Evaluation Of Integrated Policies To Control Brucellosis In Humans And Animals In Afghanistan

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Brucellosis is a neglected zoonosis in Afghanistan, largely undiagnosed in humans due to a lack of awareness of zoonoses amongst health care providers. Provincial-level animal health and public health staff collaborate in brucellosis outbreak investigations and meet under the provincial Zoonotic Diseases Control Committee in a few provinces. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock has implemented a national brucellosis vaccination program in ruminants in the last two years with support of the World Bank. However, there is a lack of integrated policies to control brucellosis in humans and livestock. Major factors contributing to this include the lack of functional multi-sectoral coordination between the main stakeholder organizations together with a lack of evidence on the impact of brucellosis in humans. Participants in the One Health Epidemiology Fellowship program implemented by Massey University with EU funding are collaborating with policy staff in the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production, the Afghan National Public Health Institute and the General Directorate of Preventive Medicine to design and evaluate integrated policies to control brucellosis in humans and animals, building both capacity and relationships to support a One Health approach in Afghanistan. Details of the collaborative policy evaluation approach and outcomes will be presented.