



A herdman ushers his cattle into grazing lands in Chimanimani © Gennike Mayers / UNOPS

Preserving a legacy: Restoring livestock production

Key Highlights

7500 farmers trained in livestock production and record-keeping.



297 community-managed dip tanks were supported with acaricide supply

483,256 cattle were vaccinated against Lumpy skin disease and **456,633** against Anthrax, Blackleg and Botulism across the 8 cyclone-affected districts.

The trivalent vaccine was coupled with the administration of deworming remedies to **472,975** cattle.

1,500 litres of deworming remedy for targeted 500,000 sheep and goats have been delivered

Background

After Cyclone Idai, most farmers in Chimanimani lived in fear of losing their cattle to poverty, death and thieves, as the cattle would have to trek long distances in search of grazing land which became scarce in the area. As a result, farmers did not derive any meaningful benefits from their cattle which were always in poor body condition. They could not use them for transport or draught power, and neither could they get any milk from them. Through ZIRP's rehabilitation interventions, FAO implemented a livestock program that sought to advance animal health and productivity thus increasing marketability and incomes; and to increase the contribution of livestock assets to food and nutrition security.

Empowering communities through Knowledge Sharing

A community-based participatory approach was used to select project beneficiaries. At the village level farmers took the lead in ranking and selecting each other according to vulnerability criteria which included: vulnerable livestock farmers affected by the cyclone, farmers with grazing areas affected by the cyclone, farmers owning 2-8 animals, farmers who lost some of their cattle during the cyclone, female-headed households, child-headed households, and chronically ill people and people living with disabilities were prioritised.

Noel Mudare, a cattle farmer from Jinga village in Chimanimani is one of the beneficiaries who received livestock production training and had positive results. *"We were taught how to preserve our stova from our crops for use as feed during the peak lean season. I followed the training and managed to have a lot of maize and sorghum stova including sausage tree leaves and fruits for storage. When the lean season started my cattle were still in a good state whilst some of my neighbors' cattle were deteriorating,"* he said

Along with Madure, more than one thousand farmers were trained in livestock



Zimbabwe Idai Recovery Project

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Results

“ As a result of the stock feed and feeding of my cattle with the stored stova I have managed to maintain the health of my cattle and also added one animal to my herd.” -

Noel Madure



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production aspects such as housing, breeds, feed management and animal health management. They were also supported with 750kgs of stockfeed to supplement feeding of their cattle. The training instructed the farmers on selection of cattle for pen feeding. When they did this, the improvement in body weight and animal condition were significant.

Strengthened livestock production improves livelihoods

When I received the stock feed I was taught how to select the cattle to be fed and also the feeding regime. The cattle improved tremendously in body weight and condition. One of my cows was in calf and nearing the point of death, however thanks to the stock feed it dropped a healthy calf,” he said.

Now that Noel's cattle herd remained healthy throughout the lean season with his herd increasing in size from six to seven cattle, he is ready to sell one animal to purchase fertilisers, pay school fees and attend to other household needs. FAO's value addition to his herd will ensure that Noel gets a good price for his animal from the local butcheries. Being one of the farmers whose area does not have adequate grazing land for most parts of the year, ensuring survival of his cattle herd was a challenge. Selling them before ZIRP interventions was not a good option as they would have fetched a very low price on the market due to their poor body state.

ZIRP's continued efforts seeking innovative ways to support the restoration and resilience of cyclone affected communities has left a lot of farmers with smiles on their faces since livestock is a source of wealth in rural areas. *“With the knowledge I have received on the benefits of supplementary stock feed and storing stova I will make sure every year I will keep as much as I can and also plant a large portion of sorghum which is drought resistant to have more material for stova for feeding my cattle,”* Noel said happily.