



STDF 13: Final Report

“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”

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List of acronyms

AGAH	AGAH: Animal Health Sub Division of AGA: Animal Production and Health Division of AG: Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department of FAO
AP	Arabic Peninsula
AU-IBAR	African Union – Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources
CEMAC	Communauté Economique et Monétaire de l’Afrique Centrale
CIRAD	Centre International de Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DG	Director General
ECOWAS	Economic Community Of West African States
ECTAD	Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHA	Great Horn of Africa
Gov	Government
HQ	Headquarters
IBAR	Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ME	Middle East
OCDE	Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economique
OIE	Office International des Epizooties (World Animal Health Organisation)
PACE	Pan African Control of Epizootics
PVS	Performance of Veterinary Services
RAHC	Regional Animal Health Centre
REC	Regional Economical Community
RR	Regional Representation (of the OIE)
RVF	Rift Valley Fever
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
VS	Veterinary Services
WTO	World Trade Organization

Executive Summary

On behalf of OIE, the contracting agency, FAO implemented the project STDF 13 “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 of STDF 13 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 OIE international sanitary standards.

Expected outputs of STDF 13 were (i) documented regional strategies and tool kits for the establishment of a framework to satisfy SPS requirements, with a strong commitment of government and a joint involvement of the private sector, and (ii) the formulation of pilot projects in two selected countries or groups of countries with the objective of strengthening veterinary services and public-private partnerships to provide for more cost-effective sanitary control systems.

The study was carried out in the period September 2006 to June 2008.

There were some inevitable delays because of difficulties in finding appropriate experts in 2006, due to the ongoing avian influenza crisis, which resulted in postponement of the project commencement to October 2006. However, veterinarians and other experts with relevant experience and skills were eventually secured. The absence of the acting Ethiopian CVO and deputies during the January 2007 mission in Ethiopia also caused difficulties.

Findings in the IGAD area:

One of the major constraints to the project in the IGAD area was the position of the Ethiopian Government in regard to the proposal to support the private quarantine facility in Djibouti. This was no doubt influenced by the fact that both public and private quarantine facilities exist in Ethiopia (although they do not have access to the sea) and there were concerns about the Djibouti facility gaining a monopoly position. The STDF 13 team was able to explain that the proposed project would provide useful practical experience on which similar projects to support additional quarantine facilities could be based.

While Ethiopian concerns could not be completely resolved, other countries in the region generally supported the proposed project to strengthen the Djiboutian veterinary services and quarantine facility. As it is a major livestock exporting country in the GHA, Ethiopia would be one of the main beneficiaries of this pilot project.

Findings in the ECOWAS area:

Initial progress was slow due to the ongoing conduct of high level discussions on trade, including livestock, between Mali and Algeria. With a change of Minister and the direct involvement of the OIE Director General, the project regained momentum in 2007.

Expected impact of STDF 13

The formalization and expansion of livestock trade on the basis of stronger VS, more reliable provision of veterinary health certification and improved national or local area health status is the major expected impact of the pilot projects. The proposed regional strategies are expected to follow strengthening of the national veterinary services. Improvements in veterinary governance, which is linked to the provision of reliable veterinary certification in the targeted exporting countries should help to strengthen relationships between (i) producing and transit countries and (ii) importers and exporters. The medium term outcome will be increased participation of African pastoralist countries in regional/international trade. In the long term, production (and by consequence the livelihoods) of pastoralists should be improved. Further benefits will arise from strengthening of the market chain in pastoral areas which are often neglected by the central governments especially in the southern parts of north African importing countries and in neighbouring African countries.

The securing of access to traditionally inaccessible international markets and/or the formalisation of previously informal trade should stimulate the producing countries to make investments in VS and support cooperation between the public and private sector, in line with the findings of the OIE PVS evaluation of the countries targeted in this project. Strengthening veterinary legislation in line with OIE standards is a priority if exporting countries wish to secure long term access to international markets and to satisfy the requirements of importing countries, including for reliable veterinary certification.

Two elements of the proposed national strategies are particularly important to reverse the trend of decentralising the veterinary services in African countries. Firstly, the contracting of private veterinarians for official activities (sanitary mandate) and animal health services provides the opportunity to strengthen veterinary services in a cost effective and sustainable manner, providing that this is done in a way that is consistent with OIE standards. Secondly, it is important to introduce financial arrangements to guarantee the sustainable activities of private veterinarians. The privatisation of veterinary activities in Africa has faced particular problems relating to the inability to guarantee incomes and to provide social benefits for private veterinarians. The systematic introduction of these support mechanisms (already developed under the AU-IBAR PACE project privatisation policy), should allow for the development of a field network of private veterinarians that would be far more beneficial to pastoralists than the existing 'urban veterinary pharmacist'.

It is expected that added value will be obtained in the domain of veterinary public health via: (1) upgrading of the food safety profile of animal commodities in the domestic market and (2) the mitigation of zoonotic risk for workers throughout the food production chain.

It is hoped that as a consequence of STDF 13 some success stories will be seen in the next couple of years and that this will stimulate the interest of donors to support the African livestock sector, particularly through the strengthening of VS and veterinary legislation in line with OIE standards, to benefit rural areas and food security in the whole population.

1. Introduction:

On behalf of OIE, the contracting agency, FAO implemented the project STDF 13 “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 of STDF 13 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 OIE international sanitary standards.

Expected outputs of STDF 13 were (i) documented regional strategies and tool kits for the establishment of a framework to satisfy SPS requirements, with joint involvement of government and the private sector, and (ii) the formulation of two pilot projects in two selected countries or groups of countries with the objective of strengthening VS and public-private partnerships to provide for more cost-effective sanitary control systems.

The study was carried out in the period September 2006 to June 2008.

This report covers the activities, findings and expected impacts of STDF 13.

There were some inevitable delays with the project because of difficulty in finding appropriate experts in 2006, due to the ongoing avian influenza crisis, which resulted in postponement of the project commencement to October 2006. However, veterinarians and other experts with relevant experience and skills were eventually secured. The absence of the acting Ethiopian CVO and deputies during the January 2007 mission in Ethiopia also caused difficulties.

2. Methodology of STDF 13:

The OIE, through involvement of HQ and the RR for Africa, was the Executing Agency.

FAO AGAH Rome was the Implementing Agency.

The study was performed with the aid of a team of international experts comprising:

- a technical team leader, veterinarian, with a good knowledge of the WTO SPS Agreement and experience in project design and implementation;
- a veterinarian, specialized in veterinary services and international veterinary certification;
- an economist, specialized in trade in animal commodities.

This team was supported by local experts in each regional economic area (REC):

- in the ECOWAS area: an economist specialized in livestock
- in the IGAD area: a veterinarian specialized in OIE standards and a veterinarian, specialized in laboratory diagnosis and disease control standards.

Case studies involving one country from each REC were selected for study in 4 phases, i.e.:

- I. Field review, including compilation of reference materials;
- II. Desk review, including the design of a regional strategy for each zone and the proposal of a pilot project for each case study;
- III. Validation of the proposed strategy and pilot project via the conduct of regional workshops in each REC;
- IV. Finalisation of the two pilot projects.

3. Implementation of STDF 13

3.1. Field and desk review

3.1.1. *Field review*

The implementation of the activities of STDF 13 started at the end of October 2006 with the conduct of a field review by the international team in Rome. Based on available literature, the team validated the choice of pilot countries and identified animal commodities (including livestock) that were considered to have potential for regional and international trade. This choice was confirmed at field level during the visits to pilot countries. The criteria for choosing the pilot countries were:

For Mali in ECOWAS:

- Importance of the livestock sector (10% GDP, 3rd rank export, after gold and cotton)
- Official exportation of cattle and small ruminants to western coastal countries and unofficial exports of camels and small ruminants to Algeria and Libya.
- Major obstacles for trade due to sanitary constraints.
- Need for evaluation of quality of Veterinary Services following the OIE PVS methodology
 - VS privatization has been implemented for ten years.
 - Jeopardizing of VS quality due to non-veterinarians undertaking veterinary tasks
 - Potential problems with the national chain of command of VS due to decentralization.
- Availability of veterinary laboratory.

For Ethiopia in IGAD:

- Large production of livestock (15% GDP, 30 million cattle, 40 million small ruminants);
- Exportation of livestock to Gulf countries (mainly through Djibouti);
- Need for evaluation of quality of Veterinary Services following the OIE PVS methodology;
- Privatization of veterinary service delivery has resulted in some problems (e.g. competition between private and public sector veterinarians);
- Land-locked country obliged to export by air or through Djibouti (or other transit harbours);
- In Djibouti there is only one government veterinarian and one private veterinarian, who is not mandated for official activities (certification).
- Djibouti is creating a private quarantine facility to export livestock but has no current capacity to issue international veterinary certification.

3.1.2. Desk review:

The team collected data from the FAO HQ and CIRAD databases (i) on potential trade of animals and animal products and on constraints to export (sanitary information from OIE HQ) for potential regional and international markets and (ii) to identify the potential trade activity that could most feasibly be improved through strengthening of VS capacities and implementation of OIE sanitary standards in compliance with OIE recommendations. The team also identified potential importing countries, checked their sanitary status (OIE records) and took steps to verify their sanitary requirements. There were some similarities between countries in each region. Algeria was identified as a good prospective importing country.

3.1.3. Timeframes for the field and desk reviews:

	Rome
Coordinator	Support throughout
International veterinarian Technical team leader,	27-30 October 2006
International veterinarian specialist in veterinary services	20 -30 October 2006
International economist on commodities	20 -30 October 2006

3.2. Field studies

3.2.1. Field missions:

Field missions were performed in Mali, Ethiopia and Djibouti and IBAR, Nairobi was visited.

	field study	
	Mali	Ethiopia
Coordinator	support throughout	support throughout
International veterinarian Technical team leader	3 - 17 December 2006	21 January 3 February 2007
International veterinarian specialist in veterinary services	3 - 17 December 2006	21 January 3 February 2007
International economist on commodities	11 - 17 December 2006	21 - 27 January 2007
Regional livestock economist West Africa	11 - 17 December 2006	
Regional veterinarian East Africa		21 January - 3 February 2007

In Mali, the team validated the findings of the desk review through meetings with decision makers (Ministries of Agriculture and Trade, Veterinary Services), livestock sector stakeholders (agricultural organisations, farmers' organisations, the veterinary statutory bodies, actors in supply and market chains) and some international agencies. The following points were discussed:

- Constraints to export (mainly sanitary status and food safety aspects);
- The role of each actor in the production, market and supply chain;
- Links between different actors and options for private-public synergies.

In Ethiopia, the nomination of a new CVO led to some difficulties in meeting with the decision makers from the VS and Ministry of Agriculture and in the establishment of a dialogue with the Djiboutian Government on the promotion of the private quarantine facility in Djibouti.

3.2.2. Round tables:

- Round table discussions between relevant CVOs and stakeholders, with participation by OIE RR's for Africa and for Middle East were organised with the objective of discussing the proposed strategies and veterinary certification requirements in line with sanitary status of importing and exporting countries;
- Some difficulties were encountered, particularly in Ethiopia because of changes at senior level in the VS.

3.2.3. Meeting with IBAR:

In the course of the field mission in IGAD, the technical team leader visited IBAR, Nairobi, to present the project and take note of relevant IBAR regional policies.

3.2.4. Visit to Djibouti

The visit to Djibouti (CVO and private quarantine facility) gave technical team leader an opportunity to identify possible sub-regional strategies to stimulate livestock exports from IGAD region.

3.2.5. Conclusions of field studies performed to February 2007

As of February 2007 the team was concerned that the dialogue between exporters and potential importers had not been as effective as planned. On the basis of subsequent discussions between the STDF 13 Technical team leader and Coordinator, an OIE HQ representative, an OCDE representative and the Algerian CVO, it was possible to reach a good understanding of Algerian requirements for the formalisation of livestock exports from the north of Mali to southern Algeria.

3.2.6. Proposal for a re-focusing of the activities of the study

In June 2007, the STDF 13 team proposed to re-focus the activities of the study, as follows:

IGAD:

Taking into consideration the geographically enclosed situation of Ethiopia, the export of livestock by sea depends upon the reliable provision of veterinary certification at exit ports. In this context, it would be more realistic for STDF 13 to focus on the capacities of Djibouti (at this time the facility with the most advanced capacities in this field due to the creation of a private modern quarantine facilities in October 2006. Hence, STDF 13 proposed a pilot project supporting livestock exports via Djibouti as the basis for a sub-regional strategy to

upgrade other ports, as Port Sudan, Berbera or Bosaso. This approach strategy presented the advantage of addressing the concerns of the Ethiopian Government about Djibouti's private quarantine having a monopoly on livestock exports. On this basis, a further field mission was undertaken to focus on building sanitary and certification capacities of the Djibouti VS.

ECOWAS

To this point STDF 13 had identified short term needs to formalize and support the export of live small ruminants from northern breeding areas in Mali to southern Algeria. With the benefit of active support from the OIE Director General, Malian authorities expressed their interest to upgrade the VS in the northern pastoral part of Mali, in line with the Algerian requests. The STDF 13 team proceeded to identify, in collaboration with Malian authorities, a pilot project for strengthening of VS with the goal of improving the sanitary status in pastoral areas where small ruminants are raised for export. This project could serve as a model to elaborate sub-regional strategies for strengthening VS.

Both of these proposals were validated by the STDF 13 Working Group at its meeting in November 2007 and a 6 months extension of the implementation period was granted.

3.2.7. Implementation and outputs of the new field missions

Field missions were performed in Mali and Djibouti.

	field study mission n°2	
	Mali	Djibouti
Coordinator	support throughout	support throughout
International veterinarian Technical team leader	11 - 14 February 2008	6 - 16 December 2007
Laboratory expert		6 - 16 December 2007
International veterinarian Specialist on sanitary aspects of trade with Arabic countries		15-17 April 2008

Both countries undertook an OIE-PVS evaluation VS in this period.

3.2.7.1. Mission in IGAD area: an evaluation of investments needed to upgrade the Djiboutian VS, based on the results of the PVS evaluation, with a focus on veterinary certification capacities.

The objective of the mission was to design a pilot project to upgrade Djiboutian VS with a focus on veterinary certification, which could be provided by appropriately accredited private veterinarians. This mission was conducted via: (i) a 10 day mission in December 2007 by the technical team leader and the veterinary laboratory expert and (ii) a 3 day mission in April 2008 by a veterinarian specialised in sanitary aspects in trade with Arab countries.

As a consequence of these missions, the STDF 13 team formulated a pilot project for Djibouti and a regional strategy for the IGAD area. The goal is to strengthen capacities for the provision of veterinary certification in Djibouti through involvement of the private veterinary sector, under appropriate delegation of authority from the Government and through the conduct of an accreditation system regularly monitored by the VS. The national animal health status will also be improved by general upgrading of the quality of the national VS.

3.2.7.2. Mission in the ECOWAS area: an evaluation of the investments needed to upgrade the VS to meet international standards for livestock export from of the north of Mali to southern Algeria.

The objective of the mission was to identify the required strengthening of the Malian VS, in close collaboration with the Malian authorities, in line with the Algerian requests and the results of the partial PVS evaluation of the decentralised Malian VS in the north of the country. In light of the coordinator being involved in a road accident, the technical team leader received support from the RAHC ECTAD team in Bamako.

As a result of this mission, the STDF 13 team designed guidelines for a pilot project, based on collaboration between the central and regional VS, and representatives from the market chain (producers and traders) and the veterinary private sector. The goal is the reinforcement of VS in the producing areas, with close involvement of the private sector, and improved access to veterinary practitioners and, through them, diagnostic facilities.

3.2.8. Next steps of the study

After the completion of the analytic phase (comprising desk review, field review and field study), the next steps were to (1) finalise the design of country pilot projects and the two regional strategies; (2) organise two regional workshops and (3) consolidate the pilot projects and regional strategies according to the recommendations of the workshops.

3.3. Design of country pilot projects and regional strategies

Draft country pilot projects and regional strategies were designed by the STDF 13 team upon the completion of the field missions in each REC and discussed at the two regional workshops.

3.3.1. Pilot projects

The pilot projects are part of the STDF 13 deliverables and details are provided in separate documents. They are summarized below.

ECOWAS: The pilot project aims to improve and support the health status of livestock in the northern pastoral area through strengthening the regional VS of the northern provinces (and, subsequently, the national VS), with involvement of the private veterinary sector and key players in the market chain. Key concepts, including livestock identification and traceability and disease zoning will also be addressed.

IGAD: The pilot project aims to develop a system for delegation of authority by government to the private sector operators of a modern quarantine facility. The implementation of this system will be regularly monitored by the VS. The national disease status of Djibouti will be improved by a general upgrading of the quality of VS, in terms of organisation, equipment and human resources. Improvement of the national disease status will help to reduce risks that livestock travelling through the country or staying in the quarantine area will be exposed to diseases. Field veterinary teams, including accredited private sector veterinarians, will be strengthened and deployed to conduct epidemicsurveillance with the added benefit of improving the general level of food safety for the domestic market.

3.3.1. Regional strategies to enhance public and private sector capacity in meeting international sanitary standards in international trade of livestock and livestock products

The regional strategies are part of the STDF 13 deliverables and details are provided in separate documents. They are summarized below.

3.4. Regional workshops

Two regional workshops were held to discuss the pilot projects and regional strategies.

3.4.1. ECOWAS area:

The regional workshop of the ECOWAS region was held in Bamako, Mali, on 21-23 May.

Participants included representatives of Mali, Niger, Chad, Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, Tunisia, IBAR, OIE and the FAO.

After a presentation on the STDF 13 study, importing countries made presentations on their current level of livestock and meat imports and their sanitary requirements. Producing countries presented their livestock and sanitary situation. Presentations followed on the actual and prospective markets for animal products at regional, sub regional and global level. The reliability of veterinary certification was highlighted as a prerequisite for trade and the quality of veterinary services as the cornerstone of international trade. The conduct of an OIE PVS assessment was recognized as a major step to create confidence between producing countries and importing countries.

There are still significant differences between the carcass quality and sanitary requirements of the Maghreb countries and the livestock and commodities produced in the Sahel. These differences were not significant for exports to the Southern coastal countries. For example, FMD was presented as a disease of key importance for Maghreb countries, whereas Sahel countries considered that FMD was not the most important disease for pastoralists.

The lack of effective FMD control schemes, including vaccination, means that the Sahel countries will have to substantially upgrade their sanitary status and veterinary services in order to participate in export of livestock and their products. The pilot project for Mali, which should allow livestock exports to the South of Algeria, illustrated what could be done to improve the situation in the medium term.

Presentations by countries were followed by bilateral discussions.

The presence of private importers' representatives added value to the meeting as they could give a reliable and accurate picture of the evolving demands of their markets. It was evident that the need to invest in processing infrastructures, quality systems and carcass standardisation, that was considered important by importing country representatives, had not been clearly understood by the exporting countries. However, if the health situation could be improved, private investments in the necessary infrastructure that would help to secure access to export markets may be envisaged.

As most exporting countries in the region have already benefited from experience with ECOWAS harmonisation in veterinary fields, the value of coordinating sanitary programs on transboundary diseases was recognized and supported by all participants.

3.4.2. IGAD area:

The workshop took place in Amman, Jordan in June 2008. This workshop included representatives of the exporting countries of the Great Horn of Africa and of the importing countries of the Arabic Peninsula and the Middle East.

The CVOs of Ethiopia and Djibouti and the owners and representatives of private quarantine stations (Somaliland, Puntland, Djibouti) and public quarantine stations (Sudan and Ethiopia) attended the workshop.

In addition, the CVOs of Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, and representatives of the VS of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and of import quarantine stations in Saudi Arabia were present.

The OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East, the Director of AU-IBAR, and the FAO representative for the RAHC of East Africa also participated.

After a presentation on the STDF 13 study, importing countries presented their current levels of livestock and meat imports and their sanitary requirements. Producing countries made presentations on their livestock and sanitary situation. Presentations followed on the current and prospective markets for animal products at regional, sub regional and global level. The quality of VS and the international situation relevant to IGAD exporting countries were also discussed.

The pilot project in Djibouti was generally supported as a good example to follow, although representatives of Ethiopia were opposed to this proposal. The concerns of Ethiopia appear to be particularly focused on the potential for the Djibouti quarantine facility to gain a position of monopoly for livestock exports from the region. The STDF 13 team explained that the field study carried out in Ethiopia provided an understanding of certain constraints, including the size of Ethiopia and the high level of resources needed to effectively strengthen its VS. The pilot project in Djibouti involves a small country, for which it is feasible to strengthen current arrangements and thereby provide an export route for Ethiopian animals and their products.

The STDF 13 team further explained that, in the short term, the most feasible strategy is to strengthen the capacities of Djibouti, as a transit country, to provide reliable veterinary certification, to provide an avenue with a sound chain of sanitary control for the export of livestock produced in the region. The STDF 13 team also acknowledged the importance of developing the capacities of producing countries to manage animal diseases and to provide reliable veterinary certification. It was not possible to fully address Ethiopian concerns at the

workshop. Participants finally recommended that projects similar to the pilot project in Djibouti should be initiated as soon as possible in other areas and at other quarantine stations, including, specifically, to address the concerns raised by Ethiopia.

The SOLICEP project for Somalia was presented by AU-IBAR. This project received support and participants generally called for coordination of livestock projects in the IGAD region. The workshop also recommended that regional strategies be developed.

This workshop provided an excellent opportunity for importing and exporting countries to discuss issues of mutual interest. It also provided for clarification of some significant differences between importing countries' requirements. The Arabic Peninsula, being a traditional importer in the IGAD region and having relatively few livestock, is more concerned about zoonotic diseases. Countries of the Middle East generally adopt OIE requirements. However, CVOs emphasized that the cost of shipment through the Suez channel was a barrier to exporting livestock to Middle East countries by this route.

All parties emphasized the importance of transparency, traceability and the quality of veterinary services.

The synthesis of the workshop, containing findings and recommendations, is part of the deliverable of the study.

3.5. Finalisation of the pilot projects and regional strategies

This activity was conducted by the STDF 13 technical team leader and coordinator.

3.6. Summary of implementation of STDF 13

	Place	
Desk Review and field review	Rome, Paris, Montpellier	October 2006
Field Study	Mali	December 2006
	Ethiopia – Djibouti - Nairobi	January 2007
Round tables	Paris (for ECOWAS)	May 2007
	IGAD	not possible
Re-orientation of the study	ROME	June 2007 (Accepted November by STDF committee)
Second field studies	Djibouti	December 2007 and April 2008
	Mali	February 2008
Design of pilot projects and regional strategies	Rome	March-April 2008
Regional workshop	ECOWAS: Bamako (Mali)	May 2008
	IGAD: Amman (Jordan)	June 2008
Finalisation of pilot project and strategies	Rome	June 2008
Reporting	Rome	June 2008

4. Major findings

There were some inevitable delays to the project because of difficulty in finding appropriate experts in 2006, due to the ongoing avian influenza crisis, which resulted in postponement of the project commencement to October 2006. However, veterinarians and other experts with relevant experience and skills were eventually secured.

In IGAD area:

One of the major constraints to the project in the IGAD area was the position of the Ethiopian Government in regard to the proposal to support the private quarantine facility in Djibouti. This was no doubt influenced by the fact that both public and private quarantine facilities exist in Ethiopia (although these do not have access to the sea) and there were concerns about the Djibouti facility gaining a monopoly position. The STDF 13 team was able to explain that the proposed project would provide useful practical experience on which similar projects to support additional quarantine facilities could be based. The absence of the acting Ethiopian CVO and deputies during the January 2007 mission in Ethiopia also caused difficulties.

Ultimately, most of the workshop participants supported the proposed project for the Djibouti quarantine facility, based on the view that, as it is a major livestock exporting country in the GHA, Ethiopia would be one of the main beneficiaries of this pilot project.

In the ECOWAS area:

STDF 13 made slow initial progress due to the ongoing conduct of high level discussions on trade, including livestock between Mali and Algeria. With a change of Minister and the direct involvement of the OIE Director General the project regained momentum in 2007.

5. Expected impacts

The formalization and expansion of livestock trade on the basis of stronger VS, more reliable provision of veterinary health certification and improved national or local area health status will be the major impact of the pilot projects. The proposed regional strategies are expected to follow this strengthening of the national VS. Improvements in the reliability of veterinary certification in the targeted exporting countries will strengthen the relationship between (i) producing and transit countries, and (ii) importers and exporters. The outcome will be to increase the participation of African pastoralist countries in regional/international trade. In the longer term, production (and by consequence the livelihoods) of pastoralists should be increased. Further benefits will arise from strengthening of the market chain in pastoral areas which are often neglected by the central governments especially in the southern parts of Northern African importing countries and in neighbouring African countries.

The securing of access to traditionally inaccessible international markets and/or the formalisation of previously informal trade, should stimulate the producing countries to make investments in VS and support cooperation between the public and private sector, in line with the findings of the OIE PVS evaluation of the countries targeted in this project. Improving veterinary legislation in compliance with OIE standards is a priority if exporting countries wish to take this opportunity to secure long term access to international markets. This represents a key element in improving animal health governance including for the provision of veterinary certification that meets the requirements of importing countries.

Two elements of the proposed national strategies are particularly important to reverse the trend of decentralising the VS in African countries. Firstly, the contracting of private veterinarians for official activities (sanitary mandate) and animal health services provides the opportunity to strengthen VS in a cost effective and sustainable manner. Secondly, it is important to introduce financial arrangements to guarantee for the sustainable activities of private veterinarians. The privatisation of veterinary activities in Africa has faced particular problems relating to the inability to guarantee incomes and to provide social benefits for private veterinarians. The systematic introduction of these support mechanisms (already developed under the AU-IBAR PACE project privatisation policy), should allow for the development of a field network of private veterinary practitioners in the field that would be far more beneficial to pastoralists than the existing *urban veterinary pharmacists*.

It is expected that added value will be obtained in the domain of veterinary public health via: (1) upgrading of the food safety profile of animal commodities in the domestic market and (2) the mitigation of zoonotic risk for workers throughout the food production chain.

It is hoped that as a consequence of STDF 13 some success stories will be seen in the next couple of years and that this will stimulate the interest of donors to support the African livestock sector, particularly through the strengthening of VS and domestic legislation, to benefit rural areas and food security in the whole population.