



FOOD SECURITY VETERINARY PROJECT



2007



INTRODUCTION

The NPA Veterinary Project is a key part of the overall Food Security and Rural Livelihoods Programme funded over the years by USAID (FFP and OFDA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway for the veterinary component. Livestock is the basis around which some communities construct their livelihoods and the pastoralist or agro-pastoralists do not just have livestock for meat, milk and other food assets, but give the cattle great cultural significance as a sign of wealth and social standing.

Livestock is thus a pillar and an integral part of the economy in Southern Sudan. The intimacy of the relationship between livestock and owners is such that livestock play a fundamental role in defining the very identity of pastoralists and they also play an important role in socio-economic welfare as many people depend directly or indirectly on livestock for cash, food, farm power, soil fertility and social status.

The NPA Veterinary Project continues to promote a community based animal health care system that increases access to animal health services and improves the quality of the services. The community based health care is aimed at improving the health of livestock as livestock diseases for them can mean the difference between food security and surplus (life), insecurity (death).

The Veterinary Project continues in 2007 to work in the main project areas of Yirol (East and West) and Kajo-Keji Counties with support to ox plough work in Yei and Juba Counties, and a continuing 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:



The community based animal health care approach used by NPA makes veterinary services sustainable through effective local capacity building. The community based animal health workers (CBAHWs) continue to form an crucial link between livestock owners, NGOs and the Government of Southern Sudan and its relevant Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries.

The decentralised nature of the delivery system that the project animal health services have extended to very remote of the counties, has led to the achievement of better control over diseases.

The CBAHWs have undoubtedly made a positive contribution to the animal health care programme.

In Kajo-Keji County, disease control has continued to be crucial as the CBAHWs responded quickly and comprehensively once the diseases appeared in cattle, goats and sheep. In 2007, a total of 21,623 different livestock disease cases were treated against the planned target of 8,000 achieving a performance rate of 270.3%. Common livestock disease cases that were prevalent included internal and external parasites, East Coast Fever (ECF), Mange and CCPP / CBPP. Others were Blackquarter, Coccidiosis, Brucellosis and Trypanosomiasis. Most of the livestock disease cases were found in cattle and goats.

In Yirol County, CBAHWs took measures to mitigate the effects and impacts of disease by treating the animals. A total of 9,244 livestock disease cases were treated against the planned target of 8,000. All veterinary drugs were supplied through the community owned pharmacy in Yirol and directly from the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries. A Meningitis outbreak in the first quarter affected work performance.

In Kajo-Keji County, individual entrepreneurs have been encouraged to establish private pharmacies and they ensured a reliable supply of veterinary drugs. They made veterinary drugs available to CBAHWs at full cost, for treatment of animals. In Yirol County, Kony-Bai Community Pharmacy through the locally established networks supplied many veterinary drugs, which were purchased by the CBAHWs.

In both counties, livestock owners have gained a firm understanding of the concept of cost recovery. They paid full market prices for treatments of their animals to keep them healthy including a service fee for the CBAHW. The cash was used to purchase the drugs needed to maintain the community based animal health care programme. However, there is still a tremendous amount to do to make services sustainable through greater and more effective privatisation.

Project Activities

Disease outbreaks:

There was one Blackquarter disease outbreak in the first quarter of 2007 in Kangapo I Payam of Kajo-Keji County. 10 head of cattle were reported dead. The disease outbreak was successfully contained and controlled by providing technical advice to farmers and supportive treatment using the drug LA 20%. In Yirol West County, a Blackquarter disease outbreak was reported in Nyakajuongbai Cattle Camp in Aluakluak Payam. The disease outbreak occurred in July 2007 and resulted in 15 head of cattle dead. The disease outbreak was reported to the Lakes State Animal Resources Directorate and vaccination was undertaken against the disease.

Vaccinations:

Co-ordinated vaccination campaigns were undertaken across the counties, with the ultimate aim being to reduce and / or eradicate some contagious diseases. Livestock vaccination campaigns were in general much better organised and more effective in 2007 than in previous years.



In Yirol County, community based animal health workers protected 16,500 head of cattle against Blackquarter and Anthrax through vaccinations against a target of 12,500, achieving 132%. FAO / and the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries (MARF) provided the vaccines that were used for vaccinations. In Kajo-Keji County, 1,536 head of cattle were vaccinated against Blackquarter and Anthrax using vaccines received from Central Equatorial State Veterinary Department. In addition, 155 chickens were vaccinated for Newcastle disease with the vaccines supplied through private pharmacies.

Capacity building through training:

NPA supports staff capacity development, with the objective to pass on specific skills and knowledge. This would improve knowledge and skills, and increase the determination to respond effectively to the growing and changing demands.

In Kajo-Keji County, 8 animal health workers followed up short courses on privatization, project planning, monitoring and evaluation, and financial management. Two further staff underwent certificate training on animal health in Maasai Rural Training Institute in Kenya and in the third quarter they completed the study. In addition, 2 community animal health workers were sent to Marial Lou Livestock Training Centre in Tonj County – Sudan for training.

By continuing to second staff for training opportunities both inside Sudan and in the region, the Veterinary Project ensures the basic knowledge of the internally trained Community Based Animal Health Workers is built on, for the key staff who show greatest interest and a hard working spirit. Although these staff are within the project, in reality they are an asset base for South Sudan as they can continue their work long after NPA has left and some be appointed in the future to salaried positions within the Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries at Payam or County level.

Project Activities

Effects and impacts of veterinary services and activities:

The NPA Veterinary project over the years has provided improved veterinary care services in the main project Counties of Yiro East, Yiro West and Kajo-Keji, which has raised livestock productivity and reduced vulnerability to diseases. Livestock diseases and mortalities have declined, resulting in increased supplies of meat, milk and blood. Livestock body conditions for all species are improved throughout the two counties.

It is also seen to be economical to use a community animal health care approach for livestock as it has contributed to increased agro-pastoral welfare in a sustainable way. Better animal health services can yield big dividends for productivity and welfare leading to more people having improved food security and social well-being.