



# FOOD SECURITY VETERINARY PROJECT

# 2006



# INTRODUCTION

The NPA Veterinary Project in 2006 continued to work in the following locations:

- Kajo-Keji County—payams of Kangapo I and II, Livolo, Lire and Ngepo.
- Yirol East County—payams of Lou, Adior and Langmatot.
- Yirol West County—payams of Aluakluak, Annoul, Yirol Town, Geer and Mapourdit.
- Terekeka County—through collaboration with Vetworks Services Trust, an indigenous NGO.
- Juba and Yei Counties—supporting ox plough trainees and activities under the Agriculture Project.

Livestock make a significant contribution to society and their value can be demonstrated. Households in Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties (particularly Yirol) depend on livestock for a significant proportion of their food and income. Livestock are social, cultural and spiritual assets and they define and provide social identity and society.

In Yirol County in the first half of 2006, inter-clan and sectional conflicts affected people in many ways, both direct and indirect. These included restrictions on movement, displacement of people, and abandonment of agriculture. The effects of insecurity therefore had many direct impacts on people's food economies.

Insecurity also curtailed access to some better dry grazing areas. Changes in animal movements and different patterns of dry grazing areas use in Yirol County resulted in deterioration in the livestock condition. In Kajo-Keji County, cattle nutrition conditions in the dry season also deteriorated, but not to the extent of Yirol. Overall it was a difficult start to the year for cattle owners in both counties and the Veterinary Project endeavoured to assist them recover during the year.

## 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:

The provision of cost effective and efficient services using community based animal health care continues to have a positive impact on animal health. The approach has increased access to veterinary drugs. 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 community based animal health workers (CBAHWs) in Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties treated 6,928 and 15,483 different livestock disease cases, achieving performance rates of 87% and 194% respectively to the original outline plans. The CBAHWs in Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties used the drugs purchased from Kony-Bai Community Pharmacy and private pharmacies respectively. The CBAHWs handled and administered the scheduled drugs and fee charges.

The above data shows that Yirol County was unable to achieve the planned targets, the major reason being increased inter and intra tribal/ clan fighting, which restricted access to veterinary drugs and services. On the contrary, CBAHWs in Kajo-Keji County achieved target by over 94%, which was a good achievement.

## Disease outbreaks:

In Kajo-Keji County, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) disease outbreak was reported. This forced NPA to place an order of vaccines to FAO, which responded quickly. Blackquarter disease outbreak was also reported in the 5 payams of Kajo-Keji County. The outbreak resulted in the death of 274 head of cattle. The veterinary staff undertook supportive therapy and professional advice. NPA reported the disease outbreak to FAO and requested the vaccines. However, a shortage of Blackquarter vaccine supplies was realized, which restricted the vaccinations. The vaccinations of cattle against contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia and Blackquarter diseases reduced the morbidity and mortality rates, but more could have been achieved against Blackquarter if the vaccines were available.



The veterinary staff in Yirol East County reported Haemorrhagic Septicaemia disease outbreak in March and December 2006. The March incident occurred in Malek Payam of Yirol East County, where 12 head of cattle were reported dead. In the two incidents, veterinary staff provided professional advice, supportive and symptomatic treatments, and vaccinations and also reported the same to the relevant authorities and FAO. In September, veterinary staff reported Foot and Mouth disease outbreak in Yirol West County. The veterinary staff carried out symptomatic treatments. The disease outbreak was also reported to FAO and local authorities.

# Project Activities

## Disease surveillance:

Surveillance for Rinderpest has been on-going ever since South Sudan was declared to be “Rinderpest free” . A team of veterinarians from VSF - Belgium Rinderpest Project conducted Rinderpest Sero-Surveillance in Kajo-Keji and Yirol Counties and facilitated the collection of 275 and 225 blood samples respectively during active surveillance. The NPA Veterinary Project also facilitated VSF Belgium FLIP Project to conduct a survey on East Coast Fever in Kajo-Keji County. The FLIP Project assisted the collection of 100 EDTA blood and 200 serum samples for East Coast Fever.

## Vaccinations:

The veterinary staff conducted effective vaccination campaigns which were aimed at controlling mortality and morbidity from disease outbreaks. In Kajo-Keji and Yirol Counties, vaccinations covered Blackquarter and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia on a cost recovery basis.

In Yirol County, 20,422 and 8,573 head of cattle were vaccinated against Blackquarter and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, which represented 41% and 17% of planned targets respectively. In Kajo-Keji County, 12,049 head of cattle were protected against Blackquarter through vaccination at cost recovery. In both counties, FAO provided the vaccines. In Kajo-Keji County, 1,415 chickens were protected against Newcastle disease and 100 dogs were vaccinated against rabies. The vaccines used for protection of dogs were purchased through private pharmacies.

The table shows number of cattle, chicken and dogs vaccinated against Blackquarter, Haemorrhagic Septicaemia, Newcastle and Rabies in Kajo-Keji and Yirol Counties

Disease	Yirol County			Kajo-Keji County		
	Planned targets	Actual	% Achieved	Planned Targets	Actual	% achieved
Blackquarter	50,000	20,422	41%	-	12,049	-
Haemorrhagic Septicaemia	50,000	8,573	17%	-	-	-
Newcastle	-	-	-	5,000	1,415	28.3%
Rabies	-	-	-	-	100	-

**Source: NPA, Yirol/ Kajo-Keji, 2006**

In Yirol County, performance rates of vaccinations against Blackquarter and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia were lower than targets. This was attributed to inter-and intra-clan fighting which resulted in the breakdown of veterinary services. Another important aspect of the breakdown of services was the potential increase in diseases. The insecurity prevented the engagement of normal recovery strategies, which left the general asset base at a dangerously low level. Another constraint for achieving target was poor logistics due to prolonged and tedious procedures. This hampered the movement of goods and services to areas which deserved the intervention. In Kajo-Keji County, veterinary staff were unable to meet the planned target of vaccinating chicken against Newcastle disease.

# Project Activities

## Cost Recovery:

The community based animal health workers charged a fee for treatment and vaccination services, and drugs. In Yirol County, CBAHWs collected 19,651,150 Sudanese Dinars ( US\$ 78,836) from drug sales and services as cost recovery, up from 13,271,190 ( US\$ 53,085) in 2005. The rise was attributed to the number of people accessing veterinary drugs and services. More and more people are now turning to veterinary drugs and services, unlike before, hence increasing money collected through cost recovery.

In Kajo-Keji County, the CBAHWs collected 653,950 Ugandan shillings (US\$ 363.22 ) as revenue from treatments of diseases and acaricides. The cash was submitted to the veterinary co-ordination committee. In addition the drug kit for the CBAHWs was maintained at a cost of USh. 1,141,000 ( US\$ 634) . The drug kit included the CBAHWs ' percentage and revolving funds for replenishing the kit.

## Capacity Building through Training:



The Veterinary Project continued with building the capacities of veterinary staff, so that they become more effective in the crucial tasks that lead to the transformation of livestock owners through gaining enhanced food and livelihood security. Building capacities at lower levels is therefore a pre-requisite for sustainability.

Six veterinary staff (Kajokeji: 3 and Yirol: 3 ) followed training on animal health at Marial Lou Livestock and Maasai Rural Training Institute and graduated. In Yirol County, 3 trained veterinary staff will replace those who joined the GOSS civil service. In Kajo-Keji County, 2 veterinary staff are still under training in Maasai Rural Training Institute. One veterinary staff from Kajo-Keji County graduated with a diploma in community development from PREMESE Africa – Kenya. An additional 2 veterinary staff followed a two weeks training, which was held in Uganda Institute of Management – Kampala.

In Kajo-Keji County, 44 community based animal health workers followed two refresher training courses on animal health. The follow-up training refreshed the skills and expanded the range of problems they could deal with.

Training and refresher training courses enabled veterinary staff to gain knowledge and skills to take up the emerging chances and challenges in the labour market. The training has helped the veterinary staff access improved and appropriate technology and it has improved knowledge and skills that eventually will increase output of goods and services. Appropriate and effective training is critical for implementation of successful veterinary activities.

# Project Activities

## Dialogue meetings:



The Veterinary Project continued in 2006 to encourage the community to participate in their own development through arranging community dialogue meetings, both county wide and local Payam level. A number of dialogue meetings were held in both Yirol Counties but in the latter half of the year as security improved.

## Promotion of pharmacies:

The pharmacies were instrumental in the provision of drugs and services needed by livestock owners and veterinary staff. In Yirol County, Kony-Bai Community Pharmacy used US\$ 4,302 to purchase drugs and other supplies to replenish the pharmacy. In Kajo-Keji County, private pharmacies were

fundamental in the sale of drugs.

Kony-Bai Community Pharmacy and the private pharmacies in Yirol and Kajo-Keji Counties ensured that drugs and other supplies were locally available, and livestock owners and veterinary staff had easy access. In Kajo-Keji County, as a result of a growing number of private pharmacies there was competition within the market, which in turn led to greater efficiency.