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GEORGIA



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*Agriculture
Food Security
Livelihoods*



Jumberi with his cows in the background

Emergency Rehabilitation Coordination Unit Spotlight Story

Tbilisi, Georgia – Not far away from the South Ossetian border on a verdant hillside lies the village of Shavshvebi (42°1'18"N 44°13'40"E) surrounded by hundreds of acres of fertile land. The farmers in the village suffered enormously during the armed conflict between Georgia and Russia in August 2008 were working hard during the winter.

Aerial bombing and ground fighting affected thousands of hectares of agricultural and pasture land. As a result farmers' livelihoods were devastated, along with their hopes and aspirations. The conflict was over in a matter of days, but it left an extraordinary amount of work to get the farmers back on their feet.

Jumberi Tskrialashvili, a 70 year old farmer, who provides for a family of six including his grand-children, owns one hectare of land and two cows in Shavshvebi. He grows wheat and vegetables and uses the land to graze his cows - just enough for self sufficiency. Twenty percent of the wheat produced from his land is used as animal feed. He lost four tons of wheat and a considerable amount of vegetables last year and the health of his two cows deteriorated as they were unable to move around freely due to the conflict. Jumberi was facing the most difficult winter he had experienced yet.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) project *Emergency supply of animal feed to conflict affected small-scale farming households and support to the Agriculture Sector and Food Security Cluster coordination in Georgia* funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), specifically aims to help famers like Jumberi.

*'.....I dream
of a small
farm on
that hill'*

**The
livestock of
small scale
farmers
survive the
Georgian
winter**



New editions to Jumberi's herd

Jumberi, along with 18 243 other vulnerable small-scale farming households in 127 conflict affected villages, received animal feed to keep his livestock alive during the 2008/2009 winter. A total of 4 240 MT of concentrated animal feed was distributed.

In an effort to improve the nutritional intake and immunity of cattle (thereby reducing the risk of spread of disease) FAO de-wormed 46,905 cattle, almost seventy-eight percent of the cattle in Shida Kartli region. Both of Jumberi's cows were treated and their health has improved considerably, with a thirty percent increase in milk production.

To support improved cattle health, the project included provision for cattle water troughs and replacement of water pipes where damaged, removed or destroyed as a result of the conflict. Thirty five water troughs were installed in 17 villages out of which two were installed in Shavshvebi. Jumberi's cows now have access to enough water after a long day of grazing.

As Jumberi notes, *"Great support was given by FAO. It was important for all the cows to be treated [de-wormed] in the village so that the cows are not re-infected while mixing. My cows are finally healthy again and in good condition now. I have two new born calves from the cows you helped feed. This assistance made it possible and it has given us a new life."*

When asked about his needs, he said, *"My family depends on me so I want my income to increase and I dream of a small farm on that hill with a lot of cows and a happier life."*

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Cows around newly installed water troughs in Shavshvebi