



## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT:



The Urban Zoonosis Project is not only focused on research, but also very keen on developing the capacities of its team. This has been demonstrated in various activities the team has been engaged within the last quarter

### IMED Conference (Vienna , Austria)

Three team members (James Akoko, Velma Kivali and Alice Kiyonga) were sponsored by the project to attend this year's **International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance** (IMED) held in Vienna, Austria. The IMED conference is known for bringing together leading scientists, clinicians and policy makers to present new knowledge and breakthroughs as well as to discuss how to discover, detect, understand, prevent and respond to outbreaks of emerging and re-emerging pathogens



IMED conference held in Vienna, Austria 31st Oct. - 3rd Nov. 2014

### Team Building Activity

To enhance communication and team work, improve the existing trust, strengthen the bondage within the field team, profile and appreciate the different personalities with the intent of exploiting the strengths and uniqueness of each individual. A two day's team building activity was organised and the team left the session re-energised, united and focussed in improving their outputs. The result of this cannot be overemphasised as the performance is top-notch!



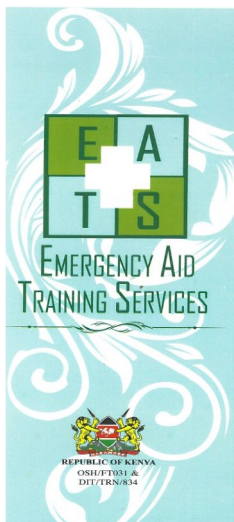
The Field team members in a team building session

### Occupational First Aid Training

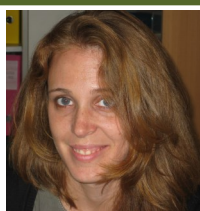
Members of the Urban Zoonosis team were happy to participate in an Occupational First Aid Training carried out at ILRI Head quarters in October this year. by St. Johns Ambulance trainers.

These members were:

1. Stella Kiambi
2. Maurice Karani
3. Dishon Muloi
4. Patrick Muinde
5. Velma Kivali and
6. Victoria Kyallo



## Selected Staff/Student Profiles



**Maud Carron** is a veterinarian and PhD student registered

with the Royal Veterinary College, University of London. Her research focus is on the ecology of *Campylobacter* transmission in the poultry meat food systems of Nairobi.



**Evaristo Marenje** is a recent graduate of the University of Nairobi with a Bachelor of Veterinary

Medicine. He is a student intern currently working with the field coordinator-James Akoko on Porcine Cysticercosis.



**Dilraj Singh Sokhi** is a medical Doctor investigating in humans the epidemiological

association between brain infestation by the larvae of the tapeworm *T. solium* and epilepsy.



**Victoria Kyallo** is a Veterinarian by profession with a masters degree in

Veterinary Clinical Studies.

She is currently working with ILRI as the Project Manager for the Urban Zoonosis Project.







Our team is leading a new consortium of researchers involving many of the Urban Zoo partners (and more!), under a research programme called Zoonoses in Emerging Livestock Systems (ZELS). The programme is funded by the UK Department for International Development, (DFID), the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), the Medical Research Council (MRC), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (dstl). Many of these UK funders are also involved in the ESEI programme that funds Urban Zoo (see <http://www.environmentandhealth.net>). Our programme will be based in western Kenya and focuses on developing surveillance systems for zoonotic diseases: the key aim of ZELS overall, which is a 20.5million UK£ programme over 5 years, is to reduce the impact on zoonoses on poor people and their livestock and to inform decision makers on how to minimise the health risks associated with the rapidly changing nature of livestock systems in developing countries. The programme was officially launched on 10 November in London – and a press release is available at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/lrablgs>.

You can follow the ZELS programme overall, and our project specifically (called Zoonoses in Livestock in Kenya, or ZooLink) on Twitter using #ZELS and #ZooLink.

## URBAN ZOO NEWS

- \* ESEI's Project Team held their 3rd Annual Meeting at the University of Liverpool, London Campus which was well attended by all the PI's, PhD students and the project management team. This is an Annual Meeting that brings together all the various collaborators at one venue to discuss on the project progress.
- \* The ESEI team is preparing to start a major activity of their project "99 Household Study" in Nairobi County which focusses on looking at the diversity of E.coli in humans, livestock and the environment. This activity starts in early 2015.

[www.zoonotic-diseases.org](http://www.zoonotic-diseases.org)

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 3rd International One Health Congress in Holland in 2015 (<http://www.iohc2015.com>) - abstracts: 1 August 2014 Call for abstracts online at the website, start of submission of abstracts, 1 October 2014 Deadline of submission of abstracts, after 1 October 2014 review of abstracts
- 2nd ELS Meeting on leptospirosis and other rodent borne haemorrhagic fevers, Amsterdam 16 – 18 April 2015
- WAAVP Conference - Liverpool, 15-20 August, 2015. Key dates: Call for abstracts opens – 8th August 2014; Registration opens - 7th January 2015; Deadline for abstract submission – 1st March 2015; Notification of oral or poster presentation acceptance – 3rd May 2015; Presenting authors registration deadline – 17th May 2015.