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Dr Bernadette Abela-Ridder works in the Department for the Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) of the World Health Organization (WHO) as the team leader on neglected zoonotic diseases and NTDs that have a human animal interface. She is closely involved in advancing common areas of work with FAO, OIE and other global health actors.

Bernadette previously worked in the WHO Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses on capacity building and global early warning for zoonotic events and led the WHO global burden of leptospirosis study.

Bernadette is a veterinary epidemiologist by training and previously worked for the US Food and Drug Administration on antimicrobial resistance, for l'Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) in Cameroon on emergence of simian immunodeficiency viruses from non-human primates including bushmeat, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N. on veterinary public health, and in clinical veterinary practice.