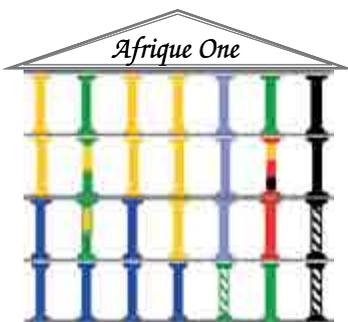


Afrique One News

N° 008, Juin 2015

A f r i q u e O n e N e w s l e t t e r



**Combined actions
for strengthening
health interventions**

e ditorial



Prof Bassirou Bonfoh
Director Consortium
Afrique One

Dear readers,

In Africa, research partnership is key in health intervention through shared science combined actions from different disciplines and regions. The current newsletter report on activities comprising training, meeting as well as publication and grant awards. The consortium Afrique promoted a comprehensive module for researcher named “learning package”. These modules are provided to African research institutions on demand and through regular summer schools.

The 8th Afrique One management board meeting assessed the progress and plan to go for a second step together with the Wellcome Trust by applying for the new grant scheme (WT DELTAS initiative). We base the application on the 5 years achievements and on potential, opportunities and gaps described within the process of internal audit and cross-evaluation. The application is validated for submission and the entire consortium seized the opportunity to strengthen the capacity on the fellows in supervision and mentorship. So far Afrique One is moving to more autonomy with the number of grants mobilized by the members. We look for more projects and publications in the near future!

Good Reading and warmest regards.

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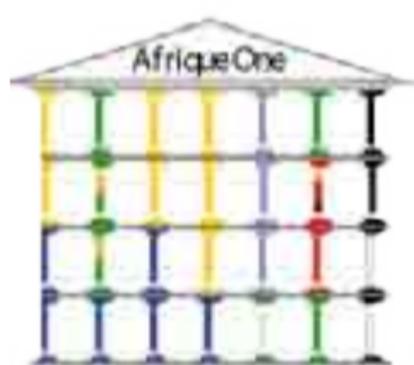
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L ogo Charter



A note on the consortium logo: We likened our efforts to building this consortium to that of building a house. Understanding of higher-level population and ecosystem processes rests hierarchically on sound

understanding of simpler processes. Vertically aligned sets of pillars, each representing different zoonotic diseases, support these different levels of our understanding of ecosystem health - the same disease potentially contributing to understanding at different levels. Different colours represent the contributions of different institutions to this understanding, so some pillars are multi-coloured, and of course some pillars await construction.

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News

Learning package : acteurs et partenaires du LCV de Bamako renforcent leurs capacités

A l'initiative du Consortium Afrique One, le Laboratoire Central Vétérinaire (LCV) de Bamako (Mali) a servi de cadre pour l'édition du Welcome Package qui s'est déroulée du 17 au 21 Novembre 2014 avec pour thème "Gestion de la recherche appliquée à la santé". Cette édition qui s'inscrivait dans le cadre du Protocole d'Accord Cadre de Coopération entre le Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS) et le LCV de Bamako (une institution satellite d'Afrique One) signé en Mars 2013, visait également le renforcement de la capacité institutionnelle du LCV de Bamako. La formation a enregistré la participation d'une trentaine de chercheurs, de comptables, d'administrateurs ainsi que de responsables de suivi évaluation et communication.

Durant 5 jours, ils ont bénéficié de divers modules (i) Règles et procédures dans une institution de recherches (ii) Anglais et rédaction scientifique (iii) Planification et exécution de projet (iv) Méthodes qualitatives. La coordination et la supervision étaient assurées par Dr Boubacar Diallo (DG) et Dr Mamadou Niang (DGA) du LCV de Bamako.



Notons qu'après Abidjan (28 Août - 03 Septembre), N'djamena (1^{er} - 10 Octobre), Bamako a accueilli la 3^{ème} édition au titre de l'année 2014. Pour toute information complémentaire sur les opportunités de formations délivrées dans le cadre d'Afrique One, prière consulter le site internet du Consortium Afrique One www.afriqueone.net.

Summer School 2014

The 2nd edition of "Afrique One Summer School on One Health" which started last August 27 at Nsa Hotel in Grand Bassam, ended on Wednesday, September 3rd, 2014, with twenty-seven participants (Master students, PhD students and postdocs) from 19 research institutions and 12 African countries. Over a week, participants were trained on various integrated research modules, including (i) the design of research in the inter-and transdisciplinary model, management and cost of research, career planning, communication, ethics and integrity in research, scientific English (ii) the scientific basis of the One Health concept and impact assessment; (iii) integrated research on sites (iv) qualitative and quantitative methods (v) scientific writing.

From theory to practice with site visits, group work, capacity building courses, development of a team project, the training developed widespread feeling of satisfaction among all participants as evidenced by the following comments : Mori Doua Prisca from Université Alassane Ouattara (Côte d'Ivoire): "I really want to thank the Consortium Afrique One and the CSRS".

Maah Mengo from the University of Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania): "I feel good because I learned a lot during that week including scientific writing of projects and I think it will be very



beneficial for me especially when writing my PhD".

Kenneth Byashalira from the National Institute for Medical Research (Tanzania): "For me this course was wonderful. When coming here, I felt a lot of gaps but I'm sure I'm departing with additional knowledge especially in scientific writing as well as in scientific english".

Samuel Ofori Addo from Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (Ghana): "I am delighted to have participated in this training. From now, I understand the concept of One Health and I strongly appreciated the interdisciplinary approach that will allow me to work better with others".

8th Management Board meeting coupled with training



The Consortium Afrique One has just been implemented for 5 years. Consequently, the 8th management board meeting coupled with training was convened from October 29th to November 02nd 2014 at Kundunchi hotel, Tanzania, in order to discuss important issues on how to ensure smooth and fruitful end of Phase one and to take advantage of this opportunity to strategize for the second phase. More specifically, activities under Phase One were reviewed including Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) feedback, financial report and training on students' supervision. Attendants ranged from Principal Investigators (PIs), Postdocs, deans of institutions, SAB members, Afrique One coordination staff to journalists.

The meeting started with open remark from Prof. Bassirou Bonfoh, Director of the Consortium Afrique One. "Today, we are organizing the 8th Management Board meeting and from this meeting, we need to question ourselves: 5 years later, have we been able to change the research and institutional environment within our institutions? Do we have today critical mass of researchers working on the One Health concept? Are

the postdocs doing well? What are the scientific outputs and how much could postdocs build capacities of young researchers?" These were the key questions that Prof. Bassirou Bonfoh called the meeting to answer before inviting participants to closely look at the Consortium financial system. "With or without funds from the Welcome Trust, we need to think of how our consortium will look in the future. This is the biggest challenge we need to handle here", he ended.

He was then followed by Dr. Mwele N. Malecela, Director General of the National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) in Tanzania. During her speech, she particularly insisted on Afrique One success stories. "10 years ago, we could not afford postdoc positions, but today this has become common. Also, Afrique One supported several lecturer buy outs. This specific activity really moved the consortium ahead" she recognized. "One of the things that really impressed is the level of transparency in the Consortium Afrique One" she stated, before opening officially the Management Board meeting.

Right from the beginning of the meeting, emphasis was put on oral presentations by Afrique One sub awardees as follows:

| Country | Institution | Topic | Postdoc |
|---------------|-------------|---|------------------|
| Côte d'Ivoire | CSRS | Zoonotic risks of non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) transmission between humans and small mammals (potential transmission of Buruli ulcer) in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana | Lydia Mosi |
| Senegal | EISMV | Role of ecosystems, animals and humans in maintaining parasitic cycles of neosporosis, toxoplasmosis and sarcosporidiosis | Philippe Koné |
| Tanzania | MUHAS | Feasibility for integration of Rift Valley Fever preparedness and response in Kongwa, Tanzania | Mangi Ezekiel |
| Tanzania | UNA | sanitary safety of the small game (food) in Côte d'Ivoire: grasscutter and giant African snail cases | Karamoko Yahaya |
| Tanzania | NIMR | Epidemiology of lungs diseases in agro-pastoral and pastoral communities in Tanzania | Esther Ngadaya |
| Tanzania | SUA | Studies of non-malarial fevers (main focus zoonotic infections) | Lucas Matimba |
| Tanzania | UDSM | Status, Epidemiology and Health impact of Cysticercosis infection in Iringa and Manyara regions of Tanzania | Mwita Chacha |
| Tanzania | TAWIRI | Achievements and challenges during participation in Afrique One consortium (Sept 2010- June 2014) | Robert Fyumagwa |
| Chad | IREC | The Role of Kouri cattle, small ruminants, camels, Buffaloes and Human. | Richard Ngandolo |
| Uganda | MAKUN | Afrique One at Makerere University: a general overview | Vincent P. Alibu |
| Ghana | NMIMR | NMIMR on Host immunological profiling from exposure to Mtb to active TB disease, in response to recently discovered differentially expressed Mtb proteins: a tuberculosis case-contact study in Ghana | Glory Ivy Mensah |

After discussions and debates regarding the details provided, Afrique One postdocs were kindly advised to adjust their respective works accordingly.

The capacity building opportunity on supervision provided by Professor Samira Hamid Abdelrahman was truly remarkable. For about 3 hours, the guest from Blue Nile National Institute for Communicable Diseases (University of Gezira/consortium SNOWS) tried to analyze the style of supervisors and students and the organization of the supervisory process as well. *"Whatever the style of the supervisor, it should be for the benefit and the accomplishment of research activities in time and in the best quality"* she said. Coming back to the process of supervision, Prof. Samira revealed that Supervision is not only a technical issue but it has also something to do with good management from the side of the supervisor and the student. She insisted that there should also be a plan for supervision including a plan for the training of students. And lastly, she suggested minuted meetings of supervisors and stu-

dents for them to make the follow up process easier.

Regarding the management board meeting, emphasis was rather put on the political and scientific orientation of the next phase in which a number of research groups had been put in place till November 24, drafting date for the next phase proposal. As far as the future organization is concerned, the meeting confirmed the coming on board of three new institutions (i) Biosciences eastern and central Africa (BeCA) (ii) Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) and (iii) Ifakara Health Institute (IHI). Additionally, the meeting helped to set up the basis of Afrique One alliance which appointed Addo Kwasi as Chairman and Enock Matovu as General Secretary. After various scientific posters exhibition and oral presentations made by Afrique One young students, the scientific advisory board respectively adjudged Nyarobi (poster) and Glory Ivy Mensah (oral presentation) as the 1st prize winners.

each member institution which might lead to communication trends. From there, the idea issued by the coordination consisted in initiating weekly skype meetings in order to reinforce collaboration and information sharing among members. To date, Afrique One is close to satisfaction as far as this key issue is concerned and therefore plans to keep on with such innovations.

Despite these good reasons to get involved into scientific collaboration, there are still limiting factors. Indeed, there

are some arguments as to why collaboration may undermine productivity. Most important, one can note transaction costs associated with working with others (Landry and Amara, 1998). Keeping in touch with various media, waiting for others to comment, respond or do their part of the research etc. These are just few factors taking time and energy even in the best collaborative relationships. These critics are also observable within the Consortium Afrique One. Fortunately, the yearly Management Board meeting gives us a chance to catch up.



Activities ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Afrique One as a model of collaboration in science

Most people apparently assume that collaboration has positive effects on research productivity. Research in many fields is more complex and requires more specialized knowledge, more than single individuals can expect to have. *"Over the last seven or eight years important progress has been made in the genetics of immune-mediated diseases because people realized that we all had to collaborate globally on specific diseases to be able to actually make any progress"* said Professor Matt Brown from the University of Queensland Diamantina Institute in Brisbane. Another would say *"big Science often requires collaboration"* (De Solla Price, 1963). The Consortium Afrique One was accordingly launched in 2009 with a vision to make significant contributions to the health and well-being of Africa's human and animal populations through capacity building in research. Right from Afrique One inception, key regional collaboration drivers were identified among which; (i) PostDoc Fellowship Programme; (ii) lecturer buy-out; (iii) training in key areas based on individual and institutional needs; (iv) short term exchange visit across-institutions; (v) modest infrastructure & equipment support fund; (vi) Policy pairing and stakeholders involvement. These drivers made it possible to achieve excellent outputs 5 years later. One of the achievements in the collaboration arena remains the settlement of a mycobacterial Group which made it possible to write a common project entitled *"Mycobacterial diseases in human and animal population in Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana*

and Tanzania: towards identification of new biomarkers for tuberculosis, Buruli ulcer and other emerging mycobacterial diseases". Additionally, it is worth mentioning that Afrique One is very often associated with various international scientific activities that enhance its collaborative skills. On February 2013 at CIRDES, Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), the Principal Investigator (PI) of University Nangui Abrogoua in Abidjan, Prof Agathe Fantodji attended the eighth (8th) session of the Scientific Council (SC) of Centre International de Recherche Développement sur l'Élevage en zone Subhumide (CIRDES). During the meeting, the PI presented the vision and concern for Afrique One Consortium in livestock and animal health. Furthermore, an inter-institutional relationship between UNA and Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa-Hub International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI BecA-Hub), Nairobi, Kenya, was initiated through a research carried out by PhD student Kouadio Parfait on "Genetic diversity and population structure of guinea pigs (*Cavia porcellus* (Linnaeus, 1758) in central regions of the Côte d'Ivoire." The student who performed the work stayed at BeCA which offered him the platform to implement the DNA extraction and PCR using 14 SSR markers. The researcher benefitted from data analysis using GenAlex, Power Marker, Darwin, Arlequin and Structure. This is the first entry point of Afrique One in BeCA (Biosciences eastern and Central Africa).

Afrique One is quite aware of the distance separating

The process of 'evidence-informed policy making' has been defined by Davies (2004, p.5) as *"an approach that helps people make well informed decisions about policies, programmes and projects by putting the best available evidence from research at the heart of policy development and implementation"*. It has been suggested that there are a number of key points in which research can assist the policy-making process; for instance, by aiding the identification of a problem, by helping to create, form or steer the public agenda, or by aiding (or inspiring) policy directorates in the development of their initiatives (Nutley, Walter & Davies, 2007; Perry, Amadeo, Fletcher & Walker, 2010; Brown, 2011). Research evidence is not sufficient, but it is essential if health policies are to be well-informed, especially in an African context where resources are scarcer. It becomes therefore extremely necessary that research evidence informs policy-making in order to ensure both efficiency in addressing health issues and a wise use of limited resources. Unfortunately as it may seem, evidence-informed action is rare and still suffering from negligence.

Based on such an analysis, the Consortium Afrique One, since 2009, has been trying to bring an innovative response which facilitates the collaboration between scientist and decision makers. Within the Consortium, various testimonies are now available. At IRED (Institut de Recherche en Elevage pour le Développement) in Chad, the Government through its Ministry of Livestock officially recognizes Afrique One evidences used within the frame-

Evidence, policy and actions

work of the National anti-rabies campaign. Additionally, Afrique One PostDoc is now involved in the national scientific committee in charge of TB management which is under supervision of the the Ministry of Public Health. At Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in Tanzania, Information, Education materials for Rift Valley Fever (RVF) has been approved & included into the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare (MoHSW) materials data bank. At Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research (NMIMR) in Ghana, the project on the prevalence of TB in cattle has touched the food chain and animal handlers.

Still, one has to acknowledge that the achievements listed above are not sufficient due to a number of obstacles. Indeed, when policymakers are willing and eager to incorporate evidence in decision-making, they are faced with the challenge of not knowing often where to find such actionable evidence, since the majority of results are either presented at research conferences or published in academic journals. When they do find rigorous evidence, policymakers may have difficulty interpreting it because it is mostly written for academic audiences in technical language. This is the main reason why Afrique One is keenly interested in publishing policy briefs to easily avail research evidences. One would say "It's researcher's duty to tell the truth to policy makers to help them make right decisions". Afrique One is definitely involved in such a dynamic and needs to be supported by all researchers all over the African continent.

Interview ●●●●●●

Interview with:

Samira Hamid Abderhaman,
Professor of community medicine at the faculty
of medicine at the university of Gezira, Sudan



Afrique One: Would you please introduce yourself?

Prof Samira Hamid (SH): My name is Samira Hamid Abderhaman, Professor of community medicine at the faculty of medicine at the university of Gezira, Sudan and as well, Dean of the Blue Nile National Institute for Communicable Diseases which is established as partnership between the University of Gezira and the Sudan Ministry of Health.

Afrique One: Could you please tell us a little bit about SNOWS?

SH: SNOWS stands for Scientists Network for Outcomes from Water and Sanitation. SNOWS is one Consortium part of the African Institutions Initiative which is supported by the Wellcome Trust. SNOWS was established among the other consortia and it consisted during the last phase of nine institutions among which 3 northern partners and six African institutions. The northern institutions are (i) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (ii) University of East Anglia/UK (iii) University of Copenhagen (no longer members). The six African institutions are (i) Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Ghana (ii) Tsan University for Science and Technology (TUT) in South Africa (iii) University of Venda in South Africa (iv) Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Uganda (v) Egerton University in Kenya (vi) University of Gezira in Sudan. Our consortium is concerned with strengthening the African research capacity in relation to water, sanitation and environmental health and SNOWS has strong linkages with lines sectors, institutions and organizations working in the field. Member African universities in the different countries are working together with local partners, including ministry of health and water corporation and local authorities so as to ensure producing relevant research findings and to facilitate maximum uptake of research findings by the concerned authorities in the different sectors as well.

Afrique One: What are the comparative advantages between Afrique One and SNOWS?

SH: I think we are working in similar thematic. We are both aiming towards the improvement of African populations' health. Of course, Afrique One is more focused on animal health. However, if we look into sanitation and hygiene as part of SNOWS mandate, this has a lot to do with animal health as well. Finally we both aim at the improvement of health in Africa.

Afrique One: What makes the particularity of SNOWS?

SH: SNOWS addresses a broad spectrum of issues, including water quality, safe water supply and water related diseases in different communities. The same applies to sanitation and hygiene. To improve African research capacity in the indicated areas SNOWS works through multidisciplinary research teams in the member universities. Northern members provided great assistance, including development of training curricula, training of researchers and joint supervision of graduate students.

Afrique One: What has motivated SNOWS - Afrique One collaboration?

SH: First, I must extend my thanks to Afrique One family for inviting me to Dar Es Salaam and the reason why I'm here is to participate and share experience we have in SNOWS in the important issue of improving supervision of graduate students. In my opinion, it is mandatory to assist each other as brothers and sisters.

Afrique One: What do you expect from Afrique One?

SH: Of course. I think we need that especially in the domain of animal health where Afrique One is well experienced including a lot of publications and research they have made in this area. This is actually encouraged by the Wellcome Trust, I mean cross consortia collaboration and we really need it as African institutions.

Afrique One: What are the main challenges regarding supervision?

SH: I delivered two plenary sessions. In the first one I gave an analysis of different styles of supervisors and different types of students, together with the advantages and limitations of each. I emphasized the fact that we cannot have a supervisor with only one style. We always have different styles in one supervisor. It is important to realize what style really suits with different stages of the graduate student's research. So, the main message is that whatever the style of the supervisor, it should be for the benefit of the student, for the benefit of accomplishing the research timely and in the best quality.

The second session was on the process of supervision and I emphasized that supervision is not only a technical issue, it requires good management from the side of the supervisor and the student. As I indicated, supervision of graduate students should be addressed in three layers:

1- We should have a plan for the supervisor including a plan for the training of the student: what courses should the students be offered? and when?

2- Then we should have progress report signed by the student and supervisor/s and department to which the

student is affiliated

3- We should have minuted supervisory meetings

I shared in my presentations examples of simple templates for the supervisory meeting and progress report.

Afrique One: Last remarks?

SH: Great THANK YOU to Afrique One family for allowing me this opportunity to visit the elegant Dar Es Salaam. It's good to share experience. In fact I learned a lot from the discussions and suggestions that came from around the table. I would like to thank as well the Director of SNOWS, Professor Samuel Oddi who nominated me to come and offer this training on supervision. I lastly want to thank the Vice Chancellor of Gezira University, Professor Mohamed Warrag Omer who facilitated my travel and participation.



Zoom on projects

Rift Valley fever response and preparedness activities into existing disease control programme at district level in Kongwa, Tanzania

Mangi J. Ezekiel

Afrique One Postdoc at Behavioural Sciences Department, Muhimbili University of Health & Allied Sciences, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

The project was designed to offer alternative approaches to integration of efforts from different actors in addressing emerging zoonotic disease outbreak in Tanzania. Evidence from previous Rift Valley fever (RVF) outbreaks revealed lack of outbreak preparedness education, uncoordinated response, duplication of efforts, and wastage of resources, disciplinary isolation and minimal success in managing disease outbreaks. Furthermore, there was limited understanding of the disease and its transmission dynamics, and low perceived susceptibility to the disease.

MUHAS (through the Behavioural Sciences Department) recently introduced a new post graduate programme. One of the candidates in the programme is conducting a study on food handling practices in relation to RVF. The project is supporting the candidate as a launching pad for future behavioural studies in zoonoses. This is in efforts to recognize the sociological and behavioural input in the interdisciplinary equation in tackling climate sensitive zoonoses of public health relevance to Tanzania and beyond.

The involvement of ministries of health and livestock proved



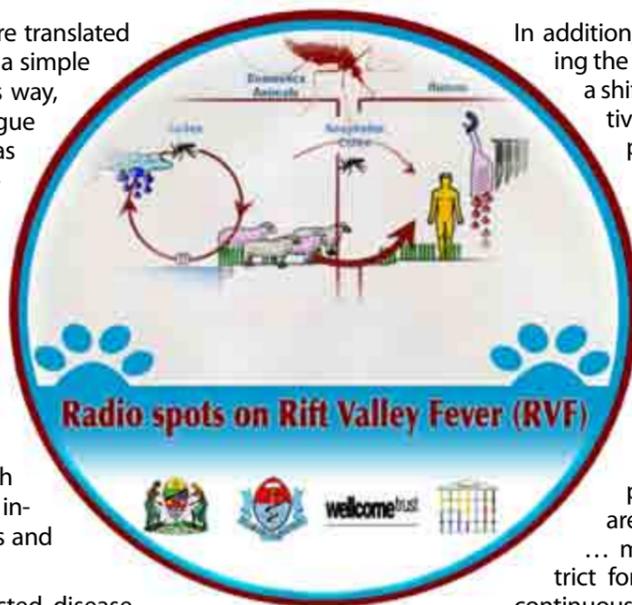
to be useful in designing a community wide intervention to promote RVF awareness and outbreak preparedness. The process of designing our behavior change intervention benefitted from inputs from different professionals from the ministries. We have created a repository of information, education and communication materials (songs, poems, radio spots and radio programmes, leaflet and posters with RVF messages) that are being used at the community level and in teaching

at the university. One of the key lessons in implementing the intervention is the need to engage private sector and particularly the mass media in promoting RVF awareness and preparedness education. Application of the one health concept in designing and implementing health education programmes at community level using local theatre and radio incorporate ecosystems issues.

In efforts to promote uptake of one health research findings, MUHAS project has utilized a less popularly known but useful avenue for research dissemination. Using a 'bottom up' approach, findings from our study have been disseminated to district, ward and village leaders to promote ownership of

research findings. The findings were translated in the local language (Kiswahili) in a simple and user friendly language. In this way, we seek to promote routine dialogue with research end users as well as promote utilization of research evidence generated from universities to influence policy making and implementation at district level. We hope that in a long run this may contribute to a shift in modalities of introducing social behavior change among researchers by introducing a "bottom up" approach that incorporates the opinion of local population with first-hand experience of climate induced disasters/diseases outbreaks and its effects on wellbeing.

Being a rarely known and neglected disease, RVF required greater recognition both from professional and research circles. In this regard, MUHAS Afrique One has been at the fore front in creating a Rift Valley Fever community of practice (RVF CoP). The CoP brings together human and animal health professionals from across the country. What is interesting about the network is the fact that it also brings together researchers from SACIDS, NatCIDS and Afrique One; all of whom are supported by the Wellcome Trust. The RVF CoP is the first ever (virtual and physical) network of researchers, policy makers and students to promote dialogue and exchange/application of scientific knowledge and evidence on RVF in Tanzania.



In addition, during the period of conducting the intervention, we have witnessed a shift in outlook and behavior (adaptive capability, disaster/outbreak preparedness) with regard to potential effects of rift Valley fever among community members and professionals. In one of the most recent interviews conducted as part of end line evaluation, a veterinary professional at the ministry admitted that RVF is taken more seriously than before and described some of the ongoing actions being part of outbreak preparedness; "Strategic plans are being prepared every year and ... money is allocated for each district for disasters. Health education is continuous... and animal slaughtering is increasingly done in improved abattoirs and meat is sold in modern butcherries particularly here in Dodoma" (In Depth Interview Veterinary Officer, Dodoma).

One of the key lessons learned in implementing the intervention is the need for health planners to promote RVF awareness and behavior change through information, education and communication (IEC) strategies that may reach different sections of the communities on a regular basis. Lastly, we have explored and documented factors affecting inter-sectoral collaboration in response to RVF outbreaks and a better understanding of modalities for improved collaboration among actors in human and animal health.

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- Ezekiel MJ, Nyamhagatta M, Lwezaura S & Moshiro C (2014). Prevalence and predictors of HIV in adults 50+ in Shinyanga, Iringa and Ruvuma regions of Tanzania. In: Proceedings of the 28 NIMR Joint Scien-

Grant (August 2013- August 2014)

- Learning Events for Researchers from Developing Countries. This programme was supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC. 15000 CH
- TWAS - The World Academy of Sciences for the Advancement of Science in Developing Countries – Functional classification of selected oxidate stress response pseudogenes in Mycobacterium ulcerans with respect to acquisition of mycolactone producing plasmid. - \$16,900, 2014-2016. Role:PI - FUNDED
- The Leverhulme-Royal Society Africa Award - Africa Awards Phase II. Modelling the growth of Mycobacterium ulcerans in aquatic biofilms to gain insights into the transmission of Buruli ulcer. Submitted 29th November, 2013. Not funded. Role PI. Collaborator: Dr. Rachel Simmonds, University of Surrey
- Call for applications of WHO and the Programme from Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR).This call is for identifying a regional training centre in the WHO African region (Submitted on 30 June and we will get an answer in September)
- Developing a Control Mechanism of Taenia solium Cysticercosis Based on locally Generated Evidence and adapted interventions in Tanzania. Grant submitted to MRC 722,550 GBP in collaboration with MUHAS and Salford university (UK).
- Strengthening the human capacity to conduct research at Serengeti Wildlife Research Centre. Phase III of the project "Status and dynamics of biodiversity and community livelihood along the proposed northern Serengeti road. Role Co-investigator.
- Social, Economic and Environmental Drivers of Zoonoses in Tanzania (SEEDZ). Donor: BBSRC. Project duration: 4 years (2014-2018). Role: Co-investigator. Amount requested is 2,773,266.40 GBP
- Simian strains of the bacterium Treponema pallidum: a reservoir for human yaws infection and a missing link to understand syphilis's evolution?" KN 1097/3-1 and RO 3055/2-1. Donor: German Research Foundation (DFG). Project duration: 3 years (2014-2017). Role: Co-Investigator. Amount requested is 507,800 €.
- Assessment of Visitor Facilities and Tourism Experience in Kilimanjaro and Serengeti National Parks. Donor: Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA). Funding Level: 39,731,520 TZS. Project duration: 1year (January –December 2014). Role: Principal Investigator.
- Community based approach on tsetse and trypanosomiasis control for improved agro-pastoral production systems in Serengeti ecosystem.

tific Conference;

- Mulindwa J, Fadda A, Merce C, Matovu, E, Enyaru J (2014): Methods to determine the transcriptomes of trypanosomes in mixtures with Mammalian cells: the effects of parasite purification and selective cDNA amplification. Plos negl. Trop. Dis. 8(4) e2816
- Mugasa CM, Katiiti D, Boobo A, Lubega GW, Matovu E (2014): Comparison of nucleic acid sequence-based amplification and loop-mediated isothermal amplification for diagnosis of human African trypanosomiasis. Diagn Microbial Infect Dis. 78(2):144-8

Donor: National Fund for the Advancement of Science and Technology (NAFAST) in Tanzania. Funding level (89,490,000/= Tshs).Project duration: Three years (2013-2017). Role: Co-applicant.

- Towards developing integrated system and mitigation measures for improving road safety, conservation of threatened species and animal welfare: the case of Tanzania-Zambia highway. Donor: Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA). Funding level: 38,160,000 TZS. Project duration: 1 year (2014). Role: Principal Investigator.
- Learning Events for Researchers from Developing Countries. This programme was supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC. 15000 CH
- TWAS - The World Academy of Sciences for the Advancement of Science in Developing Countries – Functional classification of selected oxidate stress response pseudogenes in Mycobacterium ulcerans with respect to acquisition of mycolactone producing plasmid. - \$16,900, 2014-2016. Role:PI –
- The Leverhulme-Royal Society Africa Award - Africa Awards Phase II. Modelling the growth of Mycobacterium ulcerans in aquatic biofilms to gain insights into the transmission of Buruli ulcer. Submitted 29th November, 2013. Role PI. Collaborator: Dr. Rachel Simmonds, University of Surrey.
- Applications of WHO and the Programme from Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR). This call is for identifying a regional training centre in the WHO African region (Submitted on 30 June and we will get an answer in September). The budget submitted for 4 regional trainings a year was 375 059 USD (Training for 50 peoples for 1 week including field visits for case studies, 20 foreign participants, 25 local and 5 facilitators).
- One study passed first round. The study is titled "Tanzania Newborn Study: an innovative method to reduce new born mortality (RENEMO) through the use of bidirectional linkages of clinic and community based interventions - a cluster randomized controlled trial." Submitted to Global Health Research Initiative (GHRI) in Canada.
- A proposal to EU Horizon-2020: Linking biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services in the Great Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem (GSME) - drivers of change, causalities and sustainable management strategies: African Bio Services.
- Improving diagnosis of extrapulmonary tuberculosis by implementation of a sensitive and specific assay in routine tuberculosis diagnostics: PI Tehmina Mustafa University of Bergen, Center for International Health Co-PI, Sayoki G Mfinanga, and NIMR Muhimbili. Funder: GLOBVAC, Norway = 400, 000 USD

Conferences attended

Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) attended and presented at two conferences :

- NIMR SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE HELD IN DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania, Dar es Salaam
- MUHAS SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE, 2-5 May 2014 in Tanzania, Dar es Salaam.

The following were the research works presented :

- Mangi J Ezekiel1*, Mukome Nyamhagatta2, Sharon Lwezaula3& Cándida S. Moshiro4

Prevalence and predictors of HIV infection among adults aged 50 years and above in Shinyanga, Iringa and Ruvuma regions of Tanzania (NIMR Scientific conference)

- Eliaisa Rama & Mangi J Ezekiel, Factors affecting inter sectoral collaboration in response to rift valley fever outbreaks in Kongwa, Tanzania (MUHAS Scientific conference)
- Laura Mushi, Mangi Ezekiel & Mecky Matee, Provider initiated counselling and testing in Dar es salaam (MUHAS scientific conference)

N° 001



N° 002



N° 003



N° 007



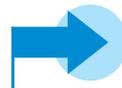
N° 004



N° 005



N° 006



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