



Partnerships for a Healthy Region

One Health – Guidance Note

Overview

The purpose of this guidance note is to outline key considerations for incorporating One Health concepts into public health program/project design and/or developing specific One Health projects under DFAT's Partnerships for a Healthy Region initiative. The intended audience is external stakeholders proposing or developing program or projects under the initiative.

Context and definition

One Health is an approach that recognises that the health of people, animals and the environment are interconnected. One Health approaches have been promoted in the Southeast Asia since the early 2000s, firstly as a response to the outbreaks of SARS and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)¹, then with additional application to vector-borne diseases, food safety and antimicrobial resistance. In the Pacific, the framing of public health issues and associated response as matters of 'One Health' has been less common as livestock industries, wildlife trade and associated epidemic risk drivers are less intense there compared with other parts of the world. However, climate change is affecting Pacific coastal and forest ecosystems, oceans, fresh water supplies and biodiversity, presenting a range of health risks. Taking a One Health approach to programming will support the implementation of more appropriate and comprehensive solutions to these and related risks in future.

DFAT applies the following definition of One Health as agreed by the One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) and endorsed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Animal Health Organization (WOAH), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Health Organization (WHO):

"One Health is an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent. The approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development."

Partnerships for a Healthy Region will seek to support the strengthening of collaboration and transdisciplinary action between human health, animal health, and ecosystems. This includes collaborating with public health projects that support improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and that incorporate activities aimed at increasing health system resilience to climate change. Under the DFAT-funded Health Security Initiative (2017-2022)^{2,3}, DFAT supported the [Research for One Health Systems Strengthening Program](#) co-funded with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) addressing zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance and systems strengthening. In Fiji, a watershed approach to addressing typhoid, dengue and leptospirosis linked with climate change adaptation measures. Veterinary epidemiology training in Southeast Asia and disease investigation for para-veterinarians in the Pacific was also supported to build animal health capacity and contribute to One Health outcomes.

¹ Nguyen-Viet et al. (2015). [Ecohealth research in Southeast Asia: past, present and the way forward](#). *Infectious Diseases of Poverty*, 4(5).

² [Indo-Pacific Centre for Health Security - One Health](#)

³ [Research for One Health Systems Strengthening Program](#)

Key messages

Integrate climate change considerations into health investment design

Consider how climate change may directly and indirectly impact the public health outcomes that are the primary focus of the investment and identify specific entry points to take action. If relevant, explain how the investment will contribute to promoting a stronger understanding of the relationship between climate change and health.

Screen for climate-related risks and measure performance

Take a proactive approach to considering short- and long-term climate and disaster risks associated with the investment by conducting comprehensive climate and disaster risk screening, and if appropriate incorporate measures to strengthen the resilience of investment activities against potential impacts of climate change and disasters. Where appropriate, embed climate-related indicators in performance frameworks.

Seek synergies between climate and health programming

Consider how activities under the investment aimed primarily at preventing disease and enhancing health system resilience may also provide co-benefits to climate change mitigation or adaptation efforts (including disaster risk reduction, preparedness and resilience building).

Look for intersectionality

Identify intersectionality in investment activities between climate change and thematic areas such as One Health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), agriculture, and gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI), and seek to collaborate in cases where taking an integrated, multi-sectoral approach is expected to enhance the overall health and development outcomes of the investment.

Contribute to climate change mitigation

Where feasible, minimise the environmental footprint of the investment and any potential climate impacts that may arise in the process of delivering the investment.

Checklist

Key considerations for designing investments which integrate and address One Health

CONCEPT

- Does the project address a specific problem – which could be an identified priority of the host country/ies, risk or disease burden – particularly where these are ‘wicked’ problems, i.e., they are long-standing, complex with some aspects still understudied and/or depend on the involvement of multiple actors and/or sectors with separate but related mandates?
- Are you clear about the potential value-add of adopting a One Health approach in the project?
- Does your organisation have a specific set of skills or knowledge that can help to address the problem collaboratively with others, taking a partnership approach?

DESIGN AND WORKPLANS

- Do you have sufficient transdisciplinary expertise on the project team, including from relevant disciplines, traditional forms of knowledge and a broad range of perspectives (from community to policy level)?



- Is this a co-designed project and have you committed time and resources to developing and consolidating the partnerships and governance structures required to deliver the activity?
- Have you incorporated processes for co-generation of knowledge and outcomes, which engage equitably with representatives of different sectors/disciplines and with members of affected communities?
- Do your theory of change and program logic clearly show progression towards practical One Health outcomes?
- Have you incorporated measurement of the value-add of the One Health approach into your design (e.g. through economic and/or values-based analysis of co-benefits or trade-offs)? Do you have access to the relevant expertise in your team?

RISK AND SAFEGUARDS ASSESSMENT

- Have you discussed the possible negative impacts of your interventions with relevant experts (e.g., social scientists, gender experts, environmentalists, agricultural scientists) and factored these into your design, removing or minimising these where possible?
- Are there program management processes and systems in place to allow for regular review, assessment and evaluation of these impacts?

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT - MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING

- Have you incorporated measures to monitor and evaluate of the 'One Health-ness'⁴ of your design, program logic and implementation processes?
- Are you taking a partnership approach which builds in regular 'health checks'⁵ with your partners?
- Have you incorporated methodologies that will allow you to measure unexpected positive or negative outcomes that may impact the value-add of your One Health approach?

⁴ [Integrated approaches to health – a handbook for the evaluation of One Health](#)

⁵ A [partnership 'health check'](#) is a structured approach to monitoring the partnership's setup, operation and processes, to determine areas for discussion and improvement in order to strengthen the efficiency and achievements of the partnership.



Examples from DFAT's Health Security Initiative

Evaluating zoonotic malaria transmission and agricultural and forestry land use in Indonesia (ZOOMAL)

The ZOOMAL project, co-funded with ACIAR under the Research for One Health System Strengthening Program, has strengthened surveillance of zoonotic malaria in Indonesia to allow for accurate monitoring of progress towards human-only malaria species elimination, a priority for Indonesia. Working together are clinicians, agriculturalists, primatologists, entomologists & sociologists from Indonesia and Australia. Based on an initial short research agreement, the team co-designed a second larger project and included additional expertise. Together they have improved detection methods for zoonotic malaria surveillance to define the disease burden; evaluated agricultural and land-use factors associated with zoonotic malaria transmission; and evaluated the behaviour of mosquito vectors transmitting zoonotic malaria.

The Pacific Paravet Training Project

This project developed resources to provide refresher training and practical skills development in zoonotic diseases, emerging infectious disease prevention, One Health and biosecurity, for existing para-veterinarians and associated animal health workforce in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. It has incorporated a strong sociology approach to understanding the context that the para-veterinarians work in and how they are best able to access and utilise course content.

Additional Resources

- [Preventing the next pandemic: Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission](#): Discusses the environmental aspects of zoonotic disease outbreaks during the COVID-19 pandemic, including root causes and opportunities for reducing risk of future outbreaks.
- [Operationalizing the Environment-Health Nexus in Asia and the Pacific](#): Summarises opportunities to mainstream the environment-health nexus in public policies in Asia and the Pacific and lays out pathways to strengthen enabling factors to operationalise a comprehensive One Health approach.
- [Planetary Health in the Oceania](#): A call to action outlining key points of discussion and proposed actions arising from the inaugural Oceania Planetary Health Forum (Nadi, Fiji, November 2018).
- [One Health Joint Plan of Action](#): Outlines commitments made by the Quadripartite Organizations (FAO, UNEP and WOA) to advocate and support the implementation of One Health globally and regionally.
- [One Health Theory of Change](#): Provides a conceptual framework for the Quadripartite and the One Health High Level Expert Panel, and other organisations, agencies and initiatives working towards One Health goals.
- [A Systems Approach to Evaluate One Health Initiatives](#): Presents a model evaluation framework for use by researchers, practitioners and evaluators that aims to capture the complexity of One Health initiatives, with case studies.
- [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\) Values Assessment](#): Presents a typology to help policymakers better understand the varying ways in which people conceive of and value nature.