

The Camel Middle East Network (CAMENET) was established as a result of successive regional and international discussions on the importance of collaboration to improve our knowledge of camel diseases. CAMENET assists its Members to develop their camel sector, focusing on the control of camel diseases.

The network enables the pooling of expertise and knowledge to improve scientific and technological capacities in the epidemiology and diagnosis of camel diseases in the sub-region. It also coordinates and facilitates scientific collaboration between CAMENET Members and Reference Centres on specific topics and disseminates knowledge.

Developing scientific networks facilitates communication and collaboration, two of the most important components in emergency management



Networking is one of the most important tools in emergency management and plays an effective role in enhancing emergency response capacity and the dissemination of knowledge. The past Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) emergency in the sub-region and the current COVID-19 pandemic clearly demonstrate the importance of harmonised scientific collaborations, studies and research to aid emergency response and minimise the disease's impact.

Although CAMENET focuses particularly on camel diseases, it plays a similarly important role in coordinating and harmonising research efforts, risk assessment and knowledge-sharing for emergency preparedness and response. For instance, when positive cases of camel prion disease were first reported in North Africa, CAMENET started an initiative to address the main issues, such as case definition, epidemiological surveillance, biosafety, capacity building, early warning and response, risk factors and knowledge gaps [1]. This initiative was aimed at publishing a working document that clearly details the procedures to be followed when facing an outbreak, to assist Members to develop their formal contingency plans. To this end, CAMENET began a collaboration with the [Italian National Institute of Health](#) and the OIE Reference Laboratory, [Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Piemonte, Liguria e Valle d'Aosta](#), to prepare the [Working Document on Camel Prion Disease \(CPrD\)](#). In brief, this collaboration clearly demonstrates that developing scientific networks facilitates communication and collaboration, two of the most important components in emergency management.

For more information, please visit the [CAMENET website](#)

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AROUND THE WORLD



NETWORK INITIATIVES

Camel Middle East Network (CAMENET)

KEYWORDS

#Camel Middle East Network (CAMENET), #Camelid, #emergency management, #Middle East, #reference centre, #transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE).

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Omani men walking and dancing following a traditional camel race. ©Katiekk2/Getty Images

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1. World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (2019). – [Report of the 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 10–14 November 2019.](#)

