

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABILITY AND QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY CAHWS

To make CAHW programmes successful and sustainable, an enabling institutional framework needs to be in place and applied. Based on the 7 pillars discussed in the **Handbook for planning and managing CAHW programmes**, the following recommendations have been formulated:

FOR **VETERINARY STATUTORY BODIES** to build a national activity and training framework for CAHWs:

- 1 Define scope & supervision:** define authorised and prohibited activities of CAHWs and how these activities are to be supervised.
- 2 Set national training standards:** entry criteria, training content & skills, training techniques and assessment methods. Review periodically. → *cfr. WOAHA Competency and Curricula Guidelines for CAHWs*
- 3 Design continuing-education system:** define objectives and modalities for continuing education.
- 4 Accredite trainers:** skills profile, ToT programme, national trainer register.
- 5 License CAHWs** that meet national training, assessment and supervision requirements. Adopt sanctions in the event of professional misconduct.

FOR **NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES AND LINE MINISTRIES** to regulate CAHWs and ensure compliance with the veterinary legislation:

- 1 Set up a national database of active CAHWs authorised to operate**, with their location and the identity of their supervisor.
- 2 Create - if feasible - a “single window” approval desk** to regulate training and deployment of new CAHWs.
- 3 Formalise institutional recognition of CAHWs at national and local level.**
- 4 Enable private-sector takeover:** clarify public vs. private roles, foster Public-Private Partnerships.
- 5 Strengthen the disease surveillance system at national and local level**, to be able to follow up on reports made by CAHWs.



FOR **PRIVATE, PUBLIC AND CSO INITIATIVES** to train and deploy CAHWs:

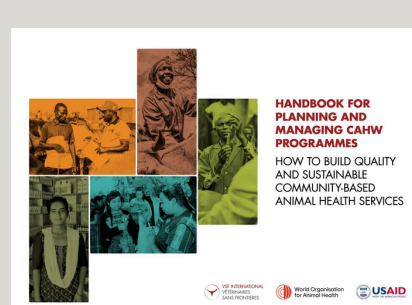
- 1 Start with context analysis:** map needs & existing actors. Don't set up parallel systems: strengthen existing services.
- 2 Prioritise quality over numbers:** address dropout causes; link trained CAHWs to vets/VPPs for supplies & mentoring.
- 3 Comply with national rules:** coordinate with authorities; secure licences.
- 4 Formalise supervisor agreements:** roles, responsibilities, area of operation. Use ICTs to facilitate field supervision.
- 5 Plan long-term & participatory:** allocate time to the participatory design of the system; budget for community awareness-raising on a sustained basis over a long period; sequence training and use participative training approaches; put in place community savings mechanisms and revolving funds for the purchase and renewal of equipment.
- 6 Adopt sustainable business models:** promote service contracts between a group of livestock keepers, CAHWs and their supervisors; support creation of CAHW cooperatives.

FOR **DONORS / FINANCIAL PARTNERS:**

- 1 Fund adequate time & M&E:** allow for community buy-in, authority engagement, impact assessments.
- 2 Support the development of private vet practices/pharmacies:** facilitate access to loans, train managers in supply & finance.
- 3 Avoid kit hand-outs:** let CAHWs replenish their kits; analyse causes of CAHW inactivity and redirect support.

This infographic is extracted from VSF International's **Handbook for planning and managing CAHW programmes**:

→ <http://vsf-international.org/handbook-cahw-programmes/>



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