



PART 1

SEAGA AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

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1.1 Introduction



Livestock make a substantial contribution to household food security by providing income, quality food, fuel, building material, fertiliser and assets for a majority of rural households in developing countries¹. They act as a bank, in terms of food security, foodstuff conversion, and as tangible assets that can be sold or exchanged

In general, small livestock keepers and subsistence farmers face numerous challenges: poor access to markets, goods and services; periodic drought and disease outbreak; economic policies that favour large-scale producers or markets elsewhere in the world; weak institutions; inappropriate technologies; and a lack of opportunities to improve their skills and knowledge.

Women and men of different ages often have different and quite specific knowledge about, and responsibilities for, various aspects of animal husbandry and livestock production. For example a woman might be responsible for preventing or treating diseases in the household's livestock, the men for milking or marketing, boys for grazing or watering and girls for providing fodder in zero-grazing. Should one or more household members die, critical knowledge and skills may be lost along with them.

Women typically face even greater challenges than men as they have different access to and control over resources, including livestock and livestock-related resources (land, credit, labour, technology, services). The result is that both production and productivity for small livestock keepers and subsistence farmers, especially, women, remain well below potential and losses and waste can be high.² Any one of these factors is a constraint in itself. Combined with the impacts of chronic illness, particularly HIV/AIDS, the challenge to sustainable livestock production can become overwhelming for households, communities, institutions, and indeed governments.

The interlinkages between HIV/AIDS, crop production, and food security are increasingly well-documented. However, the impacts of, and mitigation strategies for, HIV/AIDS on livestock production are less well understood (Engh et al. 2000). There has been little research on the links between HIV/AIDS and pastoralism (Morton 2003). In addition, very little information exists about the impact on the specific aspects of animal husbandry and future management strategies in affected households (Goe 2005). The gendered aspects of these interlinkages are even less well understood although there is increased awareness about the impacts of HIV/AIDS on women and children's ability to keep and support livestock upon the death of a husband/father due to property or asset grabbing on the part of the husband's extended family.

¹ FAO Web site (2005): <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/subjects/en/poverty.html>

² Adapted from FAO Web site <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/subjects/en/poverty.html>

Purpose of the guide

The purpose of this guide is to support those working on livestock-related programmes and projects, particularly in the design of these, so that they can more effectively respond to the different needs, priorities, constraints, and livelihood strategies present in rural communities or households. This guide focuses on the collection and use of qualitative socio-economic and gender-disaggregated data, particularly for use in project identification and design. However, this does not negate the need for quantitative data collection and use, particularly in monitoring and evaluation. There are other useful guides and training materials that are helpful for working on this.³

This guide provides a brief overview of some of the key socio-economic and gender issues related to livestock production. In particular, it considers the impact of HIV/AIDS on livestock production and related activities, as it is an overarching development concern affecting all sectors, and increasingly all regions of the world.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) promote human development as the key to social and economic progress. Livestock contribute to poverty and hunger eradication (MDG1) through provision of food and income for rural households. Low-cost investments in small livestock such as poultry and goats can offer rural women and men opportunities to diversify income, improve livelihoods and reduce vulnerability to the impacts of HIV/AIDS and other external shocks. Tackling gender inequalities (MDG3) is at the core of poverty elimination and halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and other diseases (MDG6). To reach these goals will take a coordinated multi-sectoral response at all levels. Projects or programmes that fail to address gender and HIV/AIDS risk possible failure or even worse, increasing the negative impacts of the epidemic on affected individuals, households, and communities.

Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

In September 2000 the member states of the United Nations unanimously adopted [the Millennium Declaration](#) that included the following MDGs:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality & empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Source: Millennium Development Goals Web site:
<http://www.developmentgoals.org>

To this end, the guide looks at some of the broad strategies that have been proposed for mitigating the impacts of HIV/AIDS⁴ (and other chronic illnesses such as malaria and tuberculosis) on food security and agriculture in terms of the role of livestock production.

The guide also includes pull-out checklists of questions to help livestock officers consider socio-economic and gender concerns, particularly HIV/AIDS, in the design and appraisal of livestock projects and programmes. It also provides participatory tools for field-based users in livestock-related project identification and preparation, and to a lesser extent, project design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

³ For example, see Hedman et al (1996) and Hill (2003)

⁴ For more on HIV/AIDS mitigation, please see FAO (2003a) and <http://www.fao.org/sd/hivaids>.

SEAGA

The overall objective of FAO's Socio-Economic and Gender Analysis (SEAGA) Programme is to strengthen member countries' capacity to undertake, and use the findings from, socio-economic and gender analysis in policies, programmes, and projects. Now in its second decade, the SEAGA Programme has evolved over the years, developing tools and training materials to help officers, planners, and decision-makers address socio-economic and gender issues throughout all agricultural sectors (including livestock, fisheries, and forestry). This has included the development of training materials on the production and use of gender-disaggregated data for agricultural planning.

More recently, the SEAGA Programme undertook the development of training materials and a revision of guiding documents to assist those working in various aspects of agriculture to better address the impacts of HIV/AIDS on agriculture and food security⁵.

The SEAGA approach provides users with a basis for collecting information on, analysing, and interpreting socio-economic and gender patterns affecting development projects, programmes and policies. This is particularly relevant for addressing HIV/AIDS-related concerns as it is the socio-economic and gender roles, behaviours, relationships, and patterns that are so strongly interlinked with the evolving pandemic and its impacts.

The SEAGA approach is based on three guiding principles:

- Gender roles and relations are of key importance.
- Disadvantaged people are a priority.
- Participation of all stakeholders is essential for development.

In looking for effective means to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on livestock production and food security in general, these three principles become even more relevant.

Gender roles and relations are of key importance

Gender roles and relations have a lot to do with determining vulnerability to HIV infection and to the impact of AIDS. They are also instrumental in determining the coping capacity of the men and women survivors (IFAD 2001). HIV/AIDS impacts differently on women as they typically carry the burden of caring for the sick and/or orphans while at the same time as trying to provide a livelihood for the household.

The gendered dimensions of HIV/AIDS

Women and young girls are disproportionately vulnerable to HIV because of their physiological make-up. Infection in women is fuelled by social, cultural, economic and legal forms of discrimination.

- Women and girls are at greater risk of sexual exploitation, trafficking and abuse because of poverty, low status, and unequal economic rights and educational opportunities.
- Women's ability to negotiate safe sex or refuse unwanted sex is driven by unequal gender power relations.
- Young women and girls experience more gender-based violence and sexual exploitation such as rape and abuse, especially in emergency and conflict situations.
- Older men often seek younger sexual partners; this age discrepancy can increase a girl's risk of infection (as these men will undoubtedly have had more partners).
- Gender norms that encourage men and boys to engage in risky, early or aggressive sexual behaviour increase the vulnerability of both men and women.
- Cultural practices including early and forced marriages and sexual cleansing deprive women of a means of protecting themselves from HIV infection,

(Source: UNAIDS/ UNFPA/UNIFEM (n.d.)
Women and HIV/AIDS:Confronting the crisis.)

⁵ Contact FAO for more information, or have a look at the FAO Web sites: <http://www.fao.org/hiv aids> and <http://www.fao.org/sd/seaga>

HIV/AIDS worsens gender-based differences in access to land and other productive resources like labour, technology, credit and water. For example, throughout many parts of Africa, it is mostly women and children who suffer the repercussions of asset “stripping” or “grabbing” upon the death of a husband.⁶

Disadvantaged people are a priority

The main source of livelihood of millions of households is subsistence agriculture. The impact of HIV/AIDS on these households is devastating and most of the traditional safety nets (i.e. extended families and community organisations) are increasingly overwhelmed. Orphan-headed households are increasing, affected households are forced to pull children out of school for extra agricultural labour as others care for the sick, money is diverted from school fees to pay for treatment, and livestock are sold for distress sales or slaughtered for funerals.

Participation of all stakeholders is essential for development

For some time now, HIV/AIDS has been viewed as a development issue, not just a health issue. To this end, various players involved at the international, national, and local levels have realised that to fight the pandemic, a multi-sectoral response is needed. This means that at all levels, different stakeholders must be identified, work together, tackle issues, and share resources to be more effective. In the agricultural sector, there has been more focus on “crops” and “vegetable gardens”; there is much more work needed in the area of livestock production to better understand the impacts of HIV/AIDS, and to develop more effective, relevant and appropriate mitigation interventions.

Why an HIV/AIDS focus in this guide?

As part of its mandate, FAO is responsible for monitoring the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security. It supports member countries in their efforts to prevent the worsening of the epidemic and mitigate the impacts of HIV/AIDS on food security, nutrition and agriculture.⁷

In 1997, 41% of adults living with HIV/AIDS worldwide were women; by 2001, this figure had risen to 50% (UNAIDS/WHO 2002). Today, 95% of people living with - and dying of - HIV/AIDS are in developing countries. While HIV/AIDS was once predominantly an urban problem, it has rapidly moved into rural areas, affecting food security, reversing any development gains made over the last few decades, and further impoverishing already strained households and communities.

HIV/AIDS impacts all rural household labour - changing roles and responsibilities along gender and age lines as the disease increases its impact on households. It also affects a rural households’ use of resources in many ways; for example, when someone falls sick, a household may be forced to sell some (or eventually all) of its resources, including livestock, land, and implements to pay for treatment or burial.

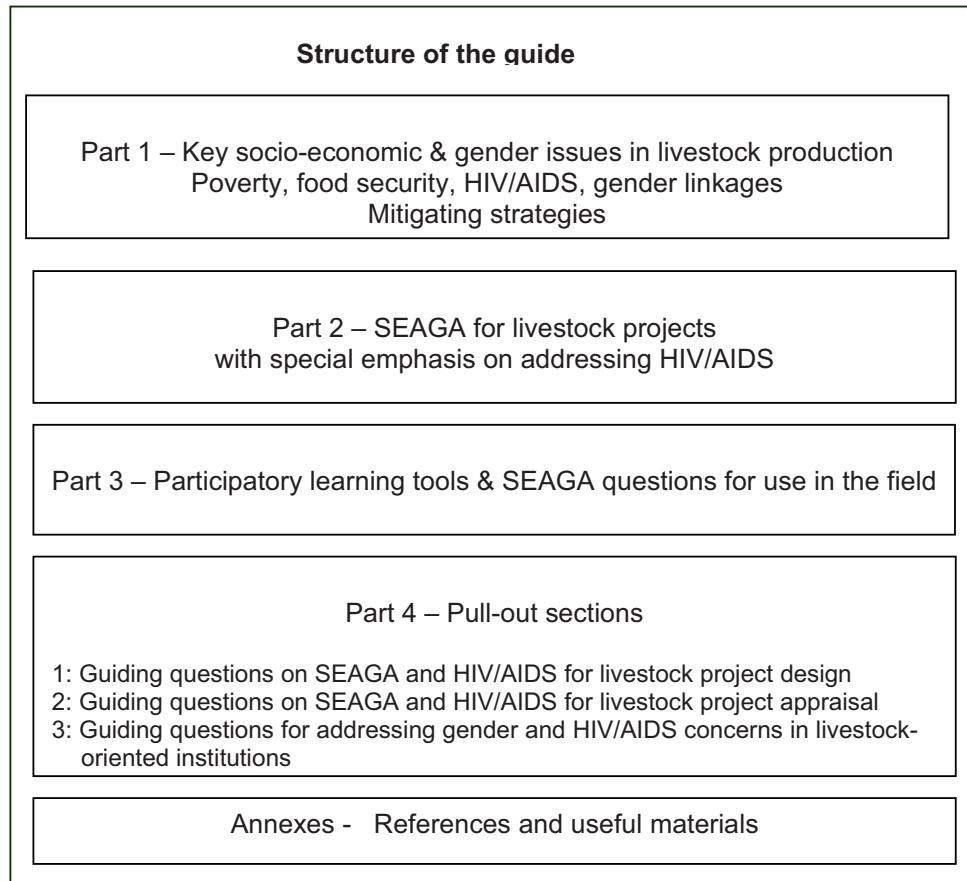
Inheritance practices overlaid with HIV/AIDS-related stigmas may lead to a woman or her children losing access to productive resources upon the death of her husband. This includes livestock, from cattle to poultry, including draught animals useful for crop production, grazing lands, plots, agricultural implements including ploughs, hand hoes, etc. A woman may be stripped of the livestock that provides her family with the very milk and meat they need to maintain their own health.

⁶ See for example FAO/MACO (2004) and UNAIDS (2004) as well as the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS Web Site: <http://womenandaids.unaids.org>.

⁷ FAO’s HIV/AIDS and Food Security Web site. www.fao.org/sd/hivaids

HIV/AIDS has such deep economic and social impacts that, even if a cure or prevention were to be found tomorrow, the effects on communities and nations would be felt for many years to come. In some ways, it is true that if we are not addressing HIV/AIDS in all our development initiatives, including livestock and agriculture, we are not addressing development, as the pandemic is quickly reversing gains made over the last 30 years.

How the guide is structured



Part 1 provides an introduction and overview of some of the key socio-economic and gender issues relevant to livestock production. In particular, it looks at the interlinkages between HIV/AIDS, food security, poverty, gender, and livestock production. It considers some of the impacts of HIV/AIDS on the livestock sector including household production, marketing, extension and veterinary services, and access to and control over resources. Some of the broad mitigating strategies are provided and the potential role of livestock production considered under each.

Part 2 focuses on the livestock project cycle, specifically on some of the socio-economic and gender issues to consider at each phase of a project. The emphasis is on the identification and preparation of livestock programmes or projects, but other phases are considered also. Part 2 is cross-referenced with Part 4, which contains specific SEAGA guiding questions for each type of socio-economic and gender analysis required in the identification and preparation stage of a project. It also points

to useful tools in Part 3 for those working directly with communities to design or implement livestock initiatives.

Part 3 provides a pull-out toolbox of participatory learning tools and SEAGA questions for livestock planners and communities to identify the different socio-economic and gender issues that are linked to, impact upon, and are impacted by livestock production activities. These are particularly useful in the identification and preparation stage of a livestock project or programme.

Part 4 includes pull-out sections with key SEAGA guiding questions to help livestock officers and planners consider socio-economic, gender, and HIV/AIDS concerns in project design, project appraisal, and organisational assessment. This includes:

- Guiding questions on SEAGA and HIV/AIDS for livestock project design;
- Guiding questions on SEAGA and HIV/AIDS for livestock project appraisal; and
- Guiding questions for addressing gender and HIV/AIDS concerns in livestock-oriented institutions

Finally, an annex provides a list of sources used in this guide as well as other useful resources on gender, HIV/AIDS and livestock, food security, and agriculture.

The following section provides an overview of some of the interlinkages between livestock production, food security, poverty, gender, and HIV/AIDS.

1.2 Overview of interlinkages between livestock production, food security, poverty, gender, and HIV/AIDS

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (Source: Rome Declaration on World Food Security announced at the World Food Summit, FAO 1996)



Livestock contribute substantially to household food security: they provide income, food, fuel, construction material, fertiliser and assets for over the majority of rural households in developing countries. Yet women and men keeping livestock face innumerable challenges including:

- poor or non-existent access to markets, goods and services;
- effects of drought and disease outbreak;
- economic policies that favour large-scale producers or markets elsewhere in the world;
- institutions lacking human, financial, and technical resources, and;
- need for improved skills, knowledge and appropriate technologies.

One of the biggest challenges facing those engaged in livestock production and agriculture is HIV/AIDS. It has affected human health and impacted negatively on national, social, and economic progress in ways and to an extent that no other disease has. AIDS is the leading cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa and it is the fourth biggest killer worldwide (FAO 2003a).

HIV/AIDS has direct and indirect impacts on household food security and nutrition through its effects on production, resources, and labour. Unlike any other disease, HIV/AIDS attacks the most productive age group, leaving households with little or no adult labour and knowledge. Households lose their ability to work and to produce food for themselves and to earn money to buy food and pay for other necessities such as school fees, agricultural inputs, tools, livestock and veterinary services. Time is reallocated from productive activities such as collecting fodder for livestock, watering and grazing, and treating livestock to care for sick and dying household members. Typically, it is women and girls who take time from producing food to provide care for household and community members.

HIV/AIDS and orphans

It has been estimated that by the end of 2002, 14 million children under age 15 had lost one or both parents to AIDS. By 2010, this number is expected to jump to more than 25 million. 80% of the orphans live in sub-Saharan Africa but there are worrying trends of an increase in AIDS orphans in Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. Source: www.avert.org

Household resources, including livestock, are sold to pay for medicines, treat the sick and pay for funerals. Families become marginalised, stigmatised, and have difficulty accessing important extension and veterinary services.

As children are orphaned, important agricultural knowledge is lost before it can be transmitted from generation to generation. Livestock-related knowledge about grazing patterns, disease trends, treatments, and breeding selection is increasingly lost.

HIV/AIDS increases the inability of households to purchase agricultural inputs, livestock, and livestock services. In the northern part of Zambia, FAO showed that due to competing expenditure needs over limited income (e.g. medical fees, food purchase and inputs), households caring for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and female-headed households with orphans are less able to buy farm inputs than non-affected households⁸. HIV/AIDS-related stigmas contributes significantly to the inability of affected individuals or households to access agricultural credit as formal institutions view HIV+ farmers as bad credit risks⁹.

Households develop different response strategies; many switch to less labour-intensive crops; those keeping livestock may switch to less labour-intensive livestock such as poultry or bee-keeping. Some may sell their cattle to pay for treatment or funerals; some may be forced to sell or slaughter all their livestock as the disease takes its toll on the household and further impoverishes its members.

Case study from Kenya - Leah's Story

More than 20 years ago, Leah would have been considered relatively wealthy; now she survives by making and selling charcoal. Funeral costs and customary funeral feasts have driven her into poverty. She married Oyugi in 1948, and they had 18 children (16 girls and 2 boys). 13 girls died in early childhood and 2 died as adults after getting married. Her two sons also died as adults. One was killed in an accident and the other after a long illness. She lives in a house that her late son constructed for her and works on her late husband's plot, which she considers very productive. In 1978, her household was not poor, and they had many livestock. Since then most of the livestock have died; many were slaughtered. When her husband died, two bulls were slaughtered. A bull was slaughtered for each of her two sons' funerals, and a cow was slaughtered when her daughter in-law died. Leah's only remaining livestock are some chickens. She attributes her decline into poverty to the deaths and related loss of livestock assets that hit her family so hard. Source: Kristjanson, P, A. Krishna, M. Radeny and W. Nindo (2004)

Impacts of HIV/AIDS on livestock production and agriculture

There are numerous impacts of HIV/AIDS on agriculture and livestock production. While by no means comprehensive, the list below flags some of the potential impacts for livestock officers or extensionists so that they may think about how to address them while developing livestock-related projects and programmes or while working with communities on livestock initiatives.

Potential impacts of HIV/AIDS on rural livelihoods and food security

Some of the household level impacts on rural livelihoods and food security might include:

- Reduced focus on productive activities;
- Production (labour and time) negatively affected – leading to food insecurity;
- Difficulty in providing a livelihood for household members;
- (Elderly) women over-burdened as they care for the sick and orphaned children;
- Reduction in land under cultivation; and
- Productive age groups sick and dying - the elderly and the young left to take over production activities.

⁸ According to a survey carried out by FAO, 14% of female-headed households with PLWHA, 24% of female-headed households with orphans and 50% of non-affected households in the sample population could afford to purchase fertiliser (FAO 2004a).

⁹ Participant discussions, TOT on Gender, HIV/AIDS and Food Security for Choma District MACO Staff Choma, Zambia 9 – 20 2004.

These may in turn have broader impacts on livestock production, as summarised by Engh et al. (2000):

- Decreased capacity to manage livestock resources (e.g. manure, fuel, building materials);
- Decreased ability to contain and eliminate livestock waste;
- Loss/transfer of livestock according to property inheritance;
- Sale/slaughter of livestock and reduction in number of draught animals;
- Decrease in livestock products (milk, meat);
- Decreased sales/transactions; and
- Reduced veterinary and livestock extension services as staff fall sick or die.

Gender, inheritance customs and livestock

While legislation exists to prevent property/asset grabbing in Namibia, it is still common practice in many areas of northern Namibia for a husband's family to take livestock and other resources from a widow and/or remaining children upon the husband's death. The loss of livestock has immediate impacts on the woman and/or her children as they lose their "food security" bank, potential draught power, fertiliser, and source of income. Source: Engh, I., Stloukal and J. du Guerny (2000).

Clearly, the livestock sector, like all areas of agricultural production, is being heavily impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Not only is food security increasingly threatened from household to national levels, but the impacts are even broader. Critical knowledge about livestock production, breeds, disease patterns, prevention and treatment, and grazing and watering patterns is being lost as parents die before they have the time to pass on knowledge to their children.

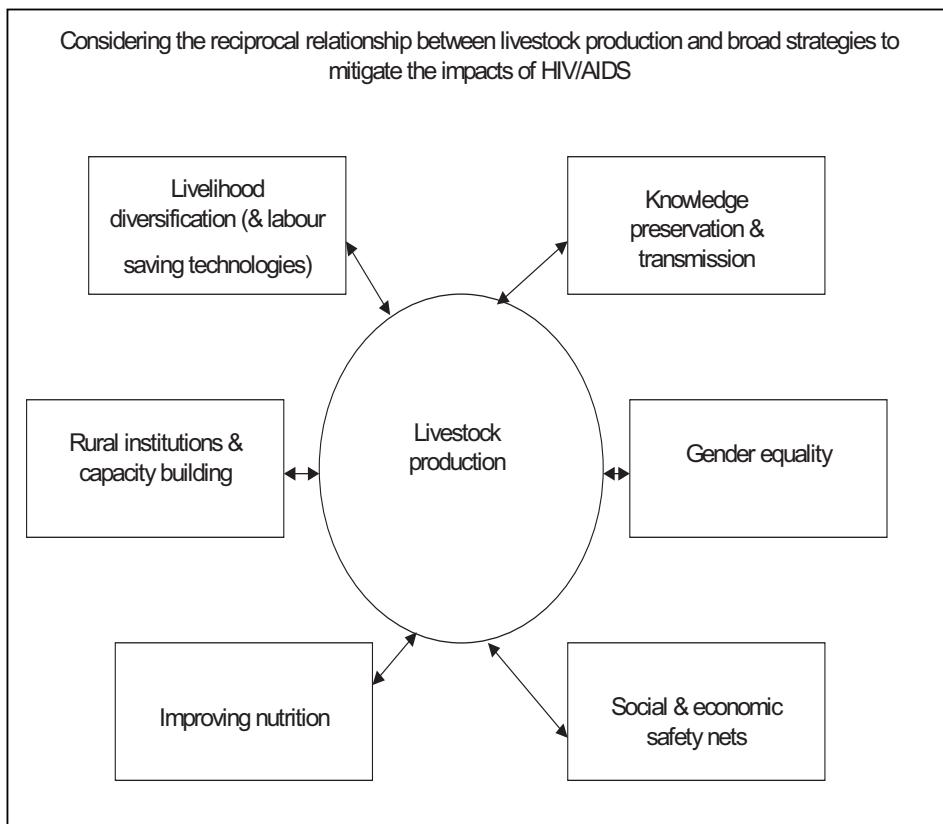
Veterinary and livestock extension and research services are also being affected. As livestock specialists fall sick or die, institutions lose their capacity to support communities and farmers in their efforts to improve their livestock production, and in turn, their food security and income-generation possibilities. Areas whose veterinary and livestock services have been greatly affected by HIV/AIDS may not be able to cope if affected by livestock disease. They might not be able to prevent disease outbreaks, nor might they be able to respond effectively to an outbreak. This can have dire effects for household food security, but also for wider markets nationally and internationally.

The following section considers some possible roles for livestock in mitigating the impacts of HIV/AIDS on food security and nutrition.

1.3 Possible roles for livestock in mitigating the impacts of HIV/AIDS on food security and nutrition



This section considers some of the broad strategies for mitigating the impacts of HIV/AIDS on food security and nutrition that were proposed by an inter-agency workshop¹⁰ held in 2001. Specifically, it looks at how livestock specialists might adapt these strategies for their own projects or programmes. Clearly there is a reciprocal relationship between livestock production and these mitigating strategies in that livestock can play an integral role in these strategies to counter or lessen the impact of HIV/AIDS on rural livelihoods, food security and overall well-being of rural households. Likewise, overall strategies that mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS on food security, nutrition, and household livelihoods can contribute positively to sustainable livestock production.



Effective, locally appropriate approaches are needed to implement these strategies. It is therefore essential to consider the local socio-economic factors in which the impacts of HIV/AIDS on food security and rural livelihoods are situated, particularly in terms of livestock and agricultural production. Likewise, it is important to mainstream gender considerations throughout the various strategies.

¹⁰ Further information: FAO (2003a).

To be truly effective, any mitigating strategy must also incorporate ways to address peoples' values, beliefs, misconceptions, and most importantly, HIV/AIDS-related stigmas. It is also important to: build on existing good practices; mainstream, in a gender-sensitive way, HIV/AIDS issues into current livestock activities; and look at institutional environments and practices, and the role they play in effective mitigation. Importantly, any strategy should include awareness-raising and capacity-building with the relevant stakeholders (e.g. livestock officers and extension workers and community members).¹¹

The box below, entitled ***Key principles to guide livestock sector staff on HIV/AIDS***, has been adapted from a set of principles outlined in a recent FAO document for agricultural extension workers and is useful for considering when developing or implementing livestock-related HIV/AIDS mitigating strategies.

Key principles to guide livestock-related staff on HIV/AIDS

- Become HIV/AIDS competent and understand the implications of the disease for one's own life and one's own work.
- Mainstream HIV/AIDS considerations in a gender-responsive way into all livestock initiatives.
- Reduce HIV/AIDS-related stigma and discrimination in livestock-focused institutions and all activities with communities.
- Encourage and support communities to be actively involved in addressing the disease, including reviewing their gendered norms and behaviours that contribute to the spread of the disease.
- Promote gender empowerment as a means of reducing the risk of HIV infection and vulnerability to the impacts of AIDS.
- Ensure livestock initiatives recognise and address HIV/AIDS-related needs and priorities of vulnerable groups, households and individuals.
- Use flexible and participatory processes in developing livestock initiatives with the community.
- Adopt inter-disciplinary and innovative responses that develop or strengthen linkages between livestock/veterinary services and partnerships with other government services, NGOs and the private sector.
- Advocate and increase understanding among other stakeholders of the potential contribution of livestock and agriculture to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS.

Adapted from: Bishop-Sambrook (2004)

¹¹ Emmanuelle Guerne-Bleich, Officer, Animal Production and Health Division, FAO, Personal communication, 2004.

Mitigation strategies¹²

There is nothing particularly new about the mitigation strategies outlined in the following pages; they have been used by communities in their agricultural and livestock activities, and have been promoted by livestock specialists and others for a long time. However, it is important to consider them through a new gender and HIV/AIDS lens to assess their suitability for households affected by chronic illness and death to lessen the impact of the epidemic on their livelihoods (e.g. labour requirements, availability of labour, income generation) and food security, and improve the nutrition of household members, particularly those who are sick.

Households may be affected differently by HIV/AIDS (e.g. those caring for orphans and/or people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), or experiencing the death of a household member). For example, male-headed households caring for very young orphans may have very different needs and constraints (e.g. may have to divert labour to childcare) than male-headed households caring for older orphans (who may provide more labour). Pastoralist households may require different strategies than other livestock-keepers (e.g. extension, communication strategies and nutrition).

1. Livelihood diversification: promoting small stock production



In many areas, small stock can play an effective role in mitigating the impacts of HIV/AIDS on household livestock production, nutrition, and food security.

They are relatively low in labour and capital demands; they can also be a good source of income for resource-poor households, including those affected by HIV/AIDS and chronic illness. Poultry rearing may be particularly well suited for poor households with labour shortages, including grandparent-, female- and child-headed households as it requires low capital investment, is easy to manage (particularly where free-range feeding is possible), has fairly low labour inputs, is marketable within and outside communities, and has a quick rate of growth and return. Goat rearing can also provide similar benefits as poultry although it can take longer to realise a profit. In some areas, rabbits and guinea pigs may also be appropriate.

Specific actions

To support these mitigating strategies, government livestock services, NGOs and other institutions can:

- **Assess the feasibility** of small stock production for different client groups of men and women, particularly those affected by labour shortages and/or HIV/AIDS (including younger boys and girls if necessary);
- **Provide start-up capital** for small-stock production to target groups;
- **Ensure that training** interventions include vulnerable groups of men and women in entrepreneurship development and production skills, disease

Mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS: the role of poultry

VETAID Tanzania has a project in Arusha that aims to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS on local families. This project tackles the roots of poverty where women, who have lost everything, struggle to survive and look after their families. Each family received one cockerel and five hens; the chicks that have hatched as a result of this have been sufficient to provide birds for new group members. They also received training in poultry management. Children in the project families are now able to eat eggs and meat more often and family incomes have increased substantially through the sale of eggs and chicks. A measure of project success suggested by the beneficiaries is the fact that all families are able to purchase kerosene for their lamps. Source: VETAID(2003) www.vetaid.org

¹² Adapted from FAO (2003a).

- management (e.g. vaccinations), and improved animal husbandry related to small stock production; and
- **Introduce appropriate local or improved breeds and technologies** in livestock interventions with vulnerable populations.

It is households and groups (e.g. women and men within households, different groups including women's groups and PLWHA-groups) who should ultimately decide whether these strategies make sense based on the tasks in which they are already engaged, their labour availability, and the access to start-up capital (if necessary).

2. Knowledge preservation and transmission



HIV/AIDS has had an adverse effect on knowledge, practices, and skills associated with livestock production and agriculture in general. Livestock-related tasks are often gender or age specific. This means that men, women and even boys and girls potentially have different knowledge about different species or breeds; various aspects of production; disease prevention and treatment; and other aspects of livestock production such as marketing and business development.

Getting information and services

In Rakai, Uganda, researchers observed that when the male head of a household died, women and children often did not have the knowledge or financial resources to care for cattle. This was in part because women did not have the same access to institutions and services that shared knowledge (e.g. livestock extension services and other institutions).
Source: Haslwimmer (2000).

As with all aspects of agriculture, there is the risk of (potentially gender- and age-specific) loss of animal husbandry knowledge, skills, and practices if parents die before they can transmit these to their children. If orphans are unable to manage the livestock upon which their household has depended, they are also at risk of deepening food insecurity and poverty. This also has potential implications for the sustainability of domestic animal diversity.

Specific actions

Those working on livestock interventions with communities should be particularly observant about the different types of households and the various livelihood constraints facing each, including widow-, grandparent- or orphan-headed households. To ensure that knowledge and skills related to livestock production are transmitted to younger generations, it is important to promote livestock initiatives that support boys and girls in developing or maintaining livelihood strategies that include livestock. In developing mitigating strategies focusing on livestock production, livestock planners, extensionists and other staff should consider the following:

- **Assess the needs, constraints, knowledge and skills** of women and men, particularly youth, vulnerable children and orphan-headed households, in planning livestock initiatives;
- **Create community-based strategies** that value and conserve knowledge and local skills about livestock, and contribute to passing on this knowledge to new generations;
- **Develop ways to include girls and boys** in livestock extension activities - this will require assessing their schedules and availability, possible schooling needs, existing skills and responsibilities; and
- **Build on the experiences of Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools (JFFLS)** that are founded in adult education approaches. JFFLS provide agricultural

skills as well as life skills and an opportunity for group mobilisation and income generating activities. Applied to livestock production, the JFFLS approach can:

- **Empower girls and boys keeping livestock** to develop their livestock-related knowledge and skills to enable them to be productive and food secure;
- **Sharpen girls and boys' abilities** to make critical and informed decisions about their livestock and other agricultural activities that can help them generate income and provide food for their household; and
- **Sensitise girls and boys** in new ways of thinking and problem solving in animal husbandry.

The Junior Farmer Field and Life Schools specifically target orphans and vulnerable boys and girls between 12 and 18 years. JFFLS are intended to empower orphans and vulnerable boys and girls by improving their knowledge and skills in agriculture, other agribusinesses, and nutrition. The life school component helps build boys and girls' socialisation skills and values and provides HIV/AIDS awareness, child protection and psychosocial support. JFFLS are intended as a safe social space for both girls and boys, where peer support and community care helps develop their self-esteem and confidence.

Animal husbandry is an area that is well suited for JFFLS and can be incorporated into wider agricultural JFFLS programs or target livestock production initiatives separately, depending on the situation. Whatever the case may be, incorporating HIV/AIDS education into the curriculum is advisable as it is youth who will carry livestock production and food security forward.

3. Rural institutions and capacity building



It is not only rural households and their members who are affected by HIV/AIDS; community based institutions, livestock and agricultural support service institutions (livestock extension, veterinary services, dairy cooperatives, health services, research institutes, etc), and others suffer the effects also. These include, but are not limited to:

- Loss of qualified livestock extension and veterinary staff to illness and death;
- Decreased (or halted) service to affected households because of stigma, fear, ignorance and lack of capacity to address the new challenges on the part of livestock services staff; and
- Lack of institutional management support to affected staff and clients.

Specific actions

Livestock-focused institutions and services can help mitigate the impacts of HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses on livestock production and food security by considering some of the following issues both in terms of how they address HIV/AIDS within their own institutions and how they address HIV/AIDS in their work with women and men in communities. This includes:

- **Reviewing (and revising if necessary) institutional policies and structures** to mainstream, in a gender-sensitive way, HIV/AIDS concerns in the work of the organisation;¹³

¹³ For more about this, see UNAIDS Gender Sensitivity Checklist at http://www.unaids.org/html/pub/Topics/Gender/GenderChecklist_en_pdf.pdf

- **Conducting livestock-related research** in a way that disaggregates socio-economic data by gender and age (at the very least by heads of household) and where appropriate, by households that are or are not affected by HIV/AIDS and/or other chronic illnesses (including malaria and TB). Identifying the status of households is often difficult or unwise (because of stigma) and proxy indicators are often needed¹⁴;
- **Providing support to staff**, e.g. voluntary testing, counselling and antiretrovirals (ARVs) to affected staff;
- **Providing gender, HIV/AIDS, and stigma training and sensitisation** to all staff (from field-based workers to management);
- **Incorporating gender-sensitive HIV/AIDS messages** in livestock extension work and materials; and
- **Partnering with other institutions** and community-based organisations to sensitise communities and traditional leaders about the negative impacts of HIV/AIDS, including livestock and asset-grabbing, on livelihoods, household food security and livestock production systems.

4. Promoting gender equality



Men and women are affected differently by HIV/AIDS, and consequently their livelihood opportunities and constraints in managing livestock are likely to be affected in different ways. It is mostly women and girls who reallocate their productive labour, including time used for animal health and production purposes, to care for the sick and dying members of a household or community. Women may face particular constraints in accessing extension and livestock information and services. In many cases, women do not control household livestock resources, and it is difficult for them to have a say in what happens to these resources upon the death of their husband. It is not uncommon that households lose their livestock and other property upon the death of the male head due to prevailing inequalities in inheritance rights and practices.

Specific actions

There are many ways that those working on livestock initiatives can work towards promoting gender equality in their programs, institutions, and work with clients. Using this or other similar guides and tools to help identify gender-related issues in planning livestock projects or programmes is one way. The following list provides a few other ideas for action:

- **Credit:** Support women and men's improved access to credit to start up or strengthen stock, practices, or businesses.
- **People-responsiveness:** Ensure a better identification of the different needs and priorities of women and men. Consider the need for less labour-demanding livestock production systems due to labour reallocation to care for the sick.
- **Livestock information and extension services:** Promote better inclusion of women farmers and livestock keepers, particularly in households affected by HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses, and support efforts that improve their access to livestock information, i.e. marketing, technologies and less labour-intensive livestock systems. This may include making sure extension messages and radio programmes are developed in the local language and

¹⁴ For more information about proxy indicators, see Save the Children (2004).

- meetings and trainings are scheduled for times and places that women can access.
- **Legal issues:** Be informed and share knowledge about the inheritance and property rights of widows and children as well as law-enforcing mechanisms that can support them to keep or reclaim livestock, land and other property.

5. Improving nutrition and food safety



Women and men living with HIV/AIDS need good nutrition to stay as healthy as possible. Good nutrition cannot cure AIDS or prevent HIV-infection, but it can delay the progression from HIV to full-blown AIDS and related diseases, and improve the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS (FAO/WHO 2002). Meat, egg and milk products supply proteins, vitamins and minerals and extra energy, and help to strengthen muscles and the immune system. People with weak health are more vulnerable to infections, including diseases transmitted by animals or through contaminated food and water. Even people with access to anti-retrovirals need a balanced diet to fully benefit from such treatment.

Some of the mitigation strategies mentioned previously have tried to provide some ideas for those working with livestock and communities to mitigate the impacts of HIV/AIDS on livestock production and household food security. In addition to these potential interventions, it is important to consider the nutrition needs of affected individuals and households, review existing support institutions (whether it be extended family, community-based organisations, etc.) and assess, with the community, and particularly those affected, the best way forward to ensure livestock production within, or for, those households. Labour and financial constraints of households and women and men must be considered before strategies are discussed or plans developed.

Specific actions

To improve the potential for livestock's contribution to household nutrition, particularly to households affected by HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses, livestock initiatives and services must make every effort to collaborate with other partner organisations to:

- **Improve community and staff understanding** of HIV/AIDS and its impact on households, their livelihoods, food security, and nutrition;
- **Include information** about the importance of a good and balanced diet to living well with HIV/AIDS and the potential contribution to nutrition of small stock; and
- **Advise** men and women on ways to avoid transmission of zoonoses.¹⁵

6. Strengthening social and economic safety nets



In times of stress, communities and family members often come together to support each other. Natural disasters such as drought, floods, and earthquakes often force people to support each other in ways that are not required on a typical day. HIV/AIDS is challenging communities and extended family members in ways that have not been seen before – placing enormous stress on traditional social and economic safety nets. HIV/AIDS-related stigma and a widespread lack of knowledge (or misinformation) about the

¹⁵ For more on HIV/AIDS and zoonoses, see Pasquali (2004).

illness itself in terms of cause, transmission, and cure fuels the stigma and marginalises individuals and communities.

Livestock have always played an important role in supporting the social and economic safety nets of households and communities. They are central to people's livelihoods, food security and nutrition; they act as a "bank" to be called upon in times of stress or need (either sold, traded, or slaughtered). Livestock are central in many of the major events of life, i.e. birth ceremonies, weddings and funerals. Yet, there is seemingly little known about how traditional community institutions – particularly around livestock production (e.g. women's poultry groups, grazing support and dairy cooperatives) – are holding up under the stress induced by HIV/AIDS and related chronic illnesses (FAO 2003e). Livestock-oriented groups can also provide much-needed new (or adapted) types of community or social cohesion and support in times of need.

Specific actions

The previous strategies outlined in this section have suggested several ways that livestock can support initiatives to mitigate the impacts of HIV/AIDS on household and community food security and nutrition. All of these strategies can support the social and economic safety nets of a community. Collaboration between people and organisations from different sectors (e.g. health, agriculture, veterinary and livestock services, finance, nutrition, land and forestry) is essential to strengthen safety nets for HIV/AIDS affected households, and the livestock sector can contribute to this work though:

Community Safety Nets, Zambia

In Northern Province, Zambia, HIV/AIDS affected households have difficulties accessing many of the social and economic safety nets. Most households depend on extended family for help with labour, food and financial assistance. Households that take care of people living with HIV/AIDS have difficulty accessing community based organisations (CBOs) due in part to HIV/AIDS stigma they encounter, reduced household labour availability, and extension services that fail to target their needs. Source: FAO (2004a).

- **Reducing stigma:** Sensitise community and staff about HIV/AIDS-related stigma that marginalises individuals and households making it hard for them to access the resources they desperately need;
- **Labour sharing:** Explore opportunities for sharing or exchanging labour, food or other resources in ways that are responsive to the needs of households affected by HIV/AIDS in particular. For example there may be some sort of community mechanism that provides labour exchange or a rotating system of "inheritance" of livestock, or opportunities to establish or strengthen community-managed flocks of animals such as sheep, goats and poultry;
- **Building on and supporting existing community safety mechanisms:** Support vulnerable households or groups in a gender-sensitive and participatory manner, and promote interdisciplinary (e.g. forestry, health, education) collaboration to strengthen rural livelihoods and reduce their vulnerabilities; and
- **Supporting research:** Include HIV/AIDS and gender concerns to more effectively identify avenues for better social and economic support – particularly for the most vulnerable households and groups in a community (e.g. widow-headed households caring for orphans, orphan-headed households).

The following section considers the application of socio-economic and gender analysis (SEAGA) in the design of livestock projects.