Enabling decision making using multisectoral data for the One Health approach in Burkina Faso

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**Context**

After outbreaks of Ebola and other infectious diseases that have affected West Africa, Burkina Faso needed an information system to help them create a comprehensive and effective response to key human and zoonotic health threats. To address this need, USAID supported the development of a One Health information system for the country and continues its support through the Country Health Information Systems and Data Use (CHISU) program.

**Activity Description**

CHISU supports Burkina Faso’s One Health Initiative in the following areas:

- **What is One Health?**
  
  A collaborative and multisectoral approach to achieving optimal health outcomes which recognizes the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.

- **Who is involved in One Health activities?**
  
  People at all levels of society, including government officials, traditional and religious leaders, health professionals, and others involved in health decision making.

- **Why do we need One Health?**
  
  To address new health threats, including emerging infectious diseases, and to improve health outcomes globally.

- **How does One Health work?**
  
  One Health involves multidisciplinary approaches, sharing resources, and working together at regional, national, and international levels.

**Activity Impact**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Interventions</th>
<th>HHS SOG Subcomponent</th>
<th>Improvements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VET/food safety</td>
<td>Technical assistance</td>
<td>Nutrition, healthcare, agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human health</td>
<td>Training &amp; supervision</td>
<td>Disease surveillance, public health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community health</td>
<td>Data quality assurance</td>
<td>Community data management, education</td>
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</tbody>
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**Evidence**

- **More interconnected systems**
  
  CHISU’s systems approach enabled data exchange and analysis through an interoperability layer. This allowed rapid adaptation to the COVID-19 pandemic, enabling timely data access and improved decision making.

- **Data Quality and Use**
  
  Development of data quality controls to ensure accuracy and completeness of data.

**Facilitators**

- **Presidential decree**
  
  Establishing the ES-One Health mandates the cross-ministerial coordination and support.

- **Coordination of key partners**
  
  The ES-One Health coordinates all technical and financial partners as well as the ministry and nongovernmental organizations involved in One Health.

- **Capacity strengthening of stakeholders at all levels**
  
  Training of trainers strengthens stakeholders to share information more widely.

**Challenges**

- **Political instability**
  
  Increased public awareness of health threats. Increased public awareness of zoonoses and awareness of the importance of involving stakeholders.

- **Financial resources**
  
  Interoperable systems are crucial for seeing the big picture information system strengthening that creates multi-use platforms to enhance the interoperability layer, makes the health system more flexible and resilient by providing a holistic view of human and zoonotic disease threats.

**Lessons Learned**

- **Coordination must be multisectoral**
  
  Burkina Faso’s experience using the One Health approach illustrates the importance of involving stakeholders from beyond the health sector to address pressing health threats.

- **Communications must be cost-effective**
  
  Public awareness and community surveillance in areas with security challenges, community actors make it possible to maintain these types of activities. In addition, radio messages and TV spots were disseminated to help reach the population located in peripheral areas.

- **Community engagement is key**
  
  Working with a variety of community members—including community health workers, traditional and religious leaders, and village extension workers in animal and fishery resources—and adopting indicators for what is happening, as many people as possible.