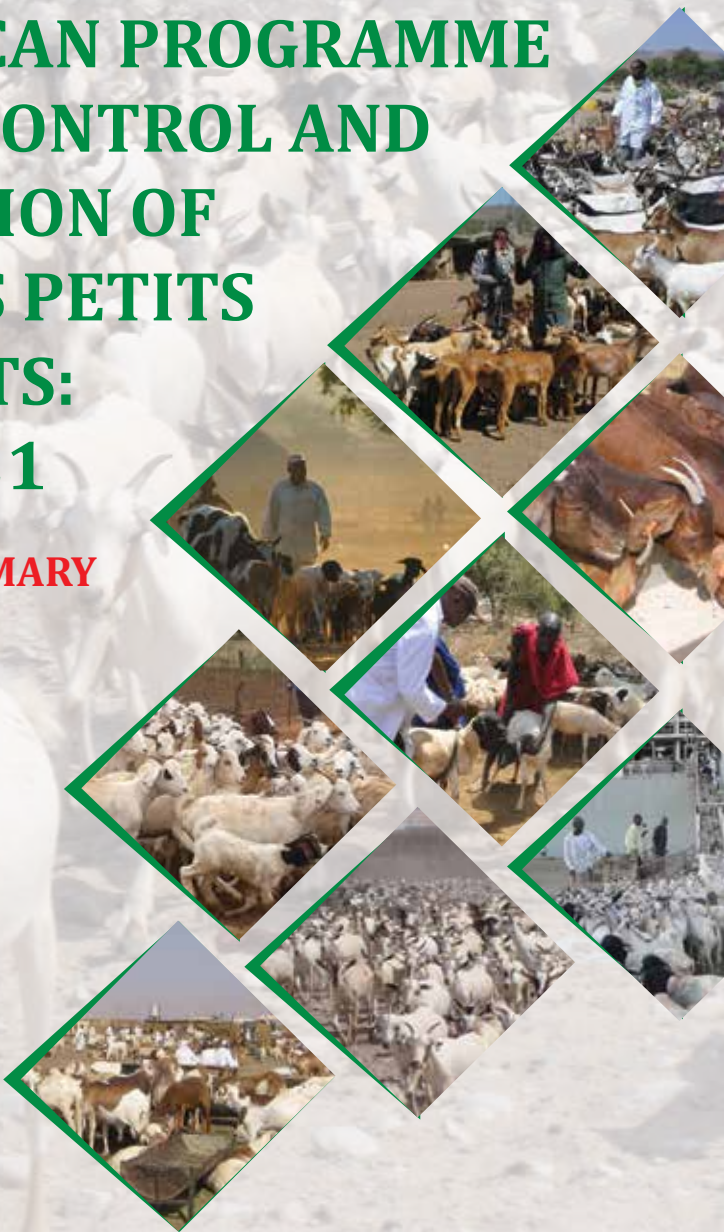




AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES

PAN-AFRICAN PROGRAMME FOR THE CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS: 2017 - 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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1. INTRODUCTION

Africa has a population of more than one billion people and this is expected to grow at a rate of 2.3% each year. It is projected that the Global human population will increase from 7 billion in 2015 to 9.6 billion in 2050 and that 50% of this increase will be in Africa. This growth in population is accompanied by an increasing demand for animal products that presents opportunities for a wide range of actors in Africa's livestock value chains. Furthermore, out of the population of 821.3 million people in sub-Saharan Africa, an estimated 63% live in rural areas and derive their livelihoods and household food security from livestock, mostly small ruminants and poultry. These populations, mainly in the Arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) face challenges of extreme poverty, high gender inequality, vulnerability to drought and the impacts of climate change, conflict, demographic pressure, environmental stress, weak institutions, poor physical infrastructure and poor resilience to drought and other crises. This has become more frequent, resulting in high levels of food insecurity and dependence on humanitarian assistance and an accelerated shift from traditional pastoralism, especially by young people.

In these areas, sheep and goats are an important source of livelihoods. They are mainly managed by women and youth. The population of sheep and goats in Africa is estimated at 255 million sheep and 277 million goats, which represent 24.48% and 31.6% of the World's population of sheep and goats, respectively. More than 50% of these animals are reared in the Greater Horn of Africa and in the Sahel regions. These are also the regions that are most vulnerable and most affected by the recurrent episodes of drought and conflict resulting in human suffering and increasing migration of persons in search of better livelihoods. In these regions, sheep and goats also represent an important coping mechanism that enhances the resilience of the livestock dependent communities due to their high fertility rates and their capacity to recover faster than other ruminant species from natural disasters (droughts, epidemics etc.).

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Small ruminants are also a readily available source of income for households through sales of live animals, milk, meat and skins. The domestic and export trade in live animals, hides, skins and chilled carcasses generates the foreign currencies for importation and purchase of essential food items and thus contributes significantly to ensuring food and nutritional security among the livestock-dependent communities. Sheep and goats constitute more than 90% of the livestock exports from the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions.

Unfortunately, the production and trade and marketing of sheep and goats in Africa are seriously constrained by the continuous presence of transboundary animal diseases (TADs) which limit the productivity of animals and their access to markets. These diseases often cause large financial losses, particularly detrimental to smallholder livestock keepers. Furthermore, the maintenance and endemicity of TADs including peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in parts of Africa, represents a threat to the small ruminant populations of other regions of the world, which are free from these diseases.

Following the Global eradication of rinderpest, the African Union Member States intensified the focus on PPR as the next livestock disease for eradication from Africa. The 8th Conference of African Ministers responsible for animal resources held in Entebbe Uganda in May 2010, mandated AU-IBAR to mobilize resources for the control and eradication of PPR and other priority trans-boundary animal diseases (TADs). Subsequently, AU-IBAR in collaboration with AU-PANVAC, Regional Economic Communities, Member States and technical partners (FAO, OIE and ILRI) the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) developed a Pan-African Strategy for the Progressive Control of PPR in 2010 (Pan African PPR Strategy, 2010). Following this, AU-IBAR and AU-PANVAC developed a draft Programme for the Progressive Control of PPR and other Small Ruminant Diseases in Africa in 2012. The programme was subsequently endorsed by the 9th Conference of Ministers responsible for animal resources in Africa, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire in April, 2013. Both the strategy and the

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programme recognized the need to align the African initiatives with a Global strategy once the latter was developed.

The Global strategy for the Control and Eradication of PPR (GCES) was jointly launched by FAO and OIE during an international conference held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from 31st March to 2nd April 2015. Following this, AU-IBAR revised the pan-African strategy for the control and eradication of PPR in order to align it to the GCES. The revised pan-African strategy for the control and eradication of PPR and other priority small ruminant diseases outlines actions to achieve the eradication of PPR by 2030, control other priority diseases of small ruminants and to strengthen veterinary services in Africa. It will be implemented through a series of successive five year programmes, each with its own clear objectives and outcomes.

AU-IBAR has developed a five year pan-African PPR programme covering the period 2017-2021. The Pan-African programme is aligned to the PPR Global Eradication programme (PPR-GEP) developed by the Global PPR Secretariat taking into account the unique needs of Africa. This programme is the first of a series of programmes that will be implemented to operationalize the pan African PPR Strategy until the eradication of this disease is achieved by 2030.

2. *RATIONALE FOR THE CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS*

In Africa, sheep and goats provide a vast range of products and services. They are a source of milk, meat and meat products, skins and wool throughout the year. They reproduce rapidly and are easier to sell to meet immediate household needs or to exchange for other household necessities. In agro-pastoral and crop production systems, they are an important source of manure for soil fertility. Sheep and goats are also well adapted to the pastoral and agro-pastoral ecological systems found in all the regions of Africa. Due to this,

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women and disadvantaged households often rely on them for household incomes, nutrition and other needs. With small ruminants, it is easier to rebuild herds after environmental and political shocks. Thus, small ruminants are an important component of pastoral resilience. For other value chain actors including traders, transporters, slaughter-house operators, butchers, supermarkets and other meat retailers, sheep and goats are an important source of livelihoods through the provision of employment and income. Consumers also benefit from sustainable access to high quality small ruminant products.

Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) is a highly contagious and devastating disease of goats and sheep. In a fully susceptible flock, morbidity and mortality rates can exceed 90%. The disease thus has significant impacts on livelihoods particularly those of poor small holders. Over the last decade, PPR has rapidly expanded its geographical distribution from the historically endemic areas in Western and Central Africa to cover thirty four countries in all regions of the continent. Currently, only four countries in Southern Africa (Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa) are officially recognized by OIE as free from PPR on a country or zonal basis.

The widespread occurrence of PPR in endemic countries and its rapid spread to new areas since 2006, threatens the sustainable production, trade and marketing of sheep and goats and contributes to social instability and conflict. The loss of livelihoods contributes to the migration of affected populations in search of alternative sources of livelihoods thereby escalating the migration challenges being experienced in the ASAL areas. While the demographic profile of migrants varies across different areas of Africa, women, youth and pastoralists typically make up the majority of those migrating.

3. *JUSTIFICATION*

The Sahel and the Greater Horn of Africa regions with the largest populations of small ruminants in Africa are seriously affected by PPR and thus Africa's small ruminants' population is threatened by the continued presence of this disease. The disease has caused recurrent losses in the affected countries and efforts to control it have been mainly based on the financial and technical capabilities of individual countries. There has been no concerted and coordinated pan-African initiative to contain this disease. Consequently, initial success in the control of the disease in some countries has resulted in failure due to the transboundary spread from other neighbouring countries where the control efforts were not diligently implemented. This disjointed approach is wasteful of resources as it does not result in the sustained elimination of the disease. There is thus need for a coordinated and time-bound Pan-African programme for PPR control and eradication that ensures synchronised and harmonised interventions between different countries especially those sharing epidemiological zones for PPR. The eradication of this disease will safeguard the role of small ruminants in Africa's sustainable development. The control of other priority small ruminant diseases will provide incentives to stimulate the participation of livestock value chain stakeholders in the PPR eradication programme in many countries. These will in turn reduce the risks of private sector investments in small ruminant production, value addition, trade and marketing and thus serve to stimulate private sector investments and involvement in the sub-sector. Such investments will generate opportunities for the employment of women and youth and other actors along the small ruminants' value chains thus contributing to their economic empowerment. By paying particular attention to rural women, youth and small holder livestock owners, PPR eradication will contribute to poverty alleviation, food and nutrition security, build the resilience of drought-prone pastoral communities and overcome trade barriers to both domestic and export trade in small ruminants. It will thus offer African countries better opportunities to benefit from the livestock revolution while at the same time

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fostering regional integration.

These will increase opportunities for income generation for livestock dependent communities/households and thus enhance their resilience, reducing the need for migration in search of alternative livelihood opportunities. Gainful employment will also have positive impacts on the fragile environments where small ruminants are produced as the value chain actors will have incentives for not participating in alternative income generation activities that result in environmental degradation. In addition, the benefits from small ruminants' production and trade will motivate awareness and provide incentives for participation in the sustainable utilisation and management of the environment and natural resources thus mitigating the potential negative impacts on the environment of increased numbers of small ruminants that will result from the eradication of PPR.

4. FEASIBILITY

The virus that causes PPR is a member of the Morbillivirus genus in the Family Paramyxoviridae. It is closely related to rinderpest virus responsible for rinderpest, a disease affecting all ruminants particularly cattle and buffaloes. Rinderpest was globally eradicated in 2011. Among the factors that made this success possible in Africa were some features of rinderpest virus, the availability of efficient and practical tools for disease surveillance, diagnosis and control, the sustained financial support from development partners especially the European Union (EU) and the awareness, commitment and political support at the highest levels of government in Africa. The lessons learnt in the eradication of rinderpest guided the development of the pan-african strategy and programme for the control and eradication of PPR and other small ruminant diseases.

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As was the case for rinderpest, there is an effective vaccine for PPR that confers long-lasting immunity in successfully vaccinated sheep and goats. There is no carrier state and infection with PPR virus is short-lived and results in either death or life-long immunity in recovered animals. The virus does not survive for long outside the animal host as it is readily destroyed by heat, sunlight, chemicals and disinfectants. The virus is spread and maintained through direct and close contact between infected and susceptible animals and it thus needs a continuous supply of new susceptible animals to survive. There are also proven diagnostic tests that are routinely used in many laboratories across Africa for the surveillance and diagnosis of PPR. Thus, the existing technical tools are sufficient to support a coordinated PPR control and eradication programme.

Although PPR virus is known to affect some susceptible species of wildlife, the prevailing scientific consensus is that wildlife species may serve as sentinels for PPR virus (PPRV) circulation in domestic animals and that the role of animal species other than sheep and goats in the epidemiology of PPR needs further investigation. This is similar to the situation that pertained to rinderpest in wildlife at the time of its eradication.

At the national, regional and continental levels, there is increased awareness and enhanced capacities for coordinated control interventions for transboundary animal diseases (TADs) and considerable progress has been made to enhance surveillance capacities, regulatory environments as well as private sector and community participation in animal health policy and strategy formulation and disease control and eradication programmes. This follows interventions coordinated by AU-IBAR in collaboration with AU-PANVAC, RECs, Member States and other technical partners over the last decade. Thus the technical capacity and tools to undertake a similar control and eradication programme for PPR and other priority diseases of small ruminants, are in place.

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At the political level, there is demonstrated commitment from the highest levels of State and Government in the Africa Union (AU) through the commitments made in the Malabo declaration on “Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods”, and the relevant commitments in the AU Agenda 2063.

These commitments include:

Ending hunger in Africa by 2025; Halving poverty by 2025 through Inclusive Agricultural Growth and Transformation; Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural Commodities and Services; Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Climate Variability and other related risks and; and Mutual Accountability to Actions and Results. The control and eradication of PPR will contribute to the realization of these commitments.

The Heads of State and government of the AU also recently endorsed the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA) as a blueprint for the revitalization and transformation of the livestock sector in Africa to ensure that it contributes significantly to socio-economic development and equitable growth. The LiDeSA is informed by the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) results framework and will guide and assist countries and Regional Economic communities (RECs) in formulating livestock investment priorities within their agricultural investment plans. It is also in line with the Agenda 2063 and will position the livestock sector as the key driver for delivering the desired 6% annual growth in agriculture in the AU Member States thus contributing significantly to national economic growth. It will also guide and mainstream stakeholders’ efforts in addressing major development challenges facing the sector.

The LiDeSA will ensure coordinated actions at continental, regional and national levels, promote synergy in addressing critical issues facing livestock development and bring about tangible actions that will lead to the realization

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of the full potential of the livestock sector to contribute significantly to food and nutrition security and sustainable economic development. The control and eradication of priority transboundary diseases such as PPR is a key pillar in the success of LiDeSA.

5. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES, EXPECTED RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

Overall objective

The overall objective of the pan-African PPR programme is to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and resilience of livestock-dependent communities in Africa and the economic growth of the affected countries thereby contributing to the reduction of instability, conflicts and irregular migration from Africa

Specific objectives:

- To reduce the prevalence of PPR in endemic countries and maintain the absence of PPR in non-infected countries
- To reinforce the Critical Competencies of Veterinary Services to enhance the control and eradication of PPR and other priority small ruminant diseases
- To promote equitable access and sustainable utilization and management of natural resources for small ruminant production in RECs and Member States
- To promote investments in livestock based business models along the key value chains for enhanced access to markets

Expected Results and Activities

The programme has five expected results as follows:

1. Enabling environment, animal health systems for PPR eradication and the control of other priority small ruminant diseases and sustainable natural

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- resources management for small ruminants production enhanced
 - 2. Measures (including diagnostic and surveillance systems) towards the eradication of PPR and the control of other priority small ruminant diseases improved
 - 3. Capacity to improve small ruminant production and sustain the health and productivity of the natural resources they depend on enhanced.
 - 4. Innovative and smart partnership business models to enhance access to livestock markets promoted
 - 5. Coordination, management and partnerships at national, regional and continental levels for PPR eradication strengthened.

The activities to be undertaken to achieve each of the five results are tabulated below The following activities will be undertaken in order to achieve the results of the Pan-African PPR control and eradication Programme 2017 -2021:

| | Expected Result | | Activities |
|---|--|-----|---|
| 1 | Enabling environment, animal health systems for PPR eradication and the control of other priority small ruminant diseases and sustainable natural resources management for small ruminants production enhanced | 1.1 | Development and validation of national PPR strategies and technical plans |
| | | 1.2 | Support stakeholder analysis, awareness and engagement |
| | | 1.3 | Improvement of legal frameworks for PPR and other priority small ruminant diseases |
| | | 1.4 | Strengthen Veterinary Services based on the outcome of OIE PVS evaluation and gap analysis. |
| | | 1.5 | Support RECs and MS to enhance capacities for sustainable Natural Resources management |

| | Expected Result | | Activities |
|---|--|-------|--|
| 2 | Measures (including diagnostic and surveillance systems) towards the eradication of PPR and the control of other priority small ruminant diseases improved | 2.1 | Conduct epidemiological and socio-economic assessments |
| | | 2.2 | Strengthening of surveillance systems and laboratory capacities |
| | | 2.3 | Support national and regional epidemiology and laboratory networks |
| | | 2.4 | Support measures towards PPR eradication |
| | | 2.4.1 | Vaccination and other PPR preventive and control measures: |
| | | 2.4.2 | Demonstration of PPR freedom |
| | | 2.5 | Control of other priority small ruminant diseases (in support of PPR eradication) |
| 3 | Capacity to improve small ruminant production and sustain the health and productivity of the natural resources they depend on enhanced. | 3.1 | Promote improved nutrition and management of small ruminants |
| | | 3.2 | Promote sustainable improvement, management and utilization of indigenous small ruminants genetic resources |
| | | 3.3 | Strengthen mechanisms for the sustainable management of the natural resource base |
| | | 3.4 | Promote mechanisms to mitigate natural resource based conflicts in key small ruminants production areas |
| | | 3.5 | Support resilience building and creation of alternative sources of employment and income for women and youth |

| | Expected Result | | Activities |
|---|---|-----|--|
| 4 | Innovative and smart partnership business models to enhance access to livestock markets promoted | 4.1 | Support RECs and MS to map out and validate gaps in existing and potential small ruminants' value-chains/ inventory and analysis of existing small ruminant value chains in the target countries |
| | | 4.2 | Support RECs and MS to build capacity (skills and facilities) for sustainable Small ruminant production and trade |
| | | 4.3 | Support RECs and MS to strengthen regional and national value chain associations/cooperatives |
| | | 4.4 | Support RECs and MS to promote innovative regional and national livestock business models |
| | | 4.5 | Support RECs and MS to leverage ICT in the livestock agribusiness value chains |
| 5 | Coordination, management and partnerships at national, regional and continental levels for PPR eradication strengthened | 5.1 | Support mechanisms for coordination of PPR eradication at national level |
| | | 5.2 | Strengthen mechanisms for the regional coordination of PPR eradication within RECs |
| | | 5.3 | Strengthen Pan-African linkages and coordination mechanisms for PPR eradication |
| | | 5.4 | Strengthen collaboration and coordination with other partners in the Global PPR eradication process. |

6. PROGRAMME APPROACH

This programme will contribute towards attaining the objectives of the Pan-African and Global strategies for the control and eradication of PPR by 2030 and the control of other priority diseases of small ruminants. A phased approach with well-coordinated and harmonised activities across all regions and countries will be adopted. This phasing is based on four different stages which correspond to a combination of decreasing levels of epidemiological risk and increasing levels of prevention and control. These are:

Stage 1: Epidemiologic and socio-economic impact assessment - the objective at this stage is to gain a better understanding of the PPR epidemiological situation within local socio economic contexts (presence or possibly the absence) of PPR in the country, its distribution among the different farming systems and, ultimately, its impact on these systems (in addition to the epidemiology study, stage 1 will be used for the preparation of activities for the next stage of the programme);

Stage 2: Control - the aim at this stage is to target vaccination, in particular mass vaccination, in “hotspot areas” and potential sources of virus dissemination so as to break the maintenance and spread of PPR virus in different epidemiological situations, geographical areas or production systems;

Stage 3: Eradication - the actions here aim to eradicate the virus from the national flock; It is anticipated that at the end of Stage 3, there would be no clinical outbreaks of disease and diagnostic tests would indicate that there is no virus circulation in the domestic animal and wildlife populations.

Stage 4: Verification of absence - when a country can provide evidence that there is no virus circulation either at zonal or national level, and is ready to apply for the OIE official country status recognition of PPR freedom.

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Countries in Africa are at different stages in the control and eradication of PPR. The programme will aim to reduce the prevalence and incidence of the disease in infected countries within the first 5 years, while ensuring that countries that are free of the disease maintain this freedom and progress to verify its eradication.

Depending on country priorities, activities on the control of other small ruminant diseases have been incorporated as an incentive to enhance the PPR eradication activities.

The Pan-African PPR programme in conformity with the Global PPR strategy and programme, identifies five regions of interventions on the African continent (see map below).



Map 1: Five regions of Africa identified in the Pan-African PPR programme and the GCES

The grouping of countries in the five regions will promote effective communication and collaboration between neighbouring countries/territories and, through alignment with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs),

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will provide opportunities for administrative and logistical support within regions for moving the PPR control and eradication process forward. However, from an epidemiological point of view, the behaviour of the disease under field conditions does not always conveniently align with the assignment of individual countries/territories into a particular region. Geographical and climatic considerations, patterns of pastoral movements, trade routes, the distributions of communities across national borders and other factors mean that patterns of disease spread may exist that extend beyond the limits of these administratively defined regions.

7. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This programme aims to contribute to sustainable small ruminants' production and trade through the staged control and eradication of PPR and other small ruminant diseases, adaptive management of the process and managing for results. These will be achieved within the context of the sustainable management of the natural resource base, the mitigation of natural resource based conflicts in the arid and semi-arid areas where most small ruminants' production occurs, the involvement of multiple stakeholders in small ruminants' enterprises in order to attract investments and enlarge the participation of women and youth in small ruminants' production and trade. A robust monitoring and evaluation (M& E) framework to assess progress, the impact of interventions and inform decisions along the eradication process will be anchored within the overall AU-IBAR M&E framework. This framework will complement the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) of the Global PPR Strategy and the OIE PVS Evaluation Tool.

Regular internal monitoring will be undertaken by the AU-IBAR M&E team while mid-term and final evaluations of the programme implementation will be undertaken by independent external M&E experts.

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The monitoring and evaluations will include all key focus areas, namely process monitoring, result monitoring, compliance monitoring, context monitoring, beneficiary monitoring financial monitoring, awareness and advocacy monitoring, exit strategy and sustainability monitoring and management decision-making monitoring

The programme advisory group will regularly review the progress of implementation and provide advice on strategic changes to enhance the attainment of the programme objectives and its contribution to the Pan-African and global strategies for the Control and eradication of PPR.

8. RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

The main risks and assumptions of the programme are outlined below and in the attached logframe.

Main Risks

- RECs and MSs do not mainstream the PPR strategies and PPR control and eradication programmes as well as the natural resource based conflict mitigation mechanisms into their regional and national action plans and budgets for timely implementation.
- Insufficient communication and poor cross border disease control and prevention between neighbouring states.
- Inaccessibility of remote areas and areas with civil strife and conflict for the effective implementation of disease control and eradication interventions.
- Extremes of climatic conditions resulting in massive livestock deaths, migrations and/or conflict.

Main assumptions:

- That RECs and MS will develop, mobilize resources and implement national and regional programmes to complement the pan-African Programme.

- That there will be synergies and complementarities with other related on-going and new initiatives
- That in addition to the national budgetary allocations, the national line Ministries will engage partners in the private sector, target communities and the donor community for the mobilization of additional resources to implement the programme.
- That there will be an enabling environment including political willingness, peace, security, macroeconomic stability and the rule of law in the target Member States.
- That Shocks from climate change, natural disasters and conflict will not significantly affect the implementation of the programme, thanks to well-established risk management capacities and institutions.

9. COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY

Effective implementation of the programme will entail the awareness, buy-in and involvement of all stakeholders of its objectives and activities. A PPR communication strategy will be developed with key messages and modalities for their delivery to different target audiences identified. The overall objective of the PPR communication strategy will be to sensitise and mobilise all relevant stakeholders to enable them to contribute fully to the achievement of the objectives of the PPR programme.

10. BUDGET

The budget for the implementation of the programme is tabulated below. This budget is mainly for capacity building of regional and national institutions and the coordination of interventions at the pan-African level. It does not include the funds required for the implementation of disease control measures in the target Member States. These will need to be mobilised separately based on the needs of each Member State.

| Indicative budget item | Amount € |
|---|-------------------|
| Result 1: Enabling environment, animal health systems for PPR eradication and the control of other priority small ruminant diseases and sustainable natural resources management for small ruminants production enhanced | 7.200.000 |
| Result 2: Measures including diagnostic and surveillance systems towards the eradication of PPR and the control of other priority small ruminant diseases improved | 21.990.000 |
| Result 3: Capacity to improve small ruminant production and sustain the health and productivity of the natural resources they depend on enhanced | 4.250.000 |
| Result 4: Innovative and smart partnership business models to enhance access to livestock markets promoted | 4.500.000 |
| Result 5: Coordination, management and partnerships at national, regional and continental levels for PPR eradication strengthened. | 4.750.000 |
| Sub-total | 42.690.000 |
| Contingencies (5%) | 2.134.500 |
| Management costs (7%) | 2.988.300 |
| TOTAL | 47.812.800 |

11. PARTNERSHIPS

The effective implementation of this programme will entail close partnerships with public, private and civil society stakeholders in the Member states, RECs and other relevant regional institutions and stakeholders' associations as well as close coordination with international partners involved in the global eradication of PPR, particularly the FAO and OIE.

AU-IBAR will work very closely with AU-PANVAC to ensure concerted actions by the African Union Commission institutions in supporting the PPR eradication interventions by Member states and RECs.

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The pan-African PPR programme entails a wide range of interventions that will require sustained funding for their realization. Partnerships will be fostered with various development partners with an interest in supporting the development of the livestock sector in Africa with a view to enlisting their financial support for implementation of the programme. Support will be sought from the European Union, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the African Development Bank, the World Bank and USAiD among other development partners.



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