Legislation & CAHWS in Kenya

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Introduction

• This session is on "Country testimonies: Community-based animal health workers (CAHW)"
• Presentation
  – The issues surrounding CAHWs & Kenya’s legal stance towards them
• Topics
  – Formation of KVB, Veterinary Professionals in Kenya, Genesis of CAHWs in Kenya, Current Status regarding CAHWs, redefining CAHWs
Formation of the KVB

• Established according to the VSVP ACT 2011 of the Laws of Kenya
• Comprises of 18 members
  – 4 elected Veterinary Surgeons
  – 3 elected Veterinary Paraprofessionals
  – 11 appointed Subject matter specialists appointed by the CS in charge of Veterinary Affairs in Kenya
Veterinary Professionals in Kenya

• Veterinary Surgeons [5 year BVM Degree Program]
• BSc in AH [4 year Degree Program]
• Dip in AH [3 year Diploma Program]
• Cert in AH [2 year Certificate Program]
• Training is on a KVB prescribed Curriculum
• Each cadre’s functions are stated in Law
• Practice must be supervised by a Vet Surgeon
Genesis of CAWHs

• 70% of Kenya ASAL [“Livestock land”]
• ASAL: Poor infrastructure & insecurity
  – Poor access to Vet Services
  – Gap filled by owners, illegal Vet medicines dealers
• Problem compounded by SAPs & withdrawal of Govt involvement in the delivery of Vet Services
Genesis of CAWHs Cont’d

• SAPS
  – Privatization of services [freeze on employment of vet professionals]
  – Removal of subsidized inputs & services such as AI, Clinical services, Vector control, etc.

• Implications
  – VPH challenges -> unsafe products -> lock out from lucrative markets -> poverty in ASAL
  – Catch 22
    • Poverty-> passive to quality of inputs, mine the environment for survival-> threatens pastoralism
Genesis of CAWHs Cont’d

• Intervention
• NGOs took a lead to address the challenges
  – Introduced CAHWs
    • Definition -> Grass roots livestock owners prepared with basic training (capacity building) to serve others on matters AH
  – Challenge: training content not standardized, & hence suspected to produce incompetent CAHWs
  – Widespread misuse of veterinary medicines
Genesis of CAHWs Cont’d

• Outcome
  – Risk to veterinary public health
  – Lock out from global markets
  – Threat to livestock production
    • Poverty & consequential environmental destruction
    • Situation unacceptable to KVB & DVS

• Intervention
  – DVS, KVB, NGOs & UON developed a Standard Guideline for the training of CAHWs
Current Status

• OIE guideline (Article 3.1.2.1 - TAHC 2011)
  – -> the delivery of Vet services should be by Professionals: VSs and VPPs

• The VS & VPPs should be effectively regulated by Regulatory Bodies [e.g. KVB]

• Regulation:
  – Training, Professionalism [Ethical Practice, Conduct, Use of Inputs & Animal Welfare]
  – Kenya ratified WTO/OIE Resolutions & hence developed the VSVP Act 2011 to enable it to comply
Current Status cont’d

• New challenges emerged
  – The post-SAPs impacts still influential: Vet professionals are not routinely employed into public service
  – Marginalization of ASALs over the years: poor infrastructure & insecurity, and hence poor accessibility, e.g. by Vet professionals
  – The VSVP Act 2011 illegalizes the Training & Practice of the “traditional” CAHWs
Current status cont’d

• Intervention Opportunities
  – Devolution
  – Equalization [Marginalization Compensation] Fund
  – Upsurge in Animal Health Training Institutions [AHTIs]
  – A KVB which is growing in strength
  – Political support, as awareness grows
Current Status cont’d

• Devolution
  – Counties can prioritize their preferences
  • E.g. invest in rewarding emolument for Vet Professionals [NGO staff work in ANY terrain]
  – Equalization Funds can be used to fast track infrastructural development
  – The AHTIs producing more professionals [2 BVM, 2 BSc AH, several Dip & Cert in AH)
Redefining a CAHW

• On pg 9 of the Std guidelines for training of CAHWs is listed the criteria for selection of training candidates
  – On the foot note is written “Illiteracy should not disqualify candidates who are otherwise suitable to being trained”
• In the VSVP Act 2011 Rules on training of VPPs, the lowest cadre, which is Certificate holders, “shall have a minimum of C- at KCSE and a minimum of C- in Biology or Biological Sciences”
Redefining a CAHW Cont’d

• The rationale for a CAHW is a “Veterinary Service Provider who will live and work with specific communities all year round”
  – This is critical for the ASALs
• Legally, we can retain the rationale but reject the criterion for recruitment
• A CAHW should be “a Community Based Professional Animal Health Worker”
  – CBPAHW
Redefining a CAHW Cont’d

• A CBPAHW:
  – Should be a holder of a minimum of Certificate in Animal Health
  – Their deployment should comply with 2nd Schedule of the VSVP Act 2011, of the Laws of Kenya
Current Status Cont’d

• Benefits of a Strong KVB
  – Enhanced compliance with OIE guidelines
  – Acceptability of Kenyan products in Lucrative Global Markets
  – Improving ARS
  – Better profits for farmers -> re-invested in sector -> sustainability
  – Farmers pay professionals better
  – Enhanced VPH, Food Security, Animal welfare
Practices of a VPP

• VSVP Act Section 14 paragraph (2):
  – A person practices as a VPP if he performs any of the functions set out in the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Schedule in the manner specified therein:
  – Provided that the CS may, on the advice of the Board, from time to time and as the need arises, review the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Schedule
Practices of a VPP Cont’d

• Citation from the 2\textsuperscript{nd} Schedule
  – Notwithstanding the provisions of Parts A and B of this Schedule a VPP shall perform the services referred to in Part A only during the course of delegated responsibility —
  – (a) as an employee of the Government; or
  – (b) as an employee of a registered Veterinary Surgeon
Conclusion

- Veterinary services are a **science** whose aim is to **safeguard**
  - Human health
  - Animal welfare
  - Environmental health (welfare)
  - Food security [quantity & quality]
  - Wealth creation
- Vet Services should be delivered only by Veterinary Professionals
Thank you

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Kenya