
**OIE/WHO Sub-Regional Workshop on zoonosis in Central Asian and
South Caucasus countries
Astana, Kazakhstan, 15-16 November 2018**

Meeting recommendations

Background

Interactions and convergence of people, animals and the environment has created a situation through which health of animals is inextricably linked with human health. The “One Health” concept is founded on an awareness of major opportunities existing to protect public health through policies aimed at preventing and controlling zoonoses and emerging diseases, at the interface between humans, animals and the environment.

Over the last 3 decades, approximately 60% of existing human infectious diseases are zoonotic, 75% of new emerging human infectious diseases reported have an animal origin. In Central Asia and South Caucasus countries, WHO and OIE offices, working closely with the competent authorities, identified, among the numerous zoonoses, three priority diseases of paramount importance for human and animal health: brucellosis, rabies and echinococcosis. All of them spread worldwide, with high economic and public health impacts and may benefit from a multi-sectoral collaboration in Member Countries.

Objectives of the meeting

The first meeting was convened with the overall objective to increase country awareness about global activities and list all types of challenges which countries face to implement the global initiatives at national level. More specifically, the objectives were to:

- ✓ present the One Health concept and the synergies between animal health, public health and environmental specialists at international level;
- ✓ provide an update on situational and scientific information on brucellosis, rabies and echinococcosis, at global, regional and country levels;
- ✓ develop/strengthen functional and sustainable national mechanisms for routine multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration on health issues at the human-animal-ecosystems interface;

- ✓ discuss effective means or options for these three diseases' prevention, control and elimination strategies and their challenges for the countries;
- ✓ present main measures/capacity to prevent zoonosis in Public Health;
- ✓ improve regional cooperation to fight these diseases in the framework of the "One Health" concept.

The participants were specialists from both the health and veterinary sectors from: Kazakhstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, experts, representatives from UN agencies and international organizations.

Meeting recommendations

The last session of the meeting was to develop recommendation for future actions, which were adopted and approved in the final plenary session of the meeting.

The participants agreed the following recommendations:

For the Member States:

1. to strengthen political commitment through high level advocacy to accelerate prevention and control of zoonosis;
2. to foster intersectoral collaboration, countries are encouraged, as a first step, to conduct national bridging workshops;
3. to regularly share data on zoonosis and experiences in surveillance and control of zoonoses with OIE/WHO;
4. in collaboration with OIE/WHO, to identify operational research priorities on epidemiological situation, prevention and control of zoonoses;
5. to identify and characterize, in terms of morbidity, social and economic impact zoonoses of public health importance with the aim to update prioritization;
6. to develop joint (human/animal) strategy and action plan on priority zoonoses, using the One Health approach.
7. to develop and/or update national guidance and regulations in accordance with OIE/WHO normative guidance;

For OIE/WHO:

1. To provide technical support and guidance and continue to facilitate cross sectoral collaboration among public health and animal health sectors at national and regional levels
2. to support national bridging workshops in countries;
3. to document countries experiences to promote and facilitate sharing best practices across countries;
4. to support countries in strengthening of epidemiology/epizootiology capacity;
5. to disseminate existing normative guidance on clinical management, surveillance and control of zoonoses;
6. to support mobilization of resources to accelerate prevention and control of zoonosis
7. to continue facilitating and supporting this initiative and promote an intersectoral cooperation through different activities on the national/subregional/regional levels.