

Working Group 1 (G1): The Importance of a Regional Approach - Building Regional Capacity to Prevent, Control, and Eliminate Brucellosis in the Arab countries

Objective:

To explore the value of a regional approach for combating brucellosis in the Arab League countries and identify strategies for building capacity in countries across the region to effectively prevent, control, and eventually eliminate the disease.

Key Discussion Points:

1. Benefits of a Regional Approach:

- Coordinated cross-border surveillance and data sharing.
- Joint research efforts for better diagnostic tools and vaccines.
- Regional standards for animal health, including harmonized veterinary practices.
- Pooling of resources for mass vaccination and eradication programs.
- Building up a joint OH strategy
- Notification and response strategies and systems

2. Key Areas for Building Regional Capacity:

- Training programs for veterinarians and health professionals on brucellosis prevention and diagnosis.
- Strengthening veterinary infrastructure, including laboratories and surveillance systems.
- Enhancing public health education and awareness campaigns to reduce human infections.
- Improved animal movement controls to limit disease spread across borders.
- National vs. regional responsibilities—how to balance efforts at the local, national, and regional levels.
- Laboratories networking between private and public sector

3. Possible Models and Best Practices:

- Case studies from other regions (e.g., Europe, South Asia, Latin America) where a regional approach has been successful in controlling brucellosis.
- Lessons learned from regional disease eradication programs (such as rabies or foot-and-mouth disease).

4. Regional Partnerships and Collaboration:

- Role of international organizations (WOAH, WHO) and NGOs in supporting regional initiatives.
- Government collaboration across Arab countries: How to foster dialogue, trust, and joint planning.

Desired Outcomes:

- A clearer understanding of the need for a regional approach.
- Key recommendations for regional capacity-building initiatives.
- Identified areas where technical assistance and funding are required.
- Agreement on potential collaborations and partnerships.

Working Group 2 (G2): How to Follow Up? Which Regional Network and Governance Body following this workshop?

Objective:

To discuss the establishment of a regional network and governance body to oversee the ongoing coordination, monitoring, and follow-up of brucellosis control and elimination efforts in the Arab countries.

Key Discussion Points:

1. **Current Governance and Coordination Mechanisms:**
 - Review of the effectiveness of current networks (if any) in addressing animal and public health issues regionally.
 - Challenges in coordination between countries with differing levels of resources and political will.
2. **Regional Network and Governance Models:**
 - What form should a regional network or governance body take? Options could include:
 - A formal regional organization (similar to the European Commission for Animal Health).
 - An informal coordination group (e.g., the Arab League Veterinary Association).
 - A regional steering committee under the auspices of WOAHA.
 - Forum !!!
 - Roles and responsibilities of member countries in a regional network.
 - Shared responsibilities for disease monitoring, policy enforcement, and funding allocation.
 - Coordination with global agencies (WOAH-OIE, WHO) to ensure consistency with international standards.
 - Governance with private and public sectors (OH)
3. **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:**
 - How to track progress in brucellosis control and elimination efforts across the region.
 - What indicators to use for success (e.g., reduction in human cases, vaccination coverage in animals, prevalence in livestock).
 - Establishing a regional data-sharing platform for ongoing surveillance and updates.
 - Review of leading bodies in network governance
4. **Sustainability and Long-Term Commitment:**
 - Securing long-term technical and financial support for regional efforts.
 - Ensuring the continued engagement of all stakeholders (government, civil society, international organizations).
5. **Recommendations for Next Steps:**
 - Agreement on the structure of the governance body.
 - Identifying key regional and international partners to support the network.
 - Steps for initiating the network, including the first meeting and drafting of a regional plan.
 - Timeline for setting up the network and governance structure.

Desired Outcomes:

- A draft proposal for the creation of a regional network or/with governance body.
 - Defined roles and responsibilities of participating countries.
 - An action plan for implementation, including timelines and key milestones.
 - Clear recommendations on monitoring and funding mechanisms.
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