

Operationalizing "One Health": A Policy Perspective – Taking Stock and Shaping an Implementation Roadmap

Initial planning document for a collaborative meeting to be convened by OIE, FAO, WHO and CDC on May 4-6, 2010 at the Stone Mountain Conference Center in Atlanta, Georgia

Background

In 2008, the three major international organizations charged with animal health and human health – the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the World Health Organization (WHO) – collaborated with the United Nations Children’s Fund, the UN System for Influenza Coordinator, and the World Bank, to develop a joint strategic framework in response to the evolving risk of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. The document communicating this framework, *Contributing to One World, One Health* - A Strategic Framework for Reducing Risks of Infectious Diseases at the Animal–Human–Ecosystems Interface*, set out six specific inter-linked objectives for countries to consider in their approach to infectious disease control at the animal-human-ecosystem interface. The Strategic Framework was officially released during the 6th International Ministerial Conference on Avian and Pandemic Influenza at Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in October 2008.

Since the dissemination of the Strategic Framework, substantial progress has been made in implementing “One Health” and the fundamental principles outlined in the framework have been further developed. By building on lessons learned and strengthening and expanding existing systems and collaborations, successful new strategies have been implemented at the national level in some countries, regionally, and internationally across sectors and disciplines.

In March 2009, the Public Health Agency of Canada, in collaboration with other Canadian ministries and the major international organizations responsible for the Strategic Framework, hosted an expert consultation titled “One World, One Health: from ideas to action” in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The purpose of the consultation was to discuss the Strategic Framework and to identify and shape country-level recommended actions to globally advance the framework. *The Report of the Expert Consultation* concluded that moving forward the animal, human, and ecosystem interface concepts of “One Health” required commitment at all levels – international, regional, national, and local. Participants recommended the development of supra-country approaches that use multidisciplinary/transdisciplinary methods in addition to trans-boundary/regional approaches to integrate efforts. In her closing remarks, Danielle Grondin, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of the Infectious Disease and Emergency Preparedness, Public Health Agency of Canada, noted that because the political economic agenda is the priority of world leaders today, “One Health” principles need to be translated into language that is relevant to finance ministers.

The purpose of the meeting to be held in Stone Mountain in May 2010 is to build upon the recommendations and conclusions drawn from the Winnipeg expert consultation to:

- Identify successful examples of changes in behavior and the political will that demonstrate implementation of “One Health”;

- Draw on these successes to develop specific strategies and action plans that can be used by governments and the health community to fund and implement “One Health” approaches that benefit human and animal populations in their country; and
- Build upon the success and lessons learned from the response to highly pathogenic avian influenza, pandemic H1N1 2009, and other emerging zoonotic diseases to operationalize “One Health”.

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As a multidisciplinary agency committed to the “One Health” concept, particularly at the human-animal interface, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), at the request of and in close collaboration with OIE, FAO and WHO, is hosting the next expert consultation in Atlanta, Georgia, USA in May 2010.

The agenda for the Stone Mountain meeting will reflect and include the following objectives:

- Create a shared view of success for “One Health”
- Take stock of the progress to date in terms of leading practices related to “One Health” and the policy decisions and financial commitments necessary to support sustainability and expansion
- Develop an engagement strategy for key stakeholders to promote “One Health”
- Identify key operational opportunities and barriers to the implementation of “One Health” and develop strategies to address them