INNOVATION FUND

Capacitating One Health in Eastern and Southern Africa (COHESA)

PROJECT CONSORTIUM

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Kenya

The International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications (ISAAA) AfriCenter, Kenya

Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD), France

LOCATION

Eastern Africa:
Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda

Southern Africa:
Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

PERIOD

December 2021 – December 2025

DOMAIN

One health

TARGETS

governments, educational and research institutes, service providers, agrifood sector, general public

PROJECT CONTACT

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www.ilri.org/research/projects/capacitating-one-health-eastern-and-southern-africa

Mid-term results overview
December 2023

COHESA fosters inclusive research and innovation (R&I) ecosystems, equipping individuals, institutions and nations with the ability to identify and assess one Health threats, and to rapidly develop, adapt or adopt, and then deliver One Health solutions to governments, educational and research institutes, service providers, the agrifood sector and the general public. One Health recognizes that the health of humans, animals and the environment are inter-connected and inter-dependent. With the One Health concept embedded across society in 12 countries of Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA), the project promotes national and regional One Health integration, so those with mandates for protecting human, animal and environmental health can work together, building the capacities in One Health technologies and thinking.

Within the countries of Eastern and Southern Africa, COHESA works with 12 local partners (universities) and the University of Pretoria (South Africa) as a supporting partner.

One Health Knowledge and Advocacy

- 9 national baseline survey reports to understand the One Health landscapes.

- 7 national netmapping reports to identify the stakeholders to engage in One Health initiatives.

- 1 virtual One Health observatory (COHESA- One Health Observatory) to function as a one-stop centre for One Health information and resources across the 12 countries, focusing on governance and education.

- 35 trainees (42% female) from Ministries (Health, Agriculture, and Environment) trained on Effective communication and policy advocacy, key in addressing One Health Issues.

- Journalists and One Health experts brought together in Media science cafes to increase coverage of One Health issues in Kenya, Ethiopia and Namibia.

One Health Governance (with support of others organisation)

- Zambia One Health strategy developed.

- National One Health platform and strategy of Tanzania upgraded and expanded.

- Zambia and Ethiopia receiving multi-million dollar support from Nature for Health and Pandemic Preparedness (World Bank).

- National consultative One Health stakeholder workshops held in Uganda (39 participants, 12 female), Ethiopia (43 participants) and Tanzania.

One Health Education and Research

Educational institutions

- A pilot course on One Health run for primary school aged children in Kenya with a Trainer-of-Trainers approach (28 teachers and 9,000 students).

- A school programme conducted in primary and secondary schools in Uganda to promote One Health.

- Benchmarks for a Masters in One Health created with the Inter-Universities Council of East Africa (IUCEA).

- A benchmark for food safety curriculum in the East African Community created with IUCEA.

- 31 research coordinators from 25 universities in the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti) trained on One Health research in collaboration with the One Health regional network for the horn of Africa (HORN).

- A One Health research symposium held in Malawi (63 participants, 27 female).

- A One Health education and research workshop held in Botswana (50 participants, 23 female).

Short courses for professionals

- Short online trainings for One Health professionals (Concepts of One Health course), co-organised with FAO (243 participants from 21 ESA countries).

- An in-person course (Concepts of One Health course) for government One Health professionals held in Tanzania.

- Training-of-Trainers in netmapping delivered in Rwanda and Zambia (>40 participants).

- District level training in Tanzania on how to respond to disasters caused by diseases with the Nelson Mandela University (for experts of the Hai District Council and civil society actors).

Publications

>50 publications - available open access.

Key publications

- One Health approach to safety around animals: Train-the-teacher event in Mūkūrwe-inī Sub-County, Kenya
- Report of the regional workshop on building the capacities of higher educational institutions to educate, train and empower the next generation workforce to tackle One Health issues, Gaborone, Botswana
- Benchmarks for food safety curriculum in the East African Community
- Special interview series on COP 27- Interview with Salome Bukachi about climate change and health issues in Africa
- Researchers embark on COHESA project in Uganda
- Forging a common front against zoonotic diseases
- Kenya changes tack to wipe out animal-to-human diseases
- One Health Strategic Plan - Zambia
- Capacitating One Health in Eastern and Southern Africa biennial conference, Pretoria, South Africa

Videos

- Kenya embarks on strengthening One Health
- Africenter maps out One Health stakeholders in Eastern and Southern Africa
- One Health in Eastern and Southern Africa rolled out
- One Health Africa: How to create a healthy society
- Stakeholders are educated on the concept of One Health
- One Health Africa: How to create a healthy society
- COHESA creates awareness on zoonotic disease

Blogs

- Regional science communication training on One Health in Kenya
- Africenter conducts successful training of trainers on netmapping One Health to Eastern African COHESA partners
- Netmapping in Rwanda and Uganda
- Africa Biennial Bioscience Communication (ABBC2023) Symposium - issue