



PMAC | PRINCE MAHIDOL
AWARD CONFERENCE **2018**



PARALLEL SESSION 1.5

ONE HEALTH ON THE MOVE: NOMADIC COMMUNITIES



| BACKGROUND

Fully dependent on their animals for their livelihood and income, pastoralists employ mobility as a key strategy to ensure the availability of pasture and water for their herds, thus increasing their resilience. While their movement allows them to overcome the vagaries of nature prevalent in the harsh environments they inhabit, their remoteness and often trans-boundary livelihoods have made it challenging to access services and engage in decision-making. Pastoralists are at the forefront of the human, livestock and wildlife interface. They are especially vulnerable to zoonotic diseases, because they live in close contact with their animals and often consume raw milk and meat. Furthermore changing environmental conditions also affect the availability of pasture for their animals, and in-turn affect their nutrition status.

The animal-human-environment sectors are interconnected and associated with the emergence of infectious diseases as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). Multisectoral approaches such as One Health can help address the challenges at this interface by providing adapted vaccinations campaigns and veterinary services to pastoralists.

| OBJECTIVES

- To foster a deeper understanding of the health risks faced by mobile pastoral communities, and the challenges they encounter in accessing animal and human healthcare
- To share examples of interventions and policies that tackle pastoralists' health issues at the animal-human-environment interface
- To promote the participation of pastoral communities in health policy decisions and sanitation campaigns



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Panelist

Benon Asiimwe

Associate Professor

Makerere University
Uganda

Benon Asiimwe, DVM, MSc, PhD, MPH Dr. Benon Asiimwe is an Associate Professor of Microbiology and Public Health at Makerere University College of Health Sciences, Uganda, where he has taught for the last 15 years. His research interests are genomic epidemiology and using the One Health approach to understand pathogen transmission dynamics at the human-animal interface. He currently holds an EcoHealth Chair funded by the IDRC-Canada to study health vulnerabilities in protected ecosystems of Eastern and Central Africa; and is also a recent awardee of the antimicrobial resistance in a Global Context development grant from the MRC (UK). He chairs the research committee of the National One Health Technical Working Group of Uganda.