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Supporting Livelihoods in Sarichashma Jamoat, Shuroobod District

On September 4th 2015, UNDP Tajikistan launched the first distribution of 58 milk cows to 58 households affected by disasters in April 2014. The cows will support the livelihood recovery of disaster-affected households.

The livelihoods support was funded through UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support as part of the post-disaster Recovery to Resilience Programme being implemented in collaboration with local Government authorities. In total, 101 milk cows will be distributed to all affected households.

The distribution was conducted using Conflict Prevention Framework developed by the UNDP Tajikistan. To avoid conflicts between beneficiaries, UNDP chose a lottery approach. All 58 milk cows were individually numbered. Beneficiaries pull out a number from the lottery bag and took possession of the cow with the matching number.



Distribution of milk cows in Sarichashma jamoat of Shuroobod district.

One of the first recipients, Ms. Davlatova Valoyat, a widow who has 5 children with the eldest is 14 years old, said: - *"I am very happy to receive a milk cow. It will support my family a lot from different perspectives: first I can sell the milk and then I can buy soap, sugar, and stationeries for my children; secondly I can consume milk by preparing "shirchoi" (a national dish from milk) and porridge which will also allow me to save some money for other consumption"*. The April 2014 disaster totally destroyed Ms. Davlatova's house. She is currently living with relatives 30 kilometers away from her normal home place.

Before the distribution Mr. Firdavs Faizulloev, UNDP Tajikistan's Disaster Risk Management Programme Manager, informed beneficiaries on the purpose of the cow distribution and lottery

rules. He noted that all cattle had passed 10 day quarantine and were vaccinated. Mr. Faizulloev also briefed the beneficiaries on other planned project activities and noted that UNDP is in the process of providing fodder for the animals.

Authorities in Sarichashma jamoat and Shuroobod district were very supportive of the milk cow distribution. One Hukumat representative said: - *"It is unprecedented to distribute milk cows for the disaster affected population in our district"*. He also added that the milk cows will improve local breed stock.

On 12 and 13 April 2014, heavy rains and hailstorms led to flash floods and mudslides in six districts of South East Khatlon Province, Tajikistan. The resulting disaster caused significant damage to households and local infrastructure. More than 487 families were affected, including 18 families who had their houses completely destroyed. The disaster seriously damaged the livelihoods of the affected population, including when a mudslide killed more than 1,000 head of cattle. For more details, please follow the below link:

http://untj.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=644&catid=95.

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