



Health of Ethiopian Animals for Rural Development (HEARD)

EUI 11th EDF – NIP ETH - FED/2015/038-008 (EUR15 million)

Operational implementation period 2019–2022

HEARD is a new EU program that aims to enhance the quality and quantity of integrated veterinary services delivery and strengthen animal health. Through its activities, HEARD directly contributes to the implementation of the Government Livestock Master Plan (LMP) and the livestock development targets in the Government Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II, 2016–2020).

The HEARD program specifically targets to increase sustainable livestock productivity and improve marketing of livestock products by enhancing quality and reliability of integrated public and private veterinary service delivery. Performance of veterinary services will be strengthened to improve data gathering, analysis and strategic animal health interventions by both public and private sectors. Capacity development for different stakeholders involved in animal health service delivery is at the heart of the program.

Rationale

Ethiopia has the largest livestock population in Africa with 59.5 million cattle, 29.5 million sheep, 30.2 million goats, 8 million equines, 1.2 million camels and 49 million poultry. As such, livestock are extremely important for the country's economic development, food and nutrition security, and poverty reduction.

Technical, institutional, infrastructural, environmental and policy challenges in the veterinary sector are key constraints for livestock development. Veterinary services require enormous improvement in terms of regulatory, technical and institutional capacity support at different levels in order to enhance production, productivity and quality of livestock derived products, as well as reduce losses attributed to diseases. The national animal health strategy aims to provide animal health, public health and food safety alongside welfare services which comply with international standards and contribute to the achievement of food security, poverty alleviation and socioeconomic growth.

The HEARD program builds on the experiences and lessons gained from the implementation of the completed 10th EDF LVC-PPD project (2010–2015, EUR10 million); the ongoing EC SHARE-funded FAO project (FED/2014/316-779 Pursuing Pastoralist Resilience (PPR) project (2014–2019, EUR9.2 million); and a wider consultation of all concerned stakeholders in the livestock sector.

The HEARD program is organized into three result components:

Result 1: the quality of public and private veterinary services is strengthened and delivery optimised through the creation of an enabling and rationalising environment). This component of the program is implemented through three grants in Somali, Amhara and Oromia regional states led by regional livestock bureaus/agencies with the support of the Ministry for Agriculture and Livestock Resources (MoALR).

Result 2: technical competencies (knowledge, skills and attitude) and incentives for veterinary service providers is improved to enable them to deliver better and rationalised services. This component is jointly implemented by the International Livestock Research Institute and the Ethiopian Veterinary Association and provides guidance on setting up public-private partnerships and capacity development for veterinary professionals at different levels.

Result 3: Food safety of primary animal origin products is improved and better control of zoonotic diseases achieved. This component is led by MoALR and focuses on meat inspection and improved food safety along livestock value chains.

HEARD will add value to the livestock sector development with the planned activities under the three result components. Efforts to improve performance of veterinary services build on the evaluation and gap assessment done through World Organisation for Animal Health's (OIE) tool for the evaluation of performance of veterinary services (OIE PVS). It also focuses on implementing and strengthening the livestock identification and traceability system (LITS); developing meat inspection trainings; establishing a veterinary statutory body; establishing a continued professional development program for veterinary professionals; developing, piloting and testing novel models of public-private partnerships to roll out the Veterinary Services Rationalisation Road Map; and implementing animal welfare standards.

Strengthening of LITS will add value on the export of livestock and livestock products. This will be done by upscaling the database of the system and by encouraging traders to implement it. On the other hand, designing curriculum for meat inspection courses and provision of training in higher education will help to produce certified and competent meat inspectors. Furthermore, supporting the certification of export abattoirs through the development of meat inspection courses and provision

of training provides safe and quality livestock and livestock products for local and export markets. This will in turn ensure acceptance and trust among local consumers and countries importing livestock products from Ethiopia.

The establishment of a veterinary statutory body coupled with a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program for veterinary professionals and updating veterinary curricula, will enable development of a corps of competent professionals for the delivery of private and public animal health services. HEARD supports targeted capacity development in business skills and developing guidance on public-private partnerships for animal health service delivery.

HEARD implementing partners and stakeholders:

The overall implementation of the HEARD program is coordinated by the Livestock State Ministry of MoALR. Implementing partners are:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resources—MoALR (Result 1 and 3)
- The International Livestock Research Institute and the Ethiopian Veterinary Association (Result 2)
- Oromia National Regional State Bureau of Livestock and Fisheries Development (Result 1)
- Amhara National Regional State Livestock Resource Development and Promotion Agency (Result 1)
- The Somali National Regional state and Somali Livestock and Pastoralists Development Bureau (Result 1)

Strategic partners are:

- The Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA)
- National universities, Ministry of Trade (MoT), veterinary and para-veterinary associations, community-based animal health workers (CAHWs) and the private sector (livestock and livestock product producers, processors and exporter associations)
- The World Animal Health Organization (OIE)
- Other actors in the livestock sector: National civil society organisations, NGOs and development partners such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Bank, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), including members of the Rural Economic Development and Food Security Sector Working Group (RED and FS)

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