

The Control of Neglected Zoonotic Diseases



From advocacy to action

Report of the fourth international meeting held
at WHO headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
19-20 November 2014

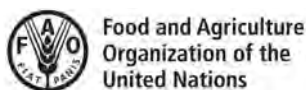


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Acknowledgements

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¹ UOE: University of Edinburgh, UCPH: University of Copenhagen, UOF: University of Florida, UOL: University of Liverpool, UKZN: University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, UOG: University of Glasgow.

Preface

This meeting was the fourth in a series of meetings on Neglected Zoonotic Diseases (NZDs). The first meeting was held in 2005, when the priority was on gathering evidence and gaining an understanding of NZDs. Now 10 years later, substantial momentum and significant volumes of evidence have been gathered by the NZD community. There are now proven pathways for control and even elimination of certain NZDs. Thus in 2014 the focus of our meeting moved 'From Advocacy to Action'.

The goal of this meeting was to showcase successful One Health programmes from across the world and identify ways to achieve the NZD control milestones as specified in the WHO roadmap².

As in previous meetings, One Health researchers and representatives from the animal and human health sectors worldwide came together to network and explore ways to extend current control interventions to new locations and to other NZDs. Health education and communication remain key tools for promoting awareness and advocacy around NZDs at all levels.

Now they have returned to their home countries, it is our hope that the invited policy makers, funders and other stakeholders who attended will act as high level advocates, persuading others into action.

Indeed it is our hope that this report will also motivate you to increase your own commitment towards actions to control NZDs.

It is time to move 'From Advocacy to Action' and remove the 'N' from Neglected Zoonotic Diseases for good.

The NZD4 organising committee

² WHO's 2012 Roadmap on accelerating work to overcome the global impact of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and Resolution WHA66.12 on NTDs adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2013.

Executive Summary

The fourth International Meeting on the Control of Neglected Zoonotic Diseases (NZDs) was held on 19–20 November 2014. The meeting was financially supported by the European Union seventh framework programme through the ADVANZ (Advocacy for Neglected Zoonotic Diseases) and ICONZ (Integrated Control Of Neglected Zoonoses) projects. It was hosted by WHO at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and opened by the Assistant Director-General, Dr Nakatani.

NZDs are found in communities in low-resource settings across the world, where they impose a dual burden on people's health and that of the livestock they depend upon. National governments are increasingly seeking to mitigate the impact of NZDs on their citizens by implementing control programmes to address these burdens. These initiatives have been strongly endorsed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Organisation for Animal Health and WHO tripartite and financially supported by members of the broader international community including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the UK Department for International Development, the European Union, the International Development Research Centre and the CGIAR. WHO's 2012 Roadmap on accelerating work to overcome the global impact of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) and Resolution WHA66.12 on NTDs adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2013 have enhanced the visibility of zoonotic NTDs – notably rabies, cysticercosis, echinococcosis, human African trypanosomiasis, foodborne trematodiasis and leishmaniasis. Although not specifically included in the WHO Roadmap, other diseases have been addressed by the NZD community such as anthrax, bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis and leptospirosis.

Much of the initial momentum for action against NZDs was catalysed by the inaugural meeting on NZD control in 2005. Whilst the priority at that time was a need for evidence, a decade later the focus is on better implementation of proven pathways for control and mobilizing central governments and donors within broader health and development agendas. The fourth international meeting on NZDs acknowledged the momentum generated by the NZD community over the past decade, urging the more than 100 participants – including representatives from national governments, international organizations, academia, foundations, the private sector and NGOs – to exert their influence and focus on operations, especially for the NZDs included in the WHO Roadmap.

Clear themes that emerged throughout this meeting were the need for political commitment, sustainable One Health collaborations and the identification of local champions to drive community participation in control. Examples of programmes making significant progress in the control of some NZDs, both at national and local levels from across three continents, were provided by many countries.

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