

STRENGTHENING VETERINARY SERVICES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (AFRICA)



The *Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries* (SVSDC) Project is a 3-year project funded by the European Union, through the European Parliament and the European Commission, aimed at building better African Veterinary Services that deliver effective governance, health safety, food security and food safety for their citizens.

It specifically addresses the compliance of African Veterinary Services with the standards on the quality of Veterinary Services of the *World Organisation for Animal Health* (OIE).

These international standards and guidelines constitute the basis for independent external country evaluations of the quality of Veterinary Services and Animal Health Systems and have been democratically adopted by all OIE Members. A specific methodology has been developed and published as the “OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services” (the OIE PVS Tool) and is key to this Project as it enables national Veterinary Services to establish their current level of performance, identify gaps and weaknesses in their compliance with the international standards of the OIE, and establish priorities.

The Project consists of two components. The first component focuses on strengthening national Veterinary Services in Africa (result areas 1 - 3), and the second component is centred on rabies control and elimination in Kenya and northern Africa result areas 4 - 5). Overall there are 5 result areas :

- gradually bring national veterinary services up to the standards of the OIE through the implementation of OIE PVS Pathway missions and of their recommendations.
- enhance the legislative framework of African veterinary services.
- develop a PVS-based tool to enable *Regional Economic Communities* (REC) to exploit data from national PVS Pathway missions conducted in their Member States to develop e.g. regional investment plans.
- at the national level, support the implementation of the national Strategic Plan to eliminate human rabies in Kenya, in collaboration with relevant partners.
- at the regional level, set up an OIE Regional Vaccine Bank for canine rabies in Africa and provide technical expertise for the development and implementation of regional strategies (in North Africa).

The project started in December 2015 and ends in December 2018. The total budget for the project amounts to EUR 3.5 million ■

GRADUALLY BRING NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES UP TO THE STANDARDS OF THE OIE THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OIE PVS PATHWAY MISSIONS AND OF THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS



The Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway is a review and analysis into the way in which a country can enhance its policies and strategies towards fostering effective and sustainable veterinary governance.



In Africa, 51 countries, and more specifically, Veterinary Services, are actively engaged in this process, and are tasked to identify their main problems or needs, and defining strategies and activities to improve their functioning and compliance with the international standards of the OIE.

The PVS mission reports document the findings of such missions, and provide the governments with detailed action plans and the mapping of investments.

The SVSDC+R project intends to support the follow-up and the implementation of the recommendations of the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessments, including by supporting the development of the required regulatory frameworks, through regional capacity-building and in-country support and by assisting Regional Economic Communities in devising effective and sustainable investment plans and programmes at regional or sub-regional level, based on PVS-based country assessments.

A recently concluded PVS Think Tank forum, in part funded by the SVSDC+R project (April 2017) has come up with tangible recommendations, likely to contribute to the achievement of the above objectives, in particular in terms of engaging with regional economic communities, integrating PVS

Pathway missions in the strategic planning cycles of Veterinary Services and their line-ministries and supporting the development of in-country capacity for (self) assessment and bespoke PVS mission formats, e.g. focusing on *antimicrobial resistance* (AMR) or the eradication of *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR).

Twelve (12) PVS Pathway missions are scheduled by the end of the project. So far all missions were funded through other funding sources but the expectation is that all forthcoming PVS Pathway mission in Africa will be funded by the SVSDC+R project from August 2017 onwards ■

ENHANCE THE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK OF AFRICAN VETERINARY SERVICES



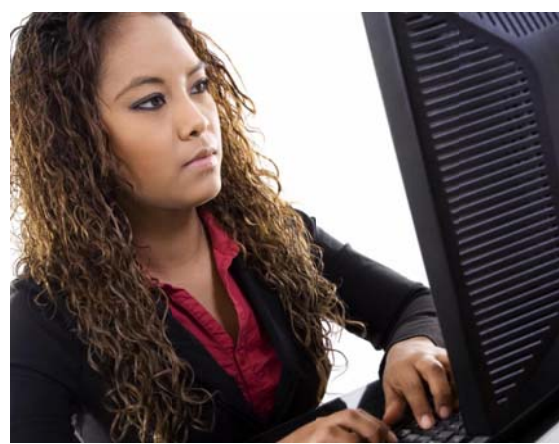
Veterinary legislation is an essential element of the national infrastructure that enables Veterinary Services to efficiently carry out their key functions, including epidemio-surveillance; early detection and reporting of diseases, including zoonoses; rapid response to and prevention and control of sanitary emergencies; animal products food safety; animal welfare and the relevant certification of animals and animal products for export. In the face of increasing global trade, climate change and the emergence and re-emergence of diseases that can rapidly spread across international borders, the Veterinary Services must be supported by effective and modern legislation. This is why the development and efficient implementation of legislation is included among the 47 critical competencies identified in the OIE PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services.

The SVSDC+R project supports veterinary legislation modernisation by the OIE *Veterinary Legislation Support Programme* (VLSP) which, as a follow up to an evaluation of the *Performance of Veterinary Services* (PVS) and at the request of Members, allows the OIE to conduct missions to help governments that wish to modernise the national veterinary legislation and thereby help the veterinary services meet the OIE standards.

After an initial '*identification*' mission the country may request a longer term collaboration with the OIE, under a formal agreement, with the objective of modernising the national veterinary legislation. Through such an agreement, the country then provides the means required (as assessed by the mission) to draft new legislation and the OIE provides an expert to advise the country. The advice is mainly provided by correspondence and the expert would normally undertake one or two missions to the country over a 12 month period. The OIE may also obtain input from other experts during the course of the agreement. As per December 31, 2016, such agreements are being implemented in the following countries :

Burkina Faso
Côte d'Ivoire
Gabon
Mauritius
Senegal
Tunisia
Uganda (concluded) ■

DEVELOP A PVS-BASED TOOL TO ENABLE REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES TO EXPLOIT DATA FROM NATIONAL PVS PATHWAY MISSIONS CONDUCTED IN THEIR MEMBER STATES TO DEVELOP REGIONAL INVESTMENT PLANS



The OIE will develop and validate a methodology based on an thorough analysis of country PVS Pathway reports, in particular the PVS Gap Analysis reports. The methodology will identify the elements to be considered when developing a regional development/ investment plan, as well as the actors that will need to be consulted (at all levels: national, regional and international). The methodology would also outline what, when and how partner countries can best and more effectively invest and identify those investments which will be conducted at regional level.

Moreover this methodology will be validated with main livestock stakeholders in Africa, including AU-IBAR, FAO and the *Regional Economic Communities* (RECs).

It will be tested in two (sub-) regional investment plans in Africa.

The OIE is currently working on the design of a database which would allow for information to be captured in a standardised way. Central to this endeavour is the concept of *country profiles*, i.e. the amount and format of information that should be available for any country, engaged in the PVS Pathway process, for use by interested parties, whether (regional and international) technical agencies, RECs or donors ■

AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN TO ELIMINATE HUMAN RABIES IN KENYA, IN COLLABORATION WITH RELEVANT PARTNERS



As part of a broad consortium of donors and technical agencies and civil society organisations, the OIE, through the SVSDC+R projects, supports the implementation of the Kenya Strategic Plan for the Elimination of Human Rabies in Kenya by the year 2030.



The strategy provides a guide for systematic reduction of rabies risk through sustained mass dog vaccinations, pre and post exposure prophylaxis and public education. This strategy is based on activities planned by the national Ministries of Health

and of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, in accordance with the GARC *Stepwise Approach to Rabies Elimination* (SARE) to move from an endemic state to a disease free status. In doing so, 6 stages are expected, each stage foreseeing a set of activities which will build on the previous stage to progressively reduce the risk of the disease.

This project supports stages 1 and 2 of this strategy in a selected number of counties in Kenya, and will report to the relevant GARC coordination instrument in Africa (PARACON) throughout its implementation.

In August 2016, a *National Rabies Elimination Coordination Committee* (NRECC) was set up and is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of the rabies elimination strategy.

In addition, a toll-free line for reporting dog bites has been commissioned and a total of 400,000 doses of

rabies vaccines was delivered from the OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank in October 2016 and October 2018.

So far (August 2018) a total of 151,000 dogs have been vaccinated in Siaya County since December 2016. Active rabies surveillance and dog ecology studies are being undertaken in Siaya, Kitui, Machakos, Nandi, Kisumu and Makueni counties ■

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL (1), PROVIDE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL STRATEGIES (IN NORTH AFRICA)



In the Mediterranean region, REMESA, the *Animal Health Network for the Mediterranean*, plays a pivotal role in the coordination activities with a focus on defining a regional approach for rabies control and eradication and the implementation of mass vaccination campaigns of stray dogs. The REMESA Network (for *Réseau Méditerranéen de Santé Animale*) is based on the Veterinary Services of each country, which have adhered to its objectives.

The SVSDC+R project supports a selected number of REMESA countries in North Africa, i.e.

Algeria,
Morocco and
Tunisia.

Through the OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank mechanism, a total of 500,000 doses of vaccines has so far been delivered to Tunisia in support of its vaccination campaign.

The Tunisian Veterinary Services also benefited of two training workshops (May and September 2017) dedicated to the management of stray dog populations (mainly focused on capture techniques). As a result, the first permanent Municipal Centre for sterilisation and vaccination of stray dogs was established in in Tunis

CREDITS PICTURES ■ L'addition, Matthew Muturi, Nicolas Denormandie, OIE Animal Welfare Platform for Europe, Patrick Bastiaensen, WiseGEEK, Zoonotic Disease Unit

AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL (2), SET UP AN OIE RABIES VACCINE BANK IN AFRICA



At the beginning of 2016, the OIE launched an international call for tender, in collaboration with the World Health Organization, for the selection of dog rabies vaccine manufacturers to continue the supply of OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank mechanism, which was initially established in 2012.

This process, moreover, enabled competition between vaccine manufacturers to be reopened.

Following the meetings of the OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank Tender Opening Committee and Selection Committee two rabies vaccine manufacturers were selected and are currently supplying the OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank mechanism.

Following formal request received by the OIE from

Kenya in 2016 and 2018,
Tunisia in 2017 and 2018,
Eritrea in 2018 and from
Benin in 2018,

more than one million doses of rabies vaccines were delivered through the OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank with funding from the SVSDC+R Project.

Using funding from other projects managed by the OIE or donors to the OIE, the OIE has also delivered rabies vaccines to other countries.

In Africa, the beneficiary countries so far include

Gambia,
Mali,
Namibia,
Senegal,
Tanzania, and
Togo through projects managed by the OIE;

Burkina Faso,
Ghana, and
Tanzania through (direct) purchases;

Chad and
Mali through purchases of the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute;

Central African Republic,
South Africa and
Tanzania through WHO support; and

Cote d'Ivoire through FAO support.

With SVSDC+R support, several communication tools were developed to promote the concept of the OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank in Africa and beyond :

OIE VACCINE BANK FOR RABIES
Vaccinating dogs today to save human lives tomorrow

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Rabies takes one life every 15 minutes, most often a child's.

The best way to eliminate the disease is to stop it at its animal source: dogs.

Over 95% of cases originate in bites from infected dogs.

By vaccinating 70% of dog populations in at-risk areas, we can decrease the number of human cases to nearly zero.

By providing high-quality vaccines, the OIE Vaccine Bank helps countries implement vaccination campaigns and contribute to the elimination of dog-mediated human rabies.

OIE WORLD ORGANIZATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH
Protecting animals, preserving our future

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