

## One Health approach adopted in Timor-Leste to address Brucellosis

23 May 2024

The findings from the first activity of the Menzies School of Health Research *Brucellosis Reduction Using Codesign Elements in Timor-Leste* study (known as BRUCE TL), have been presented at a national workshop in Timor-Leste today.

The first activity involved interviewing cattle farmers from Maliana Administrative Post and collecting blood samples from farmers and their cattle. The test results showed that around 6% of participants had been exposed to brucellosis before, shedding light on a health risk from animals. The study also identified risk factors for brucellosis in cattle.

Brucellosis is a zoonotic disease transmitted from animals, such as cattle, to humans. In cattle, brucellosis affects cattle reproduction, leading to increased abortions. This impacts the livelihoods of farming households.

These findings offer vital insights for working with communities to co-design effective One Health approaches to reduce brucellosis transmission. A One Health approach is a collaborative strategy that recognizes the interconnectedness between animal, human, and environmental health.

They have also prompted in-depth discussions with human and animal health authorities at the national and municipality levels. These conversations have begun to address the management of brucellosis in humans and risk factors for the disease among cattle herds such as free-roaming cattle and the disposal of cattle placenta.

The program has received strong support from the Maliana community, local leaders and government officials, and this has contributed to the success of the first activity. Feedback has highlighted that this program has helped grow community members understanding of their health and the impacts this disease can have on their businesses. The findings presented today, will also be shared at a municipality workshop next Wednesday.

BRUCE TL is a collaboration with the Timor-Leste Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry (MALFF), the National Institute of Public Health Timor-Leste (INSP-TL), Ministry of Health (MoH), the National Health Laboratory (NHL), and the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (VDL).

It is also made possible through financial support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Find out more about the BRUCE TL study:

[https://www.menzies.edu.au/page/Research/Global\\_and\\_Tropical\\_Health/Timor-Leste/BRUCE\\_TL/](https://www.menzies.edu.au/page/Research/Global_and_Tropical_Health/Timor-Leste/BRUCE_TL/)

Quotes attributable to Chief-Investigator of the BRUCE-TL Project and Menzies Senior Research Fellow, [Dr Shawn Ting](#):



“Our study findings reveal the importance of a One Health approach for addressing brucellosis in Timor-Leste. It also improves understanding on how the disease spreads and affects people and cattle in Timor-Leste, which lays the groundwork for future interventions to combat the disease.

“In the next phase of our study, we will focus on the critical role of community engagement in designing and implementing effective management strategies for brucellosis, ensuring that interventions are culturally sensitive and contextually appropriate.”

**Quotes attributable to National Director of Veterinary – Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry (MALLF), Dr Joanita Bendita Jong:**

“Brucellosis is a significant threat to both livestock productivity and public health. Therefore, we recognise the importance of adopting a One Health approach in addressing this disease. The findings from this study provides valuable input that will inform efforts to address brucellosis in Timor-Leste.”

**Quote attributable to the President of the National Institute of Public Health Timor-Leste (INSP-TL), Dr Merita A. A. Monteiro:**

“Protecting public health is paramount. By embracing a One Health perspective and working closely with stakeholders, we can work together to develop robust interventions to address brucellosis in Timor-Leste. This study's insights will guide our efforts as we strive to protect the health of our communities.”

**Quote attributable to the Research Program Manager for Livestock Systems, ACIAR, Dr Anna Okello**

“Gaining a better understanding of the risks associated with brucellosis transmission from cattle to humans is a key One Health issue. ACIAR, in partnership with Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC), are pleased to support the Government of Timor-Leste in achieving the simultaneous benefits of improved human health, livestock trade and food security through this important component of the [ACIAR-IDRC One Health Research Program \(AIRPOH\)](#) in Southeast Asia.”

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**Menzies School of Health Research**

Menzies is one of Australia’s leading medical research institutes dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, and a leader in global and tropical research into life-threatening illnesses. Menzies continues to translate research into effective partnerships and programs in communities across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.



## Aprosimsaun Saúde Ida ne'ebé adopta ona iha Timor-Leste atu responde ba Brucellosis.

23 Maiu 2024

Rezultadu husi atividade dahuluk husi peskiza Menzies School of Health Research Redusaun Brucellosis uza Elementu codesing iha Timor-Leste (hanaran BRUCE TL), ne'ebé ohin loron apresenta ona iha semináriu nasionál ida iha Timor-Leste.

Atividade dahuluk ne'e envolve entrevista ho hakia'k na'in karau vaka sira husi Postu Administrativu Maliana no koleta amostra raan husi hakia'k na'in sira no sira-nia karau vaka. Rezultadu teste sira hatudu katak maizumenus 6% husi partisipante sira hetan ona espozisaun ba brucellosis antes ne'e, hodi hatudu katak iha risku saúde husi animál sira. Peskiza ne'e mós identifika fatór risku ba brucellosis iha karau vaka.

Brucellosis mak moras Zoonotiku ne'ebé transmite husi animál, hanesan karau vaka, ba ema. Iha karau vaka, brucellosis mos afeita ba karau vaka sira-nia reproduisaun, nune'e hamosu abortu ne'ebé mak aumenta. Ida mos ne'e fó impaktu ba uma-kain agrikultór sira-nia moris.

Rezultadu hirak-ne'e oferese informasaun importante hodi servisu hamutuk ho comunidade sira hodi dezeña hamutuk aprosimsaun ida kona-ba Saúde hodi hamenus transmisaun brucellosis. Aprosimsaun kona-ba Saude Ida mak estratéjia kolaborativu ida-ne'ebé rekoñese interligasaun entre saúde animál, ema no ambientál.

Ida ne'e mos enkora diskusaun kle'an ho autoridade saúde umanu no animál iha nivel nasionál no munisípiu. Konversasaun hirak-ne'e hahú ona atu ko'alia kona-ba jestaun husi brucellosis iha ema no fatór risku ba moras ne'e iha karau-vaka hanesan karau ne'ebé husik livre no soe plasenta.

Programa ne'e hetan apoiu maka'as husi comunidade Maliana, lider lokál no ofisiál governu sira, no ida-ne'e kontribui ba susesu husi atividade dahuluk nian. Feedback ne'e iha hatudu katak programa ne'e ajuda ona comunidade sira atu haburas sira-nia komprensaun kona-ba sira-nia saúde no impaktu moras ne'e ba iha sira-nia negósiu. Rezultadu sira ne'ebé apresenta ohin, sei fahe mós iha semináriu munisípiu ida iha loron Kuarta-feira oin mai.

BRUCE TL hanesan kolaborasaun ho Ministeriu Agrikultura, Pekuária, Peskas no Floresta Timor-Leste (MALFF), Institutu Nasionál Saude Publika Timor-Leste (INSP-TL), Ministeriu Saúde (MoH), Laboratoriu Nasionál Saude (NHL), no Laboratoriu Diagnostiku Veterinariu (VDL).

Ida ne'e realiza tamba liu husi apoiu finanseiru husi Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) no Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Bele hetan informasaun liután kona-ba estudu BRUCE TL:

[https://www.menzies.edu.au/page/Research/Global\\_and\\_Tropical\\_Health/Timor-Leste/BRUCE\\_TL/](https://www.menzies.edu.au/page/Research/Global_and_Tropical_Health/Timor-Leste/BRUCE_TL/)



**Sitasaun atributu husi Chefe Investigador ba Projetu BRUCE TL no mos hanesan Menzies Senior Research Fellow, Dr. Shawn Ting:**

"Rezultadu husi ami-nia estudu ida ne'e hatudu importansia husi approximasau Saude Ida responde ba brucellosis iha Timor-Leste. Nune'e mós hadi'a kompriensaun kona-ba oinsá moras ne'e da'et no afeta ba ema no karau vaka iha Timor-Leste, ne'ebé hatudu baze ba intervensaun sira iha futuru atu kombate moras ne'e.

Etapa tuir mai husi ami-nia estudu ida ne'e, ami sei foka liu ba iha knar importante ba envolvimentu komunidadade Iha desenu no implementa estratejia manejamentu efetivu ba brucellosis, Asegura katak intervensaun sira-ne'e kulturalmente sensitivu no kontestualmente apropiadu

**Sitasaun ne'ebé atribui husi Diretor Nasional Veterinariu - Ministeriu Agrikultura, Pekuaria, Peskas no Floresta (MAPPF), Dr Joanita Bendita Jong:**

"Brucellosis hanesan amesa signifikativu ba produtividade Pekuaria no Saude Publika. Nune'e ami rekonese importante atu adopta aprosimasaun Saude Ida hodi responde ba moras ida ne'e. Rezultadu husi estudu ida ne'e fornese input ne'be importante ne'ebé sei sujestaun no esforsu hodi kombate brucellosis iha Timor-Leste"

**Sitasaun ne'ebé atribui husi Prezidente Institutu Nasional Saude Publika Timor-Leste (INSP-TL), Dr Merita A. A. Monteiro:**

"Proteza saúde publika mak importante tebes. Liu husi enkoraja perspetiva Saude ida no servisu hamutuk ho parte interesada sira, ita bele servisu hamutuk hodi dezenvolve intervensaun ne'ebé forte hodi responde ba brucellosis iha Timor-Leste. Presepsaun husi estudu ida-ne'e sei orienta ami-nia esforsu sira liu husi esforsu atu proteje ita-nia komunidadade nia saúde

**Sitasaun ne'ebé atribui husi Jestaun Programa Peskiza ba Sistema Livestock, ACIAR, Dr Anna Okello**

"Hetan komprensaun ne'ebé dia'k liu kona-ba risku sira ne'ebé relaciona ho transmisaun brucellosis husi karau vaka ba ema mak hanesan problema importante husi Saude ida. ACIAR, iha parseria ho Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), ho kontente atu apoia Governu Timor-Leste hodi hetan benefísiu simultaneu husi hadi'a saúde umana, komérsiu pekuária no seguransa ai-han liuhusi komponente importante ida-ne'e husi Programa Peskiza Saude ACIAR-IDRC (ARIPOH) iha Sudeste Aziatiku."

IKUS LIU

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**Menzies School of Health Research**

Menzies hanesan Institutu Peskiza saúde nian ne'ebe mak lidera husi Australia atu dedika no melhora saude no moris diak ba Aboriginal no Torres Strait Islanders, no lidera peskiza iha global no tropical ba moras sira ne'ebe mak ameadadu. Menzies kotinua halo peskiza ba iha parseira no programa ih komunidadade efetiva iha Australia no iha regiaun Azia-Pasifiku.

