



African Union

Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

SOMALI LIVESTOCK CERTIFICATION PROJECT

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Enhancing Safe Inter-Regional Livestock Trade

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Background

- **Pastoralism and its contribution in the Horn of Africa (HoA)**
 - Home to 94 million cattle, 93 million sheep, 80 million goats and 11 million Camels
 - Livestock contribute significantly to the GDP of the countries in the horn of Africa
 - In Somalia livestock contribute 44% of the GDP and contributes 80% of foreign currency earnings



Background

▪ Livestock trade

- Middle East and Gulf countries have provided market for live animals from HOA for many years
- However, access to the market has been limited by recurrent bans associated with fear of introduction of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADS) and zoonoses, such as RVF, CBPP, FMD and PPR, pox virus infections



Background

- Infrastructure for safe handling of export animals
- Communication/information flow between trading partners
- Inadequate veterinary service delivery systems



Background

- The concerns, especially for RVF, have resulted in recurrent livestock import bans
- **Consequence of the recurrent trade bans**
 - Loss of livelihoods for the various players along the livestock value chain
 - Reduced livestock prices for pastoralists and livestock traders
 - Food insecurity as a result of increased food prices, poverty and unemployment
 - Loss of revenue for Governments
 - Environmental degradation
 - Provided opportunity for illegal trade



Background

- **So what to do to avoid future bans?**
- Implement a credible animal health certification system for export animals in compliance with OIE SPS standards
- Build capacity among public and private stakeholders in various aspects of animal health and certification
- Communication between importing and exporting countries by building good basis for transparency and therefore build mutual trust
- Enhance coordination of animal health certification activities at National and regional levels



Background

- ❑ To achieve the above AU-IBAR is working with the Somali Veterinary authorities; the countries in the Horn of Africa and is creating linkages with the trading partners to address some of the concerns through the Somali Livestock Certification Project (SOLICEP)



Background

What is certification?

- In simple terms, certification is an assessment and approval by an accredited/approved authority or party on a standard
- It therefore involves **an assessment** and **approval on some standards**
- In animal health certification we refer to the OIE SPS standards
- These are clearly defined in OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC)



Background

What is certification?

- ❑ Certification provide a guarantee that the animals or animal products being traded are safe and poses minimal risk to animal and human populations in the importing countries
- ❑ It is important to note that if an accredited standard is used (in our case OIE standards) it means that certification needs to be **carried out by the veterinary authority**



Background

What is certification?

- The purpose of certification is to reach a defined performance
- This defined performance must be perceived as so by stakeholders
- For stakeholders to regard certification as a valuable tool, they must trust the certification system as well as the certifying party (veterinary Authority)
- Also, there should be regular tests or audits to verify whether the certified party still reaches the agreed performance level



Background

What are the key considerations for effective animal health certification?

- In addition to general obligations related to certification** as described in Chapter 5,1 of the OIE TAHC;
- ✓ The TAHC provides for the principles to be complied with in ensure provision (Chapter 3.1) of quality veterinary services
- ✓ Evaluation of the Veterinary services (Chapter 3.2 TAHC)
- ✓ Identification and traceability of live animals (Chapter 4.1 TAHC)
- ✓ Animal welfare (Chapter 7.1 TAHC)



Background

- ❑ **Important to refer to general obligations related to certification (Chapter 5.1 TAHC)**
 - **Article 5.1.1.**
Safety of [international trade](#) in [animals](#) and animal products depends on a combination of factors which should be taken into account to ensure unimpeded trade, without incurring unacceptable [risks](#) to human and animal health.
 - Because of differences between countries in their animal health situations, various options are offered by the [Terrestrial Code](#). The animal health situation in the [exporting country](#), in the [transit country](#) or [countries](#) and in the [importing country](#) should be considered before determining the requirements for trade. To maximise harmonisation of the sanitary aspects of [international trade](#), [Veterinary Authorities](#) of OIE Members should base their import requirements on the OIE standards.
 - These requirements should be included in the model certificates approved by the OIE which are included from Chapters [5.10.](#) to [5.12.](#) of the [Terrestrial Code](#).
 - Certification requirements should be exact and concise, and should clearly convey the wishes of the [importing country](#). For this purpose, prior consultation between [Veterinary Authorities](#) of [importing](#) and [exporting countries](#) may be necessary. It enables the setting out of the exact requirements so that the signing [veterinarian](#) can, if necessary, be given a note of guidance explaining the understanding between the [Veterinary Authorities](#) involved.
 - The certification requirements should not include conditions for [diseases](#) that are not transmitted by the [commodity](#) concerned. The certificate should be signed in accordance with the provisions of Chapter [5.2.](#)
 - When officials of a [Veterinary Authority](#) wish to visit another country for matters of professional interest to the [Veterinary Authority](#) of the other country, the latter should be informed.



Background

Article 5.1.2.

- Responsibilities of the importing country
- The import requirements included in the [international veterinary certificate](#) should assure that [commodities](#) introduced into the [importing country](#) comply with the OIE standards. [Importing countries](#) should restrict their requirements to those necessary to achieve the national appropriate level of protection. If these are stricter than the OIE standards, they should be based on an import [risk analysis](#).
- The [international veterinary certificate](#) should not include requirements for the exclusion of pathogens or animal [diseases](#) which are present in the [importing country](#) and are not subject to any [official control programme](#). The measures imposed on imports to manage the [risks](#) posed by a specific pathogen or [disease](#) should not require a higher level of protection than that provided by measures applied as part of the [official control programme](#) operating within the [importing country](#).
- The [international veterinary certificate](#) should not include measures against pathogens or [diseases](#) which are not OIE listed, unless the [importing country](#) has demonstrated through import [risk analysis](#), carried out in accordance with Section 2., that the pathogen or [disease](#) poses a significant [risk](#) to the [importing country](#).
- The transmission by the [Veterinary Authority](#) of certificates or the communication of import requirements to persons other than the [Veterinary Authority](#) of another country, necessitates that copies of these documents are also sent to the [Veterinary Authority](#). This important procedure avoids delays and difficulties which may arise between traders and [Veterinary Authorities](#) when the authenticity of the certificates or permits is not established.
- This information is the responsibility of [Veterinary Authorities](#). However, it can be issued by private sector [veterinarians](#) at the place of origin of the [commodities](#) when this practice is the subject of appropriate approval and authentication by the [Veterinary Authority](#).
- Situations may arise which result in changes to the consignee, identification of the means of transportation, or [border post](#) after a certificate is issued. Because these do not change the animal or public health status of the consignment, they should not prevent the acceptance of the certificate.



Background

- **Article 5.1.3.**
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- **Responsibilities of the exporting country**
- **An exporting country should, on request, supply the following to importing countries:**
 - information on the animal health situation and national animal health information systems to determine whether that country is free or has zones or compartments free from listed diseases, including the regulations and procedures in force to maintain its free status;
 - regular and prompt information on the occurrence of notifiable diseases;
 - details of the country's ability to apply measures to control and prevent the relevant listed diseases;
 - information on the structure of the Veterinary Services and the authority which they exercise according to Chapters 3.1. and 3.2.;
 - technical information, particularly on biological tests and vaccines applied in all or part of the national territory.
- **Veterinary Authorities of exporting countries should:**
 - have official procedures for authorisation of certifying veterinarians, defining their functions and duties as well as conditions of oversight and accountability, including possible suspension and termination of the authorisation;
 - ensure that the relevant instructions and training are provided to certifying veterinarians;
 - monitor the activities of the certifying veterinarians to verify their integrity and impartiality.
- **The Veterinary Authority of the exporting country is ultimately accountable for veterinary certification used in international trade.**



SOLICEP overview

- **SOLICEP goal** - To contribute to the reduction of poverty and consolidation of peace through sustainable and equitable economic growth and regional integration



Purpose

- SOLICEP aims to improve the export performance of the livestock sub-sector in Somalia and Somali ecosystem through enhanced live animal health certification that promotes OIE standards.



Expected results

- Animal health certification model that promotes the OIE Standards for live animals and is acceptable to both importing and exporting countries is defined and tested.
- Capacity of Somali public and private institutions to improve access to international livestock markets enhanced
- Linkages among relevant Somali institutions and livestock trading partners enhanced



Result 1: Animal health certification model that promotes OIE/WTO/SPS standards for live animals, acceptable to both importing & exporting countries

- ❑ SOLICEP is supporting the design of a risk based certification approach based on OIE sanitary standards
 - Recommends Quarantine inspection combined with inspection and certification at the markets and entry points



Result 2: Capacity of Somali public and private institutions to improve access to international livestock markets enhanced

- ❑ A self assessment of the Veterinary Service [VS] of Somaliland, Puntland and Central South Somalia using the OIE – Performance of Veterinary Services [PVS]
- ❑ In particular a self assessment PVS was to provide information that will be used to specifically determine capacity building needs for animal health certification and trade



Result 2: Capacity of Somali public and private institutions to improve access to international livestock markets enhanced





Result 2: Capacity of Somali public and private institutions to improve access to international livestock markets enhanced

- ❑ Trained animal health inspectors
- ❑ Support to routine animal health certification activities along the marketing chain
- ❑ Supporting diseases data collection, collation, analysis and dissemination to stakeholders including OIE.



Result 2: Capacity of Somali public and private institutions to improve access to international livestock markets enhanced

- ❑ Trained Somali personnel on risk analysis
- ❑ Trained key Somali personnel on SPS and principles of negotiation
- ❑ SOLICEP has supported the training of Somali professionals from Somaliland, Puntland and Central South Somalia on animal health disease information management



Result 2: Capacity of Somali public and private institutions to improve access to international livestock markets enhanced

- MoLERD, website to facilitate communication on animal health certification (www.molsomalilandgovt.com).

- Participants during a Training course on Online Content Management held at Hargeisa





Result 2: Capacity of Somali public and private institutions to improve access to international livestock markets enhanced

Participants from Central South Somalia, Puntland, and Somaliland during one of the training workshops on Animal Health Risk Analysis





Result 2: Capacity of Somali public and private institutions to improve access to international livestock markets enhanced

- Rehabilitation/construction of veterinary offices
- Computer hardware for management of animal health certification data and communication
- Established website in Somaliland and puntland for communication with stakeholders



Result 2: Capacity of Somali public and private institutions to improve access to international livestock markets enhanced

Investment funding to support animal health certification activities in Somaliland, Puntland and Central South Somalia





Result 3: Linkages among relevant Somali institutions and livestock trading partners enhanced

- ❑ SOLICEP has supported the establishment of the Somali Livestock Stakeholders and Coordination Advisory Body
- ❑ Awareness on the importance of animal health certification among stakeholders including the media



Result 3: Linkages among relevant Somali institutions and livestock trading partners enhanced



Members of the Somali Livestock stakeholders Coordination and Advisory Body pose for a group photograph



Result 3: Linkages among relevant Somali institutions and livestock trading partners enhanced

Linkages and communication between the trading partners

- SOLICEP is creating linkages between Horn of Africa and Middle East livestock stakeholders on live animal health certification and trade. Issues to be addressed have been identified (see the eight recommendations)
- Dubai, UAE, 2nd -3rd August 2010





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- ❑ AU-IBAR acknowledges the significant contribution of all its political, technical and financial partners. The fruitful collaboration enjoyed with these partners has contributed to the achievements of AU-IBAR



THANK YOU



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