

FACTSHEET

Swiss Cooperation Office South Caucasus

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

November 2016

TECHNICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TO VETERINARY SERVICES IN ARMENIA



FACTS

Country: Armenia, Syunik region

Duration: January 2013 - November 2016

Budget: CHF 1'417'520

Project partners:

- Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of RA
- Ministry of Agriculture of RA
- Syunik regional authorities

Implementing partners:

- Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO)
- Strategic Development Agency (SDA) NGO

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the project is strengthening of veterinary services in the Syunik region contributing to the improvement of the food safety system and sustainable agricultural development in Armenia.

BACKGROUND

Nearly 35% of agricultural output in Armenia is generated from the livestock sector which is dominated by cattle and small ruminants and is based on traditional husbandry systems: few animals per herd and close association of different animal species. This makes it extremely difficult to control animal diseases. Good animal diseases management is important for food safety; many diseases can easily spread and reach epizootic proportions, and their control/management requires cooperation between several countries.



Re-emerging diseases such as Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Anthrax, and Rabies, as well as trans-boundary animal diseases like African Swine Fever or Foot and Mouth Disease create serious problems for Armenia's economy.

Many epizootic diseases can put at risk the development of the sector and threaten the animal and meat exports. Brucellosis alone is estimated to generate significant costs to the Armenian economy. Direct losses amount to about USD 10 million per year, associated with casualties or the culling of infected animals. Indirect losses are at least USD 20 million per year, including other economic losses such as e.g. reduced productivity and missed trade opportunities. From a public health perspective, Brucellosis and Tuberculosis lead the list of animal diseases also affecting human health.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The implementation of the project intervention is divided into two parts between two implementing agencies, SDA NGO and FAO.

SDA NGO is responsible for the involvement of municipalities in strengthening veterinary services, awareness building of the target communities, as well as support during the pilot vaccination campaign. SDA has a permanent presence in the region and is already engaged in supporting the veterinary system. FAO is engaged in the policy and scientific issues requiring expertise, knowledge and experience in disease prevention, epidemiology, higher level training, laboratory testing, support to the government in the elaboration of the long-term Brucellosis control strategy

etc. Once the effectiveness of the vaccination approach is proven by the project, the government will consider an up-scaling of the project to the national level and defining a corresponding strategy.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- The impact of the project at the social level is an increased income (from livestock), and improved public health of the rural population through eradication of Brucellosis (infected humans). The project covers all 100 villages in the Syunik region with a total population of 49'400 persons and with 48'000 cattle (of which 24'000 cows) and 75'000 small ruminants.
- Brucellosis control strategy to be adopted by the Government of Armenia on the national level.

Contacts

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