RWANDA ONE HEALTH ZOONOTIC DISEASES PRIORITIZATION

Introduction

Effective mitigation of the impact of endemic and emerging zoonotic diseases requires multisectoral collaboration and interdisciplinary partnerships

Since 2011 Rwanda adopted One health approach and in April 2014, the country established One Health Steering committee (OHSC), with a validated One health strategic plan 2014-2018.

The mission of One health steering committee is to "To ensure prevention and control of zoonotic diseases in a healthy environment through multi-disciplinary collaboration in capacity building, research and community services"

OHSC members are Ministry of Health, MINAGRI, RDB, MINEDUC/UR, Rwanda National Police, Directorate of Immigration and Emigration, REMA and other partners.

Rwanda National Police play a major role in Rapid Response Team during diseases outbreaks, law enforcement, enhancement awareness campaign for specific diseases and provide control and preventive intervention e.i Laboratory diagnosis.

One Health Disease Prioritization

From June 20 to 21st, 2017 the One health steering committee in collaboration with USAID and CDC organized a workshop entitled "One Health Zoonotic Diseases Prioritization Workshop at Rubavu Gorilla Lake Hotel.

The Workshop Objectives was the **use a multi-sectoral, One Health approach to prioritize endemic and emerging zoonotic diseases of major public health concern that should be jointly addressed by human, animal, and environmental health ministries** involving different entities with different perspectives and different levels of resources.

Why conduct a One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization Workshop:

Workshop participation helped to strengthen multisectoral collaborations.
- Prioritized zoonoses can focus limited financial and personnel resources to
  - Build laboratory capacity - Conduct efficient and effective surveillance in humans and animals
  - Develop joint outbreak response plans
  - Create prevention and control strategies for both human and animal health
- Zoonotic diseases can be prioritized even in the absence of reliable prevalence data
- Provide outcomes in a timely manner so that participants may give immediate feedback and capitalize on collaborations built during the prioritization process

The workshop participants were from the following ministries and other public health agencies
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Agriculture
- REMA
- Rwanda Development Board
- Rwanda National Police
- Directorate of Immigration and Emigration
- University of Rwanda
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- USAID- PREDICT-2
- USAID- ONE HEALTH WORKFORCE
- USAID-Preparedness and Response (P&R)

Workshop Outcomes

Six zoonotic diseases were selected among 32 diseases as a country priority: The selected diseases are
1. Viral Hemorrhagic fevers (Ebola, Marburg, Yellow Fever and Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)
2. High Pathogenic Avian influenza (HPAI)
3. Rift Valley Fever
4. Brucellosis
5. Sleeping sickness
6. Rabies

It was discussed that next steps for the prioritized zoonosis is strengthen areas for multisectoral engagement in developing control and prevention strategies.
The areas for multisectoral engagement in developing control and prevention strategies were discussed as follow:
• Jointly diseases surveillance
• Preparedness and response intervention
• Share of surveillance data
• Advocate for strategies of One Health (OH) implementation
• Joint (involving other OH partners) Disease control (contingency plan, vaccination, treatment and awareness campaign).

Conclusion and recommendations

"One Health" approach involving different actors and sectors such as human and veterinary medicine, agriculture, finance, environment, Police, immigration and private sectors will be a key to successful prevent and control the listed above zoonotic diseases.
As way forward, the workshop participants requested to present the listed zoonotic diseases to the ministries and public agencies for its validation in country hence smooth implementation.