Veterinary Medicine, Animal Health, Food Security & the Millennium Development Goals

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Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Global partnership for development
for more information, see [The State of Food Insecurity in the World](#) published annually by FAO
Demographics, Socio-economics & Food Security

More food is needed

- In 2007, ~ 6 billion people
  - ~ 21 billion food animals
  - ~ 50 M tonnes aquaculture

- In 2020
  - demand for animal protein will increase 50%
  - primarily in developing countries
  - > 30 billion animals required
  - undetermined M tonnes aquaculture
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Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger

1 billion people are hungry

• Poor people, especially young children and their mothers in developing countries, are not consuming enough animal-based food

• Livestock provide a pathway out of poverty for some smallholders, and policymakers need to consider the different roles that livestock play in supporting livelihoods
Source of Information for confirmed cases

- **FAO**: 35%
- **EC**: 24%
- **OIE and UN agencies**: 25%
- **Media**: 8%
- **Unknown**: 8%
Achieve universal primary education

- Learning ability of rural children is compromised by hunger and malnutrition
- 72 million primary school age children do not attend school
- Over four out of five of these children live in rural areas (the urban-rural divide ...)
- Brain growth & cognitive abilities depend on quality nutrition
- Food security and education need to be tackled simultaneously
- **Local veterinarians & FAO** lead the Education for Rural People (ERP) program that increased access to quality education and skills training for all rural children
Promote gender equality and empower women

- Most livestock keepers are women
- Rural women are more likely to own poultry and ruminants than large animals
- FAO recognizes the importance role of rural women (and men) in efforts to improve food security, reduce poverty, and fuel social and economic development

- **Local veterinarians & FAO** builds technical capacity among member countries to address gender issues in policy and programme development; work directly with rural women and men to strengthen their agricultural and livelihoods skills; assist member countries to identify and remove obstacles to women’s equal participation & decision-making; and support the formulation of gender-sensitive national and regional agricultural policies
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Reduce child mortality

- Under-nutrition is estimated to be an underlying cause in more than one-third of all deaths in children under five
- Protein, vitamins, micronutrients from animals are of high quality & reduce child mortality
- *Local veterinarians & FAO* lead programs to improve household food security & nutrition which reduces child under-nutrition & increase children’s chances of growing to adulthood
- Linking household food security with nutrition education improves infant & early childhood complementary feeding by using locally available and affordable foods
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Improve maternal health

• About 4–5 billion people in the world are deficient in iron, which is essential especially for the health of pregnant and lactating women and for the physical and cognitive development of young children (SCN, 2004)

• Hunger and malnutrition have been found to increase both the incidence and the fatality rate of the conditions that cause up to 80 percent of maternal deaths

• This and other important nutrients are more readily available in meat, milk and eggs than in plant-based foods

• Local veterinarians & FAO lead programmes to promote food security, increase nutritional awareness, increase access to affordable animal-based food and empowers women to obtain better health care, education & social services
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Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases

- 95% of people living with & dying of HIV and AIDS are in developing countries
- Up to 80% of the people in the most affected countries depend on agriculture for their subsistence so the pandemic affects household capacity to produce and buy food
- In sub-Saharan Africa, HIV is depleting the region of its food producers & farmers, decimating the agricultural labour force
- *Local veterinarians & FAO* support policy makers and programme planners to incorporate HIV, malaria & other disease considerations into food, nutrition & agriculture policies and programmes
Ensure Environmental Sustainability
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- Natural resources and ecosystems must be managed sustainably to meet environmental, social economic, & food requirements needs
- Climate change, increased water scarcity and conflicts over access to resources all pose challenges to environmental sustainability and food security
- Hunger and poverty often compel the poor to over-exploit the resources on which their own livelihoods depend
- **Local veterinarians & FAO** support sustainable natural resource management including agricultural water use efficiency; land & soil productivity; sustainable forest management, aquaculture & inland fisheries; integrated crop and livestock systems; pesticide management & watershed management and the major environmental conventions and multilateral environmental agreements (CMS, Ramsar, CBD, etc.)
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Establishing Global partnerships for development

VA

Viet Nam
Department of Animal Health

Massey University
New Zealand

Université Libre de Bruxelles
Belgium

Animal Health Service
EMPRES

FAO

France

GAINs

World Health Organization

Canadian International Development Agency

World Wildlife Conservation Society

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

AUGTH

Nestlé PURINA

Organization Interamericana de la Salud

Secretaria General
UNDP

Canadian International Development Agency

World Health Organization
One Health and the Milennium Development Goals