



## Call for Fellowships Afrique One-ASPIRE

### TTP2: Thematic Training Program on Brucellosis Control and Prevention

[Ref: TTP2-Brucellosis-PhD3](#)

**Project Title:** Assessing people's knowledge and perceptions on causality, syndromes, transmission and treatment pathways of brucellosis

**Enrolment:** The PhD fellow will be enrolled at EISMV, Senegal, or an Ivorian University in association with CSRS, Côte d'Ivoire.

**Project Description:** Brucellosis is one of the most common zoonotic infections globally. It is generally transmitted from livestock to humans through consumption of unpasteurized dairy products or through direct contact with infected animals, placentas or aborted fetuses. In Sub-Saharan Africa, efforts have been made for the diagnosis and control of the disease through serological and epidemiological studies combined with governmental policies. However, the various strategies applied have not yet contributed to reduce the prevalence of this disease in animals and humans. This failure might be due to the lack of sufficient knowledge of the disease, the absence of effective prevention and management strategies and permanent interaction of humans, domestic animals and wildlife that could contribute to the continuous spread of the disease. In humans, brucellosis is often easily misdiagnosed as other febrile syndromes such as malaria and typhoid fever, thereby resulting in mistreatment and underreporting. Thus, knowledge and perceptions of people regarding brucellosis appear to be different from biomedical conception which might affect the health-seeking behaviour of patients and lead to sustained transmission in these communities.

In order to contribute to efforts in developing pathways of disease control, this study aims to assess knowledge and perceptions of brucellosis regarding causality, transmission, prevention and treatment patterns among exposed communities. Focusing on sedentary agro-pastoral and mobile pastoral communities in West Africa and East Africa, the research will contribute to understanding the dynamics of brucellosis transmission at the human-animal interface and in environmental interactions, as well as the health seeking practices of the human population.

**Mentorship Team:** Francis Akindès (Université Alassane Ouattara); Rudovick Kazwala (SUA); Bassirou Bonfoh (CSRS); Constanze Pfeiffer (Swiss TPH); Henk Lucas Smits (Royal Tropical Institute, Netherlands)

**Qualifications:** The candidate must be a citizen of an African country. Candidates from any social science discipline contributing to One Health (e.g. anthropology, sociology, health geography or cultural epidemiology) will be considered. Candidates with an MSc degree in a relevant field are preferred.

**Training:** Training will be provided primarily in Côte d'Ivoire, with opportunities for further training within the Afrique One-ASPIRE consortium and with supervisory partners in Switzerland, depending on needs and internal budget considerations.

**For more information, contact the Co-leads:**

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