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LIVESTOCK VACCINE INNOVATION FUND (LVIF)

Creating a women centered private sector livestock vaccine delivery model

Kenya | Rwanda | Uganda

2019 - 2023

Empowered Voices for Livestock Health and Wellbeing
Empowering women’s participation in livestock vaccination in East Africa

~450 million women represent ⅔ of low-income livestock keepers. Small livestock (goats, sheep, chickens and swine) are important sources of income for women smallholder livestock farmers in Africa. Livestock diseases prevent women from maximizing production earnings. Over the past four years, the SheVax+ Project has focused on reducing barriers for women to access livestock vaccines, and creating a holistic and sustainable, women-centered entrepreneurship model that increases livestock vaccine access and adoption by women smallholder livestock farmers, increasing livestock productivity and elevating their economic status and that of their families and communities. Our gender transformative model aimed to change gender relations, and positions of women horizontally and vertically in the Livestock Vaccine Value Chain (LVVC), and create entry points for women, so they can influence decision making and policies to enhance their ability to shape their lives.
Since 2019, SheVax+ and its partners have been testing models in specific sectors to increase vaccination against preventable diseases in livestock owned by women, and to expand the quality of participation and benefits for women throughout the livestock vaccine value chain (LVVC) in Kenya, Uganda, and Rwanda. SheVax+ has organized gender training for men and women to change beliefs and behaviors that affect women’s decision-making, with regards to vaccine use, access to training and livestock ownership. Through SheVax+, women are empowered to take on LVVC leadership positions with the aim to create a team of entrepreneurial women who will move further up the value chain into vaccine distribution and manufacturing.

**Impact**

- **1,200 Vaxxer calendars** have been disseminated
- **29 AHSPs** have been trained and equipped to serve **140,000 households**
- **Over 1,500 people** have received animal health training
- **$20k** worth of poultry & goat **vaccines** (ND, PPR) availed to women in rural areas
- **Over 450 women** have been trained in group formation and networking
- **33 solar fridges** installed in rural communities for livestock vaccines
Outcomes

Women are being trained as animal health services providers (AHSPs) and provided with an initial kit of drugs and vaccines, and solar fridges for vaccine cold storage to boost vaccine delivery and access amongst women. AHSPs and key partners (government vets, community development officers and private sector) are being trained to enhance understanding of gender issues for improved communication with women farmers, and to advocate for policies and activities to benefit women and men. AHSPs provide gender and animal health training to communities every two weeks and provide vaccination and animal health-related services. Our end line results demonstrate the following information among women smallholder farmers:

- **76% increase** in access to livestock vaccines over last 12 months
- **80% vaccinated** their chickens against ND in last 12 months
- **53% vaccinated** their goats against CCPP/PPR
- **79%** had access to training in poultry diseases
- **74%** had access to info about poultry health and vaccination
- **62% increase** in info about goat health and vaccination
- **72% increase** in access to animal health service providers
- **8 manuscripts** published & **4 policy briefs** shared