

PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs)



PERSPECTIVES

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The World Bank, like the Asian Development Bank, recognises the substantial contribution made by livestock to food security and nutrition in developing countries, as well as to people's livelihoods. As a result, both banks provide financing for smallholder livestock development to improve productivity, animal health and welfare, and equity, while minimising the impact on climate change and natural resource use along the value chain [1].

Investment into improved animal husbandry, which is one of the foundations of livestock sustainability frameworks, is an essential element of the One Health approach, ensuring biosecurity and optimising human, animal and environmental health. There is a need to carefully assess the strengths and weaknesses of the livestock and aquaculture sectors, to identify those areas in which these investments will have the greatest impact, and show the best returns [2, 3].

Yet, what do we truly know of the production losses and reductions in efficiency caused by the occurrence of disease and other health problems in these animals? How much information exists on the current levels of public and private expenditure on terrestrial and aquatic animal health in different countries? In addition, where do the burdens of poor animal health fall in society? On farmers or consumers, on the poor or the wealthy, on women or men?

In reality, assessing the livestock and aquaculture sectors takes significant time and skill because there are no databases that provide ready information on animal health losses and expenditure. Making such data available to support the case for investment will reduce the time it takes to make the business case for improving animal health and also increase the probability that these investments will have a significant impact on the global [Sustainable Development Agenda](#).

The framework and roll-out of the [Global Burden of Animal Diseases \(GBADs\) programme](#) will begin to provide such evidence for development banks, among other investors. In turn, such investors will support the institutionalisation of data collection and analysis of the burden of animal diseases at the local and national levels. They see this as a way of achieving greater efficiencies on their investment mechanisms, and also of contributing more effectively to global efforts towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

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AROUND THE WORLD

► NETWORK INITIATIVES

Development banks and the burden of animal diseases

KEYWORDS

#Asian Development Bank (ADB), #economics in animal health, #Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs), #World Bank.

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