

Project title	Technical and Institutional Support to Veterinary Services in Armenia
General information	Region: Syunik (Armenia) Duration: January 1, 2013 – November 30, 2015 Budget: CHF 1'417'520
Project partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing partners: FAO & Strategic Development Agency (SDA) NGO • Institutional partners: Ministry of Agriculture of Armenia, Ministry of Territorial Administration of Armenia, Marzpetaran of Syunik
Project objective	The overall goal of the project is strengthening of veterinary services in the public sector of the Syunik region contributing to the improvement of the food safety system and sustainable agricultural development in Armenia
Background	Nearly 35 percent of agricultural output in Armenia is generated from the livestock sector which is dominated by cattle and small ruminants and is based on traditional husbandry systems: few animals per herd and close association of different animal species. This makes it extremely difficult to control animal diseases. Good animal diseases management is important for food safety; many diseases can easily spread and reach epizootic proportions, and their control/management requires cooperation between several countries. Re-emerging diseases such as Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Anthrax, and Rabies, as well as trans-boundary animal diseases like African Swine Fever or Foot and Mouth Disease create serious problems for Armenia's economy. Many epizootic diseases can put at risk the development of the livestock sector and threaten the animal and meat exports. Brucellosis alone is estimated to generate significant costs to the Armenian economy. Direct losses amount to about USD 10 million per year, associated with casualties or the culling of infected animals. Indirect losses are at least USD 20 million per year, including other economic losses such as e.g. reduced productivity and missed trade opportunities. From a public health perspective, Brucellosis and Tuberculosis lead the list of animal diseases also affecting human health.
Project activities	<p>The implementation of the project intervention is divided into two parts between two implementing agencies SDA NGO and FAO.</p> <p>SDA NGO is responsible for the involvement and strengthening of municipalities, strengthening of veterinary services, and awareness building of the target communities, support during the pilot vaccination campaign. SDA has a permanent presence in the region and is already engaged in supporting the vet system. FAO will have a role to address the policy and scientific issues requiring expertise knowledge and experience in disease prevention, epidemiology, higher level training, laboratory testing, support to the government in the elaboration of the long-term Brucellosis control strategy etc. The project will test livestock development issues comprehensively. The experience will serve as a model for upscale as a whole or in its individual components (economic development of livestock; disease prevention through an improved veterinary service). Once the effectiveness of vaccination approach is proven by the project, the Government will consider an up-scaling of the project to the national level and to define a corresponding strategy.</p>
Project results	The impact of the project at the social level is an increased income (from livestock), and improved public health of the rural population through eradication of Brucellosis (infected humans). The project covers all the 100 villages in the Syunik region with a total population of 49'400 persons and with 48'000 cattle (of which 24'000 cows) and 75'000 small ruminants.