



Call for Fellowships Afrique One-ASPIRE

TTP1: Canine Rabies Control and Elimination

Ref: [TTP1-Rabies-MSc3](#)

Project Title: Exploring successful determinants for dog vaccination campaigns and population control measures using a mixed methods approach

Enrolment: The MSc fellow will be enrolled at CSRS.

Project Description: Rabies is a fatal zoonotic disease that is transmitted from dogs to humans and is highly prevalent in African and Asian countries. Vaccination of domestic dogs has been identified as the most sustainable and effective approach to control rabies and prevent human deaths. Actions to control rabies occur on one level in households when individuals take the decision to vaccinate their dogs and take responsibility of their pet and towards society. Control also depends on provision of vaccination services, community participation and dog population management at the intermediate level of social resilience. However, there has been little exploratory work to understand the social and cultural factors limiting accessibility of dogs to vaccination, veterinary care and registration. This MSc thesis will be built up on a mixed method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative tools, developed to evaluate the effectiveness of dog mass vaccinations for rabies elimination. Mixed methods are necessary as the problem-driven transdisciplinary subject includes epidemiological components in addition to social dynamics and cultural, political and institutional aspects. An assessment of individual effectiveness parameters of vaccination campaigns like availability, affordability, accessibility, adequacy or acceptability will be undertaken. In addition the relationship of dog owners towards their pet and the barriers to successful dog population management will be studied. Triangulation of quantitative methods (i.e. household survey, empirical coverage estimation, dog demography and spatial analysis) with qualitative findings (i.e. participant observation, focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews) will facilitate a better understanding of the weight of each effectiveness determinant, and the underlying reasons embedded in the local understandings, cultural practices, and social and political realities of the setting.

Clarifying these aspects is critical to the design of optimal dog population control and vaccination interventions to reduce the burden of rabies.

The study areas will depend on locations with recently undertaken or planned vaccination campaigns in West and Central African countries (e.g. Dakar, Ivory Coast, Kongo and Mali)

Possible collaboration West-East collaboration is identified with Project Ref: TTP2-Rabies-PhD3.

Mentorship Team: Researchers at partner institutions with expertise in intervention research and sociology health economics, including: CSRS, Swiss TPH, IHI and UoG

Qualifications: The candidate must be a citizen of an African country. Candidates from any discipline contributing to One Health will be considered, but preference will be given to candidates with previous experience in social sciences.

Duration and Training: The project duration will be 2 years. Training will be provided in Ivory Coast, with opportunities for further training within the Afrique One-ASPIRE consortium and with supervisory partners in Switzerland.

For more information, contact the co-leads:

Godfrey Mbaruku, IHI, Tanzania, gmbaruku@ihi.or.tz

Bassirou Bonfoh, CSRS, Côte d'Ivoire, bassirou.bonfoh@csrs.ci