



Process case study

Veterinary voucher scheme in Kenya

To overcome common problems associated with free distribution of veterinary drugs by emergency programmes, and also to involve the private sector, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) piloted a voucher scheme in north-western Kenya. Vouchers were given to selected families, who could exchange them for specific types of treatments provided by private Community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) and veterinary assistants. The vouchers were valued at 1,000 Kenyan shillings (US\$14) and were limited to the use of four types of drug. The CAHWs and veterinary assistants then received payment plus their service charge from a private veterinarian in exchange for the vouchers. In turn, the private veterinarian was reimbursed by ICRC and added their own service charge. The scheme covered 500 households, equivalent to around 3,000 people.

The advantages included the targeting of vulnerable households using a strong community-based process, plus delivery of the service by a relatively efficient and pre-existing private network of veterinary-supervised CAHWs. The CAHWs had received prior training according to the guidelines of the Kenya Veterinary Board.

The disadvantages included a fairly lengthy time investment at the design stage, including the need to set up detailed procedures and formats for administering and monitoring the scheme. Given the potential need to address a variety of health problems in different species of livestock, the range of drugs needs to be expanded beyond four products. In turn, this further complicates the design and administration of the scheme.

Source: Mutungi, P.M. (2005) External Evaluation of the ICRC Veterinary Vouchers System for Emergency Intervention in Turkana and West Pokot Districts, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Nairobi.

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