

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 Generic Recommendations

Flexibility within project proposals to change interventions according to changing needs is very much welcome, but where changes are in fact made, the logframe should also be changed to ensure that new objectives and indicators of success are made clear from the start.

Where pastoralist vulnerability to drought is a chronic problem with many underlying causes, and where Save the Children does not have a long-term programme, possibilities for partnership or support to other agencies with long-term involvement would be preferable to a relatively short-term stand-alone re-stocking intervention. In the absence of those opportunities, however, a short-term intervention is certainly much better than doing nothing.

Providing cash to assist with re-stocking and broader recovery should regularly be considered as a possible modality given its advantages in terms of choice and flexibility for recipients. Formal market analysis must be carried out in advance to determine the capacity of the local market to respond to a large injection of cash, and the likely impact that cash will have on prices and trading patterns. Given the size of the cash injection needed for re-stocking viable herds and the state of livestock markets after droughts, it is often likely to be the case that a combination of cash and other modalities will be ideal.

Where veterinary service provision is poor, it is recommended that complementary support for veterinary care is provided alongside cash. Donors should also be amenable for requests for such support.

Notwithstanding the issue of the impact of distributing all cash in a short timeframe, the transport of the cash by air to distribution sites was cost-effective and secure and should be considered as an option elsewhere for once-off programmes where financial service infrastructure is limited. For longer-term programmes, investment should be made into developing more sustainable financial systems for money transfers.

To avoid negative impacts on children's workloads, re-stocking programmes should be carried out with a thorough understanding of labour roles within the household and community regarding herding and caring for animals.

Targeting processes that make use of traditional structures while keeping the transparency of wider community participation should be replicated.

Given the growing body of evidence indicating the success of cash-based interventions, it is important that donors develop consistent policies regarding their funding of cash programmes. Current differences between donors and even among staff within the same donor regarding cash are not helpful in ensuring good programming is carried out. When cash projects are funded, furthermore, donors should include funding for proper evaluations not only to understand impact, but also to add to the wider evidence base and learning on cash.

13.2 Specific Recommendations for Isiolo

A further review of the impact of the programme on recipients – particularly those who did not previously own livestock should be carried out in late 2009 and/ or at the time of the next drought to see whether re-stocking has made a sustainable difference.

Save the Children should carry out some final visits to communities in Merti and Sericho to formally close the programme, so that expectations of those households who made the long-list

but not the short-list of recipients and some uncertainty over Save the Children's plans are clarified.

The findings of this evaluation should be shared within Isiolo and with other relevant actors in Kenya to ensure that they make informed judgements about the value of cash-based approaches to re-stocking.