

PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



Public-Private Partnerships and perspectives in the veterinary domain



PERSPECTIVES

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AROUND THE WORLD

In Tunisia, the sanitary mandate is governed by legislation. The sanitary mandate is an agreement between the government's Veterinary Services and accredited private veterinarians, which enables the Tunisian Government to provide vaccination campaigns against regulated animal diseases, such as foot and mouth disease (FMD), free of charge to all farmers. This programme was launched in 2006.

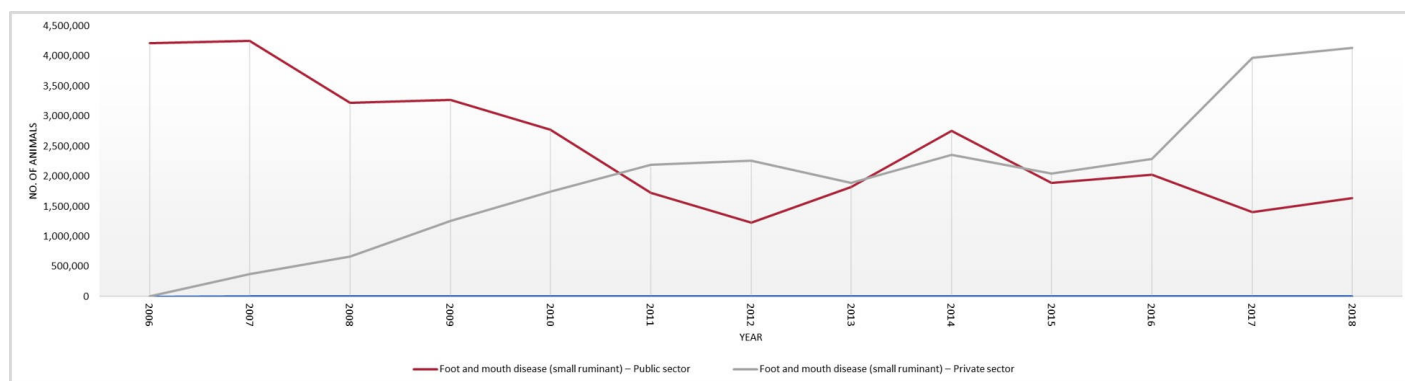
At the beginning of this public–private partnership (PPP), there were ten private veterinarians in six pilot governorates. Today, among 609 private veterinarians, 245 have a sanitary mandate to conduct vaccination campaigns.

The sanitary mandate programme has allowed the development of a progressive 'win-win' collaboration

In the last decade, the growing responsibilities of the Tunisian Government's Veterinary Services have been amplified by multiple global trends, especially increasing threats from transboundary animal diseases. Moreover, declining budgets allocated to Veterinary Services have made disease control challenging. The sanitary mandate programme has allowed the development of a progressive 'win-win' collaboration and partnership between the public and private veterinary sectors in the field of prophylactic vaccination of small ruminants.

As a result of this partnership, immunisation coverage against notifiable diseases for small ruminants, such as FMD, has steadily increased from 48% in 2006 to 75% in 2018. In addition, the duration of vaccination campaigns has been considerably shortened (60 days instead of 120 days).

Cost–benefit analysis has also demonstrated that there was a net benefit to the state budget of US\$ 0.045 for each vaccinated animal [1].



Evolution of the participation of the public and private sector in FMD vaccination campaigns. © General Directorate of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Tunisia

In addition, this programme has created employment opportunities for young graduate veterinarians. In fact, it is one of the main driving forces to encourage young veterinarians to take up private practice in under-served rural areas.

The implementation of the sanitary mandate is a way of ensuring the sustainable delivery of veterinary service activities.



Private veterinarian who holds a sanitary mandate vaccinating livestock against FMD in Béja Governorate. © Hajer Kilani

The implementation of the sanitary mandate has been successful in many areas and the results are considered satisfactory. This is a practical way to ensure the sustainable delivery of veterinary service activities.

The involvement of the private sector can be extended to different areas, such as disease investigation (collecting samples during outbreaks), diagnosing animal tuberculosis and food safety.

Finally, the sustainability of the programme is affected by its financing. In Tunisia, this programme depends exclusively on public funding. For this reason, to ensure the sustainable delivery of veterinary service activities, a special animal health fund is needed.

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AROUND THE WORLD

► SUCCESS STORIES

Sanitary mandate in the field of animal disease control

SUMMARY

In Tunisia, the implementation of the sanitary mandate has been successful in several areas and the results are considered satisfactory. This is a way to ensure the sustainable delivery of veterinary service activities.

KEYWORDS

#brucellosis, #foot and mouth disease (FMD), #public-private partnership, #sanitary mandate, #Tunisia, #vaccination, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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