

1. There is a need to develop a comprehensive methodology for calculating the societal burden of disease attributable to zoonoses recognising that a high proportion of the population of rural (and often urban) populations in least developed countries depends on livestock.
2. More studies are required to generate data on the costs, cost-benefits and cost effectiveness of interventions for endemic zoonoses. Such studies should also incorporate the economic effect of animal disease as an indirect contributor to poverty through the impact on nutrition, loss of meat and milk products and livestock as a capital asset.
3. There is a need for operational and systems research to identify reasons for the limited communication and interaction between the key sectors - health, agriculture, livestock - particularly in countries where a large proportion of the population is dependent on livestock.
4. There is a need to evaluate effective community-based approaches and interventions for zoonotic disease, drawing on the experience and success of initiatives for water and sanitation improvements, mass drug delivery and community-based health care.
5. Experiences from separate initiatives in different geographic and epidemiological settings need to be evaluated to ensure that such experiences are amplified and synergised, with potential for integration between programmes.
6. Investing in systems for collection of reliable data on disease/infection incidence and prevalence from both veterinary and medical sectors is recognised as a priority, both for measurement of disease burden and for evaluation of control measures.
7. Investment in endemic zoonoses in least-developed countries would provide multiple benefits, not only improving health and livelihoods of marginalized communities, but also reducing threats and enhancing response capacity for emerging zoonoses that pose a threat to the global community.
8. Effective lessons are often best learned by implementation of strategies (such as the onchocerciasis control program), with research to evaluate factors leading to success measured by effectiveness and cost-effectiveness embedded within programme implementation.
9. As endemic zoonoses disproportionately affect impoverished and marginalised populations, investments need to be specifically targeted to overcome barriers to health care in these communities, including isolation, population movement or migration, social or political unrest, and conflict.