



Call for Afrique One-ASPIRE Fellowships



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 a university in West Africa and affiliated to EISMV or 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 on the TTP Rabies, contact the co-leads:

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

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For any other information, contact the Programme Manager:

Kathrin Heitz-Tokpa, CSRS, Côte d'Ivoire, (kathrin.heizt-tokpa@csrs.ci)

Application documents

- (i) Fill in the application form: <https://afriqueoneaspire.typeform.com/to/VERdK3>
- (ii) CV including a list of publications and active conference participations (i.e. posters and oral presentations)
- (iii) Application letter describing your interest in the Afrique One-ASPIRE programme and One Health, any prior experience relevant to the proposed topic and your longer term ambitions and goals (max. 2 pages)
- (iv) Contact information of two academic referees
- (v) Summary of your last qualification work (max. 500 words);

Submit the application with the fellowship reference number to application.afriqueone-aspire@csrs.ci by **July 15th, 2016 5 pm GMT**. Candidates that are selected for the next stage will be invited for an interview at Afrique One-ASPIRE institutions in their respective countries or where most convenient.

About Afrique One-ASPIRE

Afrique One-ASPIRE is a research consortium addressing questions of disease elimination based on the 'One Health'-concept. Our research aims at identifying integrated approaches for disease elimination in relation to zoonotic and emerging diseases by taking human, animal and environmental components into consideration. The consortium comprises nine core institutions in East and West Africa. **More information about the consortium and the calls can be found online:**
▶ www.afriqueoneaspire.net.

