

Multisectoral community-based systems for vector-borne diseases prevention and preparedness: a policy brief to support decision-makers of the MediLabSecure Network and beyond

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Vector-borne diseases (VBDs) are on the rise globally fuelled by climate, environmental and global changes. Multifactorial determinants of vector presence, distribution and ability of transmitting diseases demand holistic approaches, such as **One Health (OH)**, that consider eco-biosocial factors and engage all the relevant **sectors** and **communities** to reduce vulnerability to VBDs. An **operational research study** was performed to outline enabling factors for multisectoral community-based interventions for VBDs prevention and preparedness and share actionable evidence within the MLS Network. The research included a survey and consultations with MLS stakeholders and a systematic rapid review. An **action model was elaborated** summarising all the steps that decision-makers should consider when developing multisectoral community-based interventions for VBDs prevention and preparedness.

MediLabSecure (MLS) is a project funded by the European Commission that supports a network of **22 countries** to strengthen and harmonize preparedness and response capacities to VBDs with a OH approach.



Fig. 1: The MLS Network (member countries in different shades of blue according to the region and partners represented with dots).

The main enabling factors for successful VBDs prevention and preparedness multisectoral interventions including communities were grouped in the following pillars: the **creation of an alignment framework**, the **hyper-localisation of strategies**, the **support of community capacity and agency** and a **holistic consolidation**. Each pillar includes specific actions to support its implementation. All the relevant sectors and stakeholders need to be **equally engaged** through their representatives (**connection agents**) and within **interaction mechanisms**, across all the steps.

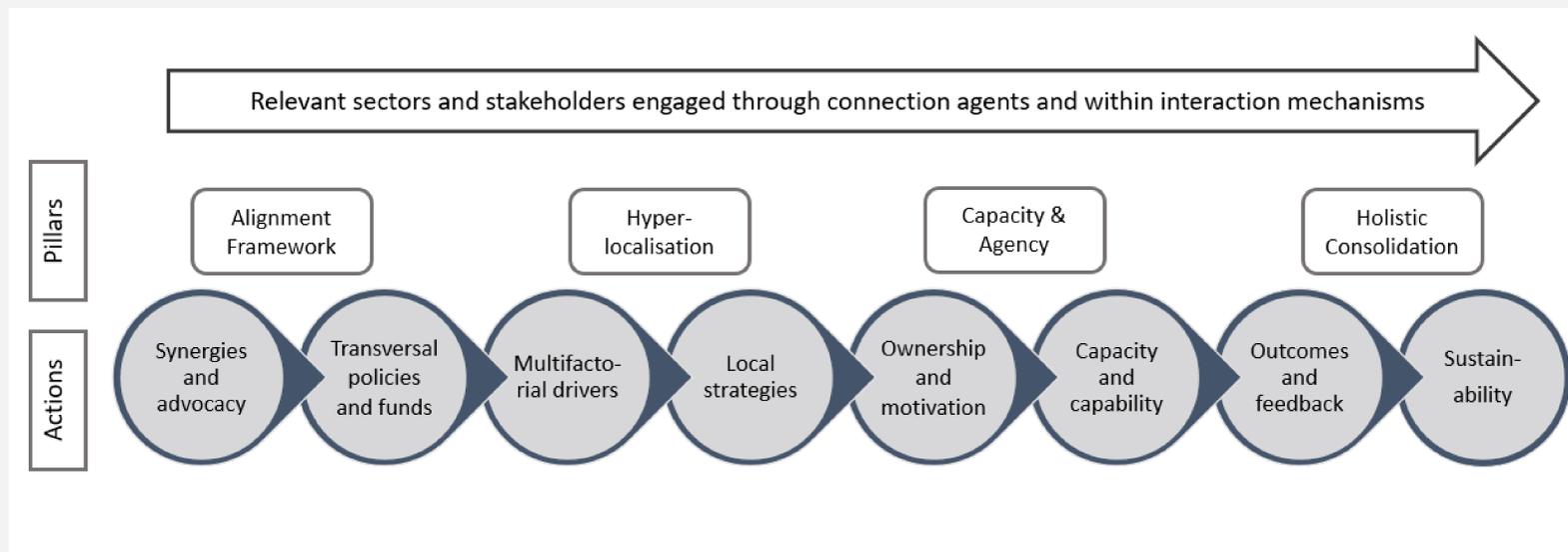


Fig. 2: The action model for VBDs prevention and preparedness multisectoral interventions including communities.

A policy brief based on the results of the research is being elaborated and it will be shared with decision-makers of the MLS network and beyond to support the creation of multisectoral and multistakeholder interventions for VBDs prevention and preparedness including communities. In doing so, decision-makers would need to adopt the steps highlighted in the model and start with creating a multisectoral and multistakeholder interaction mechanisms (such as a OH committee) and engage the representatives of all the groups involved, and then progress through the other steps of the model.

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