What does SMP-AH Project do?
The regional livestock trade is constrained by widespread occurrence of transboundary animal diseases. The diseases also kill large number of animals, have a negative impact on public health and also reduce productivity though sickness of animals with negative impacts on the economy and livelihoods of the pastoralists. A large part of the problem hindering proper management of livestock diseases is the weak capacity of the veterinary services to manage the disease nationally and regionally.

Therefore, the SMP-AH project seeks to build capacities of the veterinary services at national and regional levels for coordinated and harmonized approaches for disease surveillance, prevention and control for the countries in the Greater horn of Africa (GHoA).

The harmonizing and coordination mechanism is the Standard Methods and Procedures (SMPs)

This is aimed at creating uniform conditions that will promote trade in livestock and livestock products across borders and contribute to food and nutritional security and increased resilience of the pastoralists.

What are the expected results of the SMP-AH?
1. A new framework for surveillance and control of trade significant TADs to which seven countries will subscribe to harmonize regional animal health procedures;
2. Standardized laboratory testing procedures to harmonize disease testing for the region such that test results will be recognized as valid by all participating countries;
3. Improved regional quarantine station standards effected to enhance disease control and improve the animal health and welfare of exported animals;
4. Enhanced technical capacities of Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock to carry out the above activities including, establishment of a coordination body of the regional economic communities on trade in live animals and animal products to bring together both private and public actors to address livestock trade issues within the region.
5. Has supported the North Eastern Africa Livestock Council (NEALCO).
6. Supported experience sharing for NEALCO and Chief Veterinary Officers and other Veterinary officials in Ethiopia and US respectively
7. Supported vaccination of over 100,000 animals

Training of staff at Djibouti Quarantine Station

Who are the SMP-AH Beneficiaries?
Nine countries in the Greater Horn of Africa (GHoA) - Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Livestock vaccination in Kajiado County, Kenya

What challenges does SMP-AH face?
Direct financing of the country activities is logistically a challenge in terms of time spent and human resource required to travel from AU-IBAR to the countries. This has led to the slow pace of implementation of activities in some countries.

Additionally, initial project expenditure projections did not realistically match the timelines for implementation of activities and this led to pipeline issues. However expenditure projections have now been aligned to expected implementation timelines.

Who implements SMP-AH?
• African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
• IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD)
• Participating countries

What is the impact of SMP-AH?
Large numbers of livestock are exported from the Greater Horn of Africa (about 8 million per year). The USG support through the SMP-AH together with other partners has enhanced the trade through mitigation of sanitary barriers to trade.

Livestock keepers stand to profit more from their livestock through increased productivity, reduced losses from unnecessary mortalities and reduced cost of treatment for their sick animals, attributable to SMP-AH control and prevention of diseases.

Exporting livestock from Berbera, Somalia

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