



# FOOD SECURITY VETERINARY PROJECT

# 2003



# INTRODUCTION

The Veterinary Project operates in all payams of Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties. In addition, the project supports ox plough activity in Yei, Juba and Terekeka Counties. In Yirol County, livestock are central to many households in providing an important source of income and subsistence. Cattle are at the heart of every family's livelihood. Death of livestock is a major contributing factor to a breakdown of the rural economy.

Increased loss of animal production from livestock diseases is one of the biggest constraints as diseases hold back livestock development. Livestock owners always put diseases close to the top of their list of problems with livestock.

During the year 2003, the NPA Veterinary Project continued to champion community based animal health care approach to the delivery of its services to the agro-pastoralists. The approach is heralded as the best example of delivery system as a result of its impressive reach. The approach helps people gain easy access to the animal health delivery system.

## Broad Veterinary Project Goals:

- The Veterinary Project will protect animals from immunisable diseases through vaccination.
- The project will lead to knowledgeable and competent community based animal health workers through training.
- The project will lead to reduced livestock mortality and improved health.
- The project will endeavour to increase community awareness about the project through workshops.
- The project activities will lead to better household food security through improved nutrition from consumption of animal products.
- The project will endeavour to facilitate the community in ensuring that the project becomes a sustainable community based animal health project.
- The project will support the agricultural oxenisation activities in Yei, Juba and Terekeka Counties by ensuring the bulls are in good health.
- Rinderpest eradication through surveillance.

# Project Activities

## Routine Curative Treatments:

Livestock diseases exerted a depressing effect on animal health. Both Counties reported a number of different animal disease cases. The community based animal health workers carried out routine curative treatments of disease cases, which combined to threaten the animals. The use of community based animal health workers (CBAHWs) to deliver animal health services ensured that: (i) services are locally available, and (ii) that there is competition within the market which in turn leads to greater efficiency in provision of services.

In Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties, diseases were usually diagnosed by CBAHWs through a combination of physical examination and observation of clinical symptoms. The results of the examinations gave a basis for the application of preventive and curative measures to combat or control the disease. In the counties, livestock owners were able to seek veterinary assistance for accurate diagnosis and management of the disease.



In Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties, community based animal health workers (CBAHWs) gave support primarily to maintain health and reduce disease incidence. In Kajo-Keji County, 9,540 different livestock disease cases against a target of 10,575 were routinely treated for external parasites, internal parasites, East Coast Fever (ECF), Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Coccidiosis and Brucellosis/Abortion in descending order at cost recovery. Further, other disease cases were treated, which included Mange, lumpy skin disease and Trypanosomiasis and diarrhoea. Amongst the livestock disease cases, external and internal parasites

were prevalent everywhere and ranked the number one problem.

In Yirol County, the routine curative treatment performance for 2003 was poorer. During the period, the project routinely treated 7,006 different livestock disease cases at cost-recovery against a target of 13,500 cases. The common livestock disease cases were Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Trypanosomiasis, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP) and Peste des Petits Ruminant (PPR).

The relatively low level of livestock disease cases treated during the years was due to the fact that most people faced a food deficit in the first and second quarters, hence cash meant for purchase of animal drugs and services was diverted to purchase food from the markets. In addition, animals were further afield for grazing and water. Further, in the second quarter, community based animal health workers were granted permission to participate in the cultivation of their own fields.

By and large, the types of livestock disease cases in Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties were roughly similar in all quarters. Further, community based animal health workers created awareness on measures to reduce the number of disease organisms in the animal environment. The lower animal mortality rates in project areas may partly be attributed to improvements in the supply of animal drugs and health services. The project increased the availability of quality drugs, information on their correct use and created a network of community based animal health workers.

# Project Activities



## Disease outbreaks:

Disease outbreaks were reported in Kajo-Keji and Yirol Counties.

In Kajo-Keji County, Newcastle disease outbreak was reported in Mangalore and Kendri Bomas of Livolo Payam. The disease is acute and highly contagious viral infection of domestic poultry. Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS) outbreak was reported in Mangalore Boma, where 3 cows died. In both outbreaks, supportive treatments and professional advice were given.

In Yirol County, Blackquarter and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia outbreaks were reported. Outbreaks of Blackquarter between January and September were reported in Aluakluak and Adior Payams. In Aluakluak Payam, 53 calves died of Blackquarter outbreak. In addition, a Haemorrhagic Septicaemia outbreak was reported in Lou Payam where 17 head of cattle were reported dead. The veterinary staff reported the same to FAO and carried out supportive treatments and vaccinations.

## **Vaccinations**

The veterinary staff in Kajo-Keji and Yirol Counties undertook a vaccination programme against the major diseases. In Kajo-Keji County, the vaccination of cattle against Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) was carried out in the fourth quarter. The project drastically increased on the previous year's figures. The CBPP vaccination was the most impressive, recording a number of 7,889 head of cattle against a target of 5,000.

Livestock owners commonly cited the improvements in vaccine supplies and vaccination as an important factor explaining improvements in animal health and productivity. Ill health in animals affects public health and the economy of the community as well as inconveniencing the livestock owners. In both outbreaks, treatments and professional advice were given.

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In Yirol County, cases of Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (HS) and Blackquarter among cattle were often prevalent during the year, but the cases were still within normal levels. The veterinary staff vaccinated 24,848 head of cattle against Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, a performance of 124.2% of the total target for the year and was 100% higher than the similar period in 2002. In addition, the project vaccinated 21,568 head of cattle against Blackquarter, achieving 107.8% of the target for 2003, though this was 30% lower than the similar period in 2002.

# Project Activities

## Capacity Building through Training:

The tertiary level objective of the Veterinary Project is to improve the delivery of essential services by strengthening sustainability. The project impact is elucidated in capacity building through training. The greatest beneficiaries of the capacity development activity in the project were the staff.

There has been a remarkable change in the capacity of the staff both in absolute and relative terms. Capacity development is critical to long-term sustainability of relief, rehabilitation and development programmes, and in particular in ensuring the continued realisation of positive impact. A stronger capacity also enhances legitimacy and participation. This enhances the ability of the staff to continue to implement the activities even in the absence of NPA. In this way the sustainability of the activities are vastly improved.

In Kajo-Keji County, out of 42 community based animal health workers and ox plough trainers, 31 who were seen to be active followed a one week refresher training course, while in Yirol County, 91 community based animal health workers against a target of 66, followed up a refresher training course.

The refresher courses were intended to narrow the gap between knowledge and practices by improving the capacities and abilities of the participants. Further, the refresher courses were expected to improve the quality and quantity of output and increase their capacity to positively contribute to the veterinary services.

In Yirol County, the major health problem of sheep and goats is pestis des ruminant (PPR). The disease is immunologically closely related to Rinderpest and has increased in the area. The project protected 5,087 goats through vaccination against pestis de ruminant, which represented 170% of the planned target of 3,000 heads of shoats.

Livestock owners commonly cited the improvements in vaccine supplies and vaccination as an important factor explaining improvements in animal health and productivity. Poor health in animals affects public health generally and the economy of the community as well as inconveniencing the livestock owners.

## Cost Recovery:

Sustainability is a critical factor in the provision of services as it helps the Veterinary Project and the community to continue to provide a solution to the problem for as long as it required. NPA provides veterinary services and supplies on a cost recovery basis at 165% through community based animal health care for vaccination and treatment services of the animals. The cost recovery is mainstreamed in the veterinary services as a way to create a sense of ownership on the part of beneficiaries, as well as obvious ways to cover costs. The cost recovery element allows for a visible service and in the long run ensures financial sustainability, which is critical for a continuous flow of benefits.

In Kajo-Keji County, collection of revenue from the sales of animal drugs and provision of veterinary services for 2003 was 2,607,800 Uganda shillings (equivalent to US\$ 1,448). The cash accrued from routine curative treatments and vaccinations of 9,540 different livestock disease cases and 7,889 head of cattle against Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia respectively. In Yirol County, treatments and vaccinations were also implemented at cost recovery. A total of 15,072,845 Sudanese Dinar (equivalent to US\$ 4,638) was collected from treatments and vaccinations. Of these, 5,623,875 Sudanese Dinar (US\$ 1,730) was retained by community based animal health workers (CBAHWs) as incentives and 9,448,970 Sudanese Dinar (US\$ 2,907) was remitted to the veterinary co-ordination committee (VCC) as net cost recovery.

## Project Activities

The year 2003 saw a priority given to training of community based animal health workers and senior staff to improve practices and skills. The project sent 6 staff ( 3 each from Kajo-Keji and Yirol) to follow a 2 weeks training course on planning and management of community development projects in Uganda Management Institute – Kampala. The training was to enhance the skills and improve the ability of these staff on issues related to community development projects.

Two animal health auxiliaries from Kajo-Keji County attended a 10 days Rinderpest eradication course, which was held in Yei and facilitated by VSF Belgium. The skills acquired from the course would improve Rinderpest disease surveillance. Further, one animal health auxiliary attended a 10 days cold chain management training conducted by FAO and held in Kotobi - Mundri County. In Kajo-Keji County, one animal health auxiliary was sent to Maria Lou to follow up a 5 months stock person training course, which he completed. In Yirol County, one community based animal health worker followed a 2 weeks monitoring and evaluation course in Yei, which was organised by the NPA Agriculture Project.

### Dialogue meetings:



Community participation is crucial for sustainability and maintenance of the project. The Veterinary Project encourages active participation and subsequently empowers communities by giving them the experience and confidence needed to influence decisions that affect them.

During the year 2003, the project conducted 15 one day community dialogue and meetings in Kajo-Keji County against the planned target of 20. The meetings were intended to share and educate communities on livestock issues. During the meetings, veterinary staff facilitated, promoted and supported the creation of awareness with regard to HIV/ Aids in an effort to change the attitudes and behaviour of the communities. In Yirol County, several community dialogue meetings were held with livestock owners on livestock issues. Further, two major community workshops were held. NPA has developed linkages with relevant collaborators in reporting and information sharing. During 2003, NPA staff attended regional and annual South Sudan livestock co-ordination meetings ( SSLCM ) in Yambio and Lokichoggio.

### Tsetse Control Project and Veterinary Pharmacy:

The project concluded 3 tsetse fly surveys in Kajo-Keji County, albeit with some technical constraints, but remedial actions were taken. Twenty targets were installed for tsetse fly control in Bamurye Boma. The targets were closely monitored. NPA is optimistic that with the participation of the communities that such an intervention will control the tsetse flies numbers.

The construction of a community pharmacy in Yirol town was almost completed. There was dialogue between project staff, local authorities and communities on the transfer of drugs procurement and distribution to the community. So far, some community members have already being nominated, and will be trained on entrepreneurship, record keeping and leadership skills so that they can start to purchase drugs from Kampala using cost recovery.