



Strengthening sample transport through governance:

The role of the Technical working group (TWG) in SITEB – Burkina Faso

January 15, 2026



Outline

Introduction

I. The SITEB

II. Mandate and composition of the TWG-SITEB

III. Main roles of TWG-SITEB

IV. Impact of TWG-SITEB

V. Challenges and perspectives

Conclusion

Introduction

The importance of sample transport in any disease surveillance system.

Why does sample transport fail without coordination?

- Fragmented transport systems, specific to certain diseases
- Delays in sample delivery
- Exposure of stakeholders, risks related to quality and biosecurity
- Heavy workload for healthcare professionals
- No guarantee of durability



Lab
CoP



I. The national solution: SITEB

Implementation of an integrated system for the transport of biological samples (SITEB)

SITEB Characteristics

- A national system,
- one carrier
- All types of samples (One Health)
- Coverage of all sites (70 districts)
- Delivery within 24 hours

SITEB Organization

- Secure standard packaging of parcels
- Traceability via barcodes
- Electronic platform STELab
- Existence of a TWG



MINISTÈRE DE LA SANTÉ

SITEB



Davycas International



Single carrier

SITEB, a national integrated sample transport system

Why a TWG Is Essential?

The TWG is the driving force behind the governance of SITEB.

Without a technical working group there is no:

- Standardized norms and rules;
- Clear responsibilities of the actors;
- Continuous learning mechanisms for actors;
- Durability guaranteed.



Lab
CoP

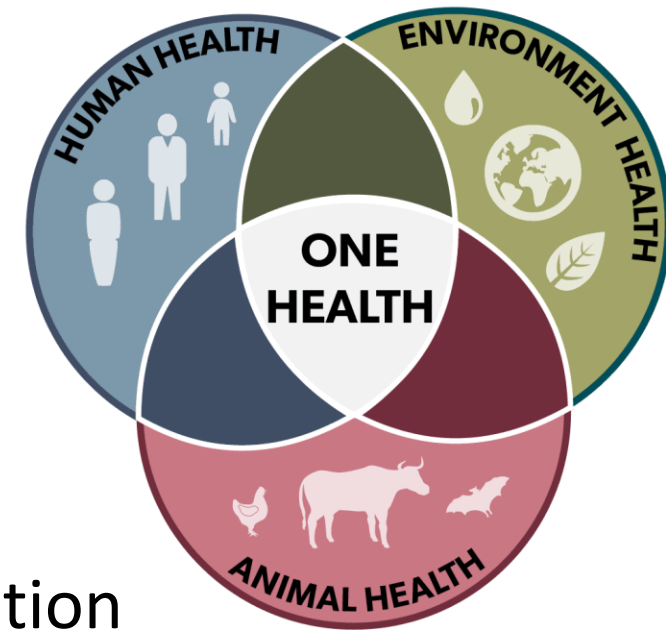


II. Mandate and composition of the TWG (1/2)

Created during the pilot phase of SITEB (2016-2020)

The TWG is being expanded in 2020 according to the One Health approach:

- Human health
- Animal resources
- Environment
- Technical and financial partners
- 30 members in total



Mandate: Planning and effective monitoring of the operation of SITEB through quarterly meetings

II. Mandate and composition of the TWG (2/2)

MINISTRE DE LA SANTE
SECRETARIAT GENERAL

BURKINA FASO
UNITÉ - PROGRÈS - JUSTICE

Ouagadougou, le **13 NOV 2020**

N°2020 **11237081** MS/SG/DGSP/DPSP/SSE

Le Secrétaire Général

A

Tout responsable de structure concernée

Nombre de participants selon les structures désignées

	Structures	Nombre de représentants
1	DPSP (SSE 2)	2
2	DPV	2
3	DSF	1
4	DLBM	1
5	PSSLS	1
6	PNT	1
7	Laboratoire CHU CDG	1
8	CHUYO	1
9	Centre Muraz	1
10	LNRG	1
11	LNSP	1
12	INSP/LCR	1

13	CDC	1
14	OMS	1
15	ASLM	1
16	DAVYCAS INTERNATIONAL	2
17	IDDS	2
18	SP/CNLS-IST/CPFM/SSP	1
19	PADS	1
20	MRAH	3
21	MEEVCC	3
22	FAO	1
TOTAL		30

III. TWG Core Role (1/5)

Governance and coordination of SITEB

Interventions

- Strategic planning and oversight of SITEB
- Alignment of ministries and partners
- Decision-making regarding the evolution of the system (e.g., ZAD, air transport)



Results

- ✓ A coherent national system
- ✓ Reduction of duplicates and inefficiencies

III. TWG Core Role (2/5)

Standards development, quality assurance and biosecurity

Interventions

- **Development and validation:**
 - **National specimen referral guidelines (2021)**
 - **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and SITEB Manuals**
 - **Guidelines for transport in ZADs**
 - **Technical advice on packaging, handling and storage**



Results

- ✓ **Safe, legal and standardized sample transport nationwide**

III. TWG Core Role (3/5)

Monitoring and evaluating system performance

Interventions

- Development of data collection tools and indicators
- Validation of the SITEB quarterly meeting reports
- Validation of the SITEB bulletin
- Using feedback from field staff to improve operations (WhatsApp group)



Results

- ✓ System improvements based on factual data
- ✓ Faster detection of bottlenecks

III. TWG Core Role (4/5)

Capacity Building & System Adoption

Interventions

- National training in all 70 districts
- Training of trainers for CSPA expansion
- Supervision and mentoring



Results

- ✓ Reduced reliance on ad-hoc transport
- ✓ Strong adoption at peripheral levels

III. TWG Core Role (5/5)

Resource mobilization and sustainability

Interventions

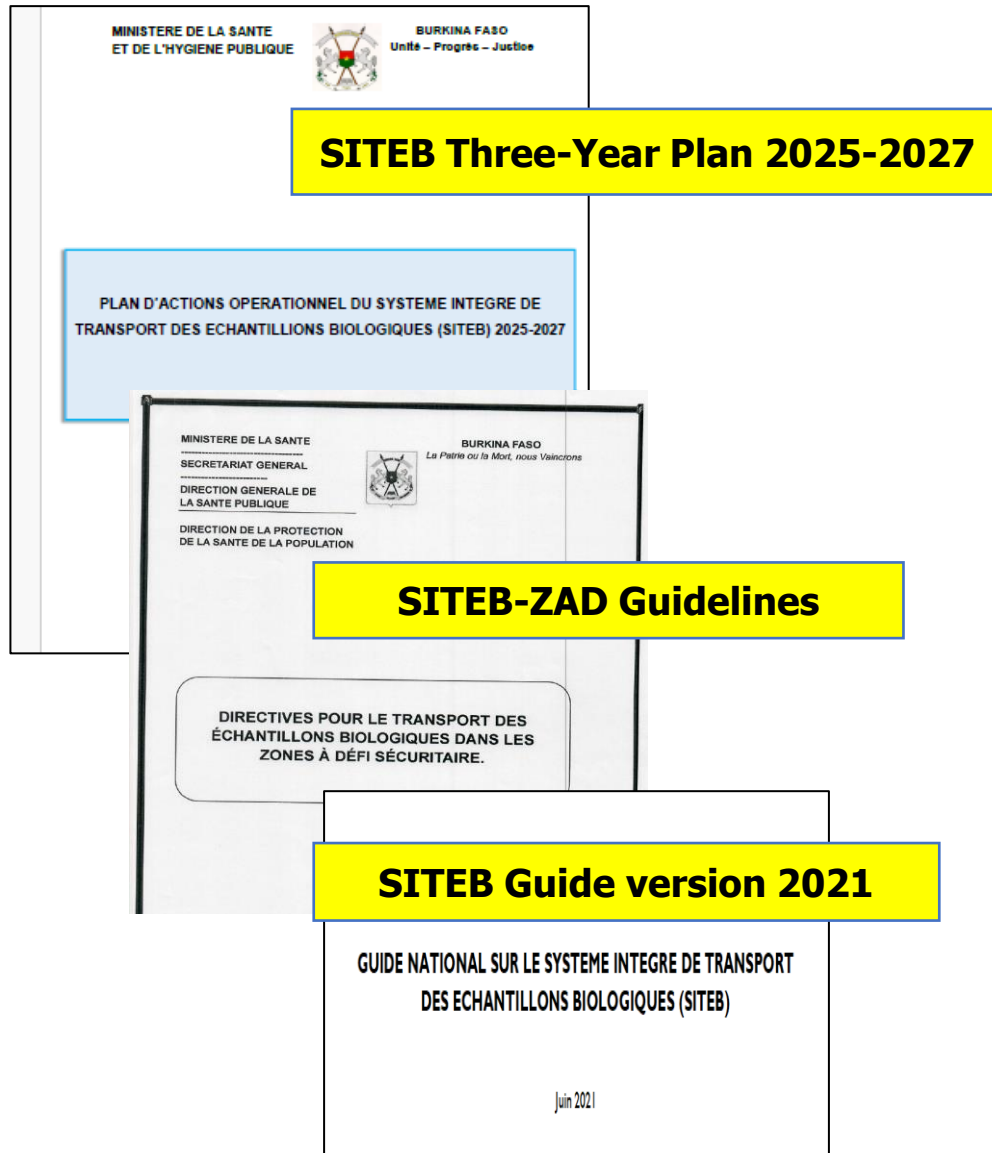
- Identification of funding gaps
- Advocacy with the government and partners
- Donor coordination and roundtables



Results

- ✓ Continued funding for SITEB
- ✓ Reduced risk of system collapse

IV. Impact of the TWG (1/4)



- Development of the SITEB 2025-2027 strategic plan according to a One Health approach.
- Development of specific guidelines for transporting samples in areas with difficult access (ZAD).
- Development of a national guide for the transport of samples in 2021.

IV. Impact of the TWG (2/4)



SITEB scientific article

Implementation and performance evaluation of an integrated sample transport system for national courier services (2020–2022)

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39139671/>

- Validation of quarterly reports.
- Training of trainers for the extension of SITEB to peripheral health centers (CSPS).
- Development of the various tools and indicators for monitoring SITEB.
- Contribution to the writing of a scientific article on SITEB

IV. Impact of the TWG (3/4)

SITUATION DE LA TRANSMISSION DES ÉCHANTILLONS

Du 01/01/2024 au 31/12/2024	Du 31/01/2020 au 31/12/2024	Type d'Échantillon	Nombre Échantillons Transmis	Nombre Échantillons non conformes	% Échantillons non conformes	Total Cumulé Échantillons Transmis	Total Cumulé Échantillons « Non conformes »
		Du 01/01/2024 au 31/12/2024				Depuis le 31 janvier 2020	
Colis (aller & retour) 12 559 Échantillons transportés 90 290	Colis (aller & retour) 45 512 Échantillons transportés 307 689	Méningite	7 463	0	0 %	18 550	44
		Rougeole	44 294	1 825	4,15 %	46 241	1 825
		Ictère Fébrile (Fièvre jaune)	1 482	11	0,74 %	8 481	11
		Tuberculose	921	0	0 %	13 227	83
		VIH	4 500	79	1,76 %	83 369	490
		IRAS/Syndromes grippaux	4 773	0	0 %	5 789	0
		Arboviroses (Dengue)	5 686	0	0 %	48 562	0
		Covid-19	19 925	0	0 %	110 373	52
		PFA	1 246	0	0 %	4 192	0
		Total	90 290	1 915	2,12 %	338 784	2 505

IV. Impact of the TWG (4/4)

SUIVI DES INDICATEURS SITEB

N°	Indicateurs ¹	Niveau atteint		Objectif
01	Nombre de colis acheminés en moins de 24 h	89 341 sur 90 290	98,95%	100 %
02	Nombre de colis arrivés conformes	88 375 sur 90 290	97,88%	100 %
03	% de CM/CMA qui réfèrent les échantillons via LA POSTE BF	57 sur 84	67,85%	100 %
04	% de CHR qui réfèrent les échantillons	09 sur 09	100%	100 %
05	% de non-conformités	189 sur 90 290	0,2%	0 %

V. Challenges and perspectives

Challenges

- Mobilizing resources to support the long-term activities of the TWGs.
- Inadequate communication inter-institutional
- Insufficient continuing education and skills development members of the TWG
- Institutional anchoring of the TWG for national funding

V. Challenges and perspectives:

Perspectives

- Promotion of TWG activities
- Protecting the TWGs as the central coordination structure of the system
- Strengthening governance and inter-institutional coordination
- Strengthening training and monitoring of SITEB activity practices
- Proposal of new strategies to guarantee the sustainability of the TWG

Conclusion

- The Technical Working Group plays a central role in optimizing the transport of biological samples:
 - by bringing his technical expertise,
 - by improving processes,
 - by ensuring the safety and quality of the samples, and
 - by supporting the implementation of innovative solutions.
- It acts as a catalyst to ensure efficient, safe, and compliant transport.

acknowledgements



Thank you for your attention!

