

ANNEX 2 FEASIBILITY STUDY COMMUNITY-BASED AGRICULTURE SUPPORT PROGRAMME 'PLUS'

CHAPTER IV: CLIMATE DYNAMICS AND ANIMAL HEALTH

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Abbreviation and definition of terms

CASP	Community-Based Agricultural Support Project
CVE	Continuous Veterinary Education
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSC	Food Security Committee under the Government of RT
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
MHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection of RT
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan
NCDFS	National Center for Diagnostics of Food Security
NCL	National Center of Legislation under the President of RT
NDS - 2030	National development strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan 2030
NIP	National Investment Plan for Sustainable Agriculture Development and Food Security of RT 2021-2030
OIE	Office International des Epizooties
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PVS	Private Veterinary Service
SPS-agreement	WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
SVS	State Veterinary Service
TAAS	Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences
TAHC	OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code
TAU	Tajik Agrarian University
TVA	Tajik Veterinary Association
TVS	Tajik Veterinary Service
VBCP	Veterinary Border Checkpoint
VS	Veterinary Statutory Body
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Executive summary

1. Ensuring the country's capacity to serve the livestock sector is an utmost priority. This is substantiated by the contribution of the sector not only to wealth and livelihoods of more than 60% of households in the country, but also due to the social and traditional role of livestock breeding, and the potential of the sector in maintaining or even improving the ecosystem base (rangelands, biodiversity), in a context challenged by increasing economic and climate change-related stressors.
2. Public health protection and food security governance are identified as priority areas of the country's development.¹ However, it is not possible to achieve the goals that are set for these areas without developing veterinary services that meet the OIE standards.² About 60% of known and 75% of new or re-emerging human infectious diseases are transmitted from animals.³ Certain animal diseases can cause irreparable harm due to restrictions on trade, infection control costs, losses in livestock units and animal productivity. As a result, all this leads to a decrease in the resilience, including to climate change.
3. According to the results of the OIE PVS Evaluation FU Mission, the country's veterinary system is not able to provide the quality of services and needs donor assistance and significant investment. The crucial ones are veterinary education, reforming the management structure, legislation improvement, infrastructure renovation, diagnostic network optimization, and other areas, some of which are in their nascent state or are absent at all.⁴
4. Other factors that hinder the development of the veterinary system are inadequate funding, deficiencies in technical equipment, gaps in staff training, poor development of private veterinary services and veterinary entrepreneurship, absence of IT-based systems for communication, reporting, dissemination of information, animal identification, tracking of animal products, and other gaps in the absence of a sustainable sectoral strategy.⁵
5. Special efforts will be required to improve the country's veterinary legislation to implement the measures recommended by OIE on veterinary public health, animal welfare, separation of competencies of public and private veterinarians, creation of an appropriate business environment for the development of private veterinary services, control of the use of veterinary medicines and management of biological waste disposal processes based on risk analysis and One Health approach.
6. Donor assistance in the animal health sector is carried out as part of projects, in the form of certain activities or sub-components aimed at achieving project goals. They are mainly aimed at solving the current problems of the existing system. The most active are IFAD, the European Union, FAO and, many other donors that carry out projects with the technical support of FAO. The CASP+ will be one of the first climate-oriented projects in the country's veterinary domain.
7. The CASP+ activities related to animal health are developed in line with the OIE's recommendations and based on the project's goals, which are aimed to increase animal productivity and resilience to climate change. The project intends to focus on improving veterinary legislation, strengthening the capacity of the public and private veterinary services, and ensuring access to quality veterinary services in the project area.

¹ National development strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan 2030

² Office International des Epizooties - World Organization for Animal Health

³ Woolhouse ME, Gowtage-Sequeria S. Host range and emerging and reemerging pathogens. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2005;11:1842–7. 10.3201/eid1112.050997

⁴ https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Support_to_OIE_Members/docs/pdf/OIE_PVS_FU_final_report_Tajikistan.pdf

⁵ Draft of the Veterinary Service Development Strategy of the RT (2021-2030) has been developed by FAO.

Chapter IV: Climate Dynamics and Animal Health

I. Country Context

A. Institutional context

Policy and legal frameworks

1. **Policy and strategy.** An EU project implemented by FAO assisted the country in the development of a draft of the Strategy for the Development of the Tajikistan Veterinary Service for 2021-2030, which is under finalization. Other documents related to the veterinary domain are: National development strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan 2030; National Health Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period 2012-2020; The Program of Food Security of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2019-2023; The Comprehensive Livestock Industry Development Program 2018-22. In these documents, the veterinary sector is mentioned as key to achieve the goals of the above-listed sectors.
2. The formation of sector policy is dominated by the perception of veterinary services as a domain focusing narrowly only on animal health. As a result, such areas as veterinary public health, animal welfare, animal identification and animal movement control systems, tracking systems for animal products are neglected. The development of private veterinary services and the delegation of certain powers to the private sector are also not reflected in strategic documents at the national level. The adoption of a sectoral strategy could fill these strategic gaps.
3. A draft of the National Investment Plan for Sustainable Agriculture Development and Food Security of the Republic of Tajikistan 2021–2030 (NIP) recently elaborated by FAO's assistance has identified priorities for investment in the veterinary sector. The NIP for the development of veterinary services of the country makes provision for investments of US\$ 37.795 million. The planned investments will be aimed at improving legislation, strengthening the veterinary education institutions, increasing the capacity of public and private veterinary services for the practical implementation of measures to ensure food security and market access.
4. **Veterinary Legislation** generally ensures that the veterinary system is maintained as it is. The main specific law is "TR Law on Veterinary "(2012). The main shortcomings of this law are the lack of a definition of a private veterinarian, his rights and obligations, relationship with the official authorities and clients, as well as the possibility of performing certain powers of state veterinarians. At the same time, Article 12 of this law and the Law on Licensing grant the right to private veterinarians to provide private veterinary services. The country legislation does not contain provisions on the Veterinary Statutory Body and legal rights for the separation of powers between public and private veterinarians, on the delegation of certain official powers to private veterinarians as well as for creating an appropriate business environment for the development of private veterinary services.

Institutions in charge of veterinary services

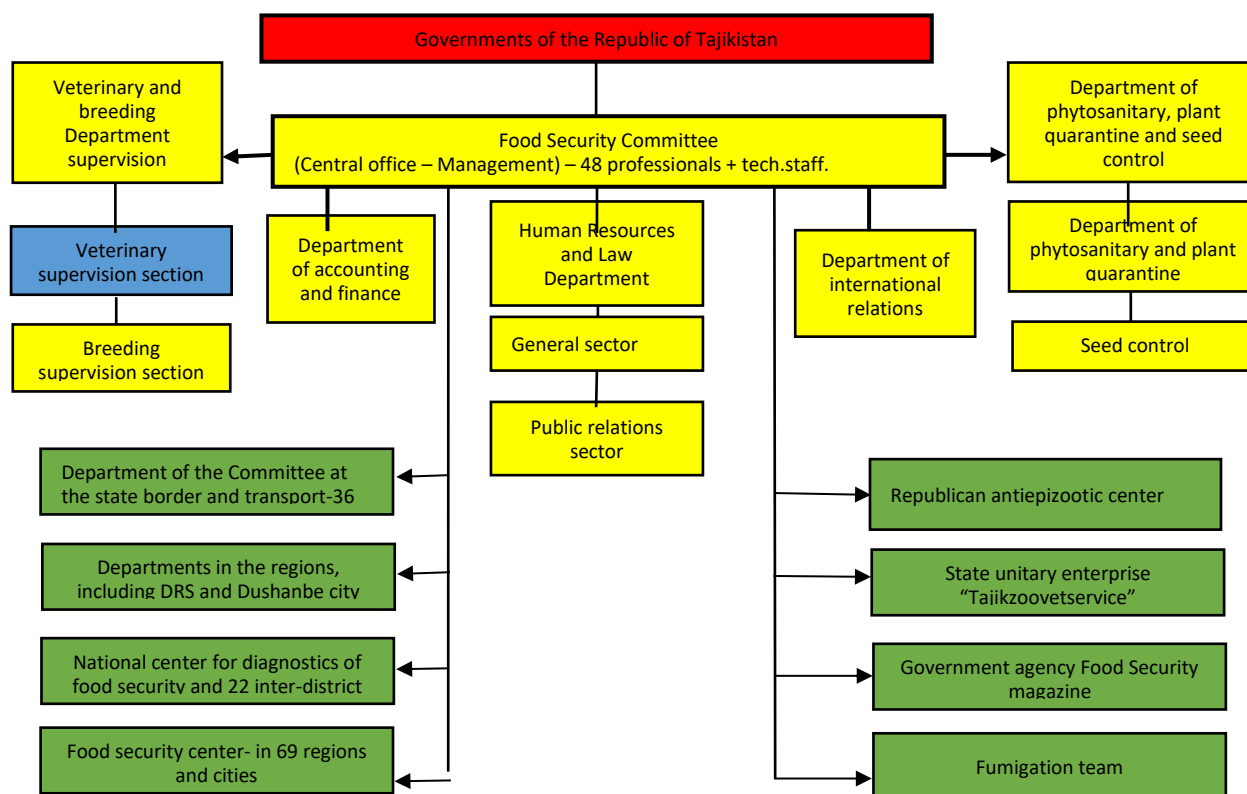
5. **Food Security Committee** under the authority of the Government was created to replace the former veterinary authority⁶ and its mandate and competencies were expanded.⁷ The structure of the Committee is shown in the figure below. The total staff of the Committee consists of 2538 people, 1490 of whom are veterinarians. Veterinary work in the Central office is carried out by one department, which has only two divisions, whereby, one of them is for breeding supervision. Locally, all former district and city veterinary structures (69 units) were renamed as Food Security Centers (FSC). The whole diagnostic network (23 institutions) is now called the Center for Diagnostics of Food Security (CDFS). The former center for registration and certification of veterinary medicines was transformed to a level of a Department with limited personnel, and currently it is part of the national CDFS. Control at the state border and main

⁶ Veterinary inspection under MoA

⁷ Quarantine and plant protection, breeding work, seed farming and food security issues.

transport terminals is carried out at 36 state border checkpoints: 27 at state borders, 4 at airports, 3 at railways, and 2 at transport terminals.

Table 1. Organizational structure of the FSC.



6. **Tajik Agricultural University (TAU)** is the only University where veterinary doctors are trained. Every year, the faculty admits 100 students for a 5-year course in veterinary medicine, 50 students for a 5-year course in veterinary pharmacy, and 25 students for a 4-year course in veterinary medicine. Education is free for 55% of students, and 45% must pay tuition. Students are selected by a special commission under the Executive Office of the President, not by the faculty.
7. **Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS)** has two veterinary laboratories, one under the Veterinary Research Institute and the second one under the Institute for Biological Safety. These laboratories have independent resources and help the veterinary service to conduct special research and monitoring of priority diseases such as brucellosis, avian influenza, as well as testing the diseases that may occur in the country.
8. **Tajik Veterinary Association (TVA)** is a public, non-profit organization established on the initiative of veterinary experts supported by UN FAO in 2003. TVA currently represents the interests of its more than 900 members. Members of the association are representatives of science (10), veterinarians in the public service (53), 806 field veterinarians and para-veterinarians, 14 entrepreneurs and employees of companies engaged in veterinary activities in the country, and 9 foreign veterinary experts. TVA also unites 35 local veterinary associations. As a network of private and public veterinarians, TVA protects their legal and economic interests and takes part in the development, preparation and revision of laws and statutory regulations. TVA actively cooperates with non-governmental and governmental organizations. The TVA is the only organization responsible for the development of private veterinary services in the country.

B. Sector Performance

Overview of the current state of the sector

9. The country's veterinary services are fully under the common control and direction of the Food Security Committee (National Veterinary Authority). Private sector organizations, veterinarians, para-veterinarians must be approved by the Veterinary Authority to perform specific services. Almost all types of veterinary services are paid and carried out by state veterinarians. The proceeds from services go to the republican budget. At the same time, the reverse distribution of funds is inadequate, which hinders the full functioning and development of the country's veterinary services.
10. Low salaries of government employees affect their performance. Given the limited republican budget, it is difficult to expect an increase in wages in the near future. A limited local state staff serves livestock unit that tends to sustainable growth. Since 2014, the number of cattle, including yaks, has increased by 234.7 thousand units, small ruminants by 630 thousand units, and poultry by 3.79 million.

Table 2. Livestock and poultry by the end of 2019.

years	cattle/ yaks	sheep and goats	horses and donkeys	poultry
2014	2 154 300	5 055 600	240 700	5 248 000
2019	2 389 000	5 686 300	222 000	9 035 500

Source: Bulletin "Agriculture" of the Agency for Statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan

11. The conversion of all livestock and poultry units to veterinary livestock units (VLU)⁸ is equal to 3,269,985. It means that about 4,000 veterinarians are needed to cover the needs of the population in veterinary services.⁹ The existing state veterinary staff in the field level is around 1000, which is not enough. For instance, in the future project area, the total number of livestock in the recalculation is 1,265,132 veterinary livestock units for which there are still not enough 1205 veterinarians.

Table 3. The number of livestock and veterinarians in the project districts.¹⁰

Project Districts	Total cattle	Total sheep & goats	VLU	Needed vets	Existing state vets
RRS					
Rudaki	71 649	114 893	83138,3	104	29
Gissar	72 570	123 392	84909,2	106	20
Shahrinav	27 978	48 032	32781,2	41	15
Sub-total RRS	172 197	286 317	200 829	251	64
Khatlon Region					
Kulyab city	27 674	48670	32541	41	15
Hamadoni	35 652	65020	42154	53	19
Khovaling	24 868	35599	28427,9	36	16
Temurmalik	34 351	101796	44530,6	56	14
Vose	46 816	97526	56568,6	71	34
Baljuvan	25 911	47784	30689,4	38	9
Dangara	70 830	406508	111480,8	139	27
Farkhor	55 380	117252	67105,2	84	23

⁸ VLU = 1 cattle = 10 sheep = 100 poultries

⁹ 800 VLU per 1 veterinarian

¹⁰ Data received from FSC

Sh. Shohin	29 341	75401	36881,1	46	15
Kushoniyon	69 352	78513	77203,3	97	13
Huroson	36 934	85300	45464	57	11
A.Jomi	41 691	68560	48547	61	8
J.Balkhi	56 483	112298	67712,8	85	26
Panj	42 892	92906	52182,6	65	21
Vakhsh	47 986	164646	64450,6	81	12
Yavan	97 778	183277	116105,7	145	13
Sub-total Khatlon	743 939	1 781 056	922 045	1 153	276
Sughd Region					
Mastchoh	55 050	146773	69727,3	87	17
Zafarobod	32 944	66438	39587,8	49	7
Sub-total Sughd	120 938	213 211	142 259	178	37
TOTAL	1 037 074	2 280 584	1 265 132	1 581	376

12. The **animal health situation**: according to the Veterinary Authority, it is relatively safe. Nevertheless, it is noted that the cases of brucellosis, rabies, foot and mouth disease, PPR, and echinococcosis are periodically recorded. The cases of human zoonoses such as brucellosis (900-1000 cases), rabies (10-12 cases) and echinococcosis are annually recorded. Accurate data on the prevalence of diseases, their intensity, and other epidemiological indicators are difficult to derive due to the lack of relevant data. This information also cannot be obtained from the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).
13. In 2020, 3 cases of anthrax outbreaks were registered in the country, 4 outbreaks of black leg disease, 37 outbreaks of animal rabies, 1 case of leptospirosis, 5 outbreaks of sheep clostridiosis, 2 outbreaks of pasteurellosis in cattle, and 8 outbreaks of pasteurellosis in small ruminants.

Financing anti-epizootic measures

14. For 2019, 3,000 thousand somonis were provided for anti-epizootic measures, and in 2020 even less was allocated for the same purposes - 2,900 thousand somoni, which in dollar terms is about 300 thousand US dollars. To compare the adequacy of the allocated funds, an example from neighbouring Kyrgyzstan can be cited, where 5 times more is allocated for antiepidemiological measures in dollar terms.
15. **Cooperation with international institutions and participation in regional programs**: Tajikistan has been a member of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) since 1993. Close cooperation with the OIE has been observed since 2009, when the first expert mission to evaluate the quality of veterinary services in the country took place. The second OIE PVS Gap Analysis Mission was carried out in 2011. However, valuable mission recommendations were not fully implemented, as confirmed during the third OIE evaluation mission in 2017.
16. Membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) obliges Tajikistan to comply with the conditions for the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures of WTO that promote international trade. The Republic is a member of the regional West Eurasia Roadmap for the control of foot-and-mouth disease. This program aims to eliminate foot-and-mouth disease by 2025 for regional economic development, food security and poverty reduction. The country participates in the implementation of the Global Action Plan of WHO, within the framework of the concept of "One Health",¹¹ to support member countries to combat antimicrobial resistance

¹¹ <https://www.oie.int/en/for-the-media/onehealth>

(AMR). Tajikistan is also a member of the GARC Regional Rabies Eradication Strategy Program.¹²

Veterinary education

17. **Tajik Agricultural University.** According to the OIE experts, the existing infrastructure at TAU Veterinary Faculty is completely inadequate for students to gain experience working with animals, as well as for clinical and laboratory classes. Teachers are not aware of the existence of minimum standards (competencies) for a Day 1 veterinary graduate,¹³ developed by OIE as early as in 2012, and the availability of curriculum development guidelines.¹⁴ The curriculum is based on the old Soviet system.
18. Training of para-veterinarians (veterinary assistants, etc.) is carried out in two colleges. The college, which was visited by OIE experts in Mastchoh, offers a three-year program in six different majors. The curriculum conforms to the veterinary faculty program, but with reduced lecture duration for courses – for example, the clinical diagnostics program at the faculty is 200 hours, and at the college, it is 80 hours. The annual average number of graduates is 40, 20-25 students of which are admitted for distance education, they spend only 40 days a year at the educational institution. Students are taught by four teachers, in a few modest classrooms. It is not possible to support any practical courses in anatomy, histology, clinical diagnostics, obstetrics, or surgery. There were no veterinary textbooks in the small library. The teaching staff is not aware of the OIE competencies¹⁵ established for para-veterinarians. The OIE experts recommended that distance education should be rejected and that the possibility of training para-veterinarians based on TAU should be considered for rational use of resources.
19. Continuous Professional Education (CPE) is a guarantee for the quality of the veterinary services provided. There is no integrated system of continuous professional development in the country. Certain advanced training courses are being periodically conducted. For example, FAO in collaboration with the Tajik Veterinary Association (TVA) organized a training for the basic courses. From 2000 to 2014, it was attended by 1039 public and private veterinarians. Another 890 people were trained in thematic courses. Since 2014, TVA has not received any external financial support and, therefore, training has not been conducted. Since 2018, cooperation with TVA has been resumed and advanced training courses are conducted as part of projects implemented by FAO and IFAD. The Agency under the Executive Office of the President also conducts certain courses for government officials on management, legislation, and international relations.

Veterinary laboratory network

20. Laboratory diagnostic network¹⁶ consists of the National Center for Diagnostics of Food Security (NCDFS) in Dushanbe and its 22 regional and district laboratories. A total of 462 employees (184 veterinarians) work in this network, 77 of which work in the NCDFS (30 veterinarians). Veterinary laboratories in the markets conduct food product research. Laboratories visited by OIE experts in Dushanbe and Sughd Province demonstrated the use of outdated research methods that lead to questions about the quality and efficiency of the performance of such laboratories. Over the last few years, several laboratories, primarily in the NCDFS and its regional laboratories, and in the institutes of the Academy, have been renovated, whereas others still need significant renovation and modernization. According to the OIE experts, the total area of the laboratory network consisting of the NCDFS with its regional and district laboratories, as well as the laboratories of two TAAS institutes apparently exceeds the needs of the veterinary service. The OIE mission notes the absence of progress in the OIE's recommended reorganization of the national laboratory network that could provide a basis for investment to ensure the quality of

¹² <https://rabiesalliance.org/about/our-story>

¹³ https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Support_to_OIE_Members/Vet_Edu_AHG/DAY_1/DAYONE-B-ang-vC.pdf

¹⁴ https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Support_to_OIE_Members/docs/pdf/AF-Core-ANG.pdf

¹⁵ https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Support_to_OIE_Members/docs/pdf/AF-CoreCV-ANG.pdf

¹⁶ The review is made based on OIE mission reports (2009, 2011, 2017)

laboratories and efficient use of resources. The reforming processes of the ISO national accreditation system in the veterinary diagnostic network are at an early stage.

21. Two laboratories - the Veterinary Research Institute and the Institute for Biological Safety operate as part of the Tajik Academy of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS). These laboratories have independent resources and help the veterinary service to conduct special research and monitoring of priority diseases such as brucellosis, avian influenza, as well as testing the diseases that may occur in the country. The Institute for Biological Safety produces vaccines against 4 bacterial diseases in limited quantities, 3-5% of national needs. After the comprehensive renovation funded by the EU and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICJRI), the institute accommodates the National Collection of Pathogens. The Academy informs about cooperation with the German and Russian universities (10 experts in each) in the sphere of languages and internships. The Institute for Biological Safety informs about training on zoonotic diseases carried out by 6 experts from Uppsala (Sweden), on foot-and-mouth disease in Vladimir (Russia), and biosafety as part of the UNICJRI program.

Private Veterinary Service

22. The Private Veterinary Service is in its nascent state. Regardless of the significant efforts of international organizations (EU, IFAD, Aga Khan Foundation, FAO, etc.) to establish conditions for the gradual development of private veterinary service, currently, only its rudiments can be observed. The private sector is mainly represented by entrepreneurs who are engaged in the sale of veterinary medicines, disinfectants, and instrumentation. The legislation envisages the possibility of providing veterinary services by veterinarians having appropriate education, after licensing and payment of certain fees. According to private veterinarians, the procedures for obtaining a license, registering in government authorities, the monthly reporting system are very complicated and require collecting different types of statements, each of which costs money. As a result, many local private veterinarians provide services to the public without relevant registration.
23. An in-depth analysis of the private veterinary service was carried out by the OIE mission at the end of 2017 and updated during the CASP+ design mission. In short, the situation is as follows. Each of the FSC district offices has 6 to 30 state veterinarians responsible for all types of veterinary services, which is 3 to 4 times less than is required to meet the needs of the population for veterinary services. Furthermore, private veterinary services are provided by unregistered (without license) persons, they are: a) redundant former state veterinarians, b) private veterinarians with expired licenses, c) elderly veterinarians, d) veterinary paraprofessionals. These individuals are community members, but they are unregistered and, therefore, are not regulated by government agencies. They are not undergoing refresher training. This represents a major risk to the quality of service.
24. Another factor that hinders the development of private veterinary services is competition from state veterinarians. They also have the right to participate in private veterinary practice while being in the government service and earning a salary from the state budget. This gives rise to unsound competition and prevents the development of private veterinary services. All this is taking place due to the absence of the definition of Private Veterinarian, its rights, and duties in the main law "On Veterinary Medicine". The country does not have a special body to regulate the private veterinary practice - the Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB).¹⁷ This is a non-profit organization that is legally responsible for regulating the activities of veterinarians in the country.
25. Tajik Veterinary Association (TVA) represents the interests of its more than 900 members. They are representatives of science (10), veterinarians in the public service (53), 806 field veterinarians and para-veterinarians, 14 entrepreneurs and employees of companies engaged in veterinary activities, and 9 foreign veterinary experts. TVA also unites 35 local veterinary associations. As a network of private and public veterinarians, TVA protects their legal and economic interests

¹⁷ The VSB is an authorized body of the Government, responsible for regulating veterinary practice in the country, independently, on the principles of self-regulation.

and takes part in the development, preparation and revision of laws and statutory regulations. TVA actively cooperates with non-governmental and governmental organizations.

26. In cooperation with many donor organizations, TVA provides continuous capacity-building activity for veterinarians and veterinary laboratory engineers and supports veterinarians in the acquisition of equipment, materials, grants for the construction of private veterinary clinics and purchase of vehicles. TVA also fulfils the linking role between livestock owners, field veterinarians, and veterinary authorities of the country. The role of the association in conducting advanced training courses is particularly valuable.

Animal Identification

27. Animal Identification and Animal Products Tracking (AIAPT) is the basis on which most veterinary activities are built: control of animal movement; export and import operations; medicine application management, including antibiotics and vaccines; tracking of animal products; planning of veterinary activities and budgets, forecasting the situation and much more. Unfortunately, currently, there is no such system in the country which is a major constraint for disease control as well as for the control of livestock movements. The animal unit record is performed based on livestock recalculation, usually carried out at the end of each year, as part of the agricultural census, and the data is accumulated in MS Excel format. The absence of a digital system for livestock identification and animal product tracking is one of the limiting factors for the development of veterinary services and control of food safety processes.

OIE PVS evaluations of the sector.

28. From 2009 to 2017, Tajikistan's Veterinary Service (TVS) passed a full cycle of evaluation provided by the OIE. The first evaluation of the veterinary service of Tajikistan (OIE PVS Evaluation Mission) was carried out in 2009. The key objectives of the mission were to carry out a qualitative evaluation of the efficiency of Tajikistan's Veterinary Service and its compliance with international standards, through determining the current level of efficiency of TVS, to form a shared vision, to identify priorities and implement strategic initiatives. The mission used the OIE PVS Tool where 45 critical competencies were evaluated based on a five-point rating scale with detailed descriptions and indicators for each competence.
29. The second OIE expert mission was held in June 2011 and was aimed at identifying gaps and detailed planning.¹⁸ Three independent OIE experts together with the TVS management, using the results of the initial evaluation of the TVS in 2009, identified national priorities and agreed on a list of measures that are necessary for the modernization of the veterinary service. The human, material and financial resources that will be required to achieve the intended level of development were identified during the mission. The national priorities identified in the meetings with responsible officials in the TVS management during the mission were grouped into four main categories: national livestock development policy; animal health; veterinary public health; and organization and management of veterinary services.
30. The third OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission was carried out in November 2017 and was aimed at identifying progress achieved to the results of previous missions, updating key information, and tracking changes in legislation and infrastructure. The report on the results of the mission can be found on the official website of OIE.¹⁹ The main conclusions of the mission are as follows: since the 2009 OIE PVS Evaluation, there has been a weakening of capacity in seven critical competencies and moderate progress in four critical competencies. Key factors forming the basis for the absence of meaningful progress are the lack of adequate resources and standards for veterinary education, inadequate funding of salaries, operating expenses, infrastructure and capability to respond to a possible outbreak of diseases, poor coordination in TVS from the center to the district and municipal levels, as well as poor coordination with

¹⁸ Tajikistan OIE PVS Gap Analysis report. June 2011.

¹⁹ Tajikistan OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission report 2017.

https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Support_to_OIE_Members/docs/pdf/OIE_PVS_FU_final_report_Tajikistan.pdf

government organizations in the public health sector. Table 4 shows the evaluation results of 47 critical competencies of the country's veterinary service in comparison with 2009 results.

C. SWOT analysis

Strengths

31. The National Development Strategy 2030 serves as a statutory action plan for all state administration bodies and as an orientation action plan for the private sector, on which technical and financial assistance programs for the country will be based. One of the main directions of the strategy is the health of the population and ensuring the food security of the country. In this context, the role of veterinary services is fundamental as it ensures animal productivity, animal product security and safety, as well as protection of people from diseases transmitted from animals.
32. The country's veterinary authorities actively cooperate with international organizations and receive technical and financial assistance for the development of the sector. Their efforts to cooperate with specialized organizations – International Epizootic Bureau (OIE) and FAO that have valuable technical knowledge based on the latest scientific achievements are especially valuable and recognized by the world community.
33. The country's participation, with the support of the local FAO office, in regional programs of the European Union and Central Asia on progressive control of diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, rabies, pest of small ruminants and other socially significant diseases, as well as in regional programs to combat antibiotic resistance, establishes a framework for the regional cooperation, the acquisition of valuable skills and knowledge, and contributes to the development of institutional memory.
34. Cooperation with the Customs Service on the Single Window and Integrated Border Management projects illustrates the importance of cooperation with other agencies. They establish a framework for further cooperation with partners from other ministries. These projects also gain experience and capacity in using complicated IT-tools that are required in other aspects of the Veterinary Service.
35. Extensive infrastructure, along with the staff at the regional and district levels, including the laboratory network of the former state service, has been fully integrated into the new Food Security Committee, ensuring the continuity, a valuable technical and communication chain from headquarters to the field level. The commitment of the main Veterinary Service employees to improve and the willingness to learn from their own experience and self-assessment, which is noted in the report of experts during the OIE PVS evaluation missions, is the most valuable factor to achieve the goals to reform the country's veterinary system.

Weaknesses

36. Current veterinary legislation supports the current state of the Veterinary Service but does not allow it to develop under the requirements of the OIE. The main complaints against the legislation: the absence of regulations on private veterinary service; there is no conceptual definition of private veterinarian, para-veterinary expert, their rights and duties; separation of competencies and responsibilities of the public and private sector, the possibility of delegating certain state functions to the private sector. There is no legal basis to establish an authority for regulating the veterinary practice.
37. Although donor organizations have provided possible assistance in renovating the office, laboratory equipment, buildings and other infrastructure facilities, most of the local structural units and laboratory network in the field still need to improve their capacity, technical equipping and appropriate funding, including the network and infrastructure of veterinary educational institutions.
38. The curriculum of educational institutions is based on the old Soviet system of training and do not meet the requirements of OIE, based on the competencies for Day 1 veterinary graduate. Many graduates after graduating from educational institutions do not work in their degree field, especially in rural areas.

39. The lack of information and communication systems based on modern IT technologies hamper the work of veterinary services in communication, exchange of information, its availability, feedback from beneficiaries, reporting, event planning, animal movement control and medicine turnover, issuance of veterinary accompanying documents, and other areas. This fully applies to the system of animal identification and traceability of animal products.

Table 4. Summary of OIE PVS evaluation results

PVS summary results of Tajikistan	Result 2017	Previous Evaluation 2009
I. HUMAN, PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES		
I-1.A. Staffing: Veterinarians and other professionals	3	3
I-1.B. Staffing: Veterinary paraprofessionals and other technical personnel	3	3
I-2.A. Professional competencies of veterinarians	2	3
I-2.B. Competencies of veterinary paraprofessionals	2	2
I-3. Continuing education	2	2
I-4. Technical independence	2	3
I-5. Stability of structures and sustainability of policies	3	4
I-6.A. Internal coordination (chain of command)	3	4
I-6.B. External coordination	3	NA
I-7. Physical resources	2	2
I-8. Operational funding	2	2
I-9. Emergency funding	2	2
I-10. Capital investment	2	2
I-11. Management of resources and operations	2	NA
II. TECHNICAL AUTHORITY AND CAPABILITY		
II-1.A. Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis	3	2
II-1.B. Suitability of national laboratory infrastructures	3	NA
II-2. Laboratory quality assurance	2	2
II-3. Risk analysis	2	2
II-4. Quarantine and border security	3	2
II-5.A. Passive epidemiological surveillance	2	2
II-5.B. Active epidemiological surveillance	2	2
II-6. Emergency response	2	3
II-7. Disease prevention, control and eradication	2	2
II-8.A. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of establishments	1	NA (1)
II-8.B. Ante and post mortem inspection	1	NA (1)
II-8.C. Inspection of collection, processing and distribution	2	NA (1)
II-9. Veterinary medicines and biologicals	2	2
II-10. Residue testing	1	1
II-11. Animal feed safety	2	NA
II-12.A. Animal identification and movement control	1	1
II-12.B. Identification and traceability of animal products	1	NA
II-13. Animal welfare	1	NA
III. INTERACTION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES		
III-1. Communications	3	2
III-2. Consultation with interested parties	2	2
III-3. Official representation	2	3
III-4. Accreditation/authorisation/delegation	2	1
III-5.A. Veterinary Statutory Body Authority	1	1
III-5.B. Veterinary Statutory Body Capacity	1	NA
III-6. Participation of producers and other interested parties in joint programmes	2	2
IV. ACCESS TO MARKETS		
IV-1. Preparation of legislation and regulations	2	2
IV-2. Implementation of legislation and regulations and compliance thereof	2	2
IV-3. International harmonisation	3	3
IV-4. International certification	3	3
IV-5. Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements	4	4
IV-6. Transparency	3	3
IV-7. Zoning	2	2
IV-8. Compartmentalisation	NA	1
NA: Not Applicable		

40. Other areas that are absent or in their nascent state are animal welfare, veterinary public health, regulation of private veterinary practice, a delegation of certain competencies to the private sector, zoning and compartmentalization; control of the turnover of medicines, animal waste disposal, implementation of the HACCP principles, tracking food products 'from stable to table'.
41. An apparent drawback in the structure of the newly formed committee is the fact that the entire veterinary network is managed by a single department with a limited staff of several people. Low wages and inadequate financing of the operating and capital requirements of the system are demotivators of the development of the sector.

Opportunities

42. Cooperation with the OIE is a great opportunity for the country to improve its organizational infrastructure, veterinary legislation, veterinary education, laboratory network, and to develop private veterinary services.
43. The presence of the FAO office in the country provides good opportunities to receive technical assistance and expertise, participate in regional programs, and introduce the principles of the Codex Alimentarius. FAO's long-term experience and efforts in supporting private veterinary services in Tajikistan create a significant framework for the legislative consolidation of private veterinary services as one of the two branches of the country's veterinary service.
44. Studying and adapting the successful experience of certain post-Soviet republics in reforming the veterinary system is a clear example of opportunities in specific areas: adapting the system to the requirements of the European Union (the Baltic republics); introduction of a system for animal identification and traceability of livestock products (Belarus); zoning the territory and obtaining the status of certain territories (zones) as free from specific diseases (Kazakhstan); reforms on transferring certain official powers to the private sector (Kyrgyzstan); experience in combating corruption in the system (Georgia).
45. Coordination with the Standards and Trade Development Facility provides opportunities to strengthen the country's capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, guidelines and recommendations as means of improving their health, protecting human, animal and plant health, and ability to gain and maintain market access.²⁰

Threats

46. No significant threats in their classical sense such as external factors that the system cannot influence, are detected. However, the factors that may negatively affect the implementation of the CASP+ animal health activities should be considered: 1) Veterinary Service Development Strategy of Tajikistan 2021-2030 has not been approved yet; 2) the availability of two state agencies – MOA and the FSC with similar functions and responsibilities, i.e. ensuring food security of the country; 3) the existing practice, typical for Central Asian countries, where adopted policy or structure of government agencies can be changed without notifying the development partners, can significantly affect the implementation of any project.

D. Past and Ongoing Development Projects/Programs / Govt plans

47. Donor assistance in the animal health sector is carried out as part of specific projects, in the form of certain activities aimed at achieving project goals. They are mainly aimed at solving the current problems of the existing system. The most active are IFAD, the European Union, FAO and several other donors that carry out projects with the technical support of FAO. So far, no major projects aimed at systemic changes in the sector have been implemented in RT.
48. Considerable funds have been invested in support of public and private veterinary services as part of two IFAD projects (LPDP 1 and 2). 24 veterinary clinics were established in the project areas, motorcycles were purchased for the mobility of private veterinarians, and 60 veterinarians

²⁰ The STDF is a global partnership established by FAO, OIE, the World Bank, WHO and WTO that supports developing countries in accessing markets.

received kits consisting of veterinary tools and medicines. Advanced training courses for veterinarians and animal owners were conducted. Plans on pasture management and animal health have been developed for more than 400 communities. As part of the project, an internal assessment of the state of the country's veterinary service was conducted by the national consultant.

49. The European Union helped in allocating land plots and building 35 private veterinary clinics, as well as in providing office equipment. Local veterinarians were provided with 63 computers, 12 printers, 20 animal care kits. 90 veterinarians received kits consisting of 44 items (protective clothing, tools, and veterinary medicines). The project contributed to the purchase of 23 vehicles for veterinarians to create mobile veterinary services.
50. The on-going project Strengthening Institutions and Capacity of the Agriculture and State Veterinary Inspection Service for Policy Formulation (FAO/EU) supports the government of RT in implementing the Agrarian Reform Program. The project funded by the European Union with a budget of 5 million euros anticipates gaining new skills in policy development, policy and budget analysis, epidemiological disease surveillance, data management and analysis. The Veterinary Service Development Strategy of the country has been already developed within the project, which is at the finalizing stage.
51. The FAO/ITC project - Provision of access to the market of Tajik agricultural products by improving the food security system is aimed at solving issues related to the use of agrochemical and veterinary medicines. The recommended regulations refer to all agri-food products of animal and vegetable origin that are intended for domestic production, as well as to exports and imports, with particular emphasis on dried apricots and honey.
52. Recently, a regional virtual workshop marked the launch of an FAO project that aims to increase the effectiveness of small ruminant production and reduce greenhouse gas emission intensity. Funded by Turkey, the project is designed to increase knowledge on efficient small ruminant production systems in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.²¹
53. The project will last until the end of 2024 and contributes to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).
54. As part of a new initiative to create a Central Asia Animal Health Network (CAAHN), FAO has embarked on assessing the surveillance and laboratory diagnostic capabilities of CA countries. The evaluation has concluded already in Kyrgyzstan and recently in Tajikistan. In Tajikistan, FAO conducted two field missions to evaluate the country's animal health surveillance system and diagnostic capacity. The teams identified gaps and provided recommendations with the aim to reduce animal health threats to livelihoods, food security, and public health in and beyond the country. The two assessment missions in Tajikistan are conducted in parallel using FAO's Surveillance Evaluation Tool (SET) and Laboratory Mapping Tool.
55. The Surveillance Evaluation Tool requires a series of interviews at national, subnational, and field level, with all actors of the early detection and prevention of animal diseases (such as livestock owners, public veterinarians, field veterinarians, veterinary association, public health, environment protection, and internal affairs representatives) to grade the surveillance system along 90 indicators. Legal frameworks, laboratory analyses, workforce, training, outbreak investigation, and operating procedures have been reviewed, too, for a detailed understanding of the structure, practices, and activities in place in the national and subnational surveillance systems. A comprehensive report with the gaps and recommendations will be shared with the country soon.²²

E. Lessons Learned:

²¹ <http://www.fao.org/europe/news/detail-news/en/c/1410471/>

²² <http://www.fao.org/europe/news/detail-news/en/c/1397728/>

56. Livestock and Pasture Development Project (LPDP) I and II: These two projects were/are financed by IFAD and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. LPDP I was completed in 2018 and LPDP II is still ongoing; both were implemented in Khatlon.
57. The main lessons generated under LPDP I and II regarding animal health activities are as follows:
- The providing veterinary kit and motorbike to private veterinarians has been very well accepted by communities, private veterinarians and veterinary authorities because it helps quality veterinary care, especially in remote villages.
 - The procedures for obtaining a license, registering in government authorities, the monthly reporting system are very complicated and require collecting different types of statements, each of which costs money. As a result, many local private veterinarians provide services to the public without relevant registration.
 - Competition from government veterinarians, who also have the right to provide private veterinary services, hinders the development of private business, and private veterinarians are forced to look for additional sources of income.
 - The above problems should be solved by improving veterinary legislation and adopting a sectoral development strategy, where the priority should be the privatization of veterinary services.

F. Good Practices

58. Some good practices generated under similar projects or development initiatives in Central Asia region or post-Soviet countries could guide the implementation of CASP+:
- adaptation of the system to the requirements of the European Union (Baltic republics);²³
 - introduction of a system for animal identification and traceability of livestock products (Belarus);²⁴
 - zoning of the territory and obtaining the status of certain territories as free from specific diseases (Kazakhstan);²⁵
 - transfer the certain official powers to the private sector (Kyrgyzstan);
 - experience in the development of private veterinary services through the PPP mechanism collected by the OIE ²⁶

II. Project description

A. Proposed investment: rationale and relevance

Rationale and strategic approach

59. According to OIE PVS Missions' reports, Tajikistan needs to improve many areas of its veterinary services. Based on the objectives of the project centered around the climate change adaptation and mitigation, the following investments are proposed:
- Providing technical assistance to Veterinary Authorities in policy formulation and strategy implementation, improving veterinary legislation with an emphasis on the development of private veterinary services.
 - Step up veterinary public health services to protect population from zoonotic diseases
 - Strengthening the capacity of veterinarians serving animals in the project area to increase animal productivity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Strengthening the capacity of the institution responsible for the development private veterinary services.
60. The main inter-connected problems related to veterinary services to be addressed by the project are as follows:

²³ <https://unevoc.unesco.org/home/The+Transformation+of+VET+in+the+Baltic+States&context=>

²⁴ https://www.icar.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Al-in-Belarus-by-Wavi_RU.pdf

²⁵ <https://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/official-disease-status/fmd/list-of-fmd-free-members/#c10693>

²⁶ https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media_Center/docs/pdf/PPP/oie_ppp_handbook-20190419_ENint_BD.pdf

- The impact of climate change on animal health due to affect disease patterns, making outbreaks harder to control, influence the physiological and immune responses in livestock²⁷.
- The low productivity of animals due to disease outbreaks.
- Insufficient access of the population to quality veterinary services.
- Lack of governance system for public and private veterinary services.

Rationale and strategic approach on institutional support

61. Given the importance of the livestock sector in the country, it is critical to enhancing the technical capacities of national livestock institutions to ensure efficient provision of animal and veterinary public health and production services to smallholder farmers through a partnership between public and private institutions.
62. The main activities are improving the organizational structure of the state veterinary management under the OIE recommendations, strengthening the veterinary surveillance system, technical assistance in enhancing of the veterinary public health system. Good governance is a key to enhancing animal production and income generation, in addition to improving public health and poverty reduction. The purpose of the institutional support activities will be to ensure that the institutional policy and regulatory context are conducive and supportive to the investments supported on the ground. The strategic approach for this activity is to follow OIE standards and recommendations.

Rationale and strategic approach on the improvement of veterinary legislation

63. The improvement of the legislation will ensure that emerging global issues specified in the One Health approach (importance of Brucellosis, Echinococcosis, and rabies for public health), management of antimicrobial resistance, management of climate-sensitive diseases and animal welfare are well addressed in the primary as well as in the secondary legislation. The support also will focus on the privatization and development of veterinary services.
64. These activities will be based on the proven mechanisms and approaches. There is a special program to support national veterinary legislation developed by the OIE, which has been successfully implemented in more than 60 countries around the world.

Rationale and strategic approach on development private veterinary services

65. To increase the productivity of animals and protect the population from diseases transmitted from animals, the project will involve private veterinarians to meet the needs of the population in the project area in high-quality veterinary services. In the end, it will be led to enhanced livelihoods and reduced carbon emissions.
66. Regardless of the significant efforts of international organizations (EU, IFAD, Aga Khan Foundation, FAO, etc.) to establish conditions for the gradual development of private veterinary service, the service still needs to be supported. The private sector is mainly represented by entrepreneurs who are engaged in the sale of veterinary medicines, disinfectants and instrumentation. According to private veterinarians, the procedures for obtaining a license, registering in government authorities, the monthly reporting system are very complicated and require collecting different types of statements, each of which costs money. As a result, many private veterinarians provide services without relevant registration. To improve this situation the best strategy is the privatization of the veterinary service, based on an appropriate legislative basis and through supporting the institutions responsible for the development of private veterinary services.

Barriers that need to be addressed

67. The main barriers that the project will need to address to deploy the above-mentioned strategy will be the following:
68. Social aspect. In Tajikistan, both at the level of the rural community and at the decision-making level, the perception of the veterinary service as a service responsible only for animal health is dominant. In this case, it is necessary to make a transition to the sector policy formulation based

²⁷ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3437e.pdf>

on the perception of the veterinary services as a sector responsible for preventing health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interfaces, including food security (production of animal proteins), public health, poverty alleviation as well as adaptation to Climate Change.

69. Regulatory aspects. The main complaints against the legislative/regulatory framework are:
- absence of legal status for the private veterinarian, para-veterinary professional, their rights and duties;
 - no legal basis for separation of competencies and responsibilities of the public and private sector, the possibility of delegating certain state functions to the private sector; no legal basis to establish an authority for regulating the veterinary practice.
70. Financial aspect. The private veterinarian's activities will be financed by providing start-up assistance and the services will be financed by users thereafter.

Climate relevance of proposed interventions: GCF investment criteria

Impact potential

71. The proposed CASP+ veterinary activities fall within the first two of eight GCF's mitigation and adaptation result areas. It is now well recognized that livestock production is responsible for substantial contributions to greenhouse gas emissions. Healthier animals are more productive and generate lower emissions per weight of product.²⁸ Animal health should be considered an integral part of climate change strategies. Firstly, to reduce impacts of climate change on animal health and to work with the animal health sector in order to mitigate effects and adapt to climate change. Climate change can have very adverse impacts on the health of animals. It can also affect disease patterns, making outbreaks harder to control. As a result, livelihoods that depend on animals are becoming less secure. Climate-driven fluctuations in environmental conditions such as droughts, fires, floods, heat stress and unpredictable weather influence the physiological and immune responses in livestock. The stress caused by these factors is difficult to control and can affect animal production, public health, the safety of foods, and disease burdens from bacteria, parasites, and their vectors.²⁹

Paradigm shift potential:

72. The implementation of the CASP+ will lay the foundations for a paradigm shift in the management of processes under veterinary the sector responsibility, namely:
- shift away from the sector's policy formation based on the perception of veterinary services as a sector responsible only for animal health to the prevention of health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interfaces, including food security (production of animal proteins), public health, poverty alleviation as well as adaptation to Climate Change
 - shift away from externally driven, short-term, emergency response type 'vertical' approaches addressing only specific diseases to a more sustainable, long-term strengthening of 'horizontal' systems to target capacity building and good governance of Veterinary Services to improve animal health and welfare via improved compliance with OIE standards
 - shift away from full state control of veterinary services to the separation of powers, delegation of certain state functions to the private sector by introducing appropriate amendments to the legislation and strengthening the capacity of institutions responsible for the development of the private sector.

²⁸ https://www.climatechange.org.uk/media/2031/livestock_health_and_ghg.pdf

²⁹ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3437e.pdf>

Sustainable development potential:

73. Public and private veterinarians acting within the framework of national Veterinary Services have a major role to play in ensuring animal and public health as well as the sustainability of rural livelihoods. Their mission, involving animal health surveillance, early detection of and rapid response to animal disease outbreaks as well as animal welfare cannot be fulfilled without the appropriate regulatory framework and the necessary means to enforce the corresponding legislation, including appropriate human and financial resources and effective private and public partnerships.
74. The investment in Veterinary Services yields further societal benefits, including generating educational and employment opportunities for youth, empowering women, providing essential services and increasing resilience to shocks and threats. In addition to the environmental benefits, the project will have substantial economic benefits for the targeted populations. Investments and capacity building in animal health, food security and food safety will result in increased productivity and production.

Country ownership

75. Animal health activities of the CASP+ has been designed based on OIE experts' recommendations and in line with the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan 2030 as well as in close consultation with the Government and in particular the Food Security Committee, Ministry of Agriculture and the Committee for Environmental Protection. Other stakeholders such as relevant public sector agencies, development partners, local communities, private sector actors have also been consulted during the design missions. The Ministry of Agriculture has a dedicated Project Management Unit in charge of the implementation of IFAD funded project. The PMU is experienced and well-staffed and will be in the capacity to implement project activities related to animal health activities to meet GCF requirements.

B. Alignment and ownership

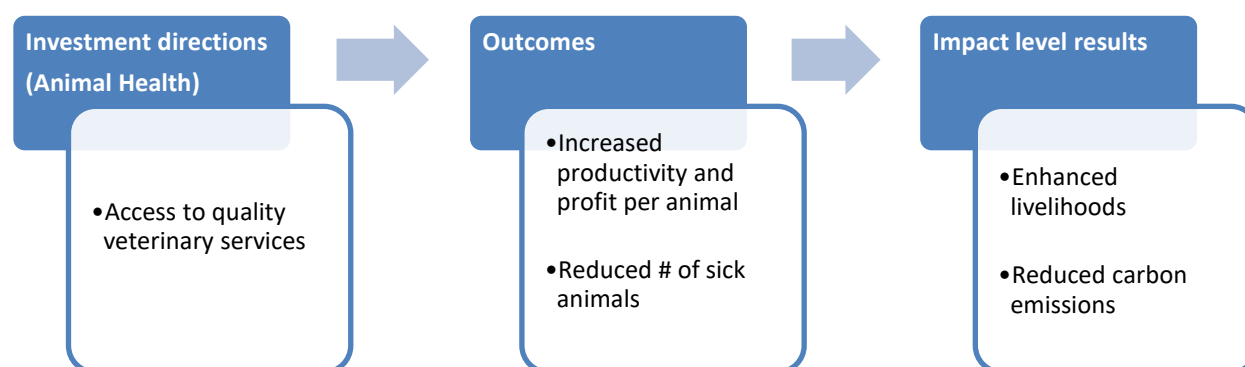
Adherence with relevant National Policies

76. The CASP+ is fully aligned to the National development strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan 2030 and the National Investment Plan for Sustainable Agriculture Development and Food Security of RT 2021-2030 (NIP) which has been developed by the Ministry of Agriculture with FAO's assistance. All the investments and policy options planned for under this program are also reflected in the NIP. The NIP itself is fully aligned to the Veterinary Service Development Strategy of the RT (2021-2030) which has been developed by FAO³⁰.

C. Contribution to the project impact level results

77. The implementation of animal health activities will have a direct impact on the achievement of impact level results (enhanced livelihoods and reduced carbon emissions).
78. High-quality veterinary services contribute to an increase in the safety and productivity of livestock, which leads to the enhanced livelihoods of the population and its resistance to various risks. On the other hand, the provision of quality veterinary services leads to the reduction of the number of sick livestock which emits more greenhouse gases than healthy animals.

³⁰ The Strategy has been developed by FAO but not adopted yet.



Contribution to the project outcomes

Outcome 1: Strengthened public sector capacity for transformative climate-resilient management of natural resources.

79. The main contribution of animal health related activities to project outcome 1 will be achieved through:

- Strengthening the capacity of Food Security Committee in charge of delivering public good services in the domain of (i) Animal Health, (ii) Veterinary Public Health, (iii) Food Security as well as Food Safety.
- Supporting the improvement of national legislative framework to ensure that emerging global issues specified in the concept of One Health approach, management of antimicrobial resistance, management of climate-sensitive diseases and animal welfare are well addressed in the primary and secondary legislation.

Outcome 3: Climate resilience of livestock production systems increased

80. The main contributions to outcome 3 will be achieved through:

- Improving the productive potential of livestock through animal health services provided by private veterinarians involved in the project implementation.
- Protecting population from diseases transmitted from animals.
- Providing opportunities for the sustainability of private veterinary practices through strengthening capacity Tajik Veterinary Association, the only institution responsible for the development of private veterinary services in the country.

D. Outputs

81. The main outputs expected from animal health related activities, as well as means of its verification are presented in line with relevant sub-activity in the table below:

Activities	Animal Health specific outputs	Means of verification/Indicators
- Output 1.1: By year 7, capacities of relevant national institutions for climate-resilient natural resources management are strengthened		
Sub-activity 1.1.3.1. Step up veterinary public health services of the National Veterinary Authority through provision of technical assistance and equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The organizational structure of the state veterinary management has been developed in line with OIE's recommendations - Veterinary public health services of FSC stepped up - Veterinary surveillance system based on One Health approach has been established - A mini truck-refrigerator as well as a disinfection machine 	Experts' reports FSC reports Project reports

Activities	Animal Health specific outputs	Means of verification/Indicators
	delivered to FSC	
Output 1.2: By year 7, enabling environment for climate adaptive, inclusive and integrated management of pasture, forestry and livestock resources is enhanced		
Sub-activity 1.2.2.3. Mobilizing technical assistance of the OIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OIE Mission on veterinary legislation has been conducted - An analysis of the legislation was carried out, gaps were identified 	Mission report FSC report
Sub-activity 1.2.2.4. Improvement of Veterinary legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veterinary legislation improved in line with OIE recommendations 	Expert's reports FSC reports
Output 3.1.: By end of year 7, 105,600 smallholder livestock farmers receive AI, animal health or training services to increase productivity of their livestock		
Sub-activity 3.1.2.1. Institutional support to Tajik Veterinary Association (TVA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Capacity of TVA has been strengthened by the office and study room renovations, provision of a car, office equipment, funds to attend international conferences, and exchange visits. 	TVA and Project's report
Sub-activity 3.1.2.2. Training of private veterinarians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 14 new training materials elaborated, and 21 ones updated o 284 private vets have been trained 	Elaborated and updated training materials TVA and Project's report
Sub-activity 3.1.2.3. Equipment of private veterinarians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 284 private vets have been equipped (veterinary package) 	TVA and Project's report
Sub-activity 3.1.2.4. Mobility of private veterinarians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 284 vets have been equipped with motorbikes 	TVA and Project's report

E. Activities

82. All activities pertaining to animal health fall under the two project components – Component 1 and Component 3. Their detailed description is provided below under each relevant output and activity.

Animal Health activities implemented under Component 1:

Output 1.1: By Year 7, Capacities of relevant national institutions for climate-resilient natural resources management are strengthened.

Activity 1.1.3: Enhance technical capacities of national livestock institutions to ensure efficient provision of public animal health and production services to smallholder farmers through efficient partnership between public and private institutions.

83. Provision of animal health and breeding services is important to support transformation of livestock production systems and reduction of animal inventories. The public institutions in charge

of delivering these public good services will be capacitated to enable them to fulfil their mandate and reach out smallholder farmers who are often left out.

Sub-activity 1.1.3.1. Step up veterinary public health services of the National Veterinary Authority through provision of technical assistance and equipment:

84. Given the importance of the livestock sector in the country, it is critical to enhance the technical capacities of national livestock institutions to ensure efficient provision of veterinary public health and production services to smallholder farmers through a partnership between public and private institutions. The main activities under this sub-activity are improving the organizational structure of the state veterinary management under the OIE recommendations, strengthening the veterinary surveillance system, technical assistance in the establishment of the veterinary public health system.
85. CASP+ will provide support to the Food Security committee (FSC) which has been designated by the Government as a National Veterinary Authority, to enable them to provide veterinary public health services and other its duties. To increase the capacity of the FSC, it is planned to recruit two international experts, one on state veterinary management (Y2) and the other one on veterinary surveillance (Y2; Y4). Technical assistance will also include the secondment of a national specialist on Epidemiology and One Health approach for the FSC national office for 7 years. The CASP+ technical assistance combined with the provision of a mini truck-refrigerator (for the transportation of vaccines to maintain the "Cold Chain") and a disinfection machine (for disinfection activities) as well as with the participation of FSC's staff in training, exchange visits organized by OIE, FAO, and other relevant international organizations. For instance, participation in the IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshops (NBW) will be a preferable option. An NBW is a three-day event that enables the animal health and the human health sectors in countries to explore overlapping areas and develop, where relevant, appropriate bridges to facilitate coordination.

Output 1.2: By year 7, Enabling environment for climate adaptive, inclusive and integrated management of pasture, forestry and livestock resources is enhanced

Activity 1.2.2: Technical assistance for review of livestock related regulatory frameworks

86. The focus of this activity will be the review and improvement of the veterinary legislation, and possibly the breeding policy, to provide an enabling policy environment to field activities implemented in these two domains under component 3.

Sub-activity 1.2.2.3. Mobilizing Technical assistance of the OIE:

87. To improve the veterinary legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan, it is recommended to use proven mechanisms and approaches. There is a special program to support national veterinary legislation, developed by the OIE, which has been successfully implemented in more than 60 countries around the world. The implementation of the program allows to identify gaps, improve and maintain national legislation under chapter 3.4.OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The program consists of two stages. The first stage is the OIE mission to identify veterinary legislation. It aims to get a detailed picture of the current state of veterinary legislation in the country. During this mission, the OIE's experts also assess the sufficiency of political will, the human and financial resources for undertaking the second stage aimed at supporting the country in correcting its deficiencies in veterinary legislation.
88. The project will support the organization of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Identification Mission (VLIM). OIE missions are usually organized at the official request of the delegate of the OIE member country. If the inviting country pays the OIE's membership fees, then all mission expenses are covered by the OIE, except for expenses related to travel and organization of meetings, round tables in the country. For these purposes, funds have been identified (\$ 35 000). These funds can be used to pay membership fees if needed.

Sub-activity 1.2.2.4. Improvement of veterinary legislation:

89. The project will take over and build on FAO work on policy formulation. The support will focus on the privatization of veterinary services, which is still incomplete and hampers the last-mile

delivery of animal health services for smallholders. The improvement of the legislation will ensure that emerging global issues specified in the One Health approach (importance of Brucellosis, Echinococcosis, and rabies for public health), management of antimicrobial resistance, management of climate-sensitive diseases and animal welfare are well addressed in the primary as well as in the secondary legislation.

90. After organizing an OIE visit on veterinary legislation and identifying the main gaps in the national legislation, an international consultant's service will be a need to develop secondary legislation and assisting in the development of specific documents as a Code of Professional Conduct, a charter of the Veterinary Statutory Body and others. To this end, the project will hire an international consultant on veterinary legislation (Y2 and Y3), 15 days in each. The project will support the organization and holding of round tables, conferences to discuss the problems of veterinary legislation at the local and republican levels. A total of 21 events are planned to be organized during the implementation of the project.

Animal Health activities implemented under Component 3:

Output 3.1.: By end of year 7, 105,600 smallholder livestock farmers receive AI, animal health or training services to increase productivity of their livestock

Activity: 3.1.2: Support to delivery of private animal health services.

91. To increase the productivity of animals and protect the population from diseases transmitted from animals, the project intends to select 264 private veterinarians³¹ to meet the needs of the population in the project area in high-quality veterinary services as well as a support to Tajik Veterinary Association.

Sub-activity 3.1.2.1. Institutional support to Tajik Veterinary Association (TVA)

92. To develop a private veterinary service, the project will support the Tajik Veterinary Association (TVA), which is currently the only institution in the country responsible for the development of private veterinary services. Assistance will be provided in the form of office and study room renovations, provision of a car, office equipment, funds to attend international conferences, and exchange visits. The memorandum of understanding will outline the responsibilities of the TVA, the main of which will be the replication of training programs to other regions of Tajikistan, the development of district veterinary associations, and the preparation of the conditions for establishing a Veterinary Statutory Body in the country by the OIE's recommendations. Another major task of the TVA will be the development of a system of continuing veterinary education, for which the project will provide funds for 1 staff unit of a specialist on veterinary education (for 54 months). To strengthening the TBA members' capacity, their participation in international events held by the World Veterinary Association (WVA), OIE, FAO, and other specialized organizations is envisaged. A total of 21 TBA members or three people each year will attend international events during the project. Furthermore, the TVA will actively participate in the selection of private veterinarians to involve them in project activities as well as in conducting training.

Sub-activity 3.1.2.2. Training of private veterinarians

93. Selected veterinarians will upgrade their knowledge by attending training courses every year. The topics of the training will be developed by the communities' demands. The training curriculum will necessarily include topics on business and climate change response. Under overall MoA (via PMU) coordination, the Tajikistan Veterinarian Association will be responsible for conducting training. It is planned that each year two training modules (14 modules in total) will be developed on new topics for Tajikistan. And, every year, three training modules will be updated, which are used in the country for training veterinarians (21 in total). One of the tasks for the TBA is to train

³¹ Two private veterinarians per jamoat

its members to use the online learning resources available on the OIE³², FAO,³³ and WVA³⁴ websites.

Sub-activity 3.1.2.3. Equipment of private veterinarians

94. To participate in project activities, veterinarians must obtain a license following the county's legislation. The RT Law on Veterinary Medicine and the RT Law on License confer this right on veterinarians. Selected veterinarians will be provided with motorcycles for mobility, as well as the necessary veterinary instruments and equipment (surgical kit, refrigerator and cooler bag for storing/transportation medicines, vaccines, and others upon their request). When selecting veterinarians, woman and young candidates will be encouraged. Another point that should be considered that within the framework of previous projects some veterinarians have already received similar assistance.

Sub-activity 3.1.2. 4. Mobility of private veterinarians

95. The targeted veterinarians will be provided with motorcycles for mobility

Timeframe

For Activities Timeframe, refer to Annex 21, PIM.

F. Implementation modalities / arrangements

96. All activities related to animal health fall under the mandate of the Food Security Committee (FSC) and will be implemented under its technical leadership. The FSC's responsibilities will be outlined in the MoU.
- The FSC will be staffed with a specialist in charge of Epidemiology and One Health approach activities.
97. The Project Management Unit of the MoA has managed animal health activities LPDP 1 and LPDP 2. They have qualified and experienced staff, and well-tested implementation mechanisms. It will thus be the most adequate option for the implementation of the animal health activities
- The PMU will be staffed with a livestock/animal health specialist in charge of the livestock and animal health activities.
98. The Tajikistan Veterinary Association (TVA) is a public, non-profit organization established on the initiative of veterinary experts supported by FAO in 2003. The TVA, in cooperation with many donor organizations, provides continuous capacity-building activities, including training for veterinarians. The association fulfils the linking role between livestock owners, field veterinarians, and veterinary authorities of the country. The TVA's responsibilities will be outlined in the MoU.
- The TVA will be staffed with a specialist in charge of veterinary education activities

Sphere of responsibility according to sub-activities:

Component 1.

Sub-activities	Responsibility and modality
<i>Sub-activity 1.1.3.1. Step up veterinary public health services of the National Veterinary Authority through the provision of technical assistance and equipment:</i>	

³² <https://training.oie.int/>

³³ <https://elearning.fao.org/local/search/>

³⁴ https://www.worldvet.org/education.php?view=portal&cat=wva_portal

The mission of International Expert on State Veterinary Management (Y2)	FSC with the logistical support of PMU (procurement officer)
The missions of International Expert on veterinary surveillance and public veterinary health service (Y2, Y4)	FSC with the logistical support of PMU (procurement officer)
Recruitment and supervise the work of national specialist on Epidemiology and One Health approach	FSC with the logistical support of PMU (procurement officer)
Organize training, workshops, round tables for State Veterinary staff (in total 40 in all years of the project) to discuss and disseminate the issues proposed by experts	FSC with the logistical support of PMU (livestock/animal health officer)
Organize the participation of the State Veterinary staff at international events, workshops to update their knowledge (in total 10 participations, in all years of the project)	FSC with the logistical support of PMU (livestock/animal health officer)
Procurement of Mini Truck-refrigerator and a disinfection machine (Y1)	PMU (procurement officer). FSC will provide Technical Specifications
<i>Sub-activity 1.2.2.1. Technical assistance of the OIE</i>	
OIE mission on veterinary legislation (Y1)	PMU (procurement officer), FSC (TR delegate) must send an official letter to OIE
Missions of a Veterinary Legislation Expert (Y2 and Y 3)	FSC with the logistical support of PMU (procurement officer)
<i>Sub-activity 1.2.2.2. Improvement of veterinary legislation</i>	
Missions of a Veterinary Legislation Expert (Y2 and Y 3)	TVA (Vet education specialist), PMU (Livestock Officer)
Workshops, round tables from Y 1 to Y6 to discuss and disseminate the proposed improvement in the country's veterinary legislation (in total 21)	PMU (Livestock officer, procurement officer), TVA

Component 3.

Activities	Responsibility and modality
<i>Sub-activity 3.1.2.1. Institutional support to TVA</i>	
Renovation of TVA office and Training Center	PMU (procurement officer), TVA
Purchase of office equipment and furniture for the training room (TVA office)	PMU (procurement officer), TVA
Office maintenance (TVA)	PMU, TVA
Purchase of a car for TVA	PMU (procurement officer), TVA
Recruitment of Nat Specialist on Veterinary Education	PMU (procurement officer), TVA
Participation of TVA members in the international events/workshops	PMU (Livestock officer,) TVA (Vet education specialist)
<i>Sub-activity 3.1.2.2. Training of private veterinarians</i>	
Definition of topics and development (update) of training materials	TVA (Vet education specialist) PMU (Livestock Officer)
Conduct of training	TVA (Vet education specialist), PMU (Livestock Officer)
<i>Sub-activity 3.1.2.3. Equipping of private veterinarians</i>	
Selection of private vets	TVA (Vet education specialist), PMU (Livestock Officer)
Procurement/distribution of vet packages	PMU (Livestock officer, procurement officer), TVA
<i>Sub-activity 3.1.2.4. Mobility of private veterinarians</i>	
Procurement/distribution of motorbikes	PMU (Livestock officer, procurement officer), TVA

G. Risks and Mitigation measures

99. The main risks identified for animal health related activities and the relevant mitigation measures are as follows:

Risk	Likelihood/ impact and Mitigation measures
Climate change impact on animal and public health (technical)	Likelihood: High Impact: Medium
Climate change effects on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - incidence, spread and predictability of animal diseases - disease patterns, making outbreaks harder to control - animal production and public health - animal health (emergence or re-emergence of animal disease) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening national capacities in animal disease surveillance, preparedness, and control • Dissemination of knowledge on CC impact • One Health approach • Support for the formulation of contingency plans for zoonotic and vector-borne diseases
Lack of resources to improve veterinary legislation	Likelihood: High Impact: Medium
Failure of the country to prove the presence of political will, human and financial resources to improve veterinary legislation during the first phase of the OIE mission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study of the procedures for organizing an OIE mission and concluding an agreement to assist in improving legislation.
Poor advancement of privatization of veterinary services	Likelihood: Medium Impact: Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - poor advancement of privatization of veterinary services - lack of regulatory body - limited sustainability of TVA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to policy reforms in line with OIE recommendations • Creation condition for the establishment of VSB • Elaboration of the Development Strategy for the TVA
Licensing concerns for private veterinarians	Likelihood: High Impact: Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - private veterinarians are not active in obtaining a license - The FSC committee is not interested in fixing the licensing situation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplification of the licensing procedure • MoU between PMU and FSC will be signed
Inadequate definition of mandates of government agencies	Likelihood: High Impact: Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - insufficient definition and potential duplication of mandate of MoA, MoHSP and FSC in the field of animal and public health as well as food safety - Limited inter agency communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement legislation, policy dialogue • Institutional support to State agencies • Signing an agreement to separate the spheres of influence and responsibility

H. Exit strategy and sustainability

100. Realizing that the “exit strategy” is a strategic plan that clarifies how the project will end or transform to support sustainability and mitigate the risk of failure, it is recommended:

- All actions in the field of animal and human health should be under the standards, guidelines, recommendations of the OIE, FAO, IPPC, WHO and other specialized organizations and based on the concept of the One Health approach.³⁵
- To study and adapt the successful experience of certain post-Soviet countries in reforming their

³⁵ <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/one-health>

veterinary services to avoid possible errors in the implementation of the project activities and for its sustainability.

101. Realizing that the sustainability of any system, including veterinary one, depends on the presence in the country of the following factors: 1) relevant legislation; 2) resources (human, financial, technical); 3) demand for system's services, it is recommended:
- The FSC staff should be directly involved in all processes relevant to their responsibility from the initial stage of the project. They should directly participate in the improvement of the project documents, in the elaboration, updating of ToRs, Technical Specifications as well as in the organization of OIE and international expert missions and actively participate in it.
 - TVA should elaborate its development strategy to take a leading place in the system of continuing professional development of the private veterinarians and to achieve its financial sustainability.

III. Conclusion

102. Tajikistan needs to improve many areas of its veterinary services. However, based on the project's objectives, centered around climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, the proposed interventions cover only areas which can directly contribute to the project's objectives. There is no doubt that strengthening the capacity of public and private veterinary services, improving veterinary legislation based on the guidelines of the specialized organizations (OIE, FAO, IPPC) will contribute not only to the achievement of the project objectives but also to the development of the country's veterinary sector in general. The CASP+ will be one of the first climate-oriented projects in the country's veterinary domain. It will help to recognize veterinary services as an integral part of climate change strategies. Firstly, to reduce impacts of climate change on animal health and to work with the animal health sector in order to mitigate effects and adapt to climate changes.

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Annex 1 - Memorandum of Understanding for implementation of Animal Health activities within CASP+

Component 1

MoU between MoA (via PMU) and FSC

Type of agreement: Memorandum of understanding

Duration: 7 years

Object

The purpose of this MoU is to define the modalities of collaboration between the CASP+ project, represented by the PMU, and the Food Security Committee, for the implementation of activities by FSC in the field of veterinary public health and veterinary legislation, in the scope of CASP+ project.

Contributions and responsibilities from CASP+

The contributions by CASP+ project to the partnership will be as follows:

- Secondment of a specialist on Epidemiology and One Health approach based in Dushanbe, in the FSC office for 7 years
- Provision of a mini truck-refrigerator for the transportation of vaccines to maintain the "Cold Chain" and a disinfection machine
- Contribution to the costs for the organization of the visits, in the limits of the budget defined in the project documents:
 - o The OIE Veterinary Legislation Identification Mission (VLIM)
 - o International expert on state veterinary management (Y2)
 - o International expert on veterinary surveillance (Y2; Y4)
 - o International expert on veterinary legislation (Y2 and Y3)
- Contribution to the costs for organizing internal trainings, workshops, round tables and other events for discussing and dissemination of the issues identified by international experts
- Contribution to the costs of the participation of FSC's staff in training, workshops, organized by OIE, FAO, IPPC and other relevant international organizations, in the limits of the budget defined in the project documents.

Contributions and responsibilities from FSC

The FSC will be responsible for all animal and veterinary public health activities, including an improvement of veterinary legislation under the CASP+:

- Prepare and implementation of the comprehensive documents proposing strategies, action plans, short and long-term recommendations on the design of an appropriate response to strengthen veterinary public health systems to better address potential outbreaks of zoonotic diseases through:
 - o Organization of visits of the international experts in veterinary management and veterinary surveillance
 - o Establishment of a sustainable relationship between the veterinary service and the human health sector to clarify roles and responsibilities, and to strengthen an effective intersectoral coordination mechanism
 - o Participation in the selection and recruitment of a specialist on Epidemiology and One Health approach as well as guide and monitor his work
- Lead the revision and improvement of veterinary legislation, to include a legal framework for the development of private veterinary services and the separation of powers between public and private veterinary sectors, delegating certain state powers to private

veterinarians, defining the concepts of a private veterinarian, para veterinarian, their rights and obligations through:

- Organization of OIE Veterinary Legislation Identification Mission
- Organization of Veterinary Legislation Expert's visits
- Organizing trainings, workshops, round tables, meetings to discuss and dissemination of the issues identified by international veterinary legislation experts
- Facilitation and organizing of the participation of FSC's staff in training, workshops, organized by OIE, FAO, IPPC and other relevant international organizations
- Reorganization of the organizational structure of the head office of the FSC to improve veterinary management and compliance with the OIE requirements, through:
 - Implementation of the recommendations of international experts
 - Implementation of the recommendations of the OIE PVS Missions into practice
 - Close cooperation with TVA
- Improvement of the veterinary surveillance system based on risk assessment and management
- Creation of acceptable conditions for licensing of private veterinarians
- Drawing up a technical specification for the purchase of a mini truck-refrigerator and a disinfection machine

Further details on the content and modalities of activities allocated to FSC in the scope of the CASP+ project are provided in the project PIM.

Component 3

MoU between MoA (via PMU) and Tajik Veterinary Association (TVA)

Type of agreement: Memorandum of Understanding

Duration: 7 years

Object: The purpose of this MoU is to define the modalities of collaboration between the CASP+ project, represented by the PMU, and the Tajik Veterinary Association (TVA), for the implementation of activities by TVA in the field of animal health, in the scope of CASP+ project.

1. Contributions and responsibilities from CASP+

The contributions by CASP+ project to the partnership will be as follows:

- Secondment of a veterinary education specialist based in TVA office, for 7 years
- Refurbishment and equipment of the TVA training rooms, in the limits of the budget defined in the project documents
- Provision of a vehicle for field missions, in the limits of the budget defined in the project documents
- Contribution to the costs of TVA office maintenance for 7 years
- Contribution to the costs of procurement of equipment for private veterinarians
- Contribution to the cost of developing, updating training materials and conducting trainings for private veterinarians
- Financial assistance in organizing the participation of members of the association in international trainings, conferences, meetings, and other events
- Technical assistance to the revision of veterinary legislation regarding the development of private veterinary practice.

2. Contributions and responsibilities from TVA

The TVA will be responsible for the following activities under the project:

- Organization of all TVA institutional support activities specified in component 3
- Organization and monitoring of the activities of private veterinarians within the framework of the project

- Organization of work on the development of training materials and training of private veterinarians, namely:
 - o Identifying priority topics for training private veterinarians
 - o Organization and monitoring of the process of developing new training materials and updating existing ones
 - o Drawing up and agreeing on the program and schedule of annual trainings
 - o Implementation of online training for private veterinarians
- Organization of work on the selection of private veterinarians and their equipping with veterinary instruments, namely:
 - o Drawing up and agreeing with PIM and FSC criteria for the selection of private veterinarians to be involved in the project
 - o Organization and conduct of kick-off meetings and selection of private veterinarians (together with the community)
 - o Compilation of a list of veterinary instruments to purchase and provide to selected veterinarians
 - o Drawing up a technical specification for the purchased equipment
 - o Drafting the text of the agreement on the transfer of the veterinary package
- In addition to the above, TVA will be responsible for:
 - o Technical and logistic assistance to international consultants in improving veterinary legislation
 - o Close cooperation with the FSC
 - o Increasing the capacity of district veterinary associations
 - o Elaboration of the TVA development strategy, for its sustainability and financial independence.

Supervision and reporting

The TVA will be under the joint supervision of the PMU Project Coordinator to whom the TVA will report directly, and of the head of the FSC.

Further details on the content and modalities of activities allocated to TBA in the scope of the CASP+ project are provided in the project PIM.

Annex 2 - Term of References of International Experts and National Specialist for implementation of Animal Health activities within CASP+

Component 1

ToR of International Expert on State Veterinary Management

1. Title of position: State Veterinary Management Expert
2. Type and duration of contract: consultancy contract – 15 days (11 days in country – 4 days home-based)
3. Location: 1 mission in the Country (Year 2)
4. Scope of work, responsibilities and expected deliverables:

The State Veterinary Management Expert's visit will be organized after completing the OIE Veterinary Legislation Identification Mission (VLIM). The expert should review the existing country's state veterinary management system and provide recommendations to improve the organizational structure and command chain that will enable the FSC to fulfill its duties.

The expert's findings and recommendations should cover the following areas of state veterinary management:

- General organization of the veterinary services that can demonstrate effective organization of the structure and chain of command that are able to have control of, and application of animal health, animal welfare and food security measures
- Programming and management of activities, including international veterinary certification activities
- Prevention, control and notification of disease outbreaks
- Risk analysis, epidemiological surveillance and zoning
- Inspection and sampling techniques
- Registration and control of biological products for use in the diagnosis or prevention of diseases
- Border controls and import regulations
- Adequacy of resources (human, technical, financial) to carry out the responsibilities assigned to the FSC
- Coordination with beneficiaries and other government agencies
- Coordination with the private veterinary sector
- Relationship with OIE, FAO, IPPC
- The presence of a conflict of interest in the powers of the FSC

In addition to the above, the expert will conduct one – day training for FSC staff on following topics:

- The role of the National Veterinary Authority in the management of veterinary activities in the country
- OIE standards, recommendations for good governance of veterinary services
- Benefits of transferring certain state powers to the private veterinary sector
- Benefits of collaboration with the OIE, FAO and the IPPC for the quality of veterinary services

Supervision and reporting

The expert will be under the joint supervision of the PMU Project Coordinator to whom he/she will report directly, and of the head of the FSC.

Required qualifications and experience

- Advanced university degree in veterinary medicine
- 12 years of experience in the field of veterinary services management
- At least 5 years of experience in the state veterinary management
- Prior experience in supporting the revision and improvement of veterinary services management (3 prior similar assignments minimum)
- Work experience in Central Asian countries is desirable
- Minimum 3-year experience in working in international animal health or livestock development projects
- Good knowledge of verbal and written English; knowledge of Russian is of preference
- Good interpersonal communication skills

ToR of International Expert on Veterinary Surveillance

Title of position: Veterinary Surveillance Expert

Type and duration of contract: consultancy contract – 25 days (18 days in country – 7 days home-based)

Location: 2 missions in the Country (15 days in Year 2; 10 days in Year 4)

Scope of work, responsibilities and expected deliverables:

The Veterinary Surveillance Expert will work closely with the National Specialist on Epidemiology and One Health approach to provide technical assistance to FSC for the (improvement of) improving its veterinary surveillance system by reviewing existing systems and providing recommendation in the relevant fields of the country's veterinary surveillance, namely on:

- Design of a surveillance system and the type of output it should generate
 - Epidemiological unit for the surveillance system that it is appropriate to meet the objectives of surveillance
- Ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections at slaughterhouses or abattoirs
- Combination and interpretation of surveillance results
- Early warning systems for the timely detection, reporting and communication of occurrence, incursion or emergence of diseases, infections, or infestations
- Surveillance in support of disease control programmes (programs) to determine the distribution and occurrence of infection or infestation or of other relevant health-related events and to assess progress and aid in decision-making in the control or eradication of infections or infestations.
- Quality assurance of the country's surveillance systems that should be subjected to periodic auditing to ensure that all components function and provide verifiable documentation of procedures and basic checks to detect deviations of procedures, in order to implement appropriate corrective actions.

During the second mission (Y2), the focus will be on veterinary surveillance procedure for demonstration of freedom from a disease, infection, or infestation, namely:

- Procedure and requirements to declare a country or a zone free from an infection or infestation
- Recommendations for demonstration historical freedom from infection or infestation
- Requirements to declare a compartment free from infection or infestation
- Recommendations for the maintenance of freedom from a disease, infection or infestation

In addition to the above, the expert will conduct 2 trainings (one training per visit) for FSC staff on data gathering and analysis and practical implementation of veterinary surveillance methods.

Supervision and reporting

The expert will be under the joint supervision of the PMU Project Coordinator to whom he/she will report directly, and of the head of the FSC.

Required qualifications and experience

- Advanced university degree in Veterinary or appropriate branch (Epidemiology)
- At least 10 years of experience in the implementation of national level veterinary surveillance activities
- Prior experience in supporting the revision and improvement of national veterinary surveillance system (3 prior similar assignments minimum)
- Work experience in Central Asian countries is desirable
- Minimum 3-year experience in working in international animal health or livestock development projects
- Good knowledge of verbal and written English; knowledge of Russian is of preference
- Good interpersonal communication skills

ToR of National Specialist on Epidemiology and One Health approach

Title of position: National specialist on Epidemiology and One Health approach

Type and duration of contract: full time contract - secondment

Location: The position will be based in Dushanbe, FSC office

Scope of work, Responsibilities and expected deliverables:

The Specialist on Epidemiology and One Health approach will provide technical and logistical support to FSC in the implementation of all animal health measures envisaged in component 1, namely:

- Step up veterinary public health services through:
 - Active liaising between the animal health and human health sector to clarify roles and responsibilities, and strengthen an effective multisector coordination mechanism
 - Facilitate and support the implementation of priority activities identified in the national health security action plan, including the IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshops (NBW) Roadmap
 - Identify challenges in the operationalization of the collaboration between the human and animal health sectors at country level, propose solutions and possible need for support by the tripartite partners, including low-cost high-impact interventions
 - Studying and adapting the OIE, FAO and WHO recommendations based on the concept of One Health
 - Dissemination of knowledge among FSC staff on how to organize their work in accordance with One Health approaches
 - Provide recommendations for restructuring the organization of work of the FSC, based on the principles of early detection, prediction of significant diseases and risk management
 - Prepare comprehensive documents proposing national strategies, action plans, short and long-term recommendations on the design of an appropriate response to strengthen health systems to better address potential outbreaks of zoonotic diseases
- Report on activities implemented by FSC in the scope of CASP+
- In addition to the above, an Epidemiology and One Health approach specialist will assist in:
 - Organizing the visit of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Mission
 - Organizing the visits of international consultants (on veterinary legislation and on veterinary supervision) and providing them with logistical support in carrying out their duties specified in their terms of reference

Supervision and reporting

The incumbent will be under the joint supervision of the PMU Project Coordinator to whom he/she will report directly, and of the head of the FSC.

Required qualifications and experience

- University degree in veterinary medicine or public health studies
- At least 5 years' experience in public health, food safety or zoonotic diseases detection, prevention and control.
- Experience with public health or animal health systems in Tajikistan
- Very good understanding of the One Health approach and how it can be implemented.
- Experience in coordination, collaboration and facilitation of capacity building activities across the human-animal interface
- Experience in the implementation of veterinary supervision
- Experience in the development of regulatory legal acts
- Working experience in international projects
- Knowledge and ability to use Internet resources of the OIE, FAO, WHO
- Languages: Good knowledge of Tajik, Russian and English.

ToR of International expert on veterinary legislation

Title of position: Veterinary Legislation Expert

Type and duration of contract: consultancy contract – 30 days (20 days in country – 10 days home-based)

Location: 2 missions in the Country (Year 2 and Year 3)

Scope of work, responsibilities and expected deliverables:

The veterinary legislation expert's visit will be organized following the implementation of the OIE Veterinary Legislation Identification Mission (VLIM). The expert should provide recommendations for improving (the improvement of) veterinary legislation based on the OIE VLIM findings, that are of prime importance to be reflected in primary and secondary legislation, as well as consistency of suggested recommendations with civil, penal, and administrative laws, namely:

- Clear definition of the concepts of “Private veterinarian” and “Para-veterinarian”, their duties and rights, consistent with the definitions given in the OIE Terrestrial Code
- Legal basis for the delegation of certain state powers to the private sector (anti-epizootic measures and animal health certification)
- Legal basis for the relationship of private veterinarians with the veterinary authority and beneficiaries (animal owners)
- Responsibility of the veterinary authority for the development of private veterinary services and institutions (Veterinary Association, Veterinary Statutory Body) responsible for the development of private veterinary practice
- Legal framework for the regulation of the activities of private veterinarians

During the second mission (Y3), the focus will be on the development, improvement of secondary legislation and several specific documents necessary for the development of private veterinary services, namely:

- Development of a draft regulation governing the procedure for the provision of veterinary services by private veterinarians,
- Development of a draft regulation on the delegation of certain official powers to private veterinarians
- Assistance in the development of the development strategy of the Tajik Association of Veterinarians

- Proposals to simplify procedures for obtaining a license by private veterinarians to provide veterinary services
- Development of a code of professional conduct for veterinarians
- Development of a draft statute for the Statutory Veterinary Authority

In addition to the above, Veterinary Legislation Expert will conduct 2 trainings (one training per visit) for FSC staff on veterinary legislation development specifics and OIE's recommendations to national veterinary legislation.

Supervision and reporting

The expert will be under the joint supervision of the PMU Project Coordinator to whom he/she will report directly, and of the head of the FSC.

Required qualifications and experience

- Advanced university degree in jurisprudence or veterinary medicine
- 10 years of experience in the field of lawmaking
- 5 years of experience in the field of veterinary legislation
- Prior experience in supporting the revision and improvement of primary and secondary veterinary legislation (3 prior similar assignments minimum)
- Work experience in Central Asian countries is desirable
- Minimum 3-year experience in working in international animal health or livestock development projects
- Good knowledge of verbal and written English; knowledge of Russian is of preference
- Good interpersonal communication skills

Component 3

ToR of Veterinary Education Specialist

Title of position: TVA specialist on veterinary education

Type and duration of contract: full time contract - secondment

Location: The position will be based in Dushanbe, TVA office

Scope of work, Responsibilities and expected deliverables:

The TVA specialist on veterinary education will provide technical and logistical support to TVA in the implementation of all Animal Health activities under Component 3, namely:

- Participation in all TVA institutional support activities identified in component 3
- Monitoring the activities of private veterinarians within the project
- Organization of work on the development of training materials and training of private veterinarians, namely:
 - Identifying the expectations of animal owners in veterinary services and priority topics for training private veterinarians
 - Development of new and updating of existing training materials
 - Study of Internet resources on online training of private veterinarians and their implementation into practice
 - Drawing up a program and schedule of annual trainings
- Organization of work on the selection of private veterinarians and their equipping with veterinary instruments, namely:
 - Compilation (clarification) of criteria for the selection of private veterinarians to be involved in the project activities
 - Conducting kick-off meetings and selecting private veterinarians (together with the community and FSC district office)
 - Identifying the needs of private veterinarians in veterinary instruments

- Drawing up a technical specification for the purchasing veterinary equipment
- Participation in the transfer of veterinary equipment to private veterinarians
- Report on activities implemented by TVA in the scope of CASP+
- In addition to the above, the Veterinary Education Specialist will assist:
 - international consultants in improving veterinary legislation in terms of the legal framework for the activities and development of private veterinary practice and institutions responsible for the development of private veterinary services.
 - TVA in developing a development strategy for TBA, for its sustainability and financial independence.

Supervision and reporting

The incumbent will be under the joint supervision of the PMU Project Coordinator to whom he/she will report directly, and of the head of the TVA.

Required qualifications and experience

- Advanced degree in veterinary medicine
- At least 5 years of experience in the field of veterinary or allied education (animal husbandry) in Tajikistan or in the region
- Working experience in the international projects
- Practical experience in the provision of veterinary services will be an advantage
- Skills in developing training and other educational materials
- Experience in organizing and conducting trainings
- Ability to use online learning resources

Languages: Good knowledge of Tajik, Russian and English