

# Review of: "Expanding Participatory Epidemiology to Explore Community Perceptions of Human and Livestock Diseases among Pastoralists in Turkana County, Kenya"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The authors used a simple social science method (focus group discussion) to assess Turkana pastoralists understanding of human and livestock diseases. As the sample size was limited and, in any case, a focus group only constitutes a single data point, there is no quantitative analysis of the results. Rather, the authors described similarities and differences in understanding at several sites in the Turkana region. The methodology and results clearly point to the importance of participatory epidemiology, especially at the higher levels, e.g., interactive and self-mobilization, to more successfully target animal and human health efforts.

Looking at how pastoralists, both men and women, view various diseases provides important insights into how any vaccine campaign, for example, or district-wide one health approach could be designed. The methodology is low cost and already adopted in Turkana by the district. Care would have to be taken to ensure that the method for assessing diseases is more participatory than is usual in a centralized context. Cooperation between human and animal health offices will be key.

Aside from the interesting results, what is most useful about this paper is the authors' critique of the limitations of the study. To acknowledge potential bias (e.g., using AHOs as interpreters), small sample size, possibility of environmental interactions, and acknowledging predetermined objectives (of the authors') provides future researchers with guidance on what to pay attention to if similar studies are to be attempted.