Introduction

• Livestock remained a most important resources in South Sudan, especially among the agro-pastoralist and pastoralist communities of South Sudan.

• FAO estimated South Sudan livestock population to be 36.3 million head of livestock, placing South Sudan as the seventh largest in Africa.
• Delivery of Animal health services has gone through dramatic transformations between the public and humanitarian sectors since years back to 1956 to 1982 and the 21 years (1983 – 2005) of conflict.

• The persistent conflict has profoundly affected the livestock sector in South Sudan, especially animal health service delivery systems.
Background

• Veterinary Sans Frontiers is one among the livestock strong hold organizations in South Sudan whose focus has been on the vulnerable populations whose livelihoods are livestock based livelihoods.

• In March and April 2022, VSF-Suisse facilitated assessment targeting the Agro-Veterinary Pharmacies in Juba, Unity, NBEG and GPAA
Objectives

• Map the available and operational private sectors in the operational areas of VSF Suisse,
• Understand sources of funds used for establishing the pharmacies,
• Understand challenges linked between the pharmacies and sources of inputs and
• Document challenges facing the private sector and
• Provide recommendations for adoption in developing projects.
Methodology

• A questionnaire was designed to guide the process.
• Field focal persons and Enumerators were identified and trained on the data collection tool.
• Assessment relied on quantitative and qualitative data, primary as well as secondary data.
• The data was then captured and analyzed using Microsoft excel.
Areas of Study

• Assessment covered areas under VSF Suisse, this include:
  – Boma in GPAA,
  – Juba in Central Equatoria,
  – Unity State,
  – Ruweng Administrative Area and
  – Northern Bahr El Ghazal.
Sample Size and Sampling

• Both random and systematic sampling techniques were adopted and applied during the assessment.

• Sample size was designed to be 60 agro-vet pharmacies. However, due to challenges only 55 agro-vet were assessment.
Findings, Interpretations and Discussions
• 48 (85%) of respondents are male and 7 (15%) are female. This implies that, the pharmacies are owned and run by male entrepreneurs.

• 50 (90%) of the respondents are married, 4 (7%) are single and 1 (3%) is widow.

• 45 (82%) of the respondents ages ranged between 18 – 44 years old and 10 (18%) of the respondents ages ranged from 45 years and above
28 (51%) of the respondents have completed University, 15 (28%) completed secondary level (Secondary School Certificate), 5 (9%) completed Primary school level and attended no formal school respectively and 2 (3%) completed other formal trainings such as the vocational and professional trainings provided by Non-Governmental Organizations.
Geographical Distribution of the Pharmacies.

• 27 (49%) pharmacies are located in Juba, 13 (24%) in NBEG, 12 (22%) in Unity and 3 (5%) in Boma of GPAA.

• Majority of the pharmacies are established in Juba, these include public pharmacies.
• 69% providing services through retail model, 26% providing both retail and wholesale models and 5% providing whole sale businesses.

• Most whole sale business are based in Juba only.

• 98% are functioning/operational and 2% not operational/non-functioning.

• Function pharmacies are located in CE (49%), NBeG (24%), Unity (22%) and GPAA – Boma (5%)
Establishment of Veterinary Pharmacies

- 9 (16%) established in 2021,
- 6 (11%) established in 2017,
- 5 (9%) established in 2015, 2016 and 2020 respectively
- 5 (9%) did not respond to this question,
- 4 (7%) are established in 2018 and 2019 respectively
- 3 (5%) are established in 2014 and 2022 respectively
- 2 (4%) are established in 2012 and
- 1 (2%) of pharmacies are established in 1992, 2008, 2009 and 2010 respectively
Ownership, Registration and Working Periods

- 73% registered but operating legally,
- 24% unregistered but operating illegally and
- 3% don’t know whether the pharmacies are registered or not but they remained operational.
- 66% are owned by individuals and operated by themselves and other staff
- while 34% are owned by a group of professionals (2 or more)
• 76% confirmed being trained on business management skills and 24% affirmed not trained on business management skills.

• Majority (90-98%) of the trainings attended by the entrepreneurs were provided by NGOs and learning institutions such as MLLTC.
• 61% replenish their stocks using the returns of their sales, 24% replenished their stocks through support from NGOs, 13% not been able to restock/replenish and 2% of the pharmacies did not fill this session.

• 13% were not able to stock due to inflation, excessive taxes, low turnover/few customers, floods in some of the areas among attributing to inaccessibility and high transportation cost.
• 35% confirm serving between zero (0) to 24 customers in a month,
• 18% serving 25-44 customers,
• 13% receiving 105 customers and above,
• 11% serving between 45-64 customers,
• 11% not sure of number of customers,
• 7% affirmed serving between 85-104 customers and
• 5% serving ranging of 65-84 customers
• 46% of customers are Livestock keeper
• 44% are CAHWS
• 5% are NGOs, Companies and professionals respectively
Majority of the drugs are used in rainy seasons and few in dry seasons.
• 80% of the assessed pharmacies do have record systems for drugs and equipment sold, prices and dates, 20% of the assessed pharmacies do not have record systems.

• This implies that majority of the pharmacies are on right track in relation to business management tools
Veterinary Drugs, equipment and supply chain

Sources of Inputs by Country Chat

- 29% NGOs
- 24% Ethiopia
- 5% Juba (in Country)
- 4% Sudan
- 4% East Africa
- 35% China

Delivery duration of Veterinary consignment

- 31% 1 week
- 29% 2-4 weeks
- 40% 5 weeks and above
55% confirmed that they did not experience stock expiry and 45% affirmed that they have experienced expiry of drugs as the result of low stock turnover among other factors such as inaccessibility and insecurity due to floods, inter and intra communal conflicts as well as rebellions related conflicts.
Antibiotics are the most commonly used with 49%, Anti-helminthes 24%, Ecto-parasiticides 22% and Anti/protozoan 5%.
Challenges and Ways Forward

- Economic and Taxes
- Inaccessibility and Insecurity
- Infrastructure
- Training and Stock Management:
Thanks for Listening

Questions and Answers
Wishing You All Merry Christmas and Prosperous Year 2023 in Advance.

VSF's Family
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