

# Improving animal health production to achieve better 'One Health'

Contributing to **'Better Production': Goal 3 One Health**

## Challenges

- **Zoonotic diseases:** 75% of emerging diseases are zoonotic affecting wildlife, pets, livestock, and people - the majority originate in wildlife. The top 13 zoonotic diseases are responsible for an estimated 2.4 billion cases of human illness and 2.2 million deaths annually.
- **Safe, affordable food access:** safe food is not guaranteed in developing regions that bear 'most of the burden of foodborne disease.'
- **Sustainable production:** When livestock health is at risk, the environmental footprint of farming grows. Sick animals consume greater quantities of natural resources and will never produce as much. As climate change accelerates, livestock disease is now able to thrive in new areas.
- **Antimicrobial resistant bacteria:** over/misuse in livestock has diminished in the developed world but is still problematic in other regions. 75% of AMR transfer occurs in human health care settings (ECDC)
- **Vector-borne diseases:** Diseases transmitted by ticks, fleas and insects are a growing threat to people all over the world with over 700,000 deaths across the globe every year.

## Private sector solutions that are already working

1. **Early warning systems:** Animal producers and animal health providers collect and analyze large amounts of data on animal disease incidence and spread. This is shared with government authorities and operators. In addition, new sophisticated digital diagnostics tools are rapidly being applied in livestock production systems. They allow preemptive diagnosis of disease outbreaks.
2. **Disease prevention:** Vaccination or other controls against bacteria significantly reduce entry into the food chain. Furthermore, safe food must also be accessible and affordable. Outbreaks of livestock disease can significantly increase food prices and risk safe, nutritious foods remaining out of reach of some consumers.
3. **Better more sustainable production:** The goal must be to produce animal protein in the most sustainable way possible to as to minimize impact on nature, whilst respecting animal welfare. Healthier animals mean less wastage, lower environmental impact and better production. A range of animal health products - both preventative and treatments - make this possible.
4. **Responsible antibiotic use:** Voluntary responsible use continues to deliver progress. For example, animal antibiotic use declined by 34% in the EU since 2011 and 38% in the US since 2015. OIE recorded a 34% global reduction in mg/kg of animal antimicrobial use from 2015 to 2017, a trend that will continue in new analysis.
5. **Parasiticides:** Parasite control is a preventative approach. There are hundreds of products available for all types of climatic conditions. In tropical conditions, without parasite control, livestock produce up to 60% less outputs.
6. **Partnership/cooperation:** Animal health sector has many partnerships across Africa and Asia with livestock producers and governments. One example is a multiyear global partnership between FAO World Veterinary Association and HealthforAnimals to train veterinary paraprofessionals in sub-Saharan Africa.