

PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs)



PERSPECTIVES

DOSSIER

AROUND THE WORLD

What cannot be measured will not be managed. The burden of animal diseases is believed to be huge but largely unmeasured. Livestock constitute 40% of the value of global agriculture and support the livelihoods of 1.3 billion people, most in poor countries. Understanding the impacts of animal disease is essential.

Public-funded Veterinary Services mainly focus on highly contagious animal diseases that create problems for society in terms of trade, food supply, farm-level profitability and, in some cases, direct human health issues. Underlying these diseases are a range of health and welfare issues that farmers are forced to manage alone, including endemic diseases, nutrition, environmental change and accidents. Smallholder farmers in particular have poor access to animal health services and products due to social, financial and geographical constraints, in various combinations.

The [Global Burden of Animal Diseases \(GBADs\) programme](#) will assess the economic importance of animals, and document what people lose from poor animal health and welfare, and what they spend on veterinary support. This information will show where inadequate resources are being allocated to meet the social, economic and gender needs of farmers. GBADs will provide a basis for sustainable, long-term programmes for veterinary systems that generate improved health and welfare for livestock, thereby enhancing livelihood opportunities for female and male livestock keepers.



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Ms Perez, a poor farmer in the high Andes, was receiving no support for her flock. A development project identified parasite problems, and trained animal health workers in the use of antiparasite drugs. In Ethiopia, Mr Assefa has a dog to guard his property. Dog vaccines are not available and his dog exposed both his child and his ox to rabies.

GBADs information will support initiatives to address such smallholder farmer problems, by identifying the scale of investment needed and the return on that investment in terms of financial, economic and social outcomes.

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PERSPECTIVES

▶ OIE ACTIONS

The utility of the GBADs programme

KEYWORDS

#animal health, #economics in animal health, #Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs), #smallholder farmer.

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