INTERSECTORAL RISK ASSESSMENT FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA A(H5N2) IN BOLIVIA AND GUATEMALA

With support from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Intersectoral Risk Assessment (IRA) workshops for zoonotic avian influenza (ZAI) were conducted in Bolivia from 2-4 April 2024 and Guatemala from 23-24 April 2024. Representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, and Ministry of Agriculture were present, as well as participants from other agencies and private producers. During the IRA workshops, participants mapped critical points for ZAI transmission across the complex wild bird–poultry–human interface, emphasizing the occupational risks for human exposure. They also defined the roles of each sector and communication flows between them, to facilitate multisectoral collaboration. The workshop outputs will be used to inform strategies on preparedness, surveillance, prevention, and response, with integrated actions within the One Health framework. IRA was identified as a priority during the first launch meeting of the Intersectoral Commission for the Control of Zoonotic Influenza in the Americas.

PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL BRIDGING WORKSHOP CATALYST BOOKLET

We are happy to announce the publication of a booklet developed by National Bridging Workshop (NBW) Catalysts from 17 countries to share their experiences. In this booklet, the Catalysts highlight the field reality of One Health operationalization in various contexts, their success stories, the challenges they met, and solutions they found. NBW Catalysts are national One Health experts whose main task is to promote and support the implementation of the NBW Roadmaps. They are part of the strong community of practice built around the NBW Program, coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), and World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). This community meets regularly virtually, and once a year in person, to continuously and resolutely support each other in strengthening One Health collaborative capacity around the world. Click here to read their experiences.
JOINT RISK ASSESSMENT IN LIBERIA

Between 9-13 April 2024, a Joint Risk Assessment (JRA) Workshop was conducted in Monrovia, Liberia, to assess the risk of three priority zoonotic diseases: Lassa fever, Anthrax, and Rabies. The workshop was attended by 37 participants from national and subnational levels of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, National Public Health Institute, and the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia. Nine representatives from the Africa One Health University, African Field Epidemiology Network, International Rescue Committee, FAO, WHO, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, and Breakthrough Action were also present. The proposed risk management options would be reviewed to strengthen the One Health preparedness and response strategies for priority zoonotic diseases in Liberia.

STRENGTHENING URBAN PREPAREDNESS THROUGH MULTISECTORAL COORDINATION AT THE HUMAN-ANIMAL-ENVIRONMENT INTERFACE

WHO participated in the panel Strengthening Urban Preparedness for 21st Century Challenges during the Global Health Security Conference 2024 held in Sydney, Australia, from 18-21 June. The discussion included interventions from WHO’s Western Pacific Regional Office, focusing on integrating the One Health approach into urban planning and infrastructure development. It emphasized the importance of multisectoral actions at the human-animal-environment interface and highlighted the roles of traditional food markets in pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. The work was underscored for its crucial links to health security and preparedness capacities, illustrating how robust urban planning can bolster resilience against emerging health threats. WHO Head Quarters provided guidance on urban health emergency preparedness and shared key outcomes from the latest World Health Assembly on the topic. Furthermore, a third contributor elaborated on modeling and the association between climate change and the incidence of vector-borne diseases.

PILOTING THE MONITORING AND EVALUATION OPERATIONAL TOOL IN MOROCCO

Between 13-15 May 2024, the second Monitoring and Evaluation Operational Tool (M&E OT) workshop took place in Rabat to pilot the M&E OT and develop coordinated M&E capacity for One Health stakeholders in Morocco. Sixteen participants from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the National Office of Food Safety, and the National Agency for Water and Forests attended, along with the One Health-Maroc Association president. Six representatives from FAO, WHO, and WOAH facilitated both in-person and online. Participants gained a solid understanding of the M&E OT, applying it within the context of their country’s needs. They drafted a customized M&E framework covering three technical areas: Multisectoral Coordination Mechanisms; Risk Reduction, Risk Communication and Community Engagement; and Surveillance and Information Sharing. This framework included a total of 21 country-specific indicators, developed using the M&E OT indicator library. Participants were trained in completing the Indicator Matrix and utilizing the Data Collection Tool. The M&E OT received favorable reviews, affirming its readiness for finalization. Next steps include incorporating M&E OT methodologies in existing and M&E processes and training colleagues on the tool’s use.
NATIONAL BRIDGING WORKSHOP IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Between 25-28 June 2024, over 60 participants attended the Democratic Republic of Congo’s (DRC) NBW. The workshop was jointly organized by the Ministries of Public Health, Hygiene and Social Welfare, Fisheries and Livestock, Environment and Sustainable Development, and Agriculture and Food Security, in partnership with WHO, WOAH and FAO. Representatives from the US Agency for International Development, RESOLVE, and Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also attended.

As in many previous NBWs, the workshop in DRC was highly appreciated, as participants developed a joint roadmap of achievable objectives and related activities to strengthen intersectoral collaboration to manage zoonotic diseases and other health events at the human-animal-environment interface.

The key technical areas identified to strengthen effective collaboration in DRC include: coordination (at central, technical and local levels), education and training, surveillance and response, communication (with the media and stakeholders), laboratory and field investigation.

SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SHARING FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP IN ROMANIA

In July 2022, a first national workshop on zoonotic disease surveillance and information sharing took place in Romania using the Tripartite Zoonosis Guide Surveillance and Information Sharing Operational Tool. The workshop was jointly facilitated by WHO, FAO and WOAH and provided recommendations for strengthening coordination and cross-sectoral information sharing using the One Health approach.

In early 2024, the Romanian government approved the Surveillance and Information Sharing Report, including Terms of Reference for a national Surveillance and Information Sharing Working Group. On this basis, a follow-up zoonotic diseases Surveillance and Information Sharing Workshop was organized on 21 May 2024.

The workshop developed an updated surveillance and information sharing development plan for 2024-2027 and some immediate next steps were agreed. These included the development of a Common Order to formalize the multisectoral team responsible for coordinating the implementation of the actions and activities in the development plan.

ONE HEALTH SEMINAR FOR THE EUROPEAN REGION

On 11-13 June 2024, the Quadripartite One Health Seminar for the European Region took place in Vienna, Austria. The seminar aimed to discuss and identify opportunities and best practices for operationalizing the One Health approach to address health threats originating at the human-animal-environment interface in Europe and Central Asia, leveraging the One Health Joint Plan of Action and its Implementation Guide.

The Seminar was attended by over 150 participants representing Member States, partner organizations and others with an interest in promoting the One Health approach. The Seminar included a meeting between the regional quadripartite and partners. The meeting discussed criteria for selecting priority countries in need of support, modalities and collaborative efforts to enhance coordination of support to Member States, and next steps for enhanced cooperation and coordination of country support activities among the Quadripartite and partners.
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