



Community-Based One Health Disease Surveillance and Notification in Burkina Faso

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Key Messages

In Burkina Faso, the One Health approach is being implemented in five of the country's 13 regions. Burkina Faso's One Health surveillance approach is based on two multisectoral components: event-based surveillance by community agents and indicator-based surveillance using the One Health electronic platform.

Community agents from the three ministries make a considerable contribution to this multisectoral surveillance system. They are responsible for raising public awareness using visual aids, notifying alerts, and feeding into the One Health information system.



Photo: Government officials and local authorities during the rabies vaccination campaign launch in Sabou

Introduction

Community-based workers from the three One Health ministries in Burkina Faso are responsible for sensitizing the population using visual media, feeding information into the One Health information system, and supporting joint disease investigations. Health facilities are responsible for confirming the public health threat and conducting multisectoral investigations. This enables a multisectoral surveillance system to fulfill the three essential functions of the International Health Regulations: detection, notification, and response. However, since the system is still nascent, community-based workers need support, including for data collection, reporting, and analysis, as well as supportive supervision, which was provided by the CHISU program.

Methods

The One Health approach has made it possible to set up a multisectoral reporting and information-sharing system from the community to the central level. This involved defining twelve events and five priority zoonotic diseases to be monitored. Community actors from the three ministries involved in One Health surveillance were then identified, trained and equipped with awareness-raising and collection tools, enabling them to report alerts to health units, veterinary posts, and forestry posts. Confirmed events are then entered on the electronic platform and studied by a multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary team, followed by sampling and laboratory analysis for case confirmation to provide information for decision-making and response.

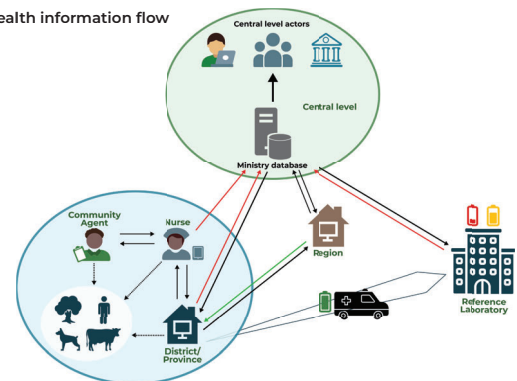
Results

- **299 events** reported through community surveillance by the end of July.
- Rabies cases, bites from dogs suspected of rabies, bites from donkeys and goats were reported.
- Joint investigations made it possible to collect testimonies from the communities.
- Interviews revealed how people knew about rabies risk and how to prevent it.
- The data collected enabled the Ministry in charge of animal health to organize two rabies vaccination campaigns in the Central West region with the support of CHISU. These campaigns took place in Sabou and Nandiala. They resulted in **1,644 pets** and **36 people** being vaccinated against rabies.

Table 1: Trends in health events reported by community players as part of the One Health approach in Burkina Faso

	Ministry of Health	Ministry of Livestock	Ministry of the Environment	Total
2019	16	11	5	32
2020	14	12	3	29
2021	8	14	6	28
2022	59	50	2	111
2023	41	30	1	72
2024	4	16	7	27
Total	142	133	24	299

One Health information flow



Conclusion

Despite the partial coverage, the results of Burkina Faso's One Health surveillance, reporting, and response are significant. To maximize public health impact, the approach should be widely adopted and scaled up, drawing on experience from the initial regions to enable consistency and allow Burkina Faso to better identify and respond to outbreaks of any future zoonotic epidemics.