

The Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries (SVSDC) Project





The **Strengthening Veterinary Services in Developing Countries (SVSDC) Project** is a 3-year project funded by the European Union, through the European Parliament and the European Commission, aimed at building better African Veterinary Services that deliver effective governance, health safety, food security and food safety for their citizens. It specifically addresses the compliance of African Veterinary Services with the standards on the quality of Veterinary Services of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

These international standards and guidelines constitute the basis for independent external country evaluations of the quality of Veterinary Services and Animal Health Systems and have been democratically adopted by all OIE Members. A specific methodology has been developed and published as the “OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services” (the OIE PVS Tool) and is key to this Project as it enables national Veterinary Services to establish their current level of performance, identify gaps and weaknesses in their compliance with the international standards of the OIE, and establish priorities.

The Project is formed of two components. The first component focuses on strengthening national Veterinary Services in Africa, and the second component is centred on rabies control and elimination in Kenya and northern Africa.



1. PERFORMANCE OF VETERINARY SERVICES (PVS)

The project intends to support the follow-up and the implementation of the recommendations of the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) assessments, including by supporting the development of the required regulatory frameworks, through regional capacity-building and in-country support and by assisting Regional Economic Communities in devising effective and sustainable investment plans and programmes at regional or sub-regional level, based on PVS-based country assessments. To date, such PVS country Evaluation missions, and subsequent Gap-Analysis missions and Evaluation Follow-up missions have been conducted in 51 African countries (2016).

The PVS Pathway is a review and analysis into the way in which a country can enhance its policies and strategies towards fostering effective and sustainable veterinary governance.

In Africa, 51 countries, and more specifically, Veterinary Services, are actively engaged in this process, and are tasked to identify their main problems or needs, and defining strategies and activities to improve their functioning and compliance with the international standards of the OIE.

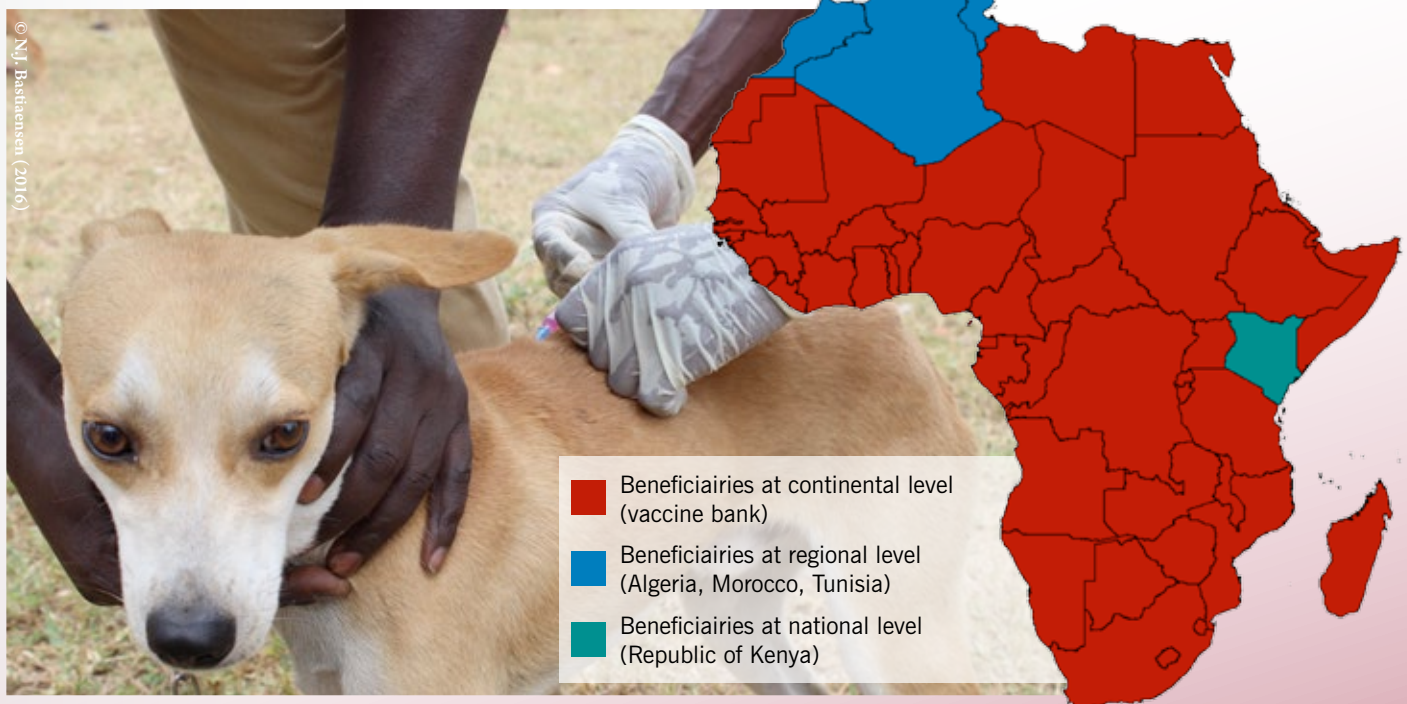
The PVS mission reports document the findings of such missions, and provide the governments with detailed action plans and the mapping of investments.



2. RABIES

Rabies is one of the most deadly diseases that can be transmitted from an animal to a man, woman or child: a zoonosis. Each year, it kills as many as 70,000 people worldwide, mostly children in developing countries. Over 95% of human cases of rabies are due to dog bites and unlike many other diseases, all the tools needed to eliminate this disease are already available. In close cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the OIE has embarked on an ambitious programme to eliminate rabies once and for all, in order to avoid further human deaths from this disease, by supporting the widespread vaccination of dogs. www.oie.int/rabies

The SVSDC Project supports these efforts in Africa at three levels: a national pilot programme to support the elimination of rabies in selected counties in Kenya, a regional programme to support the coordination and harmonisation of rabies control efforts in selected countries in northern Africa and the establishment of a continental OIE Rabies Vaccine Bank for Africa, able to supply quality vaccines for the vaccination of dogs upon receipt of a formal request from an OIE Member Country.



To find out more about the OIE Vaccine Bank: www.rr-africa.oie.int/rabies.htm



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WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

The *World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)* is an intergovernmental organisation with a mandate from its 180 Members to improve animal health and welfare worldwide. According to the World Trade Organization, the OIE is the reference standard-setting international organisation. It is responsible for ensuring transparency of the animal disease situation worldwide, including diseases transmissible to humans, for the publication of disease prevention and control methods as well as for safeguarding the sanitary safety of world trade in animals and animal products, and ensuring food safety from their production phase. The OIE works with the permanent support of more than 300 Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres and 12 regional offices worldwide.

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