



## WHAT IS THE ONE HEALTH CONCEPT?

One Health represents a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach used to address complex health challenges in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world. Challenges like disease, food insecurity, poverty and famine are too complex for one discipline, or a single approach or perspective to address or positively effect. The One Health concept recognizes such challenges for what they are, and looks for holistic, multifaceted solutions through collaboration, cooperation and partnership.

## ABOUT OHCEA

The One Health Central and Eastern Africa network (OHCEA) is a network of seven public health and seven veterinary Higher Education Institutions<sup>1</sup> that are located in 6 countries in the Eastern and Central African region. These include: Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia,

<sup>1</sup> University of Kinshasa School of Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine University of Lubumbashi, Jimma University College of Public Health and Medical Sciences, Jimma University College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, School of Veterinary Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine Mekelle University, University of Nairobi School of Public Health, Moi University School of Public Health, University of Nairobi Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, National University of Rwanda School of Public Health, Umutara Polytechnic Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences School of Public Health and Social Sciences, Sokoine University of Agriculture Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Makerere University School of Public Health and Makerere University College of Veterinary Medicine.

Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. OHCEA activities are derived from the overall goal of generating future leaders that have the capacity to address complex health challenges using the One Health Approach. The network's overall aim is to effect positive and sustained change to address complex global health challenges through trans-disciplinary, collaborative 'One Health' approaches.

Universities play a critical role in the education and training of health professionals, leaders, communicators, and educators of tomorrow. In addition to their traditionally conceived 'educational' role (knowledge transfer), universities undertake primary 'research' (generate new knowledge), as well as 'outreach services' (translate or extend knowledge).

OHCEA believes in building strategic and synergistic partnerships. The University of Minnesota and Tufts University are major US partners, who have supported OHCEA in providing technical support for programme implementation.

## VISION

A global leader in One Health approaches to sustainable health for healthy productive animals, prosperous communities and productive ecosystems.

## MISSION

To drive transformational change for continuous improvement of health and well-being of humans, animals, and ecosystems through multidisciplinary research, training and community service.

## CORE VALUES

- Innovation
- Multi-disciplinary teamwork
- Mutuality and shared respect
- Strategic and synergistic partnership
- Inclusiveness
- Collective decision making and joint leadership
- Accountability and transparency

## STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Strengthen a growing institutional network in terms of leadership, governance, technical assistance and information-sharing across countries in order to transform ourselves to deliver One Health.
2. Support national agencies to build capacity and efficiency for surveillance, reporting systems and outbreak response in country and across borders.
3. Provide pre-service, in-service and community education, training and outreach to expand the size and capabilities of the One Health workforce.
4. Build and leverage strategic partnerships with other organizations and networks for mutual awareness and benefit.
5. Strengthen infrastructure capacity (Labs, Information Technology, Human resources) and facilitate resource sharing to support One Health.
6. Generate evidence based data and share state of the art information to advance training, science and practice, to inform policy.

OHCEA is committed to increasing university-government engagement by strengthening integration of One Health approaches and concepts into curricula and programs in OHCEA institutions, promoting a trans-disciplinary collaborative One Health approach through student experiential learning- including multi-disciplinary joint One Health field attachments and One Health demonstration sites; working with government ministries and personnel to conduct in-service trainings and strengthening the One Health Country Coordinating Committees (CCC) in each of the member countries.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### 1. Academic and Government Sector Engagement.

Through establishment of One Health Country Coordinating Committees, OHCEA has already provided a key deliverable of connecting the networks' vision and mission to support the mandates and missions of government. Developing pre and in-service training programs in policy and advocacy, and an ongoing focus on leadership skills and competency development, OHCEA is leading change towards a One Health reality!



### 2. Strengthening and Developing University Curricula and Programs.

The Wildlife health curriculum review has been held in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Rwanda; the Bachelor Vet Medicine Review has been held in Rwanda Kenya and Uganda and Pre- service curricula development has been held in the six countries.

### 3. Strengthening student experiential learning.

OHCEA has facilitated student and faculty exchanges between OHCEA schools and US Universities, supported the establishment of One Health Student clubs to increase community engagement and enhanced cross disciplinary co-teaching and co-mentoring.



### 4. Establishment of multi-disciplinary student field attachments and One Health Demonstration sites.

OHCEA has facilitated the development of One Health Demo sites. This innovation has enhanced the One Health approach through innovative cross disciplinary research and community outreach activities. Students from different disciplines have started working together to address common issues affecting their local communities.

### 5. In-service Training.

OHCEA has supported institutions to carry out One Health Training Needs Assessment (TNA) from which priority areas for training have been derived. Materials are being developed and training will be rolled out to high risk areas in the six OHCEA countries, targeting first responders to disease outbreaks and threats.

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One Health Central and Eastern Africa



Emerging Pandemic Threats Program  
PREDICT • RESPOND • PREVENT • IDENTIFY

