Zoonotic diseases in livestock – mitigating risk behaviour

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How important are livestock-keeping cultures and traditions in the transmission of zoonoses?
Prevent – detect - response

Need to understand
- Who does what?
- Why and how?
- What is the context and purpose of livestock keeping?
“Sheep are like ‘Injera’ ready to be eaten, “ Fast growing cabbage in the homestead” (women)

“Goats are cattle gifted for the poor” (women)

“Sheep are like money in a pocket” (men)
Survey in 430 households in Ethiopia (m=217/f=213)
Risk behavior: example dairy consumption in Borana

- Boiling of fresh milk is not common practice
  - “long time tradition of Borana people for not doing so”
  - the perception that “boiling of milk destroys vitamins”
  - “boiled milk is considered dead”
  - boiling of milk reduces the nutritional quality of milk
- However milk is boiled for children: to prevent qullichoo (milk curdle, risk when vomiting)
Women highlighted health benefits of milk, but had poor awareness of disease risks:

• “People drinking milk don't have problem. Rather, people who don't drink milk get sick”.

• “We haven't seen milk related sickness. We haven't had any problem because of the milk from our animals. We use it to raise our children. We are not aware that one can get disease from milk”

• “…The milk itself is medicine. Fresh milk can be recommended for TB patients”
Mitigate risk behavior?

prevent – detect - respond

- Need for effective and culturally sensitive communication strategies and trainings on prevention, detection, treatment and management
- Promote good husbandry/milking practices
- Confirm effectiveness of traditional treatments
- Establish communication channels for reporting
- Address low capacity of veterinary and public health services / infrastructure
prevent – detect – respond: opportunities

• Promote small, but manageable changes that are acceptable
• Changing production systems: change the way things are done
• Novel ICT-based training and communication tools
• Increasing traction for One Health approaches
better lives through livestock