

Foreword

Despite the fact that the vast majority of emerging infectious diseases in humans are of zoonotic origin, the current dogma is to focus on control and preparedness of the respond to spillover or outbreaks rather than prevention at source.

Public policies to prevent disease emergence are efficient when they are based on science; research is essential to make the world safer and better equipped to deal with the infectious risks of zoonoses.

Preventing the emergence of zoonotic diseases is a cross-sectorial issue that encompasses many concerns such as biodiversity loss, agricultural development, land use, and climate change, as well as human behaviour and exposure (wildlife trade or encroachment on natural habitats).

As infectious agents know no borders, preventing the emergence of zoonotic diseases must be inclusive and requires international collaboration.

However, one size does not fit all: the prevention of zoonotic disease emergence must be based on the concerns and needs of local communities and frontline actors. Co-construction is a fundamental principle to integrating local specificities, raising awareness and generating strong commitment.

Long-term vision of PREZODE

Towards a world with a reduced risk of new zoonotic pandemics, where healthy populations are in tune with a healthy planet, recognizing that human, animal and environmental health are truly linked.

Current trends in encroachment on natural habitats, intensification of livestock production and consumption of wildlife have been reversed. Infectious disease risks have been reduced while maintaining the resilience of the food system and healthy, affordable diets.

Public policies, market and trade mechanisms around the world are promoting sustainable land management practices and developing alternatives for food security that promote sustainable coexistence between agriculture and wildlife.

The different agendas targeting global changes such as climate change, biodiversity erosion, sustainable food systems with PREZODE.

By 2030

The upward trends of emerging infectious disease from animals to humans has been greatly reduced through preventive actions designed jointly with local communities and all relevant stakeholders.

Efficient early warning systems for detection and rapid actions to counter emerging diseases from local to the global scale, have been jointly developed through a “One health” approach, involving all stakeholders, raising awareness and generating concrete commitments.

The surveillance systems are interoperable from local to global scale and allow for assessment, early detection of emerging risks and rapid response.

PREZODE has promoted the development of scientific methodologies to characterize innovative strategies for managing societies and their ecosystems to limit the risk of emergence and make them more resilient to the emergence of zoonotic diseases while ensuring food security.

PREZODE has developed and promoted synergies with regional and international initiatives focusing on the prevention of zoonotic disease and/or their drivers (i.e. global changes).

Mission

To achieve this vision by 2030, the global community must come together to put in place sustainable prevention strategies against zoonotic diseases. We are as safe as the weakest link in the global One Health system, such a mission must be coordinated and agreed at the international level.

PREZODE aims to improve the understanding of the mechanisms leading to zoonotic disease emergence in complex socio-ecosystems, to identify the main biological, ecological and socio-economic drivers influencing the risk of emergence and the capacity of human societies to respond to them.

PREZODE will strengthen and integrate knowledge, innovation, capacity building and operational actions to reduce risk and rapidly detect the emergence of zoonotic diseases in countries and globally.

It will deploy academic research, cross-sectoral collaboration in the field, and engagement of operational actors on the frontline of epidemics—to consider prevention strategies against emerging risks.

The PREZODE initiative will combine:

- An integrated health and scientific framework for the implementation and coordination of research programs, surveillance networks and operational projects to maximize their impact.
- A platform for sharing knowledge from past, current and future projects and capitalizing on activities in different regions of the world.
- A resource center available for decision-makers to enable the implementation of public policies aimed at reducing the risks of zoonotic infectious diseases emergence.