

Workshop on the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA)

Manama, Bahrain 14-16 October 2025

Recommendations on One Health:
Coordination, Communication and Cooperation
From the 17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1-5 October 2023

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World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



وزارة شؤون البلديات والزراعة
Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture

17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1-5 October 2023

Recommendation No. 1

Technical item I (with questionnaire):

One Health: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services





Detailed commitments adopted at the 17th Conference (Riyadh, 2023)

Final

17th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Middle East
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1-5 October 2023

Recommendation No. 1

One Health: Coordination, Communication and Cooperation between Veterinary, Public Health and Environmental Protection Services

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. The use of the One Health approach, including effective communication with the stakeholders and the general public, will be key in the prevention of zoonotic diseases and future pandemics and other health threats such as Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), food safety hazards and vector borne diseases;
2. The 27th Tripartite Annual Executive Meeting agreed to jointly develop a strategy and action plan to prevent future zoonotic pandemics through the One Health approach;
3. The One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA), which was launched in October 2022, is a collaborative, participatory effort among FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAH and supported by scientific advice from the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) to strengthen country-level collaboration, communication, capacity building, and coordination equally across all sectors responsible for addressing health concerns at the human-animal-environment interface;
4. Operationalisation of One Health requires a "whole of society and whole of government approach" with leadership from animal, human, and environmental sectors; community, NGOs and academia involvement, including collaboration with sub-regional, regional, and global partners. It also requires inter-ministerial cooperation and data sharing as well as coordinated research;
5. Supportive political environment and legislative structure at national, regional and global levels as well as adequate financial support are key for the successful implementation of multisectoral initiatives;
6. WOAH has invested significantly to play an active role in the Tripartite and later the Quadripartite collaboration on One Health, in G7, and G20, as well as during key ministerial encounters;
7. The UN General Assembly political declaration adopted on September 2023 calling for strengthening high-level international coordination allowing Members commitment to better prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics;
8. WOAH continues to ensure that guidelines, information, and key notes are regularly shared with Members, and relevant activities are organised to provide Members with all the necessary elements to work at national level and advocate to the relevant government authorities to commit and create a national platform for One Health implementation;
9. WOAH's work has already yielded positive results, one concrete example is the PVS Pathway being considered as one of the selection criteria for the Pandemic Fund applications used by the World Bank;
10. The recommendations of the Quadripartite Regional Meeting, held in Muscat in May 2023, to accelerate the implementation of One Health in Eastern Mediterranean Region and that the "Friends of One Health" group facilitates discussions and exchanges with key partners regarding the articulation of information to be included in the pandemic treaty to ensure the animal health sector is taken into account and included at all levels of the negotiations; and
11. The Regional One Health Operational Framework is aligned with the Global Quadripartite OH JPA and aims at supporting Members to accelerate the implementation of the One Health concept at national level.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT:

GOVERNMENTS OF MEMBERS:

1. Recognise the importance of the One Health approach in the prevention of zoonotic diseases, future pandemics and other health threats at the animal-human-environment interface and therefore, equitably allocate sufficient and sustainable funding, domestic and international resources across health sectors to support One Health coordination activities;
2. Address legislative gaps to ensure that there is a solid legal foundation for One Health coordination and implementation, including policies and legislation that promote intersectoral collaboration and information sharing as well as integration of the environmental health considerations into animal and human health policies and programs, including at regional and subregional level;
3. Encourage and facilitate collaboration between human health, animal health, and environmental health sectors, including research and academia, through establishing or strengthening One Health platforms, plans, strategies and multisectoral coordination mechanisms and M&E frameworks;
4. Ensure the sustainability of communication and information sharing channels between sectors.

THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBERS:

5. Recognise themselves as partners in the health sector and take advantage of the clear strategy and tools available to ensure the operationalisation of the One Health approach at national level, including being part of the "Friends of One Health" group;
6. Raise awareness on the importance of the One Health approach to foster political support, create trust with government officials, health workers, veterinarians, farmers as well as with different civil societies and stakeholders to encourage government officials prioritising it in their policies and allocating resources for the operationalisation of One Health at national level;
7. Take advantage of all the support provided by WOAH in order to mobilise national authorities and ensure leadership at national level so that the animal health sector is well involved in the One Health agenda, responsibilities regarding One Health are appropriately shared between the relevant sectors, and the contribution of the Veterinary Services to the national, regional and global health security is well recognised by all relevant actors;
8. Invest in capacity building and training initiatives to enhance the skills and knowledge of the veterinary workforce including in the field of veterinary epidemiology ;
9. Establish comprehensive and coordinated monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to monitor the progress of implementation and to assess the impact of One Health initiatives effectively;
10. Improve risk communication and community engagement strategies to enhance public awareness and engagement in One Health issues;
11. Ensure risk-based prioritisation of actions highlighted in the OH JPA and improve financing and coordination strategies for effective implementation.

WOAH:

12. Continue actively working to ensure that the voice of Veterinary Services is heard in all relevant political fora in which the global health governance is discussed;
13. Continue promoting strong multisectoral collaboration with FAO, UNEP and WHO through the Quadripartite Collaboration on OH supported by the scientific advice of the OHHLEP;
14. Continue to provide support to Members through the PVS Pathway, especially through IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshops (NBWs) and other One Health operational tools developed under the Tripartite Zoonosis Guide to facilitate operationalisation of the One Health approach at national level ;
15. Encourage harmonised sub-regional and regional coordination mechanisms for providing technical support, knowledge and expertise sharing to Members.

Targets

Recommendations for:

1- Government of members

2- Veterinary authorities of members

3- For WOAHA





Government of members

1- Strengthen National Commitment and Sustainable Financing for One Health

Recognise the importance of the One Health approach in the prevention of zoonotic diseases, future pandemics and other health threats at the animal-human-environment interface and therefore, equitably allocate sufficient and sustainable funding, domestic and international resources across health sectors to support One Health coordination activities.

2- Establish Strong Legal and Policy Foundations for One Health Implementation

Address legislative gaps to ensure that there is a solid legal foundation for One Health coordination and implementation, including policies and legislation that promote intersectoral collaboration and information sharing as well as integration of the environmental health considerations into animal and human health policies and programs, including at regional and subregional level.

3- Institutionalise Multisectoral One Health Platforms and Coordination Mechanisms

Encourage and facilitate collaboration between human health, animal health, and environmental health sectors, including research and academia, through establishing or strengthening One Health platforms, plans, strategies and multisectoral coordination mechanisms and M&E frameworks.

4- Ensure Sustainable Communication and Information Sharing Across Sectors

Ensure the sustainability of communication and information sharing channels between sectors.



Veterinary authorities of members

5- Position Veterinary Services as Central Partners in One Health:

Recognise themselves as partners in the health sector and take advantage of the clear strategy and tools available to ensure the operationalisation of the One Health approach at national level, including being part of the “Friends of One Health” group.

6- Advocate for Political and Social Support for One Health

Raise awareness on the importance of the One Health approach to foster political support, create trust with government officials, health workers, veterinarians, farmers as well as with different civil societies and stakeholders to encourage government officials prioritising it in their policies and allocating resources for the operationalisation of One Health at national level.

7- Lead National Engagement and Visibility within the One Health Agenda

Take advantage of all the support provided by WOAHA in order to mobilise national authorities and ensure leadership at national level so that the animal health sector is well involved in the One Health agenda, responsibilities regarding One Health are appropriately shared between the relevant sectors, and the contribution of the Veterinary Services to the national, regional and global health security is well recognised by all relevant actors.

8- Strengthen Veterinary Workforce Capacity and Skills

Invest in capacity building and training initiatives to enhance the skills and knowledge of the veterinary workforce including in the field of veterinary epidemiology.



Veterinary authorities of members

9- Establish Monitoring and Evaluation Systems for One Health Progress

Establish comprehensive and coordinated monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to monitor the progress of implementation and to assess the impact of One Health initiatives effectively.

10- Improve Risk Communication and Community Engagement

Improve risk communication and community engagement strategies to enhance public awareness and engagement in One Health issues.

11- Apply Risk-Based Prioritisation and Strengthen Financing Mechanisms

Ensure risk-based prioritisation of actions highlighted in the OH JPA and improve financing and coordination strategies for effective implementation.



For WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH WOAH

12- Advocate for Veterinary Services in Global Health Governance

Continue actively working to ensure that the voice of Veterinary Services is heard in all relevant political fora in which the global health governance is discussed.

13- Strengthen Quadripartite Collaboration for Global One Health Leadership

Continue promoting strong multisectoral collaboration with FAO, UNEP and WHO through the Quadripartite Collaboration on OH supported by the scientific advice of the OHHLEP.

14- Support Members through Operational Tools and Capacity Building

Continue to provide support to Members through the PVS Pathway, especially through IHR-PVS National Bridging Workshops (NBWs) and other One Health operational tools developed under the Tripartite Zoonosis Guide to facilitate operationalisation of the One Health approach at national level.

15- Promote Regional Harmonisation and Technical Exchange

Encourage harmonised sub-regional and regional coordination mechanisms for providing technical support, knowledge and expertise sharing to Members.



Grouped Recommendations (5 Pillars)

Detailed commitments adopted at the 17th Conference (Riyadh, 2023)

The 5 One Health JPA Action Tracks

Action Track 1 – Enhance One Health capacities to strengthen health systems

→ Recommendations (1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Action Track 2 – Reduce risks from emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics

→ Recommendations (6, 7, 8, 9)

Action Track 3 – Control and eliminate endemic zoonotic, neglected tropical and vector-borne diseases

→ Recommendations (10, 11)

Action Track 4 – Strengthen the assessment, management and communication of food safety risks

→ Recommendations (12, 13)

Action Track 5 – Curb the silent pandemic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and strengthen integrated surveillance

→ Recommendations (14, 15)



From Commitments to Implementation

Key One Health
achievements and
updates in the Middle
East region

JPA Implementation follows 5 steps

The six Action tracks of the OH JPA

There are six interdependent '*action tracks*' that together contribute towards achieving sustainable health and food systems, reducing global health threats, and improving ecosystem management



National Workshops as an entry point

- Involve national authorities, NGOs, donors, and intergovernmental organisations (including the Quadripartite), across human, animal, plant, and environmental sectors
- Begin a 5-step approach to strengthen One Health implementation at national level (see side bar)
- Offer a framework for starting OH JPA activities or aligning existing OH interventions with the JPA.

Expected outcomes of National OH JPA workshop?

- ✓ Inclusivity and engagement of all relevant stakeholders
- ✓ Improved national One Health governance and coordination
- ✓ Multisectoral review and development of a costed One Health action plan linked to existing plans and initiatives.
- ✓ Prioritization of activities
- ✓ Review and adapt a monitoring, evaluation and learning framework

Implementation of the JPA at the national level follows 5 steps:



1 Situation Analysis



2 Set-up/Strengthen of One Health governance and coordination



3 Planning for implementation



4 Implementation of national One Health action plans



5 Review, sharing and incorporation of lessons learned

Who to contact?:

- #####
- @
- www.

Progress and achievements



Situation analysis

WOAH PVS pathway :

- KSA,UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, QATAR, Oman

National Bridging Workshops: (Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Somalia, Tunisia)

One Health Zoonotic Disease Prioritization

UAE-Jordan-Sudan - Somalia

Joint Risk Assessments(JRAs) :

- UAE-Qatar-Jordan- Egypt- Iraq- Sudan- Pakistan- Afghanistan

OH training events:

- Jordan- Egypt



Progress and achievements

Set Up/Strengthen One Health Governance and Coordination



EMRO 5-year Operational Framework (Muscat 2023)
Muscat Manifesto reaffirmed One Health as a regional political priority; endorsed multisectoral collaboration for pandemic preparedness.

Regional One Health Action Plan

- Strengthened regional and national governance for coordinated decision-making.
- Focus on prevention, preparedness, and response to health threats at all levels.
- Enhanced communication channels for timely information sharing and joint action.

Regional One Health Coordination Mechanism

- Facilitated cross-sectoral collaboration (human, animal, and environmental health).
- Improved coordinated response to reduce the risk and impact of health threats using a One Health approach efficiently, effectively, and equitably.

Joint Statement of Intent for Regional OH Coordination

ACTION TRACK 1 – Strengthen One Health Capacities & Governance

- EMRO 5-year Operational Framework (Muscat 2023)



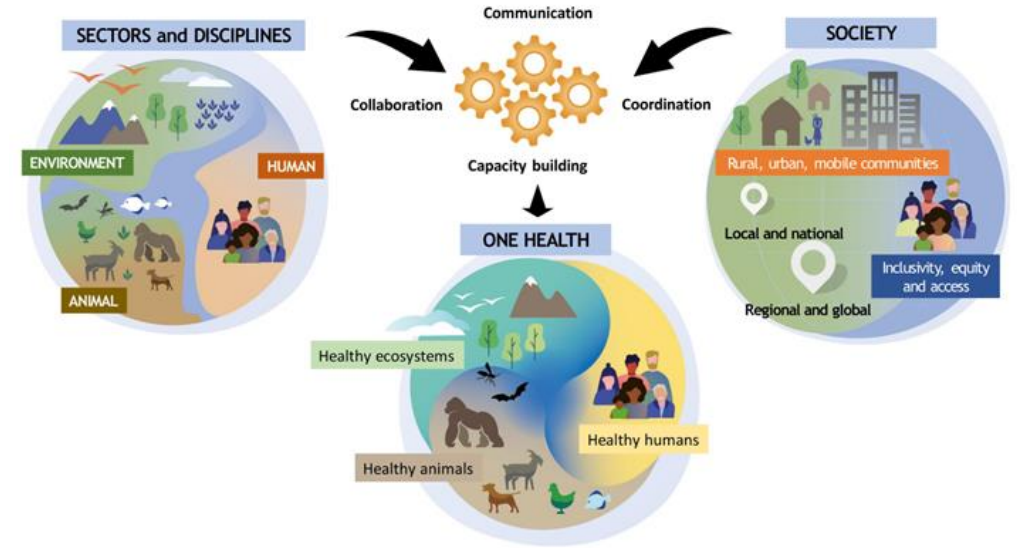
ACTION TRACK 1 – Strengthen One Health Capacities & Governance

- Regional OH Coordination Mechanism & Action Plan (2025–2027)



Progress and achievements

Set Up/Strengthen One Health Governance and Coordination



- Egypt & Lebanon selected for MPTF funding: These countries were chosen to receive support from the Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), enabling them to implement targeted One Health initiatives and strengthen capacity to prevent and respond to health threats.
- Quadripartite commitment to regional resource mobilisation: The four partners (WHO, FAO, OIE, UNEP) pledge coordinated efforts to mobilize financial, technical, and human resources across the region to enhance One Health programs and sustainable health security.



Progress and achievements

Planning for implementation



Muscat 2023 regional follow-up mechanism

2025-2027 activities timeline

M&E (Work in progress) to follow up effectively and efficiently



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Health
Organization



World Organisation
for Animal Health
Founded as OIE

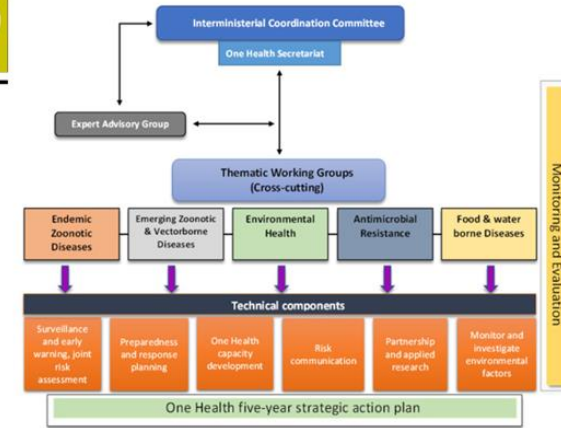
**One Health
Dialogue Series**



Progress and achievements

Implementation of One Health Action Plans

- Qatar drafting national OH Framework



National OH action plan being developed and implemented:

Egypt

Jordan

Qatar

Yemen



Progress and achievements



Review, Sharing and Incorporation of Lessons Learned

- **UAE COVID-19 Response** – The UAE demonstrated effective **One Health integration** during the COVID-19 response, leveraging the **ADAFSA Collaborating Centre for Camel Diseases** to strengthen cross-sector coordination and operational lessons for zoonotic disease management.

- **QPTs Regional Meeting (May 2023)** – A regional meeting of **Quality Performance Teams (QPTs)** brought together 140 staff from human, animal, and environmental sectors across all member states to **share lessons learned, review guidance, and strengthen implementation of the One Health Joint Plan of Action (OH JPA), the regional One Health framework, Technical and Zoonotic Guidelines (TZG), and Operational Tools (OTs).**

Challenges:

Political & Governance Barriers

- **Political instability:** Ongoing instability hinders continuity and commitment to JPA implementation.
- **Governance gaps:** Limited institutional capacity and weak engagement of key ministries (e.g., environment) reduce coordination effectiveness.
- **Legal gaps:** Absence of harmonised One Health legislation for reporting, monitoring, and coordinated response.

Coordination & Institutional Gaps

- **Sectoral silos:** Weak coordination between health, agriculture, and environment sectors; limited mechanisms for joint planning, surveillance, and data sharing.
- **Fragmented mechanisms:** Many existing coordination bodies lack clear mandates and accountability frameworks.

Awareness & Policy Prioritisation Challenges

- **Low awareness and prioritisation:** Limited understanding among decision-makers and the public impedes mainstreaming of One Health into national policies.
- **Weak advocacy:** Political will and community-level awareness remain low across several Member States.

Financial & Resource Constraints

- **Resource limitations:** Inadequate and unsustained funding restricts effective implementation and response to outbreaks.
- **Dependence on donor support:** Many initiatives rely on external funding, affecting sustainability.

Technical & Capacity Limitations

- **Competence gaps:** Shortage of trained personnel, especially One Health field epidemiologists and environmental health experts.
- **Limited technical expertise:** Weak multisectoral training and lack of continuous professional development at national and local levels.



Future directions and priorities :

Assessment & Targeted Planning

- **Status and Readiness Assessment:** Conduct a regional analysis to evaluate each country's readiness for JPA adoption and implementation.
- **Targeted Interventions:** Focus efforts on countries with existing institutional frameworks and tailor support to their national priorities and capacities.
- **Goal:** Build an evidence-based foundation for equitable and phased regional implementation.

Advocacy, Alignment & Strategic Partnerships

- **Advocacy and Engagement:** Leverage regional platforms (e.g., GCC, OIC, Arab League meetings) to strengthen political commitment.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Ensure alignment of OH actions with broader regional organizations (OIC, Arab League, GCC Health Council) to sustain coherence.
- **Success Stories and Investment:** Highlight regional achievements and opportunities to attract high-level commitment and global investment.
- **Goal:** Position One Health as a regional political and development priority.

Collaboration & Stakeholder Coordination

- **Stakeholder Database:** Develop a comprehensive mapping of regional stakeholders and partners to enhance coordination and synergy.
- **Inclusive Engagement:** Create mechanisms to engage countries with limited access to Quadripartite organizations or underrepresented sectors.
- **Goal:** Strengthen regional collaboration through inclusive and transparent partnerships.

Contextualisation & Adaptability

- **Context-Specific Approaches:** Design interventions adapted to each country's political, economic, and cultural realities.
- **Flexible Solutions:** Promote adaptable One Health models that remain functional despite political instability or resource constraints.
- **Goal:** Maintain progress across all contexts, ensuring no country is left behind in JPA implementation.

شكرا

Thank you!

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