# Community Feedback Assessment Report

## Greater Ganyiel, Panyinjiar County – Unity State

### *1.0. Introduction*

VSF Suisse in consortium with VSF Germany are implementing two (2) years BHA funding project titled ***"Climate and Conflict Emergency Livestock Response Project – CCLERP"*** covering the Greater Upper Nile region that includes Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile States. The project's main objective is to improve or sustain access to animal source food and related income for crisis affected individuals at risk of malnutrition particularly children and women. This objective is aiming at protecting and rebuilding livestock assets through delivery of animal health service (treatment, deworming and vaccination) through existing networking of Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWS). The project Monitoring and Evaluation approaches included community feedback meetings as one of the approaches, this approach aimed at gathering both quantitative and qualitative data from the project beneficiaries for tracking progress and project target against the achieved milestones.

### *2.0. Background*

Ganyiel Payam of Panyinjar County was among the most flood affected Counties out of 33 counties reported of being affected by flooding in South Sudan since the month of May 2021. The slow recessing of water levels of 2020 flooding coupled with the onset of the 2021 seasonal rainfall of July 2021 resulted in to increased numbers of floods affected households in Panyinjar County. [1]An estimated population of 31,245 individuals (16,017 Female, 15,228 Male) were affected as of August 2021 and more than 6,490 individuals (3,515 Female, 2,975 Male) were displaced in Greater Ganyliel Payam, Panyinjar County. The number of displaced households continue to increase as the water levels continue to increase due to heavy rainfalls. In September 2021, the population of flood-victims have increased with about [2]13,591 individuals newly displaced in Greater Ganyliel Payam, Panyinjar County and an estimated [3]192 Households and 824 Individuals migrated to Yirol East in search of safety and food.

Flooding led to widespread destruction of houses and other fixed assets, collapse of livelihoods, severely affecting the ability of households to maintain their livestock assets. Livestock losses and death including small ruminants (Chicken and Goats) were reported in the most flood affected Payams of Greater Ganyiel. Animal produce such as milk has dropped due to lack of animal feed and general body weakness. According to FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, out of estimated 795,558 animals lost across the country nearly 355,000 animals perished in Unity state due to flooding last year (2021).

Food insecurity situation in Panyinjar county remained elevated due to combination and interfacing of insecurity, impact of COVID-19, persistent poor macroeconomic conditions, impact of flooding on livelihoods. Based on the IPC projections, the food insecurity situation in Panyinjar is classified as an emergency (IPC 4) with very high likelihood of households sliding to the worst acute food insecurity phases if humanitarian food assistances are not provided on time. Affected households have different coping strategies including borrowing food, relying on humanitarian assistance, engaged in casual labor, selling households' assets, hunting, collecting firewood for sell and fishing as well as other negative coping strategies such as reducing daily meals to one meal a day, relying on host community members, and borrowing from relatives, other households have also opted to feeding on water lilies.

### *3.0. Objectives*

The overall objective of the community feedback assessment was to understand and assess the impact of the floods on community's livelihood, assess the effects of floods on livestock assets and community livelihoods; especially the livestock-based livelihood, CAHWs performance and general animal

[1] Inter-Agency Flood Assessment Report, Ganyliel Payam, Panyijiar County, Unity State August, 2021

[2] Inter-Agency Flood Assessment Report, Ganyliel Payam, Panyijiar County, Unity State September, 2021

[3] IRNA Report: Flash Floods IDPs from Unity to Yirol East County, Lakes State 15 September 2021

health conditions and document lessons learnt for future planning and project designing and development.

### *4.0. Geographical Coverage and Targeted Beneficiaries*

The assessment covered the areas of Ganyiel, Dakom Cattle Camp and Thoarnhom in Panyinjar County of Unity state. These areas are targeted because of livestock assets and livestock keeper presence in Dakom and Thoarnhom and availability of CAHWs within Ganyiel as the meeting center for their planning and reporting.

The community feedback meetings were targeting the flood-affected livestock-owning households, cattle camps households, CAHWs for appropriate data collection and analysis.

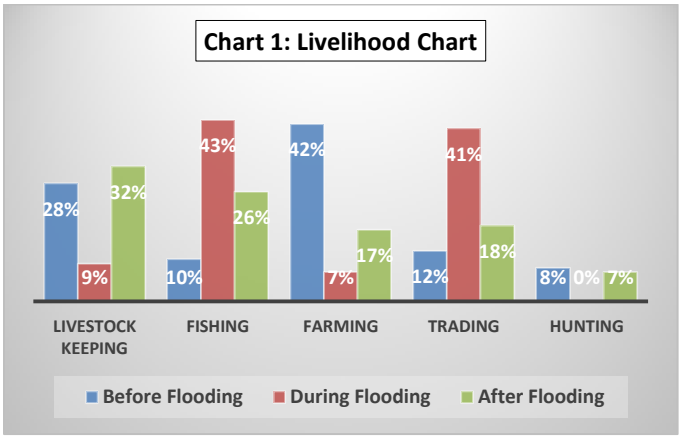
### *5.0. Methodologies, Approaches and Tools*

During the data collection phase, FGDs with open questions were applied and the participatory rapid appraisal tools were adopted to collect the information. The tools are not limited to proportional piling, pair wise ranking and triangulation and probing as well as cross-transact walk through the Payam and cattle camps.

### *6.0. Findings and Discussions*

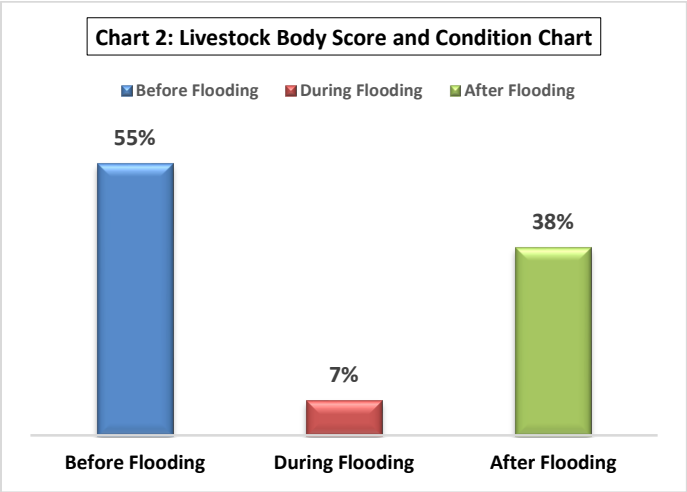
#### *6.1. Community Livelihoods*

Community confirmed that, before flooding, their livelihoods were entirely depending on farming, livestock keeping, trading, fishing and hunting. While during the flooding their livelihood were interrupted and the community shifted to fishing, trading, livestock keeping and farming. In the recovery phase after the floods, the community livelihood have been restored gradually to livestock keeping, farming, trading, fishing and hunting. Refer to chart 1.




#### *6.2. Animal Health Body Score and Condition*

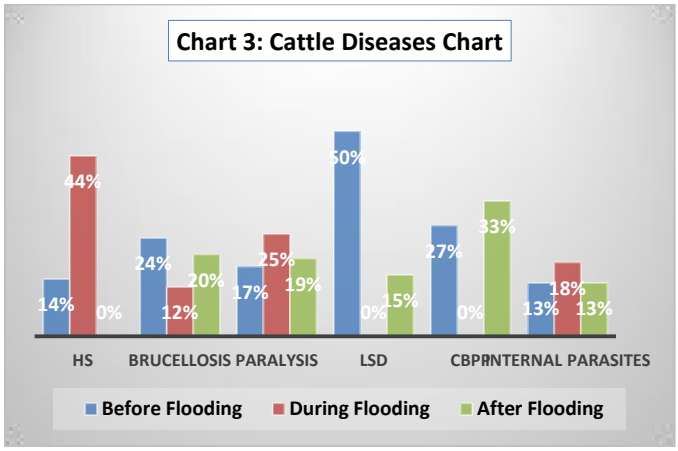
- Chart 2, indicates that livestock body score and condition are relatively good during the periods before and after the flooding, these are attributed to available plenty pasture and water. While in the flooding period, the body score and condition of the livestock are poor due to stress, inadequate pasture and movement in water coupled with high infestation of the internal parasites attributed to poor body score and condition of the livestock.




#### *6.3. Common Livestock Diseases*

##### *6.3.1. Cattle Disease*

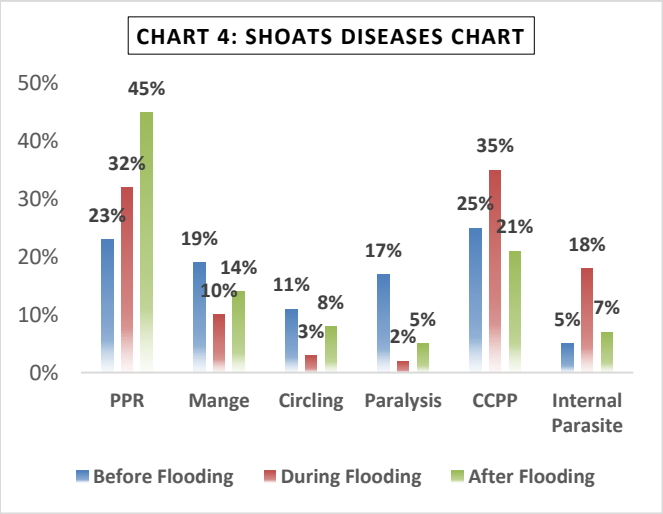
- The assessment found out that before the floods, common livestock diseases of high prevalence rates were LSD, CBPP, Brucellosis, Paralysis (all species and age), HS and internal parasites. While during flooding, the diseases prevalence patterns changed with HS taking lead, followed by paralysis, internal parasites and Brucellosis. After the flooding, the patterns also changed with CBPP on lead, followed by Brucellosis, paralysis, LSD and internal parasite. Paralysis is an emerging disease in the areas of Panyinjar County.




##### *6.3.2. Shoats Disease*

- According to chart 4, before flooding, shoats' common diseases were CCPP, PPR, Mange, Paralysis, Circling and internal parasite, while during the flooding, diseases such as CCPP, PPR and internal parasite were on the increase while Mange, Paralysis and Circling had reduced. After the flooding, PPR cases were experienced to be more than

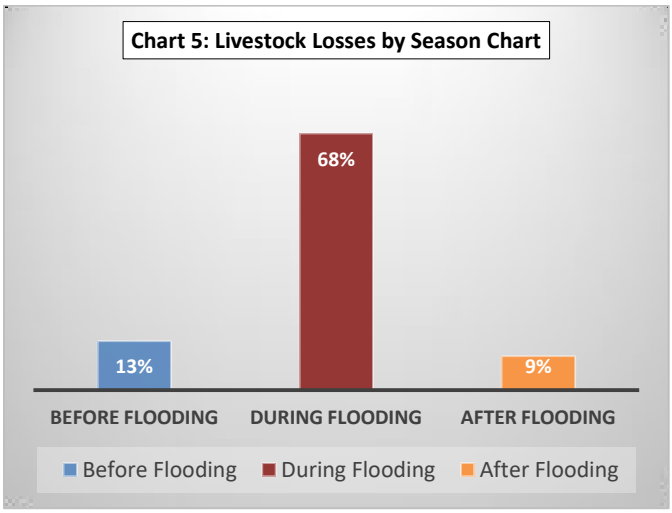
before. Also Mange, circling and Paralysis have increased after the flooding, while CCPP and internal parasite have reduced after the flooding. These are attributed to the seasonal disease pattern linked to the gaps of service deliveries due to flooding, insecurity among others.




### *6.4. Livestock Losses*

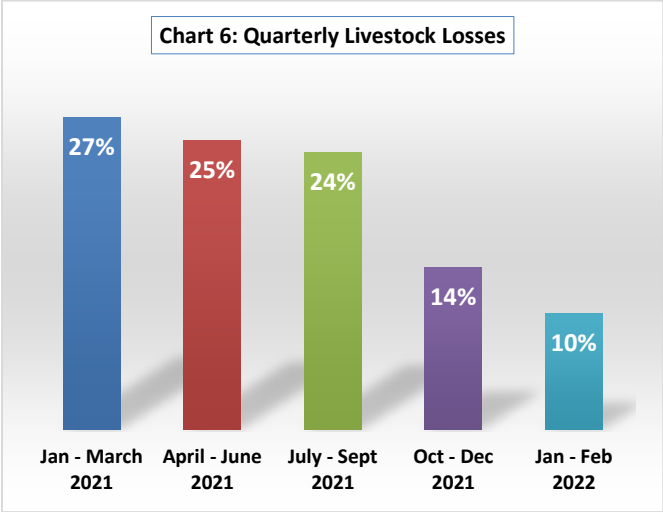
#### *6.4.1. Livestock Losses by Season*

- Livestock losses were experienced and reported mostly during the flooding period compared to the periods before and after flooding. More plans to reduce the losses need to developed and disseminated among the experts and the community. More details on chart 5 below.



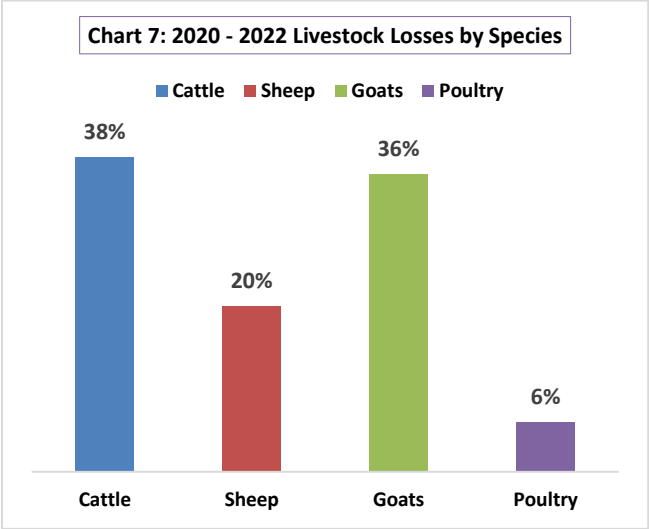

#### *6.4.2. Livestock Losses by Quarters*

- Chart 6 reveals that, most livestock losses were experienced in the first quarter of 2021 due to 2020 devastating flood and then gradually declined as the 2021 floods slowly set on. The gradual reductions of losses was experienced because most livestock remained in the highlands after 2020 flooding. First quarter of 2022 have experienced less losses of livestock as the water level have receded.



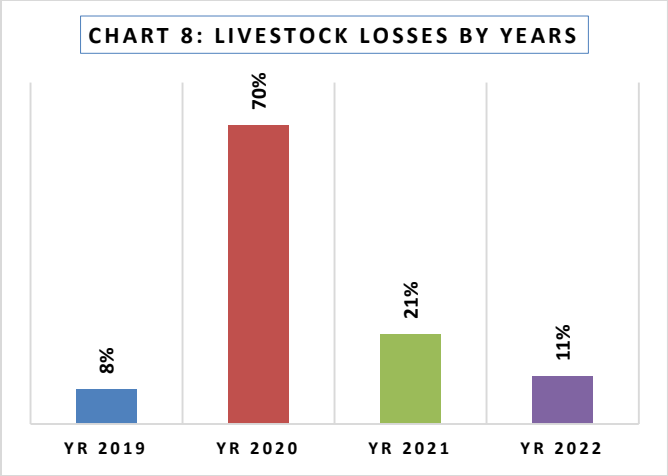

#### *6.4.3. Livestock Losses by Species (2020 – 2022)*

- The assessment also found out that cattle and goats were identified to be the most affected and lost during the flooding period since 2020 to 2022. While sheep and poultry were less affected. This is because of the body resistant to the diseases and strength to resist environmental changes. See chart 7 below.



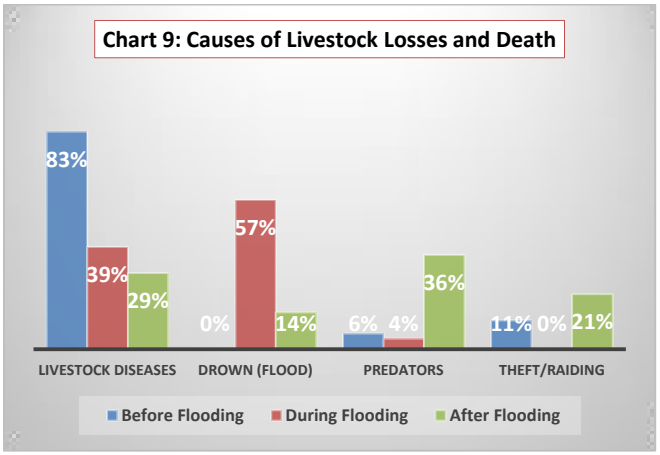

#### *6.4.4. Livestock Losses by Years*

- Livestock losses was experienced mostly during 2020 flooding compared to 2021 flooding. The impact of 2020 floods are felt in early 2021. Losses in 2021 were minimum because of the early warnings of the heavy rainfalls which compelled communities and their livestock assets to migrate earlier to the highlands. However, 2022 flooding is anticipated to be worse than 2021 flooding, because communities are still battling with stagnant waters from the effects of 2021 flooding.




### 6.4.5. *Causes of Livestock Losses and Death*

- Before flooding, livestock losses were attributed to livestock diseases, raiding (insecurity) and predators while during flooding losses are due to flooding (drowning), livestock diseases and predators. After the flooding, Livestock losses were related to livestock diseases, predators, theft/raiding (insecurity) and drowning. More details on chart 9 below.

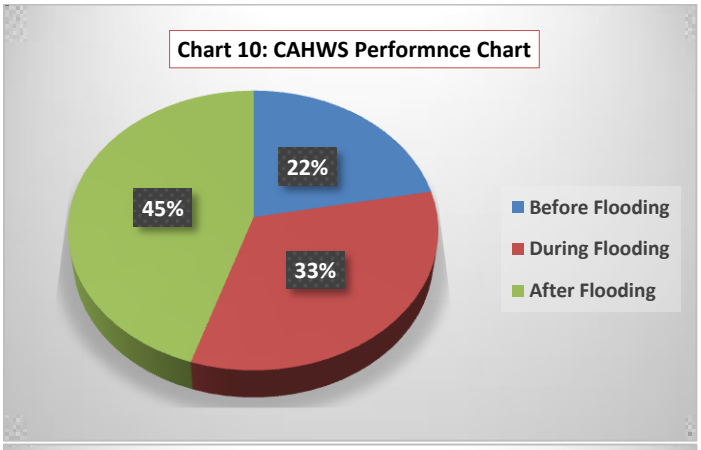


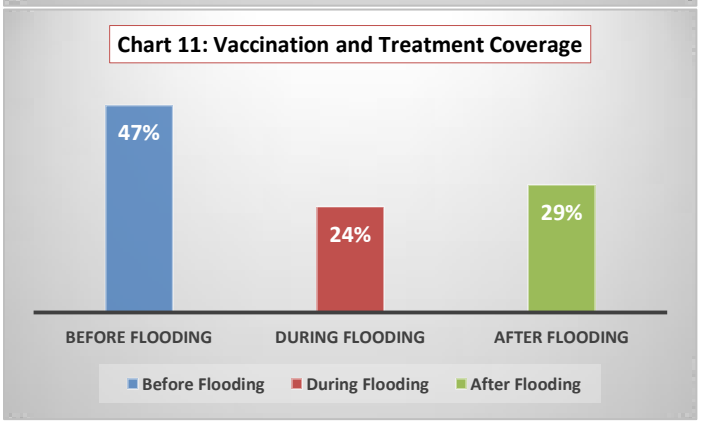

## 6.5. *Access to Animal Health Services Delivery*

### 6.5.1. *CAHWS Performance*

- The Community confirmed that, the CAHWs were more actively engaged in providing services after and during the flooding compared to before flooding period. The better performance of the CAHWs was seen during flooding and after flooding. These are attributed to the improved access, drugs and vaccines availability, livestock are confined and easily reached. In addition livestock keepers turned to reject vaccination in dry seasons, especially when the weather is extremely hot.

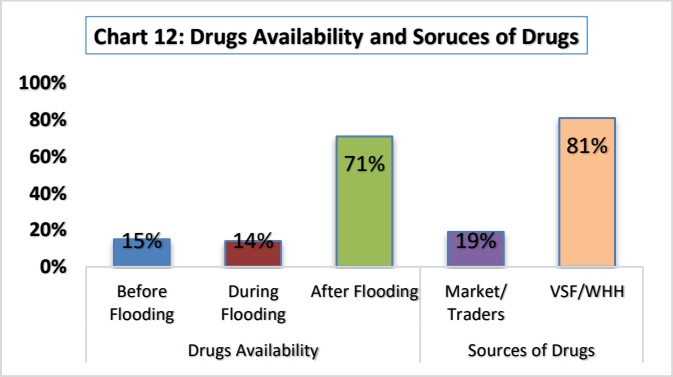
- Vaccination and treatment coverage were better before and after flooding periods compared to during the flooding due to inaccessibility and livestock migration to far and other hard to reach areas.




## 6.6. *Drugs Availability and Sources*

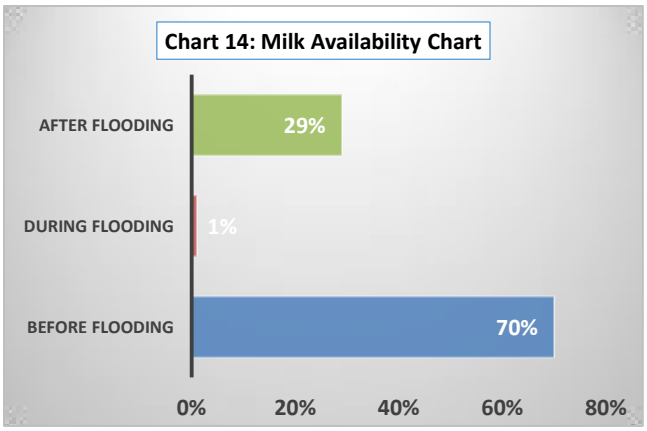
- The Community feedback approach confirmed that, drugs were more available after flooding than before and during floods. The main source of drugs the community relies on are NGOs supplied drugs. The drugs available in the markets (traders supplied drugs) are referred to be of low or poor quality based on the community feedback.




## 6.7. *Milk Production*

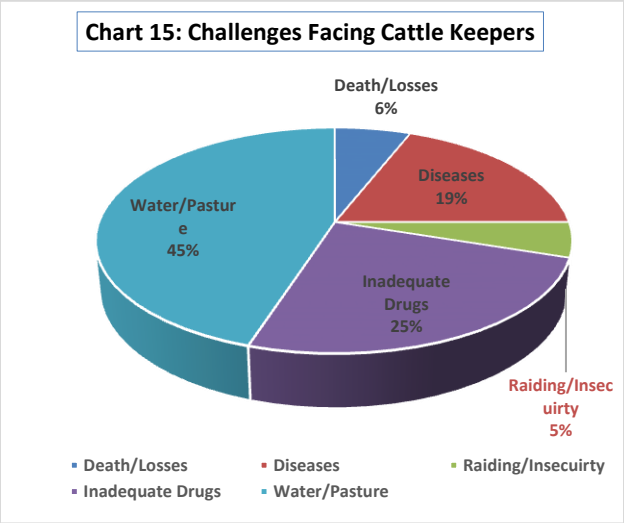
- Milk remained a major source of food for most pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities. According to the communities, milk production was experienced to be higher before flooding and a bit after flooding due to availability of plenty pasture and reduced movement in

search of pasture. While during flooding, the milk production had dropped and no surplus for income generation.




## *7.0. Challenges*

- According to the assessment, major challenges encountered by the cattle keepers were attributed to water/pasture 45%, inadequate drugs supplies 25%, livestock diseases 19%, livestock death 6% and cattle raiding and insecurity 5%. The challenges encountered are dynamic as water and pasture used not to be a challenge. Insecurity and cattle raiding used to rank highest. This implies that major challenges are seasonal as such flooding led to reduced cattle raiding and insecurity but on the other hand it led to reduced access to pasture and water.




## *8.0. Conclusion*

Despite the persistent clashes, conflicts and flooding, CAHWs continue to provide animal health service to the communities, especially the livestock-based livelihood communities (pastoralist and agro-pastoralist) in South Sudan. Livestock usually contribute 80% of household's main source of food supply mostly during emergencies, crisis and hard-times and also acts as a source of income to cover other necessary household's needs.

The community feedback meetings revealed that community livelihoods were disrupted by various shocks that resulted into the following:

- Displacement of communities and their livestock assets to safe, secure and protected areas with good access to pasture and water.
- Losses of assets, especially the livestock assets being a major livelihood of most communities in South Sudan.
- Poor or relatively good body score and conditions of the livestock assets due to devastating surroundings and walking/trekking for longer distances in waters in search of strategic safe and dry places as well as pasture and water.
- Increased incidences of livestock diseases and introduction of new community noted diseases such as circling among various species of livestock.
- Interrupted delivery of animal health services to most IDPs livestock assets due to limited or inaccessibility. However, CAHWs remained committed to deliver services despite the blockade.
- Reduced milk production due to limited access to pasture, animal health services, stress due to long trekking distances as well as livestock losses due to diseases, limited CAHWs access to provide services.
- Inadequate drugs supply and availability in the markets and major sources of drugs remained through operating humanitarian actors (VSF Suisse and others).

## *9.0. Recommendations*

The findings revealed the reality of the situations and this can be a representative sample for some parts of the state. The following are recommendations to enhance challenges and gaps related to the services and community livelihoods.

- ***Services challenge and Gaps:*** There is need to access CAHWs capacities and coverage and identify gaps for further training of new CAHWs to improve service delivery and adequate coverage. Harmonization of CAHWs incentives nationwide will encourage and motivate CAHWs to efficiently and effectively deliver services to the needy communities.

- ***Disease Surveillance:*** There is need to strengthen disease surveillance at all levels through trainings and motivation (provision of incentives).

- ***Adoption of Standard Guides:*** There is need for livestock partners to adopt and adhere to livestock standard guides, especially LEGS interventions related to veterinary Services, destocking, provision of feeds and water and taking to consideration conflict mitigation mostly during migration and displacements due to crisis, emergencies and conflicts.

- ***Privatization of Services and Prepositioning of inputs:*** Training on management skills and establishment of private veterinary drugs. Prepositioning of essential vet vaccines in most hard to reach areas will be prompt.