



24th CONFERENCE OF THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

‘Impact of the crisis on animal disease surveillance and reporting’

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BACKGROUND

- 30th March 2020, first confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Responses to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic have included lockdown, quarantining, isolation and travel bans across defined COVID-19 zones, curfew and social distancing.
- These sudden changes in human behaviour (confinement and inactivity) had immediate consequences on DVS mandate – animal health, public health and animal welfare.





Cattle roaming Gaborone City CBD during lockdown

The lockdown meant farmers could not properly look after their cattle e.g. kraal, feed and water them. These cattle went out to fend for themselves



BACKGROUND CONT.

- Due to the movement restrictions, DVS operations were disrupted.
 1. Disease surveillance
 2. Attending reported cases (sick animals)
 3. Residue monitoring
 4. Official vaccinations
 5. Movement control (movement permits)
 6. Import control
 7. Public health (meat inspection)
 8. Animal welfare
 9. Official control (audits to ensure compliance)



CONSEQUENCES OF COVID-19 ON DVS MANDATE

- Financial constraints (funds diverted to fight the pandemic) – had impact on transport (servicing of DVS fleet, fuel), purchasing sampling and testing material.
- Therefore lack of adequate transport and sampling material had a huge (negative) impact on both passive and active surveillance.
- Fuel shortage had impact – farmers could not travel to farms/cattle-post to round up animals for surveillance or to check on their health status.
- DVS officials could not easily attend to cases of sick livestock.



- Movement restrictions (both farmers and DVS officials not allowed to travel/move as before, social distancing) –
 - unable to quickly respond to emergencies,
 - to easily report sick animals to DVS,
 - to round up animals for official DVS duties (surveillance, vaccination),
 - to herd and water animals,
 - to purchase feed and VMPs, basic husbandry, maintenance of disease control **tools** (crushes, cordon fences)



IMPACT

- Reduced disease surveillance efforts due to movement restrictions – resulted in outbreaks (FMD,RVF,MCF)
- Disruption of lab testing of endemic diseases .
- Official vaccinations compromised (FMD vaccinations in zone 1 and 2) – (FMD outbreak in zone 2 !)
- Disease outbreaks took longer (than usual) to control and manage (FMD outbreak in zone 2)
- Reporting compromised



DVS officials FMD vaccination campaign – Zone 2



- NOT ONLY THAT BUT
- Trade in animals and animal products (both local and international) was affected.
- Livelihoods affected

