



LIVESTOCK

ECONOMIC SECURITY





G. Govoni/ICRC

INTRODUCTION

In many places where the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) works, livestock is a pillar of people's livelihoods, and when violence breaks out, it can be devastating. Not only can sudden shock or protracted stress cause livestock to become less productive and lose value or even die, but the animals may also be stolen or killed.

We aim to strengthen communities' resilience by keeping their livestock healthy and productive. To limit the damage caused to livelihoods during crises and to help people recover in the immediate aftermath, we work with communities and local authorities to protect and restore crucial livestock assets.

ICRC LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES

We follow the principles of the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards, a globally accepted set of standards for livestock activities in humanitarian programmes.

Our work ranges from activities directly benefiting individual households to securing essential services for entire communities. We aim to protect existing resources and help people maintain their core breeding herd during a conflict and to repair or rebuild destroyed livestock-related infrastructure such as veterinary

clinics after a conflict. To prevent the collapse of essential veterinary services, we run disease-control campaigns and build local capacities in veterinary care.

We provide feed, water, livestock shelters and even livestock when conflict or violence have decimated herds. In emergency conditions, such as drought, we help livestock owners by buying their weakest animals at regular market prices, protecting the owners from financial loss when their animals' health deteriorates and their value falls.



TREATMENT AND VACCINATION CAMPAIGNS

In a conflict, livestock ministries are often unable to provide critical services for livestock owners. So, we support some of their most important activities, such as epidemic control. Continuing disease-control campaigns is crucial to protecting livestock, and their owners, during crises.

As part of the campaigns, we vaccinate healthy animals to avoid the spread of disease or treat sick animals for common ailments, such as parasites and other infections. What, and how much, we do depends on key elements such as the

disease's incidence (the risk of an animal contracting the disease), prevalence (how widespread the disease is) and mortality. We also operate in line with government policies. Communicating with communities is crucial throughout the campaign.

Services are either free or provided at cost, depending on local factors such as the community's level of need or even security. If necessary, we may distribute vouchers for people to use in exchange for veterinary services.



COMMUNITY ANIMAL-HEALTH WORKERS

Veterinary care is often disrupted in times of conflict or violence, which is especially difficult for people in remote or unstable areas. We work to build the capacities of local authorities and communities to ensure these essential services continue even in a crisis.

Community animal-health workers are members of communities affected by conflict who are trained and given the equipment they need to perform simple veterinary procedures, such as

administering vaccines and treating common ailments. They are also key to ensuring that veterinary medicines and vaccines remain accessible to livestock owners.

We train animal-health workers according to a nationally approved curriculum and give them a basic medical kit to provide essential services in their community. They act as a lifeline for their neighbours, helping them to keep their livestock healthy and protect their primary source of food and income in a crisis.



FODDER BANKS

Fodder banks are community storage facilities where livestock owners can get feed during lean periods, when pasture becomes scarce and the price of feed rises. We help set up the banks initially and are there for the long haul, supporting their management over several years.

While we can, and do, provide feed directly to livestock owners when necessary, supporting fodder banks helps communities

to build and maintain their own system for responding to the recurrent scarcity of pasture. In preparation for lean periods, feed is purchased after the harvest when prices are lower. Then, if a crisis strikes, people can continue to feed their livestock, ensuring that they stay productive and retain their value.





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WHAT IS ECONOMIC SECURITY?




Economic security is the ability of individuals, households and communities to cover their essential needs and unavoidable expenses in a sustainable way. When assessing economic security, we consider people's physical requirements, the environment and cultural norms.

Essential needs include food, basic shelter, clothing and hygiene. Any expenses related to these needs are considered unavoidable, as are taxes and the costs of health care, education and the assets people need to support themselves and their families.

The ICRC's Economic Security (EcoSec) teams work to bring victims of armed conflict and other violence rapid and flexible assistance in order to meet their essential needs and unavoidable expenses in ways that are sustainable and respect their dignity.

As part of our mandate, the ICRC helps not just civilians but people deprived of their liberty too, so we also do economic security work for detainees.

We help people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything we can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with our Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. We also seek to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

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