

PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs)



PERSPECTIVES

DOSSIER

AROUND THE WORLD

A global resource such as the Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) programme will transform livestock investment decisions made by those throughout the sector, from small-scale producers to national government officials, in the next ten years. Through GBADs, prioritising animal health interventions will become evidence-based, enabling better use of resources and resulting in healthier, more productive livestock around the world.

GBADs' innovative methodology for determining the economic burden caused by animal diseases, including those that are often under-emphasised, will shed light on the daily realities faced by livestock keepers that prevent them from maximising their livelihoods. This collaborative effort brings together experts who have long been working on the critical themes featured in GBADs and offers an opportunity to align efforts towards a cohesive and cooperative global public good, amplified by the expertise of the [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#).

In the current context of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the interrelatedness of animal, human and environmental health is clear. Moreover, diseases of zoonotic potential, emerging diseases, neglected tropical diseases, and diseases of economic significance are often competing for limited resources from livestock keepers and the public and private sector. And, while livestock contributes 40% of the global agricultural gross domestic product (GDP) [1], and 5% of the overall world GDP [2], the sector competes for just 2.5% of agricultural official development assistance (ODA) [3], thus highlighting the need for better evidence to design and prioritise the most effective animal health interventions that will have the greatest impact.

GBADs will identify weaknesses in the distribution of animal health resources and technology

GBADs' time is now because this tool will identify weaknesses in the distribution of animal health resources and technology and enhance the allocation of such resources by generating better information on livestock and aquatic systems. The programme will enable better animal health management, which in turn will have positive impacts on agricultural productivity and increase household incomes for small-scale producers around the world, lessening their vulnerability to climate change and other shocks.

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PERSPECTIVES

► OPINIONS AND STRATEGIES

GBADs' time is now

SUMMARY

The importance of precisely prioritised interventions in animal health has never been more apparent, and the GBADs tool will bring that capability to livestock keepers around the world.

KEYWORDS

#animal health, #decision, #Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs), #public health, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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