



FOOD SECURITY VETERINARY PROJECT

2005



INTRODUCTION

The NPA Veterinary Project recognises that livestock diseases are fundamentally important both socially and economically to the livestock producers because they reduce productivity. The level of this loss of production is quantifiable and available. The factors that vary the scale of the loss are numerous, ranging from the type of diseases, to the age of animal, nutritional status of animal and access to treatment by the owners. An indication of just how important livestock diseases are in terms of production can be gauged by the fact that livestock owners themselves will always rank livestock diseases within the top challenges they face in life. Livestock diseases for them can mean the difference between food security and surplus (life) and insecurity (death).

The Veterinary Project continues in 2005 in making a serious commitment to improve animal health status in the areas where it works and is addressing the diseases through a community based approach whose key component is the training of selected community members in the treatments and vaccinations of endemic and epidemic livestock diseases. The main project areas are Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties with support to ox plough work in Yei and Juba Counties, and a growing partnership with Vetworks Trust in Terekeka County.

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.
- Partnership with Vetworks Trust for sustainability and support.

Project Activities

Routine Curative Treatments:

This activity is on-going and involves vaccinations, clinical services and general veterinary activities. The aim is to reduce all notifiable livestock diseases and to minimize livestock production losses through diseases and thus enhance self-sufficiency in food production. The project continued with monitoring the dynamics of disease occurrence and its confirmation in order to effect appropriate disease control measures.

Livestock diseases were numerous, especially among livestock keepers in the areas where conditions favour reproduction and transmission of the diseases or vectors and therefore tended to have greatest impact in these areas. However, disease related losses also increased during the dry season because inadequate forage weakened the animals, thereby rendering them incapable of resisting infection. The community based animal health workers (CBAHWs) took necessary precautions to reduce the spread of diseases through conducting veterinary services and attending to sick cases in a timely manner.

In Yirol County, the CBAHWs treated 4,171 head of cattle against the planned target of 6,000 using drugs acquired from Konybai Pharmacy. Unfortunately as in the previous year the target was not met, because of inter-clan conflict. The conflict occurred when animals competed for the resource of grazing, which was needed but often of limited availability. The prevalence of insecurity inhibited the provision of veterinary services. However, in Kajo-Keji County, the CBAHWs conducted treatment of 8,080 cases against the planned target of 8,000 of different livestock diseases, representing. The common disease occurrences that were noted were Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, Trypanosomiasis, Ectoparasites, Blackquarter, Anthrax, and Hemorrhagic Septicaemia.

Disease outbreaks:

The most common outbreaks included Hemorrhagic Septicaemia, Black quarter and Lumpy Skin Disease, which were reported in Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties. Effective appropriate disease control measures were undertaken.

In February 2005, an outbreak of Hemorrhagic Septicaemia was reported in Pagrau Payam of Yirol County with a total of 30 head of cattle reported dead. The outbreak was only saved by symptomatic treatments against the disease by the CBAHWs, which brought the outbreak under control.

Blackquarter outbreaks were reported in Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties in May and November 2005 respectively. In Yirol County, the same disease outbreak claimed the lives of 34 head of cattle, while in Kajo-Keji County, the disease caused the death of 6 heads of cattle in Lire and Kangapo II Payams. The disease is an acute infection and swelling often develops in the muscles of the hindquarter. The veterinary staff in Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties responded to the outbreaks by putting in place a symptomatic treatment plan that brought the disease under control.

In August 2005, Lumpy Skin disease outbreak was reported in Yirol County. Lumpy skin disease is very infectious with sudden appearance of nodules on any part of the skin and swelling of lymph nodes. There was no specific treatment except the use of antibiotics to prevent secondary infection. All disease outbreaks were investigated and reported to SAAR and FAO.

Project Activities

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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.

Vaccinations:



Livestock were vulnerable to a wide range of diseases, which included Blackquarter and Anthrax, Peste des Petits Ruminants, Hemorrhagic Septicaemia and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia. An analysis of delivery of animal health services showed that the CBAHWs had a substantial impact on the health of livestock by reducing losses through vaccinations, which contributed significantly to livelihoods.

In Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties, cattle were protected against Blackquarter and Anthrax through vaccinations. Blackquarter is an acute infection, caused by *Clostridium chauvoei* and the swelling often developed in the muscles of the hindquarter.

In Yirol County, a total of 24,124 heads of cattle were vaccinated against Blackquarter and Anthrax, a performance rate of 80% of the planned target. The vaccines which were used during the vaccinations were supplied by FAO. The target number of vaccinations was not met, because inter-clan conflict continued to limit the movements of the CBAHWs at times.

In Kajo-Keji County, the project registered a poor overall performance, with 2,000 heads of cattle vaccinated against Blackquarter and Anthrax compared to planned target of 5,000, while In Yirol County, 800 goats were protected against Peste des Petits Ruminant through vaccination, representing just 20% of the target. The poor achievement was as a result of inadequate vaccines from FAO and inter-clan conflict, which when combined seriously hampered the work. Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR,) is a highly contagious viral disease similar to Rinderpest. The symptoms usually include a fever with discharge from the nose and eyes, which becomes smelly and encrusted before death.

The CBAHWs in Kajo-Keji County vaccinated 10,639 heads of cattle against Hemorrhagic Septicaemia, which was slightly higher than the planned target. In addition, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) was controlled by vaccinating 2,500 heads of cattle against target of 10,000. The achievement was just 25% of the target. Poor coverage was caused by inadequate vaccine supplies as FAO faced logistical difficulties to deliver the vaccines from Lokichoggio to Kajo-Keji County. Overall the vaccination coverage was severely hampered by shortfalls in provision of vaccines by FAO, and with additional insecurity in Yirol County.

Project Activities

Effects and impacts of veterinary services and activities: The community based animal health approach demonstrated how an organized strategy can lead to reduction of diseases and good delivery of animal health services in under served areas of Southern Sudan. The qualitative data given by livestock owners in the project areas pointed out that they were happy with the performance of the Veterinary Project supervised community based animal health services due to:

- Veterinary drugs and services were brought nearer to livestock owners, allowing easy access to drugs and services without having to travel long distances.
- The community based animal health workers saved sick animals / livestock that would have died being far from the drugs.
- The CBAHWs were able to advise livestock owners on correct dosage rates and administration routes and they were better able to prescribe the correct drugs after physically examining the sick animals.
- They managed to vaccinate animals / livestock that used not to be reached because of bad terrain.
- The approach helped to bring the cost and control of basic animal health care into the reach of livestock owners.

The qualitative improvement noted, also automatically improved the quality of the animals by halting the decline of livestock production through the improvement of animal health status.

Cost Recovery:

Cost recovery has taken root in Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties as livestock owners pay for services and drugs rendered. It will ensure sustainable animal health and a positive socio-economic impact as it has changed the attitudes and behaviours of livestock owners. The Veterinary Project established privatised veterinary drug supply systems in Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties. The communities were supported to open the pharmacies with the aim to sell drugs to support the increasing number of community based animal health workers. In Kajo-Keji County, the supply of veterinary drugs was placed in the hands of private pharmacy and it provided important services to the livestock owners in the county.

The community in Yirol County took over the management of livestock drugs through Konybai Community Pharmacy. Further, in Yirol East County, private veterinary pharmacies emerged in response to the high demand for drugs by livestock owners. They created important linkages between the area and the community pharmacy in Yirol Town, which is some distance away.

In Kajo-Keji County, CBAHWs generated 9,220,100 million Uganda shillings (US\$ 5,131) from the sale of drugs, external parasite control using acaricides and vaccinations. The private pharmacies in Kajo-Keji sold drug supplies worth 3,385,600 Uganda shillings (US\$ 1,880).

In Yirol County, since Konybai Community Pharmacy started operational in 2005, veterinary drugs worth over 13,271,190 millions of Sudanese Dinars (US\$ 5,100) were sold.

The pharmacies provided increased access to drugs and, improved availability and supply of drugs, ensuring the drugs were available at affordable prices.

Project Activities

Capacity Building through Training:

Experience has shown that lack of certain skills may hinder staff 's capacity to challenge or change the situation. In light of this, the Veterinary Project has sought to provide capacity building through training to its staff, SRRC and veterinary committees. Capacity building is increasingly seen as an essential element if development is to be sustainable and centred in people and is a way of equipping the staff to be better vehicles for the delivery of services.

In 2005, two community based animal health workers (one each from Yirol and Terekeka Counties) were sent to Southern Sudan Livestock Training Centre in Maria Lou to follow animal health auxiliary training. The two trainees will specialize in animal health and management.

The project sent a community based animal health worker from Kajo-Keji County to undertake an animal health and management course in Maasai Rural Training Centre in Kajiado District - Kenya. In addition, a field veterinarian from Kajo-Keji followed a month training course on geographical information system in Nairobi - Kenya.

The 2 Payam Veterinary Supervisors from Yirol County had been following distance learning in Community Development from PREMESE Africa Development Institute and in May 2005 they both graduated with Diplomas in Community Development.

VSF - Belgium holds regular training courses for veterinary staff at Southern Sudan Livestock Training Centre - Maria Lou (Bahr el Ghazal) and they facilitated a two weeks course for 18 livestock staff and counterparts from Kajo-Keji County. The participants were trained on leadership, entrepreneurship and book keeping skills. The two weeks training course was to build capacity among the staff and counterparts.

Capacity building through training is more concerned with enhancing staff 's capacity. The training of staff and counterparts would help to develop their critical and organizational capacities, and so contribute to transforming the communities. The training would strengthen and enable staff be more effective in implementing veterinary services and activities and would assist in equipping the staff to make the project successful, especially with regards to beneficiary participation in planning implementation and monitoring.

Dialogue meetings:

The Veterinary Project continued in 2005 to encourage the community to participate in their own development. Empowerment of the community was very important for the sustainable participatory process particularly in the context of scaling up and made the community feel part of a wider movement. They saw themselves as implementers and they felt ownership and more respected as key players in the development of the approach.

In Yirol County, the project conducted a dialogue workshop with the objective to review the community pharmacy performance. The workshop was attended by 16 participants against target of 50, due to prevailing insecurity.

Project Activities

Monitoring and surveillance:

Over the years, the Rinderpest campaigns have brought the disease under control. In May 2005, OIE International Commission for Animal Diseases declared Southern Sudan provisionally free from Rinderpest. The Veterinary Project continued to monitor and conduct surveillance for Rinderpest with the aim to report any sign of the disease immediately.

Tsetse control project:

The Veterinary Project in collaboration with the community has implemented the community-based tsetse fly control project in Kajo-Keji County, where there is traditionally a high prevalence of diseases due to the tsetse fly. During the year 2005, the community took over the management of the tsetse fly control project, which has had a positive impact on the community. Both community and NGOs acknowledged the success so far achieved and the approach has attracted considerable interest among NGOs implementing livestock projects, which have asked NPA to help in developing a training manual on tsetse fly control. NGOs requested NPA to assist in setting up similar projects in the areas where they are implementing livestock projects.

The project made 400 screens and of these, 140 screens were sold to the community at retail price of 1,500 Uganda shilling per piece, which was seen to be affordable. By the end of 2005, 260 screens were in stock, waiting for sale. The revenue generated from the sales was used for replenishing the materials required for making new screens.

Partnership:

Partnership is emerging as an increasingly important development strategy in response to current development trends as it provides a strong foundation for collaborations. Partnership builds upon the growing consensus within the donor community that development cooperation is most effective when it reinforces local initiatives.

The NPA Veterinary Project continued to recognize the importance of partnering with local organizations and institutions in undertaking the project activities. No one organisation can be an expert in all fields, and there is a clear need for partnership that is based on core competencies and comparative advantages. Most of the work so far has been detailed collaboration with partner institutions to help implement animal health care activities.

Instead of operating autonomously and in some ways suspicious of each other, NPA and Vetworks Services Trust in Terekeka County collaborated in far more supportive ways. NPA and Vetworks Services Trust recognized that to change public perception in Terekeka County they must work closely. The partnership of NPA and Vetworks Services Trust resulted in NPA remitting US dollar 20,000 as a financial support to them as partners. The financial support assisted Vetworks Services Trust to procure necessary supplies and equipment, and cover vehicle running and administrative overheads.

The partnering of NPA and Vetworks Services Trust helped to address local issues that no one organization has the resources and ability to manage alone. The partnership enabled Vetworks Services Trust to treat 2,014 livestock against clinical manifestations of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, Trypanosomiasis, intestinal worm, live flukes, Brucellosis, tick infestation, East Coast Fever, heart water, Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia, Peste des Petits Ruminants and Mange. Further, 16,118 head of cattle were vaccinated against Blackquarter in the County.

Vetworks Services Trust raised 1,220,500 Uganda shillings through cost-recovery basis as accrued from livestock treatments, vaccinations and sales of drugs. During the year, Vetworks Services Trust purchased veterinary drugs and field kits worth US dollars 3,361.13 for community based animal health workers and the veterinary drugs were sold on a cost recovery basis to facilitate project activities.

The partnership scored notable achievements in the reporting period. However, the project continued to experience constraints, which included:

- A high drop out of trained community based animal health workers.
- Insecurity due to inter-tribal conflicts and heavy rains which impeded the control of outbreaks of Blackquarter, Hemorrhagic Septicaemia, Peste des Petits Ruminants and Mange; the rains restricted the movement of CBAHWs.
- Some livestock owners continued to request for free veterinary services and drugs, instead of embracing the cost-recovery systems.
- Some lack of transparency, openness and accountability in the cost- recovery management.

In Kajo-Keji County, the Veterinary Project worked closely with the County Veterinary Department in developing institutional and organizational capacity. The efforts of local community with assistance from NPA and the County Veterinary Department resulted in the construction of a multipurpose community centre and the centre houses the County livestock activity offices. Further, the community has established a model farm for small scale farming and it served as a source of requisite funds for maintaining livestock administrative activities. The centre instilled the knowledge and skills on small scale mixed farming through sharing experiences and learning.

The partnership of NPA with Vetworks Services Trust and Kajojeji County Veterinary Department helped to build greater commitment to address the development issues and enhance the chances of creating sustainable solutions.