



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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World Health
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World Organisation
for Animal Health
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Antimicrobial Resistance Multi Partner Trust Fund

Investing in alternatives to
antibiotics for animals in Zimbabwe

Let's
Discuss
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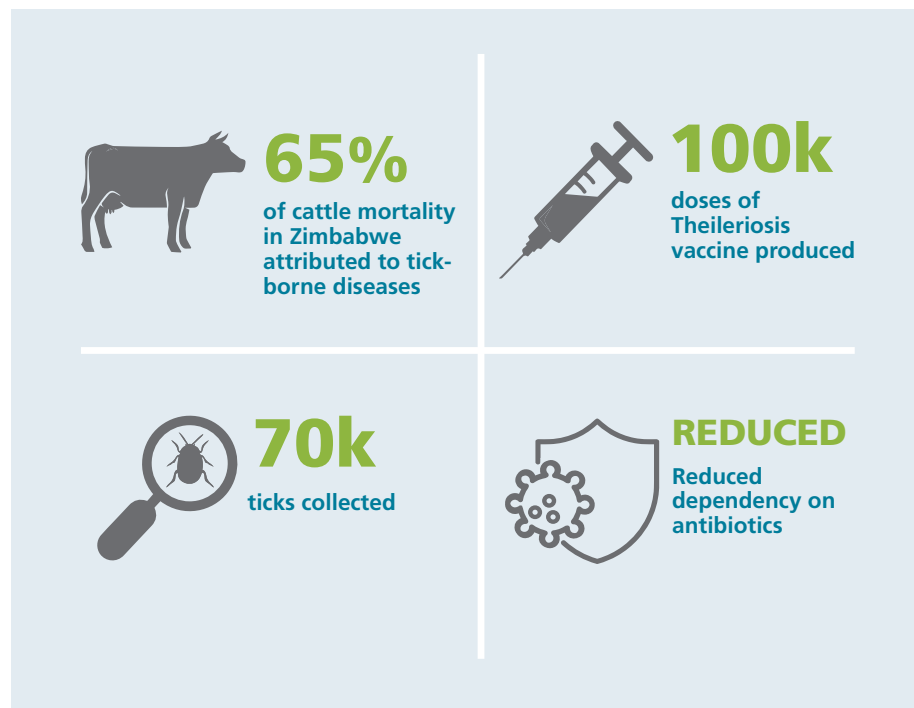
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The misuse and overuse of antimicrobial drugs in human and veterinary practices has placed our future at risk by increasing the resistance of pathogens to antibiotics. This phenomenon is known as antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE) is a collaborator with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on a project in Zimbabwe making significant progress to reduce AMR in the livestock sector. The Zimbabwe Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) reported that 65% of cattle mortality in the country are attributed to Theileriosis, in addition to other tickborne diseases. In order to simultaneously reduce cattle mortality and antibiotic use in the cattle production sector, an alternative solution is needed. Theileriosis vaccines are one such solution.

Tick collection and vaccine production

Infected tick vectors, *Rhipicephalus appendiculatus* also called brown ear tick, transmit the *Theileria Parva* infection (Theileriosis) to domestic cattle during feeding. This tick species therefore provides a vital input to the production of vaccines against Theileriosis. In June 2022, Zimbabwe, with the support of the [AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund \(AMR MPTF\)](#), collected reference tick nymphs from national parks to support the production of 100,000 doses of vaccines. The project aims to produce a viable vaccine by conducting vaccine trials among a target population of cattle through the end of 2022. An initial 20,000 doses have been produced and prioritised for distribution to disease hotspots and an additional 80,000 doses are planned for production in 2022. The impact of the vaccine on disease reduction will be measured and monitored over the next two years.



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Personnel using the dragging method to collect ticks at Chivero National Park © DVS 2022

In addition, technical officers from Zimbabwe's Department of Veterinary Technical Services (DVTS) Parasitology Section received Theileria Immunofluorescence Antibody Test (IFAT) training in order to detect an animal's exposure to Theileria parasites and assess their response to the vaccine. The trainings, conducted in June 2022, further empower DVTS to carry out critical quality controls along the Theileriosis Vaccine production chain. WOAHA therefore is supporting every aspect of vaccine development and deployment from conducting laboratory and field trials using the new vaccine, supporting the registration of the vaccine with the Medicinal Control Authority, and training field staff to implement mass vaccinations.

In summary, theileriosis (BOLVAC) vaccine production is a major breakthrough and it means Zimbabwe can now produce vaccines against three out of the four major tick-borne diseases (TBDs) prevalent in country. With this production capacity, the country is now ready to roll-out its Integrated Ticks and Tick-Borne Disease Control Strategy (ITTBDSCS).

The Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund (AMR MPTF)

This effort is just one component of a single project among ten active projects launched globally by the AMR MPTF to apply best practices and scale up joint action in the fight against antimicrobial resistance.

The AMR MPTF is a global effort to address the health risks of AMR with a pooled fund jointly managed by the Quadripartite Alliance for One Health: FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAHA. The objective of the AMR MPTF is to facilitate country, regional, and global coordination for One Health action on AMR in low- and middle-income countries. Ten countries (Morocco, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Senegal, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Peru, Tajikistan) are currently implementing the AMR MPTF project since late 2020/ 2021. An additional six countries (Bangladesh, Mongolia, Tunisia, Cameroon, Kyrgyzstan and Madagascar) are developing new project proposals.