

AIHSP NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023 edition

The Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership (AIHSP) is a five-year partnership program (2020-2025) between the Australian and Indonesian governments aimed to increase national health security system in Indonesia to prevent, detect and respond to public and animal health emergencies from emerging infectious diseases and to improve coordination and capability to address emerging health threats.



The peak celebration of World Rabies Day in 2023 consisted of a series of activities for children.

Australia Supports Indonesia's
Commitment Towards a Rabies-Free
Indonesia 2030

PAGE 1

Reaching Out to Marginalised Groups
with Health Education

PAGE 3

Australia Responds to Rabies in
Indonesia with 400,000 Vaccine Doses

PAGE 6

Swift Action to Control Rabies in NTT
(East Nusa Tenggara)

PAGE 7

Disease Control and Livestock
Production Efficiency for Sustainable
Food Security in Indonesia

PAGE 8

Australia Supports Indonesia's Commitment Towards a Rabies-Free Indonesia 2030

Rabies is still a threat to public health in Indonesia. Solving this problem requires multisectoral cooperation in particular, between public health and animal health services in controlling zoonotic diseases to achieve a rabies-free Indonesia by 2030.

On 28 September each year, the world commemorates World Rabies Day. The impetus generated by this United Nations observance day is used by various countries to further increase public awareness of the dangers of rabies.

Supporting this, the Ministry of Agriculture, as the active coordinator of World Rabies Day 2023, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture, and under the coordination of the Livestock and Food Security Service of the West Java Provincial Government, held a series of activities on 7 October 2023 at Gedung Sate, Bandung to encourage the acceleration of rabies control.

The peak day of the celebration was enlivened with a dialogue entitled "Harmonisation Towards a Rabies-Free Indonesia 2030" with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Coordinating Ministry for Human Development



and Culture, West Java Provincial Government and communications expert, Pak Effendi Gozali. This event was also supported by international development partners including the Australian Government through the Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership (AIHSP).

Opening the dialogue, the Director of Animal Health at the Indonesian Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. drh. Nuryani Zainuddin, MSi, presented data regarding rabies. "Rabies is still endemic in Indonesia, so if we look, only 12 provinces are still rabies-free." Dr. Nuryani added that responsible care for animals that transmit rabies (Hewan Penular Rabies: HPR) is an important factor in controlling rabies especially animal vaccination. "We can control rabies in Indonesia if we can achieve the vaccination target of at least 70 percent of the HPR population. Currently, we are still at 30-40 percent."

Supporting this statement, the Director of Veterinary Public Health, drh. Syamsul Ma'arif, M.Sc., said that the role of public awareness is also important to control rabies. The central and regional governments are working together to appoint rabies alert cadres (Kader Siaga Rabies: KASIRA). "So far there are five provinces, namely West Nusa Tenggara, East Nusa Tenggara, Bali, Jambi, and East Kalimantan. Several KASIRA have been grouped in a rabies alert team, or TISIRA (Tim Siaga Rabies). We also carry out information, education, and commu-

nication activities continuously including for children. Rabies awareness education from an early age is also included in the Merdeka Belajar curriculum," she added.

Director of Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases of the Indonesian Ministry of Health, dr. Imran Pambudi, MPH, who was also present at the talk show, encouraged the importance of risk communication and community involvement to increase public awareness of the dangers of rabies and bites from HPR.

Dr. Imran gave an example of the lack of awareness of the community and health workers in the area regarding the risk of rabies. "In the case that occurred on the island of Timor, for example, [people] thought the area was sterile from rabies, but it turned out that after being bitten by a dog, someone died. Not only the people, even the health workers are not aware," he said. "The case fatality rate for rabies is 100 percent. So if [the person] has been diagnosed with rabies and shows three symptoms fear of light, fear of water, and fear of wind then within a week, they will usually die."



The rabies education program for children included colouring activities together, searching for words, and playing snakes and ladders.



Dr. drh. Nuryani Zainuddin, MSi, Director of Animal Health at the Ministry of Agriculture of Indonesia, opens the dialogue session “Harmonizing Towards a Rabies-Free Indonesia 2030” during the WRD 2023 celebration in Bandung.

The dialogue concluded with agreement that the multisectoral One Health concept will play a major role in the success of rabies control in the future. This approach is useful in encouraging animal vaccination, risk communication, and community involvement through a socio-cultural approach.

The peak celebration of World Rabies Day in 2023 consisted of a series of activities that have been carried out since 1 September. Among them, rabies education activities were attended by more than 5,000 school children in five provinces in the AIHSP working area which was replicated in 15 other provinces. On this occasion, the Australian Government through AIHSP also supported public awareness sessions through talk shows and interactive educational sessions for children in the booth area. The rabies education program for children included colouring activities together, searching for words, and playing snakes and ladders and was done in groups.

By 7 October—the end of World Rabies Day 2023 celebration, the final report on the implementation of simultaneous rabies vaccinations confirmed that more than 33,000 vaccination doses were administered. This broke the MURI (*Museum Rekor Dunia Indonesia*)⁵ record for “Most Simultaneous Vaccinations of Animals Transmitting Rabies”. The vaccination event involved around 226 health centres spread across 131 districts/cities in 20 provinces, as well as 352 independent practice clinics.

This series of programs to encourage rabies control in Indonesia has also been funded by the Australian Government since mid-2023 with a grant of 400,000 doses of rabies vaccine distributed in areas with high case numbers namely the provinces of Bali (200,000 doses) and East Nusa Tenggara (200,000 doses).

⁵ MURI is an organisation that keeps records of various achievements and accomplishments in Indonesia, similar to the Guinness World Records. MURI acknowledges and records outstanding achievements and unique records within the country.

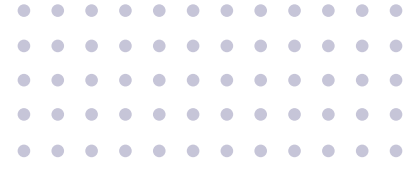
Reaching Out to Marginalised Groups with Health Education

At the end of August 2023, Central Java provincial authorities, in collaboration with the Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership (AIHSP), disseminated information on best practices in health education to marginalised people such as the poor, older people, socio-economically vulnerable women, and people with disability. This partnership is executed via the Central Java Provincial Social Service by empowering the Family Hope Program (*Program Keluarga Harapan: PKH*) network.

PKH is a conditional social assistance program for poor families implemented by the Ministry of Social Affairs to accelerate the reduction of poverty. PKH seeks to enhance the quality of human resources by facilitating access to, and utilisation of, basic social services in health, education, food and nutrition, care, and assistance for low-income families.



Trial run of the discussion guide for Anthrax material in Sragen District, May 2023.



A total of 260,995 PKH beneficiary families reside in the five districts/cities (Cilacap, Magelang, Pekalongan City, Sragen, and Pati) that are assisted by AIHSP. Some 782 PKH facilitators held mandatory monthly Family Capacity Building Meetings (*Pertemuan Peningkatan Kemampuan Keluarga: P2K2*) with beneficiary families in the villages. With the breadth of the PKH network and its reach down to the village and hamlet level, collaboration with PKH has the potential to communicate AIHSP-initiated health risk information directly to poor communities served by PKH.

According to the PKH Central Java Regional Coordinator, Pak Muhammad Arif Rohman Muis, SE, MM, it is crucial to convey information on health risks to marginalised people. "Marginalised people rarely receive information. Even if they do, the information is frequently insufficient. As a result, the partnership between AIHSP and PKH plays a crucial role," he said. Sub-coordinator of Social Security for the Central Java Provincial Social Service, Pak Didik Prawata, SE, stated: "Marginalised people are not like the general community who have easy access to services. They have limitations." However, according to Paragraph 1 of Article 28H of the 1945 Constitution, everyone has the right to receive health care.

PKH has five main modules, related to: health; education; family finances; child protection; and social welfare, which are discussed through the P2K2. AIHSP enriched the modules by incorporating five materials to facilitate P2K2 discussions: COVID-19 Vaccination; Health Protocols; Anthrax; Rabies; and Leptospirosis. Material on the latter three diseases was added by AIHSP to educate PKH beneficiary families about the significance of preventing and controlling diseases transmitted from animals to humans and vice versa (zoonoses) and emerging infectious diseases.

Head of the provincial Social Service, Pak Tegoch Hadi Noegroho, SH, believes that incorporating new content as a P2K2 discussion guideline is the proper action. "We benefit greatly from this collaboration. In Central Java, animal health problems threaten the survival of villagers. We know that the majority of PKH beneficiary families reside in villages and are affected by livestock problems."

Pak Arif also stated: "PKH beneficiary families have direct contact with rats and cows, but they were unaware of the diseases these animals can transmit and how to prevent them. The beneficiaries are excited to acquire this new information. As of July 2023, PKH facilitators have successfully used these five P2K2 guidelines for 21,846 beneficiary families, including the elderly and people with disability." He explained that the packaging of the five discussion guidelines was designed to make them simple to use.

The partnership between PKH and AIHSP began in March 2022. The initial coordination was followed by a Guideline Workshop in October 2022, a Guideline Orientation in November 2022, a Guideline Trial in the PKH P2K2 in five districts/cities during May 2023, and the Guideline Finalisation in early June 2023. The collaboration between PKH and AIHSP is viewed as advantageous by numerous parties. "PKH facilitators have acquired new knowledge," stated Pak Didik. He added that numerous beneficiary families are farmers, breeders, or animal farmers. "Therefore, a discussion guideline on Anthrax, Rabies, and Leptospirosis is essential and extremely useful."

Educating about zoonoses in the P2K2 in Pati District.





Trial run of the discussion guide for Rabies in Cilacap District.

Pak Arif said that the delivery of these five P2K2 discussion guides was able to change beneficiaries' mindset. "In the past, they were not interested in maintaining a healthy home and caring for and cleaning their livestock. Now they are concerned with the cleanliness of their family, the environment, and their livestock. Additionally, village and hamlet leaders are pleased with this guideline because it assists them in providing explanations to the community."

During the delivery of the five P2K2 discussion guides, PKH facilitators are accompanied by health workers from animal health centres (*puskesmas*) or the Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Service, as well as from community health centres (*puskesmas*). Ultimately, this promotes sector-wide coordination between public health and animal health.

"This collaboration also strengthens cross-sector coordination, namely between Bappeda, the Social Service, the Health Service, and the Livestock and Fisheries Service," added Pak Arif. This coordination is expected to enhance efforts to prevent and control zoonotic diseases and new emerging infections. "We know where to report if we find Anthrax in beneficiary families, for example."

Pak Rahmah Nurhayati, SKM, M.Kes, the Head of the Disease Prevention and Control Division of the Central Java Health Service, emphasised the significance of this coordination. "Together, we can provide the best community services. Communication, coordination, and collaboration are crucial." Dr. Hartanto Hardjono, M.Med.Sc., AIHSP Provincial Coordinator in Central Java, stated that this cross-sector coordination is consistent with the AIHSP-promoted approach (One Health) which integrates animal, human, and environmental health. "This coordination can contribute to One Health education in the smallest communities such as villages, hamlets, and neighbourhood units (*rukun warga*)," he explained.

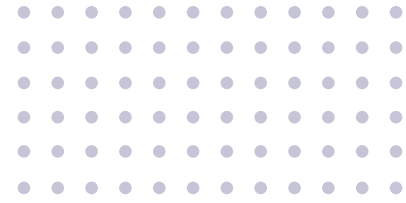
Dr. Hartanto hopes that other districts/cities will adopt this best practice to combat zoonotic and emerging infectious diseases. "PKH facilitators can play a role in conducting Community-Based Surveillance or CBS," he explained. CBS enables communities to identify and report potential health issues in villages to community health centres and animal health centres, as well as to engage in preventative measures. "I am optimistic that PKH facilitators and the community they serve can be optimised for their role in CBS." His statement bolsters AIHSP's plan to designate six districts/cities (Cilacap, Magelang, Pekalongan City, Sragen, Pati, and Semarang City) as CBS pilot areas.

The Central Java Provincial Social Service plans to expand this collaboration's best practices. "The AIHSP program is advantageous. We have allocated funds for the dissemination of these five P2K2 guidelines to 29 other districts and cities in Central Java," Pak Didik said.

The Head of the Social Protection and Security Division of the Central Java Provincial Social Service, Pak Rudi Agus, S.Sos, MH, concluded the activity by reiterating the significance of collaboration between various parties, including the government, social services, health services, animal husbandry services, non-governmental organisations, and the community in enhancing public and animal health.

This discussion is intended to facilitate the exchange of knowledge regarding health security to disseminate the best practices developed during the AIHSP program's implementation. "During nearly four years of program implementation, AIHSP has contributed to the development of national and regional best practices. It would be very beneficial if these best practices were shared with all stakeholders so that they could assist other provinces in continuing to implement or replicate approaches that have been successfully tested," stated Ibu Lea Suganda, representing the AIHSP Program Director.

Australia Responds to Rabies in Indonesia with 400,000 Vaccine Doses



Australian Consul-General, Anthea Griffin, officially handed over 400,000 doses of dog rabies vaccines from the Australian Government to the Indonesian Government in Denpasar, Bali.

The Director of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture Indonesia, Dr. Nuryani Zainuddin, said Indonesia's health authorities should be commended. "Our animal health authorities coordinated efforts using Indonesia's vaccine supplies to vaccinate over 89,000 dogs in 7 weeks in the Bali and West Timor outbreak areas," Dr. Nuryani Zainuddin said. "The close partnership with Australia on animal health has bolstered Indonesia's coordinated efforts to control the disease and prevent rabies from spreading."

"Australia is proud to support Indonesia's rabies response, which is targeting immediate rabies outbreaks," said Consul-General Anthea Griffin. "I congratulate the local health services for their excellent work coordinating the emergency response. The vaccination of dogs saves human lives, and community participation is vital in controlling canine rabies everywhere."

Of the 400,000 vaccine doses, 200,000 doses are being rolled out in Bali, with another 200,000 being used to combat the emergency rabies outbreak in West Timor, where administration of vaccines commenced on 20 July 2023.

Australian Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Mark Schipp, said Australia's work with Indonesia on rabies not only supports a friend and neighbour, but also helps stop the spread of rabies in the region.

"Over 99 per cent of human rabies cases are caused by bites or scratches from infected dogs. Rabies is 100% preventable through regular vaccination of dogs, preventing the transmission to humans—especially children who account for over 40 per cent of rabies deaths," Dr. Schipp said.

Australia is partnering with the World Organisation for Animal Health, and the bilateral Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership (AIHSP) to support the Government of Indonesia's response to control rabies. Australia's gifted vaccines furthers its support for rabies containment in the region, and its commitment to the global eradication of the disease by 2030.



Australia is partnering with the World Organisation for Animal Health, and the bilateral Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership (AIHSP) to support the Government of Indonesia's response to control rabies.



The children in Cendana Village, TTS, are very enthusiastic about bringing their dogs for anti-rabies vaccination.

Swift Action to Control Rabies in NTT (East Nusa Tenggara)

Australia is delivering 100,000 doses of rabies vaccine to East Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT) Province. The doses are part of the 201,500 doses of rabies vaccine that the Australian Government has committed to control the recent rabies outbreak in the island of Timor, Nusa Tenggara Timor (NTT).

The vaccine is being donated to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia (MoA) for distribution to SoE, South Central Timor (TTS) District of NTT, and to other high-risk districts in the province.

Australia through the Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership (AIHSP) is working closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, and Provincial and district offices in support of the emergency response in NTT, including through providing training to vaccinators, developing laboratory testing capacity, providing training to health workers on effective bite case management and developing and disseminating Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.

In addition, AIHSP also continues to support development of iSIKHNAS, the national animal health information system, which is equipped to both provide early warning of emerging threats and monitor progress in emergency response and disease control. Cases arising from the recent rabies outbreak in NTT have been mapped using iSIKHNAS, thereby supporting the effective targeting of control measures to high-risk villages.

An efficient One Health collaboration across human, animal, and related sectors for effective prevention and control of rabies disease is imperative to ensure the sustainability of rabies control in Indonesia especially in NTT. AIHSP is supporting the Government of NTT to establish a Task Force Against Rabies (KASIRA) which will play a key role in strengthening early warning at the community level where people are empowered to report cases immediately and ensuring rapid access to health services for patients.

The video of the rabies vaccine handover and training activities in NTT [here](#).



The staff of the East Nusa Tenggara Provincial Livestock Department, Silver Sanu and Rocky, are lowering the storage boxes of Rabies Vaccine to be opened and have the vaccines removed and promptly placed in the cold room of the Provincial Livestock Department of East Nusa Tenggara.

Disease Control and Livestock Production Efficiency for Sustainable Food Security in Indonesia

From: John Weaver, Lead Animal Health Epidemiologist, Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership (AIHSP)

Climate change is threatening every aspect of human health and well-being globally. According to the Global Climate Risk Index, Indonesia is at very high risk from climate change and is ranked 14th out of 181 countries.¹ The National Disaster Management Agency has reported a marked increase in disasters caused by increasing floods, droughts, landslides, and extreme weather events such as storms and cyclones. Indonesia must urgently reduce its contribution to global climate change and quickly develop its economic, social, and environmental resilience to reduce the impact from climate change and protect human health and well-being.

¹ Source: <https://www.climatecorecard.org/2023/02/indonesia-a-climate-look-past-and-forward/#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20Global%20Climate,country%20out%20of%20181%20countries>

Indonesia has experienced rapid economic growth in recent years, and this coupled with significant government investments in social development, has transformed the lives of millions of people. The number of undernourished people was halved in the period 2005-2015 but the country continues to face food security challenges with insufficient access to nutritious food, widespread malnutrition and gender inequality – it is estimated that 30% of children under five continue to suffer from stunting and one quarter of the population are anaemic.²

Under the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2020-2024, the Government of Indonesia is fully committed to decreasing the proportion of households experiencing

² Source: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/indonesia>

Collaborative efforts like the Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership (AIHSP) are working to fortify Indonesia's health systems and livestock production for improved food security and resilience against emerging diseases and endemic issues.



Impacts of Disasters and Climate Change on the Livestock Sector

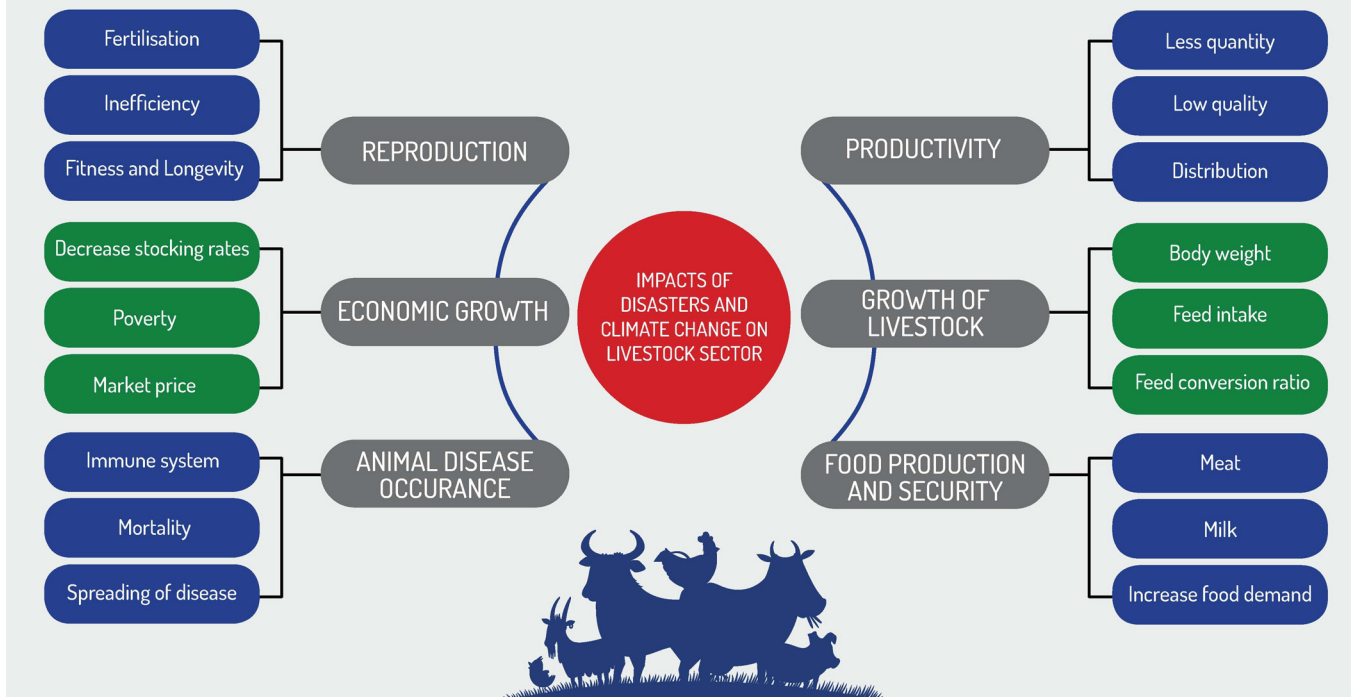


Figure 1: How climate change increases the risk of zoonotic diseases and by extension how increasing disease risk adversely effects food security.

moderate to severe food insecurity, and the prevalence of undernourishment and stunting. A key element in the program to improve food security and provide sufficient nutrition is increasing access to high quality balanced diets including animal proteins from livestock. Increasing livestock production to become self-sufficient in all products is a key objective of the Government. However, livestock production in Indonesia faces multiple threats from climate change, from epidemic and endemic animal diseases and from lack of available land and sustainability of ecosystems. The wide-ranging impacts of disasters and climate change on the livestock sector are illustrated in the Figure 1 above.³

Extreme weather events cause livestock productivity losses and deaths. Direct impacts of climate change on livestock production include heat stress, humidity, wind, drought and floods – leading to a decrease in milk and meat production, poor reproduction, and deteriorating animal health.

Livestock diseases and zoonoses, that is diseases that spread from animals to humans, are increasing with the climate change with increased transmission from water-borne

diseases (e.g. leptospirosis), changing distribution of insect and other disease vectors (e.g. Lumpy Skin Disease, Blue-tongue, Japanese encephalitis), more stressed animals having lowered immune response and reduced resistance to disease, and from the increasing numbers of marginalised and disadvantaged communities having to resort to opportunism such as eating dead animals (e.g. anthrax) and trading sick animals (increasing the spread of all infectious diseases).

Food security deteriorates as animal diseases affect resilience in the livestock sector with reduced production efficiency, increased costs, over-use of resources and reduced supply with higher costs. Willingness to invest in improving livestock production decreases, and there may be attempts to protect livelihoods by increasing stocking rates with increased environmental impact and reduced sustainability.

Animal health systems seek to address the risks from climate change by facilitating more efficient livestock production systems and reducing the burden of animal diseases and zoonoses. By improving livestock production efficiency, the production of greenhouse gases from livestock will be reduced and food security and food safety can be improved.

³ Source: https://www.eria.org/uploads/media/Books/2019-Towards-a-Resilient-ASEAN-Vol1/10_Disaster-Climate-change-vol.1-Chapter-6.pdf



How Climate Change Creates More Pathways for Zoonotic Disease Transmission

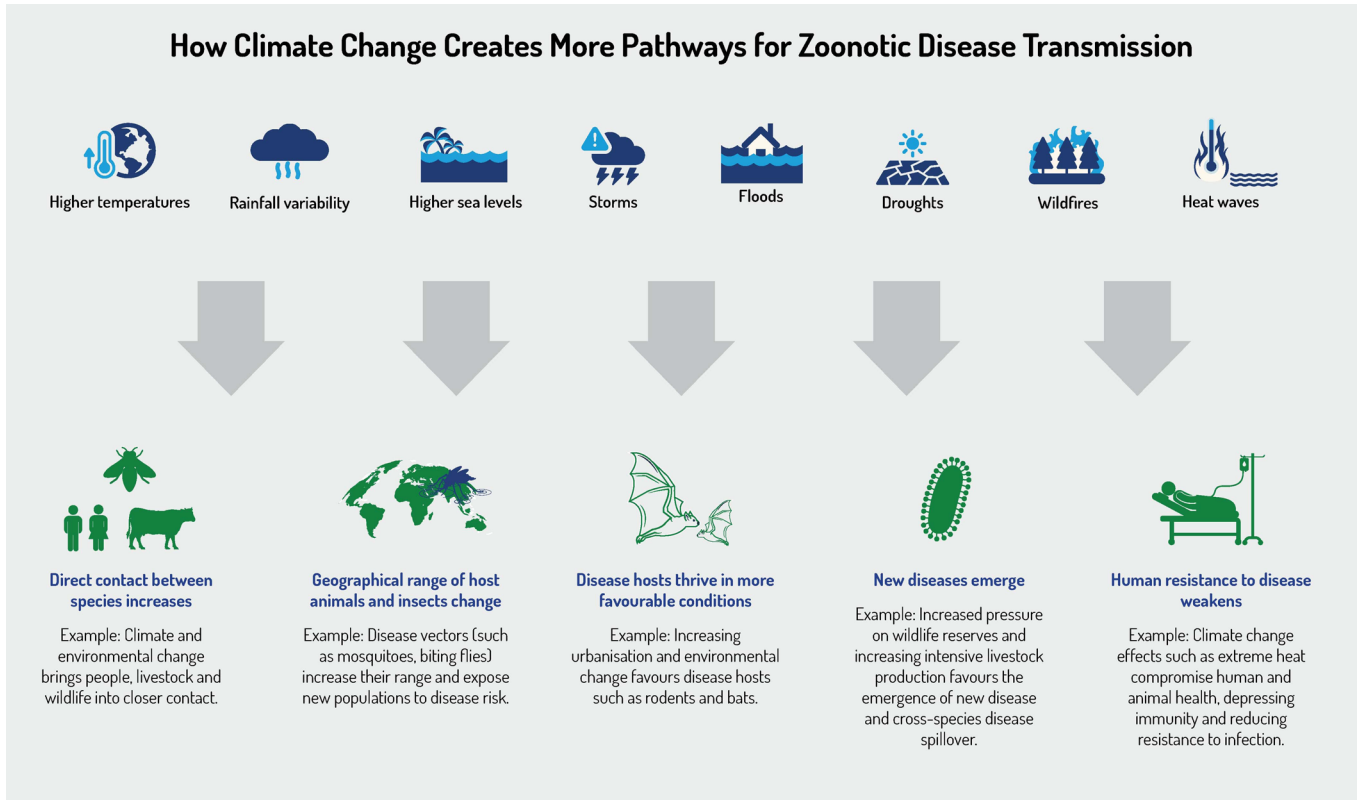


Figure 2: Adapted from <https://www.cfr.org/article/perilous-pathogens-how-climate-change-increasing-threat-diseases>

Australia Indonesia Health Security Partnership (AIHSP) is a five-year partnership program (2020-2025) between the Government of Australia and the Government of Indonesia. The goal of AIHSP is to increase national health security system in Indonesia to prevent, detect and respond to public and animal health emergencies from emerging infectious diseases and to improve coordination and capability to address emerging health threats.

AIHSP is working with the Government of Indonesia to improve disease control, improve livestock production efficiency and to promote more sustainable food security and resilience to disasters in the country. In animal health AIHSP is working closely nationally with the Directorate of Animal Health of MoA, and at subnational levels with target provinces and districts.

Systems that are being supported and activities being delivered include improved awareness and understanding of disease risks, early reporting and outbreak investigation, laboratory confirmatory testing and control options such as treatment, vaccination and movement control. Importantly these programs are being developed and implemented with strengthened management using best practice 'information systems'.

AIHSP continues to support the national animal health information system, ISIKHNAS, which provides the core data for risk assessment and decision making in disease prevention and control programs.⁴ Though the focus of AIHSP is on emerging health threats and how to reduce these the program is also strengthening control of endemic diseases which cause very significant production loss and inefficiency. Addressing both emerging disease threats and reducing the impact of endemic diseases is promoting livestock production and improving food security for Indonesia.

Happy National Animal Health Day 2023!

⁴ <https://www.isikhnas.com/en>

