

Strategies to Prevent (STOP) Spillover

Impact Brief

Sierra Leone

STOP Spillover Team and Kenema District Stakeholders Commemorate One Health Day 2023 with a Drawing Competition for Secondary School Children



Group photo at the One Health Day Commemoration.
Photo credits: STOP Spillover Sierra Leone

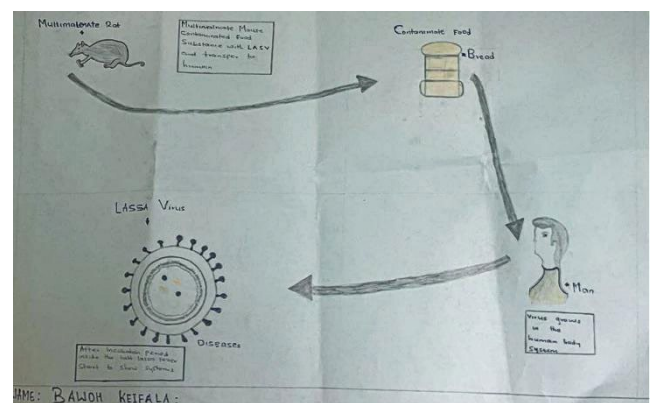
INTRODUCTION

One Health Day is annually observed on November 3rd to draw attention to the importance of addressing zoonotic health threats at the human-animal-environmental interface. Sierra Leone celebrated One Health Day with a focus on raising awareness about the relevance of the One Health approach in addressing shared health threats.

STOP Spillover Sierra Leone joined the Kenema District Health Management Team in commemorating One Health Day. The STOP Spillover team organized a One Health drawing competition among ten senior secondary schools, to sensitize young people about zoonotic diseases and the One Health concept. A total of fifty-four senior secondary school students participated in the contest. A team of judges from the One Health platform in Kenema selected the four best drawings.

Outcomes and Achievements

- Collected local drawings of One Health ideas to use for One Health events and advocacy.
- Raised awareness among secondary school youth about zoonotic diseases and the One Health concept.



A diagram showing a mastomys rodent that contaminates food (bread) with Lassa virus, and after the food has been eaten by human, he fell sick with Lassa fever.

Participant Reflections

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

Representative: “Collaboration, coordination and communication among major stakeholders is important to promote the One Health initiative to prepare and respond to zoonotic disease in the district.”

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Representative: “It is impressive to see the young people come up with such drawings given that they were only just sensitized about the One Health concept. This means they can grasp the concept easily and take the message to other people. Going forward, we need to be engaging these students in key awareness raising campaigns if we want to be successful.”

Ministry of Health Representative: “This is the first time schools have been targeted during events like this in the absence of an ongoing outbreak. They were targeted since they are one of the vulnerable groups when it comes to disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies, and they will help in sensitizing their families and friends about zoonotic diseases and the One Health concept.”

Winner of the drawing competition (student):

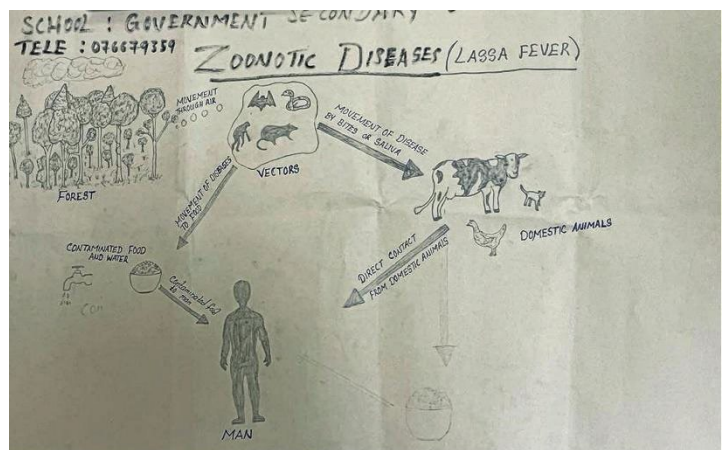
“The first time I learned about the One Health concept was when the team visited our school for sensitization and then I read further on the topic to enhance my drawing. This gave me an idea about the risk involved in dealing with animals in our environment and the importance of vaccination of domestic animals to protect ourselves.”

Conclusion

This initiative will enhance JEE indicator R5.2 - Risk Communication, leveraging the role of school children as influential agents of change within their households and communities. Recognizing that these students are not only current community members but also future adults, the activity is designed to instill the concept of One Health in school children, empowering them to actively promote it within their present and future homes.



This diagram shows the different means of transmission of Lassa virus; direct contact with fluids from rodents, contact with contaminated food, and human-to-human transmission through contact with fluids from infected person.



The diagram shows two pathways of zoonotic disease transmission from forest to humans. 1. Wild animals including bats, primates and rodents contaminate water and food around the forest, and when humans drink/eat from them, they get infected. 2. Wild animals can also infect domestic animals through a shared environment and contact with these animals can also infect humans.