

2nd International Meeting on the Control of Neglected Zoonoses

Integrated Control of Neglected Zoonoses in Africa

Organized by the World Health Organization (WHO)
in close collaboration with
European Commission Research Directorate-General (EU)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
DBL - Centre for Health Research and Development
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
and hosted by
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Nairobi, Kenya, 13-15 November 2007

Recommendations

- *At the Global level:*
 - Establish a WHO global scientific advisory committee in collaboration with FAO and OIE where veterinary and medical fields are represented together with other relevant technical areas.
 - Step up advocacy for NZDs and for " the one health approach". Participants recommended that WHO with other Organizations involved (particularly FAO and OIE) take a leading role in this by bringing NZDs prevention and control to the attention of their respective governing bodies. A realistic target date for WHO would be the World Health Assembly (WHA) of May 2009. The involvement of international organizations not represented at this meeting such as UNICEF was recommended.
 - There is an urgent need to increase awareness of decision-makers, the donor community and other stakeholders on the burden, impact on livelihoods, human health and other costs imposed by NZDs.
 - In an effort to further increase awareness and to mobilize much needed resources it was proposed that during the 3rd International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza held in New Delhi, 4-6 December 2007 the extension of the scope of the work to AI *and* other zoonoses prevention and control including those which are neglected, be considered¹.
 - As NZDs are mostly affecting populations living in the tropics the WHO Plan to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) for 2008-2015 includes NZDs. It was recommended that this be made clearer in NTDs' advocacy documents including the NTDs' website².

¹ Action already taken by the EU. A statement endorsed by the 21 members and shared with FAO, OIE and WHO will be made during the New Delhi pledging meeting.

² Discussion already held with Director NTD, action being taken within WHO

- Keep up to date and disseminate inventories of vaccines, treatments, public awareness materials, suppliers and supplies related to NZDs prevention and control.
 - WHO and partners should plan the next Global NZDs conference (proposed deadline: end of 2009).
- *At the Regional level:*
 - As Africa is a key area for NZDs control, the Global Advisory Committee should include representation from AFRO, EMRO and AU (IBAR and human health group) as well as other regional institutions. Its main role will be to share and communicate information and provide a model for how the "one health" approach can be applied in Africa in relation to neglected zoonoses in the context of those eco-systems which facilitate their transmissions and existing institutional frameworks for their prevention and control.
 - The Consultation proposes that the President of Liberia Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf be invited to be associated to the work of the Advisory Committee focusing on Africa.
 - AU, FAO, OIE and WHO should coordinate the setting up of a biennial meeting of Ministers of Agriculture/Livestock and Health from African states, with a plan to reviewing issues of joint concern regarding NZDs. (This should be modelled on the biennial RIMSA meeting organized in Latin America coordinated by PAHO).
 - WHO, FAO, OIE and other organizations/entities (e.g. AU, EU, World Bank, African Development Bank, ALive, bilateral development agencies, international foundations, etc.) should join forces and play a supporting and facilitating role for cooperation, intersectoral collaboration, coordination and resource mobilization by organizing regular regional executive meetings involving ministers of Health and Agriculture/Livestock as well as technical meetings, stimulating (operational) research, strengthening veterinary and health services.
 - Newly established regional FAO/OIE/AU animal health centers should support NZDs activities within their regions
 - WHO with FAO and OIE should lead a regional inventory of existing intersectoral arrangements and ongoing zoonoses control programme
 - WHO (AFRO with HQ support) should develop of a Regional Strategy and midterm plan for zoonoses prevention and control
 - WHO, FAO, OIE and other organizations/entities (AU, EU, WB, Alive, etc.) should plan for next the Africa Regional meeting on NZDs (suggested deadline early 2009).
 - *At the National level (with Global and Regional inputs)*
 - Clarify the role of national VPH structures in the context of their contribution to health care, while recognizing that the responsibilities of VPH go beyond NZDs.
 - Use guidelines developed by the Global Advisory Committee as to how VPH units should be established and structured. It will be crucial to be very clear as to whom they report to and where they are located. The Consultation recommends that the mandate of the national intersectoral committees or task forces established to deal with AI should include other

zoonoses of public health significance. In addition these committees should become permanent as successfully done in Ethiopia.

- Produce and diffuse advocacy and informational material in all media (radio, films, print media, etc.) to target the decision makers and those who implement/enforce recommendations and separately to target the end users i.e. the people threatened most by these diseases. For the first group briefing documents which target specific key decision-makers (Ministers of Agriculture/Livestock, Finance, Health, Education, Interior and writers of policy documents) will need to be designed. For the second group it is vital that mass media technicians and communication experts be actively involved in developing educational materials.
- Include zoonoses in the education system (alongside other health and veterinary issues) at all levels from primary school onwards and integrate NZDs in the health delivery system.
- Include NZDs in the curriculum of both veterinarians and physicians with the possibility to offer joint courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Promote synergy through reciprocal dialogue between employers and educational institutes so that employers (e.g ministries) advise educational establishments what profiles are required for effective NZDs control.
- Conduct pilot studies on NZDs' burden and societal costs, risk analysis and adjusting for underreporting. In particular conduct cost analysis of 'incentive based research and intervention packages', and study the relationship between poverty, human health related risks, livestock production, distribution systems and value chains (farm to fork, stable to table) and NZDs.
- Identify list of notifiable NZDs (in humans and animals) in each country, evaluate and develop diagnostic tools (including molecular tools) and conduct Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) studies in local settings. Improve compatibility of human and animal NZDs reporting systems.
- Initiate pilot studies to test the acceptability, effectiveness, timing and costing of possible combined integrated prevention and control packages. In this relation WHO and its partners should produce guidelines for development and delivery of integrated NZDs control and prevention packages. Increased public awareness of all relevant audiences is a crucial and cross-cutting component of any integrated package.