

Research Priorities for Control of Zoonoses in South Africa

Simpson et al. (2021)

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For which topic were research priorities identified?

zoonoses

In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

international

Why was it conducted at all?

Zoonoses pose major threats to the health of humans, domestic animals and wildlife, as seen in the COVID-19 pandemic. Zoonoses are the commonest source of emerging human infections and inter-species transmission is facilitated by anthropogenic factors such as encroachment and destruction of wilderness areas, wildlife trafficking and climate change.

What was the objective?

to identify research priorities for control of zoonoses due to its complex disease burden and an overstretched health system

What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 25 research questions

How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

CHNRI approach

How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: steering group formed. Step 2: in-depth interviews: participants asked to identify up to five priority zoonotic diseases important in the context of zoonoses in South Africa over the next 5 y and to explain their choices, to list up to three priority human populations/groups susceptible to or affected by zoonotic diseases and up to three priority commodities, to identify research priorities in four health research instruments (each with several sub categories or avenues for each of their priority zoonotic diseases) and participants asked for the priority knowledge gaps for understanding the following four factorials. Step 3: data processing. Step 4: scoring: experts scored each of the 97 research priorities based on five scoring criteria. Step 5: weighting of criteria: reference group and experts weighted criteria

Which stakeholders took part?

Medical doctors, environmental science academics, NGOs. Interviews: 18 participants. Scoring: 5 participants. Reference group: 28 participants.

How were stakeholders recruited?

Experts were identified by the project team.

Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders not only participated but were also actively involved in the research prioritization process: They were part of a steering group. The steering group consisted of 5 members. The members coordinated and oversaw each of the study phases.