AFRICAN UNION INTERAFRICAN BUREAU FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES | AU-PANVAC | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | World Organisation for Animal Health | Funded by the European Union

Advancing PPR Eradication in Conflict-Affected and Security-Fragile African Union Member States:

A Continental Strategy for Countries with Special Needs

Leveraging Lessons from Rinderpest Eradication and Modern Technologies

The Pan-African Programme (PAP) for the Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) aims to eradicate Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030, but conflict and fragility pose threats to livelihoods. This position paper proposes a strategic framework for eradicating PPR in security-fragile and conflict-affected African Union Member States, using 21st-century innovations and community-driven, conflict-sensitive programming, inspired by rinderpest's successful global eradication.

Key Context

The veterinary services, institutional capacity, and rural livelihoods that rely on small ruminants have been gravely disrupted, eroded, and decimated by armed conflict, insurgency, and forced displacement. Food insecurity, acute malnutrition, and a decrease in household income, particularly among women and children, have resulted from the loss of livestock. An adaptive, inclusive, and technology-enabled approach to disease eradication in fragile environments is necessary to address these challenges.



Strategic Approach

The proposed framework is founded on three principles of adaptive implementation:

1. ***Conflict and Security-Sensitive Programming that fosters operational flexibility,*** mobile vaccination campaigns, and community animal health workers (CAHWs) through coordinated action among humanitarian actors, NGOs, and veterinary services.
2. ***Community Ownership and Trust-Building that integrates PPR interventions with local livelihood and health systems***, assuring transparency and feedback across all implementation levels, and engaging traditional, religious, and youth leaders.
3. ***Technology-Enabled Resilience to strengthen data accuracy***, traceability, and rapid response capacity through the implementation of blockchain-based vaccination certification, mobile surveillance systems, and satellite monitoring.

Partnership and Capacity Development

The strategy underscores the importance of strategic partnerships with NGOs and CSOs that have demonstrated the ability to reach underserved and precarious communities. These partnerships will:

- Expand veterinary outreach to areas that are ungoverned and in conflict.
- Enhance the capacity of local institutions by providing CAHW training, empowering women and youth, and advocating for the community.
- Develop collaborative monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to facilitate learning and accountability.



Expected Outcomes

Through the integration of conflict-sensitive methodologies into the continental PPR eradication strategy, AU-IBAR and its partners will:

- Increase the reach of surveillance and vaccine coverage in vulnerable regions.
- Improve community trust and resilience through inclusive engagement.
- Ensure that no Member State is excluded from the continental eradication initiative.
- Transform fragile contexts from

"last-focus traps" to "quick-win opportunities."

Conclusion

The framework reaffirms the African Union's collective ambition to eradicate PPR by 2030, with the support of its partners and under the leadership of AU-IBAR. This will ensure that all African communities benefit equitably from healthier livestock, enhanced food security, and sustainable livelihoods.

This paper advocates operationalising the Conflict-Sensitive and Fragility-Adapted African Union Strategy for PPR Eradication across all regions of the continent through coordinated continental action, sustained advocacy, and dedicated funding.