

RESPOND

SUCCESS STORY: WEST CONGO

First Risk Analysis In-Service Training Course in the Democratic Republic of Congo is a Success

In March 2012, the RESPOND project facilitated the first ‘risk analysis’ in-service training course in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Bringing together professionals from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism and the Ministry of Higher Education, the weeklong course exemplified the One Health approach through experiential learning and applied problem solving. Developed and led by faculty from Tufts University and the University of Minnesota, along with RESPOND colleagues from the West Congo Regional Office, the course targeted specific topics in risk analysis including; hazard identification, development of conceptual models, release assessment, exposure assessment, consequence assessment, risk management and risk communication.

Core concepts of risk analysis were introduced through three case studies covering *Bovine Tuberculosis*, *Ebola Virus in Bushmeat* and *Rift Valley Fever in Goats*, highlighting and overlapping approaches used for a hazard (*Mycobacterium Bovis*), a commodity (bushmeat) and an animal population (goats). Using these examples as a starting point, course participants worked together with colleagues from other professions to frame an appropriate risk analysis question, develop a conceptual model, conduct exposure/release and consequence assessments, and analyze and report on the associated risks. Risk communication methodologies and tools were emphasized and exercised throughout the course, to highlight the importance and interconnection of risk communication, risk assessment and risk management in the risk analysis paradigm.

To develop risk analysis frameworks and conceptual models, participants traveled to the public abattoir and livestock market in Kinshasa to conduct informational interviews and observe the environmental and working conditions present. The field exercise was used to reinforce methods of identifying information sources and data collection, then applying it towards a risk analysis.

The individuals who participated in the course expressed utmost appreciation and great interest in utilizing the skills in their roles as health professionals. Developing a cadre of in-service professionals with needed skill sets in risk analysis is a good example of how RESPOND is building outbreak response capacity in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



(1) Lead instructor, Dr. Christine Rioux (Tufts University). (2) Participants drafting a conceptual model. (3) Participants working on hazard identification.



(1) Interviews with saleswomen at the abattoir. (2) Example DR Congo animal transport permit. (3) Heifer in cattle yard.



(1) Donning protective gear to prevent risk of disease transmission. (2) Juxtoposing footwear at the abattoir. (3) Inspected and certified product leaves the abattoir (side of beef with inspection stamp).



(1) Abattoir client transports product to her butcher shop. (2) Viewing waste disposal from the abattoir. (3) Children swimming (ferry boats just downstream)



(1) Newborn goat kid and ewe at Kinshasa livestock market. (2) Interviewing goat salesmen at livestock market. (3) Data collection.



Group photo on a hot day outside the Kinshasa public abattoir.

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