Standard livestock disease outbreak investigation (in Melut)- presentation by SSUDA

Presentation by:
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Communities in Goldora payam and Melut county as a whole are majorly Agro-Pastoralist, relying mainly on cattle and rain-fed agriculture and other livelihood activities such as fishing, hunting and subsistence farming for a source of living.

Natives who had left Goldora due to protracted war and sporadic rain were now returning and settling down and rebuild their lives in the villages.

The payam also hosts IDPs from Baliet and Akoka counties as evident by the IDP camps in Goldora market who share a number of resources and other basic social amenities with the natives.

Unfortunately, the recent floods has largely disrupted the progressive settlements posing severe livelihood threats to the already fragile population.
The heavy rains experienced in late 2019 resulted in the bursting of the banks of River Machar located in Nasir and Ulang counties, affecting Goldora payam (town IDP camps, Malek Maker, Wunkiir, Buom, Awenglok villages among others).

The flood waters seeped through roads, markets, homesteads, barns, farm fields and destroyed most assets including livestock, farm yields and caused displacement to the inhabitants.

Indirect effects of these floods predisposed the already vulnerable community to disease outbreaks, snake bites, hunger and inaccessible basic social amenities.

Following a Joint Assessment Mission led by OCHA Malakal office, several humanitarian interventions kicked off including provision of SNFI items, WASH promotion, food item provision among others.

11,500 (F 6,880 M 4,620) individuals both host community and Khor-Adar IDPs were ascertained to have been affected by flooding waters which were increasing in-depth and covering more areas daily.
Objectives

General Objective: Qualitatively Assess the impact of floods on livestock

Specific Objectives
To ascertain:

1. Impacts of floods on livestock
2. Accessibility and provision of animal health service
3. Coping mechanism among the livestock owners
4. Potential risks associated with the flood impacts and the coping mechanisms
5. Possible solutions and recommendations
Methodology and Strategy

1. Interviews with individual farmers
2. Focus Group Discussions
3. Interviews with key informants
4. Observation
Key findings

- Direct loss of livestock could be witnessed from the carcass lying in most places some of which were decomposing attracting maggots, flies, dogs and also other live animals preying on them.

- A good number of animals alive were emaciated with some exhibiting signs of pneumonia, trypanosomiasis, hemorrhagic Septicaemia and FMD.

- Herds migrating to Panamdit and Akoka and other neighbouring areas to counter further losses due to livestock diseases and feed scarcity.

- Due to the food scarcity, some of the sick and emaciated animals with grave prognosis were slaughtered to provide for the households.

- Contaminated water sources and pastures.
Coping strategy

- Procurement of commercial drugs from drug stores and neighbouring counties for livestock treatment by owners and existing CAHWs.
- Migration of herds to flood free zones and neighbouring counties
- Livestock sales at relatively cheaper prices
- Shift to alternative form of livelihoods like fishing
Gaps

1. Inadequate animal health services provision in the region for some time (treatment and vaccination campaigns)
2. Inadequate refresher trainings/ recruitment of CAHWs in the payam
3. Improper carcass disposal
4. Insufficient Public health awareness and campaigns on zoonotics
Potential risks

• Exposure to cattle raids during migration
• Pressure on the limited resources to the new areas pose potential source of conflicts
• Spread of livestock diseases to the new areas and other herds
• Sale of livestock at low prices exposing the households further to income and food insecurity
• Improper carcass disposal may propagate diseases spread to both to human and animals through contamination of water, soil and air due to livestock carcasses
Photo speaks

Decomposing carcass on the ground
Cow with good BCS dead, had been sick for a short while
Remaining herds
A kid scavenging for feed in a dry area with no forage
Shelters destroyed
Recommendation and Conclusion

• Vaccination and treatment campaigns in the payam and county at large
• Refresher trainings and recruitment of CAHWs on disease surveillance, reporting, diagnostics, prevention, treatment and vaccinations
• Periodic awareness campaigns on zoonotics and proper carcass disposal
• Continuous livestock disease outbreak investigations and surveillance
• Strategic destocking-restocking livestock asset- This will help in preparedness of any incoming calamity and help the communities rebuild their livelihoods at the recovery phase.
• Dykes and bridge construction as part of the DRR recovery programme it is recommended that construction of dykes would be a good way to tame overflow river water
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