



Challenges and Opportunity of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) of Veterinary Domain in Ethiopia

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Abstract

The Public Private Partnership (PPP) is collaborative approach in which the public and private sector share resources, responsibilities and risks to achieve common objectives for continuously service delivery and sustainable benefits. Countries that have been institutionalized PPP by issuing relevant proclamations and application framework based on the priorities of the government; they are getting benefits from implementing it. Through presence of huge potential or Opportunity, the implementation of PPP has been very low in veterinary domain so far in Ethiopia. The aim of the assessment was to identify the challenge and opportunities of veterinary domain service delivery in Ethiopian. The data was collected using open questionnaire distributed via email, and directly via phone call and interview of respondents from Ministry staffs, regional, zonal and district animal health agencies, offices or processes owners, private practitioners. The collected data analyzed using excel spread sheet, tabulated, categorized and displayed as graphs and tables as needed to make it easily understandable. Eighty-one respondents were interviewed using prepared questionnaires. Out of these respondents, 47 were public sectors and 34 were from private sectors. Out of these respondents, 70 (86%) have lack of awareness on importance of PPP in service delivery, 58 (71.6%) believes on absence of legal frame work in the country especially for veterinary domain, 49 (60.5%) complains absence of financial and investment land delivery system, and 15 (18%) absence of PPP responsible body as directorate or case team or unity in Ministry of Agriculture. The opportunity of PPP in Ethiopia found to be presence of PPP proclamation, presence of private and public sectors engaged in veterinary domain service deliver, high demand of service needs and presence sufficient professionals who can participate to fulfil requested demands of the domain. In conclusion, the presence of private and public sectors delivering service, presence of high service demand and implementation possibilities in veterinary domain, government need to develop PPP legal frame work and assign responsible body in Ministry of Agriculture for Veterinary Domain engagement and facilitation of PPP depending on the priority service needed in Ethiopia.

Keywords: Challenge; Public Private Partnership (PPP); Opportunity; Veterinary Domain

Introduction

Ethiopia ranks first in livestock numbers in African continent and fifth in the world [1]. In Ethiopia, livestock contributes to the household in several ways as incomes generation means and for food security or direct source of food (meat, milk, egg and blood), crop production (draft power and manure) and foreign exchange [2]. Generally, the sector contributes 16.5% of the national GDP and 35.6% Agricultural GDP [3]. However, relative to the number of livestock the country earning low income from this sector through marketing of livestock and livestock products due to different challenges. The main problem is the prevalence of different livestock diseases, breed selection problem and managements. Most of ac-

tivities associated with veterinary service delivery owned by government (public). One of the weaknesses of Ethiopian veterinary service that indicated by OIE PVS evaluation report in 2011 was indicated involvement of a very few numbers of private veterinarians in service delivery [5].

In Ethiopia, veterinary service delivery for smallholder livestock keepers and pastoralists is not satisfactory as it delivered by public sector (government sectors) [4]. It is the main challenge to minimizing the impact of diseases on livelihood of community and economy of the country. Owning all veterinary service delivery by government sector (public sector) can't bring what the sector (vet-

erinary service) needs and can't satisfy farmers, pastoralists and livestock producing communities. While the government says the service delivered properly, the livestock producing communities complaining the service delivery in Ethiopia. Even if, different stake holders piloting PPP models in the country; the challenge and opportunities associated with PPP or collaboration is not identified in Ethiopia for veterinary domain activities. The challenge and opportunities of Public Private Partnership (PPP) of veterinary domain activities need to be known or understood in Ethiopia to recommend area that needs attention to strengthen it. Therefore, the aim of this assessment was.

- To identify the challenge and opportunities of veterinary service delivery through Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Ethiopian.
- To recommend the main target areas that needs to be improved or need action to increase Public Private Partnership (PPP) of on Veterinary domain activities.

Material and Methods

Data collection for assessment of PPP challenge and opportunities of veterinary Domain in Ethiopia was performed by collection of information on veterinary domain activities using open questionnaire. The information collected from service delivery participants of public and private sectors working on animal health, animal welfare, and food safety livestock production. The data was collected from Federal Ministry of Agriculture Regional, zonal, District Animal health offices and private sectors of perspective regions. The questionnaire was prepared separately for public and private sectors. The challenge and opportunity associated with PPP was assessed. The interviewed participants were private practitioners (Veterinarian, Veterinary Paraprofessionals, animal production experts and private owners), government sectors employee and authorities (Directors in MoA, Regional and District Animal health head or process owners).

The challenge to establish PPP in veterinary domain was assessed at every stage of the process including policy on PPP of veterinary domain. In addition, the interest of private sector in partnering with the public Veterinary Services, business opportunities they are thinking also accessed. Their suggestion on how they would like to engage and what the government could do to facilitate their engagement in a sustainable way and challenge they faced so far also assessed.

Collected data organized on MS Excel spread sheet and MS word for graph piloting and to tabulate respectively. The graph piloted depending on the respondents answer and appropriateness of the

graph to display the answers. Manual analysis techniques were used on questions answer to extract the most relevant challenge and opportunity of the PPP to tabulate the tables. The challenge variables categorize as Public Private Partnership challenge and Veterinary service challenge. The result organized as table, graph and written statement format depending on the way that they can be easily understood. Challenges and opportunity of Public Private Partnership (PPP) was identified from the interview. The result summarized using tables and graphs based on respondent's response on each activities of the domain. The activities considered were Veterinary Service delivery, animal production and animal origin food processing premises. The challenge and opportunity of PPP associated with these activities was assessed by interviewing the employees or owners or managers of these sectors.

Result

Eighty-one respondents were interviewed, out of these respondents 34 were private sector and 47 were governmental sectors. Out of these respondents 70 (86%) requested the PPP explanation and its importance (lack of awareness on importance of PPP in veterinary domain), 58 (71.6%) absence of legal framework in the country, 49 (60.5%) financial and working area (Investment land) challenge, and 15 (18%) raised absence of PPP responsible body as directorate or case team to facilitate the activities of PPP in ministry of agriculture. All of the respondents 15 (100%) that mentioned absence of PPP responsible body in MoA were from public sectors. The Public Private Partnership (PPP) for veterinary domain activities in Ethiopia is new idea relative to other activities.

Veterinary service deliver owned only by public sector with little private sector engagement so far which is one of weakness of Ethiopian. These are still weakness of the veterinary service delivery in Ethiopia. The involvement of private sectors on the veterinary service delivery is limited to few activities. The public sector takes leading role of veterinary clinical service in the country. Almost all clinical service for large animal is public sector with little engagement of private sectors in cities. The government delivers service using veterinarians, Veterinary Para Professionals (VPP) and Community Animal Health workers (CAHWs. CAHWs are more important in pastoral area of the country as service delivery unity in a community. However, the complain of clinical service gaps with high demand of service needs from livestock producing communities (pastoralists, farmers and livestock owners) continued.

The private sectors service delivery mostly in cities for pets, working animals or Equines and few dairy cows but they are not well organized. The private sectors are playing important role for

veterinary drug importation, distribution and retailers. Market Authorization (MA) and quality control of the VMP to be imported and distributed is the responsibility of Public sector (Veterinary Drugs and Animal Feed Control and Administration Authority-VDFACA) collaboratively with regional and zonal animal health offices and agencies as public sector.

Challenge of PPP in Ethiopia

The challenge associated with Public Private Partnership (PPP) of veterinary domain identified in Ethiopia through assessment was absence of legal framework for Veterinary Domain PPP, absence of financial support and investment land, poor awareness of public and private sectors collaboration and absence of responsible body in Ministry of Agriculture to benefit from Public Private Partnership of veterinary domain. The absence of legal frame work in the country resulted in the separate engagement (dispersed or collaborated service delivery) of sectors, challenge of preventing illegal activities especially in veterinary service delivery and most veterinary Service Delivery by public sector.

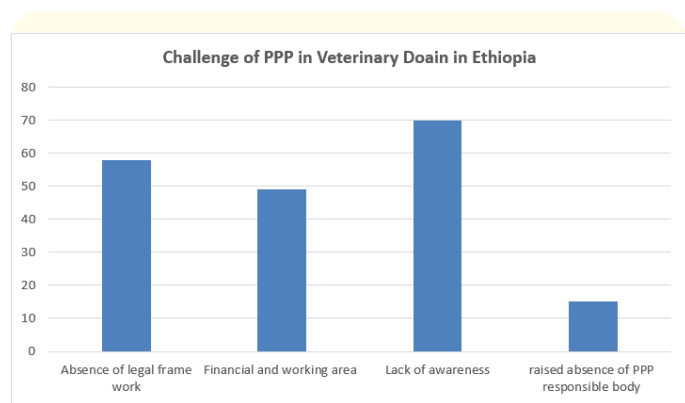


Figure 1

Opportunities of PPP in Ethiopia

The identified opportunities of Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Ethiopia was presence of PPP Policy and Proclamation, high demand of veterinary domain services, presence of private and public sectors delivering service in the country with few area of collaboration and presence of high number of professionals in the country that can support service delivery as PPP or other means of engagement.

The veterinary domain activities performed if and only if we have sufficient professionals on the subject matter. Several universities are graduating veterinarians, VPP and Animal production experts every year which could be a resource in the country. The presence of these professionals with high livestock resources in

Ethiopia enables full engagement of experts either as public or private sector or as the private practitioners. These experts can play important role of increasing production and productivities of live-stock’s, to satisfy customer needs and building national economy of the country.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Ethiopian government veterinary service delivery is not satisfactory. It is mandatory to share same activities for private sectors. The 2011 World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) Performance of Veterinary Service (PVS) evaluation recommended the private sector engagement. Since then, Ethiopian government developed veterinary rationalization road map towards to open the get for private engagement. The model and the way how to engage private sectors expected to be PPP or outsourcing services. In Ethiopia, as we have different challenges, we have also opportunities of Public Private Partnership (PPP) activities of veterinary domain. To tackle identified PPP challenges of veterinary domain and to benefit from opportunities we have, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) need to establish responsible body of PPP directorate or at least case team as soon as possible. The assigned team or directors can facilitate the establishment of legal framework collaboratively with governmental, nongovernmental organizations and other stake holders who are working on PPP of the domain. In the ministry, single person assigned as focal person of PPP with additional activities. This focal person can’t carry out all the activities to support the PPP improvement in the ministry because PPP is not the only sole activity of the focal person since he/she is also responsible to carry out other additional activities animal health service in ministry. PPP is broad activity and needs full engagement of teams to prepare documents, pursue its approval and share it with regions after approval. In addition, awareness creation on importance of PPP and capacity building for regions and stake holders is responsibility of this team or directorate. The Author recommend establishment of PPP in ministry at least as case team, if possible as directorate/Desk under livestock resource development state minister. Establishing PPP responsible body as directorate or case team will create enabling environments that encourage effective, efficient and sustainable PPP of veterinary domain in Ethiopia. The government also needs to provide evidence and share in the designing of policy proposals with relevant private sectors, stake holders to develop better policies. In Ethiopia, the Public Private Partnership (PPP) in veterinary domain is new in the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). Therefore, the government need to develop legal frame work for veterinary domain by clearly defining role and responsibility of each partners, establish PPP directorate or at least PPP Case team/Desk that facilitate establishment and implementa-

tion of PPP in veterinary Domain to fulfill all currently identified challenges or gaps. The stakeholders to provide financial support as needed by guiding them on Private Public Partnership (PPP) collaboration for full engagement.

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