



A Review of Legislation on Regulation of the Veterinary Professions in Africa – Eastern Africa Results

Ms. Kelsey Galantich

Lawyer/JD

Veterinary Legislation Support Programme

WOAH subregional webinar on legislation
regulating the veterinary profession in East Africa

January 24, 2023

OBJECTIVES:

Determine the legal basis for the regulation of the veterinary professions in Africa

Identify key gaps in legislation relating to VPPs and CAHWs

Inform national and regional policymakers and legislators of strengths and weaknesses in regulating the veterinary workforce

Support the ongoing PCTAD, AFD P3V and DTRA projects on veterinary workforce development to enhance recognition and regulation of VPPs.

Offer suggestions for reform, modernization, and harmonization of legislation

- Review WOAHPVS Pathway reports for discussion of the regulation of the veterinary profession
- Conduct online research of legislation for each country
- Validate each country's legislation through email survey of WOAHP delegates.
- Review each country's legislation according to a list of essential elements for the regulation of the veterinary profession
 - ***Essential elements were generated from the relevant provisions of the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code in collaboration with and according to the priority topics of the WOAHP workforce development programme.***
- Collect country results in excel document to tabulate the findings
- Generate final report of the overall compliance of the region with essential elements
 - ***Individual country assessments remain available to each country for review.***





Essential elements for the proper regulation of the veterinary professions typically found in legislation regulating the veterinary workforce

4

- (1) a definitions section,
- (2) definition of veterinarian,
- (3) definition of veterinary practice, and
- (4) definition of veterinary paraprofessional (VPP);
- (5) authority to create regulations and secondary legislation to implement the primary legislation
- (6) recognition of VPPs in the legislation.
- (7) the prerogatives of veterinarians;
- (8) the prerogatives of VPPs;
- (9) minimum initial educational requirements and competencies for veterinarians;
- (10) minimum initial educational requirements and competencies for VPPs;



Essential elements for the proper regulation of the veterinary professions typically found in legislation regulating the veterinary workforce

5

- (11) continuing educational requirements;
- (12) conditions for recognition of the qualifications for veterinarians; and
- (13) conditions for recognition of the qualifications for VPPs.
- (14) the creation of a VSB;
- (15) authority of the VSB to regulate both veterinarians and VPPs;
- (16) authority of the VSB to register veterinarians and VPPs; and
- (17) power to take disciplinary action
- (18) defining the functions of the VSB;
- (19) establishing a code of conduct,
- (20) requiring the supervision of VPPs by veterinarians; and
- (21) setting conditions for licensing/registration of veterinarians and VPPs



Sample of essential elements likely found in legislation other than veterinary workforce legislation

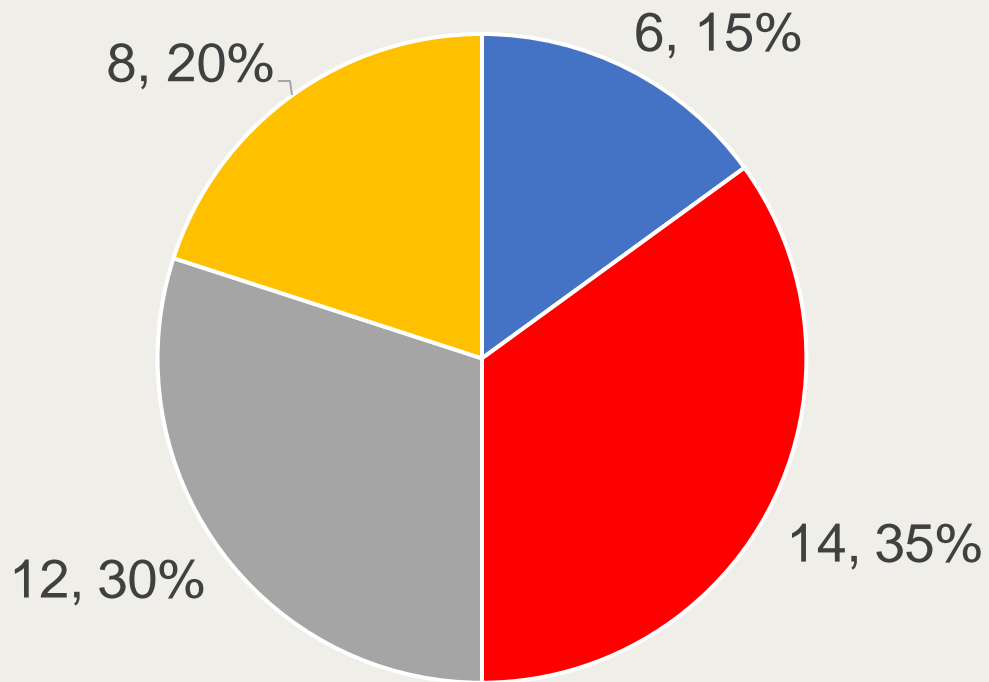
- Prescription of veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) by veterinarians,
- Requirements for the prescription of VMPs by VPPs,
- VSB to play a role in education (i.e., accreditation/approval of veterinary education establishments and/or qualifications).

- **119 pieces of legislation** collected and reviewed:
 - 52 pieces of primary legislation & 67 pieces of secondary legislation
 - **10 primary and 6 secondary in Eastern Africa**
- 50 (93%) of 54 Members in the WOAHA Africa region responded to the email survey (**9 (82%)* in Eastern Africa**)
- 40 (80%) of 50 responding countries that responded have primary legislation for the regulation of the veterinary profession (**7/8 countries in Eastern Africa**)
 - 32 countries (80% of those with legislation) have a specific veterinary practice act. (**5 responding countries in Eastern Africa**)
 - 8 countries (20% of those with legislation) regulate the veterinary profession under a broader act (**2 responding countries in Eastern Africa**).
 - 18 (45% of those with legislation) have secondary legislation to support the implementation of the primary legislation on the regulation of the profession (**2 countries in Eastern Africa**)
- 24 out of the 50 countries that responded (58%) had at least one relevant draft law in progress at the time of review, **7 of which are in Eastern Africa.**

*** NOTE that for the purposes of this review and to not double count any countries, the Southeast African countries of Comoros, Seychelles, and Tanzania were included in the Eastern Africa Region only.**

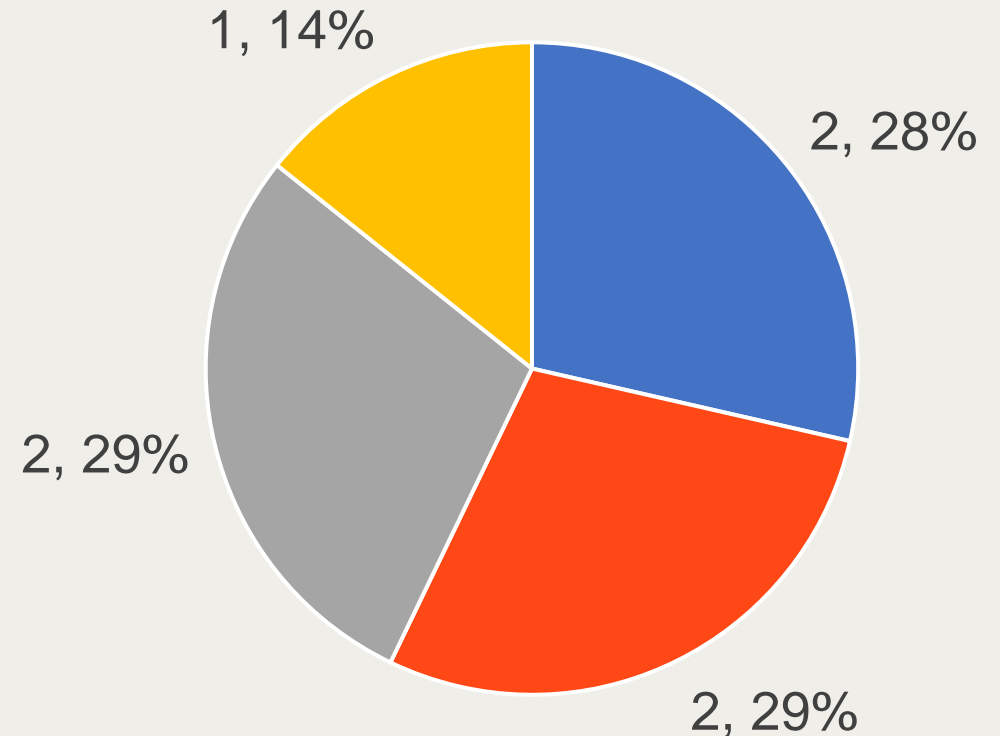
Essential elements likely found in veterinary practice acts

% of countries with essential elements typically found in legislation regulating the veterinary profession out of the 40 responding countries with legislation



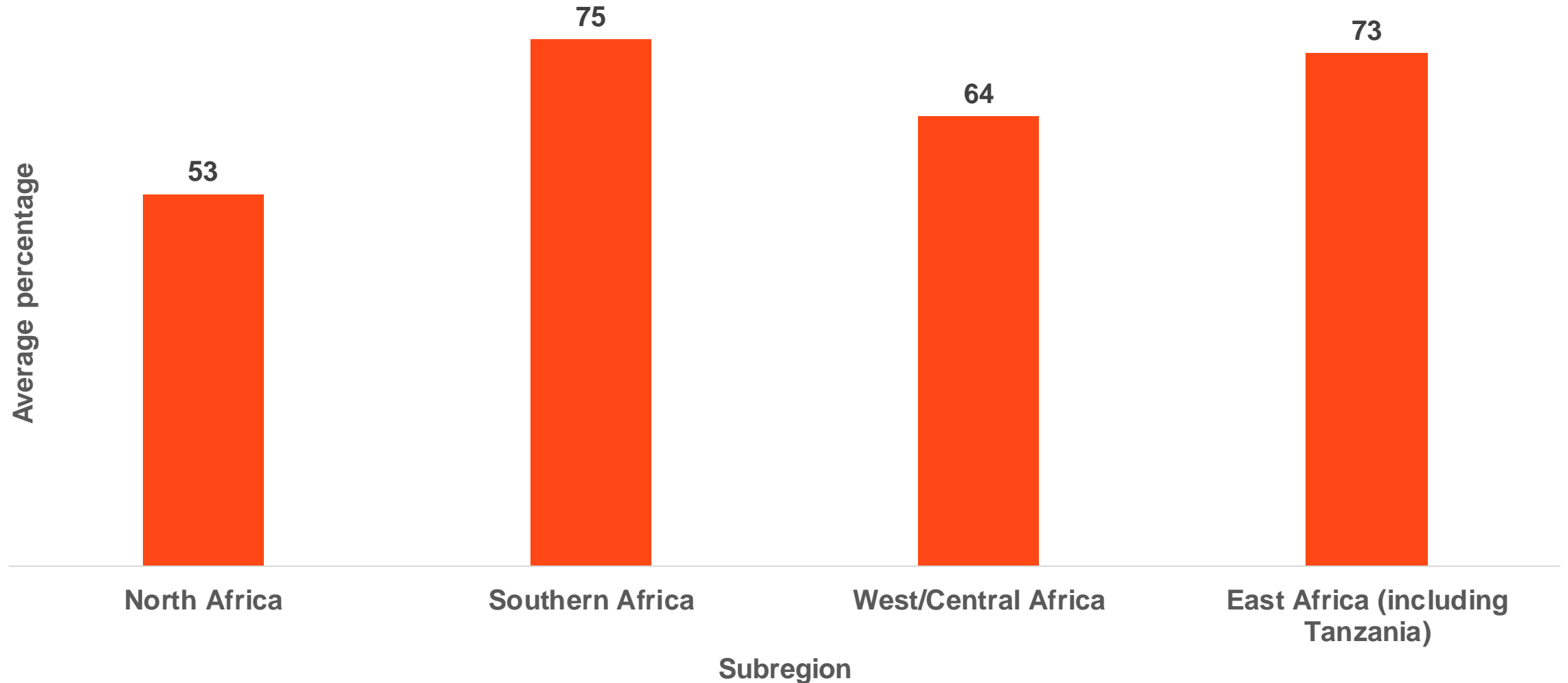
- Countries with 20-21 essential elements
- Countries with 15-19 essential elements
- Countries with 11-14 essential elements
- Countries with 10 or less essential elements

% of countries with essential elements typically found in legislation regulating the veterinary profession out of the 7 East Africa countries with legislation



- Countries with 20-21 essential elements
- Countries with 15-19 essential elements
- Countries with 11-14 essential elements
- Countries with 10 or less essential elements

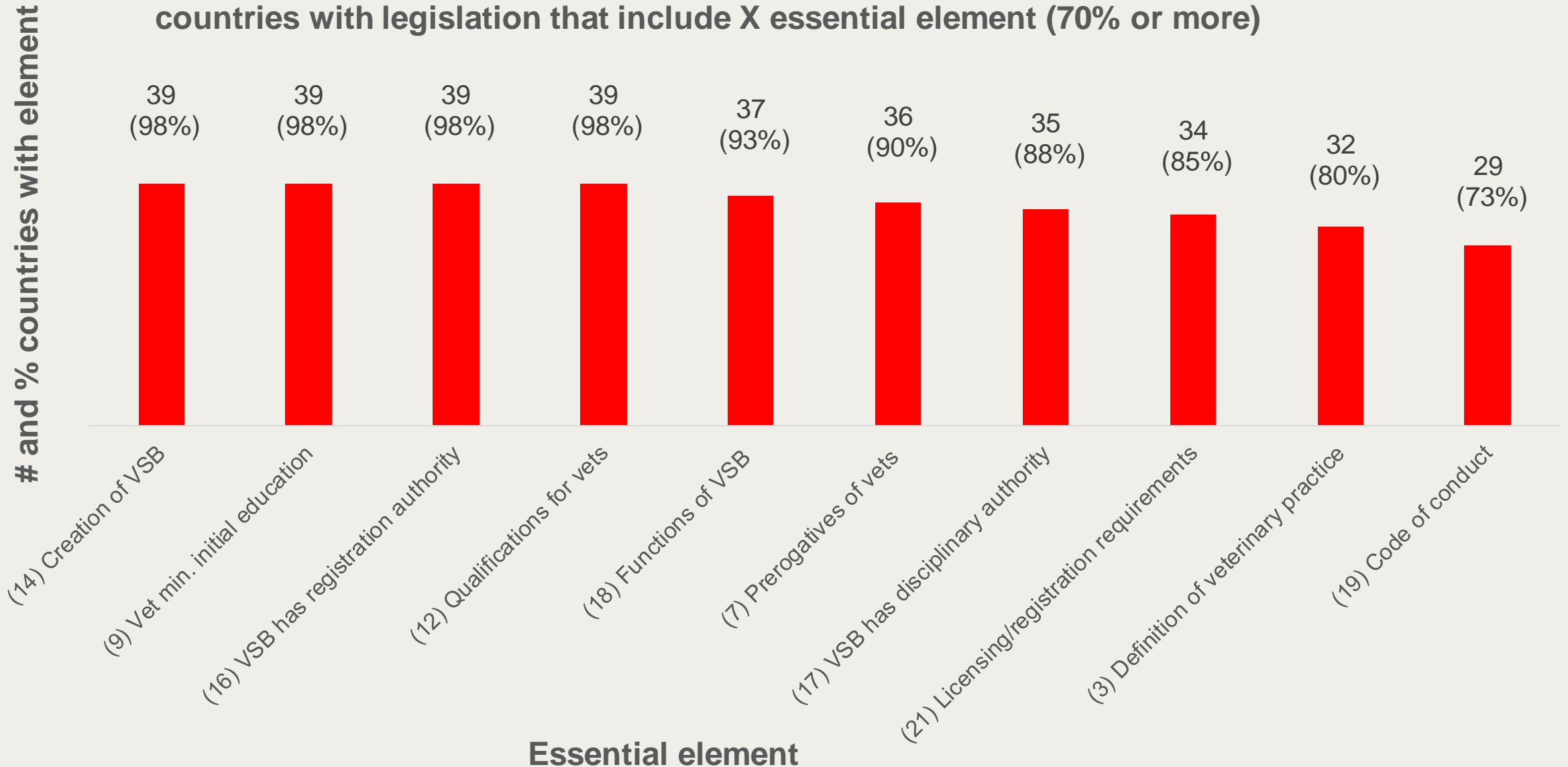
Average % per region of inclusion of essential elements typically found in legislation for the veterinary profession



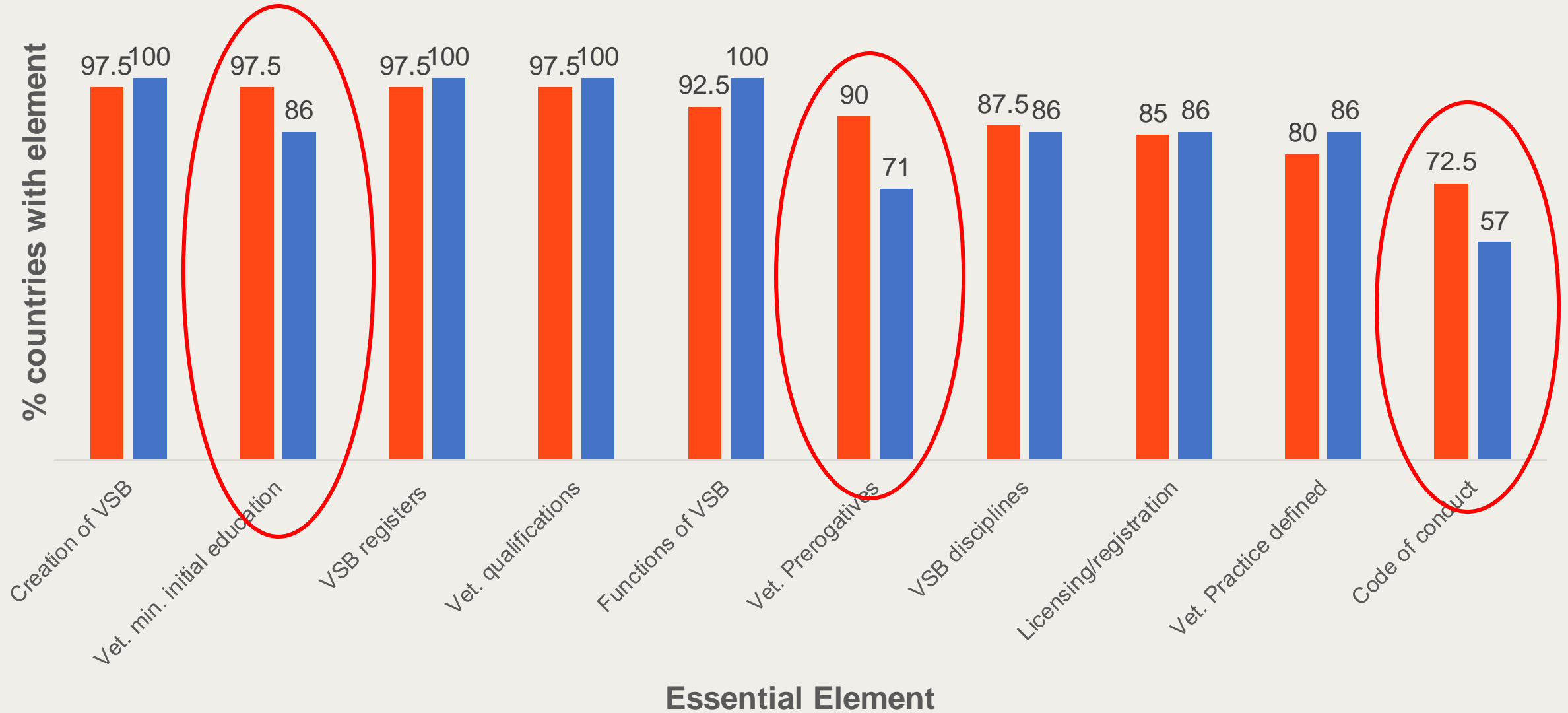


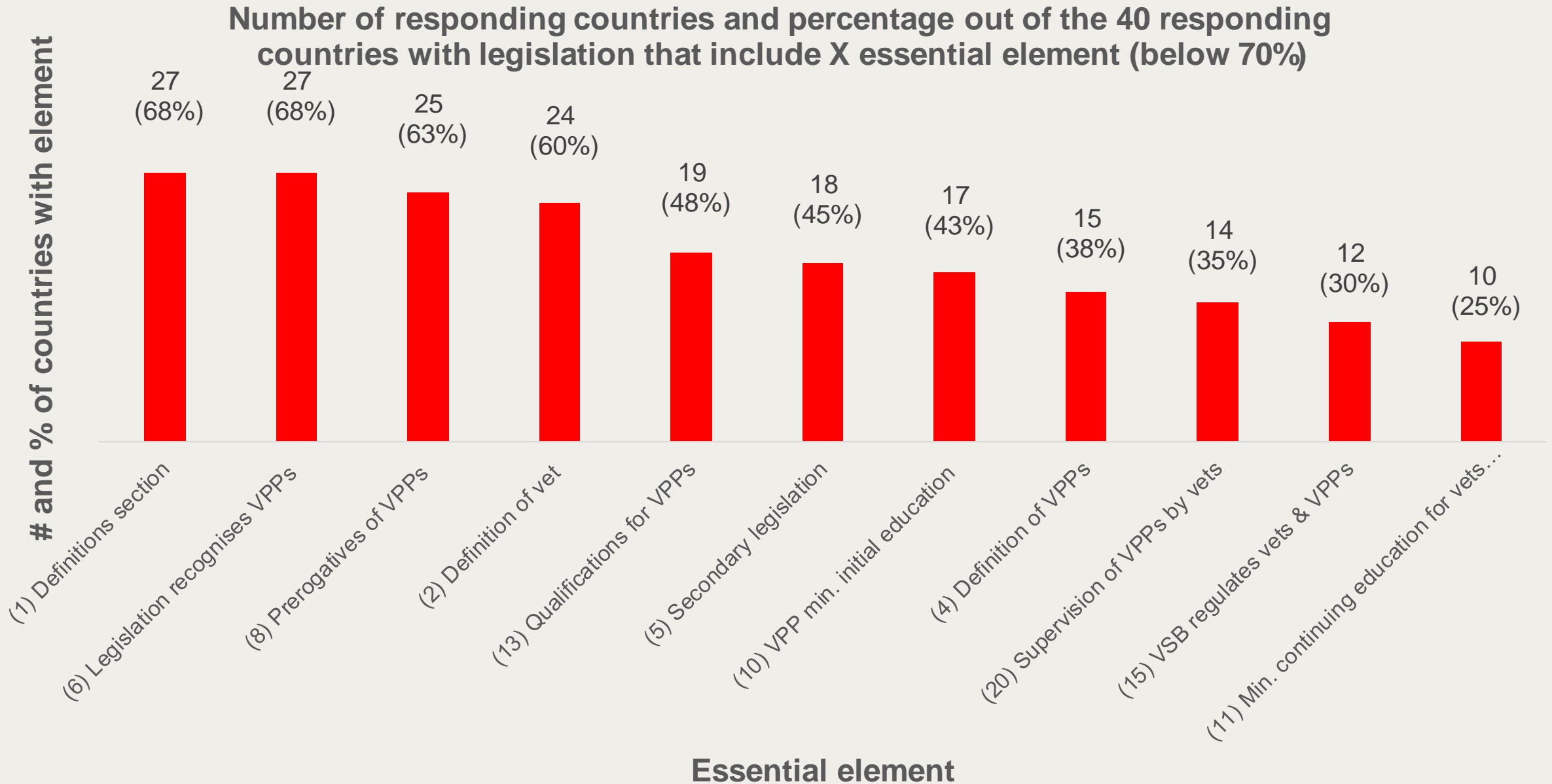
Essential elements likely found in veterinary practice acts

Number of responding countries and percentage out of the 40 responding countries with legislation that include X essential element (70% or more)



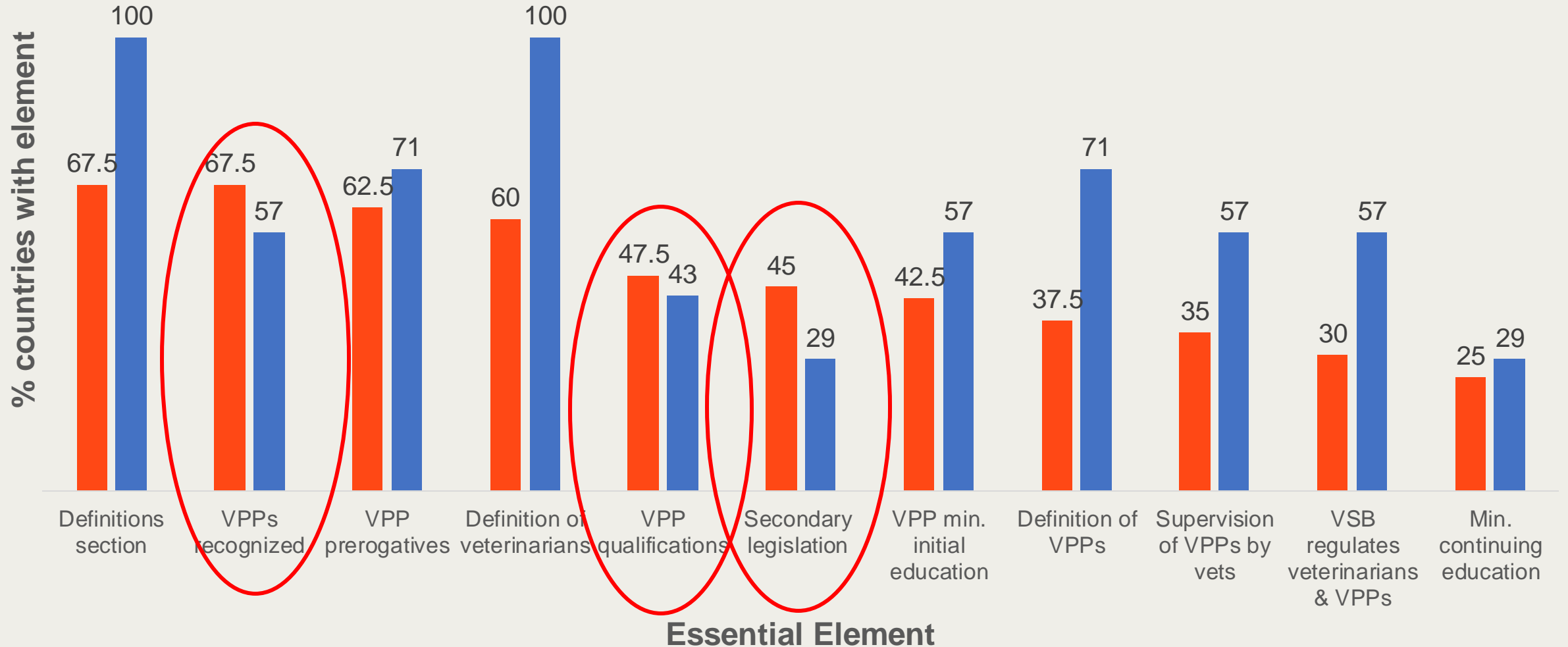
Regional Results (orange) vs. Eastern Africa Results (Blue)







Regional Results (orange) vs. Eastern Africa Results (Blue)

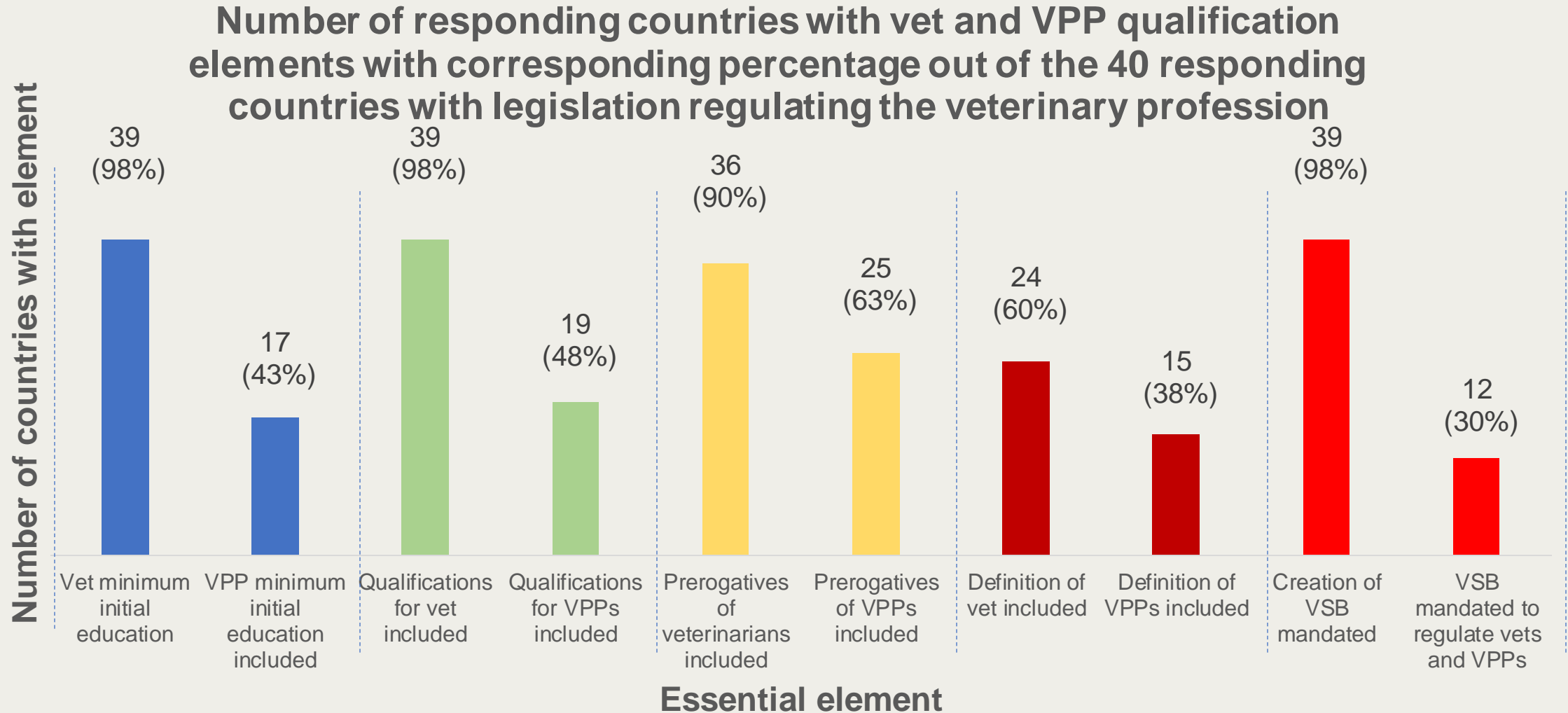


45% of the 40 responding countries with legislation enacted secondary legislation and 28% of responding countries in Eastern Africa with legislation enacted secondary legislation.

- This is important for ensuring the implementation of many essential elements
 - For example, **72.5% of countries** have a legal basis for the establishment of a code of conduct, but only **38% of these countries** enacted the code of conduct in practice.
 - In contrast, of the **39 countries** with a legal basis for the creation of a VSB, **36 (92.3%) countries** created a VSB in practice.



Veterinarian vs. VPP essential elements – Regional results

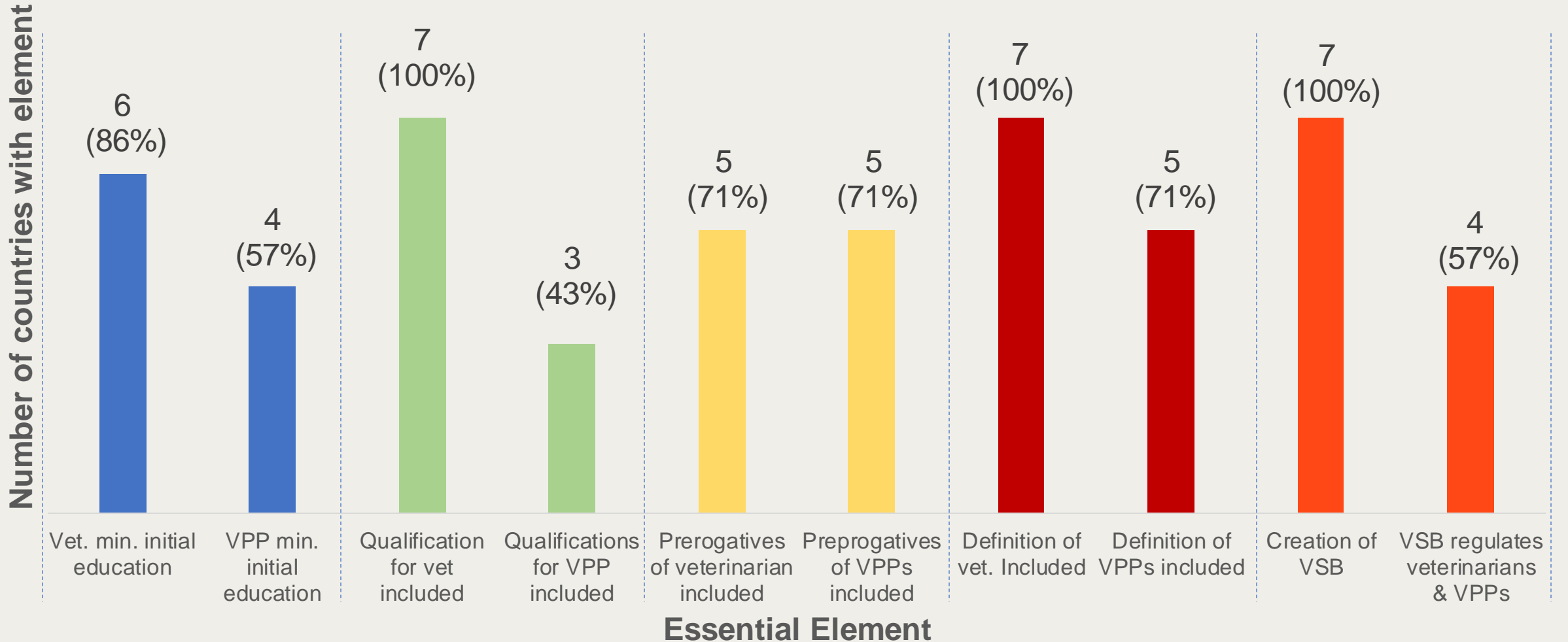


Of note: Due to ambiguities in the definition of veterinary medicine, these percentages could be much lower or higher depending on the interpretation of the terms used in the text, particularly for the prerogatives and qualifications of VPPs, underscoring why clarity in definitions is so important (discussed on slide 19).



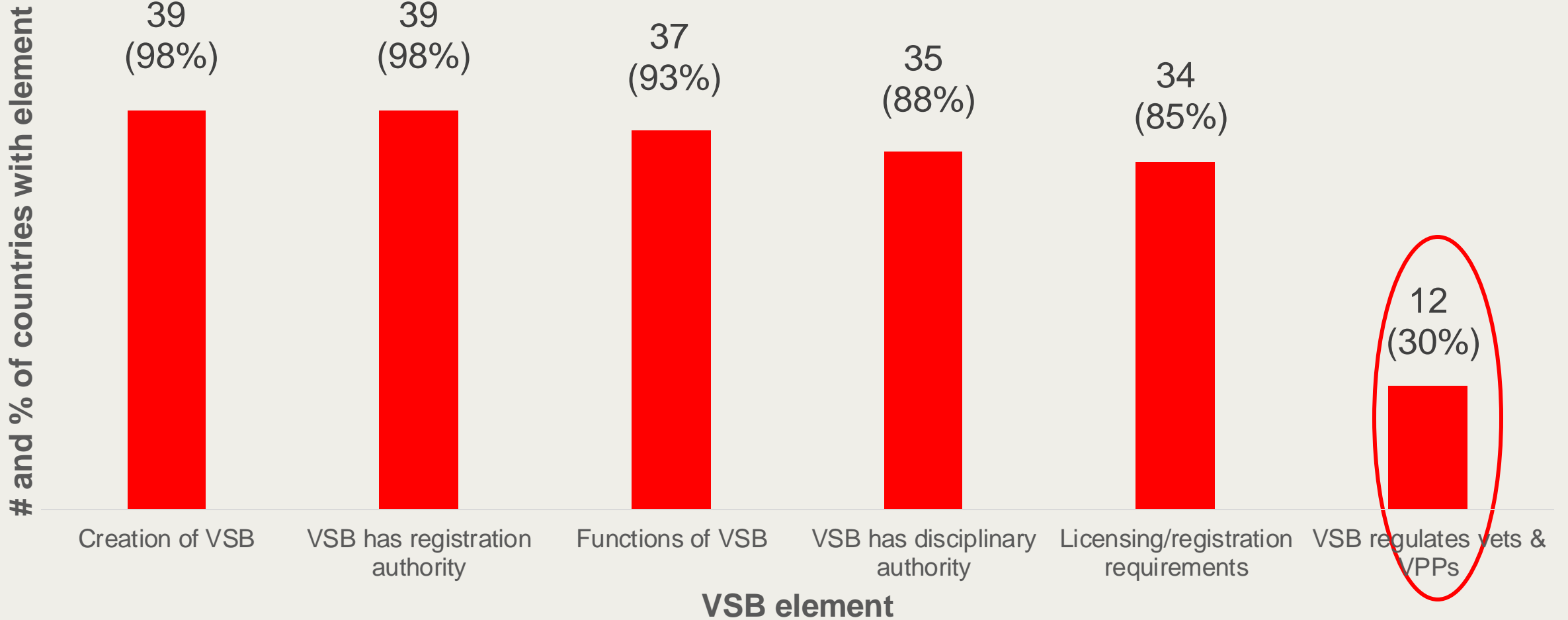
Veterinarian vs. VPP essential elements – Eastern Africa results

Number of responding countries with vet and VPP qualification elements with corresponding percentage out of the 40 responding countries with legislation regulating the veterinary profession – Eastern Africa Results



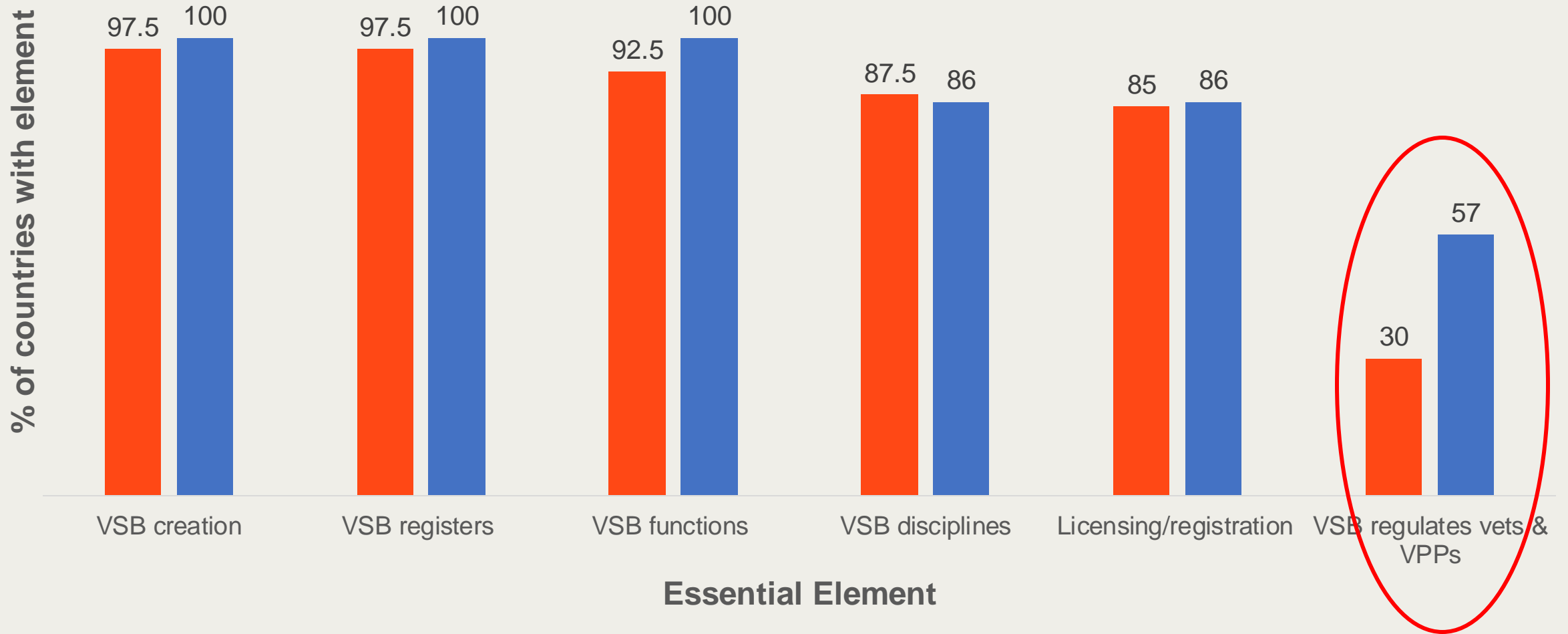
- According to a survey conducted by the Regional Core Group (RCG) for Africa in 2018 , 81% of the responding countries in West/Central Africa, 58% in Southern Africa, **57% in Eastern Africa** reported that they use CAHWs in practice (no countries in North Africa reportedly use CAHWs).
- However, five of the 40 countries (13%) with legislation for the veterinary profession examined in this review have legislation that includes CAHWs, **three of which are in East Africa**.
 - **Note:** *It is possible (though unverified in this study) that some countries may contain provisions for CAHWs in legislation other than a practice act.*
 - Countries could also implicitly include CAHWs within the provisions relating to VPPs, thus reemphasizing the importance of definitions in providing legal clarity.

Number and percentage of countries (out of 40 countries with legislation) with legislation that contains a legal basis for the listed VSB element





VSB elements - Regional results out of 40 countries with legislation (orange) vs. Eastern Africa results out of 7 countries with legislation (blue)

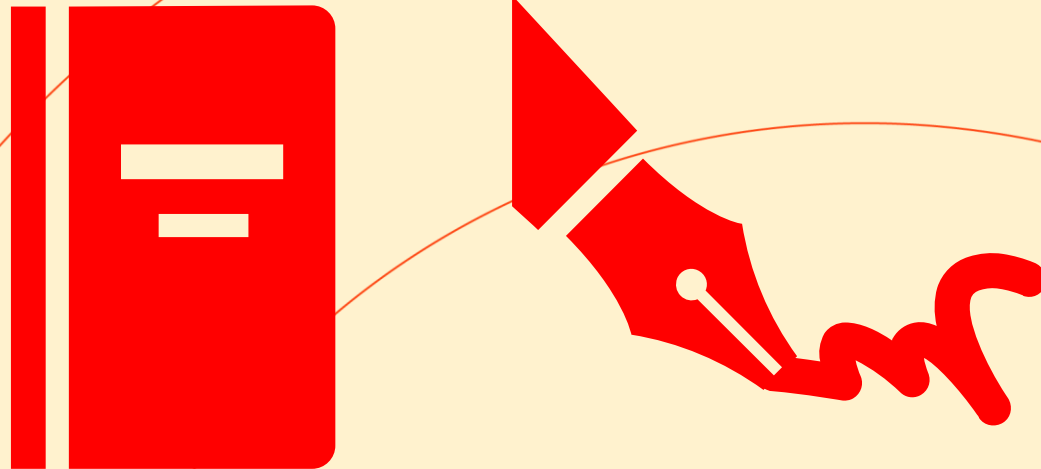




Trends in legal drafting:

1. Duplicated provisions
2. Leaving elements to secondary legislation without enacting any secondary legislation
3. Defining a term and using a different term
 - a. *For example:* defining “veterinary surgery”, but then using the term “veterinary medicine” throughout the text.
4. Mentioning veterinarians and VPPs together
5. Ambiguous definition of veterinary practice

***Crucially,* the last two trends have the effect of creating no legal distinction between the two professions.**





VPPs are underrepresented and underregulated in legislation compared to veterinarians.

- Notably, most countries currently lack a legal basis for the national VSB to regulate VPPs

Legal clarity is particularly important for:

- Ensuring an effective legal basis for addressing key issues,
- Facilitating implementation of the laws, thereby enhancing the efficacy of legislation

Countries could benefit from:

- Efforts to clarify, define, and consistently utilise essential terms.
- Creation of secondary legislation
- Regular reviews of legislation to ensure legal clarity.
- Engagement with WOAH VLSP



WOAH Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP)

Stage 1: VLSP Identification Missions (1 week) with 2 experts

- Can be requested by Member after having completed a PVS Evaluation
- **Assess compliance** of a country's veterinary legislation with **Chapter 3.4. on veterinary legislation** of the WOAH Terrestrial Code
- Identify gaps and provide **recommendations** for legal modernization

Stage 2: VLSP Agreements (remote work and missions)

Preparatory Phase (6 mo) + Implementation Phase (1 yr)
(renewable)

- Can be requested by Members after completing a VLSP Identification Mission
- Provides support in modernising veterinary legislation
- Strengthen the country's capacity in legal drafting
- Members can use the VLSP Agreement for support to update their legislation concerning veterinary practice and the Veterinary Statutory Body



Thank you

12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris, France
T. +33 (0)1 44 15 19 49
F. +33 (0)1 42 67 09 87

woah@woah.int
www.woah.org

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Instagram](#)
[LinkedIn](#)
[YouTube](#)
[Flickr](#)



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal





1. The subregional results reflect the situation in my individual country.

Les résultats sous-régionaux reflètent la situation de mon pays.

Strongly Agree <i>Tout à fait d'accord</i>	Agree <i>D'accord</i>	Undecided <i>Indécis</i>	Disagree <i>Pas d'accord</i>	Strongly Disagree <i>Pas du tout d'accord</i>
1	2	3	4	5



2. Does your country have a national VSB?

Votre pays dispose-t-il d'un OSV national ?

Yes <i>Oui</i>	No <i>Non</i>
1	2



3. Does your country's national VSB regulate VPPs?

Le VSB national de votre pays réglemente-t-il les VPP ?

Yes <i>Oui</i>	No <i>Non</i>
1	2



4. Does your country's national VSB regulate CAHWs?

Le VSB national de votre pays réglemente-t-il les AVEs ?

Yes <i>Oui</i>	No <i>Non</i>
1	2



5. If no, is there another body that regulates VPPs and/or CAHWs in your country?

Si non, existe-t-il un autre organisme qui réglemente les PPVs et/ou les AVEs dans votre pays ?

Yes <i>Oui</i>	No <i>Non</i>
1	2



- a. If yes to the last question, from what kind of legal instrument does this body derive its authority to regulate VPPs? (kindly respond in the chat)

Si oui au dernière question, de quel type d'instrument juridique cet organisme tire-t-il son autorité pour réglementer les PPV et/ou les AVE ? (Veuillez répondre dans le chat)