

# **FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A PROJECT TO PROMOTE LIVESTOCK TRADE AND EXPORTS IN EASTERN AFRICA**

**STDF/PPG/941**

Draft developed by consultant<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this study are entirely those of the author. They do not necessarily represent the view of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) or any of its partner agencies or donors.

## Executive Summary

Eastern Africa hosts the largest proportion of Africa's livestock population and is the largest exporter of live animals from Africa to the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA). However, several challenges including endemic transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and zoonoses, weak institutional capacities, porous borders with uncontrolled cross border movements of animals, inadequate livestock trade infrastructure, the lack of livestock identification and traceability systems and poor compliance with international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards limit access to domestic, regional and international markets for livestock and livestock products from Eastern Africa. This limits the sector's contribution to the economic growth and the livelihoods of livestock value chain actors.

In November 2023, the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO), submitted a Project Preparation Grant (PPG) application entitled "*Promoting live animal trade and export in Eastern Africa*" (STDF/PPG/941), to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), targeting Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda. The Working Group approved the PPG subject to revision to narrow its scope and to include a Feasibility study to determine the need, value added and priority areas for a potential new project. The Working Group also recommended the active involvement of the East African Community (EAC) and the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) in implementation of the PPG.

For the purpose of this Feasibility study, the terms "live animals" and "livestock", refer to live domesticated animals raised in agricultural settings to produce diverse products for consumption, while "livestock products" refers to the various products (e.g. milk, meat, wool, hair, etc.) derived from domesticated animals raised for human use.

The Feasibility study involved desk reviews of past and on-going donor funded trade-related interventions, stakeholder consultations across national public, private and academic sectors and engagements with international, continental and regional organisations involved in livestock development in the region. Several donor-funded projects in the region addressed similar themes focusing mainly on governance of the animal health sector including policy, legal and regulatory frameworks; disease surveillance and control; strengthening compliance with World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) international animal health standards, and enhancing access to markets for livestock and livestock products. There were overlaps in several projects relating to disease surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, compliance with WOA international sanitary standards and animal health governance and access to markets. The vast majority of the projects targeted human resource capacity building and institutional strengthening of public sector institutions. There was insufficient involvement of the private sector. Consequently, many of the project achievements and activities were not sustained following the end of the projects due to the lack of budgetary allocations for their continuity and the loss of trained staff.

The priorities for the livestock sector at continental, regional and national levels were articulated in the respective development plans, policies, strategies and programmes, which aimed to enhance the sector's contribution to livelihoods, household incomes, and economic growth. They promote a shift from subsistence-oriented livestock production to more commercial market-oriented systems, integrating value addition and compliance with international animal health and food safety standards to enhance access to markets. The most important impediment to market access for livestock and livestock products from the region is the presence of major TADs and zoonoses. This results from the uncontrolled domestic and cross-border movement of animals, particularly in the pastoral production areas, inadequate capacities of the national veterinary services and weak biosecurity systems along the livestock value chains. It was noted that public sector-led efforts to establish disease-free zones in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to facilitate the safe export trade in livestock and livestock products, have so far not succeeded. A key concern is the lack of functional Animal Identification and Traceability

Systems (LITS) across the countries and outdated legal frameworks that do not adequately cater for advancements in LITS technologies. While Somalia has several operational quarantines that facilitate the processing and certification of livestock exports to MENA countries, the lack of livestock export quarantine facilities that meet WOAHA international standards was a key impediment to the livestock export trade in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The study noted the emerging trend of private investments in livestock feedlots to provide quality livestock for the domestic and export markets, as an opportunity for the establishment of disease-free compartments that comply with WOAHA international Standards for trade in livestock and livestock products.

The study also noted the key roles of the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), EAC and ICPALD in resource mobilization, coordination and harmonization of livestock sector interventions at continental and regional levels. They also play a critical advocacy role for securing political commitments integrating recommendations for the sector's development into continental and regional development agenda.

An examination of the technical, economic and financial feasibility of a potential new regional project, to support trade in live animals identified support for piloting the establishment of privately owned feedlots for cattle, sheep and goats as disease-free compartments as the priority intervention to be considered for funding by STDF. The potential new project could:

- i. Strengthen biosecurity capacities of pilot feedlots by developing and piloting the implementation of guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for disease-free compartments in compliance with WOAHA animal health standards.
- ii. Enhance institutional and human resource capacities by training both public and private animal health service providers, and upgrading laboratory diagnostic capacities to support the pilot feedlots.
- iii. Improve livestock Identification and traceability systems (LITS) by adopting suitable LITS, training private feedlot operators and both public and private veterinary staff, and supporting revision of LITS legal frameworks using data and experiences from the pilot feedlot compartments
- iv. Foster linkages between feedlot operators, livestock producers and livestock importers in MENA through information sharing, partnerships with livestock producer associations to ensure a sustainable supply of healthy animals, and leveraging existing ICPALD networks to link the feedlot operators with the key import markets.
- v. Expand access to markets through development of international market access plans, support to feedlot entrepreneurs to identify and secure markets, and mechanisms for monitoring existing and potential international trade opportunities for livestock.

The Feasibility study concludes that a potential new project value added would be in leveraging the on-going private sector investments in feedlots to create synergies with existing national livestock policies to improve compliance with WOAHA animal health standards for better access to markets.

However, consultations with key stakeholders following the above-mentioned preliminary findings of the Feasibility Study indicated that establishing disease-free feedlot compartments across four countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, and Uganda) would be highly ambitious, given the typical STDF project budget of USD 1 million. Implementing such compartments is inherently complex, requiring full biosecurity across the entire value chain, certification of animals as disease-free (a significant challenge in endemic areas), strict control over transport and infrastructure, prior buy-in from importing countries, and a robust regulatory framework for certification and monitoring. These requirements are further complicated by regional sanitary conditions, the high prevalence of transboundary animal diseases (TADs), porous borders, nomadic livestock movements, inadequate infrastructure, and weak

inspection and certification systems. In contrast, a more focused regional project, aimed at strengthening biosecurity and traceability, promoting e-certification and animal identification systems, and enhancing public-private collaboration (including co-financing), may offer a more feasible path forward. Further consultations with stakeholders and with the organization that might serve as the implementing partner will be essential to refine the scope and define realistic outputs for a potential new project, in line with what is achievable under an STDF-funded initiative.

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## ACRONYMS

AfCFTA.....	African Continental Free Trade Area
AHSA.....	Animal Health Strategy for Africa
AMR .....	Antimicrobial Resistance
ANITRAC.....	Animal Identification and Traceability System (Kenya)
ASF .....	African Swine Fever
AU .....	African Union
AUC.....	African Union Commission
AU-IBAR.....	African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
AU-PANVAC....	African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
AVCD.....	Accelerated Value Chain Development Project
CAADP .....	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CAHWs.....	Community Animal Health Workers
CBPP.....	Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia
CCPP .....	Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia
CERELPA.....	Central Regions Livestock Professional Association, Somalia
COMESA.....	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CVO .....	Chief Veterinary Officer
DRIVE .....	De-Risking, Inclusion, and Value Enhancement of Pastoral Economies Project
EAC .....	East African Community
EU .....	European Union
FAO .....	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMD.....	Foot and Mouth Disease
GHSA .....	Global Health Security Agenda
GHSP .....	Global Health Security Programme
HoA .....	Horn of Africa
HPAI .....	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
ICPALD.....	IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development
IGAD.....	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILRI.....	International Livestock Research Institute
ISTVS.....	IGAD Sheikh Technical Veterinary School and Reference Centre
KeLCoP.....	Kenya Livestock Commercialisation Project
KEVEVAPI.....	Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute
KLMC .....	Kenya Livestock Marketing Council
LiDeSA .....	Livestock Development Strategy for Africa
LITS.....	Livestock Identification and Traceability Systems
LMIS.....	Livestock Marketing Information System

LSD .....Lumpy Skin Disease  
 MENA.....Middle East and North Africa  
 MoLFR.....Ministry of Livestock, Forestry and Range, Somalia  
 NGOs .....Non-Governmental Organizations  
 NVRL.....National Veterinary Research Laboratory, Kabete, Kenya  
 PACE.....Pan African Control of Epizootics  
 PAN-SPSO.....Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards Setting Organisations  
 PARC.....Pan African Rinderpest Campaign  
 PATTEC.....Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign  
 PPP .....Public-Private Partnerships  
 PPR .....Peste des Petits Ruminants  
 PVS .....Performance of Veterinary Services  
 RAHS .....Reinforcing Animal Health Services  
 REC.....Regional Economic Community  
 RPLRP .....Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project  
 RVF .....Rift Valley Fever  
 SADC ..... Southern African Development Community  
 SAHSP .....Somali Animal Health Services Project  
 SOLICEP.....Somali Livestock Certification Project  
 SMP-AH .....Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health  
 SPS .....Sanitary and Phytosanitary  
 STDF .....Standards and Trade Development Facility  
 STSD.....Surveillance and Trade Support for Disease Control  
 TADs.....Transboundary Animal Diseases  
 TMEA .....Trade Mark East Africa  
 ToRs .....Terms of Reference  
 UMA .....Arab Maghreb Union  
 UN .....United Nations  
 USAID .....United States Agency for International Development  
 VetGov.....Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa Project  
 VMG .....Vulnerable Marginalised Groups  
 WOAHA ..... World Organisation for Animal Health  
 WTO ..... World Trade Organisation  
 YALI..... Young African Leaders Initiative

## 1.0. Introduction

### 1.1. Background

The Eastern Africa region hosts the largest proportion of Africa's livestock population with the livestock sub-sector contributing an average of 30% of the agricultural GDP. The region is also the largest exporter of live animals from Africa to markets in the Middle East and Northern Africa. However, the high prevalence of several major trade-limiting transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and zoonoses presents challenges for countries in Eastern Africa to guarantee the sanitary safety of trade in live animals and livestock products, thus limiting their access to lucrative export markets. The four target countries (Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda) for this Project Preparation Grant (PPG) are all members of the African Union (AU) and the East African Community (EAC). Kenya, Somalia and Uganda are also members of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

In Kenya, the livestock sector directly contributes about 12% to the national GDP and 40% of the agricultural GDP (IGAD, 2011), employs about 50% of the agricultural sector labour force and accounts for more than 30% of the total marketed agricultural products. It also contributes to the country's foreign exchange earnings through the export of livestock and livestock products ([Kenya Livestock Policy, 2020](#)).

In Somalia, the livestock sector contributes about 40% of the national GDP and livestock exports contribute 90% of the country's foreign exchange earnings. The largely arid and semi-arid landmass of Somalia is unable to support the production of staple food crops sufficient to meet the needs of its population. More than 50% of Somalia's staple foods are provided through commercial imports and food relief programmes. The foreign currency earnings from the exports of live animals and animal products support the importation of staple food items ([Somalia Country Economic Memorandum Volume 1, 2018](#)).

The Tanzania livestock sector generates 27% of the agricultural GDP ([Tanzania Livestock Transformation Plan, 2022/23 – 2026/27](#)). In 2023 and 2022, Tanzania earned foreign currency equivalent to 44.4 billion and 62.4 billion Tanzania Shillings respectively, for the export of live cattle, sheep and goats ([Hali ya Uchumi wa Taifa, 2023](#)).

In Uganda, the livestock sector contributed about 4% of the national GDP, 17% of the agricultural GDP and 1- 1.5 % of the value of Uganda's exports. About 66% of households keep livestock for subsistence purposes while 34% are commercially oriented ([National Livestock Census, 2021](#)) but very few live animals are exported ([FAO, 2019](#)).

In an effort to support Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda to address some of the impediments to market access, the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation (KALRO) in collaboration with the Kenya Directorate of Veterinary Services, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), submitted a PPG application entitled "*Promoting live animal trade and export in Eastern Africa*" (STDF/PPG/941)<sup>2</sup>, to the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). The application identified transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and inadequate compliance with international sanitary standards as the major barriers to livestock trade and exports in the region. To address these challenges, the PPG application proposed a project to:

- i. Strengthen biosafety and biosecurity capacities in all relevant sectors (including human, animal and wildlife).
- ii. Improve laboratory testing capacity modalities.

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<sup>2</sup>Existing PPG Document: Promoting Live Animal Trade and Export in Eastern Africa (PLATE Project); Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Institute; 2023.

- iii. Strengthen the capacity of public and private animal health professionals and communities to prevent, detect, and respond to zoonotic disease outbreaks and tackle anti-microbial resistance (AMR).
- iv. Improve capacity for surveillance and risk analysis of zoonotic diseases and AMR within livestock sectors at national, subnational and community levels and among public and private actors.
- v. Enhance sharing of disease surveillance data and epidemiological information along the common border.
- vi. Country, county, and community level engagements but work in partnership with other stakeholders/partners.
- vii. Involve women, the vulnerable marginalized groups (VMGs), and youth groups (YALI, students, interns, community champions) in project activities.

At its meeting on 22 November 2023, the STDF Working Group approved the PPG application, noting that it was demand-driven, relevant and focused on animal health, a topic on which few applications are received. However, the Working Group considered the scope of the proposed project to be too broad and hence the approval would be subject to revision to include:

- (i) A narrower scope and focus of the PPG and the resulting project proposal
- (ii) A detailed analysis of the numerous previous and on-going donor-supported projects and initiatives in the sector in the Region to determine the need and value-added of the proposed project. The Working Group therefore recommended the addition of a "Feasibility Study" to precede project development.

The active involvement of regional bodies, such as the East African Community (EAC) and the IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD), in implementation of the PPG.

## 1.2. Aims and objectives

**The purpose** of the PPG is two-fold:

- a) To conduct a Feasibility Study to determine the need, value-added, and propose priority areas for the development of a new technical assistance project to be funded by STDF in support of live animal trade and exports in Eastern Africa. This should take into account the numerous past and on-going projects, interventions and experiences in support of livestock trade in the region; the national priorities of each of the four target counties and the roles of AU-IBAR, the EAC and IGAD/ICPALD in the interventions and in the proposed project for STDF funding. The findings of the feasibility study are intended to inform further discussions with the STDF Secretariat to enable a decision on whether or not to proceed with the preparation of a regional project proposal, its scope, priorities and justification for funding by STDF.
- b) To prepare a Project Proposal for funding by STDF, if agreement was reached with the STDF Secretariat to proceed with this component of the PPG following the review and discussions on the Feasibility Study. This phase would entail the preparation of a draft outline of the potential project, presentation of the findings of the Feasibility Study to a broad spectrum of stakeholders and preparation of the proposal taking into account the inputs of the stakeholders.

## 2.0. Methodology

The preparation of this Feasibility Study was guided by:

- a. Desk review of live animal trade in Eastern Africa and analysis of various published and unpublished documents including: a desk-top review of published and grey literature on the magnitude, extent, and impact of the live animal trade in eastern Africa.

- The existing STDF/PPG/941 document submitted by KALRO to STDF and related correspondence between KALRO and the STDF Secretariat taking cognizance of the comments from the STDF Working Group meeting of November 2023.
  - Relevant continental Policy and Strategy frameworks of the African Union and its Specialized Technical Institutions, namely, the African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the African Union Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (AU-PANVAC).
  - Reports of past projects implemented by AU-IBAR at continental, regional and national levels with direct and indirect support to TADs control, and livestock trade and exports.
  - Relevant Regional Policy and strategy frameworks, protocols and guidelines of the East African Community (EAC) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).
  - Available National Development Plans, sectoral policies, strategies and programmes for agriculture and livestock of the four target countries.
  - Relevant studies conducted by various donor funded projects relevant to livestock trade in the Greater Horn of Africa and other regions to draw lessons learnt relevant to this PPG. This entailed the identification and documentation of the numerous past and on-going donor-supported pan-African, regional (EAC and IGAD regions) and national projects and initiatives related to live animal trade with emphasis on their implementation, outcomes and key lessons learned in Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda
  - Relevant STDF funded studies, projects and project evaluations in Eastern Africa and other regions
  - Reports of assessments of SPS systems and legal frameworks in selected EAC Partner States.
- b. One-on-one in-person consultations with the Director and relevant staff of AU-IBAR Chief Executive Officer and the Programme Coordinator of the Kenya Livestock Marketing Council (KLMC); the Chief Executive Officer of the Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute (KEVEVAPI); the IGAD/ICPALD Livestock Programme Coordinator, and Staff of the Department of Veterinary Services in Kenya responsible for: disease control; border/entry/exit control, and the National Veterinary Research Laboratory (NVRL).
  - c. Virtual Focus Group Discussions with stakeholders (including private sector participants) from Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda, Kajiado and Lamu Counties in Kenya and FAO ECTAD staff in Nairobi
  - d. Virtual one-on-one consultations with the EAC Livestock Programme officer and Key informants from the WOAHA sub-regional Office in Nairobi and a young female livestock trade entrepreneur in eastern Kenya.
  - e. Questionnaire interview with staff of AU-IBAR and the IGAD Sheikh Technical Veterinary School (ISTVS).

The consultations aimed to obtain a better understanding of the sanitary challenges faced by actors in live animal trade, on-going and past initiatives towards addressing the challenges. They also supported the identification of priority areas and products for focused attention to improve compliance with sanitary standards for safe trade in live animal value chains in the region, through an STDF supported project. See Annex 2 for a list of all the people contacted one-on-one, virtually and in focus groups.

Consultations were also held with Dr. MaryLucy Oronje, an STDF developing country expert with related expertise on the Eastern Africa region.

## 3.0. Findings

### 3.1 Desk Review of Livestock Trade in Eastern Africa

#### 3.1.1 Live animal exports

The main export markets for live animals from the region include the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, Yemen and Egypt.

An analysis of the live animal exports from Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda from 2014 to 2023 was conducted using data derived from FAOSTAT (FAO. [2024]. FAOSTAT: Trade - Crops and Livestock Products. Accessed on 20 January 2025. <https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL> Licence: CC-BY-4.0). Table 1 shows that all the four countries were involved in exports of cattle, sheep and goats. Camels were mainly exported from Somalia and Kenya while Chickens were exported from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Pigs were mainly exported from Kenya and Uganda. The main species exported from all the four countries over the ten years were cattle, sheep and goats.

**Table 1: Volumes and Values of Main Live Animal Species Exported from Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda from 2014 - 2023**

Species	Volumes (Heads) of Live Animal Exports				Values (USD x1,000) of Live Animal Exports				Total Export Vaues (USD x 1000)
	Kenya	Somalia	Tanzania	Uganda	Kenya	Somalia	Tanzania	Uganda	
<b>Camels</b>	2,469	561,323	50	0	674	285,462	2	1,000	<b>287,138</b>
<b>Cattle</b>	59,931	1,193,134	127,450	23,100	9,473	469,731	95,136	64,327	<b>638,667</b>
<b>Chickens</b>	7,376,000	0	9,359,000	3,750,000	18,813	0	4,729	19,679	<b>43,221</b>
<b>Goats</b>	56,274	13,663,349	382,234	37,000	2,845	1,338,813	8,582	4,840	<b>1,355,080</b>
<b>Sheep</b>	146,579	14,620,465	2,913	19,600	4,366	1,341,150	112	1,651	<b>1,347,279</b>
<b>Pigs</b>	7,459	0	9	1,750	403	0	4	599	<b>1,006</b>
<b>Total (USD x 1000)</b>					<b>36,574</b>	<b>3,435,156</b>	<b>108,565</b>	<b>92,096</b>	<b>3,672,391</b>

Analysis of the volumes and values of live animal exports from the four countries (Table 1) showed variations between the countries in different years. Over the ten-year period, Somalia was the largest exporter of live animals from the region, both by volume and value of traded animals, with earnings of more than USD 3.4 billion compared to USD 36.5 million, 108.5 million and 92.1 million for Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, respectively. Sheep and goat exports accounted for more than 70% of the total export value of live animals.

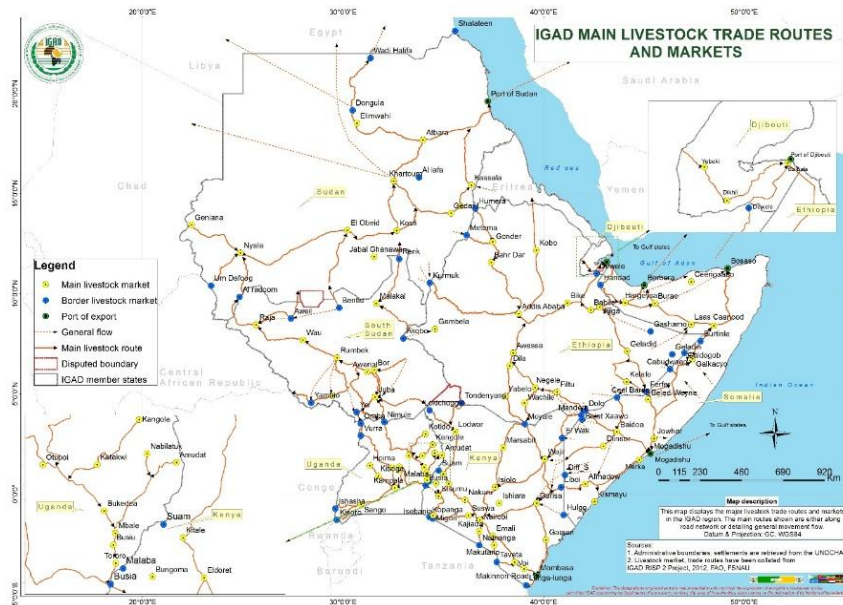
### 3.1.2 Potential livestock markets

Historically, Saudi Arabia represents the largest market for live animals with an annual demand of about 6 million sheep, goats, cattle and camels particularly during the Haj and Ramadhan religious festivities. The exports from Eastern Africa to Saudi Arabia were estimated at 42% of the market share in 2014 ([Abbas et al., 2014](#)). In 2022-2023, Saudi Arabia was ranked among the fastest growing importers of live animals ([OEC, 2025](#)). The United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Oman and other Gulf countries are also emerging as key export destinations for live animals from Eastern Africa ([Abbas et al., 2014](#)). Between 2018 and 2022, [limited exports of live animals from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda](#) were made to other countries including China (Hong Kong), Italy, Vietnam, Netherlands, Belgium, South Sudan, Myanmar and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). There is thus potential for the Eastern African countries to increase their market share taking advantage of their geographic proximity to the Gulf region and to other markets by improving compliance with WOHAN sanitary standards. However, the low compliance with sanitary standards and the stringent SPS requirements of some importing countries/regions restrict access to markets for livestock and livestock products from Eastern Africa to lucrative markets. For example, The European Union only allows the import of live animals from third countries included in a positive list of eligible countries for specified animals based on approved control plans. The current EU list contained in Annex I of the [European Union Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2025/354 of 21 February 2025, does not include Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda among the countries on this list for bovine, caprine/ovine, porcine or poultry species and their products.](#)

The commencement of trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in January 2021 also presents opportunities for the eastern Africa region to enhance access to live animal markets in other regions of Africa, particularly the livestock and livestock products deficit countries in the Northern and Central Africa regions, that rely largely on imports to meet domestic demand. In addition, ongoing efforts to deepen political and economic integration within various RECs are also expected to further expand markets for livestock value chain actors from Eastern Africa.

### 3.1.3 Intra-regional livestock trade

Within Eastern Africa, trade in live animals is both formal and informal (unrecorded). The trade animal movements are mainly from the pastoral production areas to cities and other centres of high human population and consumption. Kenya is a key destination market for live animals from Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda and is a net importer of cattle, from Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda and Tanzania for domestic consumption as well as for fattening for export. However, increasing trade flows of camels, sheep and goats to Ethiopia and Somalia for fattening and re-export have been recorded, especially during the Islamic religious festivities in the Middle East ([ICPALD: Mapping of Key Cross-border Livestock Routes and Markets, Services and Priority TADs for Regional and International Trade; Nile Basin Initiative Policy Brief](#)). Goats from Uganda are mainly exported to South Sudan while sheep and goats from Tanzania are also exported to Burundi and DRC. Figure shows the flow of trade and main markets in live animals between countries in the Eastern Africa region.



<https://geonode.igad.int/documents/115> - accessed on 20th January 2025

### 3.1.4 Emerging trends and issues in live animal trade in Eastern Africa

[Projections by the United Nations](#) indicate that the current world population of 7.3 billion people is expected to increase by more than two billion people by 2050. Noting that Africa has the highest population growth rate, it is expected that more than 50% of this population growth will be in Africa. The rapid human population growth, increasing urbanization, growth in incomes and changing dietary preferences of more affluent consumers are increasing the demand for animal sourced foods ([Herrero and Thornton, 2013](#), [Godber and Wall, 2014](#)). The increase in the world population thus presents diverse opportunities for livestock producing countries in the domestic, regional and international markets. In addition, the on-going regional and continental integration initiatives are expected to expand market opportunities for the various livestock value chains in continental and regional markets. However, the new market opportunities are accompanied by increasing consumer awareness and concerns over the risks posed to public, animal and environmental health by livestock and food products of animal origin ([IAASTD, 2009](#)). [The Africa Sustainable Livestock 2050 \(ASL2050\)](#) project funded by USAID and implemented by FAO, reiterated that in the next 30-40 years, the growing demand for meat, milk and eggs will drive significant growth in the African Livestock sector. It also recognised that although this presents substantial risks to public health, the environment and livelihoods, it also provides opportunities for economic growth.

The opportunities and challenges in live animal trade necessitate requirements by governments, for adherence to WOAHP international animal health and food safety standards to safeguard human and animal health and life and ensure environmental protection. In addition, some livestock importing countries in the Middle East and northern Africa, include strict adherence to non- SPS related halal hygienic and slaughter requirements among the criteria for the importation of live animals and meat from the exporting countries in eastern Africa. This complicates livestock trade negotiations between the exporters and importers as observed during the implementation of the STDF funded project [STDF/PG/477](#)) for improving the sanitary capacity and export of livestock and livestock products from Ethiopia.

## 3.2 Key results, experiences and lessons from past and ongoing regional initiatives on trade in live animals in Eastern Africa

Over the past decade, various organisations including AU-IBAR, ICPALD, FAO, WOA, COMESA and some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have implemented numerous donor-supported projects and initiatives towards improving trade in live animals at the continental and regional levels.

### 3.2.1 Continental initiatives

At the continental level, the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) has implemented various projects and led the formulation of strategy frameworks to promote Africa's competitiveness in trade in livestock. The AU-IBAR initiatives have fostered continental harmonization for improving the animal health status and addressing SPS compliance. Since 2008, the AU-IBAR project for the Participation of African Nations in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards Setting Organisations (PAN-SPSO) has coordinated the formulation and articulation of common African positions on animal health and food safety standards. This has improved the participation of African nations in the WOA animal health standards and Codex Committees' food safety standards setting processes, and ensured the representation of African contexts, challenges, priorities and needs in shaping international standards, thus helping to prevent the adoption of standards that could disadvantage Africa in international trade in animals and animal-sourced foods. The project also strengthened awareness on the WTO-SPS agreement among senior veterinary and food safety staff and supported the establishment of national SPS committees across Africa. The PAN-SPSO initiative, initially funded by the EU and USDA now serves as an African Union platform for articulating the African Voice in the setting of international trade-related sanitary standards.

In partnership with FAO and WOA, AU-IBAR also implemented the Project for Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa (VetGov) from 2012 to 2017, with funding from the EU. VetGov strengthened national and regional capacities for analysis, formulation and implementation of livestock policies, strategies and legislations. The project supported countries to establish multi-stakeholder Livestock Policy Hubs to review and update livestock and animal health-related policy, legal and legislative frameworks in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The formulation and validation of the EAC Livestock Policy 2016 was supported through the VETGov project.

In 2015, AU-IBAR developed the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA: 2015-2035) that aims to transform the African livestock sector to maximise its contribution to socio-economic development and equitable growth. The LiDeSA animal health component promotes improvement of animal health systems to minimize the impact of diseases on livestock and public health. The component on access to markets places emphasis on compliance with international sanitary standards to safeguard animal health, public health, food safety and improve access to markets. AU-IBAR also developed the [Animal Health Strategy for Africa \(AHSA: 2019-2035\)](#) as a framework for improving animal health systems to meet WOA standards through a One Health approach for disease control across Africa.

### 3.2.2 IGAD Regional Projects and Initiatives

At the regional level, several key projects and initiatives focusing mainly on disease surveillance and control, market access and regional coordination, have supported trade in live animals within the IGAD and EAC regions. The majority of these projects were implemented in the IGAD Region.

The [Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health \(SMP-AH\)](#) Project (2012 -2023) was implemented by AU-IBAR in partnership with IGAD-ICPALD and funded by USAID and USDA. It promoted regional harmonization and coordination in the prevention and control of TADs using regionally agreed Standard Methods and Procedures (SMPs). The project developed SMPs for ten

priority diseases (Brucellosis, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Camel Pox, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), Rinderpest, Rift Valley fever (RVF) and Sheep and Goat Pox), and additional SMPs to harmonize livestock export quarantine procedures. Selected public sector staff were trained in disease surveillance, risk assessment and the application of SPS measures under the AfCFTA. SMP-AH also facilitated inter-regional dialogue on sanitary issues affecting trade between the livestock exporting countries in Eastern Africa and the importing countries in the Middle East, leading to building trust and the subsequent lifting of a temporary ban by the UAE on livestock imports from Somalia.

However, key shortfalls that affected the effectiveness and sustainability of the SMP-AH approach included the lack of its formal adoption by EAC and IGAD, the limited cascading of training and application of SMPs to field levels and high staff turnovers.

The project for [Improving Disease Surveillance in Support of Trade in the IGAD Member States \(STSD\)](#), implemented by AU-IBAR and ICPALD (2013-2018) aimed to strengthen national capacities for laboratory diagnosis, disease surveillance and control as well as both national and regional coordination mechanisms for the control of TADs. The project developed regional guidelines for animal health certification and livestock identification and traceability systems (LITS) including a model IGAD regional legal framework for LITS. Study tours were organised to Namibia and Ethiopia for IGAD policy makers to improve their awareness on LITS and its role in enabling market access for live animals and livestock products. However, these tours lacked private sector participation and did not translate to adoption and implementation of successful LITS in most of the IGAD countries except Ethiopia. Kenya later developed a strategy for the establishment and implementation of an [Animal Identification and Traceability \(ANITRAC\) system \(2020-2030\)](#). Pilot studies were initiated on public farms and there are plans to [launch and roll out ANITRAC country-wide](#).

The STSD project supported surveys for CBPP, FMD, PPR and RVF using regionally harmonized protocols. In Uganda, the survey results informed the revision of the national strategy for the eradication of PPR. Regional coordination platforms established for PPR control and eradication enabled the regular sharing of information on PPR eradication efforts among the IGAD Member States.

The project for [Improving the supply of safe and quality livestock and meat exports from the Horn of Africa to the Middle East and North African \(MENA\)](#) countries aimed to enhance trade-related SPS capacities in IGAD Member States to meet the sanitary requirements of the importing countries. It was funded by the Italian Development Cooperation and implemented by ICPALD and FAO (2016 – 2018). The project trained technical staff on trade-related SPS requirements of the MENA countries. [Training was also provided for Trade Counsellors/Commercial Attaches](#) on how to promote livestock exports to MENA. The Project also established platforms for information sharing between the public and private sector actors from the IGAD and existing and potential livestock importing countries. These forums facilitated trade linkages with Vietnam, Malaysia and Ghana and catalysed the export of animal products from Ethiopia to Vietnam. This approach has proved valuable in enhancing understanding and building trust between the trading partners.

[The Regional Integration Support Programme \(RISP\)](#) implemented by IGAD from 2005 to 2017 with funding from the EU established ICPALD, that now plays a critical role in supporting trade in livestock in the IGAD region. It also conducted a [Study on Key Cross-border Livestock Routes and Markets](#) that identified critical points for disease risk management.

The [Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Project \(RPLRP\)](#) was funded by the World Bank and coordinated by ICPALD from 2015 to 2021. It aimed to improve livestock marketing infrastructure and animal health interventions in selected pastoral areas in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. RPLRP supported the construction of holding grounds, inspection crushes and border inspection posts. It also conducted disease surveillance, vaccinations against selected TADs and trained and equipped community animal

health workers. It also facilitated cross-border coordination between Kenya and Uganda to synchronize interventions in the cross-border areas.

ICPALD also implemented a project for Building Resilient Animal and Meat Products Market Systems in the Cross-Border Drylands from 2018- 2024, with funding from USAID. The project aimed to strengthen cross-border trade and compliance with SPS measures in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. It supported the countries to implement MOUs and agreements to provide an enabling environment for cross-border trade. The project also facilitated trade missions to the UAE and Botswana to promote best practices in SPS compliance and LITS.

ICPALD is currently implementing the [Horn of Africa Regional Livestock Program \(RLP\)](#) in partnership with two non-governmental organisations with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The program aims to strengthen policy, coordination and management of the livestock sector. Under this program, ICPALD will expand the SMP-AH approach to national and sub-national levels through training of field staff to apply SMPs for routine disease prevention, detection and control. This calls for updating of SMPs to address evolving disease situations and include other diseases of regional importance such as African Swine fever and Anthrax that currently lack SMPs.

### **3.2.3 East African Community Regional Initiatives**

Unlike ICPALD, the EAC did not receive much direct donor funding for livestock trade-related projects over the last 10 years. However, in 2021, EAC with funding from USAID, supported the development and signing of a [bilateral MOU](#) and Action Plan for implementation between Kenya and Tanzania to enhance cross-border cooperation for the prevention and control of TADs and zoonoses.

In the East African Community, the establishment of One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) supported by various donor organisations and development partners at different points along the common borders between neighbouring countries, have resulted in improvements in the efficiency of cross-border trade. The World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB), EU, TradeMark Africa (TMA), USAID and UNDP have been instrumental in this initiative. However, most of the livestock trade in Eastern Africa is informal and may not pass through the official OSBPs. Furthermore, most of the OSBPs lack adequate infrastructure to support safe cross-border livestock trade such as livestock holding pens, quarantine facilities, functional veterinary laboratories and inspection crushes.

### **3.2.4 The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) project and the Global Health Security Programme (GHSP)**

The FAO's Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (FAO/ECTAD) implemented the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) project in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, to strengthen national health security by improving capacities to prevent, detect and respond to TADs and zoonoses (2016-2022). Building on the achievements of the GHSA, the GHSP (2023-2025) was expanded to Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda and South Sudan. This expansion focused on strengthening surveillance, biosecurity, laboratory biosafety and sample testing systems. It also contributed to workforce development through the FAO [Frontline In-Service Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training \(ISAVET\)](#) programme, which led to improved farmer engagement in reporting TADs and increased awareness on good sanitary practices. Both GHSA and GHSP, funded by USAID, fostered collaboration between the public health, animal health and environmental sectors through the One Health approach. This not only safeguards public health but also enhances compliance with SPS standards, which are critical for safe trade in live animals.

### **3.2.5 USAID Trade Facilitation Forums**

In 2018, the USAID's [East Africa Trade and Investment Hub](#) in partnership with ILRI and in collaboration with the Partnership for Resilience and Economic Growth (PREG) partners, convened [business to business trade facilitation forums](#) in Marsabit, Wajir, Isiolo and Garissa counties for traders

from Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Uganda. These facilitated trade agreements for 28,000 cattle, camels sheep and goats amounting to 7.1 million USD. The forums served as a platform for livestock producers and traders in the four countries to establish business linkages for more efficient, transformational and sustainable trade between livestock buyers and sellers.

### **3.2.6 De-risking, Inclusion and Value Enhancement of Pastoral Economies (DRIVE) Project**

[The DRIVE Project](#), funded by the World Bank is on-going in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. It aims to enhance pastoralists' resilience to droughts, improve their access to financial services including insurance of their livestock, and enhance their integration in livestock value chains. The [DRIVE project in Kenya](#) is implemented by the Kenya Development Cooperation in partnership with the State Department of Livestock and the ZEP-RE PTA Reinsurance Company. [DRIVE in Somalia](#) is implemented by ZEP-RE PTA Reinsurance Company and the Ministry of Finance. In Djibouti, the project is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries, Livestock and Maritime Resources and in Ethiopia by the ZEP-RE PTA Reinsurance Company, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Trade and Regional Integration. The project aims to facilitate both regional and export trade and market access for livestock and livestock products, implies it will address compliance with sanitary standards that are critical for safe livestock trade.

### **3.2.7 Other Relevant Regional and National Projects and Initiatives**

- **STDF regional project ([STDF/PG/013](#)): Assessed the constraints for regional and international trade of livestock and animal exports**

Between September 2006 and June 2008, FAO implemented [project STDF 013](#) entitled "A Strategy and action plan for selected African regions to enhance public and private sector capacity in meeting international sanitary standards in international trade of livestock and livestock products". The objectives were: i). to assess the constraints for intra-regional and international trade of livestock and animal commodities from two targeted zones of Africa (ECOWAS and IGAD) and ii). To make proposals to enhance public and private sector capacity in meeting WOAHS international sanitary standards.

In the ECOWAS region, the project in collaboration with authorities in Mali identified a pilot project for strengthening Veterinary services to improve the sanitary status in pastoral areas to enable safe exports of small ruminants from northern Mali to southern Algeria. Involvement of the private veterinary sector, value chain, the inclusion of a Livestock Identification and traceability system (LITS) and disease zoning approaches, were considered as essential for success. For the IGAD region, a pilot project was proposed to support livestock exports through Djibouti through the delegation of authority by Government to the private sector operators of the quarantine facility with regular monitoring by the Veterinary authority. It was envisaged that the Veterinary Services would thus be upgraded and modernized and that this would improve the national livestock disease status reducing risks of exposure to diseases for transit livestock and those in the quarantine facility, improving alive animal exports.

The key recommendations and lessons from the implementation of STDF/PG 013 ([STDF/PG/013 Final Report](#)) included the need for:

Adequate resourcing of Veterinary services to meet WOAHS standards using the WOAHS PVS evaluation framework; Strengthening inspection and disease control programs to comply with regional legislation on animal health, veterinary public health, food safety and trade and building capacity on

certification to help exporters to gain and maintain access to valuable markets. An independent [Ex-post evaluation of project STDF/PG 013](#) recommended STDF support for animal health related projects that include zoning and compartmentalization approaches in compliance with WOAHS standards and advocated for private sector involvement with effective supervision by the public Veterinary Service in export-related projects for sustainability.

- **Assessment of Livestock Trade in COMESA**

A detailed [assessment of livestock trade in the COMESA region](#) was conducted in 2019 under the COMESA project for “Improving intra-regional and international trade in live animals (beef cattle and small ruminants) and meat products. The project was jointly financed by COMESA and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The assessment covered Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia as the main livestock producing countries, exporting both live animals and meat products within and outside the COMESA region, and Egypt, Mauritius and Seychelles as the main importing countries of live animals and meat products. The assessment provides key learnings for this PPG particularly those related to the major challenges, options for improvement, and experiences and practices in countries that sustain access to export markets.

The livestock exporting countries face similar challenges including the occurrence of trade limiting TADs, uncontrolled internal and cross-border animal movements, porous borders, large volumes of informal domestic and cross-border trade in live animals, inadequate compliance with international sanitary standards, weaknesses in the animal health services delivery systems and challenges in meeting stringent SPS measures required by importing countries. Additional challenges include inadequate policies for livestock trade, limited livestock trade infrastructure including feedlots, quarantine facilities and export quality abattoirs, inadequate market information and asymmetry of information among different value chain actors, the lack of credible livestock identification and traceability systems (LITS) and the low supply of marketable animals mainly due to the subsistence-oriented production systems.

In Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya and Zambia, the export of live animals and meat products is facilitated by the establishment and operation of livestock feedlots and quarantine facilities that meet high levels of biosecurity, provide adequate veterinary services, including preventive vaccinations based on market certification requirements and the prevention and treatment of common diseases and infestations.

Ethiopia and Sudan have advanced feedlot systems that feed into the livestock export chains. In Ethiopia, privately owned feedlots that also serve as quarantine facilities, undertake all the inspections and tests in line with guidelines for quarantine stations and receive all the necessary support from federal government quarantine service providers. This approach has led to successful exports of animals without any rejections by the importing countries. In Sudan, feedlots serve both the domestic and export markets. Feedlot animals destined for export are subjected to government regulated quarantine for inspections and certification for 21 days while those for the domestic markets are sent directly for slaughter. This system has enabled Sudan to sustain safe exports of livestock to the Middle East, Egypt, Libya and some COMESA countries.

Kenya is promoting the establishment of export-oriented feedlots and ranches by private investors to enhance live animal and meat exports. Other efforts to establish quarantine facilities in different parts of the country through partnerships between government and the private sector have so far not materialized. There is on-going construction of a livestock pre-export quarantine zone in Lamu county to enable the exportation of live animals and animal products through the new Lamu Port. Currently, the Directorate of Veterinary Services utilizes improvised quarantine to facilitate livestock exports. This entails enhanced biosecurity measures in sections of existing ranches with pre-inspection and approval by the Veterinary Services of the importing countries. Kenya has an elaborate certification system with appropriate staff to ensure credible certification.

In Uganda, there are currently small feedlots serving the domestic market. There is a growing interest for public and private sector investments in feedlots, quarantines and abattoirs to target the export market. In the absence of official quarantine facilities, export animals are currently held and subjected to requisite quarantine procedures in isolated sections of farms and ranches.

- **Project for Improving Capacity and Facilitating Export of Livestock and Livestock Products from Ethiopia ([STDF/PG/477](#))**

This project was funded by STDF and implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 ([STDF/PG/477 Final Project Report](#)) by FAO in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and several national and international organisations. It aimed to build Ethiopia's capacity to comply with SPS requirements for exports of sheep, goat and cattle meat to existing and potential importing countries in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) as well as Southeast Asia. It also aimed to increase coordination and linkages among value chain actors in Ethiopia and with those in the destination markets

The project improved prospects for enhancing meat exports through better coordination among stakeholders across the meat value chain in Ethiopia. Key supporting regulations, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and guidelines were updated and national capacities for testing for drug residues in foods of animal origin were strengthened to enhance compliance with SPS measures.

Key lesson learned in relation to the export trade in livestock products with the MENA countries included:

- Regular coordination meetings of the laboratory and epidemiology networks and the control of production diseases by the regional veterinary services play a key role in enabling Ethiopia to address some SPS concerns by importing countries.
- The absence of livestock traceability systems and non-SPS requirements by the importing countries for Halal compliance, impact negatively on linkages and trade negotiations between exporters and importers.

An [Independent End of Project Assessment](#) highlighted additional key lessons and implications for the sustainability of the project achievements and activities including::

- Inadequate planning of the project exit strategy to ensure sustainability
- The need to avoid over-ambitious project goals and outcomes adopt realistic framing taking into account the risks involved
- The need for achievable indicators and targets for project outputs which do not depend on risks and actions by other actors beyond the control or influence of the project. (e.g. targeting the submission of revised legislations rather than enactment and enforcement).
- the need for an exit workshop to determine modalities for sustaining the positive project outcomes among various stakeholders;
- the need for government intervention with involvement of the private sector to address non-SPS requirements and other issues that affect the competitiveness of the Ethiopian meat export trade.

The assessment recommended that STDF should encourage the design of project exit strategies and consider the involvement of the private sector by fostering public private partnerships in future SPS projects

- **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) feasibility study for a joint Horn of Africa-Arabian Peninsula initiative, conducted as part of WOA's BESST Initiative (Better Enforcement of Standards for Safe Trade).**

In 2020, WOA's commissioned the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) to undertake a [Feasibility study for a joint Horn of Africa-Arabian Peninsula initiative](#) under the umbrella of the Better Enforcement of Standards for Safer Trade in livestock and Livestock Products Across the Red Sea (BESST) initiative. The study recognized the importance and benefits of the long-standing and successful trade in live animals and livestock products between the two regions. The Study identified the key constraints grouped into four clusters in order of priority as follows: 1) weak health system performance and SPS compliance in Horn of Africa (HoA) countries, 2) inadequate governance, trust and poor communications, 3) knowledge/capacity and disease/trade information deficits, 4) sector weaknesses – disease prevalence, poor animal welfare and inadequate infrastructure. Weak animal health systems and SPS compliance, inadequate governance, trust and poor communications and knowledge/capacity/trade information deficits were ranked as the most important constraints that could be addressed within the BESST initiative with a focus on public-private partnerships, capacity development, compliance and trust-building. It concluded that many sector weaknesses and governance gaps (e.g. widespread illegal trade and lack of rigorous systems) were beyond the scope of short-term projects and should be addressed under wider investments or development programmes.

Consultation with the Arabian Peninsula countries, highlighted three key issues: lack of trust between the trading partners due to inadequate communication; weak political will and absence of a shared vision to prioritize the issues; perceived weaknesses in animal health delivery systems in the Horn of Africa countries and Growth in informal and high-risk trade. Specific constraints were highlighted relating to lack of traceability, difficulties in implementing equivalence and regionalization, mistrust of quarantine duration, performance and transparency, and the lack of information sharing and participation of stakeholders.

Proposed interventions were grouped into four clusters: 1) trust, communications and governance, 2) knowledge and information, 3) veterinary system performance, and 4) sector weaknesses. The proposed interventions were characterized and prioritised by cost of implementation, likelihood of success, urgency of the problem they address, impact on trade in the short and long terms, potential domestic spillover (livestock productivity, public health), and their wider social impacts (employment, poverty reduction, food security).

The interventions proposed for possible implementation within the scope of the BESST project were not implemented due to a perceived conflict of interest for WOA's.

### **3.2.7 Key lessons from continental and Regional Projects and initiatives**

The key lessons learned from implementation of the continental and regional projects and initiatives included:

A large number of projects have been implemented to improve live animal exports but many of the challenges in access to markets for live animals from Eastern Africa still persist.

The lack of a value chain approach involving key stakeholders at different points in most of the interventions limited their effectiveness and sustainability of their achievements.

The design and implementation of the projects relied on partnerships among international, continental, regional and national public sector institutions with little involvement of private sector, civil society and community-based actors. This resulted in missed opportunities to leverage different institutional resources, capacities, knowledge and skills for effective and more sustainable results.

There was inadequate alignment of the project objectives and activities with ongoing national public and private sector initiatives. This limited the success and sustainability of the initiatives and did not enhance synergies in related interventions.

Gender mainstreaming and climate change were envisaged as cross-cutting issues in all the projects but there were no intentional or targeted activities addressing them within the project. There was also no collaboration with other projects addressing gender and climate change

The linkage of livestock trade stakeholders from the importing and exporting countries through joint forums for sharing information on the animal health status in eastern Africa and the sanitary concerns and requirements of the importing countries, enhanced transparency, trust and improved trade relationships between the partners.

### 3.3. National Initiatives on trade in live animals

#### 3.3.1 Kenya

Kenya has benefitted from all the completed and on-going continental and regional projects and initiatives coordinated by AU-IBAR, ICPALD, EAC and FAO from 2010. With the support of these projects, Kenya has enhanced its capacity for disease prevention, surveillance, detection, reporting and response. Among these projects, the Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project facilitated the construction of livestock marketing infrastructure including livestock holding grounds in selected pastoral areas.

The [Kenya Accelerated Value Chain Development Program](#) (AVCD) funded by USAID and implemented from October 2015 to September 2021, focused on value chains with good potential for development of market systems in Garissa, Isiolo, Marsabit, Turkana and Wajir counties. The project established a syndromic electronic surveillance (e-surveillance) to improve early detection and reporting of disease syndromes at the household level. This enabled county authorities to undertake timely vaccinations to prevent or contain outbreaks of priority TADs. Data from the system provided evidence for the counties to secure increased budgetary allocations for disease prevention and control ([AVCD End of Program Report](#)). AVCD also supported the development of policies and legislation for animal health and market systems in Isiolo, Marsabit, Tukana and Wajir counties and the modernization and consolidation of outdated national animal health legislation. However, most of the new legislation at both the national and county government levels was not enacted by the end of AVCD. The program also supported the formulation of clear guidelines for the involvement of the private sector to improve the delivery of animal health services in underserved northern Kenya.

Other key [projects outlined in the Fourth Medium Term Plan \(2023 – 2027\)](#) include: the DRIVE project that focuses on the arid and semi-arid areas; the [Kenya Livestock Commercialization project](#) (KeLCoP) that aims to empower smallholder farmers and pastoralists to participate in livestock commercialization and to improve household incomes through better performance of goat, sheep, indigenous chicken, rabbit and bee value chains; the livestock disease management project aims to modernize and improve the vaccine production capacity of the Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production

Institute (KEVEVAPI) and to equip Regional Veterinary Investigation Laboratories (RVILs). The project also aims to strengthen surveillance systems in order to reduce the incidence of priority TADs and zoonoses; The Animal Identification and Traceability System (ANITRAC) initiative aims to establish [ANITRAC](#) in all 47 counties for credible animal health certification for international trade, better management of diseases and to assure the security of ownership to livestock owners.

The key SPS compliance gaps in Kenya include difficulties in the enforcement of animal movement controls, the endemic presence of trade-limiting TADs and zoonoses weak biosecurity systems and the absence of a functional animal identification and traceability system.

### **3.3.2 Somalia**

Somalia's animal health systems and livestock trade infrastructure collapsed following the outbreak of civil war in 1991. Since then, a series of donor-funded projects played a critical role in their reconstruction and re-establishing institutional capacities for compliance with international sanitary standards for trade in live animals and animal products. The key projects included:

The Somali Animal Health Services Project (SAHSP) funded by the EU in three phases between 2005 and 2013 that was pivotal in re-building the animal health systems. SAHSP rehabilitated laboratories, established disease reporting systems, enhanced rapid disease outbreak response capacities, and compliance with international sanitary standards. It generated surveillance data for several priority TADs and was instrumental in Somalia's recognition by WOAAH as a rinderpest free country in 2010. This contributed to the lifting of a ban imposed by Saudi Arabia in 1983 on cattle imports from Somalia due to fears of rinderpest.

The Project for Reinforcing Animal Health Services in Somalia (RAHS), funded by the EU and coordinated by AU-IBAR from 2013 - 2017, supported the enactment of the Veterinary Law Code No. 21 (2016) of the Federal Government of Somalia. It enhanced community-level animal health services, laboratory testing, and sentinel herd surveillance for Rift Valley Fever (RVF) and provided data to facilitate regular disease reporting to WOAAH by the Veterinary Services. The construction of veterinary inspection posts and sanitary inspections along key livestock trade routes further supported compliance with international sanitary standards.

In parallel to the animal health projects, two EU funded projects directly supported improvements to livestock trade: The Livestock Trade and Marketing Project (LTMP) – 2005-2008, implemented by Terra Nuova (an NGO), used a value chain approach to improve livestock support services at critical points along key marketing routes. It introduced a livestock marketing information system (LIMS) and promoted improvements in animal welfare standards. It also supported the construction of livestock loading ramps and market sheds, improving the efficiency of livestock trade operations.

The Somali Livestock Certification Project (SOLICEP) – 2008-2011, strengthened animal health certification processes, renovated veterinary offices and facilitated inter-regional meetings for information sharing and building trust between stakeholders from exporting countries in the Horn of Africa and those from importing countries in the Gulf region and northern Africa. The Livestock Emergency Interventions to Mitigate the Food crisis in Somalia (LEISOM) coordinated by AU-IBAR from 2009 to 2011, vaccinated 2.5 million sheep and goats against four priority TADs. It also supported the construction/rehabilitation of 134 livestock trade infrastructure facilities along trade routes and markets, incorporating public private partnerships in selected locations for sustainability. These interventions improved the animal health status and trade operations benefitting women traders.

#### **3.3.2 1 FAO Initiatives in Somalia (2012-2022)**

From 2012, FAO with funding from USAID, supported animal health interventions including the vaccination of sheep and goats which significantly reduced disease outbreaks, improving the health status and supporting exports. The [FAO Capacity Development Project](#) implemented from 2021 to 2022 included emergency livestock interventions, training of community animal health workers and raising awareness on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

In Somalia, the lack of mechanisms to enforce animal movement controls and the inadequate supervision of the livestock export quarantine procedures by the public veterinary services, and absence of an animal identification and traceability system represent key gaps in SPS compliance.

### **3.3.3 Tanzania**

Tanzania has been involved in the PANSPSO, VETgov, Live 2 Africa and SMP-AH projects coordinated by AU-IBAR as well as in the livestock trade related initiatives implemented by EAC and FAO from 2010.

In 2016-2017, a cost-benefit analysis funded by STDF under STDF/PPG516 was carried out to support decisions on the [Feasibility of Establishing a Foot and Mouth Disease \(FMD\) free zone](#) in the Rukwa region of Tanzania. It, estimated the costs of FMD for small-scale farmers and ranchers, FMD outbreak control costs, costs of vaccination and surveillance, and the benefits from avoiding disease costs, and highlighted the capacity gaps in the national veterinary services, as well as with other actors in livestock value chains. It detailed the requirements to effectively control and manage FMD, and the substantial resources gap, focusing on the economic aspects of disease control and practical factors including livestock traceability and trade dynamics. The study concluded that the proposed FMD-free zone was unlikely to be cost-effective due to prevailing lack of market opportunities and the need for a price increase of more than 50% for meat exports in order to break even, among other factors. Key recommendations to the government and private sector included improving the national FMD control plan, better connecting demand and supply across the value chain, rolling out the existing Livestock Identification and Traceability System, and promoting public-private partnerships. The study proposed exploring the option of commodity-based trade and a value chain approach to produce FMD safe deboned beef from an endemic area.

This study provided insights on some of the challenges in establishing disease free zones in Eastern Africa, targeting livestock export markets. It also draws attention to the need to adopt options that are better suited to the eastern Africa livestock production context and can be more cost effectively implemented while enabling compliance with WOAHA international animal health and food safety standards.

Tanzania still faces challenges in SPS compliance gaps due to inadequate enforcement of animal movement controls, the endemic presence of trade-limiting TADs and zoonoses, weak biosecurity systems and the absence of a functional animal identification and traceability system.

### **3.3.4 Uganda**

- [Study on Promoting a Commercial Beef Industry in Uganda](#)

Like Kenya, Uganda has also benefitted from all the completed and on-going continental and regional projects and initiatives coordinated by AU-IBAR, ICPALD, EAC and FAO from 2010.

A study funded by the EU in 2011, highlighted key issues affecting the delivery of animal health services and trade. The Directorate of Animal Resources of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry, and Fisheries (MAAIF) oversees veterinary services but has limited staff. Its services include

laboratory and epidemio-surveillance at NADDEC and is also supported by laboratories in research and academic institutions. Uganda's system of government is decentralized and there are 112 District Veterinary Offices, who report administratively to district administrators and technically to the Directorate of Animal Resources. This weakens the chain of command, leading to poor communication and reporting. The existing veterinary do not meet WOAHA international standards. Trans-boundary animal diseases and zoonoses limit access to international markets while an Animal Health Master Plan developed to control the diseases has not been implemented due to a lack of funds. There is no national system for animal identification and traceability.

- **Karamoja Resilience Support Unit**

A Policy Brief on [Livestock trade dynamics in the Karamoja region of Uganda](#), prepared in 2018, with funding from USAID, described Karamoja as seasonal economic hub for livestock trade. The region is remote and economically disadvantaged with a poor roads infrastructure network but animals purchased in markets in Karamoja, were transported to 20 different markets in Uganda and informally as far away as Machakos in Eastern Kenya and Juba in South Sudan. This reiterated the need for harmonised regional policies for livestock trade, animal movement controls and disease control in the both the EAC and IGAD.

- **[Meat Export Support Services Project](#)**

This project is implemented by the Directorate of Animal Resources. The emphasis is on value addition in line with the National Development Plan. It addresses animal health, food safety, adherence to sanitary requirements and livestock identification and traceability. The project involves upgrading infrastructure facilities including meat export grade livestock holding grounds and Veterinary quarantine stations, abattoirs, cold storage facilities, and meat processing units. It also addresses measures for enhancing compliance with WOAHA international sanitary standards to avoid trade barriers. Marketing strategies include enhancing linkages with countries in the Middle East and East Africa as well as initiatives to brand and promote Uganda meat as a safe, high-quality product.

In Uganda, SPS compliance gaps include inadequate animal movement controls, the endemic presence of trade-limiting TADs and zoonoses, weak biosecurity systems and the absence of a functional animal identification and traceability system.

### **3.4 Description and analysis of relevant national priorities and initiatives related to live animal trade, in each one of the four beneficiary countries.**

The national priorities related to live animal trade in Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda are articulated in the relevant national development plans, and agricultural and livestock sector policies, strategies and programmes.

#### **3.4.1 Kenya national priorities**

The [Kenya Vision 2030](#) is the long-term blueprint for Kenya's transformation into a newly industrializing, globally competitive and prosperous middle-income country. It includes the improvement of domestic, regional and international trade in livestock and livestock products among the priority areas for achieving transformation in the agricultural sector. The establishment of government funded livestock disease-free zones was initiated as a flagship project of Vision 2030 to facilitate compliance with WOAHA sanitary standards. However, the initiative encountered several systemic challenges that halted its progress ([Vision 2030 Flagship Projects Progress Reports for 2008 – 2020](#); [Vision 2030 progress report for 2020 – 2021](#)). In addition, a WOAHA Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Evaluation noted that disease-free zones were not feasible due to the high prevalence of TADs, porous borders and weaknesses in enforcing animal movement controls. Kenya has since then adopted the more practical compartmentalization approach ([the Kenya Veterinary Policy, 2020](#)).

At the sectoral level, the [Kenya Livestock Policy \(2020\)](#) and [the Kenya Veterinary Policy \(2020\)](#) both promote commercially oriented livestock production and increased access to domestic, regional and international markets. They prioritize compliance with international animal health and food safety standards including the implementation of an animal identification and traceability system. The Veterinary Policy further identifies strategies to contain TADs, the establishment of disease-free zones and compartments, and improvement of livestock marketing infrastructure, veterinary laboratories, as crucial support tools. The policy also recognizes the contribution of women, youth and persons with disabilities (PWDs) and outlines strategies to promote gender equality, ensuring the participation of youth, and mainstreaming pro-poor measures and disability considerations in Veterinary Services delivery and access. Kenya also formulated an [Animal Identification and Traceability Strategy \(2020-2030\)](#) that aims to establish an Animal Identification and Traceability (ANITRAC) system to enhance compliance with international animal health and food safety standards,

The Kenya Government is currently implementing the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). In the livestock sub-sector, BETA prioritizes the leather and leather products and dairy value chains for interventions to enhance food security and access to markets. Due attention is also given to the indigenous poultry, beef, mutton, chevon and pork value chains. The establishment of feedlots and feed production zones, the completion of livestock export zones and improvement of livestock disease management including support to the Kenya Veterinary Vaccines Production Institute (KEVEVAPI) and Regional Veterinary Investigation Laboratories are among the priority interventions envisaged under BETA.

### **3.4.2 Somalia national priorities**

[The Somalia National Development Plan \(2020-2024\)](#) identifies livestock as the backbone of the economy underpinned by a vibrant centuries' old livestock export trade to Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen, Oman, Kenya and Egypt. The national Development Plan prioritizes interventions to safeguard and sustain the livestock export trade including. It identifies the need for the effective regulation of the private veterinary services at export quarantines to ensure compliance with the sanitary requirements of importing countries, and the application of the WOAHPVS pathway to assess, monitor and improve veterinary services.

The [Somali Livestock Sector Development Strategy \(2020-2030\)](#) identifies key priorities including long-term public and private sector investments to rebuild institutions, infrastructure, workforces and legal and regulatory frameworks at both the Federal Government and Federal Member State levels, in order to re-establish the optimum functioning of the key sectoral institutions in the country. The strategy places emphasis on animal health improvement and interventions to improve the performance of the livestock export trade as critical to sustaining livestock exports.

In Somalia, the implementation of the livestock sector activities outlined in the National Development plan and the Livestock Sector Strategy, are dependent on the availability of donor funded projects. However, the trade in live animals is sustained by investments by livestock traders and other value chain actors and has proved resilient through the years of conflict. The involvement of the private sector in future projects will enhance sustainability.

### **3.4.3 Tanzania national priorities**

[Tanzania Vision 2025](#) promotes the transformation of the economy towards competitiveness in all sectors to achieve diversification from a predominantly low productivity agricultural economy to a semi-industrialized economy focused on agro-industries. [The Tanzania National Five-year Development plan \(2021/2022-2025/2026\)](#) emphasizes value addition, industrialization, trade and competitiveness to improve exports. Key priorities for the livestock sector include the identification, registration and traceability of livestock products to promote exports, improvement of primary, secondary and border

livestock markets; strengthening animal disease surveillance systems and facilitating access to affordable vaccines. Although the emphasis is on value addition and industrialization, some live animals will be traded in the domestic markets and even enter livestock export chains in the region. The Key interventions in the development plan will therefore also support trade in live animals.

Priority interventions for the livestock sector transformation in the long-term [Tanzania Agricultural Sector Development Programme phase II](#) (ASDP II) 2017/2018 – 2027/2028, include the availability of laboratory diagnostic services, disease prevention and control measures and the application of appropriate sanitary measures. The programme also addresses improved capacities for disease surveillance, detection of emerging disease threats, the availability of vaccines and vaccination programmes for TADs and zoonoses, livestock health certification, veterinary public health interventions to ensure the sanitary safety of meat, and livestock identification, registration and traceability. The [Tanzania Livestock Masterplan \(2018\)](#) provides roadmaps for the development of four priority livestock value chains (dairy, red meat, chicken and pig/pork) towards commercialization. For each value chain, the Masterplan details the essential investments to improve the delivery of animal health services and the application of animal identification, registration and traceability. The Livestock Masterplan also highlights investments in fattening/feedlot operations for the production of quality beef as viable with the potential to attain the highest returns on investment and contributions to GDP.

#### **3.4.4 Uganda national priorities**

The Goal of the [Uganda National Development Plan III](#) – 2020/2021 – 2024/2025 (NDP III) is to raise household incomes and improve the quality of life of Ugandans through industrialisation. NDP III emphasizes value addition and agro-industrialisation to increase commercialization and competitiveness of agricultural production and agro-processing. In the livestock sub-sector, meat and dairy are identified as the priority value chains for industrialization and commercialization.

The livestock sector priorities in the [National Agricultural Development Policy](#) (MAAIF, 2013), include the provision of adequate animal health services (vaccinations and treatments) to control priority diseases, and the availability of sufficient vaccines for notifiable diseases (TADs). The enforcement of sanitary safety and quality standards is a priority for enhancing the competitiveness of products from Uganda in domestic, regional and international markets. The policy also prioritizes the need for adequate livestock markets and abattoirs at strategic locations and outlines measures to enhance the human resources capacities at the central and local government levels for its effective implementation. Farmers will also be trained in appropriate technologies and agricultural practices.

### **3.5 Role of the African Union and regional bodies (EAC and IGAD/ICPALD) on initiatives in the countries.**

#### **3.5.1 Role of the African Union**

The African Union (AU) plays a pivotal role in Africa's development by promoting policies, strategies and programmes for Africa's long-term socio-economic development. The AU works closely with the Member States and eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The key policy frameworks and programmes of the AU include the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) launched in 2003, that promotes improved competitiveness and access to regional and international markets for African agricultural commodities (including livestock); the 2014 Malabo Declaration on "[accelerated agricultural growth and transformation for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods](#)", that includes the commitment by AU Heads of State and Government to boost intra-African trade in agricultural commodities, with an ambitious target of tripling trade in commodities and services by 2025 and the AU [Agenda 2063](#) which provided for the establishment of the [African Continental Free Trade Area](#) (AfCFTA) to significantly accelerate intra-African trade in goods and

services. The trade in Agricultural commodities including livestock, is governed by the Protocol on Trade in Goods. Annex 7 of the Protocol details the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures to ensure food safety and animal and plant health.

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), leads the development and implementation of animal resources-related policies, strategies, programmes and projects. AU-IBAR coordinates projects to improve the animal health status and enhance trade in collaboration with the Member States, RECs FAO, WOAHA, Academic and Research institutions, and Civil Society Organisations. It advocates for the adoption of appropriate policies and strategies by the AU Policy Organs, ensuring Africa-wide commitment to animal resource initiatives to promote safe trade in compliance with WOAHA sanitary standards. In a potential new project, AU-IBAR could facilitate coordination between EAC and IGAD and support the adoption and up-scaling of the project outputs across Africa.

### **3.5.2 Role of the East African Community (EAC)**

The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat ensures the implementation of directives adopted by the Council of Ministers and provides the Council with strategic recommendations for adoption. The EAC Directorate of Productive Sectors leads initiatives for agricultural productivity and competitiveness and a Senior Livestock Officer coordinates the livestock sector activities. The EAC policies, strategies and protocols to support the development of the livestock sector include:

The [EAC Livestock Policy](#) aims to enhance livestock productivity and competitiveness. It promotes strategies for strengthening veterinary services and mainstreaming a One Health approach for the prevention and control of TADs, zoonoses and emerging infectious diseases. It advocates for enhanced capacities for the application of animal health and food safety standards and the harmonization of livestock regulatory frameworks and disease control services in the region. It also promotes investments in export quality infrastructure including public-private partnerships to establish disease-free zones to enhance trade in livestock and livestock products.

The [EAC Strategy for the Control of TADs and Zoonoses \(2020-2024\)](#) addresses the burden of endemic TADs and zoonoses and measures for strengthening regional capacities for their prevention and control. These include: Veterinary policy and legal frameworks; Strengthening multi-sectoral coordination among one health institutions and actors; Enhancing sanitary compliance for access to markets; Investments in disease prevention, control and eradication; Coordination, knowledge management and information flow for TADs and zoonoses and support for research and innovation.

The [EAC SPS Protocol](#) aims to strengthen cooperation, coordination and harmonization in the application of SPS measures to enhance safe trade in food and agricultural commodities. The EAC is also consolidating [efforts to improve SPS processes in the region](#) and has adopted a draft SPS Bill for enactment by the EAC Legislative Assembly. This will provide a legal framework for the enforcement of SPS measures in the EAC. In addition, the EAC is developing an SPS information Sharing Platform (SPS-IP) with support from [Trade Mark Africa](#), to enable the electronic sharing and access to trade documents (e.g. sanitary and import permits) in order to improve accountability of the processes and enhance compliance.

The EAC has well established regional coordination mechanisms comprising of three Technical Working Groups (TWGs) on Animal Health, One Health, and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards. In addition, the Steering Committee for the Integrated Regional Coordination Mechanism (IRCM) brings together the heads of the One Health Sectors. However, budgetary constraints prevent the regular convening of all the relevant sectors for effective integrated regional coordination of the EAC Animal Health, One Health and SPS initiatives.

In discussions with the EAC Senior Livestock Programme Officer, it was envisaged that in a potential new project, the EAC could coordinate the implementation of specific allocated activities involving all the EAC Member States (Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda) and participate in the governance of the project as a member of the project technical and steering committees.

### **3.5.3 The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)**

The IGAD Secretariat, assists Member States to formulate regional projects and mobilizes resources for implementation of programmes and projects approved by the IGAD Council of Ministers. The IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) coordinates regional livestock development initiatives and works in close collaboration with AU-IBAR, FAO, WOAHA and other organisations, to develop projects and mobilize resources for their implementation.

ICPALD has coordinated the development of several regional strategies: The [IGAD Animal Health Strategy 2017-2022](#) developed through the (RPLRP) project, focused on effective delivery of animal health services to prevent and control priority TADs and zoonoses. It included modalities for strengthening national veterinary institutions, disease surveillance systems and the regional sharing of data for disease prevention and control. It also identified priority interventions, including animal identification and traceability systems, biosecurity measures, effective communication and the development and implementation of national strategies for priority animal diseases.

The [IGAD Region Sanitary and Phytosanitary Strategy and Action Plan \(2017-2022\)](#) aims to enable the Member States to expand trade through coordination and collaboration on all aspects of SPS compliance and market access; Strengthening public and private sector institutions to assure SPS compliance and market access; Managing trans-boundary pests and diseases to enhance market access and integration; and improving Communication and awareness.

ICPALD convenes the Eastern Africa Regional Animal Health Network (EA-RAHN) to enhance information sharing, joint planning and coordination of activities for the prevention, control and eradication of priority TADs. All the IGAD and EAC Member States (Burundi, Djibouti, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) are represented in EA-RAHN. It comprises of three sub-networks namely, the Chief Veterinary Officers' (CVO's) Network, the Epidemio-surveillance network and the Laboratory Network. ICPALD also convenes forums that link public and private sector actors from livestock exporting countries in the Horn of Africa with those from the livestock importing countries in the Middle East and Northern Africa. This has improved information sharing and contributed to greater trust between the trading partners, particularly on the sanitary status and requirements of the importing countries.

Discussions with the ICPALD Livestock Programme Officer indicated that in a potential new project, ICPALD could play a crucial role in sharing the existing frameworks, experiences and good practices from its previous and on-going initiatives in support of livestock trade. It could also assist by incorporating livestock value chain actors in the new project within its existing forums for linking the livestock exporting and importing countries. ICPALD could also coordinate the implementation of specific activities involving the three IGAD Member States (Kenya, Somalia and Uganda) and participate in the governance of the project as a member of the project technical and steering committees.

## **3.6 Description and analysis of the key sanitary issues and requirements affecting live animal trade in the EAC and IGAD regions**

### **3.6.1. Transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and zoonoses**

In both the EAC and IGAD regions, the high prevalence of important TADS and zoonoses is the main sanitary issue affecting trade in live animals and livestock products. Key among these are: ASF, FMD, PPR, RVF CBPP, CAPP, LSD, S&GP, Camel Pox, NCD, Brucellosis, Anthrax and other emerging diseases such as HPAI that threaten public health, animal health and disrupt trade. The regional spread of these diseases is facilitated by porous borders with numerous unmanned entry points, seasonal migrations in search of pasture and water by transboundary nomadic pastoral communities, animal rustling, informal livestock trade that is not subjected to sanitary inspections or health certification and other requirements for the safe movement of livestock, inadequacies in animal health service delivery systems, poor infrastructure and insecurity. The key sanitary requirements for live animal exports to the MENA countries include testing of animals to demonstrate that they are free from FMD, brucellosis, PPR, CBPP and Rift Valley fever, with variations between the importing countries regarding the number to be sampled and tested per consignment.

In Eastern Africa, there are no routine preventive vaccination programmes for TADs in ruminants but ad-hoc vaccination campaigns are often carried out in response to disease outbreaks. This compromises the ability to undertake risk-based vaccinations to effectively prevent disease outbreaks and erodes the confidence and trust of livestock importing countries in the sanitary safety of animals and animal products from the region.

### **3.6.2 Disease surveillance and reporting**

In Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda the disease surveillance systems rely mainly on passive surveillance due to insufficient funding for active disease surveillance. However, some targeted active surveillance activities including serological surveillance are infrequently implemented in some regions of the countries with support from donor funded projects. In all the four countries, devolved systems of government affect the chain of command in the veterinary services affecting the timeliness of surveillance and disease reporting to WOA. In Somalia, disease surveillance and reporting between 2007 and 2017, was supported through donor funded projects. This included the submission of reports to WOA. The disease reporting activities mirrored the availability of project funding and lack of timely reporting was observed whenever there were funding gaps. Somalia has not submitted reports to WOA since 2019, following the end RAHS project that supported disease surveillance and reporting.

Inadequate surveillance and reporting of the disease status to WOA erodes the confidence of livestock importing countries in the sanitary status and ability of the exporting countries to comply with WOA international standards for trade in live animals. This is mainly due to insecurity in many of the livestock production areas and insufficient funding for the public veterinary services. However, the public veterinary services in Somalia have established close collaboration with the private sector Livestock Professional Associations that are active in disease surveillance and the delivery of disease prevention and control interventions. They operate effectively among the pastoral communities and regularly share livestock disease reports with the public veterinary services in well-structured arrangement that fosters sustainability.

### **3.6.3 Biosecurity**

The application of biosecurity measures varies from country to country but it is generally inconsistent due to the long porous borders between the Member States, the nomadic pastoral systems with largely uncontrolled animal movements, insufficient funding to build and maintain the necessary infrastructure along the livestock trade routes, insufficient personnel with the appropriate training and the weak enforcement of existing laws, regulations and procedures.

Export quarantine facilities and procedures for certification currently provide the best assurance to importing countries of an appropriate level of protection to minimize the risk of introduction of key TADs and zoonoses through imported livestock. Strict adherence to specified quarantine procedures and protocols is therefore a critical requirement in the export livestock certification process. The national veterinary authorities should closely supervise and monitor the quarantine operations to ensure strict adherence to procedures. In recent years, the detection of diseased animals in some consignments from Somalia have led to the rejection of shipments, the imposition of temporary import bans by the veterinary authorities in Saudi Arabia and UAE and also raised concerns over the suspected non-adherence to procedures in some privately owned quarantine facilities in Somalia. Such incidences erode the trust of the importing countries in the capacity of the Veterinary authorities in the exporting countries to guarantee the integrity of the livestock export certification process. [Regional guidelines for animal health certification](#) and [standard methods and procedures \(SMPs\) for export quarantines](#) in the Greater Horn of Africa were developed under the SMP-AH project for use in the greater Horn of Africa. However, they have not been consistently applied to mitigate the concerns on the shortfall in the quarantine processes.

### **3.6.4 Animal Identification and Traceability Systems**

Currently, the implementation of LITS throughout Eastern Africa is weak. The lack of awareness among livestock sector stakeholders, on the potential benefits and requirements for its implementation contributes greatly to this gap. At the Regional Level, ICPALD led the development of [Regional Guidelines on Livestock Identification and Traceability](#) and a [Model Regional Legal Framework for LITS](#). Kenya and Uganda subsequently utilized these regional documents to guide the development of the respective national LITS strategies. The EAC has not yet developed a regional LITS policy, strategy or guidelines but is encouraging its member States to promote and popularize the adoption of LITS. Interviews with stakeholders from Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda, highlighted the urgent need for operational LITS to facilitate the export trade in livestock and livestock products as importing countries are increasingly making it a requirement for trade.

## **4.0. Feasibility of a Potential Regional Project**

### **4.1. Topics to be covered in a potential new project**

The findings of this study show that the numerous donor-funded projects and initiatives implemented by AU-IBAR, ICPALD, FAO, COMESA and various NGOs, addressed similar themes in the livestock sector. The main areas of focus included Governance of the animal health sector, disease surveillance and control, strengthening compliance with WOAHP international standards and enhancing access to markets for livestock and livestock products. The focus on the same themes by the different institutions and donors over the same period of time inevitably led to some overlaps in the four countries. Examples of these include the AU-IBAR led USAID funded SMP-AH and the EU funded STSD projects implemented in the IGAD region, the USAID funded Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) project and the GHSP led by FAO in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and the EU funded SAHSP and RAHS projects implemented in Somalia. These projects supported institutional capacity strengthening and regional coordination for the surveillance and control of TADs and zoonoses. The SMP-AH, STSD, SAHSP and RAHS projects emphasized compliance with WOAHP international standards for safe livestock trade, while the GHSA project mainly targeted zoonotic diseases of public health concern.

Themes relating to disease surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, compliance with international sanitary standards and animal health governance were duplicated in several projects in Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda. The VetGov (2012 -2017) and Live2Africa (2017 – 2023) projects both

supported sectoral governance, policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks. The SMP-AH (2012 - 2023) and STSD (2013-2018) projects addressed regional and national coordination and harmonization of surveillance and control for priority TADs in the IGAD Member States. EAC and Tanzania were incorporated into the activities of the SMP-AH project. The SAHSP series of projects (2005 – 2013) and RAHS (2013-2017), addressed the surveillance and control of TADs in Somalia. The World Bank Funded RPLRP project in Kenya and Uganda included activities on disease surveillance and control in the IGAD region while the ILRI-led AVCD project in Kenya also addressed surveillance in selected Counties. The GHSA projects (2014 to date) in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda emphasize surveillance, biosecurity and biosafety measures for zoonotic diseases.

The most common areas covered by the projects included: animal health governance incorporating policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that were covered under the Vet Gov, Live2Africa, SAHSP, RAHS and AVCD projects. Disease surveillance and control, incorporating laboratory diagnostic support were addressed through the SMP-AH, STSD, SAHSP, RAHS, RPLRP, AVCD and GHSA projects, while compliance with sanitary measures was a recurrent theme across all the continental, regional and national projects and initiatives. Access to markets was also addressed by several projects particularly, PAN-SPSO, SMP-AH and LEISOM. Institutional and human resource capacity building was consistently incorporated in all the projects, particularly in the areas of disease surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, policy, legal and regulatory reviews.

The majority of these projects targeted public sector institutions at the continental, regional and national levels through training of public veterinary staff, and investments in equipment and laboratory supplies as well as enhancing regional capacities for coordination in animal health and livestock trade-related interventions. A few projects involved the private sector and livestock dependent communities. Notable among these were the VET-Gov and PANSPSO projects that incorporated private sector representation in Livestock Policy Hubs and national SPS committees, respectively. SOLICEP, SMP-AH and the IGAD Regional Livestock Program involved public and private sector value chain actors in dialogue platforms linking the IGAD livestock exporting countries and the MENA importing countries. The LEISOM project engaged the private sector in the construction and management of livestock trade infrastructure facilities under transactional public private partnerships with public authorities. The SAHSP and RAHS projects as well as the FAO animal health interventions in Somalia all engaged members of private Livestock Professional Associations in transactional public private partnerships for the implementation of disease surveillance activities and vaccination campaigns for TADs. The DRIVE project ongoing in Kenya and Somalia focuses on drought resilience, financial inclusion and greater integration of pastoralists in livestock value chains. This includes drought insurance schemes that involve the private sector in the provision of financial services to pastoralists.

The sustainability of the achievements and activities beyond the lifetime of projects is a key challenge due to several factors including: inadequate funding by the public sector to sustain the activities; a high turnover of trained and experienced personnel; lack of institutionalization of key project outputs at national, regional or continental levels and the limited involvement of the private sector to profitably sustain beneficial activities following the end of the projects.

Efforts by the public sectors in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda towards improving biosecurity measures through the establishment of disease-free zones, have not been successful. On the other hand, the experiences of, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia have shown that sustained market access can be achieved through private sector investments in quarantine facilities or feedlots with improved biosecurity, underpinned by effective public or private veterinary services and animal health certification procedures by government. Similarly, in Sudan, investments in feedlots that provide animals of improved quality to government operated export quarantines, achieve sufficient levels of compliance with sanitary measures that facilitate exports of live animals to the Middle East and Egypt.

In Eastern Africa, improving biosecurity in livestock value chains is a priority. Considering the challenges faced by public veterinary services in the control of TADs in the emerging trend of investments in feedlots by private sector actors, offers an opportunity for transformational public private partnerships in the sustainable investments in improvement of biosecurity and compliance with international sanitary standards for live animal trade. This would entail leveraging existing investments by private sector actors in the establishment of feedlots with upgrading of the biosecurity systems and management of the operations to ensure compliance with regulations, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and the provision of appropriate veterinary services jointly agreed with the public veterinary services, through transformative PPP arrangements following the principles outlined in the [“WOAH PPP Handbook: Guidelines for Public Private Partnerships in the Veterinary Domain”](#). The public sector would lead the preparation of guidelines for the design of feedlots that meet minimum WOAHS standards to qualify as compartments for livestock export trade, the preparation of SOPs for operations of the feedlots, preparation of regulations to guide the operations of the feedlots and ensure strict enforcement through regular monitoring programmes and the provision of animal health certification services. The potential new project could support the piloting of this approach with a few selected feedlot operators in each of the four countries. The pilot project would ensure the involvement of women and youth among the selected feedlot operators. In addition, activities could be carried out to improve the identification and traceability of animals in the feedlots’ chain through establishment of appropriate LITS and training of the feedlot entrepreneurs, and public and private animal health service providers in modalities for implementing the LITS.

Other priority areas could include awareness creation among livestock value chain actors at all levels, on WOAHS international sanitary standards and the sanitary requirements of different trading partners for trade in live animals. This will improve understanding of the required interventions along the livestock value chains to enhance compliance. Tailored training could be provided for public and private animal health service providers to serve the specific needs of disease-free feedlot compartments. This could include training on supervision and monitoring to ensure adherence to the regulations, guidelines and SOPs in the day-to-day operations of the feedlots, undertaking disease surveillance for early warning, prevention and control of TADs and zoonoses, and upgrading laboratory capacities to provide timely testing to support the feedlot operations. The proposed new project could also provide data and information to support the revision of existing LITS legal frameworks target countries. The project could also support the establishment and improvement of horizontal linkages between different feedlot operators for sharing experiences and between them and livestock producers associations to foster sustainable livestock supplies to the feedlots. Support for linkages between the feedlot operators and livestock importers in MENA and other potential markets would support the efforts of the feedlot operators to access markets. This could be supported by a detailed plan of actions for market access in collaboration with the national export promotion institutions, establishment of support structures and mechanisms for identifying new marketing opportunities and monitoring access to existing markets. These could be jointly coordinated by the public and private sectors and should aim to improve the exchange of information on supply and demand opportunities, improve transparency in relation to the challenges facing the trade and mechanisms for addressing them to ensure safe trade. It should also provide opportunities for stakeholders from the importing countries to assess the suitability of the feedlots and the measures taken in assuring the sanitary safety of the trade in live animals.

#### **4.1.1 Cross-cutting issues**

##### **A) Gender**

Reports by the [African Union and UNDP](#) as well as the [World Bank](#) and [FAO](#), identify the key gender issues in trade in general including livestock trade. The key needs for women involved in livestock trade include access to land for livestock production, financial capital and livestock. Additionally, they need ready access to market information and gender focused training by extension service agents who understand the needs of women in relation to their roles in livestock production and trade. Existing

policies and legal frameworks in several countries in Eastern Africa as well as some social norms do not guarantee women's rights to the ownership of land and livestock. Women also need training to improve their business skills and linkages to business opportunities to empower them to gain access to more profitable export markets.

The potential new project should draw guidance from the [STDF Gender Action Plan](#) and include a gender specialist in the project design and implementation. Women and youth stakeholders should be involved in validation of the Project Grant proposal to ensure the mainstreaming of gender with specific objectives, results and activities that address gender needs. A gender analysis should be planned with a dedicated budget allocated. In addition, the project should integrate specific objectives and results that address gender needs. Staff responsible for implementing the project should be trained on gender equality and gender mainstreaming. Raising awareness on gender mainstreaming and equality among the project stakeholder should be among the key activities of the project.

## **B) Environment**

The STDF Briefing note on "[Strengthening SPS Systems to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change](#)" highlights the role of climate change in the occurrence of key animal diseases and zoonoses, negatively affecting trade in livestock and livestock products, livelihoods and economic growth. It further identifies compliance with SPS measures to improve animal health to enhance the efficiency of animal productivity resulting in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions per unit of animal product. Eastern Africa is prone to recurrent severe droughts and flooding events that favour the multiplication of disease vectors resulting in periodic epidemics of climate related animal diseases and zoonoses. In recent years, outbreaks of Rift Valley Fever have been responsible for major import bans by Saudi Arabia and the UAE on livestock and livestock products from eastern Africa. These bans reduce livestock offtakes leading to overstocking and degradation of rangelands in already fragile ecosystems in the arid and semi-arid areas. The reduced offtakes also result in loss of household incomes causing pastoralists to seek alternative sources of livelihoods including environmentally destructive activities such as charcoal burning. This further exacerbates the negative impacts of climate change on the environment. The feedlot disease free compartments could improve compliance with WOAHP international sanitary standards and increase offtakes. This could help to improve the animal health status of the target herds in the region, enhancing their productivity, reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and pressure on the environment.

### **4.2. Technical feasibility**

#### **4.2.1 Summary of WOAHP PVS Evaluations in Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda**

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAHP) Terrestrial Animal Health Code provides standards for the improvement of terrestrial animal health and welfare and veterinary public health worldwide. It includes requirements for safe trade in live animals and animal products between countries and outlines specific measures for each of the diseases listed in the code.

The WOAHP Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Pathway is a capacity building programme for the sustainable improvement of national Veterinary Services. It provides for the independent monitoring of veterinary services to identify strengths and areas for improvement as well as recommendations on the investments needed for sustainable improvement. PVS evaluation missions undertake assessments of the capacities and capabilities of national veterinary services in critical

competencies under four fundamental components namely: i). Human, physical and financial resources; ii). Technical authority and capability; iv). Interaction with Stakeholders and iv). Access to markets.

Pertinent aspects of the WOAHS PVS evaluation missions undertaken in each of the four target countries for this PPG are as follows:

In Kenya, a WOAHS PVS follow-up mission in 2019, recorded adequate levels of staffing with the appropriate training and competencies to undertake functions. However, physical infrastructure and operational funding were inadequate. Weaknesses were noted in risk analysis, active disease surveillance, prevention and control, quarantine and border security, emergency preparedness and response as well as enforcement of animal movement controls and in undertaking animal identification and traceability. There was also inadequate involvement of livestock producers and other stakeholders in programmes, an absence of disease zoning and weaknesses in compartmentalisation approaches. The report of a PVS Follow-up Evaluation conducted in 2022 is currently not publicly available.

In Somalia, a [WOAHS PVS Evaluation mission](#) (Preparatory phase) in 2023 highlighted the inadequate numbers of suitably trained public staff to undertake key functions, poor disease prevention and control capacities; lack of operational and emergency funding for veterinary services; lack of trained personnel for risk analysis; insufficient diagnostic veterinary laboratory capacities and dilapidated livestock trade infrastructure along the trade routes. Somalia also lacks a modern animal identification and traceability system for tracking of animal movements for trade and disease control. The mission noted that the establishment of livestock export quarantines with the implementation of livestock export certification procedures, facilitates the livestock export trade to markets in the Middle East and northern Africa.

In Tanzania, a [PVS follow-up mission carried out in 2016](#) identified a lack of veterinarians to oversee activities at the ward and village levels, delays in laboratory testing and analyses due to difficulties in procuring diagnostic reagents and insufficient budgets for operations. There was also a lack of dedicated emergency funds for veterinary activities. There were also no clear plans for disease-free zoning and no arrangements for compartmentalisation. While there was existing legislation governing veterinary affairs including animal identification and traceability, the enforcement of laws was weak. These presented challenges in ensuring the sanitary safety of trade in live animals.

In Uganda, a PVS follow-up evaluation mission in 2018 noted insufficient funding to enable the Veterinary Services to effectively undertake its functions. This included insufficient laboratory infrastructure and testing services at the National Animal Diseases Diagnostics and Epidemiology Centre (NADDEC) and in the districts. It also highlighted inadequate capacities for disease prevention, surveillance, control, and emergency preparedness and response. Weak capacities for border inspection and control of livestock imports including the lack of livestock holding facilities at border posts, and the need to improve risk analysis were recorded. The report identified the need for Uganda to review and update relevant laws and regulations and to adopt international standards for animal health certification. It also noted weaknesses in disease zoning approaches and the absence of initiatives for compartmentalization.

#### **4.2.2 Technical activities to support live animal exports**

The key technical activities envisaged to support live animal exports include the strengthening of biosecurity systems through the establishment of feedlots with enhanced biosecurity measures in compliance with WOAHS standards to prevent and contain outbreaks of the priority TADs that affect trade. This should be accompanied by the tailored strengthening of capacities for passive and active

disease surveillance, risk analysis, laboratory diagnostic testing and analysis to support certification, and appropriate animal identification and traceability systems. Awareness creation among livestock value chain actors on WOAHA international sanitary standards and the requirements of the live animal trading partners will improve understanding of the required interventions along the livestock value chains to enhance compliance.

#### **4.2.3 Overview of public and private sector capacities to undertake the technical activities**

The porous borders between all the countries in the region and the uncontrolled cross-border movements of animals, are among the key factors that prevent the establishment of disease-free zones in compliance with WOAHA standards. This makes it necessary to consider a different approach in endemic disease settings, to minimize the risk of disease spread through trade to destination countries. The establishment of well managed livestock feedlots with enhanced biosecurity systems and the application of LITS, could achieve appropriate levels of protection for specified diseases that impede trade. This would enable the four countries to fast-track better compliance with WOAHA international SPS standards and the requirements of livestock importing countries. Transformative public private sector partnerships would be established to facilitate the implementation of the feedlots as disease free compartments. The large populations of livestock are a key factor for ensuring the supply of tradeable animals to feedlots. For Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania, the priority animal species are small ruminants and cattle. Sheep and goats contribute more than 70% of the value of livestock exports to MENA countries followed by cattle and camels. Both IGAD and EAC have institutions with the requisite technical expertise and regional mechanisms for coordination and harmonization of project activities.

The target countries all have government departments of Veterinary Services as well as private veterinary service providers with varying capacities to support the enforcement of upgraded biosecurity arrangements in selected feedlots. The targeted training of selected staff in key competencies related to disease prevention, detection and control in the feedlots will enable them to effectively undertake disease surveillance, diagnosis and control measures to support the pilots. There are also existing livestock marketing infrastructure facilities despite the key capacity gaps across the four countries. Kenya, Somalia and Tanzania, have port facilities to facilitate the export of live animals. Uganda is land-locked but has access to ports in Kenya and Tanzania. Existing national and sub-national veterinary laboratories provide laboratory diagnostic services in the four countries. Improvements will be required in selected laboratories to enable adequate support for the potential new project activities.

In Kenya, government investments that were initially intended for disease-free zones are currently channelled towards the establishment of compartments with greater private sector involvement, to facilitate the export of livestock and livestock products. Somalia currently lacks investments in compartments, while in Tanzania the establishment of FMD-free compartments was recommended as a more feasible alternative to disease-free zones ([Madege, 2018](#); [FAO, 2020](#)). In Uganda, a [study on Promoting a Commercial Beef Industry](#) proposed the establishment of compartments.

### **4.3. Economic feasibility**

The project is aligned to the long-term regional and national development goals for transformed and competitive economies while protecting the environment from the impacts of climate change. Although the emphasis of the national and regional development plans and strategies in the region is on value addition and the export of meat products, the production of animals in compartments in compliance with WOAHA sanitary standards, will also benefit the domestic, regional and international trade in meat.

Improvements in compliance with WOAH international animal health standards and the sanitary requirements of the trading partners will consolidate access to the existing markets and enable access to potential markets, both already described under section 3.1.1 of this document.

The project is expected to have multiplier effects in other sectors including the local construction industry through contract awards for the construction, maintenance and repairs of the feedlot structures; growth in manufacturing, distribution chains, wholesalers, retailers and other input suppliers and service providers to the feedlots; improvements in access roads for the transportation of animals to the feedlots and to markets; growth in transport businesses supporting the feedlots; digital financial services and other supply chains.

Nonetheless, the establishment and maintenance of animal disease free compartments across four countries in the short to medium terms will be challenging due to the high capital and financial investments required, as well as the requirement for co-financing from both the private and public sectors. It may therefore be more feasible for a potential new project to focus on areas such as strengthening biosecurity, animal identification and traceability systems, promoting e-certification, and enhancing public-private collaboration, including co-financing.

## 4.4. Legal feasibility

### 4.4.1 Overview of legal and regulatory frameworks to support trade in live animals

At the continental and regional levels, the AU, and both the EAC and IGAD regions have frameworks that support the harmonization of livestock trade policies, disease control and SPS measures. At the national level, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda have specific laws, regulatory bodies and frameworks governing animal health, disease control, and trade standards.

Table 2 provides a summary of the main frameworks at continental, regional and national levels.

**Table 2: Summary of continental, regional and national frameworks supporting livestock trade**

Region/Country	Legal/Regulatory Frameworks	Purpose
<b>African Union</b>	The AfCFTA protocol on trade in Goods Annex VII (Application of SPS measures)	To accelerate intra-African trade in goods and services
<b>EAC</b>	EAC Common Market Protocol and Customs Union Protocol	Facilitate the free movement of goods (including livestock)
	The EAC Livestock policy	Harmonization of livestock production and trade policies among EAC Member States
	The EAC sanitary and Phyto sanitary (SPS) Protocol	Ensures that live animals traded in the region meet health and safety standards
<b>IGAD</b>	IGAD Region Strategy on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Strategy and Plan of Action	Harmonisation of SPS measures in the region
	IGAD Regional Model LITS Legal Framework	Framework for preparation of national legislation on LITS for IGAD Member States
	Animal Diseases Act Cap 364	Regulates the prevention and control of animal diseases
	The Branding of Stock Act (1907)	To regulate the use of brands for livestock identification

<b>Kenya</b>	The Veterinary Surgeons and Veterinary Para-Professionals Act (2011)	Governs veterinary practice and animal health.
	The Meat Control Act (Cap 356)	Regulates the slaughter and trade of livestock
<b>Somalia</b>	Somalia Veterinary Law Code No. 21 of 2016	Regulates all Veterinary affairs except animal welfare for working animals
<b>Tanzania</b>	Animal diseases Act (2003)	Regulates the prevention and control of animal diseases
	Veterinary Act (2003)	Governs veterinary services and animal health
	Livestock registration, identification and traceability Act (2010)	Provides a legal basis for regulation of livestock registration, identification and traceability
	Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency,	Ensures animal health and safety
<b>Uganda</b>	Animal Diseases Act (Cap 38)	Regulates the prevention and control of animal diseases
	Livestock Industry Act (2023)	Regulates livestock production and trade
	Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures for handling and transporting live animals in Uganda.	Ensure health and welfare of the animals, knowledge and safety of personnel and roles of different stakeholder institutions in enforcing the guidelines.

The existing legal frameworks in Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda would facilitate the establishment of feedlots as disease free compartments. However, steps would be needed to initiate the bridging of relevant key gaps already identified through WOAHPVS Pathway assessments and WOAHPVS Legislation Support missions.

#### 4.4.2 Key gaps and in the legal and regulatory frameworks

Although each of the four countries has legal and regulatory frameworks to support trade in live animals, there are key gaps that need to be addressed for improvement and long-term sustainability of the trade.

In Kenya, a [WOAH Veterinary Legislation Support Mission undertaken in 2015](#), identified the Animal Diseases Act (Cap 364) as the main legislation covering the prevention and control of animal diseases, animal movements and trade. However, the mission noted several key gaps in the Act in relation to the limited list of notifiable diseases which did not include all the WOAHPVS listed diseases that occur in Kenya and in neighbouring countries with potential to spread to Kenya and the lack of updated legislation for animal identification and traceability that would provide better support for the implementation of feedlots as disease free compartments. effectively support .

For Somalia, a [PVS Evaluation mission in 2023](#) observed that the Veterinary Law Code No. 21 (2016) is the all-encompassing law for the livestock sector but no regulations have been developed to operationalize key aspects of the code. The code is also outdated and does not comply with WOAHPVS standards. Furthermore, its implementation faces challenges due to weak institutional capacities, low budgetary disbursements and insecurity in parts of the country. It needs to be updated to incorporate requirements for animal welfare requirements and livestock identification and traceability.

In Tanzania, the [PVS follow-up evaluation \(2016\)](#) noted the existence of many legal frameworks governing the Veterinary domain but highlighted weak enforcement of the laws at the national and local government levels and weak coordination between the Veterinary Services and other regulatory

agencies as major challenges. These would need to be addressed with stakeholders in the context of the implementation of disease-free feedlot compartments.

In Uganda, an assessment of the [SPS legal and regulatory systems](#) noted the lack of a regulatory framework for livestock identification and traceability.

The potential new project would align with the national aspirations of Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda for improved compliance with WOAHA international animal health standards for safe international trade in livestock and livestock products. In addition, the establishment and operation of feedlots as disease-free compartments would not contradict any of the existing laws and regulations in the four countries. However, the legal frameworks regulating animal identification and traceability would need to be modernized to achieve the intended outcomes. This process could take several years as noted in the [Independent End of Project Assessment](#) of the STDF funded [STDF/PG/477](#) implemented in Ethiopia. A potential STDF project for Eastern Africa, could generate data and information as evidence to support the appropriate review of the legal frameworks.

## **5.0. Conclusions**

### **5.1. Need and value-added of a new regional proposal in the live animal sector in Eastern Africa**

#### **5.1.1 Need for a potential regional proposal for trade in live animals**

The need for a potential new project to promote trade in live animals in Eastern Africa was reiterated by all the stakeholders interviewed in the course of this feasibility study. The findings of this study show that numerous past and on-going projects have focused largely on capacity building for public sector institutions and personnel. Many of the outputs of these projects did not trickle down to the field level where their application was required to effect sustainable improvements for better compliance with WOAHA international sanitary standards. In addition, a large number of the beneficiaries of the capacity building initiatives have either retired from service or moved on to alternative employment. The skills and knowledge acquired are thus no longer available in the national Departments of Veterinary Services resulting in a lack of sustainability of the activities following the end of the projects.

The study also shows that all the regional and national development plans, sectoral policies and strategies aim to enhance access to markets for livestock and livestock products by improving the prevention, surveillance and control of TADs and zoonoses and compliance with WOAHA International animal health standards. Stakeholders interviewed drew attention to interest expressed by existing and potential trade partners in sourcing animals and animal products from the region, provided that they were assured of the sanitary safety of the commodities. On the other hand, public-sector driven efforts to establish disease-free zones have so far proved unsuccessful mainly due to funding limitations, while private corporate entrepreneurs have successfully established quarantine facilities in Djibouti and Somalia. Other private businesses in Kenya and Uganda, have established improvised pre-quarantine or quarantine areas within ranches, that improve compliance with sanitary standards and enable government certification of livestock for export. Individual entrepreneurs are also increasingly investing in feedlots to provide better quality animals for domestic and export trade. These private sector investments provide an opportunity for fast-tracking public sector-led efforts to comply with international sanitary standards. Public private partnerships are therefore needed to sustainably improve compliance with sanitary requirements. This approach differs from previous projects as it will engage those undertaking livestock improvements as a business that relies on profits

for sustainability. By improving their compliance with sanitary standards and market access, the private sector actors will have incentives for further investments to sustain the business.

Examples of public private partnerships are documented in several initiatives of STDF and other partners as outlined in the [STDF Public-Private Partnerships case stories](#). Of particular relevance to this PPG are the public-private partnerships for [Upgrading quarantine control in Djibouti](#) and for the [Eradication of FMD in Colombia](#) to improve compliance with sanitary requirements for trade in live animals and meat, respectively. There is therefore a need for a new project that engages and involves both private sector livestock entrepreneurs in public private partnerships that improve their access to markets and the profitability of their enterprises, to foster sustainability. The involvement of upstream livestock producer associations in this arrangement in the four countries, will enhance prospects for the sustainable supply of livestock for the feedlots. In Kenya, these include the Kenya Livestock Marketing Council, The Kenya Livestock Producers Association and [women owned livestock business groups](#). In Somalia, linkage will be with the [Livestock marketing Associations](#) in different areas, with membership comprising of men and women. In Uganda, the linkage will be with selected [Livestock Trade Associations](#) and [Farmer Cooperatives](#).

### **5.1.2. Value-added of a Potential Regional Project**

A potential regional project could build upon on-going private sector investments in feedlots that aim to produce better quality animals for the local and export markets. A [Mapping of livestock feedlots in Kenya](#) by the Kenya Markets Trust, provides an indication of the on-going investments in feedlots in Kenya. In the four countries, the investments comprise of individual investors, member-based Associations and Cooperatives. At this stage of the PPG, it is not possible to specifically name these entities as they will need to be approached to confirm their willingness to collaborate in a pilot study. This could be done during the project formulation phase if the approval to proceed is granted by STDF. However, during the stakeholder consultations, one rancher in Lamu County in Kenya volunteered to set aside up to 40 acres of his ranch for a pilot activity that demonstrates improved compliance with sanitary standards.

A potential regional project could provide support to selected feedlots to improve their biosecurity systems to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of animal diseases in their operations. The project could also strengthen the skills and capacities of public sector and private sector veterinary personnel providing animal health services to the feedlots to ensure strict compliance with the sanitary requirements and measures for engagement in both the domestic and export trade in live animals. In addition, the potential project could also support activities for awareness creation and training of upstream livestock producers, market operators, livestock traders and transporters, on requirements for sanitary safety in the trade of live animals. The outcomes of the potential project could inform future decisions on modalities for enhancing compliance with WOAHA international sanitary standards and the requirements of trading partners along key livestock value chains, in the face of the prevailing sanitary, institutional and legal challenges in the eastern Africa region. A positive outcome in terms of enhanced market access and exports, could catalyse further private sector investments in the enterprises and entrench public sector support, investment and participation in the approach.

The goal, outcome, outputs and some of the key activities of a potential new project could be summarised as follows:

Goal: Improve access to domestic, regional and international markets for live animals, chilled and frozen meat from cattle, sheep and goats from Eastern Africa.

Outcome: Compartments with high level biosecurity for cattle, sheep and goats successfully established and operating in Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda through public private partnerships

Outputs and related activities:

- i. Biosecurity capacities of selected feedlots improved through public private partnerships in compliance with WOAHA standards and Guidelines

The main activities to achieve this output could include the preparation and adoption of biosecurity guidelines and SOPs for disease free feedlot compartments, and piloting of the implementation of the guidelines and SOPs in a few feedlots in the four countries through PPP arrangements.

- ii. Institutional and human resource Capacities to enhance compliance with biosecurity requirements in operations of livestock compartments improved.

Activities could involve training of public and private sector animal health service providers on their respective roles in implementing the SOPs, guidelines and regulations in the pilot feedlots, and upgrading laboratory testing capacities and capabilities of national and sub-national laboratories serving the pilot feedlots to more effectively serve the needs of disease-free feedlot compartments.

- iii. Livestock Identification and Traceability systems (LITS) improved to enhance access to markets

This could entail the identification and implementation of appropriate LITS for the potential disease-free feedlot compartments, training of feedlot operators in the use of the LITS and the training of staff of the public veterinary services in implementation and monitoring of adherence to requirements of the LITS. The potential new project could also initiate the revision of national legal frameworks on LITS using data and information from the pilot feedlot compartments.

- iv. Linkages between Livestock feedlot compartment operators , livestock producers and importers enhanced

The key activities for this output could foster horizontal linkages between project supported and other feedlot operators for sharing experiences challenges, opportunities and good practices for improving compliance with sanitary standards. The potential new project could also support linkages between the pilot feedlot entrepreneurs and livestock producer associations to foster the sustainable supply of healthy animals to the feedlots. Another key activity could be to leverage existing ICPALD networks to link the project supported feedlot operators to livestock importers in MENA and other markets ,

- v. Access to markets improved

The key activities could entail development of an international market access plan in collaboration with the export promotion agencies of the four countries; establishment of a support structure to help feedlot entrepreneurs to find and secure regional and international markets, and mechanisms for monitoring access to existing and new markets for feedlot entrepreneurs.

### **5.1.3. Justification for STDF Funding of a Potential Project**

The request and justification for STDF to fund a new project is premised on several considerations including: i). The potential new project would focus on animal health, which is one of the areas covered by STDF; ii) It could eventually pilot the strengthening of biosecurity systems in existing privately owned livestock feedlots, in order to establish them as disease free compartments for safe trade in livestock and livestock products, in compliance with the WOAHA international animal health standards – this, however, would be highly ambitious; iii). The potential new project should align well with the [STDF Strategy 2025-2030](#) and the STDF Theory of Change by facilitating safe trade in live animals and livestock products and enhancing the SPS capacities of the public and private sector actors involved; iv). It should aim to build capacity in the private sector by directly engaging feedlot operators, ranchers, livestock producer associations, including women-led associations, and cooperatives to ensure that they improve compliance through profit-driven sustainable business practices. In addition, the project should equip the public sector collaborators with the skills to provide the required laboratory support services and to regulate and monitor compliance; v). The piloting of the approach could generate evidence on the benefits and costs of compliance in privately operated feedlots/compartments. This could inform decisions by other feedlot operators and public sector policy makers and could catalyse the uptake of SPS good practices across the region; vi). The potential project would be demand driven as all the continental, regional and national livestock, agricultural and animal health policies and strategies identified the need for disease-free zones or compartments to facilitate safe trade in livestock and livestock products. However, the establishment of disease-free zones has been unsuccessful due to various challenges. The establishment of compartments is considered a more viable option that may also requires lower costs for establishment.

A potential new project could pilot the strengthening of biosecurity systems in existing privately owned livestock feedlots, in order to establish them as disease free compartments. This would enhance compliance with the WOAHA international animal health standards contained in the WOAHA Terrestrial Animal Health Code [Chapter 4.4 on Zoning and Compartmentalisation](#) and [Chapter 4.5 on the Application of Compartmentalisation](#).

The innovation in the potential project would be the engagement of the private sector for service provision (Select animal health services in the certification process), investment in the necessary structures to enhance biosecurity in the feedlots using guidelines provided by the public sector. In Kenya, the chairman of the Kenya Livestock Marketing Council, representing a wide spectrum of livestock producers and traders and a livestock exporter/Director of Madina Ranch in Lamu County, were supportive of such an initiative. In Somalia, support was expressed by the Chairman of the United Livestock Exporters. In Uganda, the programme officer for the Meat Producers Cooperative Union was supportive while the participating stakeholders from Tanzania acknowledged the role of feedlots but were not explicit in their support. The involvement of upstream livestock producers and traders could help to focus attention on issues of compliance and quality of livestock at different levels of the livestock value chains. It could also support a consistent supply of livestock to the feedlots for continuity of their operations. In addition, the project could bring together different stakeholders from across the region, thus enhancing collaboration, coordination and the sharing of information, experiences and good practices in ensuring compliance with international sanitary standards.

The potential project should aim to build capacity in the private sector to improve compliance through profit-driven sustainable business practices. It should also leverage public private partnerships with a clear delineation of roles to jointly drive compliance as well as ensure effective public sector supervisory and regulatory oversight on the implementation of processes and procedures. In addition, the project should equip the public sector collaborators with the skills to provide laboratory support services and monitor compliance.

The potential project approach would differ from the numerous previous interventions as it would directly engage profit-driven private sector entities, while previous projects focused on public institutions and actors, with only a token involvement of the private sector, in a few cases. In addition,

many of the previous projects targeted the central headquarters-level staff and facilities of the public sector entities, often resulting in very little trickle-down impacts of the interventions at the operational field level. The potential project should introduce innovative approaches to improving compliance in Eastern Africa. The focus on private sector actors, who rely on the profitability of their livestock enterprises, could foster sustainable compliance with WOA international sanitary standards as they have market driven incentives to do so. This is different from relying mainly on public sector institutions and actors as has been the case in past projects.

A project exit strategy would need to be prepared to outline and consolidate mechanisms to ensure continuity of the public private partnerships for sustainability of the potential project achievements.

However, consultations with key stakeholders following the above-mentioned preliminary findings of the Feasibility Study indicated that establishing disease-free feedlot compartments across four countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, and Uganda) would be highly ambitious, given the typical STDF project budget of USD 1 million. Implementing such compartments is inherently complex, requiring full biosecurity across the entire value chain, certification of animals as disease-free (a significant challenge in endemic areas), strict control over transport and infrastructure, prior buy-in from importing countries, and a robust regulatory framework for certification and monitoring. These requirements are further complicated by regional sanitary conditions, the high prevalence of transboundary animal diseases (TADs), porous borders, nomadic livestock movements, inadequate infrastructure, and weak inspection and certification systems. In contrast, a more focused regional project, aimed at strengthening biosecurity, animal identification and traceability systems, promoting e-certification, and enhancing public-private collaboration (including co-financing), may offer a more feasible path forward. Further consultations with stakeholders and with the organization that might serve as the implementing partner will be essential to refine the scope and define realistic outputs for a potential new project, in line with what is achievable under an STDF-funded initiative.

## Annex 1: List of key persons consulted during the feasibility study

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