

# Quarterly Animal Health Digest

## Preface

Welcome to the second edition of the AU-IBAR Animal Health Digest.

This edition of the Digest will focus mainly on the disease situation within the second quarter of the year 2012 based on reports submitted to AU-IBAR by member states (MS). The cut-off date for the data used in the analysis was 15 July 2012.

In summary, a total of 3979 records, involving 45 diseases, were submitted by 18 MS during the second quarter. The analysis of available data as at the end of the quarter based on the reports received as at the cut-off date is presented on pages 3 and 4

Rabies stood out as the most prevalent disease with the highest number

of outbreaks reported both within the quarter (211) and from the beginning of the year to date (489). Therefore as the world prepares to mark World Rabies Day on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012, the Digest for this quarter is dedicated to the Rabies situation on the continent.

The major challenge related to disease reporting experienced within the quarter is that of late submission of reports by MS. This has consistently been one of the leading challenges with reporting from MS. It is presumably also a big challenge internally within countries especially in Federal countries.

Other problems encountered include the poor quality of data and

lack of essential details in the data received from MS. Key epidemiological parameters that are often not provided include animal population data such as number of animals affected, deaths, slaughtered or destroyed as a result of disease outbreaks within geographical entities or epidemiological units. Other missing parameters include geo-reference information and important dates of events related to reported diseases outbreaks.

Nevertheless the available data was good enough to make a fair assessment and analysis of the animal health situation on the continent for the 2nd quarter of 2012 as presented in this edition of the Digest.

## Reporting rate by Countries

Timely submission of animal health status and reporting of disease outbreaks from the MS has remained a big challenge to making a comprehensive analysis of the disease situation on the continent. The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2012 saw an increase in the number of countries reporting the animal health status to AU-IBAR. Eighteen countries submitted reports during the quarter, up from 9 countries that reported during the 1st quarter of 2012. Six countries submitted complete reports for the quarter, four submitted 5 reports, Six submitted reports for 4 months, one submitted for 3 months while another one country reported for only two months. Thus a total of 85 reports were received out of an

**Table 1:** Reporting rate by countries

| Country    | No of reports | Rate (%) |
|------------|---------------|----------|
| Algeria    | 4             | 66.67    |
| Botswana   | 6             | 100.00   |
| CAR        | 6             | 100.00   |
| Ethiopia   | 4             | 66.67    |
| Ghana      | 5             | 83.33    |
| G/Bissau   | 6             | 100.00   |
| Kenya      | 2             | 33.33    |
| Lesotho    | 5             | 83.33    |
| Malawi     | 6             | 100.00   |
| Mozambique | 4             | 66.67    |
| Namibia    | 5             | 83.33    |
| Nigeria    | 4             | 66.67    |
| S/Leone    | 5             | 83.33    |
| Somalia    | 6             | 100.00   |
| S/Africa   | 3             | 50.00    |
| Sudan      | 4             | 66.67    |
| Swaziland  | 6             | 100.00   |
| Tanzania   | 4             | 66.67    |

expected 324, giving an overall reporting rate of only 26.23%. The reporting rate by countries from January 2012 is summarized in Table 1

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As at the time of compiling this report, a total of 3979 records were submitted by the 18 countries that submitted reports from January to June 2012. Table 1 below shows the details of some of the selected diseases that were reported as at the end of the second quarter of the year.

Overall a total of 5010 outbreaks made up of 4828 new and 182 follow-up outbreaks were reported from the beginning of the year with 49 diseases and/or conditions

involved. It is noteworthy that all the major TADs have been reported within this period except Classical Swine Fever and Rift Valley Fever.

Rabies had the widest spread across the continent having been reported by 14 countries. Other widespread diseases on the continent are Newcastle, FMD and LSD. One of the obvious implication of this situation is that continental and regional disease control programmes should focus more on Rabies, ND, FMD and LSD.

Diseases with very high number of outbreaks as at the end of the 2nd quarter are Rabies with 211 outbreaks within the quarter and 489 outbreaks from the beginning of the year, Brucellosis (353), PPR (336) and Mange (305). The very high number of outbreaks for these diseases suggests either a total lack of or inadequate application of control measures in the affected countries. A more detailed risk analysis study of the factors responsible for sustenance

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Table 1:- Outbreak data for selected diseases as at June 2012

|    | Disease                            | Countries | Outbreaks | Susceptible | Cases | Deaths | Morbidity rate | Mortality rate | Case fatality rate |
|----|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------|--------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1  | African Horse Sickness             | 4         | 95        | 402         | 139   | 30     | 34.58          | 7.46           | 21.58              |
| 2  | African Swine Fever                | 6         | 27        | 11769       | 2440  | 1555   | 20.73          | 13.21          | 63.73              |
| 3  | Anaplasmosis                       | 9         | 110       | 21249       | 482   | 79     | 2.27           | 0.37           | 16.39              |
| 4  | Anthrax                            | 8         | 237       | 15622       | 917   | 317    | 5.87           | 2.03           | 34.57              |
| 6  | Blackleg                           | 7         | 266       | 116503      | 849   | 131    | 0.73           | 0.11           | 15.43              |
| 7  | Bluetongue                         | 2         | 14        | 786         | 79    | 19     | 10.05          | 2.42           | 24.05              |
| 8  | Brucellosis                        | 5         | 353       | 55942       | 1755  | 30     | 3.14           | 0.05           | 1.71               |
| 9  | Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia  | 6         | 73        | 31637       | 4786  | 2063   | 15.13          | 6.52           | 43.10              |
| 10 | Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia | 3         | 152       | 35007       | 2232  | 464    | 6.38           | 1.33           | 20.79              |
| 13 | Foot and Mouth Disease             | 10        | 147       | 75753       | 2710  | 393    | 3.58           | 0.52           | 14.50              |
| 15 | Fowl Cholera                       | 2         | 3         | 5166        | 146   | 116    | 2.83           | 2.25           | 79.45              |
| 16 | Fowl Pox                           | 8         | 27        | 21806       | 293   | 117    | 1.34           | 0.54           | 39.93              |
| 18 | Haemorrhagic Septicaemia           | 3         | 287       | 7404        | 906   | 456    | 12.24          | 6.16           | 50.33              |
| 19 | Heartwater                         | 8         | 195       | 38158       | 646   | 211    | 1.69           | 0.55           | 32.66              |
| 21 | Infectious Bursal Disease          | 7         | 43        | 79181       | 10353 | 4335   | 13.08          | 5.47           | 41.87              |
| 23 | Lumpy Skin Disease                 | 10        | 268       | 139479      | 1778  | 107    | 1.27           | 0.08           | 6.02               |
| 24 | Mange                              | 7         | 305       | 13013       | 2443  | 87     | 18.77          | 0.67           | 3.56               |
| 25 | Newcastle Disease                  | 12        | 159       | 965921      | 78053 | 59963  | 8.08           | 6.21           | 76.82              |
| 26 | Paratuberculosis                   | 2         | 8         | 3438        | 48    | 30     | 1.40           | 0.87           | 62.50              |
| 27 | Peste des Petits Ruminants         | 9         | 336       | 126730      | 15474 | 5268   | 12.21          | 4.16           | 34.04              |
| 28 | Rabies                             | 14        | 489       | 17672       | 651   | 321    | 3.68           | 1.82           | 49.31              |
| 29 | Sheep and Goat Pox                 | 4         | 220       | 24458       | 2181  | 262    | 8.92           | 1.07           | 12.01              |
| 30 | Theileriosis                       | 6         | 234       | 33320       | 861   | 279    | 2.58           | 0.84           | 32.40              |
| 31 | Trypanosomosis                     | 6         | 279       | 13381       | 1672  | 223    | 12.50          | 1.67           | 13.34              |
| 32 | Tuberculosis                       | 6         | 131       | 2199        | 1256  | 5      | 57.12          | 0.23           | 0.40               |

Continued from page 2

of the causative agents of these diseases in the most severely affected countries would be required to could yield information that would assist in redesigning future control efforts or strategies.

In terms of loses, a total of 77,886 animals died, while 67,536 were slaughtered and 702,313 destroyed as a control measure due to outbreaks from the beginning of the year (Table 2). Therefore the total number of animals lost as at the end

| Species        | Deaths | Slaughtered | Destroyed | Total loses |
|----------------|--------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Avian          | 64724  | 66315       | 700227    | 831266      |
| Bees           | 0      | 0           | 1030      | 1030        |
| Bovine         | 3495   | 597         | 688       | 4780        |
| Buffalo        | 2      | 0           | 7         | 9           |
| Camel          | 258    | 58          | 50        | 366         |
| Canine         | 228    | 8           | 137       | 373         |
| Caprine/Ovine  | 7316   | 556         | 142       | 8014        |
| Equine         | 51     | 0           | 10        | 61          |
| Feline         | 8      | 0           | 6         | 14          |
| Porcine        | 1500   | 0           | 10        | 1510        |
| Wildlife       | 19     | 0           | 6         | 25          |
| Not classified | 285    | 0           | 0         | 285         |
| Grand Total    | 77886  | 67534       | 702313    | 847733      |

of the second quarter was 847,735, with Fowl Cholera, Newcastle Disease, and ASF having high case fatality rates. The highest loses were suffered in the Avian species (831266) followed by a combined Ovine/Caprine (8014) and Bovine (4780). This suggests that more efforts should be geared towards controlling poultry diseases (ND) followed by Small ruminant diseases (PPR) and Cattle (CBPP).

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Map 1: Spatial distribution of selected TADs outbreaks

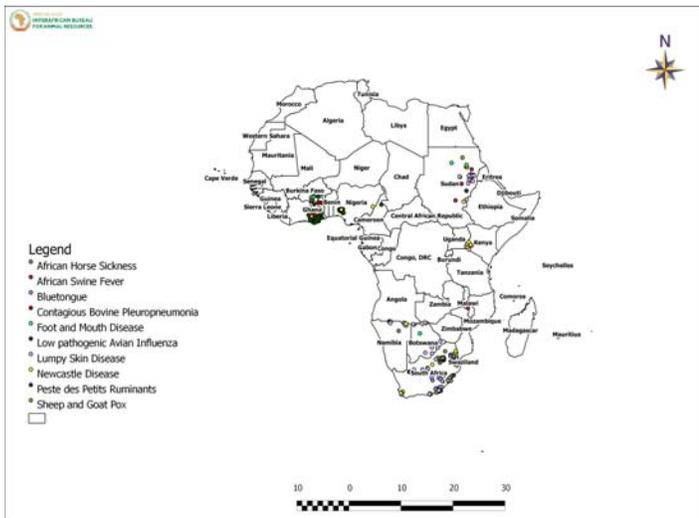


Fig2:-Percentage of outbreak distribution by species January-June 2012

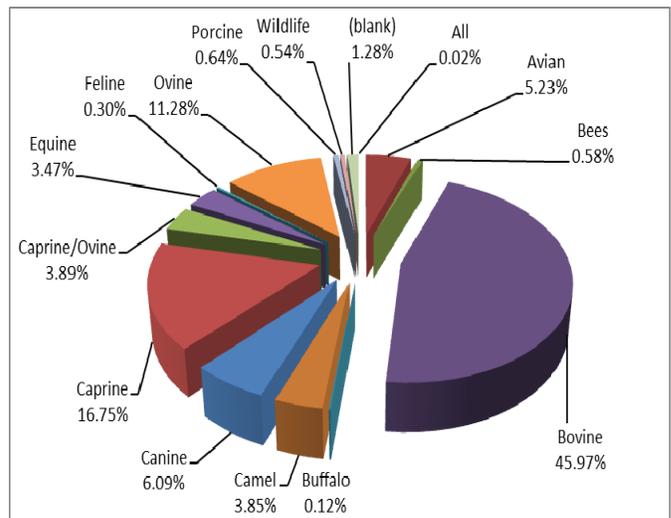


Fig 3:- Disease outbreaks and total losses by species during the 2nd quarter

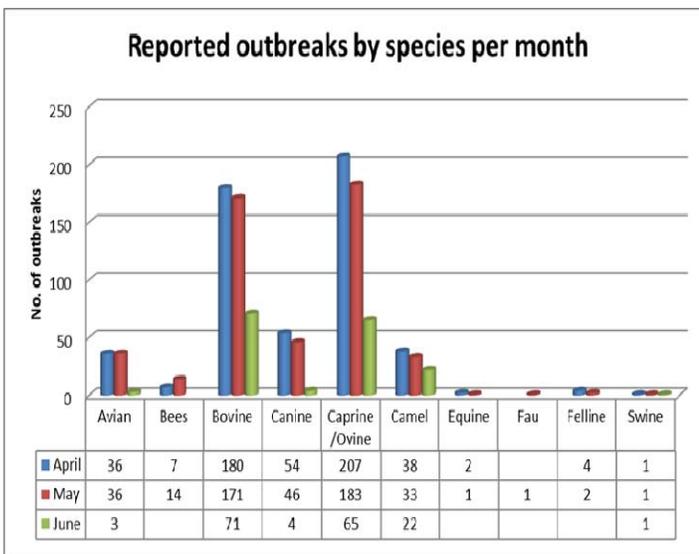
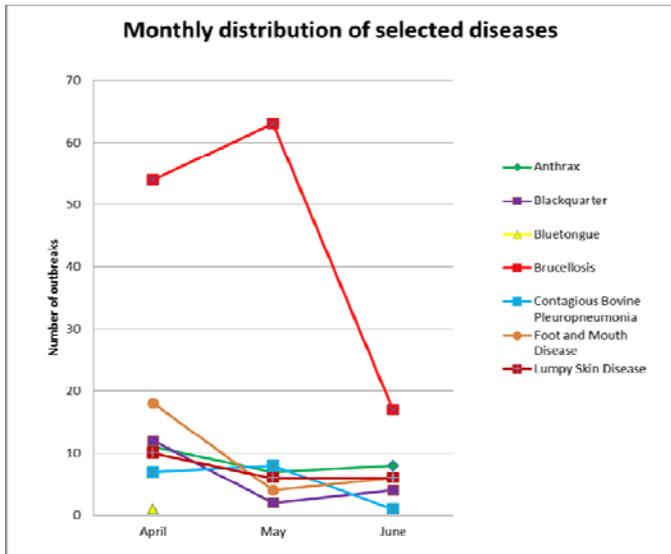


Fig 4:- Temporal distribution of selected diseases for the 2nd quarter



## Digest: Rabies situation in Africa

Rabies is perhaps the most important zoonotic disease in the world at the moment. The disease is widely distributed across all continents of the world, but Africa is perhaps the leading continent in terms of number of outbreaks. Although comprehensive and reliable data on the diseases is relatively scarce, available information indicates that Rabies has also been the most widely reported disease on the continent over the last few years. Reports received from MS showed that 14 (77.77%) out of the 18 countries that submitted reports to AU-IBAR from January-June 2012 had Rabies outbreaks (Map 1). The number of countries that reported Rabies outbreaks from year 2007-2011 were 19, 30, 32, 34 and 32 respectively.

Available data also showed that there were a total of 489 outbreaks reported so far this year, with 583 animals either dead, slaughtered or destroyed. The data of Rabies outbreaks from previous years showed similar high figures for the disease as indicated in

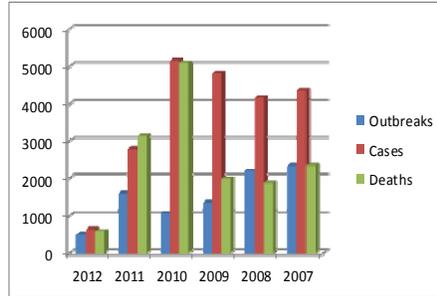
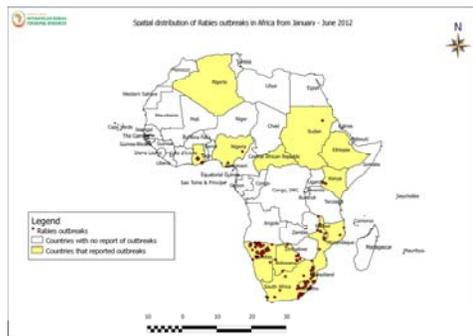


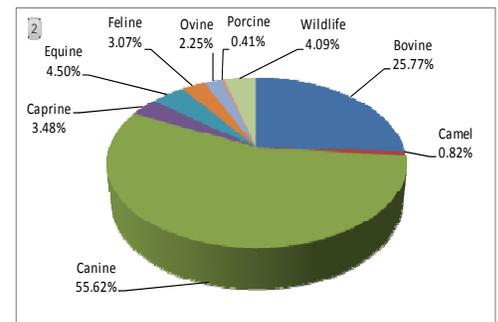
Chart 1 above. In terms of spread between species, the monthly reports collected from MS indicated that outbreaks of the disease have occurred in 9 species of animals and wildlife from January-June 2012. As expected the most affected species is the canine which accounts for 56.74% of the outbreaks, followed by Bovine (25.77%) and wildlife (7.19%) (Chart 2).

Data on human infection is not routinely collected by AU-IBAR. However available information from the OIE showed that a total of 22 African countries (including Morocco) have reported 241 human cases, with 230 recorded deaths to the global agency in 2011, while the corresponding data for the year 2010 was 28 countries, 422 cases and 410 human deaths. It is estimated that globally Rabies kills over 55,000 humans annually, the bulk of who are poor Africans.

This situation calls for a concerted action to control and possibly eradi-

cate the disease in the shortest possible time. These actions include:

- Intensive awareness campaigns at national levels;
- Improved systems of surveillance and reporting;
- Improved funding for Rabies control at national level;
- Development of pragmatic prevention and control strategies with the ultimate aim of total eradication of the disease from the continent;
- Control of population of stray and community dogs; reduction of contact with the wildlife; and implementation of mass vaccination programme
- Strengthening collaborative linkages with public health authorities, including development of joint action plans and exchange of information;
- Development and implementation of national, regional and continental contingency plans for Rabies control and eradication;
- Mobilization of donor support.



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### Titbits

#### PPR Control:-

Consultations held with the Veterinary Services Departments of Uganda and Sudan towards finalizing the development of a PPR control strategy for the continent was carried out. A comprehensive strategy for control and eradication of the disease has been designed by AU-IBAR and donor support is being mobilized.

#### Training of ARIS Head users:-

The training of AU-IBAR ARIS Head users was carried out from 2-5 April 2012 in Naivasha, Kenya. The objective of the exercise was to train the focal points who will be in charge of handling and analysing the data sets of the various ARIS modules; and also to finalize the configuration of the modules based on specialities.

#### ARIS-2 collaboration meetings:-

- A meeting with Chief Veterinary Officers to discuss disease reporting and ARIS roll out was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 25th April 2012
- A core livestock data indicators workshop in collaboration with the LDIP was held in Kampala, Uganda on 31 May 2012
- An EAC meeting of livestock production data experts was held in Arusha, Tanzania on 20 June 2012