

**Early Recovery Assistance to War-affected, Resource-poor  
Livestock Keepers in South Lebanon  
(US\$ 1.9 m) Completion date: September 2008**

The development goal of the project is to improve the food security, nutritional and economic status of low-income rural families by initiating comprehensive recovery measures to support the war-affected livestock smallholders, mainly by restocking and distribution of animals (cattle, goats, draft animal power and beehives). The immediate objectives are the improvement of the lives and livelihoods of 715 war-affected livestock owners with special emphasis on women-headed households, through restocking of animals.

The overall early recovery strategy is designed to support vulnerable livestock farmers in the south of Lebanon who were directly affected by the hostilities, either through physical damage or by financial losses. Priority will be given to the resource-poor and vulnerable livestock owners in the severely affected areas.

The major interventions should have quick and high impact in order to restore some form of normalcy to the lives of affected low-income households. Most of the smallholders have partially or totally lost their main livestock production assets. Thus, the most important interventions will be carried out on restocking and distribution of animals (cattle, goats and horses). Emphasis will also be placed on accompanying measures that have the greatest potential to contribute to rapid improvements of livestock productivity in affected areas: provision of veterinary drugs to cope with potential diseases, provision of feed for three months (winter time), provision of semen for reinforcing artificial insemination services as well as “Chami” goat males for improving local breed.

**Output 1: Support to war-affected livestock smallholders through restocking and distribution of animals (cattle, female baladi goats, male shame goats)**

During the months of April and May, FAO delivered dairy heifers originating from Holland and Germany, male shamee goats from Cyprus, animal feed concentrate from Holland and alfalfa pellets from local supplier in Lebanon. The selection of 1 500 local baladi goats is completed and distribution will take place by end July 2008.

**Pregnant heifers:**

FAO formed a selection committee with the MOA and visited the supplier for dairy cattle in Holland and Hungary. A total of 203 pure bred Holstein-Friesian dairy cattle were procured. The heifers were delivered to Lebanon over two shipments; 156 arrived on May 15, while the remaining 47 arrived on June 25, 2008. The heifers are currently undergoing quarantine and adaptation phases pending delivery to farmers in early July 2008.



**Shamee Bucks:**

The 100 pure-bred Shamee bucks originating from Cyprus arrived on 1 May and had been retained in a quarantine centre prior for disease control. FAO also administered vaccinations to the bucks prior to distribution to farmers and carries out regular follow up visits to the farmers to check on the health of the animals.

### Baladi Goats:

A local supplier was awarded the tender for 1 500 baladi goats and was also including 1 500 kids. The FAO selection committee visited the supplier to select the goats but at the inception, it was apparent that the supplier did not have the numbers of goats which met FAO specifications at hand. The selection of the goats was extended to include more farms to arrive at the number of goats requested in the tender by FAO and that meet all specifications. This caused an unexpected delay in the finalization of all goats for distribution and the Chief Technical Officer spent the entire month of June in selecting the goats with the correct specifications and health conditions.

All goats are now selected and distribution will begin in late July.

Local “baladi” goats currently show a low milk production, not exceeding 150 to 200 litres per lactation. Genetic improvements for milk production using pure breeding Shamee bucks is highly appreciated by farmers for mating goat flocks.

### Output 2: Improved animal production through provision of supplementary livestock feed and improved veterinary healthcare.



FAO procured 200 tonnes of animal feed concentrate and 190 tonnes of alfalfa pellets. The feed was distributed to the beneficiaries receiving pregnant heifers (one pregnant heifer / household). Each of the 202 beneficiaries for heifers received a three-month supply of feed concentrate and alfalfa pellets to ensure the heifers are adequately fed and maintain their strength and health during the last phase of their pregnancy and immediately following calving to ensure maximum milk production during lactation period.



### Output 3: Training farmers on improved animal husbandry and animal production techniques



FAO has developed a comprehensive training programme to facilitate substantial improvements to the lives of many low-income rural families in war-affected areas of south Lebanon.

Two training modules were prepared targeting both the Dairy cow and Goat keepers on the proper techniques for milking livestock keeping including: the first training module was already completed by mid May 2008 for the entire Heifers and Goats keepers beneficiaries focusing on proper animal keeping practices with attendance of 100% of beneficiaries. The second training workshop will focus mainly on technologies for milk processing, and feed resources.



The second training was planned for July 2008 but due to the intense selection of baladi goats, the second training was delayed. FAO is requesting the LRF to consider a no-cost extension to carry out the training to farmers in September. Heifers would have calved and the on-site training will be more hands one with farmers and their animals.