

One Health in Botswana

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Activities implemented under COHESA

- The ethical approval application was submitted to the Ministry of Health on the 1st of September 2022.
- Two members of the Botswana COHESA team Media workshop Nairobi, Kenya
- Participated in the Work package 3 workshop on building the capacity of higher educational institutions to educate, train and empower the next generation workforce to tackle One Health issues, Gaborone, Botswana
- Conducted a desktop study that focussed on OH research and innovation, education and implementation of OH. The report was submitted to the country coordinator and ILRI on 14th March 2023.
- Facilitated the Work package 3 survey on training of future OH workers and validated the report in Nov 2022.
- Prepared a proposal together with the Ministry of Health and submitted to the UNEP Pandemic Fund (Nature 4 Health). The proposal was not funded.
- Carried out the baseline survey through key informant interviews and focus group discussions
- Held a meeting with Botswana Public Health Institute (BPHI) together with the country coordinator to sensitize them of COHESA activities and benefits to the country's OH implementation initiatives.
- The baseline study validation workshop was held on the 25th September 2023. It was attended by multisectoral group made up of representatives from 10 government ministries, academia and parastatals.
- Participated in three Libreville Declaration for human and environmental health SANA review workshops. COHESA played a key role in highlighting the silence of the declaration on animal, plant and soil health. Botswana COHESA and Ministry of health co-sponsored the first workshop.
- Three staff members from the three public universities in Botswana attended the OH curriculum training in Pretoria, South Africa.
- A manuscript on different aspects of OH in Botswana was drafted and it is ready for submission as a case study of how the country implements OH
- A short story about OH in Botswana was written and published on the COHESA OH online Observatory
- Participated in the COHESA 1st biennial conference that served as a platform for fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders dedicated to the One Health in Pretoria
- Submitted a concept note to CCARDESA Agroecology Call titled **Network for Agroecology Transition in the SADC (NATS)**. This proposal aims to continue some of the OH work started under the COHESA project
- Submitted a concept note to the Science for Africa Foundation under the Epsilon call titled Climate Change and One Health: Predicting Infectious Diseases through Vector-Borne Pathogen Epidemiology in the Southern African Development Community (CLOHPREMIER – SADC)
- Submitted a concept note to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for funding titled **Strengthening health and disease modelling for public health decision making in Africa**, not funded.

Participants of the baseline study validation workshop and the SANA for the Libreville Declaration on human and environmental health



- At that workshop, the OH baseline study was validated.
- Botswana implements "OH" through a multisectoral country coordinating committee for the Libreville Declaration made up of 10 government ministries, public universities, some parastatals and the armed forces
- At this workshop held 19 – 25 September 2023, it was acknowledged that issues of animal health were not very prominent in the Libreville Declaration
- COHESA Botswana and CIRAD (through the country coordinator) partly funded the workshop

Key findings/lessons/opportunities

- **Collaboration and networking**
- Networks were generally multisectoral, interdisciplinary or inter-ministerial covering local and external partners, with the level of interaction estimated at around seventy percent (70%).
- They were generally coordinated by high-ranking officer (Permanent Secretaries (PS), Professors, Directors, Researchers) in institutions.
- Activities involved surveys and surveillance on pests and diagnostic services, laboratory services (toxicity testing), assessment of water quality and sanitation as well as monitoring pollution.
- **Alignment to global priorities**
- Medium to long term initiatives generally informed by BW Vision 2036, Agenda 2030 Agenda 2063
- No national One Health (OH) platform in the country, but there exists national legal frameworks and policies housed under portfolio ministries and departments as enablers for the implementation of their respective OH mandates
- **Challenges and gaps in OH education**
- Low levels of awareness One Health leading to its inadequate implementation
- Curriculum – There are no specific courses on OH, but OH concepts are integrated in the content of some courses, including public health curriculum.
- Individuals and institutions work in silos.
- One Health knowledge – Lack of capacity on OH in institutions (new concept)
- Role of indigenous knowledge (traditional or alternative medicine) not understood leading to side-lining of traditional medicine on OH programmes.
- Inadequate IKS research aligned to OH.

Planned activities (2024-2025)

- Meeting with country coordinator for updating the plan 30 January 2024
- Respond to Epsilon call for proposal (31st January 2024)
- Respond to CCARDESA call for proposal (1st February 2024)
- Libreville Declaration SANA workshop (05 – 09 February 2024)
- General meeting for COHESA Botswana (March 2024)
- Science Media Café (April 2024)
- OH Net mapping (April 2024)
- Develop a OH policy brief (May – August 2024)
- Develop a OH short course for professionals in Botswana (December 2024)
- Review and update OH country work package plans (October 2024)
- Regularly populate the Observatory provide ILRI with information on OH activities in the country
- Regularly interact with the Country Coordinating Committee (CCC) on matters relating to One Health.
- Regularly contribute to the sensitization and awareness of OH through national and regional collaborations and networks
- Register COHESA OH short course with Human Resource Development Council (March 2025)
- Input OH in Primary and Secondary school curricula (December 2024)
- Introduce the concept of OH at Boitumelo Primary School teachers – capacity building (September 2024)

Consortium



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Technical partner

