

THE IMPORTANCE OF VETERINARY LEGISLATION IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

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The governance of veterinary services and related legislation has become recognized as cornerstones to the reform of animal health services. This is a fundamental first step for governments and donor supported investments which are directed at animal health and production, reducing food safety risks, preventing evolving pandemic diseases and, more recently, addressing the One Health agenda. Enlightened and well-informed legal reforms for veterinary or food safety laws and regulations can provide the framework for an effective, transparent and inclusive public and private veterinary service, which has credibility both nationally and internationally. The OIE Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) evaluation, which incorporates a review of veterinary legislation, is an essential first step in determining the gaps in governance related to laws and provides critical guidance to focus investments and development project interventions. Analysis of the PVS already completed in many developing countries illustrates that laws are often outdated and not in compliance with international standards. Reform of animal health legislation becomes a crucial step in strengthening the Veterinary system and this exercise is underway in several countries. It is a long process, often supported by donor funding and engaging specialists from different fields: veterinarians, lawyers and institutional experts. This paper will review some of the key issues related to veterinary legislation in development projects, and provides practicable recommendations illustrated with specific country examples from World Bank projects.

Keywords: Governance of veterinary services – Donor investments in veterinary services – Compliance with international veterinary standards – Veterinary legislation in developing countries.
