

# Cluster of unusual illness or deaths of animals

## Community Case Definition

- A cluster of animals (3+) with illness or sudden deaths that is unusual and unknown cause.  
(for farmers - more than usual, abnormal)

## AND

- All within the local area in the past 2 week period.

## How it is spread

- It is possible for disease to spread from direct contact with animals, their wastes, meat, milk, blood, saliva. From areas where animals have been such as their bedding, caves etc.
- Mosquito and flea bites spread diseases from infected animals to people.
- Eating or drinking the products of infected animals – meat, milk, blood, eggs.
- Farming or slaughtering can be high risk.

## Key messages

- Control mosquitos - cover water pots, empty them often and keep them clean. Do not allow waste water sitting, have good drainage.
- For farmers, vaccinations are important for livestock and will protect them from sickness, death and loss of their young.

## Disease Tool

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- Protect against mosquito and flea bites. Wear long sleeves and trousers, use insect repellents. Sleep under a mosquito net.
- Keep the house and community free from rodents. Store food in protected containers.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap, use hand sanitiser or chlorine.
- Do not eat bushmeat. Cook animal products very well.

## **Actions during alerts and epidemics**

- Submit Community-Based Surveillance (CBS) alerts.
- Conduct mosquito control activities with households and community clean-up campaigns.
- Restrict the movement of livestock. Inform farmers not to take livestock to trade markets during outbreaks.
- Raise awareness for people to stop eating animal products from the sick herd at this time. Animal products sourced from other areas must be cooked very well (meat, milk, blood).
- Do not touch any sick or dead animals. If anyone must handle a sick animal they must always wear protective clothing, including when touching the living or bedding areas of livestock.
- Wear gloves and protective clothing (including masks) when entering mines or caves inhabited by bats, and when slaughtering animals.