



Call for Fellowships Afrique One-ASPIRE

TTP4: Foodborne Diseases and Nutritional Illnesses

TTP4 aims to address the nutritional patterns in transitional landscapes and their impact on food-related diseases by studying the epidemiological links between infectious diseases and selected/related non-communicable diseases of livestock dependent populations. It covers the following aspects:

- Animal-source food value chains – livelihood of livestock dependent populations
- Consumption patterns – true foodborne disease (FBD) burden and risk of infection – non-communicable disease (NCD) analysis and opportunities
- Socioeconomic cost-effective design of interventions

Ref: [TTP4-Food-PhD3](#)

Project Title: Socioeconomic analysis of behaviour change intervention in foodborne diseases

Enrolment: The PhD fellow will be enrolled at MUHAS, Tanzania, EISMV, Senegal or an Ivorian University.

Project Description: Foodborne and neglected zoonoses are taking a massive toll on the world's poorest and most marginalised communities in Sub-Saharan Africa each year, according to WHO. Neglected viral, parasitic and bacterial diseases are among some of the most common infections affecting about 2.7 billion people who live below the poverty line of less than 2 US\$ a day (WHO 2006). Poverty and food insecurity are the main determinants of endemic and emerging zoonotic diseases.

This PhD fellowship will address zoonotic risk of domestic and game food products by exploring local and cost effective interventions that can be scaled up. The methodological approach will include assessing the costs and benefits of a variety of selected food safety interventions in rural and urban areas. Health and wellbeing outcomes in the population will be explored including consumption patterns that may lead to NCDs and/or infectious diseases.

The project will use the WHO STEPS survey methods to establish the burden of NCDs in agro-pastoral communities in rural and urban areas. The evidence generated from the cost–benefit analysis will deliver policy options and strategies for effective behavioural change.

The consortium is looking for a PhD candidate to conduct an in depth economic analysis of different behaviour change models/options conducting cost–benefit analysis (e.g. BIA, DCE) to identify the most feasible interventions to address the burden of foodborne illnesses in the rural and urban communities. This project will build on the existing work of foodborne zoonoses, food safety and behavioural economics in Africa and globally. It will implement the lessons learned from current interventions that have demonstrated positive results in addressing the social economic and behavioural aspects of foodborne illnesses and NCDs. The following components will be investigated: (a) risk factors and treatment seeking patterns for selected foodborne zoonoses and NCDs b) burden of disease in the affected communities (i.e. DALYS/QUALYS) (c) benefit–incidence outcomes of disease interventions (d) feasibility for designing a cost-effective behaviour change intervention addressing foodborne zoonoses and NCDs and socioeconomic and behavioural risk factors for foodborne zoonoses and NCDs.

The project will be based in central Tanzania as part of foodborne interventions within ongoing research programmes (e.g. ZELS, DTRA, ErAfrica food safety [EISMV], ZELS Brucellosis [EISMV, UoG, SUA], Novartis comorbidity [Infections, NCD/HDSS Taabo] and PASRES). The project will involve extended periods of fieldwork in selected locations within the study areas.

Mentorship Team: Melkzedek T. Leshabari, Mangi J. Ezekiel and Dereck Chitama (MUHAS); Sayoki G. Mfinanga (NIMR); Mwitia Chacha (University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania); Rudowick Kazwala (SUA); Bassirou Bonfoh (CSRS); Julius Keyyu (TAWIRI); Martin Kimanya (NM-AIST); Jennifer Keiser (Swiss TPH)

Qualifications: The candidate must be a citizen of an African country. Candidates from any discipline contributing to One Health (e.g. public health, veterinary and animal sciences, social sciences, epidemiology and health economics) will be considered. Candidates with an Undergraduate degree (GPA 3.5 and above) in a relevant field from a recognised university are preferred.

Duration and Training: The PhD fellowship is funded for a maximum of 4 years. Training will be provided primarily in Tanzania or Côte d'Ivoire, with further opportunities within Afrique One-ASPIRE consortium and with supervisory partners in the UK, Switzerland and Zimbabwe, depending on needs and internal budget considerations.

For more information, contact the co-leads:

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