

Zoonotic Disease Unit – Press Brief

Overview

The Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation and the Ministry of Livestock Development are officially opening a One Health office, referred to as the Zoonotic Disease Unit (ZDU), and launching a 5-year (2012-2017) *Strategic Plan for the Implementation of One Health in Kenya*. The ZDU is the first of its kind in Africa and will serve as a model for the region in implementing innovative and integrated zoonotic disease outbreak investigation, surveillance, prevention and control.

- **One Health Initiative:** Recognizing that human health, animal health, and ecosystem health are inextricably linked, One Health seeks to promote, improve, and defend the health and well-being of all species by enhancing cooperation and collaboration between physicians, veterinarians, other scientific health and environmental professionals and by promoting strengths in leadership and management to achieve these goals.
- **Zoonotic diseases** (also referred to as zoonoses) are infections that are naturally transmitted, either directly or indirectly, between vertebrate animals and humans.
- **Importance of Zoonotic Diseases:** About 60% of all human pathogens and about 75% of all emerging/ re-emerging infections are zoonotic in nature
- **Mission of ZDU:** To establish and maintain active collaboration at the animal, human, and ecosystem interface towards better prevention and control of zoonotic diseases.
- **Vision of ZDU:** A country with reduced burden of zoonotic diseases and better able to respond to epidemics of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.
- **Additional support of the ZDU** has been provided by:
 - The US Department of State Biosecurity Engagement Program
 - The US Defense Threat Reduction Agency Cooperative Biological Engagement Program
 - The US Center for Disease Control and Prevention- Kenya

Contacts

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**ZOOONOTIC
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A collaboration between the Ministry of Livestock Development and the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation

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