

**Drought Emergency Relief  
in Afar Region, Ethiopia**

**– Request for Response Animal  
Feeding as Part of a  
Rescue Package in Teeru Woreda**

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**Summary Sheet**

1. **Project title:** Drought Emergency Relief In Afar Region – Animal feeding intervention

**2. Project Aim:**

To secure the lives of selected milking/ breeding animals in 3,500 households of Teeru Woreda, Zone 4 that the households continue to have milk and that, after the drought, there is a baseline herd from which the family can build up again.

**3. Need to be addressed:**

Currently, animals are dying at an alarming rate in Teeru Woreda primarily due to lack of pasture and secondly, from animal diseases. Significant rain to generate pasture has not fallen in the woreda since September 2003.

**4. Project location:**

Teeru Woreda, Zone 4.

**5. Project duration:**

Three months. Assistance needed immediately

**6. Number of beneficiaries:**

35,000 people in 12 kebeles of Teeru Woreda

**7. Project strategy:**

Six animal feeding centers will be established in the woreda. Guided by the local leadership, the community will select 4 to 10 breeding animals to be fed in the center. (If the herd livelihood is goats, 10 and if cattle, 4). Along with trucked water, the project will feed the animals until pasture is found for them.

**8. Main activities:**

- a) Animal feeding (multi nutrition animal pellets) in a feeding center
- b) Tankering water to support the feeding

**9. Requested budget:** 4,025,926

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# **Emergency Relief In Afar Region**

## **1. Project Aim:**

To secure the lives of selected milking/ breeding animals in 3,500 households of Teeru Woreda, Zone 4 that the households continue to have milk and that, after the drought, there is a baseline herd from which the family can build up again.

## **2. Need to be addressed:**

Currently, animals are dying at an alarming rate in Teeru Woreda primarily due to lack of pasture and secondly, from animal diseases. The woreda population, as assessed by the Regional DPP&FSB is in danger of losing all household assets. Significant rain to generate pasture has not fallen in the woreda since September 2003.

## **3. Background information**

### **3.1 The vulnerability of Afar Region.**

Afar National Regional State is marked within Ethiopia as a dry, lowland region, mainly suited to nomadic animal herding. Regional annual rainfalls range from 200 to 500 mm limits agricultural intervention to irrigated farming, mostly on the Awash River banks. Of all the entire region's population, 93% are described as Afar pastoralists and of these pastoralists, around 5% are agro-pastoralists farming by gravity irrigation mostly in the Lower Awash Basin.

While the region does have 5 permanent water courses, the most known of which is the Awash River, these water courses are far from the bulk of the pastoral population and too, increasingly, investment farming has taken away normal dry – season grazing from the Afar herdsmen. This, along with the invasion of the weed shrub 'prosopis' has resulted in the loss of 1,000's hectares of grazing land in the Middle and Lower Awash Basins.

Afar herdsmen maintain a mixed herd selectively according to the available grazing. Cattle and sheep are predominantly kept in the grasslands of Zone 4 and other notable grasslands such as Geega (western Dubte Woreda); Immino, Esseylu and Doobi in Eli Daar and around the Awash River. Goats and camels, the shrub – grazers roam all over the region. Typically, the Afar landscape is that of vast sparsely wooded ancient lava flats. Grass grazing is in the ancient valleys where over the years, alluvial soil has been deposited.

Afar traditionally are remarkable ecologists with a detailed knowledge of each resource in the environment. Their movement and herd – management is based on this rich knowledge that for centuries, has buffeted them against the impacts of drought through a balance of clan laws and relationships regulating the use of

resources that they are not depleted. However, factors of recent history have reduced these coping mechanisms as follows:<sup>1</sup>

- Herd movement is restricted through conflict by neighboring nationalities taking land
- Access to water, grazing and markets can be interrupted by conflict and in some cases, is now cut off by conflict such as the closure of the Ethiopian/ Eritrean border
- Division of land and imposition of local government has disturbed the activity of clan elders and fiamaat' abba (traditional association leaders) who, due to the arrival of local government, have stopped implementing traditional laws such as stopping tree cutting and so on
- Afar, due to the poverty of drought, have begun to take payment from highlanders for charcoal production and the like
- Relief aid has taught once noble clan elders how to wait for assistance, undoing the traditional laws of Afar assisting one another mostly within a radius of 100 kilometers of roadside towns
- Yet continual herd – loss over the past 10 years has brought further poverty since the clan in remote areas has repeatedly responded by giving assistance to the needy in the clan.
- Poor access to markets – distance, no bargaining power in the market, when the animal prices are down the grain prices are high.

Asking Afar elders about the increasing household poverty in the pastoral society, most pin – point the 1984/85 famine as the beginning of downfall. They say since then, repeated drought causing significant herd – loss and no access to market are the pivotal reasons why the household does not recover. Most remote Afar must walk their herds for 2 up to 15 days to market. Markets are merchant – controlled and do not encourage the Afar to use the strategy of de-stocking. Too, the greatest overriding factor is that of whole-scale underdevelopment in the pastoral society spelt out in illiteracy. The illiterate man is not connected with the cash economy and judges his wealth in the size of his herd. Marketing then is subsistence.

### **3.2 Background to current drought**

This current drought: an extremely poor July/ September rainy season followed by total failure of the winter rains, comes on the back of accumulative drought. In a region where every rainy season counts due to the extreme heat and where rain is normally not more that 500 mm per year, as of 1999, the seasons have not been as expected. In fact, aside from the almost average July/ September rains in 2003, all other seasons have recorded a failure to poor rains. The pattern has been as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> APDA conducted a regional assessment in 2203, including looking at traditional coping mechanisms and responses. These comments are mostly extracted from that assessment. The document is entitled 'Development Status in Afar national Regional State, Ethiopia,

<b>Year</b>	<b>Short rains: March to April</b>	<b>Main rains: July to September</b>	<b>Winter rains: Late November to mid December</b>
1999	Average	Failed	Failed
2000	Failed	Below average	Sparse showers
2001	Average	Average	Failed
2002	Below average	Very poor	Sparse showers
2003	Very poor	Average	Sparse showers
2004	Late, poor coverage	Very poor in Zones 1, 2, 4	1 storm in Sifra

The drought of 1999/ 2000 impacted on Zones 1, 2 and parts of 3. Zone 4 and 5 were least affected.

The drought of 2002/ 2003 impacted on Zones 1, 3, 2 and Zone 5. Zone 4 was least affected.

Now, the current drought is impacting most severely on Zone 4 and secondly Zones 1 and 2.

Therefore, in general, the animal herd in Zones 1 and 2 particularly has not had good enough grazing to recover from repeated drought due to the fact that quality grazing - pasture did not adequately rejuvenate. In Zone 4, pasture simply did not grow after the long dry and extremely hot season of May to July. Pasture failed to rejuvenate since grass seed did not get consistent moisture to germinate. Rain falling in a particular area once and then not falling in that area till up to a week or 10 days later meant that the soil quickly dried without producing pasture under the prevailing conditions of hot, drying winds.

The significance of this is that Zone 4, particularly Teeru, Awra and Uwa Woredas, are communal grazing lands for animals from Zone 1. Thus this year, following the main rains of July/ September, animals could not use the traditional coping pattern of spending time (normally around 2 to 3 months) in the communal grazing and then coming back to use the pasture in the east. Therefore pasture resources throughout Zones 1 and 4 are under stress. Particularly in Zone 4, the situation is drastic with whole grasslands a bald dust-bowl, a situation the Afar barely remember since the communal grazing areas have rarely failed the Afar in living memory.

To cope with the situation, from Zone 4, herdsmen have taken significant numbers of animals from Yallo, Uwa, Goolina and Awra Woredas up to the neighboring highlands for grazing. However, Teeru, now a site closing in on catastrophe through widespread animal death, is the geographically isolated area of the woreda. For them to reach the highlands, they must walk the animals up to 15 days through Yallo and Goolina. The herdsmen have not moved the animals since they were already weak and also reasoning that the closer herds will have gone and taken any available grazing in the highlands. Thus with Teeru, the Region is now looking at the most drastic scenario: total household destitution.

Human food – aid alone will not save the situation for 35,000 people. Animal feeding, therefore of the most valued, household milking and breeding animals is essential in the process of rescue.

### **3.3 APDA's Capacity to Intervene**

APDA is unique in the region being the only Afar local NGO dealing inside the pastoral society. The organization is now some 9 years old and, over the years, developed an effective system of delivering the social services of health and education to a nomadic society. In development, the organization is intervening in 15 woredas of the region and has trained 144 health workers, 137 teachers and 66 women extension workers – all of whom are supported to implement the development process in their own community.

Being very much part of the pastoral society, APDA has and does respond to the various crisis needs of the community: whether in displacement from war (1998/2000); whether from flood (2001, 2002, 2004); whether in drought (1999 to 2000, 2002 to 2003 and currently). The organization takes the approach to try to direct assistance that it results in recovery/ development such as constructing rain - water reservoirs and feeder roads by food for work or cash for work and building on local knowledge that the society gain more capacity to address their own problems. The organization has a relief department headed by a coordinator that is most proficient in reservoir construction, animal husbandry and the like. In all ways, APDA seeks to work collaboratively with government departments as well as other NGOs. Finally, it is APDA's large network of field workers that really assist the organization to be effective both in knowing the problem and in acting.

## **4. Situation of Need**

### **4.1 Animal status in Teeru**

The current alarming situation this project seeks to address in Teeru Woreda is that, as of October, an estimated 50% of the cattle and sheep herd has died. Too, death is ongoing and diseases are spreading rapidly so that the actual outcome of the disaster is not yet apparent. DPP&FSB having assessed the situation as recently as December 15<sup>th</sup>, is appealing to the Regional President to impress upon Federal authorities that, without animal feeding as part of the relief strategy, Teeru Woreda will be declared destitute. APDA sees the need to act rapidly and is entering into a collaborative partnership with Action Contre le Faim (ACF)<sup>2</sup> who is currently implementing animal husbandry activities in Zone 4 and Teeru in particular. ACF is applying to step up veterinary intervention in the woreda with the possibility of a pilot intervention in animal feeding. As the

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<sup>2</sup> ACF has worked in Afar Region for the past 4 years, implementing a water construction and animal husbandry project in Zone 4 and parts of Dubte Woreda and Sifra Woredas, Zone 1. APDA has collaborated with ACF from the arrival of the NGO in the region. The ongoing arrangement between the 2 organizations is a constant exchange of information and that ACF trains paravets for APDA and APDA has assisted ACF with a lone of medications in time of need.

situation is in Teeru, to cover the animals in feeding, one intervention does not rule out the other but compliments the ability of both interventions to be effective.

In an effort to keep the cattle alive, the community has all but stripped an acacia forest of green wood. The cattle apparently began to behave like goats, chomping through the twigs and foliage. Too, water in the woreda is critical. Till now, 3 attempts to dig water by borehole has failed<sup>3</sup>. The community - dug traditional wells is all they have to depend on. These wells are up to 25 meters deep requiring 3 people to get in and haul up the water, man over man.

The most affected are 6 kebeles cattle and sheep as the major part of their herd. These kebeles are located in the central basin of the woreda while the other six kebeles that are up in the surrounding hills herd mainly goats and camels. However, the whole woreda is affected since there is now no market for the animals under the prevailing conditions. Walking animals for 6 to 10 days to Yallo market (bordering to Alamatta) and almost equal distance to Logya market in Zone 1, animals can barely survive the journey since there is no water or pasture on the route.

#### **4.2 Human health status in Teeru woreda**

The community is surviving on grain distribution on a blanket - targeting basis. The clinic in Fanteena, the village head of the woreda, is seeing diarrhea, chest infections and cases of fatigue. Widespread malnutrition is not yet apparent. The woreda was vaccinated against measles in 2002.

#### **4.3 possible recovery scenarios**

##### **a) If rain falls in the coming days before this project starts**

If rain should fall prior to the project starting, this will be disastrous to the remaining weak stock. They will get their feet stuck in mud and not be able to move. Also, they will not withstand change of temperature and being wet.

##### **b) If this project feeds animals as plans and it rains**

If the weak animals are fed on the planned food, with treatment, they will then gain strength within a week using animal pellets as produced by the Mojo Feeding plant. Then, they will need maintenance feeding until rain falls in an area, not necessarily Teeru, where they can be taken to graze. As rain is expected in March, 3 months feeding is necessary.

##### **c) If animals are not fed**

If animals are not fed, the current death rate will rise and eventually spread to include the 6 better – off kebeles, leaving the entire woreda destitute. From destitution to recovery, re-stocking will then prove enormous difficulties: the magnitude, cost far exceeding the cost of feeding the animals and the effort to gain suitable animals.

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<sup>3</sup> UNICEF tried in 2001. Then ACF tried to locate water in 2002/03. Since then, the government has been trying without result.

#### 4.4 Choice of feeding is rationalized as follows:

Fodder type	Availability	Feasibility
Baled hay	Highland markets, Nazareth	Bulky to transport and store
Mollasses	Matahara sugar factory	Only part of feeding need
Animal pellets	Mojo feeding plant: 70 ETB/ quintal	Good amount available: balanced nutrition as certified by Debra Zeit laboratory
Cotton residue	Tendaho plantation: 120 ETB/ quintal	Bulky – not available for another 6 weeks
Oil seed residue	Addis Ababa: 60 – 70 ETB/ quintal	Not sufficient fiber

Of the animal pellets, according to veterinarians, cows require 3 kilograms/ day and sheep 1 kilogram / day. Therefore, in order to cost feeding as basic breeding/ milking herd per household, APDA is suggesting each household requires 360 kilograms/ month.

#### 4.5 Project rationale

Therefore the project rationale is as follows:

- The herd represents the entire assets of almost all households
- Animal treatment alone will not suffice to halt the current death of animals in the face of totally inadequate grazing
- Very Afar household has a selected milking and breeding herd. If these animals survive, there is the chance of them surviving on milk rather than relief grain.
- To feed a cow for 3 months costs 189 ETB since the animal pellets are purchased at 70 ETB/ quintal and the cow requires 3 kilograms of feed per day. To restock the same cow requires around 500 to 800 ETB. A sheep eats around 1 kilogram per day. Similarly, the cost of feeding a sheep for 3 months is 63 ETB. To restock a breeding sheep is 150 to 200 ETB.
- Restocking brings its own problems as only animals adapted to the water, forage and land of Teeru will survive there.
- A herdsman with his/ her assets in place (however little) remains with his/ her dignity and is not displaced from his/ her normal livelihood as would occur should all of the herd perish.

## 5. Project Location and beneficiary calculation

Teeru woreda Zone 4. Kebeles to be targeted are as follows:

(Calculation is based on an average household size of 7 persons)

Kebele	Estimated population	Number of households	Estimated herd to be assisted (calculating 4 cows/ household or 12 sheep)	
			Cattle	Sheep
Barantu	4,220	603	2,412	7,236
Abiidi	4,800	686	2,744	8,232
Maraama	2,730	390	1,560	4,680
Yewe'e Duluul	2,990	427	1,708	5,124
'Asabara	2,870	410	1,640	4,920
Allaale	3,000	426	1,704	5,112
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,610</b>	<b>2,943</b>	<b>11,768</b>	<b>35,304</b>

Note: a) The total population of Teeru Woreda is 39,710. b) The calculation on animals is made so that one household registers the equivalent of 4 cows or 12 sheep, given that a cow needs to consume 3 kilograms of feed/ day and a sheep/ 1 kilogram. As mentioned above, it is calculated that a household milking herd should consume 360 kilograms of feed per month.

All these 5 kebeles are in the basin of the Awra and Goolina Rivers in the center of the woreda. All except from 'Asabara kebele are characterized as having fixed settlements. The land is flat and within the woreda, fully passable by vehicle.

The remaining 6 kebeles: Dabahoo, Mabay/ Undeerti, Digdiga, Namma ara, Boyna and Dirma/ Dabayra are in the hills surrounding the central plain and mainly support goats and camel grazing.

## 6. Project Duration

Three months. There is urgency to begin the project as soon as possible.

## 7. Beneficiaries

Afar pastoral families in Teeru.

## 8. Currently Planned Collaborative Response with ACF

Action Contre le Faim is appealing to provide veterinary assistance for Teeru, the woreda they have now been working for 2 years. This project will compliment that intervention with animal feeding supported by water for animals.

## **9. Project Objectives**

### **a) animal feeding**

To keep alive and support in health a minimal household milking and breeding herd, permitting the home to gain milk once the animals are healthy and re-build the herd after the drought

### **b) water trucking**

To transport water to 5 project sites, each site second – daily, providing sufficient water for the assisted herd to drink.

## **10. Project activities**

### **10.1 Selecting beneficiaries and animals**

The project will operate in 5 kebeles that have lost and are losing large numbers of cattle and sheep: Abiidi, Barantu, Yewe'e Duluul, Maraama and 'Asa Bara. The head of the Woreda, with APDA and the paravets trained under ACF will discuss with the communities, explaining the project objectives. Once the community understands and fully supports the objectives (APDA has had prior discussion and the community actually came up with the idea of assisting a limited herd themselves), project committees will be formed in all 5 kebeles. Clan elders, women, paravets and religious leaders will be in the committee. The committee of 8 members will have a minimum of 3 women. The committee will decide with the community where the feeding centers will be established and how to assist the household to select a maximum of 4 cows or 10 sheep or the equivalent. Since all households are affected in these kebeles, all households will be permitted to participate. Once the animals are selected, an official registration will be made of the number and type of animal to be fed per household. The owner, a member of the committee and the project manager, will sign this registration. The committees will then be responsible for the day – to – day management of the project in terms of feeding the animals.

### **10.2 Delivery and storage of animal pellets**

Animal pellets bought in Mojo and will be delivered direct to Teeru where they will be received in Fanteena, the woreda capital, by a project logistician. He will record the receipt of the animal feeding and then allocate it for immediate distribution to the feeding centers. Too, as necessary, the Woreda Head has offered storage in Fanteena. He too will monitor the arrival of the animal feed and its distribution to the 5 sites according to the number of animals being fed in each center.

### **10.3 Establishing feeding centers**

The community committee in each of the 5 sites will select 2 people who will daily weigh out the animal food as taught by the project manager. They will record on a format sheet the number of animals fed daily, taking the signature of the animal owner. Paravets trained and working under ACF in each kebele will treat the animals and also oversee that food is properly distributed to the animals. The animals will eat from metal troughs to minimize waste.

### **10.4 Water trucking**

Three water trucks will be contracted from Logya, traveling down the Sifra Road, through Awra to Teeru, a distance of 227 kilometers. They will deliver water in roto storage tanks placed by the project in each feeding center. Each truck has a 14,000 liter capacity. Therefore, the project sites will receive 21,000 liters of water daily, each truck reaching Teeru second – daily. Animals will be given water in the feeding metal troughs after eating.

### **10.5 Project monitoring and management**

The project will monitor

- a) Selection and registration of beneficiary households and animals
- b) The delivery in Teeru and distribution of the animal feed to the 5 centers
- c) The daily feeding of animals
- d) Arrival of water trucks and delivery of water
- e) Daily watering of animals

For this purpose, the project will employ

- a) a project manager with overall responsibility alongside the Head of the Woreda. He will sign all registration cards for animal feeding at the beginning of the project. He and his assistant will collect daily feeding and watering reports from each center, liaising with the paravets on the condition of the animals. He will oversee the activities of the project logistician, receiving reports from him on the delivery of feed and water. He will also hold weekly meetings with one representative from each committee and the woreda officials, discussing the progress of the project and reporting to APDA field office any difficulties encountered.
- b) Two water monitors to travel in the water trucks with the contracted driver from Logya to Teeru. These people will keep a daily tally of water delivered, taking a signature from each feeding site committee for acknowledgement of the delivery.

Along with ACF, the project will also monitor animal health and the general health and nutrition of the people in Teeru. For this, ACF and APDA will meet at the beginning of the project to establish the benchmarks and then each 15 days or more often as necessary. Should it seem necessary to recruit more assistance,

the two organizations will relate this information directly to DPP & FSB and OCHA. Thus the project will seek to involve the DPP&FSB and OCHA in its regular meetings to share experience and to further develop the mechanism of animal feeding as a response to drought.

In all ways, APDA Relief Desk will support the project under the direction of the program Relief Coordinator. APDA finance and logistics team and program coordinator, administrator will also work toward the achievement of the project.

## **10.6 Project appraisal**

Following the completion of the project, APDA, ACF, DPP&FSB, the woreda, the community committees will jointly assess to what degree this project achieved its objectives, what were the lessons to be learnt for further experience and how the beneficiary families and herds should be handled beyond the project.

## **11. Expected Output**

It is expected that 2,945 households will retain a milking/ breeding herd, despite the extreme conditions of drought. These households will be assured of milk – supply and recovery after the drought.

## **12. Beyond Drought**

The project is designed to assure the beneficiary population emerges from the drought with productive household assets. Feeding animals emerges as the correct logic in drought assistance and in fact, the community demanded it rather than human relief food in the 2002/ 03 drought. The idea is well imbedded in the Afar approach to their own coping mechanisms. APDA is keen to learn from this experience and take this further with the government and other stakeholders, including the idea of developing fodder reserves, a practice not done in Afar since most of the land does not lend to it. By any means, the whole philosophy behind proper developed community risk management needs to be developed and APDA has trained its field and program administration staff for this purpose and translated a manual in Afar about the way forward in terms of drought mitigation.

### 13. Project Time Schedule

The project should open as soon as possible. Therefore, as soon as the fund can be assured, APDA will proceed with preparatory activities and try to prepay purchasing material.

Activity	Actor	Before	1 <sup>st</sup> Month	2 <sup>nd</sup> Month	3 <sup>rd</sup> Month
1. Preparatory					
Meeting with woreda/ affected kebeles – committees established	APDA	X			
Purchase of material	APDA	X			
Placing order with the Mojo Feed plant	APDA	X			
3. Delivery of feed	Logistician		X	X	X
2. Animal feeding	Project manager/ committees		XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
3. Water transport	Water monitors		XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
4. Monitoring	Project manager/ committees		XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
5. Meetings in woreda	Project manager/ committees		XXXX	XXXX	XXXX
6. Meetings	ACF/ APDA/ DPP&FSB		X X	X X	X X
7. Project appraisal	ACF/ APDA/ DPP&FSB/ community				X

## 14. Requested Budget

Budget line	Unit cost	Amount required	Total Cost
<b>1. Project staff</b>			
Project manager	2,500	1 x 3	7,500
Assistant manager	1,500	1 x 3	4,500
Logistician	1,500	1 x 3	4,500
Water monitors	1,200	3 x 3	7,200
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>23,700</b>
<b>2. Project equipment</b>			
Roto water storage	4,877	10	48,770
Animal troughs	300	10 x 5	15,000
Animal feed pellets	70/ quintal	2,943 Hhs x 3.6 x 3	2,224,880
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>2,288,650</b>
<b>3. Transport and logistics</b>			
Transport of animal feed	35/ quintal	31,784	1,112,440
Loading/ unloading	2 / sack	31,784 x 2 x 2	127,136
Water tanker hire	1,200/ day	3 x 90	324,000
Vehicle hire	1,000/ day	120	120,000
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>1,683,576</b>
Administrative costs			30,000
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>4,025,926</b>

Signed: