Zoonotic Tuberculosis

STDF Working Group

Geneva, 20 October 2016
What is tuberculosis (TB)?

- Tuberculosis (TB) is one of the oldest diseases of humans.
- TB is caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex, which includes *M. bovis* (zoonotic TB).
- TB usually affects the lungs, although other organs can be involved.

In 2015, 10.4 million new cases and 1.4 million deaths.
What is zoonotic TB?

Major route from cattle to people is *unpasteurised dairy products*

*Wildlife reservoir* important in some settings

In 2015, 149,000 new cases

Direct contact
Contaminated pasture/water

Unpasteurised dairy products
Countries reporting TB in cattle

Data officially reported to World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), 2014-2015

Present or suspected in domestic and/or wild animals (reported at least once/four semester)
Disease reported absent
No informations provided

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Challenges of zoonotic TB

- Linked to cultural and social practices
- Affects poor, marginalised communities
- Diagnostic challenge
  - Usually extra-pulmonary (neck or gastrointestinal lymph nodes)
  - Routine TB diagnostic procedures do not differentiate bacterial species (*M. tuberculosis* versus *M. bovis*)
- Treatment challenge
  - Resistant to one of the key drugs used for standard TB treatment
Rationale for action


- WHO’s END TB Strategy 2016-2035 seeks to end the global TB epidemic by 2035 and calls for diagnosis and treatment of every TB case.
One Health approach

- Zoonotic TB in people cannot be fully addressed without controlling the disease in the animal reservoir – mainly cattle, but also wildlife in some settings.

- Addressing zoonotic TB will bring added benefits to the control of other zoonotic diseases in both people and animals.

- Engagement of the WHO/OIE/FAO tripartite is strengthening efforts to control zoonotic and bovine TB.
Zoonotic TB working group
Zoonotic TB roadmap for advocacy and action

Improve scientific evidence base
- Surveillance
- Diagnostic tools
- Research

Reduce transmission at animal-human interface
- Disease control in animals
- Key populations
- Food safety

Strengthen intersectoral approaches
- Raising awareness and engaging stakeholders
- Policies and guidelines
- Joint human/animal health interventions
- Political commitment and funding
Next steps

- Tripartite of WHO/OIE/FAO and The Union Against TB and Lung Diseases to lead development and finalisation of zoonotic TB roadmap

- Roadmap will be launched in first quarter of 2017 and will:
  - promote collaborative action of researchers, policymakers and donors
  - provide guidance to stakeholders for the prioritization of activities
  - serve as an advocacy tool.