

The Role of Veterinary Para-Professionals in Africa

Theme: Country testimonies: Community based animal health workers



**Reality-Check: Vétérinaires sans Frontières; by: W. H. Dühren, VSF Germany
Pretoria, RSA, October13 -15, 2015**

VSFs are active in 40 countries of Africa, Latin America and Asia

In Africa, VSFs are present in:

Algeria; Burundi; Cabo Verde; DR Congo; Ethiopia; Kenya; Madagascar; Malawi; Mali; Mauritania; Morocco; Niger; Rwanda; Senegal; Somalia; South Sudan; Sudan; Togo; Uganda

VSF

International: A network of 11 member organisations



Austria



Belgium



Canada



Czech Republic



France



Germany



Italy



Netherlands



Portugal



Spain



Suisse

Community Based Animal Health....

In Africa, Community Based Animal Health Workers were first trained in the 1980s, when new ideas on rural development led some development organisations to work more closely with communities to prioritize and address local problems in a practical and sustainable manner.

Cutbacks to governmental vet services due to structural adjustment programmes coincided with this development. Since then, CAHWs deliver services in Africa's more remote, insecure and underserved areas.

After scaling up CBAH, there were calls for CAHWs to be either formally recognized and regulated, or removed.

Since 2005, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the Inter African Bureau of Animal Resources (AU IBAR) and some national Vet Departments have developed supportive policies.

Session 4: Country Testimonies: **Community Based Animal Health Workers**

Who testifies? VSFs, but also other NGOs engaged in livestock; International Organisations; Governments; CBOs

Where was CBAH tried?

In many countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America

Main focus is on:

- pastoral livelihoods in remote areas
- neglected livestock like village chicken of the poor

Reality Check: It has become a widely practiced veterinary intervention strategy for pastoral livelihoods in remote areas and for livestock of low income groups, such as village chicken.



Reality-Check:

In large parts of Africa services through qualified vets are not available. Instead, services are delivered by non-veterinarians.

Para-Vets are semi-professionals and the second best option to offer farmers access to quality drugs, consultation, treatment and vaccination.

Para-vets are a cost-efficient option and locally available.

They work in an environment controlled by Vet Departments and in cooperation with qualified vets, either private or paid by NGOs.



Cold Chain

With Kerosene fridges, (now solar fridges), and with thermo-stable vaccines, Community Based Animal Health Services have reached out to the most remote villages all over the world.

Combined with newly developed epidemiological tools, such as Participatory Disease Search (PDS), and with mobile phone networks disease control and veterinary interventions have been revolutionized.

It is time for vet departments to discover the full potential of CHAH.

CAHWs walk an extra mile to reach all livestock owners



Vaccine storage and transport in South Sudan



On bicycle CAHWs reach the most remote places to deliver their services





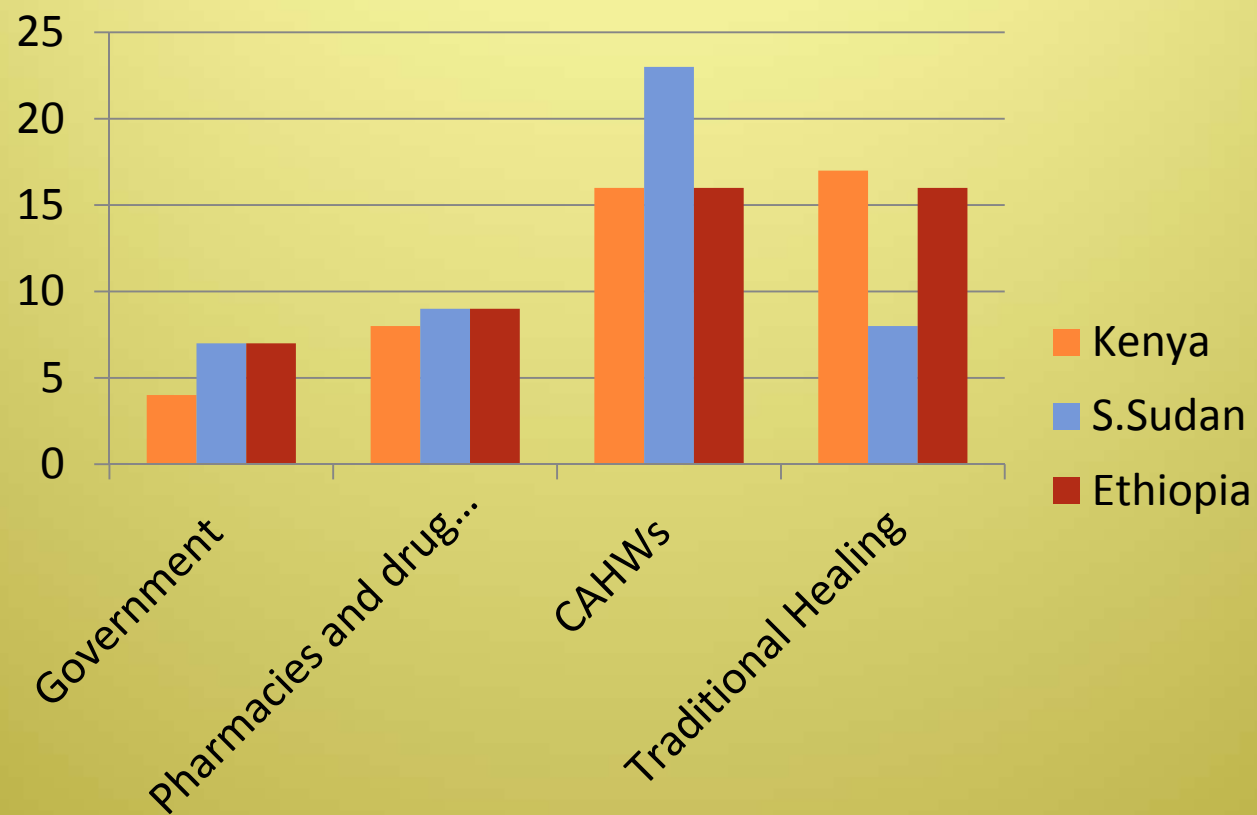
The eradication of **Rinderpest** would have not been possible without use of Community Based Animal Health Workers.

South Sudan and Somalia, both countries with fragile Government structures, were the last spots where the disease was fought.

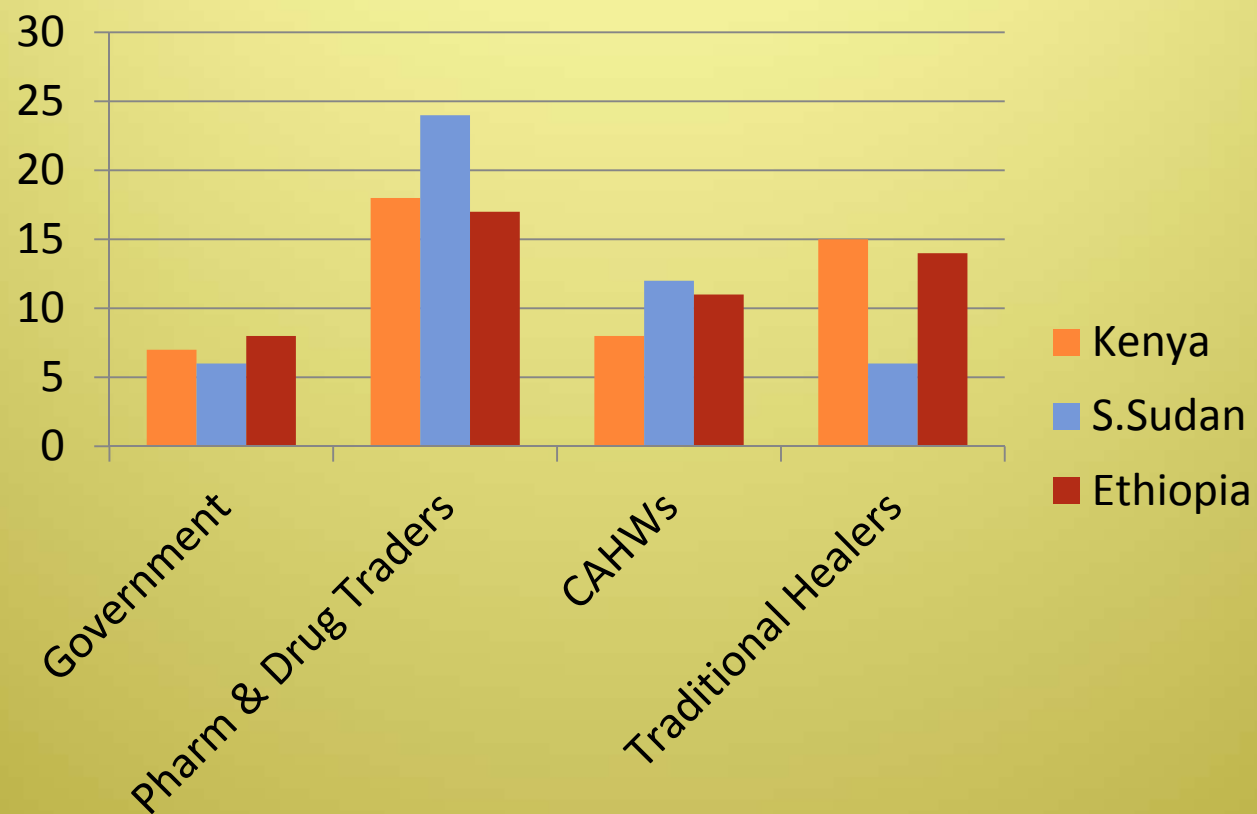
The now proposed eradication of PPR faces a number of countries in Northern Africa and Asia with non-existent or very fragile vet services.

Village chicken do not attract attention by most veterinarians. Here a NCD Vaccination campaign by VWB Canada in Asia, using poultry attendants

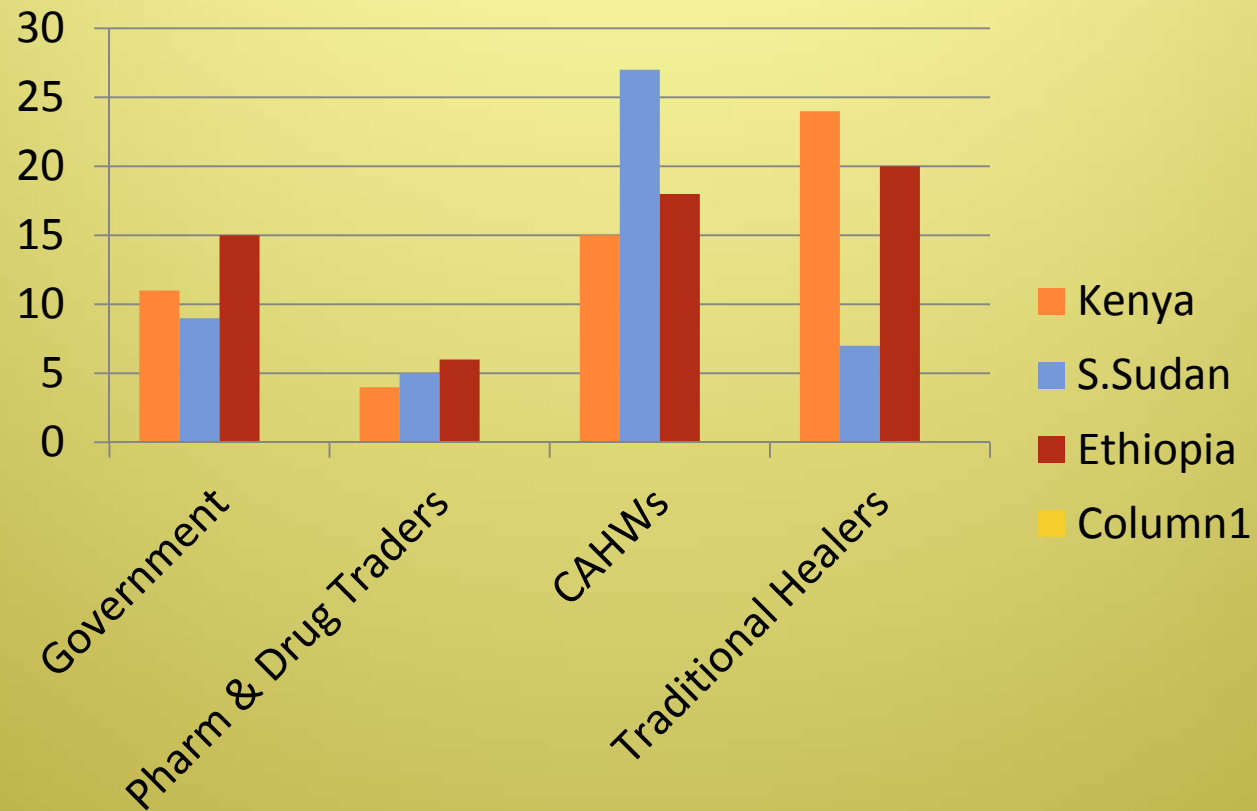




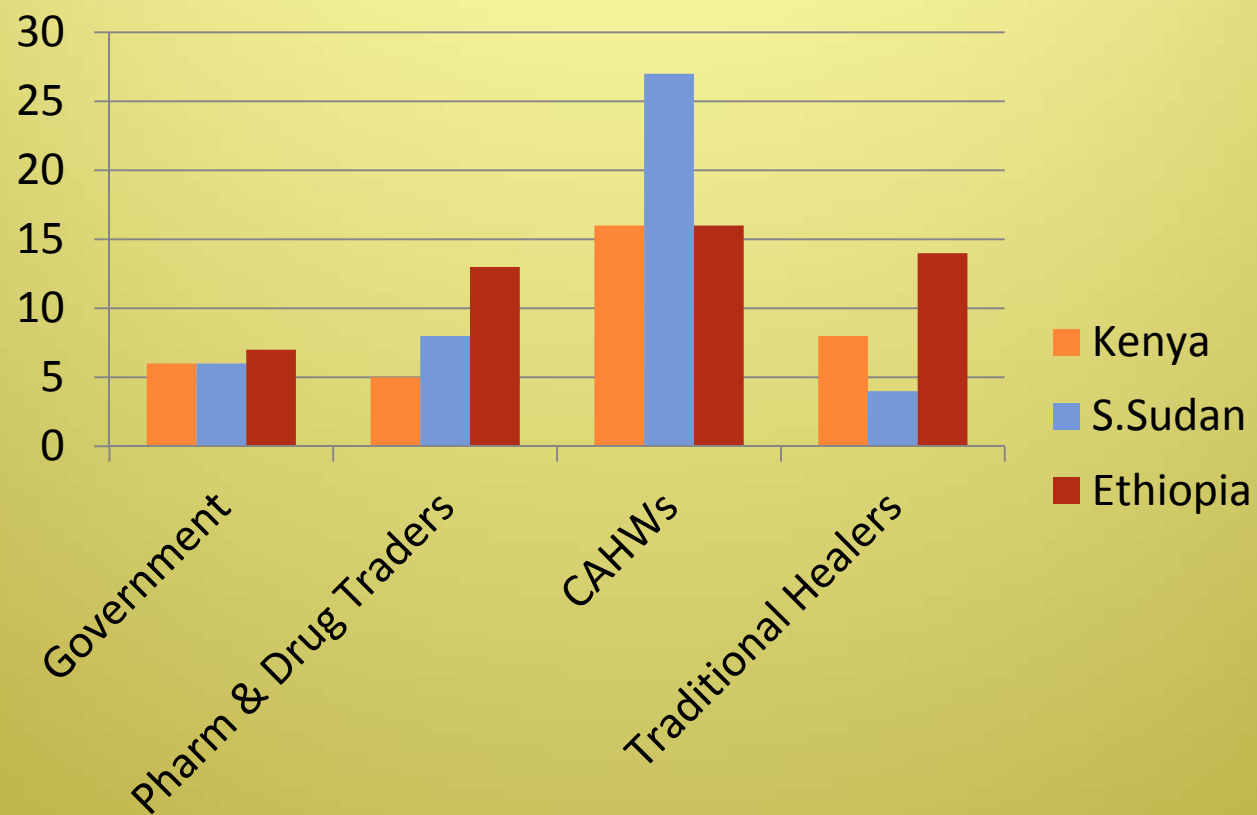
(1): Leyland (2014): Relative accessibility of health service providers



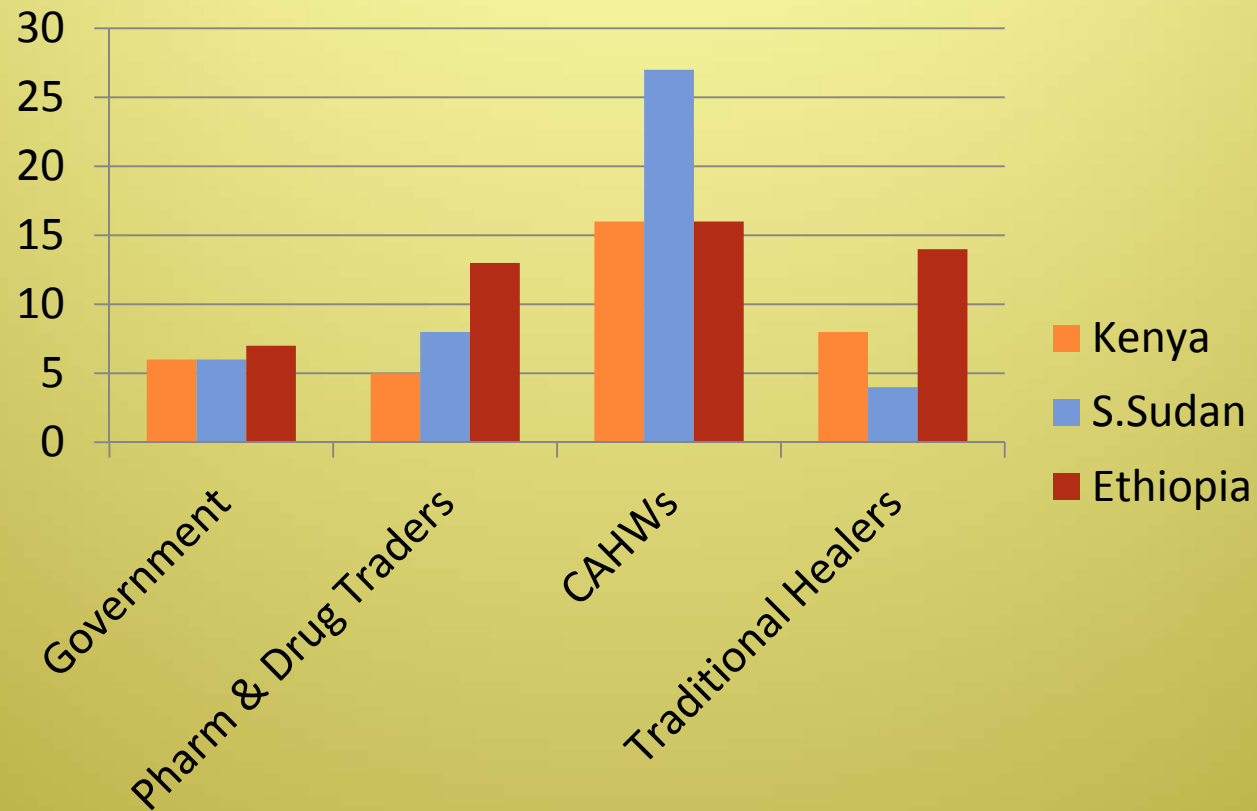
(2) Leyland: Relative availability of veterinary medicines supplied by animals service providers



(3) Leyland: Relative availability of animal service providers for advise, consultation, or assistance with administering medicines



Leyland: Relative affordability of animal service providers



(4) Leyland: Relative acceptance of animal service providers

Main Achievements / Strengths:

- **Giving access to veterinary services in remote areas**
- **Effective disease control through mass vaccinations, treatments and disease surveillance**
- **Eradication of Rinderpest**
- **Affordable, accessible, trusted, quality of work**
- **Job creation for rural poor and infrastructure development (vet pharmacies; cold chain establishment)**

Weakness:

- **_limited educational background of CAHWs: only basic services delivered / limited scope of work**
- **needs external support with cold chain, vaccines and drugs through private vet, NGO, IO or Government**
- **Needs supervision and quality control through Veterinarians, NGOs and Vet Departments**



Resume: with external support, CBAH is the most efficient and cost effective livestock service intervention in remote areas.

It should find more support by all stake holders in the region.

End of presentation