The "URBAN ZOO"

Newsletter



NOVEMBER, 2014

Quarterly Newsletter on "Epidemiology, Ecology and Socio-Economics of Disease Emergence in Nairobi"

Co Pl's Letter:



Prof. Jonathan Rushton

The economics thread of the UrbanZoo project began work just over two and half years ago with a visit to Nairobi by Barbara Haesler and Joshua Onono. They returned to London with information around the

complexity of the livestock and

meat markets and the different types of animal slaughter. From these early beginnings our work has progressed to describing how the city of Nairobi is supplied with beef, pig, poultry, sheep, goat and camel products. This work is being led by Dr Pablo Alarcon with a field team including James Akoko, Maurice Karani, Stella Kiambi, Patrick Muindi and Dishon Muloi supported on the psychology work by Dr Ruth Rushton. In addition, a project, funded by ILRI A4NH programme, has been collecting data on the nutritional status of the people in Nairobi and livestock product demand which has been led by Paula Dominguez Salas. They are soon to be joined by Maud Carron who will begin to explore the initial

Why is the information on the food system of importance? From a personal perspective I have been visiting and working in and around Nairobi since the early 1990s. During that time it has been transformed from a relatively small and quiet city to one that is bustling with activity with a growing human population. The population increase and the pace of change raise many questions some of which would include: What are people eating? What do their livestock food systems look like? Who is involved in

work of Joshua Onono in the poultry sector.

these systems? What power do they hold in managing food security and safety? Answers to these questions are of interest for the general sake of learning and knowledge, and provide a basis to understand food security and safety challenges now and in the future. In periods of societal change careful assessment of the food system can help to plan immediate interventions and to make decisions on institutional development. In essence the understanding of the livestock food system context (the "milieu") is major piece of the puzzle of understanding disease emergence and planning improved systems of managing livestock food systems

I am genuinely excited by the way UrbanZoo is pulling together the different parts of biological and social science work and I am looking forward to working with Eric and colleagues in this endeavor in 2015. Wishing everyone a peaceful end of year break.

Jonathan is the Professor of Animal Health Economics and a member of the Veterinary Epidemiology, Economics and Public Health Group. His work focuses on improving the wellbeing of people and animals through better resource allocation to animal health, disease and welfare problems.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Co-Pi's Letter 1

Capacity 2
Development

Students/Staff 2
Profiles

Workshops/Meetings 3

The ZooLink Project 4

Urban Zoo News 4

Upcoming Events 4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Urban Zoo is an interdisciplinary programme focused around the role of urbanization in the emergence of zoonotic pathogens. We are funded by the Environmental and Social Ecology of Human Infectious Diseases initiative (ESEI), a joint UK Research Council initiative which is part of the Living With Environmental Change Programme.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT:

The Urban Zoonosis Project is not only focused on research, but also very keen on developing the capacities of its team. This has been demonstrated in various activities the team has been engaged within the last quarter

Working of the state of the sta

Page 2

IMED Conference (Vienna, Austria)

Three team members (James Akoko, Velma Kivali and Alice Kiyonga) were sponsored by the project to attend this year's *International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance* (IMED) held in Vienna, Austria. The IMED conference is known for bringing together leading scientists, clinicians and policy makers to present new knowledge and breakthroughs as well as to discuss how to discover, detect, understand, prevent and respond to outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging pathogens



IMED conference held in Vienna, Austria 31st Oct. - 3rd Nov. 2014



Occupational First Aid Training

Members of the Urban Zoonosis team were happy to participate in an Occupational First Aid Training carried out at ILRI Head quarters in October this year. by St. Johns Ambulance trainers.

These members were:

- 1. Stella Kiambi
- 2. Maurice Karani
- 3. Dishon Muloi
- 4. Patrick Muinde
- 5. Velma Kivali and
- 6. Victoria Kyallo

Team Building Activity

To enhance communication and team work, improve the existing trust, strengthen the bondage within the field team, profile and appreciate the different personalities with the intent of exploiting the strengths and uniqueness of each individual. A two day's team building activity was organised and the team left the session re-energised, united and focussed in improving their outputs. The result of this cannot be overemphasised as the performance is top-notch!



The Field team members in a team building session



Selected Staff/Student Profiles



Maud Carron is a veterinarian and PhD student registered

with the Royal Veterinary College, University of London. Her research focus is on the ecology of Campylobacter transmission in the poultry meat food systems of Nairobi.



Evaristo
Marenje is a
recent graduate of the
University of
Nairobi with
a Bachelor
of Veterinary

Medicine. He is a student intern currently working with the field coordinator-James Akoko on Porcine Cysticercosis.



Dilraj Singh Sokhi is a medical Doctor investigating in humans the epidemiological

association between brain infestation by the larvae of the tapeworm *T. solium* and epilepsy.



Victoria Kyallo is a Veterinarian by profession with a masters degree in

Veterinary Clinical Studies.

She is currently working with ILRI as the Project Manager for the Urban Zoonosis Project.

The state of the s

African dairy value chain workshop -Nairobi

On 23rd and 24th of October 2014, the value chain team (Patrick Muinde, Maurice Karani, James Akoko, Dishon Muloi and Stella Kiambi) attended the African dairy value chain workshop held at Intercontinental Hotel in Nairobi. The objective of the workshop was to share the experiences and lessons learnt from existing dairy value chain development models. The workshops had three main themes namely gender inclusiveness, smallholder participation and private sector investment in the dairy industry. The participants were of different nationalities but mainly drawn from African countries.

Stella Kiambi made an oral presentation on the challenges she has faced during her study on mapping of dairy milk value chain in urban and peri urban Nairobi



While Dishon Muloi made a poster presentation on the lessons learnt from his study on mapping the camel milk value chain in Kenya.



James Akoko, pictured below, also gave a small talk on dairy goats



(For more information see http://livestock-fish.wikispaces.com/GlobalDairyVC_Kenya14)

10th ESADA Conference held in Nairobi

On 25th of October we attended the 10th Eastern and Southern Dairy Association African dairy experience conference held in Nairobi. There were more than 150 exhibitors from various countries, the theme was discovering African dairy and refreshing mindsets. We were able to appreciate some emerging practices in dairy value chains from the presentations and the exhibitions showcased. During both events we made vital connections with the participants. For more information on the programme use the link: http://www.dairyafrica.com/index.php/conference/conference-program.html

The Global Food Safety Partnership Workshop

Dishon and Stella took part in a Global Food Safety Partnership workshop held at ILRI on Kenya 3rd of November whose main aim was improving food safety on-farm to enhance supply chain linkages and consumer product safety. The workshop articulated the need for an integrated approach in tackling food safety concerns associated with milk and the necessity to develop novel technologies geared towards confronting the food safety issues raised. A report of the meeting will be available on the ILRI website in the coming months.

WHO neglected zoonotic diseases meeting

From 19–20th November 2014 our team was represented at the 4th International meeting on the control of Neglected Zoonotic Diseases:

"From Advocacy to Action", held at the Geneva Headquarters of the World Health Organization (WHO). This was the latest of a series of tripartite meetings between WHO, The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), starting in 2005, to raise the profile of neglected zoonotic diseases at an international level, and aimed to highlight successes in NZD control and build confidence in policy makers that the approaches outlined for going forward are the right pathways to take. Several countries were represented at Ministerial Level, and it was emphasised that NZD control, from WHO's perspective, will fit within the wider context of the Roadmap for Neglected Diseases endorsed by the organisation's World Health Assembly. Over the last 10 years, significant advances have been made scientifically and in terms of advocacy for neglected zoonotic disease control. A report of the meeting will be available in the coming months.



Page 3

NEW PROJECT LAUNCH— Zoonosis in Livestock in Kenya (ZooLink)



Page 4



Our team is leading a new consortium of researchers involving many of the Urban Zoo partners (and more!), under a research programme called Zoonoses in Emerging Livestock Systems (ZELS). The programme is funded by the UK Department for International Development, (DFID), the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), the Medical Research Council (MRC), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (dstl). Many of these UK funders are also involved in the ESEI programme that funds Urban Zoo (see http://www.environmentandhealth.net). Our programme will be based in western Kenya and focuses on developing surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases: the key aim of ZELS overall, which is a 20.5million UK£ programme over 5 years, is to reduce the impact on zoonoses on poor people and their livestock and to inform decision makers on how to minimise the health risks associated with the rapidly changing nature of livestock systems in developing countries. The programme was officially launched on 10 November in London – and a press release is available at this link: http://tinyurl.com/lrablgs.

You can follow the ZELS programme overall, and our project specifically (called Zoonoses in Livestock in Kenya, or ZooLink) on Twitter using #ZELS and #ZooLink.

URBAN ZOO NEWS

- * ESEI's Project Team held their 3rd Annual Meeting at the University of Liverpool, London Campus which was well attended by all the PI's, PhD students and the project management team. This is an Annual Meeting that brings together all the various collaborators at one venue to discuss on the project progress.
- * The ESEI team is preparing to start a major activity of their project "99 Household Study" in Nairobi County which focusses on looking at the diversity of E.coli in humans, livestock and the environment. This activity starts in early 2015.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 3rd International One Health Congress in Holland in 2015 (http://www.iohc2015.com) abstracts: 1 August 2014 Call for
 abstracts online at the website, start of submission of abstracts, 1 October 2014 Deadline of submission of abstracts, after 1
 October 2014 review of abstracts
- 2nd ELS Meeting on leptospirosis and other rodent borne haemorrhagic fevers, Amsterdam 16 18 April 2015
- WAAVP Conference Liverpool, 15-20 August, 2015. Key dates: Call for abstracts opens 8th August 2014; Registration opens 7th January 2015; Deadline for abstract submission 1st March 2015; Notification of oral or poster presentation acceptance 3rd May 2015; Presenting authors registration deadline 17th May 2015.







