Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

Project Fact Sheet

Palestinian Brucellosis Control Program II (PBCP II)

THEMATICAL AREA
Production Capital / Poverty reduction

SECTOR / SUB SECTOR
livestock health and livestock products

PROJECT AIM (OVERALL OBJECTIVE)
‘To contribute to a measurable reduction of the causes and incidence of Brucellosis in small ruminants, predominantly, sheep and goats, as well as humans in the occupied Palestinian territories’

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The project intends to continue the efforts made after implementing the first phase of Palestinian Brucellosis Control Program (PCBP) to control the Brucellosis disease, as recommended by the international organizations (FAO, OIE and WHO). The first phase which was funded by the Government of Spain for a total duration of five years and implemented in two phases (a first phase of two years and a second phase of three) concluded by the end of 2005. However, in order to sustain the results achieved and to further progress towards international standards of prevalence, it is necessary to capitalize on achievements made during the previous phases.

The objective of the present project is to continue reducing the prevalence of Brucellosis infection in animals to a minimum level through mass vaccination of all flocks, thus reducing the number of human cases by boosting the animals’ level of immunity and reducing contamination. In the second stage, the project aims at developing and implementing new policies geared towards the eradication of the disease. By doing so, the project seeks to strengthen certain components related to ensuring proper management of national veterinary services capable of organizing an intensive and sustained control and surveillance programme.

Purpose: Reducing the incidence of Brucellosis in animal and humans through yearly mass vaccination campaigns and building the public and private institutional, human and physical capacities to control the disease.

OBJECTIVES
- To reduce human and animal brucellosis incidence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to its minimum level through mass vaccination of all flocks.
- To develop and improve the institutional capacities of the Palestinian Authority to control and monitor the Brucellosis.

IMPACT STATEMENT
The prevalence of Brucellosis infection in animals are reduced to a minimum level (less than 2%, as recommended by FAO, OIE and WHO)
PROGRESS UP TO DATE

- Reactivate Brucellosis Control Programme
- Project staff to supervise the overall implementation of the programme are recruited and on board.
- Fostering coordination and communication between West Bank and Gaza Strip Vet Teams for the purpose of the campaign.
- Based on veterinaries and farmers perceptions, there is a significant reduction in the incidence of Brucellosis infection in sheep and goats in the vaccinated area.
- Strengthening laboratory services to support surveillance activities and preventive services through sending five lab technicians from veterinary directorate from West Bank and Gaza strip to Jordan to get training in bacterial isolation and Brucella diagnostic in cooperation with Jordan University of Science and technology (JUST) for the period of ten days according to the attached training schedule.
- Purchase/ rehabilitate all equipments/ material necessary for the execution the mass vaccination campaign, (laboratory equipments and material, (disposable materials and lab chemical), fuel coupons, refrigeration equipment for vaccine storage, and all vehicles (19 vehicles) and 3 renting cars for Gaza veterinary staff belonging to the veterinary services and communication equipment- mobiles)
- The MIS and network system in the veterinary main office in Ramallah to be used by the veterinary staff is installed and in using by all veterinary directorate.
- The KAP Study to determine the levels of knowledge, attitude and practice among farmers and consumers regarding Brucellosis was in printing stage.
- In order to increase the level of immunity against Brucellosis, mass vaccination campaign of sheep and goats regardless of age and sex were started on March, 16, 2008 in all districts in West bank and Gaza strip as an annual campaign of Brucellosis control programme,
- Increasing awareness on the Brucellosis disease by providing information about transmission, detection, and prevention among the farmers, herders and local consumers.

CONRAINTS (if any)

- The West Bank had one of the highest incidence rates of Brucellosis in humans in comparison to all other Mediterranean countries, posing a severe threat to the livestock sector.
- the habits of milk product consumption within the Palestinian population.
- Israeli military actions as damages to vaccines and arrests staff which occurred along with severe mobility restrictions.

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

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