

## The first 2026 issue of the *Sahelian Journal of Responsible One Health*

The first 2026 issue of the *Sahelian Journal of Responsible One Health* (SJROH) marks a deliberate and timely commitment to advancing integrative, transdisciplinary research addressing the complex health challenges of the Sahel and broader African context. This first issue brings together a set of rigorously conducted studies that collectively exemplify the One Health paradigm – linking human, animal, and environmental health with socio-cultural and systemic determinants.

A central theme emerging from this first issue is the persistent burden of infectious diseases and the necessity of context-adapted epidemiological intelligence. The study on *chikungunya* in Chad provides a critical retrospective lens on the first documented epidemic in 2020, detailing prevalence patterns and clinical-epidemiological trajectories. Beyond descriptive epidemiology, it highlights the structural vulnerabilities in surveillance systems and the need for early warning capacities in regions increasingly exposed to arboviral threats under climate and ecological transitions.

Complementing this, the multi-regional analysis of *human papillomavirus genotypes* in Cameroon advances our understanding of viral diversity and its cytomorphological correlates. By identifying genotype-specific predictors of cervical abnormalities, this work contributes to refining screening strategies and vaccine policy alignment within heterogeneous African populations, where genotype distribution often diverges from global averages.

Maternal and child health is another cornerstone of this issue. The investigation conducted in the Dschang Health District underscores the critical interface between knowledge, attitudes, practices, and perceptions and the effectiveness of *intermittent preventive treatment with sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine*. The findings clearly indicate that biomedical efficacy alone is insufficient; behavioral and sociocultural determinants substantially modulate intervention outcomes. This insight reinforces the necessity for integrated health education and community engagement strategies.

Similarly, the study on *hepatitis B virus (HBV) screening* among women at delivery in N'Djamena addresses a key gap in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission. The operational experience from the University Hospital Complex “Le Bon Samaritain” demonstrates both the feasibility and the urgency of systematic antenatal and perinatal screening, coupled with timely prophylactic interventions. In regions with high HBV endemicity, such approaches are indispensable to breaking intergenerational transmission cycles.

The paradoxical dimension of healthcare delivery is explored

through the study on *breastfeeding practices among health workers* in Abidjan. Despite high levels of professional knowledge, sub-optimal adherence to recommended breastfeeding practices persists. This disconnection between knowledge and behavior illustrates the influence of institutional constraints, workload, and socio-cultural pressures – even among health promoters themselves. Addressing such paradoxes is essential for ensuring credibility and effectiveness in public health advocacy.

Finally, this issue extends beyond classical epidemiology into emerging frontiers at the intersection of nutrition, molecular biology, and systems health. The narrative review on *camel milk and microRNAs* introduces a compelling perspective on nutraceutical interventions in metabolic diseases. By integrating molecular evidence with bioinformatics insights, the review positions camel milk as a potential vector of epigenetic modulation, particularly relevant for populations in the Sahel, where it is both culturally embedded and nutritionally significant. This contribution exemplifies the innovative scope SJROH seeks to cultivate – bridging traditional resources with cutting-edge science.

Taken together, the articles in this first issue underscore several cross-cutting imperatives: the strengthening of surveillance systems, the contextualization of biomedical interventions, the integration of behavioral sciences, and the exploration of locally relevant, biologically grounded innovations. They also reflect the diversity of methodological approaches – from field epidemiology to molecular profiling and narrative synthesis – necessary to address complex health challenges.

SJROH is founded on the principle that responsible health research must be locally grounded, scientifically robust, and globally connected. It aims to serve as a platform for African researchers and their international collaborators to disseminate findings that are not only academically rigorous but also operationally relevant.

As we inaugurate this first issue of the second year of SJROH publication, we invite the scientific community to engage with the journal as contributors, reviewers, and readers. The challenges of the Sahel demand not only knowledge generation but also knowledge integration – and it is precisely at this interface that SJROH aspires to position itself.

### The Editorial Board

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