7th Meeting of the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP)
21 & 22 July 2022

Note for the record

Day One-21 July 2022

12:30 – 12:45: Introductory remarks

- Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, Deputy Director-General of WHO, opened the 7th One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) meeting by welcoming the participants and thanking the experts for their support to the partners and commitment to the meeting schedule and activities. She congratulated OHHLEP on their first annual report and for the recent publication of the One Health (OH) definition in PLOS Pathogens, the WHO secretariat is also looking forward to the upcoming OHHLEP products. She wished the participants fruitful discussions and ambitious outcomes.

- OHHLEP Chairs, Prof. Thomas Mettenleiter and Prof. Wanda Markotter welcomed the participants and thanked the secretariat for the improved support to OHHLEP. The Chairs were pleased with the published definition of OHHLEP as the first joint scientific publication of the 26 experts. The Chairs reiterated the importance for OHHLEP to provide their contribution to the Pandemic Instrument, and to take part in the execution phase of the Financial Intermediary Fund (FIF) for prevention, preparedness and response (PPR). The need for a concrete discussion on the subject was highlighted.

- Dr Francesco Branca, Director of Nutrition and Food Safety at WHO, reintroduced himself to the Panel and gave a background on his involvement in OHHLEP’s inception. He announced that in the absence of Dr. Peter Ben Embarek he will be the interim acting head of the OH Initiative and will therefore be more involved in OHHLEP work in the coming weeks.

Agenda amendment

- Thematic Group (TG) 1 update on the Theory of Change (ToC) was adjourned to the second day of this meeting (Friday 22 July).

- Request for an AOB point to discuss expert opinions for emerging critical health issues, raised by Prof Marion Koopmans.

Working Group Updates

TG2: Presentation of the new focus by the new TG chairs

- The lead of TG2 has been transferred to Prof. Dominique Charron and Dr. Casey Barton Behravesh who requested a refocus of TG2 group activities. They provided an overview of the initial ToR for TG2, and the tools database that was established last year.
• A primary discussion between the new co-chairs focused on an inventory of OH tools. However, the limited human resources for TG2 renders an inventory challenging to accomplish and will not necessarily add value given the many initiatives conducting similar work.

• As a foundation to TG2’s proposal, an article (co-authored by Casey) analysing OH assessment tools was presented. This paper focuses on a criteria based evaluation of 400 tools, narrowed to the selection of 12 high level tools. These high-level tools cover a landscape of actions and are classified under 5 categories: assessment, prioritization, action planning, implementation, monitoring.

• It is a good starting point to understand challenges and gaps of the actual tools, but a periodic update is needed to this analysis.

• TG2 co-chairs suggest:
  • Conducting a review, assessment, and gap analysis of the existing tools and newly published ones to compose a more recent list of high-level tools.
  • The coordination and assessment of those high-level tools in addition to guidance could be an added value to the Quadripartite (QPT) in supporting member state implement of the OH Joint Plan of Action (JPA).
  • A few practical questions such as the feasibility, support, costs, partners asks/needs, and usefulness of this project were addressed.

Discussion:
• The Identification of best practices on OH is an overarching aim to assess what really works, raise the profile of existing tools, and respond to the questions related to adaptability, evidence of implementation, etc.
• The need to design a new OH assessment tool or merge the existing tools.
• Suggest OHHLEP assess and select the right tools which align with OH definition and JPA for the Partners to consider.
• The new focus suggested by the co-chairs of TG2 meets the needs of QPT to launch a targeted implementation of the JPA.
• Provide guidance on where to direct efforts to fill the gaps, eg. environment aspect, the OH workforce, etc.
• OHHLEP needs to create a bridge between the different aspects of the assessment tools (e.g. environment and wildlife aspects).
• Avoiding duplication and consolidating the intersectoral collaboration.
• The modernization/digitalization of some tools is to be considered; WOAH gave the example of PVS (solicited OHHLEP advice).
• Setting guidelines for the assessment of tools on what an ideal tool should include.
• Many high-level tools such as IHR, PVS and others do not include the environmental aspect of OH, perhaps due to a lack of an equivalent tool for environmental components.

Action point/next steps:
• OHHLEP chairs to refocus the terms of reference of TG2.
• QPT to provide specific needs or gaps identified for the analysis of tools.
• Follow up discussion on day two for determining TG2 activity moving forward.
• Completing the review and analysis of the tools OHHLEP started, then consider implementation and best practices of implementation.
• Partners and panellists are welcome to share the tools they would like to suggest.

TG3: Update on the surveillance manuscript
• Prof. Marion Koopmans provided an update on the surveillance paper, which has been rewritten to maintain the key elements and clarify the message.
• This new version is aligned with the OH definition, providing a review of existing surveillance systems, outlining the characteristics and the necessary functions.
• The surveillance system is now referred to as a “OH aligned surveillance system”.
• A step describing how to go from the concept to the implementation of a functioning system was added. The steps and functions are all pillars under the coordinating level and not separate elements.

Discussion:
• Sharing the draft with a few members for a first round of comments and then disseminating it amongst panel.
• General agreement to have this piece of work finalized by end of September.
• A follow up paper could include prevention in the surveillance system.
• The availability of data and the interoperability of data systems.
• Could OHHLEP provide advice to the hotspot group in WHO Emergencies Programme (WHE).
• Prof. John Mackenzie volunteered to review the text and provide a disease case example of the surveillance system in action.
• The document still needs review and harmonization.
• Confirmed that there isn’t need for the inventory of good practices as it is not available according to Dominique. They can proceed with the materials in hand.

Action point/next steps:
• The figures will be revised to match with the reviewed document.
• Dr David Hayman to work on the figure and finalize the draft (currently on leave he will be updated next week).
• Prof. John Mackenzie will receive a version of the actual document for a first review/edit to then share with Dr Andrew Cunningham by the end of August for a final edit.
• Final report to the Partners by the end of September 2022.

Ad-hoc discussion on the publishing process for OHHLEP products
Following the TG3 update on the OH aligned surveillance system manuscript, questions were raised by the Partners regarding the priority channel to publish the surveillance paper.

Discussion:
• The publication channel to adopt first, through the QPT or a peer reviewed journal.
• The current scientific format of the document and the potential need for a report format.
• The importance for OHHLEP to publish in a peer reviewed journal in addition to reports.
• Duplication concerns over the dual publishing as a report and as a peer reviewed article.
• Procedure related to both channels of publications and timelines.

Action points/next steps:
• This subject will be discussed at a QPT secretariat level then decided on at the next bureau meeting.
• The OH aligned surveillance paper will be submitted first to the QPT and then for peer review.

TG4: Update from the leads and secretariat
Prof. Wanda Markotter introduced the 11 upstream drivers of zoonotic spillover identified by TG4 and their respective key words for the systematic review, the document was shared during the meeting to facilitate the discussion.
• **Dr. Danny Sheath** proposed that **Dr. Amira Preure** from within the secretariat be tasked with carrying out the systematic evidence review of the identified upstream drivers.

• **Prof. Andrew Cunningham** reiterated that this review is the correct first step before the development of the component on mitigation of the drivers.

• **Dr. Chadia Wannous** confirmed that WOAH is ready to recruit a consultant in support of the HACCP risk assessment and the mitigation when needed.

• **Dr. Madhur Dhingra** proposed to share with OHHLEP materials from OHISS riskscapes workshops, where they assessed the risk drivers based on the bowtie method looking at hazard categories, hazards, and their consequences, based on expert opinions.

**Action points/next steps:**
- Keywords to be reviewed by COB 29.07.2022 (already circulated).
- The systematic review for the drivers is to be delivered by December 2022.
- WOAH will recruit a consultant to support the HACCP analysis and risk mitigation (in the agenda for next year).
- OHISS to share with OHHLEP presentations, recordings, and summary from the risk assessment series of workshops.

**AOB**

**Expert opinions on emerging health issues**

• Prof Marion Koopmans suggested providing timely OHHLEP opinion pieces on these situations. She expressed concern/interest in the recent seal mortalities in Maine caused by the H5N1 emerging strain. Her team is currently collecting information to assess the situation.

• **Dr. Casey Barton Behravesh** in support will collect information within her network.

**Action points/next steps:**
- This subject will be addressed in day two of this meeting.

**Closing of the day**
Day Two-22 July 2022

12:30 – 12:45: Introductory remarks

- **Dr Jean Philippe Dop, Deputy Director-General of WOAH**, welcomed the participants to the second day of the 7th OHHLEP full panel meeting and emphasized his appreciation of the work the panel is doing.
- The high quality, dynamic discussions and the open dialogue show the trust between the experts and the ability to link and connect all the work related to One Health (for example the QPT retreat, G20, other global events including One Health congress in Singapore and more).

12:45 – 14:00: Outcomes of the Quadripartite retreat

Overview of the retreat in Geneva

- **Dr Amina Benyahia** presented an overview of the QPT retreat.
- The aim was to improve coordination and collaboration within the Quadripartite, and to identify key priorities and agree on a strategic roadmap/workplan for collaboration, with a focus on the next steps of the OH JPA, its costing and implementation, and the advisory role of OHHLEP.
- The main discussion focussed on resource mobilization, advocacy and outreach activities, including key communications and policy products needed, as well as the possibility to establish a One Health group of friends to enhance the visibility of One Health in the global health agenda.
- The key points, agreements and practical next steps from each session, as well as the expected support from OHHLEP (especially focusing on the OH JPA and the pandemic instrument) were presented.

**Action points/next steps:**

- Partners to clarify OHHLEP’s role in the implementation planning of the OH JPA, and review against current work plan

**New areas of work for OHHLEP to support the implementation of the OH JPA**

- **Dr Chadia Wannous** presented to the panel a series of areas where OHHLEP could support the general development of the implementation and monitoring and evaluation plan, the mapping of stakeholders including the establishment of adapted engagement strategies, as well as the mapping of existing OH related tools to identify already existing tools highlighting gaps or adaptations that would be needed.
- OHHLEP could advise on the narrative, key messages and related communication products including the ongoing work on return of investment and help to identify the criteria to prioritize countries and activities.
- As already highlighted in the last panel meeting, OHHLEP considers contributing to the pandemic instrument as a crucial task. OHHLEP can contribute to the development of a position paper highlighting the need for OH inclusion.
- It was clarified that ‘One Health group of friends’ is supposed to be a member state-led initiative under the lead of different countries aiming to advocate for OH on a higher political level. As a first step they would like to focus on thorough inclusion of OH in the pandemic instrument negotiations.
- The Quadripartite and OHHLEP can give this group of friends more weight and support them in preparing information and advice, for example in the form of a position paper to include OH into the pandemic instrument.
• It was further envisioned that OHHLEP supports a stakeholder mapping to reflect on the Quadripartite collaboration and coordination dynamics.
• The more precise the requests are, the better OHHLEP can act.

Action points/next steps:
• OHHLEP to prioritize tasks as their capacities are limited (see next item).
• It was agreed that using the panel through the Quadripartite and ‘group of friends’ is the best way to contribute to the Pandemic Instrument.

Discussion based on OHHLEP priorities survey
• The results of a mini survey to assess the priority OHHLEP members attribute to different topics were presented by Dr Barbara Haesler.
  • 17 out of the 26 OHHLEP experts responded to the survey.
  • Contribution to a position paper on the inclusion of OH in the upcoming pandemic instrument was the main interest, followed by supporting stakeholder mapping.
  • The work on developing an implementation and M&E framework for the OH JPA was considered important by some panel members but also out of their scope by others.
  • Suggestions made by the respondents were analysed and grouped to identify the main topics for OHHLEP in the coming months.

Action points/next steps:
• This survey was useful to gather the ideas and thoughts of the panel members, and therefore maybe repeated more regularly in the future.

TG1: Theory of Change finalization
Dr. Osman Dar thanked the panel for all the contributions to the latest ToC visual and paper, and presented the updated version highlighting the adjustments made.
• The added numbered signposts leading to further explanatory panels were much appreciated and could even be highlighted more.
• For the visualization of the outcomes, it was suggested to use the same colours in the diagram as differing colours could give the false impression that short, medium- and long-term outcomes always build on each other and need to be achieved in a specific order.
• It was further suggested to again use the symbol of the clock from the former version and to add the 4th ‘C’ for Capacity Development in the short-term outcomes.
• The impact statement is congruent with the OH JPA impact, so the wording should stay the same and not be changed.
• It was clarified that the explanatory panel of the OH lens will refer to OHHLEP’s full OH definition including some further information on co-benefits.
• Feedback was required from the panellists on the explanatory panels, especially panel four.
• This ToC will be the 2nd key output from OHHLEP after the OH definition. The QPT will promote it with the help of the communication working group.

Action points/next steps:
• The ToC will undergo final cosmetic changes in terms of arrangements, arrow placements and borders.
• The panel was asked to provide feedback on the explanatory panels (detailed figures of the ToC visual). A link to the google doc to be shared by email again for review by 11 August.
• QPT comms working group to be solicited on how to better promote the ToC.

14:00-14:15: Comfort break
14:15-15:30: OHHLEP workplan

**TG1: Informing the implementation plan of the OH JPA**

- Priority is the finalization of the ToC including both the report to the Partners and the manuscript for a peer-reviewed publication.
- When the OH JPA is finalized and launched, a greater focus will be on the implementation plan and more specific requests to OHHLEP will be considered. The panel will be consulted on the more general elements.
- The panel discussed different options to increase the exposure of OH in high political agendas, including the idea of holding a side event at a future World Economic Forum meeting in Davos covering the economic aspects of zoonotic disease prevention.
- Costing is considered a very important topic for the OH JPA as well, however, this is outside of OHHLEP’s expertise. The results of OHHLEP’s work on the drivers could be used as the scientific background though.
- Bringing together economists from the different fields to discuss the costs of human and animal diseases, and their environmental impact, would be a good step towards filling a knowledge gap.
- It was further discussed how prevention could fit with the new [World Bank Financial intermediary fund (FIF) for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response](https://www.worldbank.org/en/fund/fifth), as they also specifically mention OH. This FIF already has been endorsed with funds mainly targeting countries and members. It is managed independently from the World Bank which tends to result in siloed activities. OHHLEP, however, could offer advice early on as it seems that there is a lack of awareness on what needs to be analysed and considered in the scope of prevention and OH.

**Action points/next steps:**
- These ideas were considered important to advocate for governments to invest in prevention.
- These options will further be discussed within the Quadripartite secretariat.

**TG2: Mapping and gap analysis**

- The originally very broad objectives of the TG2 have been altered, in agreement with the discussions from day one, in order to focus more on tools and align with the OH JPA.
- It was suggested to include a gap analysis for tools to see where current tools don’t cover needs.
- After releasing a [policy document](https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7116) to comprehensively address health threats at the human-animal-environment interface, members of PAHO have started mapping different OH activities in the region. This also includes a chapter on lessons learned and will be shared by the involved panel members as soon as it is available.
- It was agreed that best-practice examples would be very useful, however, when it comes to OH implementation there seems to be no complete best practice example available. There are good examples for OH implementation between different sectors but there is no blueprint yet available including all aspects in a more holistic way.
- Nonetheless, it was considered important to showcase these already good examples despite not being perfect.
- Panel members mentioned different successful initiatives (e.g. tackling Nipah virus in Malaysia and India, or the collection of [PANORAMA OH](https://www.panosciplines.org/poa/poa-oh) or [Species Conservation examples](https://www.iucnredlist.org/SpeciesConservationExamples)).

**Action points/next steps:**
- The drafted ToRs will be shared for further commenting and feedback so that they can be agreed on and finalized in the next bureau meeting.
The co-chairs will send an email to invite the panelists/experts to draft a 2 page manuscript sharing a good practice example for OH implementation to gather initiatives.

**TG3: ‘Hotspot’ identification**
- Priority for TG3 is to finalize the surveillance paper, where some additional work is left to be done as discussed on day one.
- The WHO group developing a zoonosis hotspot map would welcome the opportunity to present the work to OHHLEP and would value their feedback on this work. If OHHLEP is interested this can be scheduled through the Secretariat.

**Action points/next steps:**
- The report/manuscript will be finalized by the end of September.
- Dr. Rebecca Grant and Dr. Danny Sheath will follow up to schedule a meeting.

**TG4: Spillover risk mitigation**
- TG4 will focus on the systematic review on the drivers of spillover and as a next step the evidence-based risk assessment and mitigation of the drivers.

**OHHLEP physical meeting alongside WOHC 2022 in Singapore**
- The next full day OHHLEP panel meeting was confirmed to take place 11 and 12 November 2022 alongside the WOHC in Singapore.
- The meeting will be hybrid allowing all members to join. A save the date invitation including the times will be shared as soon as possible.
- Taking the feedback from the last meeting on board, one of the days will be structured like a workshop to allow for better usage of a face-to-face meeting.

**AOB**

**TG meeting schedule**
- TG leaders were asked to consider dates for the next working meetings and share them with the Secretariat for distribution.

**OHHLEP statement/opinions on ad hoc zoonotic diseases events**
If there is ever a situation where the Partners aren’t working on a particular threat or event that OHHLEP feel is important, then the Panel would write to urge them to do so.

**Closing remarks**

The co-chairs, Prof Wanda Markotter and Prof Thomas Mettenleiter thanked the panel for the great collaboration and discussions.

WHO’s Director of Nutrition and Food Safety, Francesco Branca, committed to bringing the ideas and feedback back to the Quadripartite and to work more closely with the Secretariat. Tasks for OHHLEP will clearly be formulated and they will investigate how to better connect OHHLEP and other processes and decide how to best engage in different events.
List of participants

**OHHLEP members**
Wanda Markotter; Thomas Mettenleiter; Dominique Charron; Marion Koopmans; Salama Almuhairi; Salome Bukachi; Natalia Cediel; Andrew Cunningham; Osman Dar; Nitish Debnath; Margaret Khaitsa; John Mackenzie; Catherine Machalaba; Serge Morand; Baptiste Dungu; Casey Barton Behravesh; Natalia Casas; George Gao; Janice Zanella

**FAO**
Fairouz Larfaoui; Barbara Haesler; Madhur Dhingra; Junxia Song; Baba Soumare

**UNEP**
Lisa Crump

**WOAH**
DDG Jean Philippe Dop; Chadia Wannous.

**WHO**
DDG Zsuzsanna Jakab; Naoko, Yamamoto; Francesco Branca; Amina Benyahia; Danny Sheath; Shihan LIU; Katrin Bote; Mehreen Azhar; Amira Preure; Christina Romanelli; Hellen; Luz De Regil; Rebecca Grant; Karl Schenkel; Anaïs Legand; Tieble Traore; Elmoubasher Farag

**Apologies**
Doreen Robinson (UNEP); Julian Blanc (UNEP); David Hayman (OHHLEP); Zhou Lei (OHHLEP)