

PVS Evaluation Follow-Up mission report

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Human, Physical
and Financial
Resources

Technical Authority
and Capability

Interaction with
Interested Parties

Access to Markets



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**OIE PVS EVALUATION FOLLOW-UP
REPORT OF THE
VETERINARY SERVICES OF
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
AFGHANISTAN**
(with Peste des Petits Ruminants global eradication programme¹
supplement)

(12th – 24th April 2017)

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Disclaimer

This mission has been conducted by a Team of OIE PVS Pathway experts authorised by the OIE. However, the views and the recommendations in this Report are not necessarily those of the OIE.

An Approval and confidentiality form is provided by the OIE along with this Report where the level of confidentiality can be selected by the country.

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¹ This mission is notable as one of OIE's pilot PVS Pathway missions to trial a separate supplementary analysis of PPR management in the country as aligned with PPR Global Eradication Programme. Relevant findings are contained in a new PPR Annex to the report.

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List of acronyms, abbreviations and/or special terms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AHA	Animal Health Authority
AHD	Animal Health Directorate
AHDP	Animal Health Development Programme (EU support)
AHSP	Animal Health Support Programme
AHVLA	Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency, (UK)
AI	Avian Influenza
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
AMIP	Agriculture Market Infrastructure Project
APHA	Animal and Plant Health Agency (formerly AHVLA)
ATAR	Afghanistan Trade and Revenue project (USAID)
AVA	Afghanistan Veterinary Association
AVPL	Animal Vaccine Production Laboratory
BIP	Border Inspection Posts
BVW	Basic Veterinary Worker
CARD-F	Comprehensive Agriculture and Rural Development Facility
CBR	Capacity Building Reform
CC	Critical competency
CCPP	Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia
CE	Continuing Education
CED	Central Epidemiology Department
CLAP	Community Livestock and Agriculture Project (IFAD funded)
CVD&RL	Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
DAIL	Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DMEC	Department of Monitoring, Evaluation & Coordination (AHA)
DVM	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immuno-sorbent Assay
ENP	Enquiry and Notification Point
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FMD	Foot and Mouth Disease
GCES	Global Control and Eradication Strategy
GC/MS	Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry
GDAH&P	General Directorate of Animal Health and Production
GIS	Geographic Information System
GLP	Good Laboratory Practice
GMP	Good Management Practice
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
ISO	International Standards Organisation
IT	Information Technology
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
KUFVS	Kabul University Faculty of Veterinary Sciences
LFWG	Legal Framework Working Group
MADERA	Mission d'AIDE au Développement des Economies Rurales en Afghanistan
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
MoE	Ministry of Education
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation

MoCI	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MoPH	Ministry of Public Health
NADF	National Agriculture Development Framework
NBCP	National Brucellosis Control Programme
NCADPP	National Comprehensive Agriculture Development Priority Programme (2016-2020)
ND	Newcastle Disease
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NHLP	National Horticulture and Livestock Project (WB support)
NLDP	National Livestock Development Programme
NPP	National Priority Programme (within NADF)
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health
OIE-PVS	OIE Tool for the evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services
PALAD	Policy and Legal Advisory Department
PCP-FMD	Progressive Control Programme for Foot & Mouth Disease
PIN	People in Need
PMAT	PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool
PVEO	Provincial Veterinary Epidemiology Officer
PVLO	Provincial Veterinary Laboratory Officer
PVMEO	Provincial Veterinary Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
PVPHO	Provincial Veterinary Public Health Officer
PPR	Peste des Petit Ruminants
PVO	Provincial Veterinary Officer
QA	Quality Assurance
RADP-N/S	Regional Agriculture Development Project (North & South) USAID
RT-PCR	Real Time-Polymerase Chain Reaction
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SMCS	Sanitary Mandate Contract Scheme
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TA	Technical Assistance
TADs	Transboundary Animal Diseases
USAID	United States Assistance for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VETSERV	Drugs Import Company for private Veterinary Services
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
VPH	Veterinary Public Health
VPH&QD	Veterinary Public Health and Quarantine Department
VPPs	Veterinary para-professionals
VS	Veterinary Service(s)
VSb	Veterinary Statutory Body
WAHIS	World Animal Health Information System (OIE)
WB	World Bank
WTO	World Trade Organization
ZDCC	Zoonotic Disease Control Committee

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PART I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I.1 Introduction

Following a request to the OIE from the Government of Afghanistan, a Follow-up evaluation of the Veterinary Services, based on the methodology defined in the OIE PVS Manual of the Assessor (Volumes 1 and 2 (2013)), was conducted from 12th to 24th April 2017 by an OIE PVS Evaluation Team of two independent OIE certified PVS experts and one Observer. The Observer, Dr Giancarlo Ferrari was selected by the OIE to participate in this Follow-up evaluation in order to undertake a concurrent evaluation of the preparedness of the Animal Health Authority (AHA) to engage in the OIE/FAO supported programme for the Global Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR). This mission is notable as one of OIE's pilot PVS Pathway missions to trial a separate supplementary analysis of PPR management in the country as aligned with PPR Global Eradication Programme. Relevant findings are contained in a new PPR Appendix to the report. The results of that PPR-specific evaluation are provided in special Appendix 1 of this report.

The evaluation mission began on Wednesday 12th April with the OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-up Opening Meeting presentation attended by most senior members of staff of the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production (GDAH&P). The Opening meeting was followed by a short meeting with Dr Miakhail Jahangir, Dr Abul Hussain (focal point) and senior staff in the Animal Health Authority (AHA) to finalise the Draft Mission Programme and make final logistical arrangements for the Team's planned field missions.

During the mission the Team met with His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock (MAIL) and a group of his senior advisors and livestock project representatives and, on the first day of the mission, the Deputy Minister of Administration and Finance, (MAIL). At the meeting with His Excellency the Minister, the Team explained the importance of the OIE PVS Pathway activities that have been and are continuing to be undertaken and their relevance to the Veterinary Services (VS) of Afghanistan. His Excellency the Minister thanked the Team for their willingness to visit Afghanistan and for the assistance that OIE has given to the VS especially in the development of capacity. In this regard he explained that the Ministry is acutely aware that the capacity of many of the existing staff of the Ministry fell short of the required standards to deliver a professional service. His Excellency went on to explain that the new government under the guidance of President Ashraf Ghani was engaged in a process of implementation of a number of reforms, amongst which, the Capacity Building Reform (CBR), implemented by the Civil Service Commission will ensure a transparent process of recruitment for the professional cadres of staff at the Ministry.

Due to limitations imposed by a heightened level of security in Afghanistan, the Team was only able to visit a limited number of sites in the field and meet with fewer relevant stakeholders in Kabul and at other locations than was the case during the previous PVS Evaluation mission in 2010. Thus, the numbers of sites visited compared with the number of existing sites for each area of interest within the veterinary domain has been less than would normally be the case for a PVS evaluation mission.

Nevertheless, the Team was able to meet with a wide variety of key informants and all of the senior managers of the Animal Health Authority (AHA)² Directorates at the Dar-ul-Aman

² Throughout this report there are references to the Animal Health Directorate (AHD) and the Animal Health Authority (AHA). The former is the name of the public sector Veterinary Services (VS) that has been in common use since the beginning of the new Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in 2003 and is still the name used in the current *Tashkiel*, the officially recognised organisational chart and list of current employees used by the Civil Service Commission and MAIL. The latter, the AHA, is the new name of the public sector VS which came into

General Directorate of Animal Health & Production (GDAH&P) complex. The Team also visited 3 private veterinary clinics, 1 abattoir operated by the Municipal authorities in Herat, 2 commercial abattoirs under construction, 2 dairy processing plants and one intestinal casing processing plant. Visits were made to three of the eight Veterinary Faculties in Afghanistan as well as two veterinary para-professional³ (VPP) training institutes.

A one day Conference entitled “Harmonization of VFUs and the Public Private partnership” held at the Ministry headquarters in Kabul, allowed the Team to meet with most of the important NGO representatives involved in establishing and developing the private sector Veterinary Field Unit (VFU) network covering almost all areas of Afghanistan. This provided insights into attitudes of personnel who develop and implement the privately operated field veterinary services and interact with private veterinarians and VPPs, including so called “Assistant DVMs” (veterinary assistants) and “paravets”, from all over Afghanistan.

The mission concluded in Kabul with a closing meeting on the 24th April 2017 involving public and private stakeholders at which a comprehensive analysis of the findings of this PVS Follow-up evaluation mission were compared with the findings and recommendations made during the 2010 PVS evaluation mission. For each of the critical competencies highlighted during this analysis some new provisional recommendations were also presented and discussed with the meeting participants.

At the request of the OIE, this PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission and subsequent approval of the OIE Delegate to Afghanistan, has included a specific component to assess the preparedness of the Animal Health Authority to participate in the joint FAO / OIE Global PPR Eradication Programme. During the closing meeting, key findings of the PPR component of the mission were also presented.

1.2 Key findings of the evaluation

Since this report is for an OIE PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission, findings and recommendations are presented in the context of the PVS Evaluation mission of October 2010. Thus, for each of the four fundamental components, a comparison is made between the findings and recommendations of the 2010 PVS Evaluation and the findings of this Follow-up evaluation, indicating where progress has or has not been made.

1.2.A Human, physical and financial resources

Fundamental Component I of this evaluation explores the capabilities of the Veterinary Services (VS)⁴ in terms of human capacity and capabilities, access to and suitability of physical resources and the adequacy, sustainability and management of financial resources.

As was recorded in 2010, there is still a serious shortage of well qualified veterinarians to take up vacant positions at the central and provincial animal health authorities. It is not well understood why so few recently qualified veterinary graduates are joining the veterinary profession. Also as noted in 2010, graduates from the three better veterinary faculties lack some essential knowledge and skills to

being with the enactment of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act in July 2016 and is now the official name of the public VS.

³ The term “veterinary para-professional (VPP) throughout this report is used to denote three categories of para-professional collectively, including: Veterinary assistants, holding a 2 year diploma awarded by an Agriculture & Veterinary Training Institute, “paravets”, who hold a 5.5 month certificate in largely practical animal health care awarded by an NGO training centre and Basic Veterinary Worker (BVW), a holder of a one month training certificate in basic animal health care.

⁴ use of the term “Veterinary Services” is as defined by the OIE (see Glossary in Appendix 3) and includes both public and private veterinary services

fulfil requirements of the state veterinary services or to enter into private veterinary practice. The recent expansion of the number of veterinary faculties in Afghanistan from three to eight will almost certainly result in surplus numbers of inadequately trained veterinarians many of whom will not find jobs as veterinarians or meet OIE “Day one Competencies” to properly perform the jobs they do find.

Regarding veterinary para-professionals (VPPs), the situation is similar for veterinary assistants graduating with a diploma in Animal Health from one of 18 Agricultural and Veterinary Institutes. In general, these colleges also lack the required facilities and technically qualified teaching staff to provide students with the full range of knowledge and skills to prepare them for work in public or private sector positions. There are currently very few positions for veterinary assistants in the state veterinary service and very few veterinary assistants are joining the private VFU network. These findings reflect an ongoing serious weakness with veterinary education in terms of both the quality of the graduates being produced and the quantity that may be absorbed on the job market in Afghanistan.

Little progress has been made on the 2010 PVS Evaluation recommendation that the AHA should consult with all relevant stakeholders from public and private sectors to set priorities and define detailed strategies for the control of priority animal diseases and zoonoses and the organization of public hygiene activities in conformity with acceptable standards. Although stakeholder associations are emerging (e.g. the Veterinary and Agricultural Medicines and Seeds Association for drug importers and manufacturers), little evidence of coordination with other relevant institutions was found. Indeed, most disease control activities remain largely driven by global animal disease control programmes (PPR and FMD) or donor interests (National Brucellosis Control Programme (NBCP)). However, in the case of FMD prevention, the FAO has negotiated, on behalf of the Animal Health Authority with the Dairy Union to vaccinate dairy cattle belonging to its members. The AHA has developed a strong working relationship with the Ministry of Public Health through the establishment of a Zoonotic Disease Control Committee. Ongoing projects include the National Brucellosis Control Programme and a public awareness campaign for prevention of infection with Congo Crimean Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) being conducted during the months leading up to the Eid-ul-Qurban festival.

With regard to physical resources, the 2010 PVS Evaluation found the central headquarters to be well equipped for office space, access to computers and internet and laboratory equipment, most of which had been provided to the former AHD by the European Union (EU) funded Animal Health Development Programme (AHDP). Concerns were expressed in 2010 regarding the maintenance and eventual replacement of equipment and facilities; however since 2010 the MAIL has taken over provision of internet services at the GDAH&P and has maintained or replaced some office furniture and equipment using funds from a variety of sources, albeit mostly donor funded projects. The CVD&RL has obtained a good share of the 2017 Development budget of the AHA to replace equipment and purchase reagents and consumables. Infrastructures, facilities and equipment seen at the regional veterinary offices visited were also largely sufficient for the current levels of services being undertaken.

In terms of financial resources, as in 2010, the situation is not at all satisfactory. There is still a serious shortage of funds to allow the AHA to perform most of its core functions effectively. As in 2010, almost all of the current activities of the AHA are supported by donor funded projects with resulting risks to the sustainability of core programmes.

The MAIL Directorates operate under two budgets, an “Operational budget” and a “Development budget”. The former is more or less fixed for each location, being

calculated from the number and grades of personnel employed on the *Tashkiel*⁵ (Organogram/list of employees used by the Civil Service Commission) and is largely used for personal emoluments including field allowances. The Development budget is supposed to cover all other costs, including capital investment in infrastructure and equipment and consumables, maintenance costs, and field expenses related to all other activities. However, access to the Development budget for Provincial Animal Health Authorities is complex and is strongly influenced by political decision makers. The actual funds allocated to the central and Provincial Animal Authorities by the Ministry of Finance fall very short of what is requested and is insufficient for the Authorities to carry out most of their core functions effectively. Almost all field activities conducted by the Provincial Veterinary Authorities is financed by donor funded projects. The reliance on donor support for carrying out almost all core functions of the public Veterinary Services is a serious issue but is not likely to be addressed in the near future, since the government of Afghanistan is unable to generate sufficient revenue.

In 2011 a comprehensive analysis of the recommendations made in the OIE PVS Evaluation Report of 2010 with the assistance Technical Assistance (TA) of the AHDP II was undertaken. All recommendations of the Report were translated into actions to be undertaken by the various Directorates and Departments of the former AHD. A Table of recommendations was prepared and translated into Dari. Some of these activities were incorporated into the annual workplan of the AHDP project and progress in achievement of these activities was monitored using the AHDP logframe indicators (AHDP 6 monthly Reports 2011/2012)

1.2.B Technical authority and capability

A key achievement since 2010 is the development of capability of the Central Veterinary Diagnostic & Research Laboratory (CVD&RL). It was especially pleasing to note the introduction of a QA system and the adoption of more than 200 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Standards of management come very close to those of laboratories in other countries that have acquired international accreditation. The CVD&RL is encouraged to continue to introduce QA procedures to eventually gain international accreditation, when this becomes available, as this will help to satisfy an increasing demand for laboratory support for the export certification of animal products. Disappointingly, the capacity of provincial veterinary laboratories is not so well advanced, especially with regard to adherence to SOPs ensuring QA, handling of records and the transfer of samples from the field to the CVD&RL for confirmation of suspected outbreaks of notifiable animal diseases.

In 2010, concerns were raised regarding the sustainability of the laboratory services and the possibility of introducing fees for private good services. These concerns were taken up by the Director of the laboratory who requested that a feasibility study be undertaken to explore possibilities for the CVD&RL to become financially autonomous. Accordingly, a study was undertaken with the assistance of the EU Transition project and a number of options were recommended. The MAIL is strongly encouraged to continue to pursue this avenue to ensure that this centre of excellence continues to function as donor support is gradually withdrawn.

A similar study undertaken on behalf of the Animal Vaccine Production Laboratory (AVPL) belonging to the AHA makes somewhat risky assumptions on the potential market share that the AVPL might capture. The MAIL is encouraged to take decisive action rather than continue to support an institution with such limited resources that it

⁵ The "*Tashkiel*" is the name given to the official establishment of the staffing levels a Ministry as recognised by the Civil Service Commission.

cannot hope to expand its production in terms of quality and quantity of locally produced vaccines in line with somewhat ambitious market projections.

Border control for the importation of animals and animal products remains weak. Although the recently enacted Animal Health (Veterinary) Act provides the AHA with the necessary powers and authority to regulate the import and export of animals and commodities, the capacity of the VPH&QD to manage border control activities is extremely weak. This is due to insufficient numbers of appropriately qualified staff, lack of infrastructure within controlled customs areas at border crossings for the detention of perishable goods and lack of sampling and testing equipment to perform tests on incoming consignments.

Animal disease surveillance and response has progressed considerably since the 2010 pilot of a Sanitary Mandate Contracting Scheme (SMCS) to explore the possibility of engaging private veterinarians and VPPs to develop an early warning system and ultimately taking part in providing disease prevention and control measures. The SMCS has subsequently been extended to support the implementation of firstly a survey to determine the sero-prevalence of brucellosis in cattle, sheep and goats, and thereafter the introduction of a National Brucellosis (vaccination) Control Programme. More recently, the SMCS has been extended to support the implementation of the first stages of the Afghanistan country programme aligned with the joint FAO/OIE Global Strategy for the Control and Eradication of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR).

An encouraging development is the mention of the SMCS in the development strategy of MAIL embodied in the National Comprehensive Agriculture Development Priority Programme (NCADPP) (2016-2020). This strategy recognises the SMCS as being one example of a model public private partnership which the MAIL would like to adopt in other areas of service delivery over the next five years.

The newly enacted Animal Health and Food Safety Acts identify the AHA as being the Competent Authority for the regulation of the safety and quality of fresh and semi-processed animal products destined for human consumption and other commercial purposes. At present, almost all red meat sold in Afghanistan is derived from animals slaughtered and butchered on the ground (often on the pavement) outside butcher's shops. In Kabul alone there are more than 1200 such shops, each of which is slaughtering an average of between 2 and 10 animals per day. This presents an impossible task for the 13 VPH&QD inspectors based in Kabul. Whilst most meat being sold is stamped as being fit for human consumption, in practice very few animals or carcasses have actually been subjected to a proper ante- and post-mortem inspection. In fact, none of the inspectors employed by the VPH&QD has ever attended a full-time training course covering ante- and post-mortem inspection. However, over the past 5 years, under the support of technical assistance provided through the AHDP, Kabul-based and some provincial inspectors have received useful training on slaughter and meat preparation hygiene, undoubtedly contributing to a noticeable improvement in the standards of hygiene being met by local butchers in the major city bazaars.

The Team visited two commercial scale red meat abattoirs in Herat. The first constructed in 1977 with donor funding was never successfully commissioned and has fallen into serious disrepair. It is rented out by the Municipal authority to a group of Herat city butchers. The standards of hygiene are appalling and inspectors employed by the Municipal authority have not had adequate if any training and lack the authority and interest to enforce hygiene standards. Adjacent to this abattoir is a construction site for one of five new abattoirs being constructed by MAIL under the Agriculture Market Infrastructure Project (AMIP) funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). A new privately constructed commercial abattoir on the outskirts of

Herat has yet to be issued an operating licence. Herat regional Animal Health Authority personnel advised that commercial broiler production has grown exponentially over the past 5 years with more than 170 producers with a capacity of between 2,000 and 10,000 birds per cycle. Given this level of broiler production, four commercial poultry meat abattoirs have been established, each with a capacity of up to 750 birds per hour. As yet, the AHA has no capacity to develop or enforce a HACCP-based food safety system. There is an urgent need for the AHA to build its capacity to regulate the commercial meat processing industry, which otherwise, may present a greater food safety risk than the individual butcher's shops killing small numbers of animals on the street.

It was widely acknowledged that large quantities of poor quality or fake medicines and vaccines are sold throughout Afghanistan, a situation largely unchanged since 2010. As in 2010, the AHA has very little capacity to regulate the manufacture, importation, distribution, or sale of veterinary medicines or biologicals. In Herat, AHA inspectors have reportedly registered all of the pharmacies where veterinary medicines are sold and these are inspected on a regular basis. However, it was also reported that attempts to take action against pharmacies found to be selling fake or expired medicines had not been successful due to failures in the judicial system. Nevertheless, it is encouraging that a group of ethical traders in Kabul has formed the Veterinary and Agricultural Medicines and Seeds Association, which is lobbying the government to increase its efforts to regulate unscrupulous veterinary drug dealers.

Until recently, with the exception of the successful campaign to eradicate Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in 2007/08 with technical assistance of FAO and WB / USAID funding, there has been very little development of AHA capacity to respond to the entry of emerging diseases. However, considerable interest has been shown in the emergence of cases of Congo Crimean Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF). Through the Zoonotic Disease Control Committee (ZDCC), a successful awareness campaign was conducted in 2016 during the weeks leading up to the Eid-ul-Qurban festival when tens of thousands of small ruminants are slaughtered at the household level, sometimes causing a peak in the incidence of human cases of CCHF. It is strongly recommended that similar initiatives are taken up in the future and that the ZDCC is strengthened to encourage the sharing of information on zoonotic disease incidence and the sharing of responsibility for prevention and control of other zoonotic diseases.

In 2010 the PVS Team noted a lack of awareness by livestock keepers and the general public about Animal Welfare. This is beginning to change. The Team was informed of a number of new initiatives on the part of NGOs, in particular the Brooke Foundation to create awareness of conditions for working equids and the Mayhew Trust and Nowzad both of whom are assisting veterinary clinicians in Kabul to become more aware of animal welfare issues. The Mayhew Trust has organised a stray dog population survey in Kabul in collaboration with the Municipal Council and Kabul University Faculty of Veterinary Science and is in the process of setting up a Capture, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (CNVR) programme to control the stray dog population and Rabies in Kabul.

1.2.C Interaction with interested parties

As recorded in 2010, communication and coordination with interested parties is still very weak in MAIL generally and especially within the AHA (former AHD). Indeed the 2010 report recommended that AHD establish a Communication Office / Department within the GDAH&P. As yet no such department has been created, although the AHA is beginning to have some informal contacts with a number of different institutions such as the Veterinary and Agricultural Medicines and Seeds Association. A particular area of weakness is the absence of dialogue between the AHA and the

Kabul University Faculty of Veterinary Science and other training institutes, other than the DCA at Charikar Paravet Training Centre, regarding the competencies and numbers of graduate veterinarians and veterinary assistants being trained.

Given the weaknesses described previously, there is a pressing need to bring together all of the interested parties in veterinary education and the development of veterinary labour force in Afghanistan to determine more precisely, future labour force needs of the public and private VS. There is also a need for the MAIL to engage in discussions with MoPH, ANSA and the Municipal Authorities to rationalise their respective roles and responsibilities in respect of food safety of animal and plant products.

The AHA has attended OIE annual general sessions and has appointed OIE focal points who have regularly attended regional OIE focal point training events. The AHA has also attended regional disease prevention and control harmonisation meetings sponsored by the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and FAO on a regular basis.

Given the proliferation of many private VFUs operated by VPPs and veterinarians it is important that the MAIL now establish the Veterinary Board as its Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB). The Department of Monitoring, Evaluation and Coordination of VFUs (DMEC) is to be congratulated for taking the initiative of licensing VFU personnel, albeit in the absence of a full legal mandate. Whilst the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act establishes the Veterinary Board as an “autonomous” VSB it does not specifically give the Board the authority to licence veterinarians or VPPs. This issue is now being addressed through draft Regulations that are currently under development.

1.2.D Access to markets

The Legal Framework Working Group, established in 2010, has gained considerable experience in developing veterinary legislation in Afghanistan. At the time of the 2010 PVS evaluation there had already been drafted one draft Act and two further Acts and Regulations were at an advanced stage of development. The former draft Animal Health and Veterinary Public Health Bill was enacted in July 2016 as the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act, as one component of the legislation required to meet the WTO accession protocol. A draft set of Regulations and some Procedures for the implementation of this Act are at an advanced stage of drafting and are likely to be submitted to the Ministry of Justice before the end of the year. Although some errors were made in the final stages of drafting of this Act that affect both internal and external quality, the law provides the Animal Health Authority with all of the necessary powers and authority covering the entire veterinary domain. In addition, the Act establishes a Veterinary Board, which can fulfil the functions of a Veterinary Statutory Body.

While no regulations are in force the AHA has started to implement many of its functions as defined in the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act. Of special interest is the authority to delegate defined public functions to private veterinarians and VPPs under a Sanitary Mandate contract. In addition, the LFWG has prepared 24 draft procedures for enforcing the (draft) Import and Export Regulations. The AHA has also prepared a number of other procedures including a list of 75 notifiable diseases for Afghanistan.

The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act is well drafted in terms of being harmonised with international standards, specifying that the AHA is obliged to respect the standards set by the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes, the SPS Agreement and the Codex Alimentarius for the regulation of the import and export of animals and other commodities. There are also provisions in the Act to ensure that the principle of equivalence will be respected when an exporting country can demonstrate that an

alternative sanitary measure will provide the same level of protection as the sanitary measures being imposed by the AHA.

The former AHD has regularly submitted six-monthly animal health status reports to the OIE, in accordance with OIE requirements.

1.2.E PPR Global Eradication Programme Supplement

Further information on Afghanistan's veterinary capacity with respect to PPR eradication can be found in Appendix 1, including a summary of conclusions at the end of this Appendix.

Table 1. Summary of OIE PVS evaluation results for each Critical competency (CC)

PVS summary results of Follow-up Evaluation 2017	PVS Evaluation 2010	Result 2017
I. HUMAN, PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES		
I.1.A. Staffing: Veterinarians and other professionals	1	2
I.1.B. Staffing: Veterinary paraprofessionals and other technical personnel	1	1
I.2.A. Professional competencies of veterinarians	1	1
I.2.B. Competencies of veterinary paraprofessionals	2	3
I-3. Continuing education	2	2
I-4. Technical independence	2	2
I-5. Stability of structures and sustainability of policies	3	3
I-6.A. Internal coordination (chain of command)	2	3
I-6.B. External coordination	2	3
I-7. Physical resources	2	2
I-8. Operational funding	1	2
I-9. Emergency funding	2	2
I-10. Capital investment	2	2
I-11. Management of resources and operations	1	1
II. TECHNICAL AUTHORITY AND CAPABILITY		
II-1.A. Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis	2	3
II-1.B. Suitability of national laboratory infrastructure	N/A	2
II-2. Laboratory quality assurance	2	2
II-3. Risk analysis	1	2
II-4. Quarantine and border security	1	1
II-5.A. Passive epidemiological surveillance	2	3
II-5.B. Active epidemiological surveillance	1	2
II-6. Emergency response	2	2
II-7. Disease prevention, control and eradication	2	3
II-8.A. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of establishments	N/A	1
II-8.B. Ante and post mortem inspection	1	1
II-8.C. Inspection of collection, processing and distribution	1	1
II-9. Veterinary medicines and biologicals	2	2
II-10. Residue testing	1	1
II-11. Animal feed safety	N/A	1
II-12.A. Animal identification and movement control	1	1
II-12.B. Identification and traceability of animal products	2	2
II-13. Animal welfare	1	2
III. INTERACTION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES		
III-1. Communications	3	2
III-2. Consultation with interested parties	2	2
III-3. Official representation	2	2
III-4. Accreditation/authorisation/delegation	1	3
III-5.A. Veterinary Statutory Body Authority	1	1
III-5.B. Veterinary Statutory Body Capacity	1	1
III-6. Participation of producers and other interested parties in joint programmes	2	2
IV. ACCESS TO MARKETS		
IV-1. Preparation of legislation and regulations	2	2
IV-2. Implementation of legislation and regulations and compliance thereof	1	1
IV-3. International harmonisation	2	2
IV-4. International certification	1	2
IV-5. Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements	2	2
IV-6. Transparency	2	3
IV-7. Zoning	1	1
IV-8. Compartmentalisation	1	1

NA: Not Applicable

I.3 Key recommendations

I.3.A Human, physical and financial resources

There is an urgent need to review the Human Resources challenges and needs for delivery of the public as well as the private veterinary services. This review should be undertaken as a labour force needs assessment for the entire Veterinary Services of Afghanistan in terms of quality of training and the numbers of graduates required at each level of qualification: veterinarians, and VPP (veterinary assistants and “paravets”).

The AHA should develop a training plan based on the needs assessment, to provide initial and continuing education to its staff in order to ensure that they are adequately trained to perform all their various functions correctly and in accordance with international standards.

There is a need to address issues regarding the coordination of some regulatory activities of the AHA with other interested institutions. Of particular concern is the potential overlap of responsibilities for the safety of foods of animal origin with the MAIL, MoPH, ANSA and Municipal authorities that share interests in certification of premises, hygiene inspection, setting standards of hygiene and residue testing. There is thus a need for greater efforts to reach agreement on which institution is responsible for each activity, rather than allow ongoing duplication of effort and failure to provide adequate regulatory services to ensure food safety.

Poor levels of remuneration for state veterinarians have a negative impact on the stability of the provincial animal health authorities and may compromise their technical independence. It is thus recommended that recruitment for all technical appointments involving inspectorate as well as disease surveillance and laboratory roles be done through the CBR as soon as possible.

The financial resources currently available to the AHA are insufficient for it to perform many of its core functions efficiently and in compliance with OIE standards. Most of the field activities being undertaken by Provincial Animal Health Authorities are funded through donor supported livestock projects. In order to ensure sustainability of these actions it is strongly recommended that MAIL secure state funding for core field service activities at the Provincial level and below, rather than continue to rely on donor support. To make the case for such funding MAIL should document the importance of the livestock sector and the impact (both benefits and costs) of implementing and enforcing the new legislation which is in the process of coming into effect. On the basis of this study a realistic understanding of the numbers of staff, their technical qualifications, the necessary infrastructures and equipment as well as an operational budget, should be presented to the Ministry of Finance (MoF). This should be supported by a strong justification based on the benefits to be derived from these investments that are needed for the Animal Health Authority to perform its prioritised functions more effectively. To support this work it is strongly recommended that the OIE Delegate request the OIE to undertake a Gap Analysis mission in Afghanistan as soon as possible.

MAIL should also negotiate with the MOF to allow certain institutions, especially the CVD&RL and the AVPL, and in the future the VPH / Quarantine inspectorate, to charge fees for services and to retain the revenue to offset their recurrent costs.

Given that the infrastructure for efficient importation and storage of a full range of internationally certified veterinary vaccines at competitive prices is now well established in Afghanistan, the government should take a critical look at whether or not it is financially justified to continue support for the AVPL, rather than purchase quality assured vaccines from external sources.

MAIL should also involve the central and provincial Animal Health Authorities to play a more active role in the design and planning of donor projects in order to overcome difficulties in their harmonisation and sustainability. Provincial planning authorities should be kept up to date on development strategies promoted by MAIL and their officers should be trained to develop realistic activity and investment plans and meaningful development budgets. It is recommended that MAIL organise a series of Workshops in Kabul to familiarise senior decision makers at the Provincial Veterinary Authorities with current policies and strategic plans.

Such exercises would also contribute to a leadership and management capacity building process, noting that it is recommended by this mission the MAIL should continue to improve leadership and provide additional management and leadership training for division/department heads within the GDAH&P.

1.3.B Technical authority and capability

While the CVD&RL has made enormous progress over the past 7 years developing its capacity to provide a wide range of diagnostic services, the long-term sustainability of these services will depend on the CVD&RL being allowed to charge fees for private good services and to retain the revenue to offset some of its operational costs. In this regard, the CVD&RL should consider requesting an OIE PVS Laboratory Mission to assess the management, organisation, financing and sustainability of Afghanistan's veterinary laboratory network.

The capacity of regional and provincial laboratories to perform the diagnostic tests required at these levels should be improved. To this end there is a need to increase the number of laboratory trainers at the CVD&RL to accelerate capacity building at the regional and provincial levels.

It is recommended that CVD&RL continue to develop its QA system and pursue international accreditation when this becomes available in Afghanistan. This will better position CVDR&L to support certification requirements for the export of animal products. The MAIL is strongly encouraged to ensure that the CVD&RL is provided with the necessary human and financial resources to implement the National Veterinary Laboratories Strategic Plan (NVLSP).

The Central Epidemiology Department (CED) requires the technical capacity to analyse animal disease data derived from passive and active surveillance, conduct risk analysis and then plan risk-based disease surveillance and disease prevention and control activities in compliance with OIE standards, without additional international technical assistance. To address this shortfall, there is a need to provide training in analytical epidemiology and risk analysis to the newer recruits into the Department with computer literacy and English language skills.

The AHA should promote effective use of risk analysis as a routine activity of both the CED and VPH&QD. The Central Epidemiology Department should introduce syndromic disease reporting and consider modifying its disease report form in such a way that clinicians are not expressly required to report on the basis of the clinical diagnosis of a specific disease but rather to report on the basis of the clinical signs associated with a disease event.

Whilst the initiative taken by the MAIL in collaboration with the ADB / AMIP to construct 5 new red meat abattoirs in Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat is admirable, there is an urgent need to address the issue of who will operate the newly constructed government owned red meat abattoirs. The private sector is also investing in processing animal products with several milk processing factories, intestinal casing factories and commercial poultry abattoirs all being developed. However, the VPH&QD inspectorate is unprepared to ensure the safety and quality of

animal products entering the domestic and export markets. It is thus strongly recommended that an international Technical Assistance programme be developed to provide comprehensive training programmes for food processing operators and to the VPH&QD inspectorate personnel, in ante- and post-mortem inspection as well as for the design and implementation of food safety management systems based on HACCP / ISO 22000/2005 standards.

As the widespread availability of poor quality medicines and incorrectly stored / expired animal vaccines in local markets is having an adverse effect on animal health, there is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of Provincial authorities to control the retail market for veterinary medicines and vaccines. There is also an urgent need for the AHA to finalise the draft Veterinary Medicines and Biological Substances Act and Regulations and establish a Veterinary Medicines Board, as was recommended by the 2010 PVS evaluation. The Board should be manned by suitably qualified staff who would be responsible for the registration of all veterinary medicines and vaccines deemed suitable for importation and distribution in Afghanistan. It will also require inspectors to regulate the retail sale of medicines and vaccines. The ongoing procurement of Gas and Liquid Phase Chromatography and Mass Spectrophotometry equipment will allow the CVD&RL to establish capacity to test medicines suspected as being of poor quality and to test food samples for the presence of drug residues.

The animal health authorities should promote animal welfare through extension efforts aimed at farmers, transporters, market personnel, slaughterhouse workers, etc. These should include messages about humane treatment of animals and protection of food producing animals to produce food of enhanced quality and safety.

1.3.C Interaction with interested parties

There is a need for the AHA to become more proactive in terms of reaching out to interested parties to engage them in the planning and, where appropriate, the implementation of joint programmes, especially where there is an opportunity for cost sharing. The MAIL should therefore authorise the AHA (and other Directorates) to establish a dedicated Communication Department / officer within the organisational structure of the GDAH&P. Such a department should establish a website through which members of the public can obtain useful information on matters related to public veterinary services, animal health and veterinary public health.

Given the emergence of a widespread private sector animal health service network, it is recommended that the Veterinary Board, and the Veterinary professions and para-professions sub-committee be established as soon as possible in order to develop Procedures for the regulation of veterinarians and VPPs. In support of this committee a VFU coordination and approval process should be re-instated and implemented within GDAH&P to require systematic review of all new NGO and donor initiatives that involve establishment or support of VFUs to ensure that GDAH&P policies and guidelines on VFU establishment are being followed. GDAH&P must have the authority to deny establishment of VFUs that do not conform to policies and guidelines in order to protect the integrity of the VFU system. The VSB, authority for which is now established under provisions in the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act, should be created as soon as possible to begin formal regulation of the veterinary profession and para-professions.

The establishment of the Sanitary Mandate Contracting Scheme (SMCS) is one of the most important achievements of the Animal Health Authority and MAIL over the past seven years. This scheme should be stabilized through greater support from government funds, rather than its current reliance on donor funding. Furthermore, there is a need to review the use of the SMCS as a means of collecting animal

disease information, through both passive and active surveillance, to trim costs while maintaining an appropriate level of early warning surveillance coupled with good response capability. Consideration should be given to expanding the range of public functions which may be delegated to private sector animal health service providers, through the SMCS.

1.3.D Access to markets

An Animal Health (Veterinary) Act was enacted by Parliament in July 2016. Draft Regulations and Procedures are being developed to support the implementation and enforcement of this Act. As mentioned under Fundamental Component 1, in order to secure the necessary funding it is strongly recommended that the AHA conduct an impact assessment to document the socio-economic benefits and costs of enforcing these Regulations. This should reflect the animal health and production, human health, social well-being, and trade benefits as well as the costs for the AHA to develop the necessary infrastructure, supply equipment and recruit and train additional personnel, and the costs to be borne by private sector stakeholders who will be required to comply with standards set in the Regulations and Procedures.

It is recommended that the AHA and MAIL continue to work on finalising the Draft Regulations and Procedures currently under development by the Legal Framework Working Group and forward them to the Ministry of Justice as soon as possible. There will be a need to review and strengthen the staffing levels of the various inspectorates to be empowered under these Regulations. In areas where it is not possible to deploy state employed officers, the AHA should consider the possibility of providing training to private veterinarians, veterinary assistants and “paravets” to perform certain defined regulatory functions on its behalf under the SMCS. An impact assessment, as referred to earlier, to analyse the socio-economic effects of introducing the new draft Regulations would help to identify all staffing costs as well as the benefits to livestock keepers and consumers of animal products. Those personnel responsible for managing the regulatory affairs related to international trade should be required to be fluent in English and be fully familiar with the standards defined in the SPS Agreement, the OIE Volumes 1 and 2 of the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes and the Codex Alimentarius. In particular, training is required to strengthen capacity to conduct risk analysis for certain categories of animals and animal products and to enter into equivalence agreements with neighbouring countries in order to reduce the cost of compliance through the imposition of unnecessarily demanding sanitary requirements for the importation of such categories of animals and animal products.

The CVD&RL should continue to improve its compliance with QA standards and preparations to acquiring international accreditation, especially for the certification of animal products for export. The AHA should provide additional training to authorised inspectors responsible for export certification to ensure full compliance with international standards.

1.3.E PPR Global Eradication Programme Supplement

Further information on Afghanistan’s veterinary capacity with respect to PPR eradication can be found in Appendix 1, including a summary of conclusions at the end of this Appendix.

PART II: CONDUCT OF THE EVALUATION

At the request of the Government of Afghanistan, the Director General of the OIE appointed an independent OIE PVS team consisting of Dr John Woodford (Team Leader), Dr David Sherman (Technical expert) and Dr Giancarlo Ferrari (PPR specialist) to undertake an evaluation of the veterinary services of Afghanistan. The evaluation was carried out from 12th – 24th April 2017.

The evaluation was carried out with close reference to the OIE standards contained in Chapters 3.1., 3.2., 3.3. and 3.4. of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the Terrestrial Code), using the OIE *PVS Tool* (6th edition, 2013) to guide the procedures. Relevant Terrestrial Code references are quoted for each critical competency in Appendix 2.

In addition, with the agreement of the OIE Delegate to Afghanistan, the OIE PVS Follow-up Team concurrently conducted an assessment of the preparedness of the AHA to embark upon the OIE/FAO joint Global Programme for the Eradication of PPR. This component of the evaluation is described in detail in Appendix 1 to this Report.

This report identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the veterinary services of Afghanistan as compared to the OIE standards. The report also makes some general and specific recommendations for actions to improve performance.

II.1 OIE PVS Tool: method, objectives and scope of the evaluation

To assist countries to establish their current level of performance, form a shared vision, establish priorities and carry out strategic initiatives, the OIE has developed an evaluation tool called the OIE Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of Veterinary Services (OIE PVS Tool⁶) which comprises four fundamental components:

- Human, physical and financial resources
- Technical authority and capability
- Interaction with interested parties
- Access to markets.

These four fundamental components encompass 47 critical competencies, for each of which five qualitative levels of advancement are described. For each critical competency, a list of suggested indicators was used by the OIE PVS Team to help determine the level of advancement.

A glossary of terms is provided in Appendix 3.

The report follows the structure of the OIE PVS Tool and the reader is encouraged to consult that document to obtain a good understanding of the context in which the evaluation was conducted.

The objective and scope of the OIE PVS Evaluation includes all aspects relevant to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the quality of Veterinary Services.

⁶ http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Support_to_OIE_Members/pdf/PVS_A_Tool_Final_Edition_2013.pdf

II.2 Country information (geography, administration, agriculture and livestock)

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is a landlocked country in South-central Asia. It is bordered by Pakistan in the South and East, Iran in the West, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in the North and China in the far North-east. Afghanistan covers an area of 249,984 square miles (647,456 Km²).

Afghanistan is administratively divided into 34 provinces, with each province having a capital and a governor in office appointed by the President. The provinces are further divided into some 364 rural districts and 217 rural municipalities, each covering a city or a group of villages and being headed by a district Governor, and an estimated 40,020 villages.

Figure 1 – Afghanistan Provinces and neighbouring territories



The provincial level comprises Provincial line Departments, Provincial Councils and Provincial Development Committees. The district level comprises District Offices, District Governors and the District Development Assembly. The village level comprises Community Development Councils (CDC). Present in about two-thirds of the country, the CDCs are the development entry point for most development interventions at the community level.

According to data from the Central Statistics Department the population of Afghanistan was estimated to be 27,101,365 in 2015 (see Table 1 below), however a World Bank estimate for the same year put the population at 32,526,562. The population of Afghanistan is estimated to be increasing at the rate of 2.34% / annum (CIA World Fact Book 2016).

Table 2. Human Population Data by Province (Central Statistics Department 2015)

	Province	Population	Districts	Area (km ²)	Center
1	Badhakshan	950,953	29	44,059	Fayzabad
2	Badghis	495,958	7	20,591	Qala i Naw
3	Baghlan	910,784	16	21,118	Puli Khumri
4	Balkh	1,325,659	15	17,249	Mazar-i-Sharif
5	Bamyan	447,218	7	14,175	Bamyan
6	Daykundi	824,339	8	18,088	Nili
7	Farah	57,405	11	48,471	Farah
8	Faryab	998,147	14	20,293	Maymana
9	Ghazni	1,228,831	19	22,915	Ghazni
10	Ghor	690,296	10	36,479	Chaghcharan
11	Helmand	924,711	13	58,584	Lashkar Gah
12	Herat	1,890,202	15	54,778	Herat
13	Jowzjan	540,255	9	11,798	Sheberghan
14	Kabul	4,372,977	18	4,462	Kabul
15	Kandahar	1,226,593	16	54,022	Kandahar
16	Kapisa	441,010	7	1,842	Mahmud-i-Raqi
17	Khost	574,582	13	4,152	Khost
18	Kunar	450,652	15	4,942	Asadabad
19	Kunduz	1,010,037	7	8,040	Kunduz
20	Laghman	445,588	5	3,843	Mihtarlam
21	Logar	392,045	7	3,880	Pul-i-Alam
22	Maidan Wardak	596,287	9	9,934	Maidan Shar
23	Nangarhar	1,517,388	23	7,727	Jalalabad
24	Nimruz	164,978	5	41,005	Zaranj
25	Nuristan	147,967	7	9,225	Parun
26	Paktia	551,987	11	6,432	Gardez
27	Paktika	434,742	15	19,482	Sharana
28	Panjshir	153,487	5	3,610	Bazarak
29	Parwan	664,502	9	5,974	Charikar
30	Samangan	387,928	5	11,262	Samangan
31	Sar-e-Pol	559,577	7	16,360	Sar-e-Pol
32	Takhar	983,336	16	12,333	Taloqan
33	Urozgan	386,618	6	12,696	Tarinkot
34	Zabul	304,126	9	17,343	Qalat
	TOTAL	27,101,365 Population	388 Districts	647,164 km²	

Urban areas are experiencing rapid population growth since the establishment of the Islamic Republic in 2002, due in part to the return of over 5 million former refugees from Pakistan and Iran and persistent insecurity in many rural areas. The major cities after Kabul in order of population size are Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, Ghazni and Kunduz. Much of the population suffers from shortages of housing, clean water, electricity, medical care, and jobs. Criminality, insecurity, weak governance, lack of infrastructure, and the Afghan Government's difficulty in extending the rule of law to all parts of the country pose challenges to future economic growth. Afghanistan's living standards are among the lowest in the world.

The Afghan people are a multi-ethnic society, being home to some 25 distinct ethnic groups, of which the Pashtuns mainly living in the east and south, the Tajiks in the eastern valleys, the Uzbek and Turkmen groups of the Northern plains, the Hazara mainly in the central highlands, the Baluchi in the desert regions of the south and the Nuristani in the mountainous

northeast are the largest. The most common languages spoken in Afghanistan are Dari and Pashto, which are also the official languages of the country.

Geographical characteristics

Afghanistan is a mountainous country, with about one-half of the land over 2000m (6600 ft.). The highest peak of the Pamir range in the north east, Nowshak, is 7,492 m (24,580 ft.) above sea level. The Hindu Kush range extends across the country in a South-westerly direction from the Wakhan Corridor almost to the Iranian border. (see Fig 2) From the Hindu Kush, other lower ranges radiate in all directions. Some of the major ranges include the Pamirs in the upper northeast of the Wakhan Corridor, the Badakhshan Ranges in the extreme northeast, the Paropamisus Range in the north, and the Sefid Koh range, which forms part of the frontier between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Lowland areas are concentrated in the south and west and include the Turkistan Plains, the Herat-Farah Lowlands of the extreme Northwest, the Sistan Basin and Helmand River valley of the Southwest, and the Registan Desert of the South.

Figure 2 – The Mountain ranges of Afghanistan



The natural resources of Afghanistan include gold, silver, copper, zinc and iron in the Southeast, precious and semi-precious stones in the Northeast and potentially significant petroleum and natural gas reserves in the North.

The country also has uranium, coal, chromites, talc, barites, lead and salt. However, these important mineral and energy resources (estimated in 2010 at some US \$3 trillion) remain largely untapped due to civil unrest.

Afghanistan has a continental climate with very harsh winters in the central highlands, the northeast and the Wakhan corridor, where the average temperature in January is below -15°C, and hot summers in the low-lying areas of the Sistan Basin of the southwest, the Jalalabad Basin of the East and the Turkistan plains along Amu River of the north, where temperatures average over 35°C in July. The climate varies by region and tends to change quite rapidly. Large parts of the country are dry and fresh water supplies are limited. Average

annual rainfall ranges from 75 mm in Farah province to 1,170 mm in South Salang and Nuristan. During the spring and summer months snow-melt from these mountain ranges provides a steady supply of water for irrigation systems developed over several centuries, in the multitude of river valleys, which is used to grow most of the agricultural produce of the country.

The geography and climate of Afghanistan produces a wide range of ecological conditions and thus crop and livestock production systems. Forests cover less than 2% of the country. Average annual precipitation ranges from 75 mm in Farah province in the southwest to 1,170 in South Salang and Nuristan. Given the mountainous geography of the country, agricultural activity does not occupy a continuous and homogeneous stretch of the country and only 10% of the land surface is suitable for agriculture. Apart from the rainfed areas, agriculture is possible mainly in specific patches or strips of land in the numerous mountain valleys and the thousands of micro-watersheds created by streams and aquifers originating from the mountain ranges. Given the low ratio of arable land per capita, the scant precipitation and difficult climate conditions in many parts of the country, agriculture is rarely the main source of food or income. Hence, about two thirds of rural households also own some livestock.

Over the past five decades, a steady increase in human population has caused a rapid expansion in the use of lowland hill pastures for the cultivation of rainfed (mainly wheat and barley) crops. The consequence of this change in land use is that land formerly available as late autumn, winter and early spring grazing for nomadic sheep and goat flocks is no longer accessible. Furthermore, changes in political leadership and local control over migratory routes has also interrupted access to highland pastures by kuchi nomads. Thus, winter feeding using crop by-products or conserved fodder is becoming increasingly necessary to allow sheep and goat flocks to maintain body condition over the winter months.

Table 3. Geographic / Topographic areas

Climatic and/or agro-ecological zones	Rainfall (mm/year)	Topography	Km ²	%
Highlands and valleys	700-1100	Total area	647,456	100
Western arid plains	200-500	Pasture lands	290,000	45
Northern regions	400-700	Arable land	65,000	10
Southern arid plains	70-200	Forest	13,000	2



Socio-economic characteristics

Afghanistan's economy is gradually recovering from decades of conflict, largely as a result of the infusion of international assistance, stimulating the recovery of the agricultural sector, and service sector growth. Nevertheless, Afghanistan is extremely poor, and still highly dependent on foreign aid. The international community pledged over \$67 billion at nine donors' conferences between 2003 and 2010, and in July 2012, the donors once again pledged an additional \$16 billion in civilian aid to continue through 2015, at the Tokyo conference. Despite this help, the Government of Afghanistan needs to overcome a number of challenges, including low revenue collection, poor job creation, high levels of corruption, weak government capacity, and poor public infrastructure.

With the withdrawal of international security forces in 2014, Afghanistan's growth rate slowed to an estimated 1.3% in 2014 and 0.8% in 2015⁷, however, the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was estimated to reach \$18.4 billion in 2016 and is now growing at approximately 2%. Although the President has stated that his government is dedicated to instituting social and economic reforms, including improving revenue collection and fighting corruption, these will take time to implement and Afghanistan is likely to remain dependent on international donor support for some years to come.

The contribution of Agriculture and Livestock to the Economy

The main agricultural products are wheat, barley, food crops, fruits and nuts (mostly for export) and livestock products. Food crops account for over two thirds of the cultivated area and are typically grown for subsistence as relatively few farmers are able to produce a marketable surplus. Once self-sufficient in cereals, Afghanistan is now a net importer and the deficit is between 250,000 and 500,000 tons. High-value cash crops (mostly dried fruits, nuts, fresh fruits and vegetables) have always been an important source of cash income for many small farmers. It should not be forgotten that Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of opium (4,800 tons estimated for 2016) with over 200,000 hectares dedicated to opium poppy cultivation, that continues to increase annually, in spite of donor funded efforts to encourage farmers to engage in alternative forms of agriculture.⁸ The World Bank reports that the estimated opium GDP of Afghanistan is between \$2.6 and \$2.7 billion, amounting to 27 percent of the country's total GDP (both licit and illicit).⁹ The contribution of the (licit) agricultural sector to GDP has varied from year to year, depending on weather conditions and the source of reference, but has declined over the last 5 - 10 years, partly as a result of adverse climatic conditions but also as construction and services industries gain momentum.

Table 4. Agricultural contribution to GDP – 2007 - 2016

Year	Agricultural GDP % of Total
2007 – 2008	33.6
2008 – 2009	27.7
2009 – 2010	31.4
2010 – 2011	27.76
2011 – 2012	26.98
2012 – 2013	25.39
2013 – 2014	24.67
2014 – 2015	24.32
2015 – 2016	22.12

Source: Central Statistics Dept.

⁷ CIA World Fact Book 2016 - <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

⁸ UNODC – https://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/AfghanistanOpiumSurvey2016_ExSum.pdf#yuiHis=1%7C/uploads%7C/documents%7C/crop-monitoring%7C/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan%7C/crop-monitoring/Afghanistan/AfghanistanOpiumSurvey2016_ExSum.pdf

⁹ <http://www.iar-gwu.org/node/39> - Narco-Terrorism in Afghanistan: Counter-narcotics and Counter-insurgency

In 2015-16 the Livestock Sector contributed 3.04% of National GDP, equivalent to 14% of Agriculture GDP, largely due to the export of wool, cashmere fibre, hides and skins (including karakul) and intestinal casings.

Livestock has been, and remains, a major source of cash income, particularly for small farmers. Livestock production systems include settled mixed farming, semi-nomadic and nomadic livestock systems. Cattle, as a source of cash and provider of traction for ploughing and cultivation, are important for the farmers as are sheep, goats and poultry for cash earnings and home consumption. Winter housing conditions of most livestock are generally poorly ventilated and this, coupled with poor levels of nutrition, make animals more susceptible to disease and predispose them to a high incidence of respiratory infections as well as foot rot and other diseases associated with close confinement.

Table 5. Population distribution and Livestock holdings by type

Human population		Livestock households / farms	
Total number	27,101,365	Total number	1,000,000
Average density / km ²	44	Intensive, (commercial)	0.5 %
% of urban	23	Agro-pastoral (mixed sedentary)	89.5 %
% of rural	77	Extensive (Nomadic / semi nomadic)	10 %

Source: Afghan Statistical Yearbook 2015

The nomadic pastoralists are considered to be one of the largest vulnerable groups (about 1.5 million pastoral “kuchis”). They are mostly nomadic in the South, semi-nomadic in the East, settled or semi-settled in the North and North-West. They migrate over various distances (cross country transhumance to short-range migrations within the same district) to maximize their benefit from seasonal pasture, moving to lowlands during winter and mountain ranges in summer time. Milk products are an important part of their diet during the spring and meat during the winter. Many complement their revenues through artisanal work (carpets).

Over the past 30 years, livestock populations in Afghanistan have fluctuated from between about 4 million cattle and over 30 million sheep and goats down to 3.7 million cattle and approximately 16 million sheep and goats in 2003, due to the effects of insecurity and drought. Table 5, below, gives an overview of the estimated evolution of livestock species over the last 24 years.

Table 6. Livestock numbers in Afghanistan 1991 - 2015 ('000)

Species	1991 FAO estimates	1995 FAO estimates		2003 FAO Census	Central Statistics Dept. 2015
		Resident farmers	Kuchis		
Cattle	4,049	3,495	198	3,715	5,892
Sheep	18,688	15,504	6,508	8,772	22,451
Goats	combined	5,458	3,472	7,281 142	12,873
Horses	245	167	200	1,588	163
Donkeys	1,131	872	147	175	1,747
Camels	80	101	176	12,200	137
Poultry		11,000			-

Taken in the context of the recent history of Afghanistan and the prevailing climatic conditions it is evident from these figures that war, insecurity and climate have almost

certainly contributed to the decline in livestock numbers over the period from the end of the mujahideen war (1989) right through to 2003 when there was also a severe drought. From that period onwards, the estimated livestock population has gradually increased as more and more farmers have returned from neighbouring Pakistan and nomadic flocks have begun to recover from the serious losses experienced as a consequence of the 2003 drought.

At one time, prior to the political upheaval which started in the late 70's, Afghanistan was self-sufficient in livestock products; Afghanistan now imports large quantities of chicken meat, beef, live cattle and buffalo. However, partly as a result of outbreaks of Avian Influenza in neighbouring countries, which has resulted in import bans, coupled with political tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the local poultry industry in Afghanistan has started to grow exponentially. The OIE PVS Team was informed that in Herat alone there are now more than 170 poultry farms with between 2000 and 10,000 birds, mostly broilers and 4 commercial poultry abattoirs have been built. A similar situation exists around Jalalabad where commercial scale poultry industry is also growing rapidly.

The contribution of nomadic and semi-nomadic systems to Afghanistan's export economy is large; it is well recognised that there exists a thriving export trade of live sheep and goats across the border with Iran. A private investor seeking to tap this market has built a large commercial abattoir near Herat to take advantage of this market intending to export meat rather than live animals, a more attractive option for the Iranian veterinary authorities.

Export of animal products is becoming a significant part of national export revenues. Official statistics report that in 2015, carpet exports alone constituted 16.6 % of the total exports of the country.

Table 7. Exports of Animals and Animal Products 2015

Species/Product	Quantity	Type of transport	Port of exit	Final destination
Sheep and Goat Skins	253,905 skins	Truck and air	Spinboldak, Aqena	Germany, China, Pakistan, Spain
Sheep Wool	117,260 kg	Truck and air	Herat Airport	Belgium, Denmark
Carpets	971,531 m ²	Kabul Airport and Trucks	Kabul Airport Customs	USA, Germany, Canada
Rugs	15,500 m ²	Truck	Aqena	Uzbekistan
Sheep casings	207,703 hanks	Truck and Airport	Herat Airport Kabul Airport	Germany, Spain, Poland Turkey
Cashmere	644,011 kg	Air	Herat Airport	Belgium
Wool fibers	298,071 kg	Air	Herat Airport	Belgium
Silk boll	85,146 kg	Air	Herat Airport	Belgium
dog and cat	186	Air	Kabul Airport	USA, Germany, Turkey
Silk boll	66,896 kg	Air	Kabul Airport	USA, Germany, Turkey
Sheep Wool	93,460 kg	Air	Kabul Airport	USA, Germany, Turkey
Bull Penis	15, 200 kg	Air	Kabul Airport	USA, Germany, Turkey
Qara Qul	51,786 skin	Air	Kabul Airport	Different countries
Leather industry	46,778	Air	Kabul Airport	
Honey	110 kg	Air	Kabul Airport	
Dry Yogurt	150 kg	Air	Kabul Airport	
Camel and Cow Skins	13,850 skins	Air	Kabul Airport	China
Qara Qul	32,3419	Air	Balkh Airport	Uzbekistan

Source – Veterinary Public Health & Quarantine Department, MAIL

In spite of the rapid expansion in the numbers of semi commercial, peri-urban dairy producers and major investments taking place in commercial poultry production, Afghanistan is still a net importer of milk, beef, chicken meat and eggs. The Ministry of Agriculture has however adopted a policy to reduce imports of agricultural products through the stimulation of local production and import substitution. (National Comprehensive Agriculture Development Priority Program (NCADPP) 2016 – 2020, MAIL).

Table 8. Imports of Animals and Animal Products - 2015

Species/Product	Quantity	Country of origin	Type of transport	Port of entry
Chicken meat	40,404 ton	USA, Brazil	Land, Air	Torkham Islam Qala Aqena Spinboldak
Buffalo Liver and Feet	2,221 ton	India	Land, Air	Torkham
Beef meat	1,197 ton	India	Land, Air	Torkham -Aqena
Eggs	443,617,338	Iran, India	Land, Air	Torkham, Islam Qala, Aqena Spinboldak
Fish	114 ton	Vietnam	Land, Air	Torkham
Live Chicken	25,748,835	Pakistan	Land, Air	Torkham Spinboldak
Live Fish	50,962	Iran, Vietnam	Land, Air	Kabul Airport
Fish eggs	150,000	Iran, Vietnam	Air	Kabul Airport
Cheese powder	800 kg	Iran, Vietnam	Air	Kabul Airport
Dairy	117 ton	Iran	Land, Air	Kabul Airport
Silk boll	8,460 kg	Iran	Land, Air	Islam Qala
Sheep casings	111,100 hanks	Uzbekistan	Land, Air	Aqena
Live cow	639	Pakistan	Land	Ghulam Khan Islam Qala
Dog feed	950 kg			Torkham
Animal feed	27,120 kg			Torkham
Butter	1,230 kg	Iran		Kabul Airport
Honey	30 kg	Iran		Kabul Airport
Dog	17			Kabul Airport
Woollen string	30,940 Kg			Islam Qala
Chicken feed	27,326 Ton			Torkham, Islam Qala Spin Boldak

Source – Veterinary Public Health & Quarantine Department, MAIL

Agriculture Policy and Strategic planning

A succession of Strategic Planning exercises has been undertaken by MAIL since November 2005 when an Agriculture Master Plan was approved by the Parliament of the first interim government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, after the end of Taliban rule. This planning process was set in motion as a result of the publication of the “Afghanistan Compact”, a political agreement between the government of Afghanistan, the United Nations and the international community, setting the framework for international cooperation, at the London Conference in 2006. The Afghanistan Compact expired at the beginning of February 2011 and was followed by the “Kabul process”, adopted at the International Afghanistan Conference in Kabul in July 2010^[2]

The first of the strategic plans to be developed from the Master Plan was the Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS-2008), from which a National Agricultural Development Framework (NADF-2009) was developed. Following the Kabul Conference in 2010, a series of 22 National Priority Programs (NPPs) were formulated to cover the period 2012 - 2014. The priority areas for the MAIL were reflected within two of the Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) Clusters, the NPP1 which covered water, irrigation and natural

resources, and NPP2 which included the broader agricultural priorities of production, market development and food security. This latter NPP also included the formulation of various agricultural sub-sectoral policies and strategies such as policies specifically targeting wheat, poultry, food and nutrition, women in agriculture, medicinal plants, etc.

Seven Strategic Priorities for MAIL were identified in the ARD NPPs, covering the areas of improved service delivery, food security, and greater productivity to enhance national revenue. These seven Strategic Priorities, also now adopted within the most recently formulated National Comprehensive Agriculture Development Priority Program (NCADPP) (2016-2020) include: (1) Irrigation; (2) Wheat and cereal production; (3) Horticulture value chain; (4) Livestock Production; (5) Climate-sensitive Natural Resources Management; (6) Food and Nutrition Security and Resilience building; and (7) Institutional reform and capacity development. Within these strategic priorities are included the cross-cutting activities such as Research and Extension, Integrated Pest Management; Input Delivery Systems; Quality Control; Quarantine; Farmer Organizations, Public & Private Partnerships; Data and Information; Policy and Legal Framework; and Governance and Coordination.

The NCADPP recognises a number of challenges. Firstly, in spite of a series of attempts at “change management”, planning and coordination of donor projects within MAIL has been extremely weak. The result has been that donors have tended to by-pass MAIL policy and planning departments in the planning and execution of many “off-budget” and even “on-budget projects. The result has been duplication of effort, uneven geographical and sub-sectoral distribution of resources and lack of ownership. The need for better coordination is clear.

In addition, in the past, much emphasis has been placed on developing management systems at the MAIL headquarters. The NCADPP intends to focus more on developing capacity at the provincial and district levels and to implement “farmer centric” activities, which respond to the real needs of both progressive and subsistence level farmers.¹⁰

¹⁰ National Comprehensive Agriculture Development Priority Program (2016 – 2020). MAIL

II.3 Context of the evaluation

II.3.A Availability of data relevant to the evaluation

A list of documents received by the OIE PVS Team before and during the PVS Evaluation mission is provided in Appendix 6. All documents and pictures listed in Appendix 6 are referenced to relevant critical competencies to demonstrate the levels of advancement and related findings.

The following table provides an overview of the availability of the main categories of documents or data needed for the evaluation, taking into account the information requirements set out in the OIE Terrestrial Code.

Table 9. Summary of data available for evaluation

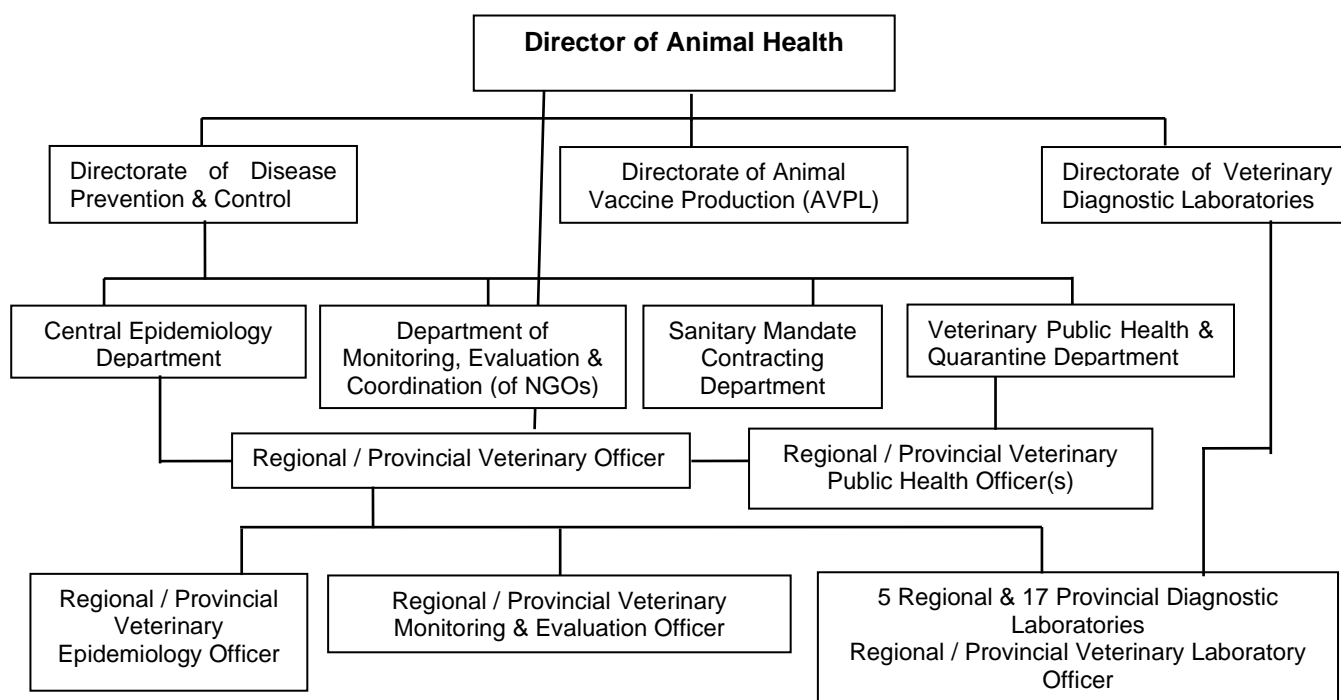
Main document categories	Data available in the public domain	Data accessible only on site or on request	Data not available
Animal census:	✓		
○ at 1st administrative level			✓
○ at 2 nd administrative level			✓
○ at 3 rd administrative level			✓
○ per animal species	✓		
○ per production systems			
Organisations charts			
○ Central level of the VS	✓		
○ 2 nd level of the VS	✓		
○ 3 rd level of the VS			✓
Job descriptions in the VS			
○ Central levels of the VS	✓		
○ 2 nd level of the VS			✓
○ 3 rd level of the VS			✓
Legislations, regulations, decrees ...			
○ Animal health and public health	✓		
○ Veterinary practice			✓
○ Veterinary statutory body	✓		
○ Veterinary medicines and biologicals			✓
○ Official delegation	✓		
Veterinary census			
○ Global (public, private, veterinary, para-professional)			✓
○ Per level			✓
○ Per function			✓
Census of logistics and infrastructure			✓
Activity reports			✓
Financial reports	✓		
Animal health status reports	✓		
Evaluation reports			✓
Procedures, registers, records, letters ...	✓		

II.3.B General organisation of the Veterinary Services

The Veterinary Services (VS) of Afghanistan are comprised of both public and private sector components. The public sector, state veterinary service until recently has been known as the Animal Health Directorate (AHD) but, following the enactment of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act (2016), is now officially known as the “Animal Health Authority” (AHA).

The AHA, based in the offices of the GDAH&P in Dar-ul-Aman, currently has three Directorates: the Directorate of Disease Prevention and Control, the Directorate of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories and the Directorate of Animal Vaccine Production. The latter comprises a single Animal Vaccine Production Laboratory (AVPL), located on the outskirts of Kabul at Badam Bargh. With the exception of the AVPL, the remaining Directorates are also reflected in the structure of the 6 Regional and 28 Provincial Veterinary Directorates which technically report directly to the Director of Animal Health, (Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO)) of the AHA. These are placed administratively under the Provincial Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL), to some extent compromising the disciplinary authority of the CVO.

Figure 2 – Organogram of the Animal Health Authority (aka Animal Health Directorate)



In practice, the structure of the Animal Health Authority is as depicted above. However, this structure differs from that illustrated in the Tashkiel (see CCI.1), but it reflects more accurately the chain of command and the functional relationships between central, regional and provincial levels. The differences between the organogram depicted above and the Tashkiel are due to the fact that the Civil Service Commission has not yet approved all of the positions which have been requested by former General Directors of the GDAH&P and the Human Resources Directorate of MAIL. At present, in most of the 34 Provinces there are only 4 professional positions for each of the 28 Provincial Veterinary Directorates. These are the Provincial Veterinary Officer (PVO), the Provincial Veterinary Epidemiology Officer (PVEO), the Provincial Veterinary Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (PVMEO) and the Provincial

Veterinary Laboratory Officer (PVLO). However, at the 6 Regional centres of Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Ghazni, Kunduz and Kandahar more positions are available, since the regions appear to have some degree of autonomy in terms of recruitment of staff. Thus, at some regional centres the Animal Health Authority may include 2 PVLOs as well as the position of a Provincial Veterinary Public Health Officer (PVPHO) and one or two VPH Inspectors.

At present, only 51 of the potential 136 (at least) professional positions at the Provincial Veterinary offices are occupied by veterinarians holding a DVM degree.

The private sector component of the VS consists of private veterinary hospitals, mostly in the larger cities, and a network of district or village based clinics, known as “Veterinary Field Units” (VFUs). (see Fig 3 VFU Distribution Map below). A very few VFUs are manned by veterinarians, slightly fewer by veterinary assistants, but the majority are operated by “paravets”.

Figure 3 - Distribution of Veterinary Field Units by Province & District (2014)



The term “veterinary para-professionals” (VPPs) is referred to often throughout this report. The term refers collectively, to three categories of VPP. The first category is the veterinary assistant, often referred to by the veterinary authorities as “Assistant DVM”, a title which is to be discouraged since it may imply that the holder of this qualification is similar in status to a fully qualified veterinarian. Assistant veterinarians are provided with a 2 year diploma course at any of 17 Agriculture and Veterinary Training Institutes, throughout Afghanistan. None of these training institutes has any facilities for providing hands on clinical practical skills training. The graduates are thus lacking in the basic veterinary clinical skills of clinical examination, handling of animals and providing practical veterinary services. It is estimated that as many as

2000 veterinary assistant diploma holders are graduating every year, although it is not known what career the majority of these graduates follow, since there are no records available from the Training Institutes.

The second category of VPP is the “paravet”. Paravets are mostly young farmers who have completed 12th Grade higher school education, selected from amongst their community to undergo a five and a half month training course which is strongly biased towards developing practical veterinary skills. Paravets are thus well prepared to make a clinical diagnosis and to provide an appropriate treatment for most commonly occurring illnesses.

The third category of VPP are known as Basic Veterinary Workers (BVWs). BVWs are most commonly selected from kuchi communities and are provided with a one month training in very basic veterinary skills. BVWs would then travel with the kuchi flocks to remote summer pastures and provide basic treatments and first aid whilst the kuchi flocks are beyond the reach of VFU services.

Most paravets, especially those supported by the DCA, the Aga Khan Foundation, the Mission d’AIDE au Développement des Economies Rurales en Afghanistan (MADERA) and to a lesser extent the AVA, have been given several additional short courses to extend their knowledge and skills

It is not known exactly how many veterinarians, veterinary assistants or paravets are currently active. The DMEC is in the process of licensing VFUs and this process has so far netted a total of 870 privately operating animal health service providers including 142 holding a DVM degree, 95 veterinary assistants with a diploma in Animal Health and the remaining 636 with a paravet certificate (DMEC).

In 2010 the former AHD conducted a pilot project to engage mostly paravets based at a number of selected VFUs to perform animal disease surveillance activities through what has become known as the Sanitary Mandate Contracting Scheme (SMCS). Initially the SMCS was limited to providing a suspected notifiable animal disease report and then carrying out an outbreak investigation which may have resulted in the collection and submission of laboratory samples to the Provincial Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and thence on to the Central Veterinary Diagnostic & Research Laboratory (CVD&RL).

Under the financial support of the World Bank (WB) funded National Brucellosis Control Programme (NBCP) and more recently with funding provided through the FAO implemented FMD and PPR control programmes approximately 340 VFUs are now working under a Sanitary Mandate contract. These VFUs are contracted to provide suspected notifiable disease reports, conduct outbreak investigations involving the collection and submission of laboratory samples, to collect blood and tissue samples for active surveillance of specified controlled animal diseases and to conduct vaccination services. Furthermore, under its own initiative, and acting as a de facto Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB), the Department of Monitoring, Evaluation and Coordination (of NGOs) (DMEC) has started to license the veterinarians and VPPs working out of VFUs. One of the conditions of licensing is that the VPP agrees to report all suspected cases or outbreaks of notifiable animal diseases. To date 870 VFU veterinarians and VPPs have been awarded an operating licence.

The SMCS is a public private partnership and the following Departments collaborate in its management within the AHA:

- SMCD (Sanitary Mandate Contract Department) provides overall administration of the SMCS, organizes training courses for the contracted VFUs and provincial officers, and is responsible for on time reporting by provinces, invoicing and payments.
- CED (Central Epidemiology Department) and PVEOs (Provincial Veterinary

Epidemiology Officers) are responsible for design and implementation of overall animal disease surveillance and control programs, data analysis, reporting nationally and internationally, and training of trainers, and preparation and delivery of SMCs training courses.

- CVD&RL and PVLOs working in the Regional and Provincial Labs are responsible for sample processing, sample transport, diagnostic testing and confirming test results.
- DMEC is responsible for regular monitoring of VFU performance and physical facilities according to the VFU checklist, coordination of Animal Health (Veterinary) Activities with NGOs also supporting VFUs and licensing, registration of VFU premises and professional qualifications.

The SMCS is now recognised within MAIL as an excellent example of how a public private partnership can be developed in order to extend public services down to the field level, without necessarily having to hire a parallel workforce.

At present, the AHA is desperately short of qualified personnel to perform many of its core functions, especially at the Provincial and District government levels. For instance, there are currently no functional modern slaughter facilities for red meat in Afghanistan and almost all slaughter animals are slaughtered on the street outside a butcher's shop. There are more than 1200 such butcher's shops in Kabul alone. With only 13 veterinary public health inspectors it is impossible for the Veterinary Public Health & Quarantine Department (VPH&QD) to provide more than a cursory meat inspection service. Furthermore, whilst it is widely recognised that there are large quantities of poor quality or fake veterinary medicines and vaccines available in the bazaars throughout Afghanistan, the Animal Health Authority lacks the necessary inspectors who might be able to regulate the distribution and sale of veterinary medicines and vaccines.

II.3.C Animal disease occurrence

The information on animal disease occurrence given in the Tables below is derived from the Annual report submitted to the OIE via the World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and is taken from the OIE website. The most recent submission of an Animal Health Status Report for Afghanistan was for December 2016.

A list of 76 notifiable diseases for Afghanistan has recently been prepared as a draft Ministerial Procedure to be published under the authority of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act (2016).

Table 10. Disease status of the country (2016)

Year: 2016

> Afghanistan

> Diseases present in the Country

Disease	Domestic		Wild		Note
	Notifiable	Status	Notifiable	Status	
Anthrax	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Avian infect. laryngotracheitis	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Avian infectious bronchitis	✗	Disease present	✗	No information	
Bluetongue	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Bovine babesiosis	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Bovine tuberculosis	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Brucellosis (Brucella abortus)	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Brucellosis (Brucella melitensis)	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Contagious cap. pleuropneumonia	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Foot and mouth disease	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Haemorrhagic septicaemia	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Newcastle disease	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Peste des petits ruminants	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Q fever	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Rabies	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	
Sheep pox and goat pox	✗	Disease present	✗	No information	
Theileriosis	✓	Disease present	✗	No information	

> Diseases never reported

Disease	Notifiable	Type of surveillance	Note
African horse sickness	✓		
African swine fever	✗		
Aujeszky's disease	✗		
Bovine spongiform encephalopathy	✗	General Surveillance	
Bovine viral diarrhoea	✓	General Surveillance	
Brucellosis (Brucella suis)	✓		
Classical swine fever	✗		

Diseases never reported (2016)

Contagious equine metritis	✗		
Crayfish plague (Aphanomyces astaci)	✗	General Surveillance	
Duck virus hepatitis	✗		
Encephalomyelitis (West.)	✗		
Enzootic bovine leukosis	✗	General Surveillance	
Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern)	✗		
Heartwater	✗		
Infection with abalone herpes-like virus	✗	General Surveillance	
Infection with Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis	✗	General Surveillance	
Infection with Bonamia exitiosa	✗	General Surveillance	
Infection with Bonamia ostreae	✗	General Surveillance	
Infection with Marteilia refringens	✗	General Surveillance	
Infection with Perkinsus marinus	✗	General Surveillance	
Infection with Perkinsus olseni	✗	General Surveillance	
Infection with ranavirus	✗	General Surveillance	
Infection with Xenohaliotis californiensis	✗	General Surveillance	
Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis	✗	General Surveillance	
Infectious myonecrosis	✗	General Surveillance	
Japanese encephalitis	✗		
Maedi-visna	✗		
N. w. screw worm (C. hominivorax)	✗		
Nairobi sheep disease	✗		
Necrotising hepatopancreatitis	✗	General Surveillance	
Nipah virus encephalitis	✗		
O. w. screw worm (C. bezziana)	✗	General Surveillance	
Porcine cysticercosis	✗		
Porcine reproductive/respiratory syndr.	✗		
Rabbit haemorrhagic disease	✗		
Scrapie	✗		
Small hive beetle infestation	✗		
Taura syndrome	✗	General Surveillance	
Transmissible gastroenteritis	✗		
Tropilaelaps infestation of honey bees	✗		
Varroosis of honey bees	✓	Targeted Surveillance	
Venezuelan equ. encephalomyelitis	✗		
West Nile Fever	✗		
White spot disease	✗	General Surveillance	
White tail disease	✗	General Surveillance	
Yellow head disease	✗	General Surveillance	

➤ Diseases absent in 2016

Disease	Domestic				Wild			
	Notifiable	Last occurrence	Surveillance	Note	Notifiable	Last occurrence	Surveillance	Note
Bovine anaplasmosis	✓	06/2012	General Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Glanders	✓	12/2012	Targeted Surveillance		✗	Unknown	Targeted Surveillance	
Highly path. avian influenza	✓	03/2007	General and targeted surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Infec bursal disease (Gumboro)	✓	06/2013	Targeted Surveillance		✗	Unknown		
Rinderpest	✓	02/10/1995	General and targeted surveillance		✓	02/10/1995	General and targeted surveillance	

II.4 Organisation of the evaluation

II.4.A *Timetable of the mission*

The evaluation of the veterinary services of Afghanistan was conducted from 14th - 24th April 2017. The mission began with the Opening Meeting which was well attended by most senior members of the Animal Health Authority. This was followed by a meeting with the Director General, GDAH&P, the PVS mission focal point and senior staff in the headquarters of the Animal Health Authority, during which the mission Timetable was finalised and two Field missions to Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat were planned.

Throughout the remaining ten days, the Team held meetings with members of staff of the Animal Health Authority, Livestock project managers at MAIL headquarters, and other key informants from food processing establishments, the Animal Vaccine Production Laboratory, and a Paravet Training Centre.

During the first week of the mission the PPR expert remained in Kabul and held meetings with members of the Central Epidemiology Department, the CVD&RL and FAO project staff involved with the development of a PPR prevention and control strategy for Afghanistan, whilst the other two members of the Team conducted the first field mission to Mazar-e-Sharif.

During the two field missions to Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat, visits the Team held meetings with the Director Generals of the two Provincial Directorates of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL), Provincial Veterinary Officers (PVOs) and other senior officers of the Provincial Animal Health Authorities, private veterinarians and VPPs at VFUs and veterinary clinics, University Faculty staff members, and key informants at animal product processing establishments, as described in the report.

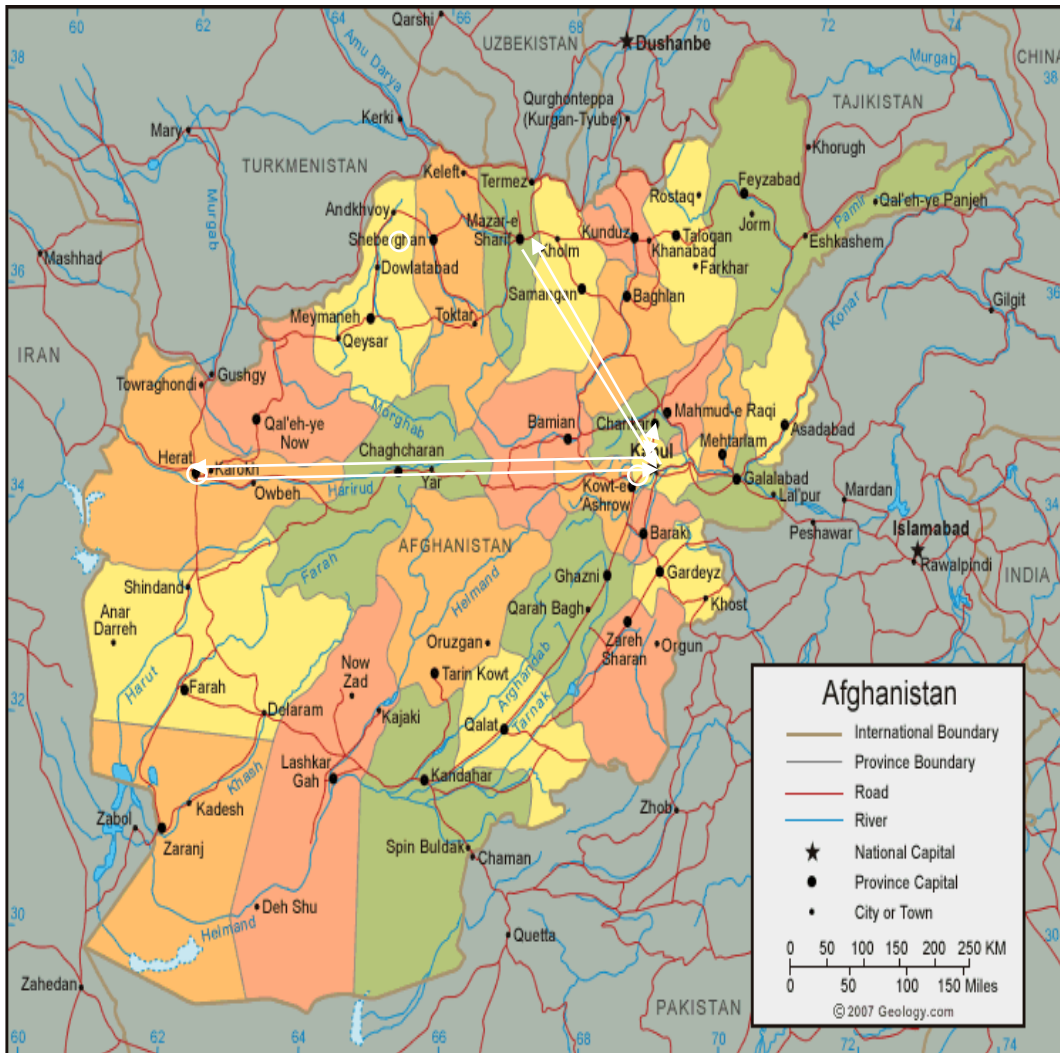
In order to assess epidemiological surveillance and public-private stakeholder relationships, the Team met with members of the Sanitary Mandate Contracting Department, the Department of Monitoring, Evaluation and Coordination and members of the central and provincial epidemiology departments. Visits were also made to provincial veterinary diagnostic laboratories. In Kabul, the OIE PVS Team attended a one day Conference at which it was possible to meet many private sector animal health service providers from VFUs all around Afghanistan.

At a half way stage of the mission the OIE PVS Team held meetings with His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and the Deputy Minister of Administration and Finance in the MAIL headquarters. At these meetings the OIE PVS Team gave the Minister an overview of the OIE PVS Pathway and the various options for progressing forward with other PVS activities, including the possibility of a PVS Gap Analysis mission.

A closing meeting to discuss the overall conclusions and key recommendations of the evaluation was held at the headquarters of the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production on the last day of the mission. The meeting was attended by the Director General, GDAH&P, senior members of the Animal Health Authority representatives of NGOs involved in developing field veterinary services, the Afghanistan Veterinary Association and stakeholders from the public and private sectors. At the closing meeting, the OIE PVS Team explained the process and timetable for finalisation of the report, its peer review and circulation of the report to the Director General of the GDAH&P, currently appointed as the OIE Delegate to Afghanistan.

Appendix 4 provides the timetable of the mission, persons met and details of the facilities and locations visited by the OIE PVS Team and Appendix 5 provides the international air travel itinerary of team members.

Figure 4 - Map depicting itinerary of Field missions to Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif



II.4.B Categories of sites and sampling for the evaluation

Table 5 lists the categories of site relevant to the evaluation and the number of each category of site in the country. It indicates how many of the sites were visited, in comparison with the suggested sampling framework (“ideal” sampling) recommended in OIE PVS Manual.

Appendix 4 provides a detailed list of sites visited and meetings conducted.

Due to limitations imposed by a heightened level of security in Afghanistan, the Team was only able to visit a limited number of sites in the field and meet with fewer relevant stakeholders in Kabul than was the case during the previous PVS evaluation mission in 2010. Thus, the numbers of sites visited compared with the number of existing sites for each area of interest within the veterinary domain has been less than would normally be the case for a PVS evaluation mission. This was understood to be the case by the Team, the Government of Afghanistan and the OIE during the planning stage of the mission.

Table 11. Site sampling	Terminology or names used in the country	Number of sites	“Ideal” Sampling	Actual sampling
GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES OF THE COUNTRY				
Agro-ecological zone		8	4	3
ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION OF THE COUNTRY				
1st administrative level		1	1	1
2nd administrative level		6	3	2
3rd administrative level		28	10	2
4th administrative level		364	20	0
Urban entities		217	10	3
VETERINARY SERVICES ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURE				
Central (Federal/National) VS		2	2	2
Internal division of the central VS		5	5	5
1 st level of the VS		6	3	2
2 nd level of the VS		28	10	0
3 rd level of the VS		1000+	30	3
Veterinary organisations (VSB, unions...)		N/A		2
FIELD ANIMAL HEALTH NETWORK				
Field level of the VS (animal health)		1000+	30	3
Private veterinary sector		1000+	30	3
Other sites (dip tanks, crush pens....)		N/A		
VETERINARY MEDICINES & BIOLOGICALS				
Production sector		1	1	0
Import and wholesale sector		23	10	1
Retail sector		?	30	0
Other partners involved		1	1	1
VETERINARY LABORATORIES				
National labs		2	2	2
Regional and local labs		6	3	2
Associated, accredited and other labs		N/A		
ANIMAL AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS MOVEMENT CONTROL				
Bordering countries		6	3	0
Airports and ports border posts		14	5	0
Main terrestrial border posts		11	5	0
Minor terrestrial border posts		N/A		
Quarantine stations for import		0	0	0
Internal check points		0	0	0
Live animal markets		N/A	0	0
Zones, compartments, export quarantines		N/A	0	0
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS				
Export slaughterhouse		1	1	1
National market slaughterhouses		6+	1	1
Local market slaughterhouse		N/A	0	0
Slaughter areas/slabs/points		N/A	0	0
On farm or butcher’s slaughtering sites		5000+		
Processing sites (milk, meat, eggs, etc.)		N/A	4	2
Retail outlets (butchers, shops, restaurants)		N/A	5	2
TRAINING AND RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS				
Veterinary university		8	4	3
Veterinary paraprofessional schools		17	5	2
Veterinary research organisations		N/A		
STAKEHOLDERS’ ORGANISATIONS				
Agricultural Chamber / organisation		N/A	5	2
National livestock farmers organisations		N/A		
Local livestock farmers organisations		N/A		
Other stakeholder organisations		N/A	5	5
Consumer organisations		N/A		

PART III: RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION & GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

This evaluation identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the veterinary services, and makes general and specific recommendations.

FUNDAMENTAL COMPONENTS

1. HUMAN PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES
2. TECHNICAL AUTHORITY AND CAPABILITY
3. INTERACTION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES
4. ACCESS TO MARKETS

The activities of the Veterinary services are recognised by the international community and by OIE Members as a '**global public good**'. Accordingly, it is essential that each country acknowledges the importance of the role and responsibilities of its Veterinary Services and gives them the human and financial resources needed to fulfil their responsibilities.

This OIE PVS Evaluation examined each critical competency under the 4 fundamental components, listed strengths and weaknesses where applicable, and established a current level of advancement for each critical competency. Documents supporting this level are listed in Appendix 6. General recommendations were provided where relevant.

The current level of advancement for each critical competency is shown in cells shaded in grey (15%) in the table.

III.1. Fundamental component I: human, physical and financial resources

This component of the evaluation concerns the institutional and financial sustainability of the VS as evidenced by the level of professional/technical and financial resources available and the capacity to mobilize these resources. It comprises fourteen critical competencies:

Critical competencies:

Section I-1	Professional and technical staffing of the Veterinary Services A. Veterinary and other professionals (university qualification) B. Veterinary para-professionals and other technical personnel
Section I-2	Competencies of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals A. Professional competencies of veterinarians B. Competencies of veterinary para-professionals
Section I-3	Continuing education
Section I-4	Technical independence
Section I-5	Stability of structures and sustainability of policies
Section I-6	Coordination capability of the VS A. Internal coordination (chain of command) B. External coordination
Section I-7	Physical resources
Section I-8	Operational funding
Section I-9	Emergency funding
Section I-10	Capital investment
Section I-11	Management of resources and operations

----- Terrestrial Code References:

Points 1-7, 9 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement / Independence / Impartiality / Integrity / Objectivity / Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards / Human and financial resources.

Point 4 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations.

Point 1 of Article 3.2.2. on Scope.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Point 2 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality system: "Where the Veterinary Services undergoing evaluation... than on the resource and infrastructural components of the services".

Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Financial / Administrative / Technical.

Points 3 and Sub-point d) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Compliance / In-Service training and development programme for staff.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 1-5 and 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services / National information on human resources / Financial management information / Administration details / Laboratory services / Performance assessment and audit programmes.

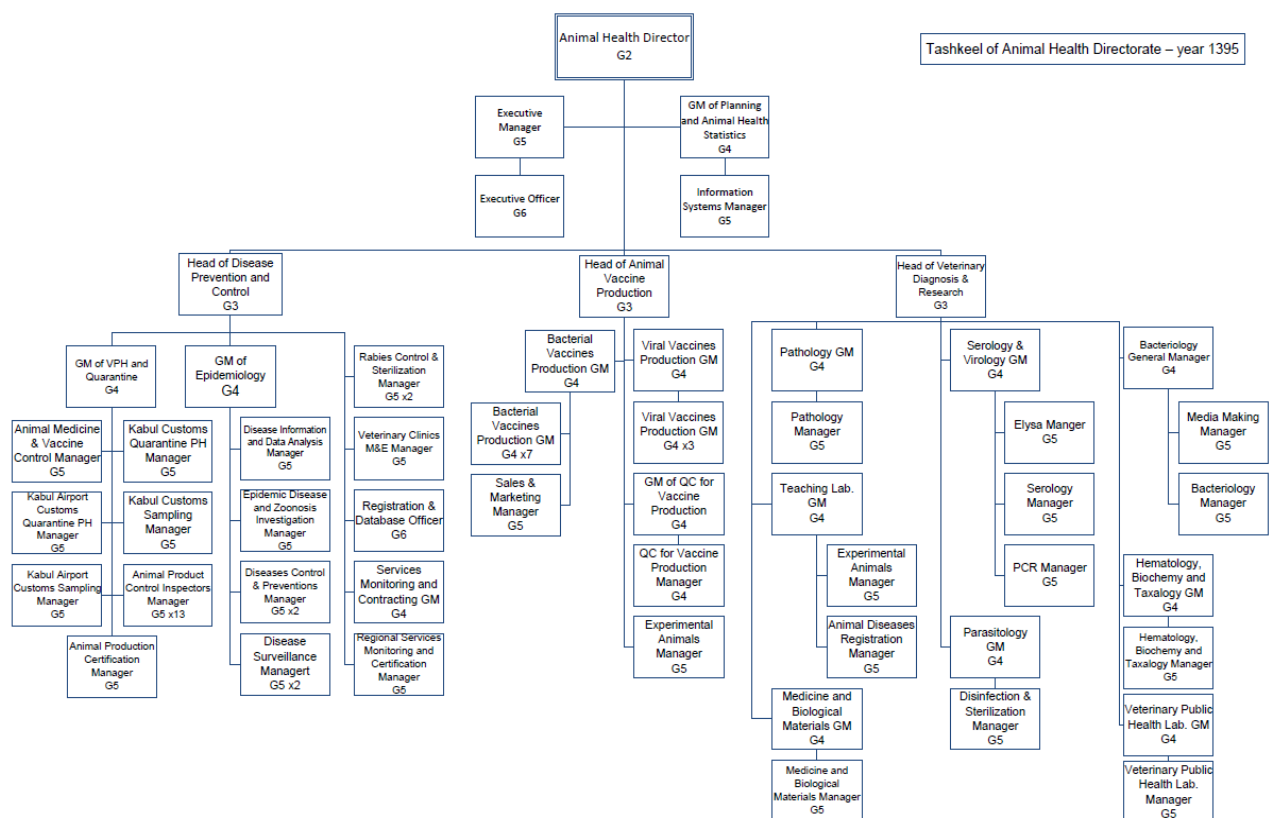
<p>I-1 Professional and technical staffing of the Veterinary Services</p> <p><i>The appropriate staffing of the VS to allow for veterinary and technical functions to be undertaken efficiently and effectively.</i></p> <p>A. Veterinary and other professionals (university qualification)</p>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The majority of veterinary and other professional positions are not occupied by appropriately qualified personnel.
	2. The majority of veterinary and other professional positions are occupied by appropriately qualified personnel at central and state / provincial levels.
	3. The majority of veterinary and other professional positions are occupied by appropriately qualified personnel at local (field) levels.
	4. There is a systematic approach to defining job descriptions and formal appointment procedures for veterinarians and other professionals.
	5. There are effective management procedures for performance assessment of veterinarians and other professionals.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Level of advancement (2010)
	1. The majority of veterinary and other professional positions are not occupied by appropriately qualified personnel.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD13E, PMD-28E, PMD-29E, PMD30E, PMD31E, MD8E, MD12E, MD16E, MD42E, MD43E, MD46E, MD47E, MD96H.

Findings: Staffing of the government VS was assessed at the central and provincial levels. The organogram of the central Animal Health Directorate (AHD) in MAIL, according to the Civil Service Tashkiel, in 2016 is as follows:



At the central level in the AHD, there are 77 permanent positions. Fifty-nine are designated for veterinarians and of these 7, (12%) are currently vacant. Thirteen permanent positions are designated for veterinary assistants and 2 of the 13 (15.3%) are currently vacant. An additional 3 positions are designated as administrative positions and all are filled. There are also some temporary veterinary positions (10-12) funded by donors for specific projects but

these are not identified in the organogram as permanent positions. While the majority of veterinary positions are filled by veterinarians, the Team identified the need for some advanced qualifications at the MSc or PhD level for certain positions to ensure technical capacity. This was particularly notable in the areas of epidemiology and risk assessment.

At the provincial level, each provincial DAIL is designated to have at least four veterinary officers, namely a provincial veterinary officer (PVO) a provincial epidemiological officer (PVEO), a provincial veterinary monitoring and evaluation officer (PVMEO) and a provincial veterinary laboratory officer (PVLO). With 34 provinces in the country, this represents 136 positions. All should be filled by graduate veterinarians (DVMs). However, at present only 53 of these positions, (39%), are filled by veterinarians. An additional 25 (18%) are filled by veterinary assistants (diploma level), 8 (6%) by paravets, 17 (13%) by high school graduates with no advanced training and 32 (24%) by others (e.g., non-veterinary university degrees, such as agronomy or animal science). One position remains unfilled. Notably, in the province of Nimroz, all four positions are filled by high school leavers. These figures suggest that there is considerable room for improvement to achieve appropriate levels of staffing at the suitable qualification level of DVM. Currently, there is a civil service reform effort underway in which the central and provincial veterinary positions are being recruited on the basis of suitable academic qualification.

Within the 34 provinces of Afghanistan there are 388 administrative districts, averaging about 10 per province. While provincial officers may visit the districts in the course of their duties, there is no permanent presence of government veterinarians at the district level. An innovative solution is gradually taking hold in the country to ensure that official veterinary activities are being addressed at the district level. This is the development of sanitary mandate contracts with district level, private sector veterinary clinical service providers. Clinical services are provided to farmers through a private network of Veterinary Field Units (VFUs), staffed mainly by veterinary para-professionals, referred to commonly in Afghanistan as paravets as well as a number of veterinarians and veterinary assistants. This is discussed further in CC I-1B. In principle, there is nothing to stop graduate veterinarians from working as clinical service providers through the VFU network and thereby having the opportunity to participate in sanitary mandate contracts as well, but for reasons not fully examined or understood, there is little interest among graduating veterinarians in pursuing these job opportunities. A 2013 list of VFUs accessed on the AVA website¹¹ indicates that at that time there were 67 veterinarians working in AVA supported VFUs. Many of these veterinarians were formerly employed in government owned clinics which were privatised under a MAIL sponsored scheme funded by the World Bank (WB) National Horticulture and Livestock Project (NHLP) in 2012/13.

The actual number of veterinarians in Afghanistan is not known. The establishment of a veterinary statutory body (VSB) to license veterinarians would be helpful in addressing this, as at least those active in the profession would be licensed. As a frame of reference, Kabul University provided information to the Team indicating that since 2001, there have been 582 graduates from the veterinary faculty, 46 of them being women. The website of the AVA reports a membership of 464 graduate veterinarians though the figures have not been updated since 2011. A key interviewee estimated the total number of veterinarians in the country to be around 1,200. With over 12 million small ruminants and 4 million cattle in the country, this represents an inadequate number of veterinarians, even if all were actively employed.

The current structure of the AHA does not precisely reflect the numbers or types of personnel required by the Directorate to perform all of its core functions effectively. On the advice of Technical Assistance provided to the former AHD by successive Phases of the EU funded AHDP the AHD has presented a proposed revised structure to the MAIL Policy and Planning

¹¹ <http://www.ava.org.af/vfu.html>

and Human Resource Directorates for their consideration, however, to date only small changes have been made to the *Tashkiel*. One such example of the proposed changes was the creation of a separate Department for Monitoring, Evaluation and Coordination of NGO activities which was seen to be essential given the lack of coordination amongst NGO partners working in the area of animal health service delivery. In addition, it was recommended to establish a Sanitary Mandate Contracting Department with at least 3-4 staff members. Job Descriptions for all required staff have been developed but not all of the required positions have been created under the Civil Service Commission *Tashkiel*.

Strengths:

- As part of the civil service reform process, relevant qualifications have been set for government veterinary positions at central and provincial levels and the recruitment process is proceeding, albeit at a slow pace.
- While there are still a good number of positions that need to be filled by veterinary professionals, particularly at the provincial level, the majority of positions at central and provincial level combined are now filled by veterinary professionals.

Weaknesses:

- A considerable number of government veterinary positions at provincial level are filled by unsuitably qualified persons.
- There is a need for some veterinarians in certain government positions to be trained to a higher level of specialised expertise.
- Very few veterinarians are involved in clinical service delivery to farmers and herders in the private sector.
- The number of veterinary schools and veterinary graduates is increasing but there is no information about employment opportunities or employment status post-graduation.
- There is no information about overall current and projected needs for graduate veterinarians in the country.
- There are insufficient numbers of suitably qualified personnel to perform all of the core functions of the AHA.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

Afghanistan has increased its number of its veterinary faculties, its level of enrolments and the number of graduates without any apparent assessment of veterinary labour force needs and there is still no indication that veterinarians are readily finding employment in the veterinary sector. Government veterinary positions at provincial level still remain largely unfilled.

In spite of repeated attempts on the part of former Director Generals of the GDAH&P, the senior management of MAIL and the Civil Service Commission have yet to approve proposed structural changes within the AHA to accommodate the necessary members of staff to perform all of its core functions effectively.

Recommendations

- The reasons for lack of participation of graduate veterinarians in the veterinary administration as well as in the veterinary field units should be determined and appropriate incentives and awareness raising activities developed to encourage veterinarians to engage in clinical service delivery and as officers to fill the many vacancies in the central and provincial Animal Health Authorities.
- Needs for advanced training for government veterinarians should be assessed and a training plan developed.
- Senior management (Human Resources Directorate) within MAIL is recommended to review the current structure of the AHA with a view to reorganise the structure in accordance with the requirements to fulfil all of its core functions and to convey the needs of the AHA to the Civil Service Commission.

I-1. Professional and technical staffing of the Veterinary Services <i>The appropriate staffing of the VS to allow for veterinary and technical functions to be undertaken efficiently and effectively.</i> B. Veterinary para-professionals and other technical personnel	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The majority of technical positions are not occupied by personnel holding appropriate qualifications.
	2. The majority of technical positions at central and state / provincial levels are occupied by personnel holding appropriate qualifications.
	3. The majority of technical positions at local (field) levels are occupied by personnel holding appropriate qualifications.
	4. The majority of technical positions are effectively supervised on a regular basis.
	5. There are effective management procedures for formal appointment and performance assessment of veterinary para-professionals.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Level of advancement (2010)
	1. The majority of technical positions are not occupied by personnel holding technical qualifications.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD29EH, PMD13E, MD12E, MD13E, MD16E, MD38E, MD42E, MD45E, MD46E, MD47E, MD96H, P1 – P7, P14, P15, P16,

Findings:

The number of veterinary assistants and “paravets”, collectively referred to as veterinary para-professionals (VPPs) in Afghanistan, is not precisely known but is considered to be greater than the number of graduate veterinarians. For example, in 2011, the AVA recorded 464 veterinarians as members while at the same time recording 114 “Asst. DVMs” and 485 “paravets” as members. The AVA, the AHA and the former AHD have used the term “Asst. DVM” for some years now to describe the holders of a diploma in Animal Health awarded by one or other of the 18 (provincial) Agriculture and Veterinary Training Institutes. The Team would like to express its concern in the use of the term Assistant DVM / “Asst. DVM”, since this would imply that the person so described may in fact hold a University degree (DVM) in veterinary medicine. For the purposes of this report the Team prefers to use the term “veterinary assistant” when referring to such diploma holders as it more accurately reflects their level of education. This distinction will become more important as and when the Veterinary Board defines the range of veterinary acts which may be performed by each different category of VPP.

The number of VPPs employed directly by the government VS is small. At the central level, thirteen positions are designated for VPPs of which two are currently unfilled. At provincial level, all positions are intended to be held by graduate veterinarians although at present, only 39% are so filled.

Currently, the main focus of VPPs working in Afghanistan is the private sector delivery of clinical veterinary services to farmers and herders at the district and village levels through a national network of VFUs, most of whom are supported and supervised by veterinarians working for the NGOs responsible for their establishment. It is difficult to determine the exact number of VFUs in Afghanistan. A recent report (Bartels 2016) indicated that of the 332 districts in Afghanistan, 276 districts have one or more VFUs. The Director General of the AHDP indicated the total number of VFUs in the country to be 1320 during a presentation made at a VFU workshop held during this mission. The AHA has begun to license VFUs and they currently have licensed 870 while acknowledging that they have not yet completed the process.

A notable development since 2010 is that government, encouraged by donors, has recognized the value of the VFU network to the overall performance of the VS in the country. With a grass roots presence and daily interactions with farmers and herders, the VFUs are well placed to perform a variety of tasks on behalf of government, including disease reporting, extension and awareness raising on diseases of concern, sampling for sero-

surveillance activities and vaccination for national disease control programmes. In this regard, government has entered into sanitary mandate contracts directly with selected VFUs for disease reporting and brucellosis control (funded by the EU and World Bank) and indirectly with additional VFUs through their associated NGOs for PPR surveillance and vaccination (funded by the Japanese government through FAO). There is an expectation from donors that MAIL will, over time, assume the costs of these sanitary mandates and institutionalise the process to strengthen the VS through public-private partnership.

The MAIL strategic plan for 2016-2020, the NCADPP, specifically mentions the public private partnership being developed between the AHA and the private veterinary sector and states that “MAIL continues to strengthen sustainable animal health services to farmers through private public partnership models already being tested in the field. These models are exploring innovative ways in which to deliver quality, range and geographical distribution of animal health services and inputs available to farmers according to their needs and ability to pay. MAIL views this as a significant opportunity to develop a PPP model for the delivery of these services, with the aim of applying it elsewhere in the sector.”

Strengths:

- A strong private sector network of clinical service delivery for farmers and herders is well established in Afghanistan through the district and village based VFUs which are mainly operated by para-veterinarians trained by NGOs.
- The government has created sanitary mandate contracts with VFUs to enhance disease reporting, surveillance and control through public – private partnership.

Weaknesses:

- While “paravets” are generally recognized as providing a good level of quality clinical services to farmers, it would be desirable for the DCA curriculum to be approved by the Ministry of Education and for the Veterinary Board established under the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act (2016) to formally recognize all categories of VPPs, defining their qualifications and prerogatives.
- Lack of veterinary supervision of work by VPPs working in those VFUs with limited or no NGO support or supervision.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

The role of VPPs, notably paravets, in the delivery of veterinary clinical services to farmers and herders has become increasingly well established in Afghanistan. Some paravets have been operating private sector VFUs for as long as 13 years, earning their income through service delivery rather than through salaries. The stability and effectiveness of the VFU network have led donors and government to expand the role of VPPs in the delivery of official veterinary activities at district level by delegation through sanitary mandate contracts.

Recommendations:

- A human resource needs assessment should be conducted to identify medium and long term needs for VPP (veterinary assistants and paravets) in the country.
- Existing sanitary mandate schemes should continue and the budget for sanitary mandate contracts with VFUs for brucellosis control and PPR control should be taken on by government, gradually replacing the support of donors.
- Consideration should be given to expanding sanitary mandate schemes to include other public-private partnership activities such as meat inspection, monitoring of drug shops for suspect quality issues, particularly in rural areas and extension services to farmers.
- With Afghanistan’s recent WTO accession, the expectation of establishing more regulated slaughter facilities (slaughter slabs and abattoirs) as well as the need to better regulate the veterinary drug supply to avoid misuse, poor quality and residues,

there will be a need to expand the number of inspectors at both central and provincial levels. VPPs at the veterinary assistant and paravet levels could be trained to undertake some of these functions, either as government employees, or preferably, under sanitary mandate contracts in the case of food safety inspections, particularly in rural areas where the recruitment of graduate veterinarians may be difficult.

I-2 Competencies of veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The capability of the VS to efficiently carry out their veterinary and technical functions; measured by the qualifications of their personnel in veterinary and technical positions.</i>	1. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes are of a variable standard that usually allow for elementary clinical and administrative activities of the VS.
A. Professional competencies of veterinarians including the OIE Day 1 competencies	2. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes are of a uniform standard that usually allow for accurate and appropriate clinical and administrative activities of the VS.
	3. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes usually allow undertaking all professional/technical activities of the VS (e.g. epidemiological surveillance, early warning, public health, etc.).
	4. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes usually allow undertaking specialised activities as may be needed by the VS.
	5. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes are subject to regular updating, or international harmonisation, or evaluation.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

	Wording of the Level of advancement (2010)
PVS 2010	1. The veterinarians' practices, knowledge and attitudes are of a variable standard that usually allow for elementary clinical and administrative activities of the VS.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): MD8E, MD20H, MD41E, MD43A, P8.

Findings:

The number of university veterinary faculties in Afghanistan has expanded from three in 2010 (Kabul, Nangarhar and Herat) when the previous PVS Evaluation was performed to eight in 2017 (Kabul, Nangarhar, Herat, Mazar, Khost, Kunduz, Helmand, and Bamyan). This means an increase in the number of graduates entering the job market each year. However, the competency of these graduates poses a concern. The Team visited the Kabul, Mazar and Herat faculties. None of them had any formal system for tracking alumni outcomes and could not say how many of their graduates were working as veterinarians. Furthermore, all three faculties acknowledged that their practical clinical training was weak. None had animal holding facilities on campus for teaching clinical or diagnostic skills and only Kabul had a clinical teaching hospital a short distance from campus. The other faculties visited depended on private clinics and VFUs to provide clinical experience to their students during their final year. The Mazar faculty had one room that served as the single laboratory space for anatomy, microbiology, haematology, etc., and the room did not have running water or a sink. Only skeletons are available for teaching anatomy unless students buy their own animals for dissection. This lack of practical, laboratory and clinical training may be a critical factor in veterinarians not seeking employment through VFUs as clinical service providers after graduation due to lack of confidence from inadequate training.

The oldest and most well established veterinary faculty, Kabul University, still remains understaffed and has difficulty to identify a full complement of academic staff trained at MSc or PhD level. They currently have 23 full time staff for over 400 students and eleven of those staff are currently overseas receiving post-graduate training in Japan, Kazakhstan and Turkey. The Mazar faculty (Balkh University) has only 10 academic staff with three currently away for advanced training. The Herat faculty has 13 full time academic staff and three are currently away. While the Nangarhar University faculty in Jalalabad is well established, the other four remaining faculties are quite new and it is unlikely that they have a full complement of faculty trained at suitable academic levels with relevant specialisations. The Team was informed that all the faculties follow the curriculum of the Kabul University faculty, but most have even fewer academic staff to teach the curriculum than Kabul does. This means that most graduates of veterinary faculties in Afghanistan are almost certainly not being sufficiently trained to fulfil the Day 1 Competencies described by the OIE.

Strengths:

- There is increased awareness among the veterinary faculties visited of their need to expand opportunities for students to develop hands-on clinical skills during their training. A number of initiatives are being explored including establishment of teaching clinics, maintaining teaching animals and organising externships for veterinary students in their final year to rotate through private practices and veterinary field units.
- Veterinary faculties are striving to upgrade their academic staff through advanced training abroad to Masters and Doctoral levels.

Weaknesses:

- The number of veterinary schools is increasing without any information on the national need for graduate veterinarians.
- Given the limited number of experienced veterinary academics in the country, the increase in the number of veterinary faculties means that there are insufficient numbers of qualified professors/trainers to successfully educate veterinary students.
- Most veterinary faculties have insufficient laboratory space, other clinical teaching facilities and equipment to provide the necessary basic clinical and laboratory knowledge and skills.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

Since 2010, there has been an unexpected increase in the number of veterinary faculties without a concomitant increase in the number of experienced, qualified veterinary academics to staff those faculties. As a result the overall preparedness of veterinary graduates to meet Day 1 competencies is diminishing due to a dilution of teaching expertise. In the meantime, though recommended by the 2010 PVS Evaluation, there still has not been a study on the overall human resource needs at the professional and para-professional levels.

Recommendations:

- Establish a moratorium on new veterinary faculties until a human resource needs assessment is conducted to determine the number of existing veterinarians and the need for additional graduate veterinarians in the medium and long term in both the public and private sectors.
- Existing faculties should further strengthen their practical and clinical teaching programmes to better prepare graduates for veterinary practice.
- Assessments should include the need for veterinarians trained at post-graduate levels to address specific deficiencies that exist in the country, for example, veterinarians proficient in quantitative epidemiology and risk assessment to work in government.
- A national veterinary competency examination should be developed and administered annually to new graduates to determine if they have the knowledge and skills necessary to practise veterinary medicine.

B. Competencies of veterinary para-professionals	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The majority of veterinary para-professionals have no formal entry-level training.
	2. The training of veterinary para-professionals is of a variable standard and allows the development of only basic competencies.
	3. The training of veterinary para-professionals is of a uniform standard that allows the development of only basic specific competencies.
	4. The training of veterinary para-professionals is of a uniform standard that allows the development of some advanced competencies (e.g. meat inspection).
	5. The training of veterinary para-professionals is of a uniform standard and is subject to regular evaluation and/or updating.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Level of advancement (2010)
	2. The training of veterinary para-professionals is of a very variable standard and allows the development of only limited animal health competencies.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD23E, PMD24E, MD13E, MD22E, MD23E, MD39E, MD93H, P10 – P13, P17 – P21, P33.

Findings:

VPP in the subgroup known as “veterinary assistants” are trained at government-operated Agriculture and Veterinary Training Institutes that grant a diploma after two years of training following high school. There are 18 such institutes in the country (People in Need (PIN) study, 2016); the Team visited the oldest one, the Agriculture and Veterinary Training Institute in Kabul, founded 60 years ago. Staff informed the Team that a standard curriculum, developed by the Deputy Head of Technical and Vocational Training in the Ministry of Education, is used by all the institutes. The five trainers at the Institute are graduate veterinarians. The Institute had minimal facilities for hands-on practical training. There was a small hatchery with chicks and a goat house was currently under construction. The Institute does not formally track its graduates but staff expressed the opinion that many remained jobless after graduation. The staff estimated that collectively, the 18 institutes graduate approximately 2,000 veterinary assistants per annum.

The training of VPPs known as “paravets” has always occurred outside of government. Over the years, several different NGOs have provided such training, most notably the Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) which has been training paravets continuously since 1988 and remains the only organisation still currently training them. The DCA curriculum, refined over 25 years, is of 5.5 months duration with a heavy emphasis on practical clinical training. DCA maintains training centres in Mazar e Sharif, Herat and Charikar, just north of Kabul city. The Team visited the Charikar training centre which includes a substantial housing facility for cattle, small ruminants, equines and poultry maintained for practical training of resident trainees. DCA also trains Basic Veterinary Workers (BVW) for a period of several weeks. These BVW trainees are primarily Kuchi nomads who move with their flocks. DCA is currently in the process of obtaining formal approval of their paravet curriculum by the Ministry of Education.

Strengths:

- The training programmes for veterinary assistants and paravets in Afghanistan are well established.
- The paravet training programme in particular is oriented toward training of VPPs with clinical skills sufficient to provide basic curative and preventive veterinary services to livestock owners.

Weaknesses:

- The institutes responsible for training veterinary assistants are not sufficiently equipped and do not provide sufficient practical, clinical training.
- There is little information regarding the employment outcomes for graduates of veterinary assistant programmes and there appears to be a disconnect between the supply currently being produced and demand for their services in the marketplace.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

There are now 18 Agriculture and Veterinary Training Institutes around the country training veterinary assistants using a standardized curriculum developed by the Ministry of Education, but with no clear indication about their employment status after graduation. The training of paravets is now limited to one NGO, DCA, down from three NGOs in 2010.

Recommendations:

- A medium and long term national needs assessment for veterinary para-professionals (in coordination with a national needs assessment for veterinarians) in the public and private sectors should be conducted by a panel comprised of interested parties to rationalize the training of veterinary personnel.
- Establish / provide suitable infrastructure and equipment at Agricultural Colleges to allow suitable clinical exposure and development of clinical knowledge and skills of veterinary assistants.
- Improve the clinical training component of the veterinary assistant curriculum.

I-3 Continuing education (CE)¹²	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The capability of the VS to maintain and improve the competence of their personnel in terms of relevant information and understanding; measured in terms of the implementation of a relevant training programme.</i>	1. The VS have no access to veterinary, professional or technical CE.
	2. The VS have access to CE (internal and/or external programmes) on an irregular basis but it does not take into account needs, or new information or understanding.
	3. The VS have access to CE that is reviewed annually and updated as necessary, but it is implemented only for some categories of the relevant personnel.
	4. The VS have access to CE that is reviewed annually and updated as necessary, and it is implemented for all categories of the relevant personnel.
	5. The VS have up-to-date CE that is implemented for all relevant personnel and is subject to regular evaluation of effectiveness.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Level of advancement (2010)
	2. The VS have access to CE (internal and/or external programmes) on an irregular basis but it does not take into account needs, or new information or understanding.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): MD23E, MD46E, MD60E, MD93H, P17, P18, P19, P20, P21.

Findings:

The observation concerning continuing education (CE) made in 2010 still holds true, namely that neither the veterinary services nor the veterinary faculties currently have the capacity to organise, manage and conduct regular, ongoing programmes of CE to maintain and improve the competence of their personnel.

Nevertheless, some CE activities are being developed and delivered, mainly by NGOs and donor related projects. For example, in the past year, both ATAR (USAID) and FAO Technical Assistants have provided training for AHD staff on Risk analysis in relation to setting standards for regulating the import of animals and animal products (ATAR) and for disease prevention and control (FAO). Nevertheless, capacity of both the VPH/Quarantine & epidemiology departments to undertake risk analysis exercises in accordance with OIE standards remains weak.

The DCA has developed an extensive list of fifteen two week and 9 one week continuing education short courses which they can provide to interested parties including VFU staff, other NGOs, donor project staff and government. The list of topics available and the length of the courses is given in the document MD60E provided as evidence in Appendix 6.

The AVA also provided a list of CE short courses that it has presented in various regions to VFU staff and government personnel (see Appendix 6, MD 93H).

Strengths:

- The value of CE for ensuring the quality of veterinary services in the public and private sectors is now widely recognized and various donors and NGOs are providing relevant courses to private and public sector animal health providers.
- Though CE is voluntary at this point, demand for CE courses is strong.

Weaknesses:

- Neither the VS nor the veterinary faculties have yet developed organised CE programs.

¹² Continuing education includes Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for veterinary, professional and technical personnel.

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- As the Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) has not yet been actualized, there are no specific CE requirements identified in association with licensure for various categories of animal health providers.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

Awareness of the value of CE for strengthening existing skills and for broadening areas of expertise is widely recognized in both the public and private sector. Donors and NGOs are expanding offerings for CE but government and academia remain comparatively uninvolved as deliverers of CE content.

Recommendations:

- The AHA should develop a needs-based CE plan for AHA and provincial DAIL staff and work with the veterinary faculties, NGOs and other interested parties to develop course content and delivery.
- The VSB should be established and CE requirements for licensed veterinarians, veterinary assistants, paravets and BVWs should be elucidated.

I-4 Technical independence <i>The capability of the VS to carry out their duties with autonomy and free from commercial, financial, hierarchical and political influences that may affect technical decisions in a manner contrary to the provisions of the OIE (and of the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The technical decisions made by the VS are generally not based on scientific considerations.
	2. The technical decisions take into account the scientific evidence, but are routinely modified to conform to non-scientific considerations.
	3. The technical decisions are based on scientific evidence but are subject to review and possible modification based on non-scientific considerations.
	4. The technical decisions are made and implemented in general accordance with the country's OIE obligations (and with the country's WTO SPS Agreement obligations where applicable).
	5. The technical decisions are based only on scientific evidence and are not changed to meet non-scientific considerations
Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2	
PVS 2010	Wording of the Level of advancement (2010)
	2. The technical decisions take into account the scientific evidence, but are routinely modified to conform to non-scientific considerations.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD19E, PMD26E, MD1E.

Findings:

As stated in the 2010 PVS Evaluation, corruption within government institutions remains a serious problem¹³. Government salaries continue to lag behind the earnings of similarly qualified professionals working in the private sector. For this reason, government personnel may still compromise their technical independence when making decisions related to regulatory functions. Whilst the recent enactment of new legislation is welcomed and will certainly allow the AHA to perform many of its core regulatory functions more effectively, it should be emphasised that enforcement of regulations and procedures must be undertaken with integrity if government is to gain the respect of the people whose interests it has the responsibility to protect.

The inappropriate selection of government employees through “*skewed procedural rules that are open to manipulation by political elites resulting in delays and assignment of undeserving candidates*” is recognised as a serious issue compromising the integrity of staff within the senior management of MAIL, as recorded in the NCADPP, 2016 (see Appendix 6 MD1E). During this mission, it was encouraging to learn that the Capacity Building Reform (CBR) which has recently been adopted by the Civil Service Commission allows for a more transparent process of recruitment which will ensure that correctly qualified personnel will gradually fill the more senior positions at central and provincial government levels, avoiding the pitfalls associated with political interference alluded to in the Executive Summary of the NCADPP (2016-2020) Appendix 6 MD1E).

Although the Team came across several instances where AHA regulatory authorities were making commendable efforts to bring about change through enforcing higher standards of practice especially in the areas of food safety of animal products and the control of retail sale of poor quality or counterfeit medicines, these efforts are still compromised by failures in the judicial system.

Strengths:

¹³ CIA World Fact Book (2016) <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

- Enactment of an Animal Health (Veterinary) Act providing powers and authority to the AHA to perform all of the necessary regulatory functions of a modern Veterinary Service;
- Increasing involvement of the AHA in the performance of regulatory activities;
- CBR is having a positive effect on the recruitment of more adequately qualified personnel to make appropriate technical decisions.

Weaknesses:

- Relatively low salaries of government personnel can compromise the integrity of regulatory officials;
- Lack of Regulations and Procedures for the implementation of recently enacted Animal Health (Veterinary) Act.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

The MAIL now recognises the importance of having a transparent procedure for the recruitment of staff which is based on well formulated Job Descriptions and not influenced by political interference. To this effect, the MAIL has taken full advantage of the newly instituted CBR reform and has already exceeded its quota (set by the Civil Service) for the recruitment of senior staff at central and provincial levels for 2017.

Recommendations:

- Institute robust systems to audit the performance of regulatory functions, especially where administrative sanctions may be applied by government inspectors and where the collection of fees is concerned;
- AHA officers should be regularly audited to ensure that no conflict of interests arises through their involvement in private activities related to their regulatory functions;
- Provide training to all regulatory personnel on principles of conflict of interest, Codes of Ethics and professional integrity;
- Develop communication tools to create greater awareness amongst stakeholders in the private sector of the limits of regulatory powers of government officials;
- Continue to involve key stakeholders in the development of Regulations and Procedures for the implementation of primary and secondary legislation;
- Instances of political interference in the making of technical decisions or which compromise performance of regulatory functions should be reported to the highest possible authorities.

I-5 Stability of structures and sustainability of policies <i>The capability of the VS structure and/or leadership to implement and sustain policies over time.</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. Substantial changes to the organisational structure and/or leadership of the public sector of the VS frequently occur (e.g. annually) resulting in lack of sustainability of policies.
	2. Sustainability of policies is affected by changes in the political leadership and/or the structure and leadership of VS
	3. Sustainability of policies is not affected or is slightly affected by changes in the political leadership and/or the structure and leadership of VS.
	4. Policies are sustained over time through national strategic plans and frameworks and are not affected by changes in the political leadership and/or the structure and leadership of VS
	5. Policies are sustained over time and the structure and leadership of the VS are stable. Modifications are based on an evaluation process, with positive effects on the sustainability of policies.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

I-5. Stability of structures and sustainability of policies <i>The capability of the VS structure and/or leadership to implement and sustain policies over time.</i>	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	1. Substantial changes to the organisational structure and/or leadership of the public sector of the VS frequently occur (e.g. annually) resulting in lack of sustainability of policies.
	2. The organisational structure and/or leadership of the public sector of the VS is substantially changed each time there is a change in the political leadership and this has negative effects on sustainability of policies.
	3. Significant changes to the organisational structure and/or leadership of the public sector of the VS occur rarely, but this stability does not have a positive impact on the sustainability of policies.
	4. Some changes occur in the organisational structure and/or leadership of the public sector of the VS following a change in the political leadership, but these have little or no negative effect on sustainability of policies.
	5. The organisational structure and leadership of the public sector of the VS are generally stable. Modifications are based on an evaluation process, with positive effect on the sustainability of policies.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD7E, PMD10E, PMD17E, PMD28E, MD1E, MD11E, MD14E, MD28E, MD30E, MD42E, MD44E, MD45E, MD46E, MD79E

Findings:

Since the signing of the Afghanistan Compact, a largely political agreement reached between the United Nations, the international community and the government of Afghanistan following the London Conference in 2006, and the appointment of new Ministers of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock in 2008, and again in 2015, the MAIL has embarked upon a succession of strategic planning exercises, MAIL / Interim-Afghanistan National Development Strategy (2007), the Agriculture & Rural Development Strategy, (ARDS, 2008), the National Agriculture Development Framework (NADF, 2009) and most recently, the formulation of the NCADPP (2016-2020) under the current leadership of His Excellency, Mr Assadullah Zamir, the Minister at MAIL. Each of these successive Strategic Plans have their roots in the Agriculture Policy document, The Agriculture Master Plan, adopted by Parliament in November 2005.

However, for several reasons very little of the proposed agricultural development strategies have actually been adopted and implemented at the provincial and district levels. This is largely due to insufficient capacity at the central and provincial government levels, lack of a cohesive donor investment programme within the Ministry during this period, and insufficient means to communicate with and create awareness and engage provincial decision makers in the process of reform,

For instance, during this mission, it was noted that certain actions proposed in the annual investment plan of the Herat regional veterinary directorate were outdated and not in accordance with government policy. In particular, it was noted that it had been proposed to invest in the purchase of government operated mobile veterinary clinics at a time when it has been clearly stated in the Agriculture Master Plan (2005) and subsequent Strategic Planning documents (ANDS, 2007, NADF 2009) that routine clinical veterinary services would, in the future, be delivered by privately operating veterinarians and VPPs. Furthermore, MAIL had already contracted the AVA, under WB funding to implement a project through which all remaining government operated veterinary clinics were privatised.

To quote from the NCADPP: *“Despite minor institutional gains through several change management exercises, challenges remain. MAIL continues to place disproportionate emphasis on structure and focus at the center. This is further compounded by an absence of technical capacities and regulatory enforcement in the provinces and limited capacity and outreach of extension services at the district level.”*

Since the last PVS Evaluation in 2010 the position of Director General of the GDAH&P has been held by five successive appointees up to the end of 2016, until in early 2017, when a new Director General, the present incumbent was appointed. Over this period there has thus been a lack of continuity of leadership within the GDAH&P and the Director of Animal Health having had to hold two management positions for much of this period has not been able to be an effective leader in either position.

Soon after the finalisation of the 2010 PVS Evaluation report, the then Team Leader of the AHDP Phase II organised a Workshop at which the PVS evaluation findings and recommendations were brought to the attention of senior management of the former AHD. Many of the PVS 2010 recommendations were thus adopted as activities to be undertaken by the AHD, in collaboration with AHDP Phase II from 2011 onwards. In particular, the recommendations concerning the strengthening and expansion of the SMCS and the strengthening of veterinary diagnostic laboratory services down to the Provincial level, as well as the gradual development of the capacity of Provincial level veterinary officers (PVO, PVLO, PVEO and PVMEO) were incorporated into activity plans and were gradually implemented over the coming 5 years. Progress in achieving these activities has been monitored through the AHDP Log frame matrix and indicators by both the AHDP and AHD. The main challenge, however, during this period has been the extremely slow appointment of suitably qualified veterinarians into the professional posts at the provincial veterinary department level by the DAHL officials. At the time of this follow-up evaluation, of the 136 provincial veterinary positions which should be occupied by a qualified veterinarian, only 51 are actually held by persons holding a DVM degree. Furthermore, during the past 7 years' period, there have been frequent changes in the appointment of many provincial veterinary staff, making it necessary to repeat the training given to incumbent officers as the personnel has changed.

Although strongly recommended by the AHDP Technical Assistance, as being a crucial element for the successful coordination of NGO activities, the Department of Monitoring, Evaluation and Coordination (DMEC) of VFUs was only recently properly established with recognition of the need for a system of licensing of private animal health service providers working out of VFUs.

In spite of these challenges, there are some notable improvements within the Veterinary Services and in the livestock sector in general. Firstly, some of the structural reforms proposed by Technical Assistance (TA) provided through the European Union (EU) funded AHDP Phases I & II and also the complementary activities of the Rebuilding Agriculture Markets Program (RAMP) and Accelerating Sustainable Agriculture Program (ASAP), as well as interventions of projects funded by the World Bank, FAO, the European Union, IFAD and several others, have all helped to create the beginnings of a public private partnership through which an effective animal health service is beginning to emerge. Furthermore, as

result of government intervention through providing access to land and in some cases loans, there has been a rapid expansion in investment in commercial poultry production, especially in peri-urban areas, and particularly in Nangarhar and Herat provinces. The Dairy Unions established through a long-term investment on the part of FAO has also been successful in establishing milk collection centres, and dairy processing facilities which have encouraged a rapid expansion of dairy production especially in peri-urban areas of Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat.

Finally, an Animal Health (Veterinary) Act, which provides the AHA with the necessary powers and authority to perform the core functions of a modern veterinary service in accordance with OIE and other international standards was enacted by Parliament in July 2016.

Strengths:

- Stability in the expansion of the private veterinary services and establishment of more than 1000 VFU's covering all 34 Provinces through donor / NGO intervention.
- Sanitary Mandate contracting scheme established by AHD linking the state veterinary service at central and provincial levels to field based veterinarians and VPPs allowing for delegation of defined public functions to private sector service providers.
- SMCS promotes effective delivery of disease prevention and control programmes.
- Steady growth in development of commercial poultry and semi-commercial dairy operations in peri-urban areas facilitated by MAIL.
- An Animal Health (Veterinary) Act which provides powers and authority to the Animal Health Authority to perform its core functions.

Weaknesses:

- Too much emphasis in recent years placed on developing institutions within MAIL headquarters.
- Insufficient action taken on the part of MAIL to communicate policy and strategic plans adequately to provincial former AHD senior management.
- Poor stability in appointment of senior management within the GDAH&P, resulting in weak leadership and lack of continuity in terms of implementing MAIL policies.
- Insufficient numbers of professionally qualified veterinarians to fill professional posts at provincial government level.
- Insufficient incentives to ensure that veterinarians appointed to positions at the provincial government level stay on the job.
- MAIL not yet succeeded in convincing the Civil Service to revise the Tashkiel to bring it in line with a structure based upon implementation of core functions.
- Lack of Regulations to implement and enforce the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

Whilst the Agriculture Policy (2005 Master Plan) and Strategic Plans have remained relatively stable, implementation of MAIL's strategic plans at the field level remains weak due to shortage of funding and qualified personnel at provincial levels as well as insufficient communication with provincial level planners. In spite of this there are encouraging signs that significant investment in both the semi commercial dairy industry and commercial poultry production is taking place.

Until very recently, leadership within the GDAH&P has been weak with frequent changes in management. The recent appointment of an Acting Director General of the GDAH&P who has regular contact with the Minister and his senior advisors is having a beneficial effect in terms of providing strong leadership.

The enactment of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and the acceptance of the SMCS as a useful mechanism for extending public functions to the field through a public private partnership are both significant developments since the 2010 PVS Evaluation.

Recommendations:

- MAIL should continue to improve leadership within the GDAH&P and provide additional management and leadership training for division/department heads within the GDAH&P.
- Communicate current strategic plans alongside the NADF to decision makers at provincial Veterinary directorates.
- Continue to recruit veterinarians under the CRB to strengthen capacity at central and Provincial government levels to deliver services to farmers based on their needs.
- Provide sufficient incentives to professional staff to ensure that they remain in the state employment
- MAIL should continue to lobby the Civil Service Commission to revise the Tashkiel of the AHA.
- Finalise and submit to Parliament Draft Regulations for the implementation and enforcement of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act.

I-6 Coordination capability of the Veterinary Services A. Internal coordination (chain of command) <i>The capability of the VS to coordinate its resources and activities (public and private sectors) with a clear chain of command, from the central level (the Chief Veterinary Officer), to the field level of the VS in order to implement all national activities relevant for the Codes (i.e. surveillance, disease control and eradication, food safety and early detection and rapid response programmes).</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. There is no formal internal coordination and the chain of command is not clear.
	2. There are internal coordination mechanisms for some activities but the chain of command is not clear.
	3. There are internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command for some activities.
	4. There are internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command at the national level for most activities.
5. There are internal coordination mechanisms and a clear and effective chain of command for all activities and these are periodically reviewed/audited and updated.	

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Level of advancement (2010)
	2. There are internal coordination mechanisms for some activities but the chain of command is not clear.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD26E, MD16E, MD21E, MD75E,

Findings:

Internal coordination of activities in the Livestock sector has weakened in some respects since the 2010 PVS Evaluation. At that time, there were monthly meetings being held in the office of the Deputy Minister (Technical), MAIL attended by the GDAH&P leadership as well as representatives of all the major NGOs and donors interested in developing animal health and veterinary services. These meetings came to an end as no action was being taken by MAIL to remedy issues which were raised and for which actions were agreed. Similarly, a monthly coordination meeting was held by the AHD with NGOs involved in establishing VFUs in the field, replacing the monthly meeting held formerly by the Agency Coordination Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR). The members of this meeting developed a Memorandum of Agreement called “Guidelines for the Establishment and Management of VFUs”, establishing a set of rules which were to be adopted by all NGOs to ensure a standardised approach for establishing and operation of VFUs, which was submitted to MAIL for signature by the Minister, but for reasons which were never made clear this MoU was never signed. The GDAH&P leadership advised that there was insufficient involvement of their technical officers in the design of livestock projects by donors and MAIL central planning officials. This was causing difficulties for the GDAH&P since policies which had already been adopted at the AHD level were being compromised by inappropriately designed, donor-funded projects agreed upon at the central level in the absence of technical consultation with AHD.

On the other hand, enactment of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act in July 2016 provides a clear chain of command, giving the necessary powers and technical authority to the Animal Health Authority (AHA), Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) and provincial veterinary officers, including authorised veterinary inspectors. The CVO is authorised to delegate certain of his responsibilities to appropriately trained officers of the Provincial Veterinary Directorates. Furthermore, the CVO is also authorised to engage the services of private veterinarians and VPPs in the performance of a defined range of public functions under a “Sanitary Mandate Contract”. A Sanitary Mandate Contracting Scheme was piloted by the AHD with the technical and financial support of the EU funded AHDP, Phase II for preliminary disease surveillance and reporting activities. Subsequently, the SMCS has been further developed through the intervention of the World Bank funded National Brucellosis Control Programme, and more recently by the FAO implemented FMD and PPR control programmes. Contracted VFUs have been trained to complete disease report forms, perform necropsies, collect and

submit laboratory samples, collect blood samples for active sero-surveillance and for verification of sero-conversion following vaccination and conduct vaccination services. In effect, there is now the beginnings of a clear chain of command from the central AHA down to the field level, whereby an extensive disease early warning system is becoming established and at the same time capacity to provide an appropriate response in the event of a notifiable disease event through engagement with privately operating vets and VPPs based within the extensive VFU network. Unfortunately, due to the devolution of powers and authority to provincial government and the DAILs, the CVO does not have administrative authority over provincial veterinary officers under his technical chain of command. This, lack of full authority and the system whereby the provincial AHA budget is subject to political influence, weakens the authority of the CVO to ensure that many of the core functions of the AHA are being implemented at the provincial level and below.

The DMEC has started to license vets and paravets working out of VFUs. This activity not only provides the central administration with a register of active animal health service providers at the District and villages levels, it also ensures that private vets and VPPs report all notifiable disease occurrences as a condition of their licensure. This responsibility will be transferred to the Veterinary Board or a subsidiary committee acting as a Veterinary Statutory Body, established under the Act and draft Regulations.

Whilst MAIL recognises the importance of the public private partnership being developed through the SMCS and has started to finance a small number of SMCS contracts, as yet the bulk of the funding for the scheme is being borne by donor funded projects, giving rise to concerns over the longer-term sustainability of the programme.

Although a good technical chain of command is in place, the AHA is not able to perform most of its core regulatory functions in accordance with OIE standards due to insufficient numbers of suitably trained personnel and insufficient resources being made available to the very few officers who would be in a position to perform such duties. This is especially true for the activities of the VPH&QD, responsible for ante- and post mortem meat inspection and border control of the import and export of animals, animal products and other controlled commodities.

The Team noted with interest that under the USAID funded RADP-N project based in Mazar-e-Sharif, the DCA training centre in Mazar had been contracted to provide paravets in the northern region of Afghanistan with training on basic food safety and meat inspection skills.

Strengths:

- Enactment of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act defines a clear chain of command from central government down to the field.
- The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act provides the CVO with the necessary powers and authority to implement all of the core regulatory functions of a modern state veterinary authority in accordance with OIE and other international standards.
- The establishment and support for a SMCS allows for early detection and appropriate responses to be made in the event of notifiable disease occurrences as well as for the implementation of disease prevention and control programmes.

Weaknesses:

- Poor coordination of livestock projects and programmes between MAIL central planning and the GDAH&P.
- Poor level of coordination and engagement with NGOs in the development and expansion of the VFU network
- Insufficient resources, human and financial for the AHA to perform its core regulatory functions effectively.
- Lack of Regulations for the implementation of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

Since the last evaluation in 2010 there has been a decline in internal coordination activities between the GDAH&P and central government and the GDAH&P and its implementing partners in the field.

The MAIL is as yet unable to find the necessary resources to allow the Veterinary authorities to perform more than rudimentary services and fulfil its core regulatory functions in accordance with OIE standards.

The establishment of a VFU network covering much of Afghanistan's territory combined with the general acceptance of the value of the SMCS within the AHA and MAIL offers a cost-effective opportunity for the MAIL/AHA to extend many of its core functions to the District and field levels.

Recommendations:

- Establish regular dialogue between the GDAH&P senior management and the policy and planning Directorate of MAIL.
- Re-instate the monthly coordination meetings between the DMEC and the NGOs involved in developing and expanding the VFU network
- Continue to strengthen the SMCS as a cost-effective means of extending core public regulatory functions to the District and village levels.
- Continue to expand financial responsibility and extend the geographical coverage of SMCS contracted VFUs to ensure sufficient coverage of the country to allow for an accurate understanding of the animal health status and to be in a position to provide an appropriate response in the event of detection of cases or outbreaks of notifiable animal diseases.
- Continue to recruit appropriately qualified veterinarians and provide the necessary training to ensure that core regulatory functions can be undertaken at the Provincial level and below in accordance with OIE standards.
- Strengthen the CVO's functional chain of command through systems for effective monitoring and evaluation of programmes implemented by Provincial authorities, annual or semi-annual meetings of the senior national and provincial authorities to develop annual plans with indicators, review progress, shared information systems for disease surveillance and reporting, food safety information (e.g. recalls), livestock ID, registration and movement control, etc. and promoting shared corporate commitments and values.
- Consider the possibility of delegating food safety inspections of slaughter facilities at the District / village levels through training of private veterinarians and VPPs to be contracted under the SMCS.
- Finalise and submit for approval and enactment the Draft Regulations for implementation and enforcement of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act.

B. External coordination <i>The capability of the VS to coordinate its resources and activities (public and private sectors) at all levels with other relevant authorities as appropriate, in order to implement all national activities relevant for OIE Codes (i.e. surveillance, disease control and eradication, food safety and early detection and rapid response programmes). Relevant authorities include other ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions.</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. There is no external coordination.
	2. There are informal external coordination mechanisms for some activities, but the procedures are not clear and/or external coordination occurs irregularly.
	3. There are formal external coordination mechanisms with clearly described procedures or agreements for some activities and/or sectors.
	4. There are formal external coordination mechanisms with clearly described procedures or agreements at the national level for most activities, and these are uniformly implemented throughout the country.
	5. There are national external coordination mechanisms for all activities and these are periodically reviewed and updated.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Level of advancement (2010)
	2. There are informal external coordination mechanisms for some activities, but the procedures are not clear and/or external coordination occurs irregularly.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): MD33E, MD52E, MD54E, MD55E, MD73E, MD83E, MD87E

Findings:

In 2011 MAIL signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) setting out their respective roles and responsibilities for regulation of the safety and quality of animal and plant products destined for human consumption.

Under the former Trade and Facilitation (TAFA) project and the current USAID funded ATAR project being implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), a dialogue amongst Ministries with an interest in international trade in animals and animal products and domestic food safety has been established to harmonise the development of primary and secondary legislation covering food safety. The MoU mentioned above has thus been translated into provisions in the Food Safety Act and the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act both promulgated in July 2016, as part of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) accession process. Under the Food Safety Act, MoPH is named as the Competent Authority responsible for the safety and quality “food”, whilst the responsibility for the regulation of the safety and quality of fresh and semi-processed animal products is delegated to the MAIL. The MAIL, MoPH and ANSA continue to engage in regular dialogue as their respective draft Regulations are being developed in parallel. Under provisions of the Food Safety of Primary Animal Products Regulations it is proposed that a Joint Food Control Coordination Committee is to be established with permanent representatives from the MoPH, the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), ANSA, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and other interested parties, as necessary. It is hoped that this Committee can bring about harmonisation and coordination of the respective responsibilities of each authority to ensure efficient and effective enforcement of food safety standards in accordance with OIE and Codex Alimentarius.

With respect to the regulation of the Import and Export of animal products, the MoPH, MAIL and the Ministry of Finance (Border Control) have reached a good understanding, with MAIL being responsible for issuing permits and for the technical aspects of border control of all imported fresh animal products. Similarly, MAIL is responsible for the Export certification of all exported fresh and semi-processed animal products. A Chapter covering draft Import and

Export Regulations to be included in the Animal Health (Veterinary) Regulations is also under development with the LFWG in MAIL.

In the case of zoonotic disease prevention and control, there is good collaboration between the MoPH and MAIL through a Zoonotic Disease Control Committee (ZDCC) at central level and in some regional and one or two provincial centres. The ZDCC became established when MAIL and MoPH jointly recognised the importance of the high prevalence of *Brucella melitensis* infection in both humans and animals in certain Districts of Bamyian Province in 2010. Active surveillance was carried out jointly and the CVD&RL was able to develop capacity for Real Time-Polymerase Chain Reaction for Brucella antigens through an OIE supported Laboratory Twinning Project with the then Animal Health and Veterinary Authority, UK. This collaboration was further strengthened when in 2012, the Massey University (New Zealand), under funding provided by the World Bank through the Avian Influenza Trust Fund, conducted a One Health project in Afghanistan. This project undertook a joint (MoPH/MAIL) survey of the sero-prevalence of Brucellosis, Q fever and CCHF in selected Districts of Herat Province. One of the more important outcomes of this project was the establishment of the Provincial ZDCC in Herat province and a commitment on the part of both Ministries to collaborate in the preparation and dissemination of extension materials to create greater awareness amongst livestock keepers as to how to avoid becoming infected with zoonotic diseases

There are thus a number of initiatives underway to strengthen external coordination of joint areas of responsibility between MAIL and other Ministries or agencies. As yet, however, many of the actual relationships are yet to be finalised in Regulations and so only a few coordination mechanisms are defined in procedures and agreements.

Strengths:

- A process of dialogue is ongoing between MAIL and other Ministries and agencies with an interest in ensuring the food safety of animal products destined for human consumption.
- A similar process of dialogue between MAIL and other Ministries for the regulation of the import and export of animals, animal products and other controlled commodities is also well established.

Weaknesses:

- Most ongoing collaborative dialogue is dependent on donor support and is driven, to some extent by the WTO accession process, thus there is uncertainty as to whether or not full ownership of some of the proposed agreements will hold in the longer term.
- There is as yet a lack of Regulations to define the respective roles and responsibilities of the various institutions with an interest in food safety and the regulatory aspects of international trade in animal products and other controlled commodities.
- Although One Health activities have been jointly carried out by MAIL and MoPH, with external assistance, once donor support ends the follow-up on these initiatives by the respective authorities is weak.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

Considerable progress has been made by MAIL in defining the respective roles and responsibilities of its own institutions and those of other Ministries and agencies with a common interest in food safety and international trade of animal products and other controlled commodities.

Furthermore, with FAO support, the MAIL continues to foster good relations with neighbouring countries for the better harmonisation of the control of TADs (see CC IV-3).

Recommendations:

- MAIL should finalise negotiations between its own institutions and those of other Ministries and agencies with a common interest in food safety and international trade and subsequently define agreements reached in regulations to support the implementation and enforcement of primary legislation.
- MAIL should strengthen its collaborative relationship with MoPH for the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases.
- MAIL should invest in developing capacity of its senior management and officers responsible for the implementation of regulatory functions.

I-7 Physical resources <i>The access of the VS to relevant physical resources including buildings, transport, telecommunications, cold chain, and other relevant equipment (e.g. computers).</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The VS have no or unsuitable physical resources at almost all levels and maintenance of existing infrastructure is poor or non-existent.
	2. The VS have suitable physical resources at national (central) level and at some regional levels, and maintenance and replacement of obsolete items occurs only occasionally.
	3. The VS have suitable physical resources at national, regional and some local levels and maintenance and replacement of obsolete items occurs only occasionally.
	4. The VS have suitable physical resources at all levels and these are regularly maintained.
	5. The VS have suitable physical resources at all levels (national, sub-national and local levels) and these are regularly maintained and updated as more advanced and sophisticated items become available.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording and Level of advancement (2010)
	2. The VS have suitable physical resources at national (central) level, and at some regional levels, and maintenance and replacement of obsolete items occurs only occasionally.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD14E, PMD27E, MD25E, MD26E

Findings:

The infrastructure and equipment currently available to the Animal Health Directorate have almost exclusively been supplied by donor projects. The major areas of donor investments have been at the central level in establishing the Central Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratory (CVD&RL) which has received most of its resources from the EU-funded AHDP, with some other important contributions being made by the FAO supported projects, USAID and the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF), in the past. This Laboratory is now recognised as being the best equipped in terms of human and physical resources of any diagnostic laboratory (human or animal) in the country. The CVD&RL frequently undertakes testing of human samples on behalf of MoPH. Two new regional veterinary diagnostic laboratories, a central store for the CVD&RL, refurbishment of an existing building to create a small animal clinic and a large animal and surgical Teaching Facility for the Faculty of Veterinary Science were constructed under AHDP Phase II funding.

During the Team's visit to the newly built veterinary diagnostic laboratory in Mazar-e-Sharif it was noted that only one room is being used for all diagnostic test procedures, yet the laboratory had been designed to allow separation of "clean" and "dirty" procedures. It was also disappointing to find that very little new technology has been introduced at that level of diagnostic laboratory since the last PVS evaluation in 2010. Besides the necessary equipment for conducting faecal egg counts and making direct smears to identify Anthrax or blood parasites and for performing basic serology such as slide and tube agglutination tests, little other technology was available or being used regularly.

The central headquarters of the GDAH&P has only 6 motor vehicles at its direct disposal. One of these vehicles is for the exclusive use of the (Acting) General Director, one each for the two Directors of Animal Health and Animal Production, respectively, one for the Beni Hisar Farm and 2 for officers of the AHA to undertake field missions or to collect samples from the domestic food market and food processors.

The AHDP supplied 20 motorcycles for distribution to food safety inspectors. However it would appear that the Tashkiel, the official organogram of the Ministry, has been adjusted to reduce the number of inspectors to 13. It is unclear what happened to the remaining motorcycles. A total of 68 motorcycles, 2 for each province, have been distributed to the Provincial Directorates of Animal Health. One motorcycle each for the PVMEO and the PVEO, respectively. All other vehicles which were supplied by AHDP have been transferred

into the motor pool of MAIL and access to them is based upon making a formal written application to the Finance and Administration Directorate of MAIL.

As was mentioned in the 2010 PVS, the AHDP also invested in the complete rehabilitation of the former Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory building into offices to accommodate the entire Animal Health and Animal Production Directorates. The MAIL has maintained all of these infrastructure in good condition, and has taken on the responsibility for investment in internet connectivity, however, the central heating system, which was designed to use oil, at the time, a cheaper option than electrical powered heating, has never been commissioned. Other physical equipment which had been supplied at that time, such as the Incinerator at the CVD&RL has also been rarely used, except for testing purposes, due to a shortage of funds to purchase fuel.

Whilst some small investments are being made by MAIL to provide additional equipment, the AHA is still heavily dependent on donor projects to supply new or replacement equipment.

The MAIL with financial support of the ADB is in the process of building 5 commercial scale red meat abattoirs at a cost of between \$10-15 million each. However, due to inadequate technical specifications and thus a shortfall in the cost estimate and other contractual problems these projects were “on hold” at the time of this mission. Whilst there is an urgent need for the development of modern infrastructure for domestic meat processing, MAIL should consider developing smaller scale slaughter operations which are more likely to stimulate local investment, especially for the provincial capital cities. It was encouraging to learn during this mission that private investors are beginning to invest in commercial poultry slaughter facilities in Herat where there are now reported to be more than 170 enterprises, mostly broiler producers, with a production capacity of between 2,000 and 10,000 birds / production cycle.

Plans to support the poultry production value chain to stimulate domestic poultry production and facilitate import substitution have been developed through the CARD-F project.

Funding to purchase equipment comes out of the “Development Budget”. During 2016, the former AHD used almost half of its allocation (\$100,000) earmarked for the central level to supply reagents and equipment to the CVD&RL.

Proposals from Provinces for Development budget allocations for 2016 totalled US\$42 million. The GDAH&P reduced this provincial request, submitting to MAIL headquarters a request for US\$3.5 million. MAIL then further reduced this request, requesting from MoF an allocation of US\$1.5 million. The MoF subsequently disbursed only US\$650,000 for the AHD Development budget for 2016 for the entire country. Major areas of proposed investment in infrastructure for 2016 included: US\$100,000 for a Quarantine station at the Herat border area. US\$15,000 for construction of VFU(s) to be leased to private vet(s) and paravet(s). US\$20,000 for a new deep well and other improvements at the AVPL; and US\$6,000 for Quarantine facilities and Test kits for BIPs.

Strengths:

- Infrastructure and equipment (with the exception of access to motor transport) at the AHA central headquarters are currently largely sufficient and are generally being well maintained.
- Private investors are showing interest in developing infrastructure for domestic red and white meat processing and for export of red meat.

Weaknesses:

- The AHA remains heavily dependent on donor projects for the supply of new or replacement of major items of equipment.
- The process of budget allocation falls very short of what would seem to be reasonable proposals from the Provinces (on average \$1.24 million/province/annum) for the development budget of the AHA nationwide.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

There has been little change since 2010 in terms of sustainability of investment in infrastructure and equipment to allow the AHD to perform its core functions efficiently. The AHD remains grossly under-funded in consideration of the functions it should be performing

Recommendations:

- The MAIL should negotiate with the Ministry of Finance to allow certain institutions, especially the CVD&RL and the AVPL, and in the future the VPH / Quarantine inspectorate, to charge fees for services and to retain the revenue to offset their recurrent costs.
- MAIL should hold a series of planning meetings with senior decision makers from the Provincial Animal Health Directorates to align budget / implementation plan proposals with current strategic plans.
- Budget allocations for the AHA need to be significantly increased if the MAIL is to cover the cost of providing core regulatory functions in accordance with OIE standards.
- Systems and dedicated budgets, if not in place, should be established to manage the inventory, maintenance and regular replacement of capital assets (buildings, fleet, lab equipment and IT equipment).

I-8 Operational funding	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The ability of the VS to access financial resources adequate for their continued operations, independent of political pressure.</i>	1. Funding for the VS is neither stable nor clearly defined but depends on resources allocated irregularly.
	2. Funding for the VS is clearly defined and regular, but is inadequate for their required base operations (i.e. disease surveillance, early detection and rapid response and veterinary public health).
	3. Funding for the VS is clearly defined and regular, and is adequate for their base operations, but there is no provision for new or expanded operations.
	4. Funding for new or expanded operations is on a case-by-case basis, not always based on risk analysis and/or cost benefit analysis.
	5. Funding for all aspects of VS activities is adequate; all funding is provided under full transparency and allows for full technical independence, based on risk analysis and/or cost benefit analysis.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording and Level of advancement (2010)
	1. Funding for the VS is neither stable nor clearly defined but depends on resources allocated irregularly.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD9E, PMD21E, MD15E, MD88E, Herat Budget proposal

Findings:

Procedures for obtaining funds for operational costs as well as for development of infrastructures or to provide equipment for the Provincial Directorates of Animal Health are complex.

There are two budgets available to central and provincial authorities, alike, each of which partially covers operational costs for field activities as well as capital investments: the Development budget and the Operational budget. The Operational budget is more or less fixed and covers salaries and field allowances, based upon the number of staff on the payroll. The Development budget is used for a mixture of capital development, operational costs and for implementing “projects”.

On the one hand, the office of the Deputy Minister of Administration and Finance informed the Team that in recent years the MAIL Directorates had failed to utilize more than 30% the budget allocated by the MoF, although more recently the rate of fund utilization has now reached up to 80% of the budget allocation. The process of approval for the procurement of equipment and services from 2016 has been streamlined and access to funds has become relatively quick and simple. Nevertheless, staff positioned within the Directorates at central and provincial levels complain that insufficient funds are made available and that procurement procedures are still cumbersome.

At the Provincial level, budget allocation is based on a long process during which the Provincial Planning Committee, the Provincial Council Shura, chaired by the Governor, and finally the Provincial Economic Directorate all play an important role, with a strong political bias, in selecting investment options for each Provincial budget. In practice, this means that the Animal Health Authority is lucky if it succeeds in having more than two or three “projects” approved at the Provincial government level. For instance, in 2016 three animal health projects were approved for the Herat AHA by Provincial government authorities; these included (1) capital improvements to the Regional Veterinary Offices (US\$300,000), (2) surveillance of zoonotic diseases, (US\$150,000) and (3) construction of dip tanks and purchase of consumables for tick control to reduce the risk of CCHF outbreaks, (\$600,000), all reasonable projects in line with government policies, and totalling \$1,050,000. Similar proposals generated by each of the 34 Provinces amounting to a total of US \$42 million were forwarded to MAIL for screening by the General Director (GDAH&P) and the Directorate of

Administration and Finance. These Provincial budget requests (totalling \$42X10⁶) were trimmed down by MAIL to fall within a ceiling of US\$3.5 million for presentation to the MoF. This budget request was then further reduced by the MoF to US\$1.5 million, of which just \$650,000 was finally disbursed. From these figures it is clear that provincial veterinary directorates can barely undertake any of their core functions at all effectively from government sourced funds, and thus continue to rely heavily on donor projects to perform almost all of their core regulatory functions or disease surveillance, prevention and control activities in the field. In spite of this dire situation, both Herat and Mazar veterinary offices informed the Team that they perform some food safety inspections at the more central city butcheries and carry out limited surveillance of veterinary medicines and vaccines at retail outlets in the city.

Two institutions within the AHA, the CVD&RL and the AVPL, provide both public good as well as private good services. Both institutions reported difficulty accessing operational funds and face difficulties in procurement of essential consumables. The PVS report (2010) recorded that MAIL had sought to secure a degree of financial autonomy for the CVD&RL and the AVPL, in order to ensure sustainability by allowing these institutions to retain income derived from fee paying clients to offset some of their operational costs, but that the MoF was adamantly opposed to any such financial autonomy. MAIL followed up their earlier initiative by requesting donor support to undertake feasibility studies for both the AVPL and the CVD&RL again to explore options for acquiring financial autonomy. The AVPL study, entitled “AVPL From Dependency to Viability”, was based on somewhat exaggerated market opportunities, but concluded with 3 options for improving sustainability and achieving financial autonomy:

- Option 1. Continue animal vaccine production as a subsidized public service, following transition from direct donor funding to full assimilation into the MAIL budget;
- Option 2. Commercialise and corporatize the AVPL operations, and continue as a fully state owned profit-making corporation; or
- Option 3. As option 2 above, commercialise and corporatize the AVPL; operations, but then enter into some form of arrangement with a private sector partner. Within the third option, there are further sub-options which represent different types of engagement with a private sector partner:
 - a) An outright sale of the business to a private sector partner (“privatization”);
 - b) A partial sale of the business to a private sector partner (“private sector participation”); or
 - c) Ownership remains with MAIL, but management control is passed to a private sector partner (“management contract”).

A similar study undertaken on behalf of the CVD&RL, “Feasibility Study for the Central Veterinary Diagnostics and Research Laboratory”, summarised its conclusions as:

“CVD&RL’s services are generally public, so it should remain as a public organization. Ideally, it should be an autonomous agency and be part of a group under an umbrella structure.”

Four other options, each with its attendant risks were offered as alternatives.

However, from a detailed analysis of the legal requirements to bring about the changes proposed for both the AVPL and the CVD&RL none of the options seem easy to achieve, unless the Ministry of Finance undergoes radical policy reform.

Strengths:

- In spite of severe shortages in funding, Provincial Veterinary Offices are providing some minimal regulatory services including food safety inspections and surveillance of the quality of veterinary medicines available in the local bazaar.

- Monitoring of VFU veterinary activities (disease surveillance and vaccination services) is carried out largely using the funds provided through the NHLP and FAO supported vaccination programmes for Brucellosis, FMD and PPR.
- Options to create financial autonomy for the AVPL and the CVD&RL have been presented in comprehensive reports which, although difficult to realise, deserve serious consideration.

Weaknesses:

- The procedures for obtaining “Development budget” funds at the Provincial (and central level) are complex and subject to multiple layers of approval.
- Currently both Operational and Development budgets allow the Veterinary Authorities to perform only regulatory and other core services of very limited quantity and geographical coverage.
- The current legal requirements to allow government institutions to become financially autonomous will be extremely difficult for either the AVPL or CVD&RL to pursue.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

Although the Team was assured that internal approval mechanisms for spending against the allocated budget have been streamlined and that the rate of expenditure has improved from around 30% in former years to close to 80% in 2016, the procedures for obtaining a realistic budget allocation from the MoF is little changed from 2010 and problems persist with procedures to access funds for urgent, short term purchases such as lab reagents or office supplies.

In all other respects there is little visible change in terms of budget allocation or reduction in donor dependency for the Veterinary Authorities to perform their core functions in accordance with OIE standards.

Recommendations:

- MAIL needs to reassess the importance of the livestock sector and negotiate with the MoF for realistic budgets to allow both the central and provincial Veterinary Authorities to perform their core functions more effectively.
- The Central GDAH&P is encouraged to hold strategic / implementation planning orientation meetings with provincial veterinary officers in order to ensure that budget proposals are in line with agriculture policy and strategic plans.
- The MAIL should continue to work with the MoF / Office of the President, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Afghanistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry to find realistic solutions to allow the CVD&RL and if considered viable, the AVPL, to become financially autonomous.
- Procedures for disbursing public funds from within the MAIL budget, particularly to meet unexpected, short term needs, need to be examined and streamlined.

I-9 Emergency funding	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The capability of the VS to access extraordinary financial resources in order to respond to emergency situations or emerging issues; measured by the ease of which contingency and compensatory funding (i.e. arrangements for compensation of producers in emergency situations) can be made available when required.</i>	1. No funding arrangements exist and there is no provision for emergency financial resources.
	2. Funding arrangements with limited resources have been established, but these are inadequate for expected emergency situations (including emerging issues).
	3. Funding arrangements with limited resources have been established; additional resources for emergencies may be approved but approval is through a political process.
	4. Funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established, but in an emergency situation, their operation must be agreed through a non-political process on a case-by-case basis.
	5. Funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established and their rules of operation documented and agreed with interested parties.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

I-9. Emergency funding	Wording and Levels of advancement (2010)
<i>The capability of the VS to access extraordinary financial resources in order to respond to emergency situations or emerging issues; measured by the ease of which contingency and compensatory funding (i.e. arrangements for compensation of producers in emergency situations) can be made available when required.</i>	1. No contingency and compensatory funding arrangements exist and there is no provision for emergency financial resources.
	2. Contingency and compensatory funding arrangements with limited resources have been established, but these are inadequate for expected emergency situations (including emerging issues).
	3. Contingency and compensatory funding arrangements with limited resources have been established; additional resources for emergencies may be approved but approval is through a political process.
	4. Contingency and compensatory funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established, but in an emergency situation, their operation must be agreed through a non-political process on a case-by case basis.
	5. Contingency and compensatory funding arrangements with adequate resources have been established and their rules of operation documented and agreed with stakeholders.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD26E

Findings:

In the event of an emergency situation at the Provincial level a Provincial Disaster Committee, chaired by the Governor, is established within the Directorate of Disaster Management of the DAIL. The Team was informed that the Provincial DAIL does not in itself have any emergency funds set aside for immediate access. At present, the Disaster Management Committee solicits assistance from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) together with local NGOs to find the resources to address emergencies. During 2016, there was a severe drought in the northern region of Afghanistan and more than 1300 kuchi sheep and goats died. In this case, the DAIL was able to access funds for the purchase of feed which was distributed to the livestock owners most severely affected by the drought.

As reported in 2010, the CVO does not have access to any public funds to deal with disease emergencies. The financial support for the control of the HPAI outbreaks in 2006 /07 being provided through FAO and the USAID, being a good example. The situation remains the same today.

The recently enacted Animal Health (Veterinary) Act makes provision for the declaration of a Sanitary Emergency, and the Draft Regulations, in preparation, have provisions for gaining

access to emergency funds. The Draft Regulations also make provisions for compensation of the owners of animals which may have to be slaughtered as a disease control measure or under other exceptional circumstances.

Strengths:

- A well established mechanism exists whereby emergency funds and other assistance can be accessed to deal with emergencies through the help of UNAMA and local NGOs.

Weaknesses:

- The current mechanism for obtaining emergency funding is entirely reliant on donor assistance.
- There is no well documented system for the Veterinary Authority to gain immediate access to emergency funds in the event of an outbreak of a highly contagious animal disease or to respond to a food safety emergency.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

There is no significant difference in terms of an established contingency fund which would be immediately accessible to the Animal Health Authority in the event of an emergency.

Recommendations:

- The MAIL should establish an Emergency fund with a clearly defined system for the AHA to gain access to such fund in the event of an emergency.
- The AHA should finalise draft regulations which define the mechanism for the declaration of a Sanitary Emergency and actions to be taken in such circumstances and to define the conditions for the payment of compensation to livestock owners.
- The AHA should conduct a simulation exercise(s) to test its preparedness for mounting a rapid response to a disease emergency, including the testing of the system to gain access to emergency funding.

I-10 Capital investment	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The capability of the VS to access funding for basic and additional investments (material and non material) that lead to a sustained improvement in the VS operational infrastructure.</i>	1. There is no capability to establish, maintain or improve the operational infrastructure of the VS.
	2. The VS occasionally develops proposals and secures funding for the establishment, maintenance or improvement of operational infrastructure but this is normally through extraordinary allocations.
	3. The VS regularly secures funding for maintenance and improvements of operational infrastructure, through allocations from the national budget or from other sources, but there are constraints on the use of these allocations.
	4. The VS routinely secures adequate funding for the necessary maintenance and improvement in operational infrastructure.
	5. The VS systematically secures adequate funding for the necessary improvements in operational infrastructure, including with participation from interested parties as required.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

	Wording and Level of advancement (2010)
PVS 2010	2. The VS occasionally develops proposals and secures funding for the establishment, maintenance or improvement of operational infrastructure but this is normally through extraordinary allocations. . Funding for the VS is neither stable nor clearly defined but depends on resources allocated irregularly.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD9E, MD25E, MD26E, MD88E,

Findings:

Phase II of the EU funded AHDP has provided additional investments in infrastructure and equipment to those recorded in the previous PVS Evaluation. These investments were part of a planned process to establish diagnostic laboratory capability at 6 regional and 28 Provincial veterinary diagnostic laboratories, as follows:

- Two new regional diagnostic laboratories (Kunduz and Mazar-e-Sharif) were built at an estimated cost of €378,571.43;
- Refurbishment of an existing building in a compound adjacent to the GDAH&P Dar-ul-Aman complex to convert it into a small animal teaching clinic on behalf of the Faculty of Veterinary Science at an estimated cost of €103,571.00;
- A new large animal teaching facility and surgical unit (adjacent to refurbished small animal clinic, above) at an estimated cost of €428,571.00;
- New central warehouse at the GDAH&P for storage of diagnostic laboratory equipment and reagents for CVD&RL and for distribution to Provincial laboratories at an estimated cost of €221,428.00;
- Refurbishment of building to create accommodation for veterinary trainees attending short courses at the GDAH&P at an estimated cost of €85,714.00;
- Minor repairs and security upgrades at the GDAH&P compound at a cost of €42,857.00

Total cost of infrastructure provided by AHDP II was €1,260,714.00.

In addition, the AHDP II provided additional laboratory equipment, laboratory consumables and laboratory reagents (mainly for distribution to Provincial laboratories) and IT equipment and furniture for Provincial Veterinary Offices at a cost of €1,199,102.00.

The US State Department, through its Biological Engagement Programme made a significant investment to improve biosafety and biosecurity at the CVD&RL at a cost of around \$200,000.

More recently through FAO two cold rooms have been constructed in Dar-ul-Aman within the premises of GDAH&P at a cost of approximately \$110,000.

Under funding provided through the EU Transition project the EU is in the process of procuring Gas and Liquid Phase Chromatography equipment to the CVD&RL for residue testing of animal products destined for human consumption and for analysing the quality of veterinary medicines. The FAO is procuring Mass Spectrophotometry equipment to complete the ensemble for a well-equipped toxicology / medicine quality testing laboratory.

A number of other projects have provided funding for upgrading some provincial veterinary facilities and to provide certain items of equipment. NGOs and the donors supporting the VFU network, most notably the USAID and the EU have invested considerable amounts into the expansion of the VFU network to include all 34 Provinces.

Through the AMIP funded by the ADB, the MAIL is currently constructing 5 new commercial red-meat abattoirs at an estimated cost of \$30 million. In Herat, the Team was informed that private investors are developing commercial slaughter facilities for red and white meat.

The AHA is beginning to find small sums of money from its Development budget to invest in infrastructure, for maintenance of existing buildings and to supply consumables (laboratory reagents). Furthermore, the MAIL has now provided internet coverage at the Animal Health Directorate, which had been funded externally since early 2005 when the AHDP Phase I started to be implemented. The Team was particularly pleased to note that the interior of the CVD&RL had recently been repainted and was in very clean condition.

The EU transition project is assisting the AHA and MAIL to develop a budget management system which includes the costs of replacement of old equipment and vehicles, maintenance of existing equipment and infrastructure and capital investment in new equipment as part of the process of transitioning from project based support towards core budget support in the future.

Strengths:

- At the Central level the capital investments made over the past 10 years are largely sufficient for the AHA at its present level of staffing, with the exception, perhaps of motor vehicles.
- It is encouraging to note that private investors are taking an interest in involvement in food processing facilities.

Weaknesses:

- Almost all capital investments to date have been made using donor funds. There are concerns that MAIL cannot afford to maintain all of the infrastructure and replace supplied equipment as and when needed.
- At present there is no clear strategic plan for the maintenance of the existing infrastructure and equipment held by the AHA.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

The AHA is still heavily dependent on donors and NGOs to provide funds for capital expenditure. Nevertheless, there are encouraging signs that private investments are beginning to take place in areas which, until recently MAIL had expected to have to invest. This is especially true in relation to the processing of milk and poultry meat.

Recommendations:

- The AHA and MAIL are encouraged to develop a medium to long-term investment plan to ensure that sufficient funds are available for maintenance and replacement, as necessary of infrastructure and equipment, as donor funding starts to dwindle.

-
- The Private Sector Development Directorate in MAIL should work in collaboration with technical managers in the AHA to facilitate private investment in food processing, by assisting with preparing development plans for such enterprises.
 - Such enterprises need to be designed and constructed in conformity with standards defined by the Regulations and Procedures currently being developed by the Legal Framework Working Group.
 - The Director General GDAH&P / LFWG should give priority to finalising regulations and procedures to ensure that the necessary standards are available to create confidence for private investors without further delay.

I-11. Management of resources and operations <i>The capability of the VS to document and manage their resources in order to analyse, plan and improve both efficiency and effectiveness.</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The VS do not have adequate records or documented procedures to allow appropriate management of resources and operations
	2. The VS have adequate records and/or documented procedures but do not use these for management, analysis, control or planning.
	3. The VS have adequate records, documentation and management systems and use these to a limited extent for the control of efficiency and effectiveness
	4. The VS regularly analyse records and documented procedures to improve efficiency and effectiveness
5. The VS have fully effective management systems, which are regularly audited and permit a proactive continuous improvement of efficiency and effectiveness.	

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording and Level of advancement (2010)
	1. The VS have some records or documented procedures, but these do not provide for adequate management of resources and operations.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD9E, PMD18E, MD7E, MD32E, MD74E, MD79E, MD88E

Findings:

In 2011 a comprehensive analysis of the recommendations of the OIE PVS Evaluation of 2010 was undertaken with the assistance of the AHDP II. Each recommendation was translated into actions to be undertaken by the various Directorates and Departments of the former AHD for planning purposes. A Table of recommendations was prepared and translated into Dari for ease of use by the senior management of the AHD, not all of whom are able to read documentation prepared in English. The progress in achieving many of these activities was monitored by the AHDP and the AHD using indicators identified in the AHDP logical framework matrix (AHDP 6 monthly reports 2011 – 2012).

There has been some improvement in recent years in the maintenance of records documenting budget and investment planning at the central level in MAIL headquarters. The Deputy Minister Finance and Administration informed the Team that one of the reasons why the Ministry of Finance has been reluctant to allocate more funds to MAIL has been its past poor performance in budget utilisation, which had been as low as 30% up to 3 years ago. In the more recent past MAIL has improved considerably in this respect such that budget utilisation is now close to 80% of the allocation. The Deputy Minister suggested that one of the reasons for this improvement was that approval procedures for expenditure had been streamlined and accelerated, making it easier for the Directorate / Department managers to spend their budget allocations, contrary to the reported experience of the regional directorate personnel in Herat.

In the absence of realistic budget allocations and with the reliance on donor funding for most core functions, the former AHD has gained little experience in project and investment planning until recently. Almost all planning and budgeting has been carried out in advance of project implementation by the projects and donors themselves with little or no involvement of the staff of the AHD. The EU Transition project is attempting to address this lack of engagement and planning capacity and is increasingly involving Directorate and Department managers in developing their annual activity and investment plans. It was encouraging to note that the CVD&RL has succeeded in attracting substantial budgets for 2016 and 2017 based upon sound activity and investment plans.

Nevertheless, most Directorates and Departments within the Animal Health Authority do not yet have the capacity to manage and document resource utilisation and operations in a way that can provide an analysis suitable for planning future investments.

The Acting Director General of the GDAH&P informed the Team that since he took office in the GDAH&P he had come to realise that there has been almost no involvement of the former Animal Health Directorate personnel in the planning of any of the more important livestock projects being implemented by MAIL. This was especially true of CARD-F, CLAP and the NHLP and to some extent the RADP-N and -S projects. The result has been that some of these projects have been following strategies which are not at all appropriate for the sustainable development of the public and private veterinary services.

Strengths:

- The MAIL is beginning to demonstrate a high rate of budget utilisation compared with past performance.
- Selected activities of the AHD have been planned on the basis of recommendations made in the 2010 PVS Evaluation Report, with progress being followed through the use of a logical framework matrix and defined indicators.
- The EU Transition project is helping to build capacity within Directorates and Departments of the AHA to develop activity and investment plans.

Weaknesses:

- Donor project managers, supposedly working alongside the former AHD Directorates and Departments responsible for implementation of some of the project activities did not engage AHD senior management sufficiently in the planning processes.
- AHA Directorate and Department managers lack capacity to develop credible activity and investment plans due to lack of experience.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

There has been little change in capacity to manage resources within the former AHD. The fault has largely been with donor project advisors who have tended to develop project plans and budgets without sufficient engagement with implementation partners in the former AHD.

Recommendations:

- It is essential that the AHA become more closely involved in the planning and development of all future donor funded livestock related projects in order to ensure that resources are utilised effectively and that the sustainability of the veterinary services is assured.
- The MAIL should re-introduce regular technical coordination meetings bringing together all of the key stakeholders involved in the planning and implementation of the major livestock related projects being developed and implemented throughout Afghanistan.
- Periodically MAIL should invite senior managers from the Provinces to engage in monitoring, evaluation and planning of projects being implemented at the Provincial and District levels.
- The SMCS should be expanded as a cost effective means of extending the coverage of certain core functions of the AHA to District and village levels.
- The DMEC is strongly encouraged to re-instate monthly coordination meetings with NGOs and other key stakeholders to harmonise the development of the public private partnership for animal health services.

III.2 Fundamental component II: Technical authority and capability

This component of the evaluation concerns the authority and capability of the VS to develop and apply sanitary measures and science-based procedures supporting those measures. It comprises eighteen critical competencies.

For all sections of this chapter, the critical competency includes collaboration with relevant authorities, including other ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas.

Critical competencies:

Section II-1	Veterinary laboratory diagnosis A. Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis B. Suitability of national laboratory infrastructure
Section II-2	Laboratory quality assurance
Section II-3	Risk analysis
Section II-4	Quarantine and border security
Section II-5	Epidemiological surveillance and early detection A. Passive Epidemiological surveillance B. Active Epidemiological surveillance
Section II-6	Emergency response
Section II-7	Disease prevention, control and eradication
Section II-8	Food safety A. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of establishments for production, processing and distribution of food of animal origin B. Ante and post mortem inspection at abattoirs and associated premises C. Inspection of collection, processing and distribution of products of animal origin
Section II-9	Veterinary medicines and biologicals
Section II-10	Residue testing
Section II-11	Animal feed safety
Section II-12	Identification and traceability A. Animal identification and movement control B. Identification and traceability of products of animal origin
Section II-13	Animal welfare

----- Terrestrial Code References:

- Chapter 1.4. on Animal health surveillance.
- Chapter 1.5. on Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases.
- Chapter 2.1. on Import risk analysis.
- Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General Organisation / Procedures and standards.
- Point 1 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality systems.
- Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical.
- Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health / Export/import inspection.
- Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems.
- Points 1-5 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Food hygiene / Zoonoses / Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines/ Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health.
- Sub-point f) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Formal linkages with sources of independent scientific expertise.
- Points 2 and 5-7 of Article 3.2.14. on National information on human resources / Laboratory services / Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Animal health and veterinary public health controls.
- Article 3.4.12. on Human food production chain.
- Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals.
- Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.
- Chapter 4.12. on Disposal of dead animal.
- Chapter 6.2. on Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection.
- Chapter 6.3. on Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed.
- Chapters 6.6. to 6.10. on Antimicrobial resistance.
- Chapter 7.1. Introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare.
- Chapter 7.2. Transport of animals by sea.
- Chapter 7.3. Transport of animals by land.
- Chapter 7.4. Transport of animals by air.
- Chapter 7.5. Slaughter of animals.
- Chapter 7.6. Killing of animals for disease control purposes.

II-1 Veterinary laboratory diagnosis	Levels of advancement (2017)
A. Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis <i>The authority and capability of the VS to have access to laboratory diagnosis in order to identify and record pathogenic agents, including those relevant for public health, that can adversely affect animals and animal products.</i>	1. Disease diagnosis is almost always conducted by clinical means only, with laboratory diagnostic capability being generally unavailable.
	2. For major zoonoses and diseases of national economic importance, the VS have access to and use a laboratory to obtain a correct diagnosis.
	3. For other zoonoses and diseases present in the country, the VS have access to and use a laboratory to obtain a correct diagnosis.
	4. For diseases of zoonotic or economic importance not present in the country, but known to exist in the region and/ or that could enter the country, the VS have access to and use a laboratory to obtain a correct diagnosis.
	5. In the case of new and emerging diseases in the region or world, the VS have access to and use a network of national or international reference laboratories (e.g. an OIE Reference Laboratory) to obtain a correct diagnosis.

Terrestrial Code References:

Point 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Procedures and standards.

Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical.

Point 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Laboratory services.

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	2. For major zoonoses and diseases of national economic importance, the VS have access to and use a laboratory to obtain a correct diagnosis.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD8E, PMD28E, PMD20E, PMD25E, MD19E, MD32E, MD37E, MD40E, MD42E, MD47E, MD53E, MD55E, MD56E, MD61E, MD77E, MD78E, MD92E, P22, P23, P24.

Findings:

Afghanistan has one Central Veterinary Diagnostic & Research Laboratory (CVD&RL) in Kabul (Dar Ul Aman), 6 Regional laboratories (Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Kunduz and Takhar), 17 provincial laboratories and the Kabul based Afghanistan Vaccine Production Laboratory (AVPL). A regional laboratory is about to open in Kandahar while two additional provincial laboratories are in the process of being opened in Samangan and Daykondy provinces.

The CVD&RL has 7 Departments:

1. Virology and Serology, including RT & C PCR
2. Bacteriology
3. Gross Pathology
4. Parasitology
5. Veterinary Public Health
6. Haematology / Toxicology
7. Teaching Lab

There are also laboratory rooms devoted to the Fluorescent antibody test and Histopathology.

In addition to a specific budget allocated by the GDAH&P and (approximately \$100,000 equivalent to 20% of the overall budget allocated for the AHA) the laboratory network is supported by the NHLP, the EU (through the Animal Health Development transition project) and FAO (OSRO/AFG/402/JPN - project for prevention and control of FMD and PPR).

Samples submitted to the laboratory network originate from four different types of activities:

1. samples collected by contracted VFUs (under the SMCS) with the purpose of notifying animal diseases;
2. samples collected and submitted by VFUs or farmers directly for diagnostic purposes;
3. samples obtained from the activities of VPH- food safety, quarantine departments and border posts;
4. samples collected in the framework of specific surveys in support of the implementation of national control programs (Brucellosis, FMD and PPR).

A wide range of diagnostic tests are now available at the CVD&RL from simple serological tests such as the Rose Bengal test (RBT) and Serum Agglutination Tests (SAT), as well as more advanced serological techniques including ELISA, electrophoresis, HA and HI, CFT and the Fluorescent antibody test (FAT) for Rabies diagnosis to more complex technology such as Real Time and Conventional (RT & C) PCR for the detection of Brucella, Anthrax, FMD, PPR and other antigens. In addition, a full range of microbiological tests to identify bacterial disease agents, internal, external as well as blood parasites are available. The CVD&RL also offers a service for necropsy, gross pathology and histopathology (started in 2016). The Veterinary Public Health (VPH) laboratory is equipped to perform a wide range of tests for determining the safety and quality of meat and milk samples.

Laboratory services are currently provided free of charge.

The range of diagnostic tests will further expand once advanced equipment being procured by the EU Transition project (High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) and FAO (Gas Chromatography - Mass Spectrometer (GC-MS) and Atomic Absorption Spectrometer (AAS)), are delivered. The availability of this equipment will extend the capability of the CVD&RL to test for chemical residues in animal products and the the safety and quality of veterinary medicines.

In contrast, the range of diagnostic tests available at Regional and Provincial laboratories is very limited. This is largely due to the shortage of trainers who can regularly visit the laboratory network to provide on-the-job training, which is so essential to the development of laboratory skills. Furthermore, at many of the provincial laboratories there has been a continuous turn-over in laboratory personnel, which then necessitates repetition of the training modules. The Team identified some mismanagement of laboratory test results (at regional / provincial level) that may discourage a more extensive use of the laboratory as an essential support for field diagnosis. Nevertheless, provincial laboratory personnel have received considerable training in the preparation and safe transportation of laboratory samples from the field to be forwarded to the CVD&RL for final diagnosis in cases of suspected notifiable disease events which have been investigated by VFU personnel under the SMCS.

From 2007 to October 2014 laboratory information was largely paper based with records of sample submission and test results being maintained in a simple Excel spreadsheet.

From October 2014 onwards, with technical assistance under AHDP Phase II, an electronic Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) software program (developed in Iran) has been introduced at the CVD&RL. This system accommodates the registration of samples, sample tests performed, test results, test interpretation, reporting to clients and sharing with the Central Epidemiologic Department (CED). Initiatives are on-going to transfer this LIMS to regional and provincial levels.

The Animal Vaccine Production Laboratory (AVPL) is an additional laboratory in Kabul specialised in vaccine production. Currently the AVPL produces 4 types of bacterial vaccines (namely: Anthrax, Enterotoxaemia, Blackleg and Haemorrhagic Septicaemia) and 1 viral vaccine (ND I-2 strain thermo-tolerant) started in late 2016. There are a total of 15 staff operating in the AVPL.

Strengths:

- The competency at the CVD&RL is more than sufficient to address the most important needs of the country, excepting the more remote areas that are not yet covered.
- The availability of diagnostic services has expanded beyond those services required for official purposes to include a range of services available to private clients;
- Laboratory Information is well-managed using a user-friendly software programme which can easily be adapted for use in Afghanistan, having been developed in the Farsi language in Iran.

Weaknesses:

- There is a considerable gap in the range of diagnostic tests available at the central laboratory and the network of regional / provincial laboratories.
- The future of the AVPL is uncertain. It is clear that this vaccine production unit does not have the capacity to meet local demand for any of the vaccines it currently produces and it is unable to match the quality of good quality imported vaccines.
- Poor level of feedback of laboratory test results from samples forwarded to the CVD&RL was identified as an issue at the two regional laboratories visited by the Team during this mission.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

There has been a marked improvement of veterinary laboratory diagnostic services at the central level. The CVD&RL is widely recognised as being the most advanced of any diagnostic laboratory facility in Afghanistan and frequently offers its services to the MoPH for RT-PCR and other diagnostic services. However, the extension of diagnostic laboratory services and good laboratory management practices to regional and provincial laboratories remains weak.

Recommendations:

- To ensure longer-term sustainability, it is recommended that the CVD&RL find a legal mechanism whereby it can charge fees for private good services and retain the income in a revolving fund to offset some of its operational costs.
- CVD&RL should increase its cadre of trainers to further develop the quality and range of diagnostic test capabilities at regional and provincial laboratories.
- Laboratory managers at the CVD&RL, regional and provincial laboratories should ensure that test results from samples forwarded by them to the CVD&RL are reported back to them and subsequently communicated back to the person who has submitted the sample as quickly as possible in order to support an appropriate clinical or regulatory response.
- The future of the AVPL needs to be thoroughly discussed within MAIL. The quality standard of its products and its competitiveness is questionable and it should be determined whether the facility should be privatised or remain a Government property with new statutes allowing financial autonomy.

II-1 Veterinary laboratory diagnosis	Levels of advancement 2017 ¹⁴
B. Suitability of national laboratory infrastructure <i>The sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency of the national (public and private) laboratory infrastructure to service the needs of the VS.</i>	1. The national laboratory infrastructure does not meet the needs of the VS.
	2. The national laboratory infrastructure meets partially the needs of the VS, but is not entirely sustainable, as organisational deficiencies with regard to the effective and efficient management of resources and infrastructure (including maintenance) are apparent.
	3. The national laboratory infrastructure generally meets the needs of the VS. Resources and organisation appear to be managed effectively and efficiently, but their regular funding is inadequate to support a sustainable and regularly maintained infrastructure.
	4. The national laboratory infrastructure generally meets the needs of the VS and is subject to timely maintenance programmes but needs new investments in certain aspects (e.g. accessibility to laboratories, number or type of analyses).
	5. The national laboratory infrastructure meets the needs of the VS, and is sustainable and regularly audited.

Terrestrial Code References:

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD25E, PMD31E, MD19E, MD27E, MD32E, MD40E, MD42E, MD47E, MD53E, MD92E, P25 – P33

Findings:

The overall laboratory network infrastructure has a good potential for ensuring an adequate geographical coverage, although the regional laboratories established (through the EU project AHDP) in Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Herat, two of which were visited during this mission, are not yet functioning according to their potential.

During recent years the CVD&RL has undertaken an assessment in all 34 provinces¹⁵ (including regional centres) and priority has been given to 6 regional veterinary laboratories and 17 of the 28 provincial labs for the development of laboratory diagnostic services. Some provincial laboratories lack suitable infrastructure, and reliable essential services, such as water, electricity and drainage facilities. Five of the six regional labs are well housed and equipped. The regional lab in Kandahar is in the early stages of being established. A considerable stock of laboratory equipment and instruments is stored at the central CVD&RL to be distributed as each training module is delivered to the 17 prioritized provincial laboratories.

The Director of the CVD&RL informed the Team that the CVD&RL has faced several challenges to extending the development of capacity to regional and provincial laboratories. Firstly, there is a severe shortage of trained trainers to provide regular hands-on training to regional and provincial labs. Secondly, there has been a serious lack of stability in the employment of Provincial veterinary laboratory officers (PVLOs) in many provinces, resulting in the need to repeat the modular training programme for each step of planned advancement in capability; many provinces still lack suitably trained PVLOs.

Thirdly, many provincial veterinary laboratories were in a poor state of repair or lacked a reliable electricity or water supply requiring considerable repairs or refurbishment to allow them to function effectively.

¹⁴ This competency was not listed as such in the 2010 evaluation

¹⁵ Throughout this report reference is made to “34 provinces”. It should be noted that the VS has designated 6 of the 34 provincial capitals (Jalalabad, Kunduz, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, Ghazni and Kandahar), as “regional centres”. For this reason reference is sometimes made to 28 Provinces, as the total number of provinces; the remaining 6 provinces being regional centres.

An important weakness which deserves attention at the CVD&RL is the management of laboratory results. The Team noted apparent bottlenecks in the back-reporting of laboratory test results to the persons who submitted the laboratory samples. Both information managers at the CVD&RL and the Epidemiology Department need to clarify their respective responsibilities with regard to laboratory information management to ensure client satisfaction. The role of provincial laboratories in this respect also needs to be strengthened.

Nevertheless, in spite of these challenges, the CVD&RL has developed a detailed National Veterinary Laboratories (Strategic) Plan (2016 – 2020) for the development of laboratory services at the central, regional and provincial levels.

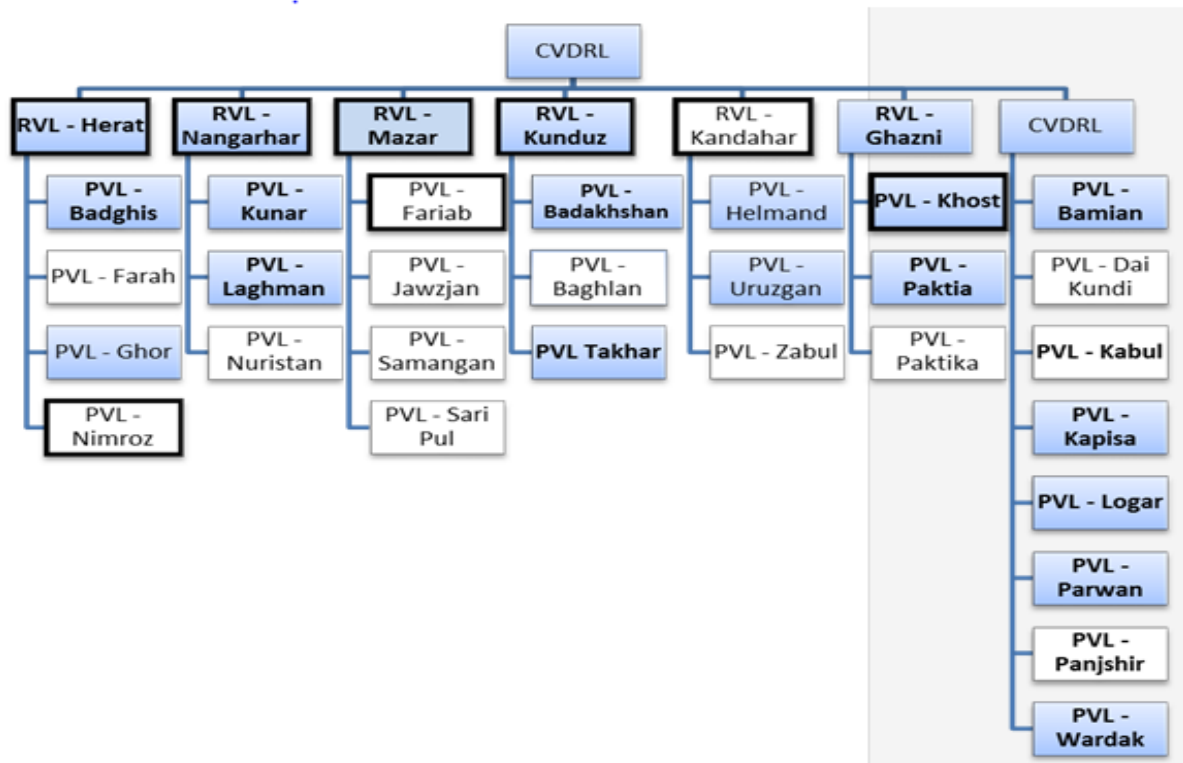



Figure 4 below illustrates the hierarchy which is being developed within the national veterinary diagnostic laboratory network.

Figure 4: Overview of national laboratory network, identifying the proposed reporting structure from Provincial Veterinary Laboratories → Regional Veterinary Labs → CVDRL.

 Functional Lab

 Non-functioning Lab

Labs which have / could have links to BIPs are shown with a **bold outline**.

Labs which are / will be linked to the SMC scheme are presented in **bold script**

This strategic plan envisages different levels of capability at different locations according to the needs and the resources available. The plan is phased according to prioritised needs and to firstly establish capability for regional laboratories with responsibility to support the development of laboratory services at the provincial laboratories which fall under their supervision as illustrated in Figure 4.

Strengths:

- Afghanistan has potentially a good laboratory network that can ensure a sufficient geographical coverage over the entire country;
- A National Veterinary Laboratories Strategic Plan has been developed through extensive stakeholder consultation.

Weaknesses:

- Lack of sufficient training capacity to extend knowledge and laboratory skills down to the Provincial laboratory level.
- High turnover of lab staff at regional and provincial levels
- There is significant discrepancy between the standards of good laboratory management and the range of tests offered by the CVD&RL and the remaining laboratories of the network at regional and provincial level.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

As mentioned in CC II.1 A, there has been a marked improvement in the availability of veterinary laboratory diagnostic services at the central level. However, the extension of diagnostic laboratory services and good laboratory management practices to regional and provincial laboratories remains weak. A National Veterinary Laboratory Strategic Plan has been developed and if this can be implemented successfully it will ensure that the necessary capabilities are gradually developed at the regional and provincial levels.

Recommendations:

- Increase the number of trainers to provide on-the-job training to regional and provincial laboratory personnel in situ.
- Ensure that trained laboratory personnel are rewarded with a salary commensurate with their knowledge and skills in order to ensure stability within the provincial laboratory network
- Develop specific Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the regional and provincial laboratories based upon a realistic level of capability that can be achieved.
- Ensure that the infrastructure and equipment available at regional and provincial laboratories is at least sufficient to allow correct handling of biological samples prior to shipment to CVD&RL for further testing.
- The MAIL is strongly encouraged to ensure that the CVD&RL is provided with the necessary human and financial resources to implement the NVLSP.

II-2 Laboratory quality assurance	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The quality of laboratories (that conduct diagnostic testing or analysis for chemical residues, antimicrobial residues, toxins, or tests for, biological efficacy, etc.) as measured by the use of formal QA systems and participation in relevant proficiency testing programmes.</i>	1. No laboratories used by the public sector VS are using formal QA systems.
	2. Some laboratories used by the public sector VS are using formal QA systems.
	3. All laboratories used by the public sector VS are using formal QA systems.
	4. All the laboratories used by the public sector VS and most or all private laboratories are using formal QA systems.
	5. All the laboratories used by the public sector VS and most or all private laboratories are using formal QA programmes that meet OIE, ISO 17025, or equivalent QA standard guidelines.

Terrestrial Code References:

Point 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Procedures and standards.

Point 1 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality systems.

Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical.

Point 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Laboratory services.

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	2. Some laboratories used by the public sector VS are using formal QA systems.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD21E, PMD25E, PMD31E MD2E, MD3E, MD4E, MD5E, MD6E, MD10E, MD32E, MD62E, MD63E.

Findings:

Quality Assurance (QA) has been a high priority of the CVD&RL to support the certification of animal products destined for export and to accurately diagnose and notify suspected occurrences of notifiable animal diseases as confirmed by laboratory diagnosis.

The implementation of an internal QA program has led to the development of at least 200 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs, in accordance with ISO 17025 standards.:

However, accreditation based upon International Standards Organisation standards (such as ISO 17025) or other internationally recognized standards have not yet been achieved. Nevertheless, the CVD&RL is rapidly moving towards international accreditation.

The CVD&RL has benefitted from a 2 year laboratory twinning project with the support of the OIE and funded through the UK Ministry of Defence. One of the outcomes of the twinning project is that the CVD&RL is now engaged in regular proficiency testing exercises with APHA (Animal & Plant Health Agency) for Avian Influenza, Newcastle disease, Anthrax, Brucellosis (ELISA, MRT, RBT), *Brucella abortus*-slide test, FMD, Listeria, Bovine blood slides, faecal examinations for internal parasites, Brucellosis and *Mycoplasma agalactiae*.

The CVD&RL is also sending samples to the World Reference Laboratory for FMD in Pirbright (UK) for confirmation purposes, strain characterizations and vaccine matching. This is an especially relevant activity in that it fulfils the need to constantly update records of the serotypes and strains of FMD virus circulating in the country in order to ensure that the correct vaccines are procured.

The AVPL management has initiated some QA controls and an internal safety and quality testing procedure has been put in place for all the vaccines produced, but it has not started to submit samples to an independent external laboratory. Such external control had been planned in the past with the Pan African Vaccine Control laboratory (PANVAC) but has never been finalized.

Strengths:

- Significant progress has been made since the 2010 PVS evaluation mission in implementing a robust QA system at the CVD&RL.

- The CVD&RL is close to being in a position to apply for international accreditation by either the ISO or the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).
- With WTO accession of Afghanistan in July 2016, the accreditation of the CVD&RL will ensure that Afghanistan will be in a position to satisfy international export certification standards.

Weaknesses:

- There is a wide gap between the current QA standards adopted by CVD&RL and those being adopted at the regional and provincial laboratories.
- A formal procedure for surveillance of the quality of laboratory reagents (supply, storage, issuance and utilisation) is not yet in place although this would be an important component of the overall QA management system that will be required for eligibility for international accreditation.
- AVPL has not started to submit samples of its vaccines to an independent external laboratory for external quality control; (this is a weakness identified in 2010). Moreover, according to the information provided during discussions with the AVPL staff, the vaccines produced at AVPL do not fully match international safety and quality standards.
- The AVPL does not yet have in place a well-documented QA management system supported by SOPs.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

Significant progress has been made since 2010 when a QA management system was being developed. Nevertheless, there is a long way to go before regional and provincial laboratory managers are sufficiently well trained to be in a position to implement a robust QA system.

The CVD&RL has established an excellent relationship with the APHA through an OIE supported Laboratory Twinning project.

Recommendations:

- The CVD&RL should make efforts to set up in each regional and provincial laboratory a system for Good Laboratory Practices to guarantee that samples submitted at any entry point in the network are processed in an equivalent manner as if they were submitted directly to CVD&RL. This is particularly important as the mission team noted that the management of test results at the peripheral level does not follow any formal procedure and can compromise the issuance of timely test results;
- CVD&RL should initiate a formal QA management system for the supply, storage, issuance and utilisation of reagents used for official; tests and analyses.
- It is extremely important to obtain official certification for an initial limited number of diagnostic tests;
- The CVD&RL should continue to actively participate in the proficiency testing exercises to maintain the good level of performance achieved.
- As the AVPL is currently in an uncertain situation regarding its sustainability, MAIL should critically review the feasibility of upgrading the level of management and marketing necessary to bring commercial viability to the enterprise (Option 1).
- Given that the infrastructure for efficient importation and storage of a full range of internationally certified veterinary vaccines at competitive prices is now well established in Afghanistan, the government should decide whether or not, given the limited resources of MAIL, it is financially justified to continue support for the AVPL, (Option 2).
- The CVD&RL should consider the possibility for requesting an OIE PVS Laboratory Mission to assess the management, organisation, financing and sustainability of Afghanistan's veterinary laboratory network.

II-3 Risk analysis	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The authority and capability of the VS to base its risk management measures on risk assessment.</i>	1. Risk management measures are not usually supported by scientific risk assessment.
	2. The VS compile and maintain data but do not have the capability to carry out risk analysis. Some risk management measures are based on risk assessment.
	3. The VS compile and maintain data and have the capability to carry out risk analysis. The majority of risk management measures are based on risk assessment.
	4. The VS systematically conduct risk assessments in compliance with relevant OIE standards, and base their risk management decisions on the outcomes of these risk assessments.
	5. The VS are consistent in basing sanitary decisions on risk analysis, and in communicating their procedures and outcomes internationally, meeting all their OIE obligations (including WTO SPS Agreement obligations where applicable).

Terrestrial Code References:
Chapter 2.1. on Import risk analysis.

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	1. Risk management decisions are not usually supported by scientific risk assessment.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): MD58E, MD64E, MD65E, M71E, MD73E.

Findings:

In the structure of the Afghanistan VS, risk analysis falls under the responsibility of the Central Epidemiology Department (CED) and the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Quarantine, both within the Division of Disease Prevention and Control.

In the past two years, both ATAR (USAID) and FAO have provided training on Risk analysis in relation to setting standards for regulating the import of animals and animal products (ATAR) and for disease prevention and control purposes (FAO). Nevertheless, capacity of both VPH/Quarantine & Epidemiology Departments to undertake risk analysis exercises in accordance with OIE standards remains weak.

In 2016 an initiative was taken to formally establish a Risk Analysis committee within the AHA to increase its capacity to combine Risk Analysis with value chain assessment to better target animal disease surveillance, prevention and control activities.

A more systematic use of risk analysis principles has led to a recent awareness initiative on Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF). CCHF virus is considered a potential hazard especially when animals are slaughtered at household level when members of the public are unlikely to be aware of the need to take precautionary measures.

An awareness campaign was carried out in 2016 in live animal markets during the period immediately preceding the Eid-ul-Adha religious festival during which a significant number of animals are slaughtered at the household level.

Outbreaks of CCHF in humans in Afghanistan were first reported in Herat Province in 2012 and were initially limited to that province. This finding led The Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) to implement an emergency CCHF control campaign based on the treatment of animal housing and animals using insecticidal sprays / dips, in collaboration with MAIL and MoPH. More recently a campaign was implemented by DCA in both Herat and Nangarhar provinces while in the rest of the country campaigns were jointly implemented by MAIL and MoPH (through the National Zoonotic Disease Control Committee) with the support of WHO and FAO.

The practical application of risk analysis to determine the measures required to ensure the safety and quality of animal products being prepared at food processing premises in Afghanistan is weak, although a number of milk processing facilities and some other food processing facilities in Afghanistan have obtained ISO 22000/2005 accreditation. Neither senior management nor any of the VPH&QD have been trained in the development of risk-based food safety management systems such as HACCP.

Strengths:

- There has been considerable improvement since the 2010 PVS mission in recognition of Risk Analysis as an important tool to plan and manage disease surveillance, prevention and control activities as well as for setting sanitary measures for the control of import of animals, animal products and other controlled commodities;
- The formal establishment of a Risk Analysis committee within the AHA is a step towards systematic use of the principles of Risk Analysis and its linkage with the value chains in the different production sectors that can eventually inform the allocation of resources for animal disease surveillance, prevention and control activities;

Weaknesses:

- As yet, not all members of the current staff of the Central Epidemiology Department (CED) have received sufficient training to use Risk Analysis and other analytical epidemiological techniques to make informed decisions on the targeting of limited resources for disease surveillance, prevention and control.
- Although the Terms of Reference for the recently established Risk Analysis committee indicate specific activities to be undertaken this has yet to be translated into a systematic functioning of the committee.
- Lack of knowledge of risk analysis as applied to the development of food safety management systems, such as HACCP.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

The Central Epidemiology Department has improved its collection, recording and analysis of animal disease information through the establishment of the SMCS and more recently through the requirement for all VFU licensed veterinarians and VPPs to report notifiable diseases as a condition of licensure. The creation of a Risk Analysis committee within the AHA is an important step forward and once this committee becomes formally established and operational, the Directorate will be in a better position to conduct risk-based animal disease surveillance, prevention and control activities and determine the sanitary measures required for the control of importation of animals, animal products and other controlled commodities in compliance with OIE and other international standards.

Recommendations:

- The AHA should promote strict adherence to the ToRs of the Risk Analysis committee and qualitative analysis should be considered a necessary routine activity of the CED and VPH&QD.
- Staff training on risk analysis and value chain methodology, consistent with OIE standards, is still needed to enhance the capacity to adopt risk based approaches for the implementation of animal disease surveillance, prevention and control programs, the definition of sanitary measures for importation of animals and commodities and the development of risk-based food safety management systems (e.g. HACCP)..
- The AHA should recruit at least two fully qualified Epidemiologists with at least a Master of Science qualification awarded by an internationally recognised University.

- Additional formal training of veterinarians in the practical application of epidemiological principals is recommended for all PVOs, PVMEOs and PVEOs.
- There is an urgent need to train VPH&QD senior managers and inspectors in the development and application of risk-based food safety management systems such as HACCP.

II-4 Quarantine and border security	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The authority and capability of the VS to prevent the entry and spread of diseases and other hazards of animals and animal products.</i>	1. The VS cannot apply any type of quarantine or border security procedures for animals or animal products with their neighbouring countries or trading partners.
	2. The VS can establish and apply quarantine and border security procedures; however, these are generally based neither on international standards nor on a risk analysis.
	3. The VS can establish and apply quarantine and border security procedures based on international standards, but the procedures do not systematically address illegal activities relating to the import of animals and animal products.
	4. The VS can establish and apply quarantine and border security procedures which systematically address legal pathways and illegal activities.
	5. The VS work with their neighbouring countries and trading partners to establish, apply and audit quarantine and border security procedures which systematically address all risks identified.

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/Procedures and standards.

Point 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection.

Points 6 and 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities/Animal health and veterinary public health controls.

	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
PVS 2010	1. The VS cannot apply any type of quarantine or border security procedures for animals or animal products with their neighbouring countries or trading partners.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD1E, PMD11E, PMD15E, PMD26E, MD24E, MD35E, MD61E, MD80E

Findings:

The Afghanistan AHA has designated 12 Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) at Torkham, Spin Boldak, Islam Qala, Torghundi, Hairatan, Aqina Jauzjan (not illustrated), Aqcha, Shir Khan Bander, Aykhanam, Ashkamish, Ghulam Khan and Milak, an inland custom area in Kabul, 2 inland clearance depots on Jalalabad Road and in Jalalabad city and 4 airport inspection posts in Kabul, Herat, Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif, as shown by the map on the following page.

As reported in 2010, due largely to insufficient training and a lack of border control office, laboratory and quarantine facilities, the AHA has little capacity to conduct anything more than rudimentary border control procedures based upon inspections of documents, inspection of animals and imported commodities for the prevention of the entry of animal diseases, food safety of animal products and the control of the importation of veterinary medicines and vaccines.

Border control also remains a difficult issue due to insecurity, long porous borders, and large numbers of nomadic pastoralists who have traditionally crossed the borders, especially with Pakistan, for centuries. A shortage of personnel to undertake inspections of animal markets also remains a further serious constraint.

Authority for regulation of import and export of animals and animal products is provided in the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and in draft Import and Export Regulations which have been internally reviewed and are ready for MAIL approval.

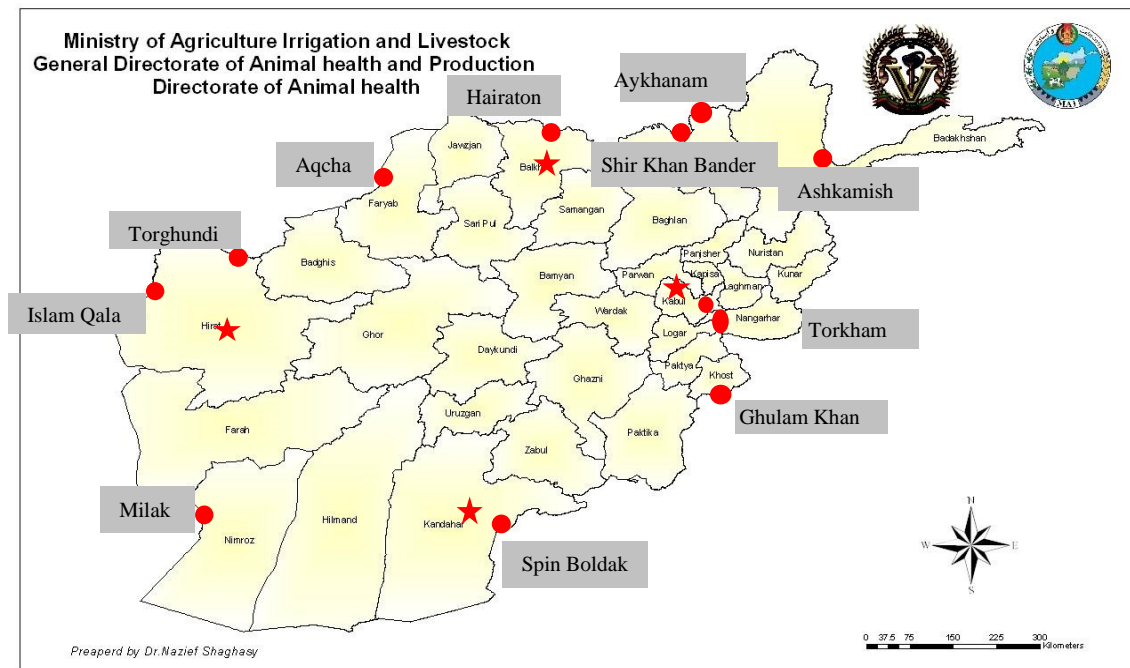
Over the past year the USAID funded Afghanistan Trade and Revenue ATAR project has provided technical assistance to support the development of draft Regulations and Procedures for the implementation of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act as a component of

the WTO post-accession process. While developing the Regulations, senior managers of the VPH&QD participated in training programmes on risk analysis to determine the sanitary measures required to achieve an appropriate level of protection for Afghanistan and on border inspection procedures as well as export certification.

Strengths:

- AHA Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) have been officially designated through a Draft Procedure under the authority of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and Regulations, some of which are now established at strategic entry points on the border of each of Afghanistan's neighbouring countries and in the main airports.

Figure 5 - Land and Airport Inspection Posts



Weaknesses:

- Little if any progress has been observed in capacity to perform border controls on imported animals or animal products since the 2010 PVS Evaluation mission.
- Insufficient numbers of qualified staff and facilities for effective border control of imported animals and animal products at BIPs continues to remain a major issue;
- Shortage of personnel to undertake inspections of animal markets remains a serious constraint;
- The notoriously porous borders of Afghanistan allow much of the livestock, products of animal origin and veterinary medicines and vaccines to enter the country at crossing points which are not controlled and therefore not regulated or inspected.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

No new developments other than significant improvements in the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act conferring powers and authority to the AHA to perform border inspections and controls for the import and export of animals, animal products and other controlled commodities.

Recommendations:

- The VPH&QD needs to be strengthened in terms of infrastructure (Border Quarantine facilities), equipment, (test kits for spot residue testing and sampling equipment at

BIPs) and human resources, numbers of staff and capacity building for both border control at BIPs and inspection of animal markets;

- The MAIL / AHA is recommended to consider the possibility of establishing random check points downstream of the BIPs, for example at animal markets, rather than trying to establish more quarantine stations at borders.
- It is recommended that Draft Regulations and Procedures for regulation of Import and Export, control of animal markets, already developed and internally approved by the AHA are moved forward to the Policy and Legal Advisory Directorate (PALAD) of MAIL for final scrutiny and approval before being submitted to MoJ along with all other Draft Regulations.

II-5. Epidemiological surveillance <i>The authority and capability of the VS to determine, verify and report on the sanitary status of the animal populations under their mandate.</i> A. Passive epidemiological surveillance	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The VS have no passive surveillance programme.
	2. The VS conduct passive surveillance for some relevant diseases and have the capacity to produce national reports on some diseases.
	3. The VS conduct passive surveillance in compliance with OIE standards for some relevant diseases at the national level through appropriate networks in the field, whereby samples from suspect cases are collected and sent for laboratory diagnosis with evidence of correct results obtained. The VS have a basic national disease reporting system.
	4. The VS conduct passive surveillance and report at the national level in compliance with OIE standards for most relevant diseases. Appropriate field networks are established for the collection of samples and submission for laboratory diagnosis of suspect cases with evidence of correct results obtained. Stakeholders are aware of and comply with their obligation to report the suspicion and occurrence of notifiable diseases to the VS.
	5. The VS regularly report to stakeholders and the international community (where applicable) on the findings of passive surveillance programmes.

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/Animal health control/National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-points a) i), ii) and iii) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health: Description of and sample reference data from any national animal disease reporting system controlled and operated or coordinated by the *Veterinary Services*/Description of and sample reference data from other national animal disease reporting systems controlled and operated by other organisations which make data and results available to *Veterinary Services*/Description and relevant data of current official control programmes including... or eradication programmes for specific diseases.

Chapter 1.4. on Animal health surveillance.

Chapter 1.5. on Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases.

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	2. The VS conduct passive surveillance for some relevant diseases and have the capacity to produce national reports on some diseases.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD22E, MD36E, MD39E, MD48E, MD49E, MD50E, MD51E, MD77E, MD78E, MD83E, MD85E.

Findings:

Considerable progress has been made since the 2010 PVS mission. With Technical Assistance provided through the EU funded AHDP project, efforts were made to standardize forms for disease reports, outbreak investigations, laboratory submissions and necropsies. Subsequently these forms were consolidated into a single Disease Report and Sampling Form (DRSF) that is used by contracted VFUs for reporting and submission of samples.

The Sanitary Mandate Contracting Scheme (SMCS) developed by the central authority with AHDP funding, was initially implemented in 2010 with contracted VFU personnel in 7 selected provinces to report suspected cases or outbreaks of highly contagious animal or zoonotic “notifiable” diseases. The SMCS has now been extended to include 340 contracted VFUs in all 34 Provinces and is supported by different entities as illustrated in Table 11 below.

Table 12. Distribution of financial support for the SMCS

N. of provinces	N. of contracted VFUs	Supported by
14	190	NHLP
10	70	MAIL
11	80	FAO

An example of a quarterly narrative report is given in Annex 6 Item MD50.

Contracted VFUs receive a payment for a maximum of 5 samples submitted each month provided that samples are assessed as being of good quality not to compromise the reliability of test results.

In addition to the SMCS all other privately operating animal health service providers are now required to report the clinical suspicion of any notifiable animal disease to their nearest PVO as a condition of being licensed by the AHA. There are currently 75 notifiable diseases listed in a Ministerial Procedure which is declared under the authority of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and (draft) Animal Health (Veterinary) Regulations. To date the DMEC has licensed a total of 870 VFU personnel out of a possible 1000 VFUs which are known to the AHA.

Strengths:

- There has been significant progress since 2010 and data on animal disease occurrence has become available with a coverage over the entire country through the network of contracted VFUs under the SMCS;
- Standardized and more simplified forms and procedures have been adopted since the first pilot initiatives were taken;
- Payment for submission of samples is based on a preliminary quality check;
- Capacity at the CVD&RL has been significantly improved.

Weaknesses:

- Although the SMCS has been improved a number of issues remain to be resolved. For instance, there is concern that the incentive of a payment may bias the number of samples submitted which would affect the interpretation of the extent of an outbreak.
- The current disease reporting system is strongly biased towards specific diseases.
- The capacity of the CED to record and analyse animal disease data and generate more meaningful information needs to be strengthened.
- Some of the data presented during the PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission concerning suspected PPR outbreaks did not adequately distinguish between individual cases or outbreaks since the “epidemiological unit” has not yet been clearly defined by the CED and neither PVEOs nor privately operating animal health service providers have been trained to understand the importance of this basic epidemiological concept when reporting animal disease data.
- There is an issue of sustainability of the whole SMCS as and when donor support is withdrawn since it seems unlikely that the scheme could be sustained with the current budget of the AHA. At present the SMCS is utilising approximately 10% of the overall budget allocated to AHA.
- At present, the SMCS and other disease reporting is paper based and it is thus likely that some reports are being lost on their journey to the CED.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

There has been considerable progress since the 2010 PVS with regard to passive disease surveillance. The pilot SMCS has been extended to cover 300 of the possible 1000+ VFUs and is beginning to generate useful animal disease information. It will not be long before Afghanistan will be in a position to accurately report its animal health status to the OIE. The licensing scheme introduced by the AHA is also contributing to the establishment of a robust passive animal disease reporting network which will eventually cover most of Afghanistan’s territory.

Recommendations:

- It is strongly recommended that the reporting of clinical suspicion of animal diseases by VFU personnel should be shifted towards the reporting of “disease syndromes” rather than a particular named disease, since with the possible exception of FMD, accurate clinical diagnosis should not be reliably expected from VFU staff in the field.
- Rather than through the incentive of a payment, mandatory notifiable animal disease reporting should be enforced consistently now that the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act has been promulgated and draft Regulations and Procedures are almost ready for approval and enactment,
- The CED should be responsible for generating and circulating to provincial veterinary authorities periodic reports based upon animal disease data provided through the disease reporting network.
- VFUs are submitting two types of monthly reports (treatment and vaccination reports, respectively) to their NGO supervisors and sometimes directly to the (Planning Department) AHA. The data being generated by these reports should be formally recorded and analysed by the CED and used as supplementary information for informing risk analysis exercises and other planning activities.
- It is recommended to gradually replace the paper based reporting of animal disease information to the CED through the development of a web-based reporting system to which PVEOs have authorised access. Data entry can then be delegated to the Provincial level, obviating the need to pass all paper reports to the central level.

II-5 Epidemiological surveillance B. Active epidemiological surveillance	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The VS have no active surveillance programme.
	2. The VS conduct active surveillance for some relevant diseases (of economic and zoonotic importance) but apply it only in a part of susceptible populations and/or do not update it regularly.
	3. The VS conduct active surveillance in compliance with scientific principles and OIE standards for some relevant diseases and apply it to all susceptible populations but do not update it regularly.
	4. The VS conduct active surveillance in compliance with scientific principles and OIE standards for some relevant diseases, apply it to all susceptible populations, update it regularly and report the results systematically.
	5. The VS conduct active surveillance for most or all relevant diseases and apply it to all susceptible populations. The surveillance programmes are evaluated and meet the country's OIE obligations.

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/Animal health control/National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-points a) i), ii) and iii) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health: Description of and sample reference data from any national animal disease reporting system controlled and operated or coordinated by the *Veterinary Services*/Description of and sample reference data from other national animal disease reporting systems controlled and operated by other organisations which make data and results available to *Veterinary Services*/Description and relevant data of current official control programmes including:... or eradication programmes for specific diseases.

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	1. The VS have no active surveillance programme.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): MD18E, MD39E, MD48E, MD49E, MD50E, MD51E, MD52E, MD83E, MD85E, MD86E, MD94H.

Findings:

The SMCS, described in detail in section II.3B of this report has been used to contract out the implementation of disease surveillance activities and state provided preventive vaccinations against FMD, PPR and Brucellosis under funding provided by FAO and the World Bank (NHLP). In the case of the National Brucellosis Control Programme (NBCP), VFU based paravets were first contracted to collect serum samples to determine the prevalence of antibodies to *Br melitensis* and *Br abortus*. Subsequently, serum samples were collected by contracted VFU paravets following the first round of vaccinations against Brucellosis in order to check for sero-conversion rates.

In the case of FMD and PPR the VFUs were engaged to carry out vaccination and at the same time were also assigned the task of collecting serum samples to generate baseline information about the prevalence of these two diseases.

These are examples where the implementation of specific disease prevention programs can be complemented to generate information that can also be utilized to assess that the programs are achieving the expected outcomes.

There is also possible to use the SMCS to engage private animal health service providers to better quantify specific diseases or other issues of interest. The implementation of the national programs against FMD and PPR in the framework of the global strategies for these diseases may provide further opportunities.

Today more than 300 VFUs are being contracted under the SMCS for implementation of the three disease prevention and control projects currently underway in Afghanistan. The estimated cost for notification of animal diseases, outbreak investigation and submission of samples to support these programmes is in the region of \$320,000, jointly borne by the WB funded NHLP and the FAO PPR/FMD prevention and control project supported by the government of Japan, Although the MAIL has taken over responsibility for \$55,000 (17%) of

this cost, the longer term sustainability of the disease surveillance components of the SMCS is likely to become problematic unless costs can be trimmed. Indeed, the incentives currently being paid for the reporting of suspected cases or outbreaks of notifiable animal diseases is being withdrawn as disease reporting has now become mandatory (in accordance with provisions in the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act) and is a condition of licensure of VFU based personnel; furthermore, payments for sample submission are now subject to verification that conditions of quality and suitability for laboratory testing are being met.

Strengths:

- Establishment of the SMCS allows the AHA to conduct both active surveillance activities and carry out disease prevention services for public good diseases.
- Specific initiatives have been taken to implement active surveillance concurrently with the implementation of preventive programs;

Weaknesses:

- There is still a gap on a more systematic use of active surveillance for monitoring and evaluation in parallel with the implementation of preventive control programs to assess their effectiveness;
- The AHA is largely dependent on donor funding to support active surveillance to better quantify the prevalence of specific diseases.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

The full endorsement and subsequent expansion of the SMCS which allows the AHA to engage private sector animal health service providers to perform a defined range of public functions under contract is a big step forward for Afghanistan. The SMCS offers a cost-effective means of extending public services to livestock keepers and the public beyond the reach of state veterinary officers.

Active surveillance programmes are now being used to determine disease prevalence and to test the efficacy of vaccines being used to prevent specific diseases of a public good.

Recommendations:

- Active surveillance is an important VS responsibility which will need to be regularly budgeted for by the Government according to programmes based on existing or suspected disease threats and in accordance with the on-going preventive programs to monitor and evaluate their effectiveness;
- Active surveillance should be combined with Risk and Value chain analysis outcomes to optimize use of limited resources.
- MAIL is encouraged to accommodate a greater share of the costs for disease surveillance and prevention and control activities, progressively decreasing its dependency on donor support.

II-6. Emergency response	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The authority and capability of the VS to detect and respond rapidly to a sanitary emergency (such as a significant disease outbreak or food safety emergency).</i>	1. The VS have no field network or established procedure to determine whether a sanitary emergency exists or the authority to declare such an emergency and respond appropriately.
	2. The VS have a field network and an established procedure to determine whether or not a sanitary emergency exists, but lack the necessary legal and financial support to respond appropriately.
	3. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergencies, but the response is not coordinated through a chain of command.
	4. The VS have an established procedure to make timely decisions on whether or not a sanitary emergency exists. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergencies through a chain of command. They have national contingency plans for some exotic diseases.
	5. The VS have national contingency plans for all diseases of concern through coordinated actions with all stakeholders through a chain of command.

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organization / Procedures and standards.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/Animal health control/National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-point a) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health controls: Animal health.

II-6. Early detection and emergency response	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
<i>The authority and capability of the VS to detect and respond rapidly to a sanitary emergency (such as a significant disease outbreak or food safety emergency).</i>	1. The VS have no field network or established procedure to determine whether a sanitary emergency exists or the authority to declare such an emergency and respond appropriately.
	2. The VS have a field network and an established procedure to determine whether or not a sanitary emergency exists, but lack the necessary legal and financial support to respond appropriately.
	3. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergencies, but the response is not coordinated through a chain of command.
	4. The VS have an established procedure to make timely decisions on whether or not a sanitary emergency exists. The VS have the legal framework and financial support to respond rapidly to sanitary emergencies through a chain of command. They have national contingency plans for some exotic diseases.
	5. The VS have national contingency plans for all diseases of concern through coordinated actions with all stakeholders through a chain of command.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD7E, PMD26E, MD16E, MD18E, MD75E, MD90E.

Findings:

The growth of the VFU network and the expanded coverage of the surveillance system through SMCS contracted VFUs have contributed to an extensive network of veterinary professionals and para-professionals distributed throughout the country who are in regular contact with livestock owners and their animals. These VFU personnel are well positioned for early detection and notification of reportable diseases.

Similarly, cell phone technology and its coverage over the entire country can facilitate rapid communication for the early detection of suspected disease outbreaks that may require an immediate response.

In the event of a report of a suspected case or outbreak of a notifiable disease the PVO or PVEO may conduct an “Outbreak Investigation” (OI), or, request the local VFU veterinarian

or veterinary paraprofessional to conduct the OI on behalf of the AHA when the location of the suspected outbreak is distant or the AHA have difficulties in mobilisation of transport.

In order to effectively control a disease outbreak the AHA should have the capacity to enforce strict movement control of animals in an outbreak area declared as being under quarantine. At present this is not possible in Afghanistan. However, the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and, when enacted, the draft Regulations, will provide the AHA with the necessary powers and authority to declare areas as being infected or under quarantine and to impose movement restrictions and whatever other sanitary measures may be deemed necessary.

Emergency ring vaccination is often considered useful for preventing the secondary spread of a disease outbreak. However, such a measure is not necessarily very effective unless animal movement restrictions can be imposed effectively.

The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act provides authority to the AHA to declare a “Sanitary Emergency”. When the draft Regulations is enacted there will be provisions for procedures to respond to such an emergency. At present, however, the AHA does not have immediate access to a Contingency fund to mount an appropriate response to any sanitary emergency. In the past, as for instance when there was an outbreak of HPAI, the former Animal Health Directorate succeeded in obtaining the necessary resources from the FAO and the World Bank managed Avian Influenza Trust Fund to mount an effective response.

The capacity of the AHA and the MoPH to respond effectively to a food safety emergency has not been tested in the recent past

Strengths:

- The VFU network, now widely distributed throughout all 34 provinces of Afghanistan and which is manned by a relatively few professional veterinarians but mostly veterinary para-professionals, who are in regular contact with livestock owners and their animals, offers an opportunity for the AHA for the early detection and response to emergency disease events.
- Resources and training have been provided to provincial directorates of animal health and to the GDAH&P in Kabul to improve capabilities to respond to early disease notifications.
- A list of notifiable diseases is now available and the respective roles of the government veterinary service and the private sector for disease response and control has now been more clearly established.
- The recently enacted Animal Health (Veterinary) Act makes provision for the mandatory reporting of any suspected notifiable disease occurrence.
- The Act provides the AHA with the authority to declare a sanitary emergency and to impose whatever sanitary measures are deemed necessary to mount an appropriate response.
- Draft Regulations which are in preparation will define more precisely what sanitary measures are applicable and under what circumstances they may be employed. The Regulations will make provisions for the publication of procedures which would define more precisely the contingency plans required for the prevention and control of specific diseases.

Weaknesses:

- The capacity to immediately respond to a disease event is still weak. Clear procedures remain to be established and until now immediate responses have been effected through donor support;
- There is no specific budget for early detection and emergency response nor a special fund for possible compensation of livestock owners.

- Although under the former Veterinary Services Act (2000) the VS had the authority to declare “sanitary emergencies”, no evidence was gathered of established procedure to actively cope with a known list of disease outbreaks.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

The enactment of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act provides the AHA with the necessary authority and powers to engage with private sector animal health service providers to establish an effective early warning system as well as the means to mount a prompt response to any disease emergency. As in the case of the CCs covering active and passive disease surveillance, the establishment of a public private partnership between the AHA and private animal health service providers is proving to be a useful means of obtaining early warning information on notifiable disease occurrences as well as in helping to mount an appropriate response. In this regard there is a strong chain of command being established which will allow the AHA to respond to a sanitary emergency promptly, provided that the necessary funds can be accessed.

There is however still an urgent need for the AHA to develop and test contingency plans for the more common notifiable animal diseases and for unexpected incursions of exotic or emerging diseases.

Recommendations:

- The AHA should finalise the review of draft Animal Health Regulations and prepare procedures for:
 - definition of what constitutes a sanitary emergency;
 - definition of the necessary steps to be taken in the event of the declaration of a sanitary emergency;
 - definition of precise Contingency plans for dealing with outbreaks of the most important notifiable animal diseases which are likely to occur in Afghanistan as well as for diseases which are exotic to Afghanistan.
- The AHA should engage government partners to establish financial provisions to support early response to sanitary emergencies including compensation to farmers when animals need to be destroyed as part of the emergency response.
- The AHA should develop contingency plans for disease emergencies including the necessary collaboration of law enforcement agencies and other concerned parties.
- The AHA should conduct simulation exercises to test their preparedness to deal with a sanitary emergency and to resolve any issues which might be discovered.

II-7. Disease prevention, control and eradication <i>The authority and capability of the VS to actively perform actions to prevent, control or eradicate OIE listed diseases and/or to demonstrate that the country or a zone are free of relevant diseases.</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The VS have no authority or capability to prevent, control or eradicate animal diseases.
	2. The VS implement prevention, control and eradication programmes for some diseases and/or in some areas with little or no scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency.
	3. The VS implement prevention, control and eradication programmes for some diseases and/or in some areas with scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency.
	4. The VS implement prevention, control and eradication programmes for all relevant diseases but with scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency of some programmes.
	5. The VS implement prevention, control and eradication programmes for all relevant diseases with scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency consistent with relevant OIE international standards.

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organization / Procedures and standards.

Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status/Animal health control/National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-point a) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health controls: Animal health. Chapter 4.12. on Disposal of dead animal.

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	2. The VS implement prevention, control and eradication programmes for some diseases and/or in some areas with little or no scientific evaluation of their efficacy and efficiency.

Evidence : MD39E, MD51E, MD52E, MD57E, MD59E, MD73E, MD82E, MD83E, M87E, MD89E, MD90E, MD91E.

Findings:

Improvements have been observed by the Team compared with the findings of the 2010 PVS evaluation. Currently there are three ongoing preventive vaccination programs, namely: (i) a National Brucellosis Control Program (NBCP); (ii) a targeted FMD vaccination program and (iii) a PPR targeted vaccination program.

The NBCP was initiated in 2014 following a nation-wide serological survey to assess the prevalence of Brucellosis in small and large ruminants carried out in 2013. This survey revealed an average national prevalence of antibodies to *Br melitensis* close to 3%. On the basis of this finding, the MAIL, with support from the World Bank-funded National Horticulture and Livestock Project (NHLP) introduced vaccinations of sheep and goats using Rev 1 vaccine and S19 vaccine for cattle carried out by VFU personnel under the SMCS. In 2016, 562,000 doses of S-19 and 2,900,000 doses of Rev-1 vaccine were scheduled to be administered. There is no charge to the animal owners for the vaccinations, which are administered by private contracted veterinarians and VPPs working in VFUs. In order to gradually improve the longer term sustainability of this programme, the MAIL is being encouraged to progressively take responsibility for funding the programme out of the Ministry's core budget. Accordingly, in 2017, the cost of contracting and management of 10 of the 34 Provinces in which the project is being implemented at a cost of \$55,000, has been transferred from NHLP to the AHA budget.

More recently, the SMCS has been taken up by FAO and AHA in partnership with some of the more active NGOs supporting the VFU network to collect epidemiological information on the prevalence of PPR and to develop risk-based FMD and PPR disease control

programmes, embedded in the framework of the global initiatives taken jointly by OIE and FAO for these two diseases. Under this same arrangement, a targeted vaccination programme for PPR was initiated in 2015, and an FMD preventive vaccination programme was started by FAO in collaboration with the Central Epidemiology Department and NGOs supporting the VFU network.

The FMD preventive vaccination program targets dairy cattle and is implemented in collaboration with initiatives to strengthen the dairy sector in Afghanistan through collaboration with farmers who belong to Dairy Unions established with FAO assistance in the past. Afghanistan is currently qualified in stage 1 of the Progressive Control Programme for Foot and Mouth disease (PCP-FMD); a national risk-based strategic plan has been formulated and was presented in a Regional Roadmap meeting held in December 2016.

Of note is that although Afghanistan is still officially recognised as being qualified in stage 1, the regional advisory group for the SAARC region agreed that based on evidence given at the December meeting, Afghanistan could be regarded as being fully eligible to be qualified in stage 2 of the PCP-FMD. However, the formal acceptance of this advancement must come from the regional advisory group of the West / Eurasia Roadmap (to which Afghanistan belongs).

PPR vaccination and control is being initiated as a pilot project focusing on sheep and goat herds owned by Kuchi pastoralists in three provinces of Afghanistan (Kabul, Logar and Parwan) and has led to the vaccination of approximately 267,357 animals. The program has subsequently been expanded through agreements between FAO and the four major NGOs operating in the animal health sector in Afghanistan. The expanded program is expected to reach approximately 6,000,000 heads belonging to Kuchi pastoralists.

An additional important initiative has been the implementation of a joint project (supported by NHLP and FAO) to simultaneously vaccinate young stock for Brucellosis and PPR. This pilot initiative has been implemented in the provinces of Kabul, Parwan, Logar and Kapisa. The program started in September 2016 and was concluded by mid-November 2016. Under this combined program animals less than 1 year old were vaccinated simultaneously against Brucellosis (supported through NHLP) and PPR (supported by FAO). 202,955 young sheep and goats were simultaneously vaccinated against both diseases. The post-vaccination test results carried out so far showed that the immune response against both diseases was good.

Afghanistan is now developing a national PPR Control and Eradication Strategic Plan. More detailed information about PPR is provided in the PPR-specific component of this PVS Evaluation Follow-up report (Annex 1).

Strengths:

- The role of the public sector to take primary responsibilities in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of preventive programs is progressively becoming better understood;
- The private sector is engaged through the SMCS and is playing an important role for the implementation of field activities of public interest;
- The current programs addressing FMD and PPR (supported by FAO) contain elements for monitoring and evaluating the field activities and the effectiveness of the preventive programs.

Weaknesses:

- Whilst the AHA is increasingly aware that it has the responsibility to monitor and evaluate the progress of ongoing disease prevention programmes to verify that the programs are achieving their expected outcomes, this has not always been accomplished. Evidence of this gap was found in the implementation of the NBCP, which has never been monitored to check the efficacy of the vaccinations undertaken.

- The AHA does not yet have the capacity to manage the full range of activities for the effective implementation of a national disease control programme and thus requires both technical and financial support from donors and NGOs.
- The mission team was informed that in some circumstances the management of Brucellosis vaccine may not have been done properly;
- The ongoing situation of insecurity makes disease investigation difficult in some parts of the country.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

Afghanistan now has three ongoing disease control / prevention programmes, although monitoring and evaluation remains weak and all 3 programmes are largely funded through donor support. The experience being gained through donor support for these programmes will go a long way towards the development of capacity at central and provincial levels for the future establishment of other disease control projects.

Recommendations:

- A thorough evaluation of the NBCP should be carried out as soon as possible to assess if the vaccination program can shift from nation-wide to a more targeted program.
- It is essential that monitoring and evaluation criteria are embedded into any future national disease control program at the project planning stage and that the monitoring and evaluation is performed.
- The AHA should fully endorse the criteria established for monitoring and evaluating the control/preventive programs for FMD and PPR supported by FAO.

II-8 Food safety	Levels of advancement 2017 ¹⁶
<p>A. Regulation, authorization and inspection of establishments for production, processing and distribution of food animal origin.</p> <p><i>The authority and capability of the VS to establish and enforce sanitary standards for establishments that produce, process and distribute food of animal origin.</i></p>	1. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments are generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards.
	2. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments are undertaken in conformity with international standards in some of the major or selected premises (e.g. only at export premises).
	3. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments are undertaken in conformity with international standards in all premises supplying throughout the national market.
	4. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards for premises supplying the national and local markets.
	5. Regulation, authorisation and inspection of relevant establishments (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards at all premises (including on-farm establishments).

Terrestrial Code References:

Article 3.4.12. on Human food production chain.

References to Codex Alimentarius Commission standards:

Code of Hygienic practice for meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005).

Code of Hygienic practice for milk and milk products (CAC/RCP/ 57-2004).

General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969; amended 1999. Revisions 1997 and 2003).

PVS 2010	Levels of advancement (2010) No equivalent critical competency
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Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD26E, MD26E, MD31E, MD54E, MD56E, MD67E, MD66E, MD67E, MD68E, MD69E, MD70E, MD95H P34 – P42

Findings:

The mission Team visited 4 facilities where fresh animal products were being processed for human consumption and thus fall under the responsibility for the AHA for inspection and certification of food products as being fit for human consumption. One of these facilities was a slaughter house built with (West) German funding in 1977 as a commercial abattoir on the outskirts of Herat, where around 1,500 small ruminants and 50 cattle are slaughtered every day. This abattoir was never fully commissioned as a working abattoir and over the past 40 years has fallen into a state of almost complete disrepair. However, in recent years, the Municipal authority has been leasing the premises to individual butchers from Herat city who use the overhead rail in the abattoir to serve as a hanging gantry from which to suspend carcasses whilst they are skinned and eviscerated and prepared for sale. This slaughter facility was found to be in a very poor state of repair and the hygienic conditions were appalling, with fresh and dried blood contamination on all surfaces surrounding the slaughter areas and pieces of intestine and intestinal contents and other biological waste materials lying all over the premises. There was no evidence that any regular cleaning of the premises is ever carried out. The drainage system appeared to be blocked with waste materials. It became obvious to the Team that no effort was being made by municipal inspectors to enforce any credible food safety management programme. The provincial AHA personnel accompanying this mission admitted that they do not inspect this establishment as it is managed and inspected by the Municipal authority. The entire premises presents a serious health hazard and in the opinion of the Team should be closed forthwith.

Adjacent to this abattoir a new commercial abattoir is being built under ADB (AMIP funding). According to the AMIP update Report in 2016 these abattoirs are to be leased to private

¹⁶ This competency was not described as such in the 2010 PVS evaluation.

companies, however as yet no lease agreements have been reached. The same report records that VPH&QD inspectors have been provided with 10 days training covering all aspects of meat inspection and process hygiene for operation of a commercial abattoir. This is not sufficient training to develop a risk-based food safety management system along the lines of HACCP. VPH&QD senior management and inspectors lack the depth of knowledge required to develop and ensure compliance with HACCP food safety management systems.

In contrast to the food safety standards observed at the Herat municipal abattoir, an intestinal casings processing facility, the Pamir Star Casing Company, which is inspected by the Provincial VPH officer of Mazar-e-Sharif regional veterinary office was found to be in excellent condition and the standards of hygiene were exemplary. This facility is exporting high quality, graded sheep intestinal casings to Turkey under an international veterinary certificate provided to the AHA by the Turkish veterinary authorities. Although not ISO accredited, in the opinion of the Team, of all the facilities visited during this mission this one could be a candidate for ISO 22000/2005 certification since the food safety management system in place is in effect equivalent to a HACCP programme, with the exception that perhaps some control records are not yet being kept in accordance with international standards.

The second establishment visited was the Pakiza Dairy Production Company, a private milk processing facility produces pasteurised milk and yoghurt for the local market and based on the outskirts of Mazar-e-Sharif city. The premises was in clean condition and well managed. The manager informed the Team that he had received some HACCP training and that the facility was ISO 22000/2005 accredited. However, the validity of this accreditation must be questioned since many of the pre-requisite controls which would be considered to be an essential component of a HACCP plan were not in place. For instance, there were no records being kept of the actual temperature of the pasteurisation process. Furthermore, there were no records of pasteurisation temperature calibration. Other than a notice board showing recent medical certificates of current employees, there were no past records available to prove that all production line employees have been continuously subject to a six-monthly medical check-up. There were no complete visitor records and no visitor declarations stating that visitors were not suffering from illnesses which may represent a hazard in such a food processing facility. The manager informed the Team that milk supplied to this processing facility comes from several different milk collection centres where the milk is sampled and tested for Brucella antibodies using the Milk Ring Test; in the 4 years since testing had begun no positive samples been detected.

The Team also visited the Guzar Gargh Milk processing plant in Kabul, formerly established under FAO supervision and now privately managed by the Kabul Dairy Union. This facility has a capacity to produce 5,000 litres of pasteurised milk/day and was working at full capacity. Although the facility is showing its age, it is extremely well managed and again has ISO 22000/2005 accreditation. Once again, the validity of this accreditation has to be questioned for the same reasons as the Mazar plant due to a lack of important control records, including pasteurisation temperature records and pasteurisation calibration records. The Team was informed that the VPH & Quarantine Department regularly collect milk samples and test for Brucellosis and other food safety and quality parameters, although it was not possible for the Team to obtain records to verify these claims. The MoPH are reported to inspect the premises on an irregular basis, the last inspection having taken place 5 months prior to our mission visit. The Team was also informed that the FAO had sent samples of milk and the concentrate feed being produced at the mill adjacent to the milk factory for testing for Aflatoxin.

The Dairy Union provides its 750 members who supply 17 milk collection centres located mainly in Logar and Wardak provinces with a comprehensive integrated service which includes the supply of a locally produced concentrate ration using home grown raw materials, with the exception of a vitamin pre-mix. The milk collection vehicle is used to transport bagged concentrate back to milk collection centres on a daily basis, where farmers

collect their rations when delivering milk. Thus, there are cost savings being made along the entire value chain. The concentrate ration is subject to both internal (at the CVD&RL for aflatoxin) and external quality testing (overseas).

Whilst in Herat the Team was informed by the VPH & Quarantine inspectors that 4 new commercial poultry processing facilities have been established in Herat.

The VPH&QD have been given a considerable training to undertake inspections and ensure food safety standards at facilities which process fresh animal products for human consumption. In spite of this training there is still a long way to go in terms of reaching international standards of OIE and Codex Alimentarius. For instance, none of the inspectors of the VPH&QD have received any HACCP training and thus do not yet understand the principles of risk-based food safety management systems. The capability of the VS to implement, manage and coordinate food safety measures on processing and distribution of products of animals thus remains weak and is not in conformity with international standards. The VPH inspectors do not use a checklist for inspections and no records of inspection findings are being kept.

The recently enacted Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and the Food Safety Act provide the AHA with authority to inspect and certify fresh and semi-processed animal products as fit for human consumption. There is currently a set of draft Food Safety of Primary Animal Products Regulations under review by the LFWG. These Regulations define more specifically the respective roles and responsibilities of MoPH and MAIL for regulation of food safety of animal (and plant) products and animal feedstuffs. Article 63 of the draft Regulations establishes a Joint Food Control Coordination Committee, which includes representatives from each of the respective institutions currently claiming responsibility for inspection of premises. If approved, this should help to allow the institutions to reach agreement as to how hygiene inspections and other shared responsibilities are to be managed and to arrange for sharing of information derived from all inspections. The draft Regulations make provision for the development of standards of hygiene, other standards relating to food safety of animal products, and inspection procedures and the sanctions which may be imposed when corrective actions are not taken as required.

Strengths:

- Considerable progress is being made by the managers of private sector processing facilities which prepare fresh animal products for human consumption to introduce some of the principles of HACCP food safety management systems.
- The rapid growth of the private sector is creating a demand for clear rules and regulations that the Animal Health and Food Safety acts are already addressing. This could be a unique (although challenging) opportunity for the public sector.
- A number of investors are establishing modern poultry processing facilities in major cities alongside the rapid growth in commercial broiler production establishments.
- New legislation recently enacted has provisions allocating responsibility to MAIL for regulating the safety and quality of fresh and semi-processed animal and plant products.

Weaknesses:

- The majority of meat being sold on the local market in towns and cities throughout Afghanistan is slaughtered on the street outside the retail shop and is not subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspection on a regular basis.
- Hygiene inspections of all food processing premises for animal products is poorly coordinated between MAIL, MoPH and Municipal authorities with considerable duplication of effort and overlap in responsibilities.
- Under these circumstances, it is impossible for the VPH & Quarantine Department inspectors to do anything more than make intermittent inspection visits and create better awareness of general hygiene and food safety standards.

- Certificates of ISO accreditation of milk processing facilities have been noted although their validity may be questioned given the lack of records demonstrating that HACCP pre-requisite controls & critical control points are actually being implemented;
- The knowledge of VPH&QD inspectors is lagging behind the progress being made by private sector to meet international standards for food safety.
- There are insufficient numbers of adequately trained food safety inspectors employed by any of the authorities which claim to have the authority to inspect food processing facilities preparing fresh animal products.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

Over the past 7 years there has been a rapid expansion in the number of food processing facilities which prepare fresh and semi-processed animal products for human consumption throughout Afghanistan. Furthermore, many of these food processing facilities are now acquiring ISO 22000/2005 accreditation. In the opinion of the OIE PVS Team, the ISO accreditation currently being given in Afghanistan does not fully comply with ISO standards since many pre-requisite programme checks are not being carried out and no control records are being kept by the food processing factories. This raises questions about the reliability of the organisations providing ISO certification in Afghanistan.

The Food Safety Act and draft Food Safety Regulations make provisions for the mandatory introduction of HACCP plans for designated categories of food processing facilities

In spite of the rapid growth in the food processing industry, the AHA is lagging behind the industry in terms of becoming fully acquainted with risk-based food safety management systems such as HACCP.

Recommendations:

- Private sector food processors require additional training to fully implement HACCP food safety management systems in their facilities;
- The VPH&QD needs more and better trained staff to develop and implement HACCP plans and to audit food processing facilities on the basis of HACCP plans;
- There is an urgent need for the 4 authorities (MAIL, MoPH, ANSA and Municipal) to agree on their respective roles concerning the inspection of premises.
- The VPH&QD should develop and use checklists for inspections of premises. Plans need to be developed in such a way that all premises are inspected on as regular a basis as possible. Records of inspections and any recommended corrective actions to be taken by processing enterprise managers should be kept and followed-up with repeat inspection to check that corrective action has been taken
- The MAIL / AHA should consider development of designs for medium/small scale poultry and red meat slaughter facilities for would-be private sector investors to demonstrate the potential for investment in such facilities with significantly lower capital outlay than is required for large commercial abattoirs;
- Both MAIL and MoPH should prepare extension materials to create greater awareness amongst consumers regarding food safety.
- The LFWG should finalise the review and revision of draft Food Safety Regulations and submit these to the Policy and Legal Advisory Department (PALAD) for MAIL approval and subsequent forwarding to the Ministry of Justice for final approval before being submitted to the Council of Ministers for enactment.

II-8 Food safety	Levels of advancement (2017)
<p>B. Ante and post mortem inspection at abattoirs and associated premises (e.g. meat boning/cutting establishments and rendering plants).</p> <p><i>The authority and capability of the VS to implement and manage the inspection of animals destined for slaughter at abattoirs and associated premises, including for assuring meat hygiene and for the collection of information relevant to livestock diseases and zoonoses.</i></p>	1. Ante- and post mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards.
	2. Ante- and post mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards only at export premises.
	3. Ante- and post mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards for export premises and for major abattoirs producing meat for distribution throughout the national market.
	4. Ante- and post mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards for export premises and for all abattoirs producing meat for distribution in the national and local markets.
	5. Ante- and post mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are undertaken in conformity with international standards at all premises (including family and on farm slaughtering) and are subject to periodic audit of effectiveness.

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organization / Procedures and standards.

Points 1-5 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Food hygiene/Zoonoses/Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines/ Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health.

Points 2, 6 and 7 of Article 3.2.14. on National information on human resources/Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities/Animal health and veterinary public health controls.

Chapter 6.2. on Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post- mortem meat inspection.

	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
PVS 2010	1. Ante- and post mortem inspection and collection of disease information (and coordination, as required) are generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD26E, MD26E, MD31E, MD54E, MD56E, MD66E, P43.

Findings:

The situation has not significantly changed since the 2010 PVS mission. As stated under CC II-7, there are very few formal slaughtering facilities in Afghanistan and most animal slaughtering is carried out either at unregistered private slaughter slabs, or at butcher's shops, almost always with poor hygienic conditions. Even in the main cities of Kabul and Herat where old and poorly maintained facilities are available, professionals estimate that 60 % or more of the meat consumed locally escapes any kind of inspection, although many of the carcasses display ink stamps, indicating that they have been officially inspected and certified as being fit for human consumption. There is no collection of epidemiological information from inspections carried out at any slaughter facilities in Afghanistan.

The VPH&QD is the authority responsible for ante- and post-mortem inspection of meat and the inspection of meat processing premises. The VPH&QD maintains a list of all establishments which process animal products and some attempt is being made to develop a routine inspection plan. Nevertheless, with only 13 inspectors for Kabul, for instance, where there are estimated to be more than 1200 butcher's shops, each of which slaughters and processes meat of on average of between 2 – 20 animals/day, the task of implementing an effective inspection programme seems impossible. The situation is similar in each of the two

other regional capitals visited by the Team and is thus expected to be the same throughout Afghanistan

None of the existing cadre of VPH & QD inspectors has ever followed a full meat inspector's training course. A five month comprehensive meat inspector training course developed by FAO covering all aspects of ante- and post mortem inspection including the criteria for full or partial condemnation has been translated into Dari and is available to be used by the AHA. However as yet no person within the VPH & QD has taken the initiative to prepare and deliver this training course to meat inspectors.

Draft regulations under development prohibit the sale of any meat that has not been slaughtered at a certified premises and that has not been subject to ante- and post-mortem meat inspection by an authorised veterinary inspector. The draft regulations classify different categories of slaughter facility each of which will have different standards regarding food safety management systems to be employed and specify the minimum essential standards for design and construction of each category.

Through funding provided under the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Agriculture Market and Infrastructure Project (AMIP), the MAIL will soon have five new modern commercial abattoirs built to international standards. A report prepared by AMIP and published in 2014 indicated that VPH & QD inspectors had received 2 weeks of training on abattoir management and inspection. This is insufficient given the complexity of developing risk-based food safety management systems.

Strengths:

- The Food Safety and Animal Health Acts provide authority and powers to the Animal Health Authority to determine the conditions relating to the regulation of the safety and quality of fresh and semi-processed animal products.

Weaknesses:

- As there are very few formal slaughtering facilities, inspection of animals destined for slaughter at abattoirs and associated premises is very limited;
- Even in the main cities like Kabul or Herat where old and poorly maintained facilities are available, it is still estimated that 60 % or more of the meat consumed locally escapes any kind of ante- or post-mortem inspection;
- No epidemiological information is being collected on zoonotic disease prevalence which may be detected at post-mortem inspection of carcasses for slaughter.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

For ante- and post mortem meat inspection there has been no change since the PVS in 2010.

The new Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and the Food Safety Act place the responsibility for ante- and post-mortem inspection with the AHA. Draft regulations prohibiting the sale of meat that has not been subject to ante- and post-mortem inspection, set standards at food processing premises and detail certification and inspection procedures, etc. are under review and should be finalised and submitted to the Ministry of Justice in the coming months.

Recommendations:

- Regulations and procedures need to be developed in collaboration with food processing industry stakeholders to gradually introduce OIE / Codex Alimentarius standards for food safety at all levels of food processing of animal products in the country.

- The AHA should review and adapt the 5 month FAO Meat Inspectors training course and develop and implement a Training of Trainers course to provide meat inspection training based upon this course.
- Increased regulatory activity will be required as more formal slaughter facilities for poultry, large and small ruminants are established and the use of animal by-products in animal feeds increases.
- The AHA should develop a reporting system to collect information on notifiable diseases detected at ante and post-mortem meat inspection as this is established.

II-8 Food safety	Levels of advancement (2017)
<p>C. Inspection of collection, processing and distribution of products of animal origin</p> <p><i>The authority and capability of the VS to implement, manage and coordinate food safety measures on collection, processing and distribution of products of animals, including programmes for the prevention of specific food-borne zoonoses and general food safety programmes.</i></p>	1. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards.
	2. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are generally undertaken in conformity with international standards only for export purposes.
	3. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are generally undertaken in conformity with international standards only for export purposes and for products that are distributed throughout the national market.
	4. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are generally undertaken in conformity with international standards for export purposes and for products that are distributed throughout the national and local markets.
	5. Implementation, management and coordination (as appropriate) are undertaken in full conformity with international standards for products at all levels of distribution (including on-farm establishments).

[Note: This critical competency primarily refers to inspection of processed animal products and raw products other than meat (e.g. milk, honey, etc.). It may in some countries be undertaken by an agency other than the VS.]

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation/General organisation/Procedures and standards.

Points 1-5 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Food hygiene/Zoonoses/Chemical residue testing programmes/Veterinary medicines/ Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health.

Points 2, 6 and 7 of Article 3.2.14. on National information on human resources/Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities/Animal health and veterinary public health controls.

Chapter 6.2. on Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post- mortem meat inspection.

	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
PVS 2010	1. Implementation, management, and coordination (as appropriate) are generally not undertaken in conformity with international standards.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD26E, MD26E, MD31E, MD37E, MD54E, MD56E, MD66E.

Findings:

There is no clear evidence of any structured initiative (other than meat inspection) for the prevention of specific food-borne zoonoses or more generally to promote food safety.

The Team was informed of sporadic sampling and testing of milk for Brucella antibody at milk collection centres, upstream of the two milk processing facilities which were visited by the Team. As this activity has apparently not yet yielded any positive results there has been no need to attempt to trace the source of infected milk back to the producer.

AHDP TA have given a considerable amount of training to VPH laboratory personnel and VPH inspectorate staff at the central AHA headquarters on improvement of standards of hygiene at small scale slaughter / butchery shops in Kabul and the collection of samples for laboratory testing of animal products destined for human consumption. It is understood from the reports of these officers that standards of hygiene in such enterprises have improved considerably in recent years.

In spite of this training there is still a major gap in the technical knowledge and skills at all levels of the VPH&QD in terms of meeting OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards for the regulation of food safety of animal products.

One of the Team members of this PVS evaluation lived continuously in Kabul from 2006 until mid-2012 and has continued to visit Kabul on short-term missions regularly since that time. Over this period it was observed that the standards of hygiene at butchers' shops has improved considerably. It is now uncommon to see rows of carcasses hanging above the pavement outside butcher's shops, whilst this was a common practice in 2006 and earlier. Most meat is now hung inside butcher's shops and increasingly a plastic film wrapping is used to protect hanging carcasses from being contaminated by flies. Nevertheless, the practise of small scale slaughter on the streets of Kabul must be discouraged and eventually prohibited by law as (a) it constitutes a risk to human health from possible contamination with harmful bacteria or chemical poisons, and (b) the practice is harmful to the environment since the drainage system is not able to cope with the waste from animal slaughter.

Large quantities of frozen chicken meat, packed in 5 kg or 10 kg cartons are imported into Afghanistan and sold at informal outlets on the pavement in various market streets throughout Kabul. Such traders tend to allow the frozen chicken to thaw whilst it is on display, only to place it back into a freezer later in the day, to re-freeze it. Thus, much of this product is repeatedly thawed and re-frozen before being sold. This practice is well known by the VPH inspectors and attempts are being made to curtail it. On some occasions samples are taken to test for microbial growth. As for small scale street slaughter, the practice of selling frozen chicken meat by street vendors should be prohibited by law.

In contrast, the two private milk processing facilities visited by the Team during this mission had both introduced food safety management systems which are approaching the standards of a HACCP programme and were ISO 22000/2005 accredited. However, neither of these establishments have all of the pre-requisite programmes required or any records of controls, in place.

The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and draft regulations provide the AHA with the necessary authority and powers to control inappropriate slaughter of animals and sale of meat which has not been subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspection. The AHA is encouraged to finalise the draft Food Safety of Animal Products Regulations in order that the law can be enforced.

Strengths:

- Private investors are increasingly establishing meat and milk processing establishments, on the one hand presenting opportunities to improve food safety standards but at the same time presenting a challenge to insufficiently qualified veterinary inspectors employed in the VPH & QD of the AHA.
- Recently enacted laws (Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and the Food Safety Act) confer authority and powers upon the AHA to regulate the processing of animal products for human consumption in accordance with OIE and Codex standards.
- Some improvement was observed in food hygiene at municipal butchers shops since 2010

Weaknesses:

- The public sector VS is lagging behind in its capacity to support the growth of the private sector through the development and enforcement of food safety standards at commercial food processing establishments.
- There are as yet no regulations and procedures to allow the enforcement of the above-mentioned laws.
- There is a serious lack of suitably qualified veterinarians with any knowledge or experience in developing or enforcing modern food safety standards for animal products.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission (2010):

The widespread small-scale slaughter of small ruminants and cattle on the street in front of butcher's shops continues. Nevertheless, there are some improvements in general hygiene, some of which have been brought about through the efforts of VPH & QD inspectors who have received training in basic hygiene and meat technology. Contracts for the construction of 5 commercial scale abattoirs under funding provided through the ADB-AMIP project are soon to be completed.

The managers of the two milk processing plants visited during this mission exhibited considerable knowledge of HACCP food safety management systems, although, in practice they do not yet fully implement them. The two establishments visited were both ISO 22000/2005 accredited, although as mentioned, the validity of this accreditation is questioned.

Recommendations:

- As recommended for the previous CC, regulations and procedures need to be developed in collaboration with food processing industry stakeholders to gradually introduce OIE / Codex Alimentarius standards for food safety at all levels of food processing of animal products in the country.
- The MAIL should recruit well qualified veterinarians to manage the VPH Department and to train an increased number of suitably qualified veterinarians as veterinary public health inspectors.
- Training programmes should be developed and implemented in the areas of ante- and post-mortem meat inspection, food safety management systems, including HACCP, abattoir design and construction and meat technology.

II-9 Veterinary medicines and biologicals	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The authority and capability of the VS to regulate veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals, in order to ensure their responsible and prudent use, i.e. the marketing authorisation, registration, import, manufacture, quality control, export, labelling, advertising, distribution, sale (includes dispensing) and use (includes prescribing) of these products.</i>	1. The VS cannot regulate veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals.
	2. The VS have some capability to exercise regulatory and administrative control over veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals in order to ensure their responsible and prudent use.
	3. The VS exercise regulatory and administrative control for most aspects of the regulation related to the control over veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals, including prudent use of antimicrobial agents in order to ensure their responsible and prudent use.
	4. The VS exercise comprehensive and effective regulatory and administrative control of veterinary medicines and veterinary biologicals.
	5 The control systems are regularly audited, tested and updated when necessary.

Terrestrial Code reference(s):Appendix 2

II-9. Veterinary medicines and biologicals	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
<i>The authority and capability of the VS to regulate veterinary medicines and biologicals, i.e the authorisation, registration, import, production, labelling, distribution, sale and use of these products.</i>	1. The VS cannot regulate veterinary medicines and biologicals.
	2. The VS has some capability to exercise administrative control over veterinary medicines and biologicals.
	3. The VS exercise effective administrative control and implement quality standards for most aspects of the regulation of veterinary medicines and biologicals.
	4. The VS exercise comprehensive and effective regulatory control of veterinary medicines and biologicals.
	5. In addition to complete regulatory control, the VS systematically monitor for adverse reactions (pharmacovigilance) and take appropriate corrective steps. The control systems are subjected to periodic audit of effectiveness.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): MD29E, MD34E, MD81E, P44, P45, P46.

Findings:

The situation regarding the control of veterinary medicines and biologicals remains largely unchanged since 2010. While there has been some internal review within MAIL of the draft Veterinary Medicines and Biological Substance Act as noted in the 2010 PVS report, that draft bill has not yet moved to the Ministry of Justice for review and therefore a comprehensive regulatory framework for control of veterinary medicines and vaccines remains lacking. Numerous interviewees indicated that substandard and counterfeit veterinary medicines are still widely available in the bazaar and that routine inspection and enforcement are largely absent.

While a systematic approach to the problem is still lacking, the Team saw and heard evidence that some sporadic and local efforts were being undertaken. The proprietor of the drug importing company, VetServ, showed the team a counterfeit bottle of medicine along with a bottle of the real medicine it was intended to represent and indicated that samples of the two had been submitted to the VPH&QD of the AHA and that officials were investigating the source of that counterfeit medicine. In Herat, the Team was shown a register of veterinary pharmacies maintained by the DAIL.

A selection of suspected poor quality veterinary medicines have been collected by DCA in the past from bazaars in Afghanistan and sent to Canada for quality testing. The analysis of these samples revealed several important quality issues, including sub-strength products, fake branding of well-known brands of medicines and inappropriate use of preservatives.

Most significantly, the Team met with the senior representative and members of the Veterinary, Agriculture, Medicines and Seeds Association, an industry trade group organised five years earlier and registered with the Ministry of Justice. There are thirty-two member companies in the association. The association is comprised of ethical importers (and one manufacturer) of veterinary medicines who are greatly concerned with the lack of regulation of substandard and counterfeit medicines that unfairly compete with their own products and undermine confidence in veterinary medicines in general. The Association president expressed his desire for a more active regulatory presence by VS with better control of unlicensed imports and sales of undesirable products, better enforcement of violations and improved laboratory capacity for assessing substandard and counterfeit drugs. They even expressed willingness to support the operation of a VS drug testing laboratory in the spirit of a productive public-private partnership. This well organised private sector initiative represents the future in which the government VS will need to focus its policies, resources and efforts to help create the facilitating environment that will allow private enterprise in the livestock sector to flourish while protecting the public good against substandard and dangerous products.

It was reported that appropriate laboratory equipment for the analysis of veterinary drugs is being supplied through the EU-funded MAIL Transition project and FAO. CVD&RL staff will need to be trained on the proper use and maintenance of this equipment. An operational drug testing lab could provide significant support for identifying substandard and counterfeit drugs in the marketplace and providing objective evidence that would support the effective prosecution of violators.

Strengths:

- There is increased awareness of the importance of regulating the veterinary drug supply to protect the public good and ethical importers of veterinary drugs have organised into an association to call for and support the evolution of a stronger regulatory framework in the country.
- There is some evidence that the VS at provincial and central levels is taking steps to regulate the veterinary drug supply
- Capacity for drug testing in the country is likely to improve in the near future.

Weaknesses:

- The much needed veterinary legislation on regulation of veterinary drugs, while drafted and revised, remains stalled within the MAIL. The creation of a Veterinary Drugs Board, as called for in the legislation, is an essential requirement for progress in this area.
- There are inadequate staffs at central and provincial levels to effectively monitor the retail drug market should the authority for inspections emerge.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

The only notable improvement has been a mobilization within the private sector through the creation of a veterinary drug industry association to seek an improved regulatory climate from government to ensure the control of substandard and counterfeit veterinary drugs in the country. There is some indication that government is responding to this pressure, but the new draft legislation on regulation of veterinary drugs remains stalled within MAIL.

Recommendations:

- Passage of the Veterinary Medicines and Biological Substances Act should be prioritized and action taken to move the bill through the Ministry of Justice to Parliament.
- Key provisions of the Act especially the establishment of the Veterinary Drug Board, to create a Register of veterinary medicines and vaccines for use in Afghanistan.

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- A drug testing laboratory within CVD&RL should be activated as soon as possible and training provided to CVD&RL technicians to utilise equipment to evaluate quality and safety of veterinary medicines and test animal products for the presence of drug residues.
 - VFU staff at district / village level may be encouraged to assist the AHA in monitoring drug shops in the bazaar locally and to report wrong-doers to the Provincial authorities.

II-10 Residue testing	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The capability of the VS to undertake residue testing programmes for veterinary medicines (e.g. antimicrobials and hormones), chemicals, pesticides, radionuclides, metals, etc.</i>	1. No residue testing programme for animal products exists in the country.
	2. Some residue testing programme is performed but only for selected animal products for export.
	3. A comprehensive residue testing programme is performed for all animal products for export and some for domestic use.
	4. A comprehensive residue testing programme is performed for all animal products for export and/or internal consumption.
	5. The residue testing programme is subject to routine quality assurance and regular evaluation.

[Note: This critical competency may in some countries be undertaken by an agency or agencies other than the VS.]

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 3 and 4 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Chemical residue testing programmes/Veterinary medicines. Sub-points b) iii) and iv) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary public health: Chemical residue testing programmes/Veterinary medicines.

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	1. No residue testing programme for animal products exists in the country.

Evidence PMD26E, MD24E, MD54E.

Findings:

As was recorded during the 2010 PVS, no residue testing programme for animal products currently exists in the Afghanistan.

Gas and liquid phase chromatography and Mass Spectrophotometry equipment are being procured by the EU Transition project and FAO for delivery to the CVD&RL. The Afghanistan Counter Narcotics Police Laboratory in Kabul, located nearby the CVD&RL, has similar equipment already installed for some years and has good technical capacity, which may prove to be useful for the CVD&RL when its new equipment is commissioned.

The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act confers the necessary powers and authority to the AHA to collect and test samples from animal products destined for human consumption and for other commercial purposes. The Food Safety Act and draft Food Safety Regulations as well as the draft Animal Health Regulations all contain prohibit the sale of animal products containing more than the permitted maximum limits for veterinary drug, pesticide residues or other harmful substances.

Strengths:

- The support to CVD&RL for the provision of adequate equipment for residue testing will fill the capacity gap that still exists.
- Existing and draft legislation empowers the AHA to sample and test for drug and pesticide residues in animal products.
- Capacity to use similar chromatography and spectrophotometry equipment already resides in Kabul and may be available to assist with training of CVD&RL technicians.

Weaknesses:

- No residue testing programme for animal products exists in Afghanistan.
- There currently exists no technical capacity within the CVD&RL / VPH & Q Department to collect and test samples for residues.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

There is no change in the situation since the 2010 PVS, other than the enactment of the Animal Health and Food Safety Acts and the preparation of draft Regulations for each of these Acts.

Recommendations:

- There is a need to train CVD&RL technicians to utilise recently procured spectrophotometry equipment and other instruments (still in the procurement pipeline) to evaluate quality and safety of veterinary medicines as well as to test animal products for the presence of drug and pesticide residues;
- AHA should develop some pilot residue testing capacity, firstly through partnership with a recognized laboratory, to respond to a possible demand from trade partners regarding selected animal products for export.

II-11 Animal feed safety	Levels of advancement 2017 ¹⁷
<i>The authority and capability of the VS to regulate animal feed safety e.g. processing, handling, storage, distribution and use of both commercial and on-farm produced animal feed and feed ingredients.</i>	1. The VS cannot regulate animal feed safety.
	2. The VS have some capability to exercise regulatory and administrative control over animal feed safety.
	3. The VS exercise regulatory and administrative control for most aspects of animal feed safety.
	4. The VS exercise comprehensive and effective regulatory and administrative control of animal feed safety.
	5. The control systems are regularly audited, tested and updated when necessary.

Terrestrial Code References:

Chapter 6.3. on Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed.

Not assessed in 2010

Evidence: P47

Findings:

There are no specific and structured activities on animal feed safety. The Team was informed by the manager of the Guzar Gargh dairy processing plant about a recent initiative supported by FAO to test dairy bulk milk samples for the presence of Aflatoxin M1. The milk samples being tested originated from local collection centres before being further mixed and transported to the milk processing plant for pasteurization and packaging. Of the 314 samples submitted to the CVD&RL and tested using an Enzyme Linked Immuno-sorbent Assay (ELISA) test, none were positive. The absence of Aflatoxin M1 in milk is evidence that animals from which the milk originated had not been exposed to aflatoxin contaminated feed. This survey was conducted during a period when the dairy cows from which the milk was sourced had access to natural pastures and should be repeated during the winter months when animals will be fed with concentrates, hay and stored feed.

The Kabul Dairy Union has, in the past, sent samples of dairy concentrate overseas (Dubai) for quality testing. Whilst these tests were not performed specifically for safety purposes, nevertheless it demonstrates that the Feed Mill operated by the Kabul Dairy Union is aware of Quality Control and has made an attempt to fulfil its obligations to ensure the quality of its products to its clients.

Strengths:

- Initiatives as described in the findings are encouraging and should be promoted.

Weaknesses:

- The issue of animal feed safety is not adequately addressed.

Recommendations:

- The VS needs to establish systematic procedures based on Risk Analysis principles to assess the quality and safety of animal feeds being supplied on a commercial basis especially to commercial poultry and dairy farmers.

¹⁷ This CC was not included in the 2010 version of the PVS evaluation tool

II-12 Identification and traceability	Levels of advancement (2017)
A. Animal identification and movement control <i>The authority and capability of the VS, normally in coordination with stakeholders, to identify animals under their mandate and trace their history, location and distribution for the purpose of animal disease control, food safety, or trade or any other legal requirements under the VS/OIE mandate.</i>	1. The VS do not have the authority or the capability to identify animals or control their movements.
	2. The VS can identify some animals and control some movements, using traditional methods and/or actions designed and implemented to deal with a specific problem (e.g. to prevent robbery).
	3. The VS implement procedures for animal identification and movement control for specific animal sub populations as required for disease control, in accordance with relevant international standards.
	4. The VS implement all relevant animal identification and movement control procedures, in accordance with relevant international standards.
	5. The VS carry out periodic audits of the effectiveness of their identification and movement control systems.

Terrestrial Code References:

Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.

Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals.

Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	1. The VS do not have the authority or the capability to identify animals or control their movements.

Evidence: PMD26E, MD24E.**Findings:**

No substantial changes have been observed since the 2010 mission although sanitary requirements of importing countries are becoming increasingly rigorous and Afghanistan's trading partners may start to require traceability of animal products.

In addition to a limited number of animals identified in Afghanistan in the context of dairy development projects around Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat a very limited number of large and small ruminants were individually identified to evaluate the immune response to vaccination against FMD and PPR.

The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act confers upon the AHA the authority and powers necessary to identify animals and register premises. The Draft Animal Health Regulations, currently in preparation make provisions for establishing an animal identification, traceability and movement control system.

Whilst it will be useful to be able to trace back animals from their products in the marketing value chain, especially when zoonotic diseases or residues are detected at ante- / post-mortem inspection, the development of a formal animal identification system is not necessarily a high priority for the AHA at this point in time.

Strengths:

- There is an increasing awareness on the importance of animal identification amongst officers of the AHA and in the animal product processing industry.
- The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and draft Regulations have adequate provisions to allow for the development of an animal (and animal product) identification and traceability system to be developed.

Weaknesses:

- The OIE-PVS mission was not informed of any control of animal movement in the regions visited;

- There is no formal animal identification / registration of premises system;

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

Other than the enactment of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and the availability of authority and powers to introduce an animal identification, traceability and movement control system, there is no significant change since the 2010 PVS evaluation.

Some animals which were subject to a controlled animal disease scheme have been identified for the purpose of determining sero-conversion response to immunisation.

Recommendations:

- The MAIL is recommended to pursue a process of gradual introduction of formal systems for marketing and slaughter of animals that will facilitate the eventual introduction of systems for traceability of animal products destined for export requiring animal identification and traceability.
- As and when Afghanistan progresses towards the eradication of PPR, there will be the need to introduce individual animal or group identification to facilitate traceback of disease outbreaks.

II-12 Identification and traceability B. Identification and traceability of products of animal origin <i>The authority and capability of the VS, normally in coordination with stakeholders, to identify and trace products of animal origin for the purpose of food safety, animal health or trade.</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The VS do not have the authority or the capability to identify or trace products of animal origin.
	2. The VS can identify and trace some products of animal origin to deal with a specific problem (e.g. products originating from farms affected by a disease outbreak).
	3. The VS have implemented procedures to identify and trace some products of animal origin for food safety, animal health and trade purposes, in accordance with relevant international standards.
	4. The VS have implemented national programmes enabling them the identification and tracing of all products of animal origin, in accordance with relevant international standards.
	5. The VS periodically audit the effectiveness of their identification and traceability procedures.

Note: This critical competency may in some countries be undertaken by an agency or agencies other than the VS.]

Terrestrial Code References:

Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation.

Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals.

Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	2. The VS can identify and trace some products of animal origin to deal with a specific problem (e.g. products originating from farms affected by a disease outbreak).

Evidence: PMD26E, MD24E

Findings:

The AHA has responsibility for regulating the safety and quality of fresh or semi-processed animal products, both imported and produced domestically. The MoPH is responsible for regulating the safety and quality of processed foods.

In view of the large numbers of small butcheries which, individually process small quantities of meat and which do not keep any accurate records of the source of their slaughter animals it is difficult to see how it would be possible to trace back to the source of a potential food safety hazard.

There is currently no animal or animal product identification system in place. Furthermore, ante- and post-mortem meat inspection is only carried out very sporadically and not at all comprehensively, since none of the currently employed inspectors have ever benefitted from a full meat inspector's training course.

Almost all red meat sold on the retail market in Afghanistan is derived from small butcher's shops which slaughter on average 2-10 animals/day. It is not possible for the very few inspectors currently employed by the AHA to inspect even a few establishments each day. Most meat being sold is not inspected

It will only be possible to trace animal products back to the producer when commercial abattoirs which keep correct records of all slaughter animals, become established.

In the case of milk processing facilities, some records are being maintained backwards along the milk supply chain at primary milk collection centres, Milk processing factories collect milk from a number of such milk collection centres. All farmers delivering milk are registered. It would be relatively straightforward to trace any problems related to residues or zoonotic diseases detected in milk samples taken from the collection centres back to the producer. Although not yet tested, in theory the AHA may have the capacity to trace a hazard back to

the source and mount an appropriate response, however, the AHA does not have sufficient numbers of staff to undertake this kind of activity yet.

The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and the Food Safety Act and their respective draft Regulations make provisions for animal and animal product identification as well as for sampling and testing for presence of pathogens or harmful substances.

Strengths:

- Primary legislation relating to animal and animal product identification and traceability is already in existence.
- Draft regulations to support the implementation of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and the Food Safety Act are in the process of being internally reviewed by the MAIL and MoPH.

Weaknesses:

- Most animal carcasses in the butcheries and meat being sold at retail outlets have never been inspected by adequately trained inspectors.
- Other products of animal origin which are the subject of internal trade movements or export (e.g., wool, small ruminant intestines) are rarely controlled.
- There are insufficient numbers of adequately trained staff to undertake all of the functions of the AHA, including ante- and post-mortem meat inspection and sampling and testing to detect harmful pathogens or residues.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

Other than the enactment of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and the availability of authority and powers to introduce animal and animal product identification, traceability and movement control system, there is no significant change since the 2010 PVS evaluation.

Some animals which were subject to a controlled animal disease scheme have been identified for the purpose of determining sero-conversion response to immunisation.

Recommendations:

- Finalize and enact the draft regulations to support the implementation and enforcement of the Animal Health and Food Safety Acts.
- Sensitize all relevant stakeholders to the risks involved through uncontrolled distribution, trade and export of animal products.
- Progressively establish a system to improve traceability of animal products at slaughterhouses (recognizable ink stamping) and in processing establishments.

II-13 Animal welfare	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The authority and capability of the VS to implement the animal welfare standards of the OIE as published in the Terrestrial Code.</i>	1. The OIE standards are generally not implemented.
	2. Some of the OIE standards are implemented, e.g. primarily for equines.
	3. All of the OIE standards are implemented but this is primarily for the export sector.
	4. All of the OIE standards are implemented, for the export and the domestic sector.
	5. The OIE standards are implemented and implementation is periodically subject to independent external evaluation.

Terrestrial Code References:
Section 7 on Animal welfare.

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	1. The OIE standards are generally not implemented.

Evidence: PMD26E, MD24E, MD82E

Findings:

There has been some small improvement in dealing with animal welfare issues in Afghanistan since the 2010 PVS evaluation.

The most significant development has been that the UK based NGO the Mayhew Trust has reached an agreement with the Kabul Municipal Council to cease the destruction of stray dogs in Kabul using strychnine poison. In reaching this agreement, The Mayhew Trust is taking forward a project with the Kabul University Faculty of Veterinary Science to embark upon a Capture, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (CNVR) project. The project will take advantage of surgical facilities which had been constructed by the EU funded AHDP Phase II project on behalf of the FVS on a compound adjacent to the CVD&RL and close behind the University Faculty small animal medical clinic. Veterinary undergraduate students will participate in the programme, gaining surgical skills through taking part in the neutering of stray female dogs as well as monitoring the effect of the neutering programme on the dog population. A baseline population survey has already been undertaken. This project will open the door to many opportunities for veterinary undergraduates to become involved in animal welfare related activities.

The Brooke Foundation, in partnership with the DCA, have developed extension outreach through VFUs whereby livestock keepers are being made aware of the need to take better care of their animals (especially horses and donkeys) in order to improve their working capacity

The Mayhew Trust and Nowzad are both investing in improving welfare of small animals through developing clinical & surgical facilities in Kabul;

Veterinary undergraduate students are being exposed to the need for respecting animal well-being during internships provided by NGO clinics across Afghanistan.

Strengths:

- There is increasing awareness of animal welfare as a topic of concern in Afghanistan.
- The new AH Act makes provisions for establishing authority within the AHA to set and enforce animal welfare standards.

Weaknesses:

- The situation is unchanged since 2010 and the VS and public sector has not been directly involved so far in any initiative aiming at improving the animal welfare in accordance with international standards.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

There have been some notable developments with regard to animal welfare since the last PVS evaluation in 2010. Three NGOs, Nowzad, the Mayhew Trust and the Brooke Foundation have all made significant contributions. It was particularly heartening for the Team to learn that the Mayhew Trust have not only reached an agreement with the Kabul Municipal Council to cease using strychnine poisoning as a means of controlling the Kabul stray dog population, but also are in the process of developing a CNVR programme in collaboration with the Kabul University Faculty of Veterinary Science, thus ensuring a deeper awareness of the next generation of veterinarians of the need to respect the wellbeing of animal.

Recommendations:

- The AHA should take initiatives on animal welfare and promote extension efforts aimed at farmers, transporters, market personnel, slaughterhouse workers, etc. These extension efforts should include messages about humane treatment of animals and protection of the well-being of food producing animals to produce food of enhanced quality and safety.

III.3 Fundamental component III: Interaction with interested parties

This component of the evaluation concerns the capability of the VS to collaborate with and involve stakeholders in the implementation of programmes and activities. It comprises seven critical competencies

Critical competencies:

Section III-1	Communication
Section III-2	Consultation with interested parties
Section III-3	Official representation
Section III-4	Accreditation / Authorisation / Delegation
Section III-5	Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB)
	A. VSB authority
	B. VSB capacity
Section III-6	Participation of producers and other interested parties in joint programmes

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7, 9 and 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards / Communication.

Point 9 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations.

Points 2 and 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services.

Sub-point b) of Point 2 of Article 3.2.6. on Administrative resources: Communications.

Article 3.2.11. on Participation on OIE activities.

Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body.

Points 4, 7 and Sub-point g) of Point 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details / Animal health and veterinary public health controls / Sources of independent scientific expertise.

Chapter 3.3. on Communication.

III-1 Communication <i>The capability of the VS to keep interested parties informed, in a transparent, effective and timely manner, of VS activities and programmes, and of developments in animal health and food safety. This competency includes collaboration with relevant authorities, including other ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The VS have no mechanism in place to inform interested parties of VS activities and programmes.
	2. The VS have informal communication mechanisms.
	3. The VS maintain an official contact point for communication but it is not always up-to-date in providing information.
	4. The VS contact point for communication provides up-to-date information, accessible via the Internet and other appropriate channels, on activities and programmes.
	5. The VS have a well-developed communication plan, and actively and regularly circulate information to interested parties.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	3. The VS maintain an official contact point for communications but it is not always up-to-date in providing information.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD25E, PMD26E, MD31E, MD33E, MD55E, MD66E, MD73E

Findings:

There is no formal point of communication within the AHA and as yet most communication with interested parties is made irregularly and on an ad hoc basis.

The offices of the AHA now have regular access to the internet which is fully supported by the MAIL budget. Most officers of the AHA are equipped with desktop computer and computer literacy has improved considerably since the last PVS evaluation in 2010.

Key informants however, mentioned that very few officers of the AHA have any mobile phone credit paid for by the AHA, although the Team was informed that “cisco” telephone service connections have now been established between headquarters and seven regional AHA offices. Those personnel who do obtain mobile phone credit rely on donor funded projects. Routine daily communication between most officers and their immediate working colleagues is thus largely funded privately.

The AHA has been engaged in a process of communication with the Faculty of Vet. Science at Kabul University, resulting in the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement for collaboration.

The former monthly NGO Coordination meeting which was held between the DMEC and the leading NGOs involved with establishing and supporting VFUs which was active during the period of the previous PVS evaluation in 2010, has become dormant. This coordination meeting was an excellent opportunity for the former AHD to communicate its policies with the NGO community, furthermore it allowed the development of draft “Guidelines for the Establishment and Management of VFUs”, which although never approved by MAIL, were in fact mutually agreed between the former AHD and all of the NGO partners involved in establishing the VFU network.

There are however, a number of excellent communication programmes being developed by NGOs working in the animal health sector. Of particular merit are the extension packages, posters and leaflets which have been developed by the DCA and which are being used through the VFUs by paravets who have received extension training.

The Central Epidemiology Department (CED) informed the Team of the regular meetings it holds with the MoPH on the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases. For this purpose there is established a Zoonotic Disease Control Committee (ZDCC) at national level and at

the regional level in at least two regions (Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif). Through this Committee a joint Press Release was prepared and released to inform members of the risks associated with home slaughter of sheep at Eid-ul-Adha and the precautions necessary to avoid infection with CCHF.

There are at least four distinct institutions all claiming responsibility for the inspection of premises where animal products are processed for human consumption. These include the AHA (MAIL), the MoPH, the Municipal and local Councils and the Afghanistan National Standards Authority (ANSA). However, other than a Memorandum signed between MAIL, MoPH and ANSA in 2011, there is little evidence that there is any formal communication taking place amongst these institutions. As a result, there is a lack of coordination of inspections, duplication of effort and a failure to ensure that any one food processing premises is inspected on a regular basis.

The draft Food Safety of Primary Animal Products Regulations envisages the establishment of a Joint Food Control Coordination Committee, which will help to address this lack of inter-sectoral communication.

The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act provides for a contact point within the AHA with responsibility for communicating with the Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) Enquiry and Notification Point (ENP), established within the MAIL. This MAIL ENP then has a direct line of communication with the SPS-ENP located in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI). All new sanitary measures or changes to existing sanitary measures imposed for the importation of animals, animal products and other controlled articles are communicated to the WTO and all major trading partners through this line of communication.

Strengths:

- There are some efforts being made by senior managers at the level of the AHA to involve interested parties in their activities.
- The CED has regular meetings with the MoPH through the ZDCC.
- The DCA has developed excellent extension materials which are being used through VFUs by trained paravets to train farmers and members of their community on a wide range of important issues, including animal management, animal nutrition, housing, hygiene, and protection against infection with zoonotic diseases, to name but a few.

Weaknesses:

- Lack of a formal point of communication within the AHA.
- Lack of communication between the AHA and senior management at the policy and planning level in MAIL headquarters.
- Lack of communication between institutions with a common interest in the food safety of animal products.

Developments evidenced since previous the OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

If anything, the level of communication between the AHA and other interested parties has declined since the previous PVS evaluation. This is partly due to government policy, whereby individual Directorates are not authorised to establish their own Communications Departments and should rely on the central Communications Directorate within the Ministry. Several forums for regular meetings between donors, NGOs and other interested parties and the former AHD and MAIL have been abandoned in recent years.

Recommendations:

- The MAIL should authorise and encourage the AHA (and other Directorates) to establish a dedicated Communication Department / officer within the organisational structure of the GDAH&P.

- The AHA should establish a website through which members of the public can obtain useful information on matters related to public veterinary services, animal health and veterinary public health.
- The MAIL and AHA should establish a technical coordination forum at which senior management of all major donor / NGO funded projects in the livestock sector can meet regularly and share their experiences and the progress of their respective projects.

III-2 Consultation with interested parties <i>The capability of the VS to consult effectively with interested parties on VS activities and programmes, and on developments in animal health and food safety. This competency includes collaboration with relevant authorities, including other ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The VS have no mechanisms for consultation with interested parties.
	2. The VS maintain informal channels of consultation with interested parties.
	3. The VS maintain a formal consultation mechanism with interested parties.
	4. The VS regularly hold workshops and meetings with interested parties.
5. The VS actively consult with and solicit feedback from interested parties regarding proposed and current activities and programmes, developments in animal health and food safety, interventions at the OIE (Codex Alimentarius Commission and WTO SPS Committee where applicable), and ways to improve their activities.	

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	2. The VS maintain informal channels of consultation with stakeholders.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): Key informant interviews only.

Findings:

The Team was pleased to learn that the AHA has been actively engaged with the Veterinary and Agricultural Medicines and Seeds Association on issues related to ensuring a quality veterinary drug supply for Afghanistan. However, in other spheres, the situation was not as positive. In the past, there were several important initiatives in place within VS which demonstrated a strong effort at consultation and coordination with interested parties, most notably donors with activities in the livestock sector as well as NGOs that were supporting VFUs. In the case of donors there was the Livestock Sector Joint Steering Committee which was chaired by the Deputy Minister Technical of MAIL. Subsequently, a Programme Implementation Coordination Unit (PICU) was established within MAIL which effectively took over the role of the Joint Steering Committee to coordinate donor activities in the livestock sector through weekly meetings but it was reported to the Team that this was no longer taking place.

Similarly, in the past there was a strong coordination effort among NGOs regarding issues related to VFUs such as procurement of supplies, payment of salaries, siting of VFUs, etc. This was organized through the NGO umbrella group, ACBAR, and subsequently transferred to the GDAH&P so that the VS could be directly involved in the discussions and decision making. Unfortunately, this effort has also been suspended, though it remains sorely needed since new players (NGOs and donors) are entering the VFU arena and introducing disruptive practices, such as payment of salaries and siting of VFUs in areas already covered. These can threaten the viability of existing VFUs and the VFU network itself. This is particularly troubling at a time when the private sector VFU network has reached a level of maturity and sustainability that has been recognized by government, which is now engaging VFUs in sanitary mandate contracts to carry out official activities on its behalf.

There also appears to be an issue with coordination within MAIL (see CC I-6.A). Frustration was expressed within the GDAH&P that donor projects involving the livestock sector are discussed and approved at higher levels within the MAIL hierarchy without technical consultation of GDAH&P. This can lead to serious difficulties in implementation of the projects when they are at odds with existing policies and practices or are not technically sound. The issue of VFUs is a good example where MAIL has approved projects allowing implementers to pay exorbitant salaries to VFU staff contrary to the long-standing and mutually agreed practice of no salary payments at other VFUs.

Strengths:

- GDAH&P understands the need for donor coordination, technical consistency and alignment of policies within related projects.
- GDAH&P is listening to private sector concerns and understanding better the need to develop enabling regulatory environments for private sector growth.

Weaknesses:

- There are no apparent formal consultation mechanisms in place for GDAH&P to interact with donors and partners.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

Some of the promising consultations with stakeholders, particularly to coordinate donor and NGO activities observed during the previous PVS Evaluation have lost ground instead of advancing. It is worrisome that the GDAH&P seems to have very little say regarding policy decisions that directly affect their work and mission.

Recommendations:

- A VFU coordination and approval process should be re-instated and implemented within GDAH&P to require systematic review of all new NGO and donor initiatives that involve establishment or support of VFUs to ensure that GDAH&P policies and practices are followed. GDAH&P must have the authority to deny establishment of VFUs that do not conform to their policies guidelines and practices.
- Donor coordination meetings at a high ministry level should be resumed; for review of new donor initiatives involving the livestock sector, GDAH&P should be included in the meetings so that their technical concerns can be heard prior to project approvals.

III-3 Official representation <i>The capability of the VS to regularly and actively participate in, coordinate and provide follow up on relevant meetings of regional and international organisations including the OIE (and Codex Alimentarius Commission and WTO SPS Committee where applicable).</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The VS do not participate in or follow up on relevant meetings of regional or international organisations.
	2. The VS sporadically participate in relevant meetings and/or make a limited contribution.
	3. The VS actively participate ¹⁸ in the majority of relevant meetings.
	4. The VS consult with interested parties and take into consideration their opinions in providing papers and making interventions in relevant meetings.
	5. The VS consult with interested parties to ensure that strategic issues are identified, to provide leadership and to ensure coordination among national delegations as part of their participation in relevant meetings.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	2. The VS sporadically participate in relevant meetings and/or make a limited contribution.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): MD52E, MD89E

Findings:

The former Director of Animal Health and sometimes the Director of the CVD&RL have regularly attended the OIE Annual General Session as well as several OIE regional commission meetings. The position of OIE Delegate has passed to the recently appointed (Acting) Director General of the GDAH&P. As yet, the OIE Delegates for Afghanistan have not taken part in OIE, Codex Commission, or WTO technical consultations. Some members of the AHA have been appointed as OIE focal points, but they are not normally able to attend regional meetings due to a lack of funding to cover transportation costs.

The AHA are however regularly attending other important regional coordination fora established through SAARC or with the assistance of FAO and its regional trans-boundary animal disease control programmes.

Strengths:

- Attendance at international meetings by AHA representatives has been regular.
- FAO and the EU funded projects have supported travel and sometimes other costs for Afghan representatives to attend international coordination meetings.

Weaknesses:

- Attendance of Afghan representatives at international meetings is still largely supported by external assistance.

Developments evidenced since previous OIE PVS Pathway Missions:

There has been no significant change with regard to attendance of Afghan VS representatives at international fora.

Recommendations:

- MAIL and the AHA should encourage their staff to continue to attend international meetings in order to learn from others, share experiences with neighbouring country veterinarians and harmonise approaches towards the prevention and control of TADs.
- Officers attending international meetings should be obliged to present and share their experiences and information gathered with their colleagues in the VS upon return.

¹⁸ *Active participation* refers to preparation in advance of, and contributing during the meetings in question, including exploring common solutions and generating proposals and compromises for possible adoption.

- It is recommended that MAIL budget for the costs of travel, and if required, accommodation, for their officers to attend international / regional meetings, when these are not completely covered by the host organisations.

III-4 Accreditation / authorisation / delegation	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The authority and capability of the public sector of the VS to accredit / authorise / delegate the private veterinarians and laboratories), to carry out official tasks on its behalf.</i>	1. The public sector of the VS has neither the authority nor the capability to accredit / authorise / delegate the private sector to carry out official tasks.
	2. The public sector of the VS has the authority and capability to accredit / authorise / delegate to the private sector, but there are no current accreditation / authorisation / delegation activities.
	3. The public sector of the VS develops accreditation / authorisation / delegation programmes for certain tasks, but these are not routinely reviewed.
	4. The public sector of the VS develops and implements accreditation / authorisation / delegation programmes, and these are routinely reviewed.
	5. The public sector of the VS carries out audits of its accreditation / authorisation / delegation programmes, in order to maintain the trust of their trading partners and interested parties.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	1. The public sector of the VS has neither the authority nor the capability to accredit / authorise / delegate the private sector to carry out official tasks.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD26E, MD1E, MD24E, MD46E, MD50E, MD53E, MD75E, MD94H, P48, P49.

Findings:

The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act provides the CVO with the authority to delegate certain of his responsibilities to provincial veterinary officers. In addition, in accordance with OIE guidelines, there are provisions for the CVO to engage private licensed veterinarians and licensed VPPs to perform a defined range of public functions on behalf of the state VS. In addition, the draft Animal Health Regulations being developed by the LFWG have detailed provisions which define the modalities for (a) delegating responsibilities conferred on the CVO to provincial veterinary officers and other provincial veterinary inspectors and (b) delegation of public functions and services to be performed by private veterinarians and VPPs under the SMCS.

The SMCS, described in detail in section II.3B of this report, has been refined and includes disease reporting, outbreak investigation, active disease surveillance and vaccination services.

Reference to the SMCS in the NCADPP (2016-2020), the most recent development strategy to be published by MAIL, demonstrates full acceptance of the SMCS by senior policy makers in MAIL as an important mechanism for the AHA to extend its services and perform some of its regulatory functions at the District and village levels without having to employ a parallel workforce of District veterinary officers.

Today more than 300 veterinarians and VPPs are engaged in sanitary mandate contracts largely under the financial support of the WB funded NHLP implementing the NCBP and through the FAO supported prevention and control programmes for FMD and PPR. However, in 2017 the MAIL has included the full cost of the NCBP component of the SMCS to cover 10 provinces under the Development budget allocated to the AHA.

Strengths:

- The AHA is actively delegating defined public functions to private sector veterinarians and VPPs.
- Policy makers in MAIL have acknowledged the value of the SMCS as an important public private partnership, with benefits for both public and private sector service providers as well as the livestock owning community.

- There are suitable provisions in both primary and draft secondary legislation to enable the CVO to delegate defined public functions and services to private sector service providers.
- The SMCS offers an opportunity for the state VS to expand the range of public functions and services to be delegated to private sector service providers.

Weaknesses:

- The SMCS requires considerable refinement to make it even more cost efficient and effective.
- The majority of the SMCS costs are still covered through donor support thus undermining long term sustainability of this programme.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

The establishment of the SMCS as a cost-effective mechanism for the state VS to obtain essential animal disease information and to provide selected public services to livestock keepers is an important step forward since 2010, when the SMCS was in its infancy. There is now a legal basis for the delegation of official activities to the private sector through the SMCS

The full acceptance of the SMCS by senior policy makers in MAIL suggests that the government is likely to continue to accept the financial cost of operating the scheme, especially when it is further refined and the capacity to manage the scheme at and below the provincial level is gradually improved.

Recommendations:

- AHA should review its use of the SMCS to collect animal disease information, through both passive and active surveillance in order to trim costs and yet still maintain an appropriate level of early warning surveillance coupled with good response capability.
- Both central and provincial AHA officers require additional training in order to continuously develop and refine the modalities for operating the SMCS.
- Consideration should be given to increasing public funding for the SCMS to reduce dependency on donor funding and to expand the range of public functions which may be delegated to private sector animal health service providers through the SMCS.
- Examples of additional activities to be considered for delegation might include inspections for food safety of animal products destined for human consumption, animal health and production extension services to farmers, and extension / awareness creation amongst farming communities especially in the area of zoonotic disease control.

III-5 Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) A. VSB authority <i>The VSB is an autonomous regulatory body for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)	
	1. There is no legislation establishing a VSB.	
	2. The VSB regulates veterinarians only within certain sectors of the veterinary profession and/or does not systematically apply disciplinary measures.	
	3. The VSB regulates veterinarians in all relevant sectors of the veterinary profession and applies disciplinary measures.	
	4. The VSB regulates functions and competencies of veterinarians in all relevant sectors and veterinary para-professionals according to needs.	
	5. The VSB regulates and applies disciplinary measures to veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals in all sectors throughout the country.	

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)	
	1. There is no legislation establishing a VSB.	

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD26E, MD16E, MD24E, MD75E,

Findings:

NOTE: In assigning an advancement level of 1, it is noted that good progress has been made in that legislation has been passed to authorize the establishment of a veterinary statutory body (VSB). This progress sets the stage to reach Level 2 when the legislation will have been implemented.

The new Animal Health (Veterinary) Act, passed by Parliament in 2016, authorises creation of a VSB under the AHA to regulate veterinarians and VPP. Regulations are being drafted by a Legal Framework Working Group within the AHD to support the implementation of the Act.

Although chaired by the Deputy Minister, the Board reports to the AHA which is headed by the Director of Animal Health. Furthermore, Article 8 of the Act reads:

“The Board, shall be autonomous in the performance of its assigned tasks and shall make decisions based on the majority of votes”. Since the Board reports to the AHA and six of the ten members of the Board are civil servants, three of whom are employed by MAIL, and only 4 members of the Board actually represent the interests of private veterinarians or VPPs, it is difficult to see how the Board can be fully “autonomous”.

The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act provides the Veterinary Board with several powers and functions including:

- “the approval of procedures for examinations related to the licensing of Veterinary doctors, Assistant DVMs and Para-veterinarians;
- to develop rules of business, a Code of Ethics and standards for provision of services by Veterinarians, Assistant DVMs and Para veterinarians for obtaining a license;
- to provide technical advice to the Animal Health Authority;
- to address complaints filed against licensed veterinarians, assistant DVMs or Para-veterinarians and to make decisions regarding corrective or disciplinary actions;
- to establish the minimum standards for veterinary hospitals, clinics and other facilities providing veterinary services and animal surgical operations as appropriate by Veterinary doctors, Assistant DVMs and Para-veterinarians;”

The Act does not however give the Veterinary Board the authority to license veterinarians, veterinary assistants or paravets. This anomaly is being dealt with under the Regulations which are currently being drafted by the LFWG.

Prior to the enactment of the law, the DMEC within the AHA began to license VFUs. This is a useful exercise in that it has begun the process of documenting VFU locations and staff and that the licensing procedure obliges VFU staff to report notifiable animal diseases to the AHA.

Strengths:

- New legislation is in place to authorise a VSB in Afghanistan and relevant regulations are being prepared. The intention is that the VSB will regulate veterinarians as well as veterinary para-professionals.

Weaknesses:

- The VSB is not structured to be autonomous.

Developments evidenced since previous OIE PVS Pathway Missions:

The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act has been passed by Parliament authorising the creation of a Veterinary Board to regulate the profession but the Board has not yet been activated.

Recommendations:

- The VSB, now established under provisions in the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act, should be activated as soon as possible to begin formal regulation of the profession.
- The draft Chapter of the Regulations, The Veterinary and Para-veterinary Professions Regulations, should be reviewed and revised by the LFWG to be ready for submission to the PALAD in MAIL along with all other Regulations prior to being forwarded to the MoJ and Parliament for enactment.

B. VSB capacity <i>The capacity of the VSB to implement its functions and objectives in conformity with OIE standards.</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The VSB has no capacity to implement its functions and objectives.
	2. The VSB has the functional capacity to implement its main objectives.
	3. The VSB is an independent representative organisation with the functional capacity to implement all of its objectives.
	4. The VSB has a transparent process of decision making and conforms to OIE standards.
	5. The financial and institutional management of the VSB is submitted to external auditing.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	1. The VSB has no capacity to implement its functions and objectives.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): None

Findings: At present, since the VSB has been authorised by legislation but not yet activated it still has no capacity to implement its functions and objectives.

Strengths:

- Not applicable

Weaknesses:

- Not applicable

Developments evidenced since previous OIE PVS Pathway Missions:

The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act has been passed by Parliament authorising the creation of a Veterinary Board to regulate the profession but the Board has not yet been activated.

Recommendations:

- The VSB should be activated as soon as possible.
- The LFWG should complete the process of review and revision of Draft Regulations and submit them to the Ministry of Justice for approval and enactment by the Council of Ministers.

III-6 Participation of producers and other interested parties in joint programmes <i>The capability of the VS and producers and interested parties to formulate and implement joint programmes in regard to animal health and food safety. This competency includes collaboration with relevant authorities, including other ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. Producers and other interested parties only comply and do not actively participate in programmes.
	2. Producers and other interested parties are informed of programmes and assist the VS to deliver the programme in the field.
	3. Producers and other interested parties are trained to participate in programmes and advise of needed improvements, and participate in early detection of diseases.
	4. Representatives of producers and other interested parties negotiate with the VS on the organisation and delivery of programmes.
	5. Producers and other interested parties are formally organised to participate in developing programmes in close collaboration with the VS.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	2. Producers and other stakeholders are informed of programmes and assist the VS to deliver the programme in the field.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): MD33E, MD51E, MD52E, MD57E, MD58E, MD82E

Findings:

During 2012 the former AHD conducted a joint One Health project with the MoPH with the combined support of the AHDP Phase II and Massey University. The project involved the investigation of the sero-prevalence of antibodies to *Brucella melitensis* and Q fever in humans and animals in selected Districts of Herat Province. The project resulted in the extension of the national ZDCC to the regional level. The main outcome of this project was a commitment on the part of MoPH and MAIL to collaborate in the following activities:

- Develop and implement joint training programmes for community level human and animal health workers in the use of standard operating procedures for safe sample collection, handling and transportation and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE);
- Preparation and use of training materials to improve knowledge and understanding at the community level of the risk factors associated with zoonotic diseases, hygiene and sanitation, safe disposal of aborted fetuses and afterbirths;
- Joint training programme for control of CCHF (tick control) – awareness of the potential risk of hand removal of ticks and other occupational hazards;
- Sharing of laboratory facilities for processing and testing of human and animal samples, joint training of human and animal laboratory technicians, especially at the provincial level;
- Planning and implementation of joint community awareness campaigns.

A second important initiative has been the work carried by the AHA and the Dairy Unions in collaboration with FAO for the prevention and control of FMD in dairy cattle. Under this project there has been close collaboration between the AHA, FAO, the VFU service providers and dairy farmer members of the Dairy Unions.

With regard to food safety there has as yet been little collaboration between the various interested parties especially with regard to the coordination of the inspection of premises which is undertaken randomly by at least three different institutions, none of whom are working systematically.

As mentioned previously, the recent development of the PPR prevention and control programme by FAO in collaboration with the AHA could benefit from increased engagement

with representatives of the kuchi nomadic communities to better understand the benefits derived from vaccination.

During this mission, the Team was informed that the Mayhew Trust, a British animal welfare NGO has teamed up with the Kabul University Faculty of Veterinary Science and the AHD to develop a Capture, Neuter, Vaccinate and Release (CNVR) project to control stray dog populations and rabies, in Kabul. This is an excellent initiative particularly from a welfare perspective, since it is based upon an agreement with the Kabul Municipal authorities to cease from using strychnine poisoning of dogs as a means of stray dog population control.

Strengths:

- Some good initiatives with regard to establishing joint programmes between MAIL and MoPH in the spirit of One Health for the control of zoonotic diseases
- The AHA, FAO, Dairy Unions and VFUs collaborating with the prevention and control of FMD.

Weaknesses:

- Most collaborative programmes to date have been largely donor driven.
- Insufficient engagement with key stakeholders in the development of the progressive prevention and control of PPR.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

Some good progress has been made since the 2010 PVS with regard to engagement with stakeholders to develop the One Health concept and inter-sectoral collaboration for the control of zoonotic diseases.

The FAO / AHA initiative to engage with Dairy Unions is a good step forward as an example of collaboration amongst livestock keepers, and the public and private VS.

Recommendations:

- The AHA is encouraged to continue working closely with the MoPH to a One Health approach surveillance, prevention and control of other zoonotic diseases
- The AHA and FAO are encouraged to establish a more formal approach towards engagement with representatives of the kuchi community to better understand the benefits being derived from PPR vaccination and to plan future actions accordingly.

III.4 Fundamental component IV: Access to markets

This component of the evaluation concerns the authority and capability of the VS to provide support in order to access, expand and retain regional and international markets for animals and animal products. It comprises eight critical competencies.

Critical competencies:

Section IV-1	Preparation of legislation and regulations
Section IV-2	Implementation of legislation and regulations and compliance thereof
Section IV-3	International harmonisation
Section IV-4	International certification
Section IV-5	Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements
Section IV-6	Transparency
Section IV-7	Zoning
Section IV-8	Compartmentalisation

Terrestrial Code References:

Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health / Export/import inspection.

Points 1 and 3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / National animal disease reporting systems.

Sub-point g) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Trade performance history.

Article 3.2.11. on Participation in OIE activities.

Points 6 and 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Membership of the OIE.

Chapter 3.4. on Veterinary legislation.

Chapter 4.3. on Zoning and compartmentalisation.

Chapter 4.4. on Application of compartmentalisation.

Chapter 5.1. on General obligations related to certification.

Chapter 5.2. on Certification procedures.

Chapter 5.3. on OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization.

Chapters 5.10. to 5.12. on Model international veterinary certificates.

IV-1 Preparation of legislation and regulations	Levels of advancement (2017)
<p><i>The authority and capability of the VS to actively participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations in domains that are under their mandate, in order to guarantee its quality with respect to principles of legal drafting and legal issues (internal quality) and its accessibility, acceptability, and technical, social and economical applicability (external quality). This competency includes collaboration with relevant authorities, including other ministries and Competent Authorities, national agencies and decentralised institutions that share authority or have mutual interest in relevant areas</i></p>	1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations, which result in legislation that is lacking or is outdated or of poor quality in most fields of VS activity.
	2. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations and can largely ensure their internal quality, but the legislation and regulations are often lacking in external quality.
	3. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations, with adequate internal and external quality in some fields of activity, but lack formal methodology to develop adequate national legislation and regulations regularly in all domains.
	4. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations, with a relevant formal methodology to ensure adequate internal and external quality, involving participation of interested parties in most fields of activity.
	5. The VS regularly evaluate and update their legislation and regulations to maintain relevance to evolving national and international contexts.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

IV-1. Preparation of legislation and regulations	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
<p><i>The authority and capability of the VS to actively participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations in domains that are under their mandate, in order to warranty its quality with respect to principles of legal drafting and legal issues (internal quality) and its accessibility, acceptability, and technical, social and economical applicability (external quality).</i></p>	1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations, which result in legislation that is lacking or is outdated or of poor quality in most fields of VS activity.
	2. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations and can largely ensure their internal quality, but the legislation and regulations are often lacking in external quality.
	3. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations, with adequate internal and external quality in some fields of activity, but lack formal methodology to develop adequate national legislation and regulations regularly in all domains.
	4. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations, with a relevant formal methodology to ensure adequate internal and external quality, involving stakeholder participation in most fields of activity.
	5. The VS regularly evaluate and update their legislation and regulations to maintain relevance to evolving national and international contexts.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD26E, PMD24E, MD35E, MD36E, MD67E, MD68E, M69E, MD80E

Findings:

Under Technical Assistance provided by the AHDP Phase I, three Acts and Regulations covering the veterinary domain were drafted in collaboration with a Legal Framework Working Group (LFWG) established with the approval of the Minister, MAIL. The LFWG included senior officers from within the former AHD, a legal advisor from the Policy and Legal Advisory Department (PALAD) of MAIL, and when available, representatives of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, a representative of the AVA, and from time to time, other interested

parties mainly representing NGOs involved with the establishment of the VFU network. These draft Acts and Regulations included a draft Animal Health, Welfare and Veterinary Public Health Act, a Veterinary Professions and Para-professions Act and a Veterinary Medicines and Biological Substances Act. The first of these draft Acts was modified by the LFWG in collaboration with the PALAD, and was combined with parts of the Veterinary Professions and Para-professions Act, eventually to be enacted by Parliament in July 2016. Unfortunately, during the internal finalisation of the final draft of this Act, which ultimately had its name shortened to become the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act, a number of changes were made that adversely affected both internal and external quality but which were not corrected by the MoJ. The internal quality of the final draft of the Act was compromised to some extent by the need to push this piece of legislation through the MoJ very hurriedly in the last weeks leading up to the end of July 2016.

In spite of the issues related to internal and external quality, the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act does provide the AHA with the necessary powers and functions covering all of the areas of the veterinary domain listed in Chapter 3.4 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The draft Animal Health (Veterinary) Regulations has Chapters covering:

- Organisation and Administration of the Animal Health Authority;
- Animal Health; including
 - Animal Disease Surveillance;
 - Animal Disease Prevention and Control;
 - Animal Identification, Registration, Traceability and Movement Control.
- Veterinary Diagnostic and Research Laboratories;
- Food Safety of Primary Animal Products;
- The Import and Export of Animals, Commodities and Controlled Articles;
- Animal Welfare and Control of Stray Animals;
- The Veterinary and Para-Veterinary Professions and the Practise of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery;
- Final Provisions.

The draft Veterinary Medicines and Biological Substances Act remains with PALAD in MAIL awaiting final approval before being submitted to the MoJ for scrutiny by the Taqin, the group of lawyers within the MoJ responsible for screening and initial approval of proposed new draft legislation.

Although the LFWG and MAIL (PALAD) lawyers gained considerable experience in helping to draft these Acts and Regulations they do not yet have the necessary knowledge and skills to draft their legislation without international technical assistance and the help of additional lawyer(s) with legal drafting experience to ensure consistent internal and external quality.

Strengths:

- A Legal Framework Working Group, established within the AHA, has participated in the development of a series of draft Acts and Regulations covering all aspects of the veterinary domain as defined in Chapter 3.4 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
- The drafting process has from time to time provided opportunities for interested parties to be involved in the review of working drafts and to comment on these.

Weaknesses:

- Neither the PALAD in MAIL, nor the MoJ were able to correct drafting errors which were introduced when, during the final stage of development, sections of the draft Veterinary Professions and Para-professions Act were merged with the final draft of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act, affecting both the internal and external quality of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act.
- Although the LFWG has gained considerable experience from being engaged in the process of drafting the veterinary legislation, they do not have the necessary

knowledge and skills to draft the legislation with consistent internal and external quality, without external technical assistance.

- The draft Regulations to implement the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act require further internal review and revision before being finalised.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

The Legal Framework Working Group has developed draft laws and regulations since 2010. The experience gained has undoubtedly created a greater awareness amongst state veterinarians of the need for more emphasis on public good functions such as disease surveillance, planning and implementing national notifiable disease prevention and control programmes and performing regulatory functions rather than to provide routine clinical services to farmers, which was traditionally their most important role in the past. It has also strengthened awareness of having clear legal authority for their activities.

The enactment of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act, which was largely driven by the need for Afghanistan to comply with World Trade Organisation (WTO) requirements for WTO accession, provides the AHA with the mandate to provide a wide range of services and perform all of the regulatory functions expected of a modern veterinary service as defined by the OIE in Chapter 3.4 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Recommendations:

- The Legal Framework Working Group should continue to involve interested parties in the development of the draft Regulations and Procedures which will affect them when they come to be enforced, in order to promote willingness on the part of key stakeholders to comply with the Regulations.
- The LFWG should finalize the draft Regulations and Procedures necessary for the implementation and enforcement of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act.
- The LFWG should then place high priority on finalising the Draft Veterinary Medicines and Biological Substances Act and Regulations.
- MAIL should as a priority undertake a socio-economic impact assessment including the costs and benefits from enforcement of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act to better understand the human resource and financial implications for the Ministry as well as for the key stakeholders who in one way or another will be affected by the enforcement of the new Regulations.

IV-2 Implementation of legislation and regulations and compliance thereof	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The authority and capability of the VS to ensure compliance with legislation and regulations under the VS mandate.</i>	1. The VS have no or very limited programmes or activities to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and regulations.
	2. The VS implement a programme or activities comprising inspection and verification of compliance with legislation and regulations and recording instances of non-compliance, but generally cannot or do not take further action in most relevant fields of activity.
	3. Veterinary legislation is generally implemented. As required, the VS have a power to take legal action / initiate prosecution in instances of non-compliance in most relevant fields of activity.
	4. Veterinary legislation is implemented in all domains of veterinary competence and the VS work to minimise instances of non-compliance.
	5. The compliance programme is regularly subjected to audit by the VS or external agencies.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

IV-2. Implementation of legislation and regulations and stakeholder compliance	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
<i>The authority and capability of the VS to ensure that stakeholders are in compliance with legislation and regulations under the VS mandate.</i>	1. The VS have no or very limited programmes or activities to ensure stakeholder compliance with relevant legislation and regulations.
	2. The VS implement a programme or activities comprising inspection and verification of compliance with legislation and regulations and recording instances of non-compliance, but generally cannot or do not take further action in most relevant fields of activity.
	3. Veterinary legislation is generally implemented. As required, the VS have a power to take legal action / initiate prosecution in instances of non-compliance in most relevant fields of activity.
	4. Veterinary legislation is implemented in all domains of veterinary competence and the VS work with stakeholders to minimise instances of non-compliance.
	5. The compliance programme is regularly subjected to audit by the VS or external agencies.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD7E, MD35E, MD36E, MD45E, MD66E, MD67E, MD68E, MD69E,

Findings:

The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act provides the AHA with the powers and authority to perform all of the necessary regulatory functions and services covering the veterinary domain as detailed in Chapter 3.4 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. However, no regulations have yet been enacted and very few procedures have been published in the MAIL Official Journal.

The AHA is unable to perform most of its regulatory functions effectively due to a shortage of sufficiently trained inspectors and insufficient resources for those that are employed to perform their functions effectively. This is especially true with regard to the safety of foods of animal origin, border controls for the importation of animals and animal products and export certification.

In spite of the serious shortages of human and financial resources, the AHA is able to undertake many of its functions as listed in Articles 5 and 6 of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act. Some of the more important functions of the AHA which are being implemented at least partially include the licensing of veterinarians and VPPs, border control inspections and export certification, disease surveillance, prevention and control, delegation of functions to private sector service providers, attendance at regional and international meetings and surveillance of quality of veterinary medicines on the retail market,

The Team was informed that due to failures in the judicial system attempts to take punitive action against retailers of fake or expired veterinary medicines in Herat were unsuccessful.

Although the VPH inspectorate claimed to have discovered issues of non-compliance of import documents during border control of imported animal products, no records of such findings or the corrective actions were available for inspection.

Strengths:

- The enactment of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act provides the AHA with a mandate to perform all of the functions of a state veterinary service as detailed in Chapter 3.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
- In spite of serious shortages of suitably trained inspectors and the necessary financial resources, the AHA is attempting to perform its more important regulatory functions.
- There has been some stakeholder involvement in the drafting of regulations and procedures through roundtable meetings with interested parties from other Ministries as well as representatives of trading associations and others from the private sector and NGOs involved in delivery of animal health services.

Weaknesses:

- The AHA tends to attempt to apply regulations that are still drafts under development.
- There is a lack of regulations and published procedures through which the AHA can enforce all of its regulatory functions correctly and transparently.
- The AHA lacks suitably qualified personnel and the necessary resources to provide all of its services and regulatory functions effectively.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

Since the 2010 PVS evaluation there is considerably greater awareness amongst the officers of the AHA with regard to their regulatory responsibilities. Nevertheless, there is an urgent need to introduce strict monitoring of regulatory officers to ensure complete integrity in the performance of their duties.

The enactment of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act is a major step forward, however, without any enacted regulations or procedures, from a legal standpoint, many of the regulatory functions of the AHA should not be introduced yet.

With the assistance of the FAO TAD projects, the AHA is negotiating bilateral agreements for closer cooperation, largely for border controls, with Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

Recommendations:

- The MAIL should undertake a legislative impact assessment to determine the socio-economic implications including both benefits and costs of implementing the new veterinary legislation.
- On the basis of the outcome of an impact assessment, the MAIL should give serious consideration to increasing the numbers of suitably qualified personnel, physical resources and increase budget allocations to allow the AHA at both central and provincial levels to perform their functions effectively;
- In areas where it is not possible to deploy state employed officers, the AHA should consider the possibility of providing training to private veterinarians, veterinary assistants and paravets to perform certain defined regulatory functions on its behalf under the SMCS.
- The AHA should develop a plan to provide initial and continuing education to its staff to ensure that they are adequately trained to perform their functions correctly and in accordance with international standards.
- Inspectors are encouraged to record all findings of non-compliance with regulatory standards as well as the actions which they have taken to correct the defects detected.

IV-3 International harmonisation <i>The authority and capability of the VS to be active in the international harmonisation of regulations and sanitary measures and to ensure that the national legislation and regulations under their mandate take account of relevant international standards, as appropriate.</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. National legislation, regulations and sanitary measures under the mandate of the VS do not take account of international standards.
	2. The VS are aware of gaps, inconsistencies or non-conformities in national legislation, regulations and sanitary measures as compared to international standards, but do not have the capability or authority to rectify the problems.
	3. The VS monitor the establishment of new and revised international standards, and periodically review national legislation, regulations and sanitary measures with the aim of harmonising them, as appropriate, with international standards, but do not actively comment on the draft standards of relevant intergovernmental organisations.
	4. The VS are active in reviewing and commenting on the draft standards of relevant intergovernmental organisations.
5. The VS actively and regularly participate at the international level in the formulation, negotiation and adoption of international standards ¹⁹ , and use the standards to harmonise national legislation, regulations and sanitary measures.	

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	2. The VS are aware of gaps, inconsistencies or non-conformities in national legislation, regulations and sanitary measures as compared to international standards, but do not have the capability or authority to rectify the problems.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD24E, PMD26E, MD26E, MD66E, MD96E.

Findings:

Chapter 3 of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act is almost entirely and explicitly dedicated to ensuring compliance of the AHA with the standards of OIE, Codex Alimentarius and the SPS Agreement. (See Animal Health Act Appendix 6 PMD 26E)

Many of the senior officers and inspectors of the central AHA, and to a lesser extent those employed at provincial veterinary offices, have had considerable training through the USAID funded ATAR project during the process of developing (24) draft Procedures to support the draft Import and Export and Food Safety Regulations. (see list of training topics provided in MD96E, Appendix 6) In spite of this training the capacity of senior members of the VPH&QD to implement the regulatory services related to international trade in accordance with international standards remains weak due to lack of quarantine facilities at Border Inspection Posts, lack of sampling and rapid test kits at BIPs and insufficient numbers of trained border inspectors.

The MAIL continues to foster good relations with neighbouring countries for the better harmonisation of the control of TADs. Through the auspices of FAO, the AHA is in the process of finalising Memoranda of Understanding with the Competent Authorities of Iran, Tajikistan and Pakistan for the control of PPR and FMD. In each case a Draft Memorandum of Agreement seeking cooperation for Trans-boundary animal disease control and research is being negotiated. The AHA is an active member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) livestock groups and attends SAARC sponsored meetings as and when they are held.

¹⁹ A country could be active in international standard setting without actively pursuing national changes. The importance of this element is to promote national change.

Strengths:

- Provisions within the recently enacted Animal Health (Veterinary) Act (Chapter 3) ensure that international standards relating to trade of animals and animal products are respected.
- Senior management within the AHA have received a considerable training relating to the implementation of draft regulations and procedures specifically related to international trade;
- The MAIL is active in promoting regional harmonisation of animal disease control efforts through active participation in regional meetings of SAARC and through negotiation of MoUs with neighbouring countries, (Iran Tajikistan and Pakistan), for cooperation regarding cross border disease surveillance, the prevention and control of TAD's and collaboration in research into improved disease prevention and control technology.

Weaknesses:

- There remains a limited capability of senior members of the VPH&QD to perform their regulatory functions related to international trade in accordance with international standards
- Most officers of the VPH&QD do not read English and so their capacity to understand the provisions of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, limits their ability to participate in the international harmonisation of regulations and sanitary measures and to ensure that their subsidiary legislation takes into consideration the international standards, as appropriate.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

Chapter 3 of the recently enacted Animal Health (Veterinary) Act makes provisions which ensure that the AHA respects the standards of the SPS Agreement, the OIE Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes and the Codex Alimentarius.

Nevertheless, the capability of the senior management within the AHA to actually participate in harmonisation of the regulations and their sanitary measures remains weak.

Recommendations:

- Personnel responsible for managing the regulatory affairs related to international trade should be required to be fluent in English and be fully familiar with the standards defined in the SPS Agreement, the OIE Volumes 1 and 2 of the Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health Codes and the Codex Alimentarius.
- There is a need to provide a cadre of well qualified veterinarians with advanced training / post-graduate level of education in areas such as risk analysis and the regulatory aspects of the international trade of animals and animal products.
- MAIL should continue to support the AHA senior management to attend regional meetings at which international standards are reviewed and revised.

IV-4 International certification²⁰ <i>The authority and capability of the VS to certify animals, animal products, services and processes under their mandate, in accordance with the national legislation and regulations, and international standards.</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to certify animals, animal products, services or processes.
	2. The VS have the authority to certify certain animals, animal products, services and processes, but are not always in compliance with the national legislation and regulations and international standards.
	3. The VS develop and carry out certification programmes for certain animals, animal products, services and processes under their mandate in compliance with international standards.
	4. The VS develop and carry out all relevant certification programmes for any animals, animal products, services and processes under their mandate in compliance with international standards.
	5. The VS carry out audits of their certification programmes, in order to maintain national and international confidence in their system.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to certify animals, animal products, services or processes.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD26E, MD24E, MD80E

Findings:

Article 6 sub-articles 6, 10, 16 and 38 of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act respectively, provide the AHA with the authority to control the import and export of animals, animal products, biological materials and commodities; to seize and destroy animals, commodities or controlled articles, which are affected with a notifiable animal disease, a zoonotic disease or which may be contaminated with a harmful substance; the pre-export inspection of animals, animal products and biological materials and to determine requirements for the export of any animals, animal products, biological materials or controlled articles.

Draft regulations to support implementation of the Act prohibit the export of animals, animal products, commodities or controlled articles unless they have been inspected and certified as being in compliance with the importing country's requirements by an authorised inspector.

Draft Regulations and draft Procedures for import and export of animals, commodities and controlled articles also provide details of how the AHA should respond to an application for an export certificate and a standard International Health Certificate in accordance with the OIE standards.

The AHA maintains lists of the sanitary requirements of importing countries for the most commonly exported animal products and has a good understanding of these requirements, Nevertheless, during a visit to an export processing facility, the Team was shown an international health certificate which had been signed by an officer of the VPH&QD but was not entirely consistent with international standards.

The AHA does not yet have any capacity to undertake residue testing and the CVD&RL is not yet accredited to perform any of the laboratory tests or analyses which are commonly required by countries importing animal products from Afghanistan. In this respect, Afghanistan still relies on other internationally accredited laboratories to perform such services on behalf of exporters.

²⁰ Certification procedures should be based on relevant OIE and Codex Alimentarius standards.

Strengths:

- The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act provides the AHA with authority and powers to control the import and export of animals, animal products, other commodities and controlled articles.
- Draft regulations and procedures prohibit export of animals and animal products except under an export certificate issued by an authorised inspector of the AHA.

Weaknesses:

- Not all senior inspectors of the VPH&QD are fully conversant with the technical aspects of international certification for the export of animals and animal products.
- The AHA does not yet have the capacity to undertake laboratory tests which are sometimes required as evidence of freedom from pathogens or residues.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

The recently enacted Animal Health (Veterinary) Act provides authority and powers to the AHA to regulate the import and export of animals and animal products.

Draft regulations and 24 procedures covering import and export of animals and animal products have been internally reviewed and revised and are ready for final scrutiny by the PALAD before being approved internally within MAIL.

Recommendations:

- The CVD&RL should continue to improve its compliance with QA standards and seek international accreditation, especially for specific tests required for the certification of export animal products.
- The AHA should provide additional training to authorised inspectors responsible for export certification to ensure full compliance with international standards
- The AHA should finalise the draft Regulations and draft Procedures for import and export of animals and animal products and forward them for enactment.

IV-5 Equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements <i>The authority and capability of the VS to negotiate, implement and maintain equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners.</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)
	1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to negotiate or approve equivalence or other types of sanitary agreements with other countries.
	2. The VS have the authority to negotiate and approve equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners, but no such agreements have been implemented.
	3. The VS have implemented equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners on selected animals, animal products and processes.
	4. The VS actively pursue the development, implementation and maintenance of equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners on all matters relevant to animals, animal products and processes under their mandate.
	5. The VS actively work with interested parties and take account of developments in international standards, in pursuing equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	2. The VS have the authority to negotiate and approve equivalence and other types of sanitary agreements with trading partners, but no such agreements have been implemented.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): PMD26E, MD24E

Findings: Article 17 of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act states “The Animal Health Authority shall recognize different sanitary measures from other countries that achieve the same level of protection in accordance with the provisions of this Act and its related Regulations.”

In practice, the AHA has equivalence arrangements with Pakistan for the trade in hides and skins, since Pakistan now recognizes a similar status between the two countries with respect to the incidence of cases of Anthrax.

Similarly, there have been discussions in the past with the veterinary authorities of Pakistan to harmonise policies relating to the control of HPAI. With the increased efforts of all countries in the region to prevent and control FMD and PPR, in particular, the FAO has been facilitating the process of regional harmonization of standards for the control of these diseases between the neighbouring countries of Afghanistan.

Strengths:

- The principle of equivalence as a means of reaching mutually acceptable trade agreements is well founded in the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act.
- Afghanistan has an informal agreement, based upon the principles of equivalence with Pakistan in relation to the trade of hides and skins.
- There are on-going discussions between the Veterinary Authorities of Afghanistan and those of its neighbours to harmonise control measures to be applied with respect to FMD, PPR and HPAI.

Weaknesses:

- The capacity of the VPH&QD inspectorate to certify animals and animal products in accordance with international standards is still weak for reasons set out above.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

The principles of equivalence are now embedded in the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act.

Afghanistan has a de facto equivalence agreement with Pakistan in relation to the trade in hides and skins.

Recommendations:

- The MAIL should take responsibility for providing the necessary resources to the AHA to participate in harmonisation of sanitary measures with its neighbours having a similar animal health status.
- The AHA is encouraged to conduct risk analysis for certain categories of animals and animal products and enter into equivalence agreements with neighbouring countries in order to reduce the cost of compliance through the imposition of unnecessarily demanding sanitary requirements for trade.

IV-6 Transparency	Levels of advancement (2017)
<i>The authority and capability of the VS to notify the OIE of its sanitary status and other relevant matters (and to notify the WTO SPS Committee where applicable), in accordance with established procedures.</i>	1. The VS do not notify.
	2. The VS occasionally notify.
	3. The VS notify in compliance with the procedures established by these organisations.
	4. The VS regularly inform interested parties of changes in their regulations and decisions on the control of relevant diseases and of the country's sanitary status, and of changes in the regulations and sanitary status of other countries.
	5. The VS, in cooperation with their interested parties, carries out audits of their transparency procedures.

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)
	2. The VS occasionally notify.

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6):MD39E

Findings:

The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act provides authority and powers to the AHA to investigate and confirm the diagnosis of all suspected cases or outbreaks of notifiable diseases. Furthermore the Act states that the AHA shall notify the OIE of all notifiable disease events in accordance with OIE notification requirements.

The draft regulations for Animal Health provide for a procedure to declare occurrences of 75 notifiable animal diseases for Afghanistan. Such a procedure has been prepared but not yet officially published in the MAIL Official Journal.

The Central Epidemiology Department has regularly prepared six-monthly and annual reports for the OIE Delegate to report Afghanistan's animal health status to the OIE up to December 2016 in compliance with OIE standards.

Furthermore, the AHA is becoming increasingly capable of reporting its animal health status more accurately as the SMCS becomes more effective and as more and more suspected cases or outbreaks of notifiable diseases are subject to an outbreak investigation and submission of appropriate samples to the CVD&RL for laboratory confirmation. The CVD&RL has good capacity to confirm the diagnosis of almost all of the more common notifiable animal diseases which occur in Afghanistan. The recent initiative on the part of the DMEC to impose the mandatory reporting of notifiable diseases as a condition of licensure for private veterinarians and VPPs working at VFUs will improve the rate of reporting of suspected cases or outbreaks of notifiable animal diseases.

The limited ability of many less experienced and less well-trained clinicians working in the field to make an accurate clinical diagnosis compromises the accuracy of many suspected notifiable disease reports. For this reason, shortly after the initial results of the pilot introduction of the SMCS a system for the use of syndromic disease reporting was developed and combined with a matrix to help field veterinarians and VPPs collect the most appropriate samples for confirmation of the diagnosis of suspected notifiable diseases. However, as yet the Central Epidemiology Department has only partially adopted the syndromic disease reporting system as a component of its PPR control and eradication strategy.

Strengths:

- The Animal Health (Veterinary) Act provides authority for the AHA to investigate and confirm the diagnosis of all suspected notifiable disease occurrences.
- The AHA regularly reports Afghanistan's animal health status to the OIE.
- A draft procedure lists 75 notifiable diseases for Afghanistan.

- The VFU network and its involvement in detecting and reporting suspected cases or outbreaks of notifiable animal diseases is making a valuable contribution towards the capability of Afghanistan to notify the OIE of its animal health status more accurately.
- The mandatory reporting of notifiable animal diseases as a condition of licensure of veterinarians and VPPs will help to increase the rate of reporting of suspected cases or outbreaks of notifiable animal diseases.

Weaknesses:

- Many inexperienced or inadequately trained veterinarians and VPPs are not able to make an accurate clinical diagnosis. This may compromise the accurate reporting of notifiable animal diseases based upon clinical suspicion.
- A system which was developed for syndromic disease reporting has not yet been formally adopted by the Central Epidemiology Department.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

Since 2010, the OIE Delegate has notified the OIE of Afghanistan's animal health status in accordance with OIE requirements.

Afghanistan is in an increasingly better position to accurately notify the OIE of its animal health status due to the expansion of the VFU network and the requirement for licensed private veterinarians and VPPs to report all suspected notifiable disease events as a condition of licensure.

The recently enacted legislation has provisions which authorise the AHA to investigate and confirm by laboratory diagnosis all suspected cases or outbreaks of notifiable animal disease.

Recommendations:

- The Central Epidemiology Department should assign priority to introducing syndromic disease reporting and should modify its disease report form so that clinicians are not expressly required to report on the basis of the clinical diagnosis of a specific disease but rather to report on the basis of the clinical signs associated with a disease event.
- The Central Epidemiology Department should analyse all animal disease data being reported from the field and correlate the clinically suspected cases or outbreaks with laboratory diagnostic results reported through the LIMS. In this way the CED should be in a position to prepare the six monthly animal health status reports in accordance with OIE requirements.

IV-7 Zoning <i>The authority and capability of the VS to establish and maintain disease free zones, as necessary and in accordance with the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)	
	1. The VS cannot establish disease free zones. ²¹	
	2. As necessary, the VS can identify animal sub-populations with distinct health status suitable for zoning.	
	3. The VS have implemented biosecurity measures that enable it to establish and maintain disease free zones for selected animals and animal products, as necessary.	
	4. The VS collaborate with producers and other interested parties to define responsibilities and execute actions that enable it to establish and maintain disease free zones for selected animals and animal products, as necessary.	
	5. The VS can demonstrate the scientific basis for any disease free zones and can gain recognition by trading partners that they meet the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).	

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2017)	
	1. The VS cannot establish disease free zones. ²²	

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): None

Findings:

Although some regions of Afghanistan may have geographical characteristics which could help to isolate distinct animal populations, as yet the AHA does not have the capacity to control animal movements effectively.

Zoning is not considered to be feasible in Afghanistan for the foreseeable future.

Strengths:

- Geographical characteristics may allow zoning to be considered in the future once the capacity to impose effective movement restrictions has been established.

Weaknesses:

- There is currently no capacity to impose movement restrictions on livestock owners effectively.

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

No significant difference since 2010.

Recommendations:

- None for the moment.

²¹ If the VS has the authority and capability but chooses not to implement zoning, this CC should be recorded as “not applicable at this stage”

²² If the VS has the authority and capability but chooses not to implement zoning, this CC should be recorded as “not applicable at this stage”

IV-8 Compartmentalisation <i>The authority and capability of the VS to establish and maintain disease free compartments as necessary and in accordance with the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).</i>	Levels of advancement (2017)	
	1. The VS cannot establish disease free compartments. ²³	
	2. As necessary, the VS can identify animal sub-populations with a distinct health status suitable for compartmentalisation.	
	3. The VS ensure that biosecurity measures to be implemented enable it to establish and maintain disease free compartments for selected animals and animal products, as necessary.	
	4. The VS collaborate with producers and other interested parties to define responsibilities and execute actions that enable it to establish and maintain disease free compartments for selected animals and animal products, as necessary.	
	5. The VS can demonstrate the scientific basis for any disease free compartments and can gain recognition by other countries that they meet the criteria established by the OIE (and by the WTO SPS Agreement where applicable).	

Terrestrial Code reference(s): Appendix 2

PVS 2010	Wording of the Levels of advancement (2010)	
	1. The VS cannot establish disease free compartments. ²⁴	

Evidence (listed in Appendix 6): None

Findings:

As for Zoning, Afghanistan is not yet in a position to establish compartments and since these are largely related to identifying sub-populations of animals with respect to freedom for specific notifiable animal disease(s), it is probably not yet a high priority for Afghanistan.

Strengths:

- N/A

Weaknesses:

- N/A

Developments evidenced since the previous OIE PVS Pathway Mission of 2010:

No significant difference between 2017 and 2010.

Recommendations:

- N/A

²³ If the VS has the authority and capability but chooses not to implement compartmentalization, this CC should be recorded as “not applicable at this stage”

²⁴ If the VS has the authority and capability but chooses not to implement compartmentalization, this CC should be recorded as “not applicable at this stage”

PART IV: CONCLUSIONS

Considerable progress has been achieved in the development of the Veterinary Services (VS) of Afghanistan since the last OIE PVS evaluation in 2010. Enactment of the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act is a major step forward, providing the AHA with powers and authority to perform the core functions of a modern state veterinary service. There is now an urgent need to finalise the development of draft Regulations and Procedures to implement and enforce this Act.

The enforcement of the draft Regulations, soon to be enacted, will have serious cost implications for both the state veterinary services and for private sector actors establishing processing and other value addition businesses along the livestock value chains. There is therefore an urgent need for the MAIL to conduct a series of socio-economic impact assessments to determine how many staff, what levels of training and what infrastructures, equipment and operational budgets will be required to perform each of the functions detailed in the main areas of the Regulations and subsidiary Procedures currently being developed. Against these costs, an attempt should be made to quantify the benefits that are likely to accrue to livestock keepers, traders and consumers of healthy, safe animal products as a means of justification for making such investments. In this regard, the AHA is also encouraged to apply to the OIE to undertake a PVS Gap Analysis mission and help to prepare a new 5 year Strategic Plan with an accompanying budget.

The public veterinary service is critically under-staffed, especially at the Provincial level. In addition, many of the existing staff are insufficiently well trained to perform their functions in accordance with OIE standards. The Capacity Building Reform should be accelerated to fill as many of the vacant positions in the provincial AHAs as possible, and the AHA should develop induction training courses to provide new recruits with the knowledge and skills they require to perform their functions effectively. The AHA should also develop continuing professional development courses on specialised subjects for staff requiring more advanced knowledge and skills in key areas such as analytical epidemiology and risk analysis as applied for disease surveillance, prevention and control, import regulation and the development of risk-based food safety management systems (HACCP). All senior managers at the central and provincial levels would benefit from leadership and management training.

As in 2010, the OIE PVS Team has identified serious weaknesses in the training of veterinary undergraduates (DVM degree) and veterinary assistants (diploma in Animal Health). Now that there are eight Faculties of Veterinary Science, it is likely that the standards of veterinary education will deteriorate further, since none of the new Veterinary Faculties have sufficient numbers of adequately trained teaching staff and they lack the infrastructures and equipment necessary to follow a full Veterinary Degree curriculum based on the OIE defined “Day One competencies. There is therefore an urgent need to combine a detailed study of veterinary education and training with a labour force needs assessment to determine the quality of professional and par-professional training required and what employment opportunities will exist in both public and private sectors for the large numbers of veterinary graduates and veterinary assistants currently being trained in Afghanistan.

The Sanitary Mandate Contracting Scheme, which has been developed over the past seven years as a public private partnership, is seen as an excellent opportunity for the AHA to extend more of its services and core functions to the District and village level through providing training and extending the range of functions currently being delegated under contracts to private sector animal health services providers. An extended contracting scheme might include the provision of hygiene / meat inspection services at smaller slaughter facilities, veterinary drug / vaccine quality surveillance at retail outlets and a variety of extension / farmer training services. There is also still a need to improve the effectiveness of

disease reporting and outbreak investigations under the SMCS, for which the AHA should engage an experienced epidemiologist.

As in 2010, the OIE PVS Team is concerned regarding the continued dependency of the MAIL and AHA on donor projects to support the performance of many of its routine functions in the field, especially in the areas of disease surveillance, prevention and control. The MAIL is strongly recommended to take responsibility for funding more and more of its activities currently financed by donors, well before donor funding comes to an end.

Rapid growth in the number of commercial poultry producers is driving investment in commercial poultry meat processing facilities. However, as yet, there are no veterinary public health inspectors who have received any comprehensive training in meat inspection or HACCP food safety management systems. A new cadre of food safety inspectors thus needs to be trained in ante- and post-mortem meat inspection and the inspection and auditing of food processing establishments which use HACCP plans as well as for the simpler slaughter facilities to be established at District and village levels. In this respect, the AHA should work closely with the MAIL Private Sector Development Directorate to help plan the establishment of small to medium scale processing facilities which can cater for the needs of localities where it would not be financially viable to establish large scale commercial slaughter facilities for red meat as well as for poultry meat.

Since 2010 there has been a persistent lack of coordination between senior technical personnel of the AHA and planning officers in MAIL headquarters as well as donors and NGOs in the design, planning and execution of several major livestock projects. The AHA should reinstate the monthly coordination meetings which were held with NGOs and donors to fine tune the SMCS as a cost-effective means of providing key public functions at the District and village levels. Furthermore, there is generally insufficient coordination and communication taking place between MAIL and other Ministries with an interest in the implementation of animal health services and for the safety and quality of animal products destined for human consumption. The MAIL should bring together all parties interested in regulating the safety of foods of animal origin produced for domestic and export markets to ensure acceptable standards of food safety with efficient use of the limited resources available.

In 2010, the CVD&RL was just beginning to develop into a centre of excellence to provide a comprehensive range of diagnostic services to a variety of clients. Today it is widely acknowledged as being the most advanced diagnostic laboratory in Afghanistan. The high standards of leadership and professionalism are evident from even a superficial tour of the laboratory rooms which are well maintained and already have the most important quality control records in place. The QA system supported by more than 200 SOPs will ensure that the CVD&RL will soon be able to obtain international accreditation. Disappointingly, the same cannot be said for the laboratories at the Regional level where Good Laboratory Practices are not yet being followed as at the central level. It was also noted that record keeping and the reporting of laboratory results back to field personnel who had submitted samples is very weak. The MAIL should pursue the recommendations for allowing the CVD&RL and other institutions to start charging fees for private good services and to retain the revenue to offset some of their operational costs. The CVD&RL is strongly encouraged to start the process of becoming ISO 17025 accredited.

The Team was informed of widespread availability of poor quality or fake medicines and vaccines in the bazaars throughout Afghanistan. The AHA should finalise the development of the draft Veterinary Medicines and Biological Substances Act and establish a Veterinary Medicines Board to be staffed with at least one veterinarian holding a post-graduate qualification in veterinary pharmacology and sufficient numbers of veterinary drug inspectors with the authority to bring retailers selling fake or expired veterinary medicines or vaccines to court. The judicial system needs to be more robust such that appropriate penalties will be imposed.

With the rapid growth in numbers of private veterinarians, veterinary assistants and paravets, there is a need to establish a Veterinary Statutory Body and to finalise the draft Veterinary Professions and Para-professions Regulations to define the standards and range of veterinary activities which can be performed by each cadre of VPP. A formal licensing system should be developed with registers for each category of service provider. In this way, the AHA can better plan the future activities of the SMCS and the development of public and private veterinary services to meet the evolving needs of the farming systems.

The OIE Delegate has been regularly notifying the OIE of the animal health status of Afghanistan up to December 2016. However, the monthly reports from NGOs currently provided to MAIL's Planning Department should be made available to the CED so that the annual report to OIE can be completed accurately.

During this mission it was agreed between the AHA and the FAO that the FAO would arrange for the translation of this Report into Dari. The AHA will then be in a position to share the Report with all senior managers of the Animal Health Services in Afghanistan at central and regional / provincial levels.

PART V: APPENDICES

Appendix 1: OIE PVS Evaluation in the context of PPR eradication

Dr Giancarlo Ferrari

Part 1 Executive Summary

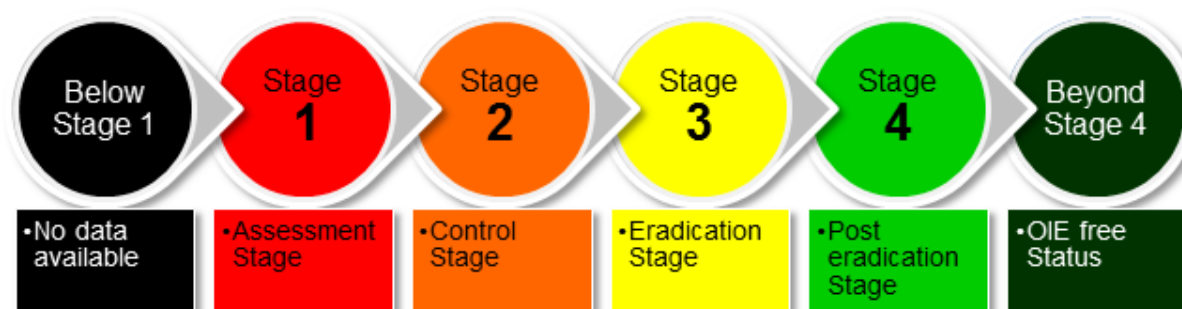
1.1 Introduction

The Global Strategy for the control and eradication of Peste des petits ruminants (PPR-GCES)²⁵, jointly developed by OIE and FAO was officially adopted on 2nd April 2015 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

The approach of the PPR Global Strategy is based on the PPR monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT), which four different Stages that correspond to a combination of decreasing levels of epidemiological risk and increasing levels of prevention and control. The Stages range from Stage 1 – where the epidemiological situation is being assessed, to Stage 4 – when the country can provide evidence that there is no virus circulation either at zonal or national level, and is ready to apply for the OIE official country status of PPR freedom.

The stages are illustrated in the figure 1 below:

Fig. 1 – The Progressive Step-wise Approach for the prevention and control of PPR



The PPR Global Strategy is organized in three main components.

Component 1 focuses specifically on achieving PPR control and eradication.

Component 2 focuses on strengthening of Veterinary Services, recognizing that quality Veterinary Services – according to Chapter 3 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code – are indispensable to the successful and sustainable implementation of PPR (and other major TADs) prevention and control activities. In this regard, the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) is acknowledged as the tool to assess the capacity of Veterinary Services (VS) to support the progressive control and eradication process.

Component 3 addresses the potential for combining PPR control/eradication with the control and prevention of other diseases of small ruminants.

Given the relationship between quality of VS (component 2) and effective PPR control and eradication (component 1), 33 Critical Competencies (CCs) of the PVS tool (out of the total of 47 described in the PVS tool) are considered relevant for an effective implementation of PPR control and eradication strategy at country level and must be progressively fulfilled while a country is moving higher along the stages of the PPR pathway.

²⁵ available at: <http://www.oie.int/eng/ppr2015/doc/PPR-Global-Strategy-2015-03-28.pdf> accessed 2017-07-24

Table 1 – PVS assessment score expected for each stage of the PPR pathway

OIE PVS CCs		PPR Stages	Stage 1 (Assessment)	Stage 2 (Control)	Stage 3 (Eradication)	Stage 4 (Post- eradication)
CC I.2.A	Professional competencies of veterinarians		3 ²⁶			
CC I.3	Continuing education (ce)		3			
CC II.1.A	Veterinary laboratory diagnosis - access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis		2			
CC II.1.B	Veterinary laboratory diagnosis - suitability of national laboratory infrastructure		3			
CC II.3	Risk analysis		3			
CC II.5.B	Epidemiological surveillance and early detection – active epidemiological surveillance		3			
CC III.2	Consultation with interested parties		3			
CC III.3	Official representation		3			
CC III.4	Accreditation / authorisation / delegation		3			
CC III.5.A	Veterinary statutory body – authority		3			
CC III.5.B	Veterinary statutory body – capacity		3			
CC IV.1	Preparation of legislation and regulations		3			
CC I.1.A	Professional and technical staffing of the vs – veterinarians and other professionals			3		
CC I.1.B	Professional and technical staffing of the vs – veterinary para-professionals and other technical staff			3		
CC I.2.B	Competencies of veterinary para-professionals			3		
CC I.6.A	Coordination capability of the vs – internal coordination (chain of command)			3		
CC I.6.B	Coordination capability of the vs – external coordination			3		
CC I.7	Physical resources			3		
CC I.8	Operational funding			4		
CC I.11.	Management of resources and operations			4		
CC II.5.A	Epidemiological surveillance and early detection – passive epidemiological surveillance			3		
CC II.7	Disease prevention, control and eradication			3		
CC II.8.B	Ante- and post mortem inspection at abattoirs and associated premises			4		
CC III.1	Communication			4		
CC III.6	Participation of producers and other interested parties in joint programmes			3		
CC IV.2	Implementation of legislation and regulations and compliance thereof			3		
CC IV.7	Zoning			3		
CC II.2	Laboratory quality assurance				2	
CC II.12.A	Identification and traceability – animal identification and movement control				3	
CC I.9	Emergency funding					4
CC II.4	Quarantine and border security					3

²⁶ Expected PVS assessment score required to perform this stage of the R Pathway

CC II.6	Emergency response				4
CC IV.6	Transparency				3

Table 1 above depicts the correspondence between the 33 CCs and their distribution across the four stages of the PPR pathway as well as the target score which should be achieved to be adequately prepared, for each critical competency. The PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT). is the instrument provided in the Global Control and Eradication Strategy (GCES) to evaluate and monitor in parallel the progress in the prevention and control of PPR and the progressive reinforcement of the VS.

The PMAT (with its annexed questionnaire) integrates component 1 and component 2 of the GCES. The criteria for assessing the level of advancement of the associated CCs for each stage of the PPR pathway are the same as those utilized in the PVS tool.

In accordance with the criteria established in the GCES the expected level of advancement for each relevant critical component (in order to be considered compliant with the PPR control/eradication pathway) is to be at least at Level 3 (out of the five levels established in the PVS tool). The equivalence criteria are as follows:

<u>PVS level of advancement</u>	<u>GCES criteria</u>
1	Not achieved
2	Partially achieved
3	Fully achieved

The PPR component of the PVS follow-up mission carried out in Afghanistan from 12 to 24 April 2017 has paid special attention to those CCs relevant to the PPR stage of the country.

1.2 Key Findings

Afghanistan (in accordance with the outcomes of the First PPR Regional Roadmap meeting held in Nagarkot - Nepal on 11 and 12 April 2016) is currently qualified as being in stage 1 of the PPR progressive pathway. The country is currently implementing activities (through the support of an FAO project) that contain elements of both stage 1 and stage 2 of the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool even if not yet embedded into a structured plan.

The PPR laboratory diagnostic capacity is quite good and laboratory capacity is an area of competency where very clear improvements have been observed since the 2010 PVS evaluation mission.

The diagnostic capacity at field level has been specifically targeted through a refresher training on clinical aspects of PPR (and FMD) carried out in 2015. A total of 55 training sessions were conducted from 31 October to 14 December 2015 and a total of 929 VFU staff and 68 provincial veterinary staff attended the training sessions.

PPR is a notifiable disease in Afghanistan and in 2016 (under the SMCS) 69 clinical cases were reported, out of which 40 were confirmed by ELISA.

Notably, the geographical coverage of the surveillance system (through contracted VFUs) now reaches all 34 provinces as of 2016.

For prevention and control the country is carrying out a FAO-funded preventive vaccination program targeting the nomadic herders (who in Afghanistan are usually identified as Kuchi pastoralists). Such activity would fall under the typical activities of stage 2 of the PPR pathway (although the country as already mentioned is currently placed in stage 1).

The reasons for targeting this particular farming system (in the absence of any formal risk and value chain assessment) are twofold: (I) Nomadic herders may spread PPR virus through their constant movement; (II) the consequences of PPR are likely to be higher when small ruminants are the most important (if not the only) economic asset.

The procedures and protocols for the field implementation of PPR preventive vaccination were thoroughly tested in 2015 through a pilot vaccination program implemented in three provinces: Kabul, Parwan and Logar. The approach used was an initial injection of all sheep and goats in the flocks (irrespective of their age) and, in the subsequent years, vaccinating only the newborns. The pilot vaccination program was implemented through a specific arrangement made by FAO with the NGO, Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA). More than 230,000 heads were vaccinated under the pilot program.

The outcomes of the pilot vaccination program were good. The overall system to monitor the distribution and the cold chain was robust enough that vaccine efficacy (in terms of immune response after administration of vaccine) was estimated to be higher than 95%.

The good results obtained with the pilot phase led to a decision to expand the preventive program through arrangements made by FAO with the four major NGOs operating in the animal health sector, namely: DCA, Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), Mission d'Aide au Développement des Economies Rurales in Afghanistan (MADERA) and Relief International (RI).

The expanded vaccination program is intended to continue targeting nomadic herders and more than 6,000,000 of their small ruminants are expected to be vaccinated in 26 provinces. The vaccination is expected to start on 15 May 2017 in 23 new provinces while vaccination in the three pilot provinces will continue only for newborns.

In accordance with component 3 of the PPR global strategy an initiative to combine PPR and Brucellosis vaccination for the flocks of sedentary herders in the provinces of Kabul, Parwan, Logar and Kapisa has been started. The pilot phase was conducted between September and November 2016. Under this combined program, animals less than 1 year old and matching the criteria of eligibility, were vaccinated simultaneously against Brucellosis and PPR. More than 200,000 young sheep and goats were given both vaccines. Post-vaccination test results show that the immune responses against both vaccines were good.

As already stated, the activities currently implemented in Afghanistan combine elements of stages 1 and 2 of the PPR pathway. The country is currently placed in stage 1 for which 2 of the 12 relevant Critical Competencies were found to require further strengthening. These are: (a) CC II.3 (Risk Analysis) and (b) CC II.5.b (Epidemiological surveillance and early detection – active epidemiological surveillance).

These 2 CCs need to be properly addressed to successfully conclude the comprehensive epidemiological assessments required in stage 1 and prepare for moving fully into stage 2.

In particular, greater competence in Risk Analysis (in combination with small ruminant value chain assessments) would assist the VS to better target prevention and control activities.

Moreover, only limited progress has been made on CC III.5 (Veterinary Statutory Body – VSB) since the 2010 evaluation. Authority to establish a VSB is now provided by the new Animal Health Act, but the VSB itself is yet to be created. Nevertheless, the Department of Monitoring, Evaluation and Coordination, upon its own initiative, has started to play the role of a VSB as it has begun to "license" private VFUs. One condition of licensing is that the VFU personnel agree to passively report any suspected occurrence of a notifiable animal disease.

1.3 Key Recommendations

The fact that Afghanistan is between stage 1 and 2 of the PPR pathway is not an issue as long as the risk and epidemiologic assessments necessary for stage 1 are completed so that the criteria for the targeted vaccination required in stage 2 are well understood and refined.

The country should develop a national strategic plan (in accordance with the procedures established through the FAO/OIE Global Eradication Program). It is recommended that this plan include a short term technical plan through which two important outcomes should be addressed and achieved: (i) a better understanding of the risk transmission pathways and hotspots along the small ruminant value chains (currently based on anecdotal assumptions) and linked with CC II.3; and (ii) improved capacity to generate meaningful epidemiological information and to better analyse and interpret the data collected through the surveillance system (linked with CC II.5.B).

On the latter point, the PPR disease incidence data provided to the mission team during a meeting on 13 April was based on suspected individual cases rather than being aggregated by “outbreak”. No attempt has been made to define the epidemiological unit, thus making it difficult to gain a clear understanding of how many outbreaks had actually occurred. Moreover, it is also recommended that while addressing this specific CC II.5.B, appropriate procedures and protocols are developed to assess the impact of PPR on morbidity/mortality and economics (for which counting individual cases becomes important).

Again, in relation to CC II.5.B it would be extremely informative if, through active surveillance and ad hoc surveys, it is established whether a secondary beneficial effect is observed among farmers that are not the specific targets of the preventive vaccination program but that may benefit indirectly from the vaccination implemented in the nomadic pastoralist flocks.

The mission team was informed that FAO intends to further expand the PPR vaccination in the short term to include flocks of sedentary farmers. The OIE Team strongly recommends to postpone this decision until the data to evaluate the current program targeting pastoralists, is fully available and an analysis of the data is completed.

It is also recommended to further explore the possibility of a combined vaccination against Brucellosis and PPR. As indicated in the accompanying 2017 PVS follow-up report the Brucellosis vaccination program needs a thorough evaluation that should consider the advantages / disadvantages and feasibility of a combined program with PPR.

Part 2 Conduct of the Evaluation

The evaluation of the PPR component was conducted in parallel with the standard PVS follow-up evaluation during the course of the mission.

Whenever deemed appropriate during the mission, any of the team members might raise a question related to PPR, using as a guiding document the one annexed to this report [ref. document: PVS-PPR Template for PVS mission].

In addition to the above, there were two PPR-specific meetings carried out on 13 and 15 April 2017, respectively, at which only one Team Member (Dr Giancarlo Ferrari), who had been designated within the team as being responsible for conducting the PPR-specific assessment during the PVS Evaluation Follow up mission, was present.

During the 13th April meeting the data of the current epidemiological situation in the country were presented by Dr Mohammad Khalid Shahiwal (Central Epidemiological Division officer).

Dr Giancarlo Ferrari, made two presentations to recall: (i) the linkage between the implementation of the PPR global strategy and the Critical Competencies of the VS; and (ii) the PPR Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT) [ref. document PPT presentations: ‘PMAT linkage with national plan Kabul 12-24 April 2017’ and ‘PMAT Kabul 12-24 April 2017_rev2’].

During the 15th April meeting groupwork was carried out to critically review the current stage of the country using as a reference the PMAT that was completed by the Afghan delegation attending the First PPR Regional Roadmap meeting held in Nagarkot - Nepal on 11 and 12 April 2016. [ref. document: PPR PMAT Afghanistan 2016’].

The purpose of these two separate meetings was to ensure a full understanding of the PPR component of the PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission and the linkage between CCs and the global strategy. In addition, the meetings provided an opportunity to further discuss and clarify the use of a tool like the PMAT to monitor the progress in the implementation of activities at country level.

Part 3 Results of the PPR specific evaluation

3.1 Completing stage 1

This part of the report is specifically addressing the Critical Competencies associated with Stage 1 of the PPR pathway (the stage in which the country is currently located). Of note that the general description of each associated CC has been modified to make it more PPR specific and both descriptions are illustrated in the CC tables.

For each of the relevant CCs specific findings and recommendations are illustrated whenever appropriate.

STAGE 1

I-2. Competencies of veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals	Levels of advancement	GCES criteria
<i>The capability of the VS to efficiently carry out their veterinary and technical functions; measured by the qualifications of their personnel in veterinary and technical positions.</i>	1. The veterinarians’ practices, knowledge and attitudes are of a variable standard that usually allow for elementary clinical and administrative activities of the VS.	Not achieved
↓	2. The veterinarians’ practices, knowledge and attitudes are of a uniform standard that usually allow for accurate and appropriate clinical and administrative activities of the VS.	
A. Professional competencies of veterinarians	3. The veterinarians’ practices, knowledge and attitudes usually allow undertaking all professional/technical activities of the VS (e.g. epidemiological surveillance, early warning, public health, etc.).	
	4. The veterinarians’ practices, knowledge and attitudes usually allow undertaking specialized activities as may be needed by the VS.	
	5. The veterinarians’ practices, knowledge and attitudes are subject to regular updating, or international harmonisation, or evaluation.	

Findings:

- This CC (for the purpose of PPR) has been evaluated against the capacity of VS to coordinate the FAO funded PPR field activities that are being implemented through the VFUs network. One key finding is that the roles and responsibilities of veterinarians operating in the public sector (Provincial Veterinary Officer, Provincial Veterinary Laboratory Officer, Provincial Veterinary Epidemiology Officer and Provincial Veterinary Monitoring Officer – PVO, PVLO, PVEO and PVMO respectively) in exercising their regulatory and coordination functions appeared unclear;

- There is an on-going civil service reform process to fill the above-mentioned public veterinary positions with better qualified personnel at central and provincial level. ToRs have been developed and vacancies already announced.

Recommendations:

- A detailed human resource needs assessment for the VS in both the public and private sector and at all levels of qualification (veterinarians, Asst. DVMs, paravets) must be conducted;
- This assessment should include needs for specific technical expertise not currently being met (e.g., epidemiologists, risk assessors, monitoring and evaluation officers) relative to PPR and the GCES;
- Planning exercises should include participation of the Ministries of Education and Higher Education so that the content of the curricula and student numbers reflect actual needs of the VS;
- In the framework of the activities implemented for PPR control and eradication program, specific ToRs must be developed for these officers of the VS that may bear responsibilities for ensuring a smooth coordination of the field activities.

I-3. Continuing education (CE)²⁷	Levels of advancement	GCES criteria
<p><i>The capability of the VS to maintain and improve the competence of their personnel in terms of relevant information and understanding; measured in terms of the implementation of a relevant training programme.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>The capability of the VS to maintain and improve the competence of their personnel assigned to PPR/TADs in terms of relevant information and understanding; measured in terms of the implementation of a relevant training programme.</p>	1. The VS have no access to continuing veterinary, professional or technical CE.	
	2. The VS have access to CE (internal and/or external programmes) on an irregular basis but it does not take into account needs, or new information or understanding.	Partially achieved
	3. The VS have access to CE that is reviewed annually and updated as necessary, but it is implemented only for some categories of the relevant personnel.	
	4. The VS have access to CE that is reviewed annually and updated as necessary, and it is implemented for all categories of the relevant personnel.	
	5. The VS have up-to-date CE that is implemented for all relevant personnel and is submitted to periodic evaluation of effectiveness.	

Findings:

- Training programs for the purpose of implementing specific activities on PPR (and more generally on TADs) have been implemented engaging both VFUs and personnel of the VS;
- Such trainings have attempted to provide a wider understanding of the international context of the progressive control of TADs.

Recommendations:

²⁷ Continuing education includes Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for veterinary, professional and technical personnel.

- VS personnel that attend regional roadmap meetings for PPR (and FMD) should have the obligation to report the findings and conclusions of these regional meetings to their colleagues once they are back in the country;
- Training programs should be updated regularly in order for the VS personnel to be updated on the international context of TADs in which they are operating.

II-1 Veterinary laboratory diagnosis	Levels of advancement	GCES criteria
A. Access to veterinary laboratory diagnosis	1. Disease diagnosis is almost always conducted by clinical means only, with laboratory diagnostic capability being generally unavailable.	
B. Suitability of national laboratory infrastructure	2. For major zoonoses and diseases of national economic importance, the VS have access to and use a laboratory to obtain a correct diagnosis.	
<i>The authority and capability of the VS to identify and record pathogenic agents, including those relevant for public health that can adversely affect animals and animal products.</i> ↓ The authority and capability of the VS to have access to laboratory diagnosis in order to identify and record pathogenic agents, particularly PPRV and those which must be differentiated from it.	3. For other zoonoses and diseases present in the country, the VS have access to and use a laboratory to obtain a correct diagnosis.	Fully achieved
	4. For diseases of zoonotic or economic importance not present in the country, but known to exist in the region and/ or that could enter the country, the VS have access to and use a laboratory to obtain a correct diagnosis.	
	5. In the case of new and emerging diseases in the region or world, the VS have access to and use a network of national or international reference laboratories (e.g. an OIE Reference Laboratory) to obtain a correct diagnosis.	

Findings:

- The capacity of the central laboratory has significantly improved since the previous 2010 PVS mission;
- In terms of PPR diagnostic laboratory capacity at the CVDR&L there are no major issues and an ample spectrum of tests are available ranging from ELISA (for both antibodies and antigen detection) to PCR (both Real Time and Conventional).
- There is significant discrepancy between the quality of services offered by CVDR&L and the remaining laboratories of the network at regional and provincial levels.

Recommendations:

- With the country attempting to embark into stage 2 of the PPR pathway and making significant investment in prevention it will be important to guarantee that PPR suspected samples are rapidly and properly processed at regional and provincial laboratories when samples originate from areas/premises covered by the preventive program;
- It is recommended to thoroughly review the processes in place when samples are received at peripheral level, handled, processed, packed and shipped to the CVDR&L and informative indicators are built in to monitor and evaluate the whole process.

II-3. Risk analysis	Levels of advancement	GCES criteria
<p><i>The authority and capability of the VS to base its risk management decisions on a scientific assessment of the risks.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p>	1. Risk management decisions are not usually supported by scientific risk assessment.	
<p>The authority and capability of the VS to base its risk management measures relating to PPR control and eradication on risk assessment.</p>	2. The VS compile and maintain data but do not have the capability to systematically assess risks. Some risk management decisions are based on scientific risk assessment.	Partially achieved
	3. The VS can systematically compile and maintain relevant data and carry out risk assessment. Scientific principles and evidence, including risk assessment, generally provide the basis for risk management decisions.	
	4. The VS systematically conduct risk assessments in compliance with relevant OIE standards, and base their risk management decisions on the outcomes of these risk assessments.	
	5. The VS are consistent in basing sanitary decisions on risk analysis, and in communicating their procedures and outcomes internationally, meeting all their OIE obligations (including WTO SPS Agreement obligations where applicable).	

Findings:

- In the past year, both ATAR (USAID) and FAO TAs have provided training on Risk analysis in relation to: (i) setting standards for regulating the import of animals and animal products (ATAR) and (ii) for disease prevention and control purposes (FAO) and associated with value chain analysis. Nevertheless, capacity of both VPH/Quarantine and the epidemiology departments to undertake risk analysis exercises in accordance with OIE standards still needs to be further strengthened;
- The criteria established for targeting nomadic herders in the current PPR vaccination program are based on anecdotal assumptions that need to be better substantiated through a more formal Risk and Value chain assessment process.

Recommendations:

- Training on risk analysis and value chain methodology, consistent with OIE standards, is needed to fulfil stage 1 of the PPR pathway and to be prepared for entering stage 2 through the formulation of a Risk-based strategic plan;
- It was understood during the mission that in addition to FAO, the EU transition AHDP project may assist in this specific topic.

II-5 Epidemiological surveillance	Levels of advancement	GCES criteria
<p>B. Active epidemiological surveillance</p> <p><i>The authority and capability of the VS to determine, verify and report on the sanitary status of the animal populations, including wildlife, under their mandate.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p><i>The authority and capability of the VS to determine, verify and report on the sanitary status of the animal populations, including wildlife, under their mandate, particularly with regard to PPR.</i></p>	1. The VS have no active surveillance programme.	
	2. The VS conduct active surveillance for some relevant diseases (of economic and zoonotic importance) but apply it only in a part of susceptible populations and/or do not update it regularly.	Partially achieved
	3. The VS conduct active surveillance in compliance with scientific principles and OIE standards for some relevant diseases and apply it to all susceptible populations but do not update it regularly.	
	4. The VS conduct active surveillance in compliance with scientific principles and OIE standards for some relevant diseases, apply it to all susceptible populations, update it regularly and report the results systematically.	
	5. The VS conduct active surveillance for most or all relevant diseases and apply it to all susceptible populations. The surveillance programmes are evaluated and meet the country's OIE obligations.	

Findings:

- The SMCS utilizes the private sector for specific activities of public interest and specific fees have been established for the provision of such services;
- This mechanism has been used recently for the implementation of preventive vaccination against PPR and the private sector VFUs engaged for carrying out vaccination were also assigned the task of collecting serum samples at the time of the vaccination to generate baseline information about the prevalence of these two diseases.

Recommendations:

- Active surveillance should be the main tool to evaluate that the targeted preventive programs are actually achieving the expected outcomes and the private sector should be engaged for the implementation of active surveillance activities after proper selection and training.

III-2 Consultation with interested parties	Levels of advancement	GCES criteria
<p><i>The capability of the VS to consult effectively with interested parties on VS activities and programmes, and on developments in animal health and food safety.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p><i>The capability of the VS to consult effectively with interested parties on VS activities and programmes regarding PPR, and of developments in PPR control.</i></p>	1. The VS have no mechanisms for consultation with interested parties.	
	2. The VS maintain informal channels of consultation with interested parties.	Partially achieved
	3. The VS maintain a formal consultation mechanism with interested parties.	
	4. The VS regularly hold workshops and meetings with interested parties.	
	5. The VS actively consult with and solicit feedback from interested parties regarding proposed and current activities and programmes, developments in animal health and food safety, interventions at the OIE (Codex Alimentarius Commission and WTO SPS Committee where applicable), and ways to improve their activities.	

Findings:

- There are no formal mechanisms of consultation with interested parties at national level although the initial target for the PPR vaccination are nomadic herders with the vast majority of them belonging to the Kuchi community. This community has an official representation in MAIL through the Independent Directorate for Kuchi people;
- Pastoralism was a specific topic addressed during a national conference on livestock held in Kabul on 14-15-16 February 2016 organized by MAIL with the financial support of DCA and FAO.

Recommendations:

- The AHA should establish (in accordance with the national strategic plan to be developed) a national PPR committee that is supposed to take responsibilities of establishing regular consultation with interested parties;
- It is recommended the establishment of a specific consultation mechanism with the Independent Directorate for Kuchi people.

III-3. Official representation	Levels of advancement	GCES criteria
<p><i>The capability of the VS to regularly and actively participate in, coordinate and provide follow up on relevant meetings of regional and international organisations including the OIE (and Codex Alimentarius Commission and WTO SPS Committee where applicable).</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>The capability of the VS to regularly and actively participate in, coordinate and provide follow-up on relevant meetings on PPR of regional and international organisations including the OIE.</p>	1. The VS do not participate in or follow up on relevant meetings of regional or international organisations.	
	2. The VS sporadically participate in relevant meetings and/or make a limited contribution.	Partially achieved
	3. The VS actively participate in the majority of relevant meetings.	
	4. The VS consult with stakeholders and take into consideration their opinions in providing papers and making interventions in relevant meetings.	
	5. The VS consult with stakeholders to ensure that strategic issues are identified, to provide leadership and to ensure coordination among national delegations as part of their participation in relevant meetings.	

Findings:

- Representatives of the AHA have been actively involved in meetings for the harmonisation of the development of plans for the progressive control and eradication of transboundary animal diseases such as PPR, for example, participation in the PPR regional roadmap meeting;
- It has been observed that sometimes the participation is supported by donors;

Recommendations:

- The AHA should continue to be actively involved in regional meetings for the harmonisation of TAD prevention and control and eventual eradication programmes;
- The AHA should become more actively involved in standard setting activities of the OIE before and at OIE Annual General sessions;
- The AHA should allocate a specific budget to support official representation in the planning phase in order not to be dependent on donor support.

III-4. Accreditation / authorisation / delegation	Levels of advancement	GCES criteria
<p><i>The authority and capability of the public sector of the VS to accredit / authorise / delegate the private sector (e.g. private veterinarians and laboratories), to carry out official tasks on its behalf.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>The authority and capability of the public sector of the VS to accredit/authorize/delegate the private sector (e.g. private veterinarians and laboratories), to carry out official tasks on PPR on its behalf.</p>	1. The public sector of the VS has neither the authority nor the capability to accredit / authorise / delegate the private sector to carry out official tasks.	
	2. The public sector of the VS has the authority and capability to accredit / authorize / delegate to the private sector, but there are no current accreditation/authorisation / delegation activities.	
	3. The public sector of the VS develops accreditation / authorisation / delegation programmes for certain tasks, but these are not routinely reviewed.	Fully achieved
	4. The public sector of the VS develops and implements accreditation / authorisation / delegation programmes, and these are routinely reviewed.	
	5. The public sector of the VS carries out audits of its accreditation / authorisation / delegation programmes, in order to maintain the trust of their trading partners and stakeholders.	

Findings:

- In 2010, in collaboration with the AHDP, the GDAH&P piloted the introduction of a “Sanitary Mandate Contracting Scheme” (SMCS);
- This scheme takes advantage of the presence of a network of private sector service providers who can assist with early warning of outbreaks of notifiable diseases and, when appropriate to assist with basic outbreak investigation, sample collection and submission for confirmation of clinical suspicion of such outbreaks (including PPR);
- In 2016 the coverage of the contracted VFUs under the SMCS has reached all 34 provinces of Afghanistan and is being utilized in PPR control activities.

Recommendations:

- MAIL should plan for progressively assuming responsibility for meeting the costs for continuing and expanding SMCS activities and programmes as the donors withdraw their funding. The SMCS is a significant achievement in the development of public private partnerships in VS and should not be allowed to deteriorate for lack of funds. It is essential for the effective implementation of the PPR GCES in Afghanistan.

III-5. Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) A. VSB authority <i>The VSB is an autonomous authority responsible for the regulation of the veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals. Its role is defined in the Terrestrial Code.</i>	Levels of advancement	GCES criteria
	1. There is no legislation establishing a VSB.	Not achieved
	2. The VSB regulates veterinarians only within certain sectors of the veterinary profession and/or do not systematically apply disciplinary measures.	
	3. The VSB regulates veterinarians in all relevant sectors of the veterinary profession and apply disciplinary measures.	
	4. The VSB regulates functions and competencies of veterinarians in all relevant sectors and veterinary para-professionals according to needs.	
	5. The VSB regulates and apply disciplinary measures to veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals in all sectors throughout the country.	

B. VSB capacity <i>The capacity of the Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) to implement its functions and objectives in conformity with the OIE standards.</i> ↓ <i>The capacity of the VSB to implement its functions and objectives regarding PPR in conformity with OIE standards.</i>	Levels of advancement	GCES criteria
	1. The VSB has no capacity to implement its functions and objectives.	Not achieved
	2. The VSB has the functional capacity to implement its main objectives.	
	3. The VSB is an independent representative organisation with the functional capacity to implement all of its objectives.	
	4. The VSB has a transparent process of decision making and conforms with OIE standards.	
	5. The financial and institutional management of the VSB are submitted to external auditing.	

Findings:

- Authority to establish a Veterinary Statutory Body (VSB) is included in the new Animal Health (Veterinary) Act and this represents a significant improvement in relation to the previous 2010 PVS evaluation mission.
- The DMEC has introduced a VFU licensing system which requires VFUs to comply with defined standards, amongst which is the requirement to report notifiable animal diseases;

Recommendations:

- The VSB, now authorized, needs to become operational;
- The LFWG is recommended to continue to develop and finalise the draft Regulations in collaboration with private veterinarians and VPPs and representatives of the Veterinary faculties and other training institutes for the regulation of veterinarians and VPPs.
- Once the Veterinary Board has been established, the Veterinary professions and para-professions sub-committee of the Board should convene to develop the draft Procedures for setting standards for veterinary education and training, the practice of veterinary medicine and surgery by veterinary para-professionals and Codes of Ethics specific for each category of animal health service provider.
- Subject to approval of the Board, the Ministry is then recommended to publish the Procedures setting standards for veterinary education etc, etc.....”

IV-1. Preparation of legislation and regulations	Levels of advancement	GCES criteria
<p><i>The authority and capability of the VS to actively participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations in domains that are under their mandate, in order to guarantee its quality with respect to principles of legal drafting and legal issues (internal quality) and its accessibility, acceptability, and technical, social and economical applicability (external quality).</i></p>	1. The VS have neither the authority nor the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations, which result in legislation that is lacking or is outdated or of poor quality in most fields of VS activity.	
	2. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations and can largely ensure their internal quality, but the legislation and regulations are often lacking in external quality.	Partially achieved
	3. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations, with adequate internal and external quality in some fields of activity, but lack formal methodology to develop adequate national legislation and regulations regularly in all domains.	
	4. The VS have the authority and the capability to participate in the preparation of national legislation and regulations, with a relevant formal methodology to ensure adequate internal and external quality, involving stakeholder participation in most fields of activity.	
	5. The VS regularly evaluate and update their legislation and regulations to maintain relevance to evolving national and international contexts.	

Findings:

- The Legal Framework Working Group of the former AHD prepared an Animal Health (Veterinary) Act that was enacted by Parliament in July 2017 and which has been used to support the WTO accession of Afghanistan in July 2017;
- The LFWG engaged stakeholders and followed an established methodology in collaboration with international Technical assistance and a local lawyer to ensure compliance with local and international standards;
- The Act establishes a direct chain of command between the central AHA and the field veterinary services via the DAIL provincial veterinary offices and the VFU animal health service providers at the district and village levels;
- The Act provides the AHA with a clear mandate for the regulation of disease surveillance, disease prevention and control, animal identification, registration, movement control and traceability; veterinary diagnostic laboratories; import and export of animals, commodities and controlled articles, food safety of animal products, in collaboration with MoPH and ANSA; animal welfare; and the regulation of vets and Veterinary Para Professionals (VPPs).

Recommendations:

- Secondary legislation (regulations) for the Animal Health (Veterinary) Act need to be prepared as authorised within the Act;
- It is recommended that while preparing regulations specific attention is devoted to PPR to anticipate the increasingly needs (in terms of rules and regulations) while the country moves higher along the PPR pathway.

3.2 Moving to stage 2

The purpose of this section is to provide an overall description of the level of preparedness of the country, in terms of relevant CCs, to move to the next stage along the Progressive Pathway.

As already indicated, Afghanistan is approaching stage 2 of the Progressive Pathway and in the table below the list of the CCs considered to be relevant for stage 2 is provided (in addition to those already indicated for stage 1).

For each CC the minimum level of compliance required (in accordance to the criteria established in the GCES) is matched against the level assessed during the mission and the difference displayed through the symbols -, + or 0 meaning that a difference of -2 between the level required and the level assessed will be indicated by a double minus: --.

Similarly, the difference will be indicated by +, or ++ or +++ if the current level of compliance exceeds the minimum required of 1 or 2 units or 3 units respectively. A difference equal to zero indicates that the minimum required level is achieved.

Table of the CCs relevant for stage 2 of the progressive pathway

CC acronym	Description	Level required (GCES criteria)	Level assessed	Difference
CC I.1.A	Professional and technical staffing of the vs – veterinarians and other professionals	3	2	-
CC I.1.B	Professional and technical staffing of the vs – veterinary para-professionals and other technical staff	3	1	--
CC I.2.B	Competencies of veterinary para-professionals	3	3	0
CC I.6.A	Coordination capability of the vs – internal coordination (chain of command)	3	3	0
CC I.6.B	Coordination capability of the vs – external coordination	3	2	-
CC I.7	Physical resources	3	2	-
CC I.8	Operational funding	4	2	--
CC I.11.	Management of resources and operations	4	1	---
CC. II.5.A	Epidemiological surveillance and early detection – passive epidemiological surveillance	3	2	-
CC II.7	Disease prevention, control and eradication	3	3	0
CC II.8.B	Ante- and post mortem inspection at abattoirs and associated premises	4	1	---
CC III.1	Communication	4	2	--
CC III.6	Participation of producers and other interested parties in joint programmes	3	2	-
CC IV.2	Implementation of legislation and regulations and compliance thereof	3	1	--
CC IV.7	Zoning	3	1	--

As observed in the table for 4 out of the 15 CCs listed the minimum level required is already achieved.

It is interesting to observe that 8 out of the 15 CCs falls under Fundamental Component I (Human, physical and financial resources) category. This is an area where important gaps were identified in the course of the PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission.

For the purpose of PPR control and eradication the difference of -1 and -2, observed for **CC I.1.A** and **CC I.1.B** respectively, both related to the professional and technical staffing of the VS, are very relevant.

It seems unlikely that this gap can be filled rapidly and some transitional solutions should be studied. An example of such a solution could be to engage civil society (in this specific case the NGOs operating in the animal health sector) and delegate some specific functions to them in support of the field activities for the purpose of PPR control and eradication.

CC I.6.A (Internal Coordination - Chain of Command – current score is 0) is considered to be adequate for the implementation of PPR related activities while **CC I.6.B (External coordination – current score is -1)** needs to be addressed. In this case the general recommendation in the overall report to invest in management and leadership capacity of the senior management and officers responsible for the implementation of regulatory functions is appropriate for the purpose of PPR control and may lead to improve the coordination with the NGOs (and their affiliated VFUs) already engaged in the PPR vaccination.

For two additional CCs the difference scored is critical and may require particular attention, namely **CC I.8 (Operational funding)** and **CC I.11 (Management of resources and operations)**. For both of them the current score is -3 and such significant difference is due partly to the fact that for these two CCs the minimum level of compliance is 4 (rather than 3 as it is in most of the PPR related CC).

The issue of the **Operational funding** can be split into two components: (i) amount of funds available and (ii) the modality through which the funds are disbursed.

For the purpose of the implementation of the PPR program the availability of funds is certainly important but perhaps more relevant is the modality through which funds can be utilized. The procedures currently in use do not allow a rapid release of whatever funds may be available directly by the GDAH&P and this can constitute a significant bottleneck once the country is investing significantly in prevention and control/eradication.

In relation to the **CC I.11 (Management of resources and operations)** what has already been indicated above for **CC I.6.B** concerning the need for senior management and officers to be trained to effectively carry out their core regulatory functions is relevant here as well.

In relation to **CC II.7 (Disease prevention, control and eradication – current score is 0)** GDAH&P can nevertheless benefit from the elements for monitoring and evaluating included in the field activities already being implemented in the PPR preventive program supported by FAO. At present, it is largely due to PPR (and FMD) control that the minimum level required for this CC is already achieved. This achievement can serve as a basis for how to possibly transfer similar modalities to other disease control programs (such as the National Brucellosis Control Program – NBCP).

For **CC II.8.B (Ante- and post-mortem Inspection at abattoirs and associated premises)** the current score is -3 and again it should be considered that this gap is partly due to the minimum level of compliance required being set at 4. The lack of compliance of this CC can affect the overall sensitivity of the surveillance system for PPR given a significant weakness in the last segment of the value chain, i.e., when animals are slaughtered. The establishment of a system that can guarantee effective ante- and post-mortem inspection cannot be addressed quickly and modalities to compensate a potential decrease of sensitivity should be studied. Awareness programs among traders and butchers to encourage reporting of gross lesions that could be associated with PPR could possibly assist in this regard and can also assist in fulfilling the requirement of **CC III.6 (Participation of producers and other interested parties in joint programmes – current scoring is -1)**.

For **CC III.1 (Communication – current score is -2)** it should also be noted that the minimum requirement is set at level 4 and currently the country has been assessed as being at level 2. The general recommendation for the AHA to establish a website through which members of the public can obtain useful information on matters related to public veterinary services, animal health and veterinary public health applies also to PPR and can offer a platform where interested parties can have access to information and possibly be informed on the progress made.

CC III.6 (Participation of producers and other interested parties in joint programmes – current score is -1) will need a slight improvement. Given that nomadic herders are currently the main target for PPR vaccination and that most of the nomads are members of the Kuchi community, a stronger engagement through formal channels (Kuchi people have official representatives at Parliament level) may facilitate their direct involvement and provide a better understanding of the benefits being derived from PPR vaccination.

CC IV.2 (Implementation of legislation and regulations and compliance thereof – current score is -2) is also to be considered rather critical. The farther the country will move along the PPR progressive pathway, the more demand there will be for regulations and obligations. It is likely that these regulations will initially target the sub-populations covered by the vaccination program.

CC IV.7 (Zoning – current score is --) does not seem to be a suitable option in the Afghan context.

3.3 Moving beyond stage 2

The CCs considered to be relevant for the implementation of a PPR control and eradication program are distributed mainly across stage 1 and 2 of the progressive pathway (27 out of 33). The remaining 6 are split between stage 3 (2 CCs) and stage 4 (the remaining 4 CCs).

They are indicated in the below table and are highlighted in yellow and green colours for stage 3 and 4 respectively.

Table of the CCs relevant for stage 3 and 4 of the progressive pathway

CC acronym	Description	Level required (GCES criteria)	Assessed	Difference
CC II.2	Laboratory quality assurance	2	2	0
CC II.12.A	Identification and traceability – animal identification and movement control	3	1	--
CC I.9	Emergency funding	4	2	--
CC II.4	Quarantine and border security	3	1	--
CC II.6	Emergency response	4	2	--
CC IV.6	Transparency	3	2	-

The findings and recommendations already outlined in the more comprehensive general report for all the above CCs remain valid.

The major issue for stage 3 appears to be the capacity to implement an Animal identification system (CC II.12.A – current score is --) that could be of great assistance to trace back and forward animal movements for disease control purposes. The creation of such system should be taken into consideration now that the country is supposed to prepare a PPR control and eradication strategic plan that should set the foundations for immediate and long terms actions.

It seems also important to highlight the issue of emergency funding (CC I.9 – current score is --) and response (CC II.6 – current score is --) that will certainly become critical once the country will eventually cease the vaccination and all the preventive and control measures will be shifted to a strict application of zoo-sanitary measures other than vaccines.

Part 4 Conclusions

A significant improvement over the findings of the 2010 PVS evaluation mission have been observed during the current PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission. The VS are shifting their responsibilities to regulatory tasks rather than direct implementation of activities although this process is still slow and often the growing demand from the private sector is still challenging for the public sector.

Afghanistan is currently located in stage 1 of the PPR progressive pathway and, as already evidenced, the country is implementing activities that can be found both in stage 1 and stage 2 of the pathway. These activities are supported through an FAO project.

As already stated, the fact that the country is implementing activities that are consistent with both stage 1 and 2 is not necessarily an issue but could become one if the VS shifts into more extensive vaccination activity without first completing the risk assessment, epidemiologic and value chain analysis on which that vaccination activity should be based.

In this regard, the approach adopted for the implementation of PPR specific activities (for example preventive vaccination) is based on specific agreements made with the most active NGOs that support VFU activities. This arrangement: (i) does not contravene the rules of the SMCS even if the contractual arrangements are not made directly with the VFUs and (ii) does not overload the VS with responsibilities in sectors where the relevant CCs may need to be further strengthened and consolidated (in particular **CC-I.2** and **CC-II.5**). On the contrary, such arrangement with VFUs (with the intermediation of NGOs) can be the mechanism through which the country can continue to make progress in the PPR pathway despite some intrinsic weaknesses.

A competency that needs to be addressed as a priority is related to **CC-II.3** [Risk Analysis]. This cannot be delegated and has to be considered a priority. As already mentioned the choice of targeting nomadic herders for preventive vaccination has been based on the twofold assumption: (i) nomadic herders may play a role in spreading the disease so that reducing the load of disease in this sector may produce indirect benefits in sectors that currently are not the target for the preventive vaccination; (ii) the consequences of PPR may be very serious for nomadic herders for whom small ruminants are their most important economic asset and their resilience is not distributed across different assets. A thorough risk assessment combined with value chain analysis can assist in determining whether there are significant gaps in the approach utilized so far. Additionally and through an increased capacity of **CC II-5.B** [Epidemiological surveillance – Active surveillance] an evaluation of the current preventive vaccination program can be obtained. It would be rather important that before deciding any substantial change in the strategic approach for vaccination a thorough evaluation is made of the current program.

Among the competencies relevant for stage 1 of the PPR pathway, a very clear progress has been observed for **CC II-1** (Veterinary laboratory diagnosis) especially at central level. It would be important to improve the coordination with regional and provincial laboratories to ensure that compatible procedures are followed throughout the laboratory network, particularly with regard to sample recording, handling and shipment.

With regard to Critical Competency **CC III-5** (Veterinary Statutory Body), it is unlikely that the VSB will be fully active before the country may be ready to prepare the overall Strategic Plan and the technical plan for placement in stage 2. However, this is a question of priority, as the legal authority to create the VSB now exists if MAIL seeks to act on it.

The initiative of the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation to start to license private VFUs is certainly a step forward. Linking the issuance of the license to the obligation of reporting occurrence of notifiable animal diseases acknowledges the essential role that private VFUs play for a better performance of the surveillance system in support of a PPR control/eradication process.

As already indicated in the recommendations it would be important that the country while developing the National Strategic Plan formulates a short-term plan to conclude stage 1 and start the preparation for stage 2 and address those CCs to be considered more critical to properly implement the related activities.

Although the progressive pathway can allow a fast track procedure to rapidly reach higher stages this is unlikely to be applied in Afghanistan where, on the contrary, there is a need to build the capacities step by step to bring the country to eventually eradicate PPR and most importantly, to be in a position to maintain such status.

It is anticipated that most likely stage 2 may last from 3 to 5 years before the country may be ready to move towards eradication. It would be extremely important that the country formulate (while preparing the strategic plan) its vision on the relevant additional CCs associated with the subsequent stages of the PPR pathway. Eradication of PPR (and maintenance of the status once it is achieved) is rather demanding in terms of capacity and an early thinking and planning on how these capacities may be developed can be an opportunity also to request a very targeted technical assistance from the donor community. An OIE Gap Analysis would be extremely helpful in this regard.

Appendix 2: Terrestrial Code references for critical competencies

CC	Terrestrial Code references
I.1.A I.1.B I.2.A I.2.B	Points 1-5 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement / Independence / Impartiality / Integrity / Objectivity. Points 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation / Human and financial resources. Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources. Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body. Points 1-2 and 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Organisation and structure of Veterinary Services / National information on human resources / Laboratory services.
I.3	Points 1, 7 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Professional judgement / General organisation / Human and financial resources. Article 3.2.5. on Evaluation criteria for human resources. Sub-point d) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: In-service training and development programme for staff. Point 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Performance assessment and audit programmes.
I.4	Point 2 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Independence.
I.5	Point 1 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. Point 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Performance assessment and audit programmes.
I.6.A I.6.B	Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. Article 3.2.2. on Scope. Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Veterinary Services administration.
I.7	Point 2 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality system: "Where the Veterinary Services undergoing evaluation... than on the resource and infrastructural components of the services". Points 2 and 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Administrative / Technical. Point 3 of Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes: Compliance. Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details.
I.8 I.9 I.10	Points 6 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Human and financial resources. Point 1 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Financial. Point 3 of Article 3.2.14. on Financial management information.
I.11	Points 7, 11 and 14 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: General organisation / Documentation / Human and financial resources. Point 4 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations. Point 1 of Article 3.2.2. on Scope. Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources. Article 3.2.10. on Performance assessment and audit programmes.
II.1A II.1B II.2	Point 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Procedures and standards. Point 1 of Article 3.2.4. on Evaluation criteria for quality systems. Point 3 of Article 3.2.6. on Evaluation criteria for material resources: Technical. Point 5 of Article 3.2.14. on Laboratory services.
II.3	Chapter 2.1. on Import risk analysis
II.4	Points 6 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Procedures and standards. Point 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection. Points 6 and 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Animal health and veterinary public health controls.
II.5.A II.5.B	Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems. Sub-points a) i), ii) and iii) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health: Description of and sample data from any national animal disease reporting system controlled and operated or coordinated by the Veterinary Services / Description of and sample reference data from other national animal disease reporting systems controlled and operated by other organisations which make data and results available to Veterinary Services / Description and relevant data of current official control programmes including:... or eradication programmes for specific diseases. Chapter 1.4. on Animal health surveillance. Chapter 1.5. on Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases.
II.6	Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards.

	Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems. Sub-point a) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health controls: Animal health.
II.7	Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. Points 1-3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / Animal health control / National animal disease reporting systems. Sub-point a) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health controls: Animal health. Chapter 4.12. on Disposal of dead animal.
II.8.A II.8.B II.8.C	Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. Article 3.4.12. on Human food production chain. Points 1-5 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Food hygiene / Zoonoses / Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines/ Integration between animal health controls and veterinary public health. Points 2, 6 and 7 of Article 3.2.14. on National information on human resources / Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Animal health and veterinary public health controls. Chapter 6.2. on Control of biological hazards of animal health and public health importance through ante- and post-mortem meat inspection. References to Codex Alimentarius Commission standards: Code of Hygienic practice for meat (CAC/RCP 58-2005). Code of Hygienic practice for milk and milk products (CAC/RCP/ 57-2004). General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969; amended 1999. Revisions 1997 and 2003).
II.9	Points 6 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Procedures and standards. Points 3 and 4 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines. Sub-point a) ii) of Point 6 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health: Assessment of ability of Veterinary Services to enforce legislation. Chapters 6.6. to 6.10. on Antimicrobial resistance.
II.10	Points 3 and 4 of Article 3.2.9. on Veterinary public health controls: Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines. Sub-points b) iii) and iv) of Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary public health: Chemical residue testing programmes / Veterinary medicines.
II.11	Chapter 6.3. on Control of hazards of animal health and public health importance in animal feed.
II.12.A II.12.B	Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. Chapter 4.1. on General principles on identification and traceability of live animals. Chapter 4.2. on Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability.
II.13	Section 7 on Animal Welfare
III.1	Point 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Communication. Sub-point b) of Point 2 of Article 3.2.6. on Administrative resources: Communications. Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details. Chapter 3.3. on Communication.
III.2	Point 13 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Communication. Point 2 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. Point 4 and Sub-point g) of Point 9 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details and on Sources of independent scientific expertise. Chapter 3.3. on Communication.
III.3	Article 3.2.11. on Participation on OIE activities. Point 4 of Article 3.2.14. on Administration details.
III.4	Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. Point 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. Article 3.4.5. on Competent Authorities.
III.5.A III.5.B	Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. Point 9 of Article 3.2.1. on General considerations. Article 3.2.12. on Evaluation of the veterinary statutory body. Article 3.4.6. on Veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.
III.6	Points 6 and 13 of Article 3.1.2. Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / Communication. Points 2 and 7 of Article 3.2.3. on Evaluation criteria for the organisational structure of the Veterinary Services. Point 7 of Article 3.2.14. on Animal health and veterinary public health controls.

	Point 4 of Article 3.4.3. on General principles: Consultation.
IV.1	Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health / Export/import inspection. Point 6 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities. Chapter 3.4. on Veterinary legislation.
IV.2	Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. Points 1 and 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Animal health, animal welfare and veterinary public health / Export/import inspection. Point 6 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities.
IV.3	Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. Article 3.2.11. on Participation in OIE activities. Points 6 and 10 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities / Membership of the OIE.
IV.4	Points 6, 7 and 9 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation / Procedures and standards. Point 2 of Article 3.2.7. on Legislation and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection. Sub-point b) of Point 6 of Article 3.2.14. on Veterinary legislation, regulations and functional capabilities: Export/import inspection. Chapter 5.2. on Certification procedures. Chapters 5.10. to 5.12. on Model international veterinary certificates.
IV.5	Points 6 and 7 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation / General organisation. Sub-point g) of Point 4 of Article 3.2.10. on Veterinary Services administration: Trade performance history. Chapter 5.3. on OIE procedures relevant to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization.
IV.6	Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. Points 1 and 3 of Article 3.2.8. on Animal health controls: Animal health status / National animal disease reporting systems. Chapter 5.1. on General obligations related to certification.
IV.7 IV.8	Point 6 of Article 3.1.2. on Fundamental principles of quality: Veterinary legislation. Chapter 4.3. on Zoning and compartmentalisation. Chapter 4.4. on Application of compartmentalisation.

Appendix 3: Glossary of terms

Terms defined in the Terrestrial Code that are used in this publication are reprinted here for ease of reference.

Animal

means a mammal, bird or bee.

Animal identification

means the combination of the identification and registration of an animal individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively by its epidemiological unit or group, with a unique group identifier.

Animal identification system

means the inclusion and linking of components such as identification of establishments/owners, the person(s) responsible for the animal(s), movements and other records with animal identification.

Animal welfare

means how an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.

Border post

means any airport, or any port, railway station or road check-point open to international trade of commodities, where import veterinary inspections can be performed.

Compartment

means an animal subpopulation contained in one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or specific diseases for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purposes of international trade.

Competent Authority

means the Veterinary Authority or other Governmental Authority of a Member, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code and the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code in the whole territory.

Disease

means the clinical and/or pathological manifestation of infection.

Emerging disease

means a new infection or infestation resulting from the evolution or change of an existing pathogenic agent, a known infection or infestation spreading to a new geographic area or population, or a previously unrecognised pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time and which has a significant impact on animal or public health.

Equivalence of sanitary measures

means the state wherein the sanitary measure(s) proposed by the exporting country as an alternative to those of the importing country, achieve(s) the same level of protection.

International veterinary certificate

means a certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 5.2., describing the animal health and/or public health requirements which are fulfilled by the exported commodities.

Laboratory

means a properly equipped institution staffed by technically competent personnel under the control of a specialist in veterinary diagnostic methods, who is responsible for the validity of the results. The Veterinary Authority approves and monitors such laboratories with regard to the diagnostic tests required for international trade.

Meat

means all edible parts of an animal.

Notifiable disease

means a disease listed by the Veterinary Authority, and that, as soon as detected or suspected, must be brought to the attention of this Authority, in accordance with national regulations.

Official control programme

means a programme which is approved, and managed or supervised by the Veterinary Authority of a country for the purpose of controlling a vector, pathogen or disease by specific measures applied throughout that country, or within a zone or compartment of that country.

Official Veterinarian

means a veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Authority of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of Chapters 5.1. and 5.2. of the Terrestrial Code.

Official veterinary control

means the operations whereby the Veterinary Services, knowing the location of the animals and after taking appropriate actions to identify their owner or responsible keeper, are able to apply appropriate animal health measures, as required. This does not exclude other responsibilities of the Veterinary Services e.g. food safety.

Risk analysis

means the process composed of hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management and risk communication.

Risk assessment

means the evaluation of the likelihood and the biological and economic consequences of entry, establishment and spread of a hazard within the territory of an importing country.

Risk management

means the process of identifying, selecting and implementing measures that can be applied to reduce the level of risk.

Sanitary measure

means a measure, such as those described in various Chapters of the Terrestrial Code, destined to protect animal or human health or life within the territory of the OIE Member from risks arising from the entry, establishment and/or spread of a hazard.

Surveillance

means the systematic ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of information related to animal health and the timely dissemination of information so that action can be taken.

Terrestrial Code

means the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Veterinarian

means a person with appropriate education, registered or licensed by the relevant veterinary statutory body of a country to practice veterinary medicine/science in that country.

Veterinary Authority

means the Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code in the whole territory.

(Veterinary) legislation

means the collection of specific legal instruments (primary and secondary legislation) required for the governance of the veterinary domain.

Veterinary para-professional

means a person who, for the purposes of the Terrestrial Code, is authorised by the veterinary statutory body to carry out certain designated tasks (dependent upon the category of veterinary para-professional) in a territory, and delegated to them under the responsibility and direction of a veterinarian. The tasks for each category of veterinary para-professional should be defined by the veterinary statutory body depending on qualifications and training, and according to need.

Veterinary Services

means the governmental and non-governmental organisations that implement animal health and welfare measures and other standards and recommendations in the Terrestrial Code and the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code in the territory. The Veterinary Services are under the overall control and direction of the Veterinary Authority. Private sector organisations, veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals or aquatic animal health professionals are normally accredited or approved by the Veterinary Authority to deliver the delegated functions.

Veterinary statutory body

means an autonomous regulatory body for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals.

Wildlife

means feral animals, captive wild animals and wild animals.

Zoonosis

means any disease or infection which is naturally transmissible from animals to humans.

Appendix 4a: Mission Work Plan

Programme	Activities	Duration	Notes
Day 0 11 th April	Expert Team convenes, reviews data, methodology, key findings from previous PVS Pathway Missions and finalise the preparation of the Mission.	Arrival day in evening	
Day 1 Wed 12 th	Opening Session – OIE presentation 2.5 hours - – All senior staff at H/q Meeting with DG + senior staff finalise PVS mission programme 1230 – 1330	0900– 1230	
	Visit Faculty Vet Sci, Kabul University (1400-1500) Visit Agriculture and Veterinary Training Institute, Kabul	1400– 1500 1500 - 1600	
Day 2 Thurs 13 th April	Meeting with Epidemiology Dept. / CVDRL to discuss the specific PPR component of the PVS follow-up mission and the linkage with the Critical Competencies. The discussion will focus on AHD requirements for developing a national PPR strategic plan and guide the process of progressing along the PPR pathway.	0900– 15:30	Meeting confirmed by Dr Jahangir 02/04/17
Day 3 Friday 14 th	Dr Woodford/Sherman/Abul Hussain Travel day to Mazar -	One Day	
Day 4 Sat 15 th	Dr Ferrari meeting with FAO PPR project staff to discuss FAO role in development of national PPR control strategy Dr Ferrari visit to CVDRL to discuss PPR diagnostics with Serology/PCR Dept.s	0900 -1200 1400-1530	Meeting confirmed by Dr Halimi 05/04/17 Meeting confirmed by Dr Ghulam
	Woodford/Sherman/Abul Hussain - Visit DAIL Regional office - Regional Lab and Regional Vet offices, Meat / Milk processing facilities, DCA / AVA offices	All day	
Day 5 Sun 16 th	Visits to field in morning (as above) - Return to Kabul in afternoon	One Day	
Day 6 Mon 17 th	Joint meeting MAIL Livestock projects RMLSP/NHLP/CLAP/EU transition project	1030-1230	
	Meeting with HE Minister and Deputy Minister (Technical) Meeting with Deputy Minister Finance & Administration – Visit to Vet-Serve	1400-1500 1515 -1600 1615-1715	Meeting HE Min confirmed Payam Aziz 01/04/17
Day 7 Tues 18 th	VFU Conference on developing the VFU model– All major NGOs and Vets, Vet Asst's, paravets, livestock keepers from field, MAIL & DAIL reps, donor and other stakeholders	All Day	Date confirmed by Dr Jahangir on 02/04/17

Day 8 Wed 19 th	Visit Guzar Gargh FAO milk processing plant, ADB Slaughterhouse under construction	Half Day	
	Travel to Herat –	Half day	SAFI flight at 1530
Day 9 Thurs 20 th	Visit Regional Vet office, AVA training centre / Regional Lab. Regional Vet offices / Milk processing plant / New Abattoir / DCA Herat office	One Day	
Day 10 Friday 21 st	Travel back from Herat Visit Charikar Paravet Training Centre	0730 -0830 1000- 1400	
Day 11 Sat 22 nd	Meeting with Directorate of Veterinary Public Health and Quarantine - Food Safety of Animal Products / Vet Public Health – Border control - Import /Export / Certification Import of Vet medicines/Vaccines regulation. Visit to Animal Vaccine Production Laboratory	1000- 1100 1130– 1230	
Day 12 Sun 23 rd	Meeting with DMEC & Sanitary Mandate Contracting Dept – Public/private partnership PVS Assessors' meet in afternoon to prepare summary of preliminary findings presentation	One day	
Day 13 Monday 24 th April	Closing meeting - Presentation and discussion of the summary of preliminary findings PVS mission evaluation and PPR capacity assessment. Depart pm	4 hours	

Appendix 4b: Timetable of the mission; sites/ facilities visited and list of resource/contact persons met or interviewed

Opening meeting

Date: 12/04/17 – 09.00 – 11.30 - Directorate of Animal Health, Dar-ul-Aman

Assessor(s)	Institution	PERSON(s) present	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
JW, DS, GF	General Directorate of Animal Health & Production	Dr Miakhail Jahangir Dr Abdullah Safi Dr Sayed Parwiz Dr Ahmed Fardin Dr Rasoul Baqi Dr Noor Rahman Dr Habibullah Dr Frotan Dr S. Waziry Mr Akhtar Faiz Mr Taweed Ali Dr S. A. Hussain Dr Susan Chadima Dr Faridoon Dr Mohibullah Halimi Dr Matyullah Dr Zaker Haq Dr Shfiqullah Dr Naqibullah Dr Rahmatullah Dr Wahid Dr Zarghona Dr Rona Dr Afzal Dr Arif Dr Soraya Dr Rona Dr Nasir Ahmad Dr Yasin	Acting Director General, GDAH&P Surveillance Manager Support Assistant NHLP Data Analysis & Disease Information Manager Head, SMCD Head VPH&QD Member of VPH&QD Head of Dept of Disease Prev & Control AH Coordinator NHLP Head of Planning Dept. Dir. Livestock Services, MAIL Head of CED Consultant, FAO Project Manager, DCA National PM, FAO DAIL, Kabul DAIL, Kabul DMEC, AHA, GDAH&P CLAP, MAIL DMEC, AHA, GDAH&P CVD&RL (Training) CVD&RL (Serology) CVD&RL (Serology) CVD&RL (Bacteriology) CVD&RL CVD&RL VPH&QD Deputy Proj Man, Relief Intl. CVD&RL	PVS Follow-up Evaluation – Opening Meeting

Field visits, meetings and interviews

PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Prof. Ayubi	Dean of Faculty of Vet Science	Quality of Training of veterinary undergraduates – CC I-2A.
Dr Assadullah Samadi	Lecturer in Epidemiology	
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Mohammad Yussufzai	Director	Quality of Training of Veterinary Assistants
Dr Emal	Lecturer	

PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Mujahiddi	Lecturer	CC I-2B
Dr Asadullah	Lecturer	
Mr Esmatullah	Lecturer	
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Khalid Shahiwal	Head, Dept. of Outbreak Investigation, Focal point PPR	Epidemiology Department, CC's II-3,II-5 &B,II-6,II-7
Dr Susan Chadima	Technical Advisor FAO	National PPR Control Strategy Advisor CC's II-3, II-5 A&B, II-6, II-7
Dr Mohammad Omar Fahid	Head of PCR /Serology Dept, CVD&RL	PCR Test for PPR, FMD, Br antigens - CCs II-1A&B, II-2
Dr Baqi Rassoul	Head Sanitary Mandate Contracts Dept, AHA	Contracting VFUs for active & passive surveillance and vaccination services - III-4, II-5 A&B, II-7
Dr Ibrahim Frotan	Head of Division of Disease Prevention & Control, Head of Legal Framework Working Group	Leadership Dis. Prev. and Control, Legislation Development, Veterinary Board, Licensing of VFUs - II-7, II-6, III-4, III-5 A&B, IV-1, IV-2
Dr Nazem Shirazi	FAO TA Lab Technology	Training on ELISA, PCR at CVD&RL – FMD & PPR - II-1, II-2
Dr Abul Hussain	Head of Central Epidemiology Department, AHD, Member Legal Framework Working Group	Leadership, Epidemiology, Dis. Prev. & Control, SMC, Development of Legislation CCs II-3, II-5 A&B, II-6, II-7, IV-1 IV-2
Dr Wahidullah Baer	Head of Laboratory Training, CVD&RL	Training of PVLOs, Distribution of equipment and reagents to Regional / Provincial Labs – CCs II-1, II-2
Dr Miakhail Jahangir	Acting Director General, GDAH&P	Leadership & Management Directorates of Animal Health & Animal Production
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Eng. Serajudin Mehraban	Director, Balkh Regional Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock	Management & Leadership; Policy, Coordination, Planning, Monitoring, Financing. CC's I-4, I-5, 1-6, A&B, I-8, 1-9, I-10, I-11

PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Hashemi	Provincial Director Animal Health & Production, Regional Directorate of Animal Health & Production, Mazar-e-Sharif	Management & Leadership; Policy, Coordination, Planning, Monitoring - CC's I-4, I-5, I-6, A&B, I-8, I-9, I-11
Dr Abul Hussain	Head of Central Epidemiology Department AHA, MAIL, Focal point for this OIE/PVS Evaluation Follow-up mission	Leadership, Epidemiology, Dis. Prev. & Control, SMC, Development of Legislation CCs II-3, II-5 A&B, II-6, II-7, IV-1 IV-2
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Ghulam.Nabi	Director, Regional Veterinary Lab	Veterinary diagnostic laboratory services, access, laboratory technology, quality assurance CC's II-1, II-2 and II-3
Dr M. Zahear	Member of Reg Vet Lab	
Laboratory personnel	Technicians	
Dr. M Rafiq	Regional (Provincial) Veterinary Officer	Management and Leadership, Disease Prevention & Control, Animal Health, Veterinary Public Health CCs II-3, II-4, II-5, II-6, II-7
Dr Rahmatullah	Provincial Veterinary Epidemiology Officer	Early warning, Active and passive disease surveillance, disease, animal disease prevention & control CCs II-
Dr M. Nassim	Provincial Veterinary Monitoring & Evaluation Officer	SMCS, Monitoring disease prevention & control programmes, NBCP CCs II-7, III-4
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Mr. Mohammad Younus	Executive Director, Pamir Star Casing Company	Inspection of premises / Food Safety of Animal products / Export certification CC's II-8 A,B & C.
Mr Abdul Matten	Director, Pakiza Milk Products Ltd.	
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Prof Amanullah Monis	Dean, Faculty of Vet Science, Balkh University	Veterinary Education / CC I-2 ^a
Mr Ahmad Fashad	Paravet, DCA VFU, Mazar-e-Sharif	Private Veterinary Services CCs I-1B, I-2, I-3 Private Vet. Services CCs I-1B, I-2, I-3
Dr Ahmad Shah	Head of Regional office DCA	
Dr Hamed Nawabi	Regional Training Coordinator – DCA / RADP-N	
Dr Enyatullah Hamdard	Prov. Coordinator DCA Kunduz Prov. Coordinator DCA Samangan	

PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Ghulam Saeed Dr Noor Alam Dr Ahmad Shah Dr Abdul Bayes Tagin	Prov. Coordinator DCA Baghlan Prov. Coordinator DCA Jowzjan / Chairman AVA Northern Region Prov. Coordinator DCA Badakhshan	
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Pablo Degl' Innocenti Ms S Dustova Mr Najeeb-ul-Rehman	Team Leader Finance & Administration Advisor Human Resources & Capacity Building Expert	Planning, Transfer of EU funding to MAIL, AHA Budget, Financing, CVDRL / AVPL sustainability. CC's I-4, I-5, 1-6, A/B, I-8, 1-9, I-10, I-11
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Mr Assad Zamir Dr Abdul Latif Mr James Brew Mr Chuck Lambert Mr Matti Monawr Mr Orikhail Mehboob Mr Tawheed Ali Dr Miakhail Jahangir	H.E. Minister Director, CLAP / IFAD projects Consultant, RADP-S/USAID Consultant RADP-S / USAID Senior Policy and SC Advisor to the Minister of MAIL Policy & Planning Advisor to the Minister, MAIL Director of Animal Production Acting General Director, Animal Health & Production	Policy, Planning, Internal coordination, Management, Leadership CC's I-4, I-5, 1-6, A&B, I-8, 1-9, I-10, I-11
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Eng. Abdul Qadeer Jawad Mr Mohammad Waheed Etabar	Deputy Minister, Admin. & Fin. Director of Finance,	Planning, Administration and Finance, Management, Leadership CC's I-8, 1-9, I-10, I-11
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Daad Amir	Director	Quality of Veterinary Medicines & Vaccines CC II-9
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Veterinarians, Veterinary Assistants, Paravets	VFU personnel	Sustainability of private veterinary services, Planning VFU system management I-1 A&B I-2 A&B, I-3
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Mr Mohammad Zekrya	Director, Guzar Gargh Dairy Union Milk Processing plant	Food safety and quality of Animal products, / Inspection of premises

PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Mr Khalil Ahmad Haydari Mr Mohammad Sharifi Dr Mehrabuddin Ahmedi Dr Farhad Shaffei	Acting Director General Advisor, DAIL Director General Animal Health & Production, DAIL, Herat Epidemiologist, FAO	Management, Leadership, Policy and Planning, Animal Health & Livestock services, Veterinary Public Health CCs I-5, I-6, I-7, I-8, I-9, I-10
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Abdul Khalil Dr Ghulam Mahboob Dr Mohammed Kabir Mr Ghullam Yahya Dr Mohammed Salim Dr Akbar Haideri Dr Ismattullah Haideri Mr Quiamuddin Habibi Mr Yasser Mohis Dr Mohammad Maroof Dr Ketir Akbar Mr Wakil Ahmad	Provincial Veterinary Officer Provincial Veterinary Epidemiology Officer Provincial Laboratory Officer Asst PVEO Provincial Veterinary Public Health & Quarantine Officer PVPH&Q Officer Provincial Veterinary Monitoring & Evaluation Officer Asst. PVMEO Vet Lab Technician Head of AVA clinic Director, Herat Vet Hospital Veterinary Assistant, Herat Vet Hospital	Management, Leadership, Policy and Planning, Animal Health & Livestock services, Veterinary Public Health CCs I-5, I-6, I-7, I-8, I-9, I-10, II-1, II-2, II-3, II-4, II-5, II-8 A, B, C. II-9, III-4
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Mr Sayed Mohammad	In-charge / Manager, Herat Export Abattoir	II-8A, B, C
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Naqibullah Durani	Director	Veterinary Para-professional training Continuing Education, VPPs CCs I-2B, I-3
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Noor Rahman Dr Ibrahim Frotan S. Yedhoovalishah Dr Shafiqullah Dr Rona Dr Naqibullah Nawabi Eng. Mohd. Tahir Dr Mohd. Amin Mr Parwez	Head of Dept VPH&Q Head of Directorate of Disease Prevention & Control Marketing manager, Afghan Dost M&E Officer, AHD/MAIL Registration of Vet Drug retailers, AHD / MAIL M&E Officer / CLAP / MAIL Director / AVAMSA DVM / AVAMSA Member AVAMSA Member AVAMSA	Management / Leadership CCs I-6, II-8 A, B & C Regulation of Import / Distribution of Medicines and Vaccines Import of Animal products CCs II-4, II-9.

PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Mr Nasir Mr Akhtar Faiz Dr Habibullah Farooq Fagiere Ltd Abdul Samad	Head of Dept of Planning Import Regulation Officer / AHD/MAIL Importer of Fresh Meat Basir Ibrahim, International Trading (Import Eggs/Frozen meat)	
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Shahjaulah Vaccine production unit personnel	Director	Management / Leadership Vaccine Production CC II-9 Anthrax spore vaccine, Quality control, Vaccine bottling and storage
PERSON(s) met and interviewed	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
Dr Frotan Mr Akhtar Faiz Dr Rasoul Baqi Dr Abul Hassan Dr S. Waziri Dr Rahmatullah Dr Shafiqullah	Head of Directorate of Disease Prevention & Control Head of Department of Planning Head of Dept, SMC Head of CED Project Officer, NHLP Veterinary Clinics / VFU Licensing, Head of DMEC M&E Officer, DMEC	Management / Leadership Sanitary Mandate Contracting Scheme / PPR Strategy CC's I-1B, I-6 ^a , II-1A, II-5A, II-5B, II-7

Date: 24/04/2017 0900 – 1330 – Closing Meeting

Assessor(s)	Institution	PERSON(s) present	POSITION	Activities and CC Relevance
JW, DS, GF	General Directorate of Animal Health & Production	Dr Miakhail Jahangir Dr Mohd. Khalid Dr Abdul Qadeir Dr Rasoul Baqi Dr Noor Rahman Kohistany Dr Shahzar Dr Frotan Mr Taweed Ali Dr S. A. Hussain Dr Hamid Nawroz Dr Susan Chadima Dr S. Waziry Dr Faridoon Dr Mohibullah Halimi Dr Aminuddin Nasser Mr Mujeeb ul Rehman Dr Shujauallah Dr Shafiqullah Dr Naqibullah Dr Rahmatullah Dr Wahidullah Baer Dr Nasir Ahmad Mr Pablo Degl'Innocenti Mr Iftikhar Ahmad Dr Raymond Briscoe Dr Nazem Shiraz Dr Ghulam Ziay Dr Rasoul Baqi Dr M Sear Ashraf Dr Said Gul Safi Dr Abdul Zekria Ahmadzai Mr Aimeric Ferlay Eng. Mohd. Tahir Shoaib	Acting Director General, GDAH&P Outbreak Investigation Officer CED SMCS Field Officer Head, SMCD Head VPH&QD Project Manager, CLAP/MAIL Head of Dept of Disease Prev & Control Dir. Livestock Services, MAIL Head of CED Notifiable Disease Officer CED Consultant, FAO AH Coordinator, NHLP Project Manager, DCA National PM, FAO Project Coordinator, FAO EU-MAIL HR &CB Expert Acting Head, AVPL DMEC, AHA, GDAH&P CLAP, MAIL DMEC, AHA, GDAH&P CVD&RL (Training) Deputy Proj Man, Relief Intl. Team Leader, EU Transition project Finance Manager, MAIL Executive Director, Dutch Committee for Afghanistan FAO Lab Specialist Head of CVDR&L Head of Dept SMCS Deputy Project Manager, MADERA President, AVA Livestock Policy Advisor to DG, GDAH&P Project Manager, MADERA Director, AVAMSA	PVS Follow-up Evaluation – Closing Meeting Summary of Mission Findings Main Recommendations Summary of Findings PPR component

Appendix 5: Air travel itinerary

ASSESSOR	DATE	From	To	Flight No.	Departure	Arrival
John Woodford	12/04/17	Kabul	Kabul	Present in Kabul		
	24/04/17	Kabul	Dubai	FZ0306	18:15	20:55
	25/04/17	Dubai	Paris	AF655	00:50	06:10
David Sherman	10/04/17	Paris	Dubai	EK0076	21:50	06:30 11/04/17
	11/04/17	Dubai	Kabul	EK0640	9:55	13:15
	25/04/17	Kabul	Dubai	FZ0302	8:50	11:25
	25/04/17	Dubai	Paris	EK0075	14:50	20:05
Giancarlo Ferrari	10/04/17	Rome	Dubai	EK096	22:05	06:30 11 April
	11/04/17	Dubai	Kabul	EK640	09:55	13:15
	19/04/17	Kabul	Herat	4Q 0501	14:30	16:00
	21/04/17	Herat	Kabul	4Q 0504	07:00	08:15
	25/04/17	Kabul	Dubai	FZ 302	08:50	11:25
	25/04/17	Dubai	Rome	EK095	15:45	20:00

Appendix 6: List of documents used in the PVS evaluation

E = Electronic version

H = Hard copy version

P= Digital picture

PRE-MISSION DOCUMENTS (PMD)			
Ref	Title	Author / Date / Web	Related CC's
PMD 1 E	Topographical and Administrative Maps (Folder)	Government of Afghanistan	I, II, III, IV II-44
PMD 2 E	Human Demographics	Central Statistics Department 2015	I, II, III, IV
PMD 3 E	Economic Data - MAIL- WB- CSD 2016 -	World Bank, CIA World Fact Book, Central Statistics Dept. 2015/16	I, II, III, IV
PMD 4 E	Livestock Populations (Folder)	FAO 2013, Central Statistics Dept. 2015, other estimates	I, II, III, IV
PMD 5 E	Livestock farms, producers, industry	GDAH&P 2017	I, II, III, IV
PMD 6 E	Import / Export Animals & animal products	VPH&QD / AHA	I, II.
PMD 7E	General Directorate of Animal Health - Organogram 2016 MAIL / CSC -	MAIL / AHA	FCs I, II, III, IV II-6
PMD 8E	List of regional and provincial Veterinary Labs 1	CVDRL	II-1A
PMD 9E	Copy of 1393,1395,1396 Development Budgets V(a)	AHA	I-8, I-9, I-10, I- 11
PMD 10E	Map Provincial Veterinary Directorates		I, II, III, IV
PMD 11E	Border Inspection Posts of Afghanistan May 2016	VPH&QD / AHA	II-4
PMD 12E	Veterinary Services offices of Afghanistan May 2016	AHA	I, II, III, IV I-1A
PMD 13E	Table on VFUs and NGOs	DAH	I-1 A&B
PMD 14E	Information on infrastructure	DAH	I.7, II.8
PMD 15E	Imports, Exports Animals and Products	VPH&QD	II.8
PMD 16E	100112-WP-PUBLIC-Box393225B-Afghanistan- Country-Snapshot	World Bank	FCs I, II, III, IV
PMD 17E	081127 - Concept note, livestock sub- programme, MAIL-ANDS	MAIL – ANDS (2008)	FCs I, II, III, IV CC1-5
PMD 18E	OIE PVS Reports	OIE	FCs I, II, III, IV – CC I-11
PMD 19E	CIA World Fact Book (2016) -	https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html	FC I
PMD20E	AHDPII- Final Report-ENGLISH-16.6.21	Landell Mills AHDP / MAIL	FCs I, II, III, IV
PMD21E	2013 AVPL Strategic Business Plan-Final	Landell Mills / AHDP / MAIL	II-2
PMD22E	Reportable Diseases Case Definition 2014	AHA / CED	II-5A
PMD23E	New PVs trained in Charikar 2014,2015,2016	DCA	I-2B
PMD24E	VFU Selection Criteria DCA	DCA	I-2B
PMD25E	National Laboratory Policy-MAIL, MoPH, DRAFT 2016	MAIL / MoPH	II-1 A&B, II-2, III-1
PMD26E	Animal Health (Veterinary) Act - English-FINAL (V 27-08-16)	MAIL	FCs I, II, III, IV IV-1, IV-2
PMD27E	Physical Resources - AHA	AHA	I-7
PMD 28 E	Organisation chart of the CVDR&L	CVDR&L	II-1 A
PMD 29E	Personnel of Provincial vet. offices	AHA / GDAH&P	I-1 A & B
PMD 30H	Personnel of GDAH (Tashkeel list) 2016	GDAH&P	I-1 A
PMD 31E	Laboratory Summary - CVDRL 2016	CVDRL	II-1A/B, II-2

MISSION DOCUMENTS (MD)			
Ref	Title	Author / Date / Web	Related CC's
MD1E	National Comprehensive Agriculture Development Priority Program 2016 – 2020	MAIL, 2016	I-5, III-4
MD2E	Salmonella PT results GD animal Health Deventer 131111	Deventer, Netherlands	II-2
MD3E	CBPP ELISA PT sample result 140313	(Folder) – CIRAD / CVDR&L	II-2
MD4E	ND and AI PT 2012	AHVLA (UK) Folder	II-2
MD5E	CVDRL and VETQAS-UK PT	APHA (UK) 2015	II-2
MD6E	Salmonella, AI PT	AHVLA / CVDR&L (2013/14)	II-2
MD7E	140119 Update on implementation of recommendations from PVS evaluation	AHD / AHDP 2014	FCs I, II, III, IV
MD8E	Admission and Graduates of Veterinary Faculty, KU 2017	Kabul University FVS 2017	I-1A, I-2A
MD9E	Agriculture Master Plan November 2005	MAIL 2005	FC's I, II, III, IV
MD10E	List of SOP 150601	CVD&RL	II-2
MD11E	ARDS Livestock sub-programme for the Agriculture and Rural Development Strategy-2008	MAIL (2008)	FC's I, II, III, IV CC I-5
MD12E	AVA VFU list - 2013	AVA (2013)	I-1A/B
MD13E	AVIs Study Final Report PIN 2016	People in Need / FAO 2016	I-1A/B, I-2A/B
MD14E	Agriculture Master Plan November 2005	MAIL 2005	FC's I, II, III, IV I-5
MD15E H	CVDRL Feasibility Study 2016.06.15 FINAL	AHA / CVDRL / EU Transition project	1-8, I-11, II-1B
MD16E	Copy of Licensed VFU List 24_05_2017	DMEC / AHA 2017	I-1A/B, II-6, III-5A/B, IV-2
MD17E	Terrestrial and aquatic animal health Codes	OIE, 2016	I, II, III, IV
MD18E	Lab Sample tracking Summary Herat SMCS - March 2017	Herat Provincial Vet Lab / CVD&RL	II-5B
MD19E	Links to Journal publications - CVDRL -	CVDRL	II-1 A/B
MD20H	Kabul University Fac Vet Sci - Curriculum 2014	Kabul University	I-2A
MD21E	Final Draft - Guidelines for establishment and management of VFUs (2011)	AHD / AHDP (2011)	I-1B, I-2B
MD22H E	DCA PV 2017 Curriculum summary	DCA / Charikar Paravet Training Centre (2017)	I-2B
MD23E	DCA Training Courses	DCA / Charikar Paravet Training Centre (2017)	I-2B, I-3
MD24E	Draft Animal Health (Veterinary) Regulations working copy 13-04-17.doc clean	AHA / LFWG (2017)	FC's I, II, III, IV; III-5A/B, IV-1, IV-2
MD25E	110420 - ConsolidatedWorks&Supply2011-2012 Final 031211	AHDP II	I-10
MD26E	AMIP 2016 Update	ADB / MAIL	I-7, I-10, II-8A, II-8B, II-8C
MD27E	2016 CVDRL Activity, LIMS, Oct 16	CVD&RL	II-1B
MD28E	Draft NLDP 25 July 2016	AHA	I-5
MD29E	Drug test results 09-14 SPME Report Mar 2010 (2)	Investigative Science Incorporated, Burlington, ON, Canada (www.investigativescience.com) / DCA	II-9
MD30E	MAIL ANDS-Strategy Paper FINAL June 2007	MAIL	I-5
MD31E	MoU- MAIL - MoPH Final clean copy 020611	MAIL / AHA / LFWG	II-8A, II-8B, II-

MISSION DOCUMENTS (MD)			
Ref	Title	Author / Date / Web	Related CC's
			8C, III-1
MD32E	NVLSP 2016-2020 English (Nat. Vet Lab Strategic Plan)	CVDRL	II-1A & B, II-2
MD33E	One Health and Community-based Animal Healthcare - Afghanistan Case Study		I-6B, III-1
MD34E	Pharmacy register - Herat	Herat Regional Animal Health Directorate	II-9
MD35E	Procedure 4- Designation of ports of entry or exit	AHA / LFWG / VPH&QD	IV-2, II-4, IV-1
MD36E	Procedure No (-) Declaration of Notifiable Animal Diseases 05-02-14-Dari	AHA	II-5A / B, II-7
MD37E	Number of samples tested in VPH -CVDRL laboratory	AHA / VPH&QD	II-8C, II-11
MD38E	Report VFU study_May2016_cjmb	MAIL / RMLSP	I-1B, I-2B
MD39E	Review_Report_AFG_Jan-Jun_2016	OIE / WAHID – AHA / CED	II-5, II-5B, II-7, IV-6
MD40E	Ruminant Mycoplasmas in Afghanistan	AHA / CVD&RL	II-1A/B, II-5B, II-7
MD41E	Summary Curriculum Draft of Veterinary Science Faculty, KU 2017	KUFVS	I-2A
MD42E	Tashkiel CVDRL	AHA / CVD&RL – CSC / MAIL	I-1A/B, II-1A/B, II-2
MD43E	The staff members of Veterinary Faculty 2017	KUFVS	I-1A, I-2A
MD44E	Umbrella Document for NADF V4 01 April 2009	MAIL	I-5
MD45E	Provincial Staffing – PVO, PVLO, PVMO, PVEO List with Qualification	AHA	I-1A / B, I-2 2 A/B I-5 I-6 A
MD46E	Jahangir VFU Workshop Presentation on Current Situation	AHA	FCs I, II, III, IV I-2A / B, I-3 I-5, III-4
MD47E	Veterinary Labs, Staff	CVD&RL	II-1A&B
MD48E	3.1.b and c Reference Data Descriptions	CVD&RL / FAO	II-5A&B
MD49E	3.1.b SMC 2016 Q 3 Data report from CVDRL. NHLP, FAO, MAIL	CVDR&L / SMCD	II-5A&B
MD50E	3.1.b SMCS Narrative Report 2016, Q3	AHA / SMCD	II-5A&B, III-4
MD51E	3.1.c Af_FMD Vacc and Monitoring, 2016, Ferrari	FAO / AHA	II-5A&B
MD52E	3.1.c Af_FMD_SAARC_ppt_Dec_2016_gf	FAO / AHA / CED	II-5A&B, I-6A&B, II-7
MD53E	2014-2016 SMCS, VPH Testing summary	CVDRL	II-1A&B, II-8, III-4C
MD54E	Food Safety Law-Eng- July 29.2016	MoPH	II-8AB&C, I-6B
MD55E	National Laboratory Policy-MAIL, MoPH, DRAFT 2016	MAIL/MoPH	i-6B
MD56E	VPH Summary	AHA / VPH&QD	II-8AB&C
MD57E	3.1.d Control Programs	AHA / Disease Prevention & Control Directorate	II-7
MD58E	3.1.d.1 Final CCHF study and awareness campaign procedure	AHA / CED	II-7, I-6B, II-3, III-6
MD59E	2016 NBCP Brucellosis Plan SUMMARY	AHA / NHLP / FAO / CED	II-7, I-6A
MD60E	DCA Training Courses	DCA	I-3
MD61E	2014-2016 SMCS, VPH Testing summary	AHA / CVD&RL	II-1
MD62E	Afghanistan - Detection and Serotyping Report (A, ASIA-1, O) - October 2016	Pirbright (UK) AHA / CVD&RL	II-2
MD63E	Afghanistan - Genotyping Report (O, A, Asia 1) - October 2016	Pirbright (UK) AHA / CVD&RL	II-2
MD64E	Risk Analysis MAIL Letter no. 595 21-06-16	AHA	II-3

MISSION DOCUMENTS (MD)			
Ref	Title	Author / Date / Web	Related CC's
MD65E	Revised Import-Export Procedures 08-16	AHA / LFWG	IV-1, IV-2, II-3, II-4
MD66E	MoCI Implications of introducing SPS-OIE standards on Import - Export - Domestic Markets (2)	USAID / ATAR / MoCI	IV-2, II-4, II-8 A/B/C, III-1, IV-3
MD67E	Procedure No. 1 Food Safety of Animal Products - Categories & issuance of permits Slaughter facilities & Abattoirs 27-03-17	AHA / LFWG	II-8A, IV-1, IV-2
MD68E	Procedure No 2 - Inspection & Audit of Slaughter facilities & Abattoirs 30-03-17	AHA / LFWG	II-8A, IV-1, IV-2
MD69E	Procedure No 3 Inspection & Audit tool Commercial Domestic & Export Abattoirs 13-05-17	AHA / LFWG	II-8A, IV-1, IV-2
MD70E	FAO Meat Inspectors Training Manual	MAIL	II-8A
MD71E	Risk Analysis Training Manual - November 2014 revised clean	AHA / USAID - ATAR	II-3
MD72E	Risk Analysis MAIL Letter no. 595 _date 21June2016 -	FAO / AHA	II-3
MD73E	Risk Analysis Training Manual - November 2014	ATAR / USAID / AHA / VPH&QD	II-3
MD74E	PRESS RELEASE_CCHF_2016 MD74E	MAIL, AHA, FAO, WHO	I-6B, II-3, II-7, III-1
MD75E	Copy of VFU list_map_unique	AHA, DMEC	I-1B, II-5A, II-6, III-4, III-5 A/B, IV-2
MD76E	Copy of Vet Drug Results Summary 2013	Investigative Science Incorporated, Burlington, ON, Canada (www.investigativescience.com) / DCA	II-9
MD77E	Afghanistan - Detection and Serotyping Report (A, ASIA-1, O) - October 2016	FAO / APHA – Pirbright, UK – World Reference Lab FMD	II-1A, II-5A
MD78E	Afghanistan - Genotyping Report (O, A, Asia 1) - October 2016	FAO / APHA – Pirbright UK, World Reference Lab FMD	II-1A, II-5A
MD79E	140120 Action points from PVS evaluation workshop - english dari	AHD / AHDP (2011)	FC 1, CC I-11
MD80E	Revised Import-Export Procedures 24-08-16	AHA / LFWG (Folder of 24 Draft Procedures)	II-4, IV-1, II-2, IV-2, IV-3, IV-4, IV-5
MD81E	09-14 SPME Report Mar 2010	Investigative Science Incorporated, Burlington, ON, Canada (www.investigativescience.com) / DCA	II-9
MD82E	2015-Rabies in Afghanistan, Mayhew	Mayhew Trust / AHA (2016)	II-7, II-13, III-1, IV-6
MD83E	2017 SMCS, NBCP Comprehensive Plan-final, 2017.1	AHA / SMCD / NHLP	I-6A, II-5A&B, II-7
MD84E	Bluetongue-Virus-Sero-survey-report-asm	AHA / Landell Mills	II-5B
MD85E	Brucellosis - 2013 NBSS Report	AHA / CED / NHLP	II-5A&B
MD86E	Outbreak Investigation Form ENG_2011	AHA / CED	II-5B
MD87E	Rabies_Plan 2014	AHA / CED	II-7, I-6A&B,
MD88E	MAIL - AHD Budget xls	MAIL	I-8, I-10
MD89E	FMD Afghanistan Report 2016.12	MAIL / CED	II-7, I-6B, III-3

MISSION DOCUMENTS (MD)			
Ref	Title	Author / Date / Web	Related CC's
MD90E	3.1.e.f.g Response Plan, Zoonoses, Status	AHA / CED	II-7, II-6, I-6A&B
MD91E	3.1.f DEWS 2015, Zoonoses	MoPH	II-7, I-6B
MD92E	3.3.1 CVDRL Information	CVD&RL	II-1A&B
MD93H	AVA (training) Activities during 2015 and 2016	AVA	I-2B, I-3
MD94H	VFU Monitoring Checklist	AHA / Herat SMC / PVME0	III-4
MD95H	MOPH Certificate Hygiene and Food Safety	MoPH / Guzar Gargh Dairy Union	II-8
MD96E	Training components USAID ATAR 2012 - 2017	ATAR/USAID	IV-3

Photographic evidence		
Ref	Title	Related CC's
P1	AVA Clinic Herat	I-1B
P2	Clinical Records – new VFU Mazar	I-1B
P3	AVA clinic Herat – Treatment Records	I-1B
P4	AVA private clinic Herat cattle crush	I-1B
P5	New DCA VFU Mazar	I-1B
P6	New VFU Mazar	I-1B
P7	Vaccination records DCA VFU Mazar	I-1B
P8	Mazar Vet Faculty lecture theatre	I-2A
P9	Charikar paravet training centre	I-2B
P10	Chick hatchery – Veterinary & Agriculture training Institute, Kabul	I-2B
P11	Herat Animal Hospital – private	I-1B
P12	Building site – animal accommodation Vet & Ag training Inst Kabul	I-2B
P13	VFU Conference – MAIL, Kabul	I-2B
P14	DCA VFU Mazar 1	I-1B
P15	DCA VFU Mazar 2	I-1B
P16	DCA VFU Mazar 3	I-1B
P17	Charikar paravet training Extension poster 1	I-2B, I-3
P18	Charikar paravet training Extension poster 2	I-2B, I-3
P19	Meat Inspection training poster – DCA	I-2B, I-3, II-8B
P20	CE new DCA VFU Mazar	I-2B, I-3
P21	Extension poster DCA VFU Mazar	I-2B, I-3
P22	Anthrax Azur Blue stain Mazar Regional lab	II-1A
P23	Sample submission tracking form MZRL	II-1A
P24	Faulty Lab sample tracking form missing data – CVDRL	II-1A
P25	PM room Mazar regional lab	II-1B
P26	Biological pit – Mazar regional lab	II-1B
P27	Cold room – PM room Mazar regional lab	II-1B
P28	Deioniser – Wash and sterilisation room Mazar Regional Lab	II-1B
P29	Electric hoist – PM room Mazar Regional Lab	II-1B
P30	Incinerator building – Mazar Regional lab	II-1B
P31	Multipurpose lab room – Mazar regional lab	II-1B
P32	PBS 7.2 FMD sample bottles Mazar reg lab	II-1 A/B
P33	Charikar paravet training centre – Large animal accommodation / facilities	I-1B
P34	Mazar intestinal casings plant – clean hair removal from casings	II-8A
P35	Herat Municipal abattoir – lack of hygiene	II-8A
P36	Herat Export abattoir	II-8A
P37	Herat Municipal abattoir – Lack of hygiene	II-8A
P38	Kabul Dairy Union Milk plant – staff health exam certificates	II-8A
P39	Kabul Dairy Union Milk plant ISO accreditation Certificate	II-8A
P40	Kabul Dairy Union – Pasteurisation temp control LED	II-8A
P41	Pak Milk plant – self inspection laboratory	II-8A
P42	Intestinal casings plant – good manufacturing practices	II-8A

P43	VPH&QD Monthly meat inspection summary record sheet	II-8B
P44	Herat DAIL / AHA - Pharmacy Register	II-9
P45	Vet-serve – Cold room – Vaccine store temp control thermostat	II-9
P46	AVPL – Kabul – Anthrax spore vaccine fermentation room	II-9
P47	Kabul Dairy Union – Concentrate feed analysis result certificate	II-11
P48	VFU SMS contract	III-4
P49	VFU Monitoring record sheet	III-4
P50	Opening meeting (12-04-17)	-

Appendix 7: Organisation of the OIE PVS evaluation of the VS of Afghanistan

Assessors Team:

- Team leader: John Woodford
- Technical expert: David Sherman
- PPR specialist/Facilitator: Giancarlo Ferrari

References and Guidelines:

- Terrestrial Animal Health Code (especially Chapters 3.1. and 3.2.)
- OIE PVS Tool for the Evaluation of Performance of VS
 - Human, financial and physical resources,
 - Technical capability and authority,
 - Interaction with stakeholders,
 - Access to markets.

Dates: 12th – 24th April 2017

Language of the audit and reports: English

Subject of the evaluation: VS as defined in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code

- Not Inclusive of aquatic animals
- Not inclusive of other institutions / ministries responsible for activities of VS

Activities to be analysed: All activities related to animal and veterinary public health:

- Field activities:
 - Animal health (epidemiological surveillance, early detection, disease control, etc)
 - quarantine (all country borders),
 - veterinary public health (food safety, veterinary medicines and biological, residues, etc)
 - control and inspection,
 - clinical veterinary services delivery
- Data and communication
- Diagnostic laboratories / Research
- Initial and continuous training
- Organisation and finance

Persons to be present: To be discussed at preliminary planning meeting on 12/04/17

Sites to be visited: as per provisional Workplan and as given in Appendix 4

Procedures:

- Consultation of data and documents
- Limited field trips due to security situation
- Interviews and meetings with VS staff and stakeholders,
- Analysis of practical processes

Provision of assistance by the evaluated country

- Completion of missing data as possible
- Translation of relevant document if required
- Administrative authorisation to visit designated sites & Logistical support if possible

Reports:

- a powerpoint will be presented at the closing session
- a report will be sent to the OIE for peer-review no later than one month after the mission
- the current levels of advancement with strengths, weaknesses and references for each critical competence will be described,
- general recommendations may be made in agreement with the VS.

Confidentiality and publishing of results

The results of the evaluation are confidential between the country and the OIE and may only be published with the written agreement of the evaluated country.