



HUMAN - HIMALAYAN BROWN BEAR INTERACTION SURVEY

Drass, Ladakh

PROJECT BY: HEAD MUZAMMIL HUSSIAN, HABEEBA FATHIMA, MANSOOR SOFI

DATA ANALYSIS - RAM AI - RAM RAMISETTI

SUPPORTED BY: EICHER GROUP FOUNDATION & HIGH ASIA HABITAT FOUNDATION

DRASS · KARGIL · LADAKH — FIELD SEASON 2025 · TWO-PAGE SUMMARY

Three field instruments ran between 31 Aug 2025 and 24 Dec 2025. Each is summarised on its own and their numbers are never combined: this page covers the household survey; the next covers the incident data sheet and the status of the intervention survey.

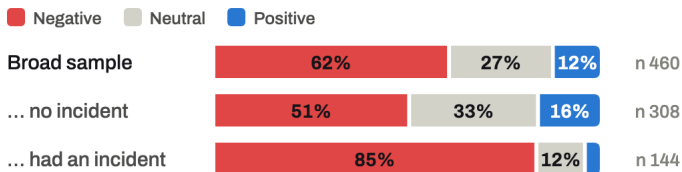
1 Household survey

Socio-economic & brown bear perception survey · 519 interviews in 32 villages and hamlets · 31 Aug – 24 Dec 2025. Rates come from the broad sample: 468 house-to-house interviews in 25 villages.

<div>HOUSEHOLDS WITH AN INCIDENT</div> <div>32%</div> <div>146 of 460 in the broad sample</div>	<div>HAVE MET A BEAR</div> <div>58%</div> <div>42% never have; 3% meet them frequently</div>	<div>NEGATIVE TOWARDS BEARS</div> <div>62%</div> <div>85% of households with an incident, 51% without</div>
<div>SUPPORT CONSERVATION</div> <div>13%</div> <div>18% without an incident, 2% with one</div>	<div>AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS COMPENSATED</div> <div>4 of 195</div> <div>27 applied and still waiting; 114 unaware of any scheme</div>	<div>MOST COMMON REQUEST</div> <div>30%</div> <div>ask for quick compensation; 41% of households with an incident</div>

Attitudes follow experience

Attitude towards brown bears, broad sample



An incident multiplies the odds of being negative by **4.4** (95% CI 1.9–9.8)

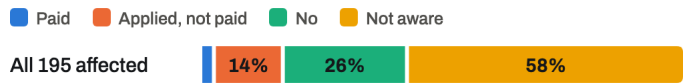
Meeting bears rarely rather than never: **× 3.7** (2.1–6.5)

Knowing the wildlife laws: **9%** negative, against 67% of those who don't

No measurable effect: education, income, herd size, age, gender

Compensation barely reaches anyone

Households that reported an incident (n = 195)



Paid: 4 · applied, not paid: 27 · no: 50 · not aware: 114. Whether a household said “no” or “not aware” depended on who asked: the main surveyor recorded 78% as “not aware”, the other surveyors 86% as “no”.

How often households meet bears

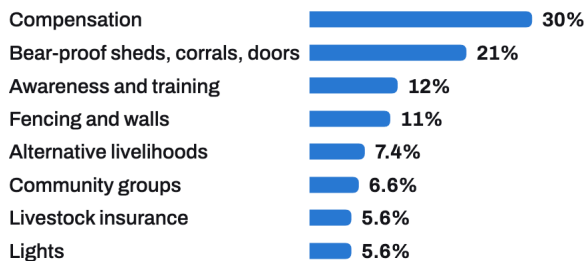
Broad sample, % of households





What households ask for

Themes in 498 suggestions, % of answers



Households with an incident lean harder on compensation (41%), fencing (24%) and stronger sheds (23%). Only 2 asked for bears to be caged or removed.

Who was surveyed

- Median respondent 50 years old, from a household of 6 with 2 earners; 94% of respondents were men.
- Median household income ₹50,000 a month: ₹80,000 where the main income is a salary, ₹25,000 where it is daily wages.
- Main income: salaried job 39%, daily wage 26%, farming 18%, armed forces 9%; only 3 households named livestock.
- 83% keep livestock — cattle in 81% of households, usually 2 head.
- Among villages with at least 10 households in the broad sample, the share with an incident runs from 2% in Pandras to 58% in Masjid Gow.

WHAT THE HOUSEHOLD SURVEY POINTS TO

1. **Make compensation visible and fast.** A one-page notice of the scheme in every village, a simple claim with photographs and GPS, and each claim tracked to payment.
2. **Build awareness of the wildlife laws.** Those who know them are far less hostile; awareness sessions are the third most common request.
3. **Standardise the interviews.** One script and joint training for all surveyors, and deliberate interviews with women — 29 of 519 today.
4. **Fix the form.** Village as a drop-down, income with its unit, a “no schooling” option, and a count for each kind of animal, poultry included.

LIMITS

- Two samples: 468 house-to-house interviews (the broad sample, used for every rate) and 51 visits to households already affected, in 7 other villages — kept apart.
- Three questions — awareness of bears, knowledge of the law, compensation — depended on who asked.
- Free-text themes use the surveyors' wording, so they are indicative.

2 Incident data sheet

Human–brown bear conflict data sheet · 150 incidents in 20 villages and hamlets · logged 22 Sep – 21 Dec 2025, recalled back to 2017: 74 incidents dated 2025, 55 in 2024 and 21 earlier.

RECORDED LOSSES

₹28.2 lakh

median ₹11,000 an incident; ₹17,000 when livestock were taken

ANIMALS KILLED

305

212 poultry, 49 sheep, 28 calves, 14 adult cattle; 12 injured

AT A CORRAL OR SHED

78%

117 of 150 incidents

LOGGED MIDNIGHT–6 A.M.

108

none between noon and 9 p.m.

PROPERTY DAMAGED

82%

livestock killed or injured in 61%; stored food raided in 17%

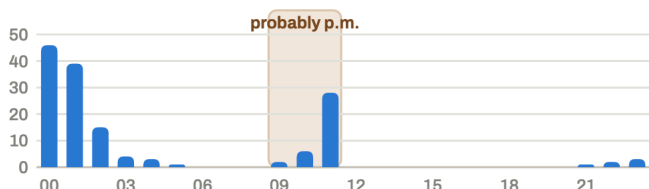
LED TO COMMUNITY ACTION

1 of 150

a patrol or a meeting

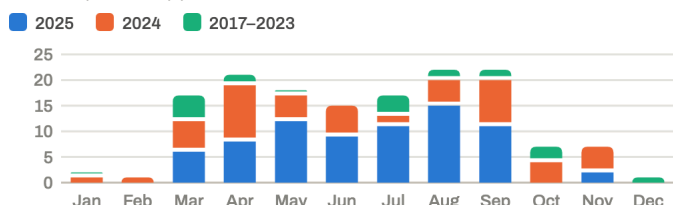
Raids come at night, March to November

Incidents by hour, as typed into the form



The 36 logged between 9 a.m. and noon are almost certainly 9 p.m. to midnight entered on a 12-hour clock.

Incidents by month, by year of the incident



What the ₹28.2 lakh is made of

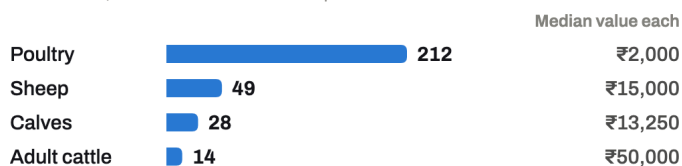
Recorded losses by kind



Livestock ₹20.2 lakh · property repair ₹6.4 lakh · stored food ₹1.5 lakh · ₹4,000 from one incident recorded only as a total.

The animals

Animals killed, with owners' median value per animal



The bear, and the response

The bear came alone in 93% of incidents, fled when seen in 59% and was aggressive in 31%. People shouted or used fire in about three of four, alerted neighbours in 66% and did nothing in 24%.



Where: 77% of incidents fall in the 10 km from Huliyaal to the Bimbet hamlets

Incidents by village cluster. The density of incidents peaks around Gindiyal, Masjid Gow and Nowpora; Matayan, Huliyaal and Barees carry the largest recorded losses.

		Recorded loss	Animals killed
Huliyaal	18	₹3,97,600	15
Bimbet	18	₹2,85,300	56
Lamochan	16	₹2,61,500	42
Matayan	14	₹4,04,000	39
Barees	14	₹3,56,000	42
Muradbagh	14	₹1,67,100	21
Gindiyal	13	₹1,90,400	36
Mashkoo	11	₹1,09,100	7
Masjid Gow	9	₹2,10,000	8
Smart	8	₹1,60,400	12
Ulbarees	5	₹26,500	4
Nowpora	4	₹99,000	17
Thaongjun	4	₹95,500	5
Pandras	2	₹53,000	1

WHAT THE INCIDENT DATA POINTS TO

1. **Harden corrals and sheds where incidents cluster** — metal doors, reinforced walls and roofs.
2. **Secure food stores**, including school stores and anganwadis.
3. **Organise night response**, trained in safe distances.
4. **Use owners' values per animal** as a benchmark for compensation rates.
5. **Fix the form**: 24-hour time, numbers as numbers, losses itemised with the total calculated.

LIMITS

- Incidents are recalled, not observed, and the log is not a census: it counts where incidents were recorded, not how often households are hit.
- The time field used a 12-hour clock; 7 typed totals disagree with their own parts, and the parts are used.

3 INTERVENTION SURVEY · STATUS ONLY

Carried out so far only in **Pandras**, and **not finished**. It holds one record: a bear-proof corral built by WWF-India in 2023–24 (about ₹3 lakh). One record from one place cannot show whether any measure works, so no result is drawn from it. **To complete it**: record every intervention in every village — site, agency, year, cost, condition — then compare incidents at protected and unprotected households before and after installation.