

Advisor from Provincial Rural Development Department from the Ministry of Agriculture

Floods in recent years have destroyed or seriously damaged the corn and rice crops grown by the riverbanks. You are encouraging farmers to plant these crops on slopes where possible.

Because fertile soil from the mountains is carried downstream in floodwater, the flat land bordering the river now provides excellent grazing for cattle for most of the year. You have observed that in recent years this land is now mostly used for livestock.

Last year the floods were so bad that local farmers reported up to 50% of their cattle drowned. This had a profound impact on the livelihoods of the families affected and meant many had to take their children out of school so they could work on the family farm. In your experience those children do not return to school.

You were not able to take any meaningful action when reports of animal deaths started coming through last year. If you had known in advance that flooding was likely you would have arranged for transportation of animals to government-owned land higher in the hills on a temporary basis (even though this causes significant disruption to families).

To organise the transport operation, you need a week's notice. In addition, the risk of ambush by the EFF is always present, often making it difficult to find trucks and drivers willing to make the trip. Therefore, you expect security to be provided by the TAF during the various trips.

The cost of transporting 100 cows is around \$100. Based on satellite data of land use, you estimate there are 5000 cows in the area which would be affected.

