

PROJECT PROGRESS

First Reporting Period: June–September 2025

REPORT

REDUCTION OF
ANTIBIOTICS USE IN
FARMING PRACTICES
IN EAST AFRICA WITH
A TECHNOLOGY
TRANSFER AND PILOT
PROJECT IN KENYA

FIRST REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE–SEPTEMBER 2025

This section provides an overview of the implementation progress and use of funds during the **first interim reporting period (20 June–30 September 2025)**. The purpose of this report is to ensure transparency, demonstrate accountability, and communicate the status of project activities.

1 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Overall Status

The project is progressing in line with its approved implementation plan. During the first reporting period, the focus was placed on **technical preparation, regulatory compliance, field sampling, and initiation of laboratory activities** in Kenya. Several activities are ongoing and will be completed in the next reporting phase.

2 KEY ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

Transfer of Technical Protocols

Technical protocols for the isolation of bacterial strains and bacteriophages were prepared and finalized by the technical partner. These protocols were formally transferred to the University of Nairobi and are ready for full implementation once all biological samples and materials are available.

Field Sampling in Kenya

Environmental sampling activities were carried out in August 2025 in five counties in Kenya: Kirinyaga, Nyeri, Murang'a, Kiambu, and Kajiado. Samples included soil, water, and tomato plant tissue. The fieldwork was conducted by the University of Nairobi research team in cooperation with local agricultural officers and farmers, contributing to stakeholder engagement and awareness of biological disease control approaches.

Laboratory Activities at the University of Nairobi

Laboratory work related to the isolation of bacterial strains - from soil, water, and tomato plant tissues - began in September 2025. The process is being carried out by the University of Nairobi research team with coordination support from the project partners. At the end of the reporting period, the isolation process was still ongoing, and final results will be reported in the next interim report.

Regulatory and Logistical Procedures

During this period, regulatory approvals and documentation required for sample handling and shipment were actively addressed. Some laboratory activities related to bacteriophage mixture preparation and testing were delayed due to the need for additional coordination of sample shipments and related

documentation. The project partners worked closely with national regulatory authorities to resolve these requirements. All necessary documentation was submitted in a timely manner.

Training Activities

Training/experimental work involving bacteriophage preparation and testing are planned for the next reporting period, once the remaining materials and samples are fully available.

3 PROGRESS INDICATORS (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2025)

Isolation of bacterial strains: **ongoing**

Isolation of bacteriophages: **preparatory phase completed**

Preparation of bacteriophage mixtures: **not yet initiated**

Effectiveness testing: **not yet initiated**

The staged nature of these activities reflects the scientific and regulatory requirements of the project and does not indicate deviation from the approved work plan.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION OVERVIEW

Total approved project budget: EUR 320,000

During the first reporting period (20 June–30 September 2025), approximately **3 % of the total project budget** was utilised. Expenditure during this phase reflects the preparatory, regulatory and research nature of the initial stage of project implementation.

Funds were allocated exclusively to eligible project costs, including:

- research and technical personnel engaged in field and laboratory activities,
- laboratory materials, chemicals, and consumables,
- environmental field sampling, transport, and logistics,
- regulatory compliance, permits, and administrative procedures,
- project coordination and technical management.

Financial implementation is carried out in accordance with the contractual obligations, the approved project budget, and the rules and guidelines of the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia.