

## The Roles of Public and Private Sectors in the Provision of Animal Health Services in the IGAD Region

### Introduction

The IGAD Region has a livestock population estimated at 532 million which contributes about 57% of the Agricultural Gross Domestic Product (AGDP). However, developing and protecting this huge resource from rampant animal diseases is an important public and private sector function. It requires member states to revise their animal health and welfare policies, legal frameworks, improved animal health service delivery, improved animal husbandry practices (such as supply of fodder / feeds) and instituting a sustainable mitigation measures against frequent drought. The drivers of these critical improvements include the private investors, public sector, non- governmental organizations (NGOs) as well as livestock farmers / keepers who should play their specific roles synergistically. ICPALD did review the Policy on the Roles of Private and Public Sector in Supply and Provision of Animal Health Services in IGAD Region and developed a Regional Framework. IGAD also facilitated a workshop for key stakeholders and partner organizations to validate the Regional Framework. The report has been used to extract key challenges and proposed policy recommendations for follow up and implementation by stakeholders



### Gaps and Challenges in Animal Health Service Delivery

- **Under-resourced public sector:** Resources allocated to public sector is hardly above 50% of requirements contributing to inadequate performance;
- **Weak private sector:** It is well regulated; low resource based; limited capacity in terms of professional skills, suboptimal working equipment and facilities; and relatively unfavourable policy environment.
- **Weak public-private partnerships:** policy guidelines and strategies to promote PPPs in the supply and provision of animal health services are inadequate.
- **Inadequate capacity at both technical and managerial level:** both the private and public sector players are characterized by deficiencies in technical and managerial skills and expertise in relevant fields;
- **Suboptimal quality of veterinary education** for specialized services in wild life and poultry health as well as lack of opportunities for continuing professional development in some IGAD MS;
- **Weak institutional linkages:** inadequate collaboration and linkages among the institutions and organizations limit information flow and resource sharing, synergy building, and mutual programming.
- **Legal and policy gaps:** effort has been made in improving animal health and welfare legal and

<sup>1</sup> FAO STAT 2013

policy framework in the last decade to enhance trade even though there is need for regular reviews to bridge the gaps that arise due to emerging challenges.

- **Inadequate information management** systems and poor preparedness to livestock related emergencies (early detection and early response).
- **Ineffective implementation of policies**, legislations and regulations, and low compliance by stakeholders as well as insufficient communication strategy and weak chain of command down the line of administrative hierarchies;
- **Poor Regional harmonisation** of animal health policies and sanitary standards;
- **Poor operationalization of 'one health'** concept and inadequate understanding of the contribution and impact of veterinary interventions both in livestock and public health;
- **Weak regulatory framework** for veterinary drugs, feeds and biologicals, food safety, animal welfare animal identification, registration, and traceability;

### **Roles of public and private sectors in animal service delivery**

Following the era of Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) of early 1980s, below are the different roles:

#### **Public Sector Roles**

- Policy, legal framework and support to private sector;
- Control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs), zoonotic diseases, and vectors and regulate trade;
- Livestock identification and traceability and extension services;
- Production, preservation and conservation of animal genetic materials;
- Training of animal health service providers and research;
- Response to livestock emergencies (droughts, diseases, floods etc) – in collaboration with

private sector and Non-Governmental Organizations.

#### **Private Sector**

- Supply of veterinary inputs [drugs, vaccines, semen, animal feeds and clinical services];
- Limited certification of live animals and quality control of products;
- Control of disease vectors and disease control in accordance with the legal provisions;
- Training institutions and extension services;
- Food hygiene and zoonotic disease control.

<sup>1</sup> FAO STAT 2013

<sup>2</sup> Ethiopia Animal Health Strategy, 2013

<sup>3</sup> Soumare *et al.*, 2006

<sup>4</sup> Sindato *et al.*, 2012: The epidemiology and socio-economic impact of rift valley fever epidemics in Tanzania: a review

<sup>5</sup> Notifiable Diseases means a disease listed by the Veterinary Authority, and that, as soon as detected or suspected, should be brought to the attention of this Authority, in accordance with national regulations (OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Volume I, <https://www.oie.int/doc/ged/D10905.PDF>).

<sup>6</sup> IGAD regional animal health strategy 2017-2022

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.oie.int/animal-health-in-the-world/disease-information-summaries/>



### **Non-Governmental Organizations**

- Facilitate disease control and animal health service delivery in accordance with Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with government and beneficiaries;
- Support to private sector and livestock emergencies;
- Capacity building for government and private sector personnel.

### **Livestock farmers/Producers**

- Disease control, surveillance and animal welfare;
- Veterinary extension service.

### **Proposed policy recommendations**

- Member states should strengthen and provide an enabling environment for the private sector to operate;
- Member states should promote public-private partnerships in supply and provision of animal health services;
- Member states should facilitate public sector, private sector and other players to provide efficient and effective quality service that promotes livestock trade nationally, regionally and globally;

- Member states should carry out capacity building for public and private sectors to enhance their roles and mandates;
- Member states should increase resource allocations for livestock (including welfare) sector;
- Member states should recognize and facilitate participation of livestock owners at all levels of service delivery including policy formulation, disease control and surveillance activities
- IGAD and Member states should promote collaboration and harmonious working relationship among all livestock value chain players, enabling them to supply and provide animal health services at national and regional levels;
- IGAD and member states should promote participation of both private and public sectors in regional activities such as regional disease control and surveillance programmes;
- IGAD and member states should develop a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the operationalization of regional policies and regulations.

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