement, abrupt cuts in assistance can give worrying signals of precarious food security situations\textsuperscript{15}. Animal husbandry is a complementary activity to phasing out of support received in displacement.

What must be stressed is that early recovery has only just begun and continued support from the humanitarian community is crucial to ensure that the transition is smooth for the population. Animal husbandry activities supported by humanitarian actors will make the basis for early recovery ones implemented in the future.

Animal husbandry has been cited as a key area to support by a variety of actors in the “Plan of Action” for the food security cluster of Uganda led by FAO\textsuperscript{16}. The activity is also highlighted


\textsuperscript{15} ACF SMART nutritional surveys in April 2007 found the prevalence of global acute malnutrition to be higher in Lira district than in Gulu/Amuru and Apac/Gyam districts.

in the NAADS Strategy for Interventions in Northern Uganda and the PRDP as essential to make agricultural more profitable and revitalize economies. Animal husbandry also is a key component of the Office of the Prime Minister “Proposed Transition Strategy for LRA Effected Northern Uganda” falling in the core priority number four of “stimulating of livelihoods”. The only way this will be done is through continued support to the livestock sector starting with recovery through to development.

In designing animal based programmes, provisions should be made for the differences in the two sub-regions in order to assure appropriateness from camp to resettlement.

Marketing beyond the household and community level

In order to make a significant impact on the larger economy there are many infra-structural issues to be address—such as weighing stations, community crushes or dips, milk collection centres, grading of products— all of which are outside the scope of this study. These cannot be targeted by any one agency, but without addressing them a large scale livestock industry is unlikely to occur in the near future. Even the marketing of alternative animal based products such as hides, skins, blood or bone for meal will be difficult to commence without a large level support to the industry as a whole. What can first be addressed is increasing production at the household level for consumption and community level sales.

Recommendations

In order to best tackle the needs related to livestock Acholi and Lango sub-regions the following recommendations are made:

**EXPANDING KNOWLEDGE BASE OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY INTERVENTIONS**

- **Information sharing of projects and approaches implemented:** Different organizations have been implementing animal based interventions throughout Northern Uganda. Their shared experiences, both positive and negative can add a baseline to any future interventions thus improve the impact of future ones. The FAO food security cluster meeting is a good forum for this although not all agencies active in food security in Northern Uganda participate at the capital level or district levels in particular ones that have more development approaches or local NGOs. Efforts should be made to encourage these groups to share at district level meetings and then information can be passed to the capital level.

**METHODOLOGIES**

- **Cash based incentives to be used:** Interventions using vouchers or labour can be interesting to use with livestock. This methodology is becoming more familiar with the population and has good potential for expansion. Areas to be considered can be: building of kraals, shelters, dips or clearing land. “Animal for work” would be an interest pilot though the payment for work load would need to be carefully calculated. Animal fairs, already planned by some organizations, are good methods to promote re-distribution and restocking. Oxfam’s experiences in Niger provide a solid base for understanding the intricacies of this intervention. Fairs could also be a means to do subsidized sales, too.

- **Integrated into livelihoods approach:** Livestock promotion should be connected, whenever possible, to other areas of the population’s livelihoods. There are easy connections that can be made to soil fertility management through the use of nitrogen fixing forage materials, nutrition through increased intake of animal products and improved sanitation practices. Improvement of pasture availability and soil fertility need to be

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17 FAO “Livestock Sector Report-Uganda” October 2004
addressed to reinforce their holding capacity for increased herd sizes. Shelter issues should also be addressed.

- **Community contribution:** In moving to recovery, it will be important to begin to ask for more community contribution to animal based projects. The population seems to willing and have identified that they do have resources to add to such interventions. A community contribution will assist in the sustainability projects. Labour, off-spring recovery and materials (feed/fodder) are items that are easy to ask communities to contribute to. However, small amounts of money may also be possible, as seen in this assessment. The money can then be used as a community fund for future animal treatment or group animal shelters or kraals.

- **Working with groups for larger impact:** Working on a group level will help to increase the impact of interventions more rapidly. Training at the group level can be with ad-hoc groups, but project oriented interventions (such as group managed assets) needs to be done with either pre-formed or deliberately formed groups to foster cohesion. Agencies should be mindful, however, of the potential splintering of groups when households resettle. This potential should be addressed at the commencement of activities.

**ACCESS & AVAILABILITY**

- **Restocking & re-distribution:** In order to boost the stock in the sub-regions, re-distribution needs to occur to promote a faster level of reproduction. Re-stocking of more recently lost herd levels, such as in Northern Lango, is also key. Care should be taken when procuring animals that one sub-region is not having its stock reduced at the cost of increasing the other, as could be the case for Lango to Acholi.

**MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK**

- **Fodder & feeding:** Improved feeding practices will go a long way to help boost production; current practices are inadequate. There is no need to buy expensive complements or feeds as good sources can be grown by any household. Crops such as pigeon pea and soya can be used to feed all animal species in addition to improving soil fertility. Africa 2000 Network and CIAT have done a farmer-led study in testing of forage materials like *Calliandra*, *Sesbania* and Napier grass in Tororo district which could lend ideas to projects in Northern Uganda.

- **Zero grazing promotion:** This method of raising animals is already practiced throughout Uganda. Animals are housed in simple structures made of tree poles and banana fibres. They are brought forage, such as those listed above, and water on a daily basis. Animals grow quickly and stay healthier as they are not exposed to as many pathogens. Manure and urine are easily collected and can be used as fertilizer for gardens. Though zero grazing is generally used in more urban areas, it can be could be practiced with a single milk cow to intensify milk production. Heifer International has strong experience in promoting this type of intervention.

- **Cross breeding of animals:** In order to improve production, cross breeding of species that are tolerant to the conditions in Northern Uganda can be important. Communities should be able to identify the characteristics that they would look for in an animal, similar to needs assessments done for seed varieties. NUSAF has supported some projects throughout the north. Potential links with existing programmes may be made. To assure the best implementation, veterinary professionals should be part of the programme and the involvement of the district veterinary officer will be key.

- **Luo language training materials in animal health:** Many respondents indicated the need for training in livestock management. Training materials in local language need to be developed. Uganda National Farmers Federation and NAADS have materials that may be adaptable to Northern Uganda and easily translatable.
• **Community based animal health workers:** Community based animal health workers (CbAHWs) programmes have been successfully implemented in many countries throughout Africa. In Uganda, the Church of Uganda has implemented such activities in Karamoja. There are various successful models to choose from. CbAHWs act as village level resources in animal health. The structure of such an intervention is limited by the local laws regarding the handling of veterinary drugs. These laws need to be carefully understood before any such intervention is designed.

• **Radio shows on animal health in Luo:** The use of radio is an excellent means to reach the population and many organizations are currently use it to delivery a variety of messages. Currently, animal health information is disseminated mainly through direct contact by extension workers of various agencies. Mass sensitisation approaches such as radio talk shows needs to be considered.

**MARKETING OF LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL BASED PRODUCTS**

• **Radio shows on market information:** A MAAIF/FOODNET project on livestock market information was designed to transmit market prices of animals and animal based projects. Though information was collected from Lira, no Luo language radio was targeted to transmit this information. This model can be an important step to improve the understanding of the livestock market. Beyond prices, topics could include other aspects of marketing such as valued added animal based products and packaging. RANET, an internet based programme aimed at providing climatic and crop prices to farmers in conjunction with the Department of Meteorology is ongoing in Uganda since 2001. The addition of animal based marketing information could also be an improvement to the system.

• **Product development and value addition of animal products:** Animal based products are diverse. In order to meet market requirements and fetch good prices in product markets, product quality and value additions play a central role. Farmers will need to be supported to processing of meat or transforming milk to yogurt through interventions at the level of farmer groups. This would require significant training with the population as product transformation is rare and historically not significantly practiced.

• **Associations or groups for marketing:** Bulking of items can bring a more attractive price to the seller and make purchases easier for the buyer. More study into the current structures, through existing groups, district farmer’s associations or umbrella organizations, could be tapped into to help market animals and animal based products.

**BUILDING ON CAPACITY OF LOCAL STRUCTURES**

• **Building veterinary capacity & support to district veterinary departments:** To make efforts sustainable, the district should be involved in animal based interventions not only on an advisory level. They will need to have additional resources in order to reach the population in the villages. This is particularly true for the newly formed districts such as Oyam and Amuru. In particular, the issue of cold chain capacity needs to be addressed in order to promote vaccinations. A comprehensive assessment of needs and capacities of the district veterinary departments would be a good starting-ground to kick start the process.

• **Disease surveillance and pest control:** Deliberate efforts for disease surveillance and pest control should be supported. Currently, existing structures in local authorities like the Ugandan Entomology Department monitor aspects of pests like tsetse flies. Livestock programmes will require substantial support from this sector. Poultry diseases like bird flu is an example that seems to threaten the poultry industry as farmers find them risky to be involved in. Surveillance activities should therefore be supported and reinforced at all levels. Other countries have successfully brought disease surveillance to the village level with the assistance of CbAHWs.
LOBBYING ON ANIMAL DRUG USE

- **Off-setting of drug costs:** Drugs are the most expensive component in the management of animal health. A comprehensive package for both curative and preventive treatment needs to be developed and implemented with animal based activities. To ensure animal health a deliberate policy needs to be put in place for better access to drugs. Subsidised cost of curative medicines is justified and increased use of preventive measures need reinforcement. However, fee for service should not be abolished as it ensures the value of treatment among the population.

ALTERNATIVE ANIMAL BASED ACTIVITIES

- **Poultry & Piggery:** Both of these animals have good markets for meat in the districts, as well as eggs. Few organizations are engaging in these types of projects though the interest to engage in pig and poultry raising is evident. Any work in with these animals should include a strong aspect of sanitation as current practices are vacant from improved management of these species. This will reduce the potential for passing of disease to humans through animal rearing. Specifically for poultry, veterinary services potentials should be closely examined before starting a project as few providers cater to the needs of poultry.

- **Api-culture & aquaculture:** Both projects are already on-going in Northern Uganda on a small scale. Efforts to improve the product need to have a strong element of technical support in order to help communities meet sizable outputs in a good period of time. Periodic follow-up should be done with communities over at least a one year period. Additionally attention should be given to making connections to locally procured materials needing in the raising of farmed fish and bees. Essentially these activities can only be successful when managed by a sound producers group and care should be taken to identify those types of groups to engage with. WFP and FAO, through ACF and others, have experience in aquaculture promotion in the north which can be built upon.
## ANNEX I - SAMPLE AREAS

### Organizations interviewed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Care International</td>
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### Markets

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### Household interview areas-Lango

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### Household interview areas-Acholi

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### Transect walks

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18 ACF programme experience also included in analysis.
# Veterinary service providers

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*Also key informant on marketing of animal based products*