



AFRICAN UNION  
INTER AFRICAN BUREAU FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES  
(AU/IBAR)

**SOMALI ECOSYSTEM RINDERPEST ERADICATION COORDINATION  
UNIT (SERECU) II PROJECT**

**SERECU II FINAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT  
PE 1 MAY 2008 – JUNE 2009  
PE 2 JULY 2009 – JUNE 2010**

FINANCIAL AGREEMENT No 9ACP RPR 137

September 2010

## 1. INTRODUCTION

SERECU arose from the Strategic Plan of the 10<sup>th</sup> PACE Advisory Committee Meeting in Bamako in March 2005. The project was conceived to ensure that the three SES countries attain international recognition of rinderpest freedom through an epidemiologically- driven strategy. The first phase of SERECU was funded within the PACE programme from January 2006 to February 2007. This first phase was to delineate endemic areas of rinderpest in the SES, followed by focussed vaccination to achieve immune-sterilisation of the targeted cattle population. In the absence of rinderpest endemicity, countries were to pursue accreditation following the OIE pathway. The 2006 survey results ruled out rinderpest endemicity in Ethiopia and Kenya, but were inconclusive in the case of Somalia. AU-IBAR and FAO-GREP supported a bridging phase between March 2007 and April 2008 during which follow-up investigations in sero-positive sites in Somalia were conducted and ruled out recent virus circulation and concluded that the previously observed sero-positivity could have been due to sampling of ineligible cattle (below 1 year and above 3 years). On this basis therefore, SERECU II Project Financing Agreement (FA) was prepared with the key mandate of verifying eradication and ensuring that each of the three SES countries was accredited freedom from rinderpest by the OIE. On February 29<sup>th</sup> 2008, the last signature of SERECU II FA was appended. This is the final implementation report of SERECU II Project. The two-year FA worth €4 million, financed under 9<sup>th</sup> ED was implemented through two programme estimates (PE), PE 1 and PE 2.

The overall objective of SERECU II was to contribute to the reduction of poverty of those involved in the livestock-farming sector and of the wider populations in the three countries by enhancing livestock development and trade opportunities resulting from the progress made in OIE accreditation of rinderpest freedom for the Somali Ecosystem (SES) countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia).

The project aim was to achieve internationally verified freedom from rinderpest for the three SES countries in line with GREP's deadline of 2010. The project had 3 expected results, namely:

1. National animal disease early warning and response capacities functional and coordinated at SES level
2. Rinderpest surveillance in SES coordinated and harmonized
3. SES countries' accreditation process guided and supported

PE 1 initially worth €2,133,000 was implemented between May 14<sup>th</sup> 2008 and June 30<sup>th</sup> 2009. Four (4) amendments were made to PE 1 as follows:

- Amendment 1 of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008 - to allow for the procurement of vehicles and laboratory and field sampling supplies through specific commitment. The amended programme estimate (Programme Estimate No. 1- Amendment 1) was worth €2,133,000, with an imprest component of €1,675,000

- Amendment 2 of 19<sup>th</sup> December 2008- to allow additional budgetary provision for the purchase of motor vehicles, and to provide support to DVS Kenya for random survey in the non-SERECU part of the country and short-term expertise (rinderpest documentation and risk-based surveillance). With this amendment, the amount of advance paid to the bank (€993,717) represented 60.95% of the budget without contingency and audits.
- In Amendment 3 of 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009, a 2 months no-cost extension of PE1 was sought as well as minor budgetary re-alignments. With this Amendment, PE1 ran from 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The no-cost extension was occasioned by the need to make up for the time lost during the protracted process of drawing contractual agreements with partners and countries
- Amendment 4: This amendment was undertaken to allow the de-commitment of €600,000.

In the course of preparing PE 2, an amendment to the FA was undertaken (**Amendment 1 to the FA**) to allow the use of contingency reserve and the reallocation of funds from result 2 of the FA to result 3 and item 4 (investments).

PE 2 worth €2,492,000 with an imprest component of €2,392,000 was implemented between 1st July 2009 and June 30th 2010, with a six month closure period lasting till 31st December 2010.

## 2. ORGANISATION AND GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

### 2.1 Organisation

As per the FA, the Director of AU-IBAR was responsible for the overall implementation of the programme. The day-to-day technical management was delegated to a Project Coordinator who also assumed the role of Imprest Administrator, while Finance and Administration Officer of IBAR was the accounting officer and was therefore responsible for matters concerning human resources management, financial disbursement and recording, protocol, procurement and logistics. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) provided the overall policy guidance and oversight of the implementation process. Five Steering Committee meetings were held.

The main implementers were the National Veterinary Services in the 3 SES countries. Liaison officers representing each of the three participating countries were responsible for assuring strong linkages with the Project Coordination Unit at AU-IBAR and coordinating their respective activities, including preparing of country-specific quarterly work-plans and budgets on the basis of mutually agreed upon activities. FAO and OIE provided technical inputs, adding on to the AU-IBAR/SERECU in-house expertise for underpinning the focus on the SES for coordinated and cross-institutional analysis and updating of the strategy for the final eradication of rinderpest.

The two organizations have international mandates in animal production, health and trade and in particular in the control of animal disease: in the specific case of rinderpest, FAO is responsible for GREP and OIE is responsible for the evaluation and accreditation of freedom from rinderpest

## 2.2 Project Staff

All staff positions as identified in the FA were filled through competitive recruitment in the course of PE 1 implementation except for the Project epidemiologist who only joined the project in August 2009 (in the course of PE 2). There was no staff turn-over. Other IBAR staff including the Finance and Administration officer, Senior Finance Officer, Financial Advisor, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Communication experts, and wildlife expert not paid from the project rendered their services to the project

## 2.3 Contracts / Memorandums of understanding (MOU)

Resource (finance and material) mobilization to implementing partners was effected through signed contractual agreements and/ or MOU. In both PE 1 and PE 2, contractual agreements were signed and effected with Ethiopia, Kenya and FAO-GREP, while OIE only signed under PE 1, opting for direct funding in PE 2 on a need basis due to time limitation. The MOU signed with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) during phase 1 of SERECU was renewed through exchange of letters. The MOU with Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), Muguga under SERECU phase 1 was not renewed, instead the operations were based on mutual trust, pending the drafting of a formal broader collaborative framework agreement between the two institutions. The delay in signing of MOUs impacted negatively on project implementation, especially in the case of FAO-GREP.

## 2.4. Procurement

### 2.4.1 Procurement services

The following services contracts were signed and effected under PE 1:

- i) Study to assess the suitability and need to carry out phase II of the PPR vaccine trial as heterologous and marker vaccine in cattle against RP. The contract was awarded to Dr. Emmanuel Couacy-Hymann for 9 days (28<sup>th</sup> September – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008)
- ii) Communication expert consultancy services. The contract was awarded to Training Education Communication (TEC) Associates Ltd- for 85 man-days with effect from 26th January 2009
- iii) Moderation work-planning workshop and preparation of draft PE 2 – contract awarded to Maina Kanyonyo for 5 days- in April 2009.
- iv) Consultancy services in risk-based surveillance- Dr. Angus Cameron of AustVet Animal Health Services subcontracted by FAO April 2009

- v) Evaluation of laboratories testing sera from Somalia- Dr. John Anderson sub-contracted by OIE 15- 30th June 2009
- vi) Development of a strategic plan for AU-IBAR- PICO Team contracted –April- August 2009

The following services were contracted under PE 2:

- i) Documentation of the history of rinderpest eradication – Drs. Walter Masiga and Mboya Burudi-
- ii) SERECU exit plan by Pan Livestock Services
- iii) Socio-economic benefits of rinderpest eradication in Ethiopia and Kenya by AGISEC Consultants
- iv) Communication and publicity assignment—, Training Education Communication (TEC) Associates Ltd -April 2010
- v) Regional rinderpest simulation exercise- 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2010: Drs. Julius Kajume
- vi) External evaluation of regional rinderpest simulation exercise- 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June 2010: Drs. Abraham Gopilo and Cathryn Wanjohi
- vii) Preparation of a project concept note for post rinderpest – by Alex Saerlaet
- viii) Construction of monument in Commemoration of rinderpest eradication June 2010- Gedab Inv. Ltd

#### 2.4.2 Procurement of goods

Below is a summary of goods centrally procured by AU-IBAR  
PE 1 goods

No.	Item description	Quantity	User
1	4-wheel drive vehicles	4	IBAR and 3 countries
2	1 salon car	1	IBAR
3	Laboratory Diagnostics reagents & plastics	Various	National laboratories
4	Field sampling consumables	Various	
5	Laboratory Diagnostics kits	Various	National laboratories
6	Wildlife capture drugs & darting equipment	Various	KWS mainly- some given to Ethiopia and Somalia
7	Computers	4	IBAR
8	Laptops	2	IBAR
9	Scanner	1	IBAR
10	Laser jet printer	1	IBAR
11	Deskjet printers	3	IBAR
12	UPS	4	IBAR

PE 2 items

No.	Item description	Quantity	User
1.	Diagnostic Kits for FMD Laboratory	7	FMD Laboratory Embakasi, Kenya
2.	Laboratory consumables & field sampling	Various	Sebeta laboratory and Epidemiology Unit, Ethiopia
3.	Items for Epidemiology Unit	Various	Epidemiology Unit, Kenya
4.	General Laboratory consumables 7 Reagents	Various	Muguga
5.	ELISA Kits	Various	Sebeta, Kabete and Muguga
6.	Differential Diagnosis (BVD & MCF)	Various	Muguga
7.	Supplies for SEBETA Laboratory – Ethiopia	Various	Sebeta
8.	Office supplies for SERECU Liaison office – Somalia	Various	Somalia
9.	Laptops	2	Ethiopia

## 2.5 Finance

See separate report

### 3. ACHIEVEMENTS TOWARDS RESULTS

The rinderpest status of the SES having been clarified during phase 1 and the bridging phase, SERECU II focussed on verifying eradication and ensuring that each of the three SES countries was accredited freedom from rinderpest by the OIE. Even though this report is cumulative of the SERECU II achievements, specific PE 1 achievements can be highlighted as follows:

- Ethiopia and Kenya were accredited freedom from rinderpest by the OIE in 2008 and 2009 respectively
- All the three countries embarked on building capacity for early warning and response for rinderpest and other priority TADs in order to safeguard and consolidate the gains made in eradicating rinderpest
- A communication strategy to assist to help achieve project results was developed for full implementation in PE 2

In ensuring the realisation of the project purpose, PE focussed on safeguarding rinderpest freedom for Ethiopia and Kenya; pursuing accreditation of rinderpest freedom for Somalia; developing a post rinderpest eradication strategy and advocacy and awareness creation. Below are the cumulative achievements presented per result area:

Result 1: National animal disease early warning and response capacities functional and coordinated at SES level

- Functional Rinderpest emergency preparedness and contingency plans (CP) are in place and harmonised at SES level
  - CPs for rinderpest established and functional in all the three SES countries
  - Validation of all CPs done by AU-IBAR
  - Country CPs harmonised at the SES level
  - Each of the three countries has established rapid response teams (Ethiopia – 15; Kenya – 6; and Somalia – 8)
  - Desktop simulation carried out in Ethiopia (60 people participated)
  - Regional simulation exercise (desktop, drills and field) carried out involving all SES countries followed by a review where the identified gaps were addressed and the CP updated accordingly
- Capacity building done in all the three countries on:
  - Material resources.
    - Ethiopia:
      - Provision of laboratory diagnostic equipment, kits and consumables, field sampling equipment and consumables, 1 vehicle and wildlife capture equipment
    - Kenya:
      - Provision of laboratory diagnostic equipment, kits, reagents and consumables, field sampling equipment and consumables, 1 vehicle to DVS and wildlife capture equipment and 1 deep freezer (-800c) to KWS
    - Somalia:
      - Provision of laboratory diagnostic equipment, kits, reagents and consumables (to Muguga on behalf) 1 vehicle, office furniture and wildlife capture equipment
  - Knowledge and skills development
    - Four joint trainings in wildlife capture and disease surveillance
      - Ethiopia – 5 trained
      - Somalia - 10 trained
      - Kenya – 3 trained
    - Risk-based surveillance
      - Ethiopia – 4 trained
      - Somalia – 3 trained
      - Kenya – 5 trained
    - Country-specific trainings
      - Ethiopia: GIS (57), syndromic surveillance (41), laboratory diagnostics (29), disease reporting, recognition and surveillance (117), communication skills (20) and EPP (71)

- Kenya: Laboratory diagnosis FMD and its differentials (7), GIS and data management (7), communication and extension skills (7), community mobilization and team building (34), EPP ( 34)
    - Somalia: Basic laboratory diagnostic skills (20), GIS (40), TADInfo (30), disease surveillance and recognition (20), PDS (40), EPP (30)
- SES disease intervention network was maintained and strengthened
  - Held ten cross-border technical coordination meetings for exchange information on trans-boundary disease interventions, harmonization and planning of activities and review of progress
- Stakeholders in the SES were sensitized on the benefits of RP eradication and control of other TADs
  - Knowledge Attitude Practice (KAP) study conducted in the three countries by AU-IBAR upon which a communication strategy for the SES on RP eradication was developed, outlining the approach, principles, goal, purpose, expected results and target audiences.
  - Communication materials developed: Brochures, RP leaflet, Stickers.
  - Publication and broadcasting of communication and sensitization materials done at country level
    - Kenya: Posters, Leaflets, vehicle stickers, radio drama.
    - Somalia: Posters, radio messages, TV program, booklets
    - Ethiopia: Booklets, brochure, T- shirts, bags, TV and radio programs
  - Sensitization Meetings of different stakeholders conducted in each country
    - Kenya: 20 meetings
    - Somalia: 4 meetings
    - Ethiopia: 10 meetings
- A consultancy study advised against the need to conduct studies to explore further possibilities for protection of rinderpest in cattle by heterologous PPR vaccine, instead recommended that PANVAC carries out viability/ potency testing of vaccines RP vaccines held in National laboratories in Ethiopia and Kenya. The vaccine stocks were found to be viable and are currently stored at the respective national labs as they await relocation to PANVAC
  - RP vaccine stocks held
    - Ethiopia: 3 million doses stored at National Veterinary Institute
    - Kenya: 0.6 million at Central Veterinary Laboratories, Kabete
    - Somalia: none

Result 2. Rinderpest surveillance in the SES coordinated and harmonized



- Surveillance plans for RP and other TADs were harmonized and endorsed by SES stakeholders, implemented and reviewed quarterly thereafter
  - Representative surveys for Rinderpest
    - Random surveys conducted in Kenya and Somalia in 2008/2009 in Kenya and Somalia collected 8,935 and 6,500 sera respectively proved the absence of rinderpest, a key milestone towards OIE accreditation of freedom.
  - The following non-representative surveys for rinderpest were carried out to verify eradication in areas that were thought to be at high risk
    - PDS: All the 3 SES countries carried out varying rounds of PDS (Ethiopia 2, Kenya 3, Somalia 4)
    - Serological surveys: Kenya and Somalia collected sera in combination with PDS above while Ethiopia conducted three stand-alone sero-surveys
    - Wildlife surveys:
      - Kenya: seven (7) missions covering the Tsavo, Garissa-Ijara, Meru, Wajir-Mandera-Moyale-Marsabit (657 serum samples collected)
      - Somalia: Three (3) missions – Lower Juba, Middle Juba and Gedo (97 serum samples collected). All wildlife sera tested negative.
      - Ethiopia used the wildlife surveillance data from Kenya, taking into account the nature of wildlife movement in the ecosystem.
  - Baseline surveys for other TADs as follows:
    - FMD: Conducted by all the 3 countries
      - Ethiopia (2007/08) - Prevalence of 21%.based on 11,000 sera collected in cattle. Prevalence was higher in pastoral areas than in highlands. Serotype O was most prevalent followed by A, SAT2, and SAT1. Types A and O were found all over the country, but more commonly in the highlands, while SAT 1 and SAT2 were exclusive to lowlands pastoral areas along the border with Kenya and Sudan. The key risk factors identified were livestock movement for trade, grazing and watering.
      - Kenya – Preliminary purposive sero survey in cattle conducted in 2009 in Lamu, Wajir, Garissa/Ijara found the following serotypes: A, O, C, SAT1, SAT2. SAT1 was the most prevalent.
      - 198 wildlife sera collected in 2010 from Tsavo, Meru, Garissa/Ijara resulted in an overall animal prevalence of 25.47% (Tsavo: 32%, Meru: 25.8% Garissa/Ijara: 18.6%: Species sampled: Buffalos, Warthogs, Giraffes and Kudus). Serotypes O, A, C, SAT1, SAT2. SAT1 was most prevalent and C least prevalent.

- This was followed by a nationwide baseline survey in 2010 in which 3,949 cattle and 192 pigs were sampled, laboratory testing still going on.
- Risk factors have been identified
- Somalia – 6,319 cattle sera collected in 2008 gave a national prevalence of 58.4%. Serotypes identified were: O, A, SAT1, SAT2, and C. Type O most prevalent and C the least prevalent.

Based on the results of the surveys above, Ethiopia and Kenya intend to revise their respective FMD control strategies while Somalia will develop its strategy after additional data is gathered from areas not already covered.

○ CBPP

- Ethiopia:  
Survey conducted in 2010. Analysis of samples is ongoing. 180 Samples collected. Prevalence ----  
Purpose of survey –the results will be used with further inputs to review control strategy.
- Kenya:  
Survey conducted in 2010. 2,949 samples collected. Prevalence ----  
Results will be used to review control strategy
- Somalia:  
Survey conducted in 2008. 6,319 samples collected countrywide gave a prevalence of 2.6%. The highest prevalence was along Juba valley. Based on the survey results, a progressive control strategy has been developed.

○ CCP

- Ethiopia:(2009)
- Kenya: (2009)
- Somalia  
Survey conducted in 2007. 10,105 samples collected countrywide-prevalence 1.3%.. The highest prevalence was in central region. A progressive control strategy has been developed.

○ PPR

- Ethiopia  
Survey conducted in 2009. 739 Samples collected, with and indicative prevalence 50%. The results will be used with further inputs to formulate a control strategy.
- Kenya  
Survey conducted in 2009. 4,357 samples collected, prevalence was 30%. The results will be used to formulate a control strategy.

- Somalia
 

Survey conducted in 2007. 10,145 samples collected gave a prevalence of 29%. The highest prevalence was in lower Shabella and Bakool regions. The results are being used to formulate a control strategy.
- RVF
  - Ethiopia
 

Survey conducted in 2009. 381 cattle, 180 sheep and goat sampled from high-risk Somali ecosystem areas. Prevalence 0.2%. Purpose of survey – to review the contingency plan already prepared.
  - Kenya
 

Survey conducted in 2010. 2,949 samples collected. Prevalence ---%. Purpose of survey – to review the contingency plan already prepared.
  - Somalia:
 

Survey conducted in Somaliland: Somaliland – Sheep 6.8%, goats 1.7% (2001)

Survey conducted in Puntland – Sheep 8.2%, goats 3.3% (2003)

Survey conducted in Central and Southern Somalia (2007) – samples collected 10,200 sera. Prevalence: Central Somalia – Sheep 15.3%, goats 5.7%; Southern Somalia – Sheep 26.6%, Goats 6.3%.

Purpose: to establish baseline data and formulate control strategy.
- Syndromic surveillance: only Ethiopia conducted for SE, Pneumonia, abortion, skin diseases and others. Results...???
- Emergency disease reporting system operational in all the SES countries.
  - Eighty two (82) SE cases in the entire SES reported and investigated.
    - Ethiopia: 10 cases reported and investigated-RP ruled out; FMD, PPR and Malignant Catarrhal Fever (MCF) were diagnosed in some cases
    - Kenya: 68, stomatitis enteritis cases investigated: confirmed 61 FMD, 7 ECF and 14 leptospirosis; Diarrhoea in wildlife reported in Wajir district- investigations carried out, 12 serum samples collected as follows: giraffes (6), warthogs (5), lesser kudu (1) - results awaited.
    - Somalia: 4 were reported and investigated in the whole SES - RP ruled out. Tick borne disease viral and parasite diarrhoea diagnosed
- Disease reporting to AU-IBAR and OIE done on monthly and six monthly basis respectively.

Result 3. SES countries' accreditation process guided and supported

- Two external verification missions were undertaken by OIE and Joint FAO-OIE. The former to corroborate laboratory testing for rinderpest at Kabete and Muguga and the latter mission participated in the 10<sup>th</sup> SERECU cross-border technical harmonization meeting.
- All the three SES countries were assisted in the collation of surveillance data and supported in preparation with subsequent submission of dossiers to the OIE as follows:
  - Ethiopia – January 2008
  - Kenya – January 2009
  - Somalia - May 2009

The countries were thereafter accredited freedom from RP by the OIE as follows:

  - Ethiopia – May 2008
  - Kenya - May 2009
  - Somalia - May 2010
- Together with FAO-GREP guided 6 other African countries (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Niger and Nigeria) in fulfilling surveillance requirements for OIE freedom accreditation; all these countries were accredited freedom in 2010. The project also assisted Gambia and Sierra Leone in drafting dossiers for accreditation of freedom from rinderpest and the two countries are will be accredited freedom in 2011
- National and IBAR staff were assisted and facilitated to represent the interests of SES stakeholders on diseases epidemiology, control and eradication through
  - Holding of ten SES cross-border harmonization meetings
  - Participation in OIE General Session (OIE 2008, IBAR- 1participant); OIE 2009 (IBAR -1 participant, Kenya- 4 participants) OIE 2010 (IBAR- 2 participants, Ethiopia- 3 participants, Somalia- 3 participants)
  - Participation in 2 FAO-GREP meetings (IBAR- 2 participants; Somalia-1 participant)
  - Participation in OIE Middle East meetings (Somalia- ??)
  - Participation of Somalia officials in 4 consultative meetings with IBAR
- Awareness created on the benefits of OIE accreditation of rinderpest freedom and stakeholder requirements for maintaining the freedom
  - Publication of information about SERECU project and its achievements on AU-IBAR website
  - Project brochures and posters
  - The history and achievements of RP eradication is posted on Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Ethiopia website

- Raised national and international awareness of the significance of the achievement of global eradication of rinderpest, prepared promotional material and held publicity events
  - Documented the history of rinderpest eradication from Africa and its impact through a study on the socio-economic benefits of rinderpest eradication, including lessons learnt.
  - Co-sponsored the 8<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Meeting to create awareness on the achievement of rinderpest freedom for Africa, including lessons learnt as an advocacy tool for further investment in the control and eradication of other TADs
  - Organized (ing) commemoration events
    - Ethiopia: July 2009, attended by high ranking government officials, foundation stone upon which a monument will be erected has been laid; memorial stamps printed and distributed around the world; documentary film on RP produced
    - Kenya commemorative monument erected at Meru National Park to be unveiled by high ranking government officials in November 2010. This will be preceded by a field day and scientific conference on RP eradication.
  - Produced promotional items (branded T-shirts, caps, mugs, pens)
  - In anticipation of global RP eradication announcement in May/June 2011, publicity tools (media briefing document, press releases and other articles (History of Rinderpest, Rinderpest Timeline, Heroes of Rinderpest Eradication, The Search for a Vaccine) have been prepared
  
- An exit strategy was developed which included virus sequestration, dealing with the hazard of rinderpest disease re-emerging from cryptic foci and the possibility of the emergence of another morbillivirus. SERECU provided advocacy related to destruction or sequestration in high biosecurity facilities of all the rinderpest virus strains held in African laboratories; the need to establish and mainstream syndromic surveillance within national surveillance systems for TADs, and; the desirability of AU-IBAR continuing to play its coordinating and advocacy role and to mobilise resources. The exit strategy is well aligned within the AU-IBAR Strategic Plan (2010-2014), the formulation process of which was also supported by this project. The exit plan has been shared with FAO and OIE through the GF-TADs Africa for cross-fertilization of ideas before publication.
  - Within this framework the three SES countries have developed their exit plan as detailed below:

### **Ethiopia**

- Contingency planning, early warning and rapid response for priority TADs
- Prevention and control of priority TADs

## **Kenya**

The exit plan for Kenya will focus on two main areas over the next three years.

- Contingency planning, early warning and rapid response for priority TADs
- Prevention and control of priority TADs

## **Somalia**

The EC has kindly accepted to fund a third phase of SAHSP project (October 2010 – 2012) that will continue with the activities started during the previous phases and consolidate the achievements gained with SAHSP II and SERECU.

The key result areas are:

- The capacity of Somali institutions in health assurance for trade in live animals and other livestock products along the value chain enhanced
- Status of endemic trade-limiting animal diseases determined and surveillance system sustained.
- Somali authorities ready and capable to effectively respond to outbreaks of trade-limiting animal diseases.

## 4. IMPACT

## 5. CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

The signing of MOUs took longer than expected, thus delaying implementation of some of the project activities. In the particular case of FAO where the signing of the contract protracted till the 10th month of PE 1 (February 2009), the impact was very significant because it resulted in failure to recruit an epidemiologist meaning that the project coordinator had to double up in duties for some activities, while other activities remained unaccomplished in PE 1. However, under PE 2, renewal of the contract was very timely and services progressed very well.

To mitigate delays in the signing of contracts with countries during PE 1 and OIE in PE 2, IBAR directly disbursed funds for the implementation of certain activities, for example random survey for Kenya.

Under PE 2, country-level implementation was slow during the first half, mainly due to government bureaucracy. The matter was brought to the attention of the Steering Committee and appropriate corrective and /or mitigation measures put in place.

## 6. LESSONS LEARNT

### 6.1 Lessons learnt in implementing SERECU

- i) The eco-system coordinated approach with regular cross border meetings to exchange information on trans-boundary disease interventions, harmonize and plan activities was a key factor in the eradication of RP from the SES and could be applied in future control and eradication of other TADs.
- ii) The centralized way of administering some activities such as procurement and training proved to be less cumbersome and time saving
- iii) Adaptability of the project allowed countries to collect baseline data for other TADs thereby optimizing on the project resources.
- iv) Simulation exercises were crucial in identifying the gaps in the contingency plans, for example, it was quite evident that countries had not internalized and owned the CPs and the matter of compensation and stamping out remain theoretical/ academic to the concerned countries; thus more needs to be done.
- v) Innovative ways of channeling funds to beneficiaries circumvented government bureaucracy in the expenditure process e.g Kenya
- vi) In spite of promises made by national governments to sustainably fund epidemio-surveillance activities after PACE, this has not fully materialized in Ethiopia and Kenya
- vii) Oversight support given by the Steering Committee played an important role in the implementation process.

## 6.2 Lessons learnt in the overall eradication of rinderpest in Africa

- i) Disease eradication programmes require sustained political goodwill to support technical interventions in an environment of peace and security
- ii) Sustained funding by donors, notably the EU was vital in the success of the eradication process
- iii) Focussed strategic vaccination (immuno-sterilization) based on rigorous epidemiological surveillance, not only reduces wastage of scarce public funds but also speeds up the process of disease eradication
- iv) The availability of effective and safe vaccines and reliable diagnostic and surveillance tools were critical in the eradication of RP
- v) Mild strains of rinderpest had to be dealt with to ensure total elimination of the disease
- vi) Innovative approaches (including the use of CAWHs and participatory epidemiology techniques) to animal health services delivery facilitated access and elimination of the disease from remote areas affected by political instability, civil strife and insecurity
- vii) The rinderpest eradication process played a very important role in building the capacity of national veterinary services in Africa, particularly in epidemiology and laboratory diagnosis, including the creation of epidemiological and laboratory networks that enabled countries
  - a. To collate and analyze disease information and formulate dossiers for the accreditation of freedom

- b. Deal with the threat of HPAI and other disease threats
- c. Design sound disease control strategies
- viii) The involvement of international partners with normative functions (FAO and OIE) added to the AU-IBAR in-house expertise for underpinning the focus on Africa, in particular, the SES for coordinated cross-institutional analysis and updating of the strategy for the final eradication of rinderpest.
- ix) Enabling research was critical the eradication process, for example, the epidemiological understanding that wildlife is not a reservoir for rinderpest virus and that it could serve as sentinel.
- x) The ecosystem approach with enhanced coordination and harmonization between veterinary services of neighboring services proved critical for the final eradication of rinderpest
- xi) High staff turnover especially at national level due to low remuneration and lack of incentives negatively impacted on the eradication process.
- xii) The formulation of a post-eradication plan that entails among others, continued vigilance, virus sequestration and storage of selected viruses (vaccine seed, antigens and infective material) at selected high bio-safety level facilities (minimum, BSL 3) is essential in maintaining a rinderpest risk free world
- xiii) Sustained funding for effective disease reporting/ early warning system incorporating all stakeholders is necessary to ensure early detection and rapid stamping out of any future incursion of rinderpest

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

Building on the achievements of previous projects, SERECU has achieved its purpose of OIE accreditation of freedom from RP for each of the 3 SES countries (Ethiopia, 2008, Kenya 2009 and Somalia 2010). In addition, the project guided other 11 African countries outside the SES – leading to OIE accreditation of RP freedom (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Nigeria, Niger) : last 5 (Gambia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cape Verde, and Sao Tome & Principe) will be accredited in May 2011

A post rinderpest eradication strategy and contingency plans are in place to safeguard the gains made

The eradication of RP is a great achievement to the veterinary fraternity world over- and the benefits accruing are many and diverse.

The lessons learnt from this eradication process will be used in controlling other diseases and also serve as an advocacy tool for further investment in the control and eradication of other TADs.



## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- I. Recognizing the existence of gaps in policy and legal frameworks within and between countries, there is need for review and harmonization of the frameworks at national and regional levels respectively.
- II. In order to consolidate and sustain the gains made in eradicating rinderpest and control of other TADs, there is need for donor funded follow-up regional projects and governments' commitment to fund national epidemiological services
- III. AU-IBAR in collaboration with its international partners should develop a syndromic framework to assist African countries improve and sustain animal disease surveillance.
- IV. It is highly desirable that AU-IBAR continues playing its coordinating and advocacy role and resources mobilisation.
- V. AU-IBAR should continue supporting the re-vitalisation of veterinary services in Somalia
- VI. In the immediate future, all effort should be made to ensure awareness of a rinderpest free world and the need to maintain vigilance
- VII.