



Sustainable Business in animal health service provision through training for Veterinary Paraprofessionals

The 3 pillars

The model is structured around three key pillars:

1. Continuous Professional Development (CPD) type training on preventive healthcare and building sustainable businesses

A bespoke competency-based further-training model will be developed focusing on both the technical skills required for preventive animal health services, and the communication and business skills required for veterinary paraprofessionals to generate a sustainable business from their service provision. The training curriculum will be demand-driven and tailored to the findings of a detailed and gender-sensitive training needs analysis conducted in each country at the start of the project. Furthermore, it will be aligned with each country's continuous professional development framework for veterinary paraprofessionals.

Blended models will be applied for training delivery including both virtual learning elements and face-to-face training. Development of new training material and implementation of trainings will be conducted with and through local training partners (recognized CPD providers) using a training of trainers' approach. The competencies acquired through training will be recognized through certification (see activities under area 2). In addition to certified training, mentoring models will be developed in order to provide on the spot coaching and support to veterinary paraprofessionals from veterinarians and/or experienced veterinary paraprofessionals.

2. Certification system for veterinary paraprofessional competencies

For each pilot country, a national veterinary paraprofessional competency framework will be co-developed with key stakeholders for validation by the veterinary statutory body. The framework will draw on the OIE veterinary paraprofessional competencies guidelines and be adapted to country specificities (legal framework governing veterinary paraprofessionals and livestock sector environment).

The competency framework will be the basis for recognition through certification of competencies acquired through CPD training and tracked through a [digital training management system](#) to be managed by the veterinary statutory body.

3. Development of an enabling veterinary paraprofessional business environment

A veterinary paraprofessional **public-private multistakeholder platform** will be established in each pilot country in order to develop and agree at national level the principles and plans for veterinary paraprofessional business development. Sustainable business models will focus on: i) building recognition of certified veterinary paraprofessionals among smallholder farmers and linking smallholder farmers with certified veterinary paraprofessionals in their area, ii) connecting certified veterinary paraprofessionals with quality supply chains for veterinary medicines and iii) involving veterinary paraprofessionals in surveillance for infectious disease.

To immerse certified veterinary paraprofessionals in the provision of high-quality services to smallholder farmers, a digital engagement strategy and digital tools will be combined to communicate disease information and vaccine availability in supporting client demands for prevention services. The integration of the system for recognition of services offered by trained veterinary paraprofessionals, linked to national information sources, will improve disease information systems and support the establishment of veterinary paraprofessionals as trusted sources of guidance and services in disease prevention while enhancing their business opportunities.