

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR-53527

Date: 25-08-2025

Title: SOCIO-ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF BRUCELLOSIS IN POST CONFLICT NORTHERN UGANDA

Recommendation:

Accept as it isYES.....

Accept after minor revision.....

Accept after major revision

Do not accept (*Reasons below*)

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality			✓	
Techn. Quality		✓		
Clarity			✓	
Significance			✓	

Reviewer Name: Khursheed Sultan

Reviewer's Comment for Publication.

Abstract/Overview:

The manuscript investigates the socio-economic impact of both human and bovine brucellosis in post-conflict northern Uganda. The abstract clearly outlines the aim, methodology, and major findings, presenting a comprehensive summary. It highlights the dual approach of assessing social and economic dimensions through disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) and cost estimations, making the work relevant for public health, veterinary science, and development policy.

Introduction and Rationale:

The introduction situates brucellosis as a significant zoonotic disease with global consequences, particularly stressing its human health and livestock productivity dimensions. References to earlier literature establish the broader context while emphasizing the disease's socio-economic relevance in rural and post-conflict settings. The rationale for focusing on northern Uganda is timely and relevant, given the region's history of conflict and its socio-economic vulnerabilities.

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Conceptual and Analytical Framework:

The study rests on a solid conceptual foundation that integrates human health outcomes, livestock productivity, and socio-economic consequences. The use of DALYs to measure health burden provides a quantitative basis for assessing human impacts, while the calculation of direct and indirect economic costs underscores the practical significance of the findings. The linkage between human suffering, livestock losses, and broader community well-being is clearly articulated.

Methodology:

The study design involved 46 households with confirmed human brucellosis cases and bovine exposure. The methodological reliance on semi-structured questionnaires, descriptive statistics (SPSS), DALY calculations, and economic modeling is sound for capturing both social and economic effects. The combination of primary and secondary data enhances reliability. The demographic profile of respondents, including mean age and household livestock ownership, is well-documented, contributing to contextual understanding.

Findings and Results:

The results demonstrate delayed diagnosis (71%) and treatment (93.5%), with the majority of cases continuing to experience symptoms post-treatment. The health burden is expressed in DALYs, with 0.65 years of healthy life lost per individual, which reflects the chronic and debilitating nature of brucellosis. On the economic front, the estimated human treatment cost (\$68.56 per case) and income loss from infected cattle (\$244.40 per household) highlight the tangible financial strain at both individual and household levels. The combination of qualitative social effects (hopelessness, depression) and quantitative economic costs creates a comprehensive picture of the disease burden.

Discussion and Significance:

The manuscript emphasizes the indisputable socio-economic consequences of brucellosis, particularly in a fragile, post-conflict region where livelihoods are dependent on livestock and healthcare systems are constrained. The findings demonstrate how brucellosis perpetuates cycles of poverty and ill-health, thereby undermining recovery and development in vulnerable populations. The integration of human and animal health perspectives underscores the importance of a One Health approach.

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Clarity and Presentation:

The manuscript is well-structured, with clear sections that progress logically from abstract to introduction, methodology, results, and conclusion. Technical terms, figures, and statistical outcomes are presented clearly, and economic costs are expressed in both USD and Ugandan Shillings, making the findings accessible to local and international audiences.

Overall Assessment:

The manuscript presents a well-grounded and comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic impacts of brucellosis in post-conflict northern Uganda. It successfully combines epidemiological, economic, and social perspectives, contributing to both academic knowledge and policy relevance. The integration of DALYs with financial costs provides a rigorous measure of disease burden. This work represents a valuable contribution to the discourse on zoonotic diseases, public health, and socio-economic resilience in post-conflict contexts.