

FAO/WHO/WOAH Joint One Health Learning Taskforce Terms of Reference

Background and context

A world better able to prevent, predict, detect and respond to health threats and improve the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment while contributing to sustainable development, is the ambitious expected outcome of the One Health (OH) Joint Plan of Action (JPA), that the Quadripartite Organizations – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), and the World Health Organization (WHO) – adopted in 2022.

Stakeholders have recognized the need and the relevance of investing resources in how assessing workforce educational needs, and the collaborative and profession-specific competencies needed to perform effectively for One Health implementation. It is in fact recognised that a combination of cross cutting set of competencies – necessary to all professionals and mainly related to interpersonal skills, system thinking, collaboration and communication, leadership and management, decision making, information sharing – and profession-specific and specialised competencies, is necessary to assure a holistic and system-based approach recognising the interconnections between the health of humans, animals, plants, and the environment.

Creating an effective and modern human, animal, plant and environmental health workforce, requires a dual focus: on integrating the One Health approach in foundational and formal education; and providing opportunities for lifelong learning so that personnel can acquire new competencies that can address current and emerging challenges.

The **FAO/WHO/WOAH Joint One Health Learning Taskforce** is a **coordination mechanism** to strengthen One Health capacity amongst the animal, human, plant and environment health workforce, leveraging on the **expertise** of the FAO eLearning Academy and Virtual Learning Centres, the WHO Academy, and the WOAH Training Platform. It promotes a One Health cultural change to inspire a collaborative workforce mindset. One Health will grow through a flexible, interactive, and collaborative learning approach based on existing and successful programmes and perceived needs for values and behaviour change, that recognises the importance of cross-sector opportunities and challenges, using a competency-based approach.

Aware that OH workforce development relies on partnerships with other One Health stakeholders, the Task Force also intends to:

- **Enhance Multi-Stakeholder Engagement:** Actively involve and strategically connect with a broad range of partners, including governments, international organizations, research institutions, civil societies, and private sector entities, fostering a shared sense of purpose, inclusiveness, and horizontal collaboration.

- Improve Harmonization: Work towards the convergence of guidelines, protocols, terminologies, and best practices, helping people dealing with uncertainty, inconsistencies, contradictions, and ambiguities, thereby streamlining communication, decision-making, and implementation processes.
- Increased Synergy & Impact: Orchestrate and coordinate joint efforts, initiatives, and projects combining resources, know-how, and passion to maximize the effectiveness and scalability of One Health interventions, translating into measurable improvements in health, socioeconomic, and environmental outcomes.

To ensure agility and capacity for implementation, a dedicated Taskforce, which aims to foster collaboration on workforce development and learning, including the development of joint training strategies, programs and activities, pooling together technical, pedagogical, technological, intellectual, and financial resources. The taskforce will promote the combined use, at regional and country level, of successful programmes and tools, avoiding duplications and repetitions.

Resources available on existing online training platforms, webinars platforms, LMS for community management and animation can be shared, promoted and further disseminated.

To undertake specific projects, the partners are committed to increase collaboration of capacity development, support resources mobilisation and design projects for multi-partnership grants/programmes, etc.

Scope of the Work and added value

Adopting a progressive approach, the Task Force aims to address key challenges in One Health workforce development, such as strengthening capacity, ensuring sustainability, leadership, supporting an enabling learning environment, and promoting the One Health approach among decision-makers. To this end, the core functions and added value of the Task Force are to:

- Provide technical advice to the design of joint One Health training programmes and learning initiatives (e.g. residential and web-based courses, eLearning, workshops, simulation exercises, etc.) to support Members and communities based on quality standards and guidelines.
- Provide a platform for coordination between teams developing OH learning resources in their respective organizations to avoid duplications and facilitate an optimised use of such resources
- Serve as a training and learning expert group providing advice and support to technical teams on joint OH programme implementation at global, regional and national levels
- Provide a bridge between the partner organizations of the Task Force and governmental, academic, and research institutions to expand on relevant expertise, needs, and resources.

Membership, composition and responsibilities

The Task Force consists of focal points from FAO, WHO, and WOAH.

Each organisation can appoint at least two experts of the One Health domain and of continuing education / learning design, workforce development and assessment / training methodologies. Additional members may be appointed as need be also for covering specific topics.

The Task force is organised as follows:

- Task Force Secretariat. Responsible for coordinating the group, chairing meetings, facilitate consensus-based decision making. Provides leadership, establishes meeting agendas, reviews progress and suggests improvement actions.
- Task Force Facilitator. The task force facilitator is appointed by the members on a rotation mechanism among WHO, FAO, WOAH and remains into force for one year. A representative from each organisation acts as supporting secretariat to assist with coordination, documentation, reporting, meeting organisation, etc.
- Permanent Members. Representatives from WHO, WOAH and FAO. This includes experts on One health, education/training/learning. They actively contribute to the discussions, the documents' development and review, propose actions, facilitating their implementation.
- Additional task force members: specialists and experts from or selected by WHO, FAO and WOAH may be appointed to support specific tasks and occasionally. They provide specialised expertise in addition to the one of the permanent Task Force members.

Meetings and reporting

- The Task Force meets once every fifteen days and once a year in-person, funding permitting.
- Decisions are made by consensus.
- An annual review is carried out to assess progresses and effectiveness, and to define improvements.
- Every semester, the task force reports on their progresses to the QPT Collaboration for One Health Secretariat.
- Every year the Task Force reports on their progresses to the QPT Collaboration for One Health Senior Management Team and Executive Team.